

# The UB

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR  
*The Veterans of the  
106th INFANTRY  
DIVISION*

*of the*  
**GOLDEN LION**

Vol. 79 – No. 1

December 2022 – March 2023

## Golden Lion Family Members Commemorate Battle of the Bulge in Belgium



(Photo by Carl Wouters)

Family members of Golden Lion veterans join the WWII reenactors for a photo opportunity at the 106th Division Memorial in St. Vith. **L-R:** Chris Mott and his daughters (Maj. Lawrence Smith, HQ 14th Cavalry Group), Luke Hesse (Lt. Jim Hesse, 423/D), Shawn Stringham (Pfc. Clifford Bobo, 424/A).

For the cover story, see [page 24](#).

# The CUB

*A tri-annual publication of the 106th Infantry Division Association, Inc.*

**Total Membership as of January 31, 2023 – 701**

Membership includes *CUB* magazine subscription

**Annual Dues are no longer mandatory: Donations Accepted**

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## Editor's Message . . .

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Spring is near! Here in the Northern Neck of Virginia, even though we are not even halfway

into February, I feel the air change. The vibrant red color of the winter camellias set against the backdrop of the brown trunks of other trees and bushes that are still in their dormant stage, reminds me that there is beauty all around us in all the stages of nature's lifecycle, and that new life is yet to come. It's a promise of continued growth and change.

The theme of continuation can be seen in this edition of *The CUB* in our Adjutant Randy Wood's article. He explains why it is so important that we have a continuation in our membership, a handing off of the baton, from one generation to the next. We want to see our community carry on to remember the importance and the sacrifices of those who served especially since there are many who may not be able to travel to the reunions and many who are no longer

with us. Our president, Janet Wood, remarks on this as well. We also see that theme reflected in the Historian's page submission from Veteran Edwin Beck who still actively travels and publicly shares his experiences.

The way we share these stories and continue this "community" doesn't need to be extravagant, it just needs to be. Just as I'm looking forward to the new buds opening, I look forward to seeing new faces, new names in our membership list (thank you to all who have made new and continuing donations!) and to receiving more submissions. I think the idea Randy shared is an excellent one... and can't wait to see who will take him up on his challenge. (You'll just have to read what he wrote to know what I mean!)

Thank you too to those of you who have written to me saying that you enjoy and look forward to receiving *The CUB*. I feel it is an honor to be part of the team who puts it together.

Lisa Dunn, *Editor*  
[CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org)

***Make Your Plans NOW!***

**for the 106th Infantry Division Association's 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion at the  
Buffalo Airport Hotel, Buffalo, NY  
August 23–27, 2023**

For additional information about the reunion and to register online, visit:

***[106InfDivAssn.org](http://106InfDivAssn.org)***

**Watch (again!) the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
Virtual Memorial Service**

which replaced the live event for the 74<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
that was to have taken place in Kansas City, MO, September 2020.

**Remember the Men of the 106th**

“Attend” this virtual Memorial service at <https://youtu.be/6S4Ke-Tftg>.

Share this link with family and friends, schools and organizations.

**Just a reminder . . .**

If you have pictures, an article, or some other form of information you would like included in a future issue of *The CUB*, the due dates are as follows:

**May 1, 2023** — mail date mid-June, 2023 (issue will include reunion paperwork)

**October 1, 2023** — mail date late November, 2023 (to include reunion photos and remembrances)

**January 31, 2024** — mail date late March, 2024 (issue may include reunion paperwork)

**Articles and pictures can be mailed or emailed to:**

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**Veterans and Family of the 106th Infantry Division’s  
TATTOO\* Requests**

*The original meaning of military tattoo was a military drum performance, but subsequently it came to mean army displays, or a form of gathering more generally. For our Association, letting members know that someone would like to speak with them is why we do this!*

Please send any requests to the Editor at: [CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:CUBEditor@106thInfDivAssn.org)

## President's View . . .

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As my term as president rolls along, I think back to my first ever reunion, 2008, in Louisville, Kentucky. My dad, Robert M. Wood, 423/I, had passed away a few summers before and my siblings and I wanted to attend the reunion to show support for my mom and honor my dad. My mom still laughs at my suitcase full of shoes (10 pairs for a three-day reunion!) I remember mom telling me, "You will feel an instant bond with all of the people you meet." She was so right. In Louisville that year, there were approximately 400 veterans and their spouses and families. It was such a humbling experience; one I will forever cherish. Sharing that time with the men who served with my dad helped me better understand a vital part of his life.

One of my favorite memories was getting to meet dad's "mucker" from POW camp, Russ Lang, and his wife, Lil. Another plus was meeting another of dad's good friends, Murray Stein, and wife, Barbara. My very first *CUB* cover picture was Murray dancing with his cane.

All the wonderful veterans became family and we looked forward to the reunions each year — to catch up and to listen to more stories. With the passing of each, a part of our heart goes with them.

My dad was a humble man, very soft spoken, with a chuckle that made you laugh! He rarely spoke of



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his time in the POW camp. In 1987, my brother-in-law, Ron Garrison, and my sister Beth were stationed in Ramstein, Germany. As my sister and little nephew boarded the plane to join her husband, my dad swore he would never step foot in Germany. Then his granddaughter was born, and dad immediately asked mom, "Well, when do you want to go?" While there, dad had a chance to visit some of the old bunkers near St. Vith, Belgium. A somber place, I'm sure. He began to open up just a bit, about his time served. Attending the few reunions that he was able to helped him share even more.



## President's View . . .

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The first annual reunion was held in July 1947, in Indianapolis, Indiana. With the exception of the two Covid years, this group has gotten together every year since. This year will be our 76<sup>th</sup> annual gathering.

As our veteran numbers decrease, one of the biggest hurdles our association faces is how to keep the reunions going and how to keep the greatest generation's stories alive.

How can you help? Attend the reunions, support the association with donations, listen to the veterans, and then, tell their stories

to as many people as you can. Share your veteran's story — whether it is your dad, grandfather, uncle, doesn't matter, all of their stories are important. Your help is needed.

It is up to us, to keep their legacy going. Are you willing to step up to the plate?

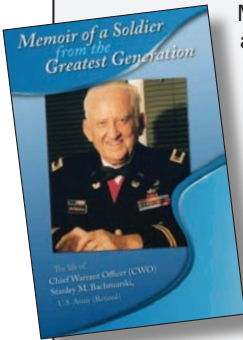
Please join us at the reunion in Buffalo! I guarantee you will walk away with renewed admiration for all veterans — and an instant family.

Hope to see you soon!

*Janet Wood*

*Robert M. Wood 423 Co I*

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My dad's memoir — although not totally about WWII — is a snapshot in time that captures the world that made the "Greatest Generation."

A farm boy from New York, dad joined the Army in 1940. He served in WWII with the Golden Lions and with many other units. He remained in the Army and served in Korea. He retired in the midst of the war in Vietnam. "Three on a match" if you know what I mean.

Dad passed away in December 2011, but not before he finished writing his memoir, by hand, on legal paper. I was the editor of Dad's book, and I admit, I did not devote enough time to it. It always felt like, if we got the book done, Dad would "be done."

I dragged it out so long that Dad only got to see the first print proof for the book. He did not get to personally share his book with all of his friends and family. We did that for him. We made sure that everyone on his long list of friends and colleagues got a copy.

As an Associate member, I still get copies of *The CUB* and I flip through the pages and I remember the annual reunions we went to ... dad, mom, and their daughters. And later with sons-in-law and grandchildren.

### ***Dad's story should be shared.***

The book has been available on Amazon since 2011. We never advertised it. This is the right time and right place to do that.

***Ann Marie Keech, daughter of Stanley M. Bachmurski***

## Chaplain's Message . . .

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*The godly walk with integrity;  
blessed are their children who follow  
them. Proverbs 20:7*

POW Staff Sergeant Lester J. (Tannenbaum) Tanner of the 106th Infantry 422 Regiment HQ Company passed away peacefully surrounded by loving family on Thursday, January 12, 2023. He was 99 years “young.” He was also my dear friend.

I was honored to attend his memorial service in Manhattan's Upper East Side. The eulogies by his family and friends of his grace and goodness moved us all. We were also moved by two young officers of the Army who presented condolences to the family on behalf of a grateful nation. In unison they lifted our nation's flag, drew it tight, and doubled over the flag twice with careful precision. From the foot of the casket, one soldier folded the flag in tight triangles 13 times representing the 13 original colonies — emblematic of the tri-cornered hat worn by the Patriots of the American Revolution. Only a blue field of white stars remained visible. The soldier at the head of the casket pulled the flag close to his heart, turned, and knelt in front of the family then presented it to the next of kin.

“On behalf of the President of the United States, the United States Army, and a grateful nation,” the soldier said, “please accept this flag as a symbol of our deep appreciation for your loved one's honorable and



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faithful service.” The officer stood, saluted, and departed down the aisle. Reverence filled the room.

My friendship with Lester and his beautiful family was possible because nearly 80 years ago in a stalag near Ziegenhain Germany my father Roddie Edmonds stood up to the evil of a Nazi Major and proclaimed, “We are all Jews here!” Standing with dad and Lester were nearly 1,300 American GIs, many from the 106th, all of them willing to die for one another to do what's right for their Jewish brothers. As a consequence, Lester and more



## *Chaplain's Message . . .*

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than 200 Jewish American soldiers were saved from certain death in murderous concentration camps.

My father died in 1985 and never told me or my family about his war time experiences. Only through the providence of God leading me to Lester did I learn the true story of my father's bravery during WWII. At Lester's service, family and friends talked about his seemingly ordinary life — a life full of blessings, goodness, and joy. After fighting in the Battle of the Bulge and surviving the horrors of Stalag IXA, Lester returned to America and graduated with highest honors from Harvard Law School. He married, grew a thriving practice in New York City, and helped raise accomplished children and stepchildren while loving and influencing six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Another ordinary life of extraordinary influence from the Greatest Generation—a friend and mentor to me and many others.

Like all of our 106th veterans, Lester was wise. He had elegance and grace in concert with an ease in being himself. He knew the food he enjoyed, the activities he relished, the politics he preferred, the country he cherished, the clothes that made him comfortable, and the people he loved. Most of all I'll remember the values he lived.

I arrived early for Lester's funeral. As we passed the chapel,

I noticed his flag draped coffin. My heart swelled with admiration for duty, honor, and country. No other family or friends had arrived yet so the funeral director invited me to sit in his office conference room. On the wall I immediately noticed a single black frame with the word integrity written in large black letters on white paper. The owners of the funeral home had one value. One driving purpose. One call to action. One requirement to their bottom line. One value above all. Integrity!

It struck me like lightning. That was the same singular value that Lester lived. If you took the expanse of his 99 years and summed up all of his values and choices in one word his life would add up to integrity. Every value he held dear or espoused was filtered through that lofty, uncommon, nearly unachievable value we know as integrity.

He chose that value after he saw my father Roddie demonstrate fearless integrity for God, his fellow soldiers, and his country in the face of death. Lester told me that instance when Roddie stood up for what's right with the enemy's gun pressed to his head was the defining moment of his life. He said, "From that day forward, I decided to live like Roddie and do what's right for others, regardless of the risk, regardless of the circumstances." Integrity!

Lester, my father, and our

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## Chaplain's Message . . .

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beloved WWII Veterans all walked in integrity. They have blessed us. That's why we love them so much. All of their lives are worth remembering and following

*The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children who follow them. Proverbs 20:7*

I pray we will aspire to walk the same path of blessing.

To learn more about the 106th Infantry Division, my father Roddie or Lester, visit [106thinfdivassn.org](http://106thinfdivassn.org) and [roddieedmonds.com](http://roddieedmonds.com).



**Chris Edmonds, left, with Lester Tanner**

A video of Lester at the Israeli Embassy can be found at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBRDh1\\_C5DU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gBRDh1_C5DU)

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## Visit the 106th Association's Website!

To complement the wonderful websites that are already out on the Internet, including websites from our own members, Jim West ([IndianaMilitary.org](http://IndianaMilitary.org)) and Carl Wouters ([106thinfantry.webs.com](http://106thinfantry.webs.com)), the Association has its own website at [106thInfDivAssn.org](http://106thInfDivAssn.org).

This is where you will find information on upcoming events, copies of the membership application for your family to join, the complete latest issue of *The CUB in color*, plus additional photos not seen in hard copy.

Also look for our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/106thInfDivAssn](https://Facebook.com/106thInfDivAssn). You will find up-to-the-minute information here and its where you can connect with friends and make

plans for the next reunion.

If you have any additional reunion photos or information that you would like to see on the website or Facebook page, please contact the Webmaster, Wayne Dunn at [Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org) or 410-409-1141.

The 106th Infantry Division Association also now has an Instagram page! You can get to it at the URL: [www.instagram.com/106th\\_infantry\\_division\\_assoc/](https://www.instagram.com/106th_infantry_division_assoc/). The Instagram account name is simply *106th\_infantry\_division\_assoc*. Use that to search for it on your phone or other electronic device — iPad, tablet, laptop or computer. The idea is to preserve memories of the 106th veterans virtually forever.

## *The Adjutant's Message . . .*

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It has been said many times that our *CUB* magazine is the lifeblood of the 106th Infantry Division Association. I have seen several other division's communication magazines and they are all good, but I have to say our publication is one of the best, if not the best of them. This is because of you, and I mean YOU. "You" includes our *CUB* Editor, Lisa Dunn and our *CUB* Publisher Susan Weiss (Father 423/HQ 3rd BN) and it includes the Officers of the Association and the Board of Directors. These folks are essential to the preparation and distribution of *The CUB*; however, "You" are the key to the continued success of *The CUB*. You, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> generation of our veterans of WWII's Battle of the Bulge. You have the news about your veterans, and you have the stories of your veteran to share with the rest of us. The news and the stories are what make up the content of *The CUB*. This comes from a strong community of veterans and their families that are interested in keeping the memory alive, not just of their veteran, but for that of the whole division.

As you know, we are losing our veterans rather quickly and we need you all to let us know so we can share the memory with others. We would love to hear the stories that have been shared with you throughout the years. My dad never talked much about the war until one time when we



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were on vacation together. Dad and I stayed outside while my wife and mom shopped. Then, a man about dad's age who was in the same boat as dad and I showed up. Dad asked him if he was in the war and off they went talking about the experiences they both endured. I wish I had had a way to record their conversations at that time. What I just described was a random meeting of two members of the greatest generation. How wonderful when something like this occurs but we cannot count on that happening often. That is why we have reunions. A reunion is not a random meeting. It is a gathering of members of the greatest generation,

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## ***The Adjutant's Message . . .***

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defenders of our country and our way of life. Our reunions see rooms filled with families visiting and remembering and celebrating all of the veterans both living and past. Now our reunions are mostly made up of the family members of our veterans visiting with the others who are now part of our "community." We must find a way to perpetuate the memories of our veterans to maintain and celebrate their legacy. For example, your veterans' diaries are some of the most interesting stories to tell. Please continue to share those.

I would like to suggest another way to keep our veterans' legacies alive: please write a short story as to what your veteran did following the war. We have heard of all the hardship, danger, and horror that they went through, but their true legacy might be the life they lived and the lives they touched following their departure from the war. So, consider sharing a story of your veteran's life beyond the war as witnessed by YOU.

We encourage all of our families and our veterans to travel to our reunion site this year. We know that many of you can't, but if you can, please try. We are looking into the possibility of going to the Buffalo, New York area. To my knowledge, we have never gone there, at least not since the turn of the century. We do not have all of the details just yet, but we are contacting hotels now.

We will let you know just as quickly as we can once we nail the specifics down. (*Keep checking our website for the most up-to-date information, [106thinfdivassn.org](http://106thinfdivassn.org).*)

Visiting Niagara Falls would be a treat. Our past president, Bob Pope, said last year that he could not come to that reunion; however, he was the first one of us to book his hotel room! Please mirror his attitude and plan to come. It may be difficult but look for ways to get there rather than just reasons that you cannot come. We need you. Believe it or not, there has never been a reunion that did not have a first-time attendee.

Buffalo is in an area where approximately two thirds of our family lives, so maybe not too far to travel. It is important to all of us that YOU attend. Last year we had a total of 35 attend the banquet on Saturday night. The reunion was the smallest in number of all reunions of the 106th ever. We had one veteran, Bob Pope, and 34 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation attendees. We had the Young Marines assist us with our memorial service and they and their chaperones were a delight to interact with. We were small in number, but we were large in enthusiasm, and we had a great reunion.

We look forward to the coming reunion and hope not only to see more veterans in addition to those who attended this past reunion, but

## ***The Adjutant's Message . . .***

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new attendees as well. Why is it so important? It's important because all those who attend who represent their veteran not only remind us of their veteran and have become friends, but

they have become a part of our family.  
See you there!

Randall M. Wood, Adjutant  
106th Inf. Div. Association  
Robert M. Wood 423 Co I.

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### **Jim West and the *IndianaMilitary.org* Website**

Additional 106th Infantry Division information can be found on Jim West's (OGL 2000) website at [IndianaMilitary.org](http://IndianaMilitary.org). It includes the following:

- Every issue of *The CUB* from 1946 to present (searchable)
  - Every issue of the *Camp Atterbury Camp Crier* with articles on the 106th
  - Local Columbus, Indiana, newspaper articles featuring the 106th
  - With Wayne Dunn's help, over 451 diaries of 106th men and a few from other units
  - Articles include: Battle of the Bulge, Important dates, Unit publications, Photo Albums, After-Action Reports, General and Special Orders and much more
  - Information on the 106th guarded PWTE (Prisoner of War Temporary Enclosures)
  - The official history site for Camp Atterbury, Indiana.
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### **The Importance of a Mini Reunion**

Our veterans will always remember December 16, 1944, when they were thrust into the chaos of war. The years may have thinned the ranks, but those who remain still have the pride of knowing they played an instrumental part in slowing — and ultimately defeating — the German war machine.

As it becomes more difficult to travel, especially with Covid-19 restrictions, it is even more important we attempt to connect with our vets. Any way you can, while practicing social distancing guidelines, and even doing so virtually, would be a great way to honor, cherish, and remember all of our veterans.

***Plan one in your area today!***

**Contact Mini-Reunion Chair Wayne Dunn at [Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org) and he can assist you with members in your area.**

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**Editor's Note:** We have been fortunate to have received some very interesting historical articles submitted by various readers and board members as we continue to look for someone to fill the Historian position. In this edition, Edwin H. Beck, 422nd Regiment, 106th Infantry Division, shares an article that appeared in the 1989 edition of *World* magazine. Edwin Beck has actively spoken publicly about his experiences over the years. Most recently, on Sept. 13, 2022, Beck spoke during the Space Base Delta 1 POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado. You can learn more about this remarkable veteran by visiting: <https://www.fox21news.com/news/military-matters/colorado-springs-pow-reflects-on-story-of-survival/>.

### **DRMO [Defense Reutilization Marketing Office] Employee Awarded POW Medal**

*(originally printed in the Ft. Carson Mountaineer, reprinted in September 1989 World magazine)*

DRMO Colorado Springs employee Edwin Beck, an American prisoner of war in World War II, received the POW Medal on April 28 [1989] at Peterson Air Force Base.

The POW medal presentation ceremony was a joint effort of Peterson Air Force Base and the Rocky Mountain and Mile High Chapters of the American Ex-Prisoners of War. In addition to Beck, approximately 53 Army and Air Force POWs were recipients of the medal. The Army POWs were presented the medal by Maj. Gen. Dennis J. Reimer, 4th Infantry Division Commanding General.

Beck, a hazardous material processor at DRMO Colorado Springs, served with the 106th "Lion" Infantry Division as a PFC and was taken prisoner on the second day of Von Rundstedt's counterattack in the

Ardennes on Dec. 19, 1944.

"I'll never forget the day before we were captured," Beck recalls. "We were issued D-bars, which were like a candy bar in three sections." He said, "A major told us to enjoy them and make them last, because they would be our last meal for quite a while." Orders for the 422 Regiment, Beck's unit, were to capture the German town of Prum. But prior to reaching their destination Beck and his fellow soldiers were captured.

The regiment's first destination was Stalag 12A, in the area of Limberg, Germany. They spent one night there and were fed millet soup. "This was a kind of cooked grain soup," Beck explained.

The following day, Beck and the rest of the regiment began a march to Stalag 4B, in Muhlberg, Germany. "We had to have walked at least five



days to get there,” Beck commented. He went on to say, “And we did our best to keep walking — if you didn’t keep up, you’d end up stabbed with a bayonet, and laying on the side of the road.”

Stalag 4B’s sleeping accommodations were like a “human rug” as Beck recollected. “There weren’t any cots — we all slept on the floor with no blankets . . . just the clothes we had on our backs.”

Beck went on to Stalag 4G, Oshatz, Germany, where he worked in a stone quarry. “When you’re in these places, all you could think about was going home and food!” At Stalag 4G, he was only able to eat potato peeling soup. From the time he was taken prisoner, he dropped from his normal weight of 140 pounds to 80 pounds.

According to Beck, a Russian

POW at Stalag 4G had managed to leave the camp and get back in with a pair of wire-cutters. With these wire-cutters, Beck and two fellow POWs cut the fence behind their barracks. They made their way to Holley, Germany, where they boarded a DC3, flying to Camp Lucky Strike, France. In June 1945, Beck boarded a ship for Norfolk, Virginia, arriving June 18.

Beck has the bronze star, good conduct medal and the combat infantryman’s badge. Upon receipt of the POW medal, he said, “After 45 years, it feels pretty good!”

A native of Pennsylvania, Beck continued to serve on active duty and in the reserves for 27 years. He and his wife, Fay, have eight children and currently reside in Widefield, Colorado.

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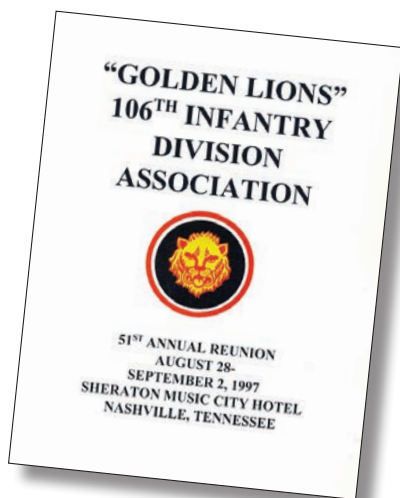
### *Blast from the past!*

## **Did you attend the 106th’s 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Reunion?**

Visit the 106th Association’s website at:

[106thinfdivassn.org/docs/106th\\_51st\\_reunion\\_1997.pdf](http://106thinfdivassn.org/docs/106th_51st_reunion_1997.pdf)

to see a PDF of the event booklet including portraits of those who attended. See how many people you recognize!



## ***Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .***

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Make checks payable to “**106th Infantry Division Association**” and mail them to the Treasurer:



**Mike Sheaner, Treasurer**

PO Box 140535

Dallas TX 75214

[sheaner1@airmail.net](mailto:sheaner1@airmail.net)

214-823-3004

Please report all changes of address and deaths to the Association Membership Chair:



**Jacquelyn S. Coy, Membership**

603 Mountain Ave., Apt. BP223

New Providence, NJ 07974

[membership@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:membership@106thInfDivAssn.org)

973-879-9070

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### **Treasurer's Report:**

**Oct. 1, 2022 – Jan. 31, 2023**

### **Association Membership**

**As of January 31, 2023**

<b>Beginning Balance:</b>	<b>\$19,786.85</b>	<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>701</b>
Money In:	3,556.71	Veteran Membership	215
Money Out:	2,804.72	Associate Membership	486
Difference:	751.99		
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$20,538.84</b>		

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## **Show support for our mission by giving generously.**

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Send your contribution, check made payable to *106th Infantry Div. Association*, to:

Mike Sheaner, Treasurer

106th Infantry Division, PO Box 140535, Dallas, TX 75214

## ***Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .***

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### **LIFE PLUS and REGULAR DONATIONS:**

Louise Awalt Associate Member	Robert M. Edwards 424/SV	Dennis Shane Miller Associate Member
Edwin Henry Beck 422/A	Nancy Groh Associate Member	Barbara Powless Associate Member
David H. Bludworth Associate Member	George Hemelt Associate Member	Lt. Col Walter C. Schmick (Ret) Associate Member
Carol Citrano Associate Member	Patrick Horan Associate Member	Anthony Tarantino Associate Member
Kelly Citrano Associate Member	Betty Ann Johnson Associate Member	Mary Vandermast Associate Member
Linda Citrano Associate Member	Anne Marie Keech Associate Member	Jack Weingarten Associate Member
Sharon Citrano Associate Member	Pamela Britton Kolb Associate Member	Wilma E. Wood Associate Member
Vera Citrano Associate Member	Ken Kovalik Associate Member	

### **MEMORIAL and HONORARY DONATIONS:**

*In memory of Burton Benson, 423/K.*

Given by Daniel C. Ellison, MD

*In memory of my father, Carl W. Giesler, 591/FABN; 106th ID (122-2011).*

Given by Jeffrey Giesler

*In honor of my husband, John Mikalauskis, 424/H, who passed away on Dec. 30, 2010. My husband was in WWII Battle of the Bulge and Korea conflict.*

Given by Delores Mikalauskis

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

David Cordero	Associate Member	Luke Hesse	Associate Member
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### **PLEASE NOTE:**

CUB Staff occasionally receive ***requests to stop the mailing*** of their issue of *The CUB*. If you no longer want an issue to be mailed to you, ***please contact Jackie Coy, Membership Chair*** at [membership@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:membership@106thInfDivAssn.org). Thank you.

### **Memorial, Honorary and Life+ Contributions are Essential for Keeping this Organization Going**

A suggested annual donation of \$25 to help underwrite the cost to publish and mail *The CUB* through the “Last Man Standing” and beyond is appreciated. The Association exists on donations from its members and interested individuals. Your gifts are essential to maintaining *The CUB* magazine in its current format with high-quality content and tri-annual delivery. The cost of printing and mailing each edition of *The CUB* exceeds our current level of giving. Therefore, we encourage all readers to make an annual contribution, as you are able, to help defray the cost of printing and mailing.

Those Members who contribute will have their names (only, no amounts will be shown) published in the next *CUB*. You can donate as much or as little as you can and as often as you like. By donating, you are helping perpetuate the 106th ID Association.

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### **Planned Giving**

Whether you would like to put your donation to work today or benefit the 106th Infantry Division Association beyond your lifetime, you can find a charitable plan that works for you. Popular means of life planning gifts include Wills and Living Trusts and Beneficiary Designations. Consult your professional advisor on how to extend support for the 106th Infantry Division Association to make a lasting impact.

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### **Returned Issues of the Latest *CUB of the Golden Lion***

We have gotten many returned *CUB* issues in the past due to incorrect addresses or members who have passed away and therefore no longer reside at the address we have on file. If you happen to know of anyone who is not getting *The CUB* who should be, it may be because we have an incorrect address. Or if you know of a member who has passed away and whose family no longer wishes to receive *The CUB*, we want to know.

Please notify Membership Chair ***Jacquelyn Coy directly at the address listed on the inside cover of this issue*** if you know of anyone who falls into these categories so that our records may be updated with accurate information.

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## *Treasurer's and Membership Chair's Report . . .*

### **106th Challenge Coin and Wooden Ornaments — Have You Gotten Yours Yet?**

**\$10 each,  
plus \$1 postage  
per coin**



*Front*



*Back*



**\$10 each  
plus \$2 shipping  
per ornament**

*(Lower shipping costs will be applied  
to orders of 10 or more)*



### **Lapel Pins**

**\$10 each  
plus \$1 shipping  
per pin**



*Please call or email Randy with questions.*

Phone — 765-346-0690

Email — [woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:woodchuck01@sbcglobal.net)

For purchase of items above,  
please make check payable to *106th Infantry Division Association*  
and mail to:

Randall Wood, 810 Cramertown Loop, Martinsville, IN 46151

*All proceeds benefit the association.*

## Reunion Information . . .

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We are proud to announce our plans for the  
106th Infantry Division Association's

### 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion

August 23–27, 2023

Buffalo Airport Hotel | Buffalo, NY

The members of the association board are moving forward with plans for the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Association Reunion.

On the following pages of this *CUB*, we have supplied all the reunion information and there is a copy of the registration form inserted for you to complete and send to the association with your check. If you would like a PDF or a printed copy of the registration material mailed to you, please contact Mike Sheaner, Treasurer at [sheaner1@airmail.net](mailto:sheaner1@airmail.net). If you have any questions, please contact Wayne Dunn at 410-409-1141 or [Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:Host106th@106thInfDivAssn.org).

**For the most updated information about the reunion please visit**  
**[106thInfDivAssn.org](http://106thInfDivAssn.org).**

*[All reunion information correct at time of publication but may be subject to change]*

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## Hotel Information

### Buffalo Airport Hotel

4600 Genesee Street  
Buffalo, NY, 14225

credit card upon booking. *Rates are available three (3) days pre- and post-reunion (based on availability).*

### **Reservation Information:**

To make reservations and receive the group rate, you ***must call the hotel directly*** at: **716-634-6969**

Must mention *106th Infantry Division Association* at time of registration to receive the group rate.

**Rate:** \$129 (plus tax) — Includes complimentary hot breakfast buffet each day; first night room and tax will be charged to the individual's

### **Reunion Dates:**

Sunday — Tuesday, Aug. 20–22:  
Pre-function group rate days based on hotel availability

**Wednesday — Sunday (am), Aug. 23–27: Reunion main event days**

Sunday — Tuesday, Aug. 27–29:  
Post-function group rate days based on hotel availability

**Hotel Information** continues on page 20



## ***Reunion Information . . .***

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### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

#### **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23**

- 4:30 - 5:30 pm     *Registration Open*
- 5 - 6 pm             Outgoing Board of Director's Meeting
- 4:30 - 9 pm          Hospitality Room Open and Begin display  
of Silent Auction items

#### **THURSDAY, AUGUST 24**

- 7 - 9 am             Hot Breakfast Buffet (included)
- 9 - 10 am            *Registration Open*
- 10 am -              Gather to carpool to OLD FORT NIAGARA
- 3 - 6 pm              Return to hotel to relax and visit Hospitality Room  
and review display of Silent Auction items
- 6 - 10 pm            SPECIAL COOKOUT ON "THE YARD" OF THE HOTEL

#### **FRIDAY, AUGUST 25**

- 7 - 9 am             Hot Breakfast Buffet (included)
- 9 am - 2 pm          Leave hotel for NIAGARA FALLS TOUR/"MAID  
OF THE MIST" BOAT RIDE
- 2 pm -                Return to the Hotel
- 3 - 9 pm              Hospitality Room Open and review display  
of Silent Auction items

#### **SATURDAY, AUGUST 26**

- 7 - 9 am             Hot Breakfast Buffet (included)
- 9:30 - 10:30 am     Memorial Service
- 11 am - 6 pm        Hospitality Room Open and review display  
of Silent Auction items
- 4 - 5 pm              Incoming Board of Director's Meeting
- 6:30 - 7:30 pm      Cash Bar Reception
- 7 - 10 pm            BANQUET DINNER/Speaker and completion  
of Silent Auction!

#### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 27**

- 7 - 9 am             Hot Breakfast Buffet (included)/Say your Farewells  
and have a safe trip home

*All times subject to change.*

Just a reminder: *if you plan to visit the Canadian Falls on your own time,  
do not forget your passport!*

# Reunion Information . . .

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## Hotel Information *continued*:

**Cut-off Date:** Reservations by attendees must be received on or before **August 5, 2023**.

At the *Cut-Off Date*, the Hotel will review the reservations for the Event and release the unreserved rooms for general sale. Any reservations requests received after the *Cut Off Date* including modifications, name changes, and additions for the group will be accepted on a space available basis at the group rate.

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellation must be received by the hotel 24 hours prior to arrival date.

## **Parking and Shuttle Information:**

Complimentary shuttle to and from Buffalo Niagara International Airport (BUF)

Free parking

Getting to nearby attractions is a breeze with the hotel's complimentary area shuttle.

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## Tour Descriptions

### **OLD FORT NIAGARA —**

*Thursday, August 24  
10 am — Meet at the front  
of the hotel.*

We will be carpooling to Old Fort Niagara. Those who are planning to drive will provide carpool transportation to those who need a ride to the Fort. If we enter the fort with 12 or more people, we get a guided tour and the tickets are \$15, pay at the gate. Military ID should get you an additional discount. Time is our own, so we can stay as long or as little as we like. Average time to tour is 2 hours. Go back to the hotel as you wish, hop in cars as they plan to leave, but do not forget our special Cookout event at the hotel that evening!

Explore the grounds of the oldest most continuously occupied military fort in North America! At Old Fort Niagara, you'll take a step back in time on a self-guided (or with 12 people or more a guided) tour to explore the rich history of the historical fort. Old Fort Niagara was once occupied by the British, French, and Native Americans. It's location along the mouth of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario was vital, as whoever controlled Old Fort Niagara also controlled who was allowed to continue westward to the central U.S. Original 18th century buildings still stand and reenactments happen daily.



Photo from <https://www.oldfortniagara.org/>

## ***Reunion Information . . .***

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**NIAGARA FALLS/ “Maid of the Mist” Boat Ride** — *Friday, August 25 9 am–2 pm — We will board the bus at 9 am and head to Niagara Falls.*

Adventure awaits your visit to Niagara Falls State Park! Upon departure from your hotel, you will travel to Niagara Falls State Park to participate in one of the most iconic experiences that Niagara has to offer. As you make your way through the paths of the park, you will arrive at the “Maid of the Mist” Boat Ride. From the New York State Observation Tower, you will board onto an elevator and descend 250 feet into the base of the Niagara Gorge to board onto your cruise. The “Maid of the Mist’s” fully electric, zero-emission boats produce no sound, leaving you with just roaring sounds of Niagara Falls to surround you. As you make your way into the belly of the Horseshoe Falls, you will feel the refreshing spray and hear the thunderous sounds of the Falls as 600,000 gallons of water rush over the cliffs every second. Hang on tight as you feel the churning water below you make its way down the Niagara River. The “Maid of the Mist” Boat Ride is about 20 minutes in duration. After your cruise concludes, you can climb a series of steps next to the American Falls to the Crow’s Nest for more of a multi-sensory experience, or you can catch the elevators back up and spend some time taking in the gorgeous panoramic views of the American, Bridal Veil, and Horseshoe Falls from the New York State Observation Deck. Next, you’ll be allotted some free time to grab a bite to eat or explore other areas of Niagara Falls State Park on your own. Just outside the main entrance of Niagara Falls State Park is Old Falls Street, which is lined with food trucks, cafes, and restaurants. Additional sightseeing highlights include Goat Island & Terrapin Point at the brink of the Horseshoe Falls, Luna Island which sits between the American and Bridal Veil Falls, the Lower Niagara River & Gorge including Whirlpool State Park.

- 9 am: Depart from the Buffalo Airport Hotel
- 10 to 11 am: Niagara Falls State Park with “Maid of the Mist” boat ride.
- 11 am to 12 noon: Additional driving/walking tour of the Niagara Falls State Park
- 12 noon to 1:30 pm: Free time on your own to explore the park, get a bite to eat.
- 2 pm: Drop off at the hotel.
- *Tour is included in the registration fee. Wheelchairs are able to ride the “Maid of the Mist.”*

Please be at the bus boarding area at least fifteen minutes prior to the scheduled time.  
Driver and Guide gratuities are not included in tour prices.

*[All reunion information correct at time of publication but may be subject to change]*

## ***Ever Been to Buffalo? Join us there for the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion There's tons to do and see***



### ***Buffalo, NY***

What is Buffalo famous for — beside being the city where our past president Bob Pope lives and is the site of our 2023 reunion?

Buffalo is one of only three cities in the U.S. with a radial street pattern. Buffalo is known as the largest flour milling city in the world. Buffalo's nightlife doesn't call it quits until 4 a.m., rather than 2 a.m. like most other cities in the U.S. Buffalo is the home to the New Era Cap Company.

Buffalo is the second-largest city in the U.S. state of New York behind New York City and the seat of Erie County. It lies in Western New York, at the eastern end of Lake Erie, at the head of the Niagara River, on the United States border with Canada. (*source: Wikipedia*)

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## **Visit the World Capital of Wings**

They didn't just invent one of America's favorite foods in Buffalo. They perfected the Buffalo wing over the last six decades using special sauces, secret family recipes passed down through the generations and preparation methods found nowhere else in the world. The history and character at the 14 neighborhood pubs and tucked-away corner taverns along the Buffalo Wing Trail are as unique and distinct as the wings they serve. So pull up a chair and join them in the World Capital of Wings for some pilgrimage-worthy painted wings, or Smitty Wings, or very, very hot wings, or double-dipped wings. The blue cheese is usually included!



*Photo credit: Rick/flickr*

Request a free printed 2023 Touring Guide, view it online or download a copy here:  
<https://www.visitbuffaloniagara.com/guide-request/>

*Source: visitbuffaloniagara.com/*

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## **Silent Auction!**



*Last year's silent auction tables!*

You are invited to participate in our Silent Auction to be held during our 76<sup>th</sup> annual reunion, August 23 to 27, in Buffalo, New York.

If you have a hobby or a craft that you love to do, then consider sharing. Last year's Silent Auction consisted of objects made by hand, found items, or items someone thought you would cherish. We made almost \$1,200! — all going to our association to fund *The CUB* magazine.

Bring your donated items to the hospitality room upon arrival and join the fun bidding on your next treasure! Items given to highest bidder and all payment due at end of the banquet Saturday night.

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## **106th Infantry Division's Online "Message Board"**

*Looking for information about a 106th veteran?*

*Do you have information about one you'd like to share?*

The 106th Infantry Division has their own online "message board" (set up by Jim West) for people to write an inquiry looking for comrades or for people who might have known a relative who is now gone. Sign up is free and easy!

Association member Connie Pratt Baseman, daughter of Lt. Gerald Pratt (Field Artillery) has been one of three people helping to manage the message board. Sadly, some inquiries sit unanswered when the answers may be out there with a reader of *The CUB* who doesn't use a computer. Maybe you can take the time to read the board and reach out to a veteran that you know to try and get the requested information.

You can find messages and other search requests on the 106th Message Board

at: [106thdivision.proboards.com](http://106thdivision.proboards.com)

## **Golden Lion Family Members Commemorate Battle of the Bulge in Belgium**

*By Carl Wouters, Association Belgium Liaison*

On Sunday, 18 December 2022, the annual commemorations for the Battle of the Bulge took place. The morning started with a ceremony in Vielsalm, under the wing of the C-47 Club Ardennes Salm River Chapter and presided over by mayor Elie Leblire and council member Anne-Catherine Masson.

In special attendance was a group of thirty WWII reenactors, members of the group “2nd Armored in Europe” coming from all over Europe, who participated in a multi-day immersive experience, retracing the steps of a rifle platoon of G-Company, 424th Infantry Regiment. With the winter weather causing the temperatures to plummet as low as 14°F, the group had spent

the previous three days marching the original route and sleeping in open haylofts and barns in the local villages. Accurately dressed down to GI Long Johns, they got a glimpse of some of the brutal conditions that the actual Golden Lions went through 78 years prior. The group of reenactors ended their march in Vielsalm and participated in the ceremony at the Rencheux bridge memorial before moving by jeep and truck to the St. Vith area to participate in the other events of the day.

At the Poteau intersection, between Vielsalm and St. Vith, a special meeting was held with Chris Mott, grandson of Major Lawrence Smith, operations officer of the 14th Cavalry Group. Chris brought his two daughters on the trip to retrace their grandfather’s footsteps in the battle. Units of the 14th Cavalry Group were



**WWII reenactors line up at the Rencheux Bridge memorial in Vielsalm, Belgium** (Photo by Carl Wouters)





## Feature Stories . . .



**Chris Mott and Belgian liaison Carl Wouters at the exact spot where a U.S. column was ambushed on 18 December 1944 at Poteau. The large fir tree in the background can be seen as a sapling in the vintage photo, standing near a logging shack on the road between Poteau and Recht. (Photo by Carl Wouters)**



positioned on the north flank of the 106th Division and were forced back by the attacks of the 1st SS Panzer Division in the first 48 hours of the Battle of the Bulge. Their headquarters' units ended up at the Poteau junction, attempting to keep the road open for incoming traffic of the 7th Armored Division and units falling back towards Vielsalm. On 18 December 1944, a Task Force of jeeps, halftracks and armored cars was ambushed on the road to Recht by SS troops. The column was set ablaze and was later used as a backdrop for an extensive propaganda photo shoot showing German troops amidst the destroyed vehicles. Chris Mott's grandfather was with the command group of Colonel Devine when they were ambushed further up the road in a separate incident.

At noon in Schönberg, a ceremony was held at the POW monument honoring the service and sacrifice of those who were captured in December 1944. At this ceremony

we were joined by Luke Hesse, grandson of Lt. James Hesse (423/D) and Shawn Stringham, whose uncle, Pfc. Clifford Bobo, was KIA in Winterspelt, Germany while serving with 424/A on 17 December 1944. Also attending were LTC Steven Baker, U.S. Army attaché of the U.S. Embassy Brussels and CSM Gary E. Yurgans, Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Army Benelux.

Herbert Grommes, Bürgermeister of the city of St. Vith, mentioned in his speech: *"Twenty-thousand American sons lost their lives in their courageous strive to help us. We gather together every year to express these brave men our deep gratitude and pay tribute for they paid the highest price to make sure the flag of freedom can still be carried high. It is because of their courage and*

continues on page 26



**Locals, historians and active U.S. Army personnel gather at the POW monument in Schönberg. (Photo by Carl Wouters)**

*support that countless people are now alive who otherwise would not have seen the light of day. Let us not forget such tragedy can repeat itself, at any place, at any time. These 20,000 honorable men should always inspire us to oppose anybody challenging our freedom. Let us, together, ensure their heroic deeds are never forgotten.”*

The third and final ceremony of the day took place at the 106th Division memorial in St. Vith. Here for the tenth annual time the Flag of Friendship was presented to a local person who — over the course of their lives — has shown great interest and enthusiasm in the field of remembering and who has perpetuated the legacy of the Greatest Generation in this borderland area where the Battle of the Bulge played out in the winter of 1944.

The award itself is that of a triangular folded American flag, much like the ones that were handed to the families of the 20,000 American soldiers who lost their lives in the Battle of the Bulge. Each of the

thirteen folds on the flag is symbolic. It is perhaps the third fold which has the highest meaning today, as it is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of their country to attain a peace throughout the world.

This year, the flag was presented to Manfred Klein of Buchet, Germany. He has been deeply involved in the history of the borderland region and those who fought in and near his native area of the Schnee Eifel. It was there, in December 1944, where the 106th Division made a stand. Countless soldiers were never accounted for after they went missing in action during the hostilities. For several years, Manfred has worked closely with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), a government body whose mission is to find and identify missing service personnel from the armed conflicts that involved branches of the U.S. military. This led to several successful retrievals and identifications of men



**CSM Gary E. Yurgans, U.S. Army Garrison Benelux and the members of the combined arms color guard. Interestingly enough, the grandfather of SSGT Sean Whittaker, far right, served at St. Vith with the 81st Combat Engineer Battalion. SSGT Whittaker was very proud to present the colors at the monuments dedicated to his grandfather's unit. (Photo by Carl Wouters)**

who remained missing for decades. This important work offers closure to families back home in the U.S. and ensures that the missing men are rendered all the honors they deserve by proper burial. Besides his work with MIA retrieval, Manfred has also been heavily involved in historical research and with his local colleague, Robert Fuchs, has been responsible in creating a series of multimedia presentations called “Grenzland in Flammen/The Borderlands in Flames,” focusing on the events of the Battle of the Bulge and how it unfolded in the local communities. By investing countless hours on accurate

and ground-breaking research, they have made the story of the Ardennes Offensive available to the local public, with great detail on both the civilian as well as the military aspects of the story. Their next installment of “Grenzland in Flammen” is currently under production. As Manfred had received a short-notice call from DPAA to assist them with a retrieval mission in Normandy, he was unable to receive the flag at the ceremony. Marcel Vaessen, last year’s recipient and a good friend of Manfred accepted the award in his absence. Later at the opening of a WWII photo exposition at Schloss Wallerode on 28 January 2023, Doug Mitchell and I were able to formally present Manfred with the flag.

We encourage all of you, who are interested in these events, to join us at the next commemorations in Belgium, marking the 79th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. The events are tentatively scheduled for the weekend of 16–17 December 2023.



**Doug Mitchell, FOF recipient Manfred Klein and Carl Wouters. (Photo by Gerd Hennen, Grenzecho newspaper)**

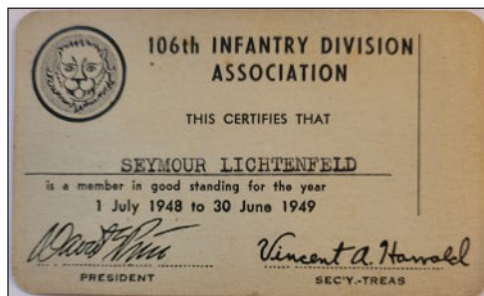
### “VETERANS’ VOICES”

*This is a recurring article for The CUB in which veterans or family members can submit brief personal stories. Whenever possible, please send your submission in an email to the Editor, Lisa Dunn, so it can easily be transferred to The CUB. We want to include pictures too but it is very difficult to include pictures sent in on paper. Pictures should be submitted as a jpg file. For each picture file you submit please also include (in the body of the email) what the picture signifies (the event), and where and when it was taken. Individuals in the pictures should be identified if possible. Articles can either be submitted in the body of the email, or as a Word document. Articles submitted as hard copies in the mail may need to be edited before published. If you have any questions on how to send articles or pictures, please email the Editor who can help you with any submissions.*

### Can You Beat This?

Seymour Lichtenfeld sent his 106th Infantry Division Association membership card which he received when he joined in 1948. It is stamped on the back with “No. 307”. Seymour said, “Let us see if anyone has an earlier one.” Please

let us know if you own or have found one that is earlier than Seymour’s!



***Make Your Plans NOW!!***

**for the 106th Infantry Division Association’s 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion at the  
Buffalo Airport Hotel, Buffalo, NY**

**August 23–27, 2023**

Reunion hotel information and full schedule are included  
in this *CUB* starting on **page 18**, along with the registration form insert.

For additional information about the reunion, please visit:

***106InfDivAssn.org***



## **Order of the Golden Lion Committee**

This award is provided in three classifications depending on the qualifications of the recipient. The most prestigious is “**Commander Class**” issued in gold finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time and is usually a veteran of the 106th Infantry Division.

The second is “**Officer Class**” issued in silver finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time and has assisted in the operation of the Association.

The third is “**Companion Class**” issued in bronze finish. This award is usually provided to someone who has served the Association faithfully in the capacity of assistance in the operation of the Association. The specifications for making the award are intended to fit many instances where an individual is deemed worthy. *The award should be determined by the recipient’s contributions to the Association.*

The Co-chairs of the Order of the Golden Lion committee will poll the members of the Board of Directors for recommendations for the OGL awards. The President or Chairman may select additional members to the committee. Nominations will be submitted in a format suitable for



composing a formal citation to accompany the award of the medal. This must be done in ample time prior to the next Reunion in order for the manufacturer to produce the medal(s) on time.

All citations should be kept confidential between the nominator and the Committee Chairman prior to the actual awarding ceremony. **LEAD TIME — 3 WEEKS, MINIMUM**

Send nominations to any one of the committee members listed below:

Carol J. Faulkner, 765-342-1872  
3179 Kestrel Court  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
[faulknerskeepe05@yahoo.com](mailto:faulknerskeepe05@yahoo.com)

Beth Garrison, 618-628-4733  
7766 Haury Road, Lebanon, IL 62254  
[rbg75@att.net](mailto:rbg75@att.net)

Kathy Spinella, 305-562-4381  
1991 Carolina Ave. NE  
St. Petersburg, FL 33703  
[pspin142@aol.com](mailto:pspin142@aol.com)

**PLEASE REPORT ALL CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND DEATHS  
TO THE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP CHAIR:**

**Jacquelyn Coy**

603 Mountain Ave., Apt. BP223, New Providence, NJ 07974

PHONE: 973-879-9070

EMAIL: [membership@106thInfDivAssn.org](mailto:membership@106thInfDivAssn.org)

**BASNIK, GILBERT B.**

**423/1 BN/C**

*Date of death: August 5, 2021*

Gilbert B. Basnik, 95, died peacefully at JourneyCare in Glenview, Illinois, on August 5, 2021.

Gilbert was born on September 22, 1925 in Pittsburgh, PA to Anton and Helen Zbasnik (nee Ostanek). In 1933, his father was elected president of the American Fraternal Union, a Slovenian fraternal insurance company based in Ely, Minnesota. Gil graduated from Ely Memorial High School in 1943.

Shortly after graduation, Gil joined the army. He was assigned to the 106th Infantry Division, captured during the Battle of the Bulge, and held in a POW camp in Zeitz, Germany. In April 1945 he escaped, reaching American lines to discover that he had stumbled upon his brother's unit. He was reunited with his brother Bill twenty minutes later.

Gil attended the University of Minnesota and was the president of



his fraternity, Alpha Kappa Psi. He graduated with a business degree in 1950. After briefly working in Pennsylvania, he returned to Minnesota to study accounting and take the CPA exam. In 1953, Gil moved to Omaha to work for Peat Marwick. It was there that he met his wife, Ethel Krapfl, whom he married in 1954. A job opportunity brought them to the Chicago area. After several years in Park Forest, they moved to Mount Prospect in 1962 where they raised their four daughters. Ethel died in 1977. After Ethel's death, Gil continued to live in Mount Prospect, serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals for 29 years, many of them as its chairman. He married Eleanor Sigrist in 1988. They retired to Grayslake in 2004.

Gilbert was a brave soldier, as well as a loving father and husband. He was a talented musician who could play the drums, guitar, and piano. He was a whizz at math and finance. He was fortunate that he was able to live a full life until his very last year. He is survived by his second wife, Ellie; his daughters, Susan Herring (Brian), Nancy Birkhofer, Linda



## ***In Memoriam . . .***

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Basnik (Chad Johnson) and Cathy Miller (David); nine grandchildren; and two great-granddaughters. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ethel, his parents, and brothers William and Robert.

*Reported by Wayne Dunn*

### **BECK, FAY ARLENE ASSOCIATE MEMBER**

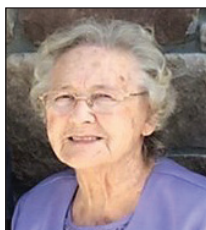
*Wife of Edwin Beck, 422/A*

*Date of death: January 31, 2022*

Fay Arlene Beck, 90, of Widefield, Colorado, departed this life on Monday, January 31, 2022, after a losing battle with Parkinson's disease. Fay was born in Carlisle, PA and grew up in Newville, PA. She was married to Edwin and was a loyal wife for over sixty years and an extraordinary mother and grandmother. She enjoyed gardening, word puzzles and putting together puzzles. Fay will be dearly missed and always remembered.

Fay was predeceased by Edna Kuhn (mother) and Ray DeWalt (father). She is survived by Edwin Beck (husband), and her children Robert, Martha, Ronald, Linda, Karl, Peggy, Daniel and adopted son, Tony along with nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

*Reported by Edwin Beck*



### **BOUMA, WILLIS A.**

**422/A and D**

*Date of death: September 29, 2022*

Willis A Bouma, 97, passed away September 29, 2022, at Crown Point Assisted Living in Stevensville, Michigan. He was born August 8, 1925, to Douwe and Helen Bouma.



Willis was a lifetime Watervliet resident. He served in the Army during WWII stationed in France and Germany. In 2020, he received the French Legion of Honor Medal. Willis was very proud to have served his country and never hesitated to take part in local parades. Willis loved his family, fishing, and traveling.

Willis is preceded in death by his "bride" of 64 years Shirley, his parents, four brothers, three sisters, his son Richard "Rick" and a daughter LouAnn (James) Whorton. He is survived by his daughter Sandra (Terry) Clark of Arkansas, nine grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be made to VFW Post #1137 in Watervliet or Caring Circle Hospice of Spectrum Health Lakeland. You are invited to leave a message of comfort for Willis' family at [hutchinsfuneral.com](http://hutchinsfuneral.com).

*Reported by his daughter Sandra Clark*

### **CARTWRIGHT, WILLIAM (BILL) SOUTHERN 423/3 BN/L**

*Date of death: April 2, 2022*

On April 2,  
2022, at Yakima  
Memorial Hospital,  
Yakima, Washington,  
William (Bill)

Southern Cartwright  
told his daughter “I  
love you.” After 96 years of prolific  
talking and storytelling they would  
be his final words. Bill was born in  
Terre Haute, Indiana in 1925 residing  
there until he joined the Army and  
later being taken prisoner during  
the Battle of the Bulge in Germany.  
He spent the next four months at  
Berga, a notorious, forced labor  
concentration camp. After surviving  
the horrors of the war, he returned  
to his hometown where he became  
a Corrections Officer in the Federal  
Bureau of Prisons. He transferred  
to Tucson, Arizona, in 1957, retired  
after a 25-year career and moved to  
Washington State, living in Yakima  
since 1991.

Bill is preceded in death by his  
wife of 66 years, Marcella, and his  
oldest son Michael. He is survived  
by two children, Suzanne and  
Tom, four grandchildren and two  
great-grandchildren.

He was a devoted husband and  
father and met each day with high  
energy and a clever, teasing sense of  
humor. Bill was best known to friends  
and family as a great storyteller



with an incredible memory about  
details of events from decades ago.  
Over the years, he taught his three  
kids to appreciate the outdoors,  
sports, the love of DIY and how to  
be self-reliant. He was truly one of a  
kind and will be greatly missed.

*Reported by Wayne Dunn*

### **GRIFFIN, GERALD “GERRY” 423/H**

*Date of death: January 10, 2014*

“Gerry,” age 89 of Closter, New  
Jersey, formerly of Tanzana and  
Woodland Hills, California, died  
peacefully on Friday, January 10,  
2014, after a long and valiant fight  
with Parkinson’s Disease. He was  
born in Jersey City to the late Henry  
and Mabel Griffin (nee Fuller). He  
attended elementary and secondary  
schools in Jersey City, North Bergen,  
and West New York, New Jersey.  
He then attended and graduated  
from Syracuse University. Gerry  
entered the U.S. Army in 1943 and  
remained stateside for the duration.  
He made sergeant while in the 106th  
division and taught heavy gunnery.  
He would later join the Army Air  
Corps where he became a radio and  
radar specialist. He was training with  
a B-29 crew to be deployed to the  
Pacific Theater when the war ended.

Gerry married the love of his  
life, Gloria, on April 15, 1952. He  
worked for Teleprompter and RCA  
and became general sales manager for

## *In Memoriam . . .*

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ITT in California and New York. He eventually started his own consulting business in the field of mergers and acquisitions. He was also a Closter Councilman. Gerald was a loving husband, father and grandfather. At his home, the grill was always hot and the drinks were always cold. He loved to play golf and enjoyed a good cigar and a gin martini. He was an avid reader, and most crossword puzzles met their match under his pen. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, three children and four grandchildren.

*From his obituary*

### **IDSTEIN, RICHARD L 424/C**

*Date of death: October 4, 2022*

Richard

Lawrence Idstein

was born in Chicago, Illinois, on September 11, 1925, to the late Anne Mae and Joseph Idstein. He graduated from St. Andrew



Grade School and Lake View High School. He turned 18 in September 1943 and was drafted in November of that year. He trained at Camp Croft and was assigned to the Intelligence & Reconnaissance squad. He was placed in the 89th division. This division was training for D-Day. Since he was only 18, Dick was shipped off to Fort Meade, MD; he was too young to land on D-Day. He remained in Ft. Meade waiting reassignment.

After 3–4 weeks, he was assigned to the 106th at Camp Atterbury, IN. He was placed in the first squad, 1st platoon of “C” company under Lieutenant McKay. Sergeant Nagle (from Pennsylvania) was his squad leader. Dick spent the last half of June to November 1944, training at Camp Atterbury. Fortunately, Dick was able to take advantage of a furlough before shipping off to Camp Miles Standish, to visit his parents. The members of the 106th who were with him boarded the Aquitania and zigzagged their way to England. The trip took 7 to 8 days. There were no escort ships until one day out of Scotland, two destroyers then escorted from the Firth of Clyde. The battalion went to Banbury, England. Next stop after that was Le Havre, France. Dick wrote, “We arrived at the front lines and replaced the 2nd Division. Our company was in the very small town of Hemmeres. The 424 Regiment Headquarters was at Winterspelt.”

“The Battle of the Bulge began at 5:30 a.m. We (C Company) were sent up to the front lines to reinforce Cannon Company and to aide “B” (who were located in bunkers at the front lines).” Dick continued, “C company walked into an ambush ... our platoon shot its way through the German lines using rifle grenades against machine guns” on order of Lt. McKay.”

continues on page 34

“Our platoon moved to the original bunkers (front line) where we captured about 10 Germans and released 29 to 30 U.S. troops.” (Dick met up with two of those men later at a 106th reunion in 2001.) The platoon now numbered about 50 to 55 men. They all slowly made their way back to the American lines. They joined up with the Americans, mainly 424th, who were defending St. Vith. While trying to prevent enemy troops from destroying a bridge, he was wounded by a “German machine pistol” — a handheld machine gun. After crawling back to the foxhole, he was patched up by Lt. McKay. Dick was lucky to be evacuated to Verviers, then Liege, Belgium. Then Dick was sent to Paris, by rail, until January 3 when he went to a hospital in Sutton, England. When Dick returned to C Company in March, only two of the original members remained. In August 1945, along with some other members of the 106th, Dick was sent to Antwerp, Belgium to be shipped home. He was to furlough before being trained for the invasion of Japan. During the trip home, the atomic bombs were dropped, and the war was over.

Dick went on to become a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher in Des Plaines, IL. He graduated from Chicago Teachers College North (now Northeastern Illinois University) and went on to get his master’s degree at De Paul University in Chicago. Having joined the Knights

of Columbus before being deployed in 1943, he was one of the longest serving Knights upon his death. He served as an usher at St. Mary’s Parish in Buffalo Grove from 1980 to 2017. Dick was the first recipient of the Buffalo Grove Historical Raupp Memorial Museum volunteer award in 1993. The one thing he probably took the most pride in was rescuing the members of Cannon Company during the Bulge.

Yes, this is long obituary, but Dick always shared his stories (and the story of his part as a member of C Company) with all those who would listen (including former students who got to handle the bullet that got him). Always the teacher, in this obituary he continues to share. He passed away on October 4, 2022, after watching and enjoying the video of the last reunion one more time online.

*Submitted by his daughter Kathleen*

### **JENNINGS, DR. VANCE S. 423/G**

*Date of death: February 9, 2022*

Dr. Vance S. Jennings, age 96, Professor Emeritus of Music at the University of South Florida, died on February 9, 2022.



Dr. Jennings had served the University as Professor of Clarinet and Music Literature, as Chairman of the Department of Music, as

## *In Memoriam . . .*

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Assistant Dean of the College of Fine Arts, and as Director of Graduate Music Studies. He had joined the faculty in 1967 and was granted Professor Emeritus in 1991. Prior to his appointment at the University of South Florida, he had served on the faculty at Wichita State University in Kansas and the University of Mississippi. He was the charter principal clarinetist of the Florida Gulf Coast Symphony (now the Florida Orchestra), and formerly the principal clarinetist with the Wichita Symphony Orchestra.

A native of Oklahoma City, Dr. Jennings first performed professionally with the Oklahoma City Symphony and with the G.I. Symphony while in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, had a master's degree from the University of Mississippi, and a doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. He held a Performer's Certificate from the Eastman School of Music, and a Diploma from the Conservatoire American, Fountainebleau, France.

In recent years, Jennings was active in the popular music business and performed with many area bands, especially with the Melody Booth Orchestra, and most recently with the Blue Notes. Dr. Jennings was active professionally as a recitalist, guest artist, guest conductor, clinician,

and adjudicator. He had authored more than thirty professional magazine articles and book chapters, held offices in national and state music organizations, including the Presidency of the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors, and was the founding President of the Florida Association of Schools of Music.

He was a member of many honorary and professional associations including Phi Delta Kappa, Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Kappa Psi, and Scabbard and Blade. He was also a member of Pi Kappa Alpha social fraternity, York Rite Masonic Bodies, and was a Life member of the Reserve Officer Association and the National Rifle Association. He had been a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church and a former Special Deputy Hillsborough County Sheriff. A veteran of World War II, Dr. Jennings had served with the 106th Infantry Division in Europe. He later served as an Artillery Officer in the National Guard of New York and Mississippi, and in the U.S. Army Reserve. He was a graduate of the Field Artillery Advanced Course at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, and the Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas.

He later taught on the faculties of The Artillery School and the Command and General Staff College.

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## *In Memoriam . . .*

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He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army.

Dr. Jennings is survived by his former spouse, Julia; two daughters, Terri (Marcos), and Sherri; and four grandchildren, Chloe, Vance Julian, Georgina, and Lilly.

*Reported by Wayne Dunn*

### **LAPHAN, CHARLES G.**

**592/FA/SVC**

*Date of death: June 21, 2010*

Charles was 86 years old at the time of his death. He was the husband of the late Elizabeth Laphan and is survived by his beloved daughter, Kathy. He was a survivor of the Battle of the Bulge, past Commander of Post #10116 of Voorhees, New Jersey and a retiree of Garlock of Camden.

*Reported by Jackie Coy*

### **REEBER, CHARLES A. 423/D**

*Date of death: May 3, 2014*

Charles A. Reeber passed away on May 3, 2014, in Livonia, Michigan. He was the beloved husband of the late Mary Reeber and father of John, Michael, Suzanne and Sandra. He was the grandfather of nine and great-grandfather of three. He was a proud veteran of WWII and a POW.

*From his obituary.*



### **SPELLMAN, JOHN W., JR. 424/C**

*Date of death: August 9, 2021*

John W.

Spellman, Jr. of River Bend, North Carolina, died on August 9, 2021, at a hospice facility in Goldsboro. He was 95 years old.



Jack, as he was known, was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts on September 17, 1925, to Dr. John W. Spellman (the youngest brother of Francis Cardinal Spellman) and the former Helen E. Shoughrow.

Jack, a decorated veteran of World War II, fought with the 106th Infantry Division in the Battle of the Bulge. He met his future wife, Elizabeth Mary (Betty) Halbritter, in 1946 while they were both in college; he at Boston College; she at Pembroke College in Brown University. They married in 1949 in Pawtucket, RI and had seven children, six of whom survive him. Jack had a career in advertising and marketing in Boston and New York and was a vice president with the Equitable Life Assurance Society of America (later AXA Equitable Insurance) at the time of his retirement.

Betty and Jack moved to River Bend from Ridgefield, CT in 1977. Betty, who was active in residential real estate in New Bern for many years, predeceased him.



## *In Memoriam . . .*

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In addition to his six children, Jack is survived by 12 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, several great-great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.

*Reported by Wayne Dunn*

### **STROHMIER, BERNARD C.**

**589/B**

*Date of death: January 10, 2021*

Bernard C. Strohmier, 96, Loretto, PA, died January 10, 2021, at home. Born April 9, 1924, in Patton, son of the late Charles B. and Edith M.



(McConnell) Strohmier. Survived by wife of 60 years, the former Virginia A. Krug, whom he married February 13, 1960, at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Cresson, three children (Kevin, Carla (Barry) Smith, and Cory), seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, sister, Dolores Rooney, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bernie was an Army Veteran of WWII, where he was awarded the European–African–Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with one Bronze Battle Star. He was a POW. He worked as a rural postal carrier for more than 30 years out of the Loretto office. Bernie was a private airplane pilot and owned his own airstrip. He was a life member of the Loretto

American Legion and Patton VFW and a member of the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church, Loretto.

*Reported by Wayne Dunn*

### **TANNER, LESTER J. 422/HQ**

*Date of death: January 12, 2023*

Lester J.

Tanner was born on August, 8, 1923. He was a distinguished member of the



Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York, an honored war hero, and graduate of Harvard Law School. Read more about Lester Tanner's life story in the touching Chaplain's message starting on [page 6](#).

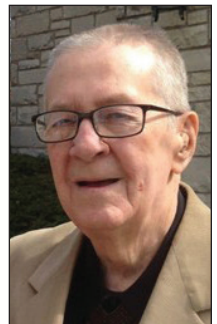
### **ULRICH, WENDELL ALOIS**

**"SEEDY"**

**424/C**

*Date of death: April 2021*

Wendell Alois "Seedy" Ulrich, 94, of Western Springs, Illinois, proud WWII Army Veteran, fighting at the Battle of the Bulge. Beloved husband of the late Betty Jo. Loving father of Paul (Jan) Ulrich, Nancy (Kent) Cloninger and Mark (Laurie)



*continues on page 38*

## *In Memoriam . . .*

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Ulrich. Devoted grandfather of Reed (Vanessa) and Russell Ulrich, Sarah (Chris) Arata and Athey Ulrich. Dear brother of the late Glenn (late Della), the late Norman (late Ella May) Ulrich, the late Alvis (late John) Williams, the late Mel (late Barbara) Ulrich and the late Niobe (late Hank) Borman. Fond uncle of many.

Wendell was a lifelong active member of Grace Lutheran Church and one of the longest living Western Springs residents. He enjoyed golf and he worked at the Western Springs pool for 19 years after his retirement. Amy Johnson, a teacher at the local high school commented, "Seedy would come each spring to Lyons Township High School to speak to a group of our freshmen. It was invariably a highlight of the year for them. Seedy was so funny and engaging — he would pass around his old ration book and MREs and let the kids try on his helmet while he regaled them with tales from the battlefield. He made the abstract concept of war more real for them, and I firmly believe meeting him helped foster a lasting respect for our veterans."

*Reported by Wayne and Lisa Dunn*

### **VAUGHN, JOSEPH H. 591/FABN**

*Date of death: November 23, 2001*

Joseph H. Vaughn, 77 of Huntley, Illinois, former longtime resident of Carpentersville, Dundee and Hampshire died Friday, November

23, 2001 at the Provena-St. Joseph Hospital, Elgin. He was born in Benton, WI on June 29, 1924, the son of Joseph F. and Mary L. Vaughn. Joe was a 1941 graduate of Benton High School. He was a U.S. Army veteran, having served from March 1943 through December 1945. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and received four Bronze Battle Stars and a World War II Victory Medal. He was a former employee of the City of Chicago, having worked for the Forestry Department. He was a former 20-year employee of Davey Tree, retiring in 1985. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He was survived by his wife of 55 years, Gloria Vaughn (who passed away in 2010). They married on February 25, 1946. He was survived by five children, 15 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, as well as two brothers. He was predeceased in death by his parents, a sister and a brother.

*Reported by his daughter,  
Roxanne Vendegna*

### **YOULES, DR. OWEN K. JR.**

**424/CN**

*Date of death: August 11, 2022*

Dr. Owen K. Youles, Jr., Valdosta, Georgia's first obstetrician and gynecologist, passed away on August 11,



## *In Memoriam . . .*

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2022, surrounded by his loving caregivers. He was a great gentleman — majestic, self-sacrificing and honorable. His life touched more people than he could count. An active member of the medical staff at South Georgia Medical Center (previously Pineview General Hospital) for 45 years, he was dedicated to his patients and loved to bring children into the world and assisted in the birth of thousands. A devoted husband and father, his family was the essence of his existence.

Youles was born in Valdosta, Georgia on February 24, 1924. He attended local elementary schools and boarding school at Emory Academy in Oxford, GA. He continued his education with a BA degree from Emory University and received a medical degree from the Medical School of Georgia. After his internship at Georgia Baptist Hospital, he continued his post graduate training in obstetrics and gynecology at University Hospital in Georgia. He returned home to practice

in 1955. Owen was interrupted by service in the U.S. Army during World War II as a communications specialist. He fought valiantly in Europe and the Battle of the Bulge. He also worked in the medical reserve. He was a life member of the First United Methodist Church and a member of many medical, civic and social organizations. He is survived by four children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was predeceased by the love of his life, his wife, Joanne Merrick Youles.

*From his obituary*

**ZENN, MICHAEL F. 423/D**

*Date of death: December 3, 2009*

Michael died December 3, 2009, at the age of 88. He lived with his wife of 58 years, Elaine (who passed away in 2020) in Aurora, OH at the time of his death.



*Reported by Jackie Coy and Lisa Dunn*

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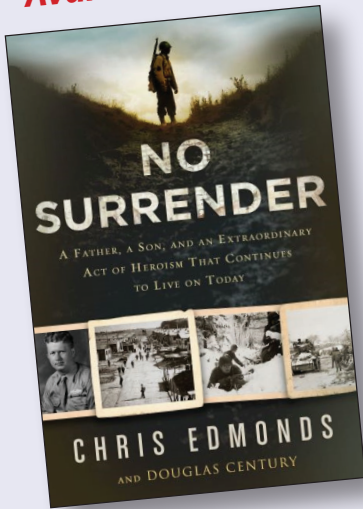
**We are currently updating our roster.**

**If you are receiving *The CUB* as a family member of a deceased Veteran or deceased associate member, we will be working to ensure the publication mailings are only sent to those who want to keep receiving the publication.**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

To the widows/family members of Golden Lions, if you wish to continue to receive *The CUB* after the passing of your veteran, please let Membership Chair Jacquelyn Coy know. Her contact information is located on the inside cover of this *CUB*.

**Available Now!**



**From Chris Edmonds, Chaplain,  
106th Infantry Division Association**

Spanning seven decades and linking a sprawling cast of unknown heroes from every corner of the country, *NO SURRENDER* is an unforgettable story of a father's extraordinary acts of valor that saved thousands of American soldiers in the treacherous final days of World War II and a son's journey to discover them.

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Sparked by his daughter's family history project, Chris embarked on a years-long journey in a race against time to interview surviving POWs under Roddie's command and retracing his father's footsteps, from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, where a boyish Roddie transformed into a seasoned leader of men, to the patch of grass near Ziegenhain, Germany, where he looked evil in the eye and dared a Nazi to shoot.

A quintessential American story of bravery, compassion, and righteousness, *NO SURRENDER* is a shining example of the redemptive power of moral courage in a celebration of faith, family and selfless service.

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— Mitchell Zuckoff, New York Times  
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*Fall and Rise: The Story of 9/11*

***NO SURRENDER*: A Father, a Son, and an Extraordinary Act of Heroism**  
that continues to live on today.

We are all feeling the effects of the current financial upheaval, including the  
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*Thank you!*

Send your contribution, check made payable to *106th Infantry Div. Association*, to:

**Mike Sheaner**  
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PO Box 140535, Dallas TX 75214

To see a *full-color* version of this issue of *The CUB*,  
please visit our website at:

***106thInfDivAssn.org***

The online PDF version is now interactive and all  
website URLs and email addresses that appear in blue italics  
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106th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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GOLDEN LIONS

Jacquelyn Coy — Membership Chair  
603 Mountain, Apt BP223  
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