

The CUB

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

of the
GOLDEN LION

Vol. 80 – No. 3

July – November 2024

Wow, What a Reunion!



The 77th Annual Reunion was held September 18–22, 2024, with a big surprise.

We had a surprise visit by former President George W. Bush while visiting the George W. Bush Presidential Center in Dallas, TX, as part of the reunion tours.

Former President Bush graciously spent time with
106th Veteran Herb Sheaner, as well as the rest of the reunion attendees.

For the cover story, see [page 20](#).

The CUB

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

Total Membership as of September 30, 2024 – 647

Membership includes *CUB* magazine subscription

Annual Dues are no longer mandatory: Donations Accepted

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the Treasurer — *See address below*

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Editor's Message . . .



Remembering what happened during WWII comes in many forms. My mother's memory of WWII centered

around a day almost 80 years ago when mom was just 16 years old. My mother passed away on June 15 of this year. She was 96 years old — the last living sibling of a family of eleven. She was sharp until the end. And though she had a hard time communicating during the last month of her life, she still shared her thoughts about her life experiences with me every time I visited. One of her life experiences that she said remained clear as the day it happened in December 1944 was when there was a knock on my grandmother's door and someone in uniform told my family that their beloved son and brother, Albert Dazio, had been killed while serving his country in the Battle of the Bulge. Though just a teenager at the time, this had a profound effect on my mother and she recalled vividly how she, her mother and her siblings reacted — especially since there were three other brothers in service at the time. The fear of their wellbeing in addition to what happened to Albert was a memory that lived on in my mother until the day she died.

Going through mom's things recently to prepare for a family

Remembrance, I came across the correspondences relating to Albert that she saved — given to her from her own mother. Letters from him during the war, some two-dozen starting from when he first enlisted in the fall of 1943 through his time in battle, reassuring the family not to worry — each signed with "SWAK" — Sealed with a Kiss. Then the official communications:

- a Western Union telegram dated December 1945 from the Secretary of War reporting and expressing deep regret over the loss of Private Albert Dazio,
- the letter from Headquarters 358th Infantry confirming death,
- a letter from the President's office and from the U.S. Senator from PA, offering condolences,
- many letters from the Army Service Forces regarding various things including a letter listing in great detail the personal effects found on Albert's body,
- a letter from the War Department (for which my mother signed) about the burial of remains along with another letter that included a picture of the Military Cemetery in Limey, France, where Private Albert Dazio was temporarily buried,
- a letter from the War Department about the disposition of remains,
- a Western Union Telegraph from 1948 about Albert's body being enroute back to the U.S., and

Editor's Message . . .

- dozens of Mass cards from the 1948 funeral when my mother's brother was brought home to Coatesville, PA, and buried there.

Serving your country, and dying for it, is a courageous act that should never be forgotten. Just listening to my own mom speak about hearing of her brother's death is proof enough of the significance of that event from the perspective of a soldier's family. Finding everything that was saved is further testimony of what is never forgotten. It underscores family gatherings and discussions, and obviously, the memories of those who remain. It's a somber reminder of what was endured and what was lost, and should continue to be a reminder of what the sacrifice was for. There are those who thankfully made it home from that horrific war (including my three other uncles), some still with us today, and remembering the fallen should go hand-in-hand with honoring those who returned. This is why we do what we do as part of the 106th Infantry Division Association and why we hold reunions.

The Veterans of the 106th Infantry Division held their 77th Reunion in Dallas, TX in September this year. It is always a worthwhile event to see the Veterans (we had two VIPs this time with John Mock and Herb Sheaner in attendance), to meet family members that accompany or represent them, and to get reacquainted with the board members,

many of whom are themselves family members of Veterans. It was my privilege to be able to attend with my husband, Wayne, whose father served in the 106th. It reminded me again of the way my mom spoke of her brother, and the person he was. I always come away from these reunions feeling prouder and more dedicated to sharing their stories in *The CUB*. We met many people who joined for the first time. It feels like family... being together with folks who have this connection and who have a desire to ensure the greatest generation is never forgotten. Overall, from my own experience and from what I overheard others say, it was a very worthwhile time.

To that end, in this edition of *The CUB*, you will read about the wonderful surprise we had when visiting the George W. Bush Presidential Center, the meaningful visits to the JFK Sixth Floor Museum, and to the Holocaust and Human Rights Museum. We had enlightening presentations from some of our members, and then had some fun playing in cornhole competitions. Read about the two Order of the Golden Lion recipients and why they are so deserving of this distinction. In addition, we have a couple of personal stories from our historian and from a granddaughter of a Veteran in addition to news of

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some Veterans who have turned 100. We also said "Thank you" to Henry LeClair for his tenure as president of the Association this past year, and a formal "Welcome" to David Smith as incoming president.

In our effort to provide you with the kind of information you'd like to read, please continue to send your

questions, ideas and feedback to me or to any of the Board members.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays, and as always, if you know a Veteran, reach out to him/her! If you are a Veteran, reach out... we're here for you.

Lisa Dunn, *Editor*
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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:

January 31, 2025 — mail date: late March, 2025 (issue may include reunion paperwork)

April 20, 2025 — mail date: mid-June, 2025 (issue will include reunion paperwork)

October 1, 2025 — mail date: late November, 2025 (to include reunion photos and remembrances)

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Want to learn about the battlefields of the Battle of the Bulge?

**Watch the lecture-series presentation created by
*Carl Wouters, Association Belgian Liaison***

presented at the 77th Annual Reunion in Dallas, TX

A Tour of the Battlefields of the Golden Lions

View this informative video at

https://youtu.be/C64SsGyf2_A?si=ITKTgp8sGYpUIUFF

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

President's View . . .

Greetings everyone from your new president of the 106th Infantry Division Association! I took the oath on September 21, 2024, at our 77th reunion in Dallas, Texas. I really cannot express what this means to me. To say it's an honor and a privilege does not seem sufficient. I definitely did not see it on my radar a few years ago. But I am very proud to do this and at the same time I am super humbled to have this privilege. It is something that I don't take lightly. I know that I am standing on the shoulders of giants.

For those of you who do not know me or my connection to the association, my father, Jack D. Smith, was a 20-year-old staff sergeant in the 423rd Regiment, Company B of the 106th. Like many of the men, he started with the 106th at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and then moved with them to Camp Atterbury, Indiana. He was a mortar squad leader and was on the Siegfried Line the morning of December 16, 1944, when the Battle of the Bulge started. Dad fought bravely until he was forced to surrender to the Germans on December 19 and was a POW in Stalag 9B and then 9A.

Dad passed away in 2011 and I don't think that he ever went to a reunion. I didn't really know about the reunions until the digital age. I went to my first reunion in 2013 in New Orleans when Brian Welke invited me. I did not go to another reunion until



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2019 in Rhode Island, but I have been involved ever since. I really wish I had gotten involved sooner.

Naturally, for many decades after the war, those involved in the Association were the Veterans themselves. But now the Association is mostly made up of the children and grandchildren of the Veterans. We owe it to the Veterans to keep their memories and legacy alive. We owe it to them to make sure this generation and future generations understand what the men did in the Battle of the Bulge. Even to this day

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there is still misinformation being propagated by some so-called experts about historical facts of the division's actions in the Battle of the Bulge. Some things being said are just not true. For one example, a few years ago a PhD said that the division never actually engaged any German troops during the battle. That's just simply factually incorrect.

Another very important fact about the division's task that most people don't know is what they actually had to defend. In World War II, an infantry division had enough men and resources to defend a five-mile section of the front. But the very young men of the 106th were tasked with defending 27 miles of the front line. Twenty-seven miles! Let that sink in a little bit. Understandably, there were groups of men who were quickly surrounded, and the division was criticized by some for just "melting away." But that is far from an accurate characterization of what happened.

In case there is any doubt about the effectiveness of the 106th, let me tell you what the commander of the 5th Panzer army, Field Marshall Hasso Von Manteuffel said after the war:

"It's surprising to me that Bastogne has an honorable place in American military history and St. Vith is hardly mentioned! The Battle of the Bulge was not fought solely at Bastogne, or by the admirable arrival of Patton's Third Army; here at St. Vith were all elements of tragedy,

heroism, and self-sacrifice, which go to make up human experience at its most acute. The actions of our army around St. Vith exerted a great influence on the result of the German purpose in many ways, briefly: the schedule of the right wing of my army — a whole army corps was delayed by your defense around St. Vith, in spite of the ill-fated elements of the 106th Division. The troops in this area held up the German Corps five days longer than our time-table allowed, forcing us to detour the attacking forces so much that the [Sixth SS Panzer Army] on our right had no success. The 106th Division was outflanked, encircled, and overwhelmed by powerful German forces who were superior in numbers and arms. It is in my opinion [it is] very wrong to blame the 106th Infantry Division."

So, one reason we kids and grandkids are still involved in the association is because we want people to know exactly what these young men of the 106th sacrificed. It is up to us to be educated and set the record straight. We will continue as long as we can. But we need your help and involvement, too. Going to the reunions is a great way to be involved and support our effort. I think being with children and grandchildren of the Veterans — and indeed the Veterans themselves — and getting educated about the men is the single most important thing you can do for

President's View . . .

their legacy. So, we hope that all of you, as you are able, will continue to go to reunions and we would really like your ideas and involvement with the board of directors. We need new people and fresh ideas.

It was really wonderful to see so many people turn out for this year's reunion in Dallas. I know it would make all the Veterans happy to see how much love and support they

still have. I know it would please my dad. So, if you have any questions for me or any ideas on how I can be a good president and a servant to the Association of the Veterans, please don't hesitate to reach out to me and let me know. Thanks to everyone who attended this year's reunion. Thank you for having confidence in me. And I cannot wait to see everyone at next year's reunion!

Message from Our Outgoing President

Hello to our beloved 106th Veterans and members of the Association. What a privilege it was to serve as your president for the 2023–2024 term. I am especially proud of some of the initiatives that were introduced during the past year — especially our survey. From those who responded, one recurring theme was that respondents wanted to learn more about the 106th, its Veterans, and what they experienced in the Battle of the Bulge. To that end, during this year's reunion in Dallas, Texas, we incorporated an educational component to the schedule. These sessions were a huge hit.

At the reunion this year, we had two very important Veterans in attendance: John Mock and Herb Sheaner. It was an honor to be in their company.

Though my tenure as president of the Association is over, I have moved on as new Membership Chair. I have spent the last year getting around the

learning curve and I hope, moving forward, things in that area will start to fall into place with a little more ease. We receive requests and inquiries throughout the year and we try our best to get these answered. We are very fortunate to have a board of directors knowledgeable in the history of the 106th and the Battle of the Bulge. Depending on the subject matter of the request, we will try to forward that on to a member who is well versed in that area. It helps to have a board that has a varied knowledge in this area.

I am wishing much success to your new president, David Smith. I've known David for a number of years now and can say with confidence that you are in very good hands.

Thank you for your support this past year and let's keep working to preserve this incredibly distinguished and respected organization.

Henry LeClair
Past President 2023–2024

Chaplain's Message . . .

*For God alone, O my soul, I wait
in silence, for my hope is from Him.*
Psalm 62:5

My father Roddie Edmonds,
Master Sergeant 422 HQ Company,
loved silence. He often sat in the
stillness of the morning in his beloved
rocking chair chomping on one of his
cigars. He could make one soggy-tipped
Dutch Master last for days.

"Son," he told me once, "these
are my 'seegars'—'cause I like to
'see' how long I can make 'em last."

He loved silence as he mowed the
front lawn. After dinner, he would fire
up the engine of his riding mower,
place his stubby Dutch Masters
Corona De Luxe in the corner of his
mouth, and enter his sanctuary of
silence. In silence, I think dad met
with the Almighty to find strength,
rest, and hope. We can, too.

In the first edition of *The CUB of
the Golden Lion* after the war, Vol. 3
No. 4, published by the Veterans of
the 106th Infantry dated November
1946, there's a poem entitled "God
Will Listen."

*There in the Ardennes where cold
stars glisten,*

*Brave men talk to God and God
will listen;*

*And as we knelt in the snow to
pray,*

*God was with us that Christmas day.
From the blanket of snow I raised
my head*



Pastor Chris Edmonds (father 422/HQ)

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*Through the smoke of battle I could
see the dead,*

*My buddies that only the day before
Had laughed at danger, now
laughed no more.*

*As I looked up at that star-spangled
sky,*

*There was a question in my mind —
a tear in my eye;*

*The question was why — why was
I allowed to stay?*

*Yes, we won the battle and they say
It was worth the price we had to
pay.*

The price many of our brave
boys and their families paid 80 years
ago was the full measure of their

Chaplain's Message . . .

devotion to us. Early editions of *The CUB* reflected just how desperately information was being sought. I share these heartbreaking stories from the Nov. 1946 *CUB* as a way to remember the brave boys and families and thank God for their bravery and deep sacrifice.

From The CUB, 1946

“CLIFFORD BOBO, CO A, 424 INF: Killed in action at Winterspelt, Germany. Buried in Luxembourg Cemetery. His parents would “like very much to get in touch with some of his Company.” Anyone who knew this man or can give any information about him, contact Association Headquarters.

PFC DARREL D. STONE, CO C, 423 INF: Missing in action, presumed dead. His mother is very anxious to trace some of his buddies since she did not hear from her son after he left England. Anyone having any information about this Veteran contact Association Headquarters.

PFC ROBERT V. LORENZEN, CO C, 424 INF: The father and mother of Robert V. Lorenzen, Co. C 424 Inf are anxious to learn details of his death. He was reported KIA 14 December 1944 which would seem to indicate that if the date is correct, he might have been the first man killed in the Division. Send information direct to the parents, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Lorenzen, Box 205, Foosland, Illinois or through Association CP.

M/SGT EDWARD B. HJERPE, CO L, 422 INF: Killed at Halle, Germany, 31 March 1945 while in prison. His mother, Mrs. H. Hjerpe, 2407 12th Avenue, Moline, Ill. writes as follows: “Our son Edward B. Hjerpe was killed March 31, 1945 in an air raid, while still a POW of the Germans by the Allies, as you probably know. It seems so terrible to us to think that it happened, when the boys were so close to being liberated, the war was over. He had been dead all that while before we were told October 17, 1945. I am asking a favor if possible. In the testament of Edward’s (it was returned to us) are several names of boys just their last names, no addresses. I have heard from a few of the boys of Co L, 422 Inf. If they recall any of those names is there a chance of ever finding out if they were killed or liberated? I would so very much like to get in touch with them. Can you tell me how? I know it is a big order. There was a boy from Guthrie, Oklahoma who verified the death of our son. He had only known him a short time. His name is not in the book and does not know any of them. He was quite sick and very young. I shall copy the names. It may be that you have one or more of those names on your roster if they happened to be in some other outfit of the 106th Div. I will appreciate it very much if you can give me any kind of information. I think Alan W.

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Chaplain's Message . . .

Jones was Edward's Major General. I wrote to him in the spring of this year but did not hear from him. I may be asking too much. After all we lost our only son. A heartbroken mother. Thank you. These names were on inside cover of Edward's testament. Not much to go on. I hope and pray that I may hear from you. Felix, Berry, Hays, Ash, Staley, Barks, Poloski, Schroeder, Hill, Pinkham, Young. Please if you know of any way I can find out about these boys — they may still be alive and I would like to contact them. I am enclosing a dollar to be used in the scholarship fund. May help in some corner."

"PFC CHARLES A. LUBKE, HQ CO 422 INF: Died February 15, 1945 in a prisoner of war camp in Germany. He is buried near Zies, Germany. His mother, Mrs. C. L. Lubke, 201 Thurman Avenue, Michigan City, Indiana writes as follows: July 13, 1946, I received the citation for the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous). I quote: 'Private First-Class Charles A. Lubke distinguished himself by heroic achievement on 19 December 1944 by volunteering to participate in a motorized patrol of the 422nd Infantry Regiment near Halenfield, Germany. By doing this, he prevented an enemy ambush, saved the lives of many of their comrades by his unselfish conduct and disregard of his own safety.' Perhaps you might locate someone who was with Charles at this

time or another time. If so contact me and let me know. Especially while in the Ardennes or a prisoner of war. I will be very grateful for any kind of information. Best wishes to all of Charles comrades always."

"PRIVATE CECIL O. JOHNSON, 2 BN, 423 INF: 606 So. Caledonia Street, Marianna, Florida writes: "I would like to know if you can give me any information on Captain W. S. Crews. I believe he was from S.C. He was Company Commander of Co E, 423 Regt. I would also like some information on 2nd Lt. Paul Townes. I believe that he was from S.C. also. These were the men who helped me to walk with my frozen feet on the day that we were captured by the Germans. I was captured on December 19, 1944 and liberated from a German hospital on April 14, 1945." The Association has no record of either of these officers and will appreciate hearing from anyone who knows their present addresses."

"PFC IRA KRAMER, CO B, 424 INF: Killed in action 20 December. His brother, Seymour Kramer, c/o Plastic Enterprises, Inc., 129 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, N.J. writes as follows: "To date we have not received any further information surrounding my brother's death, nor have we received any of his personal effects after numerous correspondence with Personal Effects Bureau in St. Louis. I would consider it a personal favor if you would

Chaplain's Message . . .

investigate among your members if there is anyone who had been with my brother at the time he was wounded. You see my brother never came back. He was with Company I of the 424th Infantry. If you know of anyone, from that Company, who survived, I would appreciate it, more than you know, if you would send me his name and address. You see we never received any of his personal effects, nor any word from a Chaplain. I presumed he was killed also. The first word we received said my brother was killed December 26, 1944. Later word said he was killed December 17, 1944, so we know nothing. I would like to get in touch with someone who knows something of what really happened. He was all mother and I had. My father died

when he was just 11, and mother worked like a dog to raise us, so you see our sun rose and set in him. I'll never be able to thank you enough, if you can help me find someone who knows what happened to him. Thank you ever so much for any time you may give this letter."

The sacrifice and goodness of our heroes of the 106th, those with us and those gone, deserve the unspoken holy hush of awe from each of us. Please take a moment of holy silence in their honor and memory. We must never forget them or the source of our hope.

*For God alone, O my soul, I wait
in silence, for my hope is from Him.*
Psalm 62:5

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

The Adjutant's Message . . .

The 77th Reunion, held on September 18–22 this year, was a real treat in many ways. First, it was located in Dallas, Texas, at the Atrium Hotel. The hotel was very nice and the folks who took care of our needs were wonderful. We had a good crowd of attendees through the week and a banquet with more than 50 people in attendance. Our two special guests were Herb Sheaner and John Mock, both Veterans of the 106th 422nd Regiment and both survivors of the German POW system. We were so happy and honored that they could attend. Herb had just turned 100 and John turned 99 while the reunion was in session. We had several activities that appeared to be enjoyed by all.

We visited the JFK Sixth Floor Museum located in the Texas School Book Depository building in Dallas. We saw the location of the shooter and the street where President Kennedy was shot. The assassination of the President was a horrific time in our lives. I'm sure everybody remembered where they were that day and that time. I was in algebra class, taught by Mister Mead at the time of the announcement.

Following the JFK Museum, we went to The Holocaust and Human Rights Museum which was very informative and heart breaking. We learned more about what it means to be an "UPSTANDER" in the recognition of standing up on behalf of people being attacked or bullied.



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As we continued the tour of the museum, the staff saved the best for last as they led us to the painting of Roddie Edmonds, Chris Edmond's father. Roddie certainly was a great example of an UPSTANDER when the commandant of the German POW camp told Roddie to separate the American Jews from the non-Jews Roddie, responsible for over 1,200 soldiers, had a pistol to his head and was told he'd be shot if he did not comply. Roddie stood his ground, looked the German in the eye and told him that they were all Jews that day. The German lowered the pistol and walked away. Roddie is responsible for saving in excess of 13,000 lives

The Adjutant's Message . . .

by virtue of family growth.

Our other activity was to attend the George W. Bush Presidential Center. Before we began the tour to watch the videos and see the renderings of his policies and actions, we were taken to the Atrium where we had group pictures taken with the father/son Bush statues that are prominently displayed there. Suddenly, people began to make surprised exclamations such as: "Oh My," and "It's Really Him," as the Secret Service and former President George W. Bush walked into the room asking to see Herb Sheaner! (Our other Veteran, John Mock, was not feeling well and did not make the trip to the library. Former President Bush graciously said he would write a note to John.) We all got to meet with the former President, have brief conversations and get pictures taken with him. Most importantly, Herb met the former President, spoke with him at length and got a multitude of pictures with him.

How did that happen? A week or so before the reunion was to start, Kathy Spinella and I had the idea that there might be a real chance that former President Bush would come visit us if he knew that the 106th Infantry Division Association would be in town and would hopefully have two Veterans in attendance who were survivors of the German prison camps. It was our hope that the former President would not

pass up the opportunity to visit with a 100-year-old Veteran and a 99-year-old Veteran of the Battle of the Bulge. Former President Bush did not disappoint and the rest is history!

Another component of the reunion that was a big hit was something new we implemented: we had three different educational presentations scheduled. Brian Welke's program was based on the 106th soldiers who were part of the Slaughter House prison camp and survived the fire-bombing in Dresden, Germany. Chris Edmonds' presentation was about the actions of his dad and several other men who were with him in a German prison camp and the lives they lived after they returned home. Both presentations included a question-and-answer segment. Our third presentation was a documentary prepared by our Belgian liaison, Carl Wouters. It included images of the Battle of the Bulge then and now. It was very good and is available on YouTube for public access (please see [page 4](#)).

As usual, we had a Memorial Service to honor those who served. It was very nice and included the color guard from the Woodrow Wilson High School ROTC unit. We are grateful they participated in placing the colors and the memorial wreath.

Our banquet was well attended with more than 50 friends and

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The Adjutant's Message . . .

family members of the Veterans of the 106th. The food was excellent. We were honored to have our guest speaker Admiral Walsh speak about leadership development both in the military as well as teachers and coaches using their expertise to develop leaders. Those who have the ability to lead and develop teams play a crucial role in teaching how to work as a team and understanding how to always have your teammates' backs.

We had more than 12 first-time attendees at this reunion. Each person was asked to introduce themselves and their families, and to share what their connection to the 106th is, which provided a personal touch to the evening in getting to understand more about those who joined us. John Mock, 99, from the 422nd Regiment was included in this group of first-timers, and we were very happy that he chose to come.

Our silent auction was a success, raising more than \$1,000 for the Association. Thanks to all who

donated items for the auction and of course to all the bidders for their purchases.

This is most of what we did and is a reflection of what we will plan for our 78th reunion next year. The only thing missing is more of our Veterans and more of their families. We are starting to research where to go next year. If you have suggestions, please reach out to me, Randy Wood, 765-346-0690, and we will look into the possibility. This past reunion was our 77th and we have never had a reunion in which someone new has not attended... let's not let next year's be the exception!

Everyone who attended this year said how meaningful it was to them. Next year's reunion information will be available in the March *CUB* magazine. Please plan now to do whatever it takes to attend the 78th Reunion in 2025.

Randall M. Wood, *Adjutant*
106th Inf. Div. Association
My Veteran: Robert M. Wood 423 Co I

Want to help the 106th Association?

Please take a few minutes to take our new survey. We are asking just a few questions to find out how we as an organization can better serve you.

**Click on this link from the PDF or type this into your browser
to be connected to the brief survey on our website:**

106thInfDivAssn.org/survey2023.html

Sean recently made a trip to Jacksonville, FL to meet with 106th Veteran Rick Fusco. After a three-hour meeting, Sean is sharing Rick's story with us here.

Rick Fusco (423/C and I&R) — One of the 60%

While training at Camp Atterbury in the spring-summer of 1944, the 106th saw 60% of its personnel (about 7,000 men) re-designated as replacements for divisions awaiting or already in combat. Many of these men had been with the 106th since activation, and were forced to leave behind friendships they had forged through basic training, the mud-ridden Tennessee Maneuvers, and fun times spent on furlough. But



Sean O'Dwyer

101 Barnard Street,
Savannah, GA 31401
386-366-4909

sfodwyer96@gmail.com



Rick Fusco holding a picture of himself when he was in the 106th circa 1943.

what happened to these thousands of replacements? Well, Americo “Rick” Fusco — who turned 100 years old in May — can tell you firsthand.

Born to an Italian Methodist family, Rick and his six siblings were raised in the railroad town of Altoona, Pennsylvania. He was named after Italian cartographer and namesake of the U.S.A. Amerigo Vespucci, but started to go by “Rick” when teachers had trouble pronouncing his birth name. After an accident put his father permanently out of work, Rick and the rest of his family did their best to make ends meet during the depths of the Great Depression. Uncle Sam called up Rick in February 1943 just before he turned 19, and by March

continues on page 16

he was on his way to Fort Jackson, South Carolina to join a brand-new unit. Assigned initially to C Company, 423rd Infantry Regiment, 106th Division, after one month Rick was moved to the 423rd's Intelligence and Reconnaissance (I&R) Platoon.

He learned how to drive a Jeep in the wilderness around Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and earned a reputation for singing Christian hymns rather than the usual Army cadences while on the march. Rick made friends with fellow I&R men Ted Slaby and Charles Sartori, and after joining his unit's choir, accompanied a 106th chaplain to perform as a soloist at churches near their bases. This lighter side of military life came to a screeching halt in mid-1944, when Rick got word that he would be transferred from the 106th to a replacement rifleman pool. He had no idea where or with which unit he might end up. A few weeks later, he was aboard the USS General Mann steaming for North Africa, and finally to the front lines via Naples, Italy. Rick joined the 91st Infantry Division, serving with both the 363rd Regiment and the 91st's Reconnaissance Troop. In his own words, he was "scared [the] whole time."

One day while setting up forward observation posts, Rick and his squad mates came under heavy German artillery fire. One shell struck a nearby building burying about a dozen men underneath. Rick rushed to their aid and hoisted several men

out of the rubble before incoming rounds forced the survivors to retreat. Rick was put in for the Bronze Star for his actions, but unfortunately his nomination was lost in the shuffle of Army paperwork. Christmas of 1944 found Rick dug in somewhere along the Apennine Mountains, scanning the frozen craggy landscape for German patrols. Then, the unthinkable happened. Over a set of loudspeakers, one of the Germans wished the GIs a Merry Christmas, and proceeded to halt their firing to sing carols into the night. Thinking of their loved ones back home, Rick recalled how he and his buddies could not help but cry. The following morning, they were back to trying to kill each other.

Rick remained on the front lines until a bad case of trench foot led to his transfer to Air Transport Command for the remainder of his service. A devout Christian, Rick went on to work in the Baptist ministry as a choir director and assistant minister, and later raise a loving family with his wife Leah.

Rick lost touch with his fellow Golden Lions after his transfer, but was contacted by Ted Slaby in the mid-1990s. Back together 50 years later, Rick attended the 1995 reunion in Orlando and a 1998 Washington-Oregon mini-reunion with Leah. It was only at this time that he learned the full story of the division's fate.

We salute you for your service, Rick!

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

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
214-823-3004

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



Henry LeClair, Membership
209 Range Road
Windham, NH 03087
membership@106thInfDivAssn.org
603-401-3723

Treasurer's Report: May 1 – September 30, 2024

Beginning Balance:	\$20,327.31
Money In:	9,757.23
Money Out:	4,146.61
Difference:	5,610.62
Ending Balance:	\$25,937.93

Association Membership as of September 30, 2024

Total Membership	647
Veteran Membership	154
Associate Membership	493

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 . . .

MEMORIAL and HONORARY DONATIONS:

In memory of John Frank Blutworth, Sr., Co. F 422 Regiment

Given by David H. Blutworth

In honor of the 100th birthday of James D. Gilles, 590 FABN

Given by Jean Shaw and Dave Gilles

LIFE PLUS and REGULAR DONATIONS:

Diane E. Husk	Associate Member
Dennis Shane Miller	Associate Member
John H. Mock	422/L
Ron & Susan Nelson	Associate Members
Wilma E. Wood	Associate Member

NEW MEMBERS:

Bruce Lewis	Associate Member
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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.

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.

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

106th Challenge Coin, Wooden Ornaments and Lapel Pins —

***Have You Gotten
Yours Yet?***



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

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



Front



Back

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



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

Please call or email Randy with questions.

Phone — 765-346-0690

Email — 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.

Membership Roster Update!

We are updating our roster with the most current information to make sure you are receiving *The CUB* the way you want it. If you have not received a printed copy of *The CUB* in the mail and you've indicated you want to, or you are still getting a copy and you've indicated you no longer want it sent but still enjoy reading it online, or if a family member who was getting it has passed, please let us know.

Please notify: Henry LeClair, membership@106thInfDivAssn.org

106th Infantry Division Association's 77th Annual Reunion Recap

Here are some pictures highlighting the events from the reunion.

Welcome 106th Infantry Division Association



Reunion Information . . .

Reunion Tours, Banquet and Fun



Holocaust and Civil Rights Museum



Dealey Plaza



Memorial Service



Lecture Series



Banquet



First-Timers



Past Presidents



Order of the Golden Lion



Itinerary for the 80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge — St. Vith, Belgium, Dec. 13–16, 2024

By Carl Wouters, Belgian Liaison

16 December 2024 will mark the 80th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. With our surviving WWII Veterans now nearing or having reached or exceeded the blessed age of 100, this year will mark perhaps the last major anniversary where Veterans will travel to Belgium and Luxembourg to attend the commemorations. For the young generations of grateful Europeans, this will be a unique chance to meet, talk to and personally thank the members of the Greatest Generation.

For solo travelers and small groups travelling under their own power, the Association Bulge Chapter will offer a four-day immersive itinerary (13–16 December 2024). The focus naturally will lay on the history and experience of the 106th Infantry Division. The itinerary will be focused on battlefield and museum visits, participation in several official commemorative events throughout the larger “Bulge” area and a unique chance to walk into the footsteps of the Golden Lions. As this program is offered through the Association on a voluntary basis, there are no fees involved except covering your own costs for transport and lodging.

For registration forms and more information, contact:

- Carl Wouters, email: bulgechapter@outlook.com cell: +32 479 247 789, or
- Doug Mitchell email: doug.mitchell@t-online.de

80th Anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge Itinerary: 13–16 Dec. 2024

Day 1: Friday 13 December 2024 — Schnee Eifel Battlefield exploration:

- 0900 Assembly at 106th Div. Memorial St. Vith, General Overview — Battle of St. Vith
- 1000 Exploring 424th Infantry Positions (Winterspelt — Heckhuscheid — Grosskampenberg)
- 1100 Siegfried Line remnants at Grosskampenberg
- 1130 106th Recon Troop at Grosslangenfeld
- 1200 Bleialf (RRS) + Luncheon
- 1430 Exploring 423rd/422nd Infantry Positions (Buchet — Brandscheid — Schwarzer Mann). Siegfried Line Bunkers and front-line positions — Losheim Gap (14th Cavalry Group)
- 1630 Wereth Eleven Monument

News from Around the Globe . . .

Day 2: Saturday 14 December 2024 – POW Ceremony — Manhay — Vielsalm

- 0900 Assembly at Schöenberg church
- 0930 Schöenberg — wreath laying at POW Monument
- 1000 Lt Eric Wood Memorial — Meyerode
- 1030 Prümerberg (Engineers' Last Stand) St. Vith
- 1130 Rodt bei St. Vith (BE) Light lunch at Biermuseum Rodt (RSVP)
- 1300 Manhay (BE) WWII vehicles and tanks / reenactor camp
424th Infantry battle monument + MHM44 Museum
- 1600 Rencheux — wreath laying at bridge monument

Day 3: Sunday 15 December 2024 — Ceremonial Day (FOF / POTEAU inauguration)

- 0930 Assembly at monument before the ceremony.
- 0945 Start of Flag of Friendship (FOF) ceremony (106th Div. Memorial, St. Vith)
- 1020 End of ceremony.
City Hall St. Vith — Reception for veterans and family members.
Lunch option in St. Vith
- 1400 POTEAU 14th Cavalry Group Monument Inauguration (Poteau, Belgium)
- 1500 End of ceremony

Day 4: Monday 16 December 2024 — Visit to Military Cemeteries / January '45 Battlefield

- 0900 Henri-Chapelle Military Cemetery (Welkenraedt, Belgium)
- 1100 Netherlands American Military Cemetery (Margraten, The Netherlands)
- 1300 Lunch (RSVP)
- 1400 La Gleize Tiger Tank + Exploration of January '45 Golden Lions Battlefield (Wanne, Spineux, Ennal)
- 1700 RSVP Farewell Dinner, Auberge du Carrefour, Baraque de Fraiture BE

***Watch (again!) the 74th Annual Reunion's
2020 Virtual Memorial Service***

Remember the men of the 106th at <https://youtu.be/6S4Ke-Tftg>

History Preserved — The Guidon of the 423rd Regimental Headquarters Company

By Carl Wouters, Association Belgian Liaison

Almost 80 years have passed since the Battle of the Bulge and amazing historic discoveries can still be made. Traditionally, military flags, standards and banners were and still are considered popular war booty. This was no different for the German troops in 1944, who took anything of value from captured GIs: items of clothing, watches, cigarettes, rations and military symbols. For instance, the 424th Regimental colors were found in the satchel of a German POW in the summer of 1945, after being lost near Winterspelt on 17 December 1944. Flags and guidons of the two Regiments that were captured in the Schnee Eifel are presumed destroyed or lost, as none seem to have surfaced since. That was until recently.

A few weeks ago, the original guidon of Headquarters Company, 423rd Infantry Regiment came out of the woodwork in the U.S. It had been saved by the guidon bearer of HQ Company, who carried it on his person throughout his POW experience at Stalag IV-B and a few work details. Upon liberation, he brought it home as a souvenir. The guidon definitely shows traces of this odyssey, stains and moth holes are plentiful. But it equally tells an amazing story of survival.



Carl Wouters holds the original issue guidon for HQ Company, 423rd Infantry Regiment not far from where the Regiment fought in the Belgian Ardennes. (Photo Carl Wouters)

This swallow-tailed guidon was made from dark blue wool bunting at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot and still retains its original tag. The crossed rifles branch insignia and unit number are sewn on in white wool cloth. It represents the unit and is a source of unit pride. The guidon bearer was responsible for safeguarding the flag and as it appears 80 years later, that was exactly the case with this one.

This exciting rare piece of Golden Lion history was recently added to the collection and will be on display in Belgium during the 80th anniversary commemorations.

If any members of the association are aware of other original examples of these 106th Division guidons still in existence, I would be glad to hear from them.

“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, CUBeditor@106thInfDivAssn.org, so it can easily be transferred to The CUB. Images should be submitted as jpg files. For each picture file you submit, please also include what event the picture represents and where/when it was taken. Individuals in the pictures should be identified. 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 or may not be used depending on difficulty of transcription. If you have any questions, please contact the Editor.

John Beville Turns 100!

By Brian and Teresa Welke

On July 20, John G. Beville (K/424 and POW) celebrated his 100th birthday with friends and family at Grace Bible Baptist Church in Leesburg, Florida. It was well attended with more than 100 guests. United States Congressman Daniel Webster attended and recognized Mr. Beville’s service to his county. Mr.

Beville addressed the attendees and thanked them for joining in on his birthday celebration and he invited them all to his 105th birthday party.



US Congressman Daniel Webster and John Beville. (Photo from Brian Welke)



John and Etta Beville, Gary Higgins (Past President of the Battle of the Bulge Association), Mike Beville, Brian and Teresa Welke. (Photo from Brian Welke)

Veteran Paul Panagrosso Graduates at Age 98

Submitted by Jason Sabatino

WWII Veteran Paul Panagrosso officially graduated from Hillhouse High School on June 13, 2024 at 98 years of age, 80 years after he completed all his academic requirements to graduate with the Class of 1944. Panagrosso was called away to war two weeks prior to the graduation ceremony and never got to walk across the stage to formally accept his diploma.

Paul Panagrosso, who is part of the 106th Golden Lions, 424/AT,

left for France in September, 1944, turned 99 on July 5th this year. You can read more of his story in the New Haven Patch: <https://patch.com/connecticut/newhaven/wwii-Veteran-98-graduates-hillhouse-high-school-thursday> posted June 13, 2024

Editor's Note: Read more about Paul's war experiences in "George, Paul, and Jack: Teenage Lions in the Ardennes," *The CUB*, Volume 80, No. 1, published March 2024.

Charles Newton "Newt" Schenck

From the Editor: This summer, I received a letter from Anne Schenk, wife of Veteran Newt Schenk, Lieutenant 590 FABN/Battery C, who passed away on February 14, 2002. Anne had some questions about Newt's unit within the 106th. In researching an answer, I came across a heartwarming story in a college magazine written by Loey Crooks about her grandfather, Newt Schenk. After contacting Anne and confirming the relationship, I asked if Loey would share the story with our readership. Loey generously agreed. The first grandchild of Newt and Anne Schenk, Loey is doing her graduate thesis about her grandfather's time during the war. She spent the summer of 2023 in Paris during which time she visited Bastogne.

My Blue Heaven (excerpt)

By Loey Crooks

I knew him as Pop Pop. His full name was Charles Newton Schenck. He was Mr. Schenck to neighbors and some of his newer clients at the law firm. He was Newt to friends and colleagues, Newtie to his brother

and sister, and Dear to my Granny. I was twenty when he died. I couldn't attend his funeral because I was studying in Paris.

In the years since his death, my Pop Pop has achieved mythological status in both my heart and my memory, a fairy-tale hero with a heart of gold whom everyone adored. At

40, I regret that I knew him only as a granddaughter knows a grandfather, raised at the opposite end of the country, in a period so foreign to the one in which his generation was brought up. As a child and teenager, I knew the barest truth about his time as an officer with the United States Army, a story that sounded cool because I was too young and naïve to understand the weight of the reality and the echoes of it through not only his life but the lives of his wife and daughters.

My grandfather's story is one of millions of stories from the WWII, a story that could be told by someone else's granddaughter or grandson. His experience informed the life he chose to live, raising a family while leading in service to his city. I am interested in Pop Pop's experiences because I don't understand. Maybe I'll never understand the kind of strength it takes to survive and turn one's life into a legacy. I wish I could know him now. I have so many questions for him.

He was nineteen when he went to Europe. A handsome, fresh-faced son of New Jersey parents, with a brand-new degree from Yale and the title of officer, in charge of a unit of men sent to fight a foreign enemy. How many countless millennials and gen X-ers share this same history of grandparents coming home from war? Pop Pop didn't talk about the war. I grew up knowing — though I don't remember being told — that I was never to ask him about it.



Charles Newton Schenk, *Pop Pop*, 2002. (Photo from Loey Crooks)

Everything I know comes from other people.

"I used to wake up and hear him shouting in his sleep," Mom told me once. I was sixteen and I had asked her because we were learning about the war in history class. I wanted to know everything and couldn't call him up and ask him, as if it were my right to know the terror that revisited him in his sleep, so many decades later. The Battle of the Bulge was just a spot on a map, glossed over in school because there was too much to learn. But I wanted to know the details.

"But why won't he talk about it?" I asked her, with the same teenaged attitude and entitlement I used to insist she let me pierce my nose. (She said no.)

I am embarrassed by those memories. I understand now. There are things we live through — that we survive — that we put away so that

continues on page 30

we can get up and continue to live. To imagine begging my grandfather to relive his trauma, to hash it out for the sake of an impertinent granddaughter, is shameful to me. As a child, I treated his experience like an adventure, a sensational story rather than an incomprehensible horror that he'd survived by the grace of something.

What I know, I have learned from listening. Granny shares bits and pieces in response to questions and in an effort to keep her memories of him sharp in her mind. He was her great love and when she talks about him, it's like watching her step back in time. Her gaze goes to some spot across the room, but she is twenty, thirty, sixty years in the past.

"Wasn't he so handsome?" she asks when she catches me staring at the sepia portrait of him in his uniform. It's been displayed in the same prominent space beside where Granny sits to watch television or knit for longer than I have been alive.

They met in Paris in 1952, when Granny was a recent graduate of Hollins College. An unmarried woman, society dictated she return to her parents' house. She joined her mother and youngest siblings on Staten Island and by July, they were living as the family of an American diplomat in Paris. I have memorized the story of how my great-grandmother, intent on

marrying her oldest daughter to a lawyer, arranged for Newt to sit beside her one evening when many of my great-grandfather's colleagues joined them for dinner to celebrate the coming end of the Marshall Plan and their looming return to the states.

Pop Pop was handsome. Even in the colorless photo, I can see how bright and alive his eyes are. I remember how tall he was, towering over everyone, shoulders back in that military posture imposed upon him as a teenager. In the shape of his mouth, I see my mom. He has the same eyes as my sister, Sarah, and looks like an older, more masculine image of his youngest, my aunt Carrie.

"Can you believe it, Lois Anne?"

Granny asks me. Her eyes are unfocused, her hands clasped in her lap. She is reverent, her voice hushed as if we are in church. "His entire unit was destroyed. He was captured by the Germans."

Granny talks so rarely about Pop Pop that I put my book or my crochet project away and listen with my entire body. I hang onto every word she says. I have a million questions that start with how and why and none of them have an answer.

"His mother saved every letter he sent her and that's how she knew something was wrong. The letters stopped coming." Granny's voice changes. "Isn't it quite a miracle?"

That winter was brutally cold. Pop Pop was captured by the Germans three weeks before his twenty-second birthday. He survived for three months in a prison camp. The effects of those months of pneumonia, hypothermia, and malnutrition followed him through the rest of his life. I struggle to believe in God or gods or a higher power, but I believe in the miracle that is the life of my grandfather.

Pop Pop died a month after his seventy-ninth birthday from the aftershocks of his time in Germany.

“Do you know,” Granny continues, and I say nothing because I don’t know, and I want to know everything. “He was nursed through pneumonia by a Serbian doctor. He had been in the camp longer than your grandfather.”

“What happened to him?” I blurt out like I am still a child at my Granny’s knee. I imagine an epic adventure unfolding, using Ancestry and war records to find this hero who kept my Pop Pop from becoming a number in a war that claimed millions.

Granny comes back to herself. She shrugs a shoulder. “Oh, I’m sure he was executed.” Her tone is matter-of-fact. Granny accepts the sadness and grief of life the same way she accepts property taxes and the weather. I wonder if it occurs to her that his Serbian prisoner, had he lived, could have been someone’s Pop Pop.

And that is what changes everything.

Newt was my grandfather. A real person I only remember in bits and pieces who left behind a legacy I feel a need to uncover. I am compelled to explore the pieces of history that make up my grandfather’s life. The “what ifs” that pile up, one on top of the next, the kindness of a fellow prisoner, the patriotism of a German farmer. His story is a web, a puzzle, a map of a life beginning in Englewood, New Jersey, and ending in New Haven by way of Yale, Hammelburg, and Paris. I’m after the pins on the map between Yale and Hammelburg, after he was pushed through Yale into the rank of an officer when he was packed off to training camp and then shipped overseas. I’m in search of the trail that led him to Oflag XIII-B and how he made it home again. Newt’s story does not belong to me. But I cannot shake the sense of urgency to tell it, to untangle the threads that led him from the Ardennes to New Haven, where he lived after surviving, where I sat on his knee and begged him to sing me “My Blue Heaven” or “Skidamarink” and pulled silly faces to make him laugh.

I have too many questions and no sense of how or where or when to begin. What I do have is a memory. Soap on the tip of my nose as Pop Pop grinned at me with a twinkle in his eye and let me watch him shave. I’ll start there.

Order of the Golden Lion Award

The Order of the Golden Lion Award is a medal presented to someone who has served the Association faithfully over an extended period of time. The award is determined by the recipient's contributions to the Association.

We congratulate the recipients who received their medals during the 2024 Reunion: Chris Edmonds and Janet Wood.



Order of the Golden Lion Award — *Pastor Chris Edmonds*

Pastor Chris Edmonds was the guest speaker at his first reunion in 2017 in Orlando, FL, and presented a moving message of heroism and sacrifice about his father's experience along with other 106th Veterans when they were held as POWs. Shortly after, Chris was asked to join the 106th Infantry Division Association as Chaplain. He accepted the challenge and has remained our chaplain since 2018. Chris is the son of MSgt. Roddie Edmonds, 106th Infantry Division, 422nd Infantry Regiment. As Chaplain, Chris conducts the Memorial Service held annually at the 106th reunions, which remembers those who have passed during the previous year. He has also written a book about his father's experiences titled *No Surrender*. Chris established Roddie's Code, a foundation through which he encourages others to live heroically and "light your world with goodness and hope." Through Roddie's Code, Chris shares links for the 106th Infantry Division Association, again

sharing with others opportunities to learn about this group. Currently, he travels extensively for speaking engagements, sharing his father's heroic story of saving the lives of the Jewish men under his command. During these guest-speaker opportunities, Chris always shares about the experiences of the 106th and in doing so continues the legacy of the 106th Infantry Division to students as well as civic and church groups. Chris's actions and leadership have been vital to the perpetuation of the viability of the 106th Infantry Division's motto of the "Last Man Standing" and beyond.

It takes a certain number of people to keep an organization alive and well. Those are the workers who recognize a need and decide that they have the ability, talent, and time to contribute. They step up to the task. Their main concern is to do what is needed for the benefit of the members. Chris Edmonds' leadership and contribution have been essential to the preservation of the heritage of the 106th Infantry Division.

Order of the Golden Lion Award **— Janet Wood**

Janet Wood is the daughter of Robert M. Wood, member of the 423rd Regiment, Company I and POW. She attended her first reunion in 2008 and soon became an avid and enthusiastic participant in the coming reunions. Her love of photography led her to become the photographer for the Association and, as such, has shot some amazing and unforgettable photographs of the Veterans and their families. Since that time, *The CUB* magazine is full of her creations.

Janet was appointed to the Board of Directors by Murray Stein (Adjutant) in 2016 where her leadership skills helped shape the future of the organization. She was elected as the first female president of the 106th Infantry Division Association in 2022 serving through 2023. Janet faithfully performed the duties of her presidency. She presided over a very enjoyable and successful 76th reunion in Buffalo, New York, August 2023.

It takes a number of special people to keep an organization alive and well. Those are the ones who recognize a need and decide that they have the talent and ability to contribute. They step up to the challenge and do whatever is necessary to benefit the organization. Janet is one of those special people who said “Yes I can, and Yes I will!”

Nominations

The Chairman 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. Members of the 106th Infantry Division Association may also nominate worthy candidates. Nominations should be submitted in a format suitable for composing a formal citation to accompany 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 Co-chairs listed below:

Carol J. Faulkner, 765-342-1872
3179 Kestrel Court
Martinsville, IN 46151
faulknerskeepe05@yahoo.com

Beth Garrison, 618-628-4733
7766 Haury Road, Lebanon, IL 62254
rgbg75@att.net

Kathy Spinella, 305-562-4381
1991 Carolina Ave. NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33703
pspin142@aol.com

Visit the 106th Association's Website!

To complement the wonderful websites that are already out on the Internet, including a website from our own member, Jim West (IndianaMilitary.org), the Association has its own website at 106thInfDivAssn.org.

The Association's website provides 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. You will find up-to-the-minute information here and it's 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 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/. 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.

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. 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.

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

Henry LeClair

membership@106thInfDivAssn.org

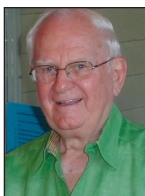
603-401-3723

Unless otherwise noted, the obituaries listed below were obtained online through board member research.

**BAHLINGER, MARION JOHN
422/B**

Date of death: July 27, 2024

Marion John Bahlinger died surrounded by his family on Sat. July 27, 2024 at the age of 98. Marion was born on August 29, 1925. He is survived by his children Ann Bahlinger Bernard (Tommy), Katherine Bahlinger Surek, and John Bahlinger (Jo Ann). Six grandchildren, Mary Katherine and Michael Bernard, Mary Jo, Katherine Lee, Claire and Jack Surek. He is survived by his sister Barbara Bahlinger, Caritas Religious and sister-in-law Claire W. Bahlinger. He is preceded in death by his wife Elizabeth (Betty) Klein Bahlinger, his parents J. Andrew Bahlinger, Jr and Mathilda Fabacher Bahlinger, brothers and sisters-in-law, Julius and Francis Mae Bahlinger, Vernon and Helen Bahlinger, Charles and Vera Bahlinger, brothers Reggie, Harold and Fr. Donald Bahlinger, SJ, and sister, Sr. Kathleen Bahlinger, CSJ. He attended Sacred Heart and graduated from Catholic High in 1942.



He began his studies at LSU before serving his country from 1943–1945 in the 106th U.S. Infantry. He was captured in the Battle of the Bulge December of 1944, held in Stalag 4-B in Mulburg, Germany then moved to a work camp in Zietz, Germany until he was liberated April 13, 1945. Upon returning from WWII, he graduated from Spring Hill College, completed post graduate studies at St. Louis University as a Jesuit novitiate until leaving to marry his high-school sweet heart, Betty Klein. He then worked as a buyer and co-manager of Kornmeyer's Furniture Store until retirement in 1991. He served as president of Community Concerts, a member of the Lions Club, Red Stick Chapter of X-POWs, 106th Infantry Division Association, American Prisoners of War Association, and a member and past treasurer of Baton Rouge Assembly. He was a friend of St. Agnes Catholic Church and a member of St. Aloysius Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Baton Rouge Food Bank, Catholic High School, St. Agnes Church or St. Aloysius Church.

In Memoriam . . .

BYRAM, JACKIE

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Date of death: February 28, 2024

Jacqueline Jean “Jackie” passed away in Greenville, Ohio at age 96 on February 28, 2024. She lived at the Brookdale Assisted Living facility in Greenville and was a member of the Coletown Congregational Christian Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, son Steve in 1988, and her husband Robert (423/A) in 2013. Jackie is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Michael (Vicki) Byram of Greenville; grandchildren Kathryn (Joe) Weber, Andrew (Jessica) Byram, Amanda (Jason) Mote, and Rob Byram; brother-in-law E.J. (Jean) Byram of Union City, Ohio, 13 great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

KING, DONALD JOE 422/F

Date of death: April 28, 2024

Mr. Donald Joe King, age 100, passed away with his children by his side on April 28, 2024 — just 12 days short of his 101st birthday. He was born on May 10, 1923, was raised in Saluda near Hanover, IN and graduated from Saluda High School in 1941.

On July 3, 1948, Don was united in marriage to Betty Lou (McDonald) at the New Prospect Baptist Church near Hanover, Indiana. This happy



union of 75 years was blessed with their six children, Shirley, Jerry, Cindy, Rebecca, Melody, and Susan.

Don was inducted into the United States Army on February 20, 1943 at Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, Indiana. He served in the 106th Division, Infantry and had served as an MP and a Quarter Master during his tenure in the Army. On October 21, 1944 he was sent overseas during World War II and fought in the battles and campaigns of the Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Don was captured in 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge and was a Prisoner of War. He was able to survive for three months until the American Forces liberated the German imprisonment camp.

He was honorably discharged at the rank of Corporal on November 28, 1945 from Camp Atterbury, Indiana receiving the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement in ground combat against the armed enemy during World War II in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations. His other military honors include: M-1 Rifle Sharpshooter Badge, American Theater Ribbon, the EAME Ribbon with three bronze battle stars, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge and the World War II Victory Medal.

In September of 2015, Donald was fortunate enough to be able to go on the Indy Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. and on June 8,

In Memoriam . . .

2021 the City of Madison, Indiana, honored him with the John Menke Service Award for his tremendous service in the Army, which he was humbled and proud to receive.

Don worked at the Jefferson Proving Ground, the Charlestown Ammunition Plant, Whirlpool Corporation testing ammunition at Camp Atterbury, before ending up and retiring from Allied Signal (formally known as Norplex) in 1986.

He enjoyed gardening, woodworking, keeping track of the daily temperature high and lows as well as rainfall and snow amounts, and of course he loved spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Donald was a former deacon and Sunday School Superintendent at New Prospect Baptist Church near Hanover, Indiana. He was a current member of Grace United Methodist Church in Franklin where he served as an usher for 30 years.

He also held membership in the American Legion Post No. 205, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, Indiana Hoosier Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge WWII Central Indiana Chapter No. 47, Weather watcher for WISH-TV, and former member of the Lions Club.

Donald was preceded in death by his parents; his loving wife, Betty; children Rebecca and Shirley; and all his younger siblings.

Donald will be missed by his loving children, Jerry King (Jane), Cindy King, Melody Jordan (Chuck), and Susan Smith (Steve); his six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

A final salute and military honors were provided by the Fort Knox Ceremonial Unit and the Major Samuel Woodfill Post No. 9 of the American Legion.

Reported by Cindy King, daughter

KOCKS, WILLIAM “BILL” 423/MEDIC

Date of death: June 6, 2024

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend was called to his heavenly home on the morning of his 100th birthday, Thursday, June 6, 2024 at Wellspring Assisted Living in Saginaw, Michigan. William Kocks Jr. was born on June 6, 1924 in Saginaw to the late William H. and Catherine (Neuhaus) Kocks. He married Helen Baumer on September 23, 1943. She preceded him in death on November 10, 1964. Bill attended St. Mary’s High School, graduating in 1942.



He proudly served his country as a Medic in the United States Army during WWII. Bill was captured by the Germans during the Battle of the

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In Memoriam . . .

Bulge and became a Prisoner of War, forced to serve as a Medic for the German soldiers while in captivity.

Throughout the war he demonstrated unwavering courage and resilience. He received the Purple Heart, a good conduct medal, and an EAME Ribbon. Bill was employed by General Motors as a Workers Compensation Benefits Manager, retiring after 37 years of service. He was a member of St. Andrew Catholic Church and later Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Bill was the first president of ARC, past-president of the Washington Society, past-president of the Saginaw County Officials Association, past-president and member of the Maple Hills Golf Club. He served as a basketball coach at the Millet Center and as a high school basketball and football referee for many years.

Bill loved golfing, bowling, playing cards, and watching sports. Bill enjoyed line dancing and was a member of the Boot Scootin and Boogie Club. He really loved spending time with his family.

Surviving are his children, Carol Kocks, Mary (Gary) Church, Christine (Gary) Bailey, and Joseph Kocks; grandchildren, Brandon (Amanda) Kocks, Aaron (Quinn) Kocks, Christopher Koenig, Melissa (Nate Maddox) Bailey, and Emiley (Samuel) Morgan; great-grandchildren, Myleigh and Maddox Kocks; daughter-in-law,

Lynn Kocks; one sister, Kathleen Sisk and many nieces and nephews.

Bill was preceded in death by two sons, Tom Kocks and David Kocks; siblings, Margaret, Mildred, Geraldine, Robert, Donald, and Jack.

Reported by Carol Kocks, daughter

PATZNER, JOSEPH C.

589 FABN/SVC

Date of death: February 23, 2023

Joseph Charles Patzner, died February 23, 2023 at the VA Center Health Care in Des Moines, Iowa. He was born April 1, 1924 to Martin and Mabel



Schiffman Patzner near Guttenberg, Iowa. He attended Guttenberg High School and worked on the family dairy farm until he was drafted into the United States Army in March of 1943. Joe was captured during World War II during the Battle of the Bulge and was a POW in Germany.

Upon returning from the war, he was employed by Meadow Gold in Dubuque and then Amoco Pipeline in Chillicothe, Missouri. On February 12, 1955 he married Jean Mendenhall from Chillicothe and moved to Sigourney in 1958.

Joe enjoyed being active, working on the house and outside in the yard or cleaning his vehicles. In his downtime, Joe could often be seen

watching a western movie. He was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Joe retired from Amoco after 37 years in 1989 and had season tickets to Iowa Hawkeye football games for many years with his wife.

He was preceded in death by his parents, son Jeff Patzner, sister Jeanette Junk, brothers Delbert Patzner, Verdus Patzner, Mark Patzner and Dannie Patzner.

He is survived by his wife Jean, sons Mitch Patzner of Dubuque, Rick (Devon Wendler) Patzner of Ankeny, Greg Patzner of Seattle, Washington and one daughter Marla (Pete) Fromm of Ankeny, five grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

RABY, JR., GLYNN G.

423/1 BN, 424/1 BN/HQ

Date of death: June 23, 2023

Glynn G. Raby, Jr. passed on June 23, 2023, at the age of 98. After graduating from Tech High School in 1942, Glynn enlisted in the United States Army as the country prepared to join the fighting of World War II. He was assigned to H Company of the 9th Division of the 2nd Infantry and found himself landing on the beach in Normandy just a few days after D-Day. His unit fought their way through France, refused to be slowed down by the Battle of the Bulge, and moved



forward into Czechoslovakia to aid in the liberation of Pilzen, Czechia. His meritorious service to the world has been recognized numerous times by the United States, as well as France and the Czech Republic. Among other awards, his bravery earned him a Bronze Star, admittance into the French Legion of Honor, and the Czech Liberation Medal.

Following the end of World War II, Glynn returned home to his studies at Memphis State University and ultimately met and married the love of his life, Mona Yarborough (d. 2008). He began working for the Federal Housing Administration in 1947 and remained there for 35 years, until his retirement. Glynn was a lifelong Presbyterian, having been a member and deacon at Lamar Heights Presbyterian and Second Presbyterian churches in Memphis.

Glynn and Mona were able to return to Europe on several occasions in the 1980s and 1990s to visit many of the places Glynn had only seen as battlefields. His adventurous spirit never faded as he was blessed to return to the Pilzen Liberation Festival in May of 2016, where he was able to pay a return visit to the nearby town of Rokycany, where he directly aided in the town's liberation from Nazi control. He was named an honorary citizen of the town and was able to help lay a wreath in memory of his fallen brothers.

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In Memoriam . . .

Glynn was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Mona, his sisters Evelyn Raby Perkins, Marianne Raby Moore, and Norma Jean Raby; his brother Richard Raby; his son-in-law William Jeter. He leaves his daughters, Linda Raby Jeter (William), Carol Raby Stewart (David) both of Memphis; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

ROSENBERG, HERBERT A. **424/L**

Date of death: April 14, 2024

Herbert Allen Rosenberg, age 100, of Trumbull, CT, passed away on April 14, 2024, in Trumbull, CT.

Herbert was born in Bronx, New York to Jacob and Matilda Rosenberg. He honorably served in the Army during World War II. After the war, he graduated from RCA Radio School and started his business, Mobile Communications in Bridgeport, that installed and serviced Motorola equipment for many businesses and municipalities.

Herbert is survived by his daughter Susan Bell (Matt) of Milford, CT, two grandsons, Jordan Bell (Maggie) of Queens, NY, Eric Bell (Sydney) of Milford, CT, a great-granddaughter, Lucy Matilda Bell, and several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife of 52 years Helen (Platzek) Rosenberg, and his sisters, Ruth

Rosenberg and Grace Madden.

The family wishes to extend their gratitude to his caretaker of the last two years, Winnie Delisser.

SWITZER, BYRON **422**

Date of death: August 14, 2024

Corporal
Byron Woodrow Switzer, a World War II Veteran, and a member of the greatest generation, passed away on Wednesday, August 14, 2024, at the age of 100, at the Community Living Center at the Erie VA Medical Center. He served as a medic



with the U.S. Army 106th Infantry Division, known as "The Golden Lions," fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. He earned numerous medals, including a certificate of merit for his bravery driving through enemy fire to rescue a wounded soldier. He was born on October 22, 1923, a son of the late Harvey and Bertha (Hanold) Switzer, in Knox, Pa. There he met his wife, Wilma Wenner to whom he was married 64 years before her passing in November 2007. They had three children, Terry, Mark, and Lisa.



Upon his return from the service, he worked for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. for 25 years.

In Memoriam . . .

He then worked for several other tire companies, was known as “The Tire Man,” earning numerous awards for his sales and knowledge of tires. He ended his career retiring from Dunn Tire. He was a 71-year member of Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church. He enjoyed gardening, reading, history books, and the Smithsonian Magazines, and eating his favorite steak meals.

Besides his parents and wife, he was preceded in death by his son, Terry, in December 1991.

He is survived by his son, Mark (Becky) of McRae, Ark.; his daughter, Lisa Buffalari (Jim), of Erie; daughter-in-law, Janet Switzer-Stubbs, of Irwin, Pa.; sister, Marvis (Harry) Long, of N. Fort Myers, Fla.; brother, Paul Switzer (Christine), of Fredonia, N.Y., seven grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

With grateful hearts and deep appreciation, we thank the Erie VAMC Home Based Program, the Community Living Center, for their exceptional care and compassion, and the staff and caregivers of Home Instead, especially Greg Morealli, for his care and friendship the past 4½ years.

YOUNG, DAMON F.

423/1 BN/D

Date of death: April 8, 2022

SFC Damon F.

Young USA (Retired)

went to be with the Lord on May 16, 2023, at the age of 99 years, 8 months, and 19 days. He was born August 28, 1923,



to his wonderful Christian parents, the late James R. Young and Sallie Fugate Young in Branchland, Lincoln County, West Virginia. He was a member of the Branchland United Baptist Church. He attended Lincoln County Schools and Guyan Valley High School.

He enlisted in the United States Regular Army November 1942, retiring in 1972 with 30 years of service. He served in the Coast Artillery, the Infantry, and the Army Corp of Engineers. He was a Veteran of World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. He was a former Prisoner of War in World War II from The Battle of The Bulge in Europe. He was liberated by the 82nd Air Borne Division in Ludwigslust, Germany the 3rd of May 1945. He served in the 26th Infantry Regiment of the First Infantry Division in the occupation and Cold War, Germany 1946–1948, serving in the Nuremberg Nazi War crime trials in Germany. As a professional soldier, he served with

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In Memoriam . . .

pride and honor, in the defense of our great nation, the greatest generation.

Damon was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters and brothers.

He is survived by nieces, Naomi “Chris” Napier, and Eileen Partlow;

nephews, Alan Frye, Mike Hodge, Jerry Midkiff, and James Midkiff; great-niece, Angela McComas and a host of many great-nieces, great-nephews, family, and friends who loved him very much.

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, Henry LeClair know. His contact information is located on the inside cover of this *CUB*.

We Are Currently Updating Our Roster

If any of the following apply, please contact our Membership Chair:

- You no longer wish to receive *The CUB*.
- You want to switch from mailing to email.
- Your address has changed.

Also, please contact the Membership Chair, Henry LeClair, to provide us with your email address so that we can contact you if your mailing is returned to us.

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

Note from the Editor: As our membership chair, Henry LeClair stated, we received a number of responses to our online survey ([see page 14](#)) indicating people want a way to find information about a specific Veteran’s wartime experiences. This section of *The CUB* is meant expressly for that purpose. Please send your requests to me, and I’ll put them in the next edition of *The CUB*. If you want someone to be able to contact you directly with any information they may have, please provide your email address and/or phone number. You never know who will get back to you with the information you seek!

Sometimes we get questions emailed to us that we can answer right away. If you would still like us to publish the question and answer in an effort to help others who may have similar questions, please let us know

We are all feeling the effects of the current financial upheaval, including the
106th Infantry Division Association.

The *Annual Dues* of \$10 are no longer billed or collected.

We are now accepting only donations for membership, memorials and
LIFE PLUS.

The previously-allowed payment of \$75 for Life Membership creates
a financial shortfall, as our expenses exceed our income.

Our solution?

We are asking you to join the
LIFE PLUS+ Club

Those Members who contribute to the **LIFE PLUS+ Club**
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 Infantry Division Association.

To those Members who we haven't heard from for a long
time — please take the time to join this exclusive club.

Thank you!

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

Mike Sheaner
Treasurer, 106th Infantry Division
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
when clicked, will take you to the site or an open email window.

Pass It On

Perpetuate the legacy of the 106th Infantry Division by giving every family member of all generations access to the rich history, news and stories of Veterans found in each issue of *The CUB*. You can now “**pass it on**” to as many friends, heirs and family members as you wish at **no cost!**

Those you designate will be recognized as members of the Association on the “**CUB Level**” with the following benefits:

1. Receive an electronic copy of *The CUB* delivered by email complete with color photos, graphics and interactive links
2. Access to the Association website and Facebook pages
3. Receive timely notices and information regarding reunions and special announcements

Enroll all family members — sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, grandchildren and others — by submitting their *Name, Email, Address and relationship to a 106th Veteran* to sheaner1@airmail.net

106th INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

* THE ARDENNES

* CENTRAL EUROPE

* THE RHINELAND



GOLDEN LIONS

Henry LeClair — Membership Chair
209 Range Road
Windham, NH 03087

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED