



BATTALIONS

ASSOCIATION

NEWS

APRIL 2017

NEWS FROM THE DESCENDANTS OF WWII RANGERS, INC.

Spring, 2017

Hello, Ranger Family!

This is an exciting time for the Descendants of WWII Rangers! The Reunion is coming soon to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the activation of the first Ranger Battalion! Inside this edition of the newsletter are all the details, and we invite you to join us at Ft. Benning, as we celebrate with other Ranger organizations.

The Board of Directors has been very busy since our last newsletter. Many of our activities can also be listed under “Do you know where your dues go?”

- Web sites: Domain fees, sites with improved content, and a Hosting Windows account (how the web sites work and are maintained)
- Membership cards and other Ranger stationary, paper, printing ink, and stamps
- Newsletter: printing, labels, mailing and costs for returned newsletters
- Memorials for deceased Rangers
- Reunion costs: banners, advertising, tote bags, reservation costs, items for sale [coins, etc]) food/drink for hospitality room, meals for guests, gifts for speakers
- Upkeep of the Ranger Monument at Ft. Benning: grounds, shrubbery removal, Monument caulking, touch up painting and cleaning
- Hiring a CPA for tax preparation and filing
- Posting the Reunion notice in the VFW National magazine
- Updating business practices
- Bank deposit stamp, credit card set up

There are some members who deserve great thanks for their unsung but vital work for the Descendants. Cheryl Miller is our faithful editor of the Newsletter, and has been for years. Jane Schappell, Cheryl Miller, and Julie Fulmer have spread cheer and love to our Ranger family with their cards on birthdays and other occasions. Ladies, thank you for your hours of dedication. We salute you!

Make plans to come and celebrate the great history of our tough, courageous Rangers at the Reunion in June. Don't Delay!!

Rangers Lead The Way!

Sandy Boyd,
President
Honoring Jack B. Street, 1st Bn, B Co.

Descendants of World War II Rangers - 2017 Reunion

Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus, Georgia

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	6/27/17	6/28/17	6/29/17	6/30/17	7/1/17
		Buses provided	Buses provided		
	Arrive Hotel				
6:30	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
7:30			Load Buses at HGI		
8:30	Registration	Registration	Change of Command for 75th Ranger Regiment at NIMS - Begins 9:00 am	Hospitality	Depart Hotel
	Store	Store		Store	
9:00	Hospitality	Hospitality		Hospitality	
9:30					
10:00		Load Buses at HGI		Descendants Business Meeting	
11:00		Lunch - Benning Club	Commanders Reception at NIMS		
12:00		Ranger Hall of Fame Begins 1:00 pm	Lunch at National Infantry Museum	Lunch on your own	
13:00				Store	
14:00			Tour National Infantry Museum	Descendants Directors Meeting	
15:00			Return to HGI		
16:00		Tour Ranger Memorials	Free Time	Free Time	
17:00		BBQ at Fort Benning	Hospitality	Memorial Service - HGI	
18:00	Welcome Reception & Dinner	Hanger Return to HGI	Dinner at Hilton Garden Inn	Reception & Banquet at Hilton Garden Inn	
19:00					
20:00	Hospitality	Hospitality	Hospitality	Hospitality	
	Movie Night				
NOTES: Events - All events take place at the Hilton Garden Inn and at Fort Benning, GA NIMS - National Infantry Museum, Columbus, GA, adjacent to Fort Benning HGI - Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus, GA Airborne Operations - Airborne Operation at 4:00 pm; Fryar Drop Zone, Fort Benning, GA					

ABOUT this Reunion !

- * We reduced the time by one day so folks can get home in case they have July 4 plans.
- * Kids Meal Special at the Hotel only : 3 & under eat free; Age 4-12 meals at half price.
The Hilton Garden Inn is extra nice and in a beautiful setting in a business park on a lake with walking trails for those interested. *PLUS, a \$99 rate plus tax.*
- *

Why Attend ?

Ranger Terry Toler says : "My father Billy Toler was a Ranger in the 5th Battalion. I have walked the battlefield where he was wounded carrying his BAR. As a Ranger myself I understand the sacrifices our Rangers made, and I want to help make certain that all WWII Rangers receive the recognition they deserve - now and for our future Descendants. "

MORE ABOUT this 75th Anniversary Reunion

6/26	Monday	Rangers from all three battalions parachute into Fort Benning for Ranger Rendezvous 2017. Arrive early if you wish to see the jump. Several automobiles will be heading over there.
6/27	Tuesday	Registration begins. Craig Spinner, grandson of Col. Leo Strausbaugh, is Hospitality Host. Movie night suitable for kids for those wishing to attend.
6/28	Wednesday	Buses take us to the Benning Club for Lunch, followed by the Ranger Hall of Fame. We will have reserved seating, and any WW II Ranger present will be recognized. Afterwards we tour the Ranger Memorial, visit the WW II Ranger Monument and enjoy a BBQ dinner with Rangers at the Hanger.
6/29	Thursday	Buses leave our hotel after breakfast for the National Infantry Museum for the Change of Command ceremony on the parade ground. We will have covered reserved seating. Golf carts & wheel chairs available. At the Commander's Reception any WW II Rangers present will be recognized. Lunch at the National Infantry Museum followed by a tour of the Museum.
6/30	Friday	Descendants business meeting is at 10:00 am. Otherwise the morning is free for guests to explore interesting sights in the Columbus area or just hang out and relax. The Memorial Service will be on a beautiful lawn in front of the lake to honor our departed Rangers. Following that is a Reception and Banquet at the hotel. Our speaker is Lt. General Ken Keen (retired), the 11th Commander of the Regiment.
7/1	Saturday	Departure for home with our hearts full !

SOME REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

Ranger Library	Learn more about the new Digital Ranger Library. The goal is to digitize all WW II Ranger documents into a searchable library. A newly created Advisory Board will raise funds for the development and implementation of this long term project.
Thursday at the Infantry Museum	Col. Robert Poydasheff, Ranger Hall of Fame and attorney who is also a former Mayor of Columbus, will greet us at lunch. Colonel Poydasheff serves as the attorney for the Ranger Foundation and has agreed to serve as the pro-bono attorney for our new Advisory Board.
Thursday at the Infantry Museum	A FIRST at the Museum: Peter Stern, son of Ranger Photographer Phil Stern has donated 75 of Phil's wartime photographs to the Descendants and we will be selling them at the Museum. Liesel Bradner, Stern family friend and a journalist from Los Angeles, has made this possible. She will be joining us at our reunion to set up the exhibit and help facilitate the sale. We can probably use some help at the sale.
Why Attend ?	Andrea Buchanan : "I have such fond memories of past reunions, especially when my father, Colonel Leo Strausbaugh, B Company, 6th Ranger Battalion, was alive. I have continued attending because it is a way for me to honor him and the other Rangers, as well as to renew acquaintances, many of whom have become friends. I am incredibly excited about the Descendants building a Ranger Library which will perpetuate the history and memory of our heroes, not only for us, but for generations to come."

REGISTRATION for 2017 REUNION - June 27 – June 30, 2017

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of World War II Rangers

Descendants of World War II Rangers

Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus, Ga

Registration Deadline - May 19, 2017

		Cost per person	Number Attending	Total Cost
Tuesday, June 27	Reunion Registration	\$ 45.00	_____	\$ _____
5:00 PM	Reception & Dinner - Hilton Garden Inn	\$ 33.00	_____	\$ _____
7:00 PM	Movie Night	N/C	_____	_____
Wednesday, June 28	Ranger Hall of Fame - Fort Benning			
11:30 AM	Lunch - Fort Benning	\$ 17.00	_____	\$ _____
5:00 PM	Dinner - BBQ at Fort Benning (Meals include bus transportation) Tour of Ranger Memorial	\$ 20.00	_____	\$ _____
Thursday, June 29	Ranger Change of Command - Ft. Benning			
12:00 PM	Lunch at National Infantry Museum	\$ 42.00	_____	\$ _____
6:00 PM	Dinner - Hilton Garden Inn (Meals include bus transportation)	\$ 34.00	_____	\$ _____
Friday, June 30				
10:00 AM	Descendants Membership Meeting (Only Dues Paying Members Attend)			
5:00 PM	Memorial Service - Hilton Garden Inn	N/C		
6:00 PM	Reception & Banquet - Hilton Garden Inn	\$ 44.00	_____	\$ _____
	Indicate your choice & the number of each :			
	Beef Tenderloin Medallions _____			
	Chicken Marsala _____			
	Seared Salmon Filet _____			
	<i>If you have special needs for food please let us know when you check in at the Reunion.</i>			
	Totals for all functions		<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 20px;"></div>	\$ <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 20px;"></div>
Dues	Annual 2017 Membership Dues for Descendants of World War II Rangers	\$ 35.00	_____	\$ _____
	Donation toward Reunion Expenses			\$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED - Kids meals 3 & under free; age 4-12 half price

Pay for kids at the Reunion Registration Desk when you arrive.

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone _____
 Email _____
 If Wheelchair is needed please indicate : _____

Mail with Payment to:

Nancy Taube
 Descendants of WW II Rangers
 2500 Sandy Creek
 Shelby Township, MI 48316

Please return as soon as possible

You can also Register and Pay On-Line at www.wwiirangers.org

ABOUT our hotel, the Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus, GA

Best News : \$ 99.00 rate plus tax - includes breakfast

Hilton Garden Inn
1500 Bradley Lakes Boulevard
Columbus, GA 31904
Tele: 706 - 660 - 1000
Our agent: Ms. Gayla Johnson
e: gjohnson@vhghotels.com

GOOGLE : Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus GA

See : Beautiful setting, the pergola by the lake where we will hold the Memorial Service; the patio where we can spill out onto from our Hospitality Room.

IMPORTANT :

Do not confuse the Hilton Garden Inn with the Hilton Doubletree, a different hotel in Columbus.

70 Rooms are reserved for the Descendants; Do not wait until the last minute to book.

Making the reservation : Tell them you are a Descendant to get the \$ 99 rate.

The Hilton Garden Inn is located in a business park off U. S. Highway 80 one mile west of Columbus.

Directions to the hotel are on our website : www.wwirangers.org and also on the hotel website.

TRANSPORTATION

Details are on our website : wwirangers.org. See [hotel and transportation](#)

Flying

There are no direct flights from major hubs into Columbus. If you fly into Atlanta either rent a car or take Groome's Shuttle Bus Service. Roundtrip fare from the Atlanta Airport to Columbus is \$78.00. You must book in advance at : www.groometransportation.com or call (706) 324 - 3939.

Why
Attend ?

Dina Economidees - daughter of Ranger Blackie Auger, 4th Btn. "My father hosted many such reunions at his hotel, the Washington Marriott, and I attended as a child. Now, it will be an honor to stand in my father's place at the 75th anniversary of Rangers Lead the Way."

WORLD WAR II RANGER LIBRARY

Why
Attend ?
Why
Belong?

David Williams - 2017 Reunion Chair & nephew of Col. James B. Lyle, 1st Btn. "A 75th anniversary is a one time milestone to remember these great American warriors. I hope each one of you will attend and support the Descendants. The Bible says that when Joshua crossed into Jordan he set up Stones of Remembrance as a reminder of God's faithfulness for future generations. Likewise, it is important for us to put Stones of Remembrance in place so that future generations can learn about the service and sacrifice of our WW II Rangers. Our Stones of Remembrance will be the Ranger Library now on the drawing board. This Library will be their legacy to us partially earned by your ancestor's blood, sweat and tears. It will be a digital searchable data base of over 100,000 pages of WW II Ranger documents. If this is not accomplished by our generation it will never occur. An Advisory Board is being established to raise funds for this project. When finished and available to the public we can say we have Led the Way to **perpetuate the history and memory of our WW II Rangers**. It will be a readily available source of information to **educate and inform future generations** about WW II Rangers. This is our mission. Our Rangers will be proud of us. RLW."



75th ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM BOOK

Descendants of World War II Rangers Reunion
During Ranger Rendezvous 2017 at Fort Benning
Sponsor a World War II Ranger or Unit

**For decades the World War II Rangers produced Reunion Program Books.
We honor them in 2017 by producing the 75th Anniversary Edition.**

- * Program Books are softbound, 8 1/2 x 11, glossy print keepsakes.
Submit your Articles and Photographs to honor a Ranger
- * Articles, such as bios and stories, email them in MS Word Format
- * Photographs - email them in jpg. Format. If you have a photo to submit and do not have a scan of it, send us the photo. We will scan it and return it to you.
- * Nothing to send ? Purchase a space; Name a Ranger or a Unit; We'll do the rest.
- * Photos are the Best. There is nothing better than a book full of Ranger photos.
Send a photo with a caption.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE & CONTRIBUTE

Full Page is \$ 80.00
Half Page is \$ 45.00
Quarter Page is \$ 25.00

Email your entries to :
david.williams@cypresswood.net
or

Mail your entries & check to :
David Williams
P.O. Box 70
Maringouin, LA 70757

Front Cover is \$ 500.00
Back Cover is \$300.00 Paid for
Donations are also appreciated.

**Make your Check Payable to : Descendants of World War II Rangers, or
pay on-line at www.wwiirangers.org and email your entry.**

- * Program Books are FREE for a contribution of at least \$ 25.00 plus postage.
- * Attendees at the Descendants' Reunion will receive a program book FREE.

DEADLINE : May 1, 2017

Entries must be mailed or emailed by this date. It takes time for our editors and printer to assemble and edit a Program Book, so please send in early.

QUESTIONS ? Email david.williams@cypresswood.net or phone: 337 - 654 - 2337

This will be a Keepsake : Don't let your organization be left out !

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN



HARLEY B. BACK – 1HQ/3HQ – AUGUST 3, 2015

Chief Warrant Officer Harley B. Back (US Army Retired) age 97, passed away on Monday, August 3, 2015, Louisville KY. He was an Army Ranger veteran of World War II, The Korean War and the Vietnam War; He was also a POW (and escaped) during WWII. Harley was a member of Ranger Battalion 1HQ/3HQ. He is survived by his son Steven Back of Louisville KY.



WILBUR L. GALLUP – 1/4F – NOVEMBER 24, 2016

Wilbur L. "Punch" Gallup, age 94, a resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa, passed away November 24, 2016. Wilbur served his country in the US Army during World War II in Darby's Rangers, receiving the Purple Heart. Wilbur is survived by his granddaughters, Meghan Jo (Hector Aguilar Sr.) Gallup, Tricia (Scott) Crenshaw, Haley Brown; great-grandsons, Riley Ostrand, Hector Aguilar Jr; Abel Brown, Joseph Crenshaw; great-granddaughters, Mackenna Ostrand, Clara, Sophie, Grace and Tessa Crenshaw; nieces and nephews, Kreg (Cathy) Gallup, Pamela (Darrell) Rief, Jess Gallup, Phil Denman, Dale and Angela Gallup, Dennis, Doug, Bill, Marty, Greg, Rick and Matt Arfmann; longtime family friend, Jessica Overgard.



ARCHIE R. PISCITELLO – 1F – DECEMBER 7, 2016

Archie Roy Piscitello, age 96, of Fearington Village in Pittsboro, N.C., died Wednesday, December 7, 2016 at Pruitt Health in Durham, NC. Archie was a World War II veteran serving with Darby's Rangers. He was captured at the invasion of Anzio. As a prisoner of war, he was forced to walk, in the frigid winter, from Italy to Poland. After two escape attempts, Archie was able to flee prior to the end of the war. He received the Purple Heart and was awarded two Bronze Stars for valor. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Mary Lewis Piscitello; two sons, Roy Piscitello and wife, Rebecca of Chapel Hill, NC and Bill Piscitello and wife Christine of Chapel Hill; along with two daughters, Arlene Booker and husband Robert of Anchorage, KY and Cathy West and husband David of Vashon, WA. He is also survived by his sister Rita Loudon of Spring Lake Heights, N.J.; seven grandchildren: Michael Piscitello, Nick Piscitello and wife Muriel, Marc Piscitello, Joe Piscitello and wife Amy, Sallie Piscitello, Sam West and Will West; and two great grandchildren, Matthew and John Piscitello.



GERRIT J. RESINK – 1F/4E – SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

GERRIT “TED” J. RENSINK, age 97, passed away September 29, 2015, Sheldon Iowa. He proudly served as Staff Sergeant in the U.S. Army Rangers company 1F/4E engaging in hand-to-hand combat in North Africa, Italy, and Sicily in WWII. He was awarded the Bronze Star and twice awarded the Silver Star for bravery in combat, one coming personally from Gen. George Patton. He is survived by his children, Barbara and Ken, granddaughter, Amy (Rick) Hendel, great grandchildren, Ava Hendel and Ashton Hendel.



HAROLD C. SCHNEIDER -1B/3C – AUGUST 17, 2015

Harold C. Schneider, passed away August 17, 2015, at the Masonic Pathways Rehabilitation Center of Alma, Michigan at the age of 96. He served in the U.S. Army as a member of the First Ranger Battalion in WW II. Harold escaped imprisonment during the war four times and was awarded a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars for his dedication, bravery, discipline and patriotism. Surviving besides his wife Margaret, he leaves two children: Margie Boyce and Danny (Chris) Schneider; four step-children: Lanatte (Mike) Shur, Patty (Les) Belanger, Evelyn (Dave) Fleischer and Pauleta Spencer, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, several nieces and nephews and a very dear friend, John Powers.



DULA C. THOMPSON – 1A – SEPTEMBER 14, 2016

Dula C. Thompson, 92, of Lewis, passed away Sept. 14, 2016, at Cass County Memorial Hospital in Atlantic, Iowa. Dula enlisted in the US Army and was sent to Europe where he joined the Rangers and participated in the invasion of Sicily and Italy. Dula is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Betty of Lewis; their children, Marvin (Melinda) Thompson of Oakland, Lanette (Rick) Crone of Cedar Rapids, and Ken (Kathy) Thompson of Grand Island, Neb.; 12 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; one great-great-granddaughter; sisters, Evalene Eskridge of Maryville, Mo. and Norma McIntyre of Indianola; sister-in-law, Carolyn Thompson of Receda, Calif. and Virginia Thompson of Lumpkin, Ga.; and many nieces and nephews.

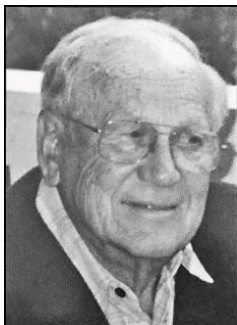
WILLIAM O. CARMAN -2A/E – JANUARY 12, 2016

William Oliver “Bill” Carman, age 91 of Palm Bay, Florida, a former longtime resident of the Toronto, OH area, passed away Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at his home. He served his country in W.W.II in the U.S. Army Ranger Battalion 2A/E. He was in the Battle of the Bulge and received two bronze stars for valor. He is survived by his wife of 74 years, Marian Louise (Glasure) Carman; sons, Robert (Patricia) Carman and Craig (Karolyn) Carman all of Rockledge, FL; five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren and a sister, Gladys Blaner of Rehoboth Beach, DE.



FLOYD D. WHICKER – 2B – FEBRUARY 28, 2015

Floyd Whicker, 90, passed away February 28, 2015, in Evansville, Indiana. As an Army Ranger in B Company, 2nd Rangers, Floyd was at the forefront of the first wave of men to land on Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944, where he was wounded by German machine gun fire and received a Purple Heart. Floyd participated in the campaign to liberate northern France. He also fought in the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest in Belgium along with the Battle of the Bulge where he received a Bronze Star for Valor. Floyd is survived by a son, Mike Whicker and wife, Sandy; grandchildren, Joshua Whicker (Erin), Andrea Dodson (Paul), Zachary Whicker (Abigail), Savannah Hulin, and Kelli Knaebel (Tim); great-grandchildren, Paige, Emily, Lauren, Nathan, Hannah, and Samuel Dodson, Ava Jo and John Whicker, Alexander and Abraham Hulin, Annabel, Madalyn and Lenora Knaebel; brother-in-law, Shirl Gambrel; nephews, Steve Whicker and Bob Gray; nieces, Betty Gilles, Patty Jacobs, Shirley Gubler, Donna Whicker, Paula Naughtin and other nephews and nieces.



ROY MARK WILSON – 2A/C – OCTOBER 1, 2016

Roy Wilson, age 92, resident of Edmonds, Washington, passed away peacefully in his sleep, October 1, 2016. Roy joined the Army and was a Ranger in the 2nd Battalion. He landed on Omaha Beach June 6, 1944, D-Day and "led the way". Roy is survived by his children Kathie Anderson (Kenneth), Robert Wilson (Debra), and Karen Albrecht (David); grandchildren: Karleen Klopp (Lance), Kenneth Anderson (Ilka), Mark Wilson (Andria), Tami Cote (Paul) and Austin Albrecht; and fourteen great grandchildren: Zachary, Samuel, Joshua and Tsion Klopp; Carter, Jason and Lauren Anderson; Alexander, Hunter and Jacob Wilson, Alex and Andrew Gallagher; and Jordan and Emma Cote.



ROBERT T. ZACHARIAS – 2B – MARCH 2, 2016

Robert Thomas Zacharias, age 90, of Otisville/Otter Lake Michigan, passed away in Cape Coral, FL on March 2, 2016 in the care of Hope Hospice. He served in the Ranger 2nd Battalion of the Army. He is survived by twin daughters, Terry (Ray) Lewis of Otisville, Merry (Alan) Fuson of Florida, son, Robert Michael (Jan) Zacharias, also of Otisville; three grand-children, Shane, Shannon, Angela; two step-grandchildren, Jami and Jodi; 10 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson; in-laws, Donald and Norma Gee; nieces and nephews and special neighbors, the Beckey family.



JOHN ZURAVEL – 2B – OCTOBER 1, 2016

John Zuravel, 94, passed away October 1, 2016 of Akron Ohio. John served as a Ranger in the U.S. Army during WW II. John is survived by his son, Gary Lee (Marcia) Zuravel of Tallmadge; granddaughter, Michelle (Diane) Quirk; great grandchildren, Miranda, Brandon; sister, Olga Rollins of Akron.



CHESTER L. SCHWATKEN – 3D – JULY 14, 2016

Chester L. Schwatken, 93, of Olathe, Kansas, passed away on July 14, 2016. He served in Sicily and Italy in World War II as a U.S. Army Ranger (Darbys.) Married for 68 years, he is survived by his loving wife Louetta; sons Terry and Greg; daughter Lisa Shipman; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

FORREST E. STROUP – 3E – APRIL 26, 2016

Forrest Stroup, age 92, passed away Tuesday, April 26, 2016, St. Louis Missouri. Mr. Stroup served in WWII with Darby's Rangers and was a Purple Heart recipient.

JOHN L. BURKE – 5A – OCTOBER 20, 2016

John L. Burke, age 93, of Richmond, passed away October 20, 2016. During World War II, Mr. Burke served with the U.S. Ranger Battalion 5A, landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day, H-Hour, and fought across France, Belgium and Germany. He was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal, French Croix de Guerre Medal, European Theater with three clusters, Combat Infantry Badge, and the French Legion of Honor Medal. Mr. Burke is survived by his wife of 70 years, Carolyn; his sons, Dr. T. Michael Burke and Kevin E. Burke; his daughter, Catherine Harrington; as well as his son-in-law, Daniel Harrington; and his daughter-in-law, Melissa Burke; his sister, Roberta Burpee; his grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Harrington, Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Burke and Allison Burke; his great-grandchildren, Jack, Claire and Colin Burke.



JAMES W. GABAREE – 5A – JUNE 11, 2016

GABAREE, James William age 91, WWII Army Ranger died in his Newburyport, MA home on Saturday June 11, 2016. Gabaree fought with the 5th Ranger Battalion, Company A on D-Day, landing on Omaha Beach and taking Pointe du Hoc, where he was shot several times; he returned to combat twice, earning two Purple Hearts, the Croix du Guerre, and a bronze star. He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Shirley; daughters Susan, Nanette, and Beth; son-in-law Richard; and granddaughter Lily.



JAMES H. WILDERSON – 5F – MARCH 31, 2016

JAMES H. WILDERSON, SR. age 92, of Arbutus Maryland, passed away March 31, 2016. He is survived by his children James Wilderson, Jr. and his wife the late Pat, William F. Wilderson, Sr. and his wife Carolyn, Deborah Tsakalas and her husband George, and Dennis B. Wilderson, Sr. and his wife Ann; cherished "Pop" of Bill, Nicole, Erin, Micah, Ray, Michelle, Jim, III, Dennis "Brian", and 11 great grandchildren.



MILTON R. LINN -6- OCTOBER 13, 2016

Milton Rex Linn, 89, passed away Oct. 13, 2016, at home in Las Vegas NV, surrounded by his family. Milton was a veteran of World War II, serving as a sharp shooter with the 6th Ranger Battalion. This hero helped rescue 511 POW's in the Raid of Cabanatuan and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Presidential Unit Citation. This operation is still classed as the most successful rescue in the history of the U.S. military. Milton is survived by his loving wife, of 66 years, Wanda (nee Murdock); daughters, Rhonda (John Martin), Brenda (Doug Talley) and Nell (Gary Justice); son, Milton (Jacki Pinneo); 19 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.



NEWTON Y. BLEAK – 6D – JANUARY 9, 2017

Newton, age 95 passed away at his home in Wind River Canyon on January 9, 2017 with his wife, daughter and son-in-law by his side. As member of the 6th Ranger Battalion in the Pacific Theater of Operations, Newton served as first sergeant, Company D. During his career, he was decorated with the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, Philippines Liberation Medal, two Bronze Stars, and Good Conduct Medal. He is survived by his wife, Bonnie M. (White) Bleak – Wind River Canyon, WY; his son, Douglas (Margie) – Winchester, WY; and his daughters, Bonnie (David) Murphree – Wind River Canyon, WY, Daughter in law Laura Bleak – Powell, WY; Dava – Thermopolis, WY; and LaVita (Roger) Kraushaar – Wind River Canyon, WY; 24 grandchildren, 46 great grandchildren, and 24 great-great grandchildren.

MELVIN P. SHEARER – 6C – SEPTEMBER 2, 2016

Melvin Shearer, 92, of New Florence, Pennsylvania, passed away suddenly September 2, 2016. Melvin served in the US Army during World War II in the 6th Ranger Battalion where he participated in the Great Raid at Cabanatuan in the Philippines and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his actions. Survived by children Debbi Bloom and Dan Miller, New Florence; LuAnn Nixon, New Florence; Todd Shearer and wife Colleen, Robinson; grandchildren David Bloom, Mandi Custer, Sandi Robertson, Hollie Short, Nikki Wisner, Ethan Shearer, Elyse Brett and Kyle Miller; great-grandchildren Kobe, Mateea and Kade Short; Garrett Custer; MaKenna and Morgan Robertson, Aubree Bloom, Charlie Wisner and one soon to be born great-grandchild.

HONORS FROM CARRICKFERGUS – WHERE IT BEGAN

Carrickfergus is planning to honor the 75th Anniversary of our Rangers on June 17, 2017. Highlights are a civic ceremony, wreath laying and service by the Chaplain, followed by more tributes and lunch in the town hall. Other activities include a launch event, the Ranger Museum, Ranger Re-enactors, Big Band Music, Dancing and more Food. Our WW II Rangers send their whole-hearted appreciation for this special remembrance.



News from The Descendants of WWII Rangers, Inc

P.O. Box 70
Maringouin, LA 70757

Address Service Requested

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
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Lafayette, LA
Permit No. 229

All newsletter contents are subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors for the Descendants of WWII Rangers. **Contents of the newsletter may not be reproduced or republished without Board of Directors approval.**

A DESCENDANT'S APPLAUSE

PRESERVED as One Nation Under God;
DEFENDED by our Heroic Troops;

AWARDED by their Personal Losses;

COMFORTED by their Unselfishness;

SPOILED by our Freedom;

INSULATED by Grace;

LED by Honor;

VICTORIOUS in Allegiance

GROUNDLED in Legacy;

EXALTED by the Praise of our Countryman;

FOREVER in Indebted;

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY

By: Constandina Ulysses Auger Economides,
March 17, 2017

Daughter of: Ulysses G. "Blackie" Auger 1C/4Hq

Original Darby Ranger, 28 November, 2004, Ranger Hall of Fame