

CAMPAIGNS*

Algiers-Tunisian
Sicily-Naples
Foggia-Rome
Arno-Normandy
Northern France
Rhineland-Central
Europe-Ardenne
Alsace
New Guinea
Luzon

INVASIONS*

North Africa
Sicily Landings
Salerno Beachhead
Anzio Beachhead
Normandy Beachhead
Philippine Landings
Arzew-Oran
El Guettar
Gela-Licata
Pursuit to Messina
Chiunzi Pass

**DESCENDANTS OF WWII RANGERS****BATTLES***

Venafro-San Pietro
Cisterna
Pointe duHoc
Vermilliers-Brest
LeConquet Peninsula
Huertgen Forest
Castle Hill '400'
Saar, Roer & Rhine River
Battle of the Bulge
Leyte Landings

RAIDS*

Dieppe
Sened Station
Cabanatuan
Aparri
Carbruan Hills
Homobon

December 17, 2018

Dear Members and Friends :

This has been a tremendously successful year for the Descendants. Membership is at 220 and growing. We held a reunion at Fort Benning in October for the express purpose of hoping that at least one World War II Ranger would be able to attend – two years between reunions is a long time when you are in your '90's. Rangers Arthur Wilson, 3rd Bn and Rudolph Huereque, 5th Bn attended. It was Huereque's first ever, and everyone was thrilled to see Rudy and his wife Barbara enjoy the attention. We have to keep making these opportunities for our Rangers – it's what we are all about.

In this newsletter, you will read how the Morning Report project is almost complete, along with our new Website. Our Webmaster will need help from a few volunteers to help add new information, so if you are willing to help, please let us know.

Your Board was successful in getting bills introduced in both the House and Senate to award our Rangers with the Congressional Gold Medal, but so far only a handful of Congressmen have signed on. We need the help of all Descendants to make this happen. Details are in the newsletter.

The next National Reunion and Business Meeting will be held in Gettysburg, PA, July 30 – August 3, 2019. We are excited about this location with so many great things to do. Brigadier General William Leszczynski, who has joined our Library Advisory Committee, has agreed to be our Banquet speaker. BG Leszczynski commanded the Ranger Regiment in the late 1980's and was friends with many World War II Rangers.

We are raising funds for the World War II Ranger Library. The initial need is for scanning documents, and all funds donated to the WW II Ranger Library go into a separate Library bank account. Donations to the Descendants are tax deductible because we are a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Foundation. Checks should be made payable to the Descendants of World War II Rangers, Inc. and mailed to our Treasurer, Terry Toler, 1417 Wilmor Drive, Jefferson City, MO. 65101.

This has been a wonderfully successful year for the Descendants, and your Board joins me in wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a prosperous and healthy New Year. RLTW!

David Williams, President

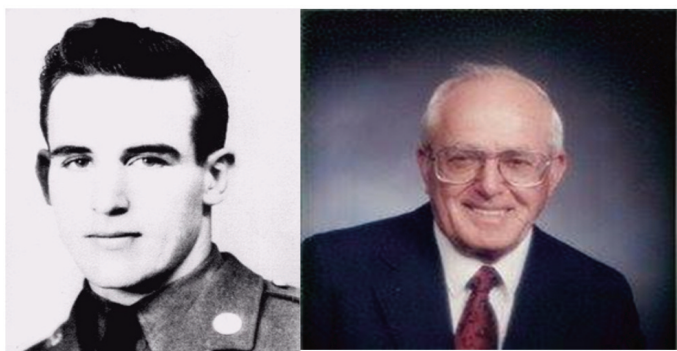
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GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

MARVIN EUGENE KNESS – 1E/4B,D



Marvin "Mike" Eugene Kness, age 96, of Albia, Iowa, passed away on October 6, 2018, surrounded by his loved ones at the Monroe County Hospital in Albia. Marvin was born on April 3, 1922, to A.E. and Bessie (Anderson) Kness. He attended the Audubon High School, graduating in 1941. After high school, Marvin joined the United States Army and was a member of the 1st and 4th Army Ranger Battalions and served his country during World War II in North Africa and Italy. He was very proud of his military service. On August 12, 1944, he was united in

marriage to Phyllis Kauffman in Macon, Georgia. To this union five children were born: Kenneth, Julie, Jo, Kerry and Kevin. They shared over 45 years of marriage together until Phyllis's passing on January 11, 1990. On February 12, 1992, Marvin married Marilyn Wimer-Mitchell in Florida. He was a member of the American Legion and the Masonic Lodge. Marvin was a past member of the Albia Community School Board and served as President. He was inducted into the Albia Hall of Fame in 1991. He enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing, and being outdoors. Above all, he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends. Marvin is survived by his wife, Marilyn Kness of Albia; his children: Kenneth (Merrilyn) Kness of Sun City West, AZ; Julie Stafford of Albia; Jo (Ray) VanderVelden of Indianola, IA; Kerry (Rhonda) Kness of Norwalk, IA; and Kevin (Rhonda) Kness of Albia; his step-daughters: Marilee (Mike) Scieszinski of Albia and Marianne (Phil) Crall of Des Moines, IA; 19 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren.

JAMES ROREX – 1HQ/3HQ



James R. (Rusty) Rorex, 96, passed away Jan. 29, 2018. Born in Texas on Oct. 11, 1921, to W. H. (Bill) Rorex and Elizabeth Turner Rorex, Rusty dearly loved his family and friends. He was employed by International Milling Company, first in the office and later in sales, traveling until he went into service in 1941. He was attached to the 1st Armored Division, Ft. Knox, Kentucky, and became part of the first group to leave for Europe on the Queen Mary in WWII. Arriving in Europe, he volunteered for a new unit being formed by a "West Pointer" William (Bill) Darby. It was an outfit to be trained by the British

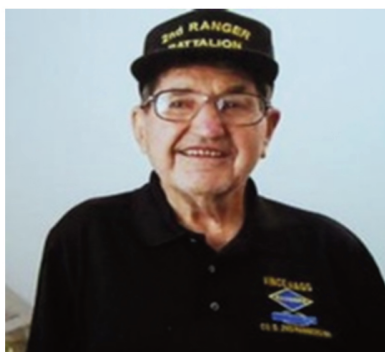
commandos and was to be strictly the advanced unit before any Army invasion. Rusty was the seventh man to be accepted into the training of the new division of "Darby Rangers" and heavy training began in Dundee, Scotland. Later, Rusty was chosen from a few Rangers to make the Dieppe raid into France. This was the beginning of the Rangers and the slogan "The Rangers Lead the Way." After being injured in North Africa, Rusty was in a field hospital, but he was also involved in the next invasions of Italy and Sicily. He received the Purple Heart, five major Battle Stars, Bronze Star, French Croix DeGuerre, and the Presidential Citation, among other medals. Rusty served in Headquarters Co., 1st, and 3rd Bn. Returning to the United States, he was in a V. A. Hospital until he was honorably discharged. Rusty married Dora Jean Burt, his childhood sweetheart. He was

preceded in death by his wife Dora Jean in 2012, his daughter Patricia Lynn in 2005, his parents Elizabeth and Bill Rorex, his sister Lillian Laney in 2017, sister Helen Marie Chapman, and brothers Howard and Alexander Kyle. Rusty is survived by grandson Duke Alan Durham and wife, Timie; great-grandson Reegan James Durham; niece Linda Laney of Rockford, Illinois; and niece Susan Chapman Scott and nephews Billy and Jimmy Chapman, all of Greenville, Texas.

WILLIAM D. ZARTMAN – 1F

William David Zartman of Cohasset, MA, died on April 12, 2018. He was the loving husband of Carole Zartman for forty years. Bill joined the Army in 1942 and became the youngest member of Darby's Rangers, America's elite fighting force in World War II. He was wounded at one of most important and costly battles in American Military History-- the Battle of Anzio. He was dispatched to a German prisoner of war camp in East Prussia, Stalag IIB, which has been described as one of the most brutal internment camps in the Reich. He escaped from the camp almost a year to the day since his capture in 1944. Bill reasoned that since he would have to cross German lines to reach friendly forces, he and a British POW would travel east. They started for Lodz, Poland, and ultimately traveled a thousand miles on foot and in empty Soviet boxcars to the Black Sea port of Odessa, where they found Allied ships delivering lend lease supplies to the Soviet military. They were able to board a tanker bound for Istanbul, Turkey, and then a freighter to Naples, Italy. In Naples on March 27, 1945, Bill reported to the American Peninsular Base as a returned MIA. He was soon on his way home. He published a book about his experiences called *EAST TO THE RUSSKIES*. Bill's postwar experiences included management positions for the National Cash Register Company (NCF) and ITT-Sheraton World in Boston, where he managed hotel computer systems. Bill enjoyed many hobbies, including tennis and golf, but especially sailing his Cape Dory around the Boston Harbor. Bill was the son of Monroe Zartman and Effie Zimmerman of Shamokin, PA, and was predeceased by brother Monroe (Bud), and sisters Helen and Catherine Stank. Bill is survived by son Bill Zartman and daughter-in-law Maryann; daughter Bonnie Dingler and son-in-law Denny; his adopted daughter Diane Zartman, and his stepson, Leon Merian and wife Camille. He is survived by six grandchildren: Josh, Jennifer, Emily, Adam, Nichole, Gianna, and Luke; and great-granddaughter Ava.

VINCENT R. HAGG – 2D



Vincent Richard Hagg, 92, of Tyrone, PA, died Wednesday, January 3, 2018, at Epworth Manor. Vince was born July 18, 1925, to parents Ralph and Emma Schoch Hagg, who preceded him in death. He was preceded by 2 sisters: Sister Lambert and Louise Hagg; and 3 brothers: Joseph, Gene and Francis Hagg. He is survived by several nieces and nephews, as well as a very special friend, Phyllis McCue. Vince was a 1944 graduate of Tyrone Area High School. He entered the U.S. Army and became one of the youngest Army Rangers. He served in the European Theatre of Operations as a Sergeant in the 2nd Ranger Battalion, "D" Company. He was one of the men who landed on Omaha Beach during the 2nd day of the D-Day operation. He was the recipient of the Combat Medal with five

Bronze Stars. In 2011, he was appointed a Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor for his action in France. In addition, he also received the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Good Conduct Medal and the Bronze Star Medal. He was honored in Washington, D.C. during the 2015 National Memorial Day concert and was a part of a group of Army Rangers representing the United States in France at Normandy Beach for the 2016 D-Day Celebration.

DONALD A. MCCORMICK – 3D



Donald A. McCormick of Park Ridge, Illinois, was 94 when he died October 7, 2018. He was born in Chicago on September 30, 1924, to Michael P. McCormick and Marie E. Bosler. His dad was a veteran of WWI and worked in Chicago as a salesman after returning from the war. Donald received his education by attending school in the Chicago area. It was not long before WWII started, and he joined the Army. Donald volunteered to join the Rangers and on December 29, 1943, he was assigned to 3rd Ranger Battalion D Company from the 2nd Replacement Depot. PVT

McCormick fought with the Rangers thru December 1943 and January 1944. During the Battle at Cisterna, January 30, 1944, Donald along with many of his D Company buddies were captured and became POWs. He spent time in the POW Camp Stalag 2B at Hammerstein, West Prussia. He also was sent to work camps in that area. He noted in a speech in 2011 that the communications in war were poor. It took four months after a MIA letter for his mother to receive word he was a POW and two more months for her to know he was alive. He spent 440 days as a POW. Donald was released April 13, 1945. Donald married Shirley Ann Mack in 1950. Donald was the loving father of Richard (Diane), Joseph (Elisabeth) and the late George McCormick. He was the devoted grandfather of Kevin, Kristen (Patrick) Murphy and Kenneth (Ella); the dear great-grandfather of Eleanor, Sydney and Madeline; the fond brother of Michael Patrick, Gerald and the late Evelyn Geni, John Richard, Margaret, Marie Ethel Beers and Dolores Kehl. Donald was a member of the Ranger Battalion Association and was loved by many Rangers, spouses, and descendants with whom he kept in contact over the internet. He had a wonderful sense of humor and everyone looked forward to his emails.

DANTE RAPONI – 4HQ



Dante A. Raponi, 95, of Martville, NY, passed away on Monday, April 2nd at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. He had owned and operated Oswego Valley Constructors in Oswego for many years and was a promoter for Oswego Speedway and Fulton Raceway. He served with the U.S. Army Rangers and the USA-Canada First Special Service Forces in the European Theatre of Operations during World War II. Dante was awarded the Silver Star Medal, Bronze Star Medal for valor, the Purple Heart Medal with two oak leaf clusters for wounds in combat, and the Combat Infantry Badge, among others. He was a member of the U.S. Army Ranger Association, USA-Canada Special Forces Association, Disabled American Veterans, Society of American Inventors, Southern Building Codes Congress International, the Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, and several other organizations.

Surviving are his children: Lindy Lee Mesh-Raponi of Rochester; Amedeo Raponi of Oregon; and Roxanne Raponi of California; two grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Dante was predeceased by his wife, Ruth Joy Raponi and by three brothers and two sisters.

LLOYD BERGSTROM - 5B



Lloyd Bergstrom, age 92 of Maple Plain, Minnesota, passed away Thursday, October 4, 2018, at Presbyterian Homes in Spring Park. Lloyd was born July 27, 1926, in Hopkins, Minnesota. He was the son of Lewis and Anna (Rostberg) Bergstrom. Lloyd grew up in south Minneapolis and was a graduate of the Roosevelt High School. On October 5, 1944 Lloyd enlisted in the United States Army at Ft Snelling. He served as a 5th Battalion Ranger in B Company. He was awarded the European African Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Battle Stars, and the Army Occupation Medal of Germany. Lloyd was a proud veteran who received his Honorable Discharge on July 31, 1946, at Ft. Sheridan.

Lloyd was united in marriage with Thurza Mosher on September 16, 1950. Lloyd was employed as a welder at Thermo King. Lloyd enjoyed walking, reading and gardening. He cherished time spent with his family, especially his grandchildren. Lloyd will be remembered for his hard work ethic and his sweet personality who would do anything for others. Lloyd is survived by his loving family: son Paul Bergstrom of Brooklyn Center; daughter Julie (Jude) Lague of Maple Plain; grandchildren Heidi (Jeff) Caviness, Tracy Bergstrom, Jeff Bergstrom, Allison Lague, Sydney Lague, and Jackson Lague; great grandchildren Jacob, Destini, Ethan and Lili Bergstrom, and Parker, Landon and Hazel Lague; brother Robert Bergstrom of White Bear Lake; sister Anna (Gus) Anderson of Fridley; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law Delores Bergstrom, Patty Bergstrom and Louise Mosher; nieces, nephews, and other relatives and friends.

LEONARD LAVOIE - 5F



Leonard D. Lavoie, 93, formerly of Merrimack, NH, passed away on Saturday, July 29, 2017, at the Oceanside Nursing Center in Hampton. He was born on June 27, 1924, and was the son of the late Joseph and Blanche (St. Onge) Lavoie. Leonard proudly served his country as an Army Ranger, participating in the invasion of France on D-Day and also the Campaign of Brittany, where he received the Purple Heart, Presidential Citation, Good Conduct Ribbon, and three battle stars. Leonard enjoyed golfing and bowling and was an active member of the Bektash Temple of Shriners. Leonard was predeceased by two brothers, Lionel and George Lavoie, and two sisters, Doris Desmaris and Gloria Gagnon.

Leonard is survived by his wife of 71 years, Beatrice E. Lavoie, and their daughter Janet and her husband Ernest (Skip) Dufour of Exeter; granddaughters, Kristine Moulton and her husband David of Auburn and Kara Fontaine and her husband Bryan of Hooksett; and three great-grandchildren, Jack and Charles Moulton and Benjamin Fontaine. Leonard also leaves behind his brother, John Lavoie of Hudson, and several sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins.

RICHARD C. LEMNITZER – 5E

Richard C. Lemnitzer, 91, passed away April 10, 2018, in McDonough, GA. He was born April 25, 1926, in Columbus, Ohio. He attended Miami University and Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Survivors include his wife Jane, step daughter Susan Allie and her husband, Jeff: two grandchildren, Madison and Kennedy of McDonough, Georgia; step son Dean Yerem and his wife JoAnn; two grandchildren, Jack and Neil of Santa Clarita, Ca. He was a long time resident of Sarasota, Florida. He retired as District Manager for Club Car Inc. He also served as Bank Director for Century Bank in Sarasota. He moved from Sarasota to McDonough, GA, where he lived out his life. He served as 1st scout for the 1st platoon, E-Company, 5th Ranger BN in World War II.

PETER KUTASH - 6E



Peter Kutash passed away December 22, 2017. Born in Middleport, PA on June 19, 1925, he was a son of the late Frank and Mary Kolodiez Kutash. A World War II veteran, he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant, serving with Company E 6th Ranger Infantry Regiment, in the Philippines and the Asian-Pacific Theatre. He was preceded in death by his brother, John Kutash; sisters, Josephine Kutash, Cecelia Kutash and Helen Crampton. Pete is survived by daughters: Cynthia Kutash and companion Donald Gerber; MaryD; and Mary Jane and her husband, Frank Bassler of Brockton; grandchildren Shannon Wilson, Ashley Bassler, Brandey Coleman and Summre Patricella; great-grandchildren Lily, Gabriel, Quinn, Savannah, Porter, Baela and Indigo; and nieces and nephews.

HOWARD H. MILASCHEWSKI - 6



Howard H. Milaschewski, 89, went to be with the Lord on Monday, February 29, 2016. He passed peacefully surrounded by his loving family. He was the beloved husband of Jeanette H. (Koppenaar) Milaschewski for 66 years. Born in Oradell, New Jersey, on October 18, 1926, he was the son of the late Henry C. and Helen E. (Messler) Milaschewski. He was the devoted father of William Milaschewski (wife Jane) of Beverly, Robert Milaschewski (wife Donna) of Fletcher, VT, and Janet Sunkenberg (husband David) of Groveland. He was the loving grandfather of Sara Durkin (husband Derek) of Groton, MA; Thomas Milaschewski (wife Sarah) of Beverly; Kyle Milaschewski (wife Rebecca) of Sharon, VT; Rachel Milaschewski of Portsmouth, NH; Kathryn Milaschewski (fiancé William Giguere) of Boston; Daniel Milaschewski of Beverly; Peter Sunkenberg of Groveland, and Thomas Sunkenberg of Groveland. He was the loving great-grandfather of Makenna and Olivia Milaschewski.

Howard was the devoted brother-in-law of Geraldine Koppenaar and her spouse, Catherine Schutt. He proudly served his country as a US Army Ranger with the 6th Battalion in the Philippine Islands during World War II and was honorably discharged in November 1946. While in an Army medical hospital during his time in the Philippines, Howard was greatly helped by the care of the Salvation Army.

New Descendants' Website – an Update

The Board hired a web designer some months ago, and the new website is close to final form. Transferring almost 300 pages of information from the old website into a new and better-organized format was a daunting task. One requirement was that we have a section to honor individual Rangers with his photo, key military data, a narrative written by family or friends, and a section to attach photos or documents – all this for each WW II Ranger. Data on the old site are being transferred, and once the website is operational, we will ask Ranger family to submit their Ranger's information to our new Webmaster for inclusion.

We also have a Members Tab with tabs for General Membership Information, a Membership Application, a Link to the World War II Ranger & Descendants' Facebook page, and a Tab for Members Only that can be accessed with a password by dues-paying members of the Descendants. In the Members Only section, we will have minutes of our business meetings and the Morning Reports and Rosters donated by the Foley & O'Shea families. We believe you will like the new site, which is easy to navigate. Best of all, it will work.

Normandy 2019

June 6, 2019, marks the 75th year since the 2nd and 5th Battalions invaded Normandy. A few families have indicated a desire to be at Normandy for the 75th anniversary celebrations. After weeks of waiting for details of events and after a recent face-to-face contact with the Regiment, we still have no guarantee that Ranger family members will be able to participate or even be present at official ceremonies at Normandy 2019. We are being told that the Regiment is waiting on word from Army Europe which is responsible for the Celebrations. Regretfully, we suggest that if you are planning to attend, please do so with the understanding that the Descendants may have no control over what will happen. If that changes, we will so advise our Members.

We suggest that anyone wanting to attend should make their housing reservations as soon as possible. We will share more details as they become available.

2018 Fall Reunion at Fort Benning - Nancy Taube and Teri Whitney, Chairs

Ft. Benning Georgia, October 26, 2018. Two WWII Rangers Rudolph Huereque, 5D and Arthur Wilson, 1D came to be honored at our reunion. Rudolph (Rudy) had never attended an RBA reunion. It was exciting to see him experience the events for the first time. Reunion activities began at Victory Pond on Fort Benning with the Ranger Demonstration and Ranger graduation. The dreary and misty weather was not as inviting as the current Ft. Benning Rangers were, but this did not bother our two WWII Rangers. They watched the current graduating class sit in the rain while members demonstrated skills to repel, climb, attack, and air drop on the enemy to meet their objectives.



Ranger Graduating Class

The crowd of current Rangers and families enthusiastically greeted and welcomed Rudy and Art.

Brigadier General Dave Hodne, Commandant of the US Army Infantry School, presented Rudy and Art with his Challenge Coin. After graduation, we had lunch with current Rangers at the Airborne Ranger Training Brigade (ARTB) at Camp Rodgers, followed by a tour of the Ranger Hall of Fame.



Andrea Buchanan near her father's (Leo Strausbaugh) award at the Ranger Hall of Fame

Back at the Doubletree Hotel, we had a wonderful dinner and lots of time for fellowship and getting to know our WW II Rangers and our first time attendees, Descendants John Brooks (honoring WWII Ranger William Brooks, 6B); Diane Smith (honoring WWII Ranger Paul Hermsen, 1C); and Brian Rice (honoring WW II Ranger Herbert Joseph Rice, 1C).

On Saturday, October 27, we headed to the National Infantry Museum. WWII Ranger Rudolph (Rudy) Huereque received a Certificate of Honor for his WWII service. Our Vietnam-era Veterans David Williams



President David Williams (l), and Treasurer Terry Toler (r) receiving recognition for their Vietnam-era service, and Steve Lehmann (c) for serving two tours in Vietnam with the U. S. Marines.

and Terry Toler, also received recognition with Steven Lehmann, who served two tours in Vietnam with the United States Marines.

After touring the museum and having lunch, we went to the Ranger Memorial erected by the National Ranger Memorial Foundation for our Memorial Service led by Ranger Chaplain Robert Boyce. In a very moving ceremony, we remembered and honored 25 WWII Rangers who have passed. After the names were read, the service concluded with Military Honors by a Ranger Rifle Squad and the playing of Taps.



Memorial Service – Active Duty Rangers



WWII Ranger Rudy Huereque at the Ranger Memorial with Major Miranda and Chaplain Robert Boyce.



Brian Rice with his father's uniform



Ranger Arthur Wilson



Descendant John Brooks read the names for the 6th WWII Ranger Battalion, of which his father William Brooks was a member

At the banquet later that evening, President David Williams presented Linda Davis, Secretary to the Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment for 30 years, with the Darby Award for her many years of service to the RBA and now to the Descendants. The attending current Rangers participated in a Ranger Punch Bowl Ceremony topped off by the banquet speaker LTC Michael Kloepper, Commander, 3rd Ranger Battalion. He also did the final tasting after Rattlesnake Venom was added to the punch and explained the history of the centuries-old ceremony. A long line of tasters exclaimed that it was the best punch ever-- actually drinkable this time.



Our wreath at the WWII Ranger Memorial



Darby Award Winner Linda Davis with President David Williams

WWII Ranger Rudolph Huereque after the Punch Bowl Ceremony with LTC Kloepper and current Rangers



Rudy with Brigadier General Hodne



Kathy O'Brien congratulating 75th Ranger O'Brien on a job well done.



Congressional Gold Medal Update – Action is Needed

In July, we announced that Senate Bill S.3166 and House Bill H.R. 6263, bills to award the Congressional Gold Medal to World War II Rangers, were introduced in the U. S. Senate and in the U. S. House of Representatives. This was accomplished by your current Board of Directors. We then asked each of you to write your Congressmen, and ask them to Co-sponsor House Bill H.R.6263. A vote to co-sponsor is a vote for the Bill.

At that time there were eight Co-sponsors from the House, all from Tennessee. Sadly, as of this writing, there are a total of only nine Co-sponsors. We need another 282 Co-sponsors from the U.S. House of Representatives.

As we previously stated, passage requires approval by 2/3 of the members of each House. Senator Joni Ernst has stated she would get the approval of the Senators. We have to get the approval of the Representatives in Congress.

It is a huge disappointment that only two Representatives responded. I'm certain that a lot of letters were written. However, for our Rangers to receive this award it will require each of us to again write a personal letter to our Congressmen in the U. S. House of Representatives, asking each one to Co-sponsor H.R. 6263. Then, we have to follow-up to see if it has happened. If not, we must continue to write and call. That's what it takes !

Please, write your Congressman today. Express the importance of House Bill 6263 to recognize the sacrifices and accomplishments of our WW II Rangers. Even if your Congressman was not re-elected, he or she can still Co-sponsor the bill while they are in office and the sponsorship will stand. In January, there will be some new faces in Congress, and some of us will be writing to different Congressmen. It will take several letters.

This award is for your Ranger – it is for your family – it's up to you ! Please LEAD THE WAY !

Board of Directors 2017 - 2019

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World War II Ranger Library Update

We are pleased to announce that Brigadier General William Leszczynski has agreed to join our distinguished list of World War II Ranger Library Advisors. BG Leszczynski preceded LTG Ken Keen as the Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment. He was the keynote speaker at the RBA Banquet in Florida in 1997, and after retirement BG Leszczynski spent several years in Europe as Chief Operating Officer of the American Battle Monuments Commission. He and his wife reside in Manassas, Virginia.

We are collecting Ranger records, photos and memorabilia from any Ranger or Ranger family who will share them. Some families have already donated records and memorabilia to government libraries, and in many cases, it may be impossible for us to obtain copies for the Ranger Library. In the case of Carlisle, they have a new policy of redacting service numbers and serial numbers from any documents they receive, and they have indicated that it may be at least five years before any such documents will be available for viewing by the general public. We ask that before sending your Ranger's documents to one of these archives that you first furnish copies for our (your) World War II Ranger Library before you commit your family's records to this type of storage with limited access by the public.

If you do not have the ability to scan your Ranger's records, we can do that for you, and then with your permission we can send the hard copies to any repository in the U.S. that you wish. As an example, Renee Lomell, daughter of Ranger Len Lomell, has donated many boxes of records that her father collected over his lifetime. Renee made a stamp that reads **The Len Lomell Collection** as a way to honor her father when someone views the documents that he saved. Let's get all of our Ranger records in one place !

SAVE THE DATE – 2019 National Reunion – July 31 to August 3, 2019

Gettysburg, PA. The Descendants have signed a contract with the Wyndham Gettysburg Hotel for a \$ 99.00 room rate, plus tax, to host our 2019 National Reunion. Gettysburg is a central location to places we plan to visit, including the U. S. Army Heritage and Education Center at Carlisle, PA, where many of you have sent your Ranger's records and memorabilia, and Washington, D.C., where we can see the World War II Memorial and other sites. It is a great opportunity to visit the Gettysburg Battlefield if you have not done so. This is also a great time for one last family get-a-way before school begins. For those wishing to come early or prolong your stay, we recommend that you make reservations early. For Hotel Reservations, Phone 717- 339 – 0020, and just say you are attending the Descendants of WW II Rangers Reunion. Hoping to see many of you there.

Ranger Paul Hermsen's Story as told by his daughter Diane Smith

My father, Paul S. Hermsen, (1920-2010) was a 1st Battalion Company C Army Ranger during WWII. He rarely spoke about his war experiences but I know that he was proud to be a Ranger and thoroughly enjoyed attending Ranger reunions over the years with my mother, Joan. My Dad eventually wrote down his memoirs and I would like to share his story of how he became to be a Ranger.

“The last part of April in 1942, we were shipped down to Inniskillin, which is at the very southern part of Northern Ireland. Again, there were more marches with full packs- twenty-five mile marches. The soles of my boots were worn through and there were no replacements for a while. The first part of May, I saw a notice on the bulletin board asking for volunteers for a special operation. The notice stated that there would be someone at a nearby chateau to give interviews. I went down to the chateau and found I couldn't get in the front door as it was locked so I went around the back and found some latticework going up to a window. I climbed up and went in the window. I was on the second floor and went down to the main floor. There was a captain sitting at the desk so I went up and saluted. He asked me how I got in and of course I told him. He asked what kind of guns I was familiar with and I told him the O3 rifle, M1 rifle, 45 caliber pistol, 30 caliber machine gun, and 37 millimeter tank gun. He said that there would be lots of volunteers and rugged training. I was told to be back at the chateau at five o' clock that afternoon and there would be a truck to transport us. I went back to camp at Inniskillin and told the sergeant that I was leaving and would be with a new volunteer group. At that time, this volunteer group didn't have a name, but later was called the 1st Ranger Battalion.”

His memoirs continue to tell the story of his Ranger training, the North African invasion, being flown down to Tunisia and going on mountain patrols. On February 17th in 1943 while on patrol he was captured by a patrol of Italians led by a German officer. My Dad eventually ended up in Stalag 3B at Furstenberg on the Oder where he was held as a POW until the end of the war.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hermsen Smith

THE MORNING REPORT & ROSTER PROJECT

Update from Julie Foley Belanger

I just dropped in to give everyone an update on the Morning Report & Rosters Project. I have just sent the 1st Ranger Battalion Morning Reports and Rosters to David Williams so they can be included in the new Descendants' Website that is under construction. He will share these documents with the web designer who is creating space on the new website for all the Morning Reports and Rosters. These official military records for all six Ranger Battalions will be available to the membership on the new Descendants of WWII Rangers website in the "Members Only" section.

I have acquired 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Ranger Battalions from Geoff at Golden Arrow Military Research. The 5th Battalion is expected late in December. I should have all six Ranger Battalions by February 2019. The Foley & O'Shea Families Honoring Darby Ranger SSGT John J. Foley are excited to share this important piece of Ranger History with The Descendants of WWII Rangers.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership dues for 2019 are now due. It has been an exciting year for our organization's membership. At the beginning of the year, the board set a goal for 200 paid members. This was the number determined needed to meet the cost of printing and mailing our bi-annual newsletters. I am happy to report that we exceeded our goal. We have 208 current dues members for 2018. With our fall newsletter, it is again time to send in your 2019 dues except for those who paid their 2019 dues at the Fall Reunion. A copy of the membership form is provided in this newsletter, or you can pay online at our website www.wwiirangers.org. Thank you so much for your support!!!!

Our organization is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Foundation, meaning that donations to the Descendants are tax deductible. We rely on dues and donations to meet our expenses. As it is the end of the year, if you desire to send in a donation with your dues, we have modified our Membership Form to make it easier for you. You will receive a receipt for your tax records if you Donate.



Membership - 2019

Descendants of WWII Rangers, Inc.

**ALL MEMBERS' DUES ARE \$35.00 YEARLY:
JANUARY – DECEMBER***

The purpose of this organization is to perpetuate the history of the men who served with the United States Army Rangers during World War II; maintain and upkeep all memorials created in their honor; arrange for reunions at the pleasure of its membership; memorialize and perpetuate the memory of all Battalion Rangers; and educate and inform those seeking information and history of the Rangers.

Your Name: _____ Date _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: Home _____ Cell _____

Email Address: _____

If you are a WWII Ranger or the Widow or a descendant of a WWII Ranger:

Ranger's Name _____ BN and CO _____

If you are a Descendant of a WWII Ranger (includes legal adoptions)

Your relationship to the WWII Ranger: _____

If you are requesting Honorary Membership: On the back of this form, please list your contributions (non-monetary) to the Descendants of WWII Rangers and explain how you are furthering the purposes of the Descendants of WWII Rangers organization (per article I, paragraph 3 of the By-Laws)

Please enclose your check, payable to "Descendants of WWII Rangers, Inc.", and mail to:

**Nancy Taube – Membership
2500 Sandycreek
Shelby Twp, MI 48316**

- If joining after 30 June for any given calendar year, dues are \$17.50. For example, if joining in July 2019 for year 2019, the dues are \$17.50.

Annual Membership Dues for 2019 \$35.00 _____

Donation to operating expenses/reunions _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED



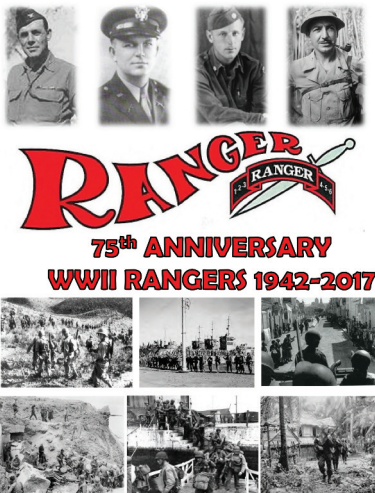
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P.O. Box 70
Maringouin, LA 70757

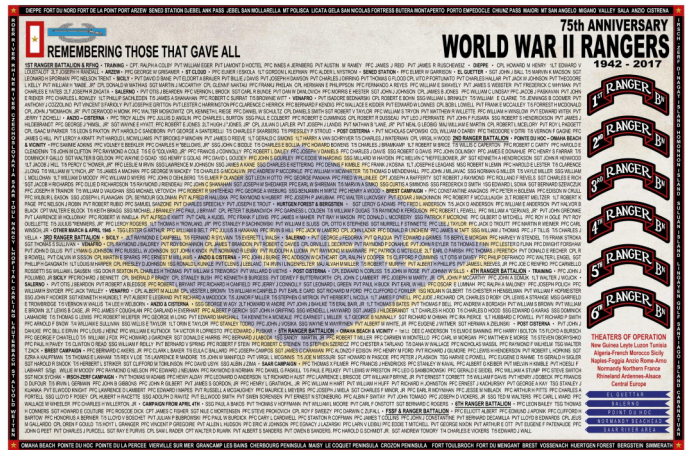
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