

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

November 4, 2020

To Ranger Family & Friends:

I hope our WW II Rangers are all doing well. This was a year from “hell” for many, but I know that with your courage and stamina you are still Leading the Way, no matter where you are. Most of you probably know that tragedy struck our family, when Vice President and Membership Chair Nancy Taube passed away after a long illness. She was a leader, and we have published a Tribute to Nancy in this newsletter. She will be greatly missed. Your Board has selected Steven Lehmann, son of Carl Lehmann and a longtime member, to fill the Board position vacated by Nancy’s death.

Congressional Gold Medal: Our Mission to get this medal for our Rangers is in jeopardy. We still need 158 more U. S. Representatives to co-sponsor House Bill HR5002, and the sand is running out of the hourglass. A post on Page 9 explains what you can do if you are still willing to ask your U. S. Representative to co-sponsor this bill for our Rangers. If you have not called your Representative, you have time if you act fast.

Reunion 2021 and Business Meeting : The Descendants are going to Savannah, Georgia, home of Hunter Airfield and home of the 1st Ranger Battalion. Savannah has a lot of sites to see and enjoy, and we are hoping to see some Rangers in Action while there. It’s a great destination for families, so keep this in mind when planning next year’s vacation. Details in Spring 2021 newsletter.

The Grands: Involving the next generation in our Membership and Leadership is something we not only want to do, but we need to do it to continue to honor our WW II Rangers in perpetuity. Selected by the Board to fill the two positions are Grandchildren Carrie Blackburn and Craig Spinner. We estimate that there are at least 20,000 Descendants eligible for Membership, and we are hoping to attract many of them as Members. We ask that each of you complete the information asked for on a loose page, giving us contact information for your other family members. Years ago Ranger Bing Evans charged me with “Never let this die”. It is past time to grow the membership. Please help us with that so we can continue on for generations. Nothing would honor your Ranger like growing this organization. Dues income could then pay for the expenses to take our Ranger Library public.

Take care of yourself and your family, stay well, and please pay your 2021 dues if you have not done so.

David

David L. Williams, President

Honoring Col. James B. Lyle, 1/C, A, B

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY

Gone, But Not Forgotten

GEORGE J. KEEBLE, 5F

May 13, 2019



Age 100, of Oscoda MI, formerly of Utica, MI passed away on Monday, May 13, 2019. George was a World War II veteran and proudly served in the United States Army Rangers 5th Battalion from 1943 - 1945. He was among the troops who landed on Omaha Beach at Normandy, France on June 6, 1944. He participated in fateful battles that impacted the outcome of the war and took part in the liberation of Buchenwald, a large Nazi concentration camp. He received a Purple Heart for wounds received while overtaking a German gunnery located in Lauterbach. He is survived by his wife, Barbara and only son George Keeble III (Joy). He is preceded in death by his parents, George and Sylvia Keeble, his beloved wife Geneva and daughter, Sylvia Sundermeier (Moore), Sisters; Alice Dillingham (Don), Dorothy Flegel (Earl), Brothers; Clifford (Marie) and Robert (Toy). Grandchildren; Jimmy F Moore Jr. (Vickey), Charlotte Preston (Steve), Sharon Owad (John), Julie Moore, George J. Keeble IV (Jennifer), (12) Great Grand Children and (12) Great Great Grand Children and many nieces and nephews.

FERNAND MEDEIROS, 4F

December 17, 2019



Fernand Medeiros of Taunton, a former City Councilman and a WWII Veteran who was wounded in action and was a POW, died peacefully in his home surrounded by his family on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. He was 96 years old.

Also known as Ferdy, he was the husband of Madeline (Souza) Medeiros and the son of the late Joseph and Rose Medeiros. His is survived by his wife of 73 years, Madeline (Souza), their children, Michael and Lorna (Medeiros) Flynn (wife of the late William Flynn); two granddaughters, Erin Wittrock and husband Cory and Alicia Roberts and husband Dempsey; and three great granddaughters, Quinn Roberts, Reagan Roberts, and Ava Wittrock.

He lived in Taunton for most of his life. He was a mechanical engineer by profession, having worked for firms mainly in Boston and was elected to the Taunton City Council in 1980 for two terms. He was active in civic organizations and in city government, serving as the representative for many mayors to the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD). During his retirement, he was a part time city engineer.

Upon finishing high school, he enlisted in the Army's elite Darby's Rangers and served during WWII. He was wounded in action behind the German lines in Italy in 1943 and held prisoner for 18 months in Germany at Stalag VII and later in Poland. After the war, he attended the Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) and earned an Associate Degree in Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning in 1951. He worked for major engineering firms where he designed mechanical systems for office buildings, industrial parks, sewage treatment plants, and military facilities in the U.S. and overseas. He also was an instructor at the Franklin Institute of Technology in Boston part time. He was a registered Professional Engineer licensed to practice in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, registered as a Construction Manager Supervisor, and commissioned as a Notary Public. He enjoyed all sports, camping, home improvement projects, and yard work. He and his wife spent many summers over the years on

WWII Ranger Medeiros continued...

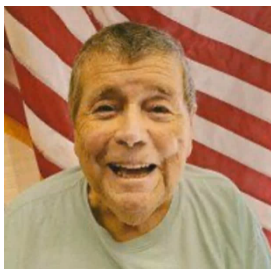
Cape Cod along with their daughter and grandchildren and many winters in Florida where they walked the beaches. With their many friends – many from childhood – they enjoyed dancing, had parties, spent weekends in New Hampshire, and attended events at the Elks, PACC, VFW and the Portuguese festas. He was an active member of the following civic organizations: Disabled American Veterans Chapter 57, David F. Adams Post 611 for Veterans of Foreign Wars (past Senior Vice Commander and Adjutant), Taunton Elks Lodge 150, Portuguese American Civic Club (where he once served on the Board of Directors), WWII Rangers Association, and the U.S. Army Ranger Association. In recognition of his military service, he received various medals and awards including: Purple Heart Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star, WWII Victory Medal, European/African/Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two bronze service stars, Combat Infantry Badge, Honorable Service Lapel Button, WWII Sharpshooter Badge with Rifle Bar, and the POW Medal. In 1998, he and his brother, Armando (also a WWII veteran, now deceased) were the Grand Marshalls for the city's Memorial Day Parade. He was further honored for his service to the city and country in 2011, when a bridge on Summer Street was named the Fernand Medeiros POW Bridge. At the dedication ceremony, he said that he hoped it would also be in memory of all those who served in the Armed Forces, particularly for other POWs and MIAs.

For his work as the Mayor's representative to SRPEDD for nearly 15 years, he received the Commission's Annual Service Award in 1985. With his engineering background, he served on various committees for public works. He also worked for a firm designing the then-new Taunton High School. He received a replica of the Keys to the City from Mayor Richard Johnson in appreciation for his service to the city over the years. Among his professional achievements, he received the MSOE Outstanding Alumnus Award for the Class of 1951 for his years of public service. Professional organizations include: National Society of Professional Engineers; American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE); and American Society of Plumbing Engineers.

He was a communicant of the Holy Family Church in East Taunton and served on the advisory committee for the new parish center.

KENNETH R JONES, 4C

January 27, 2020



Ken was born on January 18th, 1924 in Augusta, Maine. Most of his childhood was spent in the Readfield, Wayne, Winthrop and New Sharon area. His father was a farm boss and his mother played piano for silent movies. Ken was born third of four children and was a prankster from his early days on the farms which his father managed. Just after his 19th birthday in January of 1943, Ken would enlist in the armed forces. A few months later after arriving in Nemours, Algiers, North Africa, Ken would volunteer for an elite fighting force known as Darby's Rangers. Ken's training was grooming him to take part in the European

Theatre in the Sicilian and the Italian Campaign where he would fight alongside commanders such as Lt. General Mark Clark and General George Patton. Ken's weapon was a Browning Automatic Rifle. He was known as a "BAR" man, a specialized sharpshooter trained in mountainous, and amphibious night warfare. He was in the 4th Rangers and survived Cisterna which was a grim but proud story of these brave men who gave their lives. He should have been sent home on furlough, but instead was attached to the First Special Service Force. In the early morning hours of May 23rd, 1944 while breaking out from the four month hold on Anzio Beachhead he was wounded. After crossing Mussolini Canal, the bridge blew behind him leaving him stranded on the other side without support. He was hit by shrapnel on his left side and then shot with an 8 mm. rifle through his right shoulder, hitting his right lung.

WWII Ranger Jones continued...

In July 2013, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded, collectively, to the First Special Service Force (FSSF) in recognition of its superior service during World War II. On February 3, 2015 surviving FSSF Veterans were in Washington DC to accept this momentous recognition on behalf of their fellow Forcemen who could not be there. After being discharged in December of 1944, he returned home to Maine. Shortly after, he met and married Sylvia Belden, a young girl from Winthrop. They would raise four sons to adulthood in their home of Temple, Maine. Ken was a hardworking lumberman despite his injuries and experience of war. He was an avid hunter of coon, bear, deer, and cat. He was known for his well-trained hounds and later for his tiny lap dogs. He was a fisherman at heart, tied his own flies and caught the largest of trout and salmon. Even if the ice was half out you could find him fishing on Quimby Pond or trolling on Varnum with great success. If it could be done outdoors, he was there and later in life camping almost to his 95th birthday. He is survived by his sons Kenneth Jr., and his wife Kelly of Temple, Lawrence (Lonny) and his wife Starr of Florida, Douglas and his wife Shery of Farmington, and Leon and his wife Janet of California. He is survived by five grandchildren and twelve great grandchildren. He is also survived by his companion Irene Givens who has faithfully loved and cared for him for over nine years. The family is grateful for the kind caring service of the staff at Sandy River Nursing Home where we know he will not be forgotten. We are also grateful for the local veterans who honored Ken and his service in World War II. Interment with military honors will be later date in Winthrop next to his wife.

JOSEPH D LaROCCA, 1C

February 4, 2020



Joseph Domenic LaRocca, 95 years old, formerly of Stamford, CT and Fort Pierce, FL, passed away peacefully at Yale New Haven Hospital, on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, surrounded by his loving family at Yale New Haven Hospital. He was born in Stamford on August 16, 1924 to the late Frank and Eugenia (Tucciaroni) LaRocca. Joe is survived by his loving children, F. Richard LaRocca and his wife Jane of Enfield, CT, Judy LaRocca Schueler and her husband Douglas of Killingworth, CT and Sandra Bucaro of Weston, CT, as well as her grandchildren, Julianne LaRocca, Gretchen Xenelis, Kristen Rocha, Kara and Kaylie Bucaro and two great granddaughters, Molly and Juniper. Joseph was a volunteer member of the Army Rangers in WWII, Battalion 1, Company C. He was taken captive at Cisterna, Italy, in the Battle of Anzio. He spent 18 months as a prisoner of war in a Nazi prison camp. Joseph met his beloved wife of 70 years, Angie, at a YMCA dance after returning home from his time in the service. He was a high school athlete, excelling in baseball and track. He also was the lead in several plays and sang in the choir. The hobby of his life was founded at the age of 12 when his parents gave him a saxophone and lessons. He played his entire life. Most of all, Joe derived the greatest joy from time spent with his family and friends, and especially his group of veterans that he spent time with in Florida. They had created a special bond as a group as they guided and supported one another through life's trials.



RAYMOND E. COOK, 4HQ/A

March 8, 2020

Raymond E. Cook, 95, was born August 21, 1924. He grew up in Enfield ME area of the Quabbin before moving to Bondsville, Three Rivers, Brimfield and Monson. Ray worked for the former Federal Paper Board (Caraustar) and drove

a bus for Palmer Motor Coach. Ray is survived by his children Mary Lee Motter of Brimfield, Joanne Turner Chiacchia her husband Stephen of Three Rivers,

Raymond H. Cook his wife Linda of Ware, Karen McNamara her husband Paul of Monson, James Cook his wife MaryJane of Longmeadow, and Richard Cook his wife Ana of Palmer. He also leaves two sisters Dorothy Crowther and Shirley Pierce. His grandchildren, David Mottor his wife Nancy, Edward Ashleigh and partner Laura, Jim Ashleigh his wife Sharon, Sarah Ashleigh, Scott Turner and partner Bonnie, Jeff Turner his wife Brenda, Joseph Chiacchia and wife Lori, Stephen Chiacchia, Dennis Cook, Sherry Kennedy and partner JR, Carrie Latulippe her husband Yvan, Robert Smigiel his wife Nicole, Stacy Hood her husband Michael, James Cook Jr. his wife Natasha, Christopher Cook his wife Vanessa, Christopher Dunn and wife Elizabeth, Michael Dunn, Lisa Dunn, Richard Cook Jr. his wife Joy. He also leaves 26 great grandchildren. Ray was predeceased by his wife of over 50 years Marion, a daughter Barbara, and brothers Philip Crowther and Robert Crowther and a sister Mary Chapin.

Raymond Cook served in the Army during WWII from March 1943 until his honorable discharge in October 1945. During his service, Ray was a member of the U.S. Army Rangers before volunteering to join the First Special Service Force. The "Force" also known in as the Devils Brigade, was an elite military unit comprised of volunteers from the United States and Canada that was initially intended to target military and industrial installations that were critical in supplying materials used in the Axis war effort. Ray and surviving members of the Force were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal during a ceremony at the Capital on February 3, 2015. The Gold Medal was given to the Force in recognition of its superior service during World War II. PFC Cook participated in many battles throughout the war in North Africa, Italy and France and received two Purple Hearts for injuries sustained during combat. Other medals and citations Ray earned during his service included, The Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge, and the Norwegian Defense Medal.

JOHN BAKALAR, 2A

April 15, 2020



John Bakalar, age 95 of Fairfield passed away peacefully Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at The Curtis Home in Meriden. He was the beloved husband of the late Nina E. Morrow Bakalar. Born in Stulany, Czechoslovakia, he traveled to the USA at the age of eight. John served in the US Army during World War II as an Army Ranger. He was wounded landing on the beach in Normandy on D-Day and then again in Bergstein, Germany. He was awarded a Purple Heart for his service in the military. He was a retired tool & die maker, employed by Lacey

Manufacturing for over 30 years. John enjoyed golf, gardening, and caring for his birds in his spare time. Survivors include his loving sons, Jan M. Bakalar and wife Mary; David M. Bakalar and wife Joyce; son-in-law John Seaman; brother Paul Bakalar and wife Nancy; grandchildren Jason (Gina) and Nicole; Kari (Troels); Jennifer and Amanda; Daniel and Elizabeth; great grandchildren Axel, Ulrik and Mia.



JOHN W. EARLE, 2E

April 17, 2020

EARLE, John W. Beloved husband of the late Irene (Saccoach) Earle, of Jamaica Plain, formerly of Lincoln, Acton, and Arlington, passed away peacefully on April 17, 2020, at the age of 94. He is survived by his loving daughters and their

WWII Ranger Earle continued...

spouses, Peggy Earle-Judd (Justin Judd) of Northport, FL and Irene Earle-Rice (Paul Rice) of Lincoln, MA, his adoring grandchildren and spouses, Jared Rice (Laura Prickett-Rice) of Watertown and Jordan Ciampa (Joseph Ciampa) of Acton, and his great-grandsons Benjamin and Daniel Prickett-Rice and Lucas and Robbie Ciampa. He is also survived by his siblings, Ellen Dunn, Marie Gostanian, Paul Earle and Teresa Valentine, and many nieces and nephews, each of whom was his favorite. John was a proud member of the U.S. Army Rangers, 2nd Battalion Company E, having served at Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, and awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf and Bronze Star.

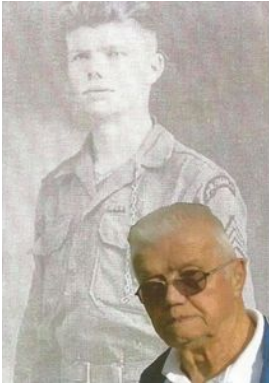
IVAN W. CADY, 2HQ

July 15, 2020



Age 96, of Rochester, MN passed away in his favorite chair on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 in Rochester. Ivan was born January 17, 1924 in Spring Valley, MN, the son of Benton and Alma (Rudlong) Cady. He grew up in rural Preston. Shortly after the death of his father, he would leave country school and work on the family farm. After leaving the farm he married Carolyn Hecker on November 21, 1942 in Rochester, Minnesota where they made their home. Shortly after being married, Ivan enlisted into the United States Army and served in the 2nd Ranger Battalion. His tour of duty included: Pointe du Hoc on D-Day, Hill 400, Battle of the Bulge, and Buchenwald Liberation. He was honorably discharged in 1944. Ivan began his work career with Nickels, Dean and Greg Auto Parts in Rochester, Minnesota which later became General Trading Company. His 50 year career began as a counter employee and later he would become owner of four stores located in Rochester, Albert Lea, Red Wing and Caledonia. Ivan was an avid fisherman and hunter. He was a member of the Eagles, VFW, and American Legion. He was also a Honor Flight recipient and donor. He was treasurer and time keeper for the Golden Gloves, and he also boxed in the service. Survived by three children, Gary (Martha) Cady, Susie (Carl) Lowther, and Maria Cady; 9 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; 1 great great grandchild; siblings, Butch (Mary Jane) Cady, Lois Fossey, and Joan (Curt) Kresbach.

LESTER B. COOK, 1E and 4A



August 9, 2020 Lester Bernard Cook, 97, passed away August 9, 2020 at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Des Moines, Iowa. Lester was born September 25, 1922 in Des Moines, Iowa, to Otis and Florence (Beebe) Cook. Lester graduated from East High School and immediately began his long and decorated military career with the US Army. In February of 1941 he enlisted into the Iowa National Guard 168th INF BN, 34th INF Division. Les volunteered and was selected to serve in the 1st Ranger Bn, Darby's Rangers. He served all of WWII with the 1st and 4th Ranger Bn's. He then served as a paratrooper with the 187th Airborne INF, Rakkasans, during the Korean War. Lester was selected to the 77th Special Forces Group serving as an advisor at the beginning of the Vietnam War. During his time with the Army he earned two silver stars, four purple hearts, and numerous other awards before retiring from active duty. He was extremely proud to be an original Darby's Ranger. Lester would have been jumping out of airplanes to this day if the Army would have let him. After serving in the Army, he moved back to Des Moines and met his wife, Carolyn Lange, at the Post Office where he worked. They married on February 10, 1973. Lester was known for being stubborn, but funny, and could be seen out on his bicycle until he was in his 70's. He enjoyed his model trains, fishing, reading books, and watching The History Channel where he was always pointing out the inaccuracies in the military programs. He set an example for others to follow. Lester is survived by his wife, Carolyn; and daughter, Andrea Lea Cook (Joe Stiles).

MICHAEL R. LAKOWICZ, 1F

September 28, 2020



Michael "Mike" Lakowicz Sr., 96, of Pembroke NH, passed away peacefully on Monday September 28, 2020 at the Epsom Health Care Center, Epsom NH. Mike was born in Palmer MA on July 26, 1924. He married Edith Wischnie on February 15, 1951 in New York City, NY. Mike was a decorated World War II veteran and served in the Army from 1943 till retiring in 1965. Mike was a member of the famed "Darby's Rangers" and became a POW in Anzio, Italy 1944 until his liberation at the end of the war. He received a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. In January 2007 he received a Grateful Nation's POW medal presented by NH Army National Guard Maj General Kenneth Clark. Mike was proud of his service to his country and embodied the Rangers' motto "Rangers Lead the Way". Mike and Edith settled down in Pembroke, NH in 1967 with their twin sons, Michael Jr. and Carl. Mike worked at the Concord Monitor for many years and then had his own small engine repair business till 2010. Mike and Edith were married for 57 years until she passed in 2008.

Mike is survived by his sons Michael Lakowicz Jr., wife Janice of Wells ME, Carl Lakowicz, wife Linda of Chichester NH. Grandchildren: Andrew Lakowicz, Michael R. Lakowicz, CarrieAnn Lakowicz and Christopher Lakowicz. Great Grandchildren: Oscar Lakowicz, Calvin Lakowicz, Hadley Lakowicz Graichen and Brooks Lakowicz Graichen. Mike will be dearly missed by his family and many friends. He was always there to lend a helping hand to anyone who needed it. If he wasn't fixing something or collecting good stuff, he was having a cup of coffee, entertaining you with a good story and explaining that he was "overworked and underpaid"! The family wishes to extend its sincere thanks to the Epsom Health Care Center staff for providing such great care to Pops.



Nancy Marie Taube

September 12, 1959 - September 21, 2020

TRIBUTE TO NANCY TAUBE VICE PRESIDENT, THE DESCENDANTS OF WORLD WAR II RANGERS, INC.

Nancy lost the battle with cancer in September. As Vice President of the Descendants she served long and well. Beginning as Secretary in 2013, she helped engineer and then manage our new Website. At the time of her death she was also Membership Chair. She was a leader and advisor for numerous Reunions. She managed our Ranger Store. If something needed to be done Nancy took care of it. Last but not least, Nancy wrote the Obituaries for this Newsletter for many years, a labor of love for her.

Nancy passed away on Monday, September 21, 2020 at home with her family. She was born on September 12, 1959 in Detroit, Michigan to WW II Ranger Arthur Fred Wilson, 1/D, and Johanna Elizabeth Wilson. Nancy was married to Gerald Taube, the love of her life, on July 26, 1986. They were married for 34 years and resided in Shelby Township, Michigan for most of their life together. She earned an associate degree from Macomb Community College and worked for the U. S. Army Tank Automotive Command being a Configuration Manager at the time of her retirement in 2012.

Nancy was devoted to her family, hosting and participating in frequent family celebrations with immediate and extended family. She treasured the time she spent with her four children, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Nancy had a passion for ancestry and genealogy, completing research into her family history. Her research allowed her to discover family members in Germany, Sweden, and Ireland. She had the opportunity to meet them in person, traveling with Gerry whenever she could.

Nancy was very proud of her father's legacy as a WWII Ranger and loved to tell her father's story, as well as the stories of the WWII Rangers. Her daughter Rebecca said that Nancy gave all of herself to her family, taking care of her parents after she retired and taking care of her father in her home. Always there to lend a helping hand, an ear to listen, or a shoulder to cry on, and she gave the biggest and warmest hugs you could imagine.

We all treasured our time with Nancy, and we will miss her hugs too. At the Gettysburg Reunion Nancy was presented with the Darby Award for her service. It was difficult to surprise Nancy, but we did. Nancy, on behalf of the World War II Rangers you served, and from all of our Hearts, we thank you for all you did for the Descendants, leaving big shoes to fill.

Donations in Nancy's name can be sent to Veterans of Foreign Wars, Wounded Warrior Project, or the Cancer Research Institute. Rangers Lead the Way!

Congressional Gold Medal

December 10, 2020

This is the last day in the 116th session that our Representatives can vote on the House bill **HR5002** to award the **Congressional Gold Medal** to the WWII Rangers.

We already have the approval of the Senate, but we need 157 more Representatives to indicate their support by **co-sponsoring** the House bill HR5002.

Please **call or email your Representatives** as soon as possible but **before December 10th** to have them co-sponsor the House bill HR5002. Ask your relatives, friends, neighbors, and all to do the same with their Representatives.

In your telephone and/or email conversations, mention your WWII Ranger relative/friend, and that:

- WWII Rangers started their assignments in June 1942 – the last WWII Ranger was repatriated March 1946
- WWII Rangers spearheaded every major landing of American forces – North Africa, Sicily, Salerno, Anzio, D-Day, Philippines
- WWII Rangers led the way into Pointe du Hoc and Omaha Beach during the Allied invasion at Normandy
- WWII Rangers led the way by traveling 25 miles behind enemy lines to free 516 Allied POWs at Cabanatuan in the Philippines
- WWII Rangers had at least 601 KIA (263 remain in overseas cemeteries) and 565 POWs
- WWII Rangers were awarded eight (8) Presidential Unit Citations
- Almost 7000 soldiers volunteered to be in WWII Ranger units – only 29 are known to still be alive
- Finish by asking them to co-sponsor the House bill HR5002. Have them contact **Kenneth Depew in Representative Dan Crenshaw's office** at **202-225-6565**.



This is the FSSF's Congressional Gold Medal. Ranger families could have one like this!

This is our last chance in this Congress to make this award happen. If we fail, then we will have to start the Congressional Gold Medal process from the beginning in January 2021.

CGM Project Manager: Ron Hudnell

REUNION 2021 - Descendants of WW II Rangers, Inc

We are planning our 2021 Reunion to be held in Savannah, Georgia, sometime during July or the first week of August. The exact dates will be determined after obtaining additional information from Hunter Army Airfield, home of the 1st Ranger Battalion, located in Savannah. In addition to seeing the Rangers, we will also be seeing local sites in the Savannah area. Possibilities could be Tybee Island, historical sites, museums, and other places of significance.

The 2021 Reunion is during the summer to encourage the younger generations to attend.

During the reunion, we will be following all Covid-19 guidelines that are recommended for the area. We are anticipating that a Coronavirus vaccine will be available by the time we meet for the 2021 Reunion.

If the vaccine is widely available, and we follow Covid-19 guidelines, how likely are you to attend the 2021 Reunion if you and or your family are healthy, and the cost meets your budget? The email to respond ASAP is noted in the paragraph below.

Please email Holly Seery, Reunion Chair, at: holly_fs867@yahoo.com. (note: there is an underline between the "y" in Holly and the "f"). Feel free to also email questions, recommendations, suggestions, etc.

Looking forward to seeing you in Savannah, Georgia!

Update for Descendants of WW II Rangers, Inc. Website

Many thanks to Nancy Taube for her diligent work on the WWII Rangers website. Nancy will be sadly missed. Julie Belanger has taken up the task for the near future. For adding your Ranger's Story, adding photos, if you need login credentials or have questions pertaining to the website, please contact julieb1592@roadrunner.com. Note that to access the **Members Only** Section to view newsletters, business meeting minutes, Ranger daily morning reports and Ranger monthly rosters you need a Username and Password that is sent to current members by Julie in an email. If you would like to have your Ranger featured in the **Our Rangers** section send a write up in Word and any jpeg photos you would like displayed with your Ranger's story to Julie Belanger's email listed above. The Ranger website is wwiirangers.org.

MEET THE DESCENDANTS' NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Your Board of Directors, in a meeting earlier this year, authorized two new Board positions exclusively for Grandchildren, Grandnieces and Grandnephews – called the Grands. The purpose is to involve the next generation in leadership positions as most of us are not getting younger. The positions are subject to approval by the Membership at our next Reunion, and if the Board positions are approved, the new Grands positions will be filled at the general election.

Carrie Williams Blackburn, age 44, residing in Lake Wales, Florida, is the granddaughter of WW II Ranger Newton Riley Williams, Jr. Carrie attended her local performing arts high school where she studied drama and stagecraft. She earned her Bachelor's of Music from Florida Southern College and her Master's of Music from Temple University. She has taught collegiate voice, piano, and humanities courses around the central Florida area and has served as board member and Vice President of the Lake Wales Performing Arts Center. She currently works as the office administrator for an environmental drilling company.

Carrie's skills include organization and networking, at which she excels while raising four active children. Applying for the Board position, she stated, "I am passionate about continuing the legacy that has been left to us. My grandfather was passionate about the group. My children share a love of history and are grateful for their historical lineage. To help further the organization's mission I attended the 2019 reunion in Gettysburg and was planning on attending the 2020 reunion. I plan on attending reunions in the future.

Craig Michael Spinner, age 49, resides in Greenwood, Indiana. He is the grandson of WW II Ranger Colonel Leo Strausbaugh. Craig holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Eastern Illinois University. With 21 years of experience in auto auction management, Craig currently holds the position of Operations Manager with ADESA Auto Auction. As a manager he deals with people and processes, and he brings along ten years of experience in athletic coaching and mentoring. His skills are in leadership, organization and communication, accounting, planning and presentation – and last but far from least bartending.

Craig has served as the Descendants' suite director for the last four reunions – but we call him the bartender. He also wrote an article for our newsletter about the 6th Bn for the 75th Anniversary Publication and plans to continue to attend Reunions. His reason for applying is to honor his Grandfather and to keep his and other Rangers' legacies alive.

Steven Lehmann was elected by the Board of Directors to fill the Board position created by the death of Nancy Taube. Steve and Carol, married 50 years, reside in Hanover, Pennsylvania. Steve is a long-time member, the son of WW II Ranger Carl Lehmann, a former President of the RBA and the RBA Permanent Secretary. Following tours in Vietnam as a U.S. Marine he spent 30 years with the Baltimore City Police Department and retired from the BPD Homicide Unit in 2000 as a Detective Specialist. Carl then spent seven years as a Fraud Investigator for the Maryland State Lottery. Steve says if you have not met him, he is the "big bald-headed fat guy who's always hanging around the beer cooler in the Reunion Hospitality Room. Welcome Steve.