

# 45th Division News

October, 1991

Published in support of the 45th Division Association and 45th Division Museum.

## THUNDERBIRD LEGENDS

### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**WILLIAM R. WILSON, JR.**

I Hope this letter finds each of you doing well and safely home from our annual reunion. From the comments I have received from many of you, it appears that all enjoyed the festivities and rekindling of old friendships while making a few new friends along the way.

I want to reiterate how proud I am to have the opportunity to serve as President of this wonderful organization. It has been rewarding to me just to be associated with people that I have long admired, to have this opportunity to serve and to increase that association is even more exciting.

There are many areas in which we will concentrate this year. As we further identify those areas we will be calling on several of you to assist on various committees and to lend specific expertise that our membership has in certain areas. One issue in which we intend to work extremely hard is the proposed elimination of the 45th Infantry from the current force structure. This is an area that each of our members can be of immense assistance by generating a "grass roots" campaign to lobby the United States Congress and the National Guard Bureau to reverse this decision.

I would invite any input or suggestions from the membership on any issue facing the Association and specifically would invite suggestions for our next annual reunion.

We look forward to an exciting year of growth and achievement. General George Patton once said "Accept the challenges, so that you may feel the exhilaration of victory." Your Board of Directors and I accept the challenge.

Regards,

(Editor's Note: A Resolution was approved during the 46th Annual Reunion concerning the proposed elimination of the 45th Infantry Brigade from the current force structure which would result in mothballing the lineage of the 45th Infantry Division. A copy of the resolution is contained elsewhere in the newsletter together with a sample of a letter we would like for all members so inclined to forward to the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation. A list of mailing addresses of the congressional delegation is also furnished herein for your convenience.)

### THUNDERBIRD CAMPAIGNS

By Louis Scott

The 45th Infantry Division is credited with 8 campaigns for combat service in the European Theater of Operations during World War II and the division is credited with 4 campaign for combat during the Korean Conflict.

#### EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS, WORLD WAR II:

1. SICILY. 9 July 1943 to 17 August 1943.
2. NAPLES-FOGGIA. 9 September 1943 to 21 January 1944.
3. ANZIO. 22 January 1944 to 24 May 1944.
4. ROME-ARNO. 22 January 1944 to 9 September 1944.
5. SOUTHERN FRANCE. 15 August 1944 to 14 September 1944.
6. RHINELAND. 15 September 1944 to 21 March 1945.
7. ARDENNES-ALSACE. 16 December 1944 to 25 January 1945.
8. CENTRAL EUROPE. 22 March 1945 to 11 May 1945.

#### KOREAN CONFLICT:

1. SECOND KOREAN WINTER. 28 November 1951 to 30 April 1952.

2. KOREA, SUMMER-FALL 1952. 1 May 1952 to 30 November 1952.
3. THIRD KOREAN WINTER. 1 December 1952 to 30 April 1953.
4. KOREA, SUMMER-FALL 1953. 1 May 1953 to 27 July 1953.

In addition to the campaigns, the 45th Infantry Division is credited with 4 amphibious assault landings in ETO during World War II:

1. Invasion of SICILY. Operation HUSKY. 10 July 1943.
2. Invasion of Italy. Operation AVALANCHE. Division land in vicinity of PAESTUM-SALERNO on 9-10 September 1943 after being floating Fifth Army reserve.
3. ANZIO BEACHHEAD. Operation SHINGLE. Elements of the Division landed on 22 January 1944, balance of Division was ashore by end of the month.
4. Invasion of SOUTHERN FRANCE. Originally named Operation Anvil for planning purposes, changed to Operation DRAGOON for invasion. 15 August 1944. 45th Infantry Division formed Delta Force and spearhead the invasion with the 3rd Infantry Division of its left and the 36th Infantry Division of its right.

### COMBAT CHRONICLES 180TH INFANTRY REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

OPERATION HUSKY, the invasion of Sicily. The 180th Infantry Regimental Combat Team (RCT) included the 171st Field Artillery Battalion, Company C 120th Engineers, medical personnel from the 120th Medical Battalion, and attached nondivisional units.

The assault plan for the 180th RCT was for it to land, less one battalion in Corps reserve, with two battalions abreast, seize the high ground about 5 miles inland and seize the BISCARI AIRFIELD, prepare blocks on the main North-South highways maintain contact with the 179th RCT on its right and the 1st American Division on its left, then advance to the corps objective.

The combat team was handicapped originally upon landing by having their organization disrupted through landing on a front of more than 12 miles. During the afternoon of 10 July, the RCT was assembled and stopped below the high ground just south of Highway 115 where it received small arms, mortar, and artillery fire.

On 11 July, the regiment was unable to make any considerable advance and a night attack also failed to advance the RCT across Highway 115. On 12 July, the forces opposing the 180th, largely Germans from the Herman Goering Division, began to fall back. The 180th immediately pursued them, receiving no opposition until the town of BISCARI was reached. Here considerable opposition was met, but overcome, resulting in the enemy's withdrawal to the NORTH and EAST, leaving considerable casualties.

The 180th RCT then turned North toward BISCARI AIRFIELD where they encountered more elements of the Herman Goering Division, estimated to be about two infantry companies reinforced by a platoon of Mk VI tanks. The BISCARI AIRFIELD was taken after a vicious fire fight. Eighty enemy planes were captured, one ammunition dump was destroyed by artillery fire, and five Italian R-35 tanks were destroyed in the battle.

After BISCARI AIRFIELD was taken the 180th continued to advance toward the corps objective, which was the high ground running generally along Highway 124 or the CALTAGIRONE-GRAMMICHELE-VIZZINI line. During the battle here some tanks and an estimated mobile company were

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(COMBAT CHRONICLES cont'd from page 1)

driven back and six tanks and a motor pool were captured. This action enabled the British to enter CALTAGIRONE with little opposition.

On 15 July a Seventh Army directive ordered the 45th Infantry Division to move across the rear of the 1st US Division and take up position on the left sector of II Corps. The movement was difficult because the division had transferred quite a few vehicles to the 82nd Airborne Division and, also, many of the division's vehicles had not been gathered under control from the landing operation. The move was accomplished successfully, however.

During the night of 17-18 July, the 180th RCT moved by way of GELA to assembly areas SOUTHWEST of MAZZARINO. During 18 July, the RCT moved near SAN CATERINA and the vicinity of VALLEDOLMO.

On 20 July, the 180th relieved the 157th RCT and made an attack on the outskirts of VALLEDOLMO, where the 2nd Battalion surprised the enemy. Ten French Renault tanks were disabled and two captured along with two 75-mm field pieces, plus 120 Italian and 3 German prisoners were taken.

During the night of 21 July the 180th proceeded NORTHWEST along Highway 121 and on the night of 22 July they captured the largest supply point on the island along the railroad SOUTHEAST of ROCCAPALUMBA. An extensive amount of oil and gasoline, totalling many thousands of drums, were captured. The Germans had attempted to dispose of these supplies by burning, but more than 60 percent was saved, including large quantities of diesel fuel.

The 180th reached the vicinity of VICARI on the 22nd, where they contacted the 3rd US Division on their left. The 180th then sent a patrol into PALERMO.

On 23 July, the 180th RCT moved from vicinity of ALIA through MONTEMAGGIORE to the vicinity of CERDA, where they went into division reserve. On 25 July the 180th relieved the 157th RCT and resumed the advance along the coastal road to the East and reached a point about 8 miles EAST of CEFALU in the vicinity of POLLINA. The enemy resisted the advance with heavy artillery, mortar, and machine gun fire.

The 180th RCT was relieved by the 157th RCT on 28 July and passed into division reserve. On 30 July, the 45th Infantry Division was relieved by the 3rd US Division and passed into Seventh Army reserve and given the mission of guarding the coastal road. The division assembled in the area of TERMINI IMMERESE and CEFALU for rest and refitting. Operation HUSKY was over. The invasion and capture of SICILY had been a huge success.

## 45TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Congressional demands have been made to the Secretary of Defense to reduce defense spending; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Defense has proposed a force reduction in excess of twenty-five percent over the next four years; and

WHEREAS, the Chief, National Guard Bureau, has submitted to the Department of the Army the proposed National Guard Bureau Command Plan which eliminates the 45th Infantry Brigade from the force structure; and

WHEREAS, the 45th Infantry lineage is one of the most heralded in our country with 511 combat days and eight campaigns in World War II, and 429 combat days and four campaign during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, the 45th Infantry Brigade has continued to maintain a high degree of readiness and deployability, and is the derivative of the 45th Infantry Division, and maintains the unit lineage and colors; and

WHEREAS, organizations of lesser deeds and inferior readiness posture have been selected for retention in the Command Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposal could do grave harm to the military and "break faith" with military personnel by forcing them out of the Armed Forces by the thousands; and

WHEREAS, as veterans, we have an obligation and, indeed, an inherent right, to help prevent a disarmament that reduces our Armed Forces to inadequate levels; and

WHEREAS, the current world situation, as proven during Operation Desert Storm and the recent coup in the Soviet Union, requires constant readiness with the appropriate levels of force structure; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 45th Infantry Division Association in session this 23rd day of August, 1991, on the occasion of our 46th Annual Reunion, call on the Congress of the United States to insure a national posture of "Peace Through Strength" by maintaining appropriate levels of force structure. Additionally, and most specifically, the 45th Infantry Division Association calls on the Chief, National Guard Bureau, and the Secretary of Defense to assure the 45th Infantry Brigade is maintained in all future force structure scenarios.

## EXAMPLE

Honorable David L. Boren  
United States Senate  
453 Russell, Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Boren:

I am writing to address an issue that is of serious concern to me as a veteran and as a former member of the 45th Infantry Division.

It is my understanding that the Chief, National Guard Bureau, has submitted to the Secretary of the Army, as a part of the National Guard Bureau Command Plan, a proposal to eliminate the 45th Infantry Brigade from the Army Force Structure.

It is of particular importance to note that the lineage and honors associated with this organization are among the most noteworthy of any organization in the history of American arms. The Division participated in eight campaigns and 511 combat days during World War II and four campaigns and 429 combat days during the Korean War. The significant accomplishments of the Division during these conflicts have been well documented, not only in the various war chronicles, but in their impact on the history of our country.

The 45th Infantry Brigade maintains the lineage and honors of the 45th Infantry Division. The Brigade has maintained a high degree of readiness and is capable of supporting and maintaining any form of structure whether it be Light Infantry, as it is currently organized, or as Mechanized Infantry.

I request your support in insuring that the 45th Infantry be retained and that it be maintained in all future force structure scenarios. The organization has proven itself in times of armed conflict and in times of peace. The veterans who serve proudly in the 45th earned, through their many significant accomplishments, the right to have their deeds preserved in history. The preservation of that history is in the battle streamers attached to the 45th Infantry colors carried proudly by the current members of the command. That tradition must never change.

I appreciate your support and solicit your commitment to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

## UNITED STATES SENATORS

Don Nickles (Ponca City)  
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5754

David L. Boren (Seminole)  
453 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4721

## UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES

James M. Inhofe  
(First District, Tulsa)  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2211

Mike Synar  
(Second District, Muskogee)  
2441 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2701

Bill K. Brewster  
(Third District, Marietta)  
House of Representative  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4565

Dave McCurdy  
(Fourth District, Norman)  
2344 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6165

Mickey Edwards  
(Fifth District, Okla. City)  
2330 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2132

Glenn English  
(Sixth District, Cordell)  
2206 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5565

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## MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS HONORED



From left: Echo Wilson, Dorothy Moore accepting for Johnna Kienholz and Louise Milligan, Mona Uhlenhake, Hazle Wilson and Wanda Maker.

Six ladies were honored during the 46th annual reunion by presentation of "Honorary Life Memberships on the Museum Board of Directors".

Four of the ladies, Hazle Wilson, Louise Milligan, Mona Uhlenhake and Johnna Kienholz were initial museum volunteers beginning in 1968 when the incumbent Adjutant General of Oklahoma LaVern E. Weber asked Hazle Wilson to recruit some volunteers and start identifying and accessioning the multitude of artifacts, records, documents, photographs, etc., that had been accumulating since the end of World War II.

The ladies were assisted in their project by Robert A. Wilson, later to become the museum curator and Bill J. Ferguson, both now deceased.

Bob Wilson and the ladies visited the Oklahoma Historical Society and several in-state museums to obtain information and necessary forms for beginning their processing.

This project continued for about six years until the Lincoln Park Armory was designated by the State as a facility to house the museum. A Board of Directors was appointed by the incumbent Adjutant General David C. Matthews and the museum started to become a reality.

Echo Wilson, an honoree, joined the initial foursome of ladies about 1971 and is currently a volunteer worker in "Accessions" and recently accepted the volunteer position as Manager of the Gift Shop and Chairman of the Gift Shop Committee.

Wanda Maker, an honoree, became an early volunteer during the construction phase of the museum and served as secretary to the Chairman of the Board of Directors.

## NEW OFFICERS FOR 1991-1992

The following officers were elected by the Board of Directors during the board meeting conducted 23 August 1991:

President . . . . .	William R. Wilson, Jr.
1st Vice President . . . . .	Danny G. Marler
2d Vice President . . . . .	Michael T. Jackson
Secretary Rex Wilson and Treasurer Neal Dodds agreed to serve in their respective assignments for 1991-1992.	

## NEW BOARD MEMEBERS

The following members were elected to the association Board of Directors during the annual business meeting 23 August 1991, terms of office will expire in 1994:

Eddie A. Cope, Oklahoma City, OK  
Cletus Glen Norris, Midwest City, OK  
Dale E. Carney, Chandler, OK  
Felix L. Sparks, Denver, CO  
Robert L. Faken, Ponca City, OK  
Jimmy R. Jones, Choctaw, OK

## THUNDERBIRD ????????BODY FOUND

On 6 August 1991 the association received a call from the Medical Examiners office, District 4, 2100 Jefferson Street, Jacksonville, Florida 32206 (904/630-0981) concerning a body found alongside a highway near Jacksonville. The examiner making the call was named Rios.

The upper dental plate found with the body, contained identification marks as follows: RA 1527, Person, R. and a replica of the "Thunderbird" insignia.

If you can furnish any information concerning this "unidentified" body, please contact the Medical Examiners office, Jacksonville, Florida.

## THE HUMAN GENERAL RESPONDS

### Commander In Chief United States Central Command MacDill Air Force Base, Florida

5 June 1991

Dear Bill and Helen,

I want to express my sincere thanks for your letter voicing support for me and our valiant troops. Also, thank you for the poem. The tremendous outpouring of encouragement by the American people has been the foundation and driving force behind our success in both Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

You and thousands like you have provided us the strength and determination to liberate Kuwait and fulfill the United Nations Resolutions. It is because of this visible demonstration of concern for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coastguardsmen that we in the military are proud to be serving our country and its citizens.

Again, thank you as we look forward to the day when our last service member returns to the shores of our great nation.

Sincerely,  
H. NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF  
General, U.S. Army

(Editor's note: This is in response to receipt of the poem "The Human General" written by Helen R. Stephenson, 5330 S. 36th West Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74107, published in the July 1991 edition of the newsletter.)

## THUNDERBIRD CELEBRATES 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Albert W. Jones, San Diego, CA and his wife the former Mary Helen Painter of Wilburton, OK celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on July 27th, 1991 in Beaverton, Oregon. Hosting the occasion were their son and daughter, Duane Jones and Sharon Colvin.

Albert was a member of Company K, 180th Infantry throughout World War II. He was discharged from the Army at the end of World War II, but later reenlisted and attained the rank of Warrant Officer. During the Korean War he was awarded a battlefield commission and served until retiring in 1963 in the grade of Major.

Subsequent to retirement they have resided in the State of California.

(Information furnished by Sharon Colvin)

## FORT POLK PLANS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Fort Polk, Louisiana is planning a celebration of their 50th Anniversary during the period 1-3 November 1991.

The celebration begins with a formal ceremony Friday 1 November. An open house is scheduled for Saturday 2 November. Special events include displays, exhibits, entertainment, the annual retiree open house and an arts and crafts fair.

The Fort Polk area was first used by the Army during the 1940-1941 Louisiana Maneuvers in which the 45th Division participated.

Fort Polk is designated to become the home of the Joint Readiness Training Center currently located at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas.

Especially welcome are former soldiers and their families. Point of contact: Public Affairs Office, Building 411, Radio Road, Fort Polk, Louisiana 71459-5000. Telephone 318/531-7203.

## MY GRANDPA'S STORY

During World War II, my grandpa was a staff sergeant in the army. This is his story:

We were on a troop transfer going to land on a beach in Sicily. The Germans had control of Sicily and Italy at this time. Right when we landed, the Germans started shooting. My platoon got under cover where they couldn't see us. We headed for a small town nearby and captured a German paratrooper on a motorcycle on the way.

As we came near, we heard church bells ringing. A man came running out of the church and yelled at us. "Get down! The Germans are waiting for

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(MY GRANDPA STORY cont'd from page 3)

you! Don't go in the town!" We sneaked quietly around to the back side of the town so the enemy wouldn't hear us. Four German tanks were in the streets just waiting for the Americans to come in! They could have blown up the whole town!

We snuck back to our company on the beach, hoping to tell them what we had seen. The battle was not going our way. One third of our men had been killed or captured. Many more were wounded.

The Germans had captured the airport in the town. We Americans fought hard. After five days fighting, we took over the airport. In 21 days, the Americans had taken Sicily from the Germans and were heading for Italy.

My Grandpa said that he had a lot of close calls and times when he wondered why somebody next to him was killed and he wasn't. He knew there was some reason for his staying alive, but at the time he didn't know what it was. We are sure glad that he survived the war and is still living today! If he hadn't survived the war, like many other of his friends, my mother or I wouldn't be here.

(Written for a 6th grade Literature class by twelve year old Michael O'Loughlin, grandson of Ernest T. Fachan, Company A. 180th Infantry World War II. Submitted by Marie O'Loughlin, Michael's mother)

## WORLD WAR II POW'S REUNITE FOR HAIRCUT



A scene that took place in a German POW camp about forty-six years ago was recently reenacted in Lunenburg County, Virginia when Hawthorne Buchanan received a cigarette for a haircut from Quinton P. Dunn, just as he had when the two were prisoners during WW II.

Until about ten years ago, they had not seen each other since they were separated in 1945 after spending about fourteen months in Stalag 7A POW camp in Moosburg, Germany near Munich.

Buchanan and Dunn were with the 45th Infantry Division, but they had never met until a brief encounter as POW's in Italy. Both were captured at the

Anzio Beachhead. Dunn was a member of the 179th Infantry and Buchanan was a member of the 157th Infantry. They were later to be reacquainted at Stalag 7A where Buchanan served as a barber.

Later Dunn was pulled out of Stalag 7A and the two did not meet again until Dunn, passing through Keysville, Virginia around 1981, stopped and asked if anyone knew his friend.

"We have kept in touch ever since," Buchanan said, "and recently, Dunn decided he wanted another cheap haircut."

## NATIVE OF FRANCE STILL A THUNDERBIRD

Jean "John" M. Fuentes, a French war wail picked up at age 14 in North Africa by the 179th Infantry, 45th Infantry Division is helping to keep the "Thunderbird Legend" alive by participating in a wreath laying ceremony on the beach at St. Maxime, France on the 15th of August each year to commemorate the landing of the 45th Infantry Division at that site during World War II.

Fuentes attended the recent 46th Annual Reunion of the 45th Division in Oklahoma City and was also present at the 45th Reunion last year.

John fought for nearly two years as an adopted member of the Third Battalion, 179th Infantry. he was wounded three times and in April 1945 was evacuated to the United States with wounded American personnel and assigned to a Topeka, Kansas hospital.

When his status was made known, Fuentes was sent to Ellis Island for deportation. If the U.S. Government paid his transportation costs to France, he would not be allowed to return to the United States. Through the efforts of George A. Fisher sufficient funds (\$300.00) were raised to pay his passage to France.

Fuentes was given \$200.00 by the army as "back pay", the only pay he received for his service, except donations from the men he served with.



Neal Dodds Recognized For Service As Association Treasurer.

## LOOKING FOR BUDDIES

I was a member of Headquarters Company & Ambulance Company 120th Medical Battalion. I was assigned to the division at Camp Polk and accompanied my unit to Korea. I would like to say "HI" to anyone from my outfit and would appreciate hearing from them.

JOSEPH F. BOMBASSARO, 4200 Woodbrier Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33905, 813/694-1985

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I am interested in contacting members of Tank Company, 179th Infantry that trained at Camp Polk, Louisiana and served in Korea. I joined up in October 1950 and was discharged in September 1952. In particular, I would like to find out some information about our Company Commander, Captain Kimberlin.

WILLIAM L. MASSEY, 266 Oak Hills Parkway, Baton Rouge, LA 70810, 504/766-6277.

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I saw your ad in the June/July edition of the VFW magazine. I was in Korea from August 1952 until August 1953. I am trying to contact some of the men in my company Headquarters Company, Third Battalion, 279th Infantry. Thank for your time and hope to hear from some of my buddies.

ELMER J. REED, RR #7, Columbia, MO 65202.

\*\*\*\*\*

Munich, Germany, April 1945, World War II. Anyone remember the hotel Vion Jahrezeiten, owned by Mrs. Schuarzwalden. When we chased three Russian soldiers out of the hotel and then we stayed there until we had to move: How about it "SMOKIE"?

VAN MARTIN McCURE, 3709 Wedgefield Ave, Norfolk, VA 23502.

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I was inducted into the 45th Division, Company G, 179th Infantry, at Fort Sill, OK. Was a POW in Germany for 14 months after being captured at Anzio Beachhead. I was originally from Clinton, OK. Would sure like to hear from any of my buddies.

ORVIL R. SMITH "PORKY", Rt 1 Box 194, Tecumseh, MO 65760.

## SEEKING INFORMATION

I am seeking information concerning Sgt. Anthony A. Gallagher, First Sergeant Company H, 179th Infantry Regiment in 1953 in Korea. When Tony left for the United States I became First Sergeant of the company. I would appreciate any assistance in finding Tony Gallagher.

ARTHUR G. CARLE, 10632 Twilight Drive, Sappington, MO 63128.

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I got your address from the Korean War Veterans Association magazine, April 1991 edition. I am seeking help in supporting a Veterans Administration claim.

I need to hear from any members of Company C, 245 Tank Battalion, 45th Division who served in Korea beginning in December 1951/January 1952. Prior to that period I served with the 70th Tank Bn, 8th Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. I transferred to the 45th when they relieved the 1st Cavalry Division.

I was in a tank accident, injuring my back and legs, including a compression fracture of a disk. I was hospitalized for a short time and was then returned to duty with my unit while still using crutches.

My platoon leader was a Lieutenant Lynch and I can remember a soldier named Morrison.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who can remember me and/or

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the accident where I was injured and the fact that I was returned to duty on crutches.

**ALVIN V. GRAHAM SR**, Box 187, Ghent, WV 25843.

## REUNION NOTICES

**45TH INFANTRY DIVISION.** 21-23 August 1992, Hilton Inn West, I-40 at Meridian, Oklahoma City, OK.

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**CAMP BARKELEY, TEXAS.** Members of the 45th Infantry Division World War II, will be gathering in Abilene, Texas, 8-9 November 1991 for a Thunderbird get-together to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the arrival and stationing of the 45th Division at Camp Barkeley in 1941. All Thunderbirds are invited to attend this event. For further information contact Jim Phipps, Route 1, Box 301A, Rural Retreat, VA 24368, 703/686-5088 or Raul Trevino, 7791 Woodchase Drive, #1215 San Antonio, Texas 78240, 512/681-9134.

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**45TH RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY (KOREA).** October 11-13, 1991 at Claremore, Oklahoma. Contact Henry Sterling, 1211 East 9th Street, Cushing, Oklahoma 74023, 918/225-1946.

## REUNION REPORTS

**HAWAII CHAPTER.** The Hawaii chapter of the division association held its Second Annual Reunion 26-27 July 1991 at the Sheraton Coconut Beach Hotel in Kapaa, Kauai, Hawaii. Twenty thunderbirds, their spouses and guests were in attendance.

Festivities began on Friday with a golf tournament at the beautiful public seaside golf links at Waialua, followed by a nine course Chinese chop suey dinner at the Kauai Chop Suey. Saturday events consisted of sightseeing and a delicious dinner in the hotel banquet hall.

After the dinner, Chapter President Louis Baldovi and Chapter Secretary David Suzuki presented Honorary Membership Certificates to two Korean Nationals who had encouraged and supported the growth of the Hawaii chapter. The two were Major General Jangnal Sohn, Korean Consulate General of the Republic of Korea and Micheal Ho. General Sohn was twice wounded in the Korean War when he was a Platoon Leader and Michael Ho was a spotter pilot.



*Left to Right: Suzuki, Ho, General Sohn and Baldovi.*

**COMPANY D, 120TH COMBAT ENGINEERS,** held its third reunion 8 June 1991 in Birmingham, Alabama. Birmingham was chosen because the recruits who were assigned to Company D at Camp Polk, LA were from the southern states. The Alabama host committee did an outstanding job in making all arrangements, including special activities for the wives and a tour of the city for everyone.

The reunion was dedicated to the memory and honor of all comrades in arms who were KIA or WIA. Family members of the only member Killed-in-Action (Ronald Polston) were present for the occasion. Eight members were Wounded-in-Action. There were 114 members, wives and guests present for the banquet.

The fourth reunion will be held 13 June 1992 in Amarillo, TX.

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**COMPANY D, 179TH INFANTRY,** held their annual muster/reunion in Norman, OK 9-10 August 1991. Members of the womens auxiliary provided refreshments for the open house and entertainment for the banquet. Attendance included members from six states.

Russell Haight was elected coordinator for all activities which includes the next reunion to be held in Norman, OK 7-8 August 1992.

Point of contact: Russell Haight, 1921 Beverly Hills, Norman, OK 73072.

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**EASTERN CHAPTER,** Maurice "MO" Nirenstein reports that they had 24 people in attendance at their quarterly social evening at Buckley's restaurant in Valley Stream, NY on 15 June 1991. Bob Martino missed the dinner because he was being installed as a VFW District Commander on the same night.

Mo expressed regret at being unable to attend the 46th Annual Reunion.

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**279TH INFANTRY.** James Morgia, Sun Valley Heights, Croton Falls, NY 10519 reports that fourteen former members of the 279th Infantry during the Korean War held a mini-reunion 13 April 1991 at the Italian American Club, Brewster, NY. Morgia stated that several of their group planned to attend the 279th reunion to be held in 1992.

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**WASHINGTON THUNDERBIRDS.** M.E. "Bud" Scott reports that seven Washington thunderbirds met in Tacoma, WA for lunch on 15 July 1991. There next get-together is scheduled for October 1991 and they would like to invite any interested Washington or Oregon residents to join them. POC M E Scott, PO Box 477, Cathlamet, WA 98612, 206/795-3318.

## THUNDERBIRD DEATHS

**WILLIE JAMES BOWMAN,** Talahina, Oklahoma, died 21 March 1991 at the age of 75. Willie was born in Bryan County, OK 12 July 1915 and attended schools in Durant and Atoka, OK. He graduated from highschool in 1936 and married Winnie Beard 12 July 1936.

He joined the Oklahoma National Guard in 1934 and was mobilized in 1940 as a member of Company B, 180th Infantry. He served with that until 1943 when the division was stationed at Camp Pickett, VA. He was later Commissioned and served as a mortar platoon leader in Company D, 167th Infantry, 31st Infantry Division in the Asiatic-Pacific theater.

In 1946 he helped organize Company H, 180th Infantry at Atoka, OK. When that unit was redesignated as a Military Police unit he was transferred to 2nd Battalion, 180th Infantry at Durant. Willie was mobilized with the 180th Infantry in 1950 and served with that organization during the Korean War.

Awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman Badge, United Nations Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Theater Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, Pre-Pearl Harbor Ribbon and the Oklahoma Meritorious Service Medal.

Bowman was affiliated with numerous military and civic organizations. He was head of the Industrial Arts Department at Atoka High School for 18 years. In 1968 he was selected Outstanding Teacher of the Year by the Oklahoma Industrial Arts Association. Willie is survived by his wife Winnie, one daughter Priscilla Wilson, three granddaughters and one grandson. He was buried with full military honors at Bokchito, OK.

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**ROBERT E. DOMBAUGH, JR.,** Marion, Ohio, died in July 1991 at age 70. Robert was a member of the 179th Infantry during World War II. He was a graduate of Ohio State University.

Dombaugh was a LIFE member of the 45th Division Association and also a member of the following: Moose Lodge, American Legion, DAV, Elks Lodge, VFW and the Anzio Beachhead Veterans of World War II. Bob had been a past visitor to the 45th Division Museum.

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**RICHARD W. DREIER,** Beloit, Wisconsin, deceased April 1991 at the age of 73 years.

He was a member of the 189th Field Artillery during World War II, serving throughout the war.

Richard's wife Isabelle said he always enjoyed reading the 45th Division News, however, he had been unable to attend any reunions.

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**THOMAS ALLEN GOFF,** Tilden, Texas died 13 August 1991 at the age of 62. He was a lifelong resident of Tilden and was a rancher and McMullen County, Texas County Commissioner from 1955 until his death.

Tom was a member of Company I, 179th Infantry during the Korean War. His awards and decorations include the Silver Star Medal and the Purple Heart awarded for being wounded in action.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LOUIS M. HALE,** Tupelo, OK, deceased 21 July 1991, at age 65. Louis

(cont'd on page 7)



## ThunderbirdDeaths (cont'd from page 5)

served in the United States Navy during World War II. He joined the 160th Field Artillery Battalion in 1948 and served in that organization during the Korean War.

Louis was retired from the military as a First Sergeant and also as a Federal Civil Service employee from the Oklahoma Military Department. He was the Administrative supply Technician for the Hominy, Oklahoma armory for 23 years.

He is survived by his wife Mary Maxine, his mother Vera Hale, two sons, two daughters, a step-son, a step-daughter, three grandchildren and five step-grandchildren.

Louis was buried with full military honors at the cemetery in Hominy, Oklahoma.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HULBERT A. HULL**, Center Ossipee, NH, deceased May 1991. He was a member of Cannon Company, 180th Infantry throughout World War II. Hulbert was a member of the 45th Division Association and a Life member of the VFW and American Legion.

His niece Beverly Mears said that he always wanted to go to a reunion, but never wanted to go alone and never did get there.

Hulbert is survived by a son and daughter and eight grandchildren.

\*\*\*\*\*

**KENNETH TRUMAN LEDFORD**, Tonkawa, Oklahoma, deceased July 1991. Kenneth served in the 189th Field Artillery during World War II. Awards and decorations included the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

He was retired from Getty Oil Company at El Dorado, Kansas and moved to Tonkawa in 1979.

Kenneth is survived by his wife, Jean.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HUGH THOMAS MCCULLOUGH, JR.**, Dallas, Texas deceased July 1991 at age 73. He served in the 120th Engineer Battalion throughout World War II including all combat actions in Sicily, Italy, France and Germany.

Hugh was retired as an independent distributor for Mobil Oil Company. After retirement he authored a book entitled "BLOOD, DUST AND 511".

survivors include a son and three grandchildren. Hugh's son is Thomas E. McCullough, 4105 Avenida La Resolana NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

\*\*\*\*\*

**BUNYAN B. PEMBROOK**, Mt. Vernon, Ohio, deceased January 1991. He was a member of Company L, 157th Infantry Regiment during World War II and was with the unit when they liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp at Munich, Germany.

He is survived by his wife Nina, one daughter, one son, eight grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PLINY M. RIEGER**, Vancouver, Washington, deceased June 1991. Pliny was a member of Company B, 180th Infantry during World War II. Awards and decorations include the Silver Star for gallantry in action, Bronze Star and Combat Infantryman Badge.

He was a member of the division association and the American Legion Post 14, Vancouver, WA.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HAMILTON L. WILLIAMS**, Rosedale, NY, deceased August 1991 after many years of fighting cancer. Hamilton was a former President of the Eastern Chapter of the 45th Division Association.

He was a field medic with the 157th Infantry Regiment. He participated in the Sicilian Campaign and went as far as the Tobacco Warehouse north of the Sele River on the second or third day following the landing at Salerno, at which time he suffered a spinal wound.

Hamilton evidently has no immediate relatives and another former member of the Medical Detachment, 157th Infantry Regiment Ignatius Turnes, is working through the court system to have the body released to a funeral director for burial.

(Editor's note: Information furnished by Mo Nirenstein, Eastern Chapter)

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## 45th Division News

Published four times yearly by the 45th Infantry Division Association to support the work of the association and the 45th Division Museum.

William R. Wilson, Jr.	President
Wm. Rex Wilson	Secretary/Editor
Louis A. Scott	Associate Editor
Eva Lou Moon	Volunteer Staff
Norma Jo Strickland	Volunteer Staff

Address news contributions and other correspondence to Editor, 45th Division News, 45th Infantry Division Association, 2145 N.E. 36th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73111

DO NOT SEND ITEMS THAT MUST BE RETURNED!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I wish to be a member of the 45th Infantry Division Association. I enclose my dues for:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75.00 for a Life Membership  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$35.00 for a 10-Year Membership  
 \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 for a 4-Year Membership  
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SEND TO:  
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 2145 NE 36th Street  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73111

Your Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Street or P.O. Box) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Former or Present Thunderbird Unit. \_\_\_\_\_

World War II \_\_\_\_\_ Korean War \_\_\_\_\_ Post Korean War \_\_\_\_\_

(SPECIAL NOTE: You are invited to submit a paragraph of current information, or a news item about yourself or another former or present Thunderbird, for possible use in 45th Division News. Please submit it on a separate sheet of paper, identifying each person mentioned by present location and former Thunderbird unit.)

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# ☆☆LETTERS TO THE EDITOR☆☆

I was in combat in Korea with the 45th Division and am interested in receiving the 45th Division News. I met Bill "Don" McConathy from Irving, TX and he told me about your organization. He mailed me a newsletter along with your address. I would like to read about the people I served with.

**JOHN CALVIN RUSSELL**, Rt. 2 Box 284-D, Lake Village, AR 71653

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Wayne Worley of Marchall, NC (letters, July 91) didn't say in his letter what unit he served with in Korea, but I'd bet an old can of C-ration corned beef hash it was Fox Company, 179th Infantry Regiment. I was not a member of Fox Company, but I was attached as an RTO with a forward observer team from B Battery, 158 FA Battalion in May, June and July 1952 in the Porkchop, Old Baldy, T-Bone area. I remember Lt. Pedro Shira (USMA '50) being company commander because of the similarity of our names. "Judge" Daugherty was regimental commander at the time.

I was drafted in 1951. I took basic at Camp Chaffee, AR and joined the division near Chorwon. I joined Fox Company on Porkchop. Released as a Sergeant First Class, I came back on active duty as a 1st Lieutenant, served as an 8 inch battery commander in Vietnam in 68-69, and was retired as a colonel 31 December 1982. My final assignment was Chief of Mobilization planning for OK, TX, AR and LA. One of my fondest memories is being introduced at a MOB planning conference at TAG OK, with an added "but he's OK; he's one of us." I am proud to be "one of us" -- a Thunderbird.

**KENNETH C. SUHLER**, 6323 Red Fox, San Antonio, TX 78247

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

For the past two years I have been looking for information to write a history of the Adjutant General's Section, Headquarters, 45th Division during their Korean War active duty. My interests also include the rest of the staff and special sections of division headquarters.

I am looking for copies of General Orders, Special Orders and any other documents that will list assignments, promotions, movements, etc, for that period. If you have any information, I would appreciate receiving a copy or a list of your information.

Any document that is received will be given to the 45th Infantry Division Museum when the information needed is listed in my files, unless you desire the documents be returned to you.

**DICK WAINWRIGHT**, 9001 E. Rosewood, St. Tucson, AZ 85710-2659, 602/298-1581

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

It is with great pride that I announce the retirement of SGM ROBERT A. COOPER from the US Army Reserve on 27 July 1991. Robert first entered the Armed Forces 2 February 1948 and has worn the "Thunderbird" patch since August 1952, when he entered the Korean War as a member of the 120th Engineer Battalion. He has had the privilege of wearing the proud Thunderbird as both a left and right shoulder patch.

Civilian Cooper will be pursuing his dream of "Catching the BIG ONE" in the waters of the Pacific Northwest and turning his livelihood as a photographer into a hobby.

**BONNIE COOPER**, 2962 Carrizo Lane, Dallas, TX 65229

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

In the July 1991 issue of the 45th Division News I read a letter from Isidro Mireles of San Jose, CA, who claimed he couldn't find a book with any information concerning combat service of the 45th Division in Korea.

I have to agree with him, they are few and far between, however, I found two books which have quite a bit about us and they are very complimentary. One is "The US Army in the Korean War Vol 2". There is a chapter called "Stalemate" including ten pages (with maps) devoted to the 45th Division from December 1951 thru June 1952.

The other book "Korea 1951-1953" is printed by the US Army Office of the Chief of Military History, Washington, DC 20314-0200. The title of the chapter concerning the 45th is also titled "Stalemate" November 1951 - June 1952" and is fully illustrated with photographs of the 45th Division and also some of A L Summers very funny cartoons which had appeared in the "Warfare Issues of the 45th Division News". This chapter states that Chinese thrusts in the 45th Division sector overshadowed all other actions across the entire front. It also states that the division sustained 1004 casualties during the month of June 1952.

There is not much written about the 45th after June 1952. I would like to know what happened after this time.

**LEROY E. WILLIAMS**, 422 Baldwin, Oshkosh, WI 54901

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

(Editor's Note: The CMH recipient in Korea was Charles George, a member of the 179th Infantry who was KIA in November 1952).

I found the articles on John Embry and the 179th Infantry Regimental Combat Team fascinating. Except for a sojourn in an army hospital in North Africa recovering from wounds, I went through all eight campaigns with Batter A, 160th Field Artillery Battalion. I have an addendum to the combat chronicles for this combat team. Battery A 160th FA was the first to fire in the invasion of Sicily. This is recorded on page 234 of A Time to Honor authored by John Embry. I recall that we took our 105's up a hazardous steep stone stepped road to Castelbuono and fired many rounds from that position.

**JAMES R. BIRD**, 57 Bella Road, Medford, NJ 08055

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I am a native of Albuquerque, NM. Entered military service as a private in the first draft (the only lottery I ever won). Assigned to and became a Technical Sergeant in the 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion. Graduated from the Field Artillery School at Fort Sill, OK and was then assigned to the 10th Army in Okinawa. After World War II I joined the reserve and attended several advanced military schools including the Logistics Management School, Industrial College of the Armed Forces and the Command and General Staff College. I served as a logistician with the Military Traffic Management and Terminal Service, Brooklyn, NY. Retired as a Colonel and after retirement worked as a management consultant in Washington, D.C.

I returned to Albuquerque in 1979 and am currently active in BRAVO, Court Update, Sons of the American Revolution and am the immediate past president of the New Mexico Society.

**JOE JOLLY**, 3604 Torrey Pines Road, Rio Rancho, NM 87124

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I served in Battery C, 171 Field Artillery (TAB) in Watonga, OK. The 45th Infantry Division has always been important to our family. I am a second generation Thunderbird, as my father, William Moran, served in the 45th Infantry Division during the Korean War.

**JERRY M. MORAN**, 912 Mac Drive, Elk City, OK 73644

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I joined the 45th Division at Fort Devens, MA in 1942 after completing basic training at Camp Croft, SC. I was assigned to the 180th Infantry and stayed with them throughout World War II. After the war I was transferred to the 14th Armored Division and returned to the United States with that organization.

I participated in every campaign with the division and am proud to be a "Thunderbird".

**PAUL M. CICCONE**, 27 West Park Place, Rutherford, NJ 07070

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I entered the Army in January 1952 and was assigned to the 5th Armored Division at Camp Chaffee, AR where I took my basic training. I was later transferred to Camp Cooke, CA and assigned to the 144 AAA, 44th Infantry Division. I was sent to Korea in September 1952 and assigned to Btry D, 145 AAA, 45th Infantry Division. I returned from Korea in September 1953.

I would like to hear from anyone who served with me, especially Ralph Sahjn from Pennsylvania who served with me from basic training to Korea.

I served as Commander of VFW Post 5097 in Thibodaux, LA for five years.

**PETER P. ROGER**, 2401 Karen Street, Thibodaux, LA 70301

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I received this application for membership in your organization from a fellow thunderbird who was a member of the 120 Engineer Battalion in support of the 157th Infantry during World War II. I saw the thunderbird on his vehicle and inquired as to where he obtained the decal.

I recently retired after working in the power plant at Dartmouth College for 41 years.

I joined the 45th Division on 14 November 1944 and served until the division was deactivated in August 1945 at Camp Bowie, Texas.

**CHARLES A. THOMPSON**, 2 Acronhill Road, RR #3, Box 423-K, Lyme, NH 03768

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

I am applying for membership in your fine association for my one and only brother, Stanley R. Frazier, who served in Italy and Europe in the 45th Division in World War II.

My husband, Patrick, who flew P-47s in Europe during WW II and I were returning from Seattle in late May and had the fortunate experience of visiting your fine museum and talked with Jack (?) who served in the 45th during the Korean War. We were much impressed by your fine work there -- it compares well with the Air War Museum in Topeka and the Eisenhower museum in Abilene.

(cont'd on page 8)



My brother has never seen any information about his particular outfit in any military magazines. I am hoping the newsletter from your association can enlighten him on some old wartime acquaintances. Again, thanks for the fine tour which your "volunteer" Jack gave us.

**MARY F. ANDERSON**, 1423 Grove, St., Huntington, WV 25701

★★★★★★★★★★

I am a double dipper with the 45th. I was in Company C, 179th Infantry from 1937 to 1940. I was a paratrooper during WW II. I enlisted again in the 45th Signal Company in 1949 in time to be recalled on 1 September 1950. I decided after that to just stay in. I retired as a W-4 Crypto Officer in 1970. Many changes in those years. During my first enlistment I was a private in the rear ranks, if a sergeant told me to do something and I asked why, he hit me in the mouth, then I knew why. Different was since the Doolittle board.

My best friend in the 45th Signal Company was a Sgt. Major who worked full time for the guard with some kind of a title in personnel. I made Warrant in the Signal Corps and he made Warrant in the Ordnance Company. We lost touch after Korea when he returned to civilian life and I stayed in service. If he is a member of the association I would really like to have his mailing address as I would like to reestablish that relationship. He was a very capable person and could remember the name, rank, serial number and names of the wives of all personnel in the Signal Company.

**WILLIAM E. TERRELL**, 4944 Cass Street #502, San Diego, CA 92109-2042

★★★★★★★★★★

I was S-3 Sergeant, 1st Battalion, 180th Infantry when we landed in Southern France. When we boarded ship at Naples, a French Marine liaison officer was assigned to our battalion to show us where to land as he lived in Dranguignan, inland from area where we were to land, therefore he was familiar with the area. I served as his interpreter as I was the only one aboard who knew enough French. His name is Emile Bresc.

We have visited Emile and his wife, Marie-Louise twice in recent years and we plan to visit them a third time this coming September. Emile has forwarded a letter to me addressed to the association president which I have translated for your convenience.

**ARTHUR B. ROGERS**, 39 Nova Lane, Novato, CA 94945

★★★★★★★★★★

Mr. President: I have attended, like each year, the Memorial Day at the cemetery of Druguignan and I am very happy to send you some photos and press articles of this ceremony which attracted a lot of people, above all the veterans and those who, like me, have had the advantage of serving with the American Army.

In taking part in this very moving ceremony to our comrades of the 45th Division, would you tell them that all the French do not forget and that they render homage to those who, alas, repose on our soil.

Please tell them also that, in spite of the passing time and old age! I cherish a perfect memory of my sojourn with them and that I send all my

sentiments of fraternal camaraderie.

Offering the same to you, Monsieur the President, I assure you of my respect.

**M. EMILE Bresc**, 113 Rue Raoul Brulat, 83300 Draguignan, France

## LIFE MEMBERS

### SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

Gerald E. Cady  
Charles F. Coursey  
Jack T. Eagle

Alex V. Molnar  
Earl Valentine  
Jack Wade

John A. Williams  
Peggy M. Zumwalt

## NEW MEMBERS

### SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

#### 10-YEAR

Peter Iacopucci  
Oscar (Slim) Kriebel  
William L. Massey  
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Joseph F. Novack  
Harry T. Ono  
Manuel G. Perry  
Robert LeRoy Pope

Don D. Travis  
Richard E. Williams

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James H. Bayless  
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Henry P. Savoia  
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Rayford Harold Smith  
August Spitzer  
Leo Stec, Jr.  
Paul J. Tanaka  
Charles A. Thompson  
Frank P. Ulmer  
Rasario R. Vella  
Robert B. Walker  
Howard Williamson

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Kenneth Biehler  
Willie J. Bowman  
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Melvin Collins, Jr.  
Toney L. Dodd  
Robert E. Dombaugh, Jr.  
John A. Dovyak  
Richard W. Dreier  
Tom Allen Goff  
William T. "Bill" Graham  
Louis M. "Sarge" Hale  
James L. Hobgood, Sr.  
Hulbert A. Hull

William G. Johnson  
Lynval H. Lay  
Kenneth Truman Ledford  
Charles C. Lipscomb  
Hugh T. McCullough, Jr.  
John H. Murray  
Lowell H. Patterson  
Edward M. Pavlakovich  
Bunyan B. Pembroke  
William B. Petrowitz  
Pliny M. Rieger  
Roy (Speed) Roberts  
James P. Royle  
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