

Anzio Beachhead Veterans OF WORLD WAR II, INC.

www.anziobeachheadveteransofwwii.com

"We share the past..."

...We serve the present..."

...We educate the future..."

ANZIO VETERANS' LETTER 2006, VOL 2

JUNE 2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Anzio Beachhead Chapter of "We band of brothers/sisters" a.k.a. 27th reunion met at Fayetteville - Ft. Bragg, NC 19 -23 April. Members of the 504th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division laid out the "red carpet" for us. LTC Carl Alex, commanding officer spoke to us at our banquet about their activities in Iraq. LTC Alex's Command Master Sgt. Klaus Meckenstock was also present. The 504th IR was separated from 82nd ABD and joined us on Anzio. The Command Master Chief William A. Seegars represented the USS ANZIO (CG 68) which was at sea. The chief made a well received slide show talk about the current activities of the ship.

President David Oglesby was ill and could not attend. V. P. Carmen Cook assumed responsibility for this reunion attended by members who served in the 1st AD, 3rd ID, 34th ID, 45th ID, 36th Engineers, Duck 'drivers,' antiaircraft crews, quartermaster/ordnance troops, air corps people, navy personnel and last but not least nurses who served on the beachhead. A friend and charter member, Frank Perkins along with four new members were in attendance.

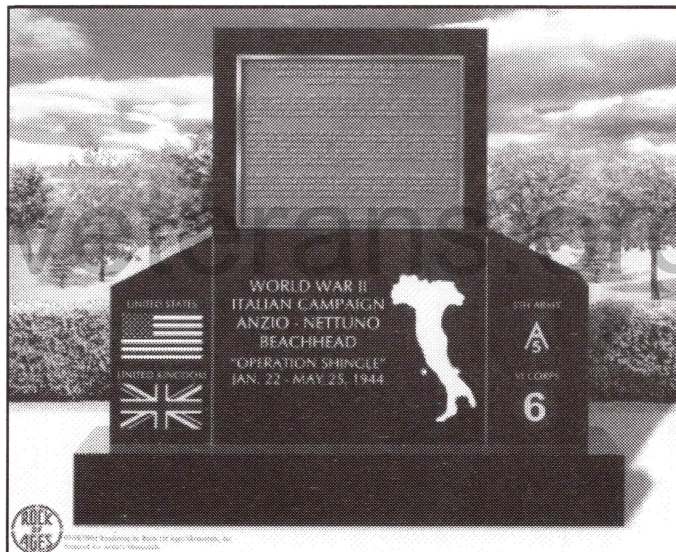
I was elected president to replace David Oglesby who indicated he was too ill to continue in office. I hope we can all "gather at the river" Potomac which runs through Washington DC again next year.

-James R. (Jim) Bird, *President*
57 Bella Rd • Lumberton, NJ 08048
609-267-5520 • jbird@jersey.net

ANZIO BEACHHEAD VETERANS MEMORIAL MONUMENT

On Friday, May 26, 2006, over 250 veterans and their families gathered in New York City to participate in the unveiling and dedication of a beautiful monument, dedicated to all who served on the Anzio Beachhead.

The ceremony was timed to coincide with the arrival of the USS Anzio who participated in Fleet Week events.



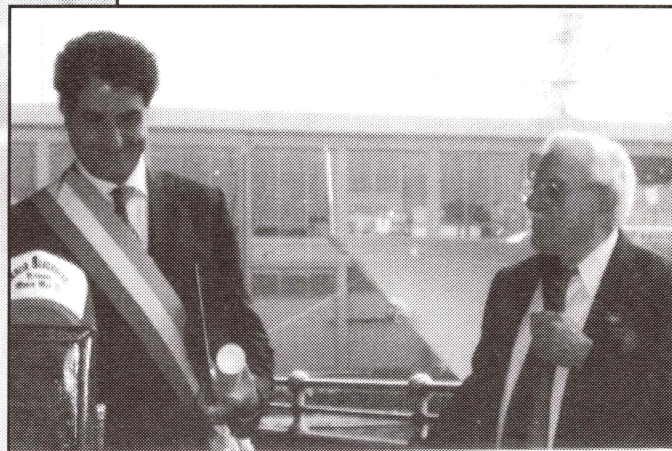
The dedication was the culmination of over five

and a half years work by James Luzzi, 1st Armored Division. Jim was successful in obtaining funds from the City of New York to build this monument and is now awaiting word for its permanent placement. We were honored to have with us for this occasion, the Mayor of Anzio, Mr. Candido De Angelis. The USS ANZIO supplied the color guard and after the ceremony we were all invited to a great reception aboard the ship.

Some facts about the monument: It is made of black polished granite, standing 6 feet high, 7 feet in length and weighing 6,104 pounds. The American flag, the British flag, and the insignia of the 5th Army and 6th Corps are in colors, red, white and blue.

Anyone wishing an 8" x 11" color picture of the monument, please send a note to James Luzzi, 360 Fairbanks Ave., Staten Island, NY 10306-4408, along with three (3) thirty nine cents stamps.

DEDICATION OF WWII MONUMENT



**Mayor Candido DeAngelis of Anzio, Italy
and Jim Luzzi**

Mayor of Anzio, Italy, Candido DeAngelis, speaks at an Anzio Memorial Monument ceremony honoring the men who fought at the Battle of Anzio during World War II and for which the current USS Anzio (CG 68) is named. THE USS Anzio was in New York City participating in Fleet Week, New York 2006. Fleet Week is New York's celebration of the sea services honoring those who have made the ultimate sacrifice through numerous Memorial Day events, remembrances and services.



**Hospitality Tent
USS Anzio CG 68**

**WWII Monument Dedication
DVDs Available for \$18.00
Contact James Luzzi
360 Fairbanks Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10306**

**Veterans &
Families
at
Dedication
of Monument**



ANZIO BEACHHEAD VETERANS OF WW II, INC.

27TH ANNUAL REUNION

APRIL 19 - 22, 2006 • FAYETTEVILLE, NC

Anzio's survivors remember

They are the survivors. And any one of them likely will tell you that they could be buried beneath one of the white crosses so neatly in place and all in a row



BILL KIRBY JR.

throughout the Anzio-Nettuno American Cemetery. It is where old soldiers such as John Silva, Ed Buck, Bud McMillian and Leighton McKeithen left thousands upon thousands upon thousands of fallen comrades off the shores of Italy, some 30 miles from Rome. "A terrible cost," McKeithen says.

Today, these survivors of
See KIRBY, Page 4B

Kirby

From Page 1B

what historians call one of the bloodiest engagements of World War II gather here for the 27th Annual Anzio Beachhead Veterans of WWII Reunion.

"Operation Shingle" began Jan. 22, 1944, and 124 days of bloodshed and carnage would ensue, leaving almost 30,000 American soldiers dead, wounded or missing in action, according to John Boller, a reunion organizer.

"It was the biggest battle we ever had," says Bud McMillian, a Fayetteville native who lives in Myrtle Beach. "We had it pretty rough there."

He was a sniper. He remembers running down a hill on the beach along with his radio transmitter man.

"We were backing up the British," he says.

The transmitter soldier was

killed in a rain of mortar fire.

"It blew a big hole in my left leg," McMillian says about his wound.

He spent eight hours waiting to be rescued.

"We had a hospital under ground," he says. "We had 33,000 patients treated in that hospital."

Until it was bombed by German forces.

"There were shells everywhere," he says.

McKeithen remembers May 23, 1944, in what he describes as the "greatest assembly of war tools I've ever seen" on both sides.

"We had terrible casualties," he says. "We lost 101 men in my company. There were 28 left. It was just the saddest affair."

These are the stories that more than 90 WWII veterans will relive today through Saturday as they tour the Airborne & Special Operations Museum, the 82nd Airborne Museum on Fort Bragg and relive Anzio.

"One of the things I'm looking forward to is meeting with the 82nd Airborne Division," says McKeithen, a Fayetteville minister who was an Army chaplain with the 34th Infantry Division.

It was the 82nd Airborne Division and the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment that helped lead the American invasion, and it was McKeithen's 34th Infantry Division that spelled weary soldiers from 3rd Infantry Division in late March at Cisterna.

We are free ...

I'm not worthy to write about these honorable WWII veterans who reunite in our town and our nearby military base.

I've never served my country.

I've never seen mortar fire.

I've never seen one of my best friends die in my arms.

I've never been to war.

But I remember well the shrapnel scar on the right side

of my father's jaw. I have the Eisenhower jacket he wore. And his Bronze Star and Purple Hearts are secure in his old Army footlocker.

He survived WWII.

He would be 85 today.

And I've listened to McKeithen weep as he talked about Anzio and visiting in the homes with fathers and mothers and wives and children of fallen heroes who fought by his side on the Italian beachhead.

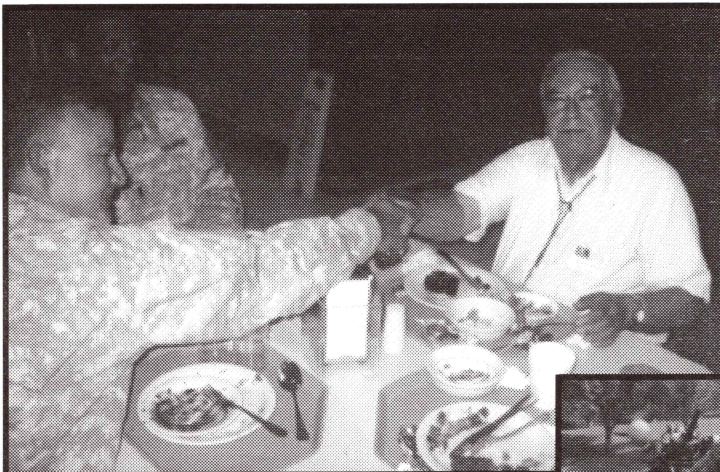
So, may we be honored these American heroes are here with us this week, and may we stand in reverence should one pass our way. They were gallant, they were brave, they were among a nation's best, and too often we forget or just don't take the time to learn or remember.

But we are free ...

... because on beaches like Anzio, they were there.

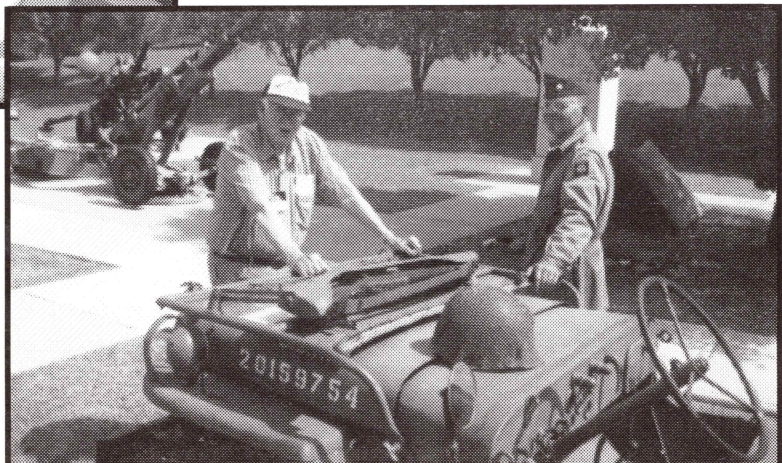
Bill Kirby can be reached at kirbybill@fayetteville.com or 323-4843 ext. 486.

The Fayetteville Observer

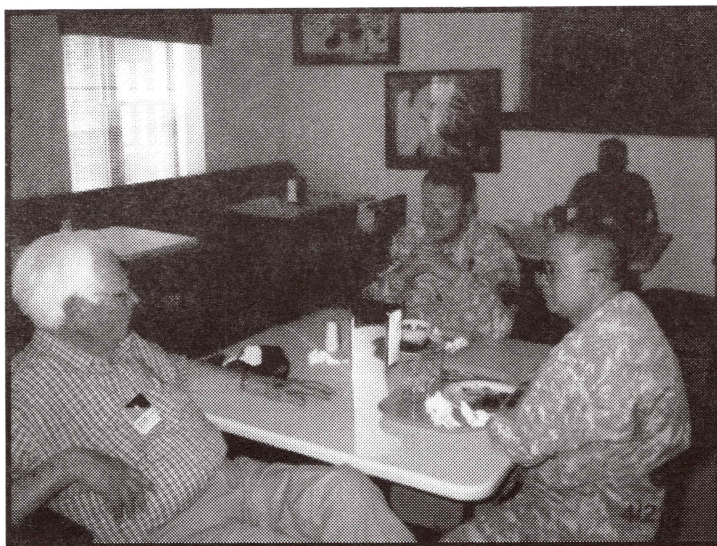


Byron Walker
Lunch with 82nd Airborne
(Left)

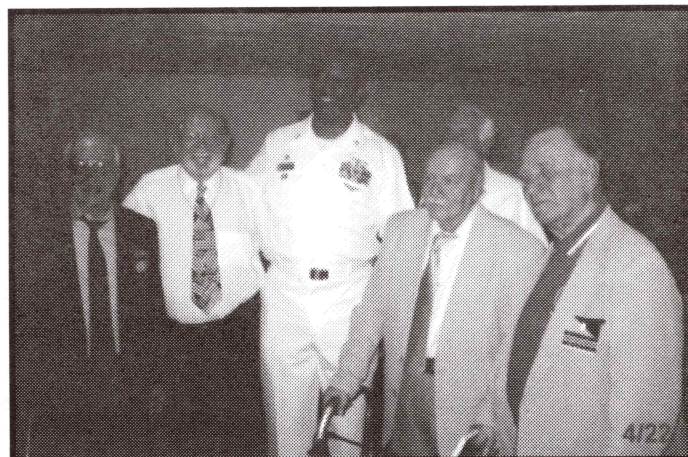
Jim Bird with
LTC David Gerard, CO 504 PIR
(right)



27TH ANNUAL REUNION - Continue



Jim Bird - Lunch with the troops



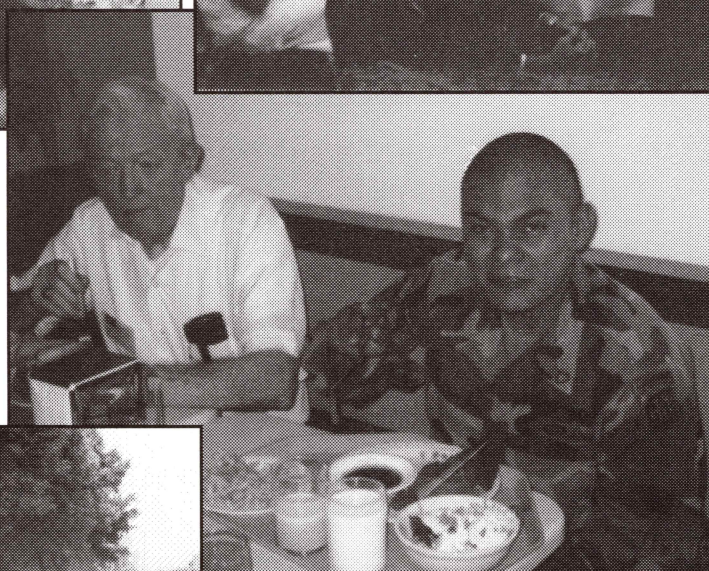
**John Boller, "Woody" Hoercher
CMC Seegars, Bob Jagers, Walter Sikula**



**Presentation
by CMC Seegars
USS Anzio
(above)**



**Presentation
by CMC Seegars
USS Anzio
(above)**



**Ken Swartzell
Lunch with
82nd
Airborne Troops
(Left)**



**Ramona McCormick, John Boller
WWII Jeep - Still Runs!**

**Comrad
ship in the
Hospitality room
(right)**



OUR WEB PAGE

www.anziobeachheadveteransofwwii.com.

Beverly Hoercher, our web manager, reports that there have been 29,409 "hits", or page views on our web site since it was created almost 6 years ago. Beverly has done a great job in maintaining and posting our organizations news as well as keeping us up to date with news of USS ANZIO.

For those with a computer, we ask that you send us your e-mail address so that we may publish a list in our newsletter. This is an excellent way of keeping in touch with each other. We will keep adding to this as we receive your address.

Beverly Hoercher.....Bebbie7@cox.net
Carl Furtado.....CFURTADO@FCTVPLUS>NET
John Boller.....juniorjlb@msn.com
Cordino Longiotti.....Corlon522@aol.com
Donald Stevens.....dkstevens@starpower.net
Edward Thomas.....edthom08@bellsouth.net
Frank Perkins.....perky@msn.com
Frank Pistone.....fpistone2@comcast.net
James Bird.....jrbird@jersey.net
Anthony D'Angelo.....tonywine@optonline.net
Ramona McCormick.....rtmccorm@worldnet.att.net
William Papian.....PAPLAV@cs.net
Leo Hill.....lbhtimwolf@aol.com
Mico LiCastro.....mico.licastro@verizon.net
John Shirley.....jbshirley@comcast.net
James Luzzi.....jluzzi@sprynet.com
Russell Weiskicher.....rrwise@alltel.net
Captain Bingham.....bingham@anzio.navy.mil
CMC William Seegars....CMC@anzio.navy.mil

note. Anyone not wishing to have their e-mail listed, please let me know.
John Boller

DECEASED MEMBERS

Franklin A. Heim
Dundalk, MD
36th Combat Engrs.

William T. Smith
Bronx, NY
52nd Med Bn.

Victor Romanello
Beltsville, MD
84th Ord. Bn

Willis J. Strobel
Huntington Beach, CA
3rd Inf. Div.

William M. Locke, Sr.
Sylvania, OH
307 Fighter Sqdn.

Arthur Stelzer
Canoga Park, CA
45th Inf. Div.

IN MEMORIUM

*Eternal rest grant
them O Lord.*

*Let perpetual light shine
upon them. May they
rest in peace. Amen*

Membership information

Your Board of Directors have recently made some significant changes in our by-laws concerning membership. In order to insure continuity of this organization, it has been decided to open membership beyond veteran status, that is to sons and daughters and other family members of veterans. At recent reunions we have noticed many veterans are accompanied by family members who not only take a genuine interest in our organization, but also want to preserve the legacy of the Anzio Campaign. We already have some father/son memberships, and today we received the first father/daughter membership.

We are inviting all family members to become members of this great organization. Not only to become members, but active members. We would like to see them on our Board and as Officers.

We would like your thoughts on this new change. Please drop me a line or give me a call.

John Boller
1 Harbor North
Amityville, NY 11701
1-631-691-5002
E-Mail: JUNIORJLB@msn.com

COMBAT PATHS

A Cronolgy of any Div, Reg, VN, CO. in the European Theater During WWI - Cost \$20.00

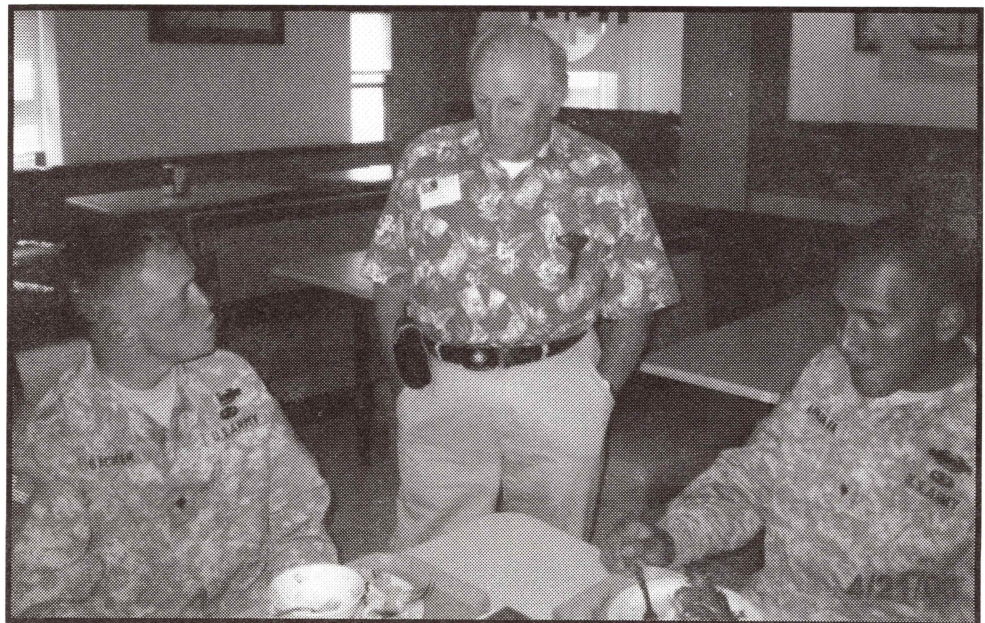
Robert Jagers

has been elected Captain of the Michigan LST Association

Quote of the Day

The toughest part about growing old, is remembering when you were young.

Reunion Photo
Carmen Cook
82nd Airborne Troops



REUNIONS

3rd Infantry Div.

Sept. 6-10, 2006, Nashville, TN

Contact: Linda Irvine, Tel: 360-663-2521

50721 State Highway 410

Greenwater, WA 90222

45th Infantry Div.

Sept. 28- Oct. 1, 2006

Oklahoma City, OK

Contact: Raul Trevino Tel: (210) 681-9134

2145 NE St., Oklahoma City, OK 73111

1st Armored Divison - Louisville, KY Aug 15-21, 2006

Contact: Joe Sachen - 6071 W 75th Place - Los Angeles, CA

Tel: 310-645-1334

ANZIO BEACHHEAD

VETERANS OF

WORLD WAR II



Order Form

QTY	ITEM	PRICE	TOTAL
_____	Anzio Beachhead Cap	\$ 7.00	_____
_____	USS Anzio Ship Cap	\$10.00	_____
_____	Anzio T-Shirt-LG	\$10.00	_____
_____	Anzio T-Shirt-XLG	\$10.00	_____
_____	Anzio Lapel Pin	\$ 5.00	_____
_____	Anzio Ship Crest Button 3"	\$ 1.00	_____
_____	Anzio Button 3"	\$ 1.00	_____
_____	Anzio Key Chain	\$ 1.00	_____
_____	Anzio Bumper Sticker	\$ 1.00	_____
_____	Anzio Flag 17" x 12"	\$25.00	_____
_____	Coffee Mug	\$ 7.00	_____
_____	License Plate Frame	\$15.00	_____

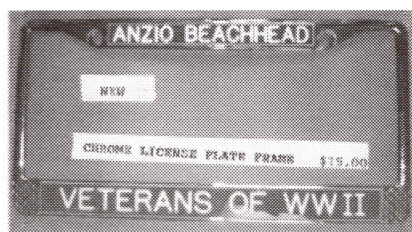


COFFEE MUG

in color \$7.00 Mailing Fee \$4.00

SUB TOTAL \$ _____
 Postage & Hndlg \$1.00-7.00--\$1.50 \$ _____
 \$8.00-15.00--\$3.00 \$ _____
 \$15.00 +--\$4.00 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____



NEW!

Chrome License Plate Frame

Mail Orders to:

ANZIO BEACHHEAD
VETERANS

c/o John Ivancik, Sr

649 Melrose Ave

Ambridge, PA 15003-2452

1-724-266-8244

NEW MEMBERS

Dean Bunch, Canton MO
3rd Inf. Div.

Leroy F. Spaulding, Frankfort, KY
45th Inf. Div.

John R. Correggio, Revere, MA
Son of John P. Corregio

Frank X. Reichert, Old Greenwich, CT
45th Inf. Div.

Edward R. Colucci, Staten Island, NY
45th Inf. Div.

Norman C. Rouch, Fort Wayne, IN
141 FA Bn.

James T. Anderson, Haysi, VA
3rd Inf. Div.

Craig N. Neidlinger, Statesboro, GA
39th FA Bn.

Leighton B. McKeithen, Fayetteville, NC
34th Inf. Div.

Lee W. Palmer, Alexandria, VA
45th Inf. Div.

Joe D. Craver, Winston-Salem, NC
1st Armd. Div.

H. Vernon Tyson, Red Lion, PA
36th Inf. Div.

William P. Kriner, Finksbugh, MD
Son-In-Law Ed Mutchler

William Quaglia, Maspeth, NY
3rd Inf. Div.

Louis Kunofsky, Boynton Beach, FL
34th Inf. Div.

Cheryl A. Rosser, Rose Haven, MD
Daughter, Ed Mutchler

Horace Carratelli, Fresh Meadows, NY
1st Armd Div.

Thomas E. Unger, Honolulu, HI
88th Inf.Div.

Solomon Soskin, Little Neck, NY
5th Army

MEMBERSHIP CALL (By Board review and final action we can no longer accept lifetime membership applications.)

Make checks payable to: **Anzio Beachhead Veterans of World War II**

Name _____ Date _____
LAST FIRST MI MONTH DAY YEAR

Address _____
STREET AND NUMBER CITY STATE ZIP CODE

Telephone _____
AREA CODE AND NUMBER

Allied Forces organization with whom you served on the beachhead,
at sea, or in the air during 1/22/44 through 5/25/44

ALLIED FORCES ORGANIZATION

Spouse (or next of kin) _____
GIVEN NAME

Please return this form with your check, payable to
"ANZIO BEACHHEAD VETERANS OF WWII"
and mail to: **JOHN BOLLER**, Secretary/Treasurer
1 Harbor North • Amityville, NY 11701-3810

MOVING?

If you are planning to move,
please notify the Treasurer
or the Newsletter Editor.
Use the Membership Call
form in this edition or the
card furnished by the
U.S. Postal Service.

☐ Regular dues: \$15.00 (Due July 1 each year)

☐ Donation \$ _____

☐ Address change as provided above

Worldwartwoveterans.org



William R. Potts
5321 Davidson St SE
Albany OR 97322-7197

DUES ARE DUE!!!

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JOHN BOLLER, EDITOR
1 HARBOR NORTH
AMITYVILLE, NY 11701

Anzio Beachhead Veterans
OF WORLD WAR II, INC.



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