



30th IDA's 2010 National Reunion A Huge Success!



If you didn't make the 30th Infantry Division's reunion this past August, you did miss a really great time. There were twelve stalwart and handsome Old Hickory men who attended, helped to set up the displays, man the bar and to provide a color guard for the business meetings and the memorial service. The "Iron 12" OHA members attending were: Neil Trivette, Walt Sowinski, Ken Hyatt, Ray Oakes, Mike Owens, Matt Koonts, Pat Grogan, Charlie Noble, Brett Bondurant, Chuck Eatmon and Jay Callaham. This time, we had created two separate display rooms with the hospitality room being in between the two display areas. The hospitality suite was always well attended most of the time and Mike Owens made sure there were plenty of Glenn Miller type tunes available. Matt, Mike, Ken and

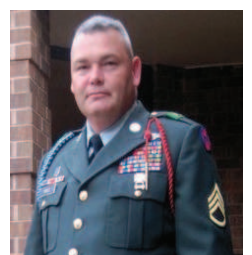
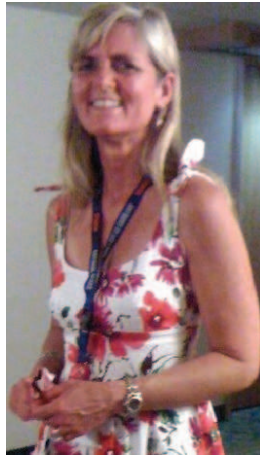
Walt made sure no one went thirsty. Jay Callaham and Dan Jutson put together a fabulous WWI memorabilia display which was very much admired and Neil Trivette set up his usual outstanding WWII memorabilia display which also was very well attended. Not to be outdone, Jimmy Nance did an admirable job setting up a collection of Iraqi items brought back from their last deployment and provided some Brigade paraphernalia for all of us to view. It was pretty suggested that for all future reunions, the Brigade should incorporate 30th Brigade items for viewing by all of the attendees since they have become full-fledged veteran association members.



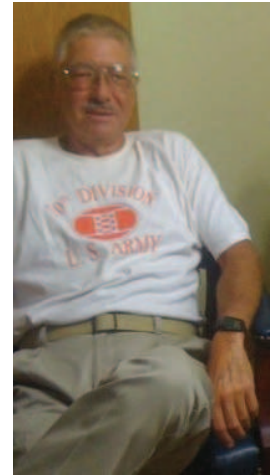
OHA members were very surprised and humbled when LTC Wilkins asked that we pop into the Friday night dinner festivities to receive a token of the Association's appreciation which turned out to be a specially minted "Commander's Challenge" coin. Needless to say, we were very pleased to be so recognized and honored to be presented with such a cherished item. SMG Prince also presented some of us with two different challenge coins in recognition of our service to the Association. As the week's festivities progressed, we had a great time visiting with some old friends like George Small and Micki Klepper, George and Betty Kennedy, John Cronan, Hank and Clara Stairs, Grace and Libby Tyner, Inez Peoples, Vic Neiland, Ed Middleton, Howard Benson, Kit Arn, Jack Moore, Rick Jones, Matt Register, Wes Morrison, Norm Walls, Jimmy Nance, Greg Lusk, Cliff Wilkins, Emma Potter and Tom Ruyle...if I left your name off, I do apologize but my reunion notes kinda' disappeared. On Saturday evening, the banquet room was resplendent with the WWII and Brigade veterans, their families and guests. Aply emceed by LTC Wilkins, the evening progressed without a hitch.

Continued on next page.

COL Lusk delivered a very interesting and comprehensive overview of the Brigade's mission which they just returned from. As the evening progressed, Frank Deegan was introduced as the new Association President by George Kennedy and Lane Zatopek was introduced as the President of the Women's Auxiliary for the coming year. Following the announcement and introduction of the other newly elected officers, the reunion organizers proceeded with the now famous "raffle."







SOME SPECIAL MENTIONS

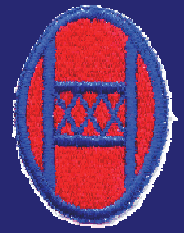
The Old Hickory Association was very fortunate to receive some very generous gifts from the following people: George Small and Micki Klepper donated \$50.00 cash, Libby Tyner presented us with a check for \$150.00 in memory of Tommy Oglesby, Howard Benson gave us a large 30th Association banner which may be visible in some of the newsletter photos, Lane Zatopek donated a beautifully framed panoramic 1942 group photograph of the 115th Artillery in which her dad is prominently featured in the front row sporting a huge smile, Victor Neiland produced an almost mint condition WWII First Aid Kit, Kevin Hinton allowed that the 30th ID Veterans Association would be mailing a check to Jim Higgins as their contribution to the OHA and last but certainly not least, Emma Potter contributed platters of her now very famous "lemon chess squares," some superb chocolate brownies, some bags of potato chips, chip dips and topped it all off with large bottles of soda...thank you Emma Potter! Because of her, no one went hungry while in the Hospitality room.



Another special mention which needs to be highlighted is the very moving and motivating sermon delivered to the attendees of the Memorial Service by Chaplain Walter Graves. Walter Graves, is a CPT (CH) Retired. A decorated Combat Infantryman with the 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam, he served in various active duty posts and National Guard units as a full time soldier until being called to the ministry and getting his Masters in Divinity from Duke University. He served as the Battalion Chaplain for the 1st Battalion, 120th Infantry in 2003-2005 which included their first tour to Iraq. When Wes Morrison introduced CPT Graves to the Memorial Service assemblage, he was very candid in his admiration of and for the quality of the man who served as their spiritual leader while they were deployed. After hearing his sermon, I can see why this man is so revered by his Brigade flock. If you had attended the reunion and had the opportunity to his words, you would have come away with the same appreciation of this man as our Brigade buddies. Thank you, again, Chaplain Graves for a truly inspiring sermon.



Old Hickory Loses A Very Dear Friend



Col. Richard "Dick" L. Jepsen, retired, passed away Thursday, 26 Aug 2010 in the Meadowlark Hills / Bramlage House, Manhattan, Kansas. He grew up in Lincoln and Reno Counties. He graduated from Raymond Rural High School in 1942. Dick spent nearly 40 years in the Active Army, Kansas National Guard and Army Reserve.

He served in the US Army during WWII as a combat infantryman with the 30th Infantry Division in Europe. General Eisenhower's historians rated this division as the #1 division with the most consistent and efficient battle service in Europe during WWII. He landed on Omaha Beach July 4, 1944 and served as Instrument Corporal and machine gunner in Co D, 120th Infantry Regiment in the five major battle campaigns from Normandy to the Elbe River. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, three Bronze Stars, a Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious

Medal, two Belgian Fourrageres, French Croix de Guerre and the European Theater Ribbon with 5 battle stars. He was also awarded the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Army of Occupation Ribbon, Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and Berlin Crisis Callup Ribbon. He was discharged in November 1945

He was active in the Kansas National Guard and the Army Reserves and was recalled to service for approximately one year during the 1961 Berlin Crisis. He received an Army commission to second Lieutenant from the KSU ROTC. He was inducted into the KSU ROTC Hall of Fame in 1998. Dick retired from military service in 1985 with the rank of Colonel. During retirement he was active in civic affairs. He was a strong supporter of veterans and veterans programs, including The American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was elected National President of the 30th Infantry Division Association in 1981 and State Commander of the Kansas American Legion in 1984. At the request of the Riley County Commissioners in 1993 he initiated a program to develop a Veterans Day program for the Northern Flint Hills area which has grown into the largest veteran's celebration in the area.

From 1997 to 2001 he was active in the successful promotion to establish a Kansas Veterans Cemetery System for the state of Kansas and a new veteran's cemetery near Ft. Riley. He served as Chairman of the fund raising committee for a WWII Memorial constructed on the campus of Kansas State University. From 2001 to 2005 he was elected National Membership Chairman of the 30th Infantry Division Association. In 2006 he was elected Executive Secretary/Treasurer of the Association, which had about 1000 members. During 2004 and 2005 he was Kansas Area 5 Chairman for the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, a volunteer program of the Department of Defense.

Survivors include his wife, Wanda, two sons, Robert Jepsen, and his wife, Sharon, Warrenton, MO and Randy Jepsen, and his friend, Kelley, Arlington, TX; two daughters, Carol Brown, and her husband, Mike, Centerville, VA and Myrna Giess, and her husband, Terry, Drummond, MT; nine grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren. Funeral services will be at 1:00 p.m., Monday, August 30, 2010 in the Irvin-Parkview Funeral Home, Manhattan with Chaplain (Major General), USA, Retired, Orris E. Kelly officiating. Burial, with full military honors, will follow in the Kansas Veteran's Cemetery at Ft. Riley.



A Company, 120th Dedicates Their Fallen Soldier Memorial



For those who could not be there or were unaware of the event, A Company, 120th dedicated their Fallen Soldier Memorial on Saturday, 17 July 2010. It is a very fitting memorial. Originally dedicated in 2005 after our first deployment, it was rearranged to this current Jacksonville location to add the four additional casualties the Company took in 2009. All of the families including the 2004 families were present for the event. The photos of the Jacksonville Memorial taken by Mr. Marley. In memory of our fallen brothers in arms. **OLD HICKORY!**

Article submitted by
Wes Morrison



Buster's WWII Apple Orchard Story

Buster Simmons sent this to us after he had read the recent Old Hickory Chronicle July-August newsletter in which he was featured. Buster wanted to relate another story that happened to him while he was back in France assisting Lew Adams while working on the documentary film about the 30th Infantry Division. So now, here's Buster's WWII apple orchard story.



While working with Lew and his crew, we found the very same apple orchard where we had set up the first Regimental Headquarters Aid Station at St Pellerin, France about the second week after we arrived offshore from Omaha Beach. Lew Adams and his crew of movie making professionals were busy setting up their next shot and I had been strategically placed in my wheel chair at the spot they wanted me to be in. I looked about a quarter mile thru the apple orchard and could see an elegantly dressed, very attractive 70ish year old lady (*not the pretty girl shown in the photo to the left*) who was walking down the road toward us. Of course, they had me placed on the OTHER side of the hedgerow and I did not get to see her arrival. But, when she got there and we explained to her what we were doing there in her apple orchard, she greeted us very warmly and like we were long lost brothers!

THIS IS HER STORY: She was about 6-7 years old at the time the 30th Infantry Division first arrived at the apple orchard area. Her family owned the apple orchard then and today she is its sole owner. The Germans had a little devious device we called a "bouncing betty, that, if tripped would pop up out of the ground about 3 - 4 feet and spray nuts, bolts, glass or anything that could hurt and take a man out of action for practically no cost. Evidently, they had planted some of these devices in and around the apple orchard area and one of these went off and hit her right in the face. Since it was so early in the fighting and we had no hospitals established yet, she was evacuated to the 30th Infantry Division Clearing Station. A "clearing station" has limited capabilities but the staff did all they could for her, cleaned her wounds and wired her jaws back together. Long story short, she made a VERY good recovery and today, even with some scar tissue that will be with her forever, she is alive and well.



She was delighted to finally meet someone from the 30th Infantry Division Medics, even if it was only just a Combat Medic. I do not use the term "just a combat medic" loosely here to describe the combat medics ... we had, as did the other combat infantry units in that fray, highly, well trained men who did their jobs under extremely exhausting and dangerous conditions. I feel highly honored to have been one of them. *Written and submitted by Sgt. Buster Simmons.*

Hi Steve: I have not attempted to put much in writing about my personal experiences during WWII. However, I have been asked to do so and I will attempt one now. I suppose the one experience Tim Davis was talking about was when Capt. Tim Davis was wounded during the Battle of the Bulge started. The 30th Division was on the line several miles northeast of Bastogne. A Regt. Hospital and a Regt. Reg. Aid Station was set up with the Regimental Headquarters about two miles from where Capt. Davis was wounded. Just before it got dark on or about Dec. 10-12, my CO, Major William E. Knaus, received a phone call from Capt. Davis. Capt. Davis



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Mailing Address:

The Old Hickory Association
P.O. Box 1079
Wake Forest, NC 27588-1079

OHA Website:

<http://www.oldhickoryassoc.org>

Newsletter Editor:

Walt Sowinski

Email: wsowinski@triad.rr.com

Items For Sale

OHA Items:

Grey T-shirt w/OHA logo, S-XL \$10., XXL \$12.50

Golf Shirt, White or Grey, w/ OHA logo, S-XL \$22.50 XXL \$25.00

Grey Sweatshirt w/ OHA logo, S-XL \$18.00, XXL \$20.00

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Prices do NOT include shipping. Brett says to "Order directly" from: Custom Embroidery Company
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WEBSITE UPDATE

Ron Crawley has been reworking our OHA website and has made some real positive progress. He allows it is up and running but in need of some suggestions for content. The only sections he's not started on are the Newsletter files of the (Old Hickory Chronicles) and the Photos section. He's experimenting with some color schemes to incorporate the "red & blue" look of the 30th patch. The site, therefore, is a work in progress but we will soon be able to direct prospective members to our site so they can gather information about our group. We owe a huge "Thank You" to Ron for taking on this assignment. You can view what Ron's done by going to:

<http://www.oldhickoryassoc.org>

That is all, carry on.



Upcoming Events

September 17-18, 2010

Allison Woods Living History
Timeline Event
Statesville, NC
Contact: TBD

September 18, 2010

Triad Honor Flight
AM & PM Event
Greensboro, NC
Contacts: Walt Sowinski
Jay Callaham

November 5 -7, 2010

Great War Fall Offensive
Newville, PA
Contact: Jay Callaham

November 13, 2010

History of the American Soldier
Guilford Courthouse NMP
This is a US (and pre-US Colonial)
only timeline event. One day only.
Setup starts at 0830 over at 1600
Contacts: Walt Sowinski
Jay Callaham

December 11, 2010

Hurtgenwald Tactical
116th Panzer-6.Kompanie
Enfield, NC
Contacts: Dwpzrg@yahoo.com
Killerkestrel@yahoo.com