



A Lonesome Hero - Sgt. Robert S. Haws, 30th Infantry Division, 119th Infantry Regiment, K Company



SERGEANT ROBERT HAWS

Mid-September 1944, the southern part of the province of Limburg was liberated by American soldiers. These soldiers belonged to the 30th Infantry Division, known as "Old Hickory" and consisted of the 117th, 119th and 120th Infantry Regiments. The 117th was active from Maastricht to Geulhem, the 119th operated from Valkenburg to Gulpen and on the 120th Regiment was operating on eastern flank. The vicinity of Schin op Geul and Wylre was liberated by the 3rd Battalion of the 119th Regiment assisted by 3rd Battalion of the 117th Regiment, operating from Oud Valkenburg and Strucht. During the fighting in this area, soldiers from both Battlions. were killed and one of them was Robert Sidney Haws.

Robert was born in Philomont Loudoun County, Virginia in the northeastern part of the United States. He was the son of Isaac Haws from Milwaukee Wisconsin and Daisy Pierce from Philomont, Virginia. Daisy was only 16 years old when Robert was born and according to the 1930 census data, Robert lived with his mother, his younger sister and with his grandparents. Later he lived with his Aunt and Uncle Frank and Mary Pierce, also of Philomont. He enlisted in the Army on June 2, 1941 in Richmond and entered military service at Camp Wheeler in Georgia.

He received further military training at Fort Jackson, SC and Camp Atterbury Ind. While still in training, it is thought he married Myrtie Lee Argo probably from Mecca, Georgia. On January 4, 1944, he embarked for England for more training. On July 14, his unit landed in France, fought through France, Belgium and into the Netherlands, where he was killed on September 14 liberating the village of Wylre..



What happened to Robert during those days in September in Wylre? Robert was a Sergeant in 119th Infantry Regiment, of K Company. The 119th at that time had its CP at Ingber but on Wednesday, September 13, the first American soldiers approached the hamlet of Beertsenhoven where the first battles took place at 17:10 hours. This was to be the last action of that day.

That night two reconnaissance patrols went toward Fromberg Strucht Schoonbron and Wylre and they were active all through the night. The Germans had barricaded roads with trees and had destroyed the bridge over the river Geul. They had retreated behind the embankment of the railroad (Schin op Geul-Kerkrade) on the other side of the village. On September 14 at approximately 10:00 hours some U.S. soldiers managed to cross the river and get into the village. As they marched in the direction of Schin op Geul, they suddenly came under heavy fire from German machine guns from the Fromberg area. The American soldiers retreated to the houses in the village and soon learned that the village was occupied by at least 150 German soldiers. The American GI's spent most of the day clearing out several of the enemy positions.

The mystery of the missing: Robert died on or about September 14 on a road leading to up a hill called Dikkebuik, just across the railroad near the lime kilns, in a field at Wylre. He died from a shot to the head in a hand to hand fight and the body of the German soldier he fought lies a few yards away from his. Strangely enough, his death was unnoticed and unreported. Was he acting alone? Probably not. Was he backing his retreating buddies? Why was his death not reported by his fellow soldiers? In any case, his body was not removed, was lying on the road and finally some villagers brought the body to a local carpenter who made a coffin for him. After a simple ceremony on September 18, Robert was buried at the local cemetery. Church services were arranged for his soul and he was honored by the whole local community. A little wooden cross marked with his name marked his grave. How was it possible that all this happened without any questions being asked by the Army officials? Robert was reported as "Missing in Action" and that was what got printed in a local newspaper, Loudoun County News, in his home town. His mother and widow were also informed by the Army that Robert was officially listed as "Missing in Action." It was't until May 1945, that the Army realized that Robert had been buried in a local cemetery in the village of Wylre. His family finally received a telegram, informing them

that Robert had been killed in action in Holland. This information also appeared in an article in the Blue Ridge Herald dated May 31, 1945. Soon thereafter, Robert was reinterred in the U.S. Military Margraten Cemetery ... Plot SS, Row 8, Grave 200 on October 22, 1945.

The mystery of mistaken identity: On April 9, 1945, Mrs. Myrtie Haws received a package containing Roberts personal belongings which included some Catholic medals, a chain, dog tags, a comb, a dictionary and a personal letter. On June 22, 1945, the Army Effects Office forwarded a check for \$35.90 to the widow for some personal property that had belonged to her husband Robert. But on August 14, she received another letter, stating that she had to return the money because of a clerical error. The personal property in question actually belonged to a SSgt. Robert S. Haws who came from Provo, Utah and who'd been wounded somewhere in Italy.

The mystery of disappearance: In April, 1947 a letter was sent to the widow with a request for "disposition of remains." The request was never answered, so the American Red Cross was asked to find Mrs Haws. By August of 1948, the Red Cross had not found Mrs. Haws so they gave up their attempts. What they did find out was that she had remarried and moved to Washington but letters to her last known address were marked non-deliverable. So by law, the father, Ike Haws, became Next Of Kin but he could not be found either. He had left for Milwaukee Wisconsin, and after a laborious search it proved he was deceased. Next in line, was his mother Daisy as the "NOK." A search revealed that she too left Philomont, remarried and had moved to Berryville or Airmont, Virginia. All letters addressed to those addresses were returned non-deliverable too. So, on May 16, 1949 it was administratively decided by the U.S. Army, that Sgt. Robert S. Haws remains would be reinterred at the Margraten Cemetery. At last Robert found his last and final resting place on July 15, 1949 at Plot D, Row 16, Grave 3.

It may seem that Robert had nobody left to care about him but that is just not true. Robert lives in the hearts and minds of the older inhabitants of the village Wylre in South Limburg. To this day, they regard it as their solemn duty for the present and future generations to remember and honor Roberts ultimate sacrific. We all owe our freedoms to men like Robert. Because of what they did, we now enjoy the freedom that we so hold dear. Sgt. Robert S. Haws, will always be remembered and honored as our hero and we all thank you!



Robert's grave at Margaten Cemetery



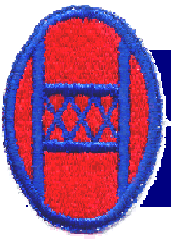
Wylre Cemetery

Shown below is the Roszell Chapel in Philomont where Robert and other fallen US soldiers are honored by local villagers.

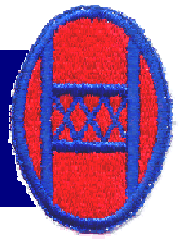


The undersigned certifies that Robert S. Haws, SSN33094373 , has fallen "in het Veld" at Wylre on September 13, 1944 by a shot to the head fired by a German soldier. Sgt. Haws was buried on September 18 in the Catholic cemetery at Wylre, under the supervision of the undersigned and according to Roman Catholic habit by Pastor Schulpen. The coffin was delivered by the undersigned on behalf of the Dutch Red Cross department to Maastricht and the body of Robert S. Haws was put into the coffin by myself. Services were held at different times. Signed in Wylre, October 20, 1945 by E.J. van Loo.

The undersigned certifies that Robert S. Haws 33094373 has fallen "in het Veld" at Wylre, on September 13, 1944 by a shot to the head fired by German soldier. Sgt. Haws was buried on September 18 in the Catholic cemetery in Wylre, under the supervision of the undersigned J.J. Schulpen, Pastor at Wylre according to Roman Catholic direction. On a different day Holy Masses were assigned for his soul peace and a solemn High Mass was held on October 15 which was offered and attended by the whole parish of Wylre. Signed and dated in Wylre, October 20, 1945 by J.J. Shells, Pastor of Wylre.



Time to Sign Up For 65th Annual 30th Infantry Division Association Reunion



We Invite You To Attend The 65th Annual 30th Infantry Division Association Reunion - 17 – 21 August, 2011 In Raleigh, NC

Listen up troop... How about you join us in Raleigh, NC for the 65th Annual 30th Infantry Division Association Reunion August 17-21. This is only reminder for you to sign up for the 65th Annual 30th IDA Reunion. It promises to be one of the most successful events yet. Norm Walls, the Reunion Committee and the whole team have some great things planned and you can't afford to not be there. So, guys, don't even think about skipping out on this one ... You just can't afford to miss this reunion bucko. All the forms and information you need is right here in this newsletter! Now, let's get it in gear and mark your calendars to attend the 2011 30th IDA Reunion.

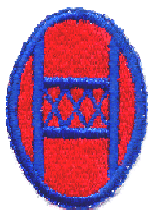
Because this is the 65th Annual, the Reunion Committee is working extra hard to make this a memorable reunion. In addition to our normal World War I, World War II and Iraq displays, we will attempt to bring more military vehicles this year for the veterans and families to view and reminisce next to as they remember their service in OLD HICKORY.

On Friday night, put on your dancing shoes and travel back to the 1940's with the Andrews Sisters Tribute Show. This wonderful group has performed for several World War II veterans groups and we are pleased to be able to bring them to this year's reunion. Finally on Saturday night, Colonel Randy Powell, Commander, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team and Association member will be our guest of honor at the banquet and update the Association on OLD HICKORY's current generation as they continue to train in defense of this great country. Don't miss another opportunity to see old friends and make new ones with those who have worn the OLD HICKORY patch in harm's way!



Sign Up Now!

30th Infantry Division Reunion Registration Form For 17-21, August 2011



Listed below are the registration and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each meal and total amount. Send that amount payable to: 30th IDA in the form of a check or money order (no credit cards will be accepted). All reservation forms and payments must be received by mail on or before 1 August 2011. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest that you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. Send completed form with payment to::



**30th IDA
C/O Norman Walls
416 Elm Street
Raleigh, NC 27604**

<u>Registration Package</u>	<u>Price per person</u>	<u># of people</u>	<u>Total</u>
Registration Fee	\$40.00	_____	_____
Wednesday: Reception Dinner	\$18.00	_____	_____
Thursday: Hot Buffet Breakfast - Complimentary		_____	_____
Thursday Dinner	\$22.00	_____	_____
Friday: Hot Buffet Breakfast - Complimentary		_____	_____
Friday Lunch	\$18.00	_____	_____
Friday Dinner	\$22.00	_____	_____
Saturday: Hot Buffet Breakfast - Complimentary		_____	_____
Saturday Banquet	\$22.00	_____	_____
Sunday Hot Buffet Breakfast – Complimentary		_____	_____
All prices listed above include tax & Gratuity			
Total Amount Payable to: <u>30th IDA</u>			\$ _____

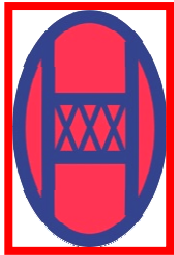
*****Total for all meals & registration fee is: \$142.00 per person*****

Please print name

First _____ Last _____ Nickname _____
 Regiment _____ Company _____
 Spouse (if attending) _____
 Guest Names _____
 Street Address _____
 City, State, Zipcode _____ Phone(____) _____
 Dietary/Disability Restrictions _____
 Emergency Contact/phone number (____) _____
 Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

30th I D A – Hotel Reservation Form.

Welcome to the Ramada Raleigh-Blue Ridge Hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina



Ramada Raleigh-Blue Ridge
1520 Blue Ridge Road,
Raleigh, North Carolina, 27607
Reservations: **866-790-8512**
Fax: **919-828-1796**



Make your reservations now but be sure to mention you are with the 30th Infantry Division group. All rooms will be \$62.00 / night plus local tax...this is the same rate as last year.

Accommodations at Ramada Raleigh-Blue Ridge Hotel: Our 122 guestrooms are all non-smoking, thus ensuring a healthy stay for all of our guests. Furnished with queen, king and double size beds, our rooms also feature clean bathrooms and various amenities. The Ramada Raleigh-Blue Ridge is an award-winning hotel complex offering its guests fine lodging, numerous services and features, and a proximity to many area universities in the Research Triangle.

Features that make our guestrooms so comforting:

- ALL Non-Smoking Rooms
- Complimentary High Speed Wireless Internet
- Complimentary USA Today (M-F)
- Television with Cable - HBO & ESPN
- Air Conditioning
- In Room - Coffee Maker
- In Room - Hairdryer
- In Room - Iron and Ironing board

Some of our best services and features include:

- Seasonal Outdoor Pool
- Onsite Restaurant & Lounge
- Fitness Center
- Business Center
- Handicapped Rooms & Facilities
- Meeting & Banquet Facilities
- Dry Cleaning Services
- 24hour Front Desk
- Free Outdoor Parking for Car, Truck, Camper, Bus and Recreational Vehicles

OHA UNIT NEWS

Price of Freedom Event

Don Shupe had noted in his posting for this event that "Worst case I would like to have 1/2 dozen members so we could do a demonstration of different uniforms used during the war." Well, little did he know that "worst case" turned out to be just "TWO (2) OHA members" – Don and Ron Crawley to do some demonstrations, setting up the tents and laying out the various militaria items for the public to see and ask questions. There were some great vehicle on site which always seem to be the case with this event. Hopefully, next year, the OHA will be able to provide a larger member showing because this is a very worthwhile event. Kudos to Don and Ron for their valiant efforts.



OHA Assists In Legion Tribute To WWII Veterans

On May 7, five (5) OHA members assisted the Fuquay-Varina American Legion Post 116 members to honor the service of and pay tribute to twenty three World War II veterans of all of the services. The event officially kicked off at 2:00pm and ran till about 6:00pm. However, Neil Trivette, Mike Owens, Norm Klein, Chuck Eatmon and Walt Sowinski arrived about noon to begin setting up a very impressive militaria display which featured uniforms, weapons, web gear, field packs, GI clothing, DUI's, divisional patches and uniform insignia, a footlocker, engineer



mine detection equipment as well as assorted other WWII items to numerous to itemize. Chuck Eatmon had his WWII jeep parked right outside the entrance to the display room. As people came to view the display, they had to pass by Chuck's jeep. Needless to say, he got the usual "is that a real WWII jeep" question...it still is a big hit with young and old. Retired 82nd Airborne LTC Fred Burt also had two (2) display tables set up with some of his private WWII collection. You may recognize the last name – **Burt** - because LTC Burt is related to our recently deceased BG Millard Burt who was the Bandmaster of 30th Infantry Division Band.



The Fuquay-Varina American Legion Post has two buildings nicely situated right off the Johnson Pond Road which provided for ample parking . The larger and newer building is where the main ceremony was held and the older building was where we set up our displays. The American Legion Post personnel expected about a hundred people would attend the tribute ceremony and most of them took time to visit our display. This included most of the 23 veterans who were to be honored later in the afternoon. The American Legion's schedule allowed the people to roam through our display for about two hours and then it was time to assemble in the larger building and to start their tribute ceremony. The OHA provided a four man Color Guard to post the colors and then upon conclusion of the ceremony's schedule, to retire the colors. Since Chuck Eatmon had to "police" his jeep, Neil Trivette, Mike Owens, Norm Klein and Walt Sowinski performed the Color Guard duty.

Among the veterans who were being honored that day, was Jerry Owens, US Army, 187th/11th Airborne (Mike's dad), Dallas Burroughs Jr., US Army Air Corps captured by the Japanese, participated in the Bataan Death March and was a prisoner for 3 ½ years, Albert J. Kaiser US Army, 10th Mountain Division who served in Italy, Philippine Islands and Japan, William R. Allen, US Navy Medical Pharmacist Mate who served with the US Marine Corps in the Pacific theater, Sam Winstead, US Marine Corps, 1st Marine Division dog handler and two men who were awarded the Silver Star - Robert M. Kinton, US Army, 17th Field Artillery with service in North Africa, Italy, Normandy, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe and Robert Setter, US Army, 83rd Infantry Division, Rifle Company Squad Leader, with service in Normandy, Brittany, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. These are just a few of the WWII American Heroes who were honored by the Fuquay-Varina American Legion and it was our honor to play just a small part in recognizing their service and showing our appreciation of their military service.

OHA Annual Business Meeting

The Annual business meeting of the Old Hickory Association was held at 12 noon on Sunday June 5, 2011, in front of the Militaria Show exhibition hall at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC. Only two members, Neil Trivette (current President) and Chuck Eatmon were in attendance. Even so, Neil distributed copies the groups financial statements and the groups meeting minutes. However, no business was conducted because of the low member attendance. Hopefully, next years meeting will have better member attendance.

Queens Cup Steeple Chase Event, Mineral Springs NC

At the request of COL Randy Powell, members of the OHA traveled to Mineral Springs NC and set up a "smashingly attractive" militaria display for the 2011 Queens Cup Steeple Chase event. The weather was hot, sunny and very conducive for showing our "stuff" including Jamie WWII jeep-always a crowd favorite. A NCNG team joined us with their HUMV and this year there was an Apache helo and crew on display which received a lot of crowd interest. Ken Hyatt and Kent Triplett functioned as rifle escorts for the NCNG Color Guard. To say the least, COL Powell was very pleased with our efforts and the OHA once again was able to provide quality assistance to our 30th HSBCT pals when called upon. OHA members attending were: Neil Trivette, Clint Yarbrough, Kent Triplett, Ron Crawley, Ken Hyatt, Walt Sowinski, Dan Jutson and Jamie Neal. The one and only Michelle Hyatt attended as our war correspondent / photographer and did a great job capturing the day on film-thank you Michelle.



Allison Woods WWII Weekend, Statesville, NC



The good folks at Allison's Woods planned a new event for 2011, an all WW II living history and battle. Plans called for an interpretive trail where units would set up displays for the public. Unfortunately, Mother Nature did not attend the war plan briefings and chose not to cooperate! The event was pretty much a wash out on Friday evening and things had not dried out by the time Ron, Hunter Crawley and Charlie Nobel reached the scene on Saturday morning. Hungry for food and site-seeing, the trio drove closer to town to see [Fort Dobbs](#), a French and Indian War era fortification and the only North Carolina Historic Site associated with the period.

Now I don't want to make fun of the site, but it was pretty funny, the three of us slogging around in the rain in varying states of WWII "uniformity", running alongside the entrenchments and handful of reconstructed buildings. After that, we spent about 3 hours at Chic-Fil-A waiting for a break in the weather. Returning to camp, there was no sign of life with the exception of Walt Sowinski who arrived some time earlier. Flagging down a passing vehicle, we found that everyone had moved to the location of Tom Allison's birthday

party, which we joined. Here we joined up with Bogdan and Robin Gieniewski, of the [ALLIED vs AXIS Historical Foundation, Inc.](#) Hunter and Ron had worked with this couple before but Walt was delighted to welcome another Pole to the OHA. Ethnicity aside, visit their link to learn more about them.

All settled down for the night and the next morning we were joined by Robbie Lamb (and family), Kent Triplett, and Pat Grogan. Due to the weather and the cancellation of activities the day before, the crowd was pretty light, but we seemed to have a good time in and around the foxhole that we built the evening before and the battle was small but active with one tracked vehicle on each side. Had the weather cooperated, I am sure this would have been another fine event by the Allison crowd. There will be plenty of room to expand for next time and we all look forward to September! Submitted by Ron Crawley



Latta Plantation, Huntersville, NC

The November event at Latta last year was still fresh in the minds of Charlie Nobel, Kent Triplett, Ron & Hunter Crawley and Sean Foster as we attended the larger May event this year. The guys in the 82nd AB helped to develop the event again and while it didn't match our expectations from last year, it still was a satisfying experience. One issue, while the site is very close to Charlotte and has much potential, the crowds seemed to be lighter this year. Also, there seemed to be some ambiguity about just how the demonstrations would be tied

together...Even so, Sean and Charlie led a crowd pleasing British Glider lecture and exercise, and the amphibious landing training (while out of place for inland France) was well attended. The battles on Saturday and Sunday were well executed. KT and I were surprised to see two previously disinterested OHA guys actually directing the scenario, who later were captured and then shot. What a waste of good ammo! Only Hunter and Ron remained for the second day but found much activity in the medical area and during the battle. With some improved planning and publicity, this could still be a worthwhile event for the OHA to consider because it's so close to where many of our members. live. (For more details, visit <http://lattaplantation.org/>). Submitted by Ron Crawley



Lt. James C. Dozier and the 118th Infantry



October 8, 1918 :After assuming command of G-Company, 118th Infantry at Montbrechain, Lt. James C. Dozier's unit came under attack by six German machinegun crews in advance of their line. Although wounded, Dozier signaled his men to take cover. Utilizing one of his machinegun crews to provide cover fire, Dozier outflanked and silenced the six German positions with grenades and his pistol. He and G-Company also captured 470 Germans during the battle. After receiving the Medal of Honor, Dozier's achievement was selected by the government as one of the 12 most remarkable exploits during World War I. **Painting Title: "Remarkable Dozier" Painting by: Pamela Patrick White**



DOZIER, JAMES C . Rank and Organization: First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, Company G, 118th Infantry, 30th Division. **Place and Date:** Near Montbrechain, France, 8 October 1918. **Entered Service At:** Rock Hill, S.C. **Born:** 17 February 1885, Galivants Ferry, N.C. **G. O. No.:** 16, W.D., 1919.

Citation: In command of 2 platoons, 1st. Lt. Dozier was painfully wounded in the shoulder early in the attack, but he continued to lead his men displaying the highest bravery and skill. When his command was held up by heavy machinegun fire, he disposed his men in the best cover available and with a soldier continued forward to attack a machinegun nest. Creeping up to the position in the face of intense fire, he killed the entire crew with hand grenades and his pistol and a little later captured a number of Germans who had taken refuge in a dugout nearby.



January 22, 1926: Dozier Sworn in as TAG : World War I Medal of Honor recipient James C. Dozier was sworn into office as The Adjutant General of S.C. following the unexpected death of Robert E. Craig during a National Guard Association of the U.S. conference in St. Augustine, Fla. Dozier would serve another 33 years as the Adjutant General. He is credited for rebuilding the S.C. National Guard between the world wars and during the Great Depression. He is also responsible for saving Fort Jackson by accepting custody of the facility from the War Department shortly after being sworn in. He was successful in providing work for the unemployed, as well as providing work space for his fellow Guardsmen, when he persuaded the Works Progress Administration to build 38 new armories. *Submitted by Jay Callahan*

Old Hickory Pin Up

July

<u>S</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>S</u>
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August

<u>S</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>S</u>
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			





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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 Ball Cap, Grey body w/ blue bill w/ OHA logo \$11.00 Prices do NOT include shipping. Brett says to "Order directly" from: Custom Embroidery Company 123 Wooding Ave. Danville, VA 24541 ph. 434-799-3153 Tell them you are an OHA Member.

Reproduction Items:

WWII Reproduction Rations - Complete reproduction of WW2 K ration, C ration and D bars, as well as other such accessories as Foot Powder, Charms, PK Gum, fuel tablets, batteries and much more. Catalog available. . www.angelfire.com/nc/stug or mail to:

Todd Hogan, 225 S. Melville Street, Graham, NC 27253 or you can e-mail me at -thogan@triad.rr.com

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Inquiry Line (831) 754-2351 <http://www.whatpriceglory.com/usunif.htm>



This fabulous photograph is of MP Sgt. Knox Holder, 30th Infantry Division, 117th Infantry Regiment, L Company. Mr. Holder, who currently lives in Lawrenceburg, TN, attended the recent 30th IDV of WWII reunion that was held in Nashville, TN.

Upcoming Events

July 4, 2011

Faith Forth Parade

Faith, NC

Contact: Don Shupe

July 8 -10 -2011

Defense of the Abucay

Line (Bataan 1942),

Louisa, VA

Contact: Ron Crawley

August 17 – 21, 2011

30th IDA Reunion

Ramada-Raleigh

1520 Blue Ridge Road

Raleigh, NC

Contact: Walt Sowinski

September 17, 2011

Triad Flight of Honor

Greensboro Airport

Contact: Walt Sowinski

October 15, 2011

Triad Flight of Honor

Greensboro Airport

Contact: Walt Sowinski

October 21 – 23, 2011

Honoring Our Veterans

Smith Reynolds Airport

Winston-Salem, NC

Contact: Pat Grogan

November 5, 2011

Honoring 30th Brigade

Warsaw, NC

Contact: Linda Kitchin

910-293-7804