

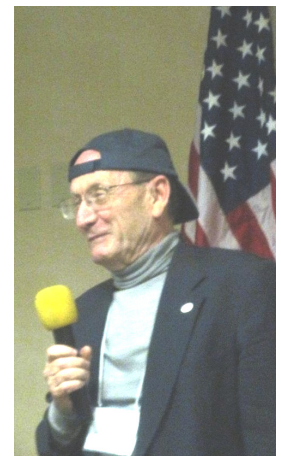
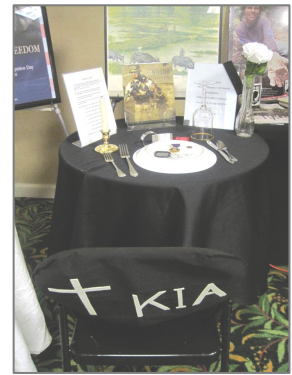


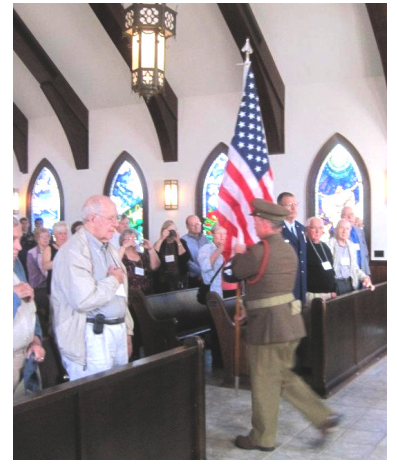
30th Infantry Division Veterans of WWII Enjoy Another Successful Reunion



The 30th Infantry Division Veterans of WWII held their annual reunion in Savannah, GA on March 26-29, 2009. Unfortunately, only two (2) Old Hickory men were able to attend the 2012 reunion and they did their best to set up a good memorabilia display, man the bar, deliver good cheer and to post the colors when asked. The "Iron Two" OHA Members who were able to attend were: Ken Hyatt and Clint Yarbrough... Shell Hyatt was a great help to the OHA and functioned as our "on-site" photographer - mucho thanks! Five other OHA members who had signed on to attend the reunion had to back to out because of medical or personal emergencies that cropped up at the last minute. It can be said that the Savannah reunion was a huge success even though OHA attendance was rather "thin." Frank Towers did express his thanks for those OHA members who did manage to attend. Frank also stated that this year's reunion actually exceeded his expectations and that the visit to and the ceremony at the 8th Air Force Museum was truly superb and most enjoyable. Maybe, with an upturn in the economy and fewer personal problems, many more OHA guys will be able to attend the 2013 reunion. **Old Hickory**

More 2012 Savannah Reunion Photos





30th Infantry Division Veterans of WWII & Holocaust Survivors Reunite In Savannah

It was a single moment in time that occurred almost 67 years ago. But for a group of people gathered in Savannah, it's a moment that will forever link their lives. Bruria Falk, Stephen Gross, Alex Larys, Micha Tomkiewicz and George Somjen were only children when they were incarcerated at the Nazi's Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in northwestern Germany. In early April 1945, they were among 2,500 Jewish prisoners placed by the Nazis on a southbound train when U.S Army troops moved in on the Magdeburg, Germany area.



While two trains carrying prisoners before theirs had made their way to other concentration camps, the train carrying Falik, Gross, Larys, Tomkiewicz and Somjen was abandoned by German soldiers near Magdeburg, Germany. That's where tank crews from the 743rd Tank Battalion — a unit attached to the 30th Infantry Division that had fought its way through France and into Germany in the months before — discovered the train and its human cargo on April 13. At the time, 27-year-old Army 1st Lt. Frank Towers was among the American officers sent to liberate the Jews aboard the train.

"This was in the middle of a battle zone with German artillery coming in and American artillery falling short," said the 94-year-old Towers on Friday. "It was determined that we had to get these people out of the area as quickly as possible. That was the job that was delegated to me — get transportation and move these 2,500 people to a town we had liberated the day before at Hillersleben." The soldiers moved the people — who were starving, filthy and on the brink of death — to a hospital in that town. "I made two round trips to get all of these people moved back to Hillersleben," he said. "At that point I virtually said goodbye to them — told them they're in good hands and left."

Decades went by before Towers even thought about the event. It was a war, he said, it wasn't something he wanted to dwell on. But in 2005, Towers — who is currently the president of the 30th Infantry Division Association — was introduced to a website run by Matt Rozell, a history teacher in upstate New York, called TeachingHistoryMatters.com. There, Towers discovered accounts of his own story of liberating the train full of Jewish prisoners. "That's my story," Towers said of finding the website. "It wasn't exactly my story, really. But my story ran parallel to that. From that point on Matt and I started collaborating to locate more and more of the survivors."

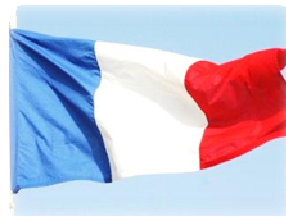
To date, Towers said he's met about 60 of the survivors — he estimates there could be up to 250 still living — including the five who joined 13 surviving members of the 30th Infantry Division — a National Guard unit of soldiers from Georgia, North and South Carolina and Tennessee that served in both World Wars before being deactivated in November 1945 — in Savannah Friday. "It's a rewarding experience to talk to these people," Towers said. "It's been astounding. To think I had a small part to play in their liberation and getting them started on a new road to life — to see them today, where they are, that's been my reward."

And, said the survivors, it's equally as rewarding for them to get the chance to say "thank you" to the men who saved their lives. "For me it's fascinating," said Tomkiewicz, now 72 and living in Brooklyn, N.Y. "I knew that American soldiers saved us from the train, but for almost 60 years that was all I knew. "Suddenly the whole thing has converted to real faces, to real people, to drinking buddies, very pleasant people.

And now we are actually like family; what a great opportunity." Without the soldiers like Towers, said Falik, now 80 years old and living in Woodstock, N.Y., she and the other survivors would not be alive today. "It's such a focal point in my life because I have two wonderful children," Falik said. "They are here because of these 30th Infantry Division veterans who saved us. I can never forget that."



France Salutes 10 North Carolina WWII Veterans



Consul General of France in Atlanta Pascal Le Deunff, left, presents Edward Middleton, 92, of Fayetteville with the Legion of Honor medal. Middleton was a 1st Lieutenant with the 30th Infantry Division and received a Bronze Star. Ed was one of ten North Carolina servicemen the French government celebrated, men who fought in France during World War II, with the Legion of Honor medal. The ceremony took place in the Old House Chamber of the State Capitol building in Raleigh on Tuesday, February 28, 2012.

RALEIGH: For six decades, they have felt their own nation's gratitude for their service during World War II. On Tuesday, 10 veterans from North Carolina were showered with the thanks of the country whose people they had risked their lives to free.

In a ceremony at the old State Capitol building, with their wives, children, and great-grandchildren looking on, they stood when their names were called, just as they had as young recruits or draftees whose government needed their strength all those years before. But this time, it was to be recognized for their valor and get inducted as knights – chevaliers – into the French Legion of Honor. “Gentleman, you are true heroes,” Pascal Le Deunff, the consul general of France in Atlanta, told the men before he pinned red-ribboned medals on their breasts. “You will be our heroes forever. We the French will never forget what you did to restore our freedom.” Le Deunff said his own grandfather, a member of the French resistance, was killed by German forces during the war. “He would have loved to meet you,” he said.

Founded by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the National Order of the Legion of Honor recognizes service to the French republic. In presenting the award, Le Deunff was acting on behalf of French President Nicolas Sarkozy. To be eligible for the award, a veteran must have fought on French territory in one or more of the four main campaigns of the liberation of France: Normandy, Southern France, Northern France and the Ardennes. The award is given only to living veterans. In recent years, French government representatives have presented hundreds of the awards to former American service members. Le Deunff said he holds at least one such ceremony a week somewhere around the country, in an effort to cite as many eligible veterans as possible. Honors have been bestowed in recent weeks at ceremonies in Washington, D.C., Virginia, Ohio and Indiana.

Tuesday's ceremony honored Frank Everett, Edward Middleton, Donald Bertino and William Steele of Fayetteville; Harold Shook of Cary; Graham Somers of Charlotte; Ralph Logan of Winston-Salem; John Worthington of Pink Hill; Billy Brown Olive of Durham; and Robert Patton of Chapel Hill. Patton (no relation to Gen. George Patton, in whose Army he would later serve) was a student at Davidson College, just four credit hours short of graduating, when he was called up in 1943. “I became a machine gunner, which doesn't have a life expectancy in combat but for a short period of time,” Patton recalled. The Army also needed typists, and the piano-playing Patton had fast fingers on a keyboard so he was made the company clerk. Later, he was moved to his infantry unit's battalion headquarters to serve as the operations sergeant.

His unit arrived in Europe in January 1945. They were supposed to meet their advance party in England, but while they were crossing the Atlantic, they were ordered to land in France instead, where they were needed in battle. Expecting to be resupplied in England, they arrived in France with only a day's rations and lived for the next couple of weeks on bread they were able to buy from the French people, whose supplies also were strained. “We bought all the bread in about 25 miles of Le Havre,” Patton said. “The French people helped us survive.”

As operations sergeant, Patton's job included typing up orders and he was always situated near the front lines. He was named battalion commander while his unit prepared to push across the Siegfried Line, the German defensive line of tunnels, tank traps and bunkers that stretched 390 miles along Germany's western border. As battalion commander, his job was no longer to transmit the orders, but to give them.

His performance one night on the Siegfried Line earned Patton a Bronze Star, which led in part to his Legion of Honor induction. His commander told Patton to order the battalion to move; they needed to pick up everything and travel, in the dark, to become the first assault unit to cross the defensive line and into Germany. "I had to call in a lot of lieutenants who were in charge of supply, ammunition, artillery, the mortar people, everybody, and tell them to move," he said. A few lieutenants balked. One said flat-out he would not go and neither would his men. Patton cast a glance at the phone, which only he knew wasn't working, and asked the lieutenant, "Why don't you call the commander and tell him you're not going?" "He looked at the phone, looked back at me and said, 'What time did you say you want me to move out?'" Patton sent the minesweepers ahead of the rest of the forces to make sure the road was safe. Several hundred men traveled 10 miles that night, without losing a single one, arriving at a German village at daybreak. "That's when the Siegfried Line began to crumble and fall apart," Patton said.



All the men cited Tuesday performed similarly, doing what at the time seemed just part of their jobs. They broke through German defenses, flew bombing missions targeting German industrial sites, military equipment and airports, freed French citizens from German concentration camps, and pushed German forces out of French cities and towns. They suffered frostbite and hunger. They got injured, treated, and then were sent back to fight again. They saw friends die. Just as they were allies then, Le Deunff said, France and America are allies now, only with terrorists as a common enemy. Values the two countries share, he said, serve as a moral compass for each. "Long live the United States," Le Deunff said, "and Vive la France." *Article by Martha Quillin, News & Observer, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012.*

OHA ASSISTS AT THE 38th ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA ARMY & AIR NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY BALL

OHA members received numerous thank you's and expressions of appreciation for our attendance at the NCNG Mil Ball which was held at the Sheraton Hotel here in Greensboro on 31 March. Our good friend COL Clif Wilkins had suggested our inclusion to the NCNG planning team and asked if we would also set up a select historical militaria display for the guests viewing pleasure. Needless to say, the OHA regarded the opportunity to serve as a huge honor and we made every effort to deliver on their request and expectations. LT Sean Daily's event planning team stated objective for the NCNG Mil Ball was to tie the history of the past to the history being made by the NCNG today. The 30th ID can trace its lineage in NC back to the Rev War and it has been a part of the NCNG history since NC became a state. OHA members Jay Callaham, Pat Grogan, Dan Jutson, Neil Trivette, Walt Sowinski, Aaron Clark, Charlie Noble and Ken Hyatt wore various period WWI & WWII uniforms to underscore the NCNG traditions of service over many years. Jay Callaham, who was kitted out in his WWI doughboy uniform, performed as the events featured Mil Ball event bugler. All in all, it can be said that we were all very proud to work shoulder to shoulder with the NCNG team as they introduced the attending dignitaries and executed the program's agenda. We also enjoyed being able to visit with and to rub elbows with our NCNG buddies MG Lusk, COL Wilkins, LTC Morrison, MAJ Walls, CAPT Hinton, CAPT Jones as well as meeting some new pals like LTC Carver and LT Daily. A good time was had by all. **Old Hickory.**



Old Hickory Pin Up

May

<u>S</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>S</u>
		1	2	3	4	5
6	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		

June

<u>S</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>S</u>
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30





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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

World War II Impressions – U.S. Army uniforms and accessories. Catalog available.

7165 Adwen Street, Downey, CA 90241 Fax and Phone – (562) 927-6922

Email at – www.wiiimpressions.com/contact.htm

What Price Glory – Reproduction uniforms and accessories. No Catalog available.

238-A Commission Street, Salinas, CA 93901 Toll Free Order Line) – (888) 431-2351

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



For those of you who didn't make it to the Camp Bogdan event, you missed a very enjoyable time. Maybe we didn't look exactly like the photo above but the guys did get in some basic training as well as some quality "trigger time." Ron Crawley, Brian Illner and Charlie Noble did a fantastic job to make the OHA's training / tactical at Camp Bogdan a big success. The weather was mostly cooperative and the rain only came late on the Saturday afternoon and in the late evening. The highly regarded " Death From Within" mess crew of Ken Hyatt, Walt Sowinski and Chuck Eatmon were able to provide some hot chow for the gang. Bogdan Gieniewski and Ben Lefevre provided some extremely effective tactical training experience for the OHA riflemen when they put their training into good use in the field. Those of us who helped to plan this event were encouraged by what came about. We sincerely believe that this was the first of more to come training and tactical events for a reinvigorated OHA calendar. Lastly, we extend a huge **thank you** to Bogdan and Robin Gieniewski for their gracious, helpful assistance and for allowing us to "invade" their property to conduct this event. We hope to see you at the next event.

Upcoming Events

May 4- 6 – 2012 Latta Plantation,
Huntersville, NC
Contact: Ron Crawley

May 25 - 27– 2012 - Military Timeline,
Kings Mountain National Battlefield
Park, Kings Mtn., SC
Contact: Ron Crawley

May 26 – 2012 – Memorial Day
Memorial Day Celebration
Thomasville, NC
Contact: Jay Callahan

May 28– 2012 – Memorial Day
Memorial Day Parade
Thomasville, NC
Contact: Jay Callahan

June 2 – 2012

OHA Business Meeting
NC State Fairgrounds-noon
Raleigh, NC
Contact: Neil Trivette

June TBD –

Price of Freedom Museum,
China Grove, NC
Contact: Don Shupe

June 1-3 - 2012

Reading Airshow
Reading, PA
Contact: Ken Hyatt

June 30 - 2012

Troutman 4th Parade
Troutman, NC
Contact: Don Shupe



Official OHA Ballot

Time To Vote for OHA Board of Directors

Candidates: The following members have agreed to stand for election for the Board of Directors: **Jay Callaham, Charlie Noble, Clint Yarbrough, Ron Crawley, Brian Illner and Pat Grogan.** Each member who has chosen to stand for election to the Board has been asked to submit a brief statement describing his qualifications and or reasons for wanting to serve on the Board. Candidate provided qualification statements are included for your review.

Ballot: A ballot with the eligible candidate names for election to the Board is hereby provided for your use. All ballots must be postmarked either by "snail mail or e-mail" to Neil Trivette **no later than May 29, 2012.**

Election Results Notification: Notification of the election results will be given at the Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday June 2, 2012 and will also be published in the 2012 July / August newsletter.

HERE ARE THE OHA MEMBERS RUNNING FOR ELECTION TO THE OHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Select and Mark Five (5) Names From The List Below.

Jay Callaham

Pat Grogan

Brian Illner

Charlie Noble

Clint Yarbrough

Ron Crawley

Snail mail or e-mail your completed ballot to:

Neil Trivette

4021 River Road

Boonville, NC 27011

ntrivette@triad.rr.com

CANDIDATE PROVIDED QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

JAY CALLAHAM: I appreciate the honor of again being nominated to the Board of the OHA, and humbly accept that nomination. My credentials are as follows:

Reenactor - Since 1965 with experience ranking from private soldier/bugler to Force Commander. I've organized events at local, regional, and national levels. I've formed and commanded units in multiple time periods. I have held national and regional office in various reenactment organizations. Currently, I'm serving as Inspector of the Southern Department of the Brigade of the American Revolution.

Business – I've held management positions in multi-national corporations. I've also started and managed my own home-based consulting business. I understand how business works.

Professional – I've held state-wide office in the North Carolina Telecommunications Association, as Board Member, President, and Chairman. I chaired the Technical and Liaison Committee for a decade, and served on numerous boards and focus groups.

Fraternal – I'm past presiding officer of various levels of Freemasonry, from Master of my Lodge (twice) to Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters in North Carolina. I've also been asked to serve a three-year term in office for the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons International. I'm a past District Commander in the Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of North Carolina. I've held many other presiding offices in various Masonic bodies. That list is lengthy, and relatively meaningless to non-Masons. I'm also a Kentucky Colonel (from my time at Fort Knox)!

Military – I served in the US Army in 1971-72 as an Armor officer. From 1972 – 1982 I was an officer in the NC National Guard, actually serving in the 30th Division (1st BN, 252nd Armor, and Troop E, 196th CAV) until it was reduced in 1974. From 1982 – 1996, I was an officer in the US Army Reserve, being transferred to the Retired Reserve as a Major. I understand leadership at all levels and have demonstrated that I am both a team player and team leader.

Historical – I have a BA in History and Political Science. I've studied military history since I learned to read – all eras. I collect bugles and donate time as a Taps bugler via Bugles Across America, a volunteer organization formed to provide live buglers for military funerals, in lieu of the cheesy "digital bugles" or worse "boom-box" recordings that the government has cut back to. I also collect material pertaining to the Great War/World War I, with emphasis on items related to the 30th Division. I've consulted for museums and have provided research materials for a number of historical publications, as well as doing presentations to historical groups and museum organizations. I've also done consulting for documentary film productions ranging from local productions to beer commercials, to "Battlefield Detectives," to Penn & Teller's "Bullshit" show on Gun Control, to the movie "THE PATRIOT" (which really WAS BS!). I belong to a number of historical study and chat organizations. I've also recently been appointed to the North Carolina WWI Centennial Committee.

Vision: We have, in the OHA, an organization that works. We have a good mix of impressions and activities in support of the underlying goal of commemorating the service of the combat soldiers of "Old Hickory," regardless of the war in which they served.

Changes: I really would not advocate changing much. The OHA model clearly works. It ain't broke. WWII commemoration is our strong foundation. Since I joined the OHA, we have expanded our vision to the Great War origins of the 30th Division as well as to fully supporting the current warriors of the 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team. We simply should continue to build on our existing organization in a logical and unified way. Thank you again for your consideration. If elected, I'll do my best for you.

Ron Crawley: I have been involved in military reenacting and other volunteer work with non-profit groups (primarily focused on historical preservation and interpretation) since the early 90's. I have held a variety of board and other leadership positions including Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Event Coordinator, Webmaster, Unit Commander, Event POC, and the "lowly" member/line soldier. My involvement in WWII reenacting began in 2006 when I joined the OHA, but I have an interest in the period that goes back to my work with Camp Croft, creating the Camp Croft Homepage and hosting veteran reunions and other events celebrating the history of the camp and honoring the "ex-Crofters". I have a passion for recognizing the contributions of our soldiers and I also enjoy reenacting the American soldier at battle reenactments and living history events. As a board member, I would like to see the board focus on: 1) continuing our support of 30th Division veteran events, 2) recruitment, 3) improved training for new and experienced members, 4) adding more reenactments to our list of max effort events, and 5) establishing an OHA reenactor event ... more or less in that order. Creating and distributing a recruiting kit and rebuilding the old "Camp-Butner-style" training weekend would be two things I would like to help with immediately. No matter who serves as a directors, the board will continue to need input from the membership. While direction will come from the board, ideas will need to come from everyone! Thanks for your consideration, Ron Crawley

Clint Yarbrough: Thank you for the Nomination to the Board of Directors. I have been a member of the Old Hickory Association pretty much since its beginning. I have served on Board of Directors as well as several other committees such as marksman, display and tactical. The Old Hickory Association is a great organization and I think it will only get better. My vision for the future of the OHA is one of maintaining to be the premier reenacting group in this area. I am dedicated in accomplishing this task. I think we can continue to accomplish this by keeping out authenticity standards high, building and expanding our impressions, and adding to our displays. I know all members participate only to the amount they want and are able to but I want to encourage all members to go the extra distance. I would like to be in a place that I can continue to assist in guiding the group of carrying on its mission of preserving the legacy of the 30th Infantry Division. Most of you know me and I hope my track record speaks for itself. Thank you for this opportunity. Clint Yarbrough

Charlie Noble: I am coming up on 10 years of membership in the OHA and feel that I have enough behind me to fulfill my obligation as a member and serve on the board. "Back in the day" the OHA was known far and wide for its professionalism and skill at both displays and reenactments. In the past several years I feel that has gone by the wayside and we have become complacent with just being there and being good enough, like everyone else. I personally feel it is time to get back to our roots and get back to being "THAT GROUP" that everyone talks about. Reenacting is more popular than ever in North Carolina, and we cannot keep plodding along like we are if we expect to last long as a group. I think I can successfully help guide us back into the premier reenacting and living history group and really let it be known that the OHA is going to stick around and be "THAT GROUP" for a very long time. Charlie

Brian Illner: I am flattered by the nomination for a second term and humbly accept it. I have been a member of OHA since late 2006. I've participated in several events each year, and most recently, served as Secretary of the OHA and a Board Member. Locally, I have volunteered for several years with the Spartanburg County Historical Association. I am also a charter member of the Military History Club of the Carolinas, the local MVPA chapter. My vision is to continue the path to a more engaged and active membership. With this great core of members we should be able to support a variety of events and inspire participation from everyone. I'd like to see a return to more tactical and training events. It is at these very events that we gain and practice the skills that gave OHA its reputation and serve us so well at the living history and honor guard details we often have the privilege and honor of attending. As the majority of WW2 vets leave us and the number of their reunions grow shorter still, it will soon fall to us to keep their stories and history alive for people. We mustn't lose sight of why we joined in the first place. Brian Illner

Pat Grogan: With humble gratitude, I welcome and accept my nomination as a candidate as a Member of the Old Hickory Association Board. For those who have known me since my joining the association in 2007 I hope that I have lived up to the standards of the group in every way. The members who are not familiar with my background, please let me provide a brief description of my background.

I have been involved with historical preservation and military history groups since I joined the Experimental Aircraft Association in 1988 as a general member and their Warbirds group. Later on I became involved with the Confederate Air Force in 1996 where I was deeply involved with the restoration of a WWII USN patrol bomber. Through this group I was able to meet many WWII and other veterans and was awestruck by all of the dedication to our country. Shortly thereafter I joined a previous WWII reenacting group where I served as Treasurer for our 30+ members. I was very much involved in many events including living history displays, public battles and tacticals. When I relocated to North Carolina in 2007 I reviewed several potential groups but chose the OHA and became a member. Since that time I've attended several events every year and I look forward to representing the OHA in the future.

If I am elected to the OHA Board, I look forward to using my capabilities to help the Association grow, expand our educational outreach and to try to make more 30th Division Veterans more knowledgeable of our Mission so that we can do more to honor those and current Veterans and their families. I take it as a personal honor that I am allowed to represent the OHA at these events and look forward to doing so as long as I am able. Respectfully submitted, Pat Grogan