HALE AND Farewell NATIONAL Reunion

NOT Farewell OR GOOD-BYE, JUST CIAO!
Irene and John Duffy (86-HQ-2)

As we complete our National Association term of office, here is just a note to each one to convey our thanks for a wonderful six years. It was great being able to serve the membership. Irene and I had some very enjoyable times traveling around the country to the various chapters to meet and greet so many veterans and their families. Just being with you was delightful and allowed us to briefly forget the chores that had to be accomplished to run an organization of this magnitude and complexity.

We concluded that the Denver Reunion was a crowning touch. So many veterans expressed their appreciation for our teams’ efforts. It was truly a warming experience to hear their sentiments and to receive so many accolades for a job well done. The various presentations we received are treasures, and especially the acknowledgment from the Descendants’ organization in the form of a beautiful plaque. Also, our thanks to those few who could not make it to Denver but mailed notes expressing their gratitude. Such gestures are very much appreciated. We had a great team of men and women to help us with all the various functions and activities. I thank this marvelous team and many other members and families who extended a hand over the years. I am confident that all of them join me in wishing Mike and his Executive Committee all the best for a successful three years.

As Bob Hope’s byline was “Thanks for the memories,” so too we say, “Thanks for the cherished memories” that we now have to enjoy and reflect upon. God willing we will be around to sit in the back of the 2009 Italy tour bus and say Bon Giorno and CIAO!

Sempre Avanti

DON’T THINK OF US AS OLD
DON’T THINK OF US AS BOLD
THINK OF WHAT WE DID
THINK OF HOW WE LIVED
NOW IT’S TIME TO SAY “ADIEU”
WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER
WE’LL SKI THERE TOO.

Anonymous
(with thanks to George Loudis)

Irene Duffy

John Duffy (86-HQ-2)

Charley Mace and Phil Powers of the American Alpine Club re-enacted Steve Knowlton’s Brown Palace Hotel descent in 1943-44 by rappelling six floors in the atrium at the Marriott Tech Center Hotel.

Nelson Bennett (MTG, 87-I) and Charley Mace. Both Charley and Phil Powers have been on top of K-2; Charley has also climbed Mt. Everest.

Oldest and youngest at 87th Regiment Dinner: George Earle (87-HQ), 93, and Talon Williams-Capoeman, 7

Jacques Parker (86-C) with his Ski Trooper Banner in hotel atrium.

Christoph and Herb Schneider (86-HQ).

85-K group, l to r: Hans Thompson, Don Todd, Moril Wuerslin, Chuck Hauptman (in back), Bob Yank, Norm Ehrngott, Ozzie Hitt, Merrill Clark.
Published by and for Members of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.

Editorial material and photographs should be clearly marked with the sender’s name and address. No photograph will be returned unless specifically requested. All material should be sent to Felicity Hallanan, Blizzards Editor, 95 Zalber Tract, Sandy Creek, NY 13145. Opinions expressed in this publication reflect those of the Magnificent Soldiers of the 10th and do not necessarily conform to acumen or normative standards. Editorial access to the right to rewrite, refashion or request revisions is submitted for publication. For consultation purposes, the editor may be reached at 315-387-2929 or email windthall@aol.com. Members should also feel free to contact National President Mike Plummer at 315-782-4178 or email plummike@aol.com. Subscription rate for nonmembers: $20.00 per year.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc., consists of the Chairman of the Board, National President, National Treasurer, National Secretary, National Executive Committee Members, the Blizzards editor, the Executive Director, the Quartermaster, the President of the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, the President of the 10th Mountain Division Descendants, and two members at large who may be identified by the President. (Article IV, Section 2, National By-Laws, National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, Inc.)

**NATIONAL OFFICERS**

Chairman of the Board
John Weaver
10 Soundview Gardens, # A
Port Washington, NY 11050

President* 
Mike Plummer
121 Paddock Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Senior V.P.*
Steve Coffey
1630 York Hills Lane
Reston, VA 20194

Secretary*
Gil Pearsall
837 State Street
Carthage, NY 13619

V.P. Programs
Al Condo
3424 Ivy Lane
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Treasurer*
Daniel Murphy, CPA
7 Gage Road
Bedford, NH 03110

Quartermaster*
Frank Thornton
152 Maple Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Art Director
Charles D. Hunt
410 Redonda Drive
Greenville, SC 29617

Members Chair
Ken Lopez
128 Mill Creek Lane
Sackets Harbor, NY 13685

Webmaster*
David Little
1198 Thornbury Place
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Executive Director*
Craig Boss
8680 Olmstead Road
Lowville, NY 13362

Presidents Emeriti
Earl E. Clark
M.N. “Mac” McKenzie
Hugh Evans
Arthur F. Muschler†
Paul J. Gunderman
Dean Carmichael
Nate Morrell
John J. Duffy

Editors
Felicity Hallanan
Steve Coffey
Mike Plummer
Felicity Hallanan
Nate Morrell
David Little

**CHAPTER PRESIDENTS**

Arizona
H. Philip Lieberman
4119 W. Hayward Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85310

Armadillo
Jack Davis
8508 Quebec
San Antonio, TX 78239

Big Sky
Jim Walsh
P.O. Box 305
Stanford, MT 59479

Delaware River Valley
Patricia Thornton
112 Maple Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Fort Drum
Mike Plummer
121 Paddock Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Lower Michigan
Harrison Coleman
43000 12 Oaks Crescent
Unit 503
Novi, MI 48377

Metropolitan New York
Jay Charles
20 Stuyvesant Oval
Apartment 4B
New York, NY 10009

**ARIZONA**

Chairman of the Board
John Weaver
10 Soundview Gardens, # A
Port Washington, NY 11050

President
Mike Plummer
121 Paddock Street
Watertown, NY 13601

Senior V.P.
Steve Coffey
1630 York Hills Lane
Reston, VA 20194

Secretary
Gil Pearsall
837 State Street
Carthage, NY 13619

V.P. Programs
Al Condo
3424 Ivy Lane
Newtown Square, PA 19073

Treasurer
Daniel Murphy, CPA
7 Gage Road
Bedford, NH 03110

Quartermaster
Frank Thornton
152 Maple Avenue
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

Art Director
Charles D. Hunt
410 Redonda Drive
Greenville, SC 29617

Webmaster
David Little
1198 Thornbury Place
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Executive Director
Craig Boss
8680 Olmstead Road
Lowville, NY 13362

Nevada
Michael Plummer (10th Lt., Ret.), served for 31 years in the U.S. Army. He entered the Army from West Point in 1960 and served in a variety of command and staff assignments, from platoon leader to Assistant Division Commander. Mike had two tours in Vietnam, as an advisor in 1963, and as a company commander in the 101st Airborne Division from 1965-66. His last tour of duty in 1991 was with the 10th Mountain Division (Lt) at Ft. Drum, NY, where he was Chief of Staff, Brigade Commander and Assistant Division Commander for Support. Mike has been Executive Director of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division for the past nine years, and since 2001 has been responsible for developing and implementing the Association’s Strategic Plan. He is president of the Association’s Ft. Drum Chapter.

**MIKE PLUMMER, ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

Mike Plummer at Kuwait/Iraqi border, May 2003, while under contract to develop a postwar plan to work with the Iraqi Armed Forces.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mike Plummer, 10th Mtr. Div. (Lt)

Thank you for electing me to be the president of the National Association of the 10th Mtr. Div., Inc. I appreciate your support and the opportunity to serve you and our Association in the months ahead. The nine years I served as the Association’s Executive Director have been a great experience and hopefully, will help me in my new role.

I assumed the position from John Duffy on 1 November. His six years of dedicated leadership have prepared the way for an orderly transition from the WWII veterans’ leadership to their descendants and the 10th Mtr. Div. (Lt) veterans’ leadership. A special thanks to him and his top team for the seamless transition they ensured for all the members of your new Executive Committee.

The EXCOM’s focus over the next three years will be to:

1. Edit the perpetuation of the 10th Mountain Division Association by:
   - Providing an orderly evolution that capitalizes on the experience of all members.
   - Expanding the general membership.
   - Continuing to grow our future leadership.
   - Continuing the implementation of the National Association’s Strategic Plan.

2. Support the efforts of the descendants as they pick up the responsibility for the historical legacy of the WWII 10th Mountain Division.

3. Continue to be good stewards of our financial resources.

4. Continue to support the valuable work done by the Denver Resource Center.

5. Continue to support the Ten- th Mountain Division Foundation.

6. Maintain our present relationship with the IFMS.

In order to keep us on track, Vice President Steve Coffey is heading up a committee to update our Strategic Plan. Included in it will be our goals, objectives and key actions that define our Strategic Direction and “what” we must do; “who” will do it; “when” it is going to be completed; and “the cost” to get it done. The updated plan should be in your hands for review and comment in the 1st quarter 2008 and published not later than 2nd quarter 2008.

Periodic reports to the Association’s Board of Directors on progress towards goal accomplishment will ensure accountability and allow for midcourse corrections, if required. Progress depends upon your continued support and concentrated effort to attract and retain as members some of the over 100,000 10th Mountain Division (Light) alumni who are living throughout the United States of America. There is nothing more important to the future of our Association than attracting and retaining new members.

I look forward to working with you and hearing from you. Contact me anytime at plummike@aol.com.

Chairman of the Board
John Weaver
10th Mtr. Div. WWII

President
Mike Plummer
10th Mtr. Div. (Lt)

Vice President
Steve Coffey
Descendant

Secretary
Gil Pearsall
10th Mtr. Div. (Lt)

Treasurer
Dan Murphy
Descendant

Executive Director
Craig Boss
10th Mtr. Div. (Lt)

Quartermaster
Frank Thornton
Descendant

Editor
Felicity Hallanan
Friend of the 10th

Webmaster
David Little
Honorary

**MIKE PLUMMER, ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT**

Michael T. Plummer (10th Lt. Ret.), served for 31 years in the U.S. Army. He entered the Army from West Point in 1960 and served in a variety of command and staff assignments, from platoon leader to Assistant Division Commander. Mike had two tours in Vietnam, as an advisor in 1963, and as a company commander in the 101st Airborne Division from 1965-66. His last tour of duty in 1991 was with the 10th Mountain Division (Lt) at Ft. Drum, NY, where he was Chief of Staff, Brigade Commander and Assistant Division Commander for Support. Mike has been Executive Director of the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division for the past nine years, and since 2001 has been responsible for developing and implementing the Association’s Strategic Plan. He is president of the Association’s Ft. Drum Chapter.
Sally Fricke Oesterling (SIS 87-HQ-3)

In my first issue as editor I stated that it is an honor to be editor of the Blizzard. I feel exactly the same way now, six years and 21 issues later. I’ve been fortunate to have met many veterans and descendants, and to have experienced two unforgettable Italy tours. I thank all of you for your contributions — I never once ran out of material, which is an editor’s dream. I thank John Duffy and John Imble for their unfailing assistance and input, and Pete Naylor for his bold and effective editing.

For this issue, I thank photographers Carl Peterson, Richard Rogers, Grace Yank, Sam Morrison, Felicity Hallanan, and especially Barry Gutierrez and Bob Chavez of the talented crew that is putting together the soon-to-be-published Hale and Farewell Reunion Book. Their superb photos and detailed captions move me to sincerely urge people to purchase the Reunion Book as a memento of a glorious National Reunion that was truly one for the books.

I leave the Blizzard in the capable hands of Felicity Hallanan and her assistant Evelyn Rie. To echo John Duffy’s words, “Ciao, but not Goodbye,” and a warm “Grazie” to all of you.

Felicity Hallanan (Friend of the 10th)

Introductions at the National Reunion in Denver were generally followed by phrases like, “Wow, you’re in for a big job!” or “Thanks for taking it on — it’s a lot of work, you know.” Having now met many members of the Association and begun to review past editions of the “Blizzard” as well as worked with your editor, I am realizing the truth of those words. Sally Oesterling and her team will be a tough act to follow. At the same time, the story of the military and especially of the 10th Mountain Division is one I have pursued with great enthusiasm and occasional panic. Assisted by a number of dedicated volunteers, they created an experience that, judging from feedback received, proved to be a tremendous hit with veterans and descendants. Nearly forty percent of reunion attendees, eight bus loads, made the trek from the reunion hotel into downtown Denver to get a first-hand look at the processes and procedures used by the Resource Center to preserve and protect the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division’s World War II veterans.

And how that legacy grew as a result of the reunion! Abbie Kealy and Myrna Hampton contributed more than 60 oral history interviews conducted during the reunion. Dennis acquired close to two-dozen manuscript donations at the hotel’s Resource Center room, while he busily demonstrated the 10th Mountain Division database for a huge number of veterans and descendants. As a result, the Resource Center has already received more individual donations of letters, photographs, memorabilia, artwork, oral histories and personal papers in 2007 than in all of 2005 and 2006 combined. In January 2007, the Resource Center reported 907 individual donors. Today, that number has jumped to over 970. And, at the beginning of the year the Resource Center had formally inventoried 150 individual collections. That number today is nearly 260. 2007 has been an incredibly rewarding year for the Resource Center, thanks to the generous support of many dedicated veterans and descendants. We hope this trend continues.

In conjunction with the National Reunion, the Denver Public Library created a large exhibition of over 100 photographs. They range in size from about 11 x 14 to 18 x 24 and are mounted on black foam core board. These photos are available to veterans for a minimal charge of $10.00 each plus $6.00 postage and handling. They make wonderful Christmas gifts. To obtain a thumbnail listing of all the photos for sale and the library’s catalogue number to view the photographs online, contact Dennis Hagen as soon as possible. Only one display copy of each photo is available at this special price, and orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For documentary material, contact:
Dennis Hagen, Archivist • 10th Mountain Division Resource Center
The Denver Public Library • 10 West 14th Avenue Parkway • Denver, CO 80204-2731 • (720) 865-1812 • Email: dhagen@denverlibrary.org

For artifacts, contact:
Moya Hansen, Curator • 10th Mountain Division Resource Center
Colorado Historical Society • 1300 Broadway • Denver, CO 80203-2137
(303) 866-4697 • Email: Moya.Hansen@chs.state.co.us

When reunion chairman Hugh Evans (85-A,C) asked the Resource Center to draft a plan to provide behind-the-scenes tours of the Resource Center for 400 people, Moya Hansen and Dennis Hagen figured he was stretching things a bit. Nevertheless, they tackled his request with great enthusiasm and occasional panic. Assisted by a number of dedicated volunteers, they created an experience that, judging from feedback received, proved to be a tremendous hit with veterans and descendants. Nearly forty percent of reunion attendees, eight bus loads, made the trek from the reunion hotel into downtown Denver to get a first-hand look at the processes and procedures used by the Resource Center to preserve and protect the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division’s World War II veterans.

And how that legacy grew as a result of the reunion! Abbie Kealy and Myrna Hampton contributed more than 60 oral history interviews conducted during the reunion. Dennis acquired close to two-dozen manuscript donations at the hotel’s Resource Center room, while he busily demonstrated the 10th Mountain Division database for a huge number of veterans and descendants. As a result, the Resource Center has already received more individual donations of letters, photographs, memorabilia, artwork, oral histories and personal papers in 2007 than in all of 2005 and 2006 combined. In January 2007, the Resource Center reported 907 individual donors. Today, that number has jumped to over 970. And, at the beginning of the year the Resource Center had formally inventoried 150 individual collections. That number today is nearly 260. 2007 has been an incredibly rewarding year for the Resource Center, thanks to the generous support of many dedicated veterans and descendants. We hope this trend continues.

In conjunction with the National Reunion, the Denver Public Library created a large exhibition of over 100 photographs. They range in size from about 11 x 14 to 18 x 24 and are mounted on black foam core board. These photos are available to veterans for a minimal charge of $10.00 each plus $6.00 postage and handling. They make wonderful Christmas gifts. To obtain a thumbnail listing of all the photos for sale and the library’s catalogue number to view the photographs online, contact Dennis Hagen as soon as possible. Only one display copy of each photo is available at this special price, and orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For documentary material, contact:
Dennis Hagen, Archivist • 10th Mountain Division Resource Center
The Denver Public Library • 10 West 14th Avenue Parkway • Denver, CO 80204-2731 • (720) 865-1812 • Email: dhagen@denverlibrary.org

For artifacts, contact:
Moya Hansen, Curator • 10th Mountain Division Resource Center
Colorado Historical Society • 1300 Broadway • Denver, CO 80203-2137
(303) 866-4697 • Email: Moya.Hansen@chs.state.co.us

For documentary material, contact:
Dennis Hagen, Archivist • 10th Mountain Division Resource Center
The Denver Public Library • 10 West 14th Avenue Parkway • Denver, CO 80204-2731 • (720) 865-1812 • Email: dhagen@denverlibrary.org

For artifacts, contact:
Moya Hansen, Curator • 10th Mountain Division Resource Center
Colorado Historical Society • 1300 Broadway • Denver, CO 80203-2137
(303) 866-4697 • Email: Moya.Hansen@chs.state.co.us
NATIONAL REUNION: A GREAT SUCCESS
Howard Koch (86-C)

It was marvelous, super, great, all those adjectives and more. Some of the outstanding contributors included members of the Rocky Mountain chapter who organized and oversaw the whole event; Quartermaster Frank Thornton and his volunteers; Abbie Kealy and Myrna Hampton and their crew who recorded veterans' oral histories; Mike Myers and his fine collection of equipment we used some 65 years ago; Denise Taylor (Descendant Quartermaster) who was in charge of TLC for any attendees requiring medical care (some of us needed it — Denver is the mile-high city); and David Little with his Living History Display Group on site at the Hotel. George Loudis (86-H) was in charge of arrangements with the Hotel Marriott at the Denver Tech Center, which turned out to be the perfect place for the reunion, with lots of space for people to get together.

There was a 10th Mountain Division Foundation meeting on July 31, presided over by Gary Burton in the absence of President Tom Hames whose mother was ill. Most of the Foundation Board is now comprised of descendants, and their contributions were significant. Earl Clark (87-HQ-1) and Hugh Evans (85-A,C), who remain on the Board, performed great services as emcees for various events during the reunion (and we know they can sing because they know all the words). At the Association Board meeting on August 1st by-laws were amended to open up the Association to new members and potential officers. The very important matter of the new administration of the Association was resolved with the election of Mike Plummer (10 L.L., Ret.) as President. His slate is comprised of many descendants and a new editor of the Blizzard. Sally Fricke Oesterling, outgoing editor of the Blizzard, was thanked profusely by the Board for her excellent publication, and reunion participants gave her a rousing three cheers in both banquet rooms.

The 10th Mountain Division descendants were the majority in attendance, and included past presidents Kate Raabe and Pat Thornton. There was a party Thursday evening, an open forum for information and discussion on Friday led by descendant president Val Rios, and a “Dine around Denver” on Saturday evening. Children’s activities were planned Thursday through Sunday. As you can discern, the Reunion Committee worked very hard to see that everyone was well taken care of and had a good time. Trips to the Denver Resource Center were arranged by Debbie Clem and her volunteers through Dennis Hagen of the Denver Library and Moya Hansen of the Colorado Historical Society. Their enthusiastic volunteers gave us a thorough “behind the scenes” tour of these two fine facilities that make up the 10th Mountain Resource Center. At the Board of Directors’ meeting, president John Duffy proposed, and the Association Board approved, a generous donation to ensure the continuing operation of the Resource Center. Through the efforts of The Resource Center our history and legacy will be preserved in perpetuity. And on the subject of preserving our history, following the welcome banquet on August 2nd we had the privilege of viewing Abbie Kealy’s fine documentary film, The Last Ridge, which included footage from Colorado, Italy, and Afghanistan.

At the Men’s Luncheon on Saturday, there was a tremendous SURPRISE, when six screaming Leadville “Ladies of the Night” burst into the room and ran up and down the aisles kissing and hugging the men. Master of Ceremonies Hugh Evans called for the Military Police to escort them out of the room and return them to the Ladies’ Luncheon. Following removal of the ladies, and a call by some of the men who obviously enjoyed the ladies for the removal of Evans, order was restored.

Another highlght was a Commemorative Book published by John Litchfield (86-L, 10-HQ). The book contains 369 pages of pictures, and information that many of us did not know about when it was happening. John did a masterful job and is owed a debt of gratitude for his many months of work. Elsewhere in this issue of the Blizzard is information about obtaining John’s book.

As a conclusion of the Reunion, six buses, with police escorts, drove us to the 10th Mountain Division Monument at Tennessee Pass for a Memorial Service for those fellows to whom a long, full life was denied in battle. It was a most solemn affair. Following the service, lunch at Cooper Hill was provided by Harry Camp and his crew. We also visited Camp Hale and viewed the new Bailey Bridge across the Eagle River. The Compton family provided funding for the bridge to honor John Parker Compton (86-G), their son and brother who was killed in action in Italy on March 3, 1945. The R. C. Baker Foundation participated as an equal contributor to honor all members of the 10th Mountain Division.

Sempre Avanti!

ATTENDEES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Descendants</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associates/Friends</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honorary &amp; Resource Center</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spouses and Guests</td>
<td>293</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Attendees</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,006</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTENDEES BY UNITS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85th Regiment</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86th Regiment</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87th Regiment</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>604-605-616 Artillery (no mules)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110 Signal</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>126 Engineers</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 HQ/AT/ART/MED/</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QM/RECON</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Infantry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th Light</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99th Battalion (Norwegian)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mtn Training Group (MTG)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Veteran Attendees</strong></td>
<td><strong>312</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rev. William Bell is the only surviving chaplain who served in the 10th in 1945. He continues his ministry through his writing, broadcasting and preaching. Rev. Bell delivered the Memorial Message at the Sunday Memorial Worship Service. His new book about his experiences as a combat chaplain with the 10th is titled, Peace in the Valley.
DENISE TAYLOR HEADED THE CREW OF THREE. DENISE IS AN RN AT UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL IN DENVER, KAREN TOMKY IS A NURSE PRACTITIONER WITH HER OWN PRACTICE IN OLNERY SPRINGS, CO; AND AARON NEWBILL IS A CERTIFIED EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN (EMT). OF INTEREST IS THAT BOTH DENISE’S AND KAREN’S DADS WERE IN THE 126TH ENGINEERS.

THE CREW HELPED REUNION ATTENDEES ORDER OXYGEN. THEY LOCATED A PLACE FOR LAB TESTS TO BE DONE WHEN THE NEED AROSE. MEDICS: A WELCOME PRESENCE AT REUNION

They helped a gentleman put on support stockings in the morning and take them off in the evening. There were nosebleeds, cuts and scrapes from falls, and a variety of other things the Medics were called on for aid. They arranged to have the National Ski Patrol and two ambulances from the Leadville Hospital available to assist during the Camp Hale Day.

IT WAS COMFORTING AND REASSURING TO HAVE THESE COMPETENT, SKILLED PEOPLE ON CALL AT THE NATIONAL REUNION. THREE Rousing cheers for the Medics!

THE 2007 REUNION COMMITTEE HAS A FEW OF THE WELL-RECEIVED 369-PAGE HISTORICAL 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION BOOKS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT $40 EACH, PLUS $5.00 SHIPPING AND HANDLING. ANOTHER PRINTING IS QUESTIONABLE. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION AND FORWARD WITH THE CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS TO:

John Litchfield
90 Corona Street, #607
Denver, CO 80218
Phone: 303-282-8184

COMMENORATIVE BOOK
John Litchfield (86-L, 10-HQ)

99TH INFANTRY BATTALION
Al Field (86-I)

The Norwegian-American 99th Battalion was at Camp Hale for 9 months and then with many units throughout Europe. The Battalion saw exceptional duty during the Battle of the Bulge. After VE Day, the 99th was sent to represent the United States Armed Forces in Norway and to disarm the German garrison and assist in their return to Germany. The 99th troops served as a special honor guard to King Haakon VII upon his return to Norway from exile.

The photo below taken at the National Reunion shows, l to r: Terry Ploot, who maintains the 99th Monument at Tennessee Pass, Al Field, and Harold K. Hanson (Co. A, 99th Infantry Battalion).

99TH INFANTRY BATTALION
Al Field (86-I)

The Norwegian-American 99th Battalion was at Camp Hale for 9 months and then with many units throughout Europe. The Battalion saw exceptional duty during the Battle of the Bulge. After VE Day, the 99th was sent to represent the United States Armed Forces in Norway and to disarm the German garrison and assist in their return to Germany. The 99th troops served as a special honor guard to King Haakon VII upon his return to Norway from exile.

The photo below taken at the National Reunion shows, l to r: Terry Ploot, who maintains the 99th Monument at Tennessee Pass, Al Field, and Harold K. Hanson (Co. A, 99th Infantry Battalion).

ORAL HISTORY PLATOON
Abbie Kealy and Myrna Hampton

To say that a grateful nation thanks the 10th Mountain Division Oral History Platoon may be overstating the national scope but not the sentiment in thanking the attendees who recorded over 80 interviews during the 2007 Reunion. Those helping record the oral histories included Bernie Tillson, Stanton Todd, Dan Oja, Ferrol and Dusty Williams, Karen Obermark, Lauren Cook, Mike and Matt Jessen, Susan Postle, Doug Cubbison, Rita Morasco, Charlie Saunders, Suzie Woodrich, Lisa Vorker, Ellen and Emily Burt, Pat Thornton, Blossom Merryman, David Fishburn, Vickie Johnson, Ira and Dennis Dierolf, John Lake, and Karen Woodard.

Many thanks for stepping up in the best 10th tradition to make it possible for future generations to connect up with their 10th Mountain Division heritage. Your help made the difference, proving yet again that nobody can do everything but everybody can do something. The interviews are being processed by Dennis Hagen at the Denver Public Library 10th Mountain Division Resource Center, and will be available for use, by researchers. A total of 41 people attended a training workshop to become part of the prestigious Oral History Platoon, which will no doubt be in action soon. Thanks again, keep it up, and pass it on!
A great welcome banquet began with Presentation of the Colors by 6 members of the Mountain Rescue Association. Radio Host and Master of Ceremonies Rick Crandall reported on the work on a monument to honor all citizens of Colorado who have lost their lives in battle since Colorado statehood in 1876. Colorado Governor Bill Ritter welcomed members of the 10th Mountain Division back to Colorado. He recognized the accomplishments of the campaign in Italy and thanked the veterans for their service.

Among the honored guests at the banquet were: Tom Allee and Barbara Starr of Frontier Airlines; Bill Jensen, CEO of Vail; Tim White, Executive Director of the National Ski Patrol; Phil Powers, Executive Director of the American Alpine Club; Steve Burkholder, Mayor of Lakewood, CO; Mark Dorsey, Executive Director of the Professional Ski Instructors of America; Jamie Duke, Executive Director, 10th Mountain Division Hut Association; Major Scott Weaver, Ft. Drum; LTG Lawson Magruder (Ret.); Audrey Muschler; Michael Myers; and members of the Compton family who contributed to funding of the Eagle River Bridge at Camp Hale in memory of John Compton, who was killed in action in Italy.

For the Banquet finale, all attendees viewed Abbie Kealy’s critically acclaimed documentary on the 10th Mountain Division, The Last Ridge.

L to r: Don Kitzman, Dennis Huntley, Don Dwyer, Gerry Cullinine (all 87-F).

Frani Peterson (Honorary) and Russo Perkins (87-I).

Dick Over (110 SIG) with Susan Grant, Raymond, sculptor of the “Military Mountaineers” Statue at Ft. Drum, NY.

Women’s Luncheon. L to r: Debbie Gumar (emcee), Ann Evans (organizer), and guest speaker Mary Jane Bradbury (with mannequin), who performed “Well Behaved Women Rarely Make History.”

Merriment at Men’s Luncheon. L to r: Bernard Volkert (86-E), Cruz Rios (87-K), Jerry Jurina (desc. 616-B), Mike Plummer, Earl Clark, Ken Roberts (Friend of the 10th). In background is singer Peggy Malone.

Earl Clark welcomes Colorado Governor Bill Ritter.

AT QUARTERMASTER’S CORNER
BUSINESS WAS BOOMING

The 2007 Denver Reunion was booming with Quartermaster sales! All kinds of items were on sale — books, clothing, hats, pins. If it had 10th Mountain Division insignia on it, it could be found in the Quartermaster room. Five authors and artists were on hand to talk about their works and to autograph them. Denise Taylor, Descendants’ Quartermaster, had tables of descendant items, and many were sold out on the first day. Denise deserves special praise for doing a tremendous job at the QM Corner. Descendant Toni Newbill of Denver made daily runs to the bank to deposit the cash and checks from the daily sales. Of the 1,500 individual sales totaling $49,000, $19,000 were for descendant goods and $30,000 were for Association goods.

A dedicated support crew was led by descendants Jerry Reed, Larry Wilson and Jim Walsh, who could be found in the Quartermaster Room during all hours of operation. Assisting them were Toni Newbill, Ginny Condo, Sue Hagerman, Steve Wilmot, Gary Burton, Ann Noble, Marty & Lee Koch and Leslie Wilson. The Walker family of Tim, Dan, Linda, Gloria and eleven-year-old Katrina were on hand to assist the interested buyers. Veteran Hassell Vass (10-AT-A) also put in many hours making the Quartermaster sales a success.

Please note. The Association Quartermaster is now restocked and open for holiday sales.

Place your orders with your 10th Quartermaster Frank Thornton.
Email: patfrank4@verizon.net • Phone: 610-667-2911
12 Maple Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004

See QM CATALOG on 10th website: www.10thmindivassoc.org
Harold Dumm will turn 96 in January, 2008. He says he is “in perfect health and heading for 100.” He took his last ski run at 80, and played tennis until 85. He and his wife Margaret have 8 children, 21 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren. Runners-up to Harold were Wallace Barkeen (85-E) and George Earle. Congratulations to all those in their nineties who attended the Reunion.

Scott Koskie carrying wreath, Earl Clark and John Duffy approach 10th Monument at Tennessee Pass during Memorial Service.

David Little’s Living History Display Group gave a firing demonstration of WWII M-1 rifles at the Camp Hale 300-yard rifle range.

Richard Jordan (85-D) is assisted by Bob Mobeck (l), Ski Cooper Ski Patrol, and Kent Diemer (r), Powder Horn Ski Patrol during tour of the rock-climbing walls at Camp Hale.

Bill Gail (616-HQ) describes WWII artillery.

Bob Yank (85-K) points to name of comrade at the 10th Memorial Monument.

Earl Norem (85-L) and Pierre Delfausse (85-HQ-1). Remains of Camp Hale Field House are in background.

Ski Cooper Lodge luncheon. L to r: Walter Chapman (86-HQ-1, 86-F), Hugh Evans (85-A-C) playing musical saw, accordionist Helmut Fricker, and Earl Clark (86-HQ-2).

J. Harold Dumm (85-A) (center), with son Douglas Dumm, and daughter Christine Dumm Catlett.

Grace LaVergne, 6 months, shown with her brother John, her sister Dana and her father Paul. Grace is John and Irene Duffy’s great niece.
HALE AND FAREWELL: ONE FOR THE BOOKS

Missed the reunion? Want to re-live your reunion experience? Here’s your chance. A professional team of writers and photographers, organized by project coordinator Chere Mitchell, covered the reunion from August 1-6, 2007. The Denver-based crew included historians Dr. Geoffrey Hunt and Dr. Rebecca Hunt, journalist Jo Schara “Joe” Schara, interviewers Elizabeth Candelario and Heather Savage, and photographers Bob Chavez and Barry Gutierrez. The team conducted over one hundred interviews and took nearly seven thousand photographs. Venues and events covered include luncheons and dinners, dancing to the tunes of a big band, singing, exhibits of WWII weapons and equipment, tours of the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center, the August 5th Memorial Service, and the trip to Tennessee Pass, Cooper Hill, and Camp Hale. Veterans compared notes and studied maps. Raucous laughter signaled memories of the old soldiers, carrying them back 60 years. Tears for absent friends were poignant reminders of the ravages of war and time. Glad celebration and sadness swirled together in a gathering that no one wanted to end. The double rainbow that greeted the travelers returning from the visit to Camp Hale sealed the special nature of the event.

With the material collected at the reunion, Mitchell and her teammates are collaborating on a documentary book titled Hale and Farewell: 10th Mountain Division 2007 Reunion. The limited-edition volume will include 128 pages in color, with a brief history of the 10th Mountain Division, a journalistic overview of the reunion, and observations on the Division’s legacy. The release date is mid-2008. All National Association and descendant members will soon receive an order form. A form and information are also available on the descendants’ Google Group website. The Google Group is WWII 10th Mountain Division Veterans and Descendants. For more information, you can also phone Chere Mitchell at 303-831-9243, or John Duffy at 718-591-7775.


Jesse is a legend in New Hampshire, having served as a conservation officer in the Newport/Lake Sunapee area from 1941 to 1972. He developed a statewide reputation for his management and protection of the environment, becoming known as “The Man of the Woods.” A proclamation signed by President and Mrs. George Bush was presented, as were two American flags that were flown above the U.S. Capitol. Many tributes were paid to Jesse by members of the Conservation Department.

Jesse Scott (86-K) with a 1929 Model A Ford from Spunky Dodge in Newport NH.

In March 1945, as the Red Cross girls came forward with coffee and donuts, the Germans started shelling us. We all dove for cover so I just dove into the nearest foxhole I could find. It already had someone in it. Fifty years later I learned that my companion in the foxhole had been Debbie Bankhart, so I wrote to her. This is her response.

Dear Ted Prentice:

I don’t know either whether you were the person who joined me in a foxhole. However, I only had a companion once in an Italian foxhole! I don’t remember trees; I do remember there were wires everywhere and lots of “Signal” Corps trying to repair the shell-damaged communication system. A good friend of mine got a horrible dose of shrapnel there on that day, so we had a good reason to jump into an army foxhole. The minute the shelling stopped I gathered up the other ARC girl and departed. Anyhow, I was in a foxhole and someone, i.e. you, joined me. Now we meet again. I really think there were only two of us Red Crossers, as we usually went 2 in 1 jeep and 2 in another to different places. My husband, Roger Eddy was 87-K Captain and we met at a party in Yugoslavia. The “Soldiers of the Summit” people came here and had dinner with us. I thought the film was excellent. The 10th was the best and you all deserve all the praise you get.

Thanks for remembering the past and getting in touch. Cheers.

Deborah (Deb) Bankhart Eddy
May 25, 1995

FLOWERS FOR GENERAL EISENHOWER

Shortly after the war, in ’47 or ’48, I was asked by a friend who owned the Brown Palace Florist Shop to help him deliver flower arrangements. I loaded his truck and started deliveries, stopping at an address on Emerson Street. To my surprise, General Eisenhower, who was visiting Mamie’s mother Mrs. Dowd, came out and talked to me for about 15 minutes, asking about my military background. I told “Ike” that I was with the 10th Mountain Division, whereupon he said, “Monty” calls you fellows “the Cat’s Whiskers.”

W. Paul Howland (10-QM-HO), Tucson, AZ

LAST DAYS OF THE WAR

Charles W. Smith (85-I)

Ed. note. Following is an excerpt from Charles Smith’s longer manuscript, “My Career in World War II.”

As we made our way toward the Po River, prisoners were giving up by the hundreds. Italians were out by the road with flowers, wine, flags and food. An Italian farmer told us about Germans at his house who wanted to surrender. We went with him and found 24 Germans asleep in one room, who all gave up. The farmer’s wife had breakfast ready for them. We explained to her we would turn in the prisoners and be back for breakfast. After we turned them in to security, we were told to get ready to move out. We never did get that breakfast.

We crossed the Po River in assault boats. The Germans were just ahead of us, retreating. They had horses and wagons, motorcycles, and bicycles. The horses were running loose everywhere. When we dug in for the night, an Italian farmer asked me to go to his home with him. There was a German grenade on his kitchen table. He asked me to get rid of it. I screwed the handle into the head and took it outside. Looking back on that episode, I realize that the grenade could have been booby-trapped.

The next day we crossed Lake Garda on DUKWS. We met no resistance going over. On the other side were tunnels where the Germans had machinery to make airplane parts. All of their time-cards had been punched on the day before we arrived. On May 2, 1945, the war was over in Italy. We were at the foot of the Alps. We had fought for 20 days and advanced 120 miles. I was one of the personnel sent up into the Alps to tell the Germans the war was over.
DESCENDANT BOARD MEETING AT NATIONAL REUNION

Sharon Ahrens (Desc. 85-C)

The Board of Directors of the 10th Mountain Division Descendants met on August 2, 2007 at the Denver Reunion. Present at the meeting were: Val Rios, Pamela Pikla, Patricia Finn Thornton, Sue Hagerman, Marilyn Kahl, Donald Perkins, Denise Taylor, Rev. Larry Fields, David Thompson, Patty LaRocca, Jim Walsh, Larry Wilson, Mike Plummer, Steve Coffey, Berkley Ellis, Dan Whitemore, Sharon Ahrens, Sandy Eldredge, Marni Roddick, Mary Roddick Ghan, Gary Burton, Bryan Pullen and Larry Wilson. Descendant President Val Rios welcomed everyone and stated that it was an historic week and a transitional time for Descendants as we work with the WWII veterans and the new 10th Mt. Division. Val applauded the efforts of the Chapter Directors and noted that 17 directors presented their reports this year. The Board welcomed and approved our new Chapter Directors: Berkley Ellis (Delaware River Valley); Patricia LaRocca (Midwest); Nikki Fahey (North Central); Marni Roddick (Northeast); Dan Whitemore (Rocky Mountain); Mary Roddick Ghan (Southern California); and Ron Sawdey (Utah). The Board approved Jerry Reed as the Big Sky Chapter Director effective November 2007, and Harry Eaton as the Upstate New York Chapter Director.

The Board approved Sierra Nevada Chapter's hosting of the 2008 Board of Directors' Meeting, which will be held in Monterey, California either the last week in June or the beginning of July. The Delaware Valley River Chapter and the Utah Chapter offered to host the 2009 Board Meeting.

Pam Pikla, Membership VP, reported that for the period 9/1/06-6/18/07 there were a total of 3,643 names in the Database of which 790 are paid descendants and 139 paid associates.

There was discussion about how the Board communicates with the descendant membership via the web and mass-emails. Val has established a mass email account through AOL in California that has been successful. In addition, Pat Thornton has set up a “Google Groups” site for sending information. To view Google Information, go to google.com, type in Google Groups and enter WWII 10th Mountain Division Veterans and Descendants.

Val reported on the status of the Descendant Merit Scholarship. He reminded board members that the Merit Scholarship is based on a descendant's contribution of community service to 10th Mountain Division veterans or families. Because there were no applications for 2007, the Executive Committee approved sending the $1,000 scholarship money to the Fort Drum 10th Light Scholarship Fund. Descendant QuadrantMaster Denise Taylor reported that $10,000 was spent obtaining articles for the National Reunion with new items such as backpacks, reversible vests, gray polo shirts and new caps. Descendant Blizzard editor Bryan Pullen, Tyler Tollman and Tracy Negrette have produced two issues of the Descendant Blizzard. Brian noted that articles and/or photos should be sent to his email address: bryanpullen@cablenet.net. Bryan’s phone is 580-369-5515.

Myrna Hampton submitted her Oral History report and noted that there will be a Super List of existing Oral Histories at the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center. At the National Reunion, Myrna organized an Oral History training to enable volunteers to conduct Oral History Recording. Abbie Kealy submitted her Denver Resource Center report and stated that all Shoot Tapes from the “Last Ridge” documentary are to be donated to the Denver Public Library (DPL). She requested funds to buy a DVD Cam recorder for DPL’s Resource Center. Pam Pikla reported on the On Belay Project and noted that Staff Sergeant Shauna Bailey is the new Liaison at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She noted that the visits to wounded soldiers at Walter Reed are still continuing bi-monthly.

Norm Burkey presented his Gold Star Descendant committee report. Gold Star takes its name from the Gold Stars presented to mothers of soldiers killed in action. The function of this committee is to identify children whose 10th Mountain Division fathers were killed in WWII.

Val Rios noted that the 10th Descendants will organize and conduct the 2009 Return to Italy Tour, which will be organized by Steve Coffey and Don Perkins. Val also noted that the trip is usually planned around Memorial Day in the Florence Cemetery; however, optimal dates will be considered. The Italy Trip Committee will solicit feedback from veterans and descendants to establish dates that will meet the traveling needs of all concerned.

Val presented the 10th Mountain Division Meritorious Award to Sharon Ahrens and Don Perkins for their dedicated service to the 10th Descendants. Val also presented Patricia Thornton with a picture and plaque in appreciation of her dedication, passion and service to the 10th Mountain Division Descendants as President of the Descendants organization from 2001-2007.

DESCENDANT BOARD MEETING AT NATIONAL REUNION

Sharon Ahrens (Desc. 85-C)

The Board of Directors of the 10th Mountain Division Descendants met on August 2, 2007 at the Denver Reunion. Present at the meeting were: Val Rios, Pamela Pikla, Patricia Finn Thornton, Sue Hagerman, Marilyn Kahl, Donald Perkins, Denise Taylor, Rev. Larry Fields, David Thompson, Patty LaRocca, Jim Walsh, Larry Wilson, Mike Plummer, Steve Coffey, Berkley Ellis, Dan Whitemore, Sharon Ahrens, Sandy Eldredge, Marni Roddick, Mary Roddick Ghan, Gary Burton, Bryan Pullen and Larry Wilson. Descendant President Val Rios welcomed everyone and stated that it was an historic week and a transitional time for Descendants as we work with the WWII veterans and the new 10th Mt. Division. Val applauded the efforts of the Chapter Directors and noted that 17 directors presented their reports this year. The Board welcomed and approved our new Chapter Directors: Berkley Ellis (Delaware River Valley); Patricia LaRocca (Midwest); Nikki Fahey (North Central); Marni Roddick (Northeast); Dan Whitemore (Rocky Mountain); Mary Roddick Ghan (Southern California); and Ron Sawdey (Utah). The Board approved Jerry Reed as the Big Sky Chapter Director effective November 2007, and Harry Eaton as the Upstate New York Chapter Director.

The Board approved Sierra Nevada Chapter’s hosting of the 2008 Board of Directors’ Meeting, which will be held in Monterey, California either the last week in June or the beginning of July. The Delaware Valley River Chapter and the Utah Chapter offered to host the 2009 Board Meeting.

Pam Pikla, Membership VP, reported that for the period 9/1/06-6/18/07 there were a total of 3,643 names in the Database of which 790 are paid descendants and 139 paid associates.

There was discussion about how the Board communicates with the descendant membership via the web and mass-emails. Val has established a mass email account through AOL in California that has been successful. In addition, Pat Thornton has set up a “Google Groups” site for sending information. To view Google Information, go to google.com, type in Google Groups and enter WWII 10th Mountain Division Veterans and Descendants.

Val reported on the status of the Descendant Merit Scholarship. He reminded board members that the Merit Scholarship is based on a descendant’s contribution of community service to 10th Mountain Division veterans or families. Because there were no applications for 2007, the Executive Committee approved sending the $1,000 scholarship money to the Fort Drum 10th Light Scholarship Fund. Descendant QuadrantMaster Denise Taylor reported that $10,000 was spent obtaining articles for the National Reunion with new items such as backpacks, reversible vests, gray polo shirts and new caps. Descendant Blizzard editor Bryan Pullen, Tyler Tollman and Tracy Negrette have produced two issues of the Descendant Blizzard. Brian noted that articles and/or photos should be sent to his email address: bryanpullen@cablenet.net. Bryan’s phone is 580-369-5515.

Myrna Hampton submitted her Oral History report and noted that there will be a Super List of existing Oral Histories at the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center. At the National Reunion, Myrna organized an Oral History training to enable volunteers to conduct Oral History Recording. Abbie Kealy submitted her Denver Resource Center report and stated that all Shoot Tapes from the “Last Ridge” documentary are to be donated to the Denver Public Library (DPL). She requested funds to buy a DVD Cam recorder for DPL’s Resource Center. Pam Pikla reported on the On Belay Project and noted that Staff Sergeant Shauna Bailey is the new Liaison at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She noted that the visits to wounded soldiers at Walter Reed are still continuing bi-monthly.

Norm Burkey presented his Gold Star Descendant committee report. Gold Star takes its name from the Gold Stars presented to mothers of soldiers killed in action. The function of this committee is to identify children whose 10th Mountain Division fathers were killed in WWII.

Val Rios noted that the 10th Descendants will organize and conduct the 2009 Return to Italy Tour, which will be organized by Steve Coffey and Don Perkins. Val also noted that the trip is usually planned around Memorial Day in the Florence Cemetery; however, optimal dates will be considered. The Italy Trip Committee will solicit feedback from veterans and descendants to establish dates that will meet the traveling needs of all concerned.

Val presented the 10th Mountain Division Meritorious Award to Sharon Ahrens and Don Perkins for their dedicated service to the 10th Descendants. Val also presented Patricia Thornton with a picture and plaque in appreciation of her dedication, passion and service to the 10th Mountain Division Descendants as President of the Descendants organization from 2001-2007.

SEMPE ITALIA TRIP 2009

Steve Coffey (Desc - 87-F)

The veterans have given the descendants the keys to the next Return to Italy trip and planning is now underway. A start-up committee is conducting preliminary activities and we want to hear from our members as we begin. Many of you have been on one or more trips and are sure to have thoughts on what you enjoyed and what we might do differently. We ask that all members share their ideas whether you’ve gone along in the past or not. We welcome your suggestions.

As in 2006, the core of the trip will center on the 10th’s battle route from Florence to Riva and the history of the Division’s time in Italy. Beyond that we’re open to all suggestions, especially as to pre- and post-trip activities. We will almost surely travel at the same time of year as before (late May, early June) to take advantage of the pre-season rates, and the main trip will include roughly the same number of travel days (about ten).

Our intent is to keep everyone apprised of the plans as they take form through the Blizzard and other means. So find your passports, root for the dollars, and please take a few moments to consider your Italy Trip ideas and send them to us.

Thank you for your help.
The Descendant Blizzard is edited by Bryan Pullen. Descendants: News, stories, announcements, letters, photos etc. are most welcome — this is your Blizzard! Contact Bryan Pullen at 708 S. 6th Street, Davis, OK 73030 or email: brynpullen@cadbleone.com.

10th MOUNTAIN DIVISION DESCENDANTS OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Arizona Chapter
Mary Broughton
PO Box 25964
Prescott Valley, AZ 86312
raffsfrder@comcast.net

Midwest Chapter
Patricia LaRocca
1151 Parkside Court
Carol Stream, IL 60188
pattylarocca237@yahoo.com

New England Chapter
Sue Hagerman, Membership
P.O. Box 60
Enfield Center, NH 03749
sue.m.hagerman@valley.net

North Central Chapter
Nikki Fahey
3601 Phillips Parkway 215
St. Louis Park, MN 55426
nfahey@umn.edu

Upper Peninsula Chapter
Sue Hagerman, Membership
P.O. Box 60
Enfield Center, NH 03749
sue.m.hagerman@valley.net

Sierra Nevada Chapter
Val Rios*
6816 S. Maple
Fresno, CA 93725
vrrios93@aol.com

Southern California Chapter
Mary Roddick Ghan
25642 Deane Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37919
fieki2@cbebeer.org

Upstate New York Chapter
Vacant

Utah Chapter
Ron Sawdy
2016 Emerson Avenue
Salt Lake City, UT 84108
rsawdy@comcast.net

Washington, DC Chapter
Pamela Pikla
Membership, OnBelay
3077 Red Grove Road
Baltimore, MD 21220
pmpikla@comcast.net

*Denotes Executive Committee

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

The time has now come and the torch has been passed!
It has been a little more than a month since returning from the Denver Reunion. A new school year has started for me and I am busy enrolling new students, changing schedules, and meeting with staff and parents. But I would like to reflect upon our time together in Denver. It was absolutely wonderful! This was a very special Reunion. Hale and Farewell was the theme and ever so appropriate. This was the last National Reunion sponsored by our WWII 10th Mountain Division veterans and while we did not want to admit it, everyone knew that this would be the last time so many of the 10th family would be together. I believe there were approximately 986 in attendance, including Giovanni Sulla and his family who came all the way from Montese, Italy.

It was wonderful seeing so many of the veterans and descendants who I had previously met at earlier National Reunions or Italy Reunions. The Reunion Committee did a fantastic job organizing the Reunion and I can only imagine the countless number of hours spent in preparation for it. The Rocky Mountain Chapter Descendants also played a major role in support of the Reunion Committee, as did personnel and staff from the Denver Public Library, Resource Center, Oral History, and Living History group. Everyone involved played a key role in the success of this Reunion and I am deeply thankful to each of you.

The Descendant Board meeting held on Thursday, August 2 was very positive. New Chapter Directors were introduced and there was much enthusiasm for Descendants Inc. as we move forward with our Action Plan, supporting the Association and Foundation while retaining our own identity and purpose. In addition, the Open Forum and Breakfast was very helpful in hearing concerns of descendants around the country.

It is now we descendants who must step forward and take more active leadership roles in our Chapters if we are to preserve the legacy of our WWII 10th Mountain Division soldiers. We must be willing to become involved. Non-participation is not an option! Descendants Inc. will be producing the 2008 10th Mountain Division Calendar and is committed to sponsoring the 2009 Italy Reunion Tour. Shortly you will be receiving membership applications or renewals and we ask that you reply as soon as possible.

We want to reach our goal of 1,000 members again this year and it can easily be done if we reach out to brothers and sisters and other family members who may not have applied before now. Please make this a priority!

On a personal note, this Reunion was very special for me. My dad, Cuz Rios (87-K), was able to attend. He will be 89 in December, has slowed down quite a bit, and is now more fragile. But seeing him talk with his buddies and participate in the events of the week gave me a wonderful feeling. I felt his joy as he laughed, talked and sharing stories with friends. I felt his pride as he saluted the flag whenever colors were being presented. I felt his aches and pains as he retired in the night, worn out from daily activities and the altitude. But most important, I felt his love as he told me his sister, brother, and me how happy it made him feel, knowing that each of his children were there with him in Denver. This may have been the last Reunion dad will attend. As much as I would like him to return to Italy in 2009, it may not be likely.

I was not able to go on the post reunion Camp Hale tour but I did have a chance to board each bus before leaving and thank all the veterans for a wonderful time. As I looked into their faces and said my thank you, in the back of my mind I wondered if this would be the last time I would see some of them. As I boarded the last bus, I had to hold back tears knowing that I may very well be saying a final farewell to some of them. It was a bittersweet moment.

The time has now come and the torch has been passed!

Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

DESCENDANT DATABASE UPDATE

As of November 13, 2007, 10th Mountain Division Descendants have identified and recorded 3,726 descendants of soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division. 10th veterans have their children, grandchildren, and other relatives recorded in the Database, which serves as a historical continuation of the 10th Mountain Division family.

To have names added to the database, send information by mail to Pam Pikla, 3707 Red Grove Road, Baltimore, MD, 21220, or email her at pmpikla@comcast.net. Please provide the following information for each descendant:

• Name of 10th Mountain Division veteran.
• Name and address of Descendant, phone number, e-mail address, and relationship to 10th soldier, i.e., son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, great grandson/granddaughter, brother, sister, niece, or nephew.
• If Descendant is a veteran, list branch of service.

AT LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

President*
Val Rios
6816 S. Maple
Fresno, CA 93725
Vrios93@aol.com

Executive VP, Projects*
Merit Scholarship,
Descendant Essay
Steve Coffey
1630 York Mills Lane
Reston, VA 20194
Coffey_Sc@bcomah.com

VP-Chair Coordinator*
Larry Wilson
PO Box 3
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
lwilson@aboutmontana.net

Sandy Eldredge*
3939 Hale Drive
Vories Montesque Vincimus

VP-ORAL HISTORY
Steve Coffey
1630 York Mills Lane
Reston, VA 20194
Coffey_Sc@bcomah.com

VP-PROJECTS:
Descendant Blizzard
Bryan Pullen
708 South 6th St.
Davis, OK 73030
bryanpullen@cadbleone.com

GOLD STAR 10th MOUNTAIN DESCENDANTS
Norman Burkey
308 Colegate Drive
Forest Hill, MD 21050
burkey@comcast.net

ORAL HISTORY
Pamela Pikla
Membership, OnBelay
3077 Red Grove Road
Baltimore, MD 21220
pmpikla@comcast.net

Cruz Rios (87-K)

• If Descendant is a veteran, list branch of service.

DESCENDANT DATABASE UPDATE

As of November 13, 2007, 10th Mountain Division Descendants have identified and recorded 3,726 descendants of soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division. 10th veterans have their children, grandchildren, and other relatives recorded in the Database, which serves as a historical continuation of the 10th Mountain Division family.

To have names added to the database, send information by mail to Pam Pikla, 3707 Red Grove Road, Baltimore, MD, 21220, or email her at pmpikla@comcast.net. Please provide the following information for each descendant:

• Name of 10th Mountain Division veteran.
• Name and address of Descendant, phone number, e-mail address, and relationship to 10th soldier, i.e., son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, great grandson/granddaughter, brother, sister, niece, or nephew.
• If Descendant is a veteran, list branch of service.

DESCENDANT DATABASE UPDATE

As of November 13, 2007, 10th Mountain Division Descendants have identified and recorded 3,726 descendants of soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division. 10th veterans have their children, grandchildren, and other relatives recorded in the Database, which serves as a historical continuation of the 10th Mountain Division family.

To have names added to the database, send information by mail to Pam Pikla, 3707 Red Grove Road, Baltimore, MD, 21220, or email her at pmpikla@comcast.net. Please provide the following information for each descendant:

• Name of 10th Mountain Division veteran.
• Name and address of Descendant, phone number, e-mail address, and relationship to 10th soldier, i.e., son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, great grandson/granddaughter, brother, sister, niece, or nephew.
• If Descendant is a veteran, list branch of service.

DESCENDANT DATABASE UPDATE

As of November 13, 2007, 10th Mountain Division Descendants have identified and recorded 3,726 descendants of soldiers of the 10th Mountain Division. 10th veterans have their children, grandchildren, and other relatives recorded in the Database, which serves as a historical continuation of the 10th Mountain Division family.

To have names added to the database, send information by mail to Pam Pikla, 3707 Red Grove Road, Baltimore, MD, 21220, or email her at pmpikla@comcast.net. Please provide the following information for each descendant:

• Name of 10th Mountain Division veteran.
• Name and address of Descendant, phone number, e-mail address, and relationship to 10th soldier, i.e., son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, great grandson/granddaughter, brother, sister, niece, or nephew.
• If Descendant is a veteran, list branch of service.
To make the Hale and Farewell Reunion, veterans, descendants and friends of the 10th traveled from all over to join in on the fun. However, no one traveled as far as special guests Giovanni Sulla, his wife Francesca, and son Lorenzo. Giovanni and his family traveled from Montese, Italy to attend the reunion and do some post-reunion sightseeing including Disney World in Orlando, Florida and Las Vegas, Nevada. Giovanni, who donned a WWII Class A uniform for the farewell dinner, was excited about Las Vegas but was quick to mention, “No games of chance. Just city of lights.”

If you have ever spoken with anyone who has made any of the Return to Italy trips, the name Giovanni was likely to have been mentioned. Giovanni is a passionate historian and collector of the 10th Mountain Division and lives near their Italian battlefields. His collection of uniforms, artifacts and other militaria is astounding. He serves as the unofficial Italian ambassador to those on the trip while they are billeted in the hill towns. He knows the terrain and history so well, one can simply point out a battle or patrol location on a map and he can drive you to there. During the 2006 trip many of these tours of battlefield sites were conducted from an original Willy’s Jeep.

It was great to see Giovanni and his family sharing this time with our families, and we were proud to have them with us. It is truly a tribute to our veterans that subsequent generations are forming friendships and bonds with the residents of Montese and the Hill Towns. The legacy of the 10th Mountain Division continues to grow.
SIERRA NEVADA
Val Rios (Desc. 87-K)

On Saturday, October 13, 2007, veterans and descendants from the Sierra Nevada Chapter met for the annual luncheon in Sacramento, CA. Approximately 40 people were in attendance and all had a good time dining at The Dante Club. Very nice things were said about the Denver Reunion from those who attended and compliments were especially given to the Reunion Committee for all their hard work.

The Belvedere Day Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, February 16, 2008, in Monterey. The 27th Tenth Mountain Division Memorial Biathlon will take place on Sunday, April 13, 2008 at Boreal Ridge. All are welcome!

BILL HAGERMAN

On a most gorgeous Colorado day in early August, Sue and Nancy Hagerman (Bill Hagerman, 86-HQ/Service), two cousins, one of their kids and wives, Nancy’s husband Joe, and assorted group dogs hiked Bill’s ashes up to 12,500 ft. on Buckskin Pass in the Maroon Bells/Snowmass Wilderness area overlooking Hagerman Peak. It was his request, sheepishly made, but enthusiastically received by the group that accomplished it. (Note the Descendant Tee’s!) Wife Ann Hagerman (Desc. 85-HQ-2) put together a wonderful event. We spent plenty of time touring the sights of old Springfield. We stayed at the Hilton. We were close enough to be able to walk to most of the sites. The Lincoln Library was one of the highlights of the week. We also had a beautiful memorial service at the new WWII memorial. Special thanks go to Sharon and her parents Sophie and Jake for their time spent planning this reunion.

Where did the summer go? Time flies when you’re having fun and fun is what was had in Denver on August 2-6. The National reunion was a blast. It was absolutely a joy to see our old friends and to make new friends. I had the chance to meet some members from the Midwest chapter who have never been to any of our events: Robert Maedke (10th INF) and his wife Dianne and James Rogers (85-E). I hope to see them at some of our upcoming functions. So many events to talk about, each one was special. Thursday night started with a hosted cocktail party and the welcome banquet. The film ‘The Last Ridge’ was shown after dinner. Later that evening there was a Descendants’ party. Friday night was Unit dinners and a Big Band dance. Saturday Descendants got together for dinner at different locations in the Denver area. The reunion ended with the farewell dinner on Sunday night. It was a bittersweet night for all. This was the last planned reunion for our veterans. We thank them for the many wonderful years they gave to us Descendants, teaching us about their lives and what they gave to our country. We truly cherish each and every moment we spent together. They will always be a part of us and as the years go on we will continue to share their legacy. We had a total of 20 descendants in attendance in Denver.

As we look ahead to our chapter’s reunion next September, plans are being made to celebrate the upcoming reunion in the Chicago land area. I have been putting together information to present to a committee about this event. I’ve selected three locations to choose from, and each is special in its own way. We’re really hoping to see new faces at this reunion.

Join the 10th Mountain Division Descendants

It’s easy. Go to the web site, www.10thmtndivdesc.org, and click on Descendant Application Form.
GAVINANA
Tom Brooks (85-G)

Gavinana is a popular summer-winter resort perched at 2,686 feet half-way up the southern slope of M. Croccioch, overlooking the upper valley of the T. Limestre. Here, in 1530, Francesco Ioverning the upper valley of the T. sang Roll Out the Barrel in Italian. Fiske language books. Evenings, troopers tried to hold on to it rather than endanger the winner was shot in the jaw and

REUNION IN GAVINANA
John Imbrie (85-C)

My first trip back to the battlefields of Italy was in 1993, with Speed Murphy, Nick Nickerson, and Tom Brooks (all 85-G). We drove through Campo Tizzoro to look at "Speed’s Window," beside which, on the second floor of a brick schoolhouse where 85-G was billeted in 1945, one can still see the sharplap scars where Speed lost his right arm while trying to dispose of a grenade that had become activated and was threatening his platoon. Rushing to throw the grenade through the window in a hurry, Speed saw that schoolchildren were playing in the yard below. He made an instant decision to hold on to it rather than endanger the children — an action for which he received a Soldiers’ Medal.

Mike Cucci (86-I), Moni Wuerslin (85-K), and I trained together at Camp Hale. Mike Cucci was killed in action assaulting Mt. Belvedere. On April 23, 1945, Moni Wuerslin received a severe head wound as the 85th Mountain Infantry was preparing to cross the Po River. Some months later while inquiring about Moni’s condition in Massachusetts General Hospital, USA, I was told that S-Sgt. Manfred (Moni) Wuerslin had died of head wounds.

Time went by, and in perhaps 1965, we ski trooper friends of Moni were given to understand that Moni is alive and a college professor in Wisconsin. Moni and I renewed our friendship when he visited us in Denver, and we got together at reunions in Vail, and Sun Valley, and in Denver in 2007. Moni and I have happily survived 64 years of friendship as we approach age 85.
Excerpted from the article by Stephanie J. Santos, Fort Drum Blizzard Staff Writer. Honor Roll numbers are from the Memorialization Ceremony program.

The heroic actions of two Army combat medics will continue to be remembered through the Bridgewater-Vaccaro Medical Simulation Training Center. During a dedication ceremony June 22, Fort Drum officials renamed the facility to recognize Technician Fifth Grade Horace A. Bridgewater, a medic with the 85th Infantry Regiment, and Spec. Angelo J. Vaccaro, a medic with the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Lt.).

Bridgewater was posthumously awarded a Silver Star for valor in WWII at Mt. Belvedere, Italy, in 1945. He exposed himself to enemy fire to search out an injured man 150 yards away. Bridge- water removed him to a covered position and administered medical treatment. His heroic actions saved the lives of countless soldiers.

Vaccaro deployed in 2006 to participate in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He was killed in action October 2, 2006 in Korengal, Afghanistan, while attempting to recover casualties from the battlefield. During the ceremony, Vaccaro’s family was presented with a posthumously-awarded Silver Star, the first service member to receive two Silver Stars in the war on terror.

“Although separated by 50 years, the stories of their sacrifices are pretty much the same; uncommon valor was common,” said Mike Plummer (10 Lt., Ret.), president of the Ft. Drum chapter of the 10th Mountain Division Association. “All the medic casualties of WWII and those of the 10th Light died so that others could live, and now with this dedication we will ensure that those who make the ultimate sacrifice will be forever honored.”

Horace Bridgewater’s brother Jake said it was a priceless honor to have the facility named after his brother. “He was one of the best men and best soldiers I ever knew, a caring man who never once complained about his duty.” Jake joined Vaccaro’s wife and parents at the ceremony as the soldiers were honored. Ray Vaccaro said, “I don’t think I can be any prouder as a father than I am today. My son was always proud to be in the military. If you knew him, you loved him. He is definitely my hero.” His mother Linda said, “When I see these soldiers I see my son, there’s a piece of him in all of them. He will always be a part of our lives.”

Maj. Gen. Mike Oates (10th Lt.), Ft. Drum Commander, concluded the ceremony by recognizing all combat medics for their desire to serve humanity. “You can’t just be a combat medic because you have a great heart: you have to really know what you’re doing. On the battlefield, the ‘doc’ is going to stabilize the patient, the ‘doc’ is going to do whatever is necessary to care for that person, and that’s the essence of the medal,” Oates said.

“Although separated by 50 years, the stories of their sacrifices are pretty much the same; uncommon valor was common,” Vacaro’s family said. “All the medic casualties of WWII and those of the 10th Light died so that others could live, and now with this dedication we will ensure that those who make the ultimate sacrifice will be forever honored.”

Horace Bridgewater’s brother Jake said it was a priceless honor to have the facility named after his brother. “He was one of the best men and best soldiers I ever knew, a caring man who never once complained about his duty.” Jake joined Vaccaro’s wife and parents at the ceremony as the soldiers were honored. Ray Vaccaro said, “I don’t think I can be any prouder as a father than I am today. My son was always proud to be in the military. If you knew him, you loved him. He is definitely my hero.” His mother Linda said, “When I see these soldiers I see my son, there’s a piece of him in all of them. He will always be a part of our lives.”

Maj. Gen. Mike Oates (10th Lt.), Ft. Drum Commander, concluded the ceremony by recognizing all combat medics for their desire to serve humanity. “You can’t just be a combat medic because you have a great heart: you have to really know what you’re doing. On the battlefield, the ‘doc’ is going to stabilize his soldiers and get them the medical care they need. These men will serve as an inspiration to all of the soldiers who come to train here, for as long as this building is here. And they will continue to remain in our memory for as long as we are on this earth.”

Thirty-nine 10th Mountain Division medics were killed in action in WWII and 8 were awarded the Silver Star for valor. Eight 10th Mountain Division (Lt) medics have been killed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Ed. Note: On August 2nd, 2007, the Washington Post reported that the headquarters for the new Warrior Transition Brigade at Walter Reed Army Medical Center was named in honor of Cpl. Vaccaro. The Army established the Warrior Transition Brigade in an effort to improve long-term care of wounded soldiers at Walter Reed. Combat-experienced soldiers have been brought in to help guide outpatients through the medical bureaucracy.

Following one of the DC Chapter’s visits to wounded 10th Mountain Division (LT) soldiers at Walter Reed Army Hospital, this letter from Sharon Alsop was written to Elaine and Bill Magrath. Sharon’s son Michael was wounded in Iraq.

Elaine and Bill:

Just wanted to let you know how much the crocheted afghan meant to my son Michael and our family. Michael was in an IED explosion in Iraq while in his humvee on May 17th. My husband and I were flown to Walter Reed Hospital on May 21st. There is no way we can express our heartfelt thanks to all the wonderful people there for us in our time of need. It is wonderful people like you who help with your kind actions and thoughts.

Our son is one of the lucky soldiers. His serious injuries included 13 broken vertebrae, 2 broken pelvic bones, broken ribs, punctured lungs, and spleen removed. He had fluid buildup that had to be drained 3 times, and several infections.

He was in the hospital about a month. My husband and I stayed with him the entire time. These soldiers need their families with them as they go through the trauma of dealing with their injuries. The good news is that he is on the road to recovery and improving every day. He was transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center in Texas, and was home on convalescent leave for 28 days. He will have physical therapy and they will x-ray his bones to make sure they are healing properly.

He was sent home in a wheelchair but returned not having to use it. He is anxiously awaiting the return of his fellow soldiers who are due to return the first of November. As you probably know, they are like family when they train and fight together. It will be good closure for him to see his buddies again.

It meant a lot to our son that so many great people like you were there when he needed them. Again, our sincere thanks.

Sincerely, Sharon Alsop.
To date over 1,350 10th Mountain Division soldiers have been wounded in action. Since 2002, the Ft. Drum chapter of the 10th Mountain Division Association has been raising funds for the Wounded Warrior Fund and mail to: Mike Plummer, President, 10th Mountain Division Association, 121 Paddock Road, Watertown, NY 13601.

For more information, please visit the website www.10thmtndivscholarshipfund.org.

To donate to the scholarship fund, go to www.10thmtndivscholarshipfund.org.

Mike Plummer, President, 10th Mountain Division Association

www.10thmtndivscholarshipfund.org

For more information, please visit the website www.10thmtndivscholarshipfund.org.

To donate to the scholarship fund, go to www.10thmtndivscholarshipfund.org.

Mike Plummer, President, 10th Mountain Division Association

www.10thmtndivscholarshipfund.org
ASSOCIATION ROSTER: 1955 TO 2007

A complete Association roster covering the period 1955 to 2007, compiled by Barbara and John Imbrie (85-C), and John Engle (87-L, 86-G), has been published by the Quartermaster. A total of 30,000 men served in the 10th during WWII. After the war, 8,000 of these veterans — just over 26 per cent of the total — joined the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division or its predecessor, the Alumni Association of the 10th Mountain Division. This is a truly remarkable record — one that testifies to the strength of the ties that have bound these troopers together, then and now.

This volume lists the names of these 8,000 comrades, and identifies the unit in which each trooper gave his principal service to the Division. To achieve this goal the authors have searched through twelve membership listings, starting with the directory published by the Alumni Association in 1955 and continuing with the eleven rosters published by the National Association in 1973, 1977, 1980, 1983, 1987, 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2004, and 2007. Making use of John Engle’s complete collection of these rosters, they have checked the information given in these roster listings against U.S. Army records archived in the 10th Mountain Division’s WW II Database at the Denver Public Library. The roster is available for purchase through the 10th Quartermaster for $10 (postage included).

FLORENCE WITHOUT A PASS
Clarence (Kk) Faulkner (86-K)

The battle for Monte della Torracia and stopping a counter attack was hard fought and successful. Soon, the 3rd Battalion 86th Regiment was relieved and moved to Campo Tizzoro, the Division rear rest camp. Showers, clean clothes and hot food were well appreciated. The next day, word came that a one-day pass to Florence was available to those who wanted to go. Lt. Col. John Hay, Battalion Commander, approached me. “Sergeant, I am putting you in charge of a convoy. Take those who would like to go to Florence, and load them into the trucks.” I spread the word around camp and soon three trucks were filled and ready to go. In Florence, all were told to be back at the trucks at 5:00 p.m. We all went in different directions to enjoy the sights of Florence.

A couple of hours later, a jeep drove by with 2 MPs and a member of our Battalion, who pointed to me. I was immediately placed in the jeep and taken to MP Headquarters, where I was informed that I did not have a pass and they were going to check on me. My pockets were emptied, my belt and shoelaces removed and placed in a large envelope. I was placed in a holding cell with other detainees. The sergeant in charge was informed that I had brought 3 trucks full of 3rd Battalion 10th Mountain troops to Florence. All of those on the trucks were without passes. Soon, more 3rd Battalion troops, all without passes, were brought into headquarters. Finally the sergeant believed my story and we were all released. He told us to enjoy the rest of the day in Florence. His departing words were, “Next time have passes, and where was you when we took Cassino.”

In August, we memorialized pioneer ski jumper, ruffer and instructor Hank Seidihuber (85-C), who died July 10. His widow Elsie brought a film of a long-ago Penguin Ski Club chase with 7-foot wooden skis, deep powder snow, and spectacular geladesprung spills. She recalled his role as stunt man in the Holf-wood movie Sun Salley Sevenado. with Hank performing ski scenes as both Sonja Henie and Milton Berle. In September, we met in historic Leavenworth, WA, site of the great 350-foot jumping hill where international records were set by legendary jumper Torger Tokic (86-A, KIA March 3, 1945) and others. Chapter President Karl Stirling (87-HQ-1), himself a legendary jumper, instructor and coach, combined with local host Kjell Bakke to lead a tour of the former hill (now being brought back to life), the old lodge built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1936 and still being used, and the new sites for cross-country skiing.

Also in August, program chairman Ed Gibson, who was an instructor at the Mountain and Cold Weather Training Center (MCWTC) at Camp Hale in the 1950s, arranged for a talk by new member Timm Lovitt (87th, 10 LT). Timm told about his recent service in Afghanistan and Iraq, illustrating his talk with slides and videotapes, many taken while the combat vehicle he was driving was on patrol under fire. Included was a photo of his vehicle after a suicide bomber had blown up nearby. He told of locals fighting viciously among themselves over virtually everything, and of the enemyretreating across the border into Pakistan where the troops were not allowed to follow. Despite the bombs and fireworks, the 87th returned home with no KIAs, a record of which they were duly proud. Only 23 years old, Lovitt came out “a man” who had learned that people can perform better than they think they can. He also determined to do whatever he could to make the world a better place.

In October Megan Forry, granddaughter of Gordy Dick (87-G), spoke on the outdoor skill trips participated in by students at Garfield High School in Seattle. Megan, a senior, described a 3-day trip in the San Juans involving 75 people in survival training, followed by a 2-day trip to Leavenworth for rock climbing. In the winter there are 3 days of skiing or snowboarding at Stevens Pass in the Cascades, and an experience called “Siberia” at Snoqualmie Pass with snowshoeing, use of snow caves, and advanced survival training. Spring activities include canyoneering and rock climbing in Eastern Washington, and in summer there is a desert school with rock climbing, hiking, biking, studies in geology and biology, and a 3-night outing on the Olympic Peninsula. The overall objectives are to develop a sense of the need to appreciate and maintain the environment, the ability to fit in with a large group, and to develop confidence.

In November, to complete the joining of the old and new, Ed Gibson arranged a program titled “Camp Hale — Ten Years After,” in which a group of former Mountain and Winter Warfare faculty described the winter activities at Camp Hale in the 1950s. As Gibson put it, “the Camp, virtually dismantled after WWII, had a rebirth of sorts and became once again a flourishing center for military mountaineer training conducted by the Mountain and Cold Weather Training Command staffed and led largely by WWII 10th Mountain Division veterans.” The program also described MCWTC summer rock-climbing training in Cheyenne Canyon near Ft. Carson.
The annual meeting was held in Helena, MT on September 7-9. Attendees included: Robin and Jason Benner with Joanne Manchester (87-K), Nancy Lausch (descendant, 86-HQ-2), Kay and Joe DeVlin (87-B), Harry Hauptman (10-MED-B), Suz Rittenhouse (descendant, 87-HQ-2), Don Schenck (86-B), Jim Walsh. We gathered at the 10th Mountain Division Veterans Foundation scholarship. The morning of the 5th was devoted to sightseeing around the area's array of historic and cultural attractions, followed by lunch at the classic Hotel Otesga. Attending the reunion were:

- RUSKO Perkins (87-F), Shirley and Horton Durfee (86-L), Beverly Forderman and Bill Millette (605-A), Margaret and Phil Stevens (86-C, 85-E), Bob Krause (87-B), Howard Seaball (605-A), Norma Harter (87-E-W), Jane and Mike Molas (87-E), and Bill Morrison.

Denver's call to the Hale and Farewell Reunion drew a number of our members back to our favorite haunts in the Rockies for the final reunion run by the "old gang." They did themselves and us very proud with a great show. We renewed old friendships, shared memories of distant days, and shared with our younger generation some of the history of the Tenth. This was a "gold card" event, with a committee that anticipated almost every need and desire, including time to visit major exhibits, tours sites at Hale and Tennessee Pass, and still have time to share precious memories with old buddies. Much praise is due Hughes Evans (85-A, C) and the whole committee. The Association leadership torch was passed from the WWII soldiers to the soldiers of the 10th Light, with Mike Plummer as President, and to our descendants under the leadership of Val Rios (desc. 87-K). The Upstate NY chapter will provide whatever aid and support we can give our "heirs." Representing our chapter at this ceremony. We were pleased to see of several generations present for the final reunion. The last full measure of devotion while serving our nation. A rewarding experience for all of us each year is the chance to meet and talk with the young soldiers of the current 10th (Lt) and thank them for their service and attendance at a ceremony that means so much to us. A new record of attendance at a chapter event was set by the Bill Galagher (86-E) family, with 19 members of several generations present for the ceremony. We were pleased to see Jim Winterbottom (85-F) and family. John Benson (87-G) was recognized by the Ft. Drum Blizzard for 18 years of attendance at this ceremony.

We say farewell to Russ Ricketson (85-E), long-time member and perennial ski racer who passed away in September. His wife Margaret suggests that donations in his memory be directed to the 10th Mountain Division (Lt) Scholarship Fund.
The point man for the Pick and Plant program Jim Bray (87-K) has been joined at the 10th Mountain Division Memorial Grove by Paula Barnes (Assoc), M/ Sgt Mike Bruno, Dick Burling (86-C) & grandson, Nancy & Darrell Tarter (10-RECON), Mary Churnside (Assoc), Anne & Warren Craig (86-C), Ed Flabetch (86-A, Hank Lewis (86-B); Mike Muehlbauer (Honorary), Frank Rinella (87-I), Eleanor Wiese (Assoc), Harvey Wieprecht (86-F), Betty & Ben Yett (85-G), and Lorraine Young. Trees planted this year have been an Austrian Lodge Pole Pine for our lost trooper Bill Hoffstetter (85-E), Barbara Hoffstetter and 8 family members attended. A Giant Redwood was planted in memory of Betty Wieprecht, a Red Oak for Edger Stowell (87-HQ-2), a Maple for Glenn Mix (Friend), and a Ginko for Dave Wagstaff (86-C), with Alice Wagstaff and family in attendance. This was our Fifty-fifth Memorial Tree Planting. Before the end of the year trees will spanned seven to ninety-seven. Great time was had by all sixty attending along with John Skillern (86-A & the Cascades to the West. Picture window views of Mt. Hood to Rainier Chapter luncheon was held in the Raven Room at timberline lodge, with a plethora of CDs and tapes for a Belvedere Day observance in February. He told us about a group of 10th in the reception room in a glass-enclosed case. We have moved the bronze statue of the cemetery Administrative Officer, Darrel Tarter (85-A-Recon-Mtg), Dick Powers (86-B), Mike Myers (Honorary), Frank Rinella, Bill Spuire (87-G), Kennie Namba (442-Reg), Dick Powers (86-F), and his niece Lori Vencill attended the annual International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) meeting in Poland. Ten Northwest Chapter members attended “Living History Day” at Milwaukee High School, an all-day event dedicated to veterans of all wars. Attending was 108-year-old Howard Hansen, one of only 14 living veterans of WWI.

Veterans in attendance at our monthly luncheon meeting were Hal Barnes (Div-HQ-MED), Jim Bray, Dick Burling, SSG Vernor Buxton (10-Mt-Lt, 2-218-FA), Frank Chuk, Robert Conroy (10-QM-HQ), Ross Copping (86-HQ-3), Warren Craig, Gerry Dunlop (85-F), Harold Dunlop, Bill Eimstad (86-C), SSG Ryan Evans (10-Mt Lt), Bob Emerson (604-HQ), Ed Flabetch (86-A), Arnie Gagnon (86-HQ-1), Elmer Griffin, Orval Herdon (85-E), Bob Labby (87-G), Hank Lewis (86-B), Mike Myers (Honorary), Kennie Nambah (442-Reg), Dick Powers (87-D), Frank Risner, Bill Spire (87-G), Lee Squeri (Assoc), Vi Tallman (Assoc), Darrel Tarter (85-A-Recon-Mtg), Dick Uplegger (10-AT), Harvey Wieprecht, Eleanor Wiese (Assoc), John Wilson (110-Sig), Eugene Winters (87-C-G), Maj, Ben & Sarah Wikenhan (10-Mt Lt), and Ben Yett. Mt. Rainer Chapter member in attendance was Bob Bagshaw (110-Sig).

Never Stop Exploring and Enjoy the Journey!

FOuND AT THE REuNION

Gold (?) bracelet with a small heart on it; a pair of steel frame glasses (no case); a pair of dark glasses (black with black lenses); a blue button-front sweater; a white snap-front sweater. If one of these sounds like yours, contact me and I will mail it to you.

Hugh Evans (85-A.C.) Phone: 720-562-8135; email Hhevans621@aol.com

Bruce Campbell, 1027 Green Court Village, Apt. 28-104, Plano, TX 75025

M1 GARANDS

Descendant Steve Coffey is researching and compiling information on M1 Garands issued to members of the 10th Mountain Division. If you have personal records that identify the manufacturer (Springfield Armory or Winchester) and the serial number of your issued M1, please contact Steve at coffey_steve@jbaeh.com, or phone 703-902-4005.

MAIL CALL

Lester Ackerman

Does anyone remember the late Lester Ackerman (10-MED-D, 10-MED-B) who served in the Medics at Camp Swift and in Italy? I received an inquiry from his son who recently learned of our Association and wants to find out more about his dad’s role in the 10th. Drop me a note and I’ll forward it. 

Marty Daneman (85-HQ-2)

9890 Independence Parkway, Apartment 28-104, Plano, TX 75025

Buddy Hunter

Bruce Campbell (86-I) and Robert B. (Bruce) Holmes (86-I) are Beta Theta Pi fraternity brothers. We would like to hear from other Betas in the 10th or 10th Light. 

Bruce Holmes, 1027 Green Court Village, Apt. 7, Bartlesville, OK 74006.

Bruce Campbell, 2320 Lorain Road, San Marino, CA 91108.

Email: bbrumar2320@hotmail.com
Peter Austin (10-HQ) died September 26, 2007 after a long illness. Peter served our membership starting back in 1946 during the early formative days of the 10th Mountain Division Alumni group in New York City, which became the National Association. He was instrumental in forming the Metropolitan New York Chapter and served as president of the Delaware River Valley Chapter. In the Association he also held offices of National Secretary, Senior Vice President, and, with his wife Jane, Quartermasters. Peter and Jane took on the reins of QM in 2002 and did an outstanding job for five years in this demanding role. Peter was a 24-year member of the National Ski Patrol, serving as regional, division and national advisor. He was elected to the Hall of Fame of the Pennsylvania Ski Winter Sports Museum in 2004.

I will miss Peter, his dedication and the wise counsel he provided me during our 25-year friendship.

Members of the 10th Mountain Division Light Infantry salute during ceremony on August 6, 2007 at the Memorial at Tennessee Pass.

C. Peter Austin, Jr.
John Duffy (86-HQ-2)

Peter Austin, Warren W. (85-H, 87-HQ-2), August 20, 2007, Avon Park, FL. He is survived by a daughter, a son, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren. He was extremely proud of his service in the 10th Mountain Division and that he was a small contributor in keeping our country safe.

Bateman, Kenneth J. (605-A), June 7, 2007, Euclid, OH. He is survived by a son, 3 grandchildren, 5 great grandchildren.

Bowler, Lloyd (87-D), December 22, 2006, Buckley, WA. Lloyd was very proud of his association with the 10th Mountain Division, from his service in Italy to the uniform he was wearing for his burial, the 10th insignia on his shoulder.

Brodeur, Arthur C. Jr. (87-M), August 15, 2007, Satellite Beach, FL. He is survived by 2 children, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He was in the Army reserve for 24 years and retired a full Colonel. He also worked for Northeast Utilities in Western Massachusetts.

Budlong, Lester Clarke (86-I, 86-HQ, 87-A, 86-MED), September 22, 2007, Columbus, OH. He is survived by 2 daughters, a son, 5 grandchildren, 2 stepchildren, and 2 step grandchildren. He was a corporate tax attorney retired from Bordens after many years of service.

Cahill, George Philip (87-L, 87-HQ-3, 87-K), November 15, 2007, Colorado Springs, CO. He is survived by 2 daughters and a grandson. He was manager of the Cheyenne Mountain Country Club for 12 years, and manager of the El Paso Club for 22 years until his retirement.

Clark, Harold W. (Butch) (10-CAV, 86-HQ, 10-RECON), August 12, 2007, Cincinnati, OH.

Conway, Jack L. (85-A), November 12, 2007, Port Charlotte, FL. He is survived by his wife Louise, a daughter, 2 sons, a sister and 2 grandchildren.

Davis, Kelvin K. (85-F, 90-F), July 29, 2007, Winfield, KS. He is survived by his wife Norma, 3 daughters, a son, 3 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren. He was employed as a technical writer by Lear Jet, Cessna, and Beech before retiring from Boeing.

DeClue, Everett Wayne (85-E), July 22, 2007, Barnhart, MO. He is survived by his wife Lydia, a son and a daughter, 4 grandchildren, and his brother and sister. He was a high school teacher for more than 30 years.

Eno, Charles F. (604-C, 604-HQ, 616-C), June 6, 2007, Gainesville, FL. He is survived by his wife Fern, 2 sons, 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. A soil microbiologist, he was a researcher and chairman of the Soil Science Department at the University of Florida.

Ferencz, Hans J. (85-H, 85-HQ-2, 727-B), September 21, 2007, Virginia Beach, VA. He is survived by his brother, 2 daughters, 9 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. He was with the Gas Turbine Division of General Electric for 33 years.

Floto, Kenneth B. (85-HQ-1, 86-A, 87-B), July 17, 2007, Fallon, NV. He is survived by 2 daughters, a son, 4 grandchildren and a cousin. Following service in WWII, he ran ski schools and the ski patrol at Zugspitz, Germany. He served in Korea and Lebanon, in Ethiopia as advisor to Emperor Haile Selassie, and was Senior Army Advisor to the National Guard for the State of Nevada. He retired as a full Colonel.

Gilbert, Cragg D. (86-HQ, MTG, 10 RECON), August 19, 2007, Yakima, WA. He is survived by his wife Virginia and their children. He was President of Gilbert Orchards, and an avid skier and mountain climber.

Green, Donald Ross, Jr. (86-HQ-2), October 14, 2007, Monterey, CA. He is survived by his wife Mary, a son, a daughter and 3 grandchildren. He was a research psychologist, nationally recognized as an advocate of civil rights and equality in education.

Hardesty, Charles E., Jr. (126-C), June 13, 2007, Downieville, CA. He is survived by his son Dan and family. He worked for 35 years for the Tahoe National Forest.

Hilles, Alexander J. (87-D), December 22, 2007, Port Charlotte, FL. He is survived by his wife Lylia, a son and a daughter, 4 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. He was an avid skier and racer. He was one of the founders of the Beartown Ski Area.


Saffer, Richard O. (Dick) (87-E, 87-A), July 9, 2007, Moses Lake, WA. He is survived by his wife Viola, a son, a sister, 2 stepdaughters, 2 stepsons, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was a rigger foreman.

Schatz, Klaus (Honorary) (86-HQ), July 26, 2007, Lexington, MA. He is survived by his wife Elsie, and a daughter. He was the owner of Seedelhuber Iron Works, where he fabricated metals for many Puget Sound area landmarks such as the Pike Street Market and the Volunteer Park Art Museum. He starred in the Penguin Ski Club Ski Chase movies and was a stunt man in the movie “It happened in Sun Valley.”

Soucek, Milton F. (Cicerio Joe) (85-G), June 7, 2007, Canton, GA. He is survived by a daughter and 3 grandchildren.

Suffy, Robert F. (604-HQ), July 7, 2007, Riverside, IL.

Onyak, Michael (605-C), September 18, 2007, Westlake, OH. He is survived by a sister and several nieces and nephews. He worked with Cleveland Cutter & Reamer in Strongsville, OH. He was an enthusiastic and skilled bowler.

Poletti, Felix (86-H), September 22, 2007, Stockton, CA. He is survived by his wife Jeanne, a son, 3 daughters, a niece, and 6 grandchildren. He was in the insurance business, had a 38-year affiliation with the Crosby/AT&T Pro Am Golf Tournament, and was an avid fisherman.
The 2007 Foundation Board meeting was held on July 31. The Board accepted the slate of officers for 2008 proposed by the Nominating Committee. The Board is composed of four WWII veteran members, five honorary WWII veteran members, 19 descendants and one associate member. At their request, Del Utgaard (85-C) and Max Raabe (86-MED) were elected to the Honorary Board. Val Rios (Desc. 87-K) is on the Board in his capacity as the new President of the Descendants’ organization. Pat Thornton (Desc.) and Mill Whittlelock (Assoc.) were installed as Board members. Newly-elected President Mike Plummer replaces John Duffy (68-HQ-2) as National Association Board member. The Finance Committee reported the Foundation’s total assets as of June 2007 as $2,277+ million with a projected average annual return of about 12.5%. Contributions to the Foundation for 2006 totaled $347,000+; contributions received in the first six months of 2007 are approximately $17,000. Many donations have “restrictions when designating benefits for the Foundation. As a result, this year’s Special Projects Committee received 12 qualified candidates out of 16 applicants for this year’s awards. Five scholars were selected by lottery (see Table below). Continuing Scholars from past years’ awards number 17. The total 2007/2008 commitment will be $22,000 for scholarships. No qualified Boddington Scholarship Applications were received this year.

The Fund-Raising Committee is investigating feasibility of a second capital campaign to increase our current “Your Foundation Is Forever” holdings. The Board is considering upcoming changes in National Association Direction before the Committee proceeds.

Under New Business the Board approved an increase in the Boddington Scholarship award to $1,500 for four years to increase the incentive to compete for this special Scholarship; requested that new scholars receive a one-year subscription to the Blizzard; and authorized new agreements to maintain the Foundation’s relationship with Administrative Director Frankie Barr at the Professional Ski Instructors’ Association.

Complete meeting minutes will be provided by request to Frankie Barr at the Foundation address on this page.

Division Assn. Mt. Rainier Chapter
Eugene S. Hames: Kathleen Hames, Leslie E. Whittemore
Charles E. Hogue: Patty & Bruce Berends
Hollister Kent: Dorothy & John Barton
Steve Knowlton: Dorothy & John Barton
William Kohn III: Betty Jane Ament, Shirley & Kent Anderson, The Eureka Club, Marion G. Cole, Nova & Albert Dowden, Sally B. Steinbach
Ray Makela: Norman J. Elhottg
Clarke S. Mansell: G. S. Coster
Clarence L. Miller: G. S. Coster
Kenneth T. Nagele: Norman J. Elhottg
Philip Raker: Philip H. Stevens
Aaron J. Schenck: Penny & Dan Jobdahl, Don M. Miller, Eilise Jean Smith, Helen R. Trapp, Katie Wilson
Henry R. Seidellhuber: 10th Mtn. Division Assn. Mt. Rainier Chapter
Fred A. Shuler: Kenneth MacPherson
Milton Soucek: Thomas Brooks, Vickie & Ray Johnson
Walter C. Thor: Norman J. Elhottg
Marion Tilmon: Mary & Web Barnett
Betty J. Wieprecht: Roberta and Robert Elhottg
John Yanakakis: Philip H. Stevens

In Honor Of
Sophie and Jake Pollack: Patricia Gutow, Lenore & Ray Jorgensen

2007 NUMBER 3