

84th Division Alumni Bugler

Newsletter of the 84th Division Alumni Association, Ltd.



Goodbye to the 84th Division

Wisconsin said goodbye to the 84th Division on November 9th at the Country Inn and Springs in Waukesha, WI.

Two hundred and four officers, non-commission officers and friends attended a formal military dinner to say goodbye to an organization that has resided here in Wisconsin since 1942.

Previously headquartered at 4828 W. Silver Spring Drive, the 84th Division has units throughout the state of Wisconsin and later commanded units in a number of Midwestern states.

The dinner sponsored by the 84th Division Alumni Association included nine general officers who had commanded or served in the Division. This was one of the largest social gatherings of generals that the state has seen, all to honor the organization and the men and women who have proudly served in World War II, Korea, Viet Nam, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 84th Division is currently the 84th Training Command (Leader Readiness) headquartered at Ft Knox, Ky.

The program included music by a five member Army assemble, two video presentations that traced the history of the organization through the various wars and to a memorable look at the

Division's activities as a training organization at various posts in the United States including, Forts Benning, Bragg, Dix, Hood, Jackson, Knox, Leonard Wood, Lewis, Sill, and the US Military Academy at West Point, NY.

After the opening toasts, CSM Larry Muller recited the 'Missing Comrade' statement to a captive audience.

Comments by former Commanders, Command Sergeant Major and Command Executive Officer and Family Support coordinator shared the comradely of the shared experiences of the attendees.

A special guest speaker, Ms. Martha Osvat, who was liberated from a WW II Concentration Camp by elements of the 84th Infantry Division were more than special. Ms. Osvat a poet and resident of Milwaukee read from her recently published book of poetry that is dedicated to the 84th Division.

Humor was provided by Tom Vandenoorn, local stand-up comic and former division member.

Planning and execution of the event was under the auspices of the 84th Div. Alumni Association.

Board member Col. Peter "Skip" Pochowski was the driving force for this successful event.

Based on numerous requests, demands and suggestions for another opportunity to see old friends following the Farewell to the 84th on 7 November 2009, a casual Valentine's Night dinner will be held on 14 February 2010. The location is being finalized. Dress is business casual. No uniforms or speeches. As the details are firmed up, information will be posted on the website, 84thdivalumni.com.

Also, mark your calendars for these events in 2010:

Dining-in on 17 April; Annual Meeting of the Membership on 2 June; Annual Steak Fry Cookout on 11 September. Locations same as last year, info will be announced later.

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Presidents Comments

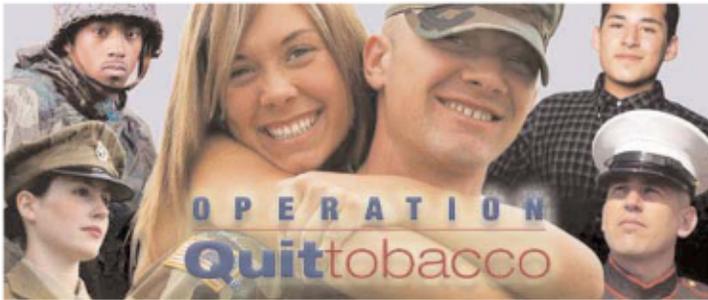
With this newsletter, we are experiencing a change in leadership for this publication. For several years, 1SG Ed Marynik has been the writer, editor and publisher of your Bugler. From the timely pieces of informative articles he discovered in his wide-ranging research, to the “gentle” reminders to those within the Association for contributions, Ed kept this publication timely, informative, and correct. This is Ed’s last edition, and he will be greatly missed. From the “glass half-full” perspective, Ed has graciously agreed to act as informal consultant to your new editor, CW3 Gerry Wold. Gerry brings a strong background in media editing and publication, and we are indeed fortunate to have him step forward to take Ed’s place.

Elsewhere in this publication, COL “Skip” Pochowski writes about the “Farewell to the 84th”, held on 7 November 2009 at the Country Springs

Hotel. I won’t steal any of his deserved thunder, but must at least say that the work put in by your board of directors to make the event a reality and a very enjoyable experience was truly inspirational.

With the Farewell in the rear view mirror, your board will be meeting to plan and finalize our events through September 2010. We are not considering changing any of our three flagship events: the dining in, the annual meeting, and the steak fry. Any suggestions as to additions will be strongly considered to serve the membership in any way we can. Let me know what you’re thinking on these or any other points affecting your Association at 414-577-1728, or mqnpapa@yahoo.com.

Bill McKeown, Colonel (Retired)
President



Popular Program Expands to 8 Weeks of Free Medication Operation Quit Tobacco helps Wisconsin military troops and veterans quit smoking or chewing tobacco. The program offers free coaching and now a full 8-week course of medication to help them quit smoking. All military personnel and veterans who want to quit smoking or chewing tobacco can call the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line 1-800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669) for free assistance. For more information go to WDVA's Hot Topics page at www.WisVets.com/HotTopics and click on Operation Quit Tobacco.

WI Veteran & Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit

The Wisconsin Veterans and Surviving Spouses Property Tax Credit provides a refundable state income tax credit which has expanded the program for property taxes paid in 2009 (and providing a refundable state income tax credit for state taxes filed in 2010) that will **remove the age limit** (currently age 65 or older), **reduce the residency requirement to five continuous years of state residency**, and **include totally disabled veterans determined to be Individually Unemployable (IU)**.

The credit is extended to an eligible veteran's unremarried surviving spouse. Also eligible, are the unremarried surviving spouses of Wisconsin veterans who die in the line of duty, including those killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan. To

claim the credit, eligibility must be established with the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), and the WDVA certification must be included when filing the state income tax forms with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue. Eligible veterans and surviving spouses will receive the credit even if they do not have any income tax eligibility.

The Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs brochure WDVA B0106 dated February 2007 provides information, procedures, and instructions on this new program. This brochure can be found at the WDVA Web site www.dva.state.wi.us, by calling 1-800-WIS-VETS, or by contacting our office

A Brief AAR on RAD McCoy

Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) Fort McCoy, WI - Sep 11th

My wife Ann and I attended our first every Retiree Appreciation Day at Fort McCoy this past September 11, 2009. We both were very pleased with the overall organization and content of the day's activities. I would recommend anyone who has never attended RAD McCoy to plan to do so next year, September 10, 2010.

The morning briefings were held at Building B905 which many of us remember as the old post officers club. I was impressed that because of the number of people in attendance that there was plenty of seating to include the balcony areas and second floor meeting rooms. All of these rooms were prepared with large screens showing the speaker's podium and briefing slides.

The schedule began promptly at 7:45 AM with the posting of the Colors followed by the National

Anthem, opening prayer and a welcoming remarks from Bill Walters. The speakers included COL David Chesser, Garrison Commander; Mr. Dannyou Chow from DFAS; CDR Katherine O'Neill Tracy, Keynote Speaker on Legislative updates; LTC Charles Isely, Chairman of the Wisconsin Area Retiree Council; Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs; Ms. Tammy Hunter from Delta Dental; Tom Bebbington for Long Term health care; Ms. Pam Redmann for TRICARE.

A lunch buffet was provided at McCoy's and a benefits fair was held in the afternoon with many businesses and service groups open at the Wisconsin Military Academy.

Overall it was a very worthwhile day and also a great venue to renew old friendships and learn new information.

Glen "Rusty" Armstrong

COL, Infantry, AUS

Why is the Purple Heart Purple?

The Purple Heart Medal, originally called the Badge of Military Merit, is the nation's oldest military decoration, established by Gen. George Washington as a valor award for enlisted soldiers during the American Revolution. While the design of today's medal is a heart-shaped, gold and purple medallion with George Washington's profile, the 1782 design was a fabric heart of purple satin, edged with white stitching, lace and the word "Merit". Many military historians believe the purple and heart-shaped aspects of the old and new versions of the decoration refer to Purple heart, a hard, dense, dark purple lumber that was sought by the Continental Army for gun carriages, mortar bases and other weapons because of its resiliency and strength – qualities emblematic of outstanding soldiers who had the heart and courage to carry on under the most difficult of conditions.

The Defense Department estimates 1.7 million

service members and veterans have been awarded the Purple Heart.



A new Purple Heart stamp was unveiled by the United States Postal Service at the Purple HeartDay Celebration held at Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, WI on Friday, August 7, 2009. The USPS Regional Manager of Office Operations, William S. Galbraith, did the honors. Special cancellation was available at the event.

National Museum of the Army: Design renderings of the National Museum of the Army to be built at Fort Belvoir, VA, show an imposing four-story tower as the dominant feature of a 41-acre complex expected to open in 2013. The design agency with consulting of several Army agencies and the Army Historical Foundation overseeing a \$200 million fundraising campaign. The museum complex will include a parade ground, amphitheater and a memorial garden. It is expected to draw one million visitors annually, making it a major tourist attractions in the Washington area. The national museum will cover the Army's history from the colonial militias to Iraq and Afghanistan and beyond.

The History of AmVets

Truly AMVETS was born in the midst of war, for it was in August 1943, with victory still two years away, that a new organization, later to be known as American Veterans of World War II, had its beginning. Overseas the tide of battle was turning. The Allies had swept through North Africa and Sicily. In the Pacific fighting raged in New Guinea. Thousands of Americans had made the supreme sacrifice. Thousands more were being mustered out of uniform with battle wounds and medical discharges. These men who fought in history's greatest war found it natural to seek each other's company. They were united by similar experiences--in jungles, in the Arctic, in deserts, in mountains, at sea, and in the skies. Thus, out of such comradeship, AMVETS came to be.

Two independent veterans clubs in Washington, D.C. - one formed on the campus of George Washington University, the other among veterans employed by the government - joined together to sponsor a servicemen's party. By September 1944 other such veterans' clubs organized throughout America - in California, Florida, Louisiana, New York, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Texas. On November 11, 1944, Veterans Day, an article entitled "12,000,000 in Search of a Leader" appeared in Collier's Magazine. This story, written by Walter Davenport, introduced the clubs and outlined their mutual aims:

- to promote world peace
- to preserve the American way of life, and
- to help the veteran help himself.

In December, 18 leaders, representing these nine groups, met in Kansas City, Mo. There, on December 9, 1944, a national organization was formed known as the American Veterans of World War II--or AMVETS, as newspaper headline writers took to calling it. The White Clover, meaning "Remember Me," was chosen as the official flower of AMVETS. Found not only in America but also throughout the world, it symbolizes the states from which U.S. Armed Forces were drawn and the worldwide battlefields on which they fought.

Good Bye Friends - This will be my last newsletter for the association. After four and a half years, 18 issues, it is time to move on and turn the keyboard over to someone else.

CW3 Gerald Wold, USAR, Retired, will take over the keyboard starting in March 2010. I have

In October 1945, two months after the end of World War II, the first national convention was convened in Chicago. The next year AMVETS petitioned Congress for a federal charter. In the words of the Senate Judiciary Committee the organization being "organized along sound lines and for worthy purposes ... having demonstrated its strength and stability, is entitled to the stability and dignity which a national charter will afford." On July 23, 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed the AMVETS Charter.

When the war broke out in Korea in 1950 and again during the Vietnam crisis in 1966, AMVETS requested Congress to amend the charter so that those serving in the Armed Forces would be eligible for membership. On September 14, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the bill redefining the eligibility dates for AMVETS membership- "Any person who served in the Armed Forces of the United States of America or any American citizen who served in the armed forces of an allied nation of the United States on or after September 16, 1940, and on or before the date of cessation of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States is eligible for regular membership in AMVETS, provided such service when terminated by discharge or release from active duty be by honorable discharge or separation." On May 7, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Proclamation 4373, terminating the Vietnam era and the cessation of hostilities; the next day the Armed Forces became a peacetime service.

For nearly 10 years AMVETS did not accept into membership servicemen and women who served after May 7, 1975. Then, on May 31, 1984, President Ronald Reagan signed Public Law 98-304, which amended AMVETS' congressional charter to open the organization's membership to those who served honorably and actively after May 7, 1975. Today, in recognition of the sacrifices made by all veterans and service personnel, membership in AMVETS is open to all American veterans who have served or are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during and since World War II.

known him for quite a few years and I know he will do an excellent job.

Thank you for all the support and comments that I have received over the time I was editor. They were greatly appreciated and they kept me looking for new and timely ideas for you. "Ed M"

How Will Health Care Reform Really Affect Your Tricare?

By James E. Hamby Jr.

A number of readers have written to Tricare Help recently concerning President Barack Obama's plans for reforming the nation's health care system.

Because of the amount of conflicting and misleading information, the writers were confused – and some frightened – about possible harmful effects of those plans on their Tricare and Tricare for Life coverage.

Some unofficial comments and rumors have been circulating on the Internet and elsewhere that claim the president's and Congress' plans will seriously damage or destroy Tricare and Tricare for Life coverage.

Here is some information made public by official sources:

- The House Education and Labor Committee has issued a definitive statement saying that health care reform proposals being discussed have been specifically designed to shield Tricare, Tricare for Life and Veterans Affairs Department health care programs from any requirements or penalties that could become part of legislation.
- Obama met with the American Legion recently and specifically reiterated that Tricare and VA health care provisions will not be changed. He later confirmed those facts in a meeting with several military-related publications, including Military Times.

▪ At the national Veterans of Foreign Wars conference Aug. 17, Obama made similar statements that there will be no reduction in Medicare benefits. Reducing Medicare costs would come from reducing fraud and abuse.

Obama went on to say that he plans to increase VA benefits, including improved access to care, particularly for mental health, and to reduce the backlog of benefit claims appeals – estimated in some cases to be as much as 1 ½ years.

▪ Visit www.whitehouse.gov/realitycheck/faq. White House statements regarding Medicare and VA are easy to find. All report that none of the military related medical benefit programs will be cut, curtailed or reduced.

Something to keep in mind during discussions to come is that Tricare, including Tricare for Life, is not a health insurance company or insurance policy. It is a federal health benefits program created by its own law and governed by its own regulation that interprets and implements that law. Thus, any rules affecting health insurance companies or policies should have no effect on Tricare.

Write to Tricare Help, Times News Service, 6883 Commercial Drive, Springfield, VA 22159; or tricarehelp@atpco.com. In e-mail, include the word "Tricare" in the subject line.

Bugles Across America

In January 2000, Congress passed legislation guaranteeing Veterans the right to at least two uniformed servicemen, a flag ceremony, and the playing of TAPS at their funeral. Unfortunately, there are not enough buglers to play TAPS, so the historic melody has been played on a CD player at many Veterans' last ceremony. Tom Day decided that wasn't good enough for those who had sacrificed so much for their country, so in November of 2000 he founded Bugles Across America, www.tomjday.org, with the goal of providing TAPS played by a live bugler at every Veteran's funeral. To this end, we are actively seeking volunteers to provide this valuable service to Veterans and their families. Tom started playing TAPS when he was in a drum and bugle corps since the late 1940's. He was awarded numerous citations and commendations. Tom's work with groups of all ages, has been recognized by all levels of government and other nations. The Elks sponsor BAA and send money to fund our program.

Our Organization now has 6170 bugler volunteers in 50 states and growing number overseas. We average about 1000 funerals per month. However, since the Department of Veterans Affairs is expecting more than 1/2 million veterans to pass every year for the next 7 years, Bugles Across America is ALWAYS recruiting new volunteers

Anyone can volunteer as a BAA Bugler. They can play a traditional bugle with no valves, or they can perform the ceremony on a Trumpet, Cornet, Flugelhorn, or a 1, 2 or 3 valve bugle. The bugler can be of any age as long as they can play the 24 notes of Taps with an ease and style that will do honor to the Veterans and their families.

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Home of the 84th Alumni Association



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