

ARMY'S MOST-DEPLOYED DIVISION IS ON THE MOVE AGAIN

Felicity Hallanan, Blizzard Editor

In what is now not an unusual event, it was both hail and farewell at Magrath Gymnasium on Fort Drum on October 16, 2015.

While the 10th Mtn Div Artillery was welcomed back and reactivated, at the same time Division Headquarters prepared for yet-another deployment to Afghanistan. For the second time, the red,

white and blue crossed bayonets on a powder keg of the 10th disappeared as the Division flag was furled and cased, only to be re-opened when Headquarters arrived in Kabul.

Indeed, a number of flags on standards from 1st, 2nd and 3d Brigade Combat teams stood on the gym floor alone and cased, since as commanding general MG

Jeffrey L. Bannister noted, while last December the post had a "full nest," it was not for long. The 10th currently has units in Afghanistan, Iraq, Korea and Africa. "We are the most-deployed division in the U.S. Army," Bannister said, "and that is not likely to change." The ceremony came, coincidentally, the day after President Barack Obama had announced a return of more forces to Afghanistan, despite the fact that there is an overall downsizing of numbers of soldiers in the US Army and of funds to support them.

New York Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul made an effort to reassure the troops, families and members of local communities assembled. "Why do they keep calling you?" she asked. "Because you are the best." She praised Bannister for his 31 years of service, voicing grati-

tude from Governor Andrew Cuomo, and acknowledged the families including parents and spouses present and especially the children, saying "I hope you know your parents are better than action heroes!" And to the soldiers, "Some day, we will be there for you as veterans as well."

At the same time, the flag of "Mountain Thunder," the Division Artillery, was unfurled after the unit's inactivation in 2004 (see a history of the unit, Page 2 this Edition). Command of the unit was assumed by COL Donald L. Paquin and CSM Dwelyn E. Dasher, who will head its mission of training others in the Division.

The 10th Headquarters began leaving later in the month, and is expected to be overseas for a year.



New York Lieutenant Governor The Hon. Kathy Hochul joins CAPT Thomas Guglielmi, commander, HQ BTRY, wife Ciara & 8-month-old Nicholas after reactivation ceremony of 10th Mtn Div Arty in Magrath Gym



The Tenth Mountain Division flag is furled –not for the first time-- in preparation for deployment of Headquarters to Afghanistan.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN SOLDIERS HOLDS BUSY THIRTIETH CONGRESS

Anna Marie Mattson (Desc 87-L)

The International Federation of Mountain Soldiers (IFMS) held its 30th

Congress in Budva, Montenegro, Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 2015.

Delegations from France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Montenegro, Austria and the United States attended. The National Assn of the 10th Mtn Div was represented by Anna Marie Mattson and James Redmore (10th Mtn Div LI, ret.). The Congress was organized by the Military Mountaineering Club Kapetan, which is attached to the army.

In the morning of Oct. 1, delegates assembled and the Congress was officially opened at the Mediteran Budva Hotel by the outgoing Secretary General from Slovenia, followed by the Executive Committee meeting and a visit to Kotor and to Our Lady of the Rocks Island, and delicious lunch in Perast.

On Oct. 2, delegates visited the former "royal" capital of Montenegro, Cetinje, where a wreath was laid at the Lovcenska Vila Monument, followed by



International Federation of Mountain soldiers U.S. representatives James Redmond & Anna Marie Mattson with familiar-looking figure much-like early 10th Mtn Div soldiers.

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Editorial material and photographs should be clearly marked with the sender's name and address. No photographs will be returned unless specifically requested. All materials should be sent to Felicity Hallanan, Blizzard Editor, 95 Zahler Tract, Sandy Creek, NY 13145, or by e-mail to blizzarded@gmail.com. Opinions expressed in this publication reflect those of the magnificent soldiers of the 10th and do not necessarily conform to accepted journalistic standards. Editor reserves the right to rewrite, renegotiate or refuse materials submitted for publication. Questions? Contact the editor at 315-387-2929 or by e-mail. Subscription rate for non-members: \$20. per year.

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THE HISTORY OF MOUNTAIN THUNDER

Doug W. Schmidt (10th Mtn Div [LI] Vet.)

In October, 2015, the 10th Mountain Division Artillery (Mountain Thunder) was reactivated. DIVARTY, as it is known, is one of the oldest commands within the 10th Mountain Division. As a former DIVARTY Soldier myself, with the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment from 1998-2004, I was honored when I was contacted by DIVARTY and asked to help rewrite their history.

The task was daunting, as the command had been deactivated in 2004 and not much remained easily accessible and what did was generic and not befitting a unit like DIVARTY. So, with the help of Keli Schmid, at the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center, Kent Bolke, at the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum Museum, and support from the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division, what follows is but a brief synopsis of what I wrote.

Like the 10th Mountain Division, the 10th Mountain Division Artillery traces its lineage back to Fort Lewis, Washington. The first unit that would eventually make up DIVARTY was the 2nd Battalion (BN), 99th Field Artillery (FA) Regiment (Pack), and was activated on 1 June, 1940. Later, after a reorganization of the field artillery branch, the battalion was redesignated the 98th FA BN (Pack).

On 5 September, 1942, the Mountain Training Center (MTC) Artillery was activated at Camp Carson, Colorado. Under its command was the previously activated 602nd FA BN (Pack) which was soon joined by the 98th, 99th, and the 601st FA BNs (Pack). On 16 November, 1942, the MTC Artillery and its battalions moved to Camp Hale.

When the 10th Light Division (Alpine) Artillery was activated on 15 July, 1943 those previous four battalions were replaced by the 604th, 605th, and 616th FA BNs (Pack) and joined by the 727th Anti-aircraft Artillery Machine Gun BN and the 576th Antitank Battery. Training with the 75-mm pack howitzer and a move to Camp Swift, Texas, preceded the command's reorganization and redesignation as the 10th Mountain Division Artillery on 6 November, 1944.

In January, 1945, DIVARTY arrived in Italy and after a brief reorganization, was ready for combat. Beginning with the assault on Riva Ridge through the battles around Lake Garda, DIVARTY provided lethal fires that contributed to the destruction of five German divisions and the surrender of the German Army in Italy. With the end of WWII DIVARTY was inactivated on 30 November, 1945.

On 1 July, 1948, the 10th Infantry Division Artillery was reactivated at Fort

Riley, Kansas, as a Training Division. While DIVARTY remained unmanned, two of its battalions; the 25th and 35th FA BNs trained Soldiers in non-combat specialties. On 15 June, 1954, DIVARTY was assigned personnel and began preparations to rotate to Germany as part of Operation Gyroscope. DIVARTY's three direct support battalions, the 25th, 35th, and 40th FA BNs, one general support battalion, the 85th FA BN, and the 43rd AAA BN, were ready to face the Communist threat. Technological advances and doctrinal changes warranted reorganization on 1 July, 1957. DIVARTY then consisted of the 2nd BNs, 7th and 9th FA in the new Pentomic force structure. 2-7 FA provided direct support to the Division's battle groups, while 2-9 FA provided a nuclear capability. By 1958, the Division returned to the US and was inactivated on 14 June, 1958.

On 2 May, 1987, DIVARTY was reactivated following the Division's reactivation in February, 1985. By September, 1988, DIVARTY consisted of the 1st and 2nd BNs, and Battery E, 7th FA and 10th TAD.

By the mid-1990s DIVARTY had played large roles in operations in Southern Florida, Somalia, and Haiti. By 1996, an Army-wide reflagging replaced the 1st and 2nd BNs, 7th FA with the 3rd BN, 6th FA and the 2nd BN, 15th FA. By the new millennia DIVARTY soldiers had conducted additional operations in Honduras, Germany, the Sinai Peninsula, Bosnia, Kosovo and Macedonia.

The terrorist attacks on 11 September, 2001, saw DIVARTY soldiers deploying in October as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. In March, 2003, they took part in Operation Iraqi Freedom in northern Iraq. Deployments by DIVARTY soldiers continued worldwide until DIVARTY was inactivated on 6 August, 2004, as part of the Modular Force restructuring. E-7 FA and 10th TAD deactivated as well and the 4th BN, 25th FA was activated.

DIVARTY's inactivation shifted the responsibility of providing fires and maintaining the tradition of the field artillery in the 10th Mountain Division to the individual battalions as they joined their respective Brigade Combat Teams; 3-6 FA (1BCT), 2-15 FA (2BCT), 4-25 FA (3BCT), and on 16 January, 2005, the 5th BN, 25th FA (4BCT). Army wide force reductions saw 4-25 FA inactivated on 14 August, 2014.

Note: Doug looks forward to receiving any questions regarding the history of the 10th Mountain Division and can be reached at doug.w.schmidt@gmail.com.

RESOURCE CENTER

10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION ADVISORY COMMITTEE HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Keli Schmid, Archivist, 10th Mountain Division Resource Center

The Committee's meeting was held May 16, 2015, at History Colorado. Those present included Dan Whittemore, Hugh Evans, Denise Taylor, Connie Nelson, James Peterson, Tom Hames, Tommy Thompson, Flint Whitlock, Kate Raabe, Elisa Phelps and Keli Schmid.

It was suggested that in order to coordinate with Denver Public Library and History Colorado more, we may need to review and update the signed agreement.

2014 10th Mountain Division Resource Center update – Keli Schmid provided an update about the Center. During 2014, 24 donors (10 new) contributed materials,

which is in-line with previous years. Most notable were Pat Schuster, with her father's (John F. Schmeltzer) military memorabilia; Katherine Hagerman with her father's (Ralph L. Drake) military records and photos; and Frank Thornton, who donated all of the 10th Mountain Division Descendants' records collected by his wife Pat.

In terms of reference and research the Center provided services for 265 requests over the year, plus 71 onsite researchers. Most popular topics continue to be the impact of Division Veterans on the development of post-war skiing.

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STABLE CALL

Felicity Hallanan

Blizzard Editor, Associate

There were 51 of us on the big bus, not counting driver and guide for what would be an exhausting, exhilarating 12 days through Southern Spain and Portugal.

Fifty-three people and, wouldn't you know it, one of the first ones we met is niece of a 10th Mountain Division veteran?

It seems to happen that way. Something to do with each of us being only two people away from someone else whom we know or who knows someone we know (or something like that). Since becoming affiliated with the 10th Mountain Division, I'm no longer surprised to meet people who know people who served or are serving in this distinguished, and these days most-deployed, Division.

As I wrote in the last edition, the most-recent encounter was with someone who attends the church where Medal of Honor recipient John Magrath was a member. This time, the niece on the bus did not know as much about her uncle's history, but she knew that her cousins cared enough that they'd gone to the effort and expense to obtain new license plates where they lived in Colorado, so that they'd proclaim their loyalty and family relationship to the 10th every time they went for a drive.

Unfortunately, she went on, some of them had been chastised by older veterans and told "You weren't in the Division. You don't have the right to have those license plates." Needless to say the "offending" cousins were taken aback, to the point that some of them did, indeed, turn in the plates.

And that saddens me greatly, and takes me back over-30 years ago when the 10th was re-activated at Fort Drum. It was a grand and glorious occasion on a frigid North Country day in a small, older hangar at Wheeler Sack Army Airfield.

It was exciting to welcome the Division and especially one with such an estimable record.

But it wasn't long before we began hearing about World War II veterans who

were berating the soldiers of the "new" Division, mocking them because it was designated "Light Infantry" as though that were something-less than what they had fought in, rather than understanding that it meant when the Army needed forces quickly anywhere in the world, this would be the unit it would call on. No way did it mean they were less strong, less trained, less capable of carrying out their role.

Even now I wince when stories come in, that single out new members of Chapters as being "light", as though they are somehow different from the soldiers who stormed Riva Ridge and Mount Belvedere. At a recent ceremony at Fort Drum's Magrath Gymnasium, I stood and looked at the number of brigade flags that were furled in their canvas cases, signifying that that unit of whatever size is now deployed to Afghanistan, or Iraq, or Korea or Africa or wherever needed at this moment. And while the ceremony observed the uncasing of Division Artillery (see page 2, this Edition), it also included furling of the 10th Mountain Division flags themselves as Headquarters prepared to deploy –for a second time in this long, 14-year war—to Afghanistan.

The last "Blizzard" featured preparations for a new monument in Watertown's Thompson Park that will tell the story of the 10th, past, present and future. Yet even-now we have received a letter from a WWII veteran, chastising what is the result of hard work of those who are striving to get the City's approval, come up with a design and solicit funds for the new edifice. "We don't need any more monuments," he writes. "We know what we did in WWII, so why the compulsion for more and more public recognition?"

Really? It can be that the author does not understand that the monument seeks to tell the whole story of the 10th, from World War II to the present. Suffice it to say I look forward to the day when the words "10th Mountain Division veteran" will spread across and apply to multiple generations, with the pride they all deserve.

FOREVER ITALY UNLIKE ANYTHING BEFORE

Keli Schmid Archivist, 10th Mtn Div Resource Center

"How was your trip to Italy?"

Fascinating. Amazing. Unbelievable. Beautiful. Overwhelming. Unlike anything I've ever experienced before. I have been asked countless times, since returning from Italy, how my trip was. I have yet to find adequate words to really sum up everything the trip meant to me. It was all of the above, and more.

When I stepped into the position of librarian and archivist for the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center, I never dreamed my new role would allow me the opportunity to travel to the other side of the world. But, thanks to a generous grant from the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, that is exactly what happened. On June 13 I boarded a plane, with my mother by my side (she'd been to Italy once before and was delighted at the chance to go back), bound for Rome, Italy. And so began one of the most incredible and educational trips I have ever been on.

The next questions people tend to ask are, "Did you go to Rome?" "Did you see Venice?" And then I explain that this trip was more than a tourist experience. We avoided most of the major cities in Italy, and I couldn't be happier about it. After spending less than a day in Rome (which is a beautiful city), we boarded our tour busses and headed north. We visited the city of Orvieto, which sits on top of a network of nearly 1,000 public and private, hand-dug caves, some dating back to the times of the Etruscans. We stopped in Siena, which is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in all of Europe. Built on an incredible hill, our walking tour led us up five public escalators to bring us to the top, to the main square, Il Campo.

We stopped in other towns along the way, all the time getting closer and closer

to the heart of the Forever Italy tour: the mountains and mountain towns which the 10th Mountain Division had fought so hard to liberate in 1945. Our last destination before heading to Lizzano (our home base for the week to come) was the American Cemetery and Memorial in Florence. Even having seen pictures, I was not prepared for the immensity of the cemetery itself. So many grave markers. And so many more names engraved on the Wall of the Missing. After a beautiful memorial ceremony for which we were joined by Alpini soldiers as well as active and re-enacting 10th Mountain Division soldiers, we placed a flower at the grave of each 10th Mountain Division soldier. The whole day was humbling and beautiful.

Once we hit the mountain towns (we stayed in Lizzano and traveled by bus to a different town – sometimes more than one! – each day), we were greeted with hugs and smiles and handshakes. We were welcomed with speeches from mayors, and parades of citizens with marching bands and World War II-era vehicles. Plaques and monuments expressing gratitude to the 10th Mountain Division decorate town squares, fountains, churches, and mountainsides. And the food! Oh, the food! Every town we stopped in treated us to delicious homemade pasta, meats, cheeses, even a roast pig! And the wine never stopped flowing. Really. It was up to me to say when, because our hosts weren't about to stop pouring until we made them.

There were five 10th Mountain Division veterans on the trip: Euel Akins, Vern Cartner, Gene Giannobile, Bill Hills, and Louis Vincent, as well as three veterans' widows: Cathy Chapman, Ann Thomas,

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RESOURCE CENTER

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As far as publicity, it was noted that “Blizzard” articles were more varied, covering the 99th Battalion, Resource Center updates, and Dennis Hagen’s retirement message. Dennis upgraded the 10th Mountain Division page on the DPL website, provided biographical sketches for the Tennessee Memorial Day ceremony, and recorded an extensive PowerPoint presentation that is now available for use. He also provided materials for the 10th Mtn Div booth at the annual Ski Industry Association’s Snow Show, and worked a day at the booth.

In terms of collection development the Center added catalog records for 62 more manuscript collections, bringing current total to 789, and created seven additional on-line finding aids, bringing the total to 51. We now hold records for more than 800 individual soldiers.

News of staffing and volunteers included the fact that Dennis worked an average of 30 hours per week, and supervised four volunteers who put in an average of 15 additional hours per week. Those volunteers were Jan Simmons, Bob Hofstader, Darlene Nied, Lisa Bain and Moya Hansen. Keli and Tom Hames will collaborate on a way to show appreciation to our volunteers.

A History Colorado update was provided by Elisa Phelps, who said they are currently studying how visitors use the website to access 10th Mountain Division materials in order to best organize materials and best serve visitors. There were no new donations in 2014, but History Colorado currently houses approximately 3,000 10th Mountain Division objects. The organization is open to receiving additional information about objects on the website; some objects have relatively little identifying/descriptive info. Public artifact tables come out once a month, and 10th Mountain items are often included in these displays. Items can also be donated to area museums where 10th Mountain Division Chapter groups may not otherwise have access to displays.

Photos of those items will be provided to highlight on the Facebook page.

Further, Flint suggested a museum exhibit in five years to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Elisa and Keli will work together to update the Resource Center brochure.

Tommy Thompson provided a 10th Mountain Division Foundation update. The endowment of the Foundation is just over \$2.9 million, which will produce a revenue of \$125,000-\$135,000.; \$30,000 of that will go to overhead (\$20,000 is for the part-time director, \$10,000 goes to everything else); \$5,500 is for memorial upkeep. The Foundation has contributed additional funding to bring Keli Schmid’s hours at the Resource Center up to 30 from 20 per week.

The Foundation has also signed contribution agreements with Ski Logic and Wes-

tin Snowboards, and continues to make available college scholarships for Descendants; in addition, \$60,000 is slated for programs such as aiding wounded 10th soldiers with rehabilitation, and the Living History group.

Another \$30,000 is set aside for special projects, although the Foundation received requests for \$170,000. When distributing these funds, the Foundation prefers to focus on education about the 10th, and outdoor and recreational leadership training. The Foundation’s annual meeting was to be on July 27, following a strategic workshop on July 26.

A major consideration for the Foundation is how to stay relevant with new generations. Connections are being made over social media; new member chapters are being formed based on units men served in, rather than their current geographical locations.

The Foundation has granted funds to allow Keli Schmid to participate in the Forever Italy tour in June. Keli will be posting a travel blog on the DPL website (URL to follow). Following the trip she will also draft a letter of accomplishment and purpose for the Foundation, and will write an article for the Blizzard.

In other items, Hugh Evans requested a moment of silence in honor of Pat Thornton. He noted that a nice acknowledgement was received from an historian in France who had previously contacted Hugh regarding World War II. Jeff Lauderville from Santa Fe has written a book about his great grandfather in World War II. Terry Ploot has been a strong supporter of the Ski-In, working to organize veterans speaking at the middle school in Leadville. Ten members were present for the Trash Bash. Hugh urges people to support Christies of Genesee in return for their generosity toward 10th Mountain Division groups. Carol has taken responsibility for the yurts at Ski Cooper.

Additional discussion regarded the military museum in New Orleans, which is interested in obtaining oral histories. The U.S. Army Foundation is slated to break ground on an Army Museum in 2016. James Peterson and Keli Schmid will connect with Connie Nelson regarding Descendants who may wish to volunteer with History Colorado or the Resource Center.

The next 10th Mountain Division Advisory Committee Meeting will be held at Denver Public Library, and future meetings will alternate between DPL and History Colorado. Future meetings will also be held twice a year, likely in Spring and Fall, in order to keep up momentum between the groups. The annual meeting concluded with a display of some of History Colorado’s 10th Mountain Division artifacts.

The 2015 fall meeting was to take place Nov. 14, from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., at the Denver Public Library.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF MOUNTAIN SOLDIERS HOLDS BUSY THIRTIETH CONGRESS

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a visit to the Mayor who welcomed delegates and explained plans for developing the city economically with more tourist activities. Afterwards delegates visited an art museum where there is a very famous icon.

The group then departed for a visit to the Montenegro mountain soldiers at a camp in the field where there was an exhibition of military equipment. The Chief of Staff of the Montenegro military was present and awarded several soldiers certificates of merit. Lunch was served and afterwards delegates departed for a visit to the mausoleum at Loveen where a famous Montenegro philosopher is buried.

The next day, the General Assembly (Congress) was held where distinguished members received merit awards. The most important item on the agenda was the election of the new Secretary General

from Italy. The outgoing Secretary General presented the Strategic Plan 2016-2021 discussed during a meeting May 2-9, 2015, in Mittenwald, Germany (see Blizzard Edition #2, 2015). Countries have until the end of December to make any suggestions. Bulgaria is still under consideration for membership.

Afterwards all departed for lunch in Podgorica followed by a visit to a vineyard and a famous Montenegro wine cellar. That was followed by a wreath-laying on a monument at Gorica Hill to honor victims of World War II. In the evening, a traditional copious Montenegro dinner was served, marking the end of the Congress within the warm camaraderie of fellow mountain soldiers and guests.

The 31st Congress 2016 is scheduled to be held near Innsbruck, Austria, date to be confirmed; the 32nd Congress is set to be held at Ft Drum, NY, USA.

FOREVER ITALY UNLIKE ANYTHING BEFORE

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and Rebecca Turck. Talking with them all was the best education I could ever hope to get. Cathy and Ann shared what it was like to be in the United States when all the soldiers went overseas. Rebecca had made arrangements on this trip to meet the man who had found her husband’s ID bracelet in a foxhole years ago. Euel, Vern, Gene, Bill and Louis described landscapes and battle movements as we stood on the same ground, 70 years later. One spot in particular had been known as Punchboard Hill because it was so battle-scarred, but was now lush and beautiful. Were it not for the monument at the top of the hill, you’d never know it was the same place. Even foxholes that once were rough and intimidating are now quite beautiful.

One morning, as we were heading towards Mt. Belvedere, the bus came around a bend, and as I looked out the window I thought, “That looks like Riva Ridge. I think I recognize the shape.” And sure enough, that’s exactly what it was. Again, after 70 years of wild growth, the only recognizable aspect of the ridge was its shape, for now it is covered in tall trees, vines, and bushes, and it is all so green and alive. After a fairly long hike to the top of Mt. Belvedere (though I was tired, I tried not to complain. After all, I wasn’t carrying 90 pounds of equipment on my back, and I wasn’t being shot at), we were able to look across the valley to Riva Ridge. What really struck me then was how far away the two landmarks really are. Reading personal accounts and

looking at maps just can’t give you the same sense of what those men accomplished when they forced the German Army out.

Following our stay in the mountain towns, we pushed north to Lake Garda, near the northern border of Italy. Again, it is difficult to believe that such a beautiful area was once rubble. Tunnels were reduced to piles of rock, and the sapphire-blue water had been turbulent and dangerous. Though the weather was gorgeous, there was a chill in the air when we took a boat out to place a wreath in the water at the site of the DUKW (amphibious vehicle) that sank on April 20, 1945, taking 25 men with it. I knew Lake Garda was large, but sitting on a boat in the middle of it, I felt like I was on an ocean.

In addition to my first-hand education, as a result of joining the Forever Italy tour, I established invaluable contacts with library and museum directors in Italy. We’ve been working together since to answer questions for each other and to share movie clips, photographs and stories. I also feel like I expanded my family by over 125 people, and I was truly sad to say goodbye to everyone on the tour. The Resource Center has been extra-busy since I returned (just the way I like it), and I hope the reference questions keep coming in. I am still processing everything that I learned on the Forever Italy tour, but already I want to go back. Thank you again, to everyone who made it possible for me to join the tour, to everyone who helped organize and lead the tour, and to everyone who attended.

DOLES WELCOMED BACK TO ITALY FOR BUSY VISIT

Andrea Gandolfi

Retired Senator, Presidential candidate and member of the 10th Mtn Div. Robert "Bob" Dole (85-I) and his wife Elizabeth recently visited the area where he was severely wounded during WWII. It was a moving occasion for the many who welcomed them, and "Blizzard" appreciates this account from Senor Gandolfi.

The Doles, his assistants and medical personal arrived in Castel d'Aiano at 12:40 p.m. They were welcomed by the traditional musical band and by Mayor Salvatore Argentieri, who accompanied them in the Council Chamber of the City. There he met and greeted people including some local people whom he had known in previous visits to Italy. Then two laurel wreaths were laid at the monuments in honor of American soldiers who were killed during the 10th's battles in the area.

At 2 p.m. lunch was served in honor of the couple at a local holiday farm that served, at his express request, tortellini in broth. Over dinner Bob and his wife Elizabeth thanked the group, saying "We feel honored to receive such a warm welcome." Responded Mayor Argentieri, "We should thank you who has worked hard at a high price in defense of freedom

and democracy. This is a man whose life as a man and politician should be taken as an example."

Bob Dole, concluding, said "We pray for all Christians, and we hope that terrorism will disappear. I was wounded under hill 913 near Castel d'Aiano. So many of our soldiers died there that day. At 92 years I decided to go back to this special place." On this occasion Dole was presented with the book with photos by Cruz F. Rios (87-K), "In my Father's Foxholes and Footsteps."

During the afternoon, the group visited the locality, Prà del Bianco, where he was wounded on April 14, 1945. Then my brother Bob and I accompanied the Doles, the assistants, the Mayor of Castel d'Aiano and other people and authorities to visit the museum of Iola, because he had said "I want spend some minutes in a visit to the museum in Iola." We gave him a plaque in memory of his visit to the museum.

Since in the morning trip from Florence and Castel d'Aiano the driver had made an absurd route, at 6 p.m. my brother and I accompanied the car of Bob Dole and his wife back up to Porretta for the shortest route. From there they returned back to Florence via Pistoia.



Bob & Elizabeth Dole were warmly welcomed on a visit to Italy. A noontime banquet included a welcome by Mayor Argentieri at the Council Chamber of the Municipality of Castel d'Aiano.

VISIT THE 10TH WEBSITE

www.10thmtndivassoc.org

MORE FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

Connie Nelson (Desc 85-D)

This year's Christmas party is scheduled for 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m., Dec. 26, 2015 at Christies of Genesee. Thank you to David and Jane Christie for hosting this event once again. Additional information will be forthcoming.

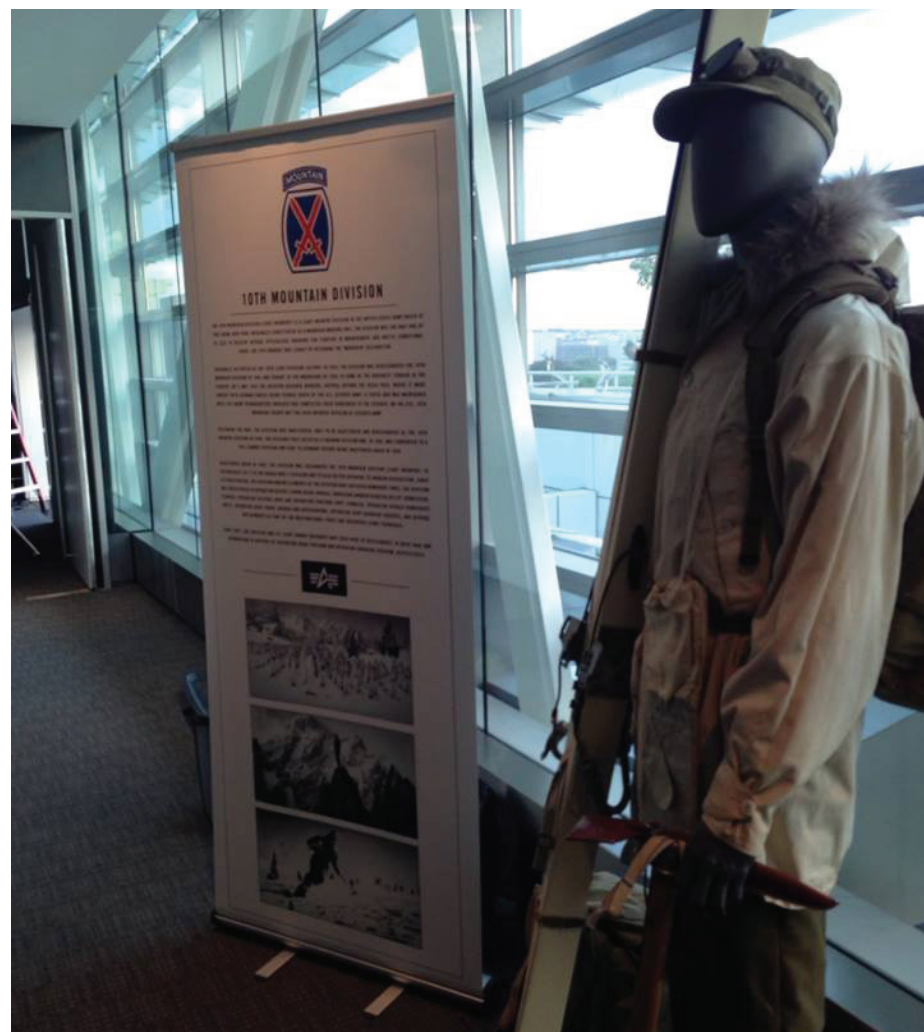
The Colorado Ski and Snowboard Museum is continually looking for ways to grow the museum's 10th Mountain display, which currently features a campsite diorama, along with various other related artifacts. In addition, the museum's media area features a large screen television, alternating the Climb to Glory and Fire on the Mountain videos daily. As a fitting complement to the 10th Mountain artifacts and displays, former 10th Mountain Division veteran, Sandy Treat, entertains and educates museum visitors each Friday afternoon with his presentation of the formation of the 10th, stories from Camp Hale and recollections of the division's

European campaign. As the museum gears up for an exciting expansion and renovation in the spring of 2016, the 10th Mountain Division display will remain the cornerstone of the museum's overall presentation, anchoring the venue's depiction of the history of skiing and snowboarding in Colorado.

WWII 10th Mountain Division veteran, Bruce Campbell (86th MIR), is featured in the current, fall 2015 issue of WWII Quarterly, a magazine produced by 10th Mtn Div writer, historian, and descendant, Flint Whitlock. The magazine should be out on newsstands and in bookstores now.

Seven films from the "Newc" Eldredge collection are now digitized and available for viewing, thanks to a grant from the Colorado Historic Records Advisory

(Continued on Page 10)



A special, evening event at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. observed the 50th Anniversary of Alpha Industries. The firm is a military and civilian clothing manufacturer. They were the original designers and makers of the US Army M-65 Field Jacket, which is the "great-grandson" of the US Army Mountain Jacket developed for the 10th Mtn Div during WWII. "Blizzard" thanks Patrick Kiser (Desc Walter Kiser 87-F)) for this contribution!

ORATORIO FEATURING TENTH GETS WIDER AUDIENCE

Joyce Kirkpatrick

"Letter from Italy, 1944: A New American Oratorio," has now been seen by a wider audience. After its June 14, World Premiere of the Documentary, the film was shown again at Yale University in New Haven, CT.

The first showing in June was preceded by a Presentation of Colors and attended by several hundred enthusiastic people, including 10th Mountain Division WWII veteran Hank Peasley of Berlin, CT, who attended with his daughter. He was one of the three WWII veterans who there. Sadly to say, the other two veterans, Earl Norem and Newc Eldredge, passed away this summer. We are glad we got to know them, if only briefly, and very sad to see them go.

On June 18, 2015, the Documentary received its inaugural TV broadcast on Connecticut Public Television (CPTV) that reached 6,500 viewing units! An additional broadcast, as yet unscheduled, is planned sometime before June 2016 on CPTV.

On September 21, the Association of Yale Alumni in Medicine, Yale Veterans Association, Yale Student Veterans Council and Jonathan Edwards College sponsored a second public, free screening of the Documentary, followed by a panel discussion and conversation.

The documentary is narrated by Meryl Streep and directed by five-time Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Karyl Evans (Yale Fellow) about the creation of an oratorio written by two sisters about their father, Dr. John K. Meneely Jr., a doctor

trained at Yale Medical School (1941) and a medic in the elite 10th Mountain Division during WWII, who returned home from Italy with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Every generation is affected by war and its aftermath. The film explores the history of the 10th, the effects of war on a soldier and on his relationships with his wife, Delia Page Marshall, a nurse trained at Yale School of Nursing, and his family, as well as the creative process of producing the oratorio about his life.

Grammy-nominated composer Sarah Meneely-Kyder and her sister, noted poet Nancy Meneely, both Connecticut residents, wrote the compelling two-hour oratorio in collaboration with the Greater Middletown Chorale's Artist Director Joseph D'Eugenio. The film follows the creative process of writing the lyrics, which are based on Dr. Meneely's poetic letters home from war, writing the music, staging of the oratorio by theater director Sheila Garvey, as well as the rehearsal process with the Greater Middletown Chorale (now called the "GMChorale") and soloists including tenor Jack Anthony Pott and Metropolitan Opera soprano Patricia Schuman. The film uses archival images and interviews with the creators, singers, three 10th Mtn Div veterans, historians, audience members, community participants, and other veterans, to weave a compelling story about a veteran and his family and the way a shared artistic experience can help heal the trauma of war.



Attending world premiere of documentary "Letter from Italy, 1944: A New American Oratorio," from left Karyl Evans, Filmmaker & Director; Sheila Garvey, Theatrical Director; Hank Peasley, WWII 10th Mtn Div veteran; Joseph D'Eugenio, Artistic Director, GMChorale; Jack Anthony Pott, singer who portrays 10th medic Dr. John K. Meneely, hero of "Letter from Italy, 1944."

A WINDY DAY AT GENESEE

Hugh Evans (85-A, C)

Ed. Note: Longtime readers will recognize the author and his subject and why we couldn't refuse including this entry.

The last day of October was a Saturday and the last Tenth Trash Bashing day for the 2015 Trash Bashing Season. It was our third pickup for the year. One of our four normal pickups was canceled because of too few picker uppers. Then the writer missed one because he ran off to Montana to see a granddaughter so he only participated in two this year.

There were big white clouds over the Rockies, and it proved to be the windiest day the Bashers have experienced in their 22 years of picker upping. It was all we could do to stand up against the wind. You had to plant both feet solidly on the ground and move very cautiously. If the lighter trash you picked up got away before you could stuff it in your bag, you did not have to worry because it flew all the way to the next Adopt-a-Highway pickup area. Given these circumstances we finished this pickup as fast as possible.

We, this fine day, included Denise Taylor (Desc 126-D), Don Palmer (Friend), Melonie Loveland (Desc 87-A) --a first time for her, Dan Whittemore (Desc 86-H), Gary Burton (Desc 87-L), Hugh Evans, Harry Owens (85-D); Ann Owens, Spouse. Evans is not driving any more so Denise brought him to the party. When finished we went from US Highway #40 immediately to the Original Coffee Shop at Genesee. Dave and Jane Christie (Deesc 87-F), were off climbing mountains. Dave had invited us to go to his Event Center even though he was away, but we finished so early it was not open yet.

The Owens' headed home right after they finished their section so they were not with us. They had other business to do. At the coffee shop the remaining six of us sat around one table and told of or presented our treasures. Gary had a beautiful, shiny wrench and a half, torn-in-half dollar bill. Don had memories of going downhill. Dan had a construction flag, a mattress claim and he saw a full deer carcass. Melonie claimed finding a bit of a rubber tire. Denise found a small schnapps bottle.

Evans had spotted a mattress beside the road and when looking closer saw a second down the bank which he graciously allowed Dan to claim. He also found an interesting car part and a highway road marker. Gary won 'the treasure contest' with four points and Evans came in second voting for himself and with Gary generously giving Evans his vote. When we left the coffee shop Gary gave his half dollar bill to the owner telling him to send it to President Obama.

This was the last Trash Bash that Evans would 'manage'. Gary Burton agreed to the tremendous responsibility of managing the future Trash Bashes. (Don had hoped they would be given up altogether.) Gary drove Evans home. We stopped by the Department of Transportation offices along the way so that Evans could show Gary where they were, meet some of the DOT key people and pick up a box of bags for 2016. Evans also gave Gary his TB paper work and told him the complicated procedures to follow.

For Evans it was a very good last day! He thinks the strong wind came that day to blow him away.



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Store Hours: Monday thru Friday 10 - 2, closed holidays and Division DONSA's.

NORTH COUNTRY NATIVE MCHUGH STEPS DOWN AS ARMY SECRETARY

Michelle Tan "Army Times," October 21, 2015

In recognition of his career representing Northern New York, including most recently as Secretary of the Army, "Blizzard" features this exit interview with the former New York State Senator, US Congressman and Watertown native John McHugh.

WASHINGTON — For more than six years, Secretary John McHugh has led the US Army as it fought two wars, weathered steep budget cuts, shed more than 80,000 soldiers and put into motion one of the most sweeping force structure reorganizations the service has seen in years.

As he prepared to step down Nov. 1, McHugh discussed the challenges still facing the Army as it prepares to get smaller even as it trains to face growing and emerging threats around the world.

Q. There are still many challenges, the budget being one of them, the ongoing drawdown, demands on the force around the world, and we have a new chief. Where is the Army today?

A. The Army as a fighting force continues to be the greatest land force the world has ever seen. As we have witnessed in previously unforeseen challenges, be they Russia and Ukraine, or ISIS, and Syria or Iraq, or really the growth of terrorism throughout an increasing part of Africa. These soldiers continue to meet the missions, both those that were planned for and those that were not. But it causes some questions about how long that can continue. The former chief, Gen. Ray Odierno, and I have both repeatedly testified to Congress that we think we are on a ragged edge that, particularly in terms of readiness, we are at about our limits to continue to meet these many missions. The concern I have is what is the next unforeseen thing? It is reasonable to assume that next unseen thing is likely to be sooner rather than later. Given the current budgets that we are dealing with, particularly should sequestration go forward, if we are called upon to do an additional mission of any considerable size, I am deeply concerned about the Army's ability to answer the call.

Q. What should be done to address these issues?

A. The best thing that could happen for all the services, at least in my view, would be for us to have predictable, on-time budgets. The challenges that all the departments face are significant, but we would be better postured to meet them, even with declining resources, were we assured that we would have a budget on time. That it would be a figure that is

known, that we could plan for, and that our industrial partners can plan for as well.

It is always hard to experience nearly a 17 percent cut, as the Army has during my time here, but to do that in such an environment of uncertainty, be it through continual CRs or sequester-type budgets, is a particularly challenging one. These are tough times at home, and they are tough times abroad. There is no silver bullet to all the problems that the Department of Defense faces, but a routine budget process would aid greatly in our ability to meet those challenges.

Q. Gen. Mark Milley, the new chief of staff (and former Commanding General, 10th Mtn Div), has said his top priority is readiness, and you said we might be on the ragged edge. What should be done?

A. At its core, readiness is the ability, and the preparation of troops, to go out and to meet the challenges that are kinetic in nature. In other words, to go to war. The Army standard for our readiness across our brigade combat formations, our main fighting formations, is about 60 percent to 70 percent of all the forces need to be ready to be ready, to be optimal. Right now, our readiness ratings are about 32 percent to 33 percent of the entire force. That means we are consuming readiness, we are sending troops forward to meet ongoing missions like Afghanistan. But also to meet new missions such as a return, in some dimension, to Iraq, trying to reassure, particularly, Eastern European allies because of the aggressive nature of some of the recent actions of Russia, etc. We are consuming that readiness as quickly as we produce it, with no reserve, which leads me to say that next big unforeseen thing places us in a very dangerous position.

Q. What advice would you give to your successor? What priorities still need to be addressed?

A. Readiness is the priority. The job of an army is first and foremost to be ready to defend this nation and to defend its interests, wherever the call might be. The last thing any service chief or service secretary or any Army leader, certainly, wants to do is send a troop into harm's way that has not been properly trained or equipped. It is not in the best possible position to go forward, meet the mission and come home safely. Until we have established a readiness rating across our combat structure that is more in tune with our standards, that is going to have to be and continue to be the No. 1 priority.

Q. Can you talk about modernization?

A. That is the problem with our budget



US Army Secretary John McHugh

--Photo: Mike Morones, Staff, Army Times Pub. Co

challenges. The Army's track record on past acquisition programs was less than ideal, and when I came to the building, I commissioned the Decker-Wagner Report. It really did not tell us anything too terribly new, but to read it in one report was sobering. From I think 1992 to 2002, a decade, some 30 major Army programs were canceled, \$30 billion in taxpayer monies essentially lost for lack of fielding of those programs.

Due to the hard work of a lot of people in our acquisition community, I think we are doing a lot better. We have made concerted efforts to try to rationalize our requirements process, adopted a policy of sometimes good enough is good enough, and tried to lessen our appetite for immature technologies that tend to stretch out developmental program timeframes and add significant dollars. But like everything else, modernization requires money, and our modernization efforts, particularly our major developmental programs, have had to be suspended and placed off

into some time in the next decade. We have instead focused on some equipment upgrades, particularly in our combat vehicle fleet, but those are programs intended to sustain us, not to best prepare us for that next-generation fight.

What we have done as well is tried to focus our limited dollars and continue to develop things that we know we will need. We are investing in technologies on enhanced personnel protective systems; reactive armor; increasing our technological edge; and devices for degraded visual environments; energy efficiencies that not only save money but decrease the need for convoys that are inherently risky for those soldiers that are asked to protect them. These are near-term and very real and achievable goals. And in contrast to some major development program of a next-generation platform that is not yet available, these are more reasonable in terms of dollar outlays. We are also trying to fence science and technology, includ-

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FOREVER ITALY TRIP MEETS AND EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS

Every three years, 10th Mountain Division Veterans, Descendants and friends join forces in Italy for what they hope will be a renewal of friendships or the forming of new ones, a series of experiences in a familiar or a new country and, most of all a look back at sacrifices and accomplishments

of World War II. Again this year participants were not disappointed, as they traveled from Florence in Tuscany where the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) cares for the remains of over-350 10th soldiers, up into the Apennine Mountains where those soldiers fought,

and down across the Po River Valley plains and north to Lake Garda where their battles came to an end. As these photos show, the vets and families learned what it's like to be remembered—and thanked—as Americans for what the country sacrificed during WWII. Even now people who were

alive then, and their descendants, remember, and appreciate the role the United States of America plays on the world stage. The travelers were treated to warm welcomes, parades and wreath-layings and plenty of great foods, and took away lifetime memories. Until next time!



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WALKING IN MY FATHERS' FOOTSTEPS

Martha Turek (Desc 87-M)

Despite rain and fog for most of our visit in the Hill towns of Italy this past October, my husband and I walked a large portion of the Gothic Line trying to imagine what life was like there in 1945.

My Dad, CPL Elton W. Turek of West Hartford, CT, was a machine gunner with 87-M, the heavy weapons platoon. I had learned their job was to break through the German "Gothic Line" at the crest of the Apennines and then descend to the Po Valley and up to the Alps. We were unable to join the Return to Italy Group of other Descendants and vets in June, but it was still a dream of mine to follow that path which these men took 70 years earlier, so from Vermont to Italy we went!

Based out of Vidiciatico, we hiked Mt Belvedere and Riva Ridge and wandered through the towns of Quericola, Castel d'Aiano, Punchboard Hill near Malandrone, Pietra Colora and other battle sites. We were lucky to spend one day with local resident Andrea Gandolfi, who has immense knowledge of the area as well as an incredible interest in the 10th Mountain Men and is one of the curators of a WWII and Natural History Museum in Iola, Italy.

This museum has every imaginable artifact from the 10th Soldiers as well as the German, British, Brazilian and Royal Italian armies who each played a part in these battles. There is so much history in this museum that they've outgrown their current space and plans are developing to build a larger one just down the road. If you're ever in this area don't miss this museum; additional info can be found at www.sulleormedeinostrapadri.it. Inter-

estingly just 12 years ago a large German machine gun was uncovered in a nearby foxhole and is now on display in the museum.

Bidding farewell to the Hill towns and the beautiful Apennines we drove through the Po Valley where the March Offensive took place in 1945. Soon the Po River appeared and we located a monument near the river's edge honoring the men of the 10th. My translation of this monument is "In this place on April 23, 1945 the intrepid Alpine regiment of the 87th American 10th Mountain Division concluded their risky crossing and formed the bridge to push their advance over to the Alps."

Continuing northward, we came upon beautiful Lake Garda, which is Italy's largest lake and was also the site of many battles where the Germans had hoped to halt the 10th's forward movement.

We had brought a few 10th Mountain photos taken in 1945 hoping to find the same location in 2015. Since mountains don't change, we were able to find the same view in Navene on the Eastern shore of Lake Garda.

The 87th was starting their drive north to Trento, Bolzano and Brenner Pass when news of victory came in early May, 1945.

My husband and I had an amazing visit to a beautiful part of the world where 70 years earlier a large part of the landscape was in ruins. The Italian people continue to hold the 10th Mountain Division in highest esteem and are very grateful for their freedom and the sacrifices made by all.

MIDWEST

Patty LaRocca (Desc 616-FA-HQ)

The Midwest Chapter continued its tradition with another long weekend Reunion. This year's Reunion was held September 4-7 at the Holiday Inn in Carol Stream, IL.

We started out on Friday night celebrating our Chapter's 40th anniversary. The Chapter was developed in 1975 so we celebrated the night with a Disco Party. A backdrop of a discotheque with a revolving light show put us all back to the '70s. Many of the members dressed up to take part in the fun. Jean Saveraid (Desc 87-C), husband David, Larry and Cheryl Grelle and Urban and Ginny Comes were all firsttimers at one of our events and all joined in on the fun.

Saturday we started the day of with a meeting to go over any changes and to vote on Chapter officers. It was voted that all positions would stay the same. Patty LaRocca (Desc 616-FA-HQ), president, Joy Hafer (Desc 87-G), vice president, Diane Jurina (616-FA-B), secretary and Carl Nawrot (Desc 87-MED-D) as treasurer. We also voted

to go ahead and plan next year's reunion.

The afternoon was spent playing Dirty Bingo, then all went to dinner at a local restaurant.

Sunday we had a beautiful memorial service followed by brunch. That afternoon I put together a taste test. I purchased brand names and store brands and put them together for everyone to pick which tasted better. I have to say I was very surprised when I put Coke, Pepsi, RC Cola and a store brand Cola together and so many really liked the RC over all of them.

Sunday night we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the ending of WWII. Many of the Descendants dressed in 1945 or military style. The party had an Italian menu and the room was decorated with many posters picked up in Italy this summer with the 10th. We were just starting and a man from the hotel came in our room and told us his son was now overseas with the 10th Mtn Div (LI). We

(Continued on Descendants Page 3)



Midwest Chapter gathering, and a good time was had by all, especially enhanced by Descendants in WWII uniforms.

VISIT THE 10TH WEBSITE
www.10thmtndivassoc.org



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 204 S. 8th Street, Davis OK 73030 or email: bryanpullen@cablone.net.

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DESCENDANT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Steve Coffey (Desc 87-F)

10th Mountain Division Descendants Inc. (Descendants, Inc.) continues to fulfill our mission to preserve the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division and to give support to the veterans, wives and widows of the Division. As you read this issue please give some thought to how you might become more involved in your Association, either by attending chapter and national events, or by volunteering. Some of the current highlights of Descendants, Inc. include:

Membership: Membership renewals as well as first-time memberships came in at a strong pace in 2015 totaling over 925 at last count (early October), well ahead of last year. Increasing membership across all chapters remains our highest priority during the coming years as we work to attract 2nd and 3rd generation descendants, as well as those of the 10th (LI) veterans. I continue to ask for everyone's help to build our numbers by signing up a family member or two so we can reach or surpass the 1,000 member goal we've set again for 2016. Renewal notices for 2016 have now gone out so please respond as soon as possible, and consider giving a membership as a gift at any time of the year. We will publish a membership roster to include all those who have signed up by 31 January 2016. Please contact your respective Chapter Directors if you would like to help out (phone calls, mailings). We should also all thank Don Perkins and Wil Niebles for their hard work processing these memberships so quickly and professionally.

Scholarship: As we reported earlier, the Descendant Scholarship was renamed the Finn-Thornton Scholarship last year to honor Pat Thornton and her father, Captain Frederick Finn, in recognition of Pat's life-long role in education and dedication to the 10th Mountain family. To date, we have received generous donations from the Big Sky, Southeast, New England and Delaware River Valley chapters, along with those from several individuals. Taken together with our Association's annual budgeted amounts for 2014 and 2015, the fund totaled over \$12,000 prior to making this year's award. We made the first award of \$2,500 under the Finn-Thornton scholarship to Warren Bartlett of the New England Chapter who will attend Plymouth State University. Those interested in making a donation in Pat's memory can do so by sending their check to Don Perkins, our Treasurer, noting that is for the Finn-Thornton Scholarship. In addition, please encourage students to visit the Descendant web page for information and an application. After all, the goal is to support 10th

Mountain Descendants in their academic pursuits.

Quartermaster: We have staffed the vacant QM position at last! Melanie Loveland of the Rocky Mountain Chapter has agreed, and the Board has approved, to take on the position. She will be assisted by QM Emeritus Denise Taylor as she learns the ropes. Look for a revitalized catalog of items in the near future. In the meantime, a limited number of 10th Mountain items --sorry, no descendant items-- are available through the "Off the Beatin' Path" gift shop at Ft Drum, and can be viewed via a link provided on the National Association website (<http://10thmtndivassoc.org>).

Finance: Descendants, Inc. continues to remain financially sound. Treasurer Don Perkins reported that the association has a Total Net Assets better than twice our annual operating budget for the coming year. In addition, the dedicated Finn-Thornton Scholarship fund totals over \$9,000 as noted. The Association will continue to provide financial support when possible to projects that further our goal of preserving and spreading the word about the Division's history. The most recent example of this is our contribution of \$2,500 to the Honor the Mountain Memorial to be built in Watertown, NY (<http://www.honorthemountain.com/>). 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc. will be listed on the Donor Plaque as a result. If you have ideas that you would like to see your Association support, please mention it to your chapter Director, Don Perkins, or myself any time.

Italy 2015: The 2015 "Forever Italy" trip was a resounding success once again due to the wonderful group of travelers we had with us, our generous Italian hosts, and the hard-working Intertrav Corp. escorts and drivers. We had over 125 travelers including five WWII veterans and three widows and were joined once again by active duty members of the 10th LI (Sustainment Brigade). While in the Hill Towns we participated in the dedication of two new memorials to the 10th, one on Mount Terminale in Iola, and the other on Mount Della Spe in Castel d'Aiano. In a very moving ceremony, the group also placed a wreath in Lake Garda over the spot where we now know the sunken DUKW and those men lost, rest. Early planning/thinking for the next trip is already underway so stay tuned for that.

Social Media: In an effort to expand our use of social media applications we've set up a Descendant Association Instagram

(Continued on Descendants Page 3)



NEW ENGLAND

Bob Linscott (Desc 86-G) and Michele Bartlett (Assoc 87-I)

Warren Bartlett (Desc 87-I) and the NWarren Bartlett (Desc. 87-I) and the New England Chapter welcomed Summer 2015 by learning the great news that Warren had won the 2015-2016 Finn-Thornton Merit Scholarship! An avid skier since he was 2 years old and a talented ski jumper since age 7, Warren became an active member of the New England Chapter, 10th Mountain Division Descendants in 2009, at age 11. He's been the contributing force that's put his, "Team Bartlett" ski team on the podium in four of our New England Chapter's last five annual Hannes Schneider Meister Cup Races at Mt. Cranmore in North Conway, NH! For the last two years he's been the youngest team member to climb Mt. Washington to take part in our chapter's annual Mt. Washington Memorial.

Warren began his most significant meritorious service to the New England Chapter and the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division at age 5 by

helping his dad, Brewster Bartlett, complete the annual recurring maintenance and expansion of his family's Memorial Garden, in Lancaster, NH, that Warren's grandfather (Warren A. Bartlett) began in the early 1990's as a tribute to his wartime buddy, Orval McDaniel, who was killed in Italy during the 10th Mountain Division's ascent on Mt. Mosca. Today, the Bartlett's 10th Mountain Division Memorial Garden bears a cross for each of 96 wartime friends and comrades and Warren contributes songs and verses to the New England Chapter's annual 10th Mountain Division Memorial event held each year in July.

The New England Chapter congratulates Warren for all his accomplishments leading up to his winning the 2015-2016 Finn-Thornton Merit Scholarship; and wishes him every success in pursuing his degree in Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine at Plymouth State University!

NORTHWEST

Bruce Wagstaff (Desc 86-C)

With summer in our rear view mirror, those of us who are blessed to live in the Northwest will admit that it was unusually hot and dry. While I know we will get no sympathy for those who reside in even warmer climates, we are just not used to it. While it was fun while it lasted, the true skiers among us are more than ready for snow!

A Memorial Grove of Trees is maintained by the Northwest Chapter. It is located along Hwy 26 near the city of Banks, OR, and boasts nearly 80 trees, each dedicated to a Chapter member that has achieved the final summit. This row of trees displays an amazing variety of species, size and shape. Many of the trees are well established and require little care. Some of them require regular trimming and watering during the summer months, duties that are now mainly carried out by 10th (LI) Veterans and Descendants.

The annual July picnic was hosted by Dan and Cindi Becker at their lovely Troutdale, OR, home. Potluck food and an afternoon of conversation ensued,

highlighted by Dan and Cindi telling us all about their trip to Italy with the Forever Italy 2015 gang. From all accounts, they were received with open arms by the wonderful residents of the towns that they visited.

This report would not be complete without mentioning an outstanding friend of the NW Chapter and Veterans in general. Ken Buckles is founder of a program that has been involved in honoring veterans through a Living History program and the Remembering America's Heroes program. I cannot say enough good things about Ken and his lovely wife Melinda, and what I have to say wouldn't fit here anyway. Stay tuned to learn much more about these two with the next report.

On Oct. 25 Ken Buckles was to be inducted into the International Educator's Hall of Fame in recognition for his hard work as an educator and his efforts to promote our true American heroes. Read more about Remembering America's Heroes at: <https://www.rahusa.us/>

MIDWEST

(Continued from Descendants Page 1)

were so excited that he was sharing his son's info with us, so we took many pictures to get sent to his son. It really made our night.

The reunion was a great success, and most importantly was our guests of honor, our WWII Veterans Bill Hill (10-HQ), Jake Pollack and Edmund Barys (604-C).

ARMADILLO

**Karen Case (Desc James W. Stanley, Sr -86-HQ),
Phebe Davol (Desc 86-L, HQ)**

The Armadillo Chapter is planning a weekend reunion to be held in the Little Rock, Arkansas, River Market area the weekend of June 10, 2016. This event will be hosted by Karen Case, and Dr. Ann Keese Thomas, widow of Sam Terrell Thomas (87-I). We hope to draw chapter members who have not been able to make previous trips to Texas and Louisiana where Chapter reunions were held in the past.

Activities for the weekend WILL include tours of the Clinton Presidential Library, and of the USS Razorback WWII submarine and its tugboat USS Hoga which are both docked on the Arkansas

River a few blocks from the River Market. The group will have additional options of spending time in the River Market areas shops, bars and restaurants, visiting the Museum of Discovery and the MacArthur Military Museum. There also will be a banquet Saturday night for the group.

We are also inviting members from other Chapters who may be interested. If you would like to receive materials associated with this event, please contact Karen Case 501-472-4588 or Jeannie Geuras 512-750-4905 or via e-mail Karen.Case@afbic.com or jgeuras@austin.rr.com

UPSTATE NEW YORK

Jill Hamlin (Desc 86-A)

The Upstate New York Chapter has had a good year! We held our yearly luncheon meetings, beginning with the Fall luncheon in October at our favorite restaurant, the Logjam in Lake George, always a pleasant time.

Some of us were fortunate enough to attend the Eastern Winter Gathering in Vermont. Our very own Al Soria was the only WWII Veteran from the 10th in attendance! Our Mt. Belvedere luncheon was Feb. 19 at the Century House in Albany, NY.

May 14th found us again at the Logjam for a luncheon and meeting discussing the future of our group.

In August many of us attended a moving ceremony at Whiteface Mountain, dedicated to the WWII Veterans of the 10th Mountain. Our President, Bill Morrison, gave a heartfelt speech.

Our next luncheon was Sept. 24. Our goal is to continue to increase membership, keeping alive the awareness and sacrifice of the military, past and present. More and more we are seeing new faces at our luncheons. Several new names were added to the email list recently.

We are continuing to support our WWII Veterans by taking on more of the tasks they have performed over the years.

DESCENDANT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Descendants Page 2)

page. For all you Instagram users, it can be followed at "10thmtndivisiondescendants". We hope that this will provide another avenue for sharing pictures among the members, and also wave the 10th Mountain flag. Interestingly it has attracted a large number of 10th (LI), serving soldiers and veterans as well as ski industry organizations. If you have pictures you'd like to have posted (past trips to Italy, reunions, "throwbacks", for example), please forward them to "adriancoffey@10thmtndivdesc.org". Also please continue to visit and post on the 10th Mountain Descendants and Friends Face Book page.

National Reunion, Italy trips, etc.) to support those members who give their time and effort to organize these events.

Volunteer: Volunteer to organize activities or suggest ideas to your chapter Directors or the Association Board. We also continue to look for expertise in some key areas such as membership, education, and social networking to name a few.

Please visit the Descendant web page (<http://10thmountaindivisiondescendants.org>) often for information on activities and initiatives, and don't hesitate to call on any of us with your ideas and suggestions.

As always ...we all know that we are losing our WWII generation at an increasing pace. We receive another notice weekly, it seems. When your chapter hosts an event please attend if at all possible. It's the best way I know of to show our respect for them and all they've done.

How You Can Help: Attend Chapter and National Meetings: At the most basic level, we can all simply attend the chapter or national meetings and other gatherings (Ski-Ins, Memorial Day at Camp Hale,

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Karin Daniels (Desc 86-H), Connie Nelson (Desc 85-D)

The Rocky Mountain Chapter held a September get-together in La Junta and Rocky Ford, CO, hosted by Orville Tomky, his children Tom, Karen and John and a slew of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The weekend started Friday, Sept. 11, 2015, with a gathering at Boss Hogg's Saloon. Almost 30 people were in attendance including: Hugh and Ann Evans, Debby and Steve Clem, Dan and Beth Whittemore, Bonnie Douglas, Kate Raabe, Denise Taylor, Judy Whittemore and her fiancé Ron, Sharon and Richard (Butch) Webber, Karin and Kenny Daniels, Don and Pat Palmer, Richard and Debbie Spotts and their beautiful daughters, and of course the Tomky Clan – Tom, Linda, Karen, Chris and Jody and

their kids. We also had a special guest appearance from Gary Burton!

We were greeted by our hosts Tom and Linda who welcomed us, gave an overview of the weekend's activities and a brief history of La Junta and the surrounding area. Hugh then led us all in a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11.

Saturday started early at the Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site located on the Santa Fe Trail. Our tour guide gave us all an excellent, informative and very authentic tour of this historic fort. After the tour, many sauntered to City Park for the Early Settler's Day Festival. It was a local event to celebrate the history of La Junta featuring regional food, entertainment and culture.

From there we then ventured on to the

Koshare Indian Museum. Our guide Jeremy, a member of the Koshare (Boy Scout) Troop, gave us an invaluable history of the museum, culture, its founders and mission. The relics, art and displays were incredible.

Highlight of the weekend was the party Saturday evening hosted by Orville Tomky and his descendants at the Tomkey Farm located a few miles west of La Junta. The Barn Bash started off with delicious appetizers made by Linda, lots of spirits and a tour of the farm. Tom offered tractor rides and Ann Evans couldn't wipe the smile off her face after her turn!

We then sat down for dinner catered by local chefs and enjoyed each other's company. After dinner and homemade

fresh peach cobbler, we shared many memories of our 10th Mountain fathers. Hugh and Orville led us as we sang "90 Pounds of Rucksack" and laughed at some really bad jokes. As always, Orville entertained us with his many stories and memories. And Orville showed off his 1942 Army Snow Cat that was used for grooming at Camp Hale. The evening was capped off with the DJ playing music for dancing and singing and merriment. Tom and Linda would not let anyone leave unless they took several fresh cantaloupe and watermelons with them!

The weekend was very meaningful and everyone had a marvelous time. Very special thanks to Orville, Tom, Linda, Karen, Matt, Chris and Jody who made it all happen. Sempre Avanti!



Rocky Mountain Chapter assembled at farm of Tomky family this summer: top left, Karen Loudis (George Loudis 86-H) , Don Palmer, Beth Whittemore (Les Whittemore 86-H), Pat Palmer, Dan Whittemore (Les Whittemore 86-H), Judy Whittemore, Bonnie Douglas, Kate Raabe (Max Raabe 86-Med), Matt, Debbie & Chelsea, & Richard & Trianna Spotts (Robert Spotts 87-K) , Judy, Karen and Orville Tomky (126-B) , Hugh (85-C, A) & Ann Evans, Steven Clem, Tom & Linda Tomky (son, Orville), Jodi & Chris Tomky (grandson Orville), Denise Taylor (Marvin Taylor 126 ENG-D); second row, left, Trianna Tomky (granddaughter of Orville) & Debby Clem (Desc Hugh Evans, 85-C); top of tractor, left, Lincoln, Jackson & Tanner Tomky (grandchildren of Orville).

FOREVER ITALY TRIP



ARMADILLO

Phebe Davol (Desc 86-L, HQ)

The Armadillo Chapter gathered at Campisi's Restaurant for an Italian lunch in Dallas, TX, on Oct. 24, 2015.

The group included Marty Daneman (HQ-2-85) and wife Lois and Mogens Hallgren (85-C) and wife Joe Anne joined descendants Phebe Davol, Dean and Jeanie Geuras (Desc 710 ORD, DIV HQ), Scott Daneman and son Austin (Desc HQ-2-85) with wife Vickie, Phil

Daneman, Mike Daneman with his wife Susan.

Since some Veterans do not travel long distances much anymore, Jeannie and Phebe decided to travel to see them. Even the recent torrential rains over Texas slowed travel times for Jeannie and Phebe as they drove from Austin to Dallas. But everyone made it safely, and we hope to see even more members this year.



Armadillo Chapter gathering brought together, seated left, Mogens Hallgren (85-C) & wife Joe Anne, Marty Daneman (HQ-2-85) & wife Lois; standing left to right Phil Daneman, Scott Daneman with wife Vickie, Mike Daneman with wife Susan, Austin Daneman, son of Vickie and Scott, Dean & Jeanie Geuras (Desc 710 ORD, Div HQ), & Phebe Davol (Desc 86-L, HQ).

MORE FROM ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

(Continued from Page 5)

Board (CHRA). Read the full story here, and be sure to watch the videos, which depict skiing and drills at Camp Hale, recreation time, and beautiful panoramas of Camp Hale and the Rocky Mountains. Contact Keli Schmid at the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center with any questions: 720-865-1812 or kschmid@denverlibrary.org. Eldredge just recently passed away, but he left us with some great historical films.

The National Association Executive Committee approved the conversion of WWII veterans and spouse memberships to Lifetime at no cost beginning in 2015.

The Facebook page "likes" continue to grow at the time of this writing. The page is just one resource we have to preserve the legacy of the 10th Mountain Division, since many of the page's visitors are located across the United States. If you haven't had a chance to visit the page, please check it out. The page preserves the history of the 10th Mountain Division with photos and information, and highlights 10th happenings, includ-

ing Rocky Mountain Chapter news. To "like" the page, go to <https://www.facebook.com/pages/WWII-Elite-Ski-and-Climbing-Troops-10th-Mountain-Division/1416508011931438>

History Colorado has a 10th Mountain Division portal available on its website. Through the link on the website, the public can now access hundreds of items in the 10th Mountain Division artifact collection. The Museum is working on marketing the portal/link to the public.

10th Mountain Division artifacts can now be seen every Wednesday at History Colorado from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

WWII veterans, descendants, and 10th (LI) veterans are invited to a monthly 10th meeting held the last Monday of the month from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., at the Country Buffet, located ½ block south and east of Quebec and E-470. The next meeting will be held on October 26.

We want to connect with more 10th (LI) veterans. If you know of any who may not be on our mailing list, please contact me or have them contact me directly at connie.nelson1@comcast.net.

BIG SKY

Suz Rittenhouse (Desc 87-HQ-2)

The Big Sky Chapter held its annual chapter meeting in Missoula, MT, Sept. 11-13, 2015, at Ruby's Inn. The gathering followed the usual schedule of meet and greet on Friday. Saturday members attended a business meeting, white elephant auction and banquet. Sunday morning at a short memorial service attendees gathered outdoors in the park-like setting at the rear of the hotel.

Those who attended included Larry Wilson (Desc 87-HQ-1), Jim Funk (Desc Serv CO), Louisa Durkin (85-HQ-3, 86-HQ-1), Joanne Manchester (87-K), Dale Manchester, (Desc 87-K), Jerry Reed (Desc 87-HQ-1), John (87-HQ-2) and Shirley Cramer, Suz and Dave Rittenhouse, Carol (Desc 87-HQ-2) and David Knight, Lexi Rausch (Desc 87-HQ-2, Bill (87-HQ-2), Hilton LaBow (85-L, 90-L) Linda Seibel (D 85-L, 90-L), Pat Meredith (Desc 406-FA-A), Eleanor Coop (87-B), Nancy Lausch (Desc 87-B), Chuck Hauptman (85-HQ-3), Jim Hauptman (Desc 85-HQ-3), and Ray and Vickie Johnson (85-G) Jeff (Desc 85-G) and Debby Johnson, Ray (Desc 86 SVC) and K.C. Thompson and Mary (Desc 86

SVC) and Don Haug. There were four veterans in attendance: Chuck Hauptman (85-HQ-3), Ray Johnson (87-F), Hilton LaBow and John Cramer.

Ray Thompson displayed the Bronze Star and medals of his dad, SSGT John C. Thompson. He received his Bronze Star for meritorious service in combat on the Fifth Army front in the Italy campaign. He entered military service on June 8, 1943, and served with the 86th Mtn Inf Regt of the 10th Mtn Div.

According to Ray, Thompson had charge of a porter platoon of 30 men supplying front line troops atop mountain peaks with food, ammunition and water. He displayed outstanding leadership in guiding his party on numerous trips up mountains being hammered by artillery and mortar shells. Carrying loads of 60 pounds himself, and making four trips within a 48-hour period, he set an inspiring example for his men. In addition, he scaled a cliff under mortar fire to locate three of the dead and to prepare them for evacuation. We Descendants appreciate hearing these stories to remind us of the deeds and sacrifices of our forefathers.



Big Sky member, left, Chuck Hauptman (85-HQ-3), Ray Johnson (85-G) & Hilton LaBow (85-L, 90-L) at recent meeting.

DELAWARE RIVER VALLEY

Barbara Catterall (Desc 85-G)

The Delaware River Valley Chapter planned its annual Veterans Day luncheon for Sunday, Nov. 15, 2015, at the Villanova Country Club in Villanova,

PA. This is always a lovely affair. We looked forward to seeing veterans and their families and will share more in the next "Blizzard."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

Hugh W. Evans (85-A, C)

This Tenth Rocky Mountain Chapter correspondent has been most delinquent for the past few months. He has missed two Trash Bashings and several Chapter monthly lunches. Nevertheless, he has been getting around the Front Range and Plains from Billings, MT, to La Junta, CO, chauffeured by our oldest and second-oldest daughters and their husbands.

We have a very active Tenth Descendants group in Colorado but reporting on those activities is Connie Nelson's (Desc 85-D) job, which she does very well. The Tenth National Foundation matters are covered elsewhere, too. The routine Chapter monthly luncheons continue, but are so poorly attended there is a question as to whether they should continue. We have yet to get a new Chapter President. We just 'Don't get around much anymore'.

On May 2, I attended the first 2015

Trash Bash, which produced many exciting treasures. The June 27 TB was canceled because of low anticipated attendance. On August 29, Gary Burton (Desc 87-L) ran the show and the six trash bashers involved found so many treasures they could not pick a winner and declared it a multi-person tie. Another pickup was held Oct. 31. On July 27 I attended one of the two-day Denver Foundation meetings, giving them the message to stay within the budget and to try to stick to our original purposes. There are many attractive new projects while some of our original projects now seem less-important. But some of our original projects like the Resource Center, need greater financial support. This makes the Board's decisions even more challenging. Tommy Thompson (Desc 86-F) and your Foundation Board are doing a great job in handling these

conundrums.

From Aug. 29-Sept. 3, we were on the way to and from Billings, MT, and exploring both Montana and Wyoming along the way. While in Billings we had a delightful lunch with Chuck Hauptman (85-HQ-3) and Tom Helmer (87-C) and wife Ginny. Old times were properly put in their place. On the way back from Montana, Ann and I celebrated our 65th wedding anniversary in Wright, WY. The next day we toured the Black Thunder Mine, which I started 40 years ago, then were driven home.

A week later we went to La Junta on the beautiful high Colorado Plains and the Tomky farms for a mini-Tenth Reunion.

Orville Tomky (126-B) has been raising cantaloupe there ever since we have known him. His son and grandson now have large farms there and are raising all kinds of fruits and vegetables. After visiting historic Ft Bent and the fine Boy Scout Koshare Indian Museum during the day, about 30 of us had a grand dinner, with music and all, Saturday evening in Orville's grandson's tremendous barn. His grandson has at least 15 John Deere tractors to cover the work on his 2,500 acres of farm land. We were all photographed in front of his largest, 340 hp, John Deere tractor.

That's the Fall, Rocky Mountain Chapter report. Stay tuned.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Kim Hudyma (Desc 86-SVC)

The Washington D.C. Chapter celebrated Flag Day on June 14, 2015, at the home of Kim and Gene Hudyma in Millersville, MD.

The grill was fired up for hot dogs, hamburgers and pulled pork. Beer tasting was available in the Camp Hale Bar. Great sides and desserts were brought by our chapter members to share in the festivities. We enjoyed meeting SFC Brenda Davis, our liaison from Fort Belvoir, just before her retirement. Tenth Mtn Div Veterans Hassell Vass (10-AT-A) and Ralph Tuccillo (10th Mtn Div[LI]) attended with their families.

Our Chapter is proud to sponsor 6-6 Cavalry as a 10th Mountain Division Adopt-A-Platoon. Led by MAJ Billy Casiday III, the seven soldiers were deployed to Korea for nine months. The 6-6 Cavalry is an Armed Reconnaissance Squadron and they pilot the OH-

58D Kiowa Warrior and provide ground forces with reconnaissance and security. With our chapter's generous donations, the first package was mailed with some Halloween goodies.

We had a nice luncheon at Mamie's Cafe of Love in Aberdeen, MD, on Oct. 13. Veterans Dan Muffoletto (87-HQ) and Hassell Vass were happy to meet Michael Weber (10th [LI]), great-grandson of the restaurant's owner. Ten people were able to make the lunch and get caught up with eachothers' lives.

Our next meeting was set for Nov. 14 at Clyde's of Tysons Corner in Vienna, VA. Our speaker, Mark Gerner (Desc 10th CAV-RECON), was to speak on "Above Limits Organization, A Journey in Adaptive Climbing and Its link to the Wounded, Ill, and Injured." Last year we had a great turnout.



Vets Hugh Evans, left, Orville Tomky reunited at Rocky Mountain Chapter's picnic at Tomky farm.



Ann Evans took a tractor ride with Orville Tomky's son, Tom. Her father, Elmer Gullberg, had a lifetime career with John Deere in Moline, IL, ending as a supervisor of their multi-state Midwestern division, so to ride in one of the current mammoth vehicles was a real treat.



Washington, D.C. Chapter Veterans from left, Ralph Tuccillo (10th LI), Christopher Doucette (Desc 10-QM-HQ & 87-HQ-3 & USAF vet), Hassell Vass (10-AT-A), Chris Fazi (Friend of 10th, USA Vet), Pete Naylor (Desc 87-HQ-3 Army Air Corps Vet).



NORTH CENTRAL

Jessica Adza (Desc 85-2-HQ)

The North Central Chapter meets twice a year, in May and in October. Historically there has been a lunch followed by a brief chapter meeting.

Most-recently, we held a luncheon at the Machine Shed Restaurant in Lake Elmo, MN. It was just a casual lunch get together, but one of the largest we've had a few years!

Our next chapter event was to be a luncheon-only in late October. Due to the small size of our chapter, we will most likely be moving away from the "formal" meetings and just holding luncheon get-

togethers and other requested member activities.

Emails and postcards are now being sent for luncheons. Previous meetings had mailings and postcards sent. Phone calls will also be addressed to Veterans and members about future meetings.

The North Central chapter is having a challenge with active members - mainly descendant participation and recruitment, which has been slow. We hope with the move toward more "informal" gatherings, that will spark more chapter interest and participation.



North Central Chapter Luncheon included, left, Veterans Curt Bestul (85-HQ), Steve Woodrich (86-F) & Jim Haining (86th) – and many others!

NEW ENGLAND

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Warren Bartlett (Desc 87-I) and the NWarren Bartlett (Desc. 87-I) and the New England Chapter welcomed Summer 2015 by learning the great news that Warren had won the 2015-2016 Finn-Thornton Merit Scholarship! An avid skier since he was 2 years old and a talented ski jumper since age 7, Warren became an active member of the New England Chapter, 10th Mountain Division Descendants in 2009, at age 11. He's been the contributing force that's put his, "Team Bartlett" ski team on the podium in four of our New England Chapter's last five annual Hannes Schneider Meister Cup Races at Mt. Cranmore in North Conway, NH! For the last two years he's been the youngest team member to climb Mt. Washington to take part in our chapter's annual Mt. Washington Memorial.

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The New England Chapter congratulates Warren for all his accomplishments leading up to his winning the 2015-2016 Finn-Thornton Merit Scholarship; and wishes him every success in pursuing his degree in Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine at Plymouth State University!



New England gathering included, back row standing, left, Joe Gallegoes, Steve Beyer, Lloyd Donnellan, Matt Beyer, Chris Beyer; front row standing, Dave Elliott, Beverly Gallegoes, Lynn Colburn, Warren Bartlett with nephew Trevor Beyer, Bert Hirtle, Joanne Crist-Donnellan, Sue Hagerman, Tristan Beyer, Dick Calvert; seated from left, Michele & Brewster Bartlett, Valerie Elliott, Bonnie Beyer, Carolyn Blakesee, Ruth Hirtle, Shirley Bartlett, Millie Calvert.



**Like the 10th,
and follow it on
Facebook**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Kathleen Finn Jones (Desc 85-L, A)

It has been a busy year for the Southern California Chapter!

Our Christmas luncheon was held on Dec. 13, 2014, at Marie Callenders in San Juan, Capistrano. A raffle drawing was held to offset the cost of lunch.

Ciel McKinney was in attendance to collect toys to be given to the Toys for Tots campaign, and 32 people, both veterans and descendants, were in attendance.

Riva Ridge Belvedere Day luncheon was Feb. 21, 2015. Lunch was held at Cameron's Seafood in Pasadena, CA, with 5 vets plus 20 people in attendance.

A wreath for the 10th Mtn memorial was purchased to be placed at the Me-

morial Day Ceremony.

On July 25, 2015, the 8th annual summer picnic was once again held at Bruce and Mary Campbell's home in San Marino, CA. We received an update of the recent Return to Italy trip from Val Rios (Desc 87-K). Rocco Siciliano (HQ Co, 1ST Bn, 87-1) shared his book. A very good time was had by all.

We have lost friends in Bob Meyerhoff (86 MED-I) and vice president of our Chapter, who died at home on Nov. 11, 2014, and Cecilia "Ciel" McKinney, widow of Keith (85-HQ, B), who left us in Aug., 2015.

The 2015 Christmas lunch will take place at Mahe Restaurant in Seal Beach, CA. on Dec. 5.



Southern California Chapter members had a great turnout for Mount Belvedere-Riva Ridge Day in February.

ROADRUNNER

Rebecca Joyce (Desc 604 FAB, 85-HQ)

Our chapter has 22 active members, seven to 10 inactive members, and one activity a year.

The first years of my directorship, we met on or about Feb. 18-20, to honor and respect the Mt Belvedere/Riva Ridge endeavor and success. Usually we have a dinner or a luncheon to share stories, history and memorabilia.

This year we planned to meet Oct. 24-25 in Los Alamos, NM, because of its military history to WWII. We were to show Forever Italy 2015 pictures and have a "pasta making class," complete with a "mattarello" rolling pin. We planned eat Italian at noon and New Mexican for dinner. Sunday morning a memorial service was scheduled, all to be shared in the next "Blizzard."

Many of our veterans in the chapter are

not active. They have oxygen or some other reason not to travel. We have two active veterans, one with a wife, one widow and one sister, and thirteen descendants. The travel time is two hours to Los Alamos, or Santa Fe to Albuquerque and some are not able to make the trip.

Our finances are fed only by dues revenue. Every year we buy a wreath for the Tennessee Pass Memorial Day service. We have not had extra money to date. We communicate via email and phone call follow-ups. Sometimes we visit in person outside of planned activities.

Our goals are to keep the chapter vibrant, remembering our fathers' war efforts and efforts of the Division. All I have to say is "Tenth Mountain Division," and ears perk up. It's a fabulous group of people.

UPSTATE NEW YORK

Bill Morrison (86-L)

In what is becoming a habit, the Upstate New York Chapter returned again to the Log Jam Restaurant in Lake George for its fall gathering, drawing a crowd of 15 members, friends and Descendants. We were pleased to see two new faces, William Quigley Sr. (86-A, B) and his son William Quigley Jr., who have relocated closer to the area. We again were privileged to have Dan and Jan Mancini join us before they leave New York for the sunnier climes of Arizona. Jan's dad was Raymond Farmer (86-MED-I).

Other "reliables" included Bill Millette (A-605 FA), Bev Felderman, Emmy Santasiero, Don Curtis (99-C) and his wife Gerd, Harold McAfee (85-L) and his wife Loraine, Nancy Luby, Jill Hamlin, and Dave and Bill Morrison. Missing was Phil Santasiero (87-K), who was meeting with his local politician, trying to keep the veterans' highway to the top of Prospect Mountain open until Veterans Day. Good luck!

Since our treasury is low on funds, we chose not to approve any new spending.

Records and gold cards from National are still up in the air, but hopefully will all be soon under control.

The main discussion topic focused on our ability and desire to attend the dedication of a new monument to the 10th by sculptor Susan Raymond, in Thompson Park in Watertown, NY. Dedication is currently scheduled for July 4, 2016. We discussed the possibility of renting a small bus for the day's journey, as the drive might be taxing for some members.

Like many chapters we will observe Belvedere Day on Feb. 18, 2016, with a luncheon somewhere in the Saratoga area followed by a spring meeting.

Each summer for many years, the Army and the 10th have held a ceremony at Whiteface Mountain commemorating the creation of the 10th Light Alpine Div in July, 1943, at Camp Hale, CO. They bring Color Guards, band, firing squad

and a ranking officer who makes the major speech. At the conclusion they provide lunch for all attendees, where current soldiers can mingle with the veterans. This year the ceremony took place in the main assembly area of the base lodge, after weather forced its movement from the peak of Whiteface Mountain on the Veterans' Memorial Highway.

At one point of the ceremony remarks from the writer encouraged an honorary salute to the present and future soldiers of the 10th (LI). Giving the salute were veterans Bill Millette, Francis LaDuc, Charlie Smith, Al Soria and myself. The present commander, MG Jeffrey Bannister, offered remarks about the present 10th LI, praising their commitment and dedication in our country's service.

Tribute was also paid to the late Art Thompson (86-F), former president of this chapter, instrumental in establishing this annual ceremony.

Also in attendance were Descendants Jill Hamlin, Bonnie O'Shea, Dave Morrison and members of the North Country Honor Flight.

Addendum: From the New York Times: The fall to the Taliban of the Afghan city of Kunduz, recently resulted in a full page spread on the army's first battalion of the 87th from Fort Drum which had worked to clear and pacify the area years ago.

When they left the city had been largely rebuilt thanks to the Seabees and American money, where life seemed to resume much of its normal routine, and even now had a second air field.

The author of the article had kept in touch with some of the 87th soldiers and sought to get their reaction to the hostile takeover to the area. Their basic reaction seemed to be 'what was the value of their sacrifice?'

One of the soldiers had also served in Iraq in the area now controlled by ISIS. Shades of Vietnam.



Upstate NY Chapter president Bill Morrison addressing the troops and guests.



Dusenbery, Harris (86-HQ-1, C), 101, October 4, 2015, Portland, OR. Survived by a daughter, a son, 2 grand- & 6 great-grandchildren; predeceased by wife Evelyn. Served in Social Security Admin & founded the office in Vancouver. Couple traveled extensively to over-50 countries, including several 10th Mtn reunion trips to Italy. Believed in living simply and giving generously to others. Among organizations they supported were Community Foundation for Southwest Washington, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, & Planned Parenthood.

Evers, Kenneth W. (87-HQ-2), 91, January 29, 2014, Dubuque, IA. Predeceased by wife Dolores (Nelson). Worked for Baumann Finney & Co. in Chicago, IL, Allen & Company in Des Moines, IA, & Cedar Rapids, A.Y. McDonald Mfg Co in Dubuque; retired from CyCare Systems. Elder & Deacon, Westminster Presbyterian Church, serving for over 50 years. Member, Rotary Club, Office Management Assn & National Assn of Accountants.

Gilbert, Kyle E. (2nd Bn, 14th Inf Regt, 2nd Brigade Combat Team [BCT]), 24, September 21, 2015, Bagram, Afghanistan. Specialist Gilbert died of non-combat related injuries. A native of Buford, GA, survived by his mother and stepfather, Cecilia and Clyde Tate, father & stepmother Ralph and Sandra Holman Gilbert, 2 sisters, a stepbrother, several aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins. A 2009 graduate of Mill Creek HS. Joined the Army in 2013; after training at Ft Benning, GA, arrived at Ft Drum, NY, in November 2013; deployed with his unit in June, 2015. Enjoyed fishing & hunting & being around family & friends.

Glanzman, Henry J. (616-B), 90, September 11, 2013, Whitehouse, OH. Survived by wife Nancy, two daughters,

two stepsons, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren. A self-employed building contractor for over 48 years, retiring in 1994. Member, Zoar Lutheran Church & Whitehouse American Legion.

Goss, Norton A. (86-B),x, February 16, 2015, Niantic, CT. Survived by wife Lois, 3 daughters, a son, 6 grand- & 6 great-grandchildren. Longtime member, past commander, Kari Hill VFW Post 5849, Waterford American Legion, associate member of Submarine Veterans of WWII in Groton, past president, East Lyme Little League. Couple loved traveling to VFW conventions; visited all but one of the lower 48 states. Enjoyed watching grandchildren playing in sports, band competitions & dance recitals, & being with family.

Hollander, Eugene Forman "Gino" (86-M), 91, August 27, 2015, Ojai, CA. Survived by wife Barbara "Barbi" (Johnson), 2 daughters, 2 sons, grandchildren; predeceased by a son. Couple directed documentary & commercial films in Greenwich Village, NY. First of many Hollander Galleries opened on Bleeker St in 1960, Moved to Torremolinos on the Costa del Sol, Spain.

Ran with the bulls in Pamplona, learned Spanish horsemanship, built his dream house near Pizarra & established a museum; awarded a Silver Medallion honoring King Juan Carlos' birthday. Avid tennis player at Lew Hoad's Tennis Center. Couple returned to Aspen, CO; made some 500 trips into Rocky Mountain back country. Moved to Ojai, CA. Firmly believed art should be appreciated, not merely sold or collected, & gave countless canvases to charities.

Lowe, Gordon (87-F), 94, March 28, 2015, Shelburne, VT. Predeceased by wife Jean (Malcolm). Long career in Stowe ski industry as instructor for Mt Mansfield Co., manager of T-bar & State

Shelter, involved in building double chair lift at Spruce Peak; manager of Area. Supervised construction of 18-hole golf course; vice president & general manager, Mt Mansfield Co. Member, American Legion, US Professional Ski Assn, 10th Mtn Div National Assn; couple gardened, hunted, watched birds & waterfowl, raised Scottish Highland cattle. Served on several boards in Town of North Hero; active in Methodist Church, received Vermont Hall of Fame Medal for service in 10th & for helping make ski industry in Vermont what it is today.

Manville, Conrad A. (85-H), 97, March 7, 2015, Branford, CT. Survived by wife Lillian (Bogart), 3 grand-, 5 great-grandchildren, nieces & nephews; predeceased by wife Doris (MacDavid) & son Jon A. Engineer SNETCO; machinist apprentice, precision small tool grinder & journeyman electrician wiring homes. Designed & built ski lodge in Plymouth, VT, for second home. Member, National Ski Patrol System, National Ski Patrolman #1147, regional chairman for CT; president & lifetime member, Newington Ski Club, CT Ski Council. Active certified American Red Cross first aid instructor. Member, New England Chapter, National Assn, 10th Mtn Div, VFW, NRA, Telephone Co Pioneers, New England Ski Museum, Chester Historical Society, Avon Senior Citizens, & United Church of Chester.

Nicholson, William S. "Nick," (86-HQ-2), 96, July 3, 2014, Grafton, MA. Survived by wife, Joyce (Anderson), 2 daughters, 3 sons, 13 grand- 5 great-grandchildren; predeceased by wife Priscilla (Daniels). Stockbroker by training, spent career at Kinsley & Adams (later Shearson Lehman Brothers) in Worcester. Lifelong skier, cyclist, and sailor, loved the mountains; as active member, Appalachian Mountain Club, climbed every peak in New England, many in Upstate NY.

Trustee, Fred Harris Daniels Foundation, New England Science Center (now Ecostarium), Eliza C. Keith Scholarship Fund, Community Nursing Assn, & a founding member, Grafton Forest Assn.

Norem, Earl H. (85-L), 92, June 19, 2015, Danbury, CT. Survived by wife Margaret, a daughter, 2 grand- & one great-grandchild. In Italy with 10th Mtn Div, fought alongside famed skier Torger Tokle, whom he had seen ski jumping at Bear Mountain, NY, when Norem was 12. Upon Tokle's battlefield death on March 3, 1945, volunteered to be one of the men to carry his body from the mountain. Career as illustrator, working for Marvel Comics' founder Martin Goodman & predecessors of Marvel in variety of magazines; also did work for Reader's Digest. For Marvel, produced covers for Dracula Lives, Tale of the Zombie, Savage Sword of Conan, as well as core superhero line with Hulk, Amazing Spider-Man: The Big Top Mystery, The Deadly Hands of Kung Fu, Moon Knight, The Silver Surfer & others. Was working on trading card assignment for Topps' "Mars Attacks" franchise, "Occupation" card set.

Orwig, James P. (85-F), 95, January 9, 2015, Hagerstown, MD. Survived by two daughters, nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren; predeceased by wife Katharine (Cook) and a daughter. Dr. Orwig attended Lawrence College in Appleton, WI, University of Wisconsin, Michigan State College. Served as the Dean of Men, Berea College; continued to teach philosophy. Interests included designing hand-made block print Christmas cards, decorating Union Church for Christmas, participating in faculty sports, hiking, continuing to ski until after his 75th year. Educational consultant, American Youth Foundation; three years with United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia in Hong Kong & Chiang-Mai, Thailand.

Robertson, Walter Clive (85-I), 97, September 7, 2015, Voorhees, NJ. Survived by a daughter, 3 grand-, 2 great-grandchildren, nieces & nephews; predeceased by wife Dorothy (Martin). A truck driver up the Eastern seaboard for Yale & Myles. Member, American Legion Post 262 Audubon, NJ, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 42, Florence, NJ, VFW Post 705, Camden, NJ, National Assn, 10th Mtn Div, Charter Member of WWII National Memorial, Teamsters Local 107 Philadelphia and Local 676 Pennsauken. Volunteered for Virtua, participated in many veterans programs.

Snyder, Royal D. (87-B, SVC), 90, March 18, 2015, Marion, IA. Survived by one son, one daughter, four grandchildren and eight great grandchildren; prede-

(Continued on next page)

NORTH COUNTRY NATIVE MCHUGH STEPS DOWN AS ARMY SECRETARY

(Continued from Page 7)

ing our research and development initiatives, to make sure that we are looking out for that next best technology, that generational leap that will provide us the technical capability, if and when resources return, to resume our major developmental programs. But it looks at this moment that will have to be sometime in the 2020s and beyond.

Q. What did you set out to accomplish as Secretary?

A. We have come a long ways on acquisition reform, but it is frankly not as advanced an effort as I hoped it would be, at least on the first day I walked in. Part of that has resulted in our inability to fuel or to launch major developmental programs due to budgetary issues. We will have to allow the next secretary to continue that. But I think we have provided a new framework to go forward. The other thing that I wanted to do was bring the same level of professional development and educational opportunities to our civilian workforce.

I have thought about how much progress we made and where I thought we would be. These challenges are never totally fixed. Personnel systems are always evolving, acquisition programs take on

different forms one year over the next. What I hope we have been able to do is just bring us further along than we were when I got here and leave the next generation of leaders, both civilian and military, in a little bit better place to continue their efforts, if they should so chose.

The biggest reality I learned, in terms of meeting the vision of day one, is that when you are an Army at war, everything else takes a seat in the back, and obviously, for the last 14 years this has been an Army not just in one war, but two wars. Today, it is an Army that continues to meet those kinds of missions and take on new ones. Under Title 10, the main job I have is man, train and equip the force, and that is a challenge at any time, but particularly in times of conflict. It is a particular challenge when we have had the budget uncertainties that we have had. Visions are one thing, but reality has the capability of opening your eyes and changing your vision, too.

Q. What is your message to industry and to the soldiers who will be at AUSA (refers to the annual convention of the Assn of the US Army held in Washington, DC, in October) listening to you?

A. I want anyone who cares to listen to me feel the same sense I do: That is, for all the challenges, for all the talk of divi-

sion, for all the talk of tough budgets and hard times, and they are all real — the men and women of this Army continue to answer the call and go forward and continue to perform magnificently. But there is a question and it is not for the Army to answer, it is for others. What are we going to do to preserve it? A lot of blood, a lot of treasure, a lot of sacrifice went in to build this force. We have the opportunity to preserve it or to squander it.

Q. What do you think your legacy will be?

A. I do not, by any means think it is to my credit, or frankly many in the Pentagon, that this is such a magnificent Army. I give full credit to the men and women who put on the uniform, but what I hope I have been able to do through some challenging times is to bring at least a modest sense of stability and purpose to the Army. Give them a small measure of the kind of support and, I think, the kind of leadership they deserve.

Email: mtan@armytimes.com



To the Editor:

Hello. My father Walter J. Coblentz Jr. (85-I) was in the original 10th at Mt Rainier in 1941. He is 96 and still is able to tell stories and is very sharp. However he has congestive heart failure.

I am wondering if there is a contact in Seattle who would be interested in speaking with him to record some of this history.

I am his daughter and live in Kirkland, WA, where he resides also.

Gail Coblentz
gail9@hotmail.com

TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION FOUNDATION HOLDS EXTENSIVE ANNUAL MEETING

(Continued from Page 16)

educate their audiences about the specialized equipment, weapons, tactics and history of the WWII 10th, and partial funding for the production of an oratorio concerning post-traumatic stress disorder and the ways veterans of WWII have dealt with it. This production inspired a documentary film, "Letter from Italy: 1944",



(Continued from previous page)

ceased by wife Eileen (French). Employed by US Post Office. Enjoyed fishing, traveling & playing cards. Member, American Legion for 69 years & member First Presbyterian Church.

Syer, William A. (90-B), 94, June 18, 2015, Ossipee, NH. Survived by 4 daughters, a son, 6 grand-, 9 great-grandchildren; predeceased by both first and second wives, Harriett & Helen (Linehan). Worked as a cabinet maker & finish carpenter for most of his life. In Brookfield, served as Selectman & Fire Warden.

shown regionally on PBS stations in New England. Collectively, these projects have benefited from nearly \$200,000 of direct support from your Foundation.

Of course, the Foundation has not forgotten its original mission. Over the past decade, it has maintained and honored its original Memorial in Tennessee Pass and other memorials around the country with over \$75,000 of ceremonial and maintenance expense. We will continue this important and original mission.

At the same time it has funded good works, your Foundation has worked to prudently manage the endowment many of you have made possible through your donations. During the same decade of 1906 through 2015, your Foundation's endowment fund has grown from just over \$2.1 million to just under \$2.9 million, a compound annual growth rate of some 3.5% annually, well ahead of the rate of inflation. Income and total return from this endowment make possible the good works you expect of your Foundation, and make it possible to continue them into the far future.

As we look ahead to that future, your Foundation's Board has identified several issues it will address in the coming years.

As a prime direction, we will pursue strategies to make the Foundation more relevant to the tens of thousands of current-day veterans, members of a new and thriving 10th Mountain community scattered across the United States. Equally important, we will continue the Foundation's heritage of supporting education for needy children and grandchildren of WWII vets, while also providing visible support to the KIA Scholarship Fund serving children of soldiers KIA with today's Division. Our remaining strategic direction will be to continue our active involvement with programs and events that honor the Division's heritage and ideals, both those of WWII and those of today's 10th, the Army's single most-deployed division since WWII.

The Foundation requires the committed intelligence and voluntarism of its Directors to fulfill its mission and vision. Foundation Directors provide their time not only to attend our Annual Meeting, but also to meet as committee members during the year, and to provide hands and heads to accomplish a variety of tasks such as evaluating applicants for scholarships and grants, designing new and innovative ways to connect with the 10th

Mountain Division community, and to manage our internal processes for accountability and transparency. I thank each and every Director for their time and talent in continuing the Foundation's work.

At this Annual Meeting, your Foundation regrettably accepted the retirements of Directors Denise Taylor and Abbie Kealy from the Board. Denise provided perspective, wise counsel and substantial energy to the Board for over two decades. Abbie led the Special Projects Committee to develop and implement new ways of assessing the fit between grants requests of all types, and the Foundation's declared mission and vision elements. I want to thank both of them profusely for their service and their important contributions to the Foundation's success.

There are several Directorships currently open and awaiting new volunteers. I ask that you consider helping the Foundation continue its mission. Please contact me (tomthompson40@gmail.com) or Frankie Barr (admin@10thmdf.org) to discuss the talents and contributions you can make to honor your forebears and/or your service to our nation.

Climb to Glory! Sempre Avanti!

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Soldiers of Headquarters & Headquarters Bn board buses for flight to Afghanistan. –Photo by C.J. Powers



Deployments mean family separations. Headquarters Bn, 10th Mtn Div (LI) is on its way again to Afghanistan (see story, p. 1). – Photo by C.J. Powers

FOUNDATION NEWS

TENTH MOUNTAIN DIVISION FOUNDATION HOLDS EXTENSIVE ANNUAL MEETING

Tommy Thompson, Foundation President

Your Foundation held its annual meeting this year July 26-27 near the Foundation offices in Lakewood, a suburb of Denver. This year for the first time in a

decade, the Foundation conducted a strategic workshop to take stock of the changes in the 10th Mountain Division community, and consider what issues and opportunities it may take up to meet the challenges brought by change.

Your Board began by looking at the past decade's accomplishments to gain perspective on the future. Since 2006, your Foundation has funded over three-quarters of a million dollars of good works around the United States. Our support for the 10th Mountain community includes more than \$300,000 in scholarship aid to not only children and grandchildren of WWII 10th veterans, but also children of today's soldiers who have been killed in action, and veterans wounded by enemy fire. We have also funded over \$160,000 to maintain and expand the 10th Mountain Division Resource Center, where documents, photographs and artifacts from WWII are preserved and made available to scholars and families researching their forebears' service.

Another area of good works includes a variety of projects that continue the Foundation's basic mission of honoring and spreading the legacy of the WWII 10th veterans. Their love of mountains, winter and the outdoors have been remembered and furthered through a wide range of projects including support of the PBS special, "The Last Ridge", and funding winter sports clinics to assist the rehabilitation of disabled soldiers of today's 10th. We have also provided ongoing support for the 10th Mountain Division Living History Display Group, re-enactors who

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