



THE WISCO ALL AIRBORNE REPORTER

Proudly dedicated to Jim "Maggie" Megellas, the 82nd Airborne's most decorated officer.

Fondie honors an 82nd "Giant" and WWII Heroes

Sept. 29, 2011

The (Fond du Lac) Reporter
replummer@fdlreporter.com

A generation slowly fading away was reminded Sept. 29 in Fond du Lac that the sacrifices it made during World War II will never be forgotten.

82nd Airborne Re-enactors wearing the same combat boots and gear those in attendance donned more than 65 years ago carried in the American Flag during a Salute to Fond du Lac World War II Veterans held at American Legion Trier-Puddy Post 75.

More than 70 WWII veterans gathered at the event organized by John Townsend, member of the state board of veterans affairs and former assemblyman from Fond du Lac. "I didn't even know before this that there were World War II re-enactors portraying the 82nd Airborne Division. I think it is great they are keeping the memories alive," Townsend said. The most decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne Division, James "Maggie" Megellas, sat at the entry of the building and shook hands with attendees and signed copies of his book "All the Way to Berlin."

The eyes of re-enactor Dylan Hauer of Minnesota teared up when he spoke about the opportunity to meet Fond du Lac native Megellas. Hauer portrays Delbert Kuehl, a chaplain with the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II and a close friend of Megellas.

"Last September, he (Kuehl) passed away. I quit doing 101st Airborne re-enacting and started the 82nd in memory of him. ... I now portray Delbert as he was in World War II," Hauer said.

Megellas was quick to remember his old friend Kuehl. "Kuehl was a close friend of mine. I wrote about him a lot in



Paratrooper Col. John Scocos, *Secretary Wisconsin Vets Affairs*, paid special tribute to Maggie at a WWII Honors Ceremony in Fond du Lac. "Tonight we honor a special hero from that generation – a giant from my perspective – who reflects the values and ethics of that generation...James Megellas." See speech on page 9. (Laney photo)

my book," Megellas said.

Hauer stood in line behind veterans who slowly shuffled into the event or leaned on a cane as they met with Megellas. Hauer took time to shake the Medal of Honor nominee's hand. "Every time I met with Delbert he told me stories about James Megellas," Hauer said. "One of the last things Delbert wanted to do before passing away was to see James one more time. Unfortunately, he was not able to do that. Meeting Mr. Megellas (for me) is an honor."

Megellas said the re-enactors from Minnesota and North Dakota help keep history alive. Even though Civil War re-enactments are better known, Megellas said WWII re-enactments are quite popular in other states.

Hauer said it is the goal of historians in his group to talk to every veteran they meet so they can share those stories with a younger generation. His group's activities range from serving as an Honor Guard to shooting guns at men

(See Re-Enactors pg. 8)

Merry Christmas!



ALL THE WAY



Who is Jim “Maggie” Megellas?

“He was the bravest man I ever saw. He cared about each one of us, he appreciated us all so much! He would do anything for us, and we would follow him anywhere. It wasn’t just that he was a Paratrooper and a combat leader. He was the best at that of course. But he is more. He is a good man. He’s done good things for people all his life.” - S/Sgt Bill Hannigan, 504 PIR Paratrooper, 90, St. Paul, MN on Jim Megellas. Bill was a squad leader in Maggie’s platoon. Bill is also a very good man.

“We were catching hell from a Panther when I saw someone charging the tank with a Thompson sub-machine gun! I asked myself, ‘Who in the hell is that crazy sonuvabitch?!’ I saw him knock that tank out with a couple of grenades and found out later it was Maggie. He saved us all!” - Col. George Geib, WWII Paratrooper 504 PIR, Special Forces Vietnam.

Maggie’s Jacket



The Medal of Honor belongs here!

Maggie’s Heroes

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/105005234.html?page=1>

The Wisco All Airborne Reporter

We are dedicated to honoring James “Maggie” Megellas, the most decorated officer in the 82nd Airborne’s proud history.

We aim to keep you up to speed on the work to get the Medal of Honor Maggie so justly deserves; and all Airborne heroes and events in our beloved Wisconsin. In-depth info on Maggie is available on request. If you know of any politician/citizen close enough to President Obama to encourage the President to read Col. Edward Sim’s appeals please contact us and we will contact that citizen.

We will have more stories and pictures about Wisconsin’s Airborne activists and your stories and pictures if you will send them in.

We will update you on the progress of MOH appeals by Col. Ed Sims and any new Department of the Army, Congressional or Presidential action for this Medal of Honor. We want this medal for Maggie, for his platoon, for the 3rd Bn 504 PIR, the 82nd Airborne Division and for Airborne Troopers everywhere. Working for earned medals and honors is part of defending and promoting the Airborne Legacy.

“The 82nd Airborne Division was, and is, the best Airborne Division in the world,” says our pal, 325 Glider Rider Les Schwarm who rode a WACO into Market/Garden and fought *All The Way* to Berlin.

These pages are open to 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd, 101st, 173rd, 501st, 551st, Rangers, Special Forces, Delta Force, Air Force, SEALs, USMC Force Recon, Air Force, all Paratroopers, Air Assaulters and friends of the Airborne.

All The Way!

Tom Laney, Editor



The Wisco All Airborne Reporter

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Airborne Scouts: Bob Shrader, 82nd Airborne Ripon, WI; Dave Green, 173rd Abn, 75th Rangers, VFW Commander, Welcome Home Organizer, New Richmond, WI; Ed Barnes, USMC Jumper, Mover & Shaker for Maggie MOH, Fond du Lac, WI and YOU!

**Be Somebody:
Volunteer for Our Staff!**



Lt. Gen. James Gavin presents Maggie with one of his Silver Stars. 1st Lt. Reneau Breard, H 3/504 foreground, has just received the Silver Star.

Tim Gray Documentary will honor Maggie, 504 PIR & 82nd Airborne Division!

Tim Gray, one America's best combat story tellers is about to give the 82nd it's due. Tim Gray's coming documentary on Wisconsin's great citizen warrior, Jim "Maggie" Megellas, leader of arguably WWII's best platoon, will finally give the 82nd Airborne Division the notice and credit it earned as the first-in, last-out Airborne Division of WWII.

The Skinny: This project has the approval of Lt. Col. James "Maggie" Megellas and donations are tax-deductible through the Rhode Island PBS Foundation, a 501 (c)(3). This will be An HD Documentary Film for national and international distribution. **Narrator/host of film:** [Kyle Chandler](#) of NBC TV's *Friday Night Lights*

The Documentary Film "Maggie": In mid-1943 James Megellas, born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and known as "Maggie" to his fellow Paratroopers, joined H Co., 3rd Bn, 504 PIR, 82nd Airborne Division. His first taste of combat was in the rugged Apennine

Mountains outside Naples in Italy. Soon Maggie's platoon was tapped to run some of the most star-crossed missions of World War II. From the Italian Mountains to the beach of Anzio to Field Marshall Montgomery's vainglorious Operation Market-Garden in Holland, The Battle of Herresbach and *All The Way* to Berlin. James Megellas is the most decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne Division. After he was wounded and hospitalized at Anzio he returned to his unit and never missed another day of combat until May 8, 1945, the end of the war.

Leadership: The film will also focus on leadership skills in combat and Maggie's ability to motivate, inspire and lead men when initial planning has broken down. All these 82nd Airborne principles are still important today to those who lead and set the stage for others to succeed. Leadership is a topic which Lt. Col. Megellas continues to lecture on all over the world.

Today: At 94 years old, Megellas recently returned from spending Christmas in Afghanistan with his old outfit, the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, along the Pakistani border. He continues to travel and lecture around the world.



*Support the Maggie/504/82nd
Documentary!*



(Click Ctrl—Support above to see trailer and donate.)

Southern Wisco Honors A Paratrooper's Paratrooper



Tom and Randy Hacker, two people who have devoted huge chunks of their lives to the 82nd Airborne's All Americans and both the Badger Chapter and Southern Wisconsin Chapters were honored at a Fall Dinner organized by the Southern Chapter and attended by Bill Eberle, National President of the 82nd Airborne Division Association. From top Bill presents 82nd Airborne Awards to Tom and Randy; Badger Chapter Chair Frank Morris presents plaque from the Badger Chapter members to Tom in appreciation for all his hard Airborne work; Bill and Frank present Tom's new MADE IN AMERICA Airborne jacket. God bless this Airborne Couple All The Way! (Thanks to the 82nd Southern Wisco Chapter for these pictures!)

Rennhack-Shrader-Nelson-Laney Airborne Chili Team runs out of time again!

“We are never beaten. But sometimes we run out of time” - Vince Lombardi

Well, what can we say? We obeyed Joyce’s orders. We were on time. We cooked up some outstanding chili. We brought Airborne flags and banners. We were nice to almost everyone. We encouraged a couple of Special Forces guys to get on the Highground’s Chili judging panel.

Which they did. SF troopers Ron Worthy, Wausau and Chip Sparks, Abbottsford jumped right into the panel. We thought we were in. The competition thought we were in, some were complaining to Ron and chip they thought they might favor “those Airborne guys”.

No such luck but we had a great time!

Next year Bob is taking over the presentation. We talked it over about what we could possibly be doing wrong?

“Hell, we just need to find some judges who like chili,” Laney said.

No kidding tho. This really is a great time. 100s of people turn out and enjoy the food and friendship and there’s a car show too. Makes money for the Troops and you have a lot of fun meeting the nicest people in the world.

Special thanks to organizer Joyce Witt who is retiring from years of volunteer work for The Highground.




3rd ID Charlie Nelson, Bob Shrader 82nd, serving Judge Chip Sparks, SF/SOG, Abbottsford. “Is there macaroni in your chili,” Chip asked? I asked, “Why would you put macaroni in chili?” Might have cost us. (Laney photo)



Howard presenting Chili Boss Joyce Witt a 325 Coin for her great work for all Vets.



SF Trooper Ron Worthy, Chili Judge, Wausau. Ron did say we were close!

 “Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time and always start with the person nearest you.”
Mother Teresa

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Howard’s in front of our superb presentation which will be even better next year with Bob Shrader showing us the way!



<http://ops.oldabechapter.org/>

<http://www.thehighground.org/newsletter/index.php>

Apache Smoke

Editorial by Tom Laney



We all received an early Christmas present with the re-appointment of Col. John Scocos to Secretary of Wisconsin's Veterans Affairs. More than ever in this bi-partisan, Free Traitor, Bankster-wrecked economy, we need an Airborne Leader who will fight for every benefit our Troops have coming. Col. Scocos has proven himself to be that man. I was told recently that our Troops and Vets should accept cuts because the country is in such tough shape. Well, if we can borrow from the Chinese Communists to fight these wars, the politicians can either get the money from those same Commies or rob their Wall Street partners to take care of every Trooper and every Vet. John Scocos is an 18th Airborne Corps Veteran and is a member of the Badger State Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Association. We know the Col. as an outstanding Patriot. He was deployed to Iraq twice while Wisco Vets Secretary and fired within two months of returning home from his second deployment. In one of the smarmiest, chickenshit moves in Wisconsin's volatile political history, the Vets Board fired him for "lack of accountability" while he was serving halfway around the world! I tried to get the specifics of the charges from former Vets Board Chair Marsha Anderson (now resigned) who refused to discuss it. Minutes of the Board meetings were hidden. No Service Man should ever be fired for serving! John is pursuing his case in court. We hope he gets a bundle. In the meantime, WELCOME HOME COL. SCOCOS! ALL THE WAY SIR!

Word in Menomonie is that the seizure of DAV Chapter 26 by the State/National DAV is being negotiated and the Chapter may soon regain its property. More info next issue.

Last Spring I was invited by 82nd Re-Enactor Ben Lund to the Dakota City WWII Re-Enactment in Farmington, MN. My pal, Bill Hannigan, WWII 504 PIR also attended with his son Chip and daughter Sheila. Bill was a Squad Leader in Maggie's platoon and had just returned from Tim Gray's video tour of the 504's WWII battlefields. At Dakota City we met a host of 82nd and 101st Re-Enactors including Brian Pesce who honors the 508th Pathfinders. Who are these guys? Read Brian's account of his 9/11 work. What a wonderful man of character he is! Think about what Dylan Hauer says about his 504 friend Chaplain Delbert Kuehl These good men live the history of the world's greatest Airborne Division. They highlighted the WWII program in Fond du Lac with their 82nd presence and remarks and easy friendship with all. Navy Captain and former State Senator John Townsend was effusive in his praise for these living history figures who insure that our heroes will never die. Brian Pesce drove all the way from Sioux Falls, South Dakota! Tyler Befort came from Inver Grove Heights, Kevin Koep and Dylan Hauer from Alexandria, Kyle Todd, from St. Cloud, MN!! They came All The Way to meet Maggie! It was an honor for all of us. They invite all of us to their 2012 Dakota City War. The battles begin May 19. We will have more details in the next edition.

I went to Minneapolis to thank The American Legion Conventioneers for their resolution on Jobs for Our Troops. I distributed my letter to president Obama asking him to review Col. Sim's appeal for Maggie's MOH. On the other side was a written thank you and an appeals to save the St. Paul Ford Plant where I worked for 31 years.

Ford closed our plant Dec.16. The work is already



Prescott Parachutist Kit Kennedy, Joan of Arc Division, with the 82nd's Rockie Lynne at the St. Paul Capitol. Vets support jobs!

being done in S. Africa and Thailand and sold in Mexico. The last drive to save the place came from Ford nurse Kit Kennedy, a Skydiver who tried to rally Ford workers to the Plant Opening cause. Her friends backed her, the "union" attacked her! Labor Big shots stopped her from carrying a "Stop Plant Closings" banner in the Minnesota Labor Parade at the State Fair! Her pension is threatened. But she drives on like an Airborne Joan of Arc. We recently asked a St. Paul Patriot Guard rally for help and of course the Vets were super. There she met Country singer Rocky Lynne who we all should remember from LZ Lambeau. Rocky is an 82nd Vet and offered to do a concert to save the plant. "I will do whatever you want me to do," said *ALL THE WAY* Rock! Lots of Vets worked in the place over the years. If it makes a difference, we had Ford workers who came from all Airborne Units and Divisions. Legs from everywhere. Out Local had members fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan when the closure was announced.

The 82nd Association has decided that the push for the Medal of Honor for Maggie is a "political" matter and has left the drive. My view is that the mission of the Association to defend and promote the Airborne Legacy. Included in that work should be Justice in honors. The WWII 82nd heroes took on tanks, SS Panzer Divisions, German Paratroops and kicked the crap out of them with the smallest of arms. No one did that better than James Megellas. This newsletter will continue to support the issue as appealed by Col. Edward Sims. He will be appealing to the Division CO and the 504 Assoc. for help. Sims is now 92 and in ill health and has led the mission as far as he can. He will copy me on his letter to the Division/504 and it will be printed here. Col. Sims deserves respect and thanks from all of us!



Here's a good example of another Paratrooper whose tireless work deserves credit, 82nd Airborne's, Doug Rasmussen, Phillips, WI at yet another Vets fundraiser. Thanks Doug for all you do!



Some say all Soldiers are equal. But there's a reason why Troopers are recognized with medals and rank. There is a big difference in service. When the 82nd walked into St. Vith with no Winter gear, some without weapons, they took on the one of the largest offenses of the war. They froze and lost the best friends of their lives fighting to save us all from Fascism. And when their gear caught up with them, many of their duffels had been ransacked of every valuable by thieves whose duty was to support the 82nd Airborne. The thieves in the rear were not equal to the All Americans in the -30 below foxholes who died for their Brothers. Herresbach expert (then) Lt. Sims submitted Maggie for the Medal of Honor for killing 26 of the enemy, rushing a Mark V tank with a Thompson and two grenades



That's 325 Stalwart Howard Rennhack carrying the 82nd colors for Vets Day at The Highground. Howard is every where at all times.



Frank, Judy, Marge with Judy's BSC Tribute at the American Legion Camp Center near Minocqua. A beautiful place thanks to the Legion!

and destroying that tank to save his platoon; then taking Herresbach by clearing the town, killing six more of the enemy and repelling a counter-attack. By every standard the action clearly warrants the Medal of Honor. Justice demands it be awarded. We must find someone to approach the President on this.

Judy Durkee, Rhinelander, was honored at the Sept. 82nd Badger Chapter meeting with an Airborne Certificate of thanks from the Badger Members. Chair Frank Morris presented with the framed plaque and thanked her for her Airborne Drive! and all she does for the WWII Honor Flights and her support for vets everywhere. Judy's Dad, Glenn Ward, 508th, was KIA during The Bulge as he rushed a machine gun to save his 508th Brothers.

Thanks to Bob Shrader, Howard Rennhack and Charlie Nelson for making The Highground's Chili Contest so much fun again this year. Thanks to Ranger Tom Eckhoff, Hal Roed 13thst at Ft. Snelling. We'll Airborne; and others for making us Wisconsin Airborne Vets feel so much at home at the Midwest Airborne Alliance Pig Roast We will definitely be back! Thanks to Laura Mays, Veterans Liaison, King Veterans Home for assisting us in placing an Airborne Museum Display at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum at King. Badger Chapter members were able to view the display for the first time on Vets Day and no one

bad-mouthed it! Frank Morris presented Laura with a Badger Chapter T. 502ND PIR, 101ST Airborne Vet Don Olson, 90, Black River Falls hit the deer hunting trial again this year after skipping it last year. 1st Sgt. Ray Nelson, 95, 325 GIR was nice enough to serve lunch to Donna and Gene Strutzenberg and me a few weeks ago. I met Rick and Kathy Holle, Hammond, a terrific couple interested in all things Airborne, especially gliders. Rick's Dad was a Glider Rider in the 80th AA, 82nd. Story next issue. Merry Christmas to everyone!



John Anderson with Bill Hannigan at MAAA picnic at Ft. Snelling, MN.

-All The Way! -Tom



Frank Morris presented a BSC T to Laura Mays for her BSC support at the King Vets Home. (Laney photo.)

“Why are we 82nd Airborne Re-Enactors? We do this to honor all of you.” - Dylan Hauer

(Cont. from Page 1) portraying German soldiers. "I don't know if World War II re-enactments will become more commonplace," Hauer said. "I just pray to God that someone



Delbert Kuehl

keeps on doing it and keeps on telling the veterans' stories. If you forget your past, you are bound to repeat it. We all pray that never happens. We want to make sure things like the Holocaust and other atrocities are never forgotten."

"We are kind of the interpreters of the

veterans," he added.

Norman Tabbert of Fond du Lac is one of those veterans with a unique story to tell. "I was a foster child. My parents separated during the Depression," said Tabbert, who found himself homeless at a young age. At the age of 15, Tabbert tried to join the Marines. He was denied so he tried again a year later.

"I lied so much about my age they threw me out of the foster home," Tabbert said. The teenager was drafted into the Army at the age of 17. When WWII ended, Tabbert was on a ship on the Pacific Ocean headed to Japan.

"When I got out of the Army, you couldn't even buy a job," Tabbert said. "I finally went into the Navy to learn during the Korean War. I was a throttle man. I ran the main engines."

Tabbert said re-enactments and events, like the Honor Flight that takes veterans to Washington, D.C., make him feel appreciated. "I think all veterans should be honored, especially the Vietnam vets," he said. "Those are the ones who were treated roughly. We weren't treated badly when we came back from either war (World War II and Korea).

"There is a lot of education needed for the younger people," he said. "They are forgetting events like Pearl Harbor with all this action now going on overseas."

www.facebook.com/pages/James-Maggie-Megellas/108901179130697



Dylan Hauer toasts the WWII Vets with a glass of milk as his hero 82nd Chaplain Delbert Kuehl who, like Dylan was from Alexandria, MN. They were friends. "Delbert never drank but was determined to participate in an 82nd Prop Blast. The Blasts are fueled by alcohol but Delbert toasted with milk." Dylan has many stories about Rev. Kuehl's friendship with Maggie.



Patriot Terry Gafney; 1st Cav's Mike Trepanier, aide to John Scocos with Navy Capt. John Townsend, Wiscon Vets Board, former State Senator and longtime activist in the drive to get the Medal of Honor for Maggie. John chaired the WWII Tribute, was effusive in praise for all Vets and the 82nd Re-enactors. John did a magnificent job for a Squid! (Laney photos.)

Col. Scocos honors an 82nd Airborne Giant & all WWII Veterans at Legion/Elks Dinner

(Official remarks by Wisconsin Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Col. John Scocos.)

On behalf of Governor Scott Walker and the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs we thank the generation of veterans from World War II. They are a generation who defeated fascism and saved the world from Nazi domination. When the war was over with victory in Europe and Japan, they came home to rebuild America and make it the industrial giant it is today.

Tonight we honor a special hero from that generation – a giant from my perspective – who reflects the values and ethics of that generation. James Megellas, a hero of the 82nd Airborne Division and of World War II, who is the 82nd Airborne's most decorated Officer.

To me, Lt. Colonel James "Maggie" Megellas is a family friend, who grew up with my folks, and when Pearl Harbor was attacked, he answered his nation's call. I salute him and his generation for his sacrifice and service.

We're here to honor all of our 650 World War II veterans from Fond du Lac County, and especially our veterans of the 82nd. It was on the 15th of August, 1942 that the 82nd Infantry Division became the U.S. Army's first Airborne Division. The 82nd first saw action parachuting in to Sicily and Salerno in 1943.

We have a proclamation signed by Governor Walker to present to Fond du Lac County, recognizing Fond du Lac County World War II Veterans Day. God Bless James Megellas. God Bless America. Airborne "All the Way!"



H Co, 3rd BN, 504 PIR, 82nd Airborne Division Re-Enactors are Living Historians of the world's greatest Airborne Division with Capt. John Townsend, Wisconsin Vets Board; Maggie and Tom Laney, Secretary, Badger Chapter, 82nd Airborne Assoc. Rear, Honoring the 504 and 508th 82nd Airborne's legacy are, Kyle Todd, St. Cloud, MN; Tyler Befort, 16, Inver Grove Heights, MN; Dylan Hauer, Alexandria, MN; Kevin Koep, Alexandria, MN and 508th PIR Pathfinder Brian Pesce, Sioux Falls, S. Dakota! In addition to the WWII dinner at the Fond du Lac Legion Club, the Re-Enactors were invited to a dinner sponsored by Capt. Townsend at the Fond du Lac Holiday Inn. (Photo by Carole Megellas)



The 82nd Re-Enactors enjoyed breakfast with Maggie and Carole before beginning the long trek home. They spent some quality time with Maggie, hearing firsthand details from Maggie on Chaplain Kuehl's determination to make the Waal River Crossing. "It was something he didn't have to do but he insisted. 'The men are going to need me,' he said. And when we reached the other side with fire all around, Delbert went to help the wounded and dying," Maggie told his new friends. L-R, Tyler Befort, Kyle Tadd, Ed Barnes, Kevin Koep, Maggie, Dylan Hauer and Brian Pesce. We look forward to working with these good men for a long, long time. They are now preparing for battle at Dakota City, May 19, 2012. Everyone's invited! (Laney photo.)



Bodyguard and 1st Sgt. Brian Pesce with Col. John Scocos. (Laney photos.)

Sept. 29, 2011

The (Fond du Lac) Reporter
Russ Plummer

A generation slowly fading away was reminded Sept. 29 in Fond du Lac that the sacrifices it made during World War II will never be forgotten.

82nd Airborne Re-enactors wearing the same combat boots and gear those in attendance donned more than 65 years ago carried in the American Flag during a Salute to Fond du Lac World War II Veterans held at American Legion Trier-Puddy Post 75.

More than 70 WWII veterans gathered at the event organized by John Townsend, member of the state board of veterans affairs and former assemblyman from Fond du Lac.

"I didn't even know before this that there were World War II re-enactors portraying the 82nd Airborne Division. I think it is great they are keeping the memories alive," Townsend said.

EVENT HONORS V

82D ABN'S MOST DECORATED SPEAKS ABOUT SER



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Megellas was quick to old friend Kuehl. "Kue friend of mine. I wrote in my book," Megellas

Hauer stood in line be who slowly shuffled in leaned on a cane as th Megellas.



WIS WWII VETS:

ED OFFICER MEGELLAS SERVICE, SACRIFICE

Col. John Scocos, Secretary of Wisconsin Veterans Affairs:

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Thank you All American Airborne Photog Justin Connaher!



Justin Connaher, a Paratrooper who is lucky to be alive, here with another friend of Maggie's, General Petraeus, is the best photographer I know. My computer is somehow eroding my pictures so I asked Justin for help. More than help he designed and sent me the outstanding double page poster that is the previous page! Thank you Pal!



An All American Mom remembers her son



Maggie with Christine and Bill Koch at Philadelphia's 82nd Association Hajdak-Mokan Chapter dinner in honor of Maggie. (Photo by Hillary Shemin. cleanth@gmail.com)

By Christine Koch

Marching and fighting through the fields and towns of Europe during WWII seems a thousand years ago for those that did not live through it.

How different times were then and people came together to defeat tyranny and oppression at its worse level.

Today we have a different type of terror, a different type of enemy, but any entity that is against freedom is still addressed the same way as it was 60 years ago. It is fought by men and now women of the United States Armed Forces. We as a nation have been through terrible ordeals, recessions and turmoil since WWII, but the spirit to carry on the torch of freedom is passed generation to generation. There is no mistaking that that red blood that was shed on Normandy, Berlin and the South Pacific to name just a few is as precious to our families and country just as the brave march to protect others today in Iraq and Afghanistan.

That link of dedication and sincere pride in America is an everlasting stream of courage, fortitude and "All the Way" spirit that pulses through all of our branches but none as strong as those of the Airborne.

The connection from the fighting will and leadership of the most decorated 82nd Airborne member as LT. Col James "Maggie" Megellas of WWII, to the dedication and selfless spirit of a grunt Corporal Steven R. Koch (KIA 3-3-08) of the "War on Terror" in Afghanistan is generations long.

The spirit of WWII and Afghanistan is the

same as it burns in the heart and souls of troops willing to protect those that cannot protect themselves and defend freedom and America.

Years apart, miles apart, worlds apart and conditions so similar and so extreme that it is what makes the Airborne what they are.

"America's Guard" and a living and

breathing unit of individuals from every state in the country coming together as a fighting force from the ground and the air. Every soldier, sailor, marine or airmen is the best, every branch is the greatest, every one that pulls boots on their feet to march to that beat, are the greatest.. Our troops have endured losses just as our family has lost CPL Steven R. Koch in action of the defense of his family, country and freedom. Our family is also struck by the repercussions of that loss with also suffering the

death of our daughter/sister Lynne Koch to PTSD, from losing her brother. How do we as a family go on and I'm often asked "How are you getting through"? My reply is "I wish I knew". But Steven volunteered to fight and now we have been drafted by that Airborne dedication and "will to fight".

It's all we have

left, but what better attitude to rest your very life on other than Airborne pride and Airborne spirit?

So as those miles and years apart are stretched and get longer so does the same commitment from the Airborne troops of WWII to the today's fighting force of paratroopers. That same courage and determination is a thread of patriotic duty and selfless bravery that has no comparison on earth. We as a family of five—now three -have the upmost respect and honor for the 82nd Airborne because they became Steven's family and were also treasured by Lynne. If she could have fought it would have been with a maroon beret.

Meeting LT. Col. Megellas and Carole at a recent 82nd Dinner was our way to thank him for his and his family's dedication to our country and our troops. It's a tribute to all Airborne of Maggie's dedication to honor his comrades whether from 60 years ago or today's Fallen Heroes with his sincere concern and caring thoughts for them and the families. Airborne, All the Way!

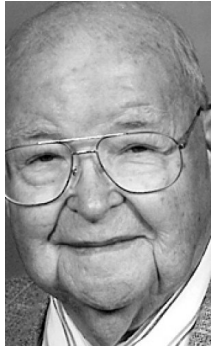
"The only greater sacrifice than supporting the troops, is being one of them."
 ~ Wm Koch Jr. ~



Connect with Christine on Facebook. Follow Christine's blog here:

<http://blogs.mycentraljersey.com/servicecenter/author/ckoch/>

Last Jumps



Carl Hastings Anderson, 92, of 1832 Cleveland Ave., Beloit, WI, passed away Friday, September 16, 2011 in Sun Valley West. He was born October 25, 1918 in Rattle Snake Buttes, CO., the son of William H. and Hansena J. Olson Anderson. He spent much of

his youth in Waupaca, WI. Carl married his wife of 63 years, Vivian E. Hanneman on May 27, 1939 in German Lutheran Church, Waupaca, WI. In 1940 they moved to Berkley, Calif. with their first child David.

During WWII Carl served in the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division. He saw combat in the Battle of the Bulge, the attack on the Siegfried line and the occupation of Berlin. He also marched in the Victory Parade in New York City. After the war Carl owned and operated an auto body shop in Oakland, California. They returned to Wisconsin in 1950 and their second son Mark was born shortly after. Later they moved to Beloit and Carl worked for Fairbanks Morse & Company as a machinist, retiring in 1984.

Carl experienced many things in the course of his life, he was a Golden Gloves boxer, a Deputy Sheriff, drove an armored truck for the US Mint, and was an accomplished woodworker and handyman. Carl and Vivian especially loved fishing in Northern Wisconsin where they often vacationed. Carl was the co-founder of the R.C. Flying Club currently known as the Rock River Aero Modelers. Carl was a master craftsman and enjoyed building and flying model aircraft. He cherished the time with his family and enjoyed special times with his children, grandchildren, great, and great-great grandchildren.

Carl was a lifelong member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church; he was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather and even a great-great grandfather. He was dearly loved and treasured and will be sorely missed.

Carl's survivors include his two sons, David (Shirley) Anderson of South Beloit, and Mark



Archbishop Phillip Hannan receives a "Reenlist 82D Airborne Division" license plate from Major General William Caldwell IV during a visit to the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans, La. Sept. 15, 2005, during Task Force Katrina operations. The Archbishop currently presides over the state of Louisiana and is a former 82nd Airborne Paratrooper.

All American Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, a confidant to President John F. Kennedy and the leader of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New Orleans for more than 20 years, died on Thursday at a hospice in New Orleans. The archbishop, who delivered the eulogy for President Kennedy in 1963, was 98.

In WWII he was known as the Jumping Padre of the 82nd Airborne, a paratrooper priest who found shrapnel in his clothes and saw an 88 mm shell explode at his feet. His experiences in Europe gave him years of stories, an appreciation of the power of military might, and a glimpse of the Russians' operating style that shaped his world view. Nearly four decades later, it led him to join eight other American bishops in opposing a 1983 pastoral letter that took a stand against nuclear weapons. In New Orleans, where public swimming pools were not open to African-Americans, he integrated the pool at the archdiocese's Notre Dame Seminary. He also established after-school programs for children of all faiths at neighborhood centers throughout the archdiocese. He secured federal support to build nearly 3,000 affordable housing units for seniors and poor people. He created one of the largest food banks for poor people in the country. And he set up a hospice for AIDS patients. Philip Matthew Hannan was born in Washington on May 20, 1913, one of eight children of Patrick and Lillian Hannan. His father was a plumber. The future archbishop earned a licentiate in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and a doctorate in canon law from Catholic University of America before being ordained in 1939. In 1942, he enlisted to become an Army chaplain and was assigned to the 505th Parachute Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. In 1945, he helped liberate a concentration camp at Wöbbelin, Germany. Archbishop Hannan is survived by his brother, Jerry. On Saturday, he received absolution for whatever sins he had committed in life from the current archbishop, Gregory M. Aymond.

"Sounds good to me," he told Archbishop Aymond.

Badger Member Gerry Diemel sat at the dinner table with Fr. Hannan at the St. Louis 82nd Convention Dinner! Thanks to Major Sgt. Howard Rennhack for this info!

(Sandy) Anderson of Rockton, IL; four grandchildren, Chris (Leon) Lopez of North Richland Hills, TX, Tammy (Joe) Boeding of Fort Worth, TX, Becky (Gage) Abrahams of Billings, MT Heather Anderson of Rockton, IL, and; ten great grandchildren, Alex and David

Boeding, Morgan and Cheyanne Lopez, Kaila, Eliana, Grant, Owen, and Neviah Abrahams, and Emma Grace Anderson. Last but not least are two great-great grandchildren of Alex Boeding, Forth Worth, TX, Ryan and Malak. (Cont. next pg.)

Sam DeRose dies



Sam DeRose, right, Iron Mountain, died Dec. 1. His wife Mary sent a note to Les Schwarm, I saying Sam had been ill since January. Sam is pictured above with Les and Walt Pakulski during a visit to the glider construction in Iron mountain in 2006. Sam was a Paratrooper and Glider Rider in the 325. We are searching for an obit and hope to have it fore the next issues. Rest In Peace Trooper. (Laney photo.)

(Carl cont.from pg.14)
 Carl is survived by two siblings; Ruth (Iver) Iverson of Sidney, MT., and, Glen (Kathy) Anderson of Beloit, WI,
 He was predeceased by his parents, and one brother William H. Anderson, and two sisters Meda (Forrest)

Radley of Rural, WI and Violet Handschke of Waupaca, WI. Funeral services were September 21, 2011 in Our Savior's Lutheran Church, with Pastor Erik Jelinek officiating. Burial was in East Lawn Cemetery.

Hook up!

All Airborne Units and Divisions and Services are now on Facebook.

Easiest way to make connections and join Airborne Associations is there. Some people say Facebook sucks.

Don't listen to them!



Jeff Kollath, Curator, Wisconsin Military Museum at Madison, made it possible for the 82nd Badger State Chapter to place this Airborne Tribute Case at the Military Museum in the King Vets Home Museum. The Tribute was viewed by Badger members on Veterans Day. Now hanging to next to the display is a print of the 509th PIR jumping into N. Africa, thanks to King Honcho Laura Mays who moved it to where we can see it. We added a Final Jump Memorial plaque to the memorabilia that honors Wisconsin Troopers from WWII to Afghanistan. Included in the display are Bill "Knobby" Walsh, 504 PIR WWII, Cross Plains; Jim "Maggie" Megellas, 504 PIR, Fond du Lac; Gene Struzenberg, 504 PIR WWII, Brodhead; Les Schwarm, 325 GIR WWII, Wausau; Herb Huebschen, 325 GIR, Beloit; Glenn Ward, 508th PIR, Rhinelander; and others. The case contains uniform items, Jump Boots, Ike Jacket, Parachute, books and decorations. Thanks to my 3rd ID pals Tom Driscoll, and Charlie Nelson for their muscle and good humor in delivering it! Howard Rennhack, 325; Tom Laney, 501st and Rick Holle, son of Leon Holle, 80th AA, 82nd are pursuing a new Airborne history display placement in the Eau Claire area. Rick Holle is a highly knowledgeable Airborne Historian and is very interested in Glider Riders. The Airborne never got it's due. We aim to change that. If you can help support the Airborne Legacy please contact Laney at 651-492-9309. (Laney photo.)



What 9/11 means to me

By [Brian Pesce](#)

August 18, 2010

September 11, 2001 is an interesting date for many Americans and other people from around the world. The world literally stopped for 7 days. Everyone knew that the great giant had been awoken and wanted to see how it would react.

But on a personal level, for me, 9/11 is a day that will always be burned in my head. I am from New York, have been to the site many times. Additionally my uncle was with the NYPD and responded to the scene that day.

I will never forget calling New York and inquiring of him and his safety and my family telling me that he just called and said he was heading in. That was the last we heard of him for 5 days, until Saturday.

I watched, like everyone else, glued to my television waiting to see what was going to happen. When I finally heard from my uncle I knew that I could not sit and do nothing. This was way too big not to help out in some way. I could not just sit around and do nothing.

So I made plans. I took some vacation time from my job at the South Dakota State Prison. My co workers made a collection for me in a hat and gave it to me to help pay for my trip. Thanks to them I got over \$400! During the time directly after 9/11 many of my co-workers and friends called me to ask of my family. Even the warden and deputy warden took time out of their busy days to stop by and inquire of my family's well being. One of the victims name was Daniel Pesce. Many of my co-workers noticed the name and immediately began calling me to see if that was my family. He was not. However, their concern for me and my family was touching. I felt apart of a little family. They are some heroes as well! An uncle on my mother's side paid for my plane ticket. The higher ups at the prison gave me time off without any question. Since I was in Law Enforcement my uncle got me LEO credentials to work almost anywhere in New York. I left on 11 October for New York.

When I got there, I could not believe what I saw. After getting off the plane I saw that there were armed soldiers everywhere! I was flabbergasted. My uncle picked me up and took me to Pier 94 (or 92, I do not remember anymore) to get my credentials. On the way there we had to pass all kinds of checkpoints. Outer rings were soldiers as we got closer it was

NYPD, Feds and so many cops and soldiers I could not believe it! It was like a war zone.

After getting my credentials (which I still have) I was taken to Ground Zero to have a "look-see". I will never forget what I saw! The smells, the heat, the devastation, the carnage and utter silence. You could still feel the heat from the burning fires within the building. Buildings around the site were destroyed or damaged. Glass still falling from the buildings. While I was there a body was removed. When that happened everything and everyone stopped working and all was silent and still. It was a very somber and sobering site to witness. On one building was an American flag. I was never more proud of Old Glory and America as that day.

The next day I was put to work. As I was a Correctional Officer I was put with the New York City Corrections Department. Well they just happened to be in charge of the morgue. So there I was, in the morgue with other Corrections Officers from New Jersey and NYC. There were so many bodies being brought in that tents were placed outside of the morgue so that many autopsies could be done at once. There was a "meat truck" there as well. An air conditioned truck where overflow bodies were placed until they could get to the ME's to examine. Every time an autopsy was performed the body bag was opened up and my senses were invaded with so much stimuli.

That first day I worked about 14 hours. It was not a busy day. Maybe 6 or 7 bodies. They would come in and we would unload them from the ambulances (or buses as they are known in NYC) and place them in their respective places. One of the people that was brought in at that time was a person who had been horribly burned on 9/11 from falling gas. They succumbed to their wounds that very day. I will never forget that site or that smell. Whenever MOS (members of service, police officers, firefighters) were located at Ground Zero (known as the "Pile" to many) the litter that was used to carry the body was draped with an American flag. When MOS were brought in to the morgue then the whole place stood at attention and saluted until the flag was removed from the litter. Then the body was escorted to the tray for autopsy. That first day there was one firefighter. I will never forget that image. I cried.

It is interesting to note that when MOS

was brought in via ambulance only one body would be in an ambulance. When civilians were brought in there would be several placed in the ambulance. This was not a way of dishonoring the memory of the civilians. It was a way of honoring the MOS since it was MOS taken care of each other. A little way of showing some respect for the final duty that was performed by our brethren. Another small reason, and more practical, is it was easier to identify the MOS. Since they had badges, equipment (especially firefighters whose names were on everything), uniforms and other identifying marks that could be looked up with relative ease. Was not so easy identifying civilians. It was rumored while I was there that one Port Authority Police Officer was identified solely on the serial number on his gun. There were a lot of rumors swirling around while I was there. One which caused a lot of stir was that the bodies of NYPD officers Langone and Talty had been found together in a stairwell. This was a big deal to many of the NYPD officers that I talked to. However, I am told that as of today their remains have never been located. Either way it was a time for rumors. Sometimes hard to separate fact from fiction at such a time.

That night I went out with my uncle and some of his buddies and we drank all night. After all that is how you deal with such things, or so I thought. We drank til about 3 am and then back at it around 7 am. We did that every night that I worked there. I learned that the human body reacts interestingly in such times. I learned that one can sleep standing up and with your eyes still open. I learned how to take cat naps in between ambulance arrivals, especially when we got busy.

WWII Stuff



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Luke Schuetzle 605-280-7659

luke@placetohunt

The people there were so thankful for all the volunteers. I will never forget their generosity and genuine thanks once they found out that you were from another state coming to help. I NEVER paid for a thing. People would not take my money. I drank and ate for free. I remember after a long day of work I took the train to go to Long Island to visit my family. As the conductor came to collect tickets he saw me in my uniform and my ID badge and asked what I was doing "down there". After telling him he said "Forget about it" and walked away, refused to take my money. I went to a store and had about \$200 in merchandise (souvenirs) and the owner came around and shook my hand, said "Thank you for what you are doing and your money is no good here!" and gave it all to me for free. I visited NYPD ESU truck #1 in Manhattan (home of deceased ESU member Brian McDonnell) while there I was presented with a NYPD ESU shirt for what I was doing. It had been rumored that Officer McDonnell was brought into the morgue while I was there working. It was amazing and overwhelming all at once.

So it went for me, for about 7 days. 14-16 hour days then drinking. When I was there the people at Ground Zero came upon a stairwell with many bodies. So we became very busy for several days. I saw so many police officers of the PAPD and the NYPD as well as firefighters of the FDNY and many civilians. Heart breaking. I will not get into detail in this forum. I still see many of those people in my dreams every night or everyday. Not something that is easily forgotten. I can literally close my eyes and see and smell it all as if I am standing right there once again.

I will never forget the smell of death. I knew when the "meat truck" was opened. I did not eat much while I was there. Some guys had no problems eating. But not me. My stomach was so queasy that I could not even look at food while I was there. After my shift, that was a different story. I had to take a long shower first to get rid of the smell that never seemed to leave. The Vicks rub for ones nose as well as the masks never worked. I literally shoved the Vick's deep into my nostrils. It permeated your clothes. I remember one time I vomited in my mask after a body bag was opened up, consequently that was the only time that I ate while I was there. I laughed and I cried at the same time. Interestingly enough just outside the perimeter of the morgue was a Salvation Army station where food was served by these great volunteers. They were some heroes as well. They took great care of us. When I needed to

get away from the sites I would go around the corner and talk to some of the wonderful volunteer ladies there. They had anything you needed there. To this day I can smell death.

During that time, I do not recall exactly when. I spent two days out in Staten Island at the "Fresh Kills" landsite. It was our job to dig through the rubble that was dropped off from Ground Zero by garbage trucks. So there we were with rakes, going through the rubble. Looking for many things. One of my most proudest moments from that time is that I was able to help ID a person through a credit card. That was all that was left.

The absolute worst place that I worked was at the Bereavement Center on Pier 92 as well as the Jacob Javits Center. So many heart broken family members there looking for their loved ones. It was our job to console, to help them find out information on their loved ones and to point them in the right direction. I remember all the posters and flyers hanging EVERYWHERE. I could not handle it. All the sadness and desperation broke my heart. I went back to working with the dead. The dead do not cry or mourn. I often wondered how many of their family members I touched while I worked in the morgue.

On the last day that I was there, 29 Oct, I visited Ground Zero for the last time. By that time a lot of the soldiers were gone, there were not so many checkpoints. It was not the site it was just a couple weeks earlier. I spent a long time there soaking in all the sites. I wanted to make sure that I would never forget what it looked like. I will not lie, now today, there are some sites I wish I could forget.

On the flight home from New York I was in uniform and one of the stewardesses asked me why. I explained to her not thinking anything of it. After about 20 minutes the pilot came on the loud speaker and said "There is a hero amongst us." referring to me and what I did. I bring this up because I do not believe that. I am not a hero and do not wish to be portrayed as such. There was a need and I went. Nothing more, nothing less. The heroes are all the people who died and spent months digging in that place to recover and help people. The heroes are the cops and firefighters who have carried on the job without their brothers and sisters. The heroes are the families who have carried on with the lost of their loved ones. The heroes are the first responders who are dying from the residual effect of all the toxins they breathed while they were there.

That time changed me for ever. I became a different person. A lot for the bad. I drank a lot,

treated people with disdain and hate. The hate was the hard part. I was a tough guy. Would not talk about it. Drank like crazy. Did not want to be labeled a wimp so I sucked it up. Let me tell you, that is all a crock of shit! I wasted 9 years of my life. Missed out on years of my kids growing up and even lost a marriage because of my contributing factors. It is very interesting because while we were there working there were always the Red Cross grief counselors. They were there to help us. Many of us had the prevalent attitudes that all of us do in Law Enforcement, that being, we do not need that. We are big tough guys. I was one of them.

Earlier this year I visited Ground Zero and the museum and memorials. It was very spiritual for me. I always said that I would never go there as the memories were so raw. However, I went there with the company of my beautiful wife and brother. While I was there I went right back to that time. I could smell, visualize and remember as it was just like I was there again, yet I knew that it was 2011 and that the place was filled with life again and most importantly, I was not scared. I knew I was going to go for several days before we went and was very anxious and tried to talk myself out of it.

They did a wonderful job with the museum. Very somber and sobering. In the museum they have a litter just like the ones that bodies were carried in. When I saw that I started crying. They also have a room where photos of victims are displayed. That is the hardest part for me. I often wonder how many, if any of those people I handled at the morgue. I feel an intimate bond with the victims as I helped many of them to their final resting place. For me, there is a draw to Ground Zero and I cannot wait to go back and visit. I would like to someday work or volunteer at the museum.

The dreams are not so bad anymore. The smells, are still there, but not as bad. In fact, for me, the worst part is not the visions, it is the smell. I can recall that like I am right there. Touch is another interesting sense. Someday I will touch something that reminds me of the morgue. The absolute worst day for me anymore is the date 9/11 itself. That day is the toughest. I get very overwhelmed on that day and usually become a recluse. This will be the first year that I am not scared of the date 9/11. It will be my first time experiencing that date with open arms.

I remember a story that was once told to me by a Pearl Harbor survivor. He told me that he was able to function well all year long with (cont. next pg.)

very little problems. But on 7 December he was a basket case (even 65+ years later). In fact, it was the only day that his family would witness him drink in excess. He would go in his special room and close the door and drink and cry all day. I understand that all too well. 11 September is a day like that for me.

It has been 10 years since 9/11 and many of you have known me since then. You all know that I have never talked about it. I talk now, because for me it is part of the healing process, not because I seek anything else. I have spent countless hours in therapy and I have come to learn that talking about it is not a scary thing. I have learned that not talking is the worst thing a person can do. That does not make you a "man". I have also learned that it is ok to cry and I do. I find myself crying sometimes and it is ok. I can actually watch stories on 9/11 now, whereas in the past I would not because the emotions were so raw. People need to know, people need not forget those that died that day. I have chosen to memorialize that time with tattoos on my body. A permanent reminder for everyone. When I was at the 9/11 museum a worker there saw my tattoo and asked if she could touch it. She gently rubbed my arm and began crying. No words can describe that. I also talked to a Port Authority Police Officer who liked my tattoo and called me brother. Since I have had the tattoos I have had people talk to me about that time and tell me their story of that day. That is why I have chosen to use tattoos.

I am very proud of my part in the story of 9/11 and I would do it again in a heartbeat.

(Editor's note: Thanks to 82nd Re-Enactor Ben Lund, I received an email invite to the Dakota City Battle last year. Joined by Bill Hannigan and his son Chip and daughter Sheila, there I met Ben in person along with Brian and the rest of the 82nd Re-Enactors. I was impressed by the respect, honor and obvious love Brian and the boys of H Co., 3/504 PIR extended to Bill and the other WWII Vets in attendance. What a delight it is in this day of selfishness and greed to see these young men so devoted to true American virtue and to the men who saved us all from Fascism. Nothing lately rocked me as well as Brian's story and made me feel so much better about our country's future. Brian, like his Re-Enactor friends is a man of principle. He walks his talk. I hope you enjoyed his 9/11 story as much as I do!)

Dakota City! May 19,20
Farmington, MN.

Glider Rider Ray Nelson receives Legion of Honor



Here's a guy I'd follow across a bridge bombing! All American Ray Nelson, 95, Beloit, was a 1st Sgt with the 325 GIR who saw plenty of action in WWII. He was recently awarded the French Legion of Honor medal. It will look very nice next to his Silver Star. Great Trooper. Great Man! Read all about it in the next issue! (Laney photo.)



Badger Chapter members at the American Legion Camp near Minocqua. A beautiful place, free to Wisconsin Disabled Veterans!! Thank you Legion! (Laney photo)

The
High Ground

W7031 Ridge Rd. Neillsville, WI 54456

Beat goes on! Glider Experts joined by Glider Expert Rick Holle!



Rick Holle, Hammond, met Glider Experts Sid Cohen and Lester Schwarm in Wausau 12/20. This was the finest Glider conversation since the Madison Glider Symposium because Rick fit right in with Sid and Les. His Dad, Leon Holle, was a WWII 82nd Glider Rider. We might have the man to carry on Les's wonderful educational and historical work for the Badger Airborne. Rick is a highly knowledgeable, Airborne History buff & ball of fire with Leon combat stories which we get into next issue. Following lunch we visited The Bulge Memorial Les worked so hard on and Sid's hangar where he showed us a Ford video on the WACO. This was one terrific day! Merry Christmas indeed! (Laney photo.)



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Rangers lead the way!

By Kipp Hartman, 504 Airborne Ranger

The picture below is of Madison PD K9 handler Teresa McKenzie and Sgt. Mike Brennan with new Madison PD K9 "Josh". Josh is named after Mike's son Josh who was Killed In Action in Afghanistan while fighting for his 173rd Airborne Brothers.



173rd Paratrooper Sgt. Giunta was awarded the Medal of Honor for preventing the Taliban from dragging Josh away during a fierce firefight. Josh died on the Medivac.

The Badger State Chapter, 82nd Airborne Association recently had Josh's name added to the KIA list read at every memorial event at The Highground.



Josh Brennan

We will always remember Paratrooper Josh Brennan and look forward to meeting K9 Josh.

Good job Madison PD!

Ryan Johnson kicks ass!

From the Fayetteville Paraglide:

By Sgt. Joe Guenther, 82nd Abn PAO

A combat medic with the 82nd Airborne Division's "Devil Brigade" received top honors during field medical testing at Fort Bragg, Sept. 23.

Staff Sgt. Ryan Johnson, an aid station manager with 1st Brigade Combat Team, distinguished himself among his peers by receiving not only the Expert Field Medical Badge but two, of the three, coins awarded for excellence at the end of EFMB testing.

The EFMB is the most prestigious skill badge that medical personnel in the Army can achieve in a peacetime environment.

At the end of every EFMB testing, coins

are awarded for finishing first in three categories: highest score on the written exam, highest score on the combat testing lanes, and first to complete the 12-mile foot march. Johnson earned his EFMB with top honors by earning two of those coins. He was first to complete the foot march, and he received all "gos" on the testing lanes.

One hundred and ninety Soldier medics from around the country competed, said Maj. Kenneth Lutz, the officer in charge of the EFMB testing. Of those, only 60 went on to compete in the final phase, a 12-mile foot march. Only eight Soldiers completed the foot march under the three-hour time limit and were awarded the EFMB.

The EFMB was a two-week event, which Soldiers had to qualify for by passing the Army Physical Fitness Test and qualifying with their rifles.

It started with a week of orientation and study during which graders showed competitors exactly how to perform the tasks the Soldiers would be tested on.

Testing began the second week and kicked off with a 60-question, written exam comprised of information from four Army manuals. If the competitor passed, he moved on to the field exercises which included a day and night land navigation exercise and three combat testing lanes.

Each of the testing lanes was a mix of 10 to 20 tasks from four areas: common Soldier skills, radio communications, evacuation procedures and tactical combat casualty care. Each task had three to seven subtasks, and some subtasks had up to 14 steps that each had to be performed correctly to receive a "go" on that task.

EFMB is the most prestigious skill badge that medics can achieve in peacetime.



SSG Ryan Johnson, 504 Medic receives the EFMB Badge. SSG Ryan is the son of Madison Police Detective Julie Johnson. (photo by Sgt. Guenther, 82nd Airborne)

One of the biggest challenges that faced the competing Soldiers was being able to perform the tasks "by the book," said Johnson, who represented 1st BCT's 1st Battalion, 504th

Parachute Infantry Regiment at the competition.

"There are different ways to get to the same result," said Johnson, a veteran of six years and multiple deployments. "But the way you

know, may not be the way the performance measures are in the book."

The final event was also the most physically demanding — a 12-mile foot march that started and ended at Pike Field, a nearby parade field. Soldiers who completed the march in less than three hours were awarded the EFMB.

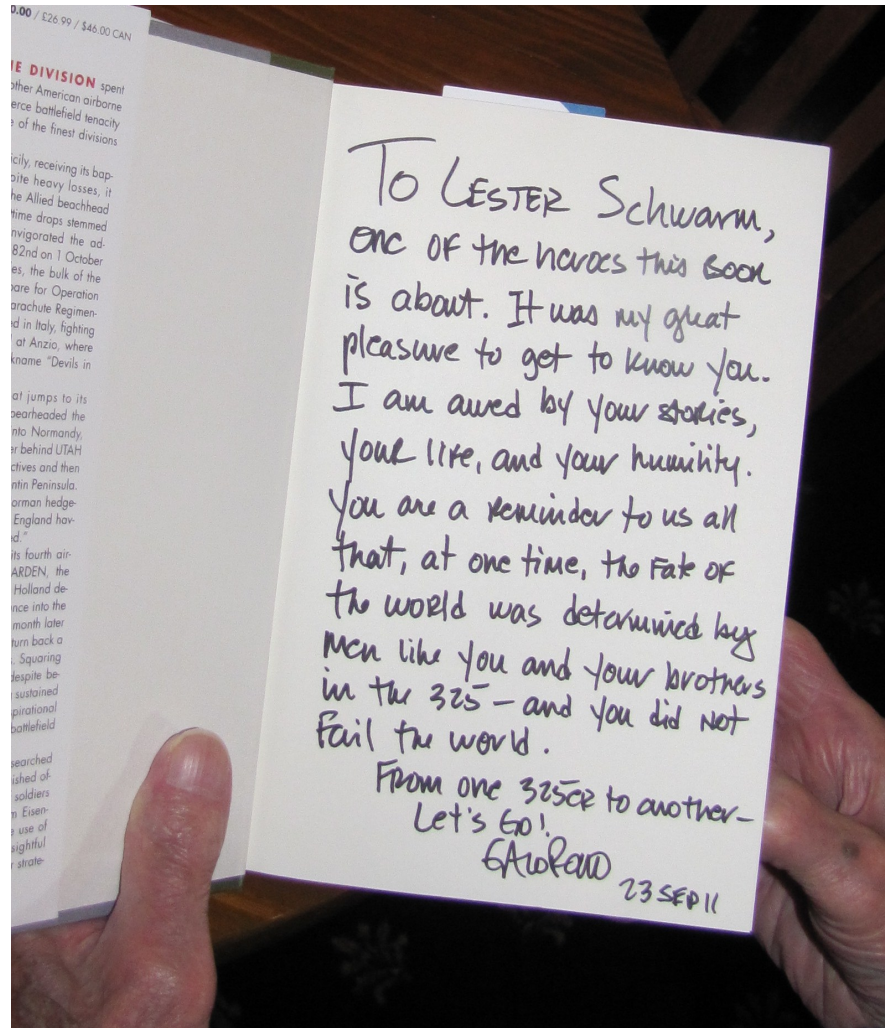
(Kipp Note: Ssg Ryan is the son of Detective Julie Johnson, Madison PD.)



“Adoration of the Shepherds”, Gerard von Honthorst

There fared a mother driven forth
 Out of an inn to roam;
 In the place where she was homeless
 All men are at home.
 The crazy stable close at hand,
 With shaking timber and shifting sand,
 Grew a stronger thing to abide and stand
 Than the square stones of Rome.
 For men are homesick in their homes,
 And strangers under the sun,
 And they lay their heads in a foreign land
 Whenever the day is done.
 Here we have battle and blazing eyes,
 And chance and honour and high surprise,
 But our homes are under miraculous skies
 Where the yule tale was begun.
 A child in a foul stable,
 Where the beasts feed and foam;
 Only where He was homeless
 Are you and I at home;
 We have hands that fashion and heads that
 know,
 But our hearts we lost---how long ago!
 In a place no chart nor ship can show
 Under the sky's dome.
 This world is wild as an old wife's tale,
 And strange the plain things are,
 The earth is enough and the air is enough
 For our wonder and our war;
 But our rest is as far as the fire-drake
 swings
 And our peace is put in impossible things
 Where clashed and thundered unthinkable
 wings
 Round an incredible star.
 To an open house in the evening
 Home shall all men come,
 To an older place than Eden
 And a taller town than Rome.
 To the end of the way of the wandering star,
 To the things that cannot be and that are,
 To the place where God was homeless
 And all men are at home.

(Gilbert Keith Chesterton)



To LESTER Schwarm,
 one of the heroes this book
 is about. It was my great
 pleasure to get to know you.
 I am awed by your stories,
 your life, and your humility.
 You are a reminder to us all
 that, at one time, the fate of
 the world was determined by
 men like you and your brothers
 in the 325 - and you did not
 fail the world.
 From one 325er to another -
 Let's Go!
 GUY LOFARO 23 SEP 11

Christmas came early for one of the nicest Troopers in world history. Lester Schwarm received the latest book on the 82nd, “The Sword of St. Michael” from author LtC Guy LoFaro, shortly after the book came out in Sept. Les and Guy met at the National Glider Symposium in Minneapolis four years ago and shared stories again at the 2010 conference in Madison. Les is thanked by LoFaro in the book’s introduction. This inscription says a lot about what kind of man LoFaro is. He writes to a man who has never forgotten his 325 GIR Brothers who didn’t make it home; A man who loves his God, family, community, country, 82nd Airborne and the Green Bay Packers like no other. Merry Christmas Les! (Laney photo)

Please Buy American!

There are 46 Million Americans in poverty & the jobs are still going to China! Our Troops and the unemployed need jobs, jobs, jobs. Support local, small businesses! Shop like an American!

Thank you American Legion!



SF Trooper (name notes gone) at Mpls. American Legion Convention being thanked by Laney for the Legion’s demand for good jobs for the Troops, Good jobs for all!



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Airborne



Thank you Mr. hard-boiled Paratrooper Bert Schmitz, 505 PIB National Association Secretary for the terrifically designed 82nd BSC challenge coins below! A fundraiser for Wounded Warrior, these coins can be had for only \$12 bucks! (Plus postage)



Sword of St. Michael a must read for every Trooper & Citizen!

I had the honor of meeting Ltc Guy LoFaro at our Glider Symposium in Madison in 2010. After hearing his presentation on the WWII 325 GIR I asked him why he wasn't a General? "I was a Black Ops guy and normally Special Ops don't make much rank."

We met around the time President Obama was firing Stan McChrystal and LoFaro said, Stan was the Special Ops exception, a man so brilliant his promotion had to be done. And then Guy volunteered, "You can ask McChrystal if he knows me. He'll say, 'Yeah. I know that SOB.'" and laughs.

Great Paratrooper this LoFaro! He commanded the 325, ran the Ranger School at Benning, went to Special Forces then Delta; taught at West Point for six years, got a History PhD at some NY college and jumped into writing what is one of the most comprehensive books on the 82nd Airborne, "The Sword of St. Michael, The 82nd Airborne Division in WW II." It is a book so soulful and so full of love for WWII All American Paratroopers and Glider Riders, I thought it might have been written by an altar boy. Which it is. The Patron of Paratroopers, St. Michael is proud, no doubt.

At the Glider Symposium, LoFaro told us that the 82nd bailed out the 101st at Bastogne.

"We Already knew that didn't we?"

"My book will prove it."

Acutely humble, LoFaro will not dwell on his own heroism. As far as I can tell he is mainly famous at West point for his story-telling. The link below is to a "Dining In" speech he delivered to cadets about how he learned important things in life:

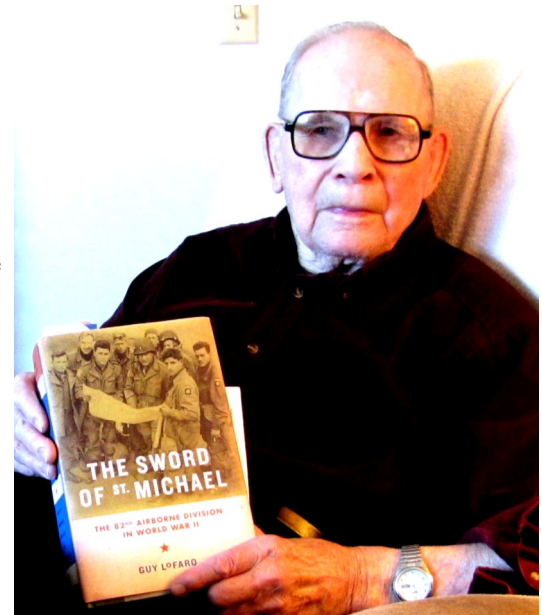
<http://mrcompletely.blogspot.com/2007/04/lc-guy-lofaros-after-dinner-speech.html>

What he doesn't say in this speech, which is partly about his care after being shot and nearly killed by some nutcase at Ft. Bragg, is that he saved lives by risking his own life. When his running formation was attacked by the nut banging away at his guys, LoFaro ran at the shooter and got him on the ground saving everyone around him. He then spent 45 days in a coma on the edge of death being saved by Troopers who loved him.

He survived to write about 82nd heroes like Jim Megellas, Herb Huebschen, Ray Nelson, and Les Schwarm. He thanks Les in his introduction and sent him a book for Christmas.

1st Sgt. Ray Nelson, 325 GIR fought at LaFiere and he will tell you the 325 saved the Paratroopers there. "We were running across bodies and the bullets were so thick you felt like you could just reach up and pluck them out of the air. But we got the job done when the Paratroopers couldn't," says Ray. (We'll have more on Ray in the next edition.)

Here's what Guy LoFaro has to say about that



Merry Christmas from The Bulge! 1st Sgt. Ray Nelson, 325 GIR, Beloit is reading LoFaro's book. Ray was there! His story will appear in our next issue!

fierce battle:

"No one has ever counted the losses of the LaFiere Causeway. The only reliable figures are from the 2/401st, which lost 40 troopers killed and another 180 wounded. German figures have been forever lost, although it is certain that the fight destroyed the 1057th Regiment, which ceased to exist as a cohesive fighting force. Yet even absent the numbers the ferocity of the battle made a lasting impression. Ridge-way called it 'as hot a single battle as any U.S. troops had, at any time during the war in Europe.' Gavin opined that 'the shock of battle has never been greater than it was...in the causeway crossing,' adding, "Probably the only thing that compared with it in courage was the crossing of the Waal River at Nijmegen." The fight also changed his perception about glider troopers. "From then on," he wrote, "the 325th became on of the great regiments of the war."

LoFaro notes that later, when Gavin was well-known as a Lt. General, writer and Ambassador to France, he agreed to speak to vets at a fairly small meeting organized by 401st vet Richard Johnson. Johnson had been wounded at LaFiere. Before the meeting and alone with Johnson, Gavin asked "Do you know what I'm doing this?"

"Johnson replied, that he did not."

Gavin said, "You crossed that causeway, and I can't say no to any man who did."

The All Americans LoFaro lauds came home and built the fairest America in our history with their virtue. Guy LoFaro lives that Legacy too. Our families, our country's future depends on these good men. Guy LoFaro for President!