



THE WISSOTA AIRBORNE REPORTER

PROUDLY DEDICATED TO JIM "MAGGIE" MEGELLAS THE 82ND AIRBORNE'S MOST DECORATED OFFICER



Glenn Ward's Daughter, Grandson visit the field he hallowed

Dr. Russ Durkee, Eau Claire, stood with his mother, Judy Durkee Peter, on the Belgium "Field of Giants" where Dad and grandfather, Pvt. Glenn Ward, Paratrooper, gave his life for his friends in 1945.

Judy was three years old, when Glenn rushed across this snow-covered field to take out a machine gun that was firing on his 508th PIR, 82nd Airborne brothers.

Here he died for the best friends of his young life, an All American to his soul.

Judy's friends and family chipped in so she could make this trip last February.

VFW Ray Rousseau Post 3243, QM Ralph Larson coordinated fundraising and Post Commander Ron Pederson presented checks to Judy for \$2100 for airfare and some expenses. She was joined by husband Bernie, Russ, daughter in law and dozens of European 82nd Airborne Historians like Edie Lamberlyt of the C-47 Club, Dominic Potier and others.

Paratrooper Glenn Ward had been seriously



Imagine a young, courageous Paratrooper charging through the snow on this field, Jan. 1945. The winter air is full of fire. He's perhaps still running with a bit of a limp, exhausted from the unhealed wounds he suffered at Normandy. He's attacking a machine gun that's firing on him and his 508th Brothers, the best friends of his young life. This is now PVT Glenn Ward's

wounded at Normandy. A first-to-fight Trooper in a first-to-fight outfit, Ward had ridden a motorcycle into the enemies' guns. His wounds prevented him from jumping into Holland in Sept. But (cont. pg 15)

D-Day +70



Leg MG Dunbar, Wisconsin Military C.O., getting command advice from 1SGT Ray Nelson, F325 GIR, 82nd Airborne Division, Beloit, at D-Day +70. See Page 11! (Laney pic)

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Who is Jim “Maggie” Megellas?

“Maggie 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 heroic 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.” - SSG Bill Hannigan, 504 PIR Paratrooper, 90, St. Paul, MN on Jim Megellas. Bill was a squad leader in Maggie’s platoon. Bill was also a very good man and a member of the Badger Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association.



“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 sonofabitch?!’ 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 Heib, WWII Paratrooper H/504 PIR; Special Forces Vietnam.



Maggie’s Heroes

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/10505234.html?page=1>

Hit ctrl-click to use the links in this newsletter!

THE WISSOTA AIRBORNE REPORTER

Honoring Jim “Maggie” Megellas and Wisconsin/Minnesota’s Airborne.

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All American Photog Emeritus: Justin Connaher, 505 PIR, 82nd Airborne, Alaska.



THE WISSOTA AIRBORNE REPORTER

We are dedicated to honoring LTC (Ret) James “Maggie” Megellas, the most decorated officer in the 82nd Airborne’s proud history; and to honoring all of Minnesota/Wisconsin’s Airborne.

We aim to keep you up to speed on a great Wisconsin Airborne Warrior and the Medal of Honor Maggie he so justly deserves; and all Airborne heroes and events in our beloved Upper Midwest .

We will update you on MOH appeals by The Sim’s Team on any new Department of the Army, Congressional or Presidential action for this long overdue Medal of Honor. For breaking news on upgrading Maggie’s Herresbach Silver Star to the Medal Of Honor, go to the [medalformaggie](http://medalformaggie.com) website.

The Sims Team was formed with the approval of Col. Edward J. Sims. Col. Sims was, in 1945, 1st Lt. Sims, H/504, 82nd Airborne Division. Sims recommended Maggie for the Medal Of Honor after the battle of Herresbach. The Army lost the recommendation. We want this medal for Maggie, for his platoon, for the 504 PIR, the 82nd Airborne Division and for Airborne Troopers everywhere.

“The 82nd Airborne Division was, and is, the best Airborne Division in the world”, said 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, 509th, 551st, Rangers, Special Forces, Delta Force, Chair Force, SEALs, USMC Force Recon, all Paratroopers and friends of the Airborne.

All The Way!
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Maggie & Sims at Cheneaux, The Bulge.



APACHE SMOKE



Did you know that the 501st got permission from Geronimo's family to use his name? I did. I was in the 501st/82nd.

Notes on a few of the past year's Airborne happenings in Wisconsin and Minnesota:

- [D-Day + 70 in Madison](#) was the highlight of the past year thanks to COL John Scocos, Secretary Wisconsin Veterans Affairs, Paratrooper, 18th Airborne Corp; Mike Telzrow, Director Wisconsin Military Museums; and, Kevin Hampton, Curator and Event Organizer, Wisco Military Museum Madison. D-Day + 70 was a very special event! Please support the Wisco Military Museums, they are the best in the USA!
- We saw five Wisconsin WWII Airborne heroes honored by the Governor and Vets Secretary Scocos! 82nd Badger Chapter members Judy Durkee Peter, Ray Nelson, Herb Huebschen, Gene Strutzenberg and 101st Old Abe Chapter member Larry Michaelis all were presented the Govern-



Me with pal Bob Bloedorn at the [Iwo Jima Memorial](#), Harlingen, TX. Bob fought on Iwo Jima and is originally from Milwaukee. Absolute Great Marine and Packers Fan who I met through Earl DeLong, another heroic, WWII Marine from Birchwood. Use the link for more on Earl and Bob in the newsletter I am doing under Iwo Jima Museum Director Gloria Bolin. Bob recently had a stroke and is back volunteering at the [Iwo Jima Museum Visitor Center and Gift Shop](#).

That's the original Iwo Jima Monument in the background. Across the street is the Marine Military Academy. All, a special place!

nor's Commendation Plaques on the anniversary of D-Day. Thanks to Sec. Scocos this was a most proud day for the Airborne! I thank Badger Chapter members, Dave Kemp and Kipp Hartman for attending this Memorial!

- Our Brothers, 505 Medic Gordy Starck, 504 Squad Leader Bill Hannigan, COL Ed Sims and 82nd Historian Landon Lien, all left us to guard the Marines in Heaven. God bless these great men!
- COL John Scocos, Wisconsin Vets Secretary and; Michael Telzrow, Director of Wisconsin's Military Museum are planning honors for Maggie this August 12 at the Fond du Lac Legion and a new Airborne Room in the remodeled Madison Museum.
- 501st Apaches are now back in 82nd Geronimo Troopers!
- Volunteer workers welcome for the Aug. 16, Walt Airborne Memorial. Contact me! The 2013 Memorial was a big success thanks to so many supporters! Need help now!
- We had a great time at the 2103 [Ben Kopp Fundraiser in Minnesota](#) and at the [Midwest All Airborne Picnic at Ft. Snelling last year!](#) CTRL/Click links for dates this year. Gold Star Mom Jill Stephenson is at it again, raising funds for the Wounded. Check out the story! See you there!
- We sent Judy Durkee Peter to Belgium to say some prayers for Glenn and for all of us. ATW Thanks to thank Ralph Larson QM of the Rhineland VFW for all his work in handling the donations to make Judy's trip possible. And huge thanks to Judy for all she's done for the 82nd Badger Chapter, the 508th, the 82nd, the Honor Flights, the Memorial Days, the Vets Days and more. Pamphlet and Powerpoint coming on her heroically, reckless, 82nd-to-the-core Dad, Glenn Ward, KIA, The Bulge.
- Special Ops Medic Landon Steele led a march through the Twin Cities calling attention to the 23 troop suicides


every day now. He is now on his way back to Iraq as Special Ops Medic.

- [Flo Memoires touring U.S.!](#)
- Wisconsin Ranger HOOAH replicated the walk in Green Bay. Ranger Hooah—Minnesota raised wounded funds with 82nd Airborne Vet Rocky Lynne.
- Ranger HOOAH Founder Bob Sebasation will be inducted into the Ranger Hall at Ft. Benning. See his Facebook page!
- And most recently, The All American Photog, Justin Connaheer, has given us a stirring [Airborne video narrated by Maggie](#). Justin was again awarded highest Photog honors by the military!
- The Southern Wisconsin 82nd Chapter raised \$50 grand in 2013 for the Wounded! These guys are Saints!!
- Vietnam Paratrooper Vets Dave Kemp, 82nd/173rd; Skip, SF SOG; and Ron Worthy SF Vietnam Vet; continue their high-value work at The Highground. Check out The Highground's schedule on the organization page.
- 82nd Badger Chapter will submit a bid for the 82nd Convention in 2016.
- 82nd Airborne Association Executive Secretary Santiago Tijerina, drives the unity on between the 82nd, 173rd, Marine Force Recon; SEALs and Chair Force Leapers. The 82nd Association and all it's Chapters need to work on communication and promoting and extending the Airborne Legacy to America. Santiago leads the way on that! We will have him for one more year before he retires. I hope everyone understands the political difficulties of surviving the Association's politics and driving on for the Airborne's history. That history is second to none and Santiago does one hell of a job teaching and spreading it ALL THE WAY!
- [Perplexed by The Blackwater idea?](#)

[82nd Airborne D-Day](#)

THANK YOU KWIECIENS!

Me too. WHY would the Pentagon go along with a highly-paid, private mercenary force instead of a nice raise for Marines guarding our embassies? In fact, why not a nice raise for all our Troopers?

- Clubs/Events/Stories: [MSG Roy Benivides](#), [C-47 Club](#), [Duluth Air Show](#).
- Two import Airborne videos from Kipp Hartman, [here](#) and [here](#). We thank Kipp also for his contribution in making Mike Brennan an Honorary Member of the 82nd Airborne Association Badger Chapter. We did that to honor Mike's Vet work; and son, SGT Josh Brennan, 173rd Josh was KIA in Afghanistan fighting for his brothers. Josh's friend SGT Sal Giunta was awarded the MOH for saving Josh from the Taliban. Unfortunately Josh died in the Medivac. Mike Brennan memorializes, Josh and the Airborne and all our troops everywhere he goes. We welcome Mike to the 82nd Brotherhood.
- We have a few of our readers. This is a new feature to cover our Troopers. Please send me your stories and pics and I will publicize them. Easy to do this on Facebook . Facebook works! It is the best Airborne place to communicate. Get on it! Commo is key! Over.
- I have started a new website for this newsletter but sites are tough, tough on me. The site is under construction but past newsletters are there now. Facebook allows to me to upload smaller files but not files as big as [The Wissota Airborne Reporter](#). So, I changed sites to Weebly which is supposed to be easier to build than the *&^%\$#@! Builder I had. See Wissota on Facebook too. I extend to my former Ford co-workers Rene and Paul Kwiecien and the Kwiecien family, my deepest thanks for their donation of a C-47 truck to the Minnesota Airborne Re-Enactors. What a nice way to remember their Dad, Brother and the troops!
- Special All The Way Airborne thanks to Capt. Jim Palmersheim and his American Airlines staffers  for flying Carole and Maggie to Wisconsin. Thanks to AA Maggie will be speaking Aug. 12 at the Fond du Lac Legion and at our 2nd Annual



Paul Kwiecien in the C-47 3/4 he and his family donated to the Minnesota Airborne Re-Enactors in memory of their brother and father. What a generous and nice way to have the premier Minnesota Airborne Historians memorialize the Kwieciens! I worked with Paul and Rene Kwiecien and they are wonderful people. They arranged for the pickup in Detroit and Ben Lund and company, which is now C502nd PIR/101st Airborne, are working on it feverishly to get it in running order. The bumper will carry 82nd stencils! The dash will have a Kwiecien Donor Plaque. C502nd, 101st Airborne will be at the Walt Pakulski All Airborne Memorial in Stevens Point Aug. 16th. With guns!



Walter Pakulski All Airborne Memorial in Stevens Point!

- Because we have time-sensitive notices of coming events here, I have to wrap this up without some articles. Those articles will appear in a Sept. issue that will cover the events at The Highground, Airborne Memorial, Ben Kopp Fundraiser and more.
- **Early Warning**, we plan to gather at The Bulge Memorial in Wausau, Dec. 16 to remember Lester Schwarm who worked so hard to make this Memorial a reality; for Glenn Ward and all The Bulge Troopers. God bless the Airborne, ALL THE WAY!
- - Tom



2ND ANNUAL WALTER PAKULSKI ALL AIRBORNE MEMORIAL

Stevens Point

At The Airborne Forces Bridge: Displays, 11:00 AM

Colors Posted VFW 10262 Honor Guard 2:30PM

2:30 Program

Speakers:

MSG John Schultz, Special Forces

Chairman, Walt Pakulski All Airborne Memorial Committee

Judy Peter

Father Glenn Ward, F/508th, 82nd, KIA Belgium, Jan. 30, 1945

Sara Witter Connor,

WWII Glider Expert, Author, Wisconsin 's Flying Trees

COL John A. Scocos, Secretary

Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 18th Airborne Corp Paratrooper

LTC James "Maggie" Megellas

82nd Airborne's Most Decorated, Lead-from-the-Front Officer

Frank Morris

Chairman, Badger State Chapter 82nd Airborne Association

Supported by: Walt Pakulski All Airborne Memorial Committee; 82nd Airborne Division Association; "Mr. Airborne" Tom Hacker; City of Stevens Point; Battery B, Bulls, 32nd Infantry NG; VFW Post 10262; 82nd & 101st Paratroopers, Glider Riders & Air Assault; Midwest All Airborne Alliance; The Wisconsin Airborne Reporter; Menomonie Veterans Center; F/502nd PIR, 101st Airborne WWII ReEnactors; 401st GIR, 101st Airborne ReEnactors; 82nd Airborne ReEnactors



SSG Gene Strutzenberg, 504 PIR, Brodhead will there!

*Book signings, Airborne
Weapons & Historical Dis-
plays, Lunch*

Displays Open 11:00AM

2:30 Speakers Program

August 16th, 2014

Directions: (Ctrl/Click to use these links)

AIRBORNE FORCES BRIDGE MEMORIAL

VFW POST 10262

More info contact: Tom Laney, WPAAM Secretary 715-704-0409 tlaney1776@gmail.com

7th Grader, Nathan Castro, carries on the 82nd legacy



My Pal, Nathan Castro being introduced by the President of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Harold Shroeder. Nathan displayed his 82nd Normandy history at the Ben Vandervoort Chapter's "Winter Getaway" in Hilton Head. Mucho thanks to Bill Eberle and the Chapter for introducing Nate to so many great men and women! I gave this Ike jacket to Nathan for Christmas. The 508th background is from a friend who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan. (Bill Eberle photo)

Who will carry on the 82nd Airborne's Legacy?

Who will tell the people, that as Lester Schwarm put it, "The WWII 82nd Airborne was the best Airborne Division in the world. And, it still is."

Nathan Castro for one.

Last year, Mrs. Ramonita Castro asked for interview volunteers for her son Nathan's school history project on the 82nd's invasion of Normandy.

Nathan got three from Wisconsin and Minnesota. 1SGT Ray Nelson, 97, F325 GIR, Beloit; SSG Bill Hannigan, 92, H504 PIR; and, SSG Gene Strutzenberg, 92, C504 PIR, Brodhead. (Gene missed Normandy but provided his usual wit and humor.)

(Bill Hannigan jumped in with the 508th PFs. As we know, the 504 didn't make Normandy because they were so decimated at Anzio.)

From these heroes, Nathan pieced together his D-Day story with narrative he

wrote out of the words of Ray, Gene and Bill. That went on a 3-panel display board with pictures of Nathan's heroes and the 82nd. The display won honors from his school at Ft. Bragg and the state of North Carolina!

SFC Felix Castro is now stationed at S. Carolina's Ft. Hunter/Stewart.

Thanks to former 82nd Association pres, Bill Eberle, Nate was invited by the BenVandervoort 82nd Chapter to their "Winter Get Away". Nate displayed his Normandy layout there and was welcomed by everyone in this great 82nd Chapter!

The 82nd invited Nate to All American Week where he met LTC Jim "Maggie" Megellas. Nate had already seen the "Maggie's War" documentary featuring his friend Bill Hannigan! Quite a thrill for Nate to meet one of America's greatest heroes and the author of "All The Way to Berlin".

Nate was invited back to the

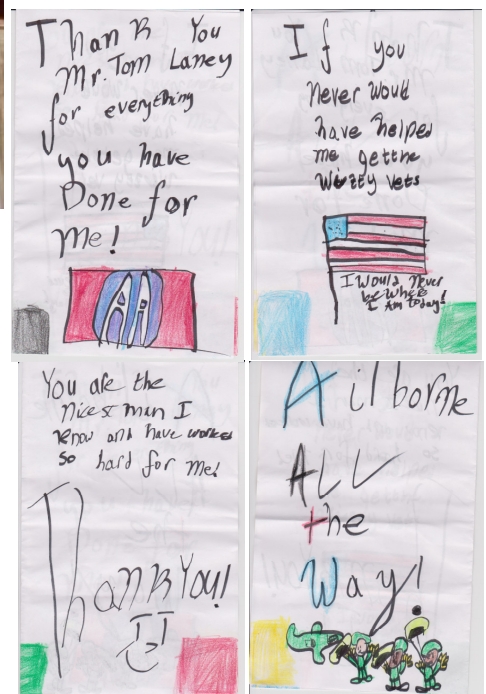
Vandervoort Chapter where he met another of his heroes, Gerard Devlin, who signed a copy of "Paratrooper" for Nate.

The Chapter then invited Nate to march with them on Memorial Day.

We'll be following this young, 82nd Historian as we move along.

Nate sent me a Christmas present of a beautifully engraved, cherry wood case with the AA patch. It holds two decks of cards and five dice. There is no rolling the dice with Nathan Castro though. He's one solid, All American kid!

Enclosed with the 82nd Case was a note with hand-drawn 82nd art. I will keep this card to my grave:



All I can say is:
GREAT PARENTS AND A GREAT KID
WHO NOW KNOWS LOTS OF Airborne
HEROES AND HONORS THEM!

Thank you Bill Hannigan, Gene Strutzenberg, Ray Nelson, Bill Eberle and the Ben Vandervoort 82nd Chapter for the kindnesses extended to this young 82nd Historian.

Thank you Nathan Castro for doing such an Airborne job of promoting the incomparable history of the All Americans in WWII!

All The Way Nathan!

We need to look for kids like Nathan & back them *ALL THE WAY!*



Clockwise From Top left, The 82nd invited Nate and the Castro family to All American Week where he had the honor of meeting LTC James "Maggie Megellas; Nathan gets a copy of "Paratrooper" signed by the author, Gerard Devlin; bottom Ben Vandervoort Chapter Vice Chair Doug Andrews with Nate and Display. Inset, Bob Aceba awards Nate and Felix the official Chapter T. "Nate loved meeting everyone and hearing about the Grenada battle. I have a feeling he will be doing some research on that battle, his Mom Ramonita Castro said. "Nathan was able to meet Mr. Devlin and talk to him for a couple of minutes and he signed his book for him. Nate is also going to be part of the Memorial Day parade with the Chapter !"

WE SENT JUDY TO BELGIUM!

(cont. from p.1)

when the 508th Devils headed for The Bulge, they weren't going to get far without Glenn. He caught up his buddies and died fighting for them. From Judy:

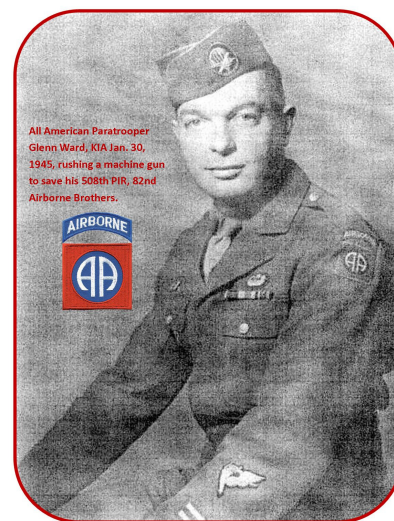
The rain that turned to snow showers, the biting cold wind that penetrated our thin jackets, and the wet muddy ground we stood on became for me in that moment in time hallowed, honored, sacred ground.

It was February 21, 2014 near Medendorf/Lanzerath Belgium. Surrounded by men, who only days before were total strangers, I found comfort, peace and joy. We were standing on the very field where my Father's blood stained the white snow of the Ardennes Forest in the last days of the Battle of the Bulge during WWII.

It was the dream of a young daughter who never knew the love of her daddy to walk where he walked and meet the French and Belgian people for which he fought and died. The compassionate men of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Badger State Chapter (WI), Chairman Frank Morris and with the help of 82nd Veteran Tom Laney, made the dream come true. These men just knew I needed to make this trip to the Ardennes area of Eastern Belgium where my Father, Pvt. Glenn Herbert Ward, 82nd Airborne Division, 508th PIR, F Co. was KIA January 30, 1945 in the last days of the Battle of the Bulge. They initiated a "Send Judy to Belgium" fund raiser and with help from VFW Post 3143 Rhinelander, WI, Commander James Pederson, raised airfare for me to make the trip to Belgium this past February. Our trip coincided with the "IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION 32ND ANNUAL WALK." The walk, on February 22, 2014, followed the trails of the 504th PIR during WWII through very small villages and rural towns of Eastern Belgium at which time were occupied by German troops. Over 1000 active military and reenactors made the walk vividly real as it must have been during battle.

This amazing journey to Belgium started on Feb. 15, 2014 when my husband Bernie, my son Russell and daughter-in-law Binu Durkee and I left Minnesota International Airport for Belgium. It was emotional from the start as this US Airport is adjacent to The National Military Cemetery, Fort Snelling, where my father is interred in his final resting place. We took off flying over that beautiful cemetery where all too many young men and women are buried. This was a most amazing and memorable trip.

The highlight of this trip was meeting the liberated people of Belgium who to this very day honor, respect, and cherish the American serviceman! "We will never forget that they did their duty, now we must do ours and never forget!" These words were spoken by Mathilde Schmetz who along with her husband Marcel, established and operate an extraordinary "Remember Museum" dedicated to soldiers of the Battle of the Bulge in Thimister-Clermont Belgium. (On line, Remembermuseum.com) The museum holds thousands of personal WWII items left by American troops who used the farm buildings for shelter This museum in Belgium should be a stopping point for anyone interested in WWII history.



TRIP STARTED WITH SELLING THESE GLENN WARD BUTTONS. SOLD OUT BUT ORDERING MORE.



JUDY'S MOM EVELYN IN FOREGROUND AS POST C.O. RON PEDERSON PRESENTS JUDY WITH TRAVEL CHECKS TOTALING \$2100+!



THE GLENN DISPLAY. THE VFW PUT ON A POTLUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF A RHINELANDER BLIZZARD. GREAT FOOD, WARM HEARTS AND A NICE SENDOFF FOR JUDY AND HUSBAND BERNIE. ME, EVELYN, JUDY AND BERNIE. BERNIE IS HIDING HIS BEER.



WWII Paratrooper Dick Field Judy at Belgium 82nd Memorial. We'll have more info on Dick and his WWII book in Sept.

On Friday Feb 21 we stood together as a family of a fallen American soldier along with men and women who understood our years of grief.

As we honored Pvt. Glenn Ward with flags, songs, flowers and tears we remembered all the fallen who now lie in marked and unmarked graves around the world. We must never forget their sacrifice or the families who have to go on without them.

Pray for lasting peace and comfort for those who will always carry the marks of war, terrorism and oppression. We stood together in this farm field surrounded by the thick Ardenne forests and our Belgian hosts declared this to be forever called, "Glenn's Field."

I conclude this message of remembrance with portions of a letter sent from Erik Van der Hoeven of The Netherlands after we returned. Erik, along with others of the [C-47 Club](#), [Salm River Chapter](#), was very instrumental in planning many of the meaningful events of our trip.

"There is no better proof of the contribution the Great Generation, with Glenn as a prominent member of it, made to make this planet into a better world than the ceremony we have had in Glenn's field in Lanzerath.

"Being there together 69 years after the events of that fateful January 30, 1945 was for all of us a most intense and intimate moment. In a small corner of German speaking Belgium, with our group covering more than three nationalities, more than four languages and including people from at least three continents and three generations, all gathered there on

the occasion of Judy's visit to what we - from now on- will call Glenn's field."

In Their Memory and with the hopes and prayers that all of you will find the peace and closure you long for all these many years. Our God is good - All the time, and knows our hurts that seem never to heal. Trust that someday we will all be united again and those tears will stop flowing. He promised!

All of you are in my heart, always.

Judith Durkee Peter, AWON (American WWII Orphan's Network) 3552 Highway C, Rhinelander, WI 54501, dtowers@frontiernet.net

I hope that everyone—Americans and Europeans—who contributed to this trip understand what a wonderful thing you've done for Judy, her family and friends and the 82nd Airborne. We now have a proper Glenn Ward tribute in Belgium and lots of new friends there. We have much more to do on Glenn's story. Who else attacked machine guns on a motorcycle? And later left safety to fight for his buddies?

Over many years, Judy has done great work for Wisconsin's Paratroopers and Glider Riders and she is an Honorary Member of our Badger 82nd Chapter. And now, because of all of you, we know so much more of PVT Ward, who gave his life for his 508th Brothers. More on the trip, the new friends and Glenn Ward August 16. Judy is speaking at the Walt Pakulski All Airborne Memorial in Stevens Point.

All American, ALL THE WAY! - Tom Laney

GALLERY OF THE GIANTS

GLENN WARD AT MEDENDORF / LANZERATH



A True Paratrooper

All The Way Airborne thanks to our new friends in Belgium for this most fitting tribute to one of Wisconsin's wildest and most courageous heroes, All American PVT Glenn Ward, 508th PIR, 82nd Airborne Division, aka "Billy the Kid"!



Judy with COL John Scocos, Secretary Wisconsin Veterans Affairs at the June 6, D-Day +70 Memorial at the Capitol. Judy received a standing ovation from over 500 attendees after the Glenn Ward story was told. More on Judy and Glenn at the Aug. 16 Airborne Memorial in Stevens Point. - Photo by Laney.



The woman in the picture is Bernadette Lejeune Lengler, and along with her husband Claude are the owners of the Auberge du Carrefour hotel where we stayed in Baraque de Fraiture Belgium. She was a baby when the Germans came through the Parkers Crossroads area where the hotel is located and many of her family were killed and the building was rammed by a German tank and then torched. It was repaired after the war and now is a 15 room bed and breakfast where we all stayed. L-R, Dom Potier, Bernie Peter, Judy, Bernadette, Cimi Durkee and Dr. Russ Durkee.

Wisconsin Honors 5 Airborne Heroes!

Patriot Judy Durkee Peter, who lost her Dad in The Bulge when she was only 3 years old and does wonderful work for Vets;

1SGT Ray Nelson, F/325 GIR, 82nd Airborne who fought at LaFiere and earned the Purple Heart and Silver Star at Nijmegen;

SSG Gene Strutzenberg, C/504 PIR, 82nd, who went All The Way through WWII earning the Purple Heart and Silver Star at the Siegfried Line;

SSG Herb Huebschen, HQtrs 2/325 GIR, 82nd who went All The Way through WWII earning the Bronze Star and Purple Heart in Holland;

SSG Larry Michaelis, C/327 GIR, 101st Airborne, who earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart at Bastogne;

LTC James "Maggie" Megellas, H/504 PIR, 82nd, who earned the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts;

SSG Warren Skenadore, 307th Engineers, 82nd, who earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart in Holland; were honored at the State Capitol by the Governor and COL John Scocos, Secretary of Wisconsin Veterans Affairs.

Michael Telzrow, Director of Wisconsin's Military Museums paid tribute to Judy Durkee Peter and her Dad, Glenn Ward who was Killed In Action during The Bulge. Judy received a standing ovation from 500+ in attendance.

WWII Combatants, Nelson, Strutzenberg and Michalis were on hand to receive Commendations from the Governor. Herb Huebschen's son Donald accepted his Dad's award.

We thank Paratrooper Secretary John Scocos, Director Telzrow and Curator Kevin Hampton for this outstanding and moving honor for our Airborne Brothers and Sister!

[D-Day Coverage](#)

[More D-Day Coverage](#)

[Still more D-Day coverage](#)



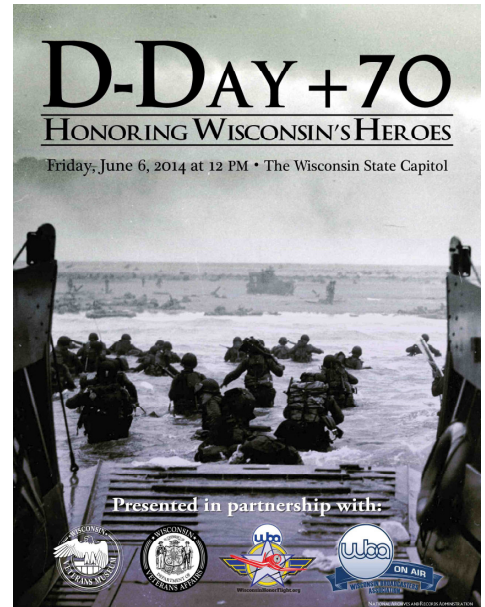
Warren Skenadore, 307th Engineers, 82nd Airborne, Silver Star, 3 Combat Jumps!



DAVE KEMP, 82ND, 173RD AIRBORNE VIETNAM LOOSENS THE 1ST SARGE UP FOR HIS STEM WINDER.—LANEY PIC.



DON HUEBSCHEN ACCEPTS GOVERNORS' COMMENDATION FOR HIS DAD HERB WHO WAS UNABLE TO MAKE IT. HERB WENT ALL THE WAY THRU WWII WITH THE 325 GIR, 82ND. HE'S AT RIGHT WITH HIS BRONZE STAR, PURPLE HEART, CIB AND MORE.—LANEY PICS.



SSG GENE STRUTZENBERG, C504 PIR, 82ND, N. AFRICA TO BERLIN. SILVER STAR, BRONZE STAR, PURPLE HEART.





Great Day for Wisconsin's Airborne!



GENE AND RAY RECEIVING GOVERNOR'S COMMENDATIONS FROM COL. SCOCOS AND MG DUNBAR.

GLENN WARD'S STORY WAS TOLD AND JUDY RECEIVED CROWD'S APPRECIATION.



GENE TELLING LARRY HOW THE 82ND SAVED THE 101ST AT BASTOGNE.

SSG LARRY MICHAELIS, 327 GIR, 101ST AIRBORNE WAS WOUNDED AT BASTOGNE. HE HOLDS THE BRONZE STAR FOR VALOR AND THE PURPLE HEART, CIB AND MORE.



1ST SGT RAY NELSON, 325 GIR, 82ND AIRBORNE. SILVER STAR, BRONZE STAR, PURPLE HEART.

SSG GENE STRUTZENBERG, 504 PIR, 82ND, DID NOT SPEND TOO MUCH TIME IN DONUT LINES. SILVER STAR, BRONZES STAR, PURPLE HEART AND GOOD HUMOR BADGE.

82nd Southern WI Chapter Goes All The Way for the Wounded!

\$49,000 + delivered to our Wounded in 2013!!!

From Paratrooper Dan Boring, Southern Wisconsin All Airborne Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association:

On March 20, 2014 I made another trip to Walter Reed to deliver three checks to 3 deserving Vets, all three are still recovering at the hospital.

I took an early flight out of Chicago, which was delayed about 1/2 hr because we had to deice the A/C on the first day of spring! I usually deliver the checks in the Warrior Café in building 62, you never know who is going to be there visiting the troops, well to my surprise it was Miss Historic Maryland Audreanna Lynn Colombo, so I asked her if she would be kind enough to present the check's to the Wounded Warriors, she said she would be happy to, and she is much better looking, no argument there. As she presented the checks she was kind enough to also have her picture taken with them, Marc Owen's was a real card trying to kiss her each time. Of course each Vet. said how much they appreciated what our organization was doing, and that we remember them at the hospital. I also remind them I am just the messenger, and each check delivered is from all the members of SWAAC, and a lot of good people who care, and are grateful for their service. As I was there Lance Cpl. Matthew Grashen and his wife Miya came by, he is doing great, playing basketball, and competing in other events with other wounded warriors. He is doing excellent walking on his new legs. He said to say hi to all the members, and for those who don't know, Matthew is going to be a father. While I was there I was also able to contact Sgt. Adam Keys from the 82nd. He was at an appointment but he also said hi to all the guy's. I told Matthew that he would be receiving a check from the recent fundraiser at the Moose soon. A big thank you to Jack and Nick for making this happen. Everything went so well I was able to take an earlier flight home. One of Sgt. Grundy's men told me that this time of the year the fighting usually picks up in Afghanistan and we can expect more wounded, they also said thanks for what we are doing. Each member should be proud of what we are doing, because they certainly are. Dan Boring SWAAC (Airborne all the way)

[The 82nd Airborne Association Southern Wisconsin Chapter does one fine job of caring for our troops!](#)



SWAAC Leads the Way at Walter Reed. Airborne Sainthood for these guys!



Next Issue: New friends page feature Larry Emrie , Rick Luskeet, and; much, much more! Ranger Luskeet, Thunder Bay, Ontario below.



Looking for Airborne Troopers in TC/West Wisco area.

Email me at: tlaney1776@gmail.com if you are interested reviving the 82nd Chapter in Twincitiers area .Suggest the chapter be based at St. Paul/Hudson VFW, Legion, DAV, AmVets post agreeable to all. The 82nd Association welcomes all Paratroopers and Glidermen from all services, divisions and units. Please help build Airborne camaraderie and promote Airborne honors and history! We deserve a chapter in our area! Please email me or call me at: 715-704-0409. We would, of course, continue to support the Midwest All Airborne Alliance and all it's great work!

Who are these guys?

Be the first guy to email me with their names and win a 6-pack of Leinie's.. tlaney1776@gmail.com



DULUTH AIR AND AVIATION EXPO 2014
FEATURING THE US NAVY

Blue Angels

August 23-24

[BACK TO HOMEPAGE](#)

THE MAGGIEZINE

*You volunteered to be a Paratrooper and for hazardous duty - that defined who you were.
You weren't looking for an easy way out. This was close, fierce combat,
You wanted to be there.—Maggie*



Squad Leader SSG Bill Hannigan, H/504, Maggie's Platoon with Sim's Team Coordinator Jim Neumann at the Walter Pakulski All Airborne Memorial in Stevens Point last June. Jim's "[Medal for Maggie](#)" site carries background on the Crusade . (Laney photo).

'Devil in Baggy Pants' comes home during All American Week

**Headquarters, 82nd Airborne Division
Public Affairs Date:** 05.23.2013

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Nowadays if someone called him a devil, James Megellas said he might take offense. Back in World War II, however, the veteran said if an enemy troop called him a devil - that was a compliment.

Megellas, one of the most decorated officers in the history of the 82nd Airborne Division, and a former "Devil in Baggy Pants," came home to the 504th

Parachute Infantry Regiment here during All American Week to share his experiences with paratroopers in the 1st Brigade Combat Team.

All American Week is a weeklong event that brings together Paratroopers from many generations to celebrate the proud history of The Division.

While visiting the unit where he got his start, the spry, 96-year-old retired lieutenant colonel signed copies of the book he authored, "All the Way to Berlin, A Paratrooper at War in Europe." He also hosted screenings of the documentary film, "Maggie's War: A True Story of Courage, Leadership and Valor in World War II." The film chronicles the heroic actions Megellas undertook while serving as a platoon leader during the Battle of the

McHugh rejects Maggie Medal of Honor again!

From the "R U Kidding Me? Dept". Non Veteran Secretary of the Army, John McHugh, has again rejected arguments for Maggie's MOH. McHugh, who has never seen a shot fired in anger, contends that leading 27 Paratroopers into 500 Germans, personally killing 25, overall killing 100 and taking 180 prisoner, single-handedly attacking and killing a tank with grenades thus saving all his men and then taking Herresbach for the 82nd's leap-off to attack the Siegfried Line, is still a Silver Star. Anyone with a particle of common sense and fairness can examine the history of Medal Of Honor Awards and see that Maggie's actions at Herresbach at least equal most of them.

As COL Sim's argued for the last 16 years of his life, the integrity of the (Con't next pg.)

Bulge.

On Jan. 28, 1945, Megellas and the paratroopers in his platoon advanced toward a much larger German force. The advance was going well until machine gun fire from a German Mark V tank halted forward movement of the company.

As George D. Heib, a retired lieutenant colonel who participated in the advance as a private, recalled, Megellas single-handedly destroyed the tank with two grenades. Heib said after Megellas launched a grenade to disable the tank, he said he saw the lieutenant jump on the tank and throw the second grenade into the turret.

A fellow platoon leader who served in the advance, Ernest P. Murphy, now a retired lieutenant colonel, said once the tank was neutralized, Megellas

[Texas Congressman Kenny Marchant has Maggie Page on his site!](#)

ATTN Sec. McHugh:

The Perfect Combat Leader

82nd Airborne Historian and author of "The Sword of St. Michael", himself an 82nd, and Ranger combat leader, LTC (Ret) Guy LoFaro says this of Maggie:

"On the night of 28-29 January 1945, Lieutenant James Megellas of H /504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, led an attack on the town of Herresbach, Belgium that has been called, by those who witnessed it, 'the perfect battle'."

Starting out in the dead of night from a hill overlooking the town, Megellas placed himself at the head of two platoons of paratroopers—paratroopers who were dead tired, having trudged through waist-deep snow for several hours already. Yet the sight of Maggie in the lead rallied them for one more effort so they stepped off, in skirmish formation, and followed Maggie off the hill and on to Herresbach.

"About 300 yards from town they encountered a German infantry battalion coming straight at them. Outnumbered and outgunned, the American paratroopers, with Megellas in the lead, waded into the German battalion, leaving 100 dead (with Maggie personally killing 25 enemy) in their wake and taking another 180 prisoner while sustaining no casualties of their own.

"Then, continuing into town, they encountered a German Panther tank. Undeterred, Megellas attacked the tank single-handedly, first rendering it inoperable with a Gammon grenade and then killing the crew with a fragmentation grenade. Finally, with the tank out of the way, Megellas rallied his troopers and, remaining in the lead, swept through the rest of Herresbach, capturing the town and another 100 German prisoners.

"It was, truly, the perfect battle, but it could only have been accomplished under the leadership of the perfect combat leader."

Army's decoration system rests first in the virtue of Justice, the Army's standards and qualifications for awards, and the equal application of these regulations and awards from precedence.

COL Sims argued correctly that Maggie's Herresbach actions exceeded the criteria for the Medal Of Honor. Clearly, according to the Army's own awards, Sims was correct.

So, what else could be going on here?

Herresbach was a bloodbath. A handful of combat-hardened Paratroopers led from the front by Maggie killed and captured 100s of Germans. Not politically correct these days. But that's how wars are won. It would be extremely unfortunate if this is McHugh's attitude towards rectifying this injustice to one of America's greatest Heroes. But it sure as hell looks like the Army, under political-appointee McHugh, refuses to correct the first injustice to COL Sims.

It's simple: If a Soldier gets the MOH for taking out a couple of MG's; what does Maggie deserve for Herresbach?

We call on Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson, Congressman Ron Kind and the entire Wisconsin Congressional Delegation to stand up to the Army.

We call on Congress and the President of the United States to, at long last, rectify this injustice to one of America's most gallant Airborne Heroes.

Are you on the Sim's Team?

Col Ed Sims was the XO who recommended Maggie for the MOH at Herresbach. Col. Sims earned two Silver Stars, one for crossing the Waal River at Nijmegen. Another in Korea with the 7th ID, for taking and holding a hill, which no one else could do.

Sims understood courage, honor and above and beyond the call combat heroism. He continued, at age 93, to pursue justice and the upgrade of the Silver Star to the Medal of Honor for Maggie's heroic action at Herresbach. (See links below).

Col. Sims continued [his appeals](#) to President Obama, the 82nd Airborne Division and the 504 PIR. The newly-formed Sims Team will continue to support Col. Sim's work. New Congressional Bills will be submitted soon to right this wrong.

If you agree with Col. Sims that Maggie, the 504 PIR and the 82nd should have been decorated with the Medal of Honor for Maggie's super-human battle at Herresbach, you are one of us.

You're already are on the Sims Team!

ALL THE WAY!

COL Sim's Correspondence

Maggie/Towle Competition at Ft. Bragg



MEDAL OF HONOR

(You must hit ctrl click to use these links)

March 15, 2014

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

“But how would a Bill reach the Senate floor if no one fights for it in Committee?”

Dear Senator Baldwin,

When I spoke with you last Memorial Day in Eau Claire, you promised to support our drive to get Congress to approve the Medal Of Honor for LTC James Megellas for his conspicuous gallantry during The Bulge. As promised, you co-sponsored “S.993, a Bill to authorize and request the President to award the Medal Of Honor to James “Maggie” Megellas...” for which I thank you. However, it appears that following submission and referral of the Bill to the Senate Armed Forces Committee, nothing was done to educate the Senate and organize Senate support for the Bill. Our communications to your office were answered, for a time, with a form response that should the Bill reach the Senate floor, you would vote for it. But how would a Bill reach the Senate floor if no one fights for it in Committee?

More recently, requests for your support receive no response at all from your office. I understand that this is a difficult issue given the Army’s refusal to honor COL Sim’s appeals with any sort of reasonable response and the Army’s opposition to S.993. Like most of us, the Army makes mistakes. Unlike most of us, the Army sticks to it’s mistakes. (See Capt. Swenson.)

Army Secretary McHugh continues to back the Army’s mistake re COL Sims. McHugh is wrong.

The fact remains that the gallantry displayed by Jim Megellas at Herresbach clearly warrants the Medal Of Honor and the Army has refused it’s recognition and decoration duty to LTC Megellas, his men and the 82nd Airborne Division. We need you to say that in the United States Senate. Below is a short description of Maggie’s action which I’ve sent to Senator Ted Cruz (copy of Cruz letter enclosed):

During the Battle of the Bulge, Maggie led two undersized Paratroop platoons into a battalion-sized force of Germans. Maggie killed 28 of the enemy in the initial firefight. According to COL Sims, Maggie’s tiny Airborne force killed 250 Germans and took 250 prisoners. When a Mark V tank threatened his men, Maggie charged the tank and killed it with grenades. Not a single Paratrooper was even wounded during this firefight because of Maggie’s valor. Maggie then re-organized his men, took the town of Herresbach, personally killed another six of the enemy, placed his men to repel the counter-attack and held the town. Herresbach was then the leap-off point for the 82nd’s attack on the Siegfried Line. A few dozen reckless, selfless Paratroopers, led from the front by a most fierce warfighter who loved his men so much he repeatedly risked his life for them, enhanced the famed 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment’s and 82nd Airborne’s position ALL THE WAY TO BERLIN. They made a huge contribution to winning WWII.

COL Sims and every Paratrooper I know—including the leaders of the 82nd Airborne Division Association I’ve interviewed—recognize Maggie’s Herresbach action as worthy of the Medal Of Honor.

Apart from Sec. McHugh, surely any reasonable person can see that Maggie’s Herresbach actions are more than worthy of our country’s highest combat award. Common sense can compare Maggie’s actions with any of the Medal Of Honor awards and see that the Army’s inconsistency fails it’s duty to justly recognize conspicuous gallantry in Maggie’s case.

Jim Megellas is one of Wisconsin’s greatest warfighters, one of America’s greatest Paratroopers and Patriots, a most prominent war hero of the world’s greatest Airborne Division.

We want you to recognize that and lead a crusade in Congress to right this wrong to a man who repeatedly and heroically risked his life for his men and for all of us.

We need a Congressional fighter, a leader for justice and honor. We hope you will be that leader.

All The Way Senator,

Tom Laney, Secretary
The Sims Team
501st ABG/82nd Airborne 1960-63
715-704-0409
tlaney1776@gmail.com

CC: The Sims Team; Senator Cruz; LTC Megellas; COL Scocos;
82nd Airborne Division Assoc.

Encl.

Baldwin’s office has not responded to this letter. We expect Tammy to LEAD the FIGHT for Justice for Maggie and the 82nd.

Had the 82nd fought like this Congress, we’d all be in prison. Or dead. Stay tuned!



After single-handedly destroying a German V Panther tank that had pinned down his unit, First Lt. James "Maggie" Megellas leads his platoon from the 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry regiment, 82nd airborne towards the Belgian town of Herresbach, 28 January 1945. Minutes before, despite being vastly outnumbered in heavy snow and freezing conditions, the platoon had overwhelmed and completely defeated a large force of German infantry in a ferocious assault, without losing a single man.



Top Secret signed Maggie prints. Terrific art!!! More info in Sept. issue.

HAPPY 97TH MAGGIE!



Courage is almost a contradiction in terms. It means a strong desire to live taking the form of a readiness to die. "He that will lose his life, the same shall save it," is not a piece of mysticism for saints and heroes. It is a piece of everyday advice for paratroopers and patriots. This paradox is the whole principle of courage; even of quite earthly or quite brutal courage. He can only get away from death by continually stepping within an inch of it. A soldier surrounded by enemies, if he is to cut his way out, needs to combine a strong desire for living with a strange carelessness about dying. He must not merely cling to life, for then he will be a coward, and will not escape. He must not merely wait for death, for then he will be a suicide, and will not escape. He must seek his life in a spirit of furious indifference to it; he must desire life like water and yet drink death like wine. - G.K. Chesterton

To the most courageous man we know and love: Thank you for saving our Republic!

God bless you All The Way Maggie - Barb & Tom Laney



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Friday Night July 25th, 2014

Silent Auction and Italian Style Buffet

Pre-Registration & Party 6pm - 10pm

Saturday July 26th, 2014

Registration begins at 8am

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Memorial Ride \$20 per person

Pig Roast following the ride at BOGARTS

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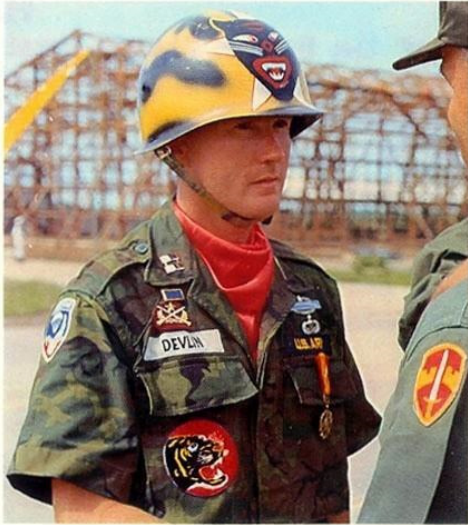
Benefiting Local Organizations that support veterans and their families

IN HONOR OF ALL WHO HAVE SERVED AND SACRIFICED

Benergy 2013!



Paratrooper Extraordinaire Gerard Devlin Denied 82nd!



Vietnamese camouflage clothing and insignia worn by Capt. Gerald Devlin with the 44th ARVN Ranger Bn on 1 June 65, in accordance with MACV Directive 670-1 concerning "Advisory Personal Camouflage" (see section 10-1). U.S. Army.

Hi Tom,

Just a short story from Jerry Devlin I thought I'd pass along to you. I had forwarded him the most recent link you sent and, as you can see, he enjoyed it. When I enlisted I asked to be a cook thinking I'd go to the cook school in Ft. Ord, CA. They granted my request. What I didn't know was there was also a school in that armpit Ft. Leonard Wood, MO.

Jim Neumann
RB Royal Industries, Inc.
(920) 921-1550 ext 4426

Gerard M. Devlin
Author
2 Mirabell Ct.
Bluffton, SC 29910
(843) 757-7598

Jim,

Many thanks for your WW II-related 82d ABN DIV email. Very, very interesting stuff indeed.

When - in early August 1950 - I walked into the Army Recruiter's office in my home town of Waltham, MA to enlist, **I told the SGT I'd enlist ONLY if he could guarantee me that I'd be assigned to the wildly famous 82d at Fort Bragg, NC**, after completing basic training. (Remember that at that point in time, WW II had only been over for five years) As a know-nothing 17-year old kid, I never dreamed that a recruiting SGT would lie to me. But, of course, in those days of yore recruiters had long the best pack of liars ever to come down the pike. ("Oh, you wanna be a tank driver? No problem, just sign right here.")

In my basic training company there at FT. Dix, NJ **we had nine guys plus me who had enlisted for the eight deuce**. During the last couple weeks in basic, orders slowly started coming in. At the end of each day's training, when we came marching back into our company area, our barrel-chested 1st SGT would loudly yell at us, "Awright, gimme your attention up here (he was standing on the top step leading into his Orderly Room, holding a fistful of assignment orders). The following named men have been assigned to the umteenth division." Finally, with only two days remaining in our training, the 1st SGT bellows: "Well you airborne volunteers sure are gonna be happy to hear this: All ten of you are going to the 11th ABN DIV at Fort Campbell, KY." None of us had ever heard a word about the 11th ABN which had spent WW II fighting its heart out in thick jungle terrain against fanatical Japanese suicide troops over in the PTO (Pacific Theater of Operations). Sadly, WW II historians had pretty much ignored the PTO.

But when I wrote my first book (Paratrooper!), I - BIG TIME - made sure to correct that truly gross oversight.

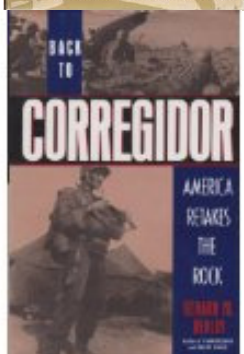
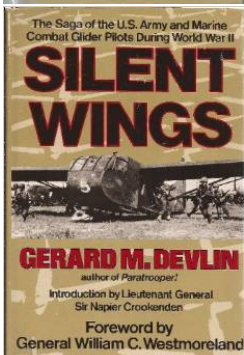
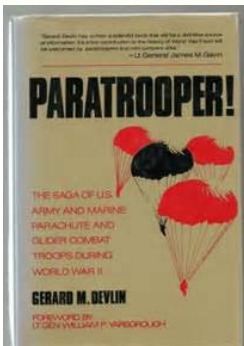
Anyway, the 11th ABN DIV is where I remained, broken hearted, until early 1951 when I volunteered for duty in Korea with the 187th ABN RCT (Regimental Combat Team). Upon returning stateside in 1953, I was sent to a separation center (Ft. Devens in my home state of MA) to be processed for discharge; my 3-year enlistment was up. But while at Devens, **I decided to reup for another 3-year burst . . . BUT IN THE 82nd AT FORT BRAGG**. So, where'd the Army send me? ... Back to the 11th ABN at Campbell. Never, during my 20 years of active duty, did I get to serve in the storied 82nd.

Which is something I'm still bent out of shape about.

Moral of this sad story is: Don't nevah trust a Recruiting SGT. Pass it on down.

Best,
Jerry

"PARATROOPER", the Magnum Opus on Parachutes and Paratroopers is now on KINDLE!



Sara Witter Connor's book credits Glider Riders

From this book to the Madison Glider Symposium she organized, no one in the great state of Wisconsin has done so much to credit the Airborne's Glider Riders of WWII. Paratroopers were all volunteers. But the Glider Riders were not. After all, who in their right mind, would want to land under fire in a cloth-winged, honey-combed glider? Men like Lester Schwarm of Wausau, Herb Huebschen and Ray Nelson, Beloit are a few. They and their Glider Rider Brothers of the 325 Glider Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne are here. Also men of the 401st, and 327 GIR, 101st Airborne like Larry Michaelis and Bob Herriott are covered. Sara covers the war supporters too. The men and women who worked the factory floors turning out parts and 1/100s of an inch veneers, for gliders, LSTs, even Mosquitos, are covered with credit and photos. The author knows the wood craft industry from timber to planers to glue, and recognizes the folks who drove the war production without whom WWII would never have been won.—Tom Laney

Wisconsin's trees heard "Timber " during World War II, as the forest products industry of the Badger State played a key role in the Allied aerial campaign. It was Wisconsin that provided the material for the De Havilland Mosquito, known as the "Timber Terror," while the CG-4A battle-ready gliders, cloaked in stealthy silence, carried the 82nd and 101st Airborne into fierce fighting throughout Europe and the Pacific. Sara Witter Connor follows a forgotten thread of the American war effort, celebrating the factory workers, lumberjacks, pilots and innovative thinkers of the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory who helped win a world war with paper, wood and glue.—Publisher

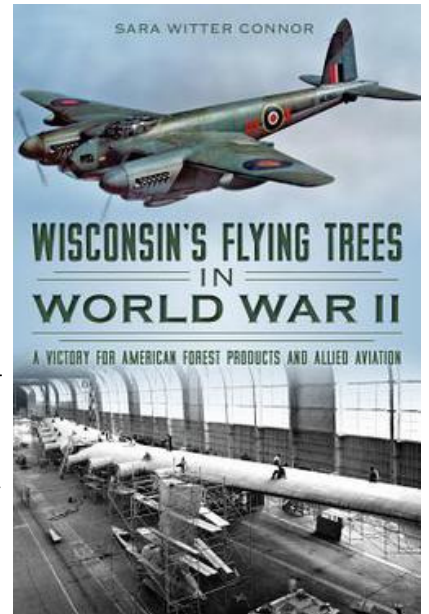
July 26 Book signing in Marshfield

On July 26, Marshfield Public Library hosts Sara Witter Connor's reading of her book at 2 p.m. Long-time board member and president of the Forest History Association of Wisconsin, Connor also served on the board of directors of the Wisconsin Forestry Hall of Fame and Camp 5 Museum Foundation. She curated the nationally traveled "Wisconsin's Flying Trees: Wisconsin Plywood Industry's Contribution to WWII" exhibit, which was displayed to more than 175,000 viewers. This exhibit now has its permanent home at Marshfield's Municipal Airport terminal building at Roy Shwey Field on East 29th Street.

Take a break from Hub City Day activities and join us for this special presentation. After Connor's discussion, she will sign books. Books will also be available for sale. Dessert will be served.

If you miss the Saturday presentation, Connor will be at the EAA Chapter 992 Pancake Breakfast on July 27 at the Marshfield Municipal Airport's Fly-In to explain the "Flying Trees" exhibit at the airport. This exhibit celebrates the contributions of central Wisconsin lumber industry to flying and especially showcases Wisconsin's Wood industry contributions to aviation and World War II. The exhibit is open for viewing during regular airport business hours. Stop by on July 27 to hear some of the back stories that are Connor's to tell.

—Lori Belongia, Director, Marshfield Public Library



Wisconsin WWII



Glider Riders Walt Pakulski & Les Scharm are remembered in Sara's book.



Sara and Bruce Connor with 101st's Jim Romlein at 2013 All Airborne Memorial.

30th Annual Highground Bicycle Tour August 1-3, 2014!!



**The Journey's End Celebration Begins When the
Bicyclists Enter The Highground At Noon on Sunday, August 3, 2014.
Ceremony and Picnic for All!!**

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Route Coordinators:

Jim Braatz: 920-602-1265 (cell)

Curt Braatz 920-539-5148 karateman013184@charter.net

Southern Route

184 miles leaves from Madison

Route Coordinators:

Andrew & Nicole Smith: 608-201-7328

admth2391@yahoo.com



Western Route:

178 miles leaves from New Richmond

Route Coordinators:

Randy Meyer: 715-497-6747 rdmeyer@mwcomm.net

Jerry Simon: 715-246-5370 simonsz@frontiernet.net

Northern Route

170 miles leaves Hayward

Route Coordinators:

Mike & Kathy Gleisner: 715-683-2721 katemike@tds.net

**Note: If you are interested in starting your own route—please call the
Event Coordinator at The Highground: 715-743-4224**

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\$100 single/\$200 family

(2 adults/3 kids < 18)

Ride support and Journey's End picnic

Includes official Highground Bicycle Tour

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Patriotism, Craft, Quality, Precision, Family run SD Tactical Arms



The Kress Family, outstanding in their yard and in American, small shop craftsmanship! L-R: Nate, Amy, Darrell, Cody and Drew. Good humored, Air Force, 82nd Airborne- inspired athletes, hunters, sharpshooters and patriots! Drew heads to Benning Jump School in August!!

MENOMONIE GUN SHOP OFFERS AMERICA'S FINEST GUNS AND A VERY PERSONAL TOUCH!

Shopping for a really nice firearm you'd be proud to leave your great grandson? You don't get this at Scheele's or WalMart:

"My family and I are the sole owners and employees of SD Tactical Arms.

"We do machine work, design work, shipping and all the business operations. We are a very patriotic family and have proudly raised three patriot boys.

"Our first goal with the business was to make enough to give back to our nation's war fighters through the Weapons 4 Warriors program.

"Our second goal was to provide high end custom weapons that people would be proud to own.

"We make our clients dreams come true in their

special weapon design. I keep my clients in the loop during the build process .

"Anyone that knows me will tell you I am a stickler for details and take a lot of pride in what I do. My joy comes from happy clients and how proud they are of their SD Tactical Arms firearms."

Thank you -
Darrell Kress
SD Tactical Arms
Menomonie WI



SD Tactical Arms
Small IS beautiful!



Lawn Painter Darrell Kress, AF Vet, Family Man, Craft Shop Patriot.

Short story on Economics, Quality & Community

(I know this is backwards. Slack.)

I believe in [Catholic Distributism](#), the idea that small, community-serving business and family farms are the virtuous basis of Democracy and Economic Justice.

*I believe that until we return to [Just Economics](#), that protect, honest, community-serving, quality-driven, family-owned small shops earning a fair profit; **JUST Wage** full employment at high value production; widespread home ownership; non-usurious banks; and real barber shops, America is going to continue to fall apart.*

So, I am continually on the lookout for small, family owned, high-value enterprises that prove that [small IS still beautiful](#).

I found one right here in Menomonie! I was delighted last year to meet Landon Steele at the Ben Kopp memorial fundraiser. Landon, a hyper-interesting U of M transplant nurse always on alert as a Special Ops Medic, organized a 23-mile ruck across the Twin Cities, to call attention to the 23 troop suicides we see now every day. My 3rd ID pal Charlie Nelson and I headed to the ruck's halfway mark at the Capitol where police denied our right to serve hotdogs and beer to these tired troops. We're Packers Fans. Go figure.

But there I met Amy Kress of [SD Tactical Arms](#), who was representing the Kress Patriots. Amy told me about their SD business, been a fan ever since. This is a family whose dedication to our Wounded is first!

I know Wisconsin Airborne Reporter readers are into firearms. Check out SD Tactical for your next purchase. You'll be doing yourself a quality favor while helping to reinstate a JUST American economy. It all starts small.

Darlene Ramos, a Dunn County News Stringer from downtown Boyceville did a terrific story on Darrell and the Kress family which we have permission to use here.

Unfortunately, the Dunn County News moved their office and the Part 2 file of Darlene's article was lost so it is published here after a scan.

[Here is the link to Part 1.](#)

KRESS

From A1

help Routh, but as Kress sees it, "Chris felt that he was placed on this earth to help people. It was just what he did, all the time."

To illustrate his contention, Kress recalled an incident that took place during his time with Kyle in Las Vegas.

"An elderly woman was on the other side of an escalator we were riding. She was going down, and we were on our way up," Kress said. "All of sudden, she took a spill, which can be especially dangerous on an escalator. So what does Chris do but start to lunge over the railing to help her, when there are already three or four people assisting her on her side."

Alarmed, Kress asked his new friend what he was doing. Kyle explained, "When I see someone having trouble, I have to do something. I feel always that I've been sent to help."

In the days after their meeting, Kress communicated with Kyle, mostly through text messages. It was only two weeks after their meeting that Kyle was murdered.

"He was a celebrity, a really busy person all the time, married and the father of two," Kress observed. "But he helped me decide who the next serviceperson is that I want to create a gun for, because I've decided this is something I can do to show my appreciation to those who serve, and I hope to do it annually."

When creating the "American Sniper" rifle, little did Kress know that the words "Final Chapter," emblazoned on the stock, would presage the last days of his great American hero. The words naturally have the taste of bittersweet now, but Kress considers the time spent with Kyle as a precious honor to himself, one that will never diminish in his lifetime.

It may be that his plan to give a soldier or veteran



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, left, expressed his appreciation to Darrell Kress for the special AR10 rifle the Menomonie gunsmith created just for him.



Darrell Kress showed attention to detail on the customized AR10 he created especially for and gave to "American Sniper" Navy SEAL Chris Kyle.

To see more pictures of the "American Sniper" rifle as well as photos of Kress and Kyle together, go to SD Tactical Arms on Facebook. The page is "well-loaded" with arms-related observations, comments and news about the business.

Darrell Kress can be reached at 715-308-0893 or by email at sales@sdtacticalarms.com.

with a uniquely crafted arms piece will be Kress's way to pay homage to his short-lived but "forever" friendship with Kyle.

Genuine pleasure

Kress noted that gun enthusiasts' current concerns about possible controls found him busier than ever at his shop. The uncertain availability of parts means his waiting list continues to grow.

He is also awaiting the return of his friend and business partner, Shaun

Buck — currently serving in Afghanistan — for help with filling orders and with the gunsmithing they hope to eventually begin.

In the meantime, Kress will fill orders as he can, including special requests for personalized custom work. He especially enjoys the sort of work that will earn him the kind of feedback he received from Chris Kyle.

"I wondered soon after I gave him the gun if he really liked it, or if it was just polite enthusiasm he had showed me at the time," Kress said. "After he died, I received an email from someone I didn't know, but who wanted me to know how excited Chris was about the gun. With a group of friends on a long driving trip, he took the piece out at least 20 times, I was told, with comments about how great it was and how he could hardly wait to try it out."

Correction: In Part 1 of the story, the rifle created by Darrell Kress for Chris Kyle is an AR10.

IN APPRECIATION AND ADMIRATION

Hero dies a tragic death

Navy Seal Chris Kyle murdered at shooting range

Part 2 of 2

By **DARLENE RAMOS**
For THE NEWS

After reading Navy SEAL Chris Kyle's 2012 bestseller "American Sniper," Menomonie gunsmith Darrell Kress was inspired to create a unique AR10 rifle for the man he considers to be a personal hero.

Talking with Kyle on the phone, Kress said, "The man was just so humble, but the greatest man as far as I could see. We talked and talked. And we made arrangements to meet later in Las Vegas, at a huge gun show.

"When we finally met, Chris freaked out at seeing the gun, was really enthusiastic about it, and we just hung out at the show, where he signed books," Kress recalls.

During the Las Vegas meeting, Kyle introduced Kress to Debbie Lee, the mother of Marc Lee, a friend of Kyle's who was the first Navy Seal killed in Iraq. When her son died, Kyle contacted Debbie and informed her about her new status in his life as his adopted mother. The two maintained a very special relationship.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

In addition to creating a customized AR10 rifle for Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, center, Menomonie gunsmith Darrell Kress, right, decorated the gun case to replicate the cover of Kyle's bestselling autobiography, "American Sniper." Kress's wife, Amy, accompanied her husband to Las Vegas to meet his hero in January.

"Chris was very dedicated to Debbie Lee's cause," Kress explained. "She founded the America's Mighty Warrior Project and welcomes the families of wounded or fallen soldiers into her bed-and-breakfast home in Surprise, Ariz., at no cost. Chris thought it was such a great thing he included her cause as one of the charities he regularly contributed to from the proceeds of his book sales."

Shock and grief

On Feb. 2, Kress heard the shocking news that Chris Kyle

and a friend, Chad Littlefield, had been shot and killed at a shooting range in Texas. The two veterans had taken a third acquaintance and veteran, Eddie Ray Routh, to the range in hopes the outing would in some way help Routh, who was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. The session turned deadly, with Kyle and Littlefield murdered and Routh arrested.

Much speculation has taken place about whether Kyle and Littlefield were qualified to

See **KRESS, A10**

1st Annual Walter Pakulski All Airborne Memorial



2ND ANNUAL WALTER PAKULSKI ALL AIRBORNE MEMORIAL

**August 16
National Airborne Day**

At The Airborne Forces Bridge: Airborne Displays, 11:00 AM to 2:30PM

Colors Posted VFW 10262 Honor Guard 2:30PM

2:30 Program

Speakers:

MSG John Schultz, Special Forces

Chairman, Walt Pakulski All Airborne Memorial Committee

Judy Peter

Father Glenn Ward, F/508th, 82nd, KIA Belgium, Jan. 30, 1945

Sara Witter Connor,

WWII Glider Expert, Author, Wisconsin 's Flying Trees

COL John A. Scocos, Secretary

Wisconsin Dept. of Veterans Affairs, 18th Airborne Corp Paratrooper

LTC James "Maggie" Megellas

82nd Airborne's Most Decorated, Lead-from-the-Front Officer

Frank Morris

Chairman, Badger State Chapter 82nd Airborne Association

Maggie and Sara book signings, Airborne Weapons & Historical Displays, Lunch

Supported by: Walt Pakulski All Airborne Memorial Committee; 82nd Airborne Division Association; "Mr. Airborne" Tom Hacker; City of Stevens Point; Battery B, Bulls, 32nd Infantry NG; VFW Post 10262; 82nd & 101st Paratroopers, Glider Riders & Air Assault; Midwest All Airborne Alliance; The Wisconsin Airborne Reporter; Menomonie Veterans Center; F/502nd PIR, 101st Airborne WWII ReEnactors; 401st GIR, 101st Airborne ReEnactors; 82nd Airborne ReEnactors

Displays Open 11:00AM Saturday August 16th, 2014

2:30PM Colors Posted, Speakers Program

AIRBORNE FORCES BRIDGE MEMORIAL

VFW POST 10262

Downtown Stevens Point, WI

More info contact:

Tom Laney, WPAAM Secretary 715-704-0409 tlaney1776@gmail.com



Sgt. Josh Brennan, 173rd Airborne

Remembering SGT Joshua Brennan, Battle Co 173rd 2-503, KIA 26 Oct 07 Kunar Province, Afghanistan

SGT Joshua Brennan was a beloved son, brother, nephew and cousin who is missed by all who knew him and loved him. SGT Brennan was shot multiple times on 25 October 2007 in an ambush during [Operation Rock Avalanche](#). He succumbed to his wounds the following day.

Josh's father, Mike Brennan, has told me about the day Josh and his Battle Buddies were ambushed. It is one of the most harrowing stories I've heard. During the ambush the Taliban attempted to drag Josh away. His fellow Soldiers immediately came to his rescue. [SPC Hugo "DOC" Mendoza](#) gave his life attempting to save Josh from the enemy. Others on his team continued to fight the enemy and were successful in getting Josh back. One of those men has been nominated for the Medal of Honor for his actions that day.

My heart is very heavy today, on this anniversary of Josh's death. Please take a minute to pray for Josh and his family. And say a special prayer for his cousin, PVT Joseph Brennan and his family, too. Joseph recently completed basic training and Airborne School. His family took him to the airport this morning (talk about timing) to board a flight to Italy where he will join Josh's unit, 173rd, 2-503, Battle Company and will deploy before the end of the year to Afghanistan.

So on this day of remembrance I send my love to the Brennan family. They are some of the greatest people I have ever had the privilege to know. Josh's father, Mike, and his mother, Janice, both served in the Army. Their son, Josh, gave his life defending our freedom. Now Joseph proudly wears the uniform of the US Army.

Rest in Peace Josh. Keep Joseph safe.

<http://fromcowpasturestokosovo.typepad.com/blog/2009/10/remembering-sgt-joshua-brennan-battle-co-173rd-2-503-kia-26-oct-07-kunar-province-afghanistan.html>



[Ctrl/click here for more on Josh](#)

[CTRL/Click for more on Josh](#)

82nd Badgers make Mike Brennan Honorary Member.



Police officer Mike Brennan speaking at 2013 Walter Pakulski All Airborne Memorial in Stevens Point. Mike goes all over the world honoring Josh, the 173rd Airborne and all the Troops. (Laney photo)

Mike Brennan
I was asked by Tom Laney to share with the 82nd Badger Chapter members a little bit about Mike Brennan.

Some of you may have had the chance to hear him speak this past summer. I will do my best to share with everyone what I know

about Mike but understand this small bio only shows the tip of the iceberg that is Mike Brennan.

Mike is a veteran of the U.S. Army. He proudly served in the military police. After getting out of the Army he continued to serve his country by joining the ranks of the City of Madison Police. Mike has served many roles with in the Police Department and most have been tough assignments with lots of action.

Mike's son [Josh Brennan](#) followed in his footsteps and also joined the Army. Josh joined the 173rd Airborne Brigade based in Vicenza Italy. Josh was assigned to the 2nd Battalion 503rd Airborne Infan-

try Regiment. Josh served several tours in Afghanistan as well. I spoke to Mike while his son was serving in Afghanistan and he mentioned the tough conditions his son was living in and how he and his platoon members were making the best of it. On his final tour in Afghanistan a film crew was following them in the Korengal Valley. The producers called the film Restrepo after the Medic who was killed while serving with the 173rd. An outpost was also built and named Restrepo in his

honor. If you have a chance to see the movie it is one of the most intense war documentaries ever made. It can be

“I'm sure Mike had his moments of grieving during that time. I only saw him comforting others; Family, friends, and Josh's Airborne Brothers. “

found on Netflix and Youtube.

On October 25th 2007 Josh Brennan's Platoon was ambushed and Josh was hit by enemy fire several times. SSG Salvatore Giunta fought his way through the ambush to Josh's last known position where he found several Taliban fighters trying to carry Josh away. SSG Giunta was able to fight off the Taliban fighters and rescue Josh before he was taken. Josh was flown out on a medivac but later succumbed to his wounds.

Mike was notified on October 26th that Josh had given the ultimate sacrifice for his country. While I'm sure Mike had his moments of grieving during that time I

only saw him comforting others. Family, friends, and Josh's Airborne brothers. Mike made sure that those who came to pay their respects to Josh had all accommodations met. Mike even had KIA bracelets made and ready to be taken back to Afghanistan for his platoon members that were still fighting in Afghanistan.

When 2nd Battalion of the 503rd 173rd returned from Afghanistan to Vicenza Italy Mike Brennan was there to meet them. Mike felt it was important to give them a welcome home party. To let them know they had all done a good job and to be proud of what they accomplished.

Since then Mike has also hosted several reunions for Josh's platoon. He has done all that he could to make sure that the men of Josh's platoon felt welcomed home, honored for their sacrifice, and remained in touch with each other.

On November 16th 2010 President Barack Obama presented Salvatore Giunta, the first living recipient since the Vietnam War, with the Medal of Honor. Once again Mike Brennan was there. There to give his thanks to Sal Giunta for his actions that day and to support the Airborne brothers of his son Josh.

Again this small bio probably does not come close to capturing everything that Mike has done. Not only for this great nation of ours but for the Airborne community as well.

Respectfully Submitted
Kipp Hartman, U.S. Ranger
504 PIR 82nd Airborne

Following this statement, the Badger Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association moved to make Mike Brennan and Honorary Member.

We did this in Josh's Memory and in honor of all the work Mike Brennan does to respect and honor all Veterans.

All The Way Sir!



Docs Ruck 23 miles for Life!

More Iraq/Afghan Vets have now committed suicide than were Killed In Combat. "This shit just got real," says Steele. "We are Brothers and Sisters. 23 Suicides our country is averaging every day! We rucked 23 miles to call attention to that. "

Marines, Paratroopers, Special Ops, Civilians made the march. It was so inspiring, Rangders in Green Bay copied toe operation.

It wasn't easy. Landon and fellow Doc are no longer combat hardened and the wal took a foot toll.

"Walk it off they said. You'll loosen up they said. Crawled to bed from the shower," says Steele.

"[Dominic Anspach](#) is headed to the ER and [JP Neuberger](#) bled through his boots. hahaha. If you don't bleed or it doesn't hurt, it don't count," Landon Steele.



Dave Winkler, Tom Laney, Charlie Nelson tailgaters.



2014 NCAA Inspiration Award given to Ranger Church

By [Paige Kieler](#) Staff Reporter
10/31/2013

UW-La Crosse alumnus Lieutenant Jason Church was named recipient of the 2014 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Inspiration Award. He will receive his award in San Diego in January. The award is given to those who, when confronted with a life-altering situation, used perseverance, dedication and determination to overcome their struggle and are current or former NCAA athletes or coaches, according to the NCAA website.

Lt. Church played on the UW-L football team and was a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) until he graduated in 2011. He then went on to join a Striker Battalion in Afghanistan, but was evacuated when an IED explosion caused him to lose both legs below the knee. After over 20 surgeries, he now stands on two prosthetic legs. Lt. Church has started walking again, according to his brother and UW-L senior John Church.

"At the end of the day everything is relative and you can overcome whatever is thrown at you. If you're in the military, on the football field or in the office somewhere, something is going to come up that you're not expecting," said Lt. Church. "Something is going to come up that totally blindsides you or, in my case, is life-altering. That by no means needs to define who you are, nor does it need to stop you from the goal that you need to achieve."

"He deserves [the award] because of what he's gone through, and what he's doing and what he's going to do," said Church of his brother.

As his brother, Church has seen another side of Lt. Church that other people have not seen. He explained that this is how he knows that he truly deserves the NCAA Inspiration Award.

"Overall as a family, we appreciate life a little more," Church said. "I used

to take things for granted, but now I can take a step back."

Lt. Church, Church and their third brother, Jacob Church, have become closer since the accident.

"We've all grown up since this has happened," Church said. "We are closer than we've ever been, and I know that if I need him he will be there in a second for me."

Church has learned to appreciate his brothers even more and especially cherishes the one year that he and Lt. Church shared together at UW-L.

"[Lt. Church] was there for me. He was supportive, helped me out and showed me where things were. He showed me La Crosse and made me comfortable with where I'm going to be living for the next four years," Church said of his brother. "I almost wish he was still here, to an extent, just because it was so fun."

Lt. Church accepted his Purple Heart award during half-time of a 2012 UW-L and UW-Whitewater matchup on UW-L's Veterans Memorial Field. The



Pictured above from left, Colonel David Church (Church's father), Second Lt. Jason Church and Barb Church (Church's mother).

award was presented to him by his father, Colonel David Church. Lt. Church graduated with a degree in political science and plans getting his master's degree at Georgetown University.

Jason starred for the Menomonie High School Mustangs.



Menomonie AmVets leader Dave Buss shares this with us on his Granddaughter Kristy: I got a letter today saying that I am Dunn County's youth optimist of the month of January!! Basically Coach LaBuda had made me an option as a person to be chosen and they chose me! He told them about how I organized the Jason Church benefit and made it a huge success! So therefore I thank you and grandma and the Amvets and on Wednesday I will mention you guys because I really didn't do it! You guys were a major part in making this a success. He also had told them about my many other volunteer efforts in the community! I was also brought up by many other members because of my strong leadership roles that I play throughout the community!

As a recipient of this award a short article with my picture will be put into the Dunn County News on Sunday. I will be recognized on Wednesday at the Optimist Club's meeting. Coach LaBuda has chosen me for this award and will be introducing me at this meeting and talking about some of my achievements! No greater honor in this community than have Coach LaBuda speak highly of all my hard work!

I really appreciate all you and grandma did to help out for the benefit and I really was never expecting this award especially because it was over a year ago!

Talk to you guys later and look for me in Sundays paper!

THIS GIRL SHOULD BE AN HONORARY PARATROOPER!

Herb Huebschen attends 325 memorial in England!

From 325 Historian England: A memorial has been unveiled to American troops who found a home from home here in Leicester 69 years ago before leaving to fight in the liberation of Europe.

Veterans of the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division were among those gathered for the unveiling of the monument in Scaptoft.

Two regiments of the division lived in camps just outside the city in early 1944 as they prepared for operations in the run-up to the D-Day landings.

The 325th Glider Infantry Regiment (GIR) was camped at Scaptoft, while the men of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment – nicknamed the Devils in Baggy Pants – were stationed in Evington.

There were tears of pride and gratitude during a short dedication service held in Edith Cole Memorial Park, in the centre of the village, on Saturday.

Among those who made the journey from the United States was Herb Heubschen, now 93, a veteran of the 325th GIR, from Beloit, Wisconsin.

"I've got a lot to thank Leicester for," he said. "Not only is there the kindness and hospitality shown to us by the people of Scaptoft, but I also met my late wife here – Iris Betts, of Paget Road.

"She was selling tickets for a dance at the Allied Services Club, in Leicester, and I asked her out. We dated for four months before we left for Normandy."

Staff Sergeant Heubschen, a radio operator, was wounded in the shoulder by German artillery in the town of St Mere Eglise the day after D-Day.

"That probably saved his life," said his son, Don, 59, the younger of the couple's three children.

"His company commander was killed in the explosion and the two radio operators after my father were also killed.

"Being here today is so special. The people of Leicester took care of my dad and all the other young soldiers who were so far from home.

"That they are remembered in this way after all this time is incredibly moving."



Lieutenant Colonel Edwin J Ostberg was commanding the 2nd Battalion of the 325th when he was killed protecting his men's retreat on February 2, 1945, during the Battle of the Bulge, in Belgium, the last major German offensive in the west.

His daughter, Betsy Matthes Ostberg, 71, from New York, said: "As a column of tanks approached, he climbed on to a tank to provide cover fire. He was hit by a shell and was killed instantly. That's why I'm here today, to honour the men he died trying to save, and to say goodbye to him.

"The people of Scaptoft and Leicester were incredible. They took these young men into their homes and hearts – and for the many it would be their last memory of such kindness and generosity."

Joining the veterans and their relatives at the service – led by Father Andrew Poole of Scaptoft All Saints Church – were villagers, British veterans, Royal Air Force cadets, and a colour guard of serving US soldiers from the 709th Military Intelligence Battalion, based in Yorkshire.

Thanks was also given to the architect of the memorial project, 26-year-old battle historian Adam Berry, from Ashby, who raised £1,200 with the help of veterans, their families and donations to pay for the memorial.



"What a great job Adam's done," said Peter Elliott, 63, chairman of Scaptoft Parish Council.

"These brave young men will never be forgotten."

Remember these Troopers?

Hello Tom:

My name is Christina Moore. I am the Granddaughter of Captain Ira E Hamblin, 327 Glider Infantry Division, Company E, WWII. He was from Mississippi.

I was given your name and contact information by Kevin Hampton. I have been doing some internet searching trying to find more information on my Grandfather & better yet, just maybe, someone who served with him or knew him while overseas.

It would overjoy me if I could find the latter of the two. I did, however, come across the attached photograph on one site. I believe the man to the right of Churchill in the photo is my Grandfather. It said the photographs on that site were courtesy of Larry Michaelis. This information lead me on a search for Larry Michaelis which lead me to Kevin Hampton, which he said you had contact with Mr Michaelis. I would be forever grate-

ful if there were some way you could find out if Mr Michaelis knows of the photo & best yet if there is anyone (him or otherwise) that might have known my Grandfather. Oddly enough, I am writing you this 75 years to the day that my Grandfather was KIA; I realized that as I was speaking to Kevin.

I would appreciate any information or help in this matter. It means the world to me & I know to my Mother, also, who never got the chance to know her father.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely, Christina Moore
 Cell 865-850-7889
 Home 865-430-3812
 Email Starkflea2@juno.com



battle stars on EAMEC, Bronze star, Purple heart, presidential unit citation....etc. Dad was from Newcastle PA, but lived in Medina, NY after the war. Raised 7 children in



Lloyd Watkins, G/504

Michael Behenna is free because of YOU!

A government that sends our troops to wars for profit and a Pentagon that crucifies them for doing their jobs, should be ashamed.

Michael Behenna deserved to be decorated. Instead he was court martialed for defending his Rangers.

Thanks to the Troopers, the Veterans, the Citizens of our country, he is now home.

Control/click on the picture above to read Mike's thank you note.

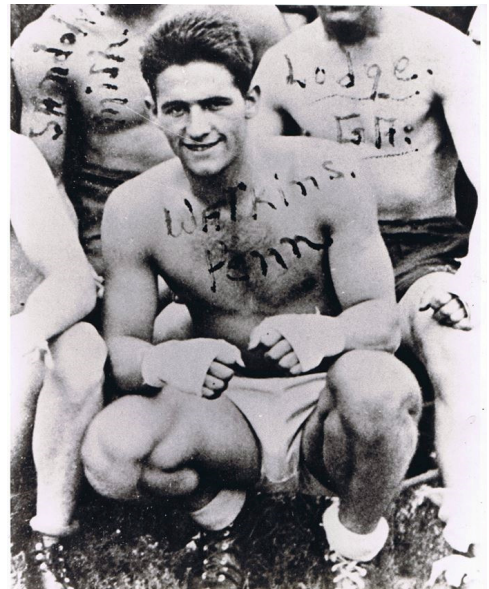
God bless you all and God Bless Ranger Michael Behenna, an American Hero.

Dear Tom,

My Dad was G/504th PIR 1942-45, Lloyd Watkins, nickname "Rev".

Also, Boxed in Africa & England.

He lost his right leg in Holland during operation Market Garden on Oct.2, 1944. He Died Feb.2, 1993. I would like to send photos of him to see if anybody remembers him. The Army sent me his medals after he died...3



Lockport, NY. I believe my Dad boxed Marcel Cerdan while deployed with the 82nd in Africa...welterweight.

Jeff Watkins, Facebook

Shots from Merrilan Labor Day Parade



Join the 325 PIR Association!



Renewal 2014

Membership dues are \$15 per year for a Veteran and \$3.25 for Active Duty Troopers

Checks payable to 325 ABN Association

Send to Clifford Scott, Treasurer

110 AshLyn Ridge

McDonough, GA 30252

Last name _____ First _____ Middle initial _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Unit _____ Rank _____ Pay for _____ years

Thank you!

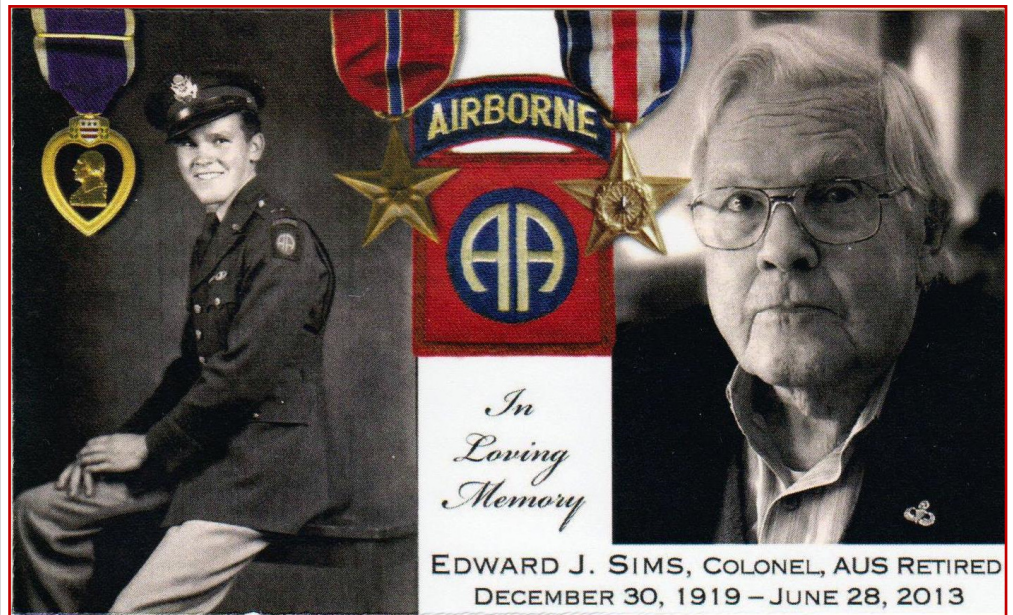
He was getting old and paunchy
 And his hair was falling fast,
 And he sat around the Legion,
 Telling stories of the past.
 Of war that he once fought in
 And the deeds that he had done,
 In his exploits with his buddies;
 They were heroes, every one.
 And 'though sometimes to his neighbors
 His tales became a joke,
 All his buddies listened quietly
 For they knew where of he spoke.
 But we'll hear his tales no longer,
 For ol' Joe has passed away,
 And the world's a little poorer
 For a Soldier died today.
 He won't be mourned by many,
 Just his children and his wife.
 For he lived an ordinary,
 Very quiet sort of life.
 He held a job and raised a family,
 Going quietly on his way;
 And the world won't note his passing,
 'Tho a Soldier died today.
 When politicians leave this earth,
 Their bodies lie in state,
 While thousands note their passing,
 And proclaim that they were great.
 Papers tell of their life stories
 From the time that they were young
 But the passing of a Soldier
 Goes unnoticed, and unsung.
 The ordinary fellow
 Who in times of war and strife,
 Goes off to serve his country
 And offered up his life.
 The politician's stipend
 And the style in which he lives,
 Are often disproportionate,
 To the service that he gives.
 While the ordinary Soldier,
 Who offered up his all,
 Is paid off with a medal
 And perhaps a pension, small.
 It is not the politicians
 With their compromise and ploys,
 Who won for us the freedom
 That our country now enjoys.
 Should you find yourself in danger,
 With your enemies at hand,
 Would you really want some cop-out,
 With his ever waffling stand?
 Or would you want a Soldier
 His home, his country, his kin,
 Just a common Soldier,
 Who would fight until the end.
 He was just a common Soldier,
 And his ranks are growing thin,
 But his presence should remind us
 We may need his likes again.
 For when countries are in conflict,
 We find the Soldier's part
 Is to clean up all the troubles
 That the politicians start.
 Then at least let's give him homage
 At the ending of his days.

"OUR COUNTRY IS IN MOURNING,
 A SOLDIER DIED TODAY."

Mike Keefe, THE DENVER POST 2003



and Ed Sims, Gordy Starck, Landon Lien and Bill Hannigan.



COL Edward J. Sims, H504 PIR, 82nd Airborne All American, was laid to rest April 15, 20014 with full Military Honors at Arlington National Cemetery

The 82nd Airborne Division was represented by COL Trevor J. Bredencamp, C.O. of the 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment. These are COL Bredencamp's words :
Members of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment both past and present were saddened to learn of the passing of Colonel (Retired) Edward J. Sims on 28 June 2013.

During WWII, then Lieutenant Sims,

volunteered to join the Paratroops and the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Participating in Sicily, Anzio, Holland and other campaigns, E.J. was personally responsible for creating the incredible reputation of the Regiment that caused a German Officer to pen the translated quote below in his diary during the fighting at Anzio in early 1944.

"American parachutists – devils in baggy pants – are less than 100 meters from my outpost line. I can't sleep at night; they pop up from nowhere and we never know when or how they will strike next. Seems like those black hearted devils are everywhere."

Edward Sims and the other officers



COL Edward J. Sims, All American, laid to rest by Arlington's Old Guard.

and men of the 504th earned the regiment's nickname "Devils in Baggy Pants" seventy years ago establishing a legacy that still guides our Paratroopers today.

"His service spanning 28 years in two wars was simply incredible.

"E.J. and those like him were prepared to sacrifice everything for their friends, their families, and our way of life. We will forever be indebted for his leadership and service and strive to live up to the legacy he helped create as a member of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment "Devils in Baggy Pants".

From Tom Laney-

COL Edward J. Sims was a telephone friend of mine who with the best of humor and patience, walked me through the H504 PIR 82nd Airborne's fierce WWII history.

In his stories from N. Africa almost o Berlin with special emphasis on The Bulge and Jim Megella's platoon at Herresbach, I got the idea that H/504 PIR, was one badass 82nd Combat Company.

He fought at Cassino, Anzio and earned the Silver Star crossing the Waal at Nijmegen. COL Sims spent much of his last 15 years appealing to the Pentagon and three presidents, the Army's injustice in failing to treat Maggie's Herresbach heroism equally to other MOH actions.

A 2LT in Operation Husky, COL Sims saved his men over Sicily by getting them out of a burning C-47 before jumping into the fight himself. He fought some of WWII's most fierce battles at Anzio, Monte Cassino, jumped into Holland and crossed the Waal River under fire earning the Silver Star.

In Korea with the 7th ID, CAPT Sims re-trained his Company with 82nd Airborne ethos, borrowed every B.A.R. he could get his hands on in his battalion and took and held a hill that no one else had been able to hold. For that he earned another Silver Star.

COL Sims spent much of the last 15

years of his wonderful life, fighting for the Medal Of Honor for James "Maggie" Megellas for which he had recommended Maggie in 1945. We Paratroopers, Vets and Patriots have COL Sim's blessing to continue his work as The Sims Team.

God Bless this great Paratrooper.— Tom Laney.

Here's the official obit from the New Jersey Hills Media:

Edward J. Sims, 93, of Tinton Falls, formerly of Bernardsville, died on Friday, June 28, 2013, of complications from a stroke.

A retired U.S. Army colonel, he was a World War II hero and master paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

During the war, Col. Sims saw extensive combat with the 504th as an infantry platoon leader and a company commander. He made numerous parachute jumps, including two behind enemy lines. The first was into Sicily and Italy, where he participated in the liberation of Naples.

He then joined the campaign at the Anzio Beach Head, where he was wounded twice and then sent to England for recuperation. In London, he met his future wife, Private First Class Marion A. Kruger of Bernardsville, who was working as a Women's Army Corps drafts-woman with the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Forces Europe, of the Signal Corps.

They married after the war, in 1945.

Col. Sims went on to jump behind enemy lines again in Holland, where he played a major role in leading the assault to seize the railroad bridge in Nymegan. This historic battle was depicted by author Cornelius Ryan in his book, "A Bridge Too Far," which was subsequently made into a motion picture.

In December 1944, his unit moved to Belgium, where they participated in the Battle of the Bulge. From there, they broke through the Siegfried Line into Germany and continued to the east where they united with the Russians near Eldenberg, Germany.

After World War II, Col. Sims returned to active duty with the 82nd Airborne Division, where he served in command positions. In 1952, he was assigned to the 7th Division dur-



1st Lts Maggie and Sims in The Bulge.

ing the Korean War, when he again saw combat.

He later returned to Korea after the war as an advisor to the First Republic of Korea Army and also served in Iran as an advisor to the Iranian Army. His last active duty assignment was at Fort Monmouth, and in November 1968, he retired as a full colonel after 28 years in the service.

Among the numerous decorations he received during his active duty are two Silver Stars for Holland and Korea, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, six Commendation Medals and the Combat Infantry Badge with one star. His company (Co. H, 504) was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for their action during the invasion of Italy in 1943.

Following active service, Col. Sims retired to Bernardsville, earned a bachelor of science degree in business administration, and worked as a probation officer and in title insurance. He continued to be actively devoted to the military and volunteered at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Lyons.

Up until his death, he worked tirelessly for the rights of veterans and their families.

He is survived by his wife, Marion K. Sims; his daughters, E. Jay Sims and Leslie "Tina" Nowlin; his "adopted" daughter, Barbara "Willie" Kissinger; as well as numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Condolences may be sent to Leslie "Tina" Nowlin, P.O. Box 2044, Castle Rock, Colo., 80104.

[More on COL Sims, All American.](#)

Meeting the seriously dapper Bill Hannigan was a real treat. I had called him up to talk about WWII Rangers but Bill had been a Paratrooper leader in the 82nd Airborne Division's All Americans, the finest Airborne Division in the world.

Bill was a Staff Sergeant, a Squad Leader in what I think was the greatest Airborne Infantry Platoon led by James "Maggie" Megellas, the famed 82nd Airborne Division's most decorated, lead-from-the-front, Platoon Leader.

In the 82nd, every man was Ranger-trained and expected to lead. You know, wars are led and fought at the Fire Team, Squad and Platoon level, by real Leaders. Everyone above that level is a commander.

"Patton might have been a hell of a Commander but he was always 50 miles behind us," says Megellas. "Bill Hannigan was a hell raiser of sorts on R&R but hell, that's what Paratroopers do. Bill was one hell of a combat leader and we needed him everywhere we fought," says Megellas, 97, now a retired Lt. Col. (Bill sought the Medal Of Honor for Maggie for which Megellas was recommended in 1945.)



"We were always dropped apart, always surrounded but we were highly trained in how to fight – and win – with only 2-3 of us. We believed that an 82nd Squad could beat a German platoon; that one of our platoons could take on a German Company and that our 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment could beat a Kraut Division. And you know, we did that," said Bill.

Fact was that the Rangers had been decimated in Italy and many of the survivors were assigned to Bill's Regiment, the 504 Parachute Infantry. Practically surrounded, the 504 fought valiantly in Sicily, Salerno and at Anzio, Monte Cassino, and the Italian Mountains. The Regiment took horrific casualties and Bill Hannigan and his men were a part of all of it.

I knew all this but all Bill was telling me were funny stories about all the hell the 82nd raised on leave and the goofiest, reckless things that Paratroopers are so good at.

"Did the war ever bother you," I asked?

"I always tried to remember the good times we had, the friends, the crazy things we did. But I went to see 'Saving Private Ryan' and the war came back on me, the bad dreams and the loss of so many, many good men. All that pain came back," said Bill.

Later, Bill would console my friend Kyle Tadd, who had fought in Iraq/Afghanistan with the Red Bulls, with learning to live with combat memories. Bill loved all Vets.

On Anzio alone, the 3/504 had 120 dead, 410 wounded and 60 missing. A 504 officer called on the hospitalized and appealed to the men, "Anyone who can stand up, can walk, meet me down here at the end of the hall. Corporal Robert Kinney said, "We all went down, about 40 of us in casts, bandages, arms in slings. He said, 'Your buddies are up there catching hell and we've got to go back if we can. You don't have to, we're not going to order you but we're looking for volunteers.

"We said, 'Hell, we'll go'." ("The Sword of St. Michael" by LTC Guy LoFaro)

Those were Bill's guys.

When Bill and the 504 left Anzio for England, they learned the 504 had lost too many men to make the Normandy Invasion. But the 82nd Airborne was going nowhere without Bill Hannigan. He volunteered for the Pathfinders and jumped into France, the night before D-Day, the first to fight with the 508th.

After D-Day, Bill rejoined the 504 in England and jumped into Holland in Operation Market/Garden. In one of WWII's most creative and vicious battles, Bill and H504 led the assault across the Waal River in canvas boats.

"When the order came we thought they were crazy. When we saw the canvas boats we thought they were crazier. We did it anyway, paddling with rifle butts through the machine gun bullets, mortars and levelled artillery," Bill said. "We lost so many good men but we took that bridge." (See "A Bridge Too Far" and "Maggie's War", now on You Tube.)

Bill went on to fight in The Bulge where the 82nd turned back Panzer Divisions, where his friend Megellas led other Squads into two battalions of Germans, into the Siegfried Line and on to Berlin.

Bill was 84 when I met him, a distinguished, dignified, Catholic man with a boundless sense of humor.

He was humble about the war but he did more than most to save us from the Nazis.

I saw him then too, in my mind's eye, as early 20s, filthy, hungry, exhausted and red-eyed in that paratrooper combat gear with the baggy pants; fighting desperately for his Brothers, the best friends of his life.

Bill never forgot them, all his wonderful life. I know, without a doubt, he is with them now.

I hope that every American will think now and then about Bill Hannigan and what he and his buddies did for us. America will be a better place again if we try harder to be like them. God bless you Bill.

ALL AMERICAN, ALL THE WAY SIR!

Tom Laney, Editor

The Wisconsin Airborne Reporter

[A Scrapy East Side Kid
winds up in the Scrapy
504PIR, 82nd Airborne.](#)



Prayers for an All American, are asked for our dear friend SSG Bill Hannigan, St. Paul who is in hospice. Bill was a H504 PIR, 82nd Airborne Division, Squad leader in WWII he fought at Anzio Beach, Monte Cassino, Normandy, Holland, The Bulge, Siegfried Line and beyond. He is one great Paratrooper!



Above, Bill with his Platoon Leader, Jim "Maggie" Megellas; Bill giving "Missing Man" prayer at Dallas "Maggie's War" Premier; SSG Bill; below, Bill reclines, right front, with H504 PIR NCOs before jumping into Market/Garden. We asked Bill why he was out of uniform? "Obviously I was on a Special Operation," he said. When Bill discovered the 504 was not going to Normandy, he jumped in with the 508th Pathfinders.

That's the kind of man Bill Hannigan is. God Bless this great All American, All The Way!



The Airborne: All The Way to Be the Best!



Margie Starck, Gordy & friends with Gordy's Veteran Achievement Award



WDVA Board and family congratulate Gordy.



Margie, WDVA and 82nd Airborne Badger Members with Gordy



Gordy with his WWII Badger Chapter buddies.

Gordy Starck, Franklin, grew up in Milwaukee and used to sneak under the fence to watch his beloved AAA Brewers. Risky business was about to be a way of life.



Gordy enlisted after Pearl Harbor, was trained as an Army Medic but was bored with that and became a Paratrooper.

He was assigned was assigned to the 551st ARCT which was training in Panama for an invasion of a Nazi Sub refueling island near Panama. "They surrendered to the U.S. Navy before we got there. Lucky for them."

He then joined the 505th PIR, 82nd Airborne. "I started out in Africa and jumped in Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Holland. Our job was to fight behind enemy lines. We were trained well to adapt to the situation and fight independently. The Germans were robotic and predictable. "We were not that way. We were independent and could fight alone. We were trained for everything. And how!"

"It was tough to go out there, bullets flying everywhere; guys yelling 'Medic'. We lost so many good men...but we saved a lot of them too," Gordy says.

Post-war, Gordy returned to his UAW Tool & Die Maker job at Allis Chalmers. Airborne men are good at leadership and Gordy became a councilman, then Mayor of Franklin and remains a leader in the 82nd Badger Chapter. He is active in his Church and community, a member of the Knights of Columbus, VFW, American Legion and was a fixture as a Volunteer at the Milwaukee VA before suffering a stroke.

In 2010 The Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs honored Gordy with the Wisconsin Veterans Lifetime Achievement Award. We are honored to call him our friend!

Gordy: "How did I make it through the war? Luck."



Starck, Gordon R. "Gordy"
Age 91, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin,

passed away Sunday morning December 29, 2013. He was born on August 20, 1922 to Amanda and Raymond Starck, and was one of five siblings.

In January 1942 Gordy enlisted in the United States Army; his courage and commitment to country in World War II



earned him numerous military decorations, including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Combat Medic Badge, and Parachutists Wings with four Combat Jump Stars (the jumps were behind enemy lines).

Gordy took basic training at Camp Grant, IL, advanced training as a medic at Camp Robinson, AR, and Airborne training at Fort Benning, GA; after which he participated in pre-deployment jungle training in Panama with the 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion and in airborne operations at Camp McCall NC.

Gordy deployed to Great Britain in late 1942 where he was assigned to the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment and received combat medic and additional jump training, and with the 505th PIR, he redeployed by ship to North Africa, where the unit was attached to the 82nd Airborne Division and he joined in its preparation for the invasion of Sicily.

On July 6, 1943, he jumped into Sicily with the 505th under the command of MG Jim Gavin, in what was the first regimental-size combat jump, to take on Hermann Göring's Panzer Division and stop its attack on the Allied beachhead.

On September 14, 1943, Gordy participated in a night jump with the 505th over the Salerno, Italy beachhead, giving relief to Allied landing forces and, two weeks later, he participated in the liberation of Naples.

In late 1944, the 82nd Airborne redeployed to England where it trained for the Normandy invasion; on June 6, 1944, Gordy jumped into Normandy with the 505th where the 82nd Airborne spearheaded the European invasion and his unit liberated the first town in France, St. Mère Église.

On September 17, 1944, Gordy jumped into Grosbeek, Holland as the 505th and the 82nd led the way in Operation Market Garden (made famous by the book and movie "A Bridge Too Far"); it was the largest Airborne



GORDY AND FRIENDS ON THE OCCASION OF GORDY RECEIVING THE WISCONSIN VTRANS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD. L-R, RICK WAHALEN, 505; GORDY, TOM LANEY, 501ST; REAR, LENNY SHIER, 82ND AND AMVETS LEADER; MARGIE; JIM ROMLEIN, PRESIDENT, 10ST OLD ABE CHAPTER; NORB STUDELSKA, 508TH WWII ASSOCIATION.

invasion in history, and Gordy's unit took the Nijmegen Bridge at terrible human cost.

On December 16, 1944 Gordy marched into the Battle of the Bulge with the 505th and 82nd to stop the German counter-offensive by fighting the enemy to a standstill at St. Vith

and the Salm River and giving relief to the 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne, Belgium. Gordy continued to serve with his unit in Europe until VE Day.

(cont. next pg.)



GORDY IN FRONT WITH 82ND BUDDIES, L-R, REUBEN CLARK, 504; BOB SHRADER, 82ND ARTY; GERRY DIEMEL, 504; DOC STOLP, 505, MIKE HALLER, 82ND ARTY; AND RICK WHALEN, 505. GORDY WAS A 4-COMBAT -JUMP MEDIC WITH THE 505. HE RISKED HIS LIFE MANY TIMES AND SAVED A LOT OF PARATROOPERS. (LANEY PIC)

Four Combat Jumps for 82nd Airborne Medic Gordy Starck!

Four Combat Jumps!

By Mark Johnson of the Journal Sentinel
Jan. 2, 2014

Four times, Gordon R. Starck parachuted behind enemy lines, floating hundreds of feet to the ground through the spray of flak and machine gun fire.



He jumped with the 82nd Airborne during the D-Day invasion of Normandy in 1944. He marched into the Battle of the Bulge. In Holland, a buddy shouted and Starck whipped his head around just in time to avoid a German bayonet to his head, though it still managed to slash his neck.

"They were outmanned and outgunned, but never outgutsed," said Tom Laney, a friend who served in the 82nd Airborne two decades after Starck's honorable discharge and who got to know him when they were both veterans.

After World War II, Starck made a career as a tool and die maker for Allis-Chalmers. He tended a garden. He married twice and helped to raise seven children, passing on to them an appreciation for nature.

In Belgium, "they made a nighttime jump," his second wife, Margie Starck, recalled. "It was rainy and windy, and he kind of twirled around and went backwards onto the branch of a tree and hurt his back."

It was what happened to his fellow soldiers that Starck found most painful to remember. As a combat medic, he would race onto the battlefield to tend to the wounded.

"Gordy was a leader," said Laney. "He survived all of this serious combat. But it was almost impossible for him to get past losing so many good men."

Starck was elected an alderman in Franklin in 1966 and again in 1968. He was elected mayor in 1972 and 1974. As a politician, he was open and direct.

"He was no fence-sitter," Laney remarked. "He had a lot of common sense and he was honest to a fault."

Starck enjoyed discussing baseball and politics. He was clear-headed and practical.

He suffered several strokes and was eventually confined to a wheelchair, though he wasn't one to complain.

He was, as Laney put it, "a fighter."

(Cont. from previous pg.)

On October 20, 1945 he was honorably discharged with the rank of Technician 3 at Fort Sheridan, IL.

Gordy was presented the Veteran Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wisconsin Board of Veterans Affairs on August 19, 2010



TOM LANEY WITH GORDY. GORDY STARCK MADE YOU PROUD TO BE 82ND!

for his record of exemplary service as a military service member, U.S. veteran and WI citizen.

Following the war, Gordy returned to Milwaukee to continue his pre-war apprenticeship, making a career as a tool and die maker for Allis-Chalmers in West Allis, WI; he was also a member of UAW Local 66.

He married and raised a family along with magnificent vegetable gardens and he taught his children to appreciate nature, especially fishing.

Gordy was a proud man with solid convictions and great inner strength; he valued family, hard work, and community. His keen interest in city planning stirred him to become an active participant in local politics. He ran for public office, serving Franklin, WI for six years as Alderman, four years as Mayor, and many years on various boards and commissions.

Gordy was a long time a member of St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. Gordy was a Life Member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and the Badger State Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association. Gordy served as Commander of American Legion Post 192 for seven years. He was a founding member and Trustee of the Badger Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, and he dedicated 19 years (25,000+ hours) of volunteer service to the Milwaukee Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center.

Gordy is survived by nearly "the whole fam-damily", consisting of wife Margie of 32 years, first wife Audrey, seven children, Sandra Starck of Eau Claire, WI; Jeffrey (Laura) Starck of Deer River, MN; Jennifer Mattern of Menomonee Falls, WI; Tom (June) and Brad (Tina)

McCarthy of Nakomis, FL; Jay (Jane) Christensen of Greenfield, WI; and Debbie (Dale) Beier of New Berlin, WI], five step-children, Gail Edstrand of Waukesha, WI; Kenneth (Brenda) Bembenek of West Allis, WI; Donna (Mike) Kirkvold of Waukesha, WI; Thomas Bembenek of Stevens Point, WI; and Randy Bembenek of Lannon, WI, plus eighteen grandchildren and seventeen great-grandchildren. Gordy was preceded in death by his father Raymond, mother Amanda, sisters Marian and Virginia, and brothers Kenneth and Ronald, second wife Ivadell, and grandchild BJ McCarthy. Gordy's indomitable spirit and quick humor will remain inspirational; he was deeply loved and will be missed by all.



In Memory of a Lad who loved the 82nd Airborne Division



Landon at Greatest Generation Tribute in Green Bay.



Landon Hauer with his Dad Dylan.



July 2014 All The Way news for Wisconsin/Minnesota Airborne

On Saturday, May 25, 2013 Landon Lein's life was cut short in an automobile accident at the age of nineteen years.

A FALLEN TROOPER
IN MEMORY OF LANDON LIEN
BY DYLAN HAUER



I was asked to put together a few words about a brother that is now gone. I met this young man about 6 or 7 years ago while giving a presentation on World War II to his 8th grade social studies class. The class ended and one kid stayed behind and slowly walked up to me and asked about some of the gear and uniforms I had brought in. He said he would like to come out sometime and see what WWII reenacting was all about.

A few months later at his first reenactment this young kid was full on interest in the world of paratroopers. We were at Flying Cloud Airport and it was HOT! This being his first event we had a little ritual hazing for him. Our second night out, we pulled the tent walls down and lit the lamps. Told Pvt. Lien "Step up", we all took turns dressing the new kid down. Boots not shined!, Hair needs to be cut! Button those pockets up!, our then Lt. Skip Hazzard next got his turn. "Soldier, you are out of uniform! Stand at attention!" Said the Lieu, "Sargent, bring me my double barrel sling shot (A beautiful black brassiere with dark red lace)". "Put this on private. No still something missing bring this trooper a weapon", In came the bazooka. "Better, but we need to fill out that bra", in to each cup went a pineapple grenade. "You don't scare me enough, put this in your teeth" An M-3 jump knife. "Now that's scary". Pvt. Lien took it in stride, red in the cheeks let out a little giggle.

I have too many stories to put on paper about Landon. He loved God, America, his Family and ALL VETERANS. He wanted so badly to be in the army, become a Cavalry Scout. Landon was unable to fulfill his dream he had medical problems that prevented this. So he honored veterans the best way he knew how, he learned the history and the stories of the men he respected so highly. He was a damn fine young man who was also on the SIM's TEAM to get Maggie Megellas his Medal of Honor. Landon you are missed my friend. Now you are with the Troopers we so respected. Bud Ollum, Delbert Kuehl, and many other greats are up there greeting you home. STRIKE HOLD young trooper, Strike HOLD! Landon Lien was such a great kid. We forget that he was just a kid of 19 when he died. He accomplished so much in his brief life. If only we all could live half the life that he did in those 19 years. He was a very patriotic kid and loved WWII reenacting. He came into the hobby at the wee age of 14. He was very good at it and he looked the part. He went through great pains to make sure that his impression was right and "tight". He always showed the utmost respect to ALL veterans when they were around.

He was a quiet kid when people were around. But get him alone and he could be very fiesty. He did not say much, but when he did you made sure to listen to what he had to say. He was very intelligent. You could always see the wheels spinning when he listened to people. It was very apparent how much Landon was loved by the outpouring of respect at

Landon Lien honored all the Troops & especially Jim Megellas and the 82nd Airborne!

his funeral. Landon touched many lives from the young to the old. In his 19 years he made such an impression on everyone he met. The world lost a great human being on 5-25-2013. It was a shame that he did not get the opportunity to live a longer life because I am certain had he lived longer he would have accomplished great things. Landon, you are missed dearly.—Brian Pesce
Landon was an original member of the "Fighting Fetus" pair. A name designated to Cody Fluery and Landon when they both started reenacting. when the joined they were 17 and 15 years old. eager to prove themselves and to learn. Pride and loyalty to the Airborne was already evident. Though Landon was more soft spoken his presence and contribution was never over looked.

My heart sunk when I heard he had been rejected from the Army for asthma. But it sunk even deeper when i heard of his passing.

Attending Landon's funeral was very special. I had the oppprtunity to hear other sides to this young man. Landon's love for his younger sister impressed me the most. I knew then the kind of man he was. He was one of a rare breed.

Strike Hold Kid, I'm jealous that you get to meet the paratrooper heros first and get to get into some of their legendary mischief without me. We'll see you soon.

Ben "Lundy" Lund

The obituary for Landon Lien.

Landon David Lien was born May 23, 1994 in Alexandria, MN, the son of Gary and Sonja (Larson) Lien. He grew up on his parents farm at Carlos, MN and graduated from Jefferson High School in 2012. Following high school Landon attended Vermilion Community College in Ely where he studied Wilderness Management. Landon was planning to move to Pine City, MN where he was going to be attending gunsmith school.

... Landon worked on the family farm and helped his father in the construction business. Recently he was working at Godfather's Piz-za and Zorbaz so that he could afford the gunsmith school.

Landon took an interest in re-enactments of World War II battles. At age 14 he began work at Mike's Carwash to earn money for his re-enactment costumes and props. He collected several authentic World War II uniforms. In 2012 Landon worked as a World War II re-enactor and was credited in the cast of the movie Memorial Day starring James Cromwell.

From the age of two, while packing a six shooter in diapers, Landon was fascinated by firearms. He became quite a gun enthusiast and owned several guns. Landon enjoyed the outdoors and loved to spend time hunting. He hunted all types of game and was a very skilled marksman. He also enjoyed hunting small game and spearing.

Landon's truck was very special to him; mom could ride in it but needed to make sure everything was left as Landon had it or she would hear about it. He took great care of the truck; he saw to

its maintenance and always polished it spotless.

Landon had a special connection with his little sister Lariah who lovingly called him 'Daywood'. He also had a wonderful kindness within him. He was always willing to put others before himself. If someone needed help Landon was always ready to pitch in and serve the needs of friends, family or strangers. One of Landon's greatest disappointments was not being allowed to serve his country in the armed forces; he was unable to enlist due to his asthma.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Robert Lien & Loretta Lien, and Orlando 'Sonny' and Dellor 'Dee' Larson; a sibling, Baby Lien; two uncles, Stuart and Steven Larson; and one cousin Joy Koep. Landon is survived by his parents, Gary & Sonja Lien of Carlos; two sisters, Liana Lien of St. Peter, MN and Lariah Lien of Carlos; aunts & uncles, Susan & Joe Strong, Shelly & Jim Schalback, Bob & Jan Lien, Michael Lien & Kathy Sigfrid, Greg & Laura Lien, Barb & Russ Koep, Val Lien, Tom Lien, Joan & Mike Otto, Jeannie Schjei & Wayne Carstens, Ann & Jim Peyton, Terry & Ramona Lien and Bruce & Sherie Lien; and many cousins.

We appreciate the way Landon Lien disseminated the history of our 82nd Airborne Division.

He was a young man with whom we wish we could have served; a man of integrity, honor and respect for the Paratroopers and Glidermen of WWII.

We will remember Landon for the way he remembered the All Americans Rest in peace Trooper.



AIRBORNE HOOK UPS



BADGER CHAPTER, 82ND ASSOC.
FRANK MORRIS, CHAIR

502ND ABE CHAPTER, 101ST ASSOC.
JERRY VOTAW, PRESIDENT

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN, 82ND ASSOC.
PAUL PULERA, CHAIR

173RD AIRBORNE
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MINNESOTA SCREAMING EAGLES
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MIDWEST ALL AIRBORNE ALLIANCE
ALL MAAA TROOPERS ARE LEADERS.

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DAVE HOOAH

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F/502ND 101ST

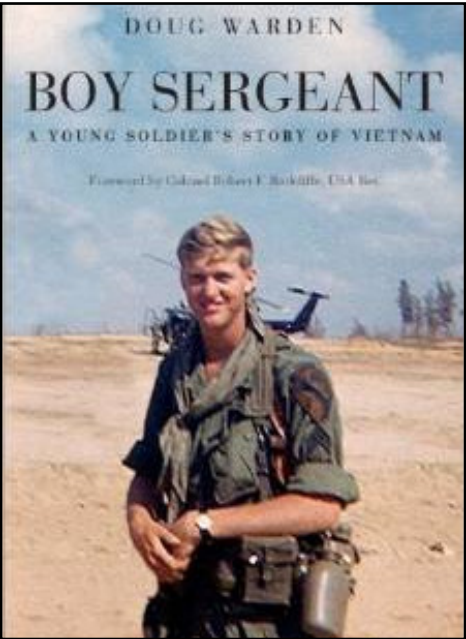


You must hit ctrl/click to make the links work. Don't ask me why. Just do it!



The Vatican Women's Rifle Team disbanded in 1938 (Pope didn't think it was good for the church's image). Sister Juliette (far right) left the order in 1942 to join the French underground as a sharpshooter. She was credited with assassinating several Nazi officials.

DOUG WARDEN, PARATROOPER





"Show me a man who will jump out of an airplane (or ride a glider) and I'll show you a man who will fight for his country." Gen. Jim Gavin



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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)

Contact Reuben Clark, Treasurer, 82nd Badger Chapter, 5318 Greenbriar LN, Madison, WI
Email: Inclark@aol.com
608-222-4833



Bagpiper Steele head back to Iraq!



Special Ops Medic Landon Steele, Mpls. is on his way back to Iraq. Report in Sept. Godspeed to this extraordinary Doc!



Ducky Johnson, Harv's daughter with All American Halibut!

Specialty Tours



If you're going to St. Mere Eglise, check out Specialty Tours. Steve Mrozek is a leading authority on the WWII 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. Steve was 82nd Historian, has written two books, and knows the ETO.



Vietnam Vet Capt. Harvey Johnson, Prescott, WI Paratrooper now residing in Alaska. Farthest away member of the 82nd Badgers Chapter.