

# DEADEYE DISPATCH

Official Newsletter of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association

Fall, 2017

## 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

### First Annual Meeting of the New Deadeye Organization in Planning Stages

The dates and location for next year's annual meeting are in the planning stages. This new gathering will be an annual meeting of the newly merged organizations and it will include some informal, independent opportunities for socializing and entertainment.

It is hoped that, beginning in 2018, the board of the new organization will be able to host such a meeting either in the same place each year or in rotation with two or three other locations where we'll be able to partner with World War II history-preserving organizations. This might include an annual meeting conducted in Salt Lake City where the 96th Sustainment Brigade operates out of Fort Douglas.



**96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association and Heritage Fund to be combined in 2018.**

See full article inside on page 3.

There is a very real possibility of working with the leadership there to build a new, expanded 96th Infantry Division archive and museum features at Fort Douglas.

Another possibility would be New Orleans, where we would establish a partnership with the National World War II Museum. The Deadeye annual meeting could then be conducted in conference facilities provided by the museum and special "behind the scenes" museum tours and entertainment would be made available to meeting attendees.

As you can see, there are some exciting possibilities on the horizon and more work needs to be done before the Board can make these important decisions. More information will be coming soon, so watch for the Spring issue of the Dispatch and stay in touch on the Deadeye website.



*A Great Time Was Had by All!*

## Deadeyes Celebrate the 60th Annual Reunion in Minneapolis

*-Submitted by the Minnesota Reunion Committee*

The 60th annual reunion of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association is now in the history books. What a time it was!

This past July, Deadeyes and their families from across the country gathered in Minneapolis at the Crown Plaza AiRE for a weekend of celebration and remembrance. This year's reunion was a particularly important one as it marked sixty consecutive years that the Deadeyes have been coming together for reunions--a remarkable accomplishment that was celebrated throughout the weekend.

From start to finish, Minnesota rolled out the red carpet for Deadeye guests. Thursday evening Early Birds experienced the fun of tailgating at the St. Paul Saints baseball game, with our own Deadeye Bob Siefert throwing out the first pitch. And that was just the beginning!

### Friday, July 28

Friday was a day of remembrance, starting with a visit to the Minnesota History Center's Greatest Generation exhibit--an exhibit which celebrated the Deadeye generation and took everybody for a trip down memory lane that reminded us all of the history, accomplishments and lasting legacy of our very own Deadeyes.

From there it was on to Fort Snelling National Cemetery and a visit to the 96th Infantry Division monument where a Wreath Laying Ceremony was held in honor of those Deadeyes lost during the war and in the years since. The Wreath Laying Ceremony was a very special one this year. As part of the ceremony,

Association President Don Klimkowicz presented Minnesota

Governor Mark Dayton's Proclamation making Saturday, July 29th 2017 "96th Infantry Division Day" in Minnesota.

Then Minnesota's senior United States Senator Amy Klobuchar addressed the audience, thanking the Deadeyes for their sacrifices in defense of liberty. The music, the patriotism, the military honors--it was all on full display and Minnesota's leaders made it clear to the Deadeyes how very much their contributions are respected and honored.

Then it was back to the hotel for FUN! The 2017 Beer Bust will be long remembered for the big-time fun that was enjoyed by all.

*(This article is continued on page 11 of this issue)*

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PRESENTED BY  
 THE 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
 DEADEYE ASSOCIATION

# TAPS.....Honoring Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Jack Barron  
Rentz, Ga.  
March 19, 2017  
383rd Co. HQ Radioman  
By Pat McMillan

Jacob J. Hoke  
Staten Island, NY  
April 11, 2017  
Co. C, 381st Infantry  
By son, Arthur Hoke

Nels Olsen  
Huron, SD  
May 17, 2017  
383rd 3rd Bn  
by son Dennis Olsen

Walter Snow  
Millington, MI  
Co. D, 383rd Infantry  
October 20, 2016  
notified by son Dan Snow

Charles Williams  
382nd Infantry  
September 11, 2017  
By daughter,  
Patricia Franklin

Wendlin Baumgartner  
Rapid City, SD  
May 20, 2017  
C Company

Francis "Frank" McCarthy  
Lenhartville, PA  
June 2, 2017  
Co. H, 381st Infantry  
By Facebook post

Edward W. Riedl, Sr.  
Metairie, LA  
96th Inf., 921 FA Battalion  
March 18, 2017  
By his Family

Glenn Stewart  
San Carlos, CA  
Co. K, 383rd Infantry  
May 2, 2017  
By daughter, Lynn Heuer

Lyle Abner Worthy  
Newport, NC  
381st Infantry  
November 19, 2016  
By daughter,  
Deanna Wilson

Orville Caspers  
Swaledale, IA  
April 8, 2017  
Co. G, 383rd Infantry  
by daughter, Susan Shanks

John McManama  
Waltham, MA  
February 10, 2017  
Medic 382nd

Clarence A Skiles  
Santa Ana, California  
September 20, 2016  
by wife, Alma Skiles

Louis J. Strom  
Omaha, NE  
Co. K, 381st Infantry  
September 19, 2011  
By son, Eric L. Hays-Strom

Dean Elliot  
Billings, MT  
by Richard Klose  
via Facebook

S.T. Morris  
McAlester, OK  
February 13, 2017  
Co. I, 383rd Regiment  
By daughter, Gail Brown

Arza George Smalley  
Alexandria, VA  
2nd Lieutenant  
Co. G, 382nd Infantry  
July 6, 2017  
by son Byron Smalley

First Lieutenant  
Oliver J. "O.J." Thompson  
Grand Jct., Iowa  
361st FA  
October 27, 2016  
By daughter, Dee Savits



## 60 Years of Deadeye Reunion Cities

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>
1958	St Louis	MO	1978	New Orleans	LA	1998	Ft Mitchell	KY
1959	Chicago	IL	1979	Denver	CO	1999	Denver	CO
1960	Kansas City	MO	1980	Springfield	IL	2000	Salt Lake City	UT
1961	Detroit	MI	1981	Milwaukee	WI	2001	Omaha	NE
1962	Dallas	TX	1982	Dearborn	MI	2002	Kansas City	MO
1963	Little Rock	AR	1983	Houston	TX	2003	Tulsa	OK
1964	Portland	OR	1984	St Paul	MN	2004	Salt Lake City	UT
1965	Minneapolis	MN	1985	Oklahoma City	OK	2005	Washington	DC
1966	Indianapolis	IN	1986	Fresno	CA	2006	Denver	CO
1967	Omaha	NE	1987	Memphis	TN	2007	Salt Lake City	UT
1968	Chicago	IL	1988	Peoria	IL	2008	Nashville	TN
1969	Des Moines	IA	1989	Rapid City	SD	2009	Branson	MO
1970	Detroit	MI	1990	Omaha	NE	2010	Milwaukee	WI
1971	Denver	CO	1991	Spokane	WA	2011	Columbus	GA
1972	New Orleans	LA	1992	Louisville	KY	2012	Colorado Springs	CO
1973	Peoria	IL	1993	Sparks	NV	2013	San Diego	CA
1974	Indianapolis	IN	1994	Hot Springs	AR	2014	Chicago	IL
1975	Kansas City	KS	1995	Lubbock	TX	2015	New Orleans	LA
1976	Fort Worth	TX	1996	Des Moines	IA	2016	Washington	DC
1977	Cincinnati	OH	1997	St Louis	MO	2017	Minneapolis	MN

### How to Submit A Name for Taps

Our Taps information comes from a variety of sources, including emails, notes from family and friends and returned mail from the U.S. Postal Service. We apologize for any information that may be incorrect or incomplete. To submit a name for Taps, please contact one of the following:

<p><b>Diane O'Brien</b> 6800 S. Strand Ave., #585 Yuma, AZ 85364 Phone: 608-317-2496 Email: ddoebrien@trivest.net</p>	<p><b>Pat McMillan</b> PO Box 2432 Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459 Phone: 479-200-1841 Email: pmil45@yahoo.com</p>
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## Deadeye Dispatch

Official Publication of the  
**96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association**  
• Fall 2017 Edition •

<p><b>SUBMIT INFO TO THE DISPATCH</b> Scott Buffington c/o MainStreet Newspapers PO Box 908 Jefferson, GA 30549 706-367-2485 <a href="mailto:scott@mainstreetnews.com">scott@mainstreetnews.com</a></p>	<p><b>UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS</b> For changing your address Diane O'Brien 6800 S. Strand Ave., #585 Yuma, AZ 85364 608-317-2496 <a href="mailto:ddobrien@trivest.net">ddobrien@trivest.net</a></p>
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Deadeyes Online at [96thDeadeyes.org](http://96thDeadeyes.org)

# Deadeye News & Features...

## 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association and Heritage Fund to be combined in 2018

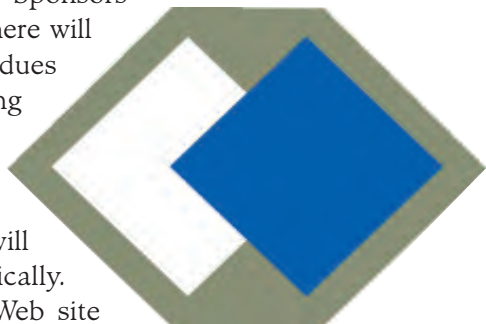
*Submitted by Jim Collins*

The Board of Directors of the Deadeye Association voted to approve the merger with the Heritage Fund at the end of 2017.

The funds in the Deadeye Association will be transferred to the Heritage Fund. This is being done to reflect a change in the focus of our efforts, moving from a reunion centric organization to one that is focused on preserving the history of the 96th for future generations.

We will still have an Annual Meeting at a location nearby a museum that has historical information about the 96th. Affiliating with select key museums will be an important part of our efforts in preserving our history and building our Legacy.

All current members of the Deadeye Association will automatically become Founding Sponsors of the Heritage Fund. There will be no membership dues although our Founding Sponsors will be given opportunities to donate money to our various programs that will be announced periodically. The Dispatch and our Web site will continue to serve the needs of the Heritage Fund in communicating our plans and activities.



The Heritage is structured around a Board of Directors, Officers, Committees and Appointed positions. The Board has four members each of whom is also an Officer:

**President - Jim Collins**  
**Vice President - Don Klimkowicz**  
**Treasurer - Dennis O'Brien**  
**Secretary - Ann Moroz Duncan**

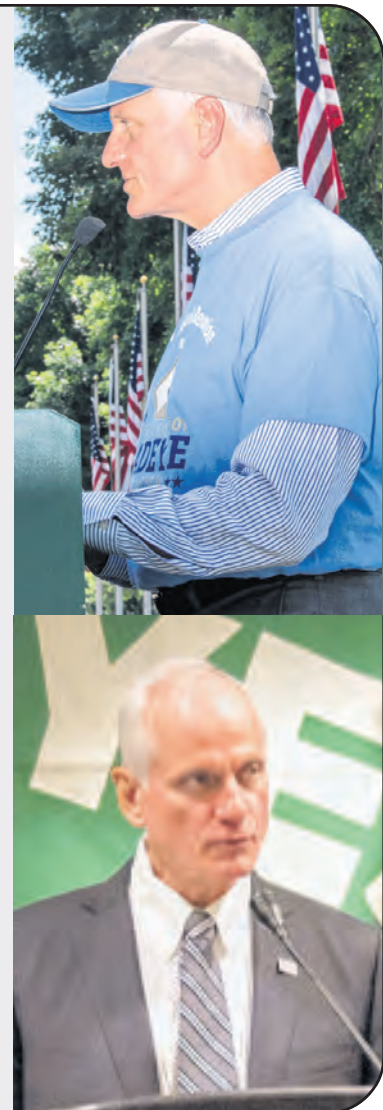
There are two key committees that really will be the heart of the Heritage Fund: History Committee and the Fund Raising Committee. We are still forming both of these committees and looking for more volunteers.

In a supporting role we have Scott Buffington as the Editor and Publisher of the Dispatch; David Ellis as our Web Master; Diane O'Brien as our coordinator for all the Founding Sponsors.

We also have an Advisory Board that is intended to help with new initiatives and supporting the activities of the Heritage Fund. Many of our long term Deadeye Association Board Members are going to serve on the Heritage Fund Advisory Board. Now as we move ahead we will preserve our history and build our legacy.

## A Big "THANK YOU" to Don Klimkowicz

*The 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association will be transitioning into the 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund at the end of 2017. During the last six years, Don Klimkowicz has been the President of the Deadeye Association. He has dedicated a lot of time and effort in support of the Association and all his fellow Deadeyes. All of us who are part of the Deadeye family owe Don a huge "Thank You!" Don will continue to be a part of the new organization, serving as our Vice President.*



## Letter Seeking Information

**Dear Deadeyes:**

My name is Marcus Loganbill. My father, **Varden J. Loganbill**, was a medic with the 96th Division of the 383rd battalion landing on Okinawa on May 10 1945. He is 91 years old. After his time on the front lines (May 11 - June 27 1945) as a litter bearer and medic, he was admitted to the 74th field hospital due to tonsillitis.

After recovery he said he was transferred to the 83rd division (or maybe 86th). He has very rarely talked about his days in the Army or his experience on Okinawa. He did write a journal about his experience which I just discovered and read about three months ago thus sparking my interest in the Deadeye website.

I have been looking over the website with great interest. My father does not remember any names of people he was with and of course has no contact information. I don't know if there is a way to put his name out there and see if anyone would recollect serving with him.

He was at Fort Beale in California in March of 1945, then shipped up to Fort Lawton, Washington, then to Oahu and from there to Saipan and Okinawa.

I first contacted William Hill and he directed me to you suggesting that you might be able to post a message in the *Deadeye Dispatch*.

Thank you for perhaps steering me in the right direction to contact anyone who might remember serving with him.

Marcus Loganbill  
 Wichita, Kansas  
 Email: mcloganbill@sbcglobal.net

# Minneapolis Reunion 2017



## 96th Infantry Division Veterans Attending the 60th Annual Reunion

NAME	UNIT	CITY, STATE
Jim Black, Sr	383rd, B Co.	McMinnville, OR
Chuck Cebuhar	381st, D Co.	Cedar Rapids, IA
Calvin Clements	Signal Company	Lubbock, TX
Jim Collins	HQS, 96th RSC	Los Osos, CA
Donald Dencker	382nd, L Co.	Sun Prairie, WI
Jim Foster	382nd, L Co.	West Columbia, SC
Joe Gonzales	381st, M Co.	San Diego, CA
Roman Klimkowicz	361st, B Co.	North Olmsted, OH
Alex Kurak	382nd, C Co.	St Paul, MN
Dave Meltzer	321st Engineer Combat Batt	Austin, TX
Dennis Olsen	96th Army Reserve Command	Sioux Falls, SD
Arden Pridgeon	381st, G Co.	St Joseph, MI
Ray Radzivila	381st, I Co.	Poughkeepsie, NY
Bob Siefert	381st, E Co.	Shakopee, MN
Virgil (Bub) Simmons	381st, 1st Batt	Bay City, OR
Harvey Webb	382nd A Co.	Cedar Hills, TX

## First Time Reunion Attendees

- Wayne Farmer, Winona, MN - son of SSGT George William Farmer, 381st, Co. G
- Wesley Hillstrom, Carriere, MS - son of Wesley Rudolph Hillstrom, H Co., 3rd Platoon
- Beverly Swecher, Dana, IA - daughter of Oliver J. Thompson, 362nd FA
- Patricia Cole, Lockwood, MO - daughter of Oliver J. Thompson, 362nd FA
- Dee Savits, Ogden, IA - daughter of Oliver J. Thompson, 362nd FA
- Pamela Hite Schwieger, Dows, IA - daughter of Sgt Arthur Hite, Co. F 383rd Inf, KIA/Okinawa
- Derk Karl Schwieger, Edina, MN - grandson of Sgt Arthur Hite, Co F 383rd Inf
- Bill & Renee Lieder, son and daughter-in-law of Chuck Cebuhar, Co D 381st



Pam and Derk Schwieger holding four 3-inch notebooks compiled of daily letters written by Sgt. Hite to his family through 1944-45.

## Reflections from a First-Time Deadeye Reunion Attendee

*Submitted by Pamela (Hite) Schwieger*

"We will meet but we will miss you," the lyrics and melody from *The Vacant Chair* beautifully sung by Heidi Satterburg prevailed throughout the reunion of the World War II 96th Infantry Division Deadeyes.

We were united in memories and pride. Our veterans gave us the freedom to enjoy a beautiful, balmy St. Paul Saints Baseball Game, our wreath laying at Ft. Snelling, and the many events during the three-day reunion, especially the Saturday morning Memorial Service.

All I wished from the reunion was to meet the veterans who fought on Conical Hill with my father, Sergeant Arthur Hite, who was killed defending his foxhole on May 22, 1945. Hopefully, I would get to shake their hands and possibly touch them. The Deadeye veterans far exceeded my wishes. The men held my hand while visiting, hugged me, and gave me their time. I felt their love. I was so honored to speak with them. The conversations over lunches, the bus rides, banquets, etc., really helped put my life in perspective. Celebrating their perseverance and victory with the big band dance gave me an insight to their strength of character.

At the banquet the son-in-law of a veteran (ironically a Brigadier General himself) asked me which event over the three days I enjoyed the most. After thinking a while I told him my favorite part of the reunion was the kindness and inclusion that embraced us.

Being first-timers at the reunion, my son and I hope to attend many more. The attention to detail by Diane and Dennis O'Brien and their committees greatly honored our veterans and their families. Thank you to everyone who helped make the reunion a great success.

Pamela (Hite) Schwieger, Dows, Iowa  
Derk Schwieger, Edina, Minnesota

# Minneapolis Reunion 2017

## ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

### 2017 Memorial Service Dedicated to Glenn Stewart

In Memory of Glenn Stewart  
Co. K, 383rd Regiment

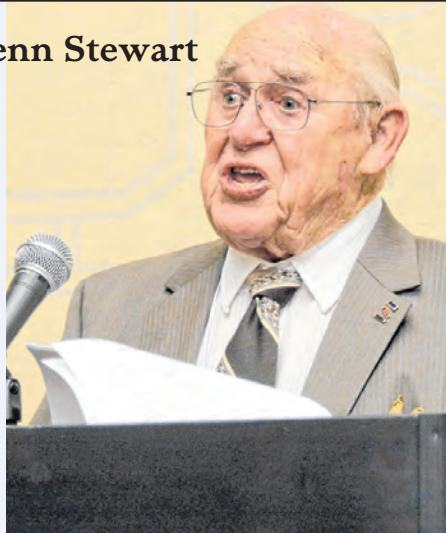
For many years, Deadeye Glenn Stewart served as association chaplain. Everybody knew Glenn. He always wore a smile and always demonstrated his love for the men of the 96th.

He was our spiritual leader and friend.

Glenn passed away on May 2, 2017 at the age of 91.

He will be missed.

He and all the Deadeyes we have lost are in our hearts today and always.



*For many Deadeyes and their families, the annual Memorial Service is the centerpiece of the reunions. It's a time to honor and remember those that fell during the war and those that have passed since then.*



## WREATH-LAYING CEREMONY AT FORT SNELLING NATIONAL CEMETERY



When the Minnesota reunion organizing committee was getting ready for the 2017 reunion, they heard that someone very special wanted to speak to the Deadeyes and thank them for their courage and sacrifice during the Second World War. As a result, Daisy Wallenmeyer was asked to speak to the Deadeyes at the very moving Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the 96th Infantry Division monument at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Daisy is a Minnesotan today, but she was born in the Philippines and knows firsthand what the 96th Infantry Division meant to her, her family and to her country. Daisy's remarks made a great impact on those in attendance.



# Minneapolis Reunion 2017

## BEER BUST '17

### The Joint was Jumping!

The Deadeyes know how to party and this year's Beer Bust was a blast!



## MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION



### STATE of MINNESOTA

- WHEREAS: The rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, enumerated in our Declaration of Independence, secured by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, and enjoyed by every citizen of the United States, are a direct result of the service of the members of the United States Armed Forces, and
- WHEREAS: The sacrifices made by the members of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division during World War II and the family members who supported them preserved the liberties that enrich both this nation and the State of Minnesota, and
- WHEREAS: The 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division served with distinction, being one of a very few full military divisions to be recognized with the Presidential Citation for Extraordinary Heroism; and
- WHEREAS: Many soldiers of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division entered their World War II service at Fort Snelling; and
- WHEREAS: It is important to recognize and honor all members of the United States Armed Forces, both past and present, as well as their families, for their service and sacrifice; and
- WHEREAS: The State of Minnesota is proud to host the 60<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual reunion of the 96<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Deadeye Association.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MARK DAYTON, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby proclaim Saturday, July 29, 2017, as:

## 96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION DAY

in the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 25<sup>th</sup> day of July.



*Mark Dayton*  
GOVERNOR

*Steve Pimm*

SECRETARY OF STATE



# Minneapolis Reunion 2017

*Association Membership Unanimously Approves Plan to Move Forward*

## **A Resolution of the Board and the Membership**

WHEREAS the 96th Infantry Division of the United States Army courageously and selflessly defended the freedoms of our country and people everywhere during the Second World War;

WHEREAS the men of the 96th Infantry Division have built a brotherhood that has lasted for over seventy years;

WHEREAS this brotherhood has endured throughout the years since World War II and has been celebrated for sixty consecutive years at annual reunions throughout the United States;

WHEREAS the Division wishes to continue honoring those in our ranks who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country;

WHEREAS we believe that the story of the 96th Infantry Division is one that should be preserved for history and generations to come;

WHEREAS the Association Board and Membership have the responsibility and authority to plan for the future health of the organization and agree that it is time to focus declining resources into building a lasting legacy for the 96th Infantry Division;

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED:**

To merge the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association with the 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund. This strategic reorganization will create a single non-profit entity whose sole mission will be to preserve the history and legacy of the 96th Infantry Division.

It is understood that the Board document "2018 and Beyond" presents the rationale for this resolution, along with specific strategies for its implementation. The most immediate impact of this resolution will be an updated management structure, along with the introduction of a new concept for an Annual Meeting of the Association. This Annual Meeting will replace reunions of the past with a 1-2 day meeting/event at which the official report of the Board's legacy building activities will be heard. Opportunities for socializing and supporting the legacy building mission of the association will also be provided and will be communicated in greater detail in coming months. Additional strategies as specified in the "2018 and Beyond" plan will also be implemented at such time as they are deemed appropriate and effective in supporting the legacy building mission of the organization.

In approving this resolution, the Board and all association members recognize that this action in no way ends the brotherhood of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association. Just the opposite is true. This resolution simply represents a new chapter in the ongoing history of the Division.

Approved this day: July 29, 2017

Don Klimkowicz, Association President and Board Chair  
On behalf of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association

# **Deadeye Reunion 2017 Photos**

*Reunion photos  
compliments of  
Joe Boyack*





# ◊ Deadeye Reunion 2017 Photos

*Reunion photos compliments of Joe Boyack*





# Deadeye News & Features



## President's Report

DON KLIMKOWICZ, PRESIDENT  
96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association



Many of you were unable to attend this year's reunion. At the general membership meeting I reported on state of the Association. For those of you who couldn't make it, here is the update I gave:

### Treasurer's Report:

Thank you, Dennis O'Brien, for maintaining our books, filing our taxes for both the Association and Heritage Fund! Deadeye Association:

Total Assets  
\$29,280.00

Projected unpaid reunion expenses  
(\$11,900.00)

Projected 2017 Assets  
\$17,380.00

### Website Report:

David Ellis has done an excellent job maintaining our website! Our Facebook activity is increasing. Inquiries are on the rise from family members asking for information about their WWII Deadeye.

### Dispatch Report:

Scott Buffington continues to edit and publish the Dispatch and is doing a fantastic job! The Dispatch is a key

selling point for the 96th Infantry Deadeyes Association. Over 800 Dispatches were mailed this past spring. Current and past Dispatches are also available on the website. Please submit general interest articles, columns, letters, photos, etc. to [scott@mainstreetnews.com](mailto:scott@mainstreetnews.com) or mail to Scott Buffington, PO Box 908, Jefferson, GA 30549. Experienced layout assistance is requested. For those who can help, please contact Scott.

### History Committee Update:

Once again, Don Dencker has done an exceptional job for us. This year we placed a wreath at the Fort Snelling monument and had a number of dignitaries present. The committee is considering placing a plaque at the WWII museum in Washington DC.

### Communications and Public Relations Update:

Barb Schmidt is actively managing this and is doing a great job! Through Barb's efforts, July 29th was declared the 96th Infantry Division Day for the whole state of Minnesota! Barb organized the attendance of government dignitaries and speakers at the Ft Snelling monument wreath-laying event, the Memorial Service Color Guard and Speaker - Rev Dr Kenneth Beale Jr., and the entertainment at the

Beer Bust! She also prepared wonderful scripts for use by all of us at the various events.

### 2017 Reunion Update:

There was lots of assistance again this year organizing and setting up the reunion. Diane O'Brien again provided overall management of the reunion as well as registration, single point of contact with the hotel, Ladies' and Men's luncheons, tours, and T-shirts. Bob and Ruth Seifert, Barb Schmidt, and many others were active in this year's reunion organizing. Don Dencker, Joe Boyack, and David Ellis coordinated the History Room. We had many first-time attendees this year. Honored guests at our banquet were COL Robert Moriarity - Commanding Officer for the 96th Sustainment Brigade along with Deputy Commander LTC Dixon Brockbank, Operations Officer LTC Andy Love, Command Sergeant Major Matt McDervitt, and Public Affairs Officer Sergeant Kayla Benson. This was the second time COL Moriarity attended and he has graciously invited us to Salt Lake City for a future event. Banquet guests were treated to video recreations of the acts of heroism of our five 96th Infantry Deadeye Medal of Honor

recipients. These were extremely touching. Robert Feinstein gave an educational presentation regarding the Deadeyes' landing in the Philippines including the Japanese division they fought. This was the Deadeyes' first experience in combat and they went up against a well-seasoned enemy division with seven years of fighting experience. Our Deadeyes defeated them soundly, to say the least!

### Next Year's Event - New Mission and Beyond:

As previously communicated, we are moving to the 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund as the legal entity to allow for support of the Legacy of the 96th. At this year's General Meeting, those present unanimously approved a resolution. Going forward and starting next year, instead of a reunion, the event will be referred to as the Annual Sponsors Meeting. All members of the 96th Division Association automatically become Sponsors of the 96th Heritage Fund Association.

Our resolution can be read in its entirety on page 7 of this issue of the Deadeye Dispatch.

I hope this report is helpful by keeping you up to date.





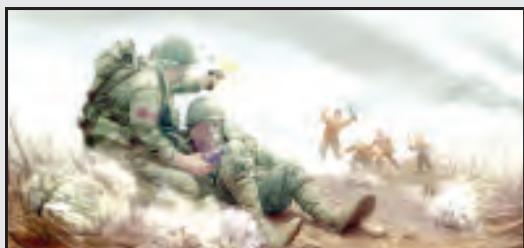
# Deadeye News & Features

## 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund: Preserving the History

Submitted by Jim Collins

Background: The 96th Infantry Division has a history that reaches back to 1917 when it was initially formed during World War I and 100 years later continues its

legacy on today through the 96th Sustainment Brigade at Fort Douglas, Utah. While it would be informative to preserve all the 100 years of history, the initial focus will be on the Division's participation in World War II.



Situation: The purpose of the 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund is to preserve the History of the 96th. A new History Committee will be formed to plan and execute what will be done annually to continue the work or preserving the 96th history. There are museums with infor-

mation and artifacts regarding the 96th's service during WWII. There are monuments in the US and overseas dedicated to the accomplishments of the 96th. Many of these monuments were funded by the 96th Deadeye Association and more recently by the Heritage Fund. There is a Web Site managed by the Deadeye Association that will soon be transferred to the Heritage Fund. There are links from the Web Site to various other sites that have information relative to the 96th Infantry Division.

Vision: Create a Virtual Museum on line that is the definitive resource for information on the 96th Infantry Division. Expand the number of artifacts and other information in Museums while creating a partnership with them so they can fully utilize our Virtual Museum within their own structure. Continue to dedicate monuments and plaques. Document more soldier stories. Increase the links with our web site. Expand the use of Facebook and other media.

## Continued from Page 1... Minneapolis Reunion - A Great Time was had by all!

Of course there was the traditional free-flowing beer, but this year there was also a wonderful buffet dinner followed by the Bend in the River Big Band. This 19-piece band and their vocalist really know how to swing and they filled the evening with the memory-stirring, foot-tapping songs of WWII. The music of Glenn Miller, the Dorsey Brothers and so many more got Deadeyes and family members on their feet and onto the dance floor. The joint was jumping!

### Saturday, July 29

Saturday began with the annual Memorial Service. This service is always an important part of our reunions, but this year it was even more poignant because the service was dedicated to Deadeye Glenn Stewart. Glenn served as chaplain for the Deadeyes for many years and, with his passing on May 2nd of this year, it seemed only fitting that the 2017 Memorial Service be dedicated to him in recognition of his service to the Association. So that's what was done and the service was conducted with fitting respect to Glenn and all the Deadeyes being remembered.

A lone bagpiper sounded the call to service, Deadeye grandchildren welcomed

guests and the Minnesota Vietnam Veterans of America presented the colors in honor of their WWII brothers. Vocalist Heidi Satterberg performed beautiful renditions of traditional Deadeye music and Glenn Stewart's last message to the Deadeyes was delivered by Deadeye Bob Schmidt's son-in-law Jim Persoon. Colonel Ken Beale shared his heartfelt keynote speech and all departed the service in silence, knowing that our departed veterans were being remembered with dignity and respect.

### General Membership Meeting

Following the Memorial Service, Deadeyes took a short break and then regrouped for the 2017 General Membership Meeting. This year's meeting focused on the big questions everybody's been asking: What happens next for the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association? Will reunions be discontinued? Most important: How will we make sure that the legacy of the Deadeyes lives on?

Association President Don Klimkovicz presented the answers to all these questions

in a resolution approved by the Association Board for presentation to the general membership. This resolution was built on a document titled "A New Mission: 2017 and Beyond" that was presented to the Association in the Spring 2017 edition of the



Dispatch. This resolution formally recognizes the accomplishments and contributions of the Deadeyes. It also points the way to a new chapter in the life of the Deadeyes.

This new chapter provides for the formal merger of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association with the 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund. Such a merger is important because it will establish a non-profit entity that will now be focused solely on preserving the history and legacy of the Deadeyes. This resolution also provides for a new type

of gathering that will replace reunions. This gathering will instead be an annual meeting of this new organization. This annual meeting will be a one or two day event at which the official report of the Board's legacy building activities will be heard. Opportunities for socializing and supporting the legacy building mission of the organization will also be provided. This annual meeting will be organized and coordinated by the board of the merged organization and will be convened in locations that are easy to get to and, hopefully, in partnership with other organizations who support our interests in preserving the history and legacy of World War II. Going forward, this sort of partnership with like-minded organizations will help us accomplish much more than we could on our own.

The resolution was approved unanimously by the membership and it is printed here for your review, along with preliminary plans for the first annual meeting of the newly merged organization which will take place in 2018. (See Page 7.)

Congratulations, Deadeyes, on taking this forward-thinking action to plan for the future of the organization!

### Men's and Ladies' Luncheons

Then it was on to the Men's Luncheon which featured discussion of Deadeye history and plans for its preservation. The ladies were treated to a performance by husband and wife musical duo Amy & Adams. All in all, the perfect start to an afternoon with old and new friends.

### Annual Banquet

After an afternoon of rest, relaxation and shopping at the Mall of America, Deadeyes got ready for their annual photo call and then the reunion finale--the annual banquet. Hosted by Association President Don Klimkovicz and featuring guest speaker Bob Feinstein, this year's banquet was the perfect conclusion to a wonderful weekend of fun, friendship, celebration and remembrance--a fitting conclusion to 60 years of reunions.

Thanks for the memories, Deadeyes!





# Deadeye News & Features

## 96th Museum Project: Ft Douglas Museum, Salt Lake City, UT Or: How I Spent My Summer Vacation

August 29-31, 2017

Submitted by Joe Boyack



My idea in doing this was to determine the type and amount of material that the 96th Association actually has in storage at the museum in Ft Douglas and develop some suggestions for its future disposition.

Ft Douglas is designated as the official repository for all things related to the 96th Infantry Division and its successors by the U. S. Army Center of Military History (CMH). The Association has approximately 20 Banker Boxes worth of material relating to the 96th Division history and Association activities. The RRC and Sustainment Brigade also have material there consisting of an additional 30+ boxes. Most of the Division material is at the museum and some is being held by John Reed. John is working on providing us with an inventory of his items. John - I'll forward this list to Joe ASAP - it includes both original fragile documents (op orders, AARs, etc.), and a much larger cache of photocopies of docs from the National Archives.

There is also our reunion banner, PUC documents, flags and a number of other items including the TV/monitor that was presumed lost in action. The VCR is still MIA however. Not much of this material is currently very well organized or sorted since it was stored as received.

I have a list of the books and VHS tapes if anyone is interested and can forward on request.

### What is being done with It

The museum has moved all of



**Nearly all of the material owned by the Association consists of books, VHS tapes, documents, and photographs. This is a short list of what we have.**

- 19 tapes relating to the Division history, monument dedication ceremonies, etc.
- 40 book titles with a few duplicates of some titles. Some self published
- 10 scrapbooks donated by members - photos and news clippings
- A large amount of material from the Northwest Chapter - scrapbook, minutes of meetings, financial records, correspondence.
- A large amount of material from the Association - membership rosters, financial records, correspondence, minutes of meetings, news clippings
- Ladies' Auxiliary material - 7 photo albums and several binders of financial reports and other records from 1962 thru 2005
- 3 very large scrapbooks in a wooden case
  - Baptism By Fire (Leyte)
  - The Last Battle (Okinawa)
  - The Reunions 1959 - 1980
 These consist of photos, news clippings, maps, copies of the Dispatch, all laminated.
- 2 name plaques - Past Presidents, Distinguished Deadeyes
- Several different photo albums
- A large number of wartime Dispatches - not a complete set
- 100-150 copies of 96th DVD produced by MG Cooke, covers Leyte & Okinawa
- A large number of assorted photographs, some from state-side training, some combat photos, some post-war, some reunion-related

our material from storage into one of the main buildings where they have started sorting, scanning, archiving and indexing it. The scanning will create digital copies of the material that anyone will be able to access. The archiving consists of placing the items in non-reactive plastic sleeves and/or acid free archival boxes for storage in a controlled environment. This is very important work that Tim Malone is doing pro bono. However, the Museum should be reimbursed for its materials costs, if not Tim's labor costs.

### What Can We Do With It

There is no war-related material other than photos and documents - no physical objects such as uniforms, mess kits or anything of that sort. All of that type of material that is at the museum is either the property of the CMH or the State of Utah and as such we can do nothing with it, without a very elaborate "hand receipting" procedure for artifacts accountability that would go off the tracks as soon as a hand receipt holder becomes a casualty. This impacts the "traveling exhibit" question below.

I spent some time talking to Beau Burgess, the curator of the museum, and John Reed trying to get an idea of just what we could do with this material. Since there are no physical items to go along with the documents and photos it is very unlikely that any major museum is going to be interested enough to create some sort of display and if they did agree to accept it, it would likely just end up in storage somewhere. There

might be some interest in the combat photos, although copies of most, if not all, of them are probably available through the National Archives. Correct. Also, John Reed has digitized all of the most important Leyte and Okinawa Signal Corps photos.

We also discussed the possibility of creating a "traveling exhibit" consisting of panels with photos and historical info that could be shipped to different museums for temporary display. There is probably a not insubstantial cost involved in creating and mainlining something like this as well as shipping back and forth. This would entail a lot of work which would have to be paid for, with a caveat that you get what you pay for.

The other option is a "Virtual Museum of the 96th". This seems to be the easiest and most cost-effective option. We already have an established web site and Facebook page. Setting everything up in a suitable format might require the help of someone with a good knowledge of web design in order to get things properly organized and to allow for easy maintenance and updating. There may already be someone in the membership that could help with that. A couple of people might be required initially to get things rolling, but once established it should not be too hard to maintain. We should probably have two or three people involved in that anyway just to spread the work load, especially if they

*(Continued  
on page 13)*



# Deadeye News & Features

Continued from page 12, prior page

## Ft Douglas Museum, Salt Lake City, UT or How I Spent My Summer Vacation

have full time jobs. I know there has been discussion of cross referencing or merging with the “Remember The Deadeyes” site maintained by Bill Hill and his daughter. Has anyone done anything to pursue this? John Reed completely concurs – the best way to memorialize the Deadeyes is to “hang” primary documents relating to their combat on Leyte and Okinawa on a website where folks can access them at their leisure indefinitely.

### Random Thoughts & Observations

Once they found out that we were interested in actually doing something with all of the material that was in storage, the people at Ft Douglas really went to work to help us out. Most of the work of scanning and archiving the material is being done by one individual, Tim Malone. He has a Masters in Library Science and is a librarian for one of the local schools. He has worked at museums in Texas and is a trained archivist. He has been working as a volunteer at Ft Douglas for about three years and has acted as historian for another military unit (the 63rd ARCOM / 63rd Infantry Division) collecting oral histories, organizing rosters and digitizing a lot of their material, so he has a pretty good idea of what needs to be done. Once he got a look at our things he sort of adopted us as a project.

The museum is willing to do all of the grunt work (digitizing, archiving and

indexing) in getting our stuff organized, including the Association records and material, not just the war-era things, and store it all. This is not a small undertaking as a lot of it is not currently well organized and is going to take some time and effort to straighten out. Beau Burgess is also going to create a donation request for 96th memorabilia that can be placed in the Dispatch, along with a 96th specific donation form which will state that if we ever find another organization to maintain the collection we are free to move it. They are really concerned that items of interest or value may be lost because families may dispose of things (read trash) because they don't know what else to do with them. This could also assist in collecting enough material for some worthwhile displays, especially if there is some history or story attached to the items.

### Recommendations

My personal recommendation is that we leave the material at Ft Douglas, at least for the time being, and pursue the virtual museum idea. They are listed as the repository for 96th related material by the CMH. Everything is already there and they are putting a lot of work into getting it organized and manageable. Plus they are enthused about doing it and want to have the material there and available for display. If at some future time someone else expresses interest in what we have, we can discuss moving it.

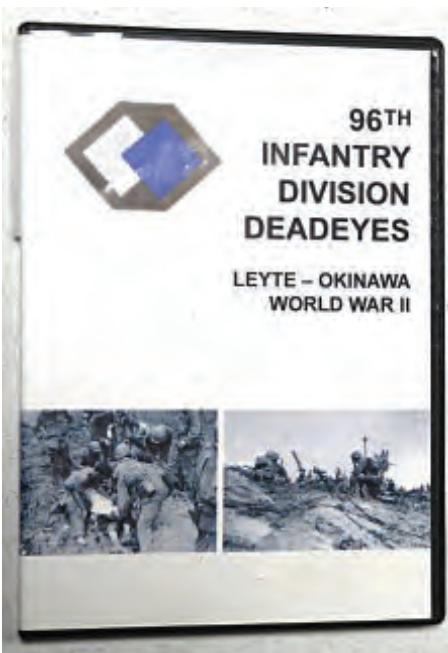
I would like to suggest that the Association or Heritage Fund make two donations to the museum. One to the museum itself for storing and maintaining our material. This could also be an annual gift. The second would be to help defray the cost of the material needed to archive our items. I discussed this with Beau and he can do the research and come up with an actual estimate of the cost of these items, probably in the \$1,000 to \$2,000 dollar range.

I would also like to recommend some type of recognition for Tim Malone, the person who is doing most of the work. He is a volunteer at the museum and is not being compen-



sated in any way for his efforts. A letter of appreciation should be the least we can do, especially if it has a check attached.

I'm hoping that there will be time available during the board meeting to discuss some of this.





# Minneapolis Reunion 2017

## How the "RememberTheDeadeyes" web site began

*Submitted by Deadeye Bill Hill and his daughter, Janet Wharton, founders of the RememberTheDeadeyes.com web site*

**BILL:** My daughter Janet Wharton and I were inspired to begin the website in 2006. We had just attended the great Denver reunion and I had already a few good Deadeye stories in hand. I felt they should in some way be saved for others to read. We kicked the idea around and decided to start a website just to see what we could come up with.

The website officially began on November 11, 2009; Veterans' Day. I started contacting some of my buddies in my company, collected all the stories I could and helped piece their stories together. I had already written my memoirs and I knew places and incidents pretty well.

At reunions, I gathered more details in our bull sessions, and great beer busts. I learned a lot from Don Dencker when I took the Valor tour to Okinawa.

My daughter Janet (a retired school teacher), knew more would be interested in our history and WWII if we provided peripheral information. Ideas popped in our heads and over eight years the site has grown and grown. Janet did the hard tech work for years and organized it into one of the most comprehensive military sites around. We drew a lot of information from many sources on the internet, history books, vets and many movies. After much research, we also provided the life stories of Generals Bradley, Easley, Buckner, and Vice Admiral Spruance.

We have subsequently helped hundreds of Deadeyes and their families by providing them with links to resources and posting stories of their loved ones. We have also researched and posted many tributes. We provided many links to all those interested in the history of WWII and helped preserve the legacy of the Deadeyes as a labor of love. There have been over

35,000 visits to the site in 7 years, and hopefully it has helped everyone remember our men and their sacrifices.

It is incumbent on all of us to encourage the gathering of even more Deadeye stories as time takes its toll.

The site is vested until 2024 and graciously supported by our parent organization; The 96th Infantry Deadeye Association.

Once a Deadeye, always a Deadeye, I am proud to be known by that name. It is the nickname of my old outfit, and deep down; we are all the same.

**JANET:** Our lives certainly changed at the Deadeye reunion in Denver. It was just after the dance; with all the exuberance of the reunion, Dad and I decided to start a website for the purpose of remembering the Deadeyes. I had no idea what all Dad had in mind. It took a while to get things started with what to name this website. We decided right off the he would supply me with articles and Army Life and I would use my technical skills to build this website. The purpose of the site would be to develop a site dedicated to remembering the Deadeyes. So, with that the rememberthedeadeyes.com/ website was born. Two years later on November 11, 2009, we went online.

Working with Dad was a challenge in the beginning, as we didn't speak the same computer language. At this point, he referred to the computer as "those guys." With time and patience on both our parts, he has come a long way. He now knows what to call each entry, such as the Index page is the same as the Home page; that links were the way to go from one page to another, our website to another, and lots of other new words. He works

daily to gather more accurate information we can share. It was his idea to create the bulletin board to keep viewers of new information about what we were doing concerning the Deadeyes.

Dad was not the only one who was learning a new language. I had never understood the language of the military. There were so many terms, so much Army jargon and all those initials for things like BAR, CO, and LST. It was a foreign language which I had to learn. I had to constantly ask Dad to translate these into a term I understood. Thus, we created an Army glossary. There were so many basic ideas to learn and put into website form.

We made pages, even websites, under the RTC website. We posted stories and tributes sent to us by Deadeyes, or from his grieving family. We posted tributes for our soldiers so the family could send extended families to our site so they would know their Deadeye better. Families learned a whole new aspect of the Army life of their father, grandfather. Many had never spoken of their combat experiences.

We created comprehensive pages for Generals Buckner, Easley and Bradley and Admiral Spruance. We also have created pages for other people closely associated with Deadeyes, like Marjory Main and Ernie Pyle. The Queen of Battle page helps people understand the history of the Infantry. There are lots of other interesting pages. You just need to go there to understand the depth of each topic. The teacher in me developed the RTD Musette page to be a resource for teachers, parents and grandparents as they teach the next generations, And it sparks interested in the WWII era.

*(Continued on page 15)*

## THANK YOU, MINNESOTA!

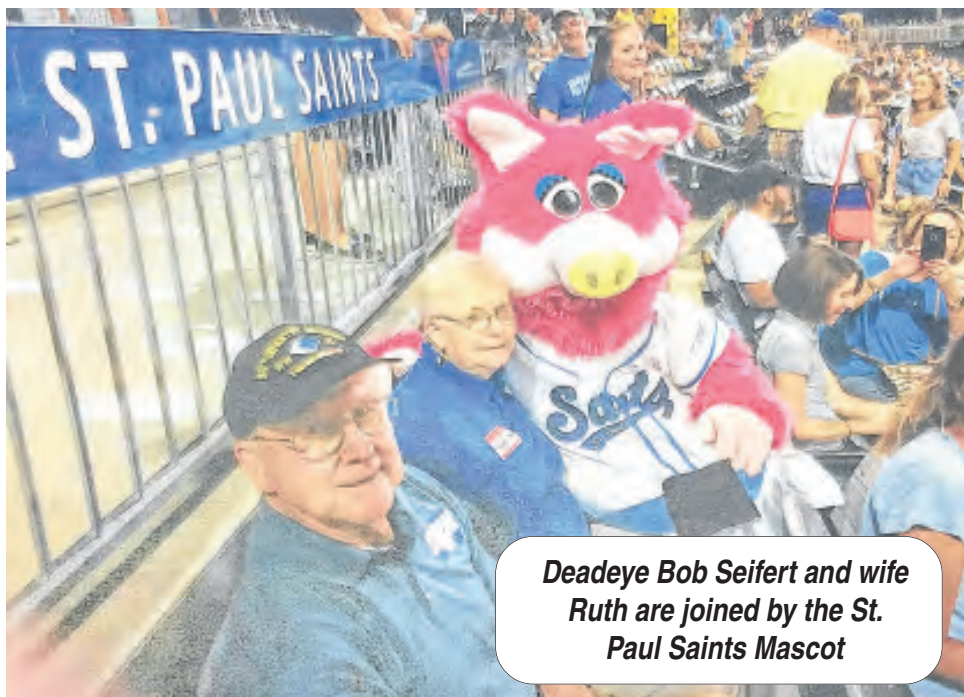
*The Board of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeye Association would like to thank all those volunteers and Minnesota friends who made our 60th Annual Reunion so memorable.*

- The Saint Paul Saints
- The Minnesota History Center
- D'Amico Catering
- Mr. John G. Knapp and Fort Snelling National Cemetery
- The Crown Plaza AiRE Hotel
- Mr. Tony Cook and the Bloomington Convention & Visitor's Bureau
- Bagpiper Cindy Lendt
- Anoka County Chapter #470 of the Vietnam Veterans of America
- Vocalist and Pianist Heidi Satterberg
- Deadeye Granddaughter Jenna Rame, pianist at the Beer Bust and the Banquet
- Deadeye Grandson Sam Rame, assisted at Fort Snelling National Cemetery
- Deadeye Grandchildren who hosted the 2017 Memorial Service
- US Senator Amy Klobuchar
- US Congressman Tom Emmer
- Minnesota State Senator Nolan West
- Ms. Daisy Wallenmeyer
- Ms. Lynne Heuer, Daughter of Deadeye Glenn Stewart
- Rev. Kenneth L. Beale, Jr., US Army Chaplain (Colonel, Retired)
- Northern Star Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Bend in the River Big Band
- Amy & Adams
- The Graner Brothers, Fort Snelling National Cemetery Vocalists
- Lindsey Seavert, KARE 11 Television
- Deadeye Don Dencker
- Deadeye Son Joe Boyack, our faithful photographer
- Bob Feinstein
- David Ellis
- 96th Sustainment Brigade
- Deadeye Son Wayne Farmer, author of "In Memory of my Father"
- Deadeye Grandson Matt Helget, Historian
- The many donors who supported this year's reunion
- Association President Don Klimkowicz

The Minnesota Reunion Committee:  
Deadeye Bob Siefert, Ruth Siefert,  
Deadeye Daughters Bev Herkenratt,  
Sue Schornak, Ruby Winings,  
Barbara Schmidt and Diane O'Brien  
and Deadeye Sons in Law Dennis  
O'Brien and Jim Persoon

# Deadeye Reunion 2017 Photos

Reunion photos  
compliments of  
Barb Schmidt



**Deadeye Bob Seifert and wife Ruth are joined by the St. Paul Saints Mascot**



**Amy & Adams, Minnesota's favorite husband-wife musicians, performed at the Ladies' Luncheon.**



**Senator Klobuchar personally thanked Deadeyes for their service and met with guests following the Wreath-Laying Ceremony.**



**Guest speaker and Philippine-born Daisy Wallenmeyer thanks the Deadeyes in her speech at Fort Snelling National Cemetery**

Continued from page 14

## RememberTheDeadeyes.com

The best thing about all of this has been getting to know each other. There were many times our ideas clashed. I learned so much about my father that I might never have understood. We made it through and now instead of being a father and daughter team, we are now the best of friends.

I appreciate the deep dedication of today's Deadeye. I will be one person of many who will remember the Deadeyes. There will be many more, long after we are gone.

I thank all who have given so freely to fight for our country and for those who have kept the 96th together for all these

years.

*Editor's Note: Back on Manila in 1945, Bill was the City Editor of the Daily Pacifican, an AFWESPAC publication. It had a daily circulation of 45,000. It was Bill's job to write headlines, and articles and help with the paste-up for the linotype operators. They received news by radio. Several of Pacifican staff started out producing it 7 days a week in a musty old building, on desks sitting on dirt floors. The old presses had been used by the Japanese to print occupation money. There is a four-page copy of the Daily Pacifican in Bill's memoirs. He says it was a fond experience that he will always remember and cherish.*



**Minnesota Deadeye Bob Siefert's granddaughter, Jenna Rame, provided piano music as the crowds gathered for the Beer Bust and Banquet. Thank you, Jenna!**

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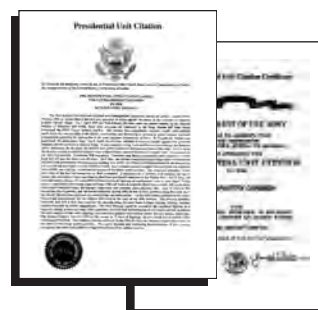
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## 96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division Presidential Unit Citation Documents Available

Two color photo copies: Presidential Unit Citation Certificate and Presidential Unit Citation Text

Cost is \$6.00 per set of two, postage paid

Also available: Philippines Presidential Unit Citation. One page, black & white.  
Cost is \$2.00, postage paid.

Make check to: Donald Dencker,  
222 S Bristol St #328, Sun Prairie, WI  
53590-3042

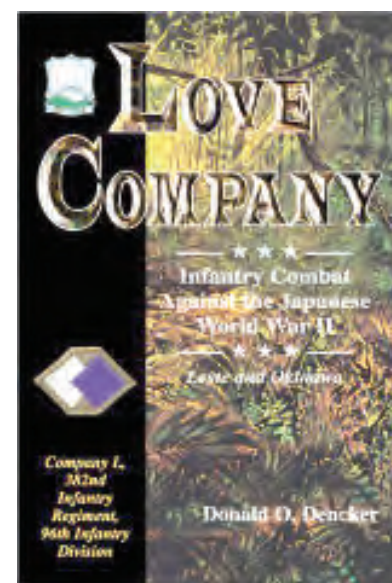


## "Okinawa Etched Deep in My Mind"

*This book by Herman Buffington is again available in a limited quantity.*

Buffington, who passed away in 2014, was a combat infantryman in the last battle of World War II, the Battle of Okinawa. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army's 96th Infantry "Deadeyes" Division and this book is his personal recollection of the battle.

Price is \$10. To have a book mailed to you, send a check for \$13.70 (\$10 plus tax & shipping) to Helen Buffington, 162 Jett Roberts Road, Jefferson, GA 30549. For more information, call 706-614-4354.



## Love Company Book

Author Don Dencker has sale copies of Love Company for \$15.00, postage paid. In this 355 page book, there are 100 photographs, maps, drawings and documents. The regular retail price of Love Company is \$19.95. Royalties from the sale of this book go to the 96th Infantry Deadeye Assn.

To purchase Love Company, send a \$15.00 check made out to: Donald Dencker, 222 S Bristol St #328, Sun Prairie, WI 53590-3042



## New 96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division CD

*This new CD incorporates all four previous CD's, including:*

1. Training in the U.S., Hawaii, Mindoro Island and return to the U.S. and disbandment
2. Battle of Leyte
3. Battle of Okinawa
4. 96th Infantry Division Monuments & Memorials

There are over 300 illustrations and maps in this new 2017 CD.  
All visual - no audio. Cost is \$20.

Make check to:  
Donald Dencker,  
222 S Bristol St #328,  
Sun Prairie, WI 53590-3042.

*All income above CD cost and mailing to go to the Deadeye Association Monument Fund.*