

# DEADEYE DISPATCH

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 96<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION HERITAGE FUND

WINTER/SPRING, 2019

## Heritage Meeting in SLC a Big Success



Deadeyes and their families at the Utah State Capitol for Dining out event on September 8, 2018.

The first annual meeting of the 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund was held this past fall and was deemed a big success by those in attendance.

The event was hosted by the 96th Sustainment Brigade, based in Salt Lake City and included active military personnel as well as Deadeyes and their families who trace their 96th lineage back to World War Two. Six WWII Deadeye veterans were able to make the trip.

Plans for the 2019 Annual Meeting are in the works and the date and site will be announced later this spring.

**Watch the Deadeye web site ([www.96thDeadeyes.org](http://www.96thDeadeyes.org)) or Facebook for details.**

### *It's never been easier to donate!*

Preserve the legacy of the 96th Infantry Division Deadeyes. Go to the [www.96thdeadeyes.org](http://www.96thdeadeyes.org) website and click the 'donate' tab on the home page. You can donate using your PayPal account or your credit card. Help preserve the rich history of this famous and highly decorated Army unit that has participated in defending our country from WWII to the present day. The Deadeyes have monuments, plaques, and displays in places like Okinawa, the Philippines, Ft. Benning Georgia, and at the Museum in Ft. Douglas Salt Lake City dedicated to the 96th, and many more.



We are considering adding a plaque at the The National Museum of the United States Army close to Washington DC as a new project.

Your donation has never been more important. Please consider donating now!

DISPATCH

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE 96TH INFANTRY DIVISION HERITAGE FUND

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

## HELP THEIR LEGACY LIVE ON...

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 were 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 Website will continue to serve the needs of the Heritage Fund in communicating our plans and activities.

It's time for all Deadeyes, families and friends to prepare ourselves for a new mission—a mission in which we purposely shift our focus from the reunions of the past to creating a legacy for the future. This legacy must ensure that the special history of the 96th Infantry Division lives on and that our values of duty, honor and country are shared with generations to come.

The mission of the 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund is to guard the legacies and honor the sacrifices of our 96th veterans. Through oral history preservation, documentary films, educational programs and civic events, the Heritage Fund will work to ensure that Americans fully appreciate--and never forget--the sacrifices made by our 96th Division who have worn the uniform.

The 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization funded by generous donations from people like you. All donations are tax-deductible.

Donations to **HELP THEIR LEGACY LIVE ON** can be made payable to **96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund** and mailed to:

96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund  
Dennis O'Brien, Treasurer  
PO Box 34  
Trempealeau, WI 54661-0034

### 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:

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Email: ddobrien@trivest.net

**Pat McMillan**  
PO Box 2432  
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Phone: 479-200-1841  
Email: pmil45@yahoo.com



## 61 Years of Deadeye Reunion Cities

YEAR	CITY	ST	YEAR	CITY	ST	YEAR	CITY	ST
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
						2018	Salt Lake City	UT

James H. Ahlgren  
Folsom, CA  
October 21, 2018  
HQ Battalion, 381st  
Regiment  
By daughter, Ginger  
Ahlgren Quinn

Arvin Bowman  
Shelbyville, KY  
December 26, 2015  
Co. B, 383rd Infantry  
By niece, Ada Hamilton

Arlie Lawrence Bryant  
Midland, TX  
passed away July 24, 2018  
at 99 years old  
By nephew, David Taggert

Roe Chatham  
Duluth, GA  
Died on December 11, 2018  
Company C, 381st Infantry  
Regiment  
By James Causey

Jack Chiaretta  
Price, Utah  
6/18/2018  
D/381/96  
By, Damon Davis - grandson

Fred Guiliano, PFC  
Philadelphia, PA  
Co. F, 381st Infantry  
January 19, 2009  
By the Guiliano family

Staff Sgt. Richard M.  
Hageboeck  
Mesa AZ  
Co. L, 381st Infantry  
September 10, 2018  
By children, Karen, Patty and  
Greg

Charles E Hoffee  
Mount Erie, IL  
Co. F, 382nd Infantry  
October 14, 2018  
By niece, Carroll Howard

George M. McMahan  
Houston, TX  
November 11, 2018  
Chief Artillery Mechanic,  
796th Ordinance  
By grandson, Craig Powell

William Olcheski  
Falls Church, VA  
died June 3, 2018  
Div Hdqrs  
By daughter, Julie Stirling

Richard Overton  
Austin, TX  
1887th Engineer Aviation  
Battalion  
Died on December 27, 2018  
at the age of 112  
Notice on nationwide news  
and Facebook

Duane Leo Smith  
Minerva, OH  
Co. C, 382nd Infantry  
September 12, 2012  
Martha Lee (Croop)Smith  
November 25, 2017  
By grandson, Jerry Aeling



# Deadeye News & Features

## President's Report by Jim Collins, President, 96th Infantry Division Heritage Fund

### 2019: An Important Year for Heritage Fund

2018 was an important year for the Heritage Fund because we absorbed the Deadeye Association effective 1 Jan 2018. The Deadeye Association has served us for 60 years and now we transition from a social organization to a Corporation focused on preserving the history of the 96th Infantry Division and all units that have evolved from it. This year we are holding an Annual Meeting at Fort Douglas Utah, home of the 96th Sustainment Brigade and the Fort Douglas Museum. A big part of our history is tied to Fort Douglas starting in the 1950's. We plan to have our future Annual Meetings at locations where there are major museums with 96th related content.

Our role now is all about preserving our history and inviting all soldiers who served in the 96th to participate as well as families and friends of those who have served. What a great way for us to continue to meet annually and work together to keep our history alive for generations to come.

The Deadeye Dispatch Edited and Published by Scott Buffington will continue to be a major source of information about the 96th and the Heritage Fund. Scott and his family have been dedicated supporters of the 96th for 60 years. One of our great Deadeye Families.

The Heritage Fund operates with two key committees: History and Fund Raising. They work together to create new displays, monuments and plaques that promote the history and legacy of the 96th Infantry Division. Early on we had Don Dencker and Marvin Margoshes preserving our history. We now have others doing this but need more help. Volunteer. We have more projects than we have people to carry them out.

The Fort Douglas Museum has

one of the best displays honoring the 96th Infantry Division. The Heritage Fund has been providing them a donation every year. The Museum is willing to add more content for the 96th if we are willing to help fund it. This Museum is our partner for the future.

Our Web Site under the direction of David Ellis is key in our efforts to preserve our history. The direction we are going in is to become a Virtual Museum. We can have available on line documents, stories, history, etc that will be a great resource for our families, friends and historians. There is so much to do. Ideas are many but volunteers are few.

We are in good financial condition with \$33,780 in the bank. The Heritage Fund received the remaining funds from the Deadeye Association when it was closed down at the end of 2017. While we have money to spend we want to spend it wisely and at the same time accumulate more so we can do more.

The Annual Meeting for 2018 is the smallest to date. The reasons are not yet fully understood but there are some that we know. First of all we continue to see our fellow soldiers and their loved ones pass on. Our population of WWII veterans is getting smaller every day. This year we have a two day Annual Meeting without organized tours. There may be some who were not interested in attending because of that. Others may have wanted to go somewhere they have not been before. For those that have attended this years event I hope that you enjoy all that is taking place.

A big benefit in coming to Fort Douglas is that we get to be with the 96th Sustainment Brigade at Fort Douglas. They carry the lineage and honors of the 96th Infantry Division. They



Jim Collins  
Major General (Ret)

keep the sacred flame of 96th history alive and at the same time add to the history. There are many WW II Infantry Divisions that do not have this luxury. This year they are our gracious hosts for a day with the soldiers culminated with a Dining Out banquet at the Utah State Capitol Building. We have a bond with these soldiers and we need to continue to be there for them as they draw strength from their history.

One of the ideas we are discussing for a 2019 Annual Meeting is to go back with Armed Forces Reunions and let them take on the job of organizing an event. They arrange reunions in many cities every year. San Antonio is one of their popular sites. So is Washington DC. We would join with one or more other reunion groups meeting at the same time and share hotel and tour expenses. If we are going to continue to have a small group this may be a viable approach.

2019 will be a decision year for the Heritage Fund. Do we even have an Annual Meeting if we cannot get more people involved in directing and operating the Fund. We need new people to join in and more to take on leadership roles. I have been President of the Heritage Fund since 2008 and I am not seeking President for Life status. What we need are more Founding Sponsors and more enthusiastic people to grow what we have created in the Heritage Fund.

### 2019: A year for Transition

We had a fun Annual Meeting in Salt Lake City and Fort Douglas this past September. I think for all who attended it was a great reunion. The 96th Sustainment Brigade and the Fort Douglas Museum did a very good job hosting our visit. Our group was small, under 40 attendees. This is the smallest gathering we have had and perhaps it is what we can expect in the future. While we are seeing fewer attendees we also have fewer volunteers to carry on the Heritage Fund and putting on an Annual Meeting.

In September we invited the post WW II members of the 96th to join us for a brunch. This started a discussion about getting them involved in the Heritage fund and even assuming the leadership. Discussions continue and there is real interest to do this. I believe that we need to achieve a Transition from our current Board membership to one that is made up of the post WW II 96th Soldiers and even some family members of the WWII veterans. The current Board members and our other volunteers serving on our various committees need to be involved with this Transition to make it a success.

The Board of Directors discussed this at the recent 12 January 2019 Board Meeting. The consensus was that our efforts should be directed at achieving a Transition of Leadership before September 2019. Further, we agreed that holding another Annual Meeting at some city here in the US was going to require more volunteer support than what we can provide. Therefore we decided to delay the next Annual Meeting gathering of our Founding Sponsors and Donors to 2020. The next Board will take on this task.

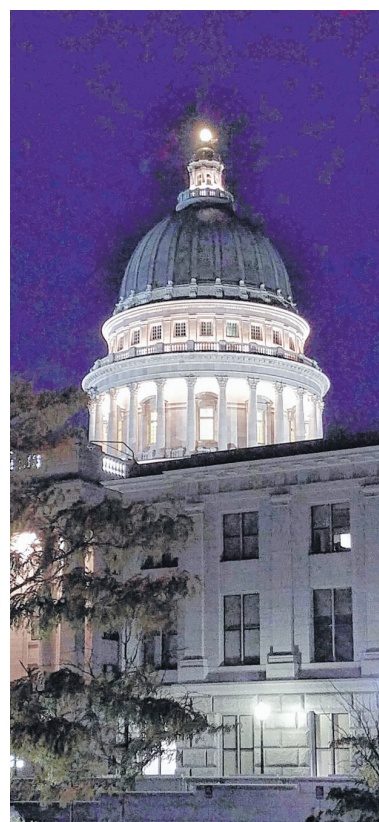
There is no guarantee that this plan will be a success but if we don't try our future is going to be questionable. We need new volunteers, new leaders, new ideas, new sponsors/donors and new energy. The post WWII 96th Soldiers and Civilian Employees are the answer. Will they step up to this opportunity? We will keep you posted on how this Transition proceeds.



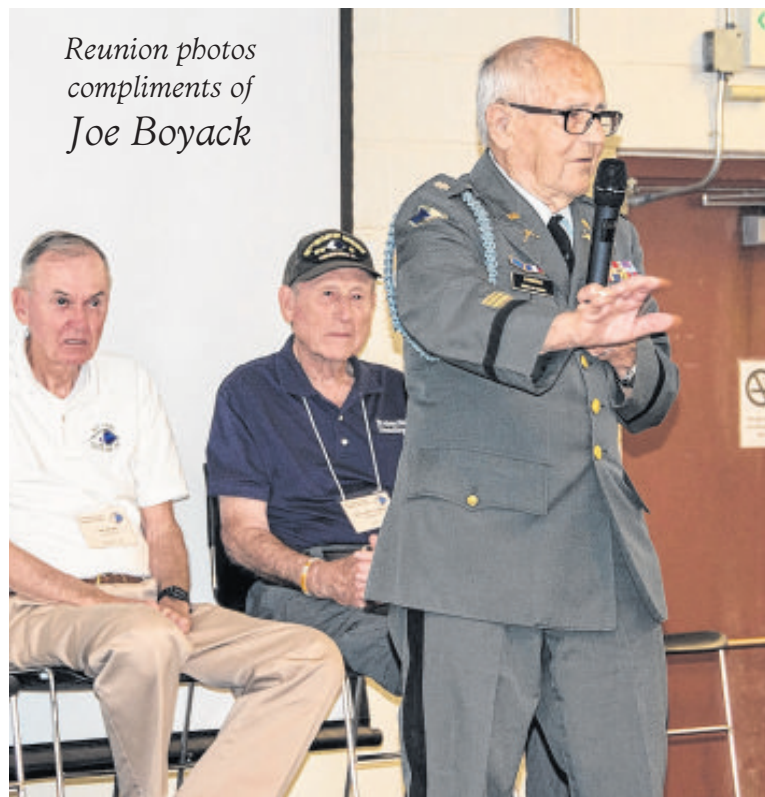
# Annual Meeting 2018 - Salt Lake City



Annual Meeting photos compliments of Joe Boyack



# Annual Meeting 2018 - Salt Lake City



*Reunion photos compliments of Joe Boyack*





# Deadeye News & Features

## Veterans Day Weekend at the Pacific War Museum

- Submitted by Deadeye Daughter, Liz Moroz Harper -



Here are photos taken on Saturday of Veterans Day Weekend at the Pacific War Museum beginning with the 96th Infantry Division Plaque and including ones inside the Bush Galley with Jim Foster and his daughters in the Okinawa Room.



The very last photo is also from Veterans Day Weekend but was taken on Sunday in Allen, TX (my hometown) where Harvey Webb was the featured speaker; thought you'd enjoy seeing Harvey, his family, and Tim Malone who joined us.



I did a lot of driving that weekend but was honored to spend my weekend with our 96th Veterans!

The National Museum of the Pacific War is located in Fredericksburg, Texas, the boyhood home of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. Nimitz served as CinCPAC, Commander in Chief, United States Pacific Fleet and was soon afterward named Commander in Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas during World War II.



# Deadeye News & Features

## Letter to the Deadeye Dispatch



Dear Editor:

You will be receiving a set of photos over the internet. The photos will show our efforts to promote the heritage of the 96th Infantry Division here in Holland , PA. (About 5 miles North of Northeast Philadelphia city limits).

We live in a Continuing Care Retirement Community. We have a brand new garden with a concrete patio used to install memorial bricks. We have such a brick to honor the 1500+ Deadeyes K.I.A. during the Leyte and Okinawa campaigns. Our memorial brick will be installed in a prominent location later this year. Our garden is visited by residents, relatives and guests every day.

We hope this information can be useful for you to promote the heritage of our wonderful 96th Division. I have additional material which may serve the cause and I will trust your judgement for suitability.

Sincerely,  
Leonard "LAZ" Lazarick  
CO K 382nd Infantry



Letter from Jan Wharton

Hi to all who love the 96th Division Deadeyes:



Deadeyes Remembered is ready for printing. These will be printed by a fine art service on canvas, signed within by the artist (beside the mortar) and numbered. Robert Gibbs uses crayon as his medium.

They are available in two sizes: 24 X 30 (\$75) and 16 X 20 (\$65). There will only be 30 printed of each size, and they will be numbered. Images on the internet will always be watermarked so no one can print those. The title will not be on the front. Please let me know, right away, so I will know how many of each to print next week. They will be numbered in the order of orders received.

I will ship them by December 17th so they will be ready for gift giving. Orders need to be sent to me by email at janben.wharton@gmail.com. If you have questions, please feel free to email me. If you know of someone who would want to know this, please let them know. We wouldn't want to miss anyone.

Thanks!  
Janet Hill Wharton  
(Daughter of Deadeye Bill Hill)

Five aspects of being a Deadeye are represented: Tank, Jeep in the Mud, Mortars, Comforting, and Kneeling. The double diamond emblem is in the middle with maps of Okinawa and Leyte. In the background is a 48 star flag.

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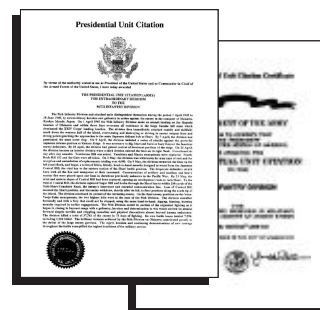
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## 96<sup>TH</sup> Infantry Division Presidential Unit Citation Documents Available

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

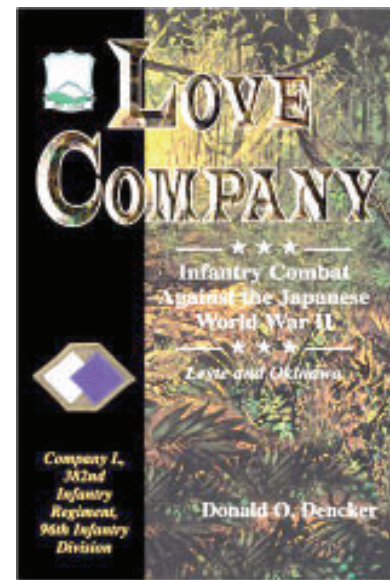


## "Okinawa Etched Deep in My Mind"

*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.*