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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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11-1-2005

## The Octofoil, November/December 2005

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# THE OCTOFOIL

224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580 THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Volume LX Number 5 Nov.-Dec., 2005

## NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION WORCESTER MEMORIAL SERVICE Worcester, Mass. - October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2005

I can't remember an "After-Action Report" being written to cover our Memorial Services at the Immaculate Conception R. C. Church and the luncheon that followed before now, but I'm going to give it a try. If I remember correctly John Bonkowski usually had a few lines to cover the situation. Alas, Rose and John were among the missing this year for the first time in a very long while. We pray for their well-being.

The importance of this particular Memorial Service was noticed by the people who had attended both the 2005 Association Reunion in Arlington and our humble services here in Worcester.

**This was the ONLY MEMORIAL SERVICE held for  
THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
in the year 2005.**

As the "Taps" were played and then re-echoed throughout the church, we thought of the official count of the 4581 men killed and the additional 750 more listed as missing. Then we thought of the Association members who have since gone on to their final reward. So many good friends, so many fine companions have passed our way that it staggers the imagination as we recalled the totals of how many have left this life for the great beyond.

At the conclusion of the Mass inside, we assembled near the flagpole to say a few more words and to receive a blessing from Father Bill Champlin. The weather was dry with a bit of a chill in the breeze. The crowd is getting fewer and fewer as the years go by. The days of a big parade of members on Gold Star Blvd is but a distant memory. We who still remain are determined to continue our duty of paying homage to the heroes of the Ninth, our buddies, for as long as it is humanly possible.

We adjourned to the Holiday Inn on Lincoln Street for our lunch and Father Bill Champlin joined us there also. Because we are fewer in numbers now, we no longer dine in the atrium. We are off to a different room now, a bit smaller but adequate. Whoever had thoughts and remembrances that they wanted to express for the occasion were invited to the rostrum. John W. Delmore did a reading of a fitting poem; Jim Trella read a letter that he had written to all of the WW II veterans. Herb Olsen did his usual outstanding job of arraigning the reception and Pauline did a wonderful job of gift giving. God bless the Olsens.

Those in attendance were Dwight D. Merrill, his two sons John and Rick with daughter-in-law Barbara; John Bosko and Alexandria, his son Phillip with wife Sandra; Henry and Theresa Shimkoski, Albert and Marge Ferrante, George H. and Janet Brown, Emma and Joe Killen, Charles J. and Madeline Reagan, William and Patricia Shea, John Losnes, Charles and Mary McLhinney, John W. Delmore, Woody Ford, Richard Martin, Larry McLaughlin and Gil Pernokas. We were pleased to welcome first-time attendees Jim Trella, a history buff; and Gail Eisenhower, the daughter of Lt. John Eisenhower, who was KIA while serving with Co. K, 60th Inf. in the Huertgen Forest. Gail is doing a great job of helping the American War Orphans Network (AWON) with research and helping people find closure regarding their missing loved ones.

The food was delicious. The portions were filling without leaving you feeling bloated. As the late Tom Boyle used to say, "We were on the way home by 3 o'clock." The reason for the trip and the results make it all worthwhile.

YES, VIRGINIA, THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION DID HAVE A MEMORIAL SERVICE IN 2005, but not where you thought it was going to happen.

JPK

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## FINAL REPORT

### 2005 NATIONAL REUNION NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

The financial statement showing the final accounting of the 2005 Reunion Committee appears on page 8 in this issue. I had to wait until the end of November to get the last bank statement to make sure all the money was accounted for. We had an unprecedented turnout for this reunion. There were 148 rooms used in the hotel, resulting in 272 people staying in the hotel for various lengths of stay. In addition, there were enough extras who came in for individual events, so that the total number of participants in this reunion was 336.

The hotel did an outstanding job, and there were many compliments made by our membership about the hotel and its staff. There were a few minor complaints, but those were settled very quickly.

I want to thank the members of the Reunion Committee: Richard Cohen and his wife Lois; John Sabato and his wife Peggy; and Jackie Armstrong. Together we had a great time putting this reunion together, and we hope everyone was satisfied with the results.

There are still some baseball caps, decals, and photos of the WW II Memorial available. For baseball caps and decals, contact Joe Killen, National Secretary. For additional copies of the WW II Memorial photo, contact me, Bill Robey.

I am very happy with the turnout of our Sons and Daughters and grandchildren. There were about 140 of them at this reunion. The Board of Governors made the Sons and Daughters group officially an auxiliary of the Association at the Board meeting on Friday, 24 September 2005. They are now working to establish their own organization, setting up by-laws and electing their officers for the coming year. A report on this part of our organization was in the last Octofoil. Be sure to read it.

I have been asked to serve as Chairman of the 2006 Reunion Committee, and a full report on the preparations for that were in the previous Octofoil. Please read all of that article, and most of your questions will be answered there. If you need to contact me, see the reservation form for my address and phone numbers.

ONE CORRECTION TO THE ARTICLE ABOUT THE NEXT REUNION THAT APPEARED IN THE LAST OCTOFOIL

The amounts shown in the article on the front page are wrong. The costs shown in the reservation form are correct, so use those to figure how much you will owe for the reunion in Branson.

The correct prices PER PERSON are as follows:

Single	Double	Triple	Quad
\$498.00	\$395.00	\$360.00	\$295.00

Respectfully submitted,

William G. Robey, 15th Engr  
General Chairman 60th Reunion

\*\*\*\*\*

THE OCTOFOIL

224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, NY 11580

Editor: Joe Killen

(516) 561 - 7346

National Officers

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Jack A. Collier

Thomas W. Hatton, 1st V. P.

Everett N. Tapp, 2nd V. P.

Emil P. Langer, 3rd V. P.

George H. Brown

Judge Advocate

Joseph P. Killen

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Newton, MA

Herbert U. Stern

Houston, TX

Published four times yearly: September, December, March and June by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

Copy must be received on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month of publication to guarantee publication on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

POST MASTER: Send address changes to 224 North Grove Street, Valley Stream, NY 11580.

Volume LX Number 5

Nov. - Dec. 2005

61<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL REUNION

FRIDAY to SUNDAY - OCT 6, 7, & 8, 2006

RADISSON HOTEL BRANSON

120 SOUTH WILDWOOD DRIVE

BRANSON, MISSOURI 65616

Make payments by CHECK OR MONEY ORDER payable to "61st Reunion 2006"

Mail the completed Registration Form with the check to:

William G Robey, Reunion Chairman

Deposits of \$150 per person must be made by April 15, 2006. Final payment MUST BE MADE BY AUGUST 15, 2006.. Reservations made after Aug 15, 2006, will be subject to room availability. If final payment is not made by August 15, 2006, then deposit will be refunded. All reservations must be made with this form. **DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL DIRECT.** For more information, call Bill Robey, toll free at 1-866-229-2377, pin# 3322. You may use a copy of the registration form if you do not want to cut up your Octofoil.

9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association Room Reservations

Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

9<sup>th</sup> Div Unit (Regt, Co. Btry): \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone- Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Work: \_\_\_\_\_

If other than M/M, I will share with: \_\_\_\_\_

E Mail (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Special requests:(Handicap Room, special diet, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

ROOM RATES PER PERSON: for our 3 night stay, which includes rooms, beer party, banquet, bus trans to Branson Belle Steamer, 3 breakfasts, including gratuities for these events only, and Saturday night entertainment on the Branson Belle.

Accommodations: Please indicate: **These prices are PER PERSON.**

SINGLE	DOUBLE	TRIPLE	QUAD
\$498.00	\$395.00	\$360.00	\$295.00

Hotel will give us the same special rate for 3 days before and 3 days after our reunion for those who want to stay longer in Branson. Please indicate on form if you wish extra days. Cost will be added to above. The costs for meals, etc., will be figured separately for those who only want to attend functions and not stay at the hotel. Check with Bill Robey at above phone number for these costs.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Make checks payable to: Ninth Infantry Division Association, Inc.

Send to: Joe Killen, Secretary & Treasurer, 9th Infantry Division Association

Enclosed please find dues for:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I was a member of: \_\_\_\_\_

Battery \_\_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment \_\_\_\_\_ Other 9<sup>th</sup> Unit \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to sign up for the following:

Life Membership \_\_\_\_\_ a one time fee of \$75.00

THREE - YEAR MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00

Regular Member per year \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00

Sustaining Member \_\_\_\_\_

Memorial Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Ninth Infantry Division Assn Decals \_\_\_\_\_ 2 for \$1.00

Chapter to be designated:

Greater New York \_\_\_\_\_ Michigan \_\_\_\_\_

Illinois \_\_\_\_\_ Florida \_\_\_\_\_

Texas and the Greater South West \_\_\_\_\_

"Don't look at me, lady. I didn't do it."

# TIP OF THE HAT

*We thank the following members and friends for remembering the Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.*

**Jack A. Collier** in memory of **Henry Golabiecki**, a very dear friend.

**Emery W. "Hank" Berghorn** in memory of his buddies in the 26th F. A. Bn.

**Herbert U. Stern** in memory of **Felice Perna** and her many contributions to the Association.

**Claude Berghorn** in memory of his father, **Emery W. "Hank" Berghorn** of the 26th F.A. Bn.

**Alex T. Forrest** in loving memory of his departed wife, **Olive**.

**Sam Trapasso** in memory of **Michael Wengryn**, Co. C & Service Co., 47th Inf.

**Helen M. Holmes** in memory of her husband, **Joseph A. Lagattuta** & his buddies of Co. K - 47th Inf.

**Edwin Lusk** in memory of his Co. M - 60th Inf. buddies, **Wilfred M. Thornton**, **Carl Brady** and **Al Bruchac**.

**Boni Campos** in memory of **Wilfred M. Thornton**, **George Brum** and all Co. M - 60th Inf. men who are no longer with us.

**William H. Nelson** in memory of **Bill Doty** and **George Booth**, both members of the 39th Inf.

**Emil P. Langer** in memory of **Calvin H. Harms**, I Co. and Service Co., 47th Inf.

**William J. Rybka** in memory of **Mrs. Anne Lesko**, widow of **Joe Lesko**, Hq. Btry. 84th F. A.

**Louis M. Prince** in memory of **William O. "Bill" Rockwood**, 60th Field Artillery Bn.

**James F. Hart, Jr.** in memory of his Co. K - 60th Inf. buddies who are no longer here.

**Paul W. J. Schumacher** in memory of **William Doty** of Co. K, 39th Inf.

**Mike and Ann Belmonte** in memory of **David H. Heller** of the 1st Bn. Hq. Co. - 60th Inf. and the Association's long time Judge Advocate and a Past President.

**Everett Tapp** in memory of **Henry Golabiecki**, **Felice Perna**, wife of **Al Perna** and **General William C. Westmoreland**.

**Bill Van Ryn** in memory of his dad, **George M. Van Ryn** who was KIA while with Co. G - 47th Inf, and **Jim Miller** of 3rd Bn. Hq. Co. - 39th Inf, a good friend.

**George H. Brown** in memory of **Henry Golabiecki** and **Mike Wengryn**, both of Co. C, 47th Inf. and **Jack Lannon** of the 34th F. A. Bn.

**Jerome Tishler** in memory of the men of the 2nd Bn. Hq. Co., 39th Inf.

**Allen J. Kelley** in memory of the men of Co. G and Service Co., 47th Inf.

**John Bonkowski** in memory of **Henry Golabiecki**, **Donna Dawson**, **Felice Perna**, **Bill Andrews**, **Billie Martin** and **Matt Urban**.

**Joe Killen** in memory of **John H. Maloney** of the 9th Military Police Platoon

**John J. Clouser** in memory of **Emery W. "Hank" Berghorn**, of Hq. Btry, 26th F.A., and **David H. Heller**, our 1988 National President and long time Judge Advocate of the Assn.

**The deadline for submission of copy  
for the next issue is  
MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006**

**Jim Trella**

I hope you can read my handwriting. I apologize for the company letterhead, but I'm at work right now. You sent me a copy of the "Octofoil" back in April of this year and I still have it. I enjoy picking it up and reading it again and again. I have been researching the 9th when I can get spare time.

I knew the division symbol was the Octofoil, but came to know of its other nicknames, "Old Reliables" and "Hitler's Nemesis". I became more in awe of you guys each time I read something about the 9th.

I am enclosing a letter I wrote last year. I guess you could call it a tribute, but more of a "Thank you". (Editor's note: Jim was persuaded to read his letter at the luncheon after our Worcester Memorial service.) I give or send it to WW II veterans whenever I can. I plan on attending the 9th Memorial Service in Worcester in October. I hope I get to shake your hand.

Take care and God bless.

Sincerely, Jim Trella

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To The United States Armed Forces Veterans of WW II:

You served America and mankind with such quiet distinction and selflessness. You have often been described as ordinary men, doing extraordinary things, during a perilous time. It is my feeling, that you are anything but ordinary. You are only ordinary on the outside.

Your sense of purpose, of right and wrong, desire to contribute to society and to lead a good and decent life are most certainly uncommon traits.

I hope that I and all Americans, who have lived so comfortably on the fruits of your many sacrifices, haven't let you down, because you certainly didn't let all of US down.

As for me, I will forever hold the Veterans of WW II with the greatest respect, admiration and unwavering gratitude. You were, and still are, the best America has to offer.

With Great Thanks,

Sincerely,

Jim Trella

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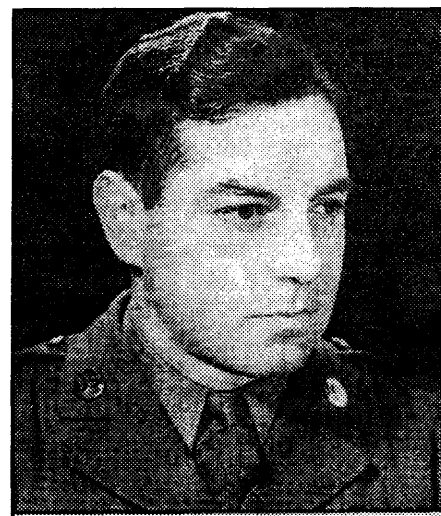
## A Farewell Tribute to David H. "Doc" Heller

Dave Heller was born in 1920, and between then and December 19, 2005 when he died of complications from prostate cancer, he lived an exceptionally full and diversified life. His wife, Dvora said, "He was a calm man given to bursts of intense activity, a stickler for details who moved between subject areas with an exhaustive intellect and then moved on." Dave was a biology teacher and garden show judge, a decorated veteran and a scholar of Jewish history. In the turbulent period of the late 60's, Dave Heller started as dean of Chicago's Loop College and then was named its first president in 1970. After he retired from the classroom in 1985, he volunteered at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

Dave served in the medical detachment assigned to the 1st Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, where he received the Silver and Bronze Stars —awards for conspicuous combat gallantry, which he denied. Later this Lifetime Member served as a long time Judge Advocate of our Association and in 1988 was elected our National President. Besides overseeing our By-Laws, in 1990, Dave found time to compile a Directory of the members which is still in use today.

He is survived by his wife, Dvora; two daughters, Lynn MacBeth and Miriam Bader; a brother, Eugene; and four grandchildren. We were very fortunate and blessed to have this multi-talented man laboring in our midst for as long as he did. May he rest in peace.

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## TAPS SOUNDED

*The muffled drum's sad roll has beat the soldier's last tattoo;  
No more on life's parade shall meet that brave and fallen few.  
On Fame's eternal camping-ground their silent tents are spread,  
And Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead.*

## TAPS SOUNDED

**John H. Maloney**  
9th Military Police Pltn.

**William Doty**  
Co. K - 39th Inf.

**David H. "Doc" Heller**  
1st Bn. Hq. Co. - 60th Inf.

**Louis A. Pandolfi**  
C Btry - 60th F. A. Bn.

**Emery W. "Hank" Berghorn**  
Hq. Btry. - 26th F. A. Bn.

**William O. Rockwood**  
A Btry. - 60th F. A. Bn.

**Lucian B. "Hutch" Hutchinson**  
Hq. Btry. - 84th F. A. Bn.

**Robert F. Gordon**  
Co. L - 39th Inf.

**Frederick Swanke**  
B Btry. - 84th F. A. Bn.

**John "Jack" Lannon**  
Hq. Btry. - 34th F. A. Bn.

**Calvin H. Harms**  
I Co. & Service Co. - 47th Inf.

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### Headquarters Battery, 26th F. A. Bn.

**Claude Berghorn**

Enclosed find a donation in memory of my father, Emery W. Berghorn, of Headquarters Battery, 26th Field Artillery who passed away December 5, 2005 during an eight day hospital stay. He left us peacefully at age 93, but not before explaining the symbolism of the Octofoil to one of his care-givers who was wearing a medallion of similar design on her blouse. He was most proud of the Ninth Infantry Division and his service in it, as I am proud of him. He was a good man who lived a good life. He was buried with military honors at Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO as he wanted to be with his "buddies". Please include him in the "Taps Sounded" Roll of the next Octofoil. I believe his dues for 2006 are current and if possible would like to continue to receive the Octofoil as we both enjoyed reading it together. Thank you for sending the 26th F. A. pin along with the hat. I have pinned it to the hat as I know he would have done and I will treasure it always.

Sincerely,  
Claude Berghorn

P.S. Dad requested that memorials to him be made by contribution to the Association. I hope this is all right. Any donations made in his name by non-Association members need not be acknowledged in the Octofoil. Maybe after 6 months or so you could send me a list of names, but only if you wish to do so. Thanks.

Claude

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### Headquarters Battery, 26th F. A. Bn.

**John J. Clouser**

I have received word that Emery, "Hank" Berghorn, Motor Section, Hdqtr. Btry. 26th F. A. Bn. died December 5, 2005. His son Claude informed me of his passing. He had congestive heart failure and Pneumonia. He was ailing for some time and was in the hospital eight days when he died. "Hank" was a very capable and respected motor mechanic.

After his discharge from the Army in 1945, Hank returned to Illinois and farmed near Crystal Lake. He attended the National Reunions held in Illinois, the Mid-West Reunions in Chicago, and occasional chapter meetings.

With assistance from his son Claude, he was able to re-establish contact with former members of the battalion. These members include LTC Evert Strong, Bn. C.O., Capt. James Ledbetter, Hdq. Btry C.O., Don Rolar, Bill Bongiorno, and myself.

He was buried with full military honors provided by the United States Army.

John

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### Co. C - 47th Inf

**Beth Wolff**

It is with much sadness to inform you that my grandfather, Henry J. R. Golabiecki, at age 94, passed away on October 25, 2005 after suffering a stroke shortly after returning home from the D.C. Reunion. From February 1944 to October 1945, he was a rifleman in Company C, 47th Infantry. He was awarded the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds received in action at Mosbeck, Germany and at Hofen, Germany, as well as receiving the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, the Distinguished Unit Citation and the EAME campaign medal with 5 campaign stars.

In the days of the horse-drawn milk wagons, Henry was a driver for Hess & Bement Dairy Co. Henry was retired from Gohr Distributing Co. after 33 years as a beer truck driver. Henry was a Lifetime member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association for 60 years, attending all but seven annual reunions. He was also an active member of Post 2429, Veterans of Foreign Wars in Cheektowaga, NY.

Surviving are his wife Evelyn of 70 years, his two daughters, JoEllen Bray of Charlotte, NC and Joan Wolff of Cheektowaga, NY along with three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

My grandfather was very proud of his service and of the 9th Division. He enjoyed the Division Reunions and the Octofoil newsletters. The D. C. Reunion was his crowning glory, to be there with his wife, two daughters and granddaughter and to be able to visit the WW II Memorial, Arlington Cemetery and Matt Urban's Gravesite.

Sincerely,  
Beth Wolff.

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### Battery B - 84th F. A. Bn.

**Mrs. Leona Swanke**

It is with a heavy heart that I have to inform you that my beloved husband, Frederick Swanke has gone on to meet his maker. He served his country as a member of the 9th Infantry Division in Battery B of the 84th Field Artillery Battalion right from the days at Fort Bragg up to the wars end on the Elbe River.

Fred earned a Bronze Star Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Medal and the EAME Theatre Medal with the 8 battle stars during the four and one-half years that he was with the Division. He was an excellent husband to me throughout the years. He was 86 years old when he passed away. I have enclosed a photo of Fred that was taken in 1943 somewhere in Sicily, Italy.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Leona Swanke

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CHAPTER NEWS

THE TEXAS AND GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

Returning once again to the Summer’s Mill Resort, the Chapter met November 3-4, 2005 for it’s semi-annual meeting. This time we met in an 1870’s restored farm house. With five bedrooms, a modern bath for each room, a formal living room, dining room that seated fourteen, modern kitchen and expansive deck dominated by centuries old pecan trees, we “roughed it” under clear blue skies. Most of us live in urban environments where city lights dominate the night time sky. Here we could see why the song we used to sing had words, “the stars at night are big and bright, deep in the heart of Texas.”

Happy hour started at 5:00 PM on November 3 and was served on the outdoor deck overlooking the Lampasas River. Across the meadow stood the dam and grist mill, which dates back over a hundred years.

As always, the ladies outdid themselves with the refreshments. Homemade liver pate, three cheese log, fresh fruit compote, various dips and chips held up the nutritional side. Various wines and soft drinks mellowed the group. We then adjourned to the main lodge for a catered dinner.

The next morning, a hot breakfast was brought to the Happy Valley Lodge.

Jack Blann, Chapter President called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by John Miller. Secretary/ Treasurer Herb Stern reported the minutes of the previous meeting and gave the financial report, which was approved.

A report was given on the National Convention held in Washington, D.C. The attendees expressed their appreciation for the job National President, Bill Robey, and his crew had done in providing a well executed meeting. He made a great choice in choosing the Crystal City Marriott. Attendees from Texas were M/M Jack Blann, Charles Scheffel, Gordon Schneider, M/M David Baker, whose father had served with the 47th and the 60th, both in Co. E. M/M Herb Stern from Houston had planned to attend but the day they were to leave, Hurricane Katrina prevented them from getting to the Houston Airport. At Least, we were able to get Herb elected to the National Board of Governors.

It was good to see Alice Granbery (widow of Dick - Recon) again after Dick’s demise. Ken Meyer’s daughter and her new husband Ken were able to join us for dinner. W M (Dub) and Betty Lynch had recently come down from Oklahoma to minister at his church and had a luncheon with M/M John Miller.

Attendees at our meeting were: M/M Jack Blann; Alice Granbery; M/M John Miller; M/M Willard Norris; Pete Rice; Gordon Schneider; and M/M Herb Stern.

Our next meeting will be in April, 2006, returning to the Summer’s Mill Resort. Hopefully by then Ernie and Rose Botella’s health will allow them to join the group.

For those of us in the Southwest, The choice of Branson, MO for our next National Convention sounds like a winner.

Gordon A. Schneider



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MICHIGAN CHAPTER AND NINTH RECON

The Octofoil arrived at the end of November, and again it was sad to see all of the names listed in the Taps Sounded column. Henry Golabiecki, Jim Dawson’s daughter Donna, and Al Perna’s wife Felice were among those that we knew. May they all rest in peace and may the Eternal Light shine upon them.

From what we have read and heard, the 60th Reunion was enjoyed by all who attended. The next one will take place for the first time in the state of Missouri, and that sounds great. However, we’re wondering what effect it will have on the Memorial Weekend in Worcester, MA which is always scheduled for October.

Due to the tight schedule, there was no group assembly at Matt Urban’s Memorial site. However 1st Vice President Tom Hatton and Tom Saunders were among those who managed to pay their respects. They were also very impressed with the monument.

Floyd Hennessey, who’s been making an annual pilgrimage to Arlington National Cemetery for about the last 15 years, has paused at Matty Urban’s memorial and liked what he saw.

On December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, the Michigan Chapter met once again in Frankenmuth, MI at the Bavarian Inn Restaurant for their annual Christmas Party. Although Rose and I weren’t up to par, we made the 78 mile trip from our home on a cold but clear day. Chapter President Jim Dawson couldn’t attend this fine occasion, and we missed a chance to express our condolences on the loss of his daughter Donna. But we did have the opportunity to thank Chapter Secretary Marge Wisniewski who called a day earlier to ask if we needed a ride to the get-together.

It was cheerful to see Lucille Andrews and we thank her daughter Sue for bringing her Mom to our Ninth Infantry Division doings where we all share many memories of years gone bye. Lucille is the widow of Bill Andrews (39th Infantry and 26th Field Artillery) who in our memory was always a gentleman. She gets around with the help of a four-prong cane, the same as I do. No one knows who would win if we were challenged to a four-pronger race, but who cares as long as they help to take us places !

Marilyn Martin was also with us, and we thank 2nd Vice President Everett Tapp for bringing her to our doings whenever possible. Marilyn is the widow of Billie Martin ( Battery “A” 26th Field Artillery). He was a world traveler, an excellent photographer and we miss his fine humor. Many of the Association’s doings are recorded in his photo albums that we get to see now and then. It was a pleasure to be there in Frankenmuth among our friends after missing the Chapter Picnic last July at Mary Doering’s lovely place in Alto, MI. If all goes well we will have another chance as Mary offered to host the picnic again next August.

The year 2005 was the 10th Anniversary of Matty Urban’s death. It was also the year that he was eligible to be honored with a Commemorative U. S. Postage Stamp. It didn’t happen even with the thousands upon thousands of signatures collected on petitions that were distributed across the Country. It is hard to believe how many have never heard

GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER

At 1:00 PM on Friday, November 17, 2005, the NY Area Chapter met at the Franklin Square Public Library in Franklin Square, Long Island, NY. First VP Tony Varone chaired the meeting due to the absence of President Ed Leddy who was in the hospital. Varone led the eight attending members in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and our resident Chaplain Joe Killen gave the convocation. A moment of silence was observed for our buddies who had passed away in the war and since. An acknowledgment was also given to our country’s MIAs and POWs .

Reading of the minutes and the financial report were suspended to take advantage of the hot pizza lunch Secretary/ Treasurer Joe Maiale had provided. While we ate the Italian repast, we had an open discussion on both the positive and negative events that had or had not occurred at the National Reunion in Arlington, VA.

SICK CALL

Some correspondence had been received by the Chapter, to note: Frank Fazio is now living with his daughter in Mountville, PA. Joe Rzesniowiecki was too ill to attend this meeting. Bill Muldoon’s wife Joan has undergone a mastectomy operation. President Ed Leddy will take up residence with his son in East Patchogue after he is released from the hospital. The distance from East Patchogue to our meeting place in Franklin Square would require much more effort on Ed’s part than he can exert at present. To all our sick friends wherever they may be, the Chapter wishes them a speedy recovery.

Some discussion about the reunion was resumed. The few members from the NY Chapter who attended the reunion were not pleased with how some of the traditional events that should have taken place were either mishandled or overlooked entirely. After other general discussion, the meeting was adjourned around 3:00PM and we headed home to anticipate the Happy Thanksgiving feast to come.

Those attending, but not mentioned above: Joe Charvat; Anton Dietrich; Ed Harris; Adolph Wadalavage and Al Zenka.

NEW YORK CHAPTER HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

On December 16, 2005 the NY Chapter met at our regular command post in the Franklin Square Public Library for our annual Holiday Luncheon. Joe and Sadie Maiale set up hot chafing dishes containing Italian specialty holiday food and a four foot long super hero filled with a variety of cold cuts before the Chapter members arrived. Also, Marv and Barbara Levy added a festive touch of gift bags for each member containing different flavored coffee-filled spoons.

ELECTION OF CHAPTER OFFICERS

At 1:00 PM members arrived to the holiday-decorated community room in the library. A short meeting was held, suspending the minutes and financial report. Official nominations of officers and election was abbreviated with a move-up of each chair making 1st VP Tony Varone— President Varone for the year 2006. The rest of the Officers and the Board of Governors will be installed at our March 17th, 2006 meeting. (There will be no meetings in January and February winter months.)

The Luncheon

The library staff was invited to join us for lunch. After their lunch break, the staff returned to their library duties and our ladies chatted at one table while Ninthmen batted the breeze at another. Many returned for seconds to sample the varied Italian fare. To top off the festivities a drawing for a donated fruit cake from Adolph Wadalavage was won by Joe Charvat. Everyone thanked Joe and Sadie for their culinary effort and after “policing the area” each member took home leftovers. Expressions of “Merry Christmas”, “Happy Channuka”, “Happy New Year” wishes were exchanged and everyone left by 3:30 PM.

Attending members and spouses were: Joe and Betty Charvat, Ed Harris, Joe and Emma Killen, Marv and Barbara Levy, Joe and Sadie Maiale, John Tschupp, Tony and Viola Varone, Adolph Wadalavage, and Al and Genevieve Zenka.

2006 Dues

Now is the time to pay your dues for 2006 - - and beyond if you wish. It’s \$10 for one year, \$25 for 3 years and \$75 for a Lifetime Membership. Checks should be made payable to: The NY Area Chapter, 9th Infantry Division Assn, and mailed to Treasurer Joseph Maiale, [REDACTED]

Ninthmen everywhere - - Have a safe and healthy Winter ! !

Marv Levy, Co A - 60th Inf.



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of this American hero. Just like in his lifetime, nothing came easy for Matty. Our effort will go on until this is corrected and he is given the recognition and honor that he deserves.

As we’re trying to get these notes out in time for the Octofoil deadline during this busy season, we want to thank everyone for all of the Christmas Cards received. Rose joins me in wishing all of you our best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and the very best in the New Year.

Again, our humble donation to the Memorial Fund is enclosed. This time in memory of:

Henry Golabiecki	Company “C” 47th Infantry
Donna Dawson	Daughter of Jim Dawson, Headquarters Co., 47th Infantry
Felice Perna	Wife of Al Perna, Company “H” 39th Infantry
Bill Andrews	39th Infantry and 26th Field Artillery
Billie Martin	Battery “A” 26th Field Artillery
Matt Urban	60th Infantry

Respectfully,  
John Bonkowski



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## FLORIDA CHAPTER NEWS

## THE 2005 SILVER SPRINGS REUNION

What made this reunion so pleasurable was the 30' X 75' Hospitality Room that had its own bathrooms, two refrigerators, 6 tables, over 40 chairs, TV set, VCR, and plenty of storage room. Ed & Pauline Gowen, Paul & Eunice Crumb, Faye & Ira Moser, Marty & Rosalyn Gross helped Audrey & Emil set up the photo displays, hook-up the VCR, the coffee makers, chairs, tables, food, drink coolers and other chores the day before opening day.

Because of the oversized Hospitality Room, the attendees had a choice to have a FREE Breakfast and a FREE lunch inside the Hospitality room or go out to eat. The two refrigerators were stocked with orange, apple and tomato juices, cereals, eggs, ham, cheese and other foods. The 29 persons who attended this reunion really appreciated this kind of set-up. Each person could pick and choose their own breakfast or lunch.

On the afternoon of November 2nd, a Reporter and a camera woman from the Ocala Star-Banner newspaper came over to interview us. Many photos and notes were taken. The following day, a lengthy story with 3 photos appeared in the newspapers. Anyone who wants a copy of this story is asked to send a number 10 self addressed stamped envelope to Emil De Donato, [REDACTED]

At 5:30 PM, five large pizzas and a large platter of chicken wings were delivered. Eunice Crumb made a scrumptious salad. The coolers were well stocked with beer and different soft drinks. For those who preferred the hard stuff, there was a good choice of liquors.

Thursday, November 3rd was an active day. Following breakfast, 80% of the group went across the street to take in the attractions at Silver Springs Nature's Park. They boarded the Glass Bottom Boat for a guided tour of the natural springs. Then to the Lighthouse Ride. The Bird Show was next followed by a guided tour of the Lost River Voyage boat ride. At noontime, the group split up. Some went on to take in other attractions while others preferred to rest and have a snack at the many stores inside the mall. After four and 1/2 hours of touring Silver Springs, most of the group decided to go back to the hotel. At 5:30 PM a convoy was set up for the 3 mile car ride to Hightower's Restaurant. Herbert & Jackie Frank came in from Orlando to join the group. A special room was reserved and a delicious meal was served. From Hightower's Restaurant, the convoy went to the Ocala Civic Theatre to see the hilarious stage play "Harvey". Because November 3rd was the opening night of the show, tickets were purchased well in advance. Before the show started, Ms Mary Britt, Director of the Ocala Civic Theatre, asked our group to stand and went on to recognize us as World War II veterans having a reunion in the Ocala area. A loud applause from the patrons followed. Thursday, November 3rd, was truly a "busy day" for the group; but for some who returned to the Hospitality Room, it was after midnight before turning in.

Friday, November 4th, breakfast in the Hospitality Room started at 7:00AM. At 10:00 AM the Men's and Women's Auxiliary Meetings were held in separate rooms. Highlights of the Men's Meeting were: (1.) The location for the Florida Chapter/2006 Reunion will be near Cape Canaveral. (2.) The reunion Committee Chairman is Marty Gross with Norris Gray and Ralph Williams as Co-Chairmen. (3.) Election of Florida Chapter Officers are Dr. Martin M. Gross, President; Ret. Col. Ralph Williams, Vice Pres.; Ed Gray as Sec.; Emil De Donato as Treasurer; and H.F. Stansell as Chaplain. (4.) The National Reunion for 2006 to be held in Branson, MO. Discussions were held on how the Florida Chapter members could get there by bus or other transportation means. At the Women's Auxiliary Meeting, the Officers remain the same: Lila Stansell, President; Audrey De Donato, Secretary/Treasurer. Following the meetings, many had lunch inside the Hospitality Room before going on an interesting 2 hour guided tour of the Appleton's Museum in Ocala. At 5:30 PM the group went to Rocco's Famous Italian Restaurant where they received special treatment, a delicious sit down served dinner topped off with a many item salad bar and fabulous desserts. On Saturday morning, the "good-bys", "au revoir", "safe home" were exchanged and by noontime everyone had departed. Thus ended another interesting and enjoyable Florida Chapter reunion. For those members who didn't attend but could have if made the effort, try to make the next one as the time is approaching that we may not be able to have any more reunions.

## SICK CALL

Lila Stansell: Several weeks before opening day of our reunion, Lila slipped, fell and broke her hip. Her surgery and re-hab went well and she now is recovering at home.

Arnold Tomanek: Arnold suffered a slight seizure in October which caused Louise to cancel their reservations. Arnold is at home and doing well.

Cletis Winningham: A phone call from his wife Lula saying that Cletis continues to suffer from severe backaches which caused them to miss the reunion.

Emil J. De Donato

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## MAIL CALL

## Company I - 39th Inf.

Albert C. Murray

I joined the 9th Division, 39th Regiment, on Christmas Day 1943 in England, at a camp near Andover. We went ashore at Utah Beach on June 10th, 1944. We were near Cherbourg when I was wounded on June 24th in the right arm and shoulder by a machine gun. After about 16 months in Army hospitals, I was discharged on October 9th, 1945.

I would like to hear from any of the fellows who were in my unit, company I - 39th.

Thanks sincerely,  
Albert C. Murray

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## Company C - 39th Inf.

Paul W. J. Schumacher

Ellen and I learned a few days ago from Alice Doty of the death of William (Bill) Doty. Enclosed is a memorial in honor of our good friend and fellow member of the 39th Inf. Regt. William Doty of Baden, PA, who died on 13 November 2005.



Paul Schumacher speaking with Belgium School students in the Remember Museum. They wanted to meet a WWII USA soldier who was in the Battle of the Bulge.

Mathilde Schmetz (the interpreter) and Marcel Schmetz (in the white shirt) are the owners or the Remember Museum near the Thimister-Clermont, Belgium.

There is a delightful museum full of interesting memorabilia located near Henri-Chapelle American Military Cemetery in Belgium. The museum houses many items donated by foot soldiers who were around Eupen and Malmedy during the Battle of the Bulge.

Marcel and Mathilde Schmetz inaugurated the "Remember Museum" on 12 June 1994 as a way to show gratitude for the liberation of Belgium; and to house Marcel's extensive collection of items left on his family's farm by the USA's 1st Infantry Division after the liberation of Herve and Clermont on 11 September 1944. Many other soldiers have donated personal items to enhance the breadth and value of the museum. Guided tours are given in five languages.

Marcel and Mathilde, who refer to themselves as the M&M's, are sincerely proud of their private museum. Ellen and I have visited the "Remember Museum" twice. If you are planning a trip to the Huertgen Forest or Belgium, include a stop at the "Remember Museum". You will be greeted by two very captivating and friendly people - the M & M's.

The address of the museum:

M & M Schmetz

Belgium

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MAIL CALL

SEEKING  
Co. A- 60th Inf.  
Mrs. Joy Banks Combs

You sent my son, Billy Combs of Knoxville, TN an Octofoil newspaper several months ago, and I have just gotten it and read it. I was one of the youngest of 14 kids and I only remember my brother three times before he went missing-in-action October 12, 1944.

He was Staff Sgt. Cecil Banks, 33659950, Company A, 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Division and he was fighting in the Huertgen Forest, Germany when he was shot in the side. Him and several more. They couldn't get them all out at once and when they went back for Cecil they couldn't find him.

My mother tried for years to find him. She wrote every one. She got a letter from a Dennis Florence of Taunton, Mass. I am enclosing a copy of it. Dennis and a private Alfred S. Knowles of Seville, Florida were witnesses. Mr. Knowles never got in touch with my parents. I was wondering if any of your 9th Division and 60th Regiment men, who remember my brother might still be alive. I know he is not alive but would love to hear from anyone who would remember going over to Germany with him, or anything else of him.

We didn't know till last year that they had a big monument in Holland (Netherlands) that has his name printed on it. Didn't know you had a paper out on the 9th Division either. My parents died years ago and I guess if the Government had any info they didn't know where to reach us. My son has been using his computer to reach several places. He got hold of you and I've gotten a big photo of the monument with his name on it. Does anyone know of anywhere else I can write to to get more info.

Thought maybe you could run something in your paper; if you can send me a copy and I'll pay you for it. Anyone can write me at (address above)

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Joy Banks Combs

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The Letter from Dennis Florence ( Undated )

Sorry, I didn't answer sooner. I was visiting friends in Boston.  
In regards to your son I will tell you everything I know of what happened. It happened the month of Oct. or Nov. in 1944, in the Huertgen Forest. Your son was made squad leader the day before this happened. Your son and three of us were sent on a patrol following a counter attack the previous evening. We ran into a ambush and your son and another fellow were hit. He was hit in the side by a bullet and also the other fellow. His name was Gonzalez or Garcia, a Mexican from Oklahoma. That is all I know about him.

The Captain of our company was Moore. Don't know his first name.  
If I were you I would write to Co. A, 60th Inf. Regt., 9th Div. and check on the attack that happened in those months. We didn't do much fighting in those months and sure they can help you.  
That is the best I can do and hope it helps you. I hope they find him.  
Yours truly, Dennis Florence

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CONDOLENCES

We lost a good friend and a long time member of the Association when John H. Maloney succumbed to the ravages of cancer this past fall. John was serving as a member of the Board of Governors when he passed. This Bennington, Vermont man served in the 9th Military Police platoon, assigned mostly to the Division Headquarters. With his wife , Martina at his side, John rarely missed a gathering of our group, be it a reunion or the Worcester Memorial Service. His absence will leave a gap in the ranks that will be hard to fill. We extend our sympathy and our prayers to Martina and his family.

ATTENTION  
ALL READERS

Starting with the next issue, we shall publish  
only four times a year.

The Newspaper Committee at the last  
General Meeting had wisely suggested  
that in order to conserve our finances  
we should put out only four issues a year,  
and thereby reduce our costs by 20%.  
The general membership in attendance  
agreed to the Committee's recommendation,  
without any objections or reservations.  
At this time, we must let our heads rule our hearts.  
We shall publish at three month intervals  
starting with the March issue; to be followed by  
issues in June, September and December.

3rd Bn-47th Inf. Medics  
William Thompson MacLauchlin, M.D.

Dear Joe,  
First I want to thank you for sending me the Octofoil newspaper.  
Second I wonder if Dan Quinn is still living. He was my aid station's Clerk. I will write his wife if she is still living.  
Thirdly, the fact that the convention is scheduled to be in Branson, Mo. I lived there for several years and started to go to school in 1926. It was a little town then.  
I am enclosing a check for the foundation and \$12.00 for a Ninth Division cap.  
I appreciate your kindness to one of the older members of the Old Ninth Division.  
I wish you a pleasant year for 2006.  
Sincerely,  
Bill MacLauchlin

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Company E - 39th Inf.  
Manuel J. Grajeda

I am submitting my dues for 3 years. I am proud to read the Octofoil - thanks. I was in Co. E 39th Inf. after many attacks on villages and heading to the Rhine, I crossed the Bridge 3-15-45, was wounded 3-18-45 and was captured by German forces for about a week. Thanks for reading.

Another member, William (Bill) Doty was the victim of a fatal heart attack during November. Bill, who had lived in Baden, PA, had served in the 9th with Company K -39th Infantry. He also had served a term on our Board of Governors. He and his wife, Alice had enjoyed the past reunion in DC and were settling into their winter routine when this tragedy occurred. Bill will be missed by all who knew him. We extend our sympathy and our prayers to Alice and his family.

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60<sup>th</sup> REUNION  
2005  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

INCOME

Income from Room Reservations		\$132,604.00
Less Refunds	\$ 10,208.00	
		\$122,396.00
Income from Bank Interest		866.55
Total Income		\$123,262.55

EXPENSES

Payments to hotel		\$101,254.32
Reunion Committee Expenses ( 18 Months - May 2004 - Oct. 2005 )		
Computer supplies, meals, parking, gasoline, gifts, plaques, Guests at banquet, guests at Beer Party, gratuities, etc.		\$ 3,334.54
Baseball Caps	\$2,631.92	
Less Income from sales	600.00	
Less gifts to members & others	<u>910.25</u>	1,121.67
Charter Buses		3,900.00
Capitol Steps ( Sat. Nite Show)		6,800.00
Group Photo 140 @ \$20.00	\$2,800.00	
Mailing Tubes 50 @ .30	<u>15.00</u>	
	\$2,815.00	
Income from sales 132 @ \$20.00	2,640.00	175.00
Program Books, Decals, Banner, Postage, etc.		<u>\$ 2,289.70</u>
Total Expenses		\$118,875.23
Surplus		\$ 4,387.32
To National Treasury		4,000.00
Balance held to start 2006 Reunion		387.32

SEEKING

Veterans of the 9th Infantry Division — I need your help !

Many might have done it before, and maybe I'm late, but since I still have an opportunity to ask you, I wanted to let you know that your help is much needed. I'm going to write a book on the fighting in the Huertgen Forest and need every help from the men of the 9th Inf. Div. Many books have been written, but in my opinion the 9th didn't get the credit it should have. I have already written four books on the Battle of the Bulge — The North Shoulder, and area the 9th Inf. Div. was also involved, and even for this part I would try to find more information. So, please if you can, and I know it is not easy after so many years, I hope you can help me to reach my goal; writing about the 9th Inf. Div. during the Huertgen Campaign and the Ardennes. I am 42 years old and live in the Netherlands.

Thank you for your time!  
Hans J. Wijers

[Redacted]  
The Netherlands  
[Redacted]

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Joseph Descuyffeleer

[Redacted]  
Belgium

I have been involved in Historical research for a long time, and I am trying to collect information about a Russian volunteer who joined the American 9th Infantry Division while it was fighting in Belgium in September 1944 ... That was a very long time ago but, perhaps, it may not be too late.

His first name was < Georg > or < Georges > and, before the war, he was a teacher in Vladivostok (USSR). He was taken prisoner by the Germans, escaped, first joined the Belgian underground and eventually the 9th American Infantry Division. I also know that he was killed during the fights for the capture of the Remagen bridge, sometime in 1945.

I realize that these few pieces of Information are very incomplete, but I am writing to you because there may be lists mentioning the foreign citizens who joined the American Army in its fight against Nazi Germany. If it is the case, it might be possible to find the family name of the Russian volunteer < Georg > or < Georges > who joined the 9th Infantry Division, and possibly other details.

Could you help me or, if you cannot, give me a piece of advice and suggest what I should do in order to find the information I have been looking for for a long time ?

Thank you very much for accepting to help me for my research.  
Yours sincerely,  
Joseph Descuyffeleer

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Company A - 15th Engineers  
Charles "Hoss" Johnson

[Redacted]

If it is convenient, I would greatly appreciate your putting this in the "Octofoil". I was so pleased , at the age of 89, to be able to attend the 60th reunion, along with my wife Kathryn. We have attended several reunions in the past, but were not certain if we would be able to attend this past one due to health reasons, but thank God we made it. Mr. Robey, who was the chairman of the reunion, certainly did an outstanding job as everything went like "clock work". We especially appreciated the visit to the World War II memorial and the Arlington Cemetery. We met many people we did not know and especially enjoyed the friendship of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Walker. The group picture was outstanding!

We wish you all God's blessings.  
Sincerely,  
Charles "Hoss" Johnson

