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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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4-1-2012

## The Octofoil, April/May/June 2012

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# The Octofoil

Apr.-May-Jun.,  
2012

Volume LXVII, No. 2



President  
Joseph Maiale

## President's Message

Sadly I must report the Rev. Jeannie Higgins has decided to resign her position as our Chaplain. She intends to focus on her church responsibilities and her missionary work. Thank you Rev. Higgins for your loyal support and dedication over the past years. We will miss you.

Our reunion remains on track and at this time we have about 72 people attending. It's not too late to attend but you must contact William Sauers at 310-534-3146 for details. Don't forget to make your reservations for transportation from the Pittsburgh Airport to the hotel and back. Go to the Supershuttle website: [www.supershuttle.com](http://www.supershuttle.com) or call 800-258-2826. Be sure to enter discount code "9C5UD" to receive the discounted rate of \$40.00 round trip per person

plus a fuel surcharge.

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your memberships and contributed to the General Fund account. Our Provisional Treasurer reports that our combined association and sons and daughters bank account with its various sub accounts is recovering. I can now say with some confidence we have weathered the financial crises. Passing the management of operations over to the sons and daughters with a reasonably healthy bank account is doable.

The investigation by the Prince George County Police Department, Maryland into the financial practices of the previous Secretary-Treasurer is continuing. We hope to have some progress to report in the near future.

Call me if you have any questions or need further information at [REDACTED]

Joe Maiale, President

The Ninth Infantry Division Association

[www.octofoil.org](http://www.octofoil.org)

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### 67th ANNUAL REUNION PROGRAM Sheraton Station Square Hotel 300 W. Station Square Drive Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219 August 17, 18, 19, 2012

#### Thursday, August 16, 2012

5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - Registration-Hospitality Room: Point View Room

#### Friday, August 17, 2012

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Registration-Hospitality Room: Point View Room

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Board of Governors Meeting: Edenburg Room

6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Reception and Pittsburgh style dinner: Fountainview

#### Saturday, August 18, 2012

7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. - Breakfast: Waterfront Room

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Registration-Hospitality Room: Point View Room

9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Memorial Service (be seated by 9:15 a.m.): Admiral Room

10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. - Group Photo: Admiral Room

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Ladies Auxiliary Meeting: Brighton I

12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. - Ladies Auxiliary Lunch: Trackside Restaurant

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. - Association General Business: Edenburg Room

5:45 p.m. - Meet in hotel lobby for directions to Gateway Clipper dock

6:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Boarding time for the Princess

6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Cast-off, sail, buffet dinner, dance, and return to dock

#### Sunday, August 19, 2012

8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. - Breakfast: Waterfront Room

8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. - Registration-Hospitality Room: Point View Room

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Sons & Daughters Auxiliary Meeting: Edenburg Room

12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. - Board of Governors Meeting: Stoops Ferry

5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. - Banquet Reception with open bar: Reflections

6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - Guest Speaker: Major General James. A. Hoyer: Reflections

7:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. - Banquet Dinner: Reflections

#### Monday, August 20, 2012

6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. - Breakfast: Waterfront Room

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon - Hospitality Room: Point View Room

8:00 a.m. to ??? - Say goodbye, check out and head for home

### OUR MISSION

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.



## THE OCTOFOIL

The official publication of The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc.. Published four times yearly, January - March; April - June; July - September; October - December. Material for publication must be received by the publisher according to the following schedule:

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**The Ninth Infantry Division Association.**

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The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc. is a registered 501(c)19 Veterans' Organization of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter issued in January 1948. Contributions are tax deductible.

Volume LXVII, Number 2 April-May-June, 2012

### Provisional Treasurer Report

Recently Herb Stern shared some historical paperwork with me regarding the Texas Chapter. In those files I discovered the Texas Chapter had filed for and been granted a tax exemption by the IRS whereby contributions to the chapter by its members would be tax deductible. This was contradictory to a letter I received from the IRS in February, stating the association was a recognized 501(c) (19) Veterans' Organization, but contributions to the association would not be tax deductible by its members. Herb and I discussed this discrepancy and he agreed to contact the IRS to clear up the conflicting rulings for tax deductions. Subsequently I received a new determination letter dated May 23, 2012 that reiterates our tax exempt status as a 501(c)(19) Veterans' Organization. It also includes an explanation about tax deductions for contributions quoted as follows:

"This determination was based on your representation that at least 75 percent of your members are past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States defined under section 501(c)(19) of the Code. It was also based on the representation that substantially all (97.5%) of the other members, if any, are individuals who are cadets, or are spouses, widows, or widowers of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of cadets. If at least 90 percent of your members are war veterans and you are organized and operated primarily for purposes consistent with your current status as a war veterans organization, donors can deduct contributions made to or for your use. In the future, if your purposes, character, or method of operation changes, donors cannot deduct contributions made to you or for your use, as provided by section 170 of the Code. You must notify the IRS of changes of the this nature by documenting them on your annual information return."

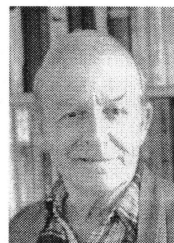
Based on the new IRS ruling contributions to the association are now tax deductible by its members.

Researching Publication 557, Tax-Exempt Status for Your Organization, page 60, paragraph 501(c)(19) - Veterans' (continued on page 8)

## THE NINETY'S CLUB

Here's your chance to join an exclusive, much loved, respected, one of a kind club. Membership is free!!! All you need is a birthday celebrating your achievement of ninety (90) years. Send your name and recent photo to William Sauers, Editor.

### New Ninety's Club Members



Edward T. Richardson  
S. Portland, Maine



John Hoyt  
Broomfield, Colo.



David Garner  
Verona, N.J.



Andrew Balaschak  
Johnstown, Pa.

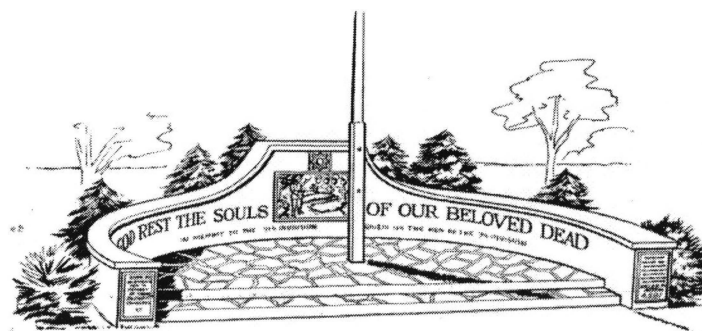
### A Note from the Publisher

In the last newsletter I mentioned some cost saving measures that needed implementation. First was a reduction in the page count for that last issue and a further page count reduction for this issue. This Apr.-May-Jun., 2012 issue is the last issue for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Many of you have responded with subscriptions and donations to fund the newsletter for the next fiscal year starting July 1, 2012. I am happy to report the sub account for the newsletter publication is once again healthy. Barring any unforeseen negative events the newsletter will return to the standard sixteen pages with the Jul.-Aug.-Sept., 2012 issue.

Also, as mentioned last time, the printing of four pages of color reunion photos will be discontinued in the next issue. This restriction will apply only for this year. It is anticipated to return to color in fiscal year 2012-2013. The 67th reunion pictures will be printed black and white as promised.

Obviously we cannot afford to send reminder notices to all subscribers like most magazines. It will be your responsibility to keep track of your expiration date and renew your subscription accordingly. If you are ever in doubt about your subscription status please don't hesitate to contact me. Working together we can ensure you do not miss any issues.

Respectfully,  
William Sauers, Publisher/Editor



### Friends of Father Connors Fund

The Friends of Father Connors Fund would like to thank the following new donors for their generous contributions:

Herbert Taff, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
Richard Kelly, Scarsdale, N.Y.  
Alice Haines, Trenton, N.J.  
Stanley Turowski, Dearborn Heights, Mich.  
Thomas Morgan, Chattanooga, Tenn.  
Lawrence McLaughlin, Woburn, Mass.  
Efrem Zimbalist, Jr., Solvang, Calif.  
Florida Chapter, Dunnellon, Fla.  
William Sauers, Torrance, Calif.

Our fund balance is \$4,437.44. We are 19.4% of the way to our goal of \$22,932.00. Keep those donations coming for the restoration work to stay on track. Assuming we can reach our goal amount we should be able to start restoration during the September - October time frame. We need to be ready for the 50th rededication ceremony and parade with the city of Worcester on Sunday, November 11, 2012.

The following is a note from the Florida Chapter:

At the May 23, 2012 Florida Chapter reunion business meeting, Emil De Donato made a motion to donate \$500.00 from the Florida Chapter treasury to The Ninth Infantry Division Association "Friends of Father Connors Fund." The donation to be used for the restoration of the 9th Infantry Memorial located in Worcester, Mass. The motion was seconded by Herb Frank and approved by the membership.

Emil and his wife Audrey attended several ecumenical services when they lived in New Jersey. When asked which one stood out in his memory he said "I believe it was the first one. The troops arrived on a Saturday. We were greeted by many parishioners. Many invited us to stay at their home for the night. On that evening, the parishioners prepared a home cooked dinner which was served in the church hall. Emotions ran high. Lots of conversation, laughter and story telling. All went quiet when Father Connors gave a Thanksgiving prayer before we settled down to eat."

On Sunday morning the troops assembled at the fire house which was about 2 blocks away from the church. The march was up a slight incline which some of us puffed but no one fell out of line. The Sunday Mass was beautiful. Whether you were Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, etc. it didn't matter...the church was packed. Following Mass the parishioners again treated us to a hearty lunch before we said our good-byes."

The 9th Division Memorial should be restored. We hope and pray the funds will be achieved so the Memorial will remain visible for generations to come.

Signed, Emil De Donato

A lot of members have fond memories of attending those services over the years. Please consider passing this legacy on to your descendants. Support the restoration work.

Make your donation checks/money orders payable to The Ninth Infantry Division Association and note in the memo section "Friends of Father Connors Fund." Send to: William Sauers, [redacted]

If you have questions about the project and its cost please call William at [redacted]

## 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.

Note: Please make checks payable to:  
**The Ninth Infantry Division Association**

Send to: William Sauers, Provisional Treasurer

Arlene Silver in memory of her father Perry Kaye for publication of *The Octofoil*

Paul Schumacher in fond remembrance of Ellen Schumacher, Jean Geary, Emma Killen, and Alice Doty. Also, in remembrance of the genuine friendship I had with George Booth, Neil Aberegg, Bill Baswell, Walter Ricker, and William Doty

Mary Ann Szczygiel in memory of her husband Thaddeos Szczygiel, Btry. C, 60th F.A. Bn.

Lisa Froug-Hirano in memory of "Red" Phillips, Harry Marciniak, and all the valiant men who ever served with Company B, 60th Inf. Regt.

Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter General Fund donation

Jane Mitchell General Fund donation

Theda Ray General Fund donation

Mary Cooper General Fund donation

John Sabato General Fund donation

Helen Closer in memory of her husband John Closer

Francis H. Wolman in memory of Florence Wolman

William E. Mizell in memory of his father Willie W. Mizell, Hqs., 47th Inf. Regt.

Herbert Taff in memory of Staff Sgt. Demeto Markowicz, L Co., 39th Inf. Regt.

Lt. Col. Lawrence J. McLaughlin RET in memory of Evangelus A. Pernokas "Gil"

Thomas J. Capobianco in memory of his father Nicholas Capobianco, 9th Recon Troop

William Safford General Fund donation

Dr. Gordon M. Binder General Fund donation

Andrew Balaschak 67th Reunion donation

### WANTED

"Class A" WWII uniform with the 9th Infantry Division patch on the jacket. This uniform will be put on display at the Hürtgen Forest Museum in Vossanack, Germany.

If you are coming to the reunion please bring it with you to Pittsburgh and give it to Paul Schumacher. Paul will ship the uniform to the museum. If not, then please send it to Paul at [redacted]

The donor will receive proper recognition in the museum for the uniform donation.



## 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.

*Bivouac of the Dead by Theodore O'Hare - 1847*

### Ninth Infantry Division Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients

S/Sgt. Herschel F. Briles, Co. C, 899th TD Bn; Near Scherpenseel, Germany; 20 November 1944  
2nd Lieutenant John E. Butts\*, Co. E, 60th Infantry; Normandy, France; 14, 16, 23 June 1944  
T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro, Co. E, 39th Infantry; Near Kalterherberg, Germany; 22 December 1944  
Sgt. William J. Nelson\*, Co. H, 60th Infantry; Djegel Dardys, NW of Sedjenane, Tunisia; 24 April 1943  
PFC Carl V. Sheridan\*, Co. K, 47th Infantry; Frenzerberg Castle, Germany; 26 November 1944  
Captain Matt L. Urban, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Renouf, France; 14 June to 3 September, 1944

\* indicates posthumously awarded

Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History

Donald E. Crass F Co., 60th Inf. Regt.	John T. Henley, Sr. 2nd Bn, 47th Inf. Regt.	Pasquale J. "Pat" Maisto A Co., 15th Engr Bn
Harry Marciniak B Co., 60th Inf. Regt.	William Nelson K Co., 39th Inf. Regt.	Richard Newell M Co., 60th Inf. Regt.
Evangelus A. "Gil" Pernokas 34th F.A. Bn		

## TAPS OBITUARIES



### Donald E. Crass 1919 - 2012

#### F Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

Donald Ervin Crass, 92, died Wednesday, April 11, 2012, in Phelps, Wis. He was born, the 11th of 19 children, on June 13, 1919, in Newburg, Wis.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in Aruba with the 213th Coastal Artillery (1941-1943) and Europe with the 9th Infantry Division, 60th Infantry Regiment, F Company (1944-1945). During his service he was awarded various medals and honors including: various action theater ribbons, 5 Overseas Service Bars, One Service Stripe, Presidential Unit Citation, Belgian Fourragere, French Croix De Guerre with Palm, Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star and was recently awarded the French Legion of Honor Medal.

After his service, Donald returned to Phelps, and was employed by the C.M. Christiansen Co. as a poleman and a lumberjack. In his retirement, Donald created and ran his own sawmill, was an avid carpenter, inventor, gardener, fisherman, berry picker, and maple syrup "sugarmaker." He also authored a book, "Reminiscing," about his life experiences. He was proud of his heritage and looked forward to the yearly Seidemann family reunion. One of the highlights of Donald's recent years was traveling to Washington, D.C., as part of the "Never Forgotten Honor Flight" for veterans of World War II.

Donald was an active member of the 9th Infantry Division Association, The American Legion, the VFW and the DAV.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Fayme Crass; his three brothers, four children, eight grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

### John T. Henley Sr. 1922 - 2012

#### 2nd Battalion, Regt. Aid Station, 47th Infantry Regiment

Retired state Sen. John T. Henley Sr., 90, of Hope Mills, died Saturday, March 17, 2012.

Mr. Henley served in the 9th Infantry Division as a medic in World War II and was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals.

He graduated from the UNC School of Pharmacy in 1943 and opened a Clinic Pharmacy in 1946 when he and his wife moved to Hope Mills. Mr. Henley was mayor of Hope Mills from 1947 until 1953. He served as town commissioner until 1956.

He served four terms in the N.C. House of Representative and six terms in the N.C. Senate. He was elected president pro tempore for two terms, as well. He left the Senate in 1980 to become president of the N.C. Association of Independent Colleges and Universities and held that position for 14 years.

In 1995, he was again elected to the Hope Mills Town Council and served for four more years.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Rebecca, and 10 brothers and sisters.

### Pasquale John "Pat" Maisto 1919 - 2011

#### A Company, 15th Engineer Battalion

Pasquale John "Pat" Maisto, 92, of Shallotte, formerly of Durham, died Tuesday, September 27, 2011, in the Hospice Care Center in Whiteville.

Born in Schenectady, N.Y. on May 5, 1919, he was a son of the late Frank and Mary C. Maisto. He was a U.S. Army World War II veteran.

Survivors include his wife, Lou Brogden Maisto; a daughter; a sister; two grandchildren; a great grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

## TAPS OBITUARIES

### Harry Marciniak 1922 - 2012

#### B Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

Harry Marciniak, age 89, of St. Clair Shores, passed away on January 1, 2012 at his home. He was born on November 17, 1922 in Hamtramck. He was a veteran of World War II, a member of the Bruce Post #1146 VFW and was employed at Budd Wheel for many years. He was preceded in death by his dear wife, Gloria in 1997. Surviving are his three children; three grandchildren; and his beloved companion.

### William H. Nelson 1922 - 2012

#### K Company, 39th Infantry Regiment

William H. Nelson, 89, of Steubenville, Ohio, passed away in Pataskals, Ohio, on March 30, 2012.

William was born September 9, 1922, a son of the late Archie T. and Amelia Bell (Carnes) Nelson. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by an infant daughter; brother; and cousins.

William was retired from Conrail where he was first a fireman on steam fired locomotives and later an engineer.

William served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. He served with Company K, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division and was involved in the invasion of North Africa and Sicily where he was awarded a Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts.

William was a member of Covenant Presbyterian Church, Steubenville Masonic Lodge 45 F&AM for 40-plus years, 32nd Degree of the Valley of Steubenville Scottish Rite VSA, Steubenville Shrine Club, MSA, Aladdin Shrine, VFW, Jefferson County Bee Keepers, the Coin Club, and The Ninth Infantry Division Association.

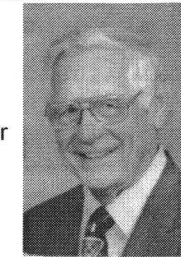
William is survived by his wife; a daughter; grandson; two great grandchildren; sister-in-law; and nieces and nephews.

### Richard Newell

#### M Company, 60th Infantry Regiment

Richard Newell passed away March 12, 2012 after a brief illness. He was proud to have been a member of M Company.

Coleman Gronseth had this to say in his memoirs about Sgt. Richard Newell: "Upon leaving the aid station, I headed back up the road again only to see Sgt. Richard Newell coming down. His field jacket was covered with blood and my first thought was: Who is going to replace him? But it was not his blood. Several of his own men and the riflemen they were with had been hit. Newell had helped carry them out, getting their blood on his field jacket in the process. Also, two of his squad's machine guns had been hit and, as the squad withdrew, they had left two other guns up on the ridge. As he said, 'I wasn't going to let the Germans get my two good guns.' Alone, he had gone back up the ridge and dragged the guns back. Is it any wonder why I and his men had such great respect for this man?"



### Evangelus A. "Gil" Pernokas 1921 - 2011

#### 34th Field Artillery Battalion

Evangelus A. "Gil" Pernokas, 90, a lifelong resident of Woburn and more recently of Jensen Beach, Fla., passed away Saturday, October 29, 2011 at the Bear Hill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center of Stoneham. He was the husband of the late Eileen M. (Driscoll) Pernokas.

Born on April 9, 1921 in Peabody, Mass., and raised in Woburn, he was the son of the late Arthur G. and Stavroula (Antonias) Pernokas, both of Georgitsi, Greece.

Gil, a U.S. World War II veteran, at the age of 22 was awarded the Purple Heart while serving in the Army's 9th Infantry Division, engaged in the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign. After his discharge he worked at the Veteran's Administration in Boston through the early 1950's, at which time he married.

He owned and operated an auto sales and service station on Salem Street in Woburn for a couple of years before establishing "Gils Auto Sales" on Montvale Ave. in Woburn, where he made a living for many years before retiring in the mid-1980's.

Gil was a lifelong steward of The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church of Woburn. He was a proud and very active participant in the local Chapters of: VFW, Masons, AHEPA and Republican Party.

He is survived by three children; one sister; four grandchildren. He is predeceased by three brothers.



**GREATER NEW YORK AREA CHAPTER**

On May 19th the New York Chapter placed a wreath at the national cemetery in honor of the 9th Division men. We were joined by a very small group, Anton and Charlotte Dietrick, Barbara Levy, Joe and Sadie Maiale, Arno Heller and his wife, Joe Killen and Mary Oliger. It was a very short ceremony but very emotional.

We missed the presence of Marvin Levy who was always an inspiration to our chapter. His passing left a big void in our chapter as his life revolved around the 9th Division. Marvin you will be missed. Rest in peace.

Charlotte Dietrick recently celebrated her 91st birthday.

Anton Dietrick received an oak leaf cluster to his Purple Heart for wounds he got in Africa after 63 years of investigation. Congratulations Anton.



Herb Stern  
President

**TEXAS AND GREATER SOUTHWEST CHAPTER**

The final meeting of the Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter of the 9th Infantry Division Association was held on April 5 - 6 at the Summers Mill Retreat and Conference Center, a facility on the historic Chisholm Trail in Central Texas.

Attendees came from Houston, Avstin, Burleson, Corpus Christi, Arlington and Ft. Worth, Texas. Our group gathered at a social hour at one of the lodges for the afternoon of Thursday, April 5th. Cocktail food and drinks were provided by those who attended. Later that evening the group gathered for a catered dinner at the main dining room of the conference center.

The following morning, Friday, April 6th we participated in a sumptuous catered breakfast followed by the last business meeting. Herb Stern, President, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and asked Sam Burns to begin with the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was followed by Herb Stern's reading of the names of the recent deceased. They were, Rose Botella, J.W. Arnold, and Charles Scheffel. Since our former Secretary, Gordon Schneider was unable to attend because of illness, the minutes of our last meeting, April 7 - 8, 2011 were read by Herb Stern. A treasury report was also read by Stern. Both reports were accepted as read.

Mary Blann Cooper was called on to report on the forthcoming 67th reunion in Pittsburgh, Pa., August 17 - 19 this year. Additional discussions pertaining to the financial status of our association were held. Stern had prior to the meeting urged attendees to make a voluntary contribution for the General Fund of the association. The hat was being passed and a generous cash contribution for the association was collected. Since we also have a balance left in our chapter treasury Stern stated that the association bylaws require us to send this balance to the Provisional Treasurer of the association.

A suggestion was made to continue holding group meetings informally in the future since many close friendships had been formed over the years. An informal get-together is being planned for November 2012.

The Texas and Greater Southwest Chapter was formed in 1992 mostly through the efforts of John W. Miller. At our first meeting in Belton, Texas near Ft. Hood we had over seventy attendees. They came from all over Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Arizona. Because the chapter's geography being overwhelming meetings were held in a variety of communities. Places that had recreational facilities, and overnight accommodations. During this past year we could count on only three to four veterans.

Attending this final meeting were: Sam Burns and Anita Bieber, Lavonne Blann, Mary Blann Cooper, Paul Blann, Bonney Denbo, Jean Miller and friends, Herb and Cathy Stern,

(continued next column)

Drs. Charles and Sharon Stern, Nancy and Richard Rutner.

Herb Stern thanked everybody in attendance for their admirable support of this chapter and in particular he praised the great work done by our sons and daughters.

Respectfully submitted by retiring President and Treasurer Herb Stern

**MICHIGAN CHAPTER**

On Armed Forces Day, May 19, 2012, the Michigan Chapter of The Ninth Infantry Division gathered for their spring meeting at the Spartan Hall of Fame Café in East Lansing. Eighteen veterans, wives, widows, sons, daughters, and friends attended. The four veterans present were: Harold (Hal) Ladouceur, Don Sedestrom, Lynn Bowers, and Clyde LaBrenz. Fun, laughter, and reminiscence filled the room throughout the social hour. Members were happy to see each other, yet fully aware of those absent. A prayer was offered before the meal.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Hal Ladouceur and he acknowledged President Tom Hatton's absence. Hal shared a historic menu from the 1946 9th MP Co. Christmas dinner in Augsburg, Germany which everyone enjoyed viewing. Additional menu copies were available.

Hal Ladouceur proposed necessary organizational/title changes within the chapter and the following officers were unanimously approved: Hal Ladouceur as President; Don Sedestrom as Vice-President; Lynn Bowers as Treasurer; and Margaret Wisniewski as Secretary. Tom Hatton was awarded the title of President Emeritus. Kaye Olson of the Sons and Daughters was designated as the chapter's Recording Secretary.

Other business involved Treasurer Lynn Bowers providing the chapter's financial report and Kaye Olson reading the October 1, 2011 minutes. Kaye shared briefly regarding the Texas Chapter from a communication from Past President Herbert Stern. Herb mentioned that at their final meeting in April, Texas Chapter members voted to meet twice a year as a "Friendship Group." Michigan participants were impressed how a challenging transition had evolved into such a positive goal in Texas.

President Ladouceur covered other topics: he asked those attending to pray for our living and departed veterans and to also thank the active military for their service. He also encouraged participants to attend the upcoming 67th Ninth Infantry Division Association reunion, which will be held in Pittsburgh on August 17, 18, and 19th.

A Detroit Metropolitan Airport center for military personnel, veterans, and their families was described by Vice-President Don Sedestrom. He shared that the Freedom Center offered a respite for veterans passing through Metro, especially helpful to the active military from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. As a volunteer at the center, Don handed out business cards, which gave the Freedom Center's website address as:

[www.mifreedomcenter.org](http://www.mifreedomcenter.org)

In concert with Armed Forces Day, the words of the 9th Division March were read by Susan Andrews. The march had been given out at the New Orleans' 66th 9th Infantry Division reunion last year. Susan shared the background of the march, including how it had been published in the *Fort Bragg Post* on July 29, 1942, in *Hitler's Nemesis*, and in August, 1948, *The Octofoil*. Copies of the march were distributed.

Those attending included: Hal and Lucille Ladouceur, Don and Bobbi Sedestrom, Lynn and Stella Bowers, Kurt Bowers, Clyde and Ann LaBrenz, Marica LaBrenz, Mary Doering, Marilyn Martin, Blanche Lucia, Susan Andrews, Sue Beauvais, Pauline Slezak, and Erik and Kaye Olson.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)



Front row L to R: Clyde and Ann LaBrenz, Marcia LaBrenz, Susan Andrews. Second row L to R: Sue Beauvais, Stella Bowers, Mary Doering, Kaye Olson, Marilyn Martin. Back rows L to R: Kurt Bowers, Lynn Bowers, Bobbi and Don Sedestrom, Lucille and Hal Ladouceur, Blanche Lucia, Erik Olson, and Pauline Slezak.

Final business brought the announcement by President Ladouceur that the next Michigan Chapter meeting would be at 12:00 noon on November 10, 2012 at the Spartan Hall of Fame Café in East Lansing.

President Hal Ladouceur called for a moment of silence prior to the adjournment of the chapter get-together. Following the meeting, participants returned to more social exchange and a surprise birthday celebration for one of the attendees. Everyone sang happy birthday and enjoyed the birthday cake. With special thoughts of those who could not attend the day's activities, everyone looks forward to the November's chapter gathering with great anticipation.

Kaye Olson, Recording Secretary



Emil De Donato

**FLORIDA CHAPTER**

Although only nine members plus two guests attended the 2012 Florida Chapter reunion, everyone had a lively and a good time. President Joe King and Lenora King arrived on May 22nd, a day earlier. They drove from their hometown in Pelzer, South Carolina to the Silver Springs Days Inn Motel, command post of the Florida Chapter reunion, where they met Emil and Audrey De Donato who were busy setting up the Hospitality Room. The two men went over the agenda of the next two days before going out to dinner with their wives.

By 3:00 p.m. of May 23rd opening day, all had arrived safely. The Hospitality Room was well stocked with snacks and drinks. Lively conversations filled the room with some joke telling mixed in between. At 6:00 p.m. the group went to dinner at Denny's Restaurant located on the property. Because President King had to leave early on May 24th, the business meeting was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. following dinner.

President King called the meeting to order promptly at 7:30 p.m. After the opening prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, the reading of the minutes and Treasurer's report, President King stated that there were several issues to be addressed. The first was "do we continue operating the Florida Chapter?" After discussions by the members, it was decided to continue to keep the Florida Chapter alive. The second issue was "do we continue to hold the annual Florida Chapter reunions?" It was agreed to hold the 2013 reunion providing the reunion committee could get a minimum of ten rooms for two or three nights. The third issue on the agenda was "do we make a donation for the restoration of the 9th Infantry Division Memorial located in Worcester, Massachusetts?" A motion was made, seconded, and

(continued next column)

and approved to send five hundred dollars to The Ninth Infantry Division Association with a note in the memo section to "Friends of Father Connors Fund" for the restoration of the 9th Infantry Division Memorial.

President King called for nominations for the Florida Chapter officers. The membership voted to retain Joe King as President, Herb Frank to replace Faye Moser as Vice-President, and to retain Audrey De Donato as Secretary, and Emil De Donato as Treasurer.

As there was no further business, President King called on Audrey De Donato to deliver a closing prayer, followed by the adjournment of the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

On Thursday, May 24, everyone met inside the Hospitality Room where they were briefed on the activities of the day. Around 8:30 a.m. the group went for breakfast. A separate room was set up for this breakfast. Following breakfast, some members chose to go shopping while others chose to view photos and literature in the Hospitality Room of previous reunions. All were back by one o'clock to enjoy the pizza and chicken wings. Free time was the order of the day until 6:00 p.m. Some members chose to rest a bit, others remained in the Hospitality Room sipping a beer or a soft drink. At 6:30 p.m. the members had dinner at a well known Italian restaurant. After dinner the group convoyed to the Ocala Civic Theater where they saw a well known Broadway play "Fiddler on the Roof." The acting and staging were great.

And so another well-planned and enjoyable Florida Chapter reunion came to an end on the morning of May 25 when everyone left saying "See you next year...God willing."

**NEWS FROM OUR MEMBERS**

Ed Gray is enjoying his retirement living in New Jersey. He promised to attend our 2013 chapter reunion.

Dr. Marty Gross and his wife Rosalyn were sorry to have missed our reunion stating the drive was too far.

Charles Munger could not get a friend to drive him to our reunion. He is not feeling well enough to make the drive by himself.

Lila Stansell said her husband, H.F. is suffering from a severe foot ailment which prevented them from attending.

Col. Ralph Williams stated his wife Liz is in the midst of a serious medical problem.

Lula Winningham regretted that she could not attend our reunion because her driver lady friend had other commitments.

Faye Moser stated that her younger brother was seriously ill. She thought it best to remain close at home under the circumstances.

Norma Ruschell sent an email saying that her sister Dora Coen sold her Florida home and moved north. Norma will not drive alone.

Emil J. De Donato,



Rosalyn Gross  
President

**LADIES CORNER**

There is important news to share on the future of our Ladies Auxiliary organization.

**Motion:** As many know, the Sons and Daughters Auxiliary is merging with the main 9th Infantry Division organization and the bylaws are being revised. It is time to decide how the Ladies Auxiliary plans to proceed. The Ladies Auxiliary Executive Board (President, Roz Gross; Vice-President, Jackie Armstrong; Treasurer, Judy Goldsmith)

have discussed the issue and are proposing a motion that the Ladies Auxiliary deactivate and interested members join the newly merged organization. A merged organization makes sense and will be a stronger force to carry out the organization's goals. The new bylaws will allow spouses, widows, and descendants full Regular Annual Membership (RAM) in the merged Association. This Ladies Auxiliary motion will be proposed and voted on at the annual meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary in August in Pittsburgh. Please send any questions about this proposed motion to the

(continued on page 8)



**THE OCTOFOIL**  
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9130434624 0012  
**47th Infantry Regiment Monument Dedication**  
**April 26, 2012**  
**Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia**



L to R: SGM Ray Daniels, LTC Kyle Feger, Col. Brice Barnes (Ret), Robert "Doc" Pries, LTC Travis Thompson, CSM Todd Svenson.

The Vietnam veterans of the 47th Infantry Regiment recently dedicated a monument at Fort Benning, Georgia. Attending the ceremony from The Ninth Infantry Division Association were Robert and Florence DeSandy, Joe Killen and his friend Mary Olinger, Janet Casanave-Brown and her granddaughter Angela, Nadine Collier, Joann Bryant, Linda Collier.

Robert DeSandy writes "Veterans and members of the 47th Infantry Regiment spearheaded by the Vietnam group put this project together and raised the money which amounted to \$26,000.00 all in one year. They are a dedicated group of brothers and have a reunion every two years."

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**(Provisional Treasurer...continued from page 2)**

Organizations adds "lineal descendants" to the membership criteria. This is good news. It is particularly important for all spouses, widows, and "lineal descendants" to apply for membership in the association. Changing the bylaws at the upcoming reunion to facilitate a broader membership category will ensure we continue to meet the IRS requirements and maintain our tax exempt status.

Separately I was also notified by IRS letter that we were delinquent filing Form 990-N, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax for tax years 2008 and 2009. I called the IRS and they confirmed my filing of the electronic form for tax year 2010. After discussing how to file for 2008 and 2009 the representative used the 2010 e-filing as an example and cleared our record. We are now in full compliance with the filing requirements for tax exempt organizations and will not lose our tax exempt status. For tax year 2011 e-filing must be completed between July 1, 2012 and November 15, 2012.

Respectfully,  
William Sauers

**(Ladies Corner...continued from page 7)**

Executive Board. We welcome your comments.

**Annual Meeting and Luncheon:** The Ladies Aux. meeting will be held on Saturday, August 18th, from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., followed by a luncheon from 12:30 p.m. - 1:20 p.m. You will be able to select your choice of lunch from several options on Saturday morning so that your food will be ready when the luncheon begins, and then pay individually. A big thanks to Jane Mitchell who lives in the Pittsburgh area for arranging the details with the hotel! **Raffle:** Jeanette Taylor and Glenda Baswell are organizing the Ladies Aux. raffle that has been the major fundraiser in the past. They are asking each member to supply one raffle for the auction that can easily be packed for plane travel.

Hope to you all in Pittsburgh. Safe travels!

Roz Gross, President

Tel.: 954-956-9333 Email: mgrossr@bellsouth.net