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DIVISION

WORLD WAR I WORLD WAR II KOREAN WAR POST KOREAN GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

37th DIVISION VETERANS NEWS

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WELCOME HOME, 37th IBCT VETERANS



Veterans of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (37th IBCT), welcome home. You are the current greatest generation of Soldiers that are serving country, state and community. Your recent tour of duty in Afghanistan, the second deployment of the 37th IBCT, provides another successful chapter in our history. The sacrifices you and your families endured were more than one would expect. You have accomplished your missions in an outstanding manner and you stand ready to do so again if called.

The members of the 37th Division Veterans Association (37th DVA) applaud your service and dedication in protecting the core values of the American way of life. Please accept our deepest admiration,

appreciation and heartfelt thanks for continuing what began some 95 years ago in 1917 by your predecessors who also wore the red and white bullseye patch.

Although the 37th Division's last World War I veteran answered his last call several years ago at the age of 104, veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Global War on Terror continue to perpetuate the legacy and heritage of the 37th Infantry Division (37th ID) and now the veterans of the 37th IBCT are privileged to continue that tradition into the future, as you wear the insignia of the 37th ID on your left shoulder and in some cases, both shoulders.

Your service was more dangerous than your predecessors as they knew their enemy by the uniform they wore and the weapons of war they possessed. The enemy you faced was difficult to identify as they wore no uniforms and hid their weapons of war. This was tragically experienced on 4 April 2012 when three of your 148th Soldiers were killed and another five were wounded in action. As a result of that attack, an interpreter

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was killed and two interpreters were wounded. The Afghan National Police suffered the loss of two with another two wounded. The civilian casualties that day tallied four and with another 26 wounded.

To the families who lost loved ones, we offer our deepest condolences. We will always keep them in our hearts and minds. To the wounded, we wish you a speedy recovery. Know that we think of you as you recuperate and acclimate to being home.

To 37th IBCT outgoing commander COL James Perry, congratulations on a successful deployment. We wish you continued success as you pursue your next mission in life. We congratulate COL Gordon Ellis on being selected as the new commander of the 37th IBCT. The brigade continues to be in the best of hands.

Soldiers of the 37th IBCT, thank you for your service on behalf a grateful nation. We wish you the best in your future endeavors particularly as we enter the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. You have done us all proud.

The following pictures of returning elements of the 37th IBCT were taken at Rickenbacker International Airport in Columbus, Ohio, on 9 September 2012, by SSG Michael Carden, 196th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment, Ohio Army National Guard. Although we are not able to identify everyone by name, we think you'll find that these pictures tell their own story. All Soldiers of the brigade were expected to be home by 2 October 2012. Six deployment recognition ceremonies are planned throughout the state 14 October – 2 December 2012. For more details about these ceremonies, please contact HQS at 614-228-3788.



President's Message

Planning for the future is a task that every business leader must consider. As with any other business decision, planning is a source of risk. Who can predict the future? Too often decisions are made for future changes based on the desires of the planners, not the realities of the market place.

A recent ironic example was the bankruptcy of the Kodak Company. The company had been in the photography business for over 100 years and was the preeminent source of supplies, services and technology. One of the best technologies they developed was electronic photographs. No film needed, just a camera with a lens and an electronic

memory. Kodak made great profits selling and developing film, why risk losing that business? Apparently the planers decided to stay with the tried and true way of developing photographs (and profits) and choose not to pursue their own invention. By the time they realized that change was inevitable, it was too late for them.

There are lessons here for the 37th DVA. Every organization, no matter the mission, must satisfy the needs of the market place and be nimble enough to change to meet those needs. Consider the Grand Army of the Republic. It was a veteran's organization formed after the Civil War. It was very successful, but it no longer exists. It was an organization only for Civil War veterans of the Union Army. When they were gone the organization was gone.

Today veteran's organizations such as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars are in decline. The current wars have produced many people eligible to join both, but they are not inclined to join. They have other interests that consume their time and attention.

How should the 37th DVA respond to these changes? How should it change? That is not for us to decide, but rather it is for the young Soldiers returning from combat to decide. What do they want and need? We have to ask them, not make assumptions about their opinions. The way we serve veterans is a moving target, different for each generation. To better understand the services needed, we should consider appointing a combat veteran from the 37th IBCT to the association's board of directors. We should also meet with members of the brigade at several units and perform what could be considered a market survey. Ask them to identify how the association could support their needs and wants. There are others who may seek our services such as historians, military enthusiasts, collectors of memorabilia and many others. Service to veterans is our first priority, but we should be open to all who would like to be associated with the 37th Division Veterans Association.

Sincerely, COL (Ret) Terry Dalrymple
37th DVA President

Chaplain LTC Elmer Heindl Honored

The US Army's 98th Training Division, known as the Iroquois, called Rochester, NY, home for over 53 years. The division used to provide drill sergeants to Army Training Centers across America to bases such as Fort Benning. The division's current primary mission is to conduct Initial Entry Training (IET) for new Soldiers. Fort Benning just became the 98th's new home, but not without taking the spirit of a native son with it.

That native son is the late Elmer Heindl (14 June 1910-17 July 2006). He went by many names: Chaplain Heindl, LTC Heindl, Father Heindl, Uncle Elmer, Guardian Angel... He is well known by the 37th DVA and its members as he served with the 37th Division in both the 145th and the 148th Infantry during World War II from 1942-1945. One might note that Heindl volunteered to join the Army. During his WWII service, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star among many

other awards. Although Heindl retired from active service in July 1948, he continued to serve in the reserves giving nearly 28 years of service.

LTC Matthew Holbert, ACOS, 98th Training Division, was assigned to name the new the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Benning as part of the division's relocation process. According to an e-mail from Holbert, "...LTC Heindl was chosen based on his heroism during WWII and to the fact that he was a National Guardsman during that time with the 37th Infantry Division and later a Reservist with the 98th Training Division."

BG Dwayne Edwards, Commander of the 98th Training Division, wrote in a memorandum dated 13 October 2011, that, "His [Heindl's] efforts to rescue fellow Soldiers from danger as a noncombatant during World War II are truly extraordinary. He is beyond doubt a Hero by any measure. It is believed that Chaplain Heindl is one of the most decorated chaplains of World War II." He goes on to write that, "I highly recommend that the Armed Forces Reserve Center (AFRC) 98th Training Headquarters (IET) be named "The Heindl Center" with supporting placard and display case."



The ribbon is cut during the memorialization of the Armed Forces Reserve Center at Fort Benning, GA, in the name of Chaplain (LTC) Elmer Heindl, a World War II Catholic priest who was awarded numerous medals for heroic actions in the Pacific.

Photo taken by Joel Quebec.

A Memorialization Ceremony was held for the LTC Elmer W. Heindl Armed Forces Center on 8 September 2012, at Fort Benning, GA. The event was hosted by MG Gill Beck, Commanding General of the 81st Regional Support Command. Ceremony speakers included BG Dwayne Edwards and Mrs. Kay Nichols the niece of Chaplain Heindl. More than 125 family, friends and Soldiers from the training unit, including 22 members of Heindl's family were in attendance.



Mrs. Kay Nichols and Mr. Robert Heindl are seen here after unveiling the plaque during the memorialization of the LTC Elmer W. Heindl Armed Forces Reserve Center. Mrs. Nichols is the chaplain's niece and Mr. Heindl is his brother.

Photo taken by Joel Quebec.

During Kay's remarks she said that:

"Uncle Elmer always reminded us all of our patriotism. His dedication to the veterans throughout Rochester and around the country was widely known and appreciated."

"The American flag symbolizes our freedom and the many lives that were lost to gain and protect that freedom. Chaplain Heindl served this flag and spread the message of its meaning through his dedication to the military and veterans."

"He always said he didn't deserve the honors and he was just doing his job. Everything he did, he did it as an honor and privilege."

It is safe to say on all accounts that the honor and privilege of knowing Chaplain Heindl belongs to those who knew and served with him whether it be on the battlefield, at the altar or in his daily life.



Chaplain Heindl will long be remembered by 37th Division veterans for his beautiful smile. He conducted several 37th DVA Memorial Programs at association reunions over the years. Many members recall him lighting candles to honor the fallen.

Photo compliments of the Heindl family.

Over the years many 37th DVA members have shared Father Heindl stories with us. His smile is one memory that they all seem to have in common. One member wrote to us shortly after Heindl's death in 2006, the late Murray Marks, that he remembers Father Heindl coming to him during a very low point during his WWII service. Marks had just learned that his older brother had passed away from illness. He was extremely depressed and wanted to be alone. He wandered off, inadvertently into enemy territory, and sat down to mourn his brother. Father Heindl went into the jungle to find and console him. They recited the mourner's prayer together and Marks then rejoined his unit. On learning of Heindl's death, Marks wrote that, "May his memory be a blessing!" There are certainly hundreds of men who served with the 37th Division that could tell similar tales of Chaplain Heindl's impact on them.

Another Heindl account reported that, "The chaplain never carried guns, so whatever he did he put himself out there. New recruits always used to say don't ever stand near the chaplain if the fighting breaks out because he won't get shot."

For additional media coverage on the naming of "The Heindl Center," please see the following website: www.ledger-enquirer.com/2012/09/08/2194369/wwii-chaplain-honored-at-reserve.html

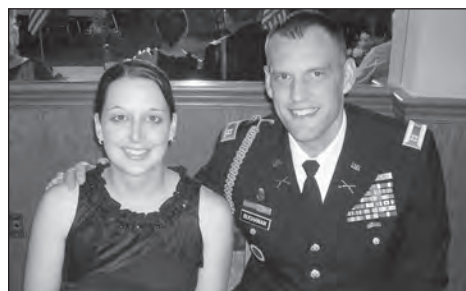
Ceremony pictures from the Columbus Ledge Enquirer, Columbus, GA, can be seen at: www.ledger-enquirer.com/2012/09/08/2193637/lt-col-elmer-w-heindl-armed-forces.html#storylink=miscsearch

Copies of the 8 September 2012, Ceremony Program and the Nomination Packet are also available upon request. Please contact HQS at 614-228-3788 or mandy@37thdva.org if you would like copies.

On behalf of the 37th DVA, its President, and Board of Directors, we congratulate the family of Chaplain (LTC) Elmer Heindl for his receiving another well-deserved honor. His service, sacrifice and spirit live on through the legacy he left. We are better for having known and served with him.

94th Annual Reunion Held

The 94th annual reunion of the 37th DVA was held in conjunction with the 148th Infantry Veterans Association reunion August 25-26, 2012, at Camp Perry. These two organizations have co-hosted their reunions for the last couple years with remarkable results. Members of the 112th Medical Brigade and the 73rd Infantry Brigade (SEP) were also in attendance. Over 100 people feasted on prime rib at the dinner banquet on Saturday, which is traditionally the highlight of the weekend.



CPT Buchanan, accompanied by his wife Alisha, was the dinner banquet guest speaker. He provided an overview of his deployment in Afghanistan as the S-3 of the 1-148th, 37th IBCT.

Picture courtesy of LTC Greg Rogers.

The dinner banquet guest speaker was CPT Charles Buchanan the S-3 of the 1-148th Inf. CPT Buchanan was recently deployed with the 37th IBCT. During his 11-month deployment, he spent seven months in Afghanistan. He has also been deployed in Kosovo and Iraq.

Of his time in Afghanistan, CPT Buchanan said that they had to be both statesman and Soldiers, which is hard to do. The brigade's security force assignment included providing security for VIP visits and contractor support. A large part of their mission consisted of training Afghan police, who have been fighting for the last 30 years in constant conflict. Buchanan noted that they had to develop many things in field that are not in Army manuals. He said that the brigade trained the Afghans to take care of themselves and left them better than when we got there.

CPT Buchanan said that losing three of their brothers, SFC Shawn Hannon, SFC Jeffrey Rieck and CPT Nicholas Rozanski, on 4 April 2012, while deployed was devastating to the battalion, but that it defined them. He went on to say that we didn't let that stop us; we went out and got it done. We destroyed the insurgents who were in power for 6-7 years and either detained or killed them in the process.

In closing, CPT Buchanan noted three important things:

- We are winning the war in Afghanistan; every day there is important.
- Technology gives us a great advantage.
- Leadership makes a difference.

We thank CPT Buchanan and his wife for joining us for our annual dinner banquet and memorial service. CPT Buchanan lit the candle honoring fallen members of the 37th IBCT during the memorial service and given his words about his fallen brothers it was very fitting. CPT Buchanan is a clear example that the 37th IBCT is in the best of hands.

We would like to thank everyone who donated door prizes for the reunion and greatly appreciate the participation of our valued members, many of which belong to both associations. We would also like to recognize Doile Lama for donating door prizes for the 37th DVA business meeting and Linda and Bill LaFollette for donating a pair of Cleveland Browns vs. Pittsburgh Steelers NFL football tickets for auction.



This picture of 148th Infantry Veterans Association members was taken after their annual business meeting and memorial service. In the 1st row from left to right are Bob Blair, Lloyd Marvin, Jackie Johnson, Jerry Zickafoose and David Keckler. In the 2nd row are Dan Snyder, Lynn Chrisman, Bill Stratton, Joe Bell and Florian Podach. The 3rd row includes Bob Hubble, Butch Ellis, Gerald Runion, Steve Whitcraft, Willard Snyder and Jack Lee. Last but not least in the 4th row are Frank Cartwright, Jerry Macke, Don Radabaugh, Bob Dilts, Bruce Eberly and Jim Woodward. LTC Greg Rogers (not pictured as he took the picture) is the newly elected 148th Vice President; he was also in attendance at the 148th business meeting.

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Plans are already underway for the 95th reunion, which is currently scheduled for August 23-24, 2013, at Camp Perry.



The ladies social hour was held Saturday August 25th during the 148th business meeting. In attendance were, in the 1st row from left to right, Joyce Blair, Clara Obee, Dian Patterson, Betty Snyder, Marilyn Macke and Louise Podach. In the 2nd row are Donna Wadsworth, Nicole Babin, Sarah Arnett, Mary Ann Eberly, Karis Woodward, Barb Snyder, Novella Sutts and Ilo Marvin. In the 3rd row are Linda LaFollette, Ruth Babin, Barb Arnett, Mandy Oberyszyn, Linda Zickafoose, Dee Whitcraft and Barb Keckler. Natalie Stratton and Tina Lee, not pictured, were also in attendance. The ladies always have a good time playing card bingo, winning prizes and enjoying each other's company. *We thank Rolla Wagner for taking this picture for us.*



Another reunion means another trip to Port Clinton, OH, for our friends, Guy Labat and family, from the great state of Louisiana. Seen here in the front row are Cy Sedlacko, Barb and Dan Arnett and Guy Labat. In the back row from left to right are Mandy Oberyszyn (Cy's daughter), Dan Arnett, Jr. and his wife Sarah (Dan's son and daughter-in-law), Linda and Bill LaFollette (Dan's daughter and son-in-law), Ruth and Wayne Babin (Guy's daughter and son-in-law), and first time attendees Nicole and Paul Babin (Ruth and Wayne's son and daughter-in-law, also known as Guy's grandson and his grandson's wife).

Photo provided by Dan and Barb Arnett.



The clubhouse bar is the place to be to catch up with old friends. This quartet includes Bob Dilts, Frank Cratwright, Don Radabaugh and Dick Rogge. Dennis "Yogi" Yager, not seen here as he is behind the bar, serves as the reunion bartender.

Photo courtesy of Cy Sedlacko.

Annual Business Meeting Held

Our annual business meeting was held on 25 August 2012, during the 94th annual reunion. Salient points of that meeting are as follows:

- Finance Chairman Tom Brandt reported that the 2011 Income/Expense Report was published in the February 2012 newsletter as instructed by the 37th DVA Constitution. An audit was conducted in June. Everything was well documented and no issues were found. The 2013 approved budget was made available to all present and was part of the reunion welcome packet.
- Recruiting Chairman Joe Woodrum introduced his committee members including Craig Huffman, Len Stayton, Butch Ellis and Bill Hall. The 2013 goal is recruiting new members as well as retaining those recruited especially retention after a member's initial year. It can take longer for new members to realize the non-material benefits the association offers. We want to recruit legacy units including the 112th, 147th, the 148th, the 166th and the 237th among others.
- The Governance Committee nominated the following members that were elected to serve in the positions noted below:

Director 3-year term

Dave Anon
Dan Arnett
Bill Hall

Officer 1-year term

President Terry Dalrymple
Vice President Joe Woodrum
Secretary/Treasurer Cyril Sedlacko

- Mandy Oberyszyn was presented a plaque for her service over the past eight years. The plaque reads: "For her dedicated service to the 37th Division Veterans Association. From

November 2003 to the present. Mandy continues to excel in her duties as the Executive Secretary in a very professional manner. The 37th DVA would not be the outstanding veterans association it is today without Mandy's support. We honor her today this 25th day of August 2012."

Our Dwindling Membership

by Joseph Woodrum, 37th DVA Director, one of the founding members of the 73rd Infantry Brigade (SEP) Chapter of the 37th DVA

As we enter another year it is time to renew membership and in doing so we've abstained from increasing our annual dues for current members. We find ourselves with fewer members and increased costs to maintain our organization; this issue is one in which the Board of Directors is struggling. We are losing our WWII veterans at an alarming rate and we are actively pursuing new members from the ranks of the 37th IBCT. The 37th IBCT has recently returned from a tour in Afghanistan and it is our intention to meet them. This new generation of Soldiers is our future and we need to support and embrace them. While we sometimes do not like their choice of music, we can identify with them as fellow Soldiers and comrades in arms. They too have stormed the beaches, walked point on patrol, spent nights dug in the cold to maintain our way of life here in America, Land of the Free and Home of the Brave.

When we welcome these Soldiers home we should have members, note I said MEMBERS, of our organization actively seek them out and talk with them about our organization and what it does for them, the 37th veteran. We need to impress upon them that we care about their well being, that we are there for them if and when needed. We have an obligation to these veterans in that it is our responsibility to lead them into their life after military service. The veterans of this country need



At the close of the annual business meeting someone had the wonderful idea of having a group picture taken in front of the Camp Perry Clubhouse. This will be a new reunion tradition moving forward. That illustrious group is seen here. From left to right in the front row are Bob Blair, Dan Snyder, George Clark, Eugene Eversole, Bill Stratton and James Abraham. In the second row are Dave Anon, Craig Huffman, Joe Woodrum, Lee Wadsworth and Rolla Wagner. The third row includes Frank Cartwright, Butch Ellis, Harlan Chase, Herbert Eagon, Jack Lee and Bill Hall. In the top row are Jerry Obee, Rodney Newell, Cy Sedlacko, Len Stayton, Tom Brandt, Tom Jenkins, Mandy Oberyszyn, John Jenkins, Dan Arnett, Terry Dalrymple and Don Sutts.

Picture courtesy of LTC Greg Rogers.

to band together to become a bigger voice for veterans as a whole as well as for other veterans' organizations. We need to put aside our difference of age and find common ground in the accomplishments both our generations have made. Whether Officer or Enlisted we all share a common bond and we take pride in our service to this great nation. We need to actively recruit this new generation of veterans into our ranks and let them know this organization is as much theirs as it is ours.

Your task as a member of this organization is to seek out the veterans of Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan and introduce them to our organization, the 37th DVA, and its membership. Give them a sense of being welcome into our fraternity where they have already passed their initiation and need to do nothing more than join us.

Editor's Note: Please feel free to make copies of the enclosed 2013 membership application to share with other veterans you may know. If you would like additional copies of this newsletter or membership applications sent to you for recruiting purposes, please contact HQS at 614-228-3788 or mandy@37thdva.org.

2013 Annual Renewal Kickoff – Action Required –

This issue of the newsletter kicks off our annual dues renewal. YOUR ACTION IS REQUIRED. Please take a look at your mailing label to determine what action you need to take. Anyone not in good standing by the 1st of February 2013 will be removed from the newsletter mailing list. Should you have any questions concerning your status, please contact us at 614-228-3788 or mandy@37thdva.org. In addition, if you would like to receive future issues of the newsletter electronically, please e-mail that preference to us.

Inserts including a self-addressed return envelope and forms pertaining to membership, the 2013 scholarship program and making donations to 37th DVA Funds are enclosed. Please note that checks should be made payable to the 37th DVA and that amounts can be combined into one check for your convenience.

LIFE – If the word life appears in the right hand corner of your label, you are in good standing. No action is required concerning dues, but we encourage you to make a donation to one of the 37th DVA Funds. Please see the newsletter's insert for more information.

2013 – If 2013 appears on your label, your dues for 2013 have already been paid. Thank you for your early renewal. If you would like to make a donation to a 37th DVA Fund, please do so in the envelope provided.

2012 – Your dues for 2013, \$20.00, can be remitted in the self-addressed envelope along with your completed application. Please refer to the membership application for life membership pricing. Donations to 37th DVA Funds can be remitted with your dues payment as well should you like to make a contribution.

CNL – This abbreviation stands for Complimentary Newsletter. At some point in time you or your organization was added to our

newsletter list. Please note that you are welcome to become a direct or associate member of the association. By so doing, you can directly support the 37th DVA and its mission. Please see the enclosed membership application for details. If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter, please let us know.

CNL12 and CNL13 – the 37th DVA Board of Directors voted to provide widows or widowers of members in good standing complimentary issues of the newsletter for one year after the veteran's death. As those issues expire the board invites you to become a direct member of the association. If you label lists CNL12 in the top right hand corner and you wish to continue receiving future newsletters, please complete the enclosed membership application and remit your dues to the 37th DVA as soon as possible. CNL12 not renewed by February 1st will be removed from our mailing list. Those listed as CNL13 are invited to join the association as well, but because their complimentary status continues through 2013, no action is required.

UNIT – Nearly a decade ago the 37th DVA began copying commanders of each Ohio Army National Guard unit on the newsletter. This service continues as we strive to support Soldiers that have chosen to serve their state and country. We ask that commanders post this issue and those to follow in their armories and further extend an invitation to you to become a direct member of our association. You and the members of your unit are eligible to join the association based on your unit's heritage status.

New Members – In June 2012, the 37th DVA Board of Directors installed a dues scale based on delivery method of the quarterly newsletter. If you are joining the 37th DVA for the first time as a result of this mailing, you can either have newsletters sent via US mail for \$30.00 per year or have them sent via e-mail for \$20.00 per year. Please designate which option you prefer on the attached membership application.

Please take a few moments to review the mailing label affixed to this newsletter. Corrections or changes should be communicated to headquarters at 614-228-3788 or mandy@37thdva.org. Thank you for your support.

37th DVA Birthday Club

As communicated in the August 2012 newsletter, a 37th DVA Birthday Club has been created. The purpose is to recognize member birthdays. A date of birth (DOB) line has been added to the membership application in an effort to capture birthdates to add to our membership database. Please note that full dates of birth will not be shared with anyone outside of HQS. You can also communicate this information directly via phone, 614-228-3788, or e-mail, mandy@37thdva.org.

Future issues of the newsletter will include a list of member birthdays (day and month only). Those 90 years of age and older will receive a birthday card in the mail to celebrate their special milestone.

We'd also love to highlight other important milestones such as 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries. If you have an important date coming up, please let us know. Our members are important

to us and this is one way we can recognize all our members each year.

Thank You Members

The generosity of our members is always humbling. Your donations truly make a difference. Since June 2012, donations totaling \$250.00 were made to the Life Member Fund, \$250.00 to the Postage Fund, \$305.00 to the Monument Fund, \$10.00 to the Website Fund, \$60.00 to the Scholarship Fund and \$47.00 to the Brigade Support Fund. The names of all donors are listed below. In addition, Buckeye Awardees generated \$2,302.50 toward 37th DVA programs. Thank you for your generosity.

Buckeye Awardees

Lincoln Beal	Otis Hawkins	Raymond Reynolds
Don Boyd	Mary Inskeep	Willie Thurman
Donald Compton	John Kornick	
Herbert Eagon Jr.	Raymond Kress	

Life Member Fund

Daniel Arnett	John Kornick	Cyril Sedlacko
Lloyd Creeger	Richard Lander	Rolla Wagner
Herbert Eagon Jr.	Sidney Savage	

Postage Fund

Daniel Arnett	Elizabeth Fackelman	Ray McCarthy
Lloyd Creeger	Raymond Kress	Phil Williams
Herbert Eagon Jr.		

Monument Fund

Don Boyd

Website Fund

Daniel Arnett

Scholarship Endowment Fund

Daniel Arnett	Rolla Wagner
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Brigade Support Fund

Daniel Arnett	Marge Cummins	Mandy Oberyshyn
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Please Meet Betty Jean "BJ" Martin

by BJ Martin

BJ Martin became a life member of the 37th DVA in 2004. She served as the President of the Ladies of the 37th DVA in 1952. She and her late husband Frank Walker, who died in 1985, helped establish the 37th DVA Scholarship Grant Program. BJ writes that 37th DVA President Fred Graf had a dream to create the program and we carried it out. Decades later one of BJ's granddaughters and one of her great-granddaughters have been scholarship recipients. Her late husband Frank was a Past National President of the association as well as serving as its Secretary for 23 years.



What are my treasured possessions? My family, my dog and my experiences.

I have been married three times and have been a widow for the last seven years. All three husbands died and I buried the last two by their first wives and I am going to be buried by my first husband of 44 years, Frank Walker. All of us, Jack and Minnie Klein and Denny and Martha Martin, were friends

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of my first husband and we all ran around together. All three men were in the Army with the 37th Division during World War II. They were also active along with their wives in the 37th Division Veterans Association.

My first husband gave me five children (three boys and two girls), who gave me 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. My second husband, Jack, had two children, who were already grown when we married, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

My dog is a 14-year-old certified pedigree Shih Tzu named Jesse and he is very special to me, but very demanding and spoiled. I have had him since he was born.

I have always been a very active person and have kept myself busy with outside activities. While my children were in school, I would help my husband run a retail business. I saw how easy it was to make a buck so when the business sold, I decided to become involved in real estate.

I had a very successful real estate career for 30-plus years and also owned and operated related businesses, which included an insurance agency, a mortgage company, a bookkeeping and income tax service for over 20 years and an appraisal agency. My husband worked for FHA as a staff appraiser and when he retired after 11 years we started our own agency and appraised for FHA, VA and many other financial institutions.

All of my children migrated to Texas and after a few years we also decided to move to Texas.

I ran into a friend of mine that was a manager of a savings and loan company in Texas and I talked him into a mortgage underwriter position. For 17 years I worked in banking, and as a result of experience, I became the vice president of a bank in charge of processing, underwriting, closing and funding of mortgage loans. I spent my life raising a family, selling and owning a real estate business and banking until I finally retired.

During this time, I still found time to participate in the Ladies of the 37th Division Veterans Association. I went through the chairs on a local and national level, and in 1952 I became the National President of the Ladies of the 37th DVA. The Ladies of the 37th Division was formed in 1934 and disbanded in 2005. It was formed by the wives of WWI and WWII veterans of the 37th Division Veterans Association. The objective was to assist and further the purposes of the 37th DVA. I was the first of the WWII wives to become National President and also the 20th president of the ladies association. After the ladies association disbanded, we were able to attend and join the men's organization. I became a life member of the 37th DVA in 2004.

Regardless of my busy schedule, I still found time for my children. I participated in their activities by holding offices in the PTA and the band boosters. I was also very active in the State PTA Scholarship program.

In 1974, Frank and I became interested in boating and joined the Dayton Power Squadron. I became President of the Ladies Auxiliary in 1982. We bought a 43' houseboat and cruised the Ohio

River for 10 years. She was a good boat, but when we decided to move to Texas we needed a boat that would handle better down the "Old Mighty River." With our three-man crew that included my husband and I, we left Aurora, Indiana, (near Cincinnati, Ohio) in the fall of 1982. We cruised down the Ohio River to the Mississippi River to the Atchafalaya River (below Baton Rouge) to the Intercoastals Waterway to Galveston Bay to Clearlake where we docked our "Fran-Be-Lou 11" (40 Ft. cruiser) in our "Boatominium" that we had purchased the year before the trip. It took us 23 days to travel 1,582 miles and we used 1,485.2 gallons of gas, which averaged 1.06 miles per gallon. After moving to Texas, my husband got seriously ill with heart problems and died in 1985.

After Frank's death I married Jack Klein who was a very good friend of ours. Jack's wife had died after 43 years of marriage. When we got together we decided to move to Pensacola, Florida. My company had transferred me there to open up a new office.

Jack's interest was in the Shrine and mine was in boating. I became interested in the Pensacola Power Squadron and they had just allowed ladies to join the organization and they grabbed me right away to be Squadron Secretary and I moved on up the chairs and became the first lady to be Commander of our Squadron and one of the first two ladies to be a Lady Commander in Florida.

I soon became interested in the Shrine as Jack was. I started out in Pensacola and was very active in The Daughters of the Nile Temple. I had to resign my duties as Princess Banker when we moved to Parrish, Florida. I joined the Ladies of the Oriental Shrine the Sar-I Court in Sarasota, Florida, and was Recorder for several years.

Jack and I moved back to Texas to be near my children when Jack was diagnosed with ALS disease and I needed help with him. He died after we had been married 11 plus years.

Sometime later, I married Denny Martin who sadly passed away eight years later. Denny talked me into moving back to Florida and I demitted from the Shrine's Sarasota Court and joined the Cairo Court of LOS in Zephyrhills, Florida, and went through the chairs and after seven years became High Priestess of the court. I received four National Honorary Appointments (one each year) and still attend annual conventions each year as Past High Priestess. I have been honored by receiving the National Appointments. The Lady Shriners of Cairo Court is one of 88 Courts in the United States and Canada. I have been a member of this Court for nearly 20 years.

The Shriners support 22 hospitals and four Burn Hospitals at our Shriners Hospitals for Children. Since 1922, Shriners Hospitals have been helping children free of charge. There is never a charge for any of the care or services provided. The hospitals are funded by bequests and contributions made into our Endowment Fund and designated charitable fundraisers from all the Courts and other Lady and Men Shriners Groups. Children from infancy to 18 years of age are eligible for admission to Shriners' Hospitals.

My life has been full of travel. I've traveled by boat, plane, RV and even by train. I've visited Nassau, Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, St. Lucia,

Curacao, Aruba, Key West, Playa del Carmen, Cozumel, Cancun, and Alaska. I also went on a 3-week trip to Hawaii, the Fiji Islands and New Zealand with a group of 29 in coordination with a 37th DVA reunion of which my husband, Frank, was the chair. We visited all the places in which they served during WWII. I also had the opportunity to sail the Abaco Islands in the Bahamas with friends. My last trip was to Cabo, San Lucia, and Mexico for eight days for my granddaughter's wedding, which was beautiful.

My life now is being retired, enjoying my children and grandchildren, doing volunteer work at Otterbein, helping children in my membership with Kiwanis Lebanon and sponsoring three Shriners temples which support the Shriners Hospitals.

In closing, I have felt good about our children and how they have thrived as adults. They have accomplished many things that I would never have dreamt. They all have a solid background from what we have taught them. They chose their skills and put them to become what they are today. I am very proud to say that all my children are very good to me and share their wealth with me. I have nothing on my bucket list as I have had a good life and have done it all. The satisfying benefit from all of this is that I have met so many dear friends, and have enjoyed every minute of it.

Editor's Note: We thank BJ for all her support over the years not just to the 37th DVA and the Ladies of the 37th DVA, but also for her volunteerism in Shriners and beyond.

Due to space limitations, we could not print BJ's story in its entirety. If you'd like to read her complete story, please contact HQS and we would be glad to provide a copy of it to you.

The 37th DVA, much like a person's life, evolves over time. Since BJ became involved with the association several things have changed. In the past decade alone, membership has been expanded to include the spouse, parent and children of 37th Division veterans. As a result, BJ was able to become a life member of the association. When the Scholarship Grant Program was created only descendants of a member could apply. Ten years ago that eligibility was expanded to include the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of members. That change allowed BJ's family to take advantage of the program she and Frank helped build. Since that change, 147 grants have been awarded totaling over \$61,000.00. The work of BJ's generation continues to benefit those currently serving as two children of 37th IBCT members have received scholarship grants for a total of \$1,050.00. Please refer to the insert for how you can request a 2013 Scholarship Grant Application.

You could be the "Please Meet" member in our next issue. Please consider sharing your story with us.

Communications Received

After receiving a care package from the 37th DVA, life member CSM Rodger Jones, 37th IBCT, wrote the following to us on 24 July 2012, "First, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Association for the great support you provide to all 37th Division veterans and especially for the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during our deployment to Afghanistan.

Our deployment is going very well. Despite the extreme summer heat and long days the Brigade is performing admirably. Our Soldiers have worked long and hard to improve the capabilities of the Afghan National Security Forces.

Our equipment is the best the Army can offer. We have all the personal protective equipment required for the mission, and all of our vehicles are up-armored. This equipment has come in handy a time or two since we have been here.

The senior NCO's and officers of the battalion constantly remind our young Soldiers of the proud and glorious heritage of the 37th. There is not a Soldier here that does not know and understand the Division's valiant and considerable contribution to our nation's victory in World War II. Our Soldiers strive to live up to the huge reputation built by our predecessor's hard work and sacrifice. We aspire to add our service to the Division's celebrated battle honors.

Finally, we would also like to thank each member of the Association for their dedicated service to our country. Also, thank you for keeping our beloved 37th Division alive and well.

ONE TEAM, ONE Fight! Rodger Jones, CSM, USA, Command Sergeant Major"

There is no doubt that the 37th IBCT is continuing the glorious heritage of the 37th. We are pleased to welcome CSM Rodger Jones and the entire brigade home. We also wish to again congratulate CSM Jones for being selected as the Command Sergeant Major of the Ohio Army National Guard.

Sanford "Sam" Silverman, 27070 Cedar Rd., Beachwood, OH 44122, 216-765-0838, samsilv7@aol.com, life member, Co A 129th Inf WWII, writes that, "Members of the association might be interested in reading some of my letters to siblings and to home from Fiji, the New Hebrides and Bougainville. They are available free on Amazon.com in *War Letters*, because they are at the beginning of the book and serve as a sample of the contents of the book. I was one of 12 siblings, six of whom served in the Army and Navy during the war."

According to Amazon.com, "In 1998, Andrew Carroll founded the Legacy Project, with the goal of remembering Americans who have served their nation and preserving their letters for posterity. Since then, over 50,000 letters have poured in from around the country. Nearly two hundred of them comprise this amazing collection – including never-before-published letters that appear in the new afterword...Collected in *War Letters*, they are an astonishing historical record, a powerful tribute to those who fought, and a celebration of the enduring power of letters."

War Letters was published on 30 April 2002. Tom Brokaw is quoted as calling it, "A priceless treasure." The book is available for purchase at Amazon.com. Please note that since that date of Sam's note, 23 August 2012, we could not access his letters directly from the website.

Notes from the Executive Secretary

by Mandy Oberszszyn

I want to personally thank all the people who made the 94th annual reunion one to remember from the attendees to all the worker bees. It is always a pleasure to work with the 148th

Association in preparation for our co-hosted event. Steve and Dee Whitcraft took the lead for the 148th from Bruce and Mary Ann Eberly who retired after the 2012 reunion. Steve and Dee did a fantastic job and I wish I was as cool and collected as they seem to be.

A very special thank you goes out to the great guys of the 73rd Infantry Brigade (SEP) Chapter of the 37th DVA. Craig Huffman, Butch Ellis, Woody Woodrum, Gary Clark and Len Stayton came up a day early to help me unload the van and set up the registration table. Several of them also helped me cover the registration desk. They saved my feet and gave me a little extra time to enjoy all our wonderful veterans. THANK YOU, GENTLEMEN!



The 73rd Infantry Brigade (SEP) Chapter rented two houses for their group. Seen here in front of one of them are Joe "Woody" Woodrum, Len Stayton, Craig Huffman and Duane "Butch" Ellis. They proudly hung their chapter banner, which reads "73rd Inf Brigade (SEP) Association, a chapter of the 37th DVA" over the front porch. Well done, gentlemen!

Picture taken by Mandy Oberszszyn.

I also want to thank Rolla Wagner for helping cover the registration table. He frequently stopped by to see if I needed anything. I'm so glad he comes in each year from Colorado to enjoy the event. Having him on our board of directors is a pleasure.

A note of appreciation is also extended to Dan and Barb Arnett and their family. They brought numerous door prizes for each night as well as for the ladies social hour. In addition, Dan played a role in bringing a special plaque to me, which I will treasure forever.

Thanks to the Internet we receive more calls, letters and e-mails than ever before. The invaluable result of that, which speaks to our mission of carrying on the heritage and lineage of the 37th Infantry Division and its veterans, was very evident to me at the reunion this year. Two new members that joined through finding our website, Ken Buckley, WWII, Co D 145th Inf, and his son Keith, who made initial contact with me, drove in from Farmington, MO, and Robert McHugh, Jr., the son of the late Robert McHugh, WWII, 148th companies F, K and L, along with his guest Helen Cortez, drove in from Downers Grove, IL, to join us for the reunion. It was my hope to introduce them to others that they would enjoy and have something in common. A couple introductions later I found all four of them talking and later sharing a meal with life member Sidney Goodkin, WWII, Co F 148th Inf, and Mark Heminger, a man with a passion for all things 37th ID as evidenced by the uniforms and memorabilia he displayed during the reunion. Mark's wife Debra joined the group for the dinner banquet on Saturday. What a wonderful win for all of us. I am convinced that the best way to learn about history is from someone who lived it, protected it – from a veteran.

I encourage all of you to share your story with someone. Younger generations truly want to know and older ones like to know they aren't alone. To everyone that has shared their history with me, and I am thankful the list is long, thank you.



George Clark, pictured here with Dian Patterson, honored our departed veterans during the Memorial Program by sounding TAPS. Thanks for helping us say our final goodbyes, George.

Photo taken by Mandy Oberszszyn.

IN MEMORIAM

In Memory Of

Janet Fenstermaker
Chaplain LTC Elmer Heindl
Nic Perovich
Frank Walker, PNP

Donors

73rd Infantry Brigade (SEP) Chapter
37th DVA
Stefanie Perovich
Mandy Oberszszyn

TAPS

Burns, Donald, (KW), Westerville, OH, 37th Q.M. Co., 8/17/12
Conner, Bob, (WWII, KW), Columbus, OH, 166th Inf Med Co, 10/30/12
Cox, David, Xenia, OH, 737th MAINT BN, 9/2/12
DeLancy, Dale, (KW), Ashland, OH, Co E 145th Inf, 10/29/12
Faletic, Frank, Powell, OH, OHARNG, 9/8/12
Fenstermaker, Janet, Columbus, OH, daughter of member Dorothy & the late Charles Fouts, 10/14/12
Kalb, Freeman, (WWII), Bucyrus, OH, HQS Btry 140th FA, 8/6/12
Knisely, Ruth, Galloway, OH, PNP Ladies of the 37th DVA, 10/24/12
Manion, Robert, (WWII), Upper Arlington, OH, 147th Inf, 10/13/12
Marginian, Charles, (WWII), Parma, OH, 37th Cav Recon, 2/27/12
Martin, David, (WWII), San Antonio, TX, Co I 148th Inf, November 2009
McKee, Ed, Ashland, OH, Co E 145th Inf, 9/3/12
Pollock, Richard, (WWII), Bucyrus, OH, 135th FA Med Det, 9/1/12
Seitz, George, Mt. Vernon, OH, 166th IN BN, 9/22/12
Sullivan, William, (WWII), Broadview Hts., OH, 135th FA BN, 7/21/12
Warner, Fred, (WWII), Chesterland, OH, HQ Co 145th Inf, 1/4/12

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Remember the 37th DVA in your will.

Comments Corner

“Grief can take care of itself, but to get the full value of a joy you must have somebody to divide it with.”

– *Mark Twain*

“If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.”

– *Author Unknown*, submitted by Dan Arnett

“Away is a place that’s not on any map. But you know it when you find it.”

– *GoRVing.com ad campaign*, submitted by Mandy Oberyszyn

**ON SALE AT
HEADQUARTERS**

WWII History Books*
(reprint) \$40.00

37th DVA
Baseball Cap* \$15.00

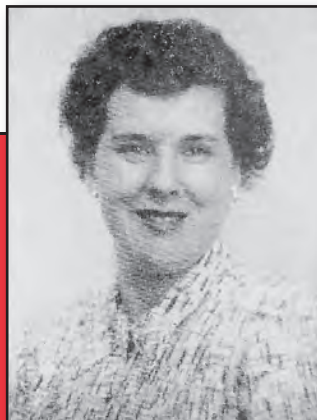
*Price includes postage.

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37th DVA Sweatshirt... \$15.00

37th DVA Polo..... \$20.00

Please call for shipping quote.



**Do you know this lovely lady?
She was a two-time President of
the Ladies of the 37th DVA and
she and her husband helped
create the 37th DVA Scholarship
Grant Program.**

Please see page 5 for the answer.