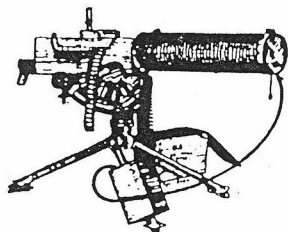




The Bugle



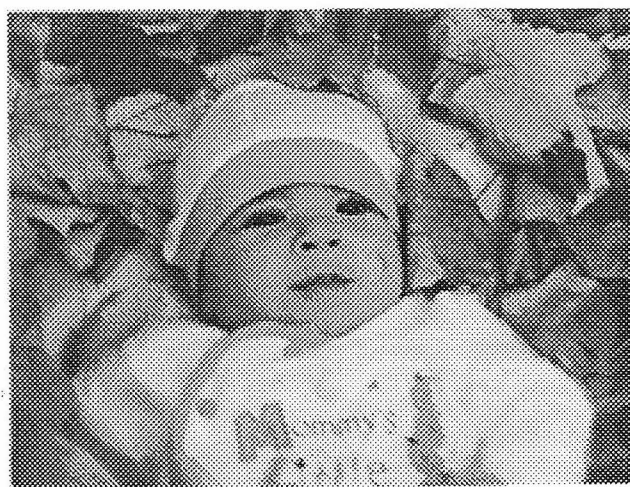
TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE 106TH INFANTRY DIVISION
ASSOCIATION AND COMMUNICATE WITH FORMER MEMBERS
OF COMPANY D, 424TH COMBAT INFANTRY REGIMENT

TWENTY FIRST EDITION

OCT, NOV, DEC 2001



**To All Of You
Across The Many Miles
We Wish You**



GREGORY TAYLOR BORGES

Great Grand Son
Born 22 July 2001

**A Merry Christmas
and
A Happy New Year**

D.C. Reunion 2001 In Brief

The Golden Lions began arriving at the Falls Church, Virginia Marriott Hotel as early as Labor Day for the 55th Annual Reunion. As they arrived, they found a wonderful big hotel nestled in a beautiful park like setting.

Plans had been made for a wonderful visit to our Nation's Capitol and it's surrounding area. Most often, the few days available are busy with association business meeting and tours of the area. The luncheons and dinners bring lots of good food as well as the breakfasts which must move along quickly to allow members to get on busses and attend meetings.

Certainly one of the high points are the "free time" which allows for greeting your friends of some fifty odd years, as well as the new friendships that have been made through the association. However, each year there is someone missing. A member passing on is noted. Our increasing age, health condition of one or the other of the couples who have attended past reunions is an increasing cause of absence.

I was asked by John Kline, Editor of The Cub, our association official publication to write a "Wrapping It Up" article about our 55th Reunion. Having been directly involved in making plans and arrangements for the reunion, it was easy enough to do a wrap up.

One of the first things that I made myself aware of was attendance. I had anticipated a somewhat larger attendance since it would be showcasing our nation's capitol. Quite possibly I had allowed myself to let my own personal feelings to cloud my thinking. Possibly the fact that I had spent some forty-four years living and working in that area gave me a feeling of greater interest. Possibly my love of American History and the events which take place centered around Washington, D.C. clouded my thinking.

But any way, the attendance was on a par for the last two of our reunions, last year in St. Louis and the year before in Schaumburg, just outside of Chicago. But from expressions made to me by many, many of those attending, "*A good time was had by all.*"

The first official event took place on Thursday, the 6th of September. Two bus loads of early arrivals motored to that beautiful mansion of our first president, George Washington-Mount Vernon on the Potomac. In 1955 when I moved to the area, Mount Vernon was one of my first visits. To understand that this beautiful home, which to me represents the early days of our country, stands majestically now as it did in those early days. A visit there is a wonderful way to start your visit. Once they returned, most everyone found time to visit the Hospitality Room. They're to look for familiar faces, or to look at the "Manning Board" to see who has checked in and their room number. The hugs and squeezes and hand shaking takes place along with the words of happiness in seeing one another once more.

Friday morning with plans having been made for two separate sight seeing trips of Washington, D.C. the participants received a surprise. Just three weeks before the reunion was to start, I had received a telephone call from the White House Visitors Group, that our year old request for our association to

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Contacts and Best Wishes

It is always good to hear from any of you out there. It's good to hear about each of you and how you are making out. It's not so good when I hear of the passing of one of our former comrades or of his mate. At this time of the year, as we exchange greetings and best wishes it is wonderful to feel the love and caring that is there.

Recently I received a very nice letter from the widow of one of our comrades who had joined "*The Silent Corps.*" Irene Sestak notified me that her husband George had passed away in 1977. George was a member of the Third Platoon. I will include Mrs. Sestak in my mailings. Her email address is Irenesestak@aol.com Now that's easy enough! Since those of you who were in the Third Platoon could give her some information, please contact her. George was a lot like many other veterans, he didn't want to talk about it and the family would now like to know about it. How many others?

One of the many that I hear from every so often is Alma Langlois. She has every so often, looked through Leon's many military things and has provided me with some more names of fellows. I will include those names and addresses a bit later. Thank you Alma and I wish you a Happy Holiday.

It was also very nice to again hear from Bill Domiano. I have told you all that they after spending their married life in one home, decided to release themselves of the burden of maintaining a house and moved into an apartment and are really enjoying life. Their mailing address is Ft. Dix, so I am wondering if Bill is anywhere close to the fort? If you are, do you spend any time there giving the "youngsters" some help? Best wishes to you two also.

Hey all of you out there. Just in case I didn't tell you or if he (Franklin R. Koehler) didn't send you an announcement, Frank got "hitched" again. Frank and Mae were married on July 21st after postponing it earlier due to some medical problems. Frank ol buddy, you sent me a copy of your yearly letter, but no where did you give Mae's last name. It's not that important, because now it's Koehler. We missed you at the reunion and hope things go well and allow the two of you to make it to Hampton, VA in September 2002. We met Mae at the St. Louis 2000 reunion. The two of you make a wonderful pair and I believe I can say this for all of those who know you, "We wish you two a wonderful life together."

Received a wonderful letter From Frances Steele, Lee's widow. Fran is getting along pretty well and learning to live "one sided" again. She has been doing a lot of redecorating of their house. She has a good friend who keeps her busy and a really nice son and daughter who can handle a paintbrush. So, to you Fran and your family, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Every so often I am able to speak with buddy Burnie Sutter on the telephone. As you all know, Burnie taking care of Rozetta, sold their home in Moline, IL and moved to Plano, TX where daughter Sandy and her husband live. They give Burnie a much-needed help and some much-needed release. I spent a number of days with the Sutters years back in Moline. It was a pleasure to be with them and see Sandy as a lovely little child. Burnie sent me a picture of he and his first

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visit The White House, had been granted. So we made some adjustments, by sliding the start of the sightseeing back a bit and planned for our members to arrive at the White House at the very start of visitors hours.

It was a wonderful feeling! For myself, as I entered the gate, a thrill shot through my body. As I walked up the drive and into The White House, I could only wish that many others could have been with us.

After The White House visit, we drove down into the Mall and stopped looking at the area which someday, hold the World War II Memorial. We then motored around to the site of The Korean Memorial. Since this beautiful memorial meant something to me as well, I spent a bit more time here, taking both video and 35mm pictures. Then on to Lincoln's Monument. I have been there many times before, but each time I visit there, I become spell bound. I personally do not have the ability to describe this fantastic memorial to one of our greatest Americans. Then we walked on over to the Vietnam Memorial. Again, a person can become speechless as you walk along these beautiful walls containing the names of those young men, most of who were the same ages as we during those years of World War II. Our bus tour continued for visits in and around the Mall. The other bus tour for those who preferred to not walk so much went to the Air and Space Museum. Our final visit in the afternoon was to Washington's Episcopal Cathedral. One of the most magnificent buildings in our country. It has been a hundred years in building.

It was then back to the hotel and get ready for our Reception Dinner and an evening of entertainment. The meal was great, but having been responsible for arranging for the entertainment, I could hardly eat my meal in anticipation. To those of you who have a great feeling for music of the 40's, I could only say I wish you all could have been there. The Sawyer Sisters Group, performing many of the songs of The Andrews Sisters, kept the room rocking. I could feel the floor vibrating. When the evening finished, and as the crowd left the ballroom, there was many singing and humming and snapping fingers. I had a wonderful feeling, the same as the first time that I had seen and heard them perform.

Saturday was a busy day. At the noontime, the ladies and men went separate ways for lunch and: Ladies for lunch and entertainment, Men for the annual business meeting and lunch. That accomplished, there was some free time before the next planned event. This is a dinner of choice. Meaning that it has been planned but not requiring attendance should you not care to participate. The dinner was aboard the Spirit of Washington cruise ship. Even though I was involved in planning this event, I was not very pleased with the event. The boat was quite crowded, it was very difficult to hear the music and "entertainment" and the boat trip itself went undescribed as to where the boat was traveling. (Yes, I know it was on the Potomac River.)

Sunday morning would become another of those outstanding periods and events. We had received permission to make a presentation at The Tomb of The Unknown Soldiers, followed by our Memorial Services to be held in the Amphitheater,

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which adjourns the tomb area. Back in May after attending the Army Divisions Association meeting at Valley Forge, I visited Washington (and my daughters and families) and made a visit to Ft. McNair and the army offices responsible for activities at The Tombs. I was assured of music, buglers, troop support and any thing that would make it outstanding. The biggest question mark was the weather. On Friday, I approached our Chaplain, Dr. Duncan Trueman. I told him that considering the fact that the presentation at the tomb as well as his memorial services would take place only if the weather held out. The forecasts were predicting a possibility of rain. I told him that Gen. Patton in time of need requested his army chaplain to prepare a prayer for good weather. Would it be possible for him to say a prayer for good weather? I don't think it could have been any better. During the memorial services, the sun came through so strong; members in the audience were moving around in an attempt to find some shade.

When it came time for the presentation at the tomb, Joe Maloney, First Vice President and I were escorted to the point of entry. The Changing of The Guard took place. I know that those of you who have not been there have seen it in movies and television. It is impressive! Those young soldiers are the very best. Following the changing, our presentation was to take place. I admit I was getting a bit nervous. I then heard the barking of commands, and this changed my thoughts. From the left and the right enter a platoon of soldiers from the 3rd Regiment, The Presidents Honor Guard. They were all in "dress blues" and each of them had plates on their heels. (All of the honor guards wear the heel plates.) I admit that I had to control my breathing. They were beautiful! As they entered, they then moved to the left and right of the tomb and past it, halted and did an about face. (I hadn't asked or bargained for this part of it.) Then the color guard entered, and as they did so, you could hear a pin drop. The audience was composed of more than our association members were, so there was a large crowd. After presenting the colors, they moved to the side. It was then that our escort, a Third Regiment Major said, "Gentlemen it is time to move forward." We moved down the stairs and out to the point where we met the young sergeant holding our wreath. As he moved backward carrying the wreath, Joe and I, touching the wreath moved forward. We all stopped, stepped back to our escort and stood at attention. At this time, TAPS were blown. I admit that I could no longer control my emotions and the tears flowed. When Taps were completed, we made a left turn and moved back up the steps. It was completed. Never in my life had I been involved in anything so emotional, so complete. We all then moved around to the amphitheater for our services. Chaplain Trueman was in charge and each of us who had a part in the services moved into place. A music ensemble of the Army Band was present and positioned up and behind Chaplain Trueman.

Each year during our Memorial Services, Chaplain Trueman has prepared a wonderful message, which this year; John Kline has reproduced in the most recent issue of The Cub. His message is located on Pages 4, 5 and 6. Please take time to

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Reunion 2001 (Continued from Page 5)

read this wonderful message. John Swett, our adjutant and past president read the names of those members of the association who left us and became a part of *"The Silent Corps."* There were 64 members who departed. Among them were three of our Company D buddies: **LeRoy Butter, Tony Skoda and Kermit Lee Steele.**

The Army Ensemble played before our services, Our National Anthem as well as several other numbers. They were great!

At the completion of the Memorial we got back on the busses and made a wide tour of the cemetery, passing by the graves of our former division commander, Major General Alan Jones and his wife and then by the grave of Col. Thomas Riggs, who was our Division Engineer Officer, as well as Commander of the 81st Engineer Battalion. During the Battle of The Bulge, Col. Riggs was quite an outstanding leader.

Sunday evening is set aside as our Banquet and honors to be rendered. The evening started with an hour long period of visiting and cocktails. At seven o'clock sharp, our meeting started followed by a wonderful dinner. After dinner, awards and honors are presented. Included in this period was the presentation of The **Order of The Golden Lion**. The OGL is the highest honorary award presented by our association. This years honorees were: **Dale Carver, Officer Class, 424 HQ 3rd Bn.** who has served us all as Poet Laureate. I'm sure those of you who read The Cub have read his many poems. (On October 14, 2001, Dale died.) **Walter Bridges, Commander Class** and his wife **Barbara, Companion Class** I'm sure that most of you know that Judge Walter served in Company D, 424th Infantry Regiment, and Second Platoon. I was given the honor of presenting the awards to these two wonderful friends and buddies. The fourth presentation was to **Doctor Duncan Trueman, our Chaplain.** Chaplain Trueman served in Anti-tank Company, 424th Regiment. I just now came to the realization that all three of the awardees served in the 424th Infantry Regiment.

Following the awards and honors, it was my privilege to swear in Joseph P. Maloney as President of our association for the year 2001-2002. Joe had served with me as First Vice President and will make a fine president.

Our speaker for the evening was introduced by Past President Jack Sulser. Deputy Secretary, Office of Policy and Planning, Department of Veterans Affairs, **Claude M. "Mick" Kicklighter.** "Mick" as he likes to be called, is not only a retired Lieutenant General, U.S. Army but has performed an outstanding career of service to our country. He also became an Associate Member of our association, at his request and was sponsored by Jack Sulser. He spoke of the official record of the 106th Infantry Division, using Department of the Army historical records as the basis of his talk. He then concluded his talk by informing our membership about a number of improvements our President and Secretary of Veterans Affairs is seeking to make in veteran's benefits and processing. Following his presentation, the Secretary made himself available to individuals with questions or remarks. He was well received by our audience.

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Monday morning was the Going Away Breakfast enjoyed by many. Some eighteen to twenty stayed on for additional days visiting Washington. However, on Tuesday morning, September 11th, we all know what happened in New York and at The Pentagon. By Friday, some had rented autos to drive home. Some awaited the release of flights to make the trip home.

Memories (Continued from Page 4)

for his efforts. Paul Morris has had some tough days with Parkinson's and his wife Elly takes good care of him. He was quite a golfer and I'm sure as he watches Tiger Woods, he wishes he could give the little pill a few smacks. Norm Simmons has of late had his physical problems and yet finds time to attend our association reunions. His wife Betty takes loving care of him and is a bright light to all. It would be wonderful if we all could once again get together. Because of distances, and health situations, it might be almost impossible. The telephone is a good connector, so keeping in touch is the next best thing. Merry Christmas fellows!

Contacts and Best Wishes (Continued from Page 4)

Sam Cemer, I hope your health is improving. Keep in touch. And to Fred Chermak and wife up in Colgate, WI. It was nice of you to send me a map and show me where Colgate is located. Since you are in the Milwaukee area, I wonder if you are a baseball fan?

And I'm going to close this out with a message to "the big guy" in Wilburton, PA, Andy Yakupchina. Through the grapevine I have heard that your health isn't too good. I hope you are getting along OK. I wish some of the fellows in that general vicinity would stop in to see you and maybe take along a six pack or what ever, and then let me know how you are doing. I wish you a good year.

I will close this for now. To those that I have not named and wished the best, I do wish you a good year of good health for you and yours. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you.

Alma's Listings

Here are the names of former D/424 comrades that Alma Langlois found in Leon's book. I will try to find and contact them. From appearances and from my lack of knowing part of them, I would say they all served in the Mortar Platoon.

Lou Knox, 212 E. 83rd St., Chicago, IL: **Horst Mielke**, P.O. Box 2026, Sebring, FL: **Charles Pitchok**, 4 Library Rd., Castle Shannon, PA: **Lucas Palusella**, 7556 Wheeler Ave., Detroit, MI: **Richard Peckelman**, 419 Ansborough, Waterloo, IO: **G.M. Staples**, Huntsville, KY: **Thomas Seperich**, 5332 So. Kolin, Chicago, IL: **Vernon Surratt**, Rte. 1, Box 198, Marshall, TX: **Roy Sharpe**, 649 Hazel Ave., Lima, OH. That's the list. May be some of you could also try to locate them. Just remember, this list is now well over 50 years ago.