

CEREMONY HONORS VETS, MARKS 100TH BIRTHDAY OF THE RAINBOW DIVISION

NEWS VIDEO from Long Island News

<http://longisland.news12.com/story/36122668/ceremony-honors-vets-marks-100th-birthday-of-rainbow-division>

PHOTOS of the 42nd Division's 100th Birthday Celebration

<https://flic.kr/s/aHsm2gTrMc>

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. On August 12 2017, Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's (NYARNG) 42nd Infantry Division, veterans who served in the Division, members of the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, 42nd Rainbow Division Association, past and present Commanders of the 42nd Infantry Division, and honored guests celebrated the Division's 100th anniversary during a ceremony held at the Rainbow Division World War I Memorial located at the Rainbow Division Plaza, Garden City, NY, which now stands at the entrance to what was known as Camp Mills, a World War I training camp. Orders creating the division were dated 1 August 1917 and the division's Soldiers began assembly at Camp Mills on August 20, 1917.

Major General Steven Ferrari, the Commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, and Major General (retired) Joseph Taluto, President of the Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, where the guest speakers for the ceremony, and music was provided by the 42nd Infantry Division Band. Taluto commanded the division during its most recent combat deployment; to Tikrit, Iraq in 2005. A wreath was placed at the Memorial by BG Ferrari and representatives from the various 42nd Infantry Division Veterans groups and local government representatives. After the ceremony, a ceremonial cake was cut by Major General Steven Ferrari, the Commander of the 42nd Infantry Division, Major General (retired) Joseph Taluto and the 42nd Rainbow Association, to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 42nd Infantry Division, and guest were able to view historical images of Camp Mills.

One hundred years ago 27,000 men of the 42nd Infantry Division mustered at Camp Mills outside Garden City to prepare for service in France in World War I. The division was nicknamed "The Rainbow Division" because it was created from National Guard units of many states and reached across the country "like a rainbow" in the words of Douglas MacArthur, the division's chief of staff.

The 17-ft tall monument is made of Rainbow granite from Minnesota, and was erected in 1941. It weighs more than 30 tons. Each side of the base depicts a phase of Rainbow Division history in maps and words. The sides of the monument show a Doughboy at attention, a Doughboy blowing taps, and a list of all the units of the division and their states. A permanent red, yellow and blue rainbow is etched in the granite above the soldiers.

Photos by Cpt Mark Getman/New York Guard/Released