



**SPRIT OF THE RAINBOW  
Veterans/Armistice Day  
November 2023**



Placement of RDVF wreath at statue of General Douglas MacArthur at the United States Military Academy at West Point by Frank Degano (L) and Harry Gim.

**Below left:** Garden City, NY Rainbow Division WWI Memorial photo by Abigail Vorlicek, granddaughter of COL (ret) William Vorlicek; she observed, "shadows of the men saluting were the soldiers that the monument memorialized."

**Photos center and right:** taken by Mark Getman; all photos and captions found here - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nyng/53311088112/in/album-72177720312463691/>



# REVEILLE

**VOL. CIV JANUARY 2024 NO. 3  
PUBLISHED QUARTERLY – OCTOBER, JANUARY, APRIL, JULY  
PUBLISHED ONLINE AT <RAINBOWVETS.ORG>**

## CAMPAIGNS

**World War I: Lorraine-Champagne-Aisne-Marne-St. Mihiel-Meuse Argonne  
World War II: Central Europe-Rhineland-Alsace-Ardenne  
War on Terrorism: Operation Noble Eagle – Operation Iraqi Freedom –  
Operation Enduring Freedom – Operation Spartan Shield**

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow RDVF members,  
I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Ours was one filled with lots of family and far too many homemade treats! It was truly a time for giving thanks for the blessing we all share. On that note, I want to share how thankful I am for the Board and the Membership of the RDVF. This organization was built on a foundation of, and dedicated towards commemorating the deeds, sacrifices and traditions of the 42nd Infantry (Rainbow) Division. We do this important work through the creation and maintenance of our memorials, through providing educational information and opportunities to our members and their descendants, and through the preservation of our amazing Division history.



The RDVF Board came together in early December to ensure that this important work continues into the future. Thanks to the wonderful work of Myles Beecham, we were able to approve a company to initiate the development of our new RDVF website. We added access to a free AUSA digital membership to all RDVF members who choose to enjoy the additional benefits that come with it. And we also established a committee and initiated the planning for the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 42d Division OIF Deployment. Both MG (ret) Taluto and BG (ret) Genereux will provide advisory oversight to this important event planning team.

Like so many years past, 2023 brought continued success to our organization. Over the year, I witnessed this great work each day. I read multiple Suellen McDaniel responses to individual inquiries made by the families of our past veterans. I can't say it enough, but we are so fortunate to have Suellen on our team. She is tireless in her dedication to our historic Division and those who served under her flag. I also saw Patrick Chaisson take on and complete the impossible as he digitized countless historical records secured at the National Archives. He adapted and overcame obstacles that could have easily ended this important work. Thank you for persevering, Pat!

**Deadline for April 2024 issue is 10 April 2024**



## RAINBOW REVEILLE

Official Publication of the  
Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation  
Published Since 1920

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Vol. CIV January 2024 No. 3

THE RAINBOW REVEILLE

Published July, October, January, April

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EDITOR: Suellen R. McDaniel (address above)

### REPORTING CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Missourian Publishing Company

6321 Bluff Rd Washington, MO 63090

c/o Emily Tobben [tobbene@emissourian.com](mailto:tobbene@emissourian.com)

### PLEASE REPORT DEATHS FOR MEMORIAL

FILE TO NATIONAL SECRETARY

Patrick Macklin, contact info above

Gifts payable to RDVF (see page 8)

and DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS

(\$25/annually; \$50.LIFE for WWII veterans; \$200.LIFE  
for all others)

This year the RDVF saw a record year in the Scholarship program awarding nearly \$30,000 in scholarships to our Rainbow descendants. Hats-off to Tammy Moss-Hicks and the Scholarship Committee for another successful scholarship season. Membership campaigns, support to multiple 42d Division unit deployments, leadership conferences and even more improvements to our membership benefits are all on the rise thanks to the great work of Reggie Sanders, John Willsey, Floyd Goska, Steve Wickstrom and so many more who volunteer their precious time to our mission. I clearly haven't mentioned everyone who contributed to the successes of the RDVF and I could go on all day describing the incredibly effective engagements and wonderful work our Board Members, committees, and volunteers all make on behalf of this amazing organization. Instead, I wish to simply say, "Thank You"! My sincere thanks go out to you ALL for your selfless contributions and dedication to our continued growth and success!

Finally, I will close out by sending our sincere appreciation to MG Tom Spencer and the 42d Infantry Division for including the RDVF in their Dining-out on December 2nd. It was another wonderful event with our very own MG (ret) Joseph Taluto as keynote speaker. I also want to share that MG Spencer will soon be passing the Division Colors to BG(p) Joe Biehler. The ceremony will take place on February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Joint Forces Headquarter – NY, in Latham. Please join me in congratulating MG Spencer on his successful command and welcoming BG(p) Biehler back to the Division as its new commander.

Wishing you all a healthy and happy 2024. Until the next Reveille –  
Rainbow, Never Forget!

Gary Yaple, RDVF Chair



**Photo L:** Fort Dix, NJ Robert F. Vicci, LTC (Ret) presents RDVF wreath at Task Force Liberty Memorial; the inscriptions on both memorials' plaques begin with the words, "The 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division remembers those Soldiers who mobilized and deployed from Fort Drum and Fort Dix in 2004 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom...."

**Photo R:** Fort Drum, NY wreath-laying at OIF Memorial by New York Army National Guard soldiers; photo courtesy of COL (ret) Mike Bice

<http://www.rainbowvets.org/recent-memorial-projects>

## TWO MEMORIAL SERVICES AT OISE-AISNE AMERICAN CEMETERY, Seringes-et-Nesles, FRANCE

By Charles Diaz, Superintendent

The Oise-Aisne American Cemetery conducted a solemn ceremony marking Armistice/Veterans Day on 11 November. Prior to the Veterans' Day ceremony, the cemetery hosted a luminary on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November in remembrance of all the soldiers buried at the cemetery and paying tribute to the 3 French nationals buried at the cemetery – one French unknown soldier from the French 156<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, and two French civilians who assisted U.S. AEF troops during the Great War. The ceremony also paid tribute to our latest Unknown American Soldier buried on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Luminary, titled, "The Flames of Hope – Tribute to the Soldiers of the Great War" was sponsored by the Souvenirs Français and included readings of letters written home from soldiers fighting in the front. The letters were read by school children from surrounding schools which was followed by the lighting of candles placed on the graves of the 3 French and 1 American Unknown Soldier.

Unfortunately, the weather was windy, rainy and cold yet over 130 people attended



the ceremony which was held at 1800. The ceremony concluded with the laying of wreaths around the flagpole.

The Veterans' Day ceremony was short and included the reading of the President's Veterans Day proclamation by new Superintendent Charlie Diaz and concluded by the laying of wreaths around the flagpole.



**Photos 1 and 2– Les Flammes de L'Espoir ceremony**  
**Photos 3 and 4 – Superintendent Charlie Diaz at podium**  
**photo presentations by French Photographer, Béatrice Dahm**



**Photo of Ardennes American Cemetery, Neuville-en-Condroz, Belgium**  
 From Superintendent Bert Caloud (standing with visitors,) who wrote: "Here in Belgium 11 November isn't commemorated as much as in

France. There are still ceremonies in many towns at the Memorial to the Day and they lay wreaths but not in the number or grand fashion as in France. There will be a ceremony up at Flanders Field American Cemetery which of course is WWI."

From Wikipedia.com:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ardennes\\_American\\_Cemetery\\_and\\_Memorial](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ardennes_American_Cemetery_and_Memorial)  
 "Many of the 5,329 people interred at the Ardennes American Cemetery died during Nazi Germany's final major offensive in the west, the [Battle of the Bulge](#). They include some service troops who were fighting as [infantry](#). Others died in the advance to the [Rhine](#) and across Germany, and in the strategic bombardment of Europe. Three-fifths of those buried in the cemetery were airmen. The dead came from almost every state in the Union as well as from Washington, D.C., Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, the Philippines, and the British West Indies. 777 of the headstones mark the graves of 792 unidentified bodies. Among the headstones are eleven instances in which two brothers are buried side by side. There are also three cases in which two identified airmen are buried in single graves."  
 [ed: there are several Rainbow Division WWII soldiers interred here].



**Memorial wreath at Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis War Memorial, "In memory of the Soldiers of the 42nd Division U.S. Army in World Wars I and II wherever they are resting in Eternal Peace...."; facilitated by Ken Marshall, son of WWII Rainbow Veteran, Charles F. Marshall, C/122 Med Bn (RDVA Past National President) and Frances L. Marshall (RDVA Past National Auxiliary President).**



**MACON, GA Coleman Hill memorial to the 151st Machine Gun Battalion, 42nd Infantry "Rainbow" Division WWI.**  
**"Erected by the Ladies Auxiliary 151 Machine Gun Bt. assisted by the Men of the Battalion - 1922."**  
**Wreath created and photo taken by Jean and Hall Florists, Macon GA**  
**[Ed. Nine men of this unit are under the care of Oise-Aisne American Cemetery.]**

## RDVF 2024 SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Happy 2024! Last year we were able to award 14 scholarships for both graduate and undergraduate college students. This year we encourage Lifetime members who are family and friends to encourage those they know to apply for the 2024 RDVF scholarship. We are updating the application form to reflect no SAT or ACT requirement anymore which should ease the application process. We encourage you to ask your mentors for letters of recommendation now. Letters of recommendation are one of the items that are a key part of scholarship applications and can hold up the process if you are contacting a teacher or coach during the summer months. Think ahead and look at the scholarship information as you are waiting to hear back from your college choices. The RDVF is proud to offer funds to sponsor students as they work to achieve their educational goals. Send your questions by email to [42idscholars@gmail.com](mailto:42idscholars@gmail.com) Tammy Moss-Hicks, Scholarship Chair



**PSALM 91**  
*(also known as  
The Soldier's Prayer)*

*He who dwells in the shelter of the  
Most High  
will abide in the shadow of the  
Almighty.  
I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and  
my fortress,  
my God, in whom I trust."*

*For he will deliver you from the snare of  
the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence.  
He will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find  
refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.  
You will not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
nor the pestilence that stalks in  
darkness,  
nor the destruction that wastes at  
noonday.*

*A thousand may fall at your side,  
ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.  
You will only look with your eyes  
and see the recompense of the wicked.*

*Because you have made the Lord your  
dwelling place—  
the Most High, who is my refuge—  
no evil shall be allowed to befall you,  
no plague come near your tent.*

*For he will command his angels  
concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.  
On their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you strike your foot against a  
stone.  
You will tread on the lion and the adder;  
the young lion and the serpent you  
will trample underfoot.*

*"Because he holds fast to me in love, I  
will deliver him;  
I will protect him, because he knows  
my name.*

*When he calls to me, I will answer him;  
I will be with him in trouble;  
I will rescue him and honor him.  
With long life I will satisfy him  
and show him my salvation."*

where we find true courage. In many cases these military values are seen as archaic and counterculture, but they are vital for the success of our forces and our nation.

In the recent actions in the Middle East, we see the brutality and almost animalistic behavior of those who have power without virtue. It has happened many times in our world's history, that arrogance and selfishness have pushed aside the wisdom we gleaned, to subjugate the world to violence. This is not courage, but cowardice. Yes, it takes courage to go to combat, but it takes greater courage to work past the conflict into a better understanding and collaboration. We certainly need to fight against undisciplined and selfish tyrants and the ignorance that fuels them, but the fight is on many levels. It requires many forms of diligence.

One of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division's important legacies is not only that they helped to defeat the Nazis in Europe, but also that they

## Courage

If there is one thing that has been made apparent to me over my years of soldiering and working with soldiers, it is the understated virtue of courage. As our nation wrestles with its sense of identity and our armed forces see the decline in prestige and volunteers, there seems to be a fundamental shift in our values. As a Chaplain, it would be expected of me to point to the decline in church attendance, or perhaps the lack of family cohesion, to explain these things. Though these are factors that impact our culture, I believe that, in a larger sense, our culture has seen a devaluation of virtue. Once upon a time, we relied on the military to shape our young people with values and virtues that are necessary for any successful important endeavor.

When the young recruits are assimilated, they encounter people from different cultures and economic backgrounds but learn the values of the service and become an important part of the greater American community. Teaching, learning, and growing are things we, as a military force, do well. We call it training. This training, however, is on many levels. Yes, we teach the soldiers how to shoot straight, but we also try to teach them when and why. Amid building and training for conflict, we work to also instill decency, compassion, respect, and honesty. These virtues are

helped to create an environment which has brought the longest period of peace and prosperity that the European continent has ever known. In the war, we didn't just show the enemy our might, but also our courage to move beyond our differences to build a better tomorrow. We need to continue to teach our young men and women the Army values which enabled this achievement: loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, personal courage along with decency, compassion, and honesty. These are the critical building blocks of our future.

Our virtues built upon our values are vital for a prosperous future. We know the phrase, "lead by example". Let us take this to heart because in caring for our future, courage begins with each of us.

Blessings on the New Year  
Chaplain (Col. ret)  
Eric W. Olsen

## TO FEED, FIX, FUEL AND MOVE

By Patrick J. Chaisson  
RDVF Historian

There is an old saying that claims "nothing happens until something moves." Attributed to Albert Einstein, this quote has since become the motto of those military logisticians whose job it is to get supplies and personnel where they're needed anywhere in the world.

Transportation, maintenance, and supply have always been critical aspects of modern warfare. In World War One, members of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division used horses and mules to haul artillery, ammunition, and



rations. During the Second World War, Rainbow Division logisticians relied on a fleet of versatile motor vehicles to keep the troops supplied. Postwar, innovative rotary-wing (helicopter) technology delivered amazing new capabilities to 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The story of logistical support in the Rainbow Division is both an important and an often-overlooked one. This short article is meant to recognize the contributions of those soldiers who feed, fix, fuel, and move the force – the "unsung heroes" of the Quartermaster, Transportation, and Ordnance Corps.

When the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division went to France in 1917, it contained a formation known as the 117<sup>th</sup> Train Headquarters. Underneath this command were an ammunition train, supply train, engineer materials train, and sanitary (medical) train, each of which was approximately battalion-sized.



(The military term “train” – still used – came from the U.S. Civil War, in which long columns of horse-drawn wagon trains followed advancing armies. It has nothing to do with railroad operations.)

When it entered World War One, the U.S. Army was just beginning to mechanize. This meant that much of the Rainbow Division went to combat with thousands of draft animals to feed and care for. The first motor transport vehicles to enter service went to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division’s four ambulance companies for casualty evacuation. Notoriously unreliable, these field ambulance trucks required constant maintenance – a task performed by overworked Ordnance Corps mechanics.



In 1943, when the Rainbow was reactivated for service in World War II, its logistics organization differed greatly from the First World War “trains” concept. Each infantry regiment and field artillery battalion now had its own service company, equipped with versatile GMC cargo trucks. Known as the “Jimmy,” this vehicle could apply power to all six axles while carrying a load of two and a half tons at speeds of 45 mph on paved surfaces.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division had a sufficient quantity of cargo carriers to keep its combat forces supplied with “beans and bullets,” but not to haul troops around except in an emergency. If the infantry couldn’t walk to its next objective, logisticians arranged for Army- or Corps-level truck companies to provide needed transportation.

Responding to an urgent call for riflemen in late 1944, the Rainbow sent its three infantry regiments overseas without most of their supply vehicles. These “Rainbowmen,” organized into a temporary command called Task Force Linden, relied on another combat division’s logistics assets during Operation Nordwind. There weren’t nearly enough trucks to support everyone, which meant that the 42<sup>nd</sup>’s infantrymen occasionally ran out of ammunition and food while defending against crack German shock troops in places like Hatten and Gambenheim.

Conditions improved after the rest of the division shipped over in early 1945. Handling supply for the Rainbow in WWII was the 42<sup>nd</sup> Quartermaster Company, while the 742<sup>nd</sup> Ordnance Light Maintenance Company kept its fleet of cargo trucks and fighting vehicles in good repair. Another key member of the division’s logistics “tail” was the 122<sup>nd</sup> Medical Battalion, whose aidmen and doctors cared for the sick as well as those injured in combat or in accidents. Following the end of World War Two, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division underwent rapid change as part of the U.S. Army National Guard. Logisticians frequently reacted to new missions, new doctrine, and new equipment. Around 1968, the Rainbow became “mechanized” – a way of saying its soldiers now rode to war in tracked personnel carriers, tanks, and self-propelled howitzers.

All this equipment came with enormous challenges. To handle increased supply, fuel, medical, and maintenance requirements, the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division added several Forward Support Battalions to its force structure. The Division Support Command (DISCOM), headed by a colonel, was also created to control and coordinate these logistics assets – a job it performed extraordinarily well as part of Task Force Liberty in Iraq from 2004-2005. (The 42<sup>nd</sup> DISCOM has since cased its colors.)

When the Rainbow’s Combat Aviation Brigade and its fleet of modern helicopters entered service, so did an organization known as the 642<sup>nd</sup> Divisional Aviation Support Battalion (now known as the 642<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Support Battalion). Keeping sophisticated “Blackhawk” and “Chinook” helicopters flying safely is a unique and specialized

assignment, one the 642<sup>nd</sup> ASB performed brilliantly under combat conditions in Iraq in 2005 and again in Afghanistan from 2013-14.

Hard-working logistics soldiers have kept the Rainbow Division on the road and in the air for over 107 years. Though much has changed in that time, the basic principles of feeding, fixing, fueling, and moving remain vital elements of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division’s battlefield mission.



**Photo One** – FOB Speicher: Rainbow soldiers of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division Support Command (DISCOM) erected this sign at Forward Operating Base Speicher in central Iraq during their tour of duty there from 2004-2005. Photo courtesy New Jersey National Guard.

**Photo Two** – Moving Forward: Rainbow Division supply trucks move forward as thousands of prisoners march through Munich’s streets. April 30, 1945. Photo courtesy *42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division: A Combat History of World War II* by Hugh C. Daly.

**Photo Three** – Ambulance: Putting wounded of the 165<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division, in ambulance. Bertrichamps, France. April 26, 1918. Photo courtesy New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center.

**Photo Four** – Blackhawk Over NYC: The highly trained soldiers of the 642<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Support Battalion help keep UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters like this one flying in time of peace and war. Photo courtesy New York National Guard.

## AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY IN JANUARY 1945 AND A TRADITION OF WITNESSING AND REMEMBERING COURAGE AND HONOR

By Erin Faith Allen

It was January 25, 1945 and the sun had yet to rise. All along the front line the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division was stretched to the max, and the Germans had been hammering their positions the night before. The 222 Anti-Tank Company of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Division had spent the night bundled into houses on a quiet street in Schweighausen (now Schweighouse sur Moder) in the Alsace region of France, a sleepy village tucked between Ohlungen and Hagenau.

PFC Locked ‘Bud’ Gahs woke before the rest of his squad and walked out to his truck. He had to make a run, and doing so after daybreak might cost his life. He found three tires blown out on his truck from the barrage the night before. He went into a house and woke his buddy Gardner, another truck driver. ‘Hey Gardner, I need to use your truck’. Together they walked outside and saw what looked like a company of men emerging out of the trees. They were confused at first: those guys weren’t supposed to be there, yet they could barely make out what looked like white uniforms that matched the snow on the ground. Then they heard them speak: their language was German.

Bud and Gardner ran across the street and back into the house - and the Germans followed. As they entered the house they told the squad, who were still sleeping, that they had better wake up fast because the Germans were coming. The men all ran up the stairs. One of these men was PFC Wayne Cruse, who quickly took position at a window. Soon, the men heard Cruse say: ‘I just got another one!’ and then they watched as Cruse collapsed from a sniper’s bullet.



There was no time for the men to absorb the shock of what they had just seen, with the Germans rushing into the house and shooting up through the floor below. The men rushed and took position at the top of the stairs, with some of them firing out the top windows. They stopped the advance of the Germans into the house - not one single German made it up the stairs.

A little farther up the road, as the men in the other houses became alerted to the attack, PFC Barney Parrish ran with his comrades toward the platoon CP as they had been instructed to do by their platoon commander, 1LT Russel Fielding. Hit by machine gun fire, Parrish fell instantly, then raised himself up and covered the other men's advance with fire as they broke through enemy lines. And then Parrish died. His posthumous Bronze Star citation acknowledges that 'his indomitable courage and selfless determination allowed his comrades to successfully escape from their precarious position'.

This highly decorated platoon helped take the town of Schweighausen and gave it back to the people of Alsace.

Recently, I met a man when I visited Schweighausen who had watched these very battles play out from his home along this street that he still lives on. He is bound together by fate with Bud and Gardner, and Cruse and Parrish, and all of the other brave men of the 222 who broke the back of the German attack and Operation Nordwind that day.

I asked Georges what he remembered about the Yanks who took his town. He said 'The Germans were not nice. The Americans treated us like their own, and gave us candy.'

Until his own passing in 2021 at the age of 100, 1LT Russel Fielding held a private moment in memorium every January 25th to mark the sacrifice of Parrish and Cruse. I believe that Fielding would be heartened to know that his tradition lives on, and that this somber anniversary is still tenderly held in the hearts of many. The descendants of the French men and women of this region, who the Division freed from the tyranny of the Nazi boot, carry the names of the men like Parrish and Cruse on their lips to this day, and show their devotion to honor those who sacrificed their lives all along the front lines of Operation Nordwind in 1945 in a variety of ways.

Through their preservation of their history, and ours of our own, we can be assured that the men - and the fighting spirit - of the Rainbow will never die.

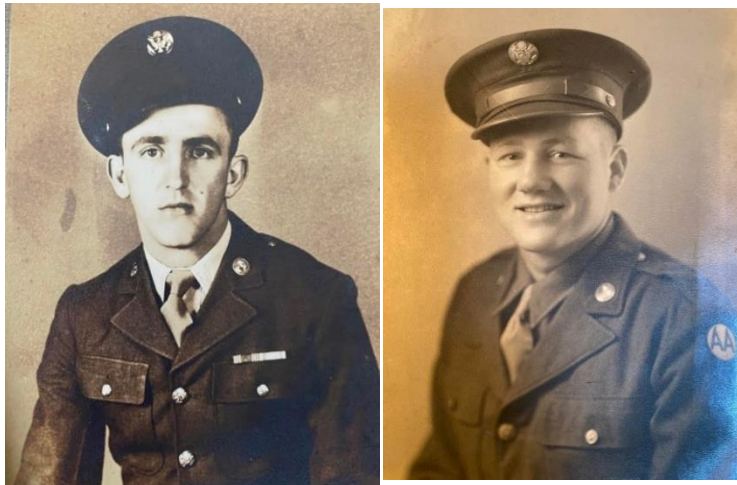


Photo L – PFC Barney Parrish; R – PFC Wayne Cruse  
The photos of both men were taken from their individual find-a-grave pages with permission from the photo donor, Dwight "Andy" Anderson.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56371849/wayne-charles-cruse>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56374700/barney-howard-parrish>

This article was written by Erin Faith Allen. To learn more about her many dedicated and creative ways of preserving history, please go to – <https://www.erinfaithallen.com/> and <https://www.storiesofwar.org/films/v/waynecruse>

## RAINBOW DIVISION MILESTONES 2024



**Happy Birthday To Our WWII Rainbow Veterans And THANK YOU!!!**

### RAYMOND DEMING

Cannon Company, 232<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment; 99 years on December 7, 2023  
Photo (R) of Ray Deming at the entrance to the National WWII Memorial, Washington D.C. on May 1, 2015, Tour of Honor



### HILBERT MARGOL

Battery B, 392<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion

100 Years on February 22, 2024  
To view a CNN description of Hilbert's address to school students in the fall of 2023, please visit,

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2023/11/18/wwii-veteran-antisemitism-tuchman-nr-vpx.cnn>



"American Witnesses" exhibit at United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



**GEORGE W. POWDER,**  
Company B, 142<sup>nd</sup> Combat Engineer Battalion; 101 years on January 18, 2024.

Congratulations also to Mrs. Pouder, whose 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday is celebrated one week later.

To view Mr. Pouder's oral history and video, please visit -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZtZt3UEisms>



### GERALD EATON

Company F, 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment  
98 years on February 5, 2024

Both photos were taken in the fall of 1944 and photo R is sent by Gerald's grandson, Jerry O. Eaton





## JAMES G. "JIM" DAVIS

1204<sup>th</sup> Engineer Firefighting Platoon WWII;  
son of 1SGT Arthur C. "Top" Davis, F/117<sup>th</sup> Engineers, 2d Battalion,  
42<sup>nd</sup> Division WWI; 100 years  
on January 14, 2024



In group WWII photo, Jim is 3<sup>rd</sup> from the left.



Photo R,  
Jim Davis and his sister, Annette Davis  
DeYoung standing under the Peristyle of the  
LA Memorial Coliseum.  
They are standing in for their father, 1SGT  
Arthur C. "Top" Davis, F/117<sup>th</sup> Engineers, 2d  
Battalion, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division WWI, who was  
honored that day; photo is sent by Jim Davis.

His birthday photo is sent by Jim's daughter,  
Penny Munroe.



- Warrior tasks and battle drills
- Land navigation
- Army Combat Fitness Test

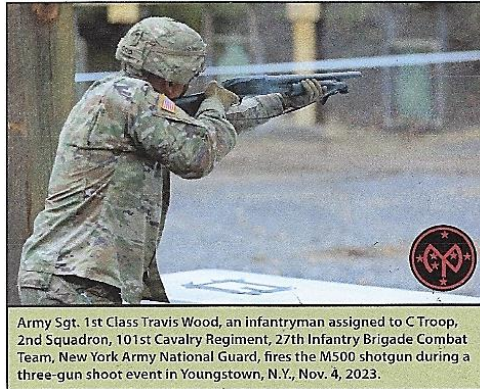
During the warrior tasks and battle drills, Soldiers were challenged to bound with a buddy while under fire – taking cover behind barriers, crawling under obstacles, and firing back at an enemy. Once they cleared the challenge, they had to immediately provide care to a simulated wounded Soldier under stressful conditions.

Competitors were chosen as the best-of-the-best from thousands of 27<sup>th</sup> ICBT Soldiers across the state, after completing competitions at their home units. Fillion and Wood spent extra time preparing for the challenges at the brigade-level.

"It's a lot of study, maintaining physical performance, and your sponsor preparing you to go out there and succeed," said Wood.

Both say the skills and traits they used in competition translate to their civilian careers.

"A lot of my job is attention to detail, reminding myself, you need to think about the little, tiny things. They all affect something later down the line," said Fillion. "and just [having] a never-quit attitude."



Army Sgt. 1st Class Travis Wood, an infantryman assigned to C Troop, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry Regiment, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New York Army National Guard, fires the M500 shotgun during a three-gun shoot event in Youngstown, N.Y., Nov. 4, 2023.

## Orion Soldiers Compete to be Best Warrior

Story and photos by Maj. Avery Schneider, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team



Army Spc. Andrew Buck, an Unmanned Aircraft Systems Operator assigned to Delta Company, 152nd Brigade Engineer Battalion, 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New York Army National Guard, extends the detonation wire of an M18 Claymore mine during a warrior tasks and battle drills evaluation in Youngstown, N.Y., Nov. 4, 2023. The evaluation was one of six challenging events in the brigade's annual best warrior competition.

Reprinted from the Guard Times Magazine (Fall 2023)

[https://dmna.ny.gov/gt/gt\\_fall\\_23.pdf](https://dmna.ny.gov/gt/gt_fall_23.pdf)

BUFFALO, N.Y. – Nine Army National Guard Soldiers from across New York State spent more than 48 hours in competition to become the "Best Warrior" of the Syracuse-based 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

Spc. Peter Fillion, 23, of Rochester and Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Travis Wood, 32, of Basom were named the brigade's best warriors in the Soldier and the Noncommissioned Officer categories.

Fillion and Wood, both infantrymen, are assigned to Charlie Troop of the brigade's 2d squadron, 101<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment. They will compete in the New York Army National Guard Best Warrior Competition in spring 2024, with hopes of extending a five-year streak of 27<sup>th</sup> ICBT Soldiers placing first and representing New York in the Army National Guard's northeast regional and national competitions.

The best warrior competition tests a Soldier's mind, body, and spirit," said Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Roeser, senior enlisted leader of the 27<sup>th</sup> IBC.

Over two and a half days from Nov. 3 through 5, Soldiers were tested in six events:

- Formal interview board
- 12-mile ruck march
- Three-gun shoot, which combined rifle, pistol and shotgun Qualification with 10 burpees, a high crawl, and 25 air squats.



**Afghan War  
vet Brig.  
Gen.  
Christopher  
Cronin  
to be deputy  
commander  
of 42nd  
Infantry  
Division**

**ROCHESTER, N.Y. United States 11.04.2023**

New York Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Christopher Cronin unfurls his one-star general officer's flag during his promotion ceremony at the Army Aviation Support Facility in Rochester, New York, on Nov. 4, 2023. Cronin has served in the military since he graduated from Syracuse University in 1993, and commissioned into the officer corps as a 2nd Lieutenant. He will be serving in his new role as the Deputy Commanding General for Operations in the 42nd Infantry Division following his promotion. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Grace Nechanicky)

Reprinted from DVIDS;

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/457304/afghan-war-vet-brig-gen-christopher-cronin-deputy-commander-42nd-infantry-division>

## OUR VISION

The Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation will live on in perpetuity by attracting new members through social and educational interaction, and by demonstrating its loyalty and commitment to past, present and future soldiers who will continue to build upon the legacy of the gallant men and women who have served; recognizing their valor, heroism and patriotism, and the sacrifices made by them and their families. Through its fundraising efforts the Foundation will fulfill its mission of maintaining the traditions and memorials of past generations while providing an avenue for recording new traditions and creating new memorials for the history made by the current and future generations of Rainbow Division soldiers and their families.

<http://www.rainbowvets.org/vision>

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PATROL**  
**1944 – 1945**  
**By Dee R. Eberhart**  
**Co. I, 242<sup>nd</sup> Infantry**  
**42<sup>nd</sup> "Rainbow" Division**

*The cathedral's song  
soared on high.  
Midnight flares lit  
up the sky.  
Tracers probed  
from across the Rhine,  
And were answered in kind  
all down our line.  
It was not a glückliches  
neues Jahr,  
For our young men  
who had come so far,  
To freeze and die in  
the icy blast,  
Of the Nordwind attack,  
Hitler's last!*

*Reprinted with permission  
of the poet-author  
From **Relics of War**  
1999*



**WWII RAINBOW MEMORIAL LIST**  
**Deaths Reported Since October 2023**

**AHRENS**, Richard George 42<sup>nd</sup> QM Company  
**BLASCHKE**, Kenneth unit unreported  
**DIPIAZZA**, Frank Joseph 42<sup>nd</sup> Division HQ  
**HUFFMAN**, Loyal Winston 42<sup>nd</sup> Division HQ  
**MORTENSEN**, Charles R. H3B/222 Infantry

**From KZ-Gedenkstätte**  
**Dachau 2024**

MIT DEN BESTEN  
WÜNSCHEN FÜR EIN  
GESUNDES,  
FRIEDLICHES NEUES  
JAHR

BEST WISHES FOR A  
HEALTHY, PEACEFUL  
NEW YEAR

**Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation, Inc.**  
**Contributions**  
**10 October 2023 – 10 January 2024**

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- 100. Mayland D. Crosson, for Barbara C. Eberhart  
Former RDVA National Auxiliary President
- 250. William and Carol Werden
- 25. John Rellah, for Cpl. Jack S. Rellah,  
WWII; H/242 and SVC/242
- 75. Bill and Donna Priebe, for Wilbur L. Priebe,  
K/242
- 100. Patricia Naumann, for Joyce Naumann
- 200. Melanie Remple, for John Janosik, 132<sup>nd</sup> Signal  
Company, WWII; longtime RDVF treasurer
- 50. Barbara Miller, for C. Stuart Hihn, HQ/222<sup>nd</sup>  
Infantry

***Foundation Operating Fund***

- 100. Patricia Naumann, for Joyce Naumann

All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged. If you would like to make a contribution by U.S. mail, please send your gift to the RDVF Treasurer, check payable to RDVF and mailed to:  
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