



Message from the Pups

Once again the Pups are honored to be able to host the annual reunion of the World War II Veterans of the 104th Infantry Division. A great deal of planning went into the decision to have the event in historically significant Colorado Springs, Colorado, in 2012. The importance of Fort Carson is well known to all Veterans, Pups, and friends of the Timberwolves, and this military installation has evolved from the Camp Carson known to many of the 104th in 1944. We are coordinating with the Command of Fort Carson and hope to be able to provide a very special tour of the facilities, adding many special events to the traditions of past reunions.

The inaugural reunion hosted by the Pups in St. Louis was a great learning experience for us, and we grew from the valuable assistance of the leadership of the National Timberwolf Association. We will build on this experience in planning for even greater success in 2012.

Hope to see you all in Colorado Springs this August 27th to September 3rd.

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2011 St. Louis Reunion Photo Gallery



(1) [left-right] Harvey Snider, Fred Tonsing, TW Wes Gaab, Mike Lacy, Sandra Park O'Neal, Millie Didlake, and Jerry Lacy enjoy a visit to St. Louis Union Station. (2) Hilton at the Ballpark reunion site; St. Louis, Missouri. (3) NTA Past President George Bacon. (4) In the tradition of Gen. Terry Allen, Gen. T. K. Moffett delivers a "sock in the jaw" to Gen. Kurt Hardin, Commander 104th Training Division. (5) TW Bob Cobbe and Pup Robin Ramos represent 414B. (6) NTA Past President Bryce Finch. (7) TW John Kristofik honors the memory of the men of the 414th Regiment. (8) TW Dick Karst and his wife, Dolores. (9) Holocaust survivor Sara Moses addresses the General Meeting. (10) [left-right] NTPA Webmaster, Paul Murphy, and NTPA Photographer, Art Luque. (11) Gen. T. K. Moffett, former Commander 104th Division. (12) Pups John Holmes and Nancy Weber [back row] on a bus tour with TW Keith Zimmerman and his wife, Mary Lou [front row]. (13) [left-right] Sgt. Wold, Pup Nancy Milwid, TW Al Milwid, and NTPA Treasurer, JeNeal Granier, at the Foxhole. (14) Longtime NTA Secretary-Treasurer Glen Lytle and his wife, Marilyn. (15) [left-right] Pups Beverly, Joyce, and Michelle representing the Javornik family. (16) Pup sisters Betsy and Rosemary Murphy [left] with NTA Past President Bob Huber and NTPA Vice President, Joy Luque. (17) Pups Melissa and Mary Morasch [left] share a Foxhole toast with TW Dick Karst, TW Frank Strebel, and Pups Judy Strebel and Anne and Steve Borchardt. (18) Gen. Hardin receives a Certificate of Appreciation from NTPA Board Member Mary Jamieson and NTPA President, Andy Lane. (19) TW Simon Kaplan, 413B. (20) Pups John and Marva Warrington on the dance floor at the banquet dinner. (21) TW Russ Buffett, 413L.

2011 NTPA Reunion in St. Louis, Missouri August 31–September 5, 2011

“Great time! Great People!” exclaimed one gentleman. “Great job to all involved on a very successful first Timberwolf Pup Reunion!!!” said another. Indeed, comments such as these could be heard in the halls of the Hilton at the Ballpark in St. Louis, Missouri, when Wolves and Pups gathered to share in the excitement of carrying on the time-honored traditions that have made past reunions meaningful and exciting. The reunion in 2011 was no exception.

On Wednesday, August 31st, the Timberwolf Foxhole provided a cozy meeting place—a place to renew old friendships and to make new ones, and a place to enjoy a beer or a soft drink while looking at old photos or sharing stories.

The St. Louis City / Anheuser-Busch Brewery Tour was held on Thursday, September 1st, and included a drive through Forest Park, home of the 1904 World’s Fair, as well as views of the Old Courthouse and the Gateway Arch. Participants also stepped inside the hallowed walls of the Cathedral Basilica to see one of the largest collections of mosaic art in the United States. The grand finale was a visit to the Anheuser-Busch Brewery, where Wolves and Pups could sip some free samples of its outstanding beer.

The celebration continued into Thursday evening on a paddlewheeler dinner cruise, a popular event along the mighty Mississippi. And after a delightful dinner, participants “hit the decks” to enjoy the night air as the stars shone down upon us all.

On Friday, September 2nd, attendees visited the delightful village of Kimmswick, a small, historic town located near the Mississippi River. The tour began with a delicious meal at the Blue Owl, a restaurant known for its home-cooked meals and its fabulous desserts. Then we moved to the riverfront estate of the late Frederick Straub Anheuser and concluded with a shopping spree in Kimmswick.

Saturday, September 3rd, marked the day of the first NTPA General Meeting. After the color guard presented colors and the national anthem was sung, Father McCarty said an opening prayer. NTPA President Andy Lane welcomed all in attendance and introduced fellow committee members. Then, to the surprise of all, Andy was presented with a Proclamation from the City of St. Louis in honor of the 104th—a humbling goodwill gesture that paved the way for the poignant presentations of the renowned speakers who followed. These included General T. K. Moffett, General Kurt Hardin, Timberwolf Bob Huber, author and World War II historian John McManus, and Holocaust survivor Sara Moses. The meeting was indeed a very meaningful and informative one.

The Ladies’ Luncheon followed the General Meeting, and it was an especially enjoyable and memorable event. After a delicious meal, the St. Louis Strutters, a women’s dance group, provided us with exceptional entertainment as they tap-danced the afternoon away.

The social event of the evening was the Saturday night Beer Bust. Timberwolves, Pups, families, and friends gathered in the hotel ballroom to drink and be merry as the 312th army band played on. Glasses were raised in memory of old comrades and in celebration of renewed times together. Feet hit the dance floor to the music, and excited participants claimed their raffle prizes. There was even an unexpected solo from Elvis, who arrived via our own General Moffett! Happiness and good cheer were everywhere.

By far the most solemn and meaningful event of the St. Louis reunion was the Timberwolf Memorial Service on Sunday, September 4th. Deeply emotional and reverent, we remembered fallen soldiers who are now at rest. The candle lighting and snuffing ceremonies, along with the song “My Buddy,” brought tears to the eyes of many. It was a time to reflect on lives and friends lost and on the void created by the tragedy of death. But that evening, at the formal Memorial Banquet and Dance, the festivities were a welcome celebration of life.

All too soon it was Monday, a time for farewells and “See you next year!” promises. It had to end, as all good things do.

We saw each other in St. Louis. And we hope and pray to see each other in Colorado Springs in 2012!

—Anne Borchardt, Secretary
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Photo CDs by TW Pup Photographer Art Luque

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- 2011 St. Louis Reunion
- 2011 European Battlefield Tour

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ASSOCIATION
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1749 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122
Attn: JeNeal Granieri



Remarks at the Memorial Service—Sunday, September 4, 2011

By Jen Weaver-Neist, Great-Niece of Pfc. Ralph “Bud” Shank, 413th Co. K

It is fitting and perhaps bittersweet that the word “tomorrow” is in the last line of the song we just sang [“White Cliffs of Dover”], for even now, we still have our eyes set on that day—the future—of both the Timberwolf legacy as well as a peaceful world....

Back in the fall of 1999, at the beginning of my Timberwolf journey, my Uncle Bud’s three surviving siblings (one of whom is my paternal grandmother) were downsizing their living arrangements, and I was assigned to clean out my Great-Aunt Peg’s storage space.... I came upon a dusty box with an old plastic bag on top.... “Letters from the Boys.” In World War II, all three of the Shank sons served, but Bud was not among them when they returned home. He died in Holland on November 4th, 1944, killed by a mine explosion while out on a volunteer mission as a stretcher-bearer....

That day [in the attic]...I stood among my family as we circled the box [of letters] and carefully unfolded the years. We...commented on the reaction of Bud’s mother, Irene, in the months following his death.... “If only he were here,” she was known to say.... And when we...discovered a lock of his fiancée’s [Jane’s] hair...., my great-uncle bloomed fully to life before me.

As luck would have it, at the time, I was in search of a final project for some graduate work I was doing in the Publishing Certificate Program at Emerson College in Boston, and Bud’s letters fit the bill. I created the first version of the book in six short but intense months, calling it *Give My Love to Everybody* because Bud signed many of his letters this way....

So, what does this snapshot of my personal journey mean to you and the tradition of this annual memorial service?

Bud’s story is one of *many* who served in World War II, and there is far more to his life than his death. Because of the National Timberwolf Association and now the Pups, and because of families like mine who chose *not* to forget, I have arrived at this memorial service via my Uncle Bud’s footsteps. Through a mixed bag of genetics, history, loss, and repair, I have arrived to discover that I was the one I was meant to find in that dusty box of letters. Beyond the battlefields, the politics, and the years in-between, Uncle Bud and I *are the same*. Our hopes, our fears, our humanity...all the same. And with each day that I live past his all-too-brief twenty years, I can vow to do my imperfect best to remember him and what he would have done had he survived: to live a lifetime in the finite, however long that ends up being, and to work for the peace he died to obtain. *That* is the ultimate legacy, and legacy is what we’ve gathered to commemorate....

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak today, and a most sincere note of gratitude to the Timberwolf veterans who joined us this weekend in body, thought, and spirit.

This poem is as much for all of you as it is for us Pups, who will now carry *you* on our backs for generations to come.

To Bud, In Conclusion

The farm is sold, the seasons went...
Irene wrapped up the things you sent—
away for us one fall to find...
A journey and an end combined.

We sifted past the dust and old
and watched a story far from cold
evolve through more than sixty years,
by one hair lock and newfound tears.

The Bud behind the story grew
from son to “he” and finally, *you*...
A person living far from war,
with Jane and school—a future, *more*.

A young man at the source of things,
drew conclusions ‘round the rings
connecting science, truth, and life
to farms and plastics—such insight!

Your loved ones nobly lived without
but to your memory were devout.
“If our Bud could be here today,
he’d muse on it and find a way...”

For Jane to stay close by his side
and ne’er their happy path divide
by tragedy, a lover gone—
a perm’nent fate. “You must move on...”

To one day in an attic dark
and to the next—a tribute sparked—
and further past old graves and mud...
My spirit soldier, Uncle Bud.

Who brought us back: tables and talk...
canvas canoe, a midday walk...
down to the creek or one-room school,
and back where Jackie waits—the rule...

Like fall and winter on the farm
and gath’ring in its kitchen warm,
I found a chance among the few
to love someone I never knew.

© 2009 Jennifer Weaver-Neist

To read this speech in its entirety, please visit the NTPA site:
<http://www.timberwolf104inf.org/wolf-tracks.html>)



The Interim Pups Committee asked me if I wanted to talk about the *War Stories* book. But I have something else I want to talk to the Timberwolves about—something that’s been eating at me since I started work on that book. I am absolutely in awe of what you went through, what you accomplished, how you stood it all. And it made me think way back to something from my college days.



In 1961–1962, I was a junior in college, about twenty years old, and having a ball. College was fun. Most of you wouldn’t know about that. You went to war instead.

That year, I was studying sociology and hanging around with a group of sociology graduate students. We were all reading and talking about books like *The Organization Man* and *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*, popular books of the day that complained about what was wrong with the new breed of working men. They were talking about you!

These men, so the books said, had lost the ability to think for themselves, to act independently. They wanted only to conform. They followed the crowd. They had become like sheep!

We read those books. And we bought that story. We bought it hook, line, and sinker. We would not be sheep like our fathers; we would be individuals. We would do our own thing. *That was the way to be*, we thought.

But you know what? We were wrong! We were so wrong! Those men who came back from World War II and were building our great nation... Those men were not sheep. Those men were wolves—Timberwolves!

You, and other Veterans like you, had learned lessons on the battlefield that we, your children, cannot even begin to comprehend. You faced death day after day. You watched your buddies die. Many of you were wounded, some severely. At times, you thought there was not a chance in hell you would live to see your next birthday. But through it all, you did your job. You did your job because not to do it would have let your buddies down.

You didn’t judge your comrades on race or nationality or religion or political party. You judged them only on how they did their job, because how they did their job might make the difference in whether you lived or died.

The war ended. You were still alive. You asked yourselves, “Why me?” And you promised that, because you had been allowed to live, you would make your life worthwhile—so that those men who died on the field of battle would not have died in vain. And you vowed never to forget them.

When you came home, you had your priorities straight. You went to school, you got jobs, you married and started families. And you didn’t think about the war so much any more; you were too busy living your lives. But always...deep down in your souls...the lessons of the battlefield stayed with you.

One of the biggest lessons you learned was the power of cooperation. When you ran this country, people talked to each other. Things got done. You made America better. You made it a good place for your children. And we, your children, we took it all for granted. We thought that was the way things always were.

Now you have grown old. You think about the war every day. And you wonder, *Did I do the best I could? Should I have done something different?*

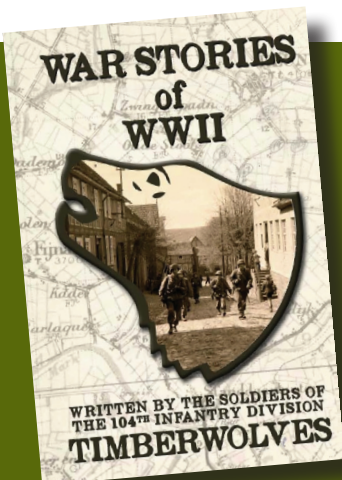
I say to you, Timberwolves, rest easy. You did your job well. You kept your promises. And you never forgot your buddies.

You will be leaving us way too soon now. We will miss you, Timberwolves, like we miss those of you who have gone before. We miss your firm guidance. We miss your ability to cooperate with one another.

I believe I speak the feelings of every Pup and Grandpup in the new National Timberwolf Pup Association—as well as those of many Pups and Grandpups here today—when I say we will never, never forget you. And we are going to do our damndest to make sure nobody else ever forgets you either. Thank you. God bless.

—Kathy Clark

Daughter of Robert R. Clark II, 414th HQ 1st Bn.



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Chaplain's Corner

Greetings to all of you, and best wishes and prayers of the 2011 Hanukkah and Christmas seasons. It's just five days before Christmas as I write these notes, and we haven't had a snowstorm up in this New England area—yet!

Even without a snowstorm, our lives continue to get affected—and complicated—by events taking place near to us and far from us: faltering national economics at home and abroad, mind-boggling budgetary and financial situations, continuing protests in the Middle East, massive “hacking” in cyberspace, the evacuation of American Forces from Iraq, protest groups “occupying” certain sections of American cities, sports idols accused of perjury—plenty of bad news. Personally, I was helped to understand at least some of that Middle East unrest by a lecture from a lady Middle East expert from my own alma mater; these protests are led mainly by young people who have earned university degrees but have graduated to find that there are no jobs for them. And I think many of their governments are saying, “Look, we can't produce jobs out of thin air. You're going to have to be patient.” And the situation of women is quite oppressive, because these Middle Eastern societies are very “traditional” and very patriarchal. Well, it's good to know some of the causes of these events. Solutions to these problems are, of course, another matter entirely.

That's some of the bad news. Is there any good news? Yes, at least close to home there is: the first Timberwolf Pups Reunion in St. Louis last August was a solid and definite success. A word of thanks for this success goes to people like Andy Lane, JeNeal Granieri, Mary Jamieson, and Joy and Art Luque, along with other members of the planning committee. Thanks also to TW Bob Huber, who helped with the Memorial Service, and many other TWs like Glen and Marilyn Lytle, who gave much wise advice.

And finally, there is some very good news that starts from far above us but comes very close. I'm referring to the light of the Hanukkah lamp that wouldn't go out and the star that led the wise men to Bethlehem.

May the light and warmth, the peace and joy, and the unfailing love of the One God be with you all and stay with you forever.

Amen,
Father McCarty



A WWII Combat Vet Remembers: Water, Water Everywhere!

After about six months of intensive infantry training with the 104th Timberwolves, this twenty-year-old left the United States. We sailed from New York Harbor in September of 1944, past the Statue of Liberty and out into the Atlantic Ocean. I remember thinking, *I'm gonna see that Lady again on my way home*—and I did! [On our honeymoon, my wife, Bonnie, and I climbed the Statue to look out on the harbor that had so much meaning in our young lives.] I never saw so much water as in that Atlantic Ocean. Our convoy had some sixty ships and moved very slowly. But after eleven days, we arrived in France.



***Now my boat's left the shoreline behind me.
By your side, I will seek other seas.***

In October, we headed for Holland—and more water. There was water all around—dikes, rivers, and a high groundwater level. [On one close occasion, I temporarily left my foxhole, and upon returning, found an unexploded (dud) 88 shell lying on the bottom.] Then on our first combat patrol, our machine gun section was in support of a night patrol whose mission was getting prisoners. Our squad was on the side of a dike, and for some reason, our sergeant stuck his head up. He got shot and killed! That's how I became sergeant.

A thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee.

On November 8th, my 21st birthday, the Timberwolves crossed the German border near Aachen and joined up with the First Army. We fought our way through factories and towns to the Roer River by the beginning of December. And on February 23rd, we crossed that still-raging Roer with twelve men to an assault boat. We paddled like mad and aimed upstream as our captain had instructed. It worked! That boat went across in fine style.

***Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil; for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.***

As hostilities came to a virtual halt near the end of April 1945, we were able to relax and slowly “unwind.” The Timberwolves ended up in Halle and had to keep all Germans from crossing to our side of the Elbe River. Fortunately, it prevented us GIs from tangling with the Russians. (They were known for shooting anything that moved—even each other.) I did manage to take a swim in the river, which I called a victory lap, but I didn't do too much actual swimming; I mostly treaded water, as I didn't want to draw fire from my trigger-happy buddies. But what a way to end it all: from a sail on the Atlantic to a swim in the Elbe!

***Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of
my life: and I will dwell in the house of the lord forever.***
—Bob Huber

Membership Dues

Annual dues for the association are \$20 and a nominal \$10 for Veterans and/or their spouses. Our bylaws state that membership in the organization begins in January of each year, but we will accept dues at any time. And we certainly encourage people to pay their dues for the next year at the reunion if they wish.

Please fill out the dues form below, and kindly indicate if there is an address change since our general mailings will not be first class and thus will not be forwarded. You can keep us updated by sending information either to Paul Murphy at the website or to JeNeal Granieri at jagranieri@sbcglobal.net or at the mailing address below.

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Check those that apply:

Vet _____ Widow _____ Pup _____ Associate _____ (not a Vet or Pup)

Renewal _____ New Member _____

Timberwolf Tracks in History

Summer, 1944. The Allies are chasing the retreating German armies across France, and hopes are high in the United States and Britain that the war is almost over. Eisenhower conservatively predicts his troops will reach the Rhine River by year's end. But the Allies halt in their tracks. The Germans are still fleeing, but Eisenhower's armies have outrun their supply line. They are literally out of gas.

Supplies are piled high at French ports. Transportation is the problem. The Red Ball Express, a high-speed trucking system recently devised by the Americans, helps but is not enough. The British capture the giant port at Antwerp, Belgium. It

is close to the front but unusable because the estuary connecting the port to the sea remains in German hands.

About this time (early September), the 104th Division lands on the French coast and joins other divisions who are cooling their heels, waiting for a solution to the supply problem. Many Timberwolves are pressed into service on the Red Ball Express.

To be continued...

—Kathy Clark, Timberwolf Pup
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Interested in reading more about the 2011 St. Louis reunion?

The National Timberwolf Pups Association was honored to learn it was the topic of a recent article in *The Griffon*, a quarterly publication "written in the interest of the 108th Training Command" (www.thegriffon108.com). Brigadier General Kurt Hardin, a guest at the reunion, is the current commanding general of the 104th Training Division. To read more about how "Timberwolf 'Pups' Create Their Place in the 104th Legacy," visit: <http://www.thegriffon108.com/articles/article-detail/articleid/1864/timberwolf-8216-pups-8217-create-their-place-in-the-104th-legacy.aspx>.

I am very happy to report that we had a successful reunion and membership drive in 2011. We are all very grateful for the support and generosity of the National Timberwolf Association as well as the attendees who opened their wallets to donate to our efforts to honor and maintain the heritage of the Timberwolves.

–JeNeal Granieri, Treasurer
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NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION
Statement of Income and Expenses
January 1, 2011–December 31, 2011

CASH ON HAND on JANUARY 1, 2011		\$0.00
INCOME		
Reunion Income/donations/sales	\$5,312.54	
Donations by check	\$1,900.00	
Donation from National Timberwolf Association	\$10,000.00	
Dues	\$2,895.00	
TOTAL INCOME		\$20,197.54
EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS		
Transfer to NTPA savings	\$8,000.00	
Web fees	\$161.00	
Filing/Legal fees	\$1,039.00	
Supplies & merchandise	\$1,782.41	
Postage & publications	\$1,760.53	
General expenses	\$961.28	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$13,704.22
BALANCE ON HAND		
Checking	\$6,493.32	
Savings	\$8,002.46	
TOTAL BALANCE		\$14,495.78
ANTICIPATED EXPENSES in 2012		
Web fees	\$161.00	
Supplies/merchandise	\$2,000.00	
Postage/publications (<i>HOWL</i>)	\$10,000.00	
General expenses	\$2,000.00	
TOTAL ANTICIPATED EXPENSES		\$14,161.00

Note: We do not actually know the ultimate cost of the *HOWL* and other publications and expenses at this time, but we do hope to live within our budget and expand as we can.

Looking for your unit rep?

Contact Mary Jamieson for more info:
mejameson@aol.com / 503-780-5176

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please note how many people will be participating in each event, and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS in the form of a check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/timberwolf2012. All registration forms and payments must be received on or before **July 30, 2012**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a spaceavailable basis. **We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing.**

ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.
322 MADISON MEWS
NORFOLK, VA 23510
ATTN: TIMBERWOLF

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
 Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS JULY 30, 2012				Price Per	# of Tickets	Total
Thurs. (8/30): GARDEN of the GODS / OLD COLORADO CITY	9:30 AM	to	2:00 PM	\$ 35	X	=
Thurs. (8/30): FLYING W RANCH DINNER TOUR	5:30 PM	to	9:30 PM	\$ 55	X	=
Friday (8/31): FORT CARSON TOUR (final times TBD)	9:30 AM	to	2:30 PM	\$ 30	X	=
Saturday (9/1): Ladies Luncheon	12:30 PM	to	2:00 PM	\$ 20	X	=
Monday (9/3): Farewell Breakfast	7:00 AM	to	9:00 AM	\$ 18	X	=
Registration Fee: Includes access to Foxhole, General Meetings, Beer Bust, Memorial Service, and Banquet						
REGISTRATION FEE(S) IF RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 7/30/12						
Cornbread Pecan Stuffed Chicken				\$75	X	=
Sirloin Steak				\$75	X	=
REGISTRATION FEE(S) IF RECEIVED AFTER 7/30/12						
Cornbread Pecan Stuffed Chicken				\$80	X	=
Sirloin Steak				\$80	X	=
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.						\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME (for nametags) _____

TW UNIT _____ FIRST REUNION? _____ PUP? YES _____ NO _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____ PH. NUMBER (_____) _____ - _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? YES NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY.)

TRAVEL BUDDIES (*The Travel Buddies Program is a special offering from the Pups for those Veterans who may require extra assistance to attend the reunion, from booking plane tickets to helping with luggage and mobility at the reunion.*)
 Would you like to have a Travel Buddy? Yes No Would you like to be a Travel Buddy? Yes No

For refunds and cancellations, please refer to our policies outlined on the reunion schedule page. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY, 9:00 AM-5:00 PM EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4 to 6 weeks after the reunion.

National Timberwolf Pups Association 2nd Reunion
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado
August 28–September 3, 2012

Tuesday, August 28

Early Bird Arrivals

Wednesday, August 29

Reunion Registration open 2:00 PM–7:00 PM
 Souvenir Sales 1:00 PM–5:00 PM & 7:30 PM–9:30 PM
 Foxhole 2:00 PM–5:00 PM & 7:30 PM–10:30 PM

Thursday, August 30

Reunion Registration open 8:30 AM–9:00 AM
GARDEN of the GODS /
OLD COLORADO CITY TOUR 9:30 AM–2:00 PM
 Reunion Registration open 2:00 PM–7:00 PM
 Souvenir Sales 1:00 PM–5:00 PM & 7:30 PM–9:30 PM
 Foxhole 2:00 PM–5:00 PM & 7:30 PM–10:30 PM
FLYING W RANCH DINNER 5:30 PM–9:30 PM

Friday, August 31

Reunion Registration open 8:00 AM–8:30 AM
FORT CARSON TOUR 9:30 AM–2:30 PM
 Souvenir Sales 1:00 PM–5:00 PM & 7:30 PM–9:30 PM
 Reunion Registration open 2:00 PM–6:00 PM
 Foxhole 2:00 PM–5:00 PM & 7:30 PM–10:30 PM
 Collection of Ladies Luncheon
 Reservation Forms 5:00 PM–5:30 PM

Saturday, September 1

General Meeting 9:30 AM–11:15 AM
 Ladies Luncheon 12:30 PM–2:00 PM
 Souvenir Sales 1:00 PM–5:00 PM
 Foxhole 2:00 PM–5:00 PM
 Timberwolf Pups Meeting 2:00 PM–4:00 PM
 Reunion Registration open 4:00 PM–5:00 PM
 Collection of Banquet Table
 Reservation Forms 4:00 PM–4:30 PM
 Beer Bust 7:30 PM–11:00 PM

Sunday, September 2

General Meeting /
 Memorial Service 9:30 AM–11:30 AM
 Souvenir Sales 1:30 PM–4:00 PM
 Foxhole 2:00 PM–4:00 PM
 Cash Bar 5:30 PM–11:30 PM
 Banquet Dinner and Dance 6:30 PM–11:30 PM

Monday, September 3

Farewell Breakfast 7:00 AM–9:00 AM

Tour Descriptions

Garden of the Gods / Old Colorado City

Thursday, August 30: Board the bus for the Garden of the Gods, a 1,350-acre park with magnificent red stone formations that date back 300 million years. Stop for lunch (on your own) and a photo opportunity at the Trading Post, where the finest in authentic Indian arts, crafts, and jewelry are featured. Continue on to Old Colorado City. Ten years before General Palmer named the region known today as Colorado Springs, another town was already operating in the Pikes Peak region.

The town was Colorado City, and it remained proudly independent until being annexed to Colorado Springs during WWI. In recent years, the Colorado City downtown (now called Old Colorado City) has been refurbished into a historic district and specialty shopping center. Enjoy time to browse in the many boutiques.

- 9:30 AM—Board bus
- 2:00 PM—Back at hotel
- **\$35/Person**

Includes bus and guide. Lunch on your own.

FLYING W RANCH

Thursday, August 30: Board the bus for the Flying W Ranch, then browse around this authentic Old West town, with twenty-four different museums and gift shops. Next, round 'em up for a real Chuckwagon Dinner at the ranch. The wranglers dish up a delicious supper of BBQ beef and chicken, baked potatoes, famous Flying W beans, applesauce, Dutch-oven biscuits, spice cake, lemonade, and coffee. (Alcoholic beverages are not available.) After supper, sit back and enjoy a rootin'-tootin' stage show, with cowboys singing old songs of the West.

- 5:30 PM—Board bus
- 9:30 PM—Back at hotel
- **\$55/Person**

Includes bus, escort, and dinner show.

FORT CARSON

Friday, August 31: Details to be provided in the next *HOWL*. Please be aware that there may be an additional cost for lunch, depending on the final program provided by Fort Carson.

- 9:30 AM—Board bus
- 2:30 PM—Back at hotel
- **\$30/Person**

Includes bus and escort. Lunch plans TBA.

IMPORTANT NOTES

1. Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.
2. Please plan to be at the bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to the scheduled time.
3. All trips require a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise stated.

Cancellation and Refund Policy for Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.

For attendees cancelling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the nonrefundable AFR registration fee (\$7 per person). Attendees cancelling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the nonrefundable AFR registration fee.

Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday, from 9 AM until 5 PM Eastern Standard Time (excluding holidays). Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds are processed 4 to 6 weeks after the reunion. **Cancelling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities.**

CROWNE PLAZA COLORADO SPRINGS HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

(800) 981-4012 • (719) 576-5900

*****Please reference the National Timberwolf Pups Association to obtain the special reunion room rate.*****

The Crowne Plaza Colorado Springs Hotel is located at 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906—approximately 8 miles from the Colorado Springs Municipal Airport and just 4 miles from downtown. (Please contact the hotel directly for accurate driving directions.) Check-in time is 3:00 PM and check-out is at 11:00 AM. The Crowne Plaza is a nonsmoking hotel.

There are 500 guest rooms, which were completely remodeled in 2008. All rooms have a coffee maker, hairdryer, iron and ironing board, and high-speed internet access (for an additional charge). There is an indoor and an outdoor pool, a 24-hour fitness center, a convenience store/newsstand, and a gift shop available to guests staying at the hotel. Dry cleaning services, safety deposit boxes, and a complimentary newspaper in the lobby are just a few of the services offered for hotel guests' convenience. Hotel parking is free.

The hotel offers handicapped-accessible rooms based on availability. Please request this special accommodation when making your reservation, if needed.

Thibodeaux's, one of three hotel restaurants, serves a wide variety of American favorites for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. The Marketplace offers fresh salads, sandwiches, refreshing beverages,

and a variety of snacks for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Or you can enjoy a drink and bar food before dinner at Rick's Bar. (Room service is available from 6:00 AM–11:00 PM.)

The hotel provides complimentary shuttle service to and from the Colorado Springs Airport. After retrieving your luggage, you will find phones in the baggage claim. Use the phone labeled "Crowne Plaza," dial 0, and let the operator know that you will need a shuttle to the hotel; he/she will give an approximate time for your pick up. Then proceed outside to meet the shuttle.

RV parking is allowed for guests of the hotel, though there are no hookups on the premises. Colorado Springs KOA Campground is approximately 7 miles from the Crowne Plaza. It is located at 8100 Bandle Drive, Fountain, CO 80817. For information, please call (719) 382-7575. For reservations, please call (800) 562-8609.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, Scoot-Around rents both manual and power wheel chairs by the day and week. Please call their toll-free number at (888) 441-7575 for details. All prices quoted include delivery fees.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Vendors, schedules, and prices are subject to change.

----- CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL -----

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

REUNION DATES: AUGUST 29–SEPTEMBER 3, 2012

NAME _____ SHARING ROOM W/ _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TEL. NUMBER (_____) _____ EMAIL _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ APPROX. TIME _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

_____ # OF ROOMS _____ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM _____ HANDICAP ACCESS

If room type requested is not available, the nearest room type will be assigned.

RATES: Single/Double—\$99 + tax (currently 9.4%); Triple—\$109 + tax; Quad—\$119 + tax

(Breakfast is included in the guest room rate for registered guests.)

CUT-OFF DATE: July 30, 2012. After this date, reservations will be processed on space and rate availability.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Guests must advise the hotel at or before check-in of any change in scheduled length of stay to avoid an early departure fee of \$75. The fee is waived if early departure is due to a medical or family emergency.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit enclosed.

_____ AMEX _____ DINERS _____ VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

MAIL TO: Crowne Plaza Colorado Springs, 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906, **Attn: Reservations**

Inauguration Monument in Terheijden, November 4, 2011

The town Terheijden, north of Breda in The Netherlands, was liberated by the 1st Polish Armored Division on November 4th, 1944, and two Polish soldiers were killed in action during the liberation. On November 4th, 2011, a monument with the names of the two Polish soldiers and a Timberwolf officer was inaugurated. How is that possible in a town not liberated by the 104th Infantry Division?

Here is the story: The Timberwolf officer is 2nd Lieutenant Byron M. Balk from G Company, 414th Infantry Regiment. On the first night in combat, October 25, 1944, he was wounded in action near the Belgium Dutch border in the 2nd Battalion's first attack at Patersven. In the reports, and also in *Timberwolf Tracks*, he is listed as Missing In Action. We don't know what really happened, but he was buried at the local cemetery in Terheijden on the 27th of October, 1944, at the same time as three German soldiers. We think he was wounded in the first action, was taken as a prisoner of war, and was then treated in Terheijden, where he died of his wounds. In 1946, he was reburied at the ABMC cemetery in Margraten, The Netherlands. The two Polish soldiers are buried at the Polish military cemetery in Breda.

The foundation for local history in Terheijden had the idea for a small monument for their liberators. And though the Timberwolves were not their liberators, because Byron died of his wounds in their town, they decided he should be on the monument as well. A great idea. Four members of the Dutch Friends of the Timberwolves were present during the inauguration and placed flowers. LEST WE FORGET.



Remembrance Ceremony in Standdaarbuiten

Every year, on the 5th of May, we celebrate Liberation Day in the Netherlands. The day before, on the 4th, we remember the sacrifices that have been made to obtain our freedom. The Remembrance Committee organizes a Memorial Service in the church, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at our Timberwolf monument. The monument used to be at the entrance of our community center, but the past year, this building has been renovated and partly rebuilt, so the monument was transferred to a new part of the building. This coming Remembrance Day will be the first time the ceremony will be held at this new location. We are hoping the nephew of a Timberwolf who was killed in action on November 2, 1944, in Standdaarbuiten can come from London to be our honored guest at the ceremony.

Besides organizing the Remembrance ceremony, our committee's goal is to educate the local children. Toine Vermunt, president of the committee, is a former schoolteacher, and every year, he teaches the children, aged ten through twelve, about the liberation of Standdaarbuiten by the Timberwolves. In 2011, we took children who were attending their final year of primary school to the Timberwolves museum in Achtmaal, where we were welcomed by Ronald van Beek. This visit was a big success, and we are planning to repeat it this year.

Timberwolf Up!

—The Belgian and Dutch Friends of the Timberwolves



“Following in Their Footsteps,” Part I: France, Belgium, and Holland

We arrived in France in mid-October to beautiful, sunny, fall weather. We were also met by our friend, Esther Eenhuizen from the Netherlands—what a surprise!

Once again the Veterans saw the Normandy countryside with its stone farmhouses, hedgerows, and apples hanging on the trees, reminding them of a September long ago. And as we stopped at Cherbourg Harbor and walked on Utah Beach, our five Timberwolf Veterans couldn't help but reflect on September 7th, 1944, the day they landed in France. They shared their history and stories, and we saw firsthand where the Division bivouacked at Valognes that first night overseas.

Next, we visited the great American cemetery in Normandy, where cemetery superintendent, Dwight Anderson, showed us the graves of five 415th members. In silent reverence, we stood before row upon row of crosses above Omaha Beach.

From there, we rode along part of the route of the Red Ball Express while listening to Veteran John Hobson tell us about his experiences driving the route and Bob Huber talk about guarding the trains and the “overnights” in Paris. Our own overnight in Paris was definitely a different experience! We enjoyed the sites and history lessons our favorite Milspec tour guide, Patrick Hinchy, gave us along the way (a part of the usual tour fare), which included seeing a former German Concentration Camp in Drancey, France. Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force (SHAEF) was a lunch stop at Versailles, and the famed Bayeux Tapestry and Cathedral was a morning visit not soon forgotten.

As we approached Barneville and stopped the tour bus along the beach, we too could see the Jersey Islands off the French coast just as the Timberwolves saw and noted in the *Timberwolf Tracks* (page 43, 1946 edition). We continued tracking the footsteps of the 104th northward, and as we approached the Seine River Estuary near LeHavre, we saw the location of Camp Lucky Strike in the distance.

After an overnight in Brussels, we were off to an amazing day that included the Royal Military Museum and a very special lunch honoring our Veterans at NATO headquarters. Then we met the Friends of the Timberwolves at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery for a wreath-laying ceremony. More of our overseas friends, from both Belgium and the Netherlands, awaited in Breda, our next stop, and on the 67th anniversary of the first day the Division engaged the enemy—October 23, 1944, the day the Timberwolves relieved the British 49th Polar Bears—we were honored guests at a special commemoration event remembering those who died, both civilian and military, in the liberation of Wuustwezel, Belgium. The Aide de Camp of King

Albert of Belgium, the British Ambassador, the American Defense Attaché, along with our Friends of the Timberwolves and the Wuustwezel community welcomed not only us but the British Polar Bear Veterans and families. Sixty-seven years later, the Timberwolves finally met the Polar Bears!

For the next few days, we were hosted by the Friends of the Timberwolves, visiting the battlefields and monuments in the Zundert, Achtmaal, Oudenbosch, and Standdaarbuiten areas, and seeing the locations of the Mark River crossings, the Battle of the Dikes, and the last holdout of German resistance south of the Maas River, near the town of Moerdijk. Here, we diverged from the footsteps of the Timberwolves, and instead of heading for Aachen, Germany, we headed for Amsterdam, our last tour city. On the way, we stopped long enough to visit Charlotte Ubagh's Planetarium and Museum, and then we said goodbye to the Friends of the Timberwolves and rode the water taxi on the mighty Maas River into Rotterdam.

Traveling through windmill country to Amsterdam was every bit as memorable as getting to tour the city later. And as we said goodbye to one another, promising to see each other again in May of 2013, when we embark on part II of the “Following in Their Footsteps Tour,” we were already looking forward to the next journey along the Timberwolf trail, this time through German battlefields...

To see our tour in more detail, visit <http://www.timberwolf104inf.org/eurotour.html>. There you will find detailed daily trip updates and hundreds of pictures.

—Mary Jamieson, Tour Coordinator
mejameson@aol.com



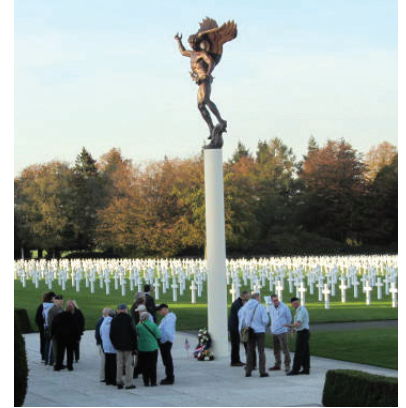
[top] A windmill in a field near Amsterdam; [bottom] city scenes in Amsterdam from the street and from the canal.



[above, top] Veterans Ross Turkle, Bob Huber, and John Hobson sign a board signifying their having landed on Utah Beach during WWII; [above, bottom] the Utah Beach landing spot of the 415th, less the 3rd Battalion and 387th Field Artillery Battalion.



[above, from left to right] Ross Turkle, Frank Strebel, Philip Wilens, John Hobson, and Bob Huber standing in front of the endless rows of crosses at the Normandy Cemetery. Five members of the 415th are buried in the cemetery, which correlates *415th Unit History*, page 5.



[above] Visiting with the Friends of the Timberwolves at day's end following a visit and wreath-laying ceremony at Henri-Chapelle Cemetery.



[above] John Hobson, Frank Strebel, and Bob Huber standing by one of the only remaining Red Ball Express markers. Located in La Queue-lez-Yvelines, France, this marker provided John Hobson (387 FAB) with many memories of his experience as a driver on the route.



[right] Our five Timberwolf Veterans visiting the Eiffel Tower during our tour of Paris.



[above] At NATO headquarters, during our lunch, Andy Lane, NTPA president, speaks with Veteran Robert Huber and Lt. Col. Alexander, whose wife's great-uncle was a Timberwolf killed in battle at Stolberg. During the luncheon, each Veteran was introduced and recognized, and presented a plaque honoring their service and their visit to NATO headquarters.



[above] The Timberwolves and Polar Bears, together after sixty-seven years, commemorating the liberation of Wuustwezel and remembering the loss of life, both civilian and military. A Timberwolf plaque was dedicated and unveiled during the ceremony.



[above] Gathering for a photo after the wreath-laying ceremony at the Zundert memorial with the Friends of the Timberwolves.

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION

Vets, Family & Friends of the 104th Infantry Division WWII

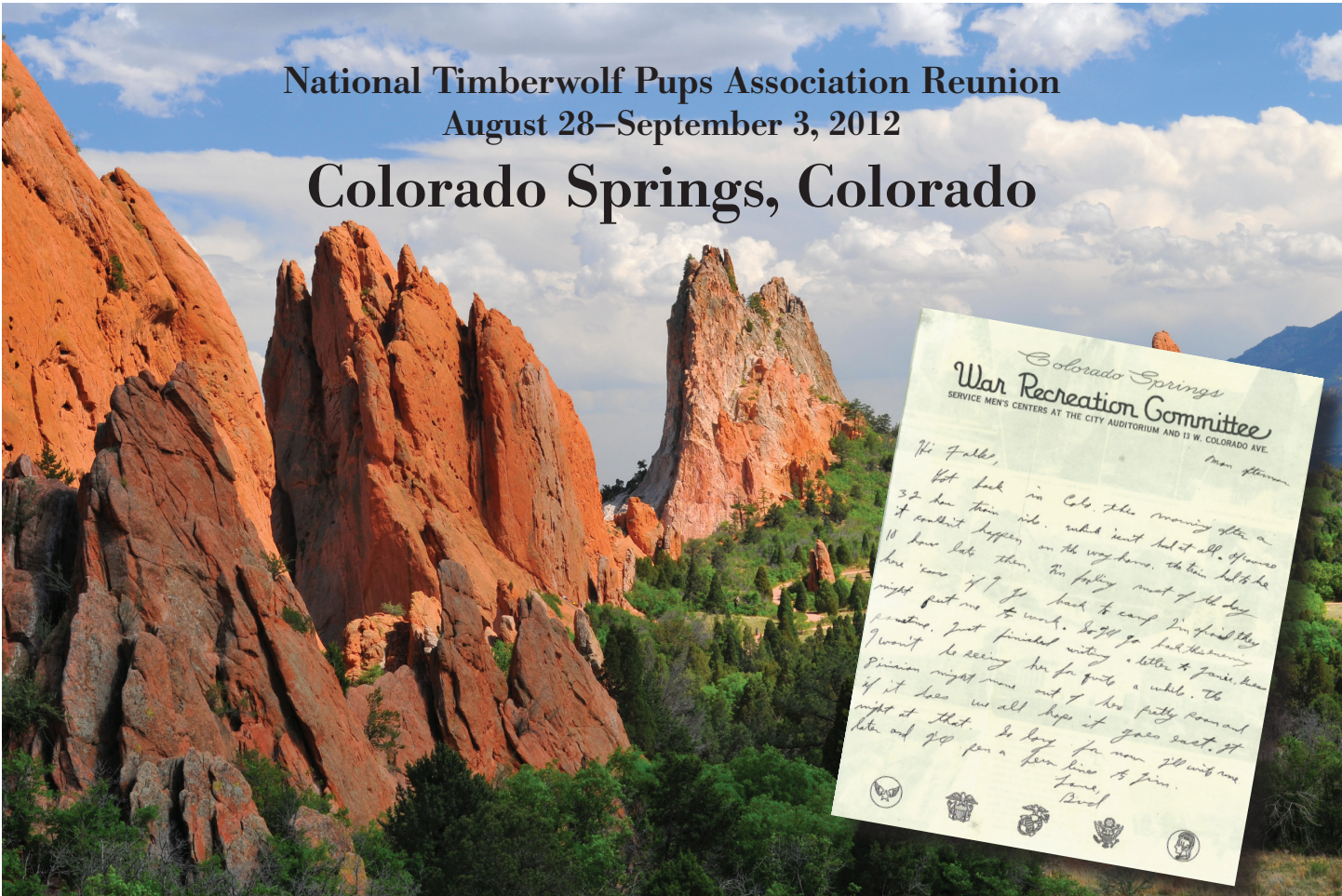
1749 9th Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94122

www.timberwolf104inf.org

**National Timberwolf Pups Association Reunion
August 28–September 3, 2012**

Colorado Springs, Colorado



Colorado Springs
War Recreation Committee
SERVICE MEN'S CENTERS AT THE CITY AUDITORIUM AND 13 W. COLORADO AVE.
Dear Mother,

Got back in Colo. this morning after a
32 hour train ride. which isn't bad at all. Of course
it couldn't happen on the way home, the train had to be
10 hours late then. The folks most of all day
have come if I had to camp for a few
might get me to work. So I'll go back tomorrow
I won't be seeing her for quite a while. The
division might miss out of her pretty soon and
if it does we all hope it goes next night
night at that. So long for now I'll write you
later and I'll see you in a few days.
Love,
Paul

Small icons at the bottom of the letter: a wolf's head, a paw print, a gear, a flower, and a circular emblem.