



MESSAGE FROM THE PUPS

A TRIBUTE TO OUR COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Dear Veterans, Pups, Family, and Friends of the Timberwolves,

This issue of the *HOWL* is dedicated to CSM Lyle Wold, a man of so many accomplishments that we have included as much of his amazing life as possible, publishing his eulogy in full. He was truly the role model of the command sergeant major—the backbone of the Army—and a fitting representative of the 104th Division.

Additionally, Lyle was a dear friend of the National Timberwolf Association and its successor, the National Timberwolf Pups Association. The support provided by Lyle was so extensive that is not possible to list it all here. Suffice it to say that Lyle and his wife, Terri, could be counted upon to provide any support needed—at any time and any place—to bolster our events and honor our Veterans. It did not feel like an official 104th reunion until Lyle and Terri arrived.

There are no words to describe the loss of CSM Lyle Wold to the world and to our organization. We are, however, left with his legacy to guide us forward, including his dedication to the values of our nation as shown by his tireless efforts to serve others in so many ways. We are enriched by Lyle's time with us and by following his example in the future.

Requiescat in Pace... —Andrew Lane, NTPA President

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (RET.) LYLE WILHELM WOLD (MARCH 26, 1952–JULY 27, 2024)

Lyle was born in Portland, Oregon, and raised by Roy and Marjorie Wold in North Plains, Oregon. He was active in FFA and joined the Oregon Army National Guard in January 1970, the year he graduated from Hillsboro High School. During the course of his military career, he was a member of the 162th Engineer Company, serving as Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Operations Sergeant, and First Sergeant. He was also First Sergeant for the 241st Military Intelligence Company, and Operations Noncommissioned Officer for the 41st Infantry Brigade and Oregon Joint Forces Headquarters G-2 (Intelligence). He deployed to Iraq in 2003 with the 82 Rear Operations Center, serving as the Command Sergeant Major of LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq.



Continued on pg. 3

2023 Reunion Photo Gallery (Washington, DC), continued on pg. 7



In 2004, Lyle joined the 104th Division (IT) at Fort Vancouver, Washington, serving as the Operations and Training Sergeant Major, then as acting Division Command Sergeant Major before retiring from active military service in 2012. He then worked as a Department of Defense Civilian Technician for the Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District Office, until his retirement in September 2023.

Lyle's military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Army Commendation Medal (nine awards), Army Achievement Medal (eight awards), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (nine awards), National Defense Service Medal (three awards), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/ M Device and four 10-year Devices; NCO Professional Development Ribbon w/ Numeral 4, and Overseas Service Bar (third award).

Lyle and his wife of 34 years, Terri, enjoyed road trips all around the United States and Canada; he was an avid historian, and enjoyed museums and historical sites of all kinds. He was most in his element in the outdoors, enjoying hiking, fishing, and golf.

Lyle was a former member of Active 20-30 International, a youth service organization, and a life member of the American Legion; the Veterans of Foreign Wars; the

Enlisted Association of the National Guard of Oregon; the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States; Voiture 40 et 8, and the Oregon Grange, Washington #313.

Lyle is survived by his wife, Terri; stepsons Jeremy Langford (Michayla Dabney) of Port Orchard, Washington, and Bradley Langford (Jennifer) of Poulsbo, Washington; three grandsons, one step grandson, and four step-granddaughters; sister Holly (Guetling) of Evansville, Indiana, and brother David (Robin) of Rigby, Idaho.



*CSM (Ret.) Lyle Wold with LDCR (Ret.) Al McDonnell
at the Salt Lake City reunion in 2022*

2023 Reunion Photo Gallery Captions, pages 2 & 7

(1) TW Vet Bryce Thornton & TW Widow Marilyn Lytle (Glen); (2) Pups Nancy Weber & John Holmes; (3) Pups Mary Davis & Michael Burns; (4) [L-R] Pups Melissa Morasch, Patricia Wehrmann (of the 555th, from Germany), Mary Jamieson & JoAnn Rajek; (5) CSM (Ret.) Jim Davis at the WWII Memorial; (6) [L-R] Pup brothers Richard & Martin Chromik; (7) The 104th plaque dedicated at the Natl. Museum of the US Army; (8) 99-year-old Vet Bryce Thornton with the plaque; (9) Pups Bonny & Kent Smith; (10) Pups Joe Calamita & Karyn Kaplan at Mount Vernon; (11) TW Bryce Thornton & his daughter, Melodie Strickland; (12) A re-enactor at the tomb of George & Martha Washington; (13) Marilyn Lytle with Mary Frances Allen Pedraza (MG Allen's granddaughter) at the Beer Bust & Raffle; (14) Jerry Lacey enjoying his raffle spoils; (15) Pups Neil & Joanie Kimerer; (16) Big raffle winners Gary Nienhuis & Grace Hsu; (17) BG (Ret.) Kurt Hardin & TW Bryce Thornton at the

Memorial Service; (18) Pup Robert Lenihan; (19) TW Widow Marilyn Lytle; (20 & 21) Memorial Service attendees; (22) Pup Pat Casserly with his wife & son at the Banquet; (23) Pups Lonnie & Jackie Groe; (24) Pup Deb Burgess-Brittenham; (25) Pups JeNeal Granieri & LDCR (Ret.) Al McDonnell; (26) Vet Bryce Thornton with Overseas Friend Esther Eenhuizen; (27) Special guest, filmmaker Kenneth Griggs (grandson of a liberated resident of Oedenbosch, in the Netherlands); (28) Pups Jack & Pat Vallely; (29) [L-R] Mary Frances Allen Pedraza, Patricia Wehrmann, BG (Ret.) Kurt Hardin & Mary Jamieson; (30) Pup Marilyn Shinavar

[Photos courtesy of NTPA Photographer Art Luque & available for purchase, including CDs from other reunions. Please contact Art if interested: full.count@verizon.net, 714.642.6425]

Notes from the Reunion Site Committee

HELLO TO ALL!

If you're not a member of our Facebook group, you've probably been wondering why last year's second edition (vol. 13, no. 2) is just now arriving. We delayed its publication to accommodate our battlefield tour last October and to give you a heads-up about 2025's reunion. The first edition for this year (Winter/Spring, vol. 14, no. 1) will be arriving later this spring, once we have the forms ready for reunion registration, and will include a recap of the "Baptism of Fire" tour in the Netherlands. Per usual, we will be enlisting the assistance of Armed Forces Reunions with this. (The forms will be provided on our website too: Timberwolf104Inf.org.)

I must say that I missed seeing people at a reunion in 2024, but the overseas battlefield tour was a very successful one. I know some of you were disappointed that the tour filled up so quickly, but we plan to offer another in the future.

The venue for this year's reunion is the Monarch Hotel in Clackamas, Oregon (MonarchHotel.cc), close to Portland and the PDX airport, with the tentative dates of October 7-12 nearly set. We realize this is a little later than usual, but we think it may be better for attendance, considering busy summer schedules. One reunion highlight will be a visit to the former site of Camp Adair and its memorial park, as well as a review of the ongoing efforts of Adair Living

History (AdairHistory.org) to create an interpretive center commemorating the 104th and the other WWII divisions that trained there.

When it comes to preserving our Timberwolf history, we're also looking to our official repository at Fort Douglas Military Museum in Salt Lake City and the years of work done by our beloved NTPA Historian Kathy Clark, who passed away last January. She did a massive amount of 104th research for publication and beyond, which her family generously gifted to us. There were a lot of duplicates, which I sent to Oregon (for Camp Adair and perhaps other places) and brought to Fort Douglas, where I met with new Museum Director and Curator Patrick Hargis and our main contact, Fiona Robinson, who were thrilled to get everything. (Note to all: They welcome volunteers to assist with maintaining our growing collection. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Fiona: 801.581.1251, fionarobinson@utah.gov.)

Best of all things to everyone. I look forward to seeing you in Oregon...

—JeNeal Ann Granieri, NTPA Treasurer &
Reunion Site Committee Chair
jenealann@gmail.com

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION Statement of Income and Expenses January 1, 2023–December 31, 2023

Submitted by JeNeal Granieri, NTPA Treasurer (jenealann@gmail.com)

BANK BALANCE on JANUARY 1, 2023

Checking account	\$ 6,162
Savings account	\$ 4,075
TOTAL	\$10,237

DEPOSITS

Dues & donations	\$ 3,973
Reunion income	\$ 1,502
Book sales	\$ 600
Interest	\$ 46
TOTAL	\$ 6,121

EXPENSES/DISBURSEMENTS

HOWL production & mailing	\$ 3,562
NTA web fees	\$ 420
Fort Douglas Museum (donation)	\$ 500
Misc. expenses (incl. reunion)	\$ 1,532
Bank fees	\$ 143
TOTAL	\$ 6,157

BANK BALANCE on DECEMBER 31, 2023

Checking account	\$ 5,278
Savings account	\$ 5,103
TOTAL	\$10,381

A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

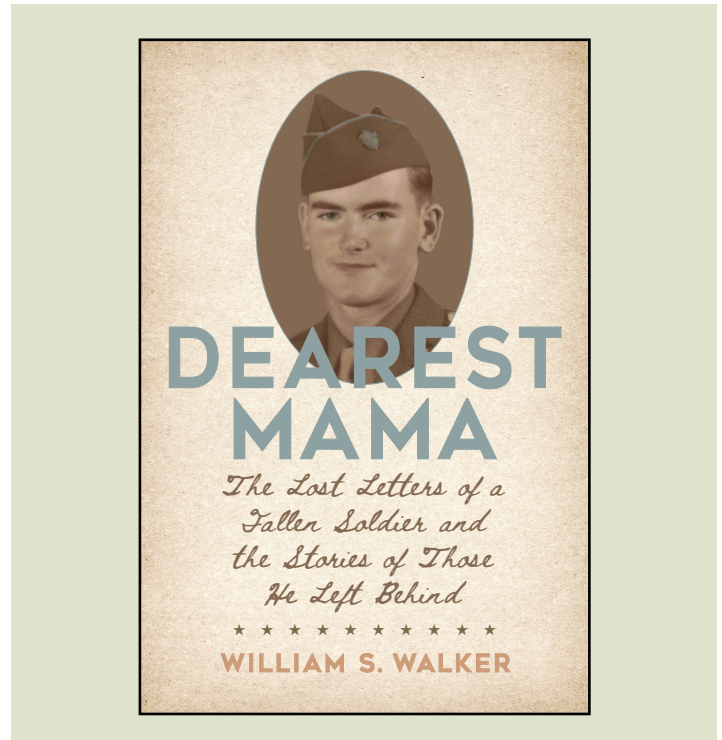
In the summer of 2022, I discovered the lost wartime letters of my uncle Pfc. Fletcher “Bud” Blanton. He was killed January 10, 1945, in the Battle of the Bulge near Mariaweyer, Germany. Bud Blanton was a Timberwolf, an infantryman with Company D, 413th Infantry of the 104th Infantry Division. He was one of 1,447 Timberwolves who died during the liberation of Europe. The letters and details of his wartime experiences combined with two years of research came together as an inspiring story in book form of one Timberwolf life.

—William S. Walker

ABOUT THE BOOK

The letters from Timberwolf infantryman Bud Blanton were hidden away more than 75 years by his mother, my grandmother. Most of the letters arrived in his hometown of Nichols, South Carolina, after his death in combat in early 1945. I believe my uncle’s two younger brothers and five sisters were shielded from reading the letters by my grandmother. Afterwards, the bag of letters and family photographs ended up locked away for nearly eight decades in an antique cabinet.

My research determined that my mother, one of the eight Blanton children, was allowed to see the letters briefly in early 1945, when she assisted my grandmother in applying for family insurance and pension benefits. I discovered the letters while cleaning the family attic in 2022. During my research, I found the names of more than 30 additional soldiers who served in or had a connection to Company D. I also wrote in the book about their lives after the war.



In December 2024, the University of South Carolina Press published “*Dearest Mama: The Lost Letters of a Fallen Soldier and the Stories of Those He Left Behind.*” It is a record of one Timberwolf family’s experience during World War II and afterward. The 176-page book can be ordered at <https://uscpress.com/Dearest-Mama>.



Continued on pg. 7

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William S. Walker is a South Carolina-born writer and former soldier who served in Europe. Later, as a reporter and editor at *The Stars and Stripes* newspaper for nearly three decades, he wrote about the WWI and WWII battlefields of Europe extensively. He has studied history throughout his life and holds degrees from Clemson University and the University of South Carolina, and a doctorate in East European History from Ruprecht-Karls Universität in Heidelberg, Germany.

EARLY PRAISE

“This is a touching homage to a soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. A tender, loving account of a short but honorable life.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“*Dearest Mama* presents a compelling collection of letters from WWII soldier, Private First-Class Fletcher Blanton, highlighting the profound impact of his absence on his family and friends.”

—*Travis L. Martin, author of War & Homecoming*

The Last Bugle Call



At the going down of the sun & in the morning...we will remember them.

Darrell R. Brush
555 AAA Btry A

Donald Edward Meckfessel
555 AAA Btry A

Gerard Wicklin
413 G

Lois Mielk
555 AAA Btry B (Wilbur)

William A. Craig
555 AAA Btry B

Cleo E. Mikle
555 AAA Btry B

John B. White
555 AAA Btry A

Myrtie Miller
555 AAA Btry A (Robert)

Homer Denham
Unit unknown

Darrell D. Olds
555 AAA Btry A

Paul Enos Wiland
555 AAA Btry C

Wilma Purdy
555 AAA Btry B (Earl)

Michael Drakulich
555 AAA Btry A

Carl Perrotta
555 AAA HQ Btry

Philip Wilens
414 B

Marie Reid
555 AAA Btry C (Lester)

Ted Dryer
387FA HQ Btry

Gerald Powell
329 Med

Joseph E. Yates
555 AAA Btry C

Mary Romero
555 AAA Btry D (Donecimo)

Lawrence E. Dunlap
555 AAA Btry B

Arland W. Richards
555 AAA HQ Btry

WIFE or WIDOW

Kathleen Sahl
555 AAA Btry A (Leonard)

Frank Fabianski
104 Sig

Joseph Ricotta
555 AAA Btry A

Mildred J. Anderson
555 AAA Btry A (Cecil)

Margadine Schultz
555 AAA Btry C (Delmont)

Marvin J. Faulhaber
555 AAA Btry C

Edmund T. Rybacki, Jr.
555 AAA Btry D

Marilyn Boehm
555 AAA Btry C (Robert)

Anna Siffert
555 AAA Btry A (Audry)

Richard Gibson
413 Cannon

Robert R. Samuels
555 AAA Btry D

Aretta Boucher
555 AAA Btry A (Robert)

Jane Smith
555 AAA Btry A (Gordon)

Donald L. Gunderson
555 AAA Btry A

Robert L. Schwarz
329 Med Bn

Nona Boyd
555 AAA HQ Btry (Clyde)

Gladys Spaulding
555 AAA Btry A (Walter)

George W. Hart
555 AAA Btry A

John J. Simmon
555 AAA Btry A

Myriam Brown
555 AAA Btry B (Lester)

Dorothy Stepanovic
555 AAA HQ Btry (Emil)

Milton Humphreys
413 G

Frank Smith
555 AAA Btry B

Joanne Burling
555 AAA Btry D (William)

Mary Wassmund
555 AAA Btry A (Wilbur)

Frank E Jajchik
555 AAA Btry C

Eugene J. Surdy
387 FA HQ

Natalie Goodkind
415 F (Leo)

Katharine E. Wheatley
414 Cannon (Earl)

Robert E. Lemp
555 AAA Btry C

Leo J. Theonnes
555 AAA

Lily Lee
414 L (George)

Carol Yates
555 AAA Btry C (Joseph)

Frank Lisbona
414 Med

John Logan Thorniley, Jr.
555 AAA Bn

Opaline Lincoln
555 AAA Btry C (Floyd)

Lorenzo McCullough
104 QM

Lee M. Watts
555 AAA Btry A

Amy Marks
555 AAA HQ Btry (Arthur)

Compiled by
Sandra Eberhard
webpup@bellsouth.net



Timberwolf Book Corner, *continued from pg. 5*

FELLOW SOLDIERS WHO SERVED WITH BUD BLANTON

Below is a list of some of the men from all over the United States who served with or were associated with my uncle's Timberwolf Company D.

H.G. Adkins Jr. (Rock Hill, SC)
 Pfc. Paul S. Allen (Demorest, GA)
 Howard R. Bailey (Greensboro, NC)
 William M. Bishop (Taylors, SC)
 Jack Belcher (Wellford, SC)
 Thomas Blackwell (Gaffney, SC)
 Leo V. Bloom (Baltimore, MD)
 Sgt. Ray Brown (Hammond, IN)
 W. Campbell (Evansville, IN)
 Bill Carrigan (Taylorsville, NC)
 Pfc. Roy Clements (Clementsville, KY)
 Newton H. Corbitt (Nashville, TN)
 Pfc. George R. Decker (Millwood, KY)
 Harold G. Ekstrom (Moline, IL)
 Pfc. Milton Feldman (New York, NY)
 Erasmo Garza (Corpus Christi, TX)
 Raymond Henke
 J. D. Johnson (Spencer, IN)
 Ray Johnson (Poulsbo, WA)
 SSgt. Alfred M. Langberg (Pauwboro, NJ)
 Bill Leadly (Fort Dodge, IA)

George E. McGarry (Chicago, IL)
 George P. Meadows (Fredericksburg, VA)
 A. J. Petrella (Columbus, OH)
 Paul Shinkevich (Kewanee, IL)
 Maurice Shoemaker (Lewisburg, KY)
 L. F. Simon (Glencoe, MO)
 Pfc. Raymond T. Suchomel (Cicero, IL)
 Franklin E. Smith (Shelton, WA)
 John Thompson (Hartford, CT)
 Ben F. Travis (Los Angeles, CA)
 James E. Woodhull (Pittsfield, VT)

NTPA MEMBERSHIP & DUES

We always welcome new members to the pack and wish to stay connected with existing members. If you haven't paid your 2024 dues yet, now's the time! Our fees remain the same—**\$20.50/year (\$10.50 for Veterans/Wives)**—and **you can pay via check** (made payable to "National Timberwolf Pups Association" and sent to NTPA • 1749 9th Avenue • San Francisco, CA 94122 [Attn: JeNeal]) **or online with PayPal** (<https://www.timberwolf104inf.org/membership-and-links.html>). Many thanks for your support. *Timberwolf up!*

NATIONAL TIMBERWOLF PUPS ASSOCIATION

Vets, Family & Friends of the 104th Infantry Division WWII
1749 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122

www.timberwolf104inf.org

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2023 Reunion in Washington, DC



Some Pups taking a moment at the Banquet to celebrate longtime reunion attendees TW Widow Marilyn Lytle (Glen) & TW Vet Bryce Thornton.