



## Tri-State Chapter 34th Infantry Division Association

PO Box 1166, Pocasset MA 02559

Newsletter • August 2007

<http://www.34infdiv.org/tristate/>



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As always, we will open with Ray Rudolph's familiar newsletter greeting, so,  
**Dear Red Bulls, the Ladies, and Friends:**

### A Message from our new President ...

Greetings to the Tri-State Members and Families:

First I want to thank you for electing me President of the Tri-State Chapter for the second time. When we first organized the chapter we did not have very many members, and I am afraid that is what is happening now. I know we are all getting older and do not like to travel too far, and some of us have health problems – myself included. I will attend as long as I can put one foot in front of the other one. I asked you at the reunion to check on members who are close to you, and to see if they might like a ride to the reunion. I wish you would do that, please. The more people we can bring to the hotel, the better the price we can negotiate.

I want now to thank Leighton **McKeithen** for his services to the Tri-State Chapter and to the 34th Infantry Division Association. I do not know just how many years he has served as our chaplain, but it has been many.

Leighton was an infantryman, like most of us. He had lived in foxholes as we all did, and knows what it was like to be hot in the summer, and cold and wet in the winter; and who can forget the mud? We still cannot forget the machine-gunning and the shelling by mortars and artillery.

When a group of veterans and I went to Italy for the dedication of our four bronze plaques, Leighton was unable to make that trip. So I wrote to him and asked him if he would compose some prayers that I could read at the dedications in the four towns where they were being placed. He graciously sent me not four, but six. I was most thankful and was able to read one at each dedication. Leighton, I still remember that at Louisville KY there were a lot of veterans with tears in their eyes. That was one powerful sermon.

Thank you, Leighton; we will never be able to replace you, and we will never forget you.

Martin **Winkle**  
President, Tri-State Chapter  
34th Infantry Division Association.

For members who would like to thank Leighton and Edna **McKeithen** directly, their address is 3618 Sugar Cane Circle, Fayetteville NC 28303-4640.

### Recent Death Reports:

Joseph **Ledakowski** of D Company, 135th Infantry, passed away on 3 June 2007 in New Port Richey FL. Joseph was a member of our Chapter since 1996.

Michael **Valosin** of F Company, 135th Infantry, passed away on 13 May 2007 in Lakewood NJ. Mike, wounded by a sniper at Hill 609, was a member of the Chapter since 2001. He is survived by his widow, Angeline.

Kenneth **Brown** of K Company, 135th Infantry, passed away on 15 July 2006 in Las Vegas NV. Ken had been a member of the Chapter from 1985, and is survived by his widow Chloe, now in Kingman AZ.

Joseph **Gherardi** died on 19 November 1972 in Allen Park MI. We are working with his daughter Kathy Giacomantonio, a new member, to identify her father's unit and history,

*"May they have no more hills to climb,  
nor cold, nor rain, nor mud, nor enemy fire,  
and may they now rest in Peace."*

### A Welcome to New Members of our Chapter ...

We are delighted that the sons and daughters of the Red Bull are stepping forward to support and give leadership to the Chapter. Thank you very much. Welcome to:

Richard **Kenevich** of Jackson NJ. He is the son of William Kenevich, A Company, 109th Medical Bn.

Gene and Jan **Board** of Fairmont WV. Gene is the son of member Larry Board of the 3rd Battalion, 133rd Infantry

Steve and Jacquie **Tennant** of Gaithersburg MD. Steve is the son of Past President Dick Tennant, A Company 168th Infantry.

Edward **Hess**, Jr. of Media PA. Eddie is the son of Ed, Sr., who was in B and G Companies, 135th Infantry.

Kathleen and Gary **Giacomantonio** of New Boston MI. Kathy is the daughter of Joseph Gherardi, a Red Bull infantryman. but one whose unit is not presently known.

Veteran members: can your families also step forward to help preserve our history? Ask them today, and please share your memories with them.



## Pittsburgh 2007 Attendees

Attending the 2007 Pittsburgh Reunion were:

- Dan and Marilyn **Andrews**
- Lawrence and Elaine **Board**, 3rdBn/133  
with Gene and Jan **Board**
- Philip and Antoinette **Daurio**, F/135
- Frank **Day**, K/135
- Kathy and Gary **Giacomantonio**
- Irwin and Josephine **Gibson**, G/135
- Edward **Hess Sr.**, B,G/135  
with Richard and Edward **Hess Jr.**
- William **Jakovac** (American Legion)
- Joe **Kolakowski**
- Richard **Lohrens**, B/133
- Leighton and Edna **McKeithen**, C/133  
with grandson Nicholas **Levy**
- John and Ann **Minotti**, 1stBn/135
- Wilson and Gloria **Peters**, 3rdBn/168  
with friends Robert and Donna **Curtis**
- Ray and Marion **Rudolph**, Hq/135
- Patrick **Skelly** and Genevieve **Kazdin**
- Darline **Smith**
- David and Mary **Smith**, A/168
- John and Alma **Taylor**, L/168
- Richard and Bettie **Tennant**, A/168  
with Steve and Jacquie **Tennant**
- Martin **Winkle**, G/133
- Walter and Rose **Zabrowski**, Hq/135  
with daughter Carole **McAndrew**
- Color Guard of the **128th Brigade Support Battalion**,  
Pennsylvania National Guard

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### Other Activities

We need first to thank Joe **Kolakowski** for his service with local transportation during the Reunion, especially to and from Station Square.

There was a continuing photo 'retrospective' from our sadly-missed Carl "Dutch" **Snyder**. This featured his April 2005 and April 2007 trips to Italy.

Saturday afternoon Pat **Skelly** offered a discussion of his final Masters degree project, *World War II Military Chaplains in Combat*. It featured Father Albert **Hoffman** of the 133rd Infantry Regiment and Pastor Israel **Yost** of the 100th Infantry Battalion (Nisei) which had been assigned to the 133rd Infantry from Salerno to Rome.

Pictures were taken at the Saturday evening banquet, to be used for a modest reunion book this year. If anyone else has digital images to contribute to the pool, please contact Pat **Skelly**, [tristate@34infdiv.org](mailto:tristate@34infdiv.org)



A special thank you is extended to Commander William **Jakovac** of the Aspinwall American Legion Post 77 in Pittsburgh. He arranged to take Dick **Lohrens**, (B Co, 133rd Infantry) to Cabot PA for a visit with Norman **Morgan** (3rd Bn, 133rd Infantry). Dick is on the left, Norm on the right.

To both of you, Phyllis **Vengen** sends the wish that she and Stan (1st Bn, 133rd Infantry) could have been with you.

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### Financial Report

Your Audit Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the financial records and reports of the Treasurer for the eighteen-month Fiscal Year ending **December 2006**. Our Northwest Savings Bank account balance at that time was **\$6999**.

At the end of **June**, halfway into our present Fiscal Year, but just prior to the Reunion, our account balance was **\$7825**.

As I write this note at the end of **August**, all Reunion income and expense has been accounted for, and the bank balance stands at **\$7535**.

The additional funds which have been donated by many of you to support Tri-State Chapter operating expenses have been the key to our financial stability, and have more than offset the loss of income when we opted to waive dues for the widows of our departed veterans.

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### In Closing ...

In line with Martin's suggestion of ride-sharing for reunions in his message, please contact Secretary Pat **Skelly** ( PO Box 1166, Pocasset MA 02559 or [tristate@34infdiv.org](mailto:tristate@34infdiv.org) ) if you would like a list of members close to you. We will also be happy to share such a list if you'd like to meet locally for an occasional luncheon

As I close this newsletter I am off to Des Moines for our 2007 National Reunion (September 6–9) and to do more research into your history at our Iowa Gold Star Military Museum at Camp Dodge. Take Care!

- Pat Skelly