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The Octofoil

9th Infantry Division Association

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7-2020

## **The Octofoil, July/August/September 2020**

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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# The Octofoil

July-Aug.-Sept.  
2020

Volume LIV, No. 3

## President's Message

*"If we don't remember, who will?"*



Greetings from Topeka! We have begun a new year at the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Also, we all have been going through a time of great uncertainty so I sincerely hope all of you are doing well.

We held our 75th Business Meeting by conference call on Saturday, August 8. I appreciate all of you who were able to join us. The meeting included a president's report as well as financial, membership, Octofoil, reunion, website and nominating committee reports. Terry Barnhart, Charles Bonney, Mary Cooper, Mary Kay Darr, Clare Irwin and Judy Rishel were approved to serve a three year term on the Board of Governors ending in June, 2023. Glenda Baswell chose not to re-run for the Board. We thank her for her excellent service on the Board of Governors.

The Board had a short follow-up call on August 24 to consider the slate of officers brought to us by the Nominating Committee. All officers from the past year were approved to serve again in their positions - Peter Stern - President, Dennis Bonkowski - Vice President, Mary Cooper - Treasurer and JoAnn Bryant - Secretary.

The Reunion Committee of Terry Barnhart, Charles Bonney, Mary Cooper, Mary Kay Darr, Judy Rishel and Janet Schnall have already been very busy renegotiating and renewing all components of what will be our 76th Annual Meeting/Reunion at Ft. Bragg in North Carolina. The dates are Thursday, August 5 through Sunday, August 8. (Please see information in this Octofoil regarding the Annual Meeting/Reunion). We had 55 people sign up for the planned Annual Meeting this past August before we had to reschedule it, so we are hoping more can join us in August, 2021. My thanks to the Reunion Committee for handling the many details in preparation for this annual Association event.

Please remember that we have a new website - [9thinfantry.org](http://9thinfantry.org). I know it is relatively new, but please visit the site at your convenience. It is a very good resource to educate all readers about the history of the Association and has great photos and links to our archived Octofoils and the Ninth Infantry European site. You can renew your membership each year on this site - either using online sign-up/payment or printing and completing a membership form to mail in.

I also would like to encourage you to start getting your copy of The Octofoil by email. Some of you already have told us that you want to receive the publication this way. Some may still prefer to receive the print copy. Over time, though, we hope printing. If you wish to change to getting your Octofoil by email, please contact Clare Irwin at [clareirwin@hotmail.com](mailto:clareirwin@hotmail.com) or at 401-855-3760.

My best to all of you!  
Pete Stern, President

**"Lest We Forget"**  
**The Ninth Infantry Division Association**  
**Memorial Service**  
**Immaculate Conception Parish**  
**Worcester, MA 01605**

Out of an abundance of caution due to COVID-19, Ninth Infantry Division Association veterans, family members and friends are asked to remember and honor all those who have served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division from home this year. The Association is supporting Father Riley's Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Mass with an Octofoil wreath which will later be placed at the Memorial site. The outside ceremony will not take place this year.

The Ninth Infantry Division Association extends our sincere gratitude to Father Walter Riley and the Immaculate Conception Parish for the continuous long line of Mass celebrations started by Father Edward T. Connors.



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**9thinfantry.org**

### OUR MISSION

This Association was formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the *esprit de corps* of the Division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau about the 9th Infantry Division.

## THE OCTOFOIL

The official publication of The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc.. Published four times yearly, January-March; April - June; July - September; October - December. Material for publication must be received by the publisher according to the following schedule:

December 20 for the January publication  
March 20 for the April publication  
June 20 for the July publication  
September 20 for the October publication

Effective July 1, 2018, the annual fee for membership, which includes The Octofoil, is thirty five dollars (\$35.00) and must be sent to the Membership Chairperson by check or money order made payable to:

**The Ninth Infantry Division Association.**

Send payment to: **Clare Irwin**  
**Membership Chairperson**  
**155 Jastram St.**  
**Providence, RI 02908**

**Telephone: 401-855-3760**  
**Email: clareirwin@hotmail.com**

The Ninth Infantry Division Association Inc. is a registered 501(c)3 Charitable Organization of the Internal Revenue Code in a determination letter dated October 26, 2018. Contributions are tax deductible.

**Volume LIV, No. 3**                      **July, Aug., Sept. 2020**

## Tip of the Hat

We thank the following members and friends for remembering the Memorial Fund and our buddies who have answered their last Roll Call.

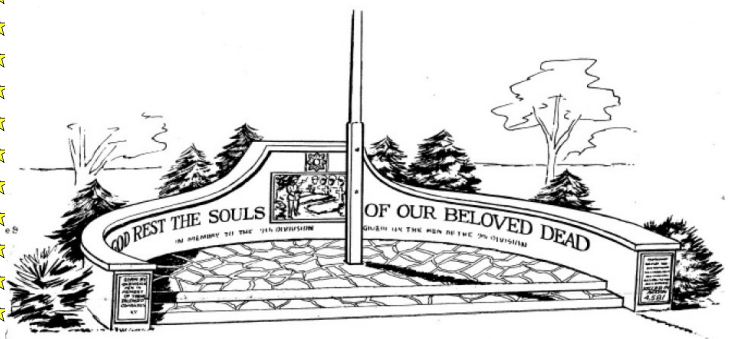
**Marvin Toothaker**

The current balance in the TOH fund is 6,550.00.  
If you would like to donate please make your check payable to:

**The Ninth Infantry Division Association**

Please note in the memo section of the check "Tip of the Hat" and mail to:

**Mary Cooper, 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, TX 77043-4659**



## Friends of Father Connors Fund

The Friends of Father Connors Fund would like to thank the following new donors for their generous contributions:

**Richard Cohen**

**Gail Eisenhauer**

**Peter Peri**

**The Schumacher family**  
In memory of Paul Schumacher

**Herbert Stern**

The major Jewish holidays are celebrated this month. This contribution is made in memory of Chaplain Irving Tepper, who shortly after delivering a sermon in a field near St. Lo, France in mid-July 1944, was killed by German artillery. Tepper was 29 years old.

**Pete Stern**  
In honor of Herb Stern

The current balance in the FFCF is \$5,029.95  
Continued contributions for maintenance and lighting expenses would be greatly appreciated.

If you would like to donate please make your check payable to: **The Ninth Infantry Division Association.** Please note in the memo section of the check "FFCF" and send to :

**Mary Cooper, 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, Tx. 77043.**

## Veterans' Travel Fund

The Veterans Travel Fund was established to provide financial assistance to our 9th Division veterans to attend our annual reunions. We would like to thank the following donors for their generous contribution:

**Members of the Schumacher Family**  
In memory of Paul Schumacher

The current balance in the Veterans' Travel Fund is \$5,070.99. If you would like to donate please make your check payable to **The Ninth Infantry Division Association.** Please note in the memo section of the check "Vets Travel Fund" and send to:

**Mary Cooper, 11218 Timberline Rd., Houston, TX 77043**



## TAPS SOUNDED

The muffled drum's sad roll has beat the soldier's last tattoo;  
No more on life's parade shall meet that brave and fallen few.  
On Fame's eternal camping—ground their silent tents are spread,  
And Glory guards, with solemn round, the bivouac of the dead.

*Bivouac of the Dead by Theodore O'Hare - 1847*

### 9th Infantry Division Medal of Honor Recipients World War II

S/Sgt. Herschel F. Briles, Co. C, 899th TD Bn; Near Scherpenseel, Germany; 20 November 1944  
2nd Lieutenant John E. Butts\*, Co. E, 60th Infantry; Normandy, France; 14, 16, 23 June 1944  
T/Sgt. Peter J. Dalessandro, Co. E, 39th Infantry; Near Kalterherberg, Germany; 22 December 1944  
Sgt. William J. Nelson\*, Co. H, 60th Infantry; Djegel Dardys, NW of Sedjenane, Tunisia; 24 April 1943  
PFC Carl V. Sheridan\*, Co. K, 47th Infantry; Frenzerberg Castle, Germany; 26 November 1944  
Captain Matt L. Urban, 2nd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Renouf, France; 14 June to 3 September, 1944  
\* Posthumous award

Source: U.S. Army Center of Military History

### Vietnam War

SGT Sammy L. Davis, Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 4th Artillery; West of Cai Lay; 18 November 1967  
SP4 Edward A. Devore, Jr.\*, Company B, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry; Near Saigon; 17 March 1968  
PFC James W. Fous\*, Company E, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 14 May 1968  
SSG Don J. Jenkins, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry; Kien Phong Province; 6 January 1969  
SGT Leonard B. Keller, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ap Bac Zone; 2 May 1967  
SP4 Thomas J. Kinsman, Company B, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Near Vinh Long; 6 February 1968  
SP4 George C. Lang, Company A, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry; Kien Hoa Province; 22 February 1969  
PFC David P. Nash\*, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 39th Infantry; Giao Duc District; 29 December 1968  
SP5 Clarence E. Sasser, Headquarters Co., 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ding Tuong Province; 10 January 1968  
SP4 Raymond R. Wright, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry; Ap Bac Zone; 2 May 1967  
\* Posthumous award

Sources: *A Short History of the 9th Infantry Division and*  
[www.homeofheroes.com](http://www.homeofheroes.com)



Edward (Barry) Koneski  
Son of Edward C. Koneski  
I Co., 39th Inf. Regt.



Mary Kathleen Murray  
Daughter of Edward McCaffrey  
1st Bn., 47th Inf. Regt.



#### TAPS OBITUARIES

##### Edward "Barry" Koneski Son of Edward C. Koneski I Company, 39th Infantry Regt.

Edward "Barry" Koneski, age 65, loving husband of Renee (McLaughlin) Koneski, of Limerick, Pennsylvania, passed away peacefully on Thursday, November 21, 2019 at his home surrounded by his loving family. Born on May 10, 1954 in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, he was the son of the late Edward and Constance Koneski.

Mr. Koneski worked for many years for Uniform Tubes Inc. as a production engineer before his retirement. Barry was a member of many organizations in the Royersford community such as being a life member of the VFW where he was a Steward as well as a bartender for many years, American Legion, Liberty Fire Co., Friendship Fire Co., the Italian American Club, and Quoit Club in Pottstown. He was also a member of the AMVETS in Millsboro DE, a group that assists the safeguard of American Veterans. In his spare time, Barry enjoyed playing bingo, Words with Friends, going to local auctions and "living the dream" at Mariner's Cove in Delaware. But his greatest joy was spending time with his family. He was a loving husband, father, Pop-Pop, and a dear friend to all who had the pleasure of knowing him, and he will be missed by many.

In addition to his loving wife, Barry is survived by one son, Matthew (Paula) Koneski; And one daughter, Rachel (Thomas) Grasso; He is also survived by his five loving grandchildren, Robbie & Jeffrey Strawley; Dominic, Damian, and Lucia Grasso.

#### TAPS OBITUARIES

##### Mary Kathleen Murray Daughter of Edward McCaffrey 1st Battalion 47th Infantry Regt.



Mary Kathleen "Kathy" Murray, age 71, passed away on Saturday, July 20, 2019 in Albany, New York. She was the beloved wife of Kevin F. Murray, mother of two children, Brian and Colleen, and was the daughter of the late Edward and Gertrude Muldowney McCaffrey. Kathy was a member of the Ninth Infantry Division Association and was an avid reader of *The Octofoil*. In the early 2000's, when a group photograph of the members of the Battalion Aid Station, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 47<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 9<sup>th</sup> Division was published in *The Octofoil*, Kathy immediately recognized the photo with her father in it. She then contacted the newsletter's editor and learned that it had been submitted by the Station's commanding officer, Captain Gordon Binder, M.D. Through correspondence, Captain Binder shared his memoir which provided Kathy and her family with an enriched understanding of her father's experiences in WWII. In addition to her husband and children, Kathy is survived by a daughter-in-law, Kim; brothers, Edward (Theresa), Kevin and Timothy; brother-in-law Richard Murray (Mary Therese); nephews and nieces, Michael, Sam, Tess and Emma McCaffrey, and Michelle Murray and Kristen Marsh. Her loss is deeply felt throughout her extended family.



## MAIL CALL

My brothers and I would like to thank the members of the Association for your donations and flowers, get well and sympathy cards, phone calls and emails during our Dad's illness and upon his death. You provided immense comfort to us and we greatly appreciate how you so graciously honored him as a veteran and friend. Among his many loves was love of people, and he was blessed in having known you and having experienced years of enjoyable reunions with you.

One day in early March he received a substantial supply of strawberry ice cream produced by Mississippi State University and delivered to him personally by his good buddy Glenda Baswell. I was told, with great emphasis, this is the best ice cream to be found, and it was indeed a thoughtful delivery since ice cream was the only food we could get him to take in. Glenda's visit to his bedside was a precious moment and I know without question he was grateful to have seen her one last time. Thank you to the leaders of the Ninth for suggesting Glenda represent the Association during his illness and thank you Glenda for traveling from MS to TN. It meant the world to us.

Looking back to my visits with him last Thanksgiving and Christmas, I saw no signs of his grave illness on the horizon in mid-January. He seemed to have his usual vitality and appearance of well-being, which many people found quite amazing for a soon to be 97 year old. Seeing him taken down so completely in January was difficult to experience, as many of you unfortunately know as well with the loss of your own loved ones.

My heart sinks each time I think of how he must have felt when the cancer clinic advised him they had no treatment plan to offer since his x-ray showed the cancer had so pervasively metastasized; they could only arrange hospice care in an effort to keep him as comfortable as possible. I am so thankful my brother Kevin, who has mental health credentials, was with him during that particular visit to help him navigate such a crushing message. My Dad had a strong mind but being faced with end of life care must surely be difficult to grasp for anyone.

I was privileged to be with my Dad in Tennessee during his final weeks. I am grateful he could remain in his home, on his peaceful wooded acreage, with the angels of hospice giving him the compassionate care they are so well-known for. My brothers too were angels in covering most of the heavy duty care, especially as he grew weaker, leaving me to handle the lighter tasks. Fulfilling his requests for water and two or three tablespoons of strawberry ice cream seemed to be most of what he needed from me, yet each time he called out for me, I felt I had been granted a great honor.

True to the courage and fortitude of a veteran, I never once heard him complain while I was with him his final weeks. Upon his minister's visit one day for a prayer he told his minister he had beautiful life. I think he was able to get through his illness with the realization, although reluctant to leave this earth and all its wonder, he would soon be reunited with his best gal Ellen after almost 12 years without her. I can only imagine that joyous reunion and the reception line of relatives and friends who welcomed him to heaven. I am certain he and the other veterans of the 9th who passed before him have had many lively and profound conversations by now.

As his daughter, I hope I am permitted to say he delivered a respectable body of work over his lifetime: he proudly served his country alongside his many fellow veterans, later devoted

## MAIL CALL

his time and talents to community and church across many years, and made every effort toward providing for his family.

Since his death I have been flooded with amazing memories from childhood until his passing. Still, I long for another day, or even a mere hour, with him again. I have boxes of photographs and letters, as well as messages on my phone from him I will never delete, but nothing of course is quite like hearing his laughter, being captivated by his story-telling and spirit, or enlightened by his knowledge and insight.

Again, we thank you for each and every gesture during our Dad's illness and passing. We will never forget your kindness and the respect you showed yet another WWII veteran now gone.

-Joyce Schumacher-

## THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION ARCHIVE

I received an unexpected box the other week through the mail. It was from Linda DeSandy Larson and contained thirteen books, photos, newspaper clippings and other memorabilia from her late father and past Association president, Robert DeSandy. In her letter she said that she and her family were not interested in keeping the material, but wanted it preserved for others interested in learning the history and sacrifices of the men of the 9<sup>th</sup> Division during WWII. Further, she wrote of her father's love of country, the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the Association.

There are probably a lot of other families in the same predicament. What should we do with Dad's library collection and lifetime artifacts from his military experiences in the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division?

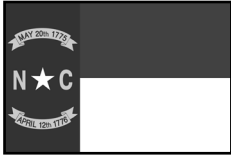
About 12 years ago, the Association started collecting books and other materials about the 9<sup>th</sup> in WWII. Many members contributed information and money to scan and preserve documents. Included in this effort, we were able to assemble and scan an almost complete collection of *Octofoil* newsletters from 1947 to 2006. Then in 2013 the entire collection was donated to the College of the Holy Cross Archives and Special Collections in Worcester, MA for preservation. The *Octofoil* newsletters are now on line at: [holycross.edu/archives-and-special-collections/college-holy-cross-special-collections-digital-collections](http://holycross.edu/archives-and-special-collections/college-holy-cross-special-collections-digital-collections) and the other donated items are available for research at the College of the Holy Cross.

The College of the Holy Cross was the alma mater of WWII chaplain and Association member, Father Edward T. Connors. The November memorial service at the Immaculate Conception Church in Worcester was started by Father Connors in 1946 and still continues today.

Should other families or individuals be interested in donating their father's collections or other information about the 9th Infantry Division please contact me. I will arrange donations with the College of Holy Cross library staff. Presently, we are working to scan all of the post-2006 *Octofoil* newsletters online to complement the older collection. Further, tax deductible donations for the Library Fund to assist in these preservation efforts can be made to Mary Blann Cooper, Treasurer.

Terry Barnhart, 830 Lotus Way, Broomfield, CO 80020  
303-489-3482





*“Nothing could be finer than to be in Carolina”*



**What better place could there be to celebrate this 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion of the Ninth Infantry Division Association than where it began with the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division training for WWII? It was unfortunate that the Covid-19 pandemic prevented this Reunion from taking place in person. However, the 2020 Reunion Committee met virtually to renegotiate plans to honor this milestone. We are happy to report that everything will happen as originally planned, just one year later as the 76<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion.**

The Ft. Bragg Command has agreed again to host the Association for a special one-day event on-base. This will be only the fourth time that the Association has visited Ft. Bragg. Reunions were also held there in 1962, 1982 and 1992. This will be a unique opportunity to see where the troops trained over 78-79 years ago and give us a modern day glimpse into troop training today. Make your plans to come experience some Southern Hospitality and visit the largest military base where the “Old Reliables” legend began.

#### **Date**

Since the base activities need to be held during a weekday, the reunion schedule has been moved up a day. We will meet Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> and conclude with our annual banquet on Saturday night, August 7<sup>th</sup>. Check out will be on Sunday August 8<sup>th</sup> unless you decide to stay to enjoy the Fayetteville and North Carolina area.

#### **Hotel**

This Reunion will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Fayetteville, NC. It is conveniently located near I-95 and is approximately 15 miles from Ft. Bragg. A special room rate of \$102 per room has been negotiated which included a hot breakfast buffet for everyone in each booked room. There are also microwaves and mini fridges in every room along with in-room coffee. (See reunion application for specific registration details.)

#### **Transportation**

Two regional airports and rail service are available to the Ft. Bragg region. Nearby Fayetteville Regional airport is served by both Delta and American Airlines. East Coast Amtrak routes also serve Fayetteville. The Clarion has a complimentary hotel shuttle to these local transportation venues. Raleigh-Durham offers more air carriers, but is approximately 60 miles away. There is no complimentary shuttle service to and from this airport.

#### **Welcome Dinner**

Registration will be open all day on Thursday. The Board will hold the first of several meetings in the afternoon. During the evening, there will be a Welcome Dinner that will give you a taste of North Carolina cuisine that will have your mouth watering.

#### **Fort Bragg**

After breakfast on Friday morning, the group will be transported to Fort Bragg for the Memorial Service on the parade grounds at the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division monument dedicated in 1982. Plans include a new plaque dedication to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Lunch will be provided at two of the mess halls where we will join the training airborne troops followed by two interesting on-base tours of training facilities. Transportation will be provided back to the hotel for those who are not interested or unable to participate. Afterwards, we will be transported to the Airborne & Special Operations Museum located in Fayetteville to enjoy a private tour and an Italian Buffet Dinner. It will be a full day of wonderful experiences which can be shared when we return to the hotel and chill out in the Hospitality Suite.

#### **Saturday**

Saturday will be enjoyed in the hotel as we conduct the business of the Association and have a time of Show and Tell which has become a favorite for attendees. Bring an interesting item to share and discuss with all. There will be a video interview with 100 year old Herb Stern, one of our WWII veterans who trained at Ft. Bragg in 1941-42. You will find his memory of this time remarkable!

Of course, the reunion would not be complete without our traditional Banquet that will include a delicious meal, good fellowship, an exciting raffle, and wonderful entertainment.

More details about additional “after reunion activities” will be included in the next Octofoil. So please, meet new friends and reunite with those who share this common bond as we continue to remember those who have given so much for our freedom. Registration for this reunion is \$300 per person which includes all the scheduled events. A deposit of \$100 per person is due by April 1, with the remainder due by June 1. **We ask that you complete your registration by the due dates to facilitate a smooth planning process for the Reunion Committee.** We hope to see you in beautiful North Carolina as we return to relive and create special memories of times past and present.



Annual Ninth Infantry Division Association Reunion

76<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion
Clarion Fayetteville I-95
1944 Cedar Creek Rd, Fayetteville, NC 28312
August 5-8, 2021

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_

The following names and contact information will be printed in the Reunion Program.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Address, Telephone #, E-Mail Address. It contains four empty rows for data entry.

Please indicate if you are a 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Veteran. If so, specify if you are:

WWII: \_\_\_\_\_ Vietnam: \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment: \_\_\_\_\_ Battalion: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_ Ft. Lewis, WA \_\_\_\_\_

- \*Banquet meal choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib (Slow Roasted with Natural Jus)
\_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala with Portabella Mushrooms
\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian: Wild Mushroom Orzo Risotto with Sun-dried Tomatoes, Shaved Parmigiana, Sweet Peas, Grilled Asparagus

\*If more than one in your party, please specify who has which meal choice beside each option: i.e., 2 Prime Rib (John & Mary) etc.

Please make checks payable to Ninth Infantry Division Association (write 2021 Reunion on memo line). A \$100 per person deposit is due by April 1, balance of \$200 per person by June 1, 2020.

Please submit this registration form and deposit to:

Judy Rishel, 8029 Brightwood Court, Ellicott City, MD 21043

Any questions about registration, please contact Judy @(410)-299-6675 or jjr5277@gmail.com

To make your room reservations at the discounted rate of \$102, please contact the hotel directly at 910-323-1600 and reference the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Please specify if you need a handicapped room. Check-in time is 3:00PM and check-out time is 11:00AM. The Cut-off date for making reservations at the special rate is: 7/4/21. Any reservations made after this date will be subject to availability and at the hotel regular rate.



**Minutes of the 232nd Board of Governors Meeting  
August 24, 2020  
Via Conference Call**

President Stern opened the meeting at 8:00 CST, then led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and read a prayer.  
Board of Governors members present: Terry Barnhart, Dennis Bonkowski, Charles Bonney, JoAnn Bryant, Mary Cooper, Mary Kay Darr, Clare Irwin, Theda Ray, Judy Rishel, Janet Schnall, Joyce Schumacher, Peter Stern, and Kathy Tapelt.

Terry Barnhart made the following motion.  
MOTION: To approve the minutes from the 229<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting held on Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup> in Pittsburgh, PA. Janet Schnall seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Charles Bonney made the following motion.  
MOTION: To approve the minutes from the 230<sup>th</sup> Board of Governors meeting held on Sunday August 4, 2019 in Pittsburgh, PA. Theda Ray seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

Judy Rishel made the following motion.  
MOTION: To approve the minutes from the 231<sup>st</sup> Board of Governors meeting held on Thursday, May 19, 2020, via conference call. Charles Bonney seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**Nominating Committee**

Dennis Bonkowski presented the Slate of Officers for 2020 – 2021.

President – Peter Stern  
Vice-President – Dennis Bonkowski  
Secretary— JoAnn Bryant  
Treasurer — Mary Cooper

Terry Barnhart made the following motion.  
MOTION: To approve the Slate of Officers of the Board of Governors for 2020 – 2021. Charles Bonney seconded, the motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Reunion Committee**

Terry Barnhart gave an update for next year's reunion. The committee of Terry Barnhart, Judy Rishel, and Mary Kay Darr, do not need to file any more paperwork for Fort Bragg, last year's will work. Insurance Policy for Museum may increase in price. Committee is on track with all plans and will review costs and proceed with plans.

**Archives at Holy Cross**

Sarah Campbell, the archivist at the College of Holy Cross, was furloughed due to COVID. After her return to work, we will send her more items. We are trying to go virtual this quarter. Mrs. Nancy Larson has a box of things for us. She is the daughter of the late Robert DeSandy, a past president, who was a Medic in the Army.

**Library Fund**

There is \$600 in this fund. We will use \$300 for scanning articles to send to Holy Cross. Sarah Campbell will scan and Terry Barnhart will scan items in Denver. We are still missing about 10% of The Octofoils. People can donate to the Library Fund.

**Plaque at Fort Bragg**

Janet Schnall asked about plaque we were going to install. We are still planning on doing that next year. Mary Cooper questioned the wording on the plaque. Terry Barnhart will send out what was originally planned for it.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

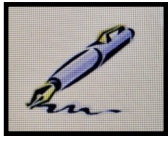
Peter Stern reminded everyone to check the website for updates. Theda Ray wants everyone to continue to send her pictures. Janet Schnall suggested putting our website name on the front page of The Octofoil. Janet Schnall mentioned it was easy to register online. Clare Irwin said it is working and there are five to six people using it. We will put it on the Membership Application form. Peter Stern hopes the country improves so we can see everyone at next year's reunion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 CST.

Respectfully submitted,  
JoAnn Bryant, secretary







## Pen to Paper - Letters to Loved Ones



Letter from Jack Dauner

Dear Mom and Dad:

Just a note of explanation. A little story enclosed is the story of something which happens every day on that thing they call the front. I sat down and scrawled it out a couple days after the incident, but the facts were still well in mind—I imagine they always will be.

December 11, 1944  
Germany

It's 5 o'clock in the morning. Darkness still blankets the cold December atmosphere. Down in the basement of a bombed building, hurrying figures basically work under the flickering glow of flame boxes giving forth their smoky, heavily carbonated light.

Around the old stove some of the men are heating a quick cup of coffee, others C rations of meat and beans. Here and there men are cleaning ammo and rifles — packs are being carefully made, and everything is discarded, except the essentials.

Time flies — someone calls down that the hour to move out approaches. Belts are donned; then packs; bandoleers of precious ammo are slung and grenades hooked conveniently on loose straps.

Everyone takes a last look at “home”; then at each other. They know what that look means. It conveys a wish of good luck, success, of “thumbs up old man — everything will be OK.” And so, onto the street above.

Would the 88's start now? Have we given our movement away? The silence is broken only by a tank occasionally turning over it's cold and sluggish motor. Streets are lined with mechanized equipment. We, the infantry, start to move. The familiar “get your five yard interval” is passed down. Dawn is breaking as the column moves down on either side of the street through the town and into the country.

There before us is no man's land. Along the road are sites of recent battle. Tanks burned and helplessly knocked out. Dead animals with mutilated bodies. Dead G.I.'s—American boys who had given their all and had paid the supreme price.

A thousand thoughts run through each man's mind. Will this be my last day? Will I soon be lying in a pool of my own blood like that captain lying there in that bloodstained ditch? Will I soon have a cavity in my head the size of a fist like that GI at the side of the road? Or will God somehow, someway forgive me for all my sins and bless me with life throughout this day?

Packs are growing heavy. Sweat—beautiful beads of dirty sweat fill the brows of every man. The mission comes within sight.

The crackle of an M.G.—artillery, our own whistles overhead in salvos. It is music, sweet music. Then the drove of planes. P-47's and 51's dart over like birds of prey. Sighs of relief can be heard in the column. Everything is clicking—it is up to us now—the infantry moves in for the kill.

Somewhere, someone had looked at a map and decided that we should take such a position. Everyone works for the infantry to a certain point and then the G. I. Joe must take over by himself—and as a team with his companions set forth. It is that period after he, the infantry, takes over that wins or loses a battle in the final analysis. The infantry must do the dirty work. It must do the sweating—it's home is mother earth and its tools are guts, guns and ground.

We move on. The first phase of the attack is ahead. We start across 800 yards of open ground. Rifles start spitting hot lead. 200; 400; 600 yards we advance without a casualty. An M.G. is heard on the hillside. A platoon sergeant drops dead!! The rifles open up—the BAR's chatter and all is quiet. We move on; the hill is taken. Two bewildered “supermen” walk out shaking like beaten dogs.

We rest. Some smoke nervously—some chew on a chocolate “D” ration. Then the tanks move up and the inevitable fire begins on them. It's like watching a game of checkers. The 88's are now trying to zero in. A flash of light—an explosion and we see one of our TD's in flames. A prayer goes out from every man that the boys in that sweat box will get out. They do and then we listen to the rhythmic sound of exploding shells within the inferno.

It's time to move. Cautiously, we circle the hill—prisoners—wounded, shaking, shocked and speechless pass by. We go into the last phase of our mission. We push on—our fire power breaks loose—rifles barking shrilly in the crisp air. We move again—more prisoners file out. Our mission is taken—we've done it.

But then—as if hell itself had broken, the enemy exposes itself. Mortars—shell after shell—more mortars. We are helpless. Bodies once alive now lie flat on mother earth. The shells come. Each one brings a new cry for the medics. One-by-one brave men role in anguish. A rifle cracks—a kid of nineteen leans over to his buddy, asks for a drink and dies. More mortars—more wounded.

(continued on page 12)



The following letter from General Omar Bradley was written in praise of the 9th Infantry Division:

**NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

**BUDGET 2020-2021**

HEADQUARTERS NINTH INFANTRY  
APO #9

15 May 1945

**MEMORANDUM:**

The letter that follows will be a source of gratification to each member of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, in his recognition that the outstanding combat record of the division has been personally appreciated by General Bradley.

This letter will be read to all personnel at an early formation.

TWELFTH ARMY GROUP  
Office of The Commanding General  
U. S. Army

10 May 1945

“Troops of the Ninth Infantry Division:”

This May 9th that passed was too large a part of your life to crowd it with recollections. It belongs to you and to the world as the day on which the German war was ended. However, May 9th has a greater meaning for men of the First and Ninth Infantry Divisions. In recalling the day in future years, you can remember with great pride that it marks not the first, but the second unconditional surrender of the enemy you fought valorously for thirty long months.

From the waddies of El Guettar where the First and Ninth Divisions fought shoulder to shoulder against crack elements of the Afrika Korp to the final surrender of German forces to the American Second Corps on May 9, 1943. The Tunisian campaign was an epoch, fashioned largely in the bravery, skill and achievements of your two divisions.

American troops advancing through the minefields of the Sedjenane and on the road to Mateur, gave our Nation its first great land victory of the war, and the world its first great unconditional surrender of large-scale German forces.

Since then I have followed your red numeral of the First Division and your tri-colored insignia of the Ninth Division across the sands of Sicily, past the defenses of Troina, over the beaches of Normandy and through the hedgerows to Cherbourg. Side by side, your two divisions have fought the German army 700 miles across the Continent to the inevitable and final defeat of the German nation.

The American Army is studded with splendid divisions. But rarely have two teamed so expertly; never have two divisions fought longer and harder with greater skill or courage.

Sometimes you may have felt forgotten. Sometimes you may have felt, as fighting soldiers do, the endlessness of our long road to Germany. Now that you're here, however, and now that many of you are ready to go home, I want you to know the gratitude of your Nation.

And as your commander, I want to share with the millions of your friends and champions throughout the Army, their pride in your unsurpassed and monumental achievements.

Signed: O. N. Bradley  
General, U. S. Army

INCOME	2020-21 Proposed Budget	2020-2021 Actual YTD as of 9/5/20
FFCF Donations	700	740
General Memorial Donations	1,200	20
Membership Dues	5,300	2,374
Reunion	11,000	700
Veterans Travel Fund	1,000	0

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$19,200.00**    **\$ 3,834.00**

EXPENSE	Proposed	Actual YTD
Accounting	2,000	450
General Donations	1,200	
Legal (includes filing fees)	300	
Membership (includes postage)	300	
Miscellaneous	350	
The Octofoil	1,000	359.33
President	50	
Reunion	11,000	500
Treasurer (incl. postage/check order)	100	
Veteran's Travel Fund	1,000	
Website	1,200	275
Worcester Mem. Wreath/Upkeep	700	

**TOTAL EXPENSES.** **\$19,200.00**    **\$ 1,584.33**

**Quarterly: Oct, Jan, April, July**

**NOTE:**  
**Other 'accounts' in designations funds:**

OLP		587.29
General Memorial Donations		6,550.00
FFCF Donations		5,029.95
Reunions		13,153.46
Veteran's Travel Fund		5,070.99

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Cooper, Treasurer



**STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)-  
INCOME TAX BASIS FROM 7/01/19 TO 6/30/20**  
Prepared by Mize Houser and Co. P.A.

	CURRENT QUARTER	YEAR TO DATE
<b>REVENUE</b>		
General Fund Income	\$ 124	\$2,084
Octofoil Funds Income	120	2,505
Octofoil Library Project Income	40	40
Memorial Fund Income	150	1,301
FCCF Donation Income	525	1,201
Veterans Travel Income	400	700
74th-2019 Reunion Income	0	6,837
75th-2020 Reunion Income	1,750	4,050
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$3,069</b>	<b>\$18,727</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Office Expenses	\$ 894	\$1,794
Postage Expenses	93	591
Refunds	3,300	3,300
Printing and Copies	374	1,798
Entertainment Expense	0	300
Supplies Expenses	8	8
Accounting Expense	385	2,910
Legal Expenses	263	1,988
Food/Catering Expense	0	10,011
Memorial Services	0	434
Miscellaneous	0	108
Donations	0	800
Travel Expense	0	1,078
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$5,317</b>	<b>\$25,120</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(2,248)</b>	<b>(6,393)</b>

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES & EQUITY-INCOME TAX BASIS 6/30/20**

**CURRENT ASSETS**

General Fund Cash	\$13,788
Octofoil Subscription Cash	9,091
Octofoil Library Project Cash	587
Memorial Fund Cash	6,550
FCCF Cash	5,030
Veterans Travel Fund	5,071
Reunion Insurance Funds	5,000
70th—2015 Reunion Cash	3,062
71st—2016 Reunion Cash	2,592
72nd—2017 Reunion Cash	4,407
73rd—2018 Reunion Cash	76
74th—2019 Reunion Cash	(934)
75th—2020 Reunion Cash	(1,050)
Hotel and Bus Deposits	500
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$53,771</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$53,771</b>

**LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS**

**NET ASSETS**

Unrestricted Net Assets-Beg.	\$60,164
Current Surplus (Deficit)	(6,393)



**Officers and Board of Governors  
2020-2021**

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**The Ninth Infantry Division Association  
Membership Application**

July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

9-DIGIT ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular Annual Membership Fee Includes  
The Octofoil Newsletter**

**Amount Due**

Regular Annual Member (\$35.00 per year) \_\_\_\_\_

*(9th Infantry Division WWII Veterans and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam War Veterans serving in combat or peace time, Widows, Spouses, Lineal Descendants, and any other party interested in the history or the values of the 9th Infantry Division)*

Foreign Country Renewals (\$45.00 per year) \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Paid**

**CHECK ✓ MEMBERSHIP STATUS:**

Veteran \_\_\_\_\_ (See Veterans Section Below)

Veteran Spouse or Widow \_\_\_\_\_

Lineal Descendant \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**The Octofoil Newsletter**

Check one only:

Digital (email) version \_\_\_\_\_

Print (USPS) version \_\_\_\_\_

**Veterans Section:**

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Battery \_\_\_\_\_

Battalion \_\_\_\_\_

Regiment \_\_\_\_\_

Other 9<sup>th</sup> unit \_\_\_\_\_

Years Active (ex. 1968-69) \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:

**The Ninth Infantry Division Association**

Send to: Clare Irwin, Membership Chair  
155 Jastram Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

Membership dues can be also be paid online at [9thinfantry.org](http://9thinfantry.org). It is quick and easy, and it saves postage.





## ***THE OCTOFOIL***

**1040 Hickory Ln  
Indiana, PA 15701-2438**

**Return Service Requested**

(continued from page 8)

I lay there praying, my eyes closed, teeth clenched, jaws set ready for my time. I can feel myself undergoing the first phase of hell itself. I pray to God Almighty to give me faith, strength and courage. I want to run—to get up and run and let off steam, but I know that is sheer folly. I gather my wits and start reliving the past. Everything good and bad that I had ever done flashes before me. It is as if this was the time when the Lord above was tallying my good and bad deeds in an effort to see if I deserve to wear a halo or burn in the caverns of a living hell. I broke into a cold sweat. A shell burst near me. I figure this is it. I hear the singing fragments, but feel no sting of pain. I look at my pack. It bears the jagged tears of shrapnel, and I am amazed to find my pack lying about three feet away from me.

Between bursts my buddy and I check to see if either of us has been hit. We build each other's morale up as much as possible—and then the barrage is over. We count heads and discover too many missing faces. We find a trench and eleven well-shaken men jump in to take a smoke.

Communications are nil. Here are eleven men—remains of a platoon of forty seven—but we are safe this time. Then an M.G., and we realize we are cut off. Eleven men against God only knows how many. This is it, and we all swear we'll never be taken alive. Suddenly we spot G.I.'s. They are moving over. Contact is made—we are spared again.

It is evening—reorganization is complete, and we start the inevitable “digging in” for the night. Then come the mortars. We lay there motionless hoping and praying no one would feel that sting and numbness of being hit. A shell burst—I feel a peculiar sensation in my foot and realize I'm hit. The enemy finally turns off his mortar fire—our artillery is now singing his song of death.

The medic administers sulfa to me and bandages the wound. Darkness sets in and the password comes down. Night and the moan of a wounded enemy comes from the woods to haunt us. It is pitiful to hear, but it is one of those things of war. Too many of our own men to care for so he must lie there and suffer. He is delirious now, but his groans of pain gave us an eerie feeling.

Hour after hour of silence passes by. It begins to rain—an air of musing sets over our hearts. Silence!! Rain!! Mud!! Oh God, when will this thing ever come to an end? When will men cease killing each other so ruthlessly? Why must there be this needless suffering? They say these men back there died for a cause but think of what they could have lived for. Grant us Merciful Father that Thou will watch over those boys who have passed into your supreme realm this day and give us who remain faith and strength and courage to someday, somehow—make this world a world of peace and unity where a true spirit of brotherhood will henceforth rule. Silence!! Mud!! Rain!! All is quiet on the Western front!!

