

# *The* **VICTORY** **DIVISION** **NEWS**

NORMANDY | NORTHERN FRANCE | ARDENNES ALSACE | RHINELAND | CENTRAL EUROPE





DVD copies of the 66th & Final Reunion of the 5th AD, which was held in Bangor, Maine June 14th-17th, 2012 are available to purchase for only \$10.00 (includes shipping and handling).

Also available is a second DVD of the combined 1994 Luxembourg and 1995 Bangor DVD.

The DVD covers the 1994 - 50th Anniversary of the invasion and freedom of Luxembourg celebration honoring the division, and the giant 1995 - 50th Anniversary End of World War II parade that was also held in Bangor.

If both DVD's are purchased together, the price is only \$15.00 including shipping (\$10 each if purchased separately).

These DVD's are available in limited supply... so act now, by sending your request and payment to:

Cole Land Transportation Museum  
405 Perry Road  
Bangor, ME 04401.

*Thank You!*



## A Message from Our President

August 10, 2012



Dear Veterans, Fifth Armored Division Association Members, Families, and Friends:

We have reached a bittersweet moment in the history of the Fifth Armored Division Association. While we celebrate the legacy of this storied collection of bravery, valor, and military success, and cherish the wonderful moments shared at a spectacular final reunion in Bangor Maine, we also bid farewell to the Association that enabled so much goodwill and fellowship over the past 66 years.

On June 16, 2012 the Association voted at its annual meeting to conclude its business affairs and cease to continue as a going concern. Veterans in attendance were polled exclusively for this monumental decision, and determined unanimously that this would be the final reunion and that the Association would dissolve. Formal dissolution is underway and additional information and formalities related to this process will be shared with you throughout the pages of this Final Edition of The Victory Division News.

Amidst the sadness of this announcement, and the usual duty we must perform to communicate the new additions to the list of friends lost, we also celebrate the final reunion and the tremendous outpouring of support from the Bangor community to honor the 5AD Association. Galen Cole, his family, and his dedicated staff at the Cole Land Transportation Museum are to be congratulated for hosting such a wonderful sendoff, replete with history, overseas guests, military legends, and the all of the honor and pageantry befitting the final gathering. For those of you who could not attend, we have attempted to capture as many of the words, pictures, and emotions that we could possibly assemble so that you could share the experiences of those in attendance.

We are mailing the Final Edition to everyone on our mailing list. While resources are limited we believed that those of you who have supported us for this long should have a copy to call your own. While the magazine and formal reunions will cease, we know that many veterans and their families have expressed their desire to stay in touch and perhaps even get together again. We hope that the relationships established and galvanized through the Association will continue for years to come. Rick Stilley will continue to maintain the website, and our Facebook page will also remain active giving everyone the opportunity to reach out to one another to plan a get together, share a photo, or to simply say hello.

I know that I speak for my fellow officers in stating that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the Fifth Armored Division Association. To our officers please accept my gratitude for all your time and effort, and for the creativity and dedication you have brought to the cause to extend our mission for the past several years. Genuine thanks and appreciation goes to our Board as well for placing your trust in us and permitting us to move forward and apply our best judgment as we deemed most appropriate. Thanks to all of you who have supported us with your time, dollars, letters, maps, articles, and the many ingredients that have comprised this Association and told its story the past 66 years. We hope that you will keep in touch with one another, and we know that you will value the memories created over the years from your participation and the friendship and camaraderie shared with others. God bless you all, and we send our warmest regards to you along with this final farewell.

With Gratitude, and Deepest Appreciation,

*Patrick A. DeMico*

Patrick A. DeMico, President  
Fifth Armored Division Association





Be sure to follow us on the 5th Armored Division Association Facebook page. Join our social network and become friends with other members across the nation. Established by Cathe lampieri, our page and friends list continues to grow as more people visit, click “like: and share the page with others!

Here are some of the recent postings to our wall:

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**Donald C Cook**

In honor of my Dad's military service in the US Army 5th Armored Division in WWII and all who served with him, came back and to those we lost.



Like - Comment - Share - November 11 at 9:22am near Plano, TX

👍 2 people like this.



**5th Armored Division Association** A salute to all those veterans who fought to keep our country free – especially the men of the 5th Armored division

November 11 at 2:21pm - Like - 🔄 1



**5th Armored Division Association** All those men living and dead. Like my dad, Capt. William Vilardo, MD, 10th Tank Battalion. Special tth

November 11 at 2:23pm - Like - 🔄 1



**5th Armored Division Association** Thanks to all the wonderful vets we've met over the years at the reunions. God bless you all! Sharon Vilardo Maneri

November 11 at 2:24pm - Like - 🔄 1



**Bradley Shaver**

Looking for any insight or memories of my grand father PVT James Wesley Forrest, from Missouri. He may have later relocated to California, started an entire new family, and passed circa 1979. All I have of him is his ceremonial burial flag, 5AD unit patch, and a photo.

Like · Comment · November 8 at 11:59am via mobile



**Robert M. Rumsby**

I'm currently searching for any relatives of T/S Joseph A. Banville & SGT Daniel W. Morris of the 34th Tank Battalion. These two Soldiers were killed on August 10, 1944, and are still listed as missing in action. Through extensive research, I've been able to associate these Soldiers with remains buried as Unknowns at the Lorraine American Cemetery in France.

I will be more than happy to share records with the families and help them open up a case with the Department of Defense in order to identify their remains.

Please feel free to email me at [robertrumsby@yahoo.com](mailto:robertrumsby@yahoo.com) or send me a message with any information. Any help would be greatly appreciated

Thanks!

Like · Comment · September 1 at 4:43pm



**Addison Wardwell III**

I am way too long in arriving here, My uncle was Norman VanValkenburgh from Philadelphia who joined the Division after D Day, worked as a radio operator in a half track.

Like · Comment · August 28 at 12:42pm

5th Armored Division Association likes this.

Write a comment...



**Donald C Cook**

Today on this day in 1925 a historic event happened that had the largest influence on my life. In fact if it had not happened, I would not be here today.

You see on that day David and Sarah Cook had a little boy they named Wilbur Donald Cook, my phenomenal father. A boy who grew up on a farm in Ohio to become a man who would work as a farmer, miner, a soldier, a husband, a father, a student, a minister, a writer, a teacher, a radio minister, a historian (started the Historic Lyme Village, a mentor, a counselor, a world traveler, a member of the 5th Armored Division Association (Secretary & Chaplin for nearly 20 years), a writer of his life's work, family and adventures, care giver of his wife with Alzheimer's and now retired living near the nursing home his wife, my mum lives in Wapakoneta, Ohio.

Yes, I would say he's not only phenomenal, but the Greatest Man I've ever known..... Please share your memories of how he has touched your life.

Like · Comment · August 26 at 10:32am near Plano, TX



**Yves Bellanger**

Facebook page of my book on the Armored Division. I think some relatives to 5th Armored Division veterans would be interested. All you want to know about an armored division.



**U.S. ARMY ARMORED DIVISION 1943-1945 - Organization, Doctrine, Equipment**

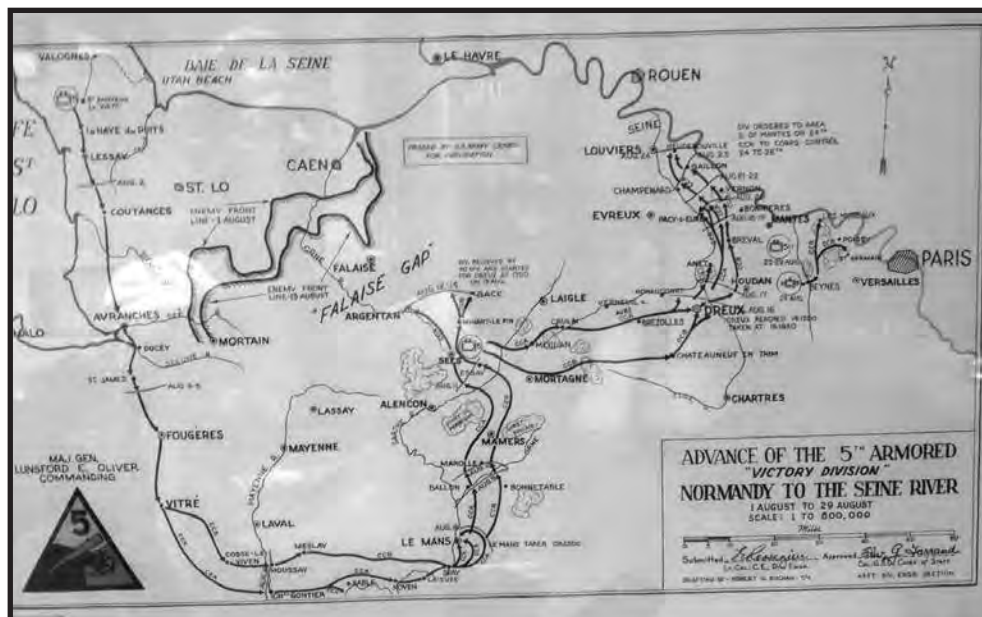
Link to my book on Lulu.com It is also available on Amazon (see inside the book available on Amazon)  
Page: 31 like this

Like · Comment · Share · August 9 at 7:02pm



**Harry Strahlendorf**

Thought I would share this with you all. I purchased this map on eBay a few years ago. I believe it is an original. The 5th surely did a great job in their trek across Normandy in WWII! Thanks heroes!



Like · Comment · Share · July 28 at 8:58am near Beckett, NJ

👍 Cathe Phelps Iampieri likes this.



Joaner ExFed Yes! It is an original. I have that one and "Rhine River to the Elbe." There were four maps. Originally, they were given to members of the 5th Armored who earned 5 battlestars. Do you recall what you paid? Email me at downlink@q.com  
August 15 at 5:42pm · Like





## In Memory

### Carl Jacob Rapson

#### Obituary



RAPSON, CARL JACOB, 95, of Louisville, returned to his Heavenly Father while surrounded by his loving family on October 23, 2012.

He was the youngest of four children born to Clarence and Katie Rapson. Carl was a World War II veteran of the Fifth Armored Division who received a Purple Heart while in combat. His entrepreneurial spirit was legendary. One of his greatest accomplishments was founding Rapson's Tree Service over 60 years ago. Carl was also a member of the Louisville Nursery Association. In his free time he enjoyed gardening, watching UK sports, being outdoors and spending time with family and friends. Of his many gifts, Carl will always be remembered for his wonderful storytelling and sense of humor. He was great fun to be around and was enjoyed by everyone.

Carl is survived by his loving wife of 69 years, Kathleen; devoted children, Sharon Hord (Jim), Doug (Sherry), Tom (Karen), Cathy Krebs (Jim), Debbie Elder (Karl), Sandy Balser (Dave), Rick, Kim Foy (Keenan) and Greg (Pam). Family members include 26 grandchildren, 26 great-grandchildren as well as many nieces, nephews and countless life-long friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ethel Johnson, Jimmy Rapson, George Rapson Sr. and daughter-in-law, Nancy Rapson.

Carl's funeral Mass will be 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Therese Church, 1010 Schiller Ave., with burial at Calvary Cemetery. Visitation will be 2-8 p.m. Friday at Bosse Funeral Home, 1355 Ellison at Barret avenues.

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to St. Therese Church or Mass of the Air.

#### Guest Book

"Rapson family"

[View](#)

[Sign](#)

*In Loving Memory of*

## Kathryn Jane Davis Smithers

Kathryn Jane Davis (Kay) Smithers of Gainesville, FL, passed away at home with her family by her side March 18. She was born in Gouverneur, NY, March 12, 1920. She was preceded in death by her parents Lee B. and Julia Fortune Davis, and a sister, Alice Ann Davis.

She met her future husband Robert M. Smithers at Pine Camp, now Fort Drum, NY, during World War II. They were married November 7, 1945 in Antwerp, New York.

She lived in Winter Haven, FL, Mason City, IA, and then in Pompano Beach, Florida for over 30 years. Kay worked for Frank H. Furman Insurance for 20 years. She was President of Insurance Women of Broward County in 1970-1971. She was a member of St. Coleman's Parish in Pompano Beach.

Kay moved to Gainesville in 1985. She was an avid Gator baseball fan and a member of the Gator Dugout Club. She was also a member of the Newcomers Club, Bridge Clubs, and Book Club. She was a member of the National Ataxia Foundation and volunteered at North Florida Regional Medical Center. She was a one time President of the Catholic Women's Deanery and was a parishioner at Queen of Peace Catholic Church.

She traveled extensively throughout the world with good friends Carolyn Hoffman and Vinnie Scaringelli.

She is survived by her sons Robert M. Smithers Jr. (Mary) of Gainesville, Charles D. Smithers (Gail) of Cordova, TN, and John R. Smithers of Jacksonville, FL, her sister, Rosemary Davis Foy of Deer River, NY, grandchildren Christopher, Andrew, Chad, Catherine, Kevin and Laura Smithers, and great-grandchildren Cole, Mason, and Gavin Smithers and seven nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to give special thanks to caregivers Gerri Detrick, Carmen Belle, and Charlene Rigby.

Flowers are welcome, and for those who wish, donations in her name may be made to the National Ataxia Foundation, 2600 Fernbrook Lane, Suite 119, Minneapolis, MN 55447

The family will receive friends at Forest Meadows Funeral Home from 5-7 PM with a Rosary being said at 6:45 PM on Thursday, March 21, 2013. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 10900 SW 24th Ave, Gainesville, at 12:00 P.M. at on Friday March 22nd, 2013. Internment will be at Pompano Beach Cemetery, Pompano Beach, FL, on Saturday March 23rd at 11:30 A.M. Arrangements are in the care of Forest Meadows Funeral Home (352)378-2528.



## In Memory

From: "RICK DEGRAFF" <[rick\\_degraff@bellsouth.net](mailto:rick_degraff@bellsouth.net)>  
To: "p demico" <[p.demico@comcast.net](mailto:p.demico@comcast.net)>  
Sent: Saturday, January 19, 2013 10:06:26 PM  
Subject: Fw: Henry DeGraff, Jr., HQ, CCB

Please be advised Henry DeGraff has move on to be with the Grand Architect on January 17, 2013. His body was just worn out. Even though he was slowed by congestive heart failure, C O P D, type two diabetes, macular degeneration, could not feel his feet, and other minor problems, he was out driving solo two weeks ago.

God Bless you all!

Richard DeGraff  
Associate

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In Memory of:  
Henry DeGraff Jr.

June 27, 1920 - January 17, 2013

Henry DeGraff, Jr., 92, of Jensen Beach, FL, passed away on January 17, 2013 at Stuart Nursing and Restorative Care in Stuart, Florida.

Henry was born in Patterson, New Jersey and had previously lived in Plantation Key before relocating to the Martin County area in 2004. He was a contractor and owned Henry DeGraff and Son, Inc. in Miami, FL for 46 years.

Henry was a veteran of the United States Army and had proudly served our country during World War II under General Patton. He was a Tech Sergeant in the 5th Armored Division. Henry was a member of the West Broward Masonic Lodge, Mahi Shrine, and the American Legion and Jesters.

He is survived by his sister Ruth Condra of Wilmington, DE; his son, James Henry DeGraff and his wife, Sondra of Barnesville, GA; son, Richard Bruce DeGraff and his wife, Nancy of Jupiter, FL; son, Roger William DeGraff and his wife, Rosalind of Stuart, FL; grandchildren, Holly, Landon, Robert, and Whitney, and great grandchildren, Emma Grace, Jackson, Grayson, Katherine, and Lucy, with another on the way.

Henry was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Florence DeGraff and his youngest son, Robert Daniel DeGraff.

Visitation will be held on Monday, January 21, 2013 from 12:00 - 2:00PM with a Masonic Ceremony to begin at 2:00 PM at Aycock Funeral Home, 505 South Federal Highway in Stuart, Florida.

An online guestbook for Henry is available at [www.aycockfuneralhome.net](http://www.aycockfuneralhome.net).

Arrangements are entrusted to Aycock Funeral Home, Stuart, Florida.





## In Memory

**From:** "Josh Needle" <jcneedle@verizon.net>  
**To:** "p demico" <p.demico@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 17, 2013 4:19:40 PM  
**Subject:** Gilbert Needle

I am writing to inform you that my father, Gilbert Needle, 5th Armored Division, 387th AAA, passed away yesterday at the age of 94. In recent years he opened up greatly about his days in the 5th with great pride, and one of the highlights of recent years was attending the reunion in 2008 in Kentucky.

Josh Needle  
Santa Monica, CA

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Mrs. Billie (Irma) J. Rohland  
(June 13, 1925 - January 26, 2013)

Irma J. Rohland, 87 of Fredericktown, PA died Saturday January 26, 2013 in her home, with her family at her side. She was born June 13, 1925 in Fredericktown, PA a daughter of the late Bruno and Josephine Bertanzetti Bartoletti. Mrs. Rohland was a 1943 graduate of East Beth High School. For over 44 years, she co-owned and operated the Bartoletti Hotel in Fredericktown, retiring in 1988. Mrs. Rohland was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Hanson-Cole American Legion Post 391, Fredericktown. She enjoyed traveling and spending time with her grandchildren and family. On October 19, 1946 she married Billie Rohland, who survives. Surviving in addition to her husband are two daughters – Billie Jo Najimian (Daniel) of Orrville, OH and Lee Ann King (Brian) of Fredericktown, PA; 8 grandchildren – Gina Hatley, Joanna and Sarah Najimian, Rhett King, Rachel, Jacob, and Erin Danko and Bess King; Several nieces and nephews. Deceased in addition to her parents is a brother, James Bartoletti. Friends will be received Tuesday from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 PM in the Greenlee Funeral Home, 42 Bank St. at Crawford Road, Fredericktown, PA where services will be held Wednesday January 30, 2013 at 1:00 PM with Pastor John Thomas officiating. Interment will follow in the LaFayette Memorial Park, Brier Hill, PA. In lieu of flowers, the family memorial contributions be made to Amedisys Hospice, 100 Stoops Ave., Suite 300, Monongahela, PA 15063.

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**From:** Susan Newton <newtons1@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** February 27, 2013, 8:03:08 PM EST  
**To:** <p.demico@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** my father's passing . . .

Greetings

My Father, Robert O. Newton, of the 81st Tank Battalion D, 5th Armored Division, passed away on 21 February at 95.

Services were held in North East, PA and Flushing, MI, where his body is once again near my Mother's.

Please adjust your records accordingly.

Sincerely,

Susan J. Newton (daughter)



405 Perry Road  
Bangor, Maine 04401  
Phone: 207-990-3600  
Fax: 207-990-2653  
www.colemuseum.org



*Home of the:*  
State of Maine World War II Memorial  
State of Maine Military Order of the  
Purple Heart Memorial  
Maine Vietnam Veterans Memorial

March 1, 2013

Dear Former 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association Members and Associates:

The Cole Land Transportation Museum is highly honored to have been selected as one of the recipients of the final fund disbursements during closing actions of the 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association Inc. The check for \$1,000 has been received. Please be assured that this gift will be remembered always and displayed in the Museum's 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Room for generations to come.

As a small thank you to all former 5<sup>th</sup> AD Members and Associates who come to visit the Cole Land Transportation Museum in Bangor, a copy of this letter presented at the time of your visit will assure you and your family free admission. The Museum is open May 1<sup>st</sup> through November 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 days a week from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Since the final reunion of the 5<sup>th</sup> AD in Bangor, Maine in June 2012, we followed through and produced a DVD (2 hours, 24 minutes) covering the weekend including the Penobscot River boat ride, the bus trip to the top of Cadillac Mountain, the lobster feed in Bar Harbor, the ice cream social at the Holiday Inn, plus Tom Oliver from Rapid City, South Dakota and his proud history presentation of his dad, General Lunsford Oliver, permanently recorded on our World War II Memorial, followed by the banquet for 300 plus at the Bangor Auditorium.

Then, the candlelight ceremony led by Victor Musial, the presence of and speeches by Luxembourg's Constant Goergen and Colonel George Benjamin, Senior Living Commander, 85<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Regiment, 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division. Then on Sunday, the Texas Flying Legends with their WWII planes on display and in flight at the Bangor International Airport.

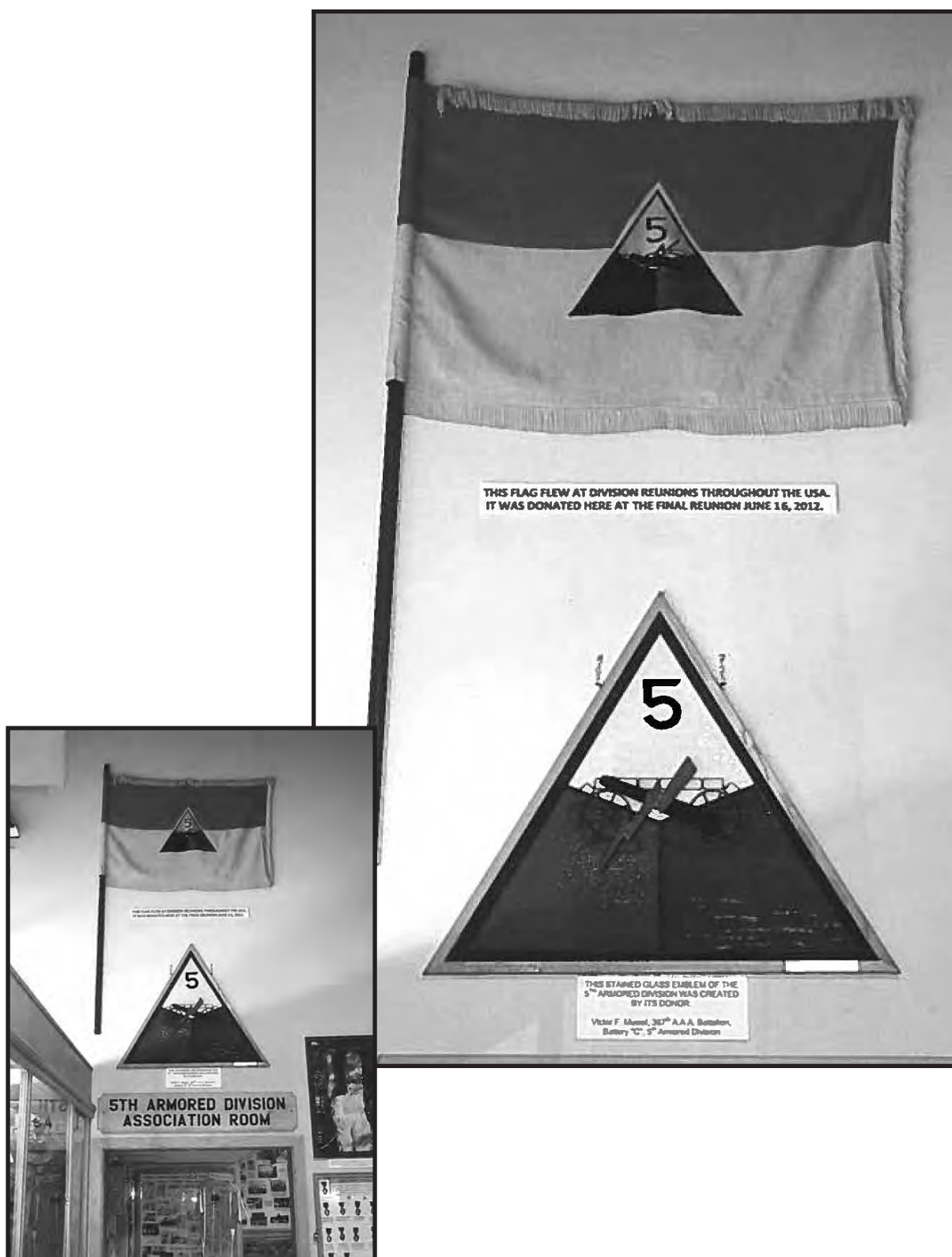
Ordering information for this complete DVD along with another combined DVD covering the 1994 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Luxembourg's Liberation (57 minutes, 26 seconds) and the giant 1995 5<sup>th</sup> AD Reunion (53 minutes, 50 seconds) is available on the inside front cover of this final edition of the Victory Division News.

My sincere thanks to everyone for your support of the 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and in selecting us as a participant in your final asset disposal plan.

Yours in Patriotism,  
Galen Cole

GC:pt

Photos from Galen Cole of 5AD Flag and Victor Musial's donated stained glass panel at the Cole Museum.







**From:** "Glen Koopman" <Fatdragn@mhccable.com>  
**To:** "p demico" <p.demico@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 16, 2013 1:20:55 PM  
**Subject:** Victory TD found

Hello,

Awhile back I was given a footlocker from a family friend her husband a US Army Captain served during the war and was stationed in Germany until 1952 – later that year this footlocker had been packed locked and shipped back to Brooklyn NYC where it sat for a few years until the Late Cpt. fell ill and they moved upstate to the Catskills.

The locker was never looked on/in again until about a year and a half ago – among personal relics and notebooks there were some deteriorated equipment's and photo reels (all far too destroyed to recover). However there were two copies of "Victory TD" one in much better condition than the other they appear to me to be demo prints and the cover papers even taped to their cardboard backing. What I have looked at with gloves and a gentle hand appears to contain blank pages as well.

I've included two photos and come to my question – do you recommend an appraiser / expert on this item? is there reference material for this such object – I've read online copies of Victory TD and am intrigued to have this in my possession.

Thank you for your time,

Glen Koopman  
[fatdragn@mhccable.com](mailto:fatdragn@mhccable.com)





From: "John Lepse" <j.lepse@att.net>  
To: "p demico" <p.demico@comcast.net>  
Sent: Sunday, February 10, 2013 6:23:24 PM  
Subject: A letter home from Doug's dad

Hello Patrick,

Doug asked me to send you a copy of a letter his dad wrote home about postwar occupation duty in Germany. I think you'll enjoy it. I know I did.  
He also asked me to inquire whether you would be attending the get-together in Witchita this summer.

If you'll let me know what you think of the letter and about your plans for Witchita, I'll be sure to pass the news along to Doug. Thanks.

John

### ● Servicemen

T/Sgt. Harold Kirchen to Vienna

T/Sgt. Harold J. Kirchen reports from Muehlhausen, Thuringia, Germany, to his father in Anamosa, that he will remain in Europe for an indefinite time, having been appointed radio technician with the American Occupational Force in Vienna. The German sector occupied by his outfit has been ceded to the Russians. He writes further:

"During the period of August 2, 1944, to the end of April, 1945, I resembled a well remembered character in appearance. A pair of greasy coveralls were my only dress. The whiskers often were several weeks long. My uniform was stored back in Normandy in a field when the fracas got tough. Now we must dress up again; it's to impress the Germans, they say.

"I saw the 'Tausend-Jaehrige Rosenstock' at Hildesheim. This marvelous rose bush still stands and thrives and blooms where it was planted by St. Elisabeth, queen of Thuringia, over 1,000 years ago. A German priest explained it all to me.

"I enclose a picture of my little friends (two little girls aged about 5 and 6.) I don't know why it was, in spite of the many kids and soldiers here, these two children clung to me. If I took a step they would take me by the hand and go along. If I entered a building, they waited for me. I knew their native village on the plain west of Cologne, where some of the fiercest fighting of the war took place. I saw it after it had been destroyed, not a shack, not even a tree left in it. Now they are on their way back to their former home, 300 miles away, on foot, with only desolation awaiting them when they arrive.

"Poor little innocent victims of the war, only two among the millions in the lands of friend and foe, their little bodies famished and their hearts hungry for affection. A human interest story? Yes. But the kind that seldom, if ever, finds its way into print."

T/Sgt. Kirchen was a member of the 5th Armored "Victory Division" that formed a vanguard of the American forces from the shores of Normandy to the banks of the Elbe. He recently received an Award of Merit and a Citation for "Conspicuously Outstanding and Faithful Performance of Military Duty . . ."



**From:** [wyrwin@aol.com](mailto:wyrwin@aol.com) [mailto:[wyrwin@aol.com](mailto:wyrwin@aol.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2013 10:32 PM  
**To:** [webmaster@5ad.org](mailto:webmaster@5ad.org)  
**Subject:** Hurtgen Forest

5th AD Webmaster,

I am a retired 30-year U.S. Army officer and author of books on World War II history. My previous books are THE JEDBURGHES (PublicAffairs, 2005) and ABUNDANCE OF VALOR (Random House/Ballantine Books, 2010).

I am beginning work on a book about the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest. I would appreciate very much if you could put me in touch with any 5th AD veterans of the battle who might be willing to share their experiences with me. My contact information is as follows:

Will Irwin  
2002 Kiowa Lane  
Valrico, FL 33596

Phone: 813-545-2109

Email: [wyrwin@aol.com](mailto:wyrwin@aol.com)

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**From:** Jeff Smith  
**Subject:** Re: NELSON, Joseph P  
**Date:** January 29, 2013 5:39:13 PM EST  
**To:** Max Poorthuis <[max@airbomeresearch.nl](mailto:max@airbomeresearch.nl)>

Dewar Mr. Poorthuis,

Thank you for writing, my father was in the 95th AFA as well however I have no information on Joseph P. Nelson. I am forwarding your email to our webmaster who has been an excellent resource for some information. In addition, we are preparing a final edition of the Victory Division News the newsletter of the 5th Armored Division Association. We will include your email in this issue in hopes someone can provide additional information.

Thank you again for writing, I hope our efforts will help in obtaining information for you.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Smith

— Max Poorthuis <[max@airbomeresearch.nl](mailto:max@airbomeresearch.nl)> wrote:

Dear Mr. Smith,

Recently I have adopted the name of NELSON, Joseph P at the US Cemetery Margraten in The Netherlands.

His name is on the Tablets of the Missing.

The adoption certificate states that he was in the 95th Armored Field Artillery Battalion.

Do you have any information about him? Or did you know him?

Sincerely,

M.B. (Max) Poorthuis

[WO2Research.nl](http://WO2Research.nl)  
[Oorlogs-graven.nl](http://Oorlogs-graven.nl)  
T +31 (0)6-21582996  
E [max@wo2research.nl](mailto:max@wo2research.nl)





**From:** "buckeye" <dpgeen@mindspring.com>  
**To:** "p demico" <p.demico@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 26, 2013 2:27:07 PM  
**Subject:** Looking for info on Paul L Meier

My father, Paul Leroy Meier was in the 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, 772 Tank Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Army from the beginning. He enlisted 7 Apr 1942 in Rhinelander, WI. Was discharged at Camp Shelby, MS 10 Dec 1945.

I have several pictures of him and others during this time but no identification of those in the pictures.

He married my mother (a WAC) in Watertown, NY while they were both at Pine Camp.

As most records were destroyed in the fire in St. Louis in the 70's, I would really enjoy hearing from someone who might remember him and could share some stories.

Thank you.

Paula Meier Veazie

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Dear Mayor Trostorf:

Thank you for writing to inform me of your work, research, and the project you are embarking upon to commemorate and honor those who served in the Battle of the Huertgen Forest. If possible we will include your request in the final edition of our magazine, The Victory Division News. It may be too late to include, so if there are other means to communicate your request to veterans and their families we will try to do so.

I am copying my fellow officers, our webmaster, and our longtime friend and colleague from Germany and current member of our Board, Karl-Heinz Heineke. We will try to get the word out so that the distinguished history of the men who served can be preserved for future generations.

Thank you for the work you have done, and your dedication to this mission and worthy cause.  
Patrick DeMico

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**From:** albert-trostorf@t-online.de  
**To:** "p demico" <p.demico@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 8, 2013 7:00:25 AM  
**Subject:** 5th Armored Division Huertgen Forest

Dear Sir:

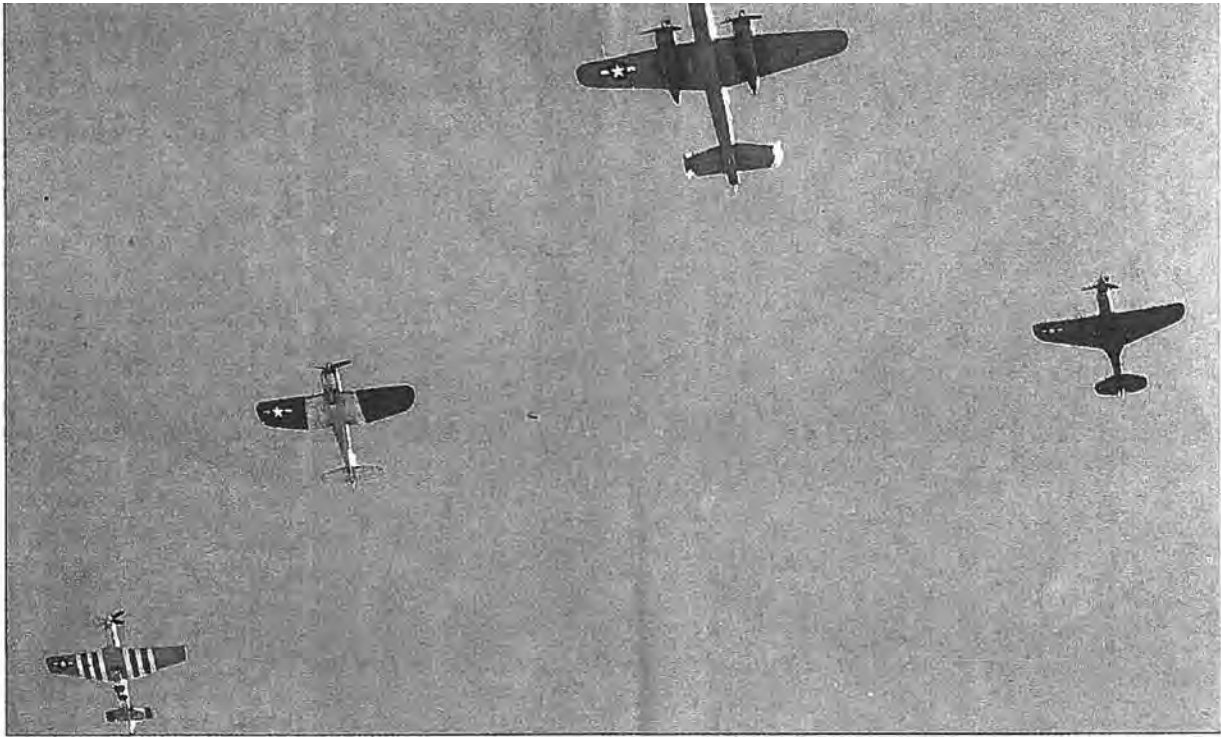
My name is Albert J. Trostorf. I am the Mayor of Merode in Germany and a WWII Historian. I am also working as a volunteer for the Huertgen Forest Museum at Vossenack. Next year we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Huertgen Forest. The 5th Armored Division took part in those battles and was involved in the capturing of the towns of Kleinhau, Brandenburg, Bergstein, Gey, Schafberg and other villages.

About two years ago, a veteran friend of me donated his WWII uniform to the Museum, because he was afraid that his children would throw it into the trash when he is deceased. He also told me to ask some of my other veteran friends if they want follow his example. From once more than 600 of my veteran friends there are less than 80 still alive. They are from different units, like the 1st, 4th, 8th, 9th and 104th Infantry Division. Some of them also donated their uniforms to the Museum. My aim now is to put one or two uniform from each Infantry- and Armored Division which was involved in the Battle of the Huertgen Forest into the Museums exhibition. It is very important to keep the history alive!

I am doing WWII research since 35 years. I am started when I was 15 years old. Every year I have many visitors who are coming over from the USA to Germany.

Well, maybe you can think about that what I have written above. Maybe you and the members of the Association can help and support us in this project.

Very sincerely  
Albert Trostorf  
Mayor and WWII historian



BDN PHOTOS BY GABOR DEGR

Four World War II era planes fly over the Bangor International Airport to mark the last reunion of World War II's 5th Armored Division on Sunday. The aircraft participating in the flyover were (from left) P-51 Mustang, F-4 Corsair, B-25 Mitchell and a P-40. The aircraft belong to the Texas-based Flying Legends Museum.

# WWII 5th Armored Division holds last reunion in Bangor

BY DAWN GAGNON  
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — World War II veterans who fought with the 5th Armored Division held their last reunion in Bangor over the weekend.

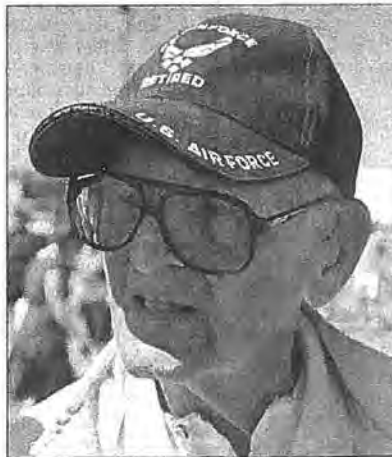
The group has been gathering annually since the end of WWII, but as the decades passed, members have aged and many have died.

"We're too old. I'm as young as anyone in the outfit and I'm 86 years old," said Galen Cole, who served as a private with the 5th Armored in Europe and lost half of his squad to a German shell.

He founded the Cole Land Transportation Museum on Perry Road, which hosted the reunion and has an extensive military collection that includes several WWII monuments, memorabilia and vehicles, including Jeeps.

"Most of them are in their 90s," Cole said. "We've been meeting for 66 consecutive years and they [the 5th Armored Division Association] decided that this was going to be their last year. When I found out, I asked if it could be conducted in Bangor. They had such a great time in Bangor previously that they said yes," he said.

Cole said that last weekend's 5th Division



Larry Van Beursem, 91, of Bangor served in World War II, flying B-24 and B-25 aircraft to deliver fuel for the Flying Tigers. He was one of the three World War II veterans who got to fly in a B-25 during an air show in Bangor on Sunday.

gathering was the third held in the Queen City. Bangor also played host in 1984 and in 1985, when the group held its 50th reunion.

Among the highlights were free tours of the Cole Museum, speakers, concerts and a banquet.

Fifteen members of the 12,000 who served in World War II's 5th Armored Division in Europe attended the reunion, but more than 300 people turned out for the banquet honoring the division and all World War I veterans Saturday evening at the Bangor Auditorium.

The 5th Armored members came from around the country, bringing as many as eight to 10 family members with them.

The Victory Division's commander, Gen Lunsford Oliver, died several years ago, but 10 family members attended, included son Dr. Thomas Oliver of Rapid City, S.D., himself a WWII hero who spent three months MIA in Yugoslavia after his plane was shot down.

Also making the trip to Bangor was Constant Goergen, past president of the U.S. Veterans Friends-Luxembourg, and his son Jean-Nicolas Goergen.

Constant Goergen leads the group which on Memorial Day lays a rose at the grave of each of the 5,076 American service personnel killed in WWII who are buried at the American Military Cemetery in Hamm Luxembourg.

See DAWN GAGNON, Page B6





# Reunion

*Continued from Page B1*

On Saturday evening, Goergen told those assembled how the 5th Armored Division had liberated the country of Luxembourg twice during the war.

In a moving address, he spoke about the bravery and sacrifices of the 5th Armored Division and how they fought to free Luxembourg, despite freezing cold and being overwhelmingly outnumbered by the German enemy.

"Luxembourg has not forgotten. Luxembourg will not forget their sacrifice and their suffering," he said. "And so each Memorial Day in Luxembourg, when we lay a red rose to each of the graves, has become for Luxembourg and its citizens, young and old, likewise a day of commemoration and thanking," he said.

"From the depths of our hearts, we made ours the noble words of President Abraham Lincoln: 'We highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain. It is for us, the living, to be

dedicated to the unfinished work which they, who fought here, have thus far so nobly advanced.'"

Closing out the last official activity of the 5th Armored Division Association, which included the traditional candlelight ceremony remembering some 1,000 division members killed during the war, was retired Col. George C. Benjamin, 96, of Auburn.

"I was always so proud of my men," Benjamin told the veterans and families. He also praised the veteran interview program at Cole Museum, which has involved some 40,000 Maine students at the museum in the past two decades.

"They have learned firsthand that war is terrible," he said, "and that freedom is not free."

The reunion's grand finale was a free air show at Airport Maintenance next to the Maine Air Museum. The show was performed by the Texas Flying Legends, which brought to Bangor some its vintage WWII planes, including a B-25 bomber, a P-40K Aleutian Tiger, a P-51 and a Japanese Zero. The Houston-based

group acquires, restores and flies WWII aircrafts.

An estimated 500 people watched the show from the Airport Maintenance hangar and Maine Avenue. Hundreds of others saw it from farther away.

Larry Van Peursem Sr., 91, of Bangor and Brewer was one of three WWII veterans chosen to ride in one of the Texas Flying Legends planes — namely a B-25 bomber like the one he flew while delivering fuel to Burma for the 1st American Volunteer Group, better known as the Flying Tigers, according to his daughter, Peggy Van Peursem of Brewer.

The former WWII pilot's unexpected flight delighted his family members and led to an impromptu reunion that included, among others, his nephews Bill Van Peursem, a lieutenant with the Bangor Fire Department, and Steve Van Peursem and great-granddaughter Cierra Van Peursem, who are visiting from Colorado.

Bangor Daily News columnist Roxanne Moore Saucier contributed to this report.

## Local & Regional

# Cole museum free on day of WWII reunion

BANGOR — From the beaches of France to Bastogne, Belgium, a series of kilometer markers made of granite line the highways to remind those traveling the pathway of the Victory Division during World War II. Only two of these monuments can be found outside Europe, and one of them is located in the 5th Armored Division Room at Cole Land Transportation Museum, 405 Perry Road.

The museum will be open free on Saturday, June 16, as part of the 5th Armored Division Association's 66th and last reunion.

Constant Goergen of Luxembourg, which was liberated by the 5th Armored during World War II, will speak from 1:50 to 2:10 p.m. about the kilometer markers and the American Military Cemetery where he has met so many relatives and comrades of Allied soldiers killed during the war. Cole Land Transportation Mu-



Goergen

seum, which is hosting the reunion of the 5th Armored Division Association on June 14-17 for the third time, will give free guided tours of the museum, both the transportation displays and the military exhibits, 9 a.m.-noon Saturday. Those attending also may take self-guided tours all day.

Members of the 5th Armored Division will be on hand to meet the public at 11 a.m.

Jeep rides on the museum grounds will be given 10 a.m.-noon and 1:30 a.m. Saturday. Music will be provided by the

River City Harmonizers 12:40-1 p.m., and by the Mainely Music barbershop quartet 1:30-1:45 p.m., both shows in the museum lobby.

Also giving a talk at 1:05 p.m. Saturday will be Dr. Tom Oliver. He is the son of Maj. Gen. Lunsford Oliver, who commanded the 5th Armored Division in Europe and whose challenge to his troops after the war is engraved on the side of the Maine World War II Memorial on the grounds at the museum.

A decorated pilot, Tom Oliver was missing in action for three

months in Yugoslavia while his father led the 5th Armored. The pilot also will be on hand at the museum during the day on Friday for those who wish to meet him. He is one of four generations of Lunsford Oliver's family coming to the reunion.

Museum founder and reunion organizer Galen L. Cole, a Purple Heart veteran, announced that the reunion's final banquet, set for 6 p.m. Saturday, June 16, at Bangor Auditorium, is open to the public. Tickets are \$15 each for haddock, chicken or vegetarian entree and are available at

Bangor Auditorium until 4 p.m. Friday. Veterans who bring their Maine-made walking sticks given to them by the Cole Museum to the banquet at 6 p.m. will have their name entered in a drawing for a 55-inch TV.

Participants in the reunion banquet will include retired Col. George Benjamin, 96, presumed to be the senior living commanding officer from the 5th Armored; emcee Don Colson, veteran; Bangor Area Children's Choir; and Bangor Mayor Cary Weston, whose grandfather served in World War II.





# Reunions celebrate the bonds we share

I've interviewed veterans from privates to generals, but that wasn't my task on June 16. I just happened to be in the parking lot at Cole Land Transportation Museum when retired Col. George C. Benjamin arrived there on his way to the final banquet of the 5th Armored Division Association at Bangor Auditorium.



**ROXANNE  
MOORE  
SAUCIER**  
FAMILY TIES

We don't know how many of the 5th Armored's 12,000 members from the 1940s are still living, but it seems clear that Benjamin is the senior ranking officer of the association, which closed down at the end of its 66th reunion.

I shadowed the colonel, 96, as he made a visit to the museum's 5th Armored Room, which contains not only World War II mementoes but a wall map showing the Victory Division's path during World War II.

Benjamin was the executive officer of the 47th Armored Infantry Battalion before becoming commanding officer of the 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

He grew up in the Berkshires in Massachusetts, but has lived in Auburn with wife Ruth for more than 40 years.

Other members of the 5th Armored attending the last reunion were: Harland Dunham, Ellsworth, 34th Tank Battalion; Galen Cole, Bangor, 46th Armored Artillery Battalion; Albert Thomas, 10th Tank Battalion; Amos Cambron, 47th Armored Field Artillery Battalion; Chester Hocker, 387th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion; Patrick Phelps, 81st Tank Battalion; Paul Marshall, 387th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion; Carmen Cambarare, 387th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion; Victor Musial, 387th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion; Robert Steckler, 707th Tank Battalion; and Richard Brown, 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron.

Accompanying these members to the July 14-17 reunion were more than 70 relatives, friends and associate members. Four generations of the family of Maj. Gen. Lunsford Oliver attended, including son Dr. Thomas Oliver, himself a World War II pilot who was shot down over Yugoslavia and missing in action for three months.

One of the highlights of the group reunion was a candlelight ceremony led by Victor Musial, reading the history of the division. Each of the division's 25 units was represented by an empty vase, a flower and a lit candle. As each unit was named, a representative stepped forward to blow out the candle and place the flower in the vase.

There weren't enough 5th Armored members to represent all 25 units, so they were joined by relatives attending and several volunteers from the Cole Museum who are veterans of World War II and Korea: Harold Beal, Austin Carter, Ralph Goss, Lee Higgins,  
*See Ties, Page D1*





# Ties

*Continued from Page C6*

George Lindeman, Ray Parsons, Norman Rossignol, Henry Stupakewicz, Paul Wilbur and Al Gibson.

Heron Junior ROTC provided the color guard for the ceremony: Cadet Lt. Col. Chris Arnold, Cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Kasey Holland, Cadet Pfc. Bradley Robinson and their instructor, retired Maj. Marcel Fortier. Also participating in the banquet was the Marine Corps League.

One of the many achievements of the 5th Armored Division during World War II was liberating the tiny nation of Luxembourg — twice. Luxembourg citizen Constant Goergen, co-founder and honorary president of the U.S. Veterans-Friends Luxembourg, has guided hundreds of Americans through the American Military Cemetery in Hamm, where more than 5,000 American servicemen are buried. Members of his group also see to it that each of the graves is marked with a flower on Memorial Day.

Goergen, who was a youngster during World War II, living under the rules of the German occupiers, attended the final reunion of the 5th Armored Division to thank the veterans, the 5th Armored and America for restoring freedom to Luxembourg.

The Bangor Children's Choir, originally founded to participate in the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, sang "White Cliffs of Dover" and "Do You Remember?" the latter arranged by Luxembourg citizen Gilbert Kohn.

The evening concluded with the 300 people attending singing "God Bless America," accompanied by Hal Wheeler on trumpet. But the last words of the 5th Armored Division were given by Col. Benjamin, who paid tribute to the 12,000 people who served in the Victory Division and challenged young people to keep America free.

Reunions celebrate the bonds shared by families, schools, military units and organizations. The people who attend may be many

or few, gathering for an afternoon or several days. A newsletter printed after the reunion can be part of the group's records, and can help those not able to attend to feel a part of the event.

It was a privilege to be one of the 300 people who attended the last gathering of the 5th Armored Division of World War II.

One of the few days when **Maine Maritime Academy's Schooner Bowdoin** is at her home berth this summer has been set aside for a special open house, or "open boat." On Friday, July 27, the Castine Historical Society will extend its seasonal exhibit, "Schooner Bowdoin on the Greenland Patrol," to the Maine Maritime Academy waterfront. The Bowdoin will be open to the public for tours from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The schooner's captain and crew, MMA faculty and others involved in developing the joint CHS-MMA exhibit about the vessel's extraordinary World War II service will be on hand to answer questions.

The Castine Historical Society is open 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday through Labor Day. The society offers a permanent exhibit on the Penobscot Expedition of 1779 and a gift shop at its location in the Abbott School on the town common in Castine. For more information, visit CHS at [castinehistoricalsociety.org](http://castinehistoricalsociety.org), email [info@castinehistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@castinehistoricalsociety.org) or call 326-4118.

The **Maine Old Cemetery Association** will hold its summer meeting on Saturday, July 28, at the Milo Town Hall, 6 Pleasant St., Milo. Registration will be held 8:30-9:15 a.m., and the fee is \$3. If you haven't made a reservation for lunch, take along a bag lunch.

For information on researching family history in Maine, see **Genealogy Resources** under **Family Ties** at [bangordailynews.com/browse/family-ties](http://bangordailynews.com/browse/family-ties). Send genealogy queries to **Family Ties**, Bangor Daily News, P.O. Box 1329, Bangor 04402, or email [familyti@bangordailynews.com](mailto:familyti@bangordailynews.com).





## Local & Regional

# Family of WWII general to attend final reunion

BANGOR — Though the commander of the 5th Armored Division during World War II never made it to one of the reunions in Bangor, nine of his family members will attend the group's 66th and final gathering, which will be hosted June 14-17 by Cole Land Transportation Museum on Perry Road.

Four generations of the family of Maj. Gen. Lunsford E. Oliver, who died in 1978, are among those who have registered for the reunion of the 5th Armored Division Association, of which Oliver was the first president in 1948.

They include Oliver's son, Dr. Thomas K. Oliver of Rapid City, S.D., two grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild.

The 5th Armored, known as the Victory Division, liberated Luxembourg in 1944 and cap-

tured five German generals during one four-day period of the war in Europe.

As he has previously, Thomas K. Oliver will attend the Bangor reunion to honor the memory of his father and the service of the 5th Armored Division.

He will give a talk at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 8, by the Maine World War II Memorial during a day of free activities at the Cole Museum, 406 Perry Road.

Although Thomas Oliver attends reunions as a family member of a 5th Armored officer, he is a decorated World War II hero in his own right. A pilot in the U.S.

Army, Air Force, 1st Cavalry, he was flying a B-24 bomber over southern Italy when it was shot down over Yugoslavia on May 6, 1944. He and the crew parachuted out of the plane.

Oliver landed among pro-Ally Chetniks and was missing in action for three months while his father led the 5th Armored Division in several campaigns. The growing group of more than 150 downed airmen couldn't agree on whether it was safe to get a message to the 45th Air Force until Oliver came up with a message combining words and letters from phrases which meant they would be known only to those in his unit.

The men were rescued by C-47s in August, and Oliver ended up getting the Legion of Merit for his ingenious efforts in getting the airmen rescued.



Thomas K. Oliver

a public is intended to meet Oliver, members of the 5th Armored Division, and Constant Goergen, co-founder with Galen Cole of the U.S. Veterans Friends Luxembourg, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday June 16, at the museum. Admission to the Cole Museum will be free that day.

Cole, the museum founder and a 5th Armored member who invited the division to hold its final reunion in Bangor, emphasized that the Saturday evening banquet also is open to the public.

A special invitation to the banquet has been issued to veterans who have one of the nearly 8,000 Maine-made maple walking sticks the museum has given out to Mainers who served in one of the war eras. Those who bring their walking stick to the event will be eligible for prizes drawn that evening, including a 55-inch

TV. Stands will be available at each table for the veterans to store their walking sticks during the event.

But all veterans are welcome, Cole said, and he hopes family members, friends and anyone interested will purchase a banquet ticket for what like y will be the last major World War II activity in the area.

The evening will include a candlelight ceremony honoring those from the 5th Armored who have died, and music by the Bangor Area Children's Chorus, which was organized to participate in activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in 1995.

Those attending the banquet may choose chicken breast, grilled haddock or vegetarian entrée. Tickets are \$15 when bought in person 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays

at the Bangor Auditorium. Including a handling charge, tickets also are available for \$19 each by phone at 990-4444, 800-745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com.

The reunion will conclude on Sunday June 17, with a non-denominational service at 9 a.m. at the museum, then a free-air show of World War II airplanes by the Texas Flying Legends at Bangor International Airport.

Walking sticks are available to Maine veterans and military members who bring ID and proof of military service to the Cole Museum 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily.

For information on the Cole Land Transportation Museum, call 990-3600 or visit [www.colmuseum.org](http://www.colmuseum.org). To read Thomas Oliver's story, visit [www.battleground.org/index.php?p=186](http://www.battleground.org/index.php?p=186). THOMAS-K-OLIVER-USAAP.

## 5th Armored Division plans its final reunion in Bangor

World War II unit to hold last gathering at Cole Museum

BANGOR — World War II's 5th Armored Division Association will honor Bangor by holding its 66th and final reunion here this summer. World War II veterans and family members from Auburn to Ellsworth and South Dakota to Luxembourg will take part in activities including a free event on June 16 welcoming the public to view the military collection at Cole Land Transportation Museum on Perry Road.

More than 400 WWII souvenirs and military contraband items have been donated in recent years, most of them by the 700 veterans and family members who attended the 1995 reunion of the 5th Armored Division group in Bangor.

"The Cole Museum has committed to retain forever its 5th Armored Room and collection of that division and Luxembourg history," said Galen Cole, WWII veteran of the 5th Armored and founder of the museum. The 5th Armored liberated Luxembourg during WWII.

Veterans of the 5th Armored and family members coming to the final reunion are asked to

*Everyone is welcome to meet and greet 5th Armored veterans*

bring more such items to show to the public, young and old, when Cole Museum is open free of charge 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday June 16.

Everyone is welcome to meet and greet 5th Armored veterans and museum volunteers and ask questions about items in the museum's military collection.

Several WWII vehicles are on display, and early drivers will help visitors understand their operation. Rides will be offered in the museum's WWII Jeeps, which were made by Willys and Ford. Museum guides, led by volunteer Bob O'Leary, will be inside and on the grounds to assist and give tours.

With the rapid demise of WWII veterans, who are in their 80s and older, June 16 will be a significant day, and so recorded

at the museum. Those attending will learn firsthand from survivors of the largest war in world history.

Another highlight of the weekend will be the final draw-down and banquet during which the 5th Armored Division members close down their association with a candlelight ceremony remembering the nearly 1,000 servicemen from the 5th who were killed during World War II, as well as 5th Armored Division veterans who have died since.

The 5th Armored Division also held reunions in Bangor in 1984 and as part of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in 1995. Some 30,000 people turned out for Bangor's parade during the 1995 event.

"The success of the previous two reunions plus the state's only World War II and Purple Heart monuments on the lawn affords a major opportunity to expand lasting public knowledge of World War II and interest in our Maine museum," Cole said.

Don Colson, retired TV news anchor, will emcee the Saturday



COLE MUSEUM PHOTO

Galen Cole drives the Cole Land Transportation Museum WWII half-track carrying members of the 5th Armored Division during the Sept. 2, 1995, parade marking the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in Bangor.

evening banquet. He also will sign and give a copy of "Quiet Courage" to each person who attends. The book published by the Cole Museum tells the story of 79 primarily Maine veterans, including five members of the 5th Armored.

Participants in the banquet will include the Bangor Area

Children's Chorus, initially organized for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in 1995. Members and guests of the 5th Armored will be joined by Cole Museum WWII volunteers.

A non-denominational church service will be held Sunday, June 17, at the museum, and

a visit to Bangor by several World War II planes is planned for that day.

For information on Cole Land Transportation Museum, call 990-3600 or visit <http://www.colmuseum.org>. For information on the 5th Armored Division Association, visit <http://www.5ad.org>.



## four generations of WWII general coming to Bangor

**W**hile some military families spend most of a career in one place, many, of course, do not.

The family of Lunsford E. Oliver, who commanded the 5th Armored Division in Europe during World War II, had roots in several places by the time of the 1930 Census. The five people were enumerated at Camp Humphreys Military Reservation in Mount Vernon, Va.



**ROXANNE MOORE SAUCIER**  
FAMILY TIES

Lunsford, 41, was listed as an officer. He had been born in Nebraska to a father born in Missouri, and a mother born in Ohio.

His wife, Jeanette P. (actually Janet P.), 31, was born in Minnesota to a father from Ohio and a mother from Illinois.

Son Thomas K. Oliver, 7, who would go on to attend West Point was born in Missouri. Daughter Mary P., 5, was born in Alaska. Mother-in-law Jane W. Putnam, 67, was born in Illinois. That's what I call a family that got around.

At the same time that Gen. Lunsford Oliver was commanding 12,000 personnel in liberating

*See Ties, Page D1*

## Ties

*Continued from Page C6*

Luxembourg, in the 1940s, 1st Lt. Tom Oliver was MIA for 3 months in Yugoslavia with at least 150 other airmen who had been shot down. Eager to get a message to the Allies to come get them, Tom Oliver came up with an ingenious code that would allow him to communicate with the Allies. It worked.

The 5th Armored Division always enjoys having the Tom Oliver Family come to the 5th Armored Reunion.

The nine members of the Oliver family planning to attend the reunion include Dr. Tom Oliver, son; Dr. Don Oliver, grandson; Robert Oliver, grandson;

Gabriel Oliver and Thomas Oliver, great-grandsons; and Benjamin Jacobs, great-great-grandson.

From Maine, Harland Dunham of Ellsworth, member of the Fifth Armored Division, is expected to attend the 6 p.m. reunion Saturday, June 16, at Bangor Auditorium, with six of his family members.

The public is welcome to this final banquet. Tickets for had-dock, chicken or vegetarian entree are available for \$15 at Bangor Auditorium.

Veterans who bring their walking stick will have their name entered in a drawing for a 55-inch TV.

Come along and meet the WWII and other veterans at this event. Several, including Dr. Oliver, also will attend a free day of

activities 10 a.m.-3 p.m. July 16, at Cole Land Transportation Museum, 405 Perry Road.

The Texas Flying Legends will give a free air show 2-2:45 p.m. Sunday, June 17, at Airport Maintenance, 100 Maine Ave., Bangor. The planes will land at 11 a.m. and be on display.

The Leavitt Reunion deadline has come and gone, but Roland Rhodes assures us that there is still plenty of room to register. If you are a member, details have been in the past couple issues of Leavitt Leaves, and the May issue should be arriving soon.

The cost of the entire reunion is \$20 per person, including food. The date is June 23. Use the reunion registration form in the newsletter or on the website.

If you use the website form, be sure to print out to mail with your check before clicking "Send." Organizers really need to know by June 16 so they can tell the caterers how much food for Saturday. If you're not much for forms, the organizers say they're not sticklers. Just write the pertinent information from the form on a paper and tell them which activities or places you want to visit. Come talk with cousins and join the tour of town Saturday afternoon.

Friday evening there will be a community dinner potluck in Barnard. If you're coming from a distance and can't bring anything, just bring yourself and let organizers know so there's plenty of food.

Want any Leavitt Genealogies? Save shipping and buy at the Reunion, but pre-order now to make sure they are available.

There will be a 50-50 raffle and silent auction again. If you'd like to fill out an auction form before you get there, here's one to print out: <http://RolandRhoades.com/NALFAuction.pdf>

A list of lineages, alphabetical by ancestor line, is available at <http://RolandRhoades.com/NALFLineages.pdf>.

Roland Rhoades will be at the free Taconnet Falls Genealogy Fair in Winslow 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 16, with Leavitt brochures and Maine Genealogical Society vital records and 1790 census books for sale. A list of the books and specials is at <http://RolandRhoades.com/MGSBooks.pdf>.

The Brewer Historical Society will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 12, in the meeting room at First Methodist Church, 40 South Main Street. Brewer: Judith Gillis, president of the Orrington Historical Society, will give a program on the Curran Homestead Living History Farm and Museum. Refreshments will be served.

For information on researching family history in Maine, see Genealogy Resources under Family Ties at [bangordailynews.com/browse/family-ties](http://bangordailynews.com/browse/family-ties). Send genealogy queries to Family Ties, Bangor Daily News, P.O. Box 1329, Bangor 04402, or email [familyti@bangordailynews.com](mailto:familyti@bangordailynews.com).

## 5th Armored Division plans reunion in Bangor

BY ROXANNE SAUCIER  
SPECIAL TO THE BDN

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"The Cole Museum has committed to retain forever its 5th Armored Room and collection of that division and Luxembourg history," said Galen Cole, a World War II veteran of the 5th Armored and founder of the museum. The 5th Armored liberated Luxembourg during the war.

Veterans of the 5th Armored and family members coming to the final reunion are asked to bring more such items to show to

the public, young and old, when the Cole Museum is open free of charge 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 18.

Everyone is welcome to meet and greet 5th Armored veterans and museum volunteers and ask questions about items in the museum's military collection.

Several World War II vehicles are on display. Rides will be offered in the museum's World War II Jeeps, which were made by Willys and Ford. Museum guides, led by volunteer Bob O'Leary, will be inside and on the grounds to assist and give tours.

Another highlight of the weekend will be the final draw-

down and banquet during which the 5th Armored Division members close down their association with a candlelight ceremony remembering the nearly 1,000 servicemen from the 5th who were killed during World War II, as well as 5th Armored Division veterans who have died since.

The 5th Armored Division also held reunions in Bangor in 1984 and as part of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in 1995. Some 30,000 people turned out for Bangor's parade during the 1995 event.

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Participants in the banquet will include the Bangor Area Children's Chorus, initially or-

ganized for the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in 1995. Members and guests of the 5th Armored will be joined by Cole Museum World War II volunteers.

A nondenominational church service will be held Sunday, June 17, at the museum, and a visit to Bangor by several World War II planes is planned for that day.

For information on Cole Land Transportation Museum, call 990-3600 or visit [www.colemuseum.org](http://www.colemuseum.org). For information on the 5th Armored Division Association, visit [www.5ad.org](http://www.5ad.org).





# Plans expanding for WWII reunion

BY ROXANNE MOORE SAUCIER  
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — Plans for the last worldwide reunion of World War II's 5th Armored Division Association in June are expanding.

The June 16 reunion banquet is being relocated to Bangor Auditorium to accommodate the public, and the four-day event will include a free air show by the Texas Flying Tigers.

Reunions of the 5th Armored in Bangor in 1984 and 1995 went so well that division member Galen Cole invited the group to hold its final gathering, June 14-17, in the city. The host will be the Cole Land Transportation Museum at 405 Perry Road.

"Response to the announcement of the event has demonstrated that Maine veterans and community members are eager to join us for the final drawdown of the 5th Armored Division as we honor one last time the service of the 12,000-member Victory Division in World War II," Cole said.

Activities at the banquet, scheduled for 6 p.m. June 16,

will include a traditional candlelight ceremony remembering 5th Armored members killed during World War II and those who have died since, as well as music by the Bangor Area Children's Choir, which performed during the 1995 event held in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Tickets to the banquet are \$15 each, with a choice of chicken breast, grilled haddock or vegetarian entree. Veterans are urged to bring their walking sticks, which will entitle them to be entered in a drawing for a 55-inch TV and other prizes. Nearly 8,000 Maine veterans have received Maine-made maple walking sticks in recent years from the Cole museum in honor of their service in World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the global war on terrorism.

Cole also announced that activities Sunday, June 17, will include a free air show by the Texas Flying Tigers beginning at 10 a.m. at Bangor International Airport adjacent to the Maine Air Museum on Maine Avenue. World War II aircraft participating will include a

Japanese Zero, a B-25 bomber, two P-38 Mustangs and a P-40.

Cole Museum also has a day of free activities scheduled for the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 16, at 405 Perry Road. Members of the 5th Armored Division will be on hand to meet the public. Museum volunteers will give tours of the museum, including the 5th Armored Division Room, and offer rides in two World War II Jeeps.

Remarks will be shared by Dr. Tom Oliver, son of the 5th Armored's commander, the late Maj. Gen. Lunsford Oliver, whose words and challenge are engraved on the Maine World War II Memorial on the museum grounds.

Constant Goergen, immediate past president of the U.S. Veterans Friends of Luxembourg, will tell about the granite mile marker the museum has on display, one of only two outside the route from the beaches of France to Bastogne, Belgium, where markers measure every kilometer of the route taken by the U.S. troops in World War II.

Musical presentations will feature the River City Harmonizers and the Mainely Music

barbershop quartet.

Tickets to the reunion banquet are available to the public and may be purchased in person from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays beginning May 1 at Bangor Auditorium. For a handling charge of \$4 per ticket, tickets also will be available by phone at 990-4444, 800-745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com. Tickets will be available until June 14 unless they sell out sooner.

One person will receive a ride in a P-38 Mustang at the air show on Sunday, June 17. Hermon Junior ROTC is selling raffle tickets for the ride. Raffle tickets must be purchased in advance from Hermon Junior ROTC at 848-5436. Tickets also may be purchased at Cole Land Transportation Museum, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily beginning May 1.

Information on Cole Land Transportation Museum is available at [colemuseum.org](http://colemuseum.org). Maine veterans who have not previously received a walking stick may do so by bringing ID and proof of military service to the museum daily beginning May 1. Names and addresses of recipients will be added to the museum database.





# Senior commander to close unit reunion

BANGOR — A 96-year-old Auburn man believed to be the senior living regimental commanding officer from World War II's 5th Armored Division will give the last remarks when the group holds its final drawdown during the 66th reunion of the 5th Armored Division Association at 6 p.m., Saturday, June 16, at Bangor Auditorium.

Retired Col. George C. Benjamin had a 30-year military career with duties varying from escorting First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt on horseback to serving as the No. 3 man in the 75,000-person "I" Corps of the U.S. Army. But it is his World War II service that ties him so closely to fellow veterans of the 5th Armored.

"Colonel Benjamin was a lieutenant colonel during the war," said Galen Cole, 5th Armored member who organized the group's reunions here in 1984 and 1995, and offered to have the Cole Land Transportation Museum host the final reunion June 14-17 this year.

"He will be the senior participating regimental officer of the 5th Armored Division at the reunion," Cole said, and as such will have the honor of giving the last words to close out the division's history during a public banquet. "He was involved in all five campaigns in Europe, and was leader of the 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, scouting out Germans."

Benjamin's squadron lost the first U.S.

personnel coming into Luxembourg, a country which the 5th Armored Division liberated. Nearly 1,000 from the division of 12,000 men and women lost their lives in Europe during World War II.

Benjamin was interviewed in 2006 by author Don Colson, who wrote "Quiet Courage," a book of profiles of mostly Maine veterans which was published the next year by Cole Museum.

"You see heroes every single day," Benjamin told Colson of his war service. "The most vivid part of my whole nine months in combat is the bravery and dedication and the loyalty of the people who were in the units. I was always so proud of my men."

The Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Croix de Guerre and the Purple Heart were among the 19 awards and decorations Benjamin received during his military career. Though he did not join the service from Maine, he and wife Ruth have lived in Auburn since 1969.

Colson will be master of ceremonies for the June 16 banquet, and Cole Museum will give each person attending a copy of "Quiet Courage," which includes stories of veterans from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the global war on terror.

A special invitation to the banquet has been issued to veterans who have one of the nearly 8,000 Maine-made maple walking sticks the museum has given out to Mainers who served in one of the war eras. Those

who bring their walking stick to the event will be eligible for prizes drawn that evening, including a 55-inch TV. Stands will be available at each table for the veterans to store their walking sticks in during the event.

But all veterans are welcome, Cole emphasized, and he hopes family members, friends and anyone interested will purchase a ticket and be part of what likely will be the last major World War II activity in the area. Those attending the reunion will come from as far as South Dakota and Luxembourg.

The evening will include a candlelight ceremony honoring all those from the 5th Armored who have died; and music by the Bangor Area Children's Chorus, which was organized initially to participate in activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II in 1995.

Those attending the banquet may choose chicken breast, grilled haddock or vegetarian entree. Tickets may be purchased for \$15 in person 9 a.m.-4 p.m. weekdays at Bangor Auditorium. Including a handling charge, tickets also are available for \$19 each by phone at 990-4444, 800-745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com. Tickets will be available until June 14 unless they sell out sooner.

For information on Cole Land Transportation Museum, call 990-3600 or visit [www.colemuseum.org](http://www.colemuseum.org).





God bless America,  
Land that I love,  
Stand beside her and guide her  
Thru the night with a light from above  
From the mountains, to the prairies,  
To the oceans white with foam,  
God bless America, my home, sweet home  
God bless America, my home, sweet home.

**Sunday—June 17th Events—11:00am**

**Maintenance Hangar (next to Maine Air Museum)  
at Bangor International Airport**

Free admission to all to view WWII planes and talk with pilots of these planes courtesy of the Texas Flying Legends. A 2:00pm air performance by the Texas Flying Legends will be included free of charge at this event.

Tickets for a drawing for one lucky winner to ride in a P-51 Mustang following the air show will be on sale by the Hermon JROTC until 1:00pm. Drawing will be held at that time.

**Cole Land  
Transportation Museum  
405 Perry Road  
Bangor, ME 04401  
www.colemuseum.org  
207-990-3600  
Open 7 days a week—9 to 5  
May 1 to November 11**



# 66th Reunion

## 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association Banquet

Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

Bangor Auditorium



**WELCOME**

**Patrick DeMico, President**  
5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association

**POSTING THE COLORS**  
**Hermon JROTC**

**CANDELIGHT CEREMONY**  
**Victor Musial**  
5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association

**RETRIEVING THE COLORS**  
**Hermon JROTC**

**TAPS**  
**Hal Wheeler**

**MASTER OF CEREMONIES**  
**Don Colson**

**GREETINGS AND INTRODUCTION  
OF MAYOR OF BANGOR**  
**Galen Cole**

5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Member, Founder of  
Cole Foundation and Cole Land Transportation  
Museum and host of this 66<sup>th</sup> and final reunion.

**WELCOME CITY OF BANGOR**  
**Mayor Cary Weston**

**BANGOR AREA CHILDREN'S CHOIR**  
**(Conductor Stephen Weston)**  
White Cliffs of Dover  
My Country Tis of Thee  
Do You Remember (written by  
Luxembourg Citizen, Gilbert Kohn)  
Star Spangled Banner

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND  
INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**  
**Don Colson**

**DRAWING FOR 55" TELEVISION**

**INTRODUCTION OF DOCTOR THOMAS OLIVER,  
SON OF MAJOR GENERAL LUNSFORD OLIVER,  
COMMANDER 5<sup>TH</sup> ARMORED DIVISION**  
**Don Colson**

**INTRODUCTION OF  
LUXEMBOURG GUEST SPEAKER**  
**Galen Cole**

**CONSTANT GOERGEN**  
Founder and 1<sup>st</sup> President  
US Veterans Friends-Luxembourg

**SPECIAL AWARD PRESENTATION**  
**Don Colson & Galen Cole**

**David Fink**  
Past President, Pan Am Airways

**INTRODUCTION OF CLOSING SPEAKER**  
**Galen Cole**

**CLOSING REMARKS**  
**Colonel George Benjamin**  
Senior Living Regimental Commander  
85<sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Regiment  
5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division

**GOD BLESS AMERICA**  
**Hal Wheeler on Trumpet**  
Everyone is urged to join Hal and sing...





**Constant Goergen**  
*Founder & Past President*

Courtesy of the  
Cole Land Transportation Museum



**Address at Closing Reunion of  
5th Armored Division Association  
in Bangor, Maine, U.S.A.  
June 16, 2012**



*The friendship of Constant Goergen of Luxembourg and Galen Cole of Bangor, Maine extends back to 1984 when US Veterans Friends Luxembourg with support from the Cole Land Transportation Museum was first formed.*

*Since then the two organizations have joined together on many occasions in both Luxembourg and the USA in support of each other's patriotic and museum efforts.*

*To enable each person in attendance to have for posterity Constant's closing remarks and challenge, copies of his presentation have been placed at each table.*

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Excellences, Dear Galen Cole, Dear American WWII Veterans, Dear Friends.

Following the gracious invitation of the 5th Armoured Division hosted by my longtime good friend Galen Cole, WWII Veteran and past president of the 5th Armoured Division Association, it is for my son Jean-Nicolas and me a distinct honor and great pleasure to be with you today.

I am also proud, as the founder and past president and, since last year, Honorary President of the U.S. Veterans Friends Luxembourg to represent this association today, and help a grateful nation continue to thank the veterans of World War II, and especially those of the 5th Armored Division, for liberating Luxembourg in September 1944 from more than 4 years of Nazi occupation, a terrible and abject Nazisme, a political system without any notion of freedom and liberty.

In 1936, before the start of WWII, your President Franklin Roosevelt stated in a speech: "To some generations, much is given. Of other generations, much is expected. This generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny."

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get their sacrifice and their suffering. And so each Memorial Day in Luxembourg, when we lay a red rose to each of the graves, has become for Luxembourg and its citizens, young and old, likewise a day of commemorating and thanking.

From the depths of our hearts, we made ours the noble words of President Abraham Lincoln: "We highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain. It is for us, the living, to be dedicated to the unfinished work which they, who fought here, have thus far so nobly advanced."

The graves at Hamm Cemetery will forever and ever be the graves of dear friends, whose memory we cherish, whom we will include in the prayers for our own beloved dead, whom we will thank now and then with a blooming rose. In recent years a beautiful carillon has been added to the cemetery, bells which ring freedom and peace throughout the land. When any one of us goes to the American Military Cemetery at Hamm, we honor each brave soldier who made the supreme sacrifice for our liberation.

We welcome all the families who visit this sacred place now and for generations to come and remind each visitor of the disastrous result of Intolerance, oppression and inhuman violence. We pray for freedom and peace between people and nations all over the world.

In closing, I thank America, and especially the members of the 5th Armored Division, living and dead, for my country's freedom. Thank you for allowing me to participate in this special ceremony this evening. May God bless each of you and may God bless your Great Nation.

- Constant Goergen

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And to our friend Galen Cole and the Cole Museum's 5th Armored Room, please continue to maintain and display the special handmade American flag produced by the Jean Nickels family in their second-floor apartment in defiance of German control.

On that morning of September 10, nearly three-quarters of a century ago, the Nickels' handmade flag flew from the apartment's open window to greet the first 5th Armored troops as they entered and liberated the capital city of Luxembourg. The flag added greatly to the festivities and is identified in several 8 x 10" pictures in the Luxembourg section of the 5th Armored Room. While Luxembourg celebrated her just-regained freedom, the men of the 5th Armored advanced east of Luxembourg, and near the Luxembourg airport encountered an enemy barrage that killed Commanders of two American tanks.

Meanwhile the three combat commands pushed forth and in late afternoon of September 11th, news flashed around the world that the first Americans had reached the Siegfried Line and crossed into Germany. Indeed, the 5th Armored had reached the town of Stolzemburg on Monday, September 11th and at 16:30 hours, 4:30 p.m., a patrol of the 2nd Platoon, Troop B, 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, crossed into Germany over the remains of the Our River Bridge, which had been blown up.

That night, the 1st U.S. Army announced to the world: "At 18:00 hours on September 11th, a patrol led by Sergeant Warner Holzinger crossed into Germany near the village of Stolzemburg, a few miles northeast of Vianden." It was the first of two times in the 20th Century that American troops brought freedom back to Luxembourg. Nobody at that moment suspected the terrible sacrifices lying ahead, -- sacrifices which the American troops -- and this means you, dear veterans -- were soon to suffer in order to block off and finally reject the last desperate

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enemy offensive, known today as the Battle of the Bulge, the critical battle of WWII.

Winston Churchill called this "the greatest American battle of WW II." On the eve of the battle, in the medieval town of Echternach, a glamorous German-born film star, Marlene Dietrich, the star of a USO troupe, was entertaining the American troops. In a deep, sultry voice she sang "Lilli Marlene" to the raucous applause of hundreds of G.I.s.

Meanwhile, on the German side of the line, in assembly areas across the front, German commanders read a message from Field Marshal Von Runstedt. The message began: "Soldiers of the West Front! Your great hour has arrived! We attack at dawn!" In the early morning of 16th December 1944, the tramping sound of hobnailed jack boots broke the stillness of that cold, silent night as Nazi troopers, with visions of past glory, strutted upon the field of battle as they marched to the line of departure and formed into assault formations.

A split second after 5:30 a.m., an American soldier in the 28th Infantry Division manning an observation post high atop a water tower in the village of Hosingen, frantically turned the crank on his field Telephone. He reported to his company commander that in the distance, on the German side, he could see a strange phenomenon -- countless flickering pinpoints of light piercing the darkness of the early morning fog and mist. Within a few seconds, both he and his company commander had an explanation. The lights were the muzzle flashes of more than 2,000 German artillery pieces. The early morning stillness of the fog-shrouded forest was suddenly shattered with the thunderclap of a massive artillery barrage landing on the Americans. The onslaught had begun. The German code name for the operation was Autumn Mist. The Americans called it the Battle of the Bulge.

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Initially outnumbered by overwhelming enemy forces and suffering in sub-zero temperatures, the American troops in Luxembourg fought bravely, slowing down the enemy advance in the Ardennes. Under the brilliant leadership of General George S. Patton Jr., you dear veterans succeeded in driving back the aggressors and by early February 1945, Luxembourg was free again. Liberated once more by the American troops.

For a brief moment in history, you dear vets held our nation's and your nation's destiny in your hands. You did not fail us. You did not fail your country. You blew the trumpets that tumbled the walls. Yours was the face of victory. Super heroes — super patriots. Your legacy-victory, victory in the greatest battle ever fought by the United States Army. But the cost of victory was high. It was a time of great sacrifices. There on that cold, brutal field of battle, 19,000 young American lives were cut short during the crowded hours of combat. The bells of sorrow and mourning rang then in Luxembourg and throughout all the Ardennes. An open field near the Luxembourg village of Hamm became the sacred burial ground for 5,076 valiant American soldiers who gave their lives in order that the coming generations might live in peace: Here too, that bravest of all, General George S. Patton Jr. was laid to his final rest in December 1945. And they fought for freedom too, those 5,075 men who are buried at the American Military Cemetery at Hamm, the 5,076th grave being that of a woman, a nurse who gave her life while caring for wounded soldiers. Yes, they made the ultimate sacrifice and with their death gave life to a new freedom in all the countries of the western world, among them a very small one called Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg. A country most of them had never heard of until that day.

Luxembourg has not forgotten, Luxembourg will not for-

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And you did, You fought and won the most destructive war in history. In this room are many of America's greatest heroes and I want to thank you for what you did for us in 1944-1945. On September 9th, 1944, enemy resistance gradually stiffened on the Luxembourg-Belgian border against rapidly advancing units of the 5th U.S. Armored Division pushing forward from Sedan/ Charlevill-Mezières. In Pétange, Lt. Hyman Josefson of the division's own 85th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron under the command of future Auburn, Maine resident Lt. Col. George Benjamin, sadly became the first American soldier to be killed on Luxembourg soil, when his armored car was ambushed and knocked out by a German antitank gun. German Panther tanks coming from Luxembourg tried to stop the 5th Armored, but the American advance was not to be stopped and CCA liberated Luxembourg City by 9:45 a.m. on September 10th.

Around 10 a.m. an escort accompanied the division commander, Major General Lunsford E. Oliver and Prince Felix, husband of Grand-Duchesse Charlotte, to the liberated capital under giant applause of thousands of cheering and waving Luxembourgers, who had just regained freedom.

Bells of joy announced the regained freedom throughout Luxembourg. It was a sudden change of fortune from more than four years of atrocious Nazi occupation to liberty brought by the American G.I.s so long expected. Anyone who has witnessed these intense moments of popular joy, forever treasures them in his heart.

The countless columns of American soldiers that crossed our towns and villages, distributing chewing gum and choclat from their rations to us children, symbolized all the gallantry and courage of the Allied troops and the determination of the Free Nations to toll the bell signaling an end to an inhuman regime.

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## Please enjoy the following photos from our final reunion, Saturday, June 16th 2012

















MAJOR GENERAL LUNSFORD OLIVER BATTLEFIELD  
 COMMANDER—5TH ARMORED DIVISION IN WORLD WAR II  
 CHALLENGED HIS TROOPS. THE SAME SPIRIT WHICH DROVE  
 YOU ONWARD TO YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THIS WAR WILL  
 CAUSE YOU TO TAKE THE LEAD TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY A  
 BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE IMPROVE OUR INTERNATIONAL  
 RELATIONS AND PREVENT FUTURE WARS SO THAT OUR  
 HEROIC DEAD SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN









# WELCOME 5<sup>TH</sup> ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION

## 5th Armored Division Soldiers Who Died in World War II 1941-1945

1. [Name]	2. [Name]	3. [Name]	4. [Name]	5. [Name]	6. [Name]	7. [Name]	8. [Name]	9. [Name]	10. [Name]
11. [Name]	12. [Name]	13. [Name]	14. [Name]	15. [Name]	16. [Name]	17. [Name]	18. [Name]	19. [Name]	20. [Name]
21. [Name]	22. [Name]	23. [Name]	24. [Name]	25. [Name]	26. [Name]	27. [Name]	28. [Name]	29. [Name]	30. [Name]
31. [Name]	32. [Name]	33. [Name]	34. [Name]	35. [Name]	36. [Name]	37. [Name]	38. [Name]	39. [Name]	40. [Name]
41. [Name]	42. [Name]	43. [Name]	44. [Name]	45. [Name]	46. [Name]	47. [Name]	48. [Name]	49. [Name]	50. [Name]
51. [Name]	52. [Name]	53. [Name]	54. [Name]	55. [Name]	56. [Name]	57. [Name]	58. [Name]	59. [Name]	60. [Name]
61. [Name]	62. [Name]	63. [Name]	64. [Name]	65. [Name]	66. [Name]	67. [Name]	68. [Name]	69. [Name]	70. [Name]
71. [Name]	72. [Name]	73. [Name]	74. [Name]	75. [Name]	76. [Name]	77. [Name]	78. [Name]	79. [Name]	80. [Name]
81. [Name]	82. [Name]	83. [Name]	84. [Name]	85. [Name]	86. [Name]	87. [Name]	88. [Name]	89. [Name]	90. [Name]
91. [Name]	92. [Name]	93. [Name]	94. [Name]	95. [Name]	96. [Name]	97. [Name]	98. [Name]	99. [Name]	100. [Name]







Hi,

My name is Jo Shipley and I have attached some photos of the 5th AD from early August 1944. The photos were taken at Chateau Martigne near Avesse/Brulon France some time between August 6-August 8, 1944. I was hoping you could publish these photos in the hope that the someone may recognize these American soldiers.

Best Regards,  
Jo Shipley







**MINUTES  
FIFTH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING  
JUNE 16, 2012**

*This Final Meeting of the Fifth Armored Division Association was held at the Holiday Inn in Bangor, Maine.*

**Officers Present:**

Patrick DeMico – President  
Cathe Iampieri – Vice President  
Bob Smithers – Treasurer

**Board of Directors Present:**

Richard Brown – member  
Carmen Cambarare – member  
Victor Musial – member  
Karl-Heinz Heineke – associate member

**Members Present:**

Paul Marshall, Andy Cambron, Patrick Phelps, Robert Steckler, Chet Hocker, Harland Dunham, and Albert Thomas.

**Associate Members Present:**

Marion Brown, Doug Kirchen, Andrew Nelson, David Nelson, Sharon Valardo Maneri, Chuck Maneri, Philip Gambone, Mary Nowaskie, Ilona Fiorello, Bill Donohue, Jerri Donohue, Sandi Zink, David Zink, Steve Hocker, Kitty Willman, Quento H. Willman, Barbara Costello, and Trish Schupple.

**Guest – Colonel Tom Fosnacht.**

Pat DeMico opened the meeting with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance and then gave roll call.  
(Bob Smithers mentioned that veterans are allowed to salute during the Pledge and during parades).

**President's Report:**

2011 Minutes: Pat asked if there were any changes or revisions to the minutes from 2011's annual meeting. None were offered. Carmen Cambarare made a motion to approve the minutes. Victor Second the motion. The motion to approve the minutes for the 2011 annual meeting passed.

**Asset Distribution:**

Pat stated the plan for asset distribution as voted on at the 2011 annual meeting.

\$1,000 paid to Will Cook, former Secretary-Editor Treasure ad Chaplain of the 5th Armored Division Association for his excellent work and dedication to the Association.

\$1,000 paid to Cole Land Transportation and 5th Armored Division Museum in Bangor Maine.

\$1,000 paid to Rick Stilley, son of former 5th Armored Division veteran, who maintains a 5th Armored Division computer website at his own expense and who has offered to perpetuate the practice.

Artifacts to be sent to the Army museum in Carlisle, PA and remaining assets to be sent to the Patton Museum.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Reunion - Bob Smithers stated that there were 73 attending the reunion plus 5 guests for the banquet dinner. These included 13 veterans, 7 wives, one air force veteran and one widow.

Membership – Bob reported that he had collected from 77 people which included 37 members (down from 71), 13 widows, (down from 16) and 26 associated members, (down from 47). \$1520.00 was collected for 2012, \$420.00 for 2011, \$140.00 for 2013 and \$60.00 for 2014-15.

There is \$9443.94 in the bank account before the reunion costs were paid and the \$3000.00 was paid to Will Cook, Rick Stilley and the Cole Museum. Bob stated that along with the reunion costs there was the upcoming cost of the Victory News and that the previous issue had cost \$1385.00. He also mentioned that the Victory News is mailed out to the veterans and widows and the associate members can access the News through the website, ([www.5ad.org](http://www.5ad.org)). Bob stated that once the bills are all paid some money will be left over.



There was a discussion regarding the distribution of the final issue of the Victory News. Some associates asked if it could be mailed to all members and associate members. Pat stated that he didn't think there would be enough money in the treasury to pay all the expenses related to the dissolution of the Association and pay for the printing and distribution of the News to everyone. Bob noted that the member file has 800 entries and several hundred veterans are on the list. He started researching the veterans and found a lot of veteran death notices. He concluded that many of the widows and vets he couldn't find have passed away. The list is still not definitive and it is almost impossible to find everyone. Some members asked about donating towards the final printing and distribution of the News or possible having people pay to receive the mailed version. It was concluded that the veterans and widows will receive the hard copy of the Victory News. Carl asked where to send information for the final issue. Pat answered that information could be sent Jeff Smith, the editor, Rick Stilley or any of the board members.

Pat commented on the reunion and wanted to thank Galan Cole, his family and the volunteers for all the work they did. Harland Dunham made a motion to send a thank you on behalf of the 5th Armored Division Association to Galen Cole, his family, the staff, volunteers and the Bangor Community. Victor Musial seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pat noted that this was the final reunion; he mentioned that Jeff deeply regretted not being able to attend the reunion and brought up for discussion the resolution of the Association. Harland commented that it was a difficult decision. Pat suggested that the association be dissolved in an appropriate manor and that we could still use facebook and the 5ad.org website to continue to honor the association. He stated that Rick Stilley has been invaluable in keeping up communication between the members and the public and that he intended to keep it up.

Pat explained that to properly go through the resolution the Association needed to pay the expenses for the reunion, the expenses related to the Victory News, the disbursement of funds, an audit and all other necessary legal work, anything left over will go to the Patton Museum and the US Heritage Museum in Carlisle. He also said he will get in touch with Amy Jansky to get anything she may still have and to arrange to have it sent where it needs to go. He asked that everyone send any photos or commentary to the board members for the publication of the Victory News.

Pat commented that there could still be annual informal get togethers. The members discussed giving the 5AD Flag and gavel to the Cole Museum. Doug Kirchen and Harland stated it was fitting because of the 5AD dedicated room.

Harland Dunham made a motion to give the Cole Museum the 5AD flag and gavel. Victor Musial second the motion. The motion passed.

Andy Cambron gave an update on his interview with the History Channel and said he when he finds out when it will air he will post it on face book.

Pat asked for comments from the veterans regarding the dissolution of the Association. Carmen Cambarare expressed it was time to bring it to a close, to end honorable and he thanked the members of the board for all their time and effort. Pat stated it was an honor to have done what we did and thank Carmen for his kind comments. Albert Thomas commented that this was a very hard decision.

Barbara Costello made a motion for the Honorable Dissolution of the 5th Armored Division Association. Pat DeMico seconded the motion. The motion for the Honorable Dissolution of the 5th Armored Division Association passed.

Colonel Tom Fosnacht asked if he could interrupt and requested that as one of the last acts of the 5AD Association be a photo of the veterans sent to the Grand Duke of Luxembourg with the dedication, "A Great Honor and highlight of our military career was that we liberated your country and brought lasting peace to the people of Luxembourg."

He read a statement from the Grand Duke, "I owe your country a debt of gratitude for allowing me to be there for the liberation".

Victor Musial made the motion to send the picture and dedication to the Grand Duke. Richard Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sharon Maneri thanked the veterans; Pat thanked the veterans for all they had done. Many other attendees expressed their gratitude.

Carmen Cambarare thanked the board and made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Victor Musial seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn the meeting passed.

*Prepared by Cathe Iampieri, Vice President*





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## FIFTH ARMORED DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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RICHARD BROWN  
CARMEN CAMBARARE  
KARL-HEINZ HEINEKE  
VICTOR MUSIAL

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### OFFICERS

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PATRICK DeMICO, PRESIDENT  
*p.demico@comcast.net*

CATHE LAMPIERI, VICE PRESIDENT & FACEBOOK EDITOR  
*ciampieri@verizon.net*

BOB SMITHERS, TREASURER  
*smithersb@yahoo.com*

JEFF SMITH, SECRETARY AND VDN EDITOR  
*jeff\_maryann@roadrunner.com*

RICK STILLEY, WEBMASTER  
*rick.stilley@safezonellc.com*



5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Gathering

Wichita, Kansas

August 2-4, 2013

### REGISTRATION

For accommodations at 5th AD room rates of \$89.00 per night (rate is guaranteed until July 19, 2012), please contact:

DoubleTree by Hilton  
2098 Airport Road  
Wichita, KS 67209  
Telephone: 316-945-5272  
Toll Free: 800-247-4458  
Email: [www.wichitaairport.doubletree.com](http://www.wichitaairport.doubletree.com)

For those flying in, a shuttle bus runs between the airport and hotel.  
The hotel is adjacent to the airport. There is a restaurant on site.

Friday, August 2	Hospitality Room opens at 1:00 p.m. (Snacks & refreshments will be available.) Ice Cream Social starts at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 3	Hospitality Room opens at 9:00 a.m. Lunch in Hospitality Room (11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.) Bus Transportation to Old Cowtown Museum 1:00 p.m. Barbeque Dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, August 4	Farewell

Please list each person attending the gathering:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee: \$40.00 per person

Please remit payment with this form by May 31, 2013, payable to:

5<sup>th</sup> AD Gathering  
c/o David Zink  
1400 Truman  
Great Bend, KS 67530  
Telephone: 620-792-6473  
Email: [dsz@opiwireless.com](mailto:dsz@opiwireless.com)

The 5<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association has disbanded, so there are no more official reunions. To keep alive the memory of these veterans we are hosting a gathering in Wichita, Kansas. Hope to see you there.

David and Sandi Zink



5th Armored Division Association, Inc.  
2216 Longview Drive  
Greensburg, PA 15601  
[www.5ad.org](http://www.5ad.org)

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*The* **VICTORY**  
**DIVISION** **NEWS**

**TO EVERYONE WHO HAS  
BEEN INVOLVED IN THE  
MAKING OF THE  
VICTORY DIVISION NEWS,  
THANK YOU!**

Visit us at [www.5AD.org](http://www.5AD.org), and on Facebook.