



## 77<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION Reserve Officers Association

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[www.77thinfdivroa.org](http://www.77thinfdivroa.org)

# THE LAMPETTE

**Editor: BG Robert J. Winzinger, Sr., USA (Ret)**

**Editor Emeritus: BG Harry J. Mott,  
III, USA (Ret)**

**Summer 2016 Issue**

### **1. THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:**

On behalf of the Directors of the Association, I welcome you, our Members, friends and other readers, to this summer 2016 edition of *The Lampette*. We certainly hope that the summer is off to a good and safe start for all of you.

Unfortunately, 2016 got off to a sad start with the passing of COL Robert Braverman on 15 January and his funeral service on 20 January. COL Braverman was a true patriot, soldier and friend, and a Director Emeritus of the Association who will be sorely missed. During his long tenure on the Board, in 2000-2002 he was the Chairman of the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Expressway Committee, which was successful in obtaining the renaming of the Clearview Expressway in the borough of Queens, NY. (See [http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/memorials/77th\\_infantry\\_memorial\\_expressway.html](http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/memorials/77th_infantry_memorial_expressway.html).) He was also a key member of the World Trade Center Memorial Committee project which led to the dedication in November 2002 of the 77<sup>th</sup> Memorial Grove and its monument to the six soldiers of the 77<sup>th</sup> who lost their lives in the Twin Towers on 9/11/01. (See <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/memorials/fttottenmemorial.html>.) COL Braverman will be remembered during the Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service at Fort Totten on 6 November, along with other members of the 77<sup>th</sup> family who have passed-on this year.

Also, early in the year we were informed that CSM Sammy Sablan, the former CSM of the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, was to retire in April, return to his home state of Texas and settle in the San Antonio area. We thank CSM Sablan for his loyal support as a member of the Association and an elected Director. While CSM of the Brigade, he constantly promoted the history of the 77<sup>th</sup> and personally ensured that the supporting elements of the Brigade were in the position of readiness during special ceremonies. SGM Sablan was also a featured speaker during a Commemoration Service in Central Park and at member meetings. We thank Sammy for his service and wish him and his family much continued success and good health in retirement.

One of the main topics which has been on the board's agenda during its meetings since January is the development of suitable recognition events for the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's 100th Anniversary which will occur in 2017. We have solicited ideas and requested assistance from a number of sources. Based on

the fact that we have limited resources, the current thinking is to plan according to our capabilities and relationships with the Active Reserve, primarily the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade and the 319<sup>th</sup> US Army Band; the 1st Battalion, 307<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Active Army); several other military organizations and the New York City Department of Veterans Services. We envision expanded memorial services in Central Park and Fort Totten, and possibly a second event at Fort Totten around the anniversary of the activation of the Division at Yaphank in August 1917. We will continue to be involved with this project for the balance of the year, and we would welcome your ideas, personal involvement and support. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact me directly.

On 7 May I was accompanied by COL Edwin Logan, COL Ivan Cornielle and Mr. Malcolm Schade in representing the Association at the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade Change of Command Ceremony. BG Richard C. Staats, Commanding General, 316<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) officiated during the ceremony when COL Deborah L. Kotulich relinquished command to COL Pamela L. McGaha. It is our understanding that COL Kotulich has been assigned to a general officer command in Orlando, Florida, where she will be promoted to BG later this year. It was a pleasure to know COL Kotulich and we sincerely appreciated her generous support of Association activities.

The Spring Luncheon took place at the Swan Club on 18 May and was very well attended. We were honored to have three Major Generals in attendance: MG George E. Barker, MG William S. Crupe and MG William Terpeluk. The luncheon provided the opportunity for those present to meet COL Pamela L. McGaha, the recently appointed Commander of the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade. COL McGaha briefed the attendees on the activities of the Brigade, including preparation and training for future missions. We were very pleased to welcome COL McGaha as a new member of the Association. We also were very pleased to welcome into membership LTC Ronald S. Willdigg. Both COL McGaha and LTC Willdigg were presented with the now traditional 77<sup>th</sup> wine glass and Association pin. Additional coverage of the meeting appears later in this issue of *The Lampette*.

On 19 May it was my pleasure to represent the Association at the United States Military Academy at West Point and present our Association's annual award for Excellence in National Security and Public Affairs to a graduating cadet. This award, which was established in 1970, was presented to Cadet Kevin M. Fidler this year. Cadet Fidler, who majored in International Relations and French, was to be commissioned in the Quartermaster Branch and will be assigned to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment and posted in Vilseck, Germany. He grew up in Woodbury, Minnesota. After the awards ceremony and presentation of the pewter tray, I also had the pleasure of meeting with Cadet Fidler's very proud parents.

## **2. FUND RAISING:**

The 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division ROA is offering for sale 77th Infantry Division wine glasses and whiskey tumblers etched with the 77th "Liberty" patch. The glasses and tumblers are \$8 for one, \$15 for two, and for \$85 for a dozen. Shipping is included in the price for a dozen, but there is an additional charge of \$3.65 for shipping 1-4 glasses or tumblers, or \$14 for 5-11 glasses or tumblers.

77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division baseball-type hats are available in various colors for \$15 each. Also available are Memorial Bricks, at \$125 each, installed in the 77th Memorial Grove at Fort Totten. Each brick can be inscribed with up to three lines, and each line can contain up to a total of 20 characters and spaces. Order forms are available at our web site at: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/forsale/index.html> .

### **3. 77<sup>th</sup> SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY:**

On 7 May 2016, COL Pamela L. McGaha assumed command of the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, 316<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), in a ceremony which was relocated from Sharpe Field to the Doughboy Gym at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ, due to inclement weather. The ceremony was held, under the regulations for outdoor ceremonies, in front of an assembly in formation of some of the Soldiers of the 77<sup>th</sup> SUS BDE.

The ceremony included the traditional transfer of the Brigade Colors from the Outgoing Commander, COL Deborah L. Kotulich, to COL McGaha. It also featured remarks by BG Richard C. Staats, Commander, 316<sup>th</sup> ESC; COL Kotulich, and COL McGaha. Detailed biographies of those officers, and a Statement of Service and description of Campaign Participation Credit of the 77<sup>th</sup> SUS BDE, appeared in the program for the ceremony.

Attending the ceremony on behalf of our Association as guests were the following Directors: COL Louis H. Sudholz, Jr., President; COL Ivan Cornielle, Vice President; COL Edwin G. Logan, Treasurer; and Mr. Malcolm R. Schade, Secretary. Also attending as guests were COL McGaha's father, COL Doyle McGaha, and BG Alan V. Davis, USA (Ret), New Jersey Army Reserve Ambassador. Our Director, LTC Thomas P. Sullivan, and Association member LTC Lisandro L. Murphy, Jr. also attended as members of the 77<sup>th</sup> SUS BDE. Photos of this event can be viewed on our web site at: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/aboutus/77thSustainmentBrigade.html>.

### **4. SPRING LUNCHEON AT THE SWAN CLUB:**

On 18 May 2016, our Association held its Spring Luncheon Meeting at The Swan Club in Roslyn, New York. The weather was warm and sunny, and the event was enjoyed by 27 members and 16 spouses and guests. As usual, the schedule began with a cocktail reception with passed hors d'oeuvres, which was followed by a served luncheon.

During the luncheon, President Lou Sudholz conducted a brief business meeting, and reported regarding recent Association activities and plans for the rest of the year. He also discussed our tentative plans for observances during 2017 of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

As is customary, he began by recognizing the General Officers who were present: MG George E. Barker, MG William S. Crupe and MG William Terpeluk. COL Sudholz also welcomed a new member, LTC Ronald S. Willdigg, and presented him with a 77<sup>th</sup> wine glass and pin.

COL Sudholz introduced the new Commander of the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade headquartered at Fort Dix, COL Pamela L. McGaha, who gave a brief update regarding the current activities of the Brigade. Later during the meeting, COL McGaha became our newest member, and was presented with a 77<sup>th</sup> wine glass and pin.

Our Director LTC Thomas P. Sullivan, Commander, 389<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, also gave a brief update regarding the current activities of the Battalion, and emphasized its desire to continue to provide logistical support for our memorial services.

COL Sudholz also introduced a guest, COL Joseph J. Massaro, a retired dental surgeon who served with several medical units of the 77<sup>th</sup> during his long career in the Army Reserve. He briefly described the activities of the Military Officer's Club of Long Island, and encouraged our Association to work together with it. Our Director LTC Joseph Schroder is the current President of that organization.

The luncheon concluded with a popular raffle of five donated prizes conducted by COL Seymour Kaplan, the proceeds of which will go toward funding our memorial services.

In attendance were: MG George E. Barker; COL Lawrence M. Bellman with Mrs. Eileen Bellman; LTC Anthony J. Bilello; LTC Stephen J. Bishop, Jr.; COL Otis Brown, Jr.; COL Ivan Cornielle; MG William S. Crupe; SGM Leonard Finkelstein; LTC Edward V. Gronet, Jr.; LTC Alexander J. Hernandez and Mrs. Raquel Hernandez; COL David E. B. Husing; CW4 Stephen C. Josephs; CW4 Bernard M. Kaplan; COL Seymour Kaplan; LTC Charles J. Lercara with Mrs. Nancy Lercara; COL Edwin G. Logan; COL

Joseph J. Massaro with Mrs. Nancy Massaro; COL Pamela L. McGaha; LTC Glennie L. Millard; CW5 Robert Neglia; LTC Pamela M. Niosi; LTC John W. Peterkin with Mrs. Ngoc T. Peterkin; SFC Ronald I. Peters with Mrs. Virginia Peters; Mrs. Ivy A. Richardson with Mrs. Eileen McKenzie; Mr. Malcolm R. Schade with Mrs. Cherie Schade; LTC Joseph Schroder; CW5 Paul M. Silverman; CSM Julius C. Stein with Ms. Peck Stein; COL Louis H. Sudholz, Jr. with Mrs. Joan Sudholz; LTC Thomas P. Sullivan; MG William Terpeluk; LTC Victor E. Tuohy; and LTC Ronald S. Willdigg. Photos of this event can be viewed on our web site at: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/news/Luncheon.html>.

## **5. WEST POINT AWARD:**

On 19 May 2016, COL Louis H. Sudholz, Jr. presented our Association's Award for Excellence in National Security and Public Affairs to graduating Cadet Kevin M. Fidler. Cadet Fidler subsequently was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Branch, and was scheduled to be posted to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck, Germany. Cadet Fidler majored in International Relations and French. His hometown is Woodbury, Minnesota, and his hobbies are hunting, fishing, golf, reading and lacrosse. A photo of Cadet Fidler can be viewed at: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/news/WestPointAward.html>.

## **6. 307<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY VETERANS SOCIETY:**

With regret, decisions were made by our Association and the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Veterans Society to cancel the annual Commemoration Ceremony which had been scheduled by our organizations for Saturday, 11 June 2016 in the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Memorial Grove in Central Park, N.Y. The primary reason was conflicting assignments of major participants which would have reduced or precluded their ability to provide the level of support that we have enjoyed in the past. Because the Grove is in a highly visible location in Central Park, it was felt that it would be inappropriate to hold a program which would not meet the standards of our previous memorial services there. We will be scheduling a ceremony in the Grove during 2017, as part of the observances we are planning of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization at Camp Upton of the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

## **7. UPCOMING NOVEMBER MEMORIAL SERVICE AT FORT TOTTEN:**

On 6 November 2016, the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reserve Officers Association will hold its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Service, to honor former 77<sup>th</sup> members who, in the past year, have answered the last roll call. Families of the deceased will receive invitations to the service, which will be held in the Fort Totten Chapel at 13:30 hours.

Upon completion of the service, all are invited to attend the annual wreath-laying ceremony in the 77<sup>th</sup> Memorial Grove, honoring the six Reserve Soldiers who lost their lives in the Twin Towers on 9/11/01. Refreshments will follow and all are invited to join us in the Ernie Pyle Reserve Center drill hall.

As of our publication date, those being remembered will include: COL Robert Braverman, SFC Robert J. Conti, CW4 Arthur Stanley Dixon, COL Theodocia C. Farrales, PFC Donald E. Fitz-Gerald, COL John J. Ford, COL Leon Francis Mangin, MAJ Joseph R Sena, CW4 Betty Siciliano, COL Joseph Henry Slaymaker and COL Conrad R. Waldinger. Also being remembered are the following 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Veterans Society members: SGT Richard Helburn and CPL Arthur Lebsack.

Please join us as we honor these great Soldiers. Should you know of any other 77<sup>th</sup> or 307<sup>th</sup> members who have passed on since our last service, please notify COL Seymour Kaplan at 718-454-9362.

## **8. ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN:**

Each issue of *The Lampette* features a 77<sup>th</sup> Medal of Honor recipient and their citation. The seventh in the series follows:

Corporal Desmond Thomas Doss, Sr., MOH passed away on 23 March 2006 in Piedmont, Alabama at the age of 87, and he was honored at our Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service at Fort Totten on 5 November 2006. After one year of high school, he went to work for a lumber company, and by March 1941 he was working as a ship joiner at the Newport News naval shipyard. A devout Seventh-day Adventist who was religiously opposed to bearing arms or taking human life, he nevertheless turned down the opportunity to receive a draft deferment for World War II based on his employment at the shipyard. After being classified 1-A-O and drafted at the age of 23 in April 1942 at his place of birth in Lynchburg, Virginia, he served with exemplary valor as an unarmed medic in the Medical Detachment (attached to Company B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion), 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

On 12 October 1945, when he was a Private First Class, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for his “conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action above and beyond the call of duty” from 29 April to 21 May 1945 at Urasoe Mura during the Battle of Okinawa, after having already been awarded two Bronze Stars in 1944 for actions with the 307<sup>th</sup>, at Guam and Leyte. He also earned three Purple Hearts, and was diagnosed with tuberculosis (which eventually cost him a lung and five ribs) shortly before leaving the Army in 1946. He was the first conscientious objector ever to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

The following is excerpted from the citation for his Medal of Honor (paragraph breaks inserted):

“...Private First Class Doss was a company aid man when the 1st Battalion assaulted a jagged escarpment 400 feet high. As our troops gained the summit, a heavy concentration of artillery, mortar and machinegun fire crashed into them, inflicting approximately 75 casualties and driving the others back. Private First Class Doss refused to seek cover and remained in the fire-swept area with the many stricken, carrying them one-by-one to the edge of the escarpment and there lowering them on a rope-supported litter down the face of a cliff to friendly hands.

On 2 May, he exposed himself to heavy rifle and mortar fire in rescuing a wounded man 200 yards forward of the lines on the same escarpment; and two days later he treated four men who had been cut down while assaulting a strongly defended cave, advancing through a shower of grenades to within eight yards of enemy forces in a cave's mouth, where he dressed his comrades' wounds before making four separate trips under fire to evacuate them to safety.

On 5 May, he unhesitatingly braved enemy shelling and small arms fire to assist an artillery officer. He applied bandages, moved his patient to a spot that offered protection from small arms fire and, while artillery and mortar shells fell close by, painstakingly administered plasma. Later that day, when an American was severely wounded by fire from a cave, Private First Class Doss crawled to him where he had fallen 25 feet from the enemy position, rendered aid, and carried him 100 yards to safety while continually exposed to enemy fire.

On 21 May, in a night attack on high ground near Shuri, he remained in exposed territory while the rest of his company took cover, fearlessly risking the chance that he would be mistaken for an infiltrating Japanese and giving aid to the injured until he was himself seriously wounded in the legs by the explosion of a grenade. Rather than call another aid man from cover, he cared for his own injuries and waited five hours before litter bearers reached him and started carrying him to cover. The trio was caught in an enemy tank attack and Private First Class Doss, seeing a more critically wounded man nearby, crawled off the litter; and directed the bearers to give their first attention to the other man. Awaiting the litter bearers' return, he was again struck, this time suffering a compound fracture of one arm. With magnificent fortitude he bound a rifle stock to his shattered arm as a splint and then crawled 300 yards over rough terrain to the aid station.

Through his outstanding bravery and unflinching determination in the face of desperately dangerous conditions Private First Class Doss saved the lives of many soldiers. His name became a symbol throughout the 77th Infantry Division for outstanding gallantry far above and beyond the call of duty.”

A group photo of the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Medical Detachment, including Private (as he then was) Doss, before their deployment in 1942 can be viewed on our web site at:  
<http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/news/obituaries.html> . (This obituary is the second item on that page.)

Anyone having 77th artifacts who wishes to donate them to the Association should contact BG Bob Winzinger. Any items would be welcome, including pictures, plaques, military insignia, patches, paintings, magazines, newspapers, articles, other publications, flags, guidons, military gear and anything else associated with the 77th Infantry Division, ARCOM, RSC and RRC. His contact information is BG Robert J. Winzinger; 8178 Ibis Pointe NE; Leland, NC 28451; [generalwin@aol.com](mailto:generalwin@aol.com) and 845-596-3494 (cell).

## **9. REQUEST FOR TRAVEL TIPS:**

The following request for information for our web site is being distributed at the request of COL Larry Bellman, Member of our Information Technology Committee:

"For those who view our website, please note that we have a special section called "Travel Tips", located under the "Links & Info" tab. It lists interesting travel tips, and solicits vacationer reviews (good, bad or otherwise) as well as travel deals. There are write-ups there about the Hale Koa Hotel in Honolulu, Shades of Green at Walt Disney World in Orlando, and the Fourth Cliff Family Recreation Area in Humarock, Massachusetts, as well as some other places of interest.

From our large membership group, you folks probably have traveled throughout the world and could share with us some of the interesting spots, deals, and tips you have personally experienced. Many of our members are or soon will be of the age to have the available time to travel and would welcome your suggestions.

Therefore, we are once again requesting information that you can share with your brother soldiers by allowing us to post it on our web site."

That page of our web site can be viewed at: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/travel/traveldeals.html> .

## **10. FLORIDA DETACHMENT:**

The 2016 annual luncheon was not held this year due to insufficient interest and lack of agreement regarding a convenient venue and date. MG Dick Colt will attempt to start planning for the 2017 annual luncheon after the New Year. Please contact him with your suggestions at: [rscdj@comcast.net](mailto:rscdj@comcast.net) .

## **11. DATES TO REMEMBER:**

Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting at the Swan Club	19 October 2016
Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service at Fort Totten	6 November 2016

## **12. TELEPHONE CONTACT:**

Should you wish to contact us by telephone, you may call COL Richard Cochrane at 631-244-0160. He will pass along your message.

**HAVE WONDERFUL AND SAFE SUMMER!**

COL LOUIS H. SUDHOLZ, JR. (RET),  
President