



117th Cavalry Association

www.117th-cav.org

102d CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102d CAVALRY
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President's Message November 2011 November 11 2011, Veterans Day, is a time to remember the service and sacrifices of all our nation's veterans. In keeping with this theme our 117th Cavalry Association, together with the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) and the Family Readiness Group of the 1-102nd Cavalry will salute all our community's veterans at our next meeting of our 117th Cavalry Association at 7:30 PM on November 11, 2011 in the Heritage Room of the Westfield New Jersey Army National Guard Armory, home of the 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment (*First New Jersey*).

This new century has brought with it the challenge of the Global War on Terror. It is a trans-generational conflict that has been defined by a complex struggle of defending our homeland along with active combat in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. When you look at our membership of the 117th Cavalry Association you will see individuals who have served in all our nations conflicts form the Greatest Generation who served in WWII, our veterans of the Forgotten War, Korea, Vietnam Vets whose service is only now being recognized, Cold War Veterans who stood guard in Europe and many hot spots throughout the world, Desert Storm Veterans who returned freedom to Kuwait and our newest veterans form *Operation Enduring Freedom*, *Operation Iraqi Freedom* and the *Global War on Terror*.

Today, the Cavalry Troopers of the 1-102nd Cavalry carry on the collective heritage of Cavalry and Armor in the New Jersey Army National Guard. They continue to serve in defense of our communities, state and nation. Please come to our Veterans Day meeting and help us recognize the service of all our nation's veterans.

On a special note, I would like to thank LTC Ed Chrystal for his service as commander of the 1-102nd Cavalry. Effective November 1, 2011, LTC Chrystal will relinquish command of the 1-102nd Cavalry to LTC Bill Morris. I would like to thank LTC Chrystal for his service to all Cavalrymen during his tenure of command. His ability to plan, execute and lead identified him as a leader of exceptional merit and helped ensure the success of his command. We wish him well in his new assignment as the Deputy Commander of the 254th Regiment in Sea Girt, New Jersey. He definitely *Showed' em the Way!* We also would like to welcome LTC Morris back to the 1-102nd Cavalry and wish him success with his new command. There will be a change of Command Ceremony for LTC Chrystal and LTC Morris on December 3, 2011 at 1 PM on the Drill Floor. Hope to see you all there.

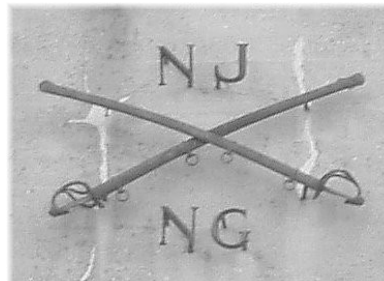
I would be remiss if I didn't offer a special thanks to all our members who have made contributions to help defray the cost of the publication of "The SPUR." Please continue to show your support in your sponsorship of our 117th Cavalry Association newsletter "The SPUR." Many of you have made and continue to make donations to help pay the cost of publication and its mailing. Thanks to all of you for your generosity in support of our associations many initiatives in support of our membership and the 1-102nd Cavalry.

See you all on Friday, November 11, 2011 Veterans Day, at 7:30 PM at our next meeting of our 117th Cavalry Association in the Heritage Room of the Westfield Armory. Bring a fellow veteran with you and help us celebrate the service of all our nation's veterans.

Show 'em the Way!

Dennis

COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty





From LTC Ed Chrystal Greetings to all fellow Troopers and families. This is my final "Commander's Comments" for the SPUR. Effective 01 November, Command of the 1-102d Cavalry will be assumed by LTC Bill Morris.

It has been one heck of a ride. I cannot believe that two full years could have passed by so quickly. The Squadron, from its leadership down to our youngest trooper, truly epitomizes the warrior spirit. I am very proud and privileged to have been afforded the honor of leading these great troopers and of having been part of such a fine organization with a proud history in the State of New Jersey.

The 117th Cavalry Association, the Essex Troop, our Troop Family Readiness Groups, our neighboring communities, and (most importantly) our immediate families continue to be huge supporters and facilitate our abilities to train for whatever future mission is in store for the Squadron in these times of persistent conflict. I thank all of you for that.

In the last two years, we returned from various assignments on our deployment to Iraq to reconstitution as the newly organized 1-102nd Cavalry Squadron. We donned our Stetsons and our Spurs and marched through our local communities as they warmly welcomed us back. We donned our kevlar and our LBE and took to the task of developing and mastering our Scout Tables, our un-stabilized gunnery, our Recon skills, our mortar proficiencies and our support capabilities. We developed and manned the Command Post of the Future. We made the treks to Camp Smith, NY and Fort AP Hill, VA to put these skills into practice. We responded and assisted the residents of our great state during Hurricane Irene.

Again, I am honored to have served with you all. I know you will do well with LTC Morris in Command, as I know he will do well to learn from the Squadron. I wish you all Godspeed and good luck in your future endeavors and I thank you for what you continue to do.

"Show 'em the Way!"

LTC Ed Chrystal, past SCO
1-102nd Cavalry, 50th IBCT





Annual Training 2011, Ft. A.P. Hill, Virginia, by Captain Ryan C. Bailey, United States Army Cavalry. Westfield, NJ-The sound of turbo-diesel engines broke the calm of a perfect July Saturday morning in Westfield and the aroma of JP8 pervaded the air as New Jersey's Cavalry Troopers began their cavalcade to Ft. A.P. Hill, Virginia for AT-'11. As Troop Commander the convoy's movement Southward was a time of great anticipation for me as I delighted in the opportunity to train with the Troopers of HHT with 1SG John Rowe for the two week iteration. I feel that Annual Training is for National Guard Formations the most important training event of the year. The Troop Family Readiness Group, led by Mrs. Danielle Bracco, had done all in their power to send us off with festivity as we'd partaken in a picnic on the South lawn of the Westfield Armory, recently replanted with fresh sod for the Eagle Scout project of Ed Duffy, Troop 75, Cranford. We motor marched for the first time as part of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, also known as the "Jersey Blues" (The Lawrenceville Head Quartered

50th IBCT, is now New Jersey's principal Combat Arms formation having replaced the Somerset Head Quartered 50th Armored Division and deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom in '08 & '09). By nightfall in Virginia, all Hatchet Troop elements were assembling in the 50th Brigade's Cantonment area, Camp Wilcox. We immediately set to work on our Army Warrior Tasks & Squad level collective training Missions. SFC Dale McTighe had led Hatchet Troop's Advanced Party, which included elements of the Squadron's Signal or S-6 Section. These Troopers set the standard for the Brigade by having erected fully mission capable 21st century communication arrays & computers in advance of the arrival of the Squadron Commander & Staff, which facilitated outstanding situational awareness & communication throughout AT.

I was gratified to be able to report to our Squadron Commander, LTC Edward J. Chrystal Jr. that the Troopers of HHT were already impressing with their achievements so early in this AT.

Our Operations Sergeant Major Johnny Hannigan retired on 1 August following over four decades of meritorious service. His role was filled during this AT by the capable SFC William Simon. SFC Simon managed the Tactical Operations Center or TOC with a quiet professionalism that allowed our Squadron Operations Officer Major David Melendez & the Battle Captains of the Operations or S-3 section to develop an operational rhythm and reporting scheme to capture and satisfactorily report all training. The skills developed there will bring forth the fruit of good & timely operational decision-making in combat and the Staff conducted several full drills and rehearsals on the military decision making process.

"Improvised Explosive Devices", bombs, mines, car bombs, hasty and deliberate explosive emplacements of various natures continue to be primary methods of enemy engagement overseas. The reprehensible cowards who comprise our present enemies in The Global War on Terrorism disproportionately favor these dastardly tactics in place of or in conjunction with direct fire attacks. For these reasons, I made the Counter-IED Training Program of the Caliber Corporation a main priority of this AT. Acting Troop Executive Officer, 2LT Andrew Vallejo gained excellent experience in maneuver and FM communication, as he portrayed the CP for the Squad level movements through the training lane receiving all reports. The HHT Troopers on the lane, joined by Soldiers from D, E & F Forward Support Companies of the 250th Brigade Special Troops Battalion were trained to the exacting standards of Counter-IED Procedures by SSG Wilber Pome & SSG Jeffrey Cruz, two of my most high-speed scout sergeants. They then conducted several convoys each through the IED Lane, reacted to contacts, conducted hasty counter-attacks, casevac drills, medevac drills, complete with sound effects and simulated explosions.

SFC Mitch Costa shared from his marksmanship expertise and infantry skills by volunteering as NCOIC of two highly motivating training iterations for the HHT Troopers. I was impressed with the outstanding training at the known distance range which gives Soldiers the benefit of familiarity with how their weapons, in this case the M-4 carbine, operate at up to 600 yards. This range experience was followed up a few days later as some of New Jersey's outstanding ESGR Volunteers, Employers, Journalists & TAG were able to witness a squad live fire exercise which featured SFC Costa's range iterations moving simultaneously and firing on targets while training on support by fire and attack by fire techniques. Troopers of HHT also went above & beyond by volunteering themselves for additional duty as OPFOR, Opposing Forces or Red Team elements for a Squadron level training lane. The Mounted Troop Zone Reconnaissance Mission, concurrent with Dismounted Troop Site Exploitation of a simulated terrorist site was thirteen months in the planning by masterminds in the Future Plans Office of the Operations Section or S-3. The Squadron level exercise saw HHT Troopers attired as local nationals on a foreign battlefield, friendlies & enemies intermingled, denoting the ambiguity of 21st century urban terrain.

Benjamin Hollerer, Stabunterofficier of The German Army's Quartermaster Corps equivalent, had what seemed to be the time of his life escorted by Troop C's own "Comanche 7", 1SG Michael Klock, as part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's officer/NCO exchange program designed to nurture understanding and acquaintance under the common operational picture of the free powers of the west. Far from being a Cold War artifact, N.A.T.O. is presently leading the Global War on Terror under Article V of the Treaty with a collective war-making mission approaching its tenth year anniversary. As such, N.A.T.O. exchanges take on new meaning as America's sons are fighting side by side with their European allies on the battlefields of Central Asia.

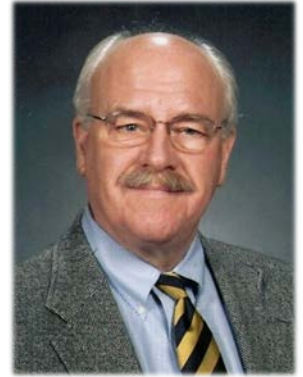
HHT Medical Support Platoon simultaneously executed their operational support, "go-to-war" mission as medics supporting training and tending to minor injuries and the effects of the brutal heat with a propensity to dehydrate and sap energy, together with important Combat Life Saver training. They led several iterations of courses & successfully qualified Troopers from A, B & C Troops as Combat Life Savers. Troopers were also sent through New Equipment training conducted by the Squadron's own S-6 Section for new computer & radio systems, the Harris Corporation for their High Frequency Radio sets & the Raytheon Corporation for the Long Range Advanced Scout Sensor System. The Squadron Fires Section was in the field several days both preparing & firing 120mm Mortars during day & night as part of their regular qualification table schedule led by CPT John Aslanian & SFC Andrew DeBlock. Throughout training HHT also led operations on other key ranges to include M-4 Carbine zero and M-203 Grenade fire. During this AT the Troopers of HHT maintained a high operational tempo and accomplished every assigned detail and training mission with the daring and enthusiasm of the Cavalry Tradition.

To be in Virginia for this Annual Training Period was poignant as this year marks the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the 1861 initiation of hostilities during The War Between The States. Our Squadron's Executive Officer, Major Ronald DeLoatch led the Staff, the Troop Commanders & First Sergeants on a guided tour of the Fredericksburg National Military Park, followed by operational-tactical level discussions of the significant action there, usually classified as one of the most important defensive actions of the Confederacy. After the Staff Ride to Fredericksburg & the redeployment of the Troop's elements out of the field training lanes & shift toward motor-pool operations and accountability motivation was high and the Cavalry esprit de corps was in full force. We concluded our training in Ft. A.P. Hill with a Brigade run around Camp Wilcox and a Squadron picnic the day before our redeployment to home station. SSG Eric Beck, Squadron Morale-Welfare-Recreation NCOIC led an MWR mission at the Camp Wilcox Downtime Zone, a barracks turned club complete with video games, table games and movies. Walking the Troop ready line that final day, I felt a sense of satisfaction with the training accomplished and increased pride in Hatchet Troop. HHT Troopers of multiple Military Occupational

Specialties who carried the rucksacks, drew the overlays, typed the orders, drove the trucks, squeezed the triggers made this an outstanding AT experience for us all. These men have demonstrated themselves to be consummate professionals once again. They should be encouraged in their training & proud of their accomplishments, and we should be duly proud of them.

CPT Ryan Bailey, a.k.a. "Hatchet 6" presently serves as Troop Commander, HHT, 1-102nd Cavalry, NJARNG, previous assignments include: Squadron Adjutant, Troop Executive Officer, Scout Platoon Leader, Tank Platoon Leader, Tactical Intelligence Officer & Intelligence Analyst enlisted in 5-117th Cavalry, 1998

From the Editor – Phil Notestine I write this with mixed emotions...good memories of the first annual *Spurs and Sabers Cavalry Ball*...and soon after receiving a call from Betty Lake, telling me that her husband Bill had passed away. Readers and our WWII veterans may remember that William A. Lake was a *Class of '41* trooper who was to become a heroic officer of Troops E and A, 102nd Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz). Soon after I became *SPUR* editor and began contacting our WWII vets around the country, Bill became an advisor and good friend. He often called and sent notes and a few pictures, helping me to learn and write with accuracy about the WWII 102nd Cavalry Group. Even as he grew more frail and debilitated, he would laugh and talk about his military adventures, friends and family. He was thrilled to be inducted into the French *Legion of Honor* in July. Bill enjoyed hearing about "his" beloved 102nd Cavalry of today. I wish that he and all of our WWII veterans and those who followed, NJ Cavalrymen and tankers, could have attended the *Spurs and Sabers* dance and met some of the fine officers and men, and their lovely ladies. They would surely be pleased and proud of today's *First New Jersey Cavalry!*



Regular 117th Cavalry Association Meeting 9 September 2011 (A report and attendance was not available as we went to print)



Class of '41 Luncheon 6 October 2011 Held at the River Rock, Brick NJ. (Pictured are WWII veterans Ed Kublisky, Joe Pocaroba, Jack Ferguson, Ed Leonard, Frank Wiswall and Jim Coburn). It was a bright, cheery day that greeted us and all were in good spirits. That three "new" old soldiers joined us and told their respective military stories made for an outstanding time.

First, Ed Leonard's eldest son Edward drove his father and Frank Wiswall. "Young" Ed is a recently retired Captain of Police, Pequannock Township NJ and an Army veteran who served in ordnance at Da Nang, Vietnam. SGT Leonard also was based at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD.

Ed Kublisky of Mountain Lakes was a WWII infantryman in the 114th Infantry Regiment, 44th Infantry Division. This NJ Army Guard outfit landed at Cherbourg, France in September 1944, and into combat soon after. PFC Kublisky fought as a rifleman until VE Day.

His Regiment was awarded the *Presidential Unit Citation*, as did the 71st Infantry Regiment, 44th ID. Part of the 7th Army, the 44th ID and the 117th Cavalry both were in the Vosges Mountains in December 1944 and January 1945 fighting the Germans during *Operation Nordwind* and *Wacht am Rhine* ("Battle of the Bulge"), Germany's last great offensive efforts. An engineer, Kublisky retired from IT&T Nutley NJ and Picatinny Arsenal.

Jim Coburn was a "Class of '41" Trooper who left B Troop at Fort Jackson in 1942 to join the USAAF, as did Frank Wiswall. 1LT Coburn served in a fighter-bomber outfit as an ordnance and support officer. The 395th Fighter Squadron of the 368th Fighter Group, 9th Air Force USAAF flew the mighty Republic P-47 "*Thunderbolt*", the most feared and effective ground attack aircraft of WWII. His unit set up a support field within two weeks of the invasion, fueling and rearming the P-47's for continued attacks. They did this throughout the war, moving through much of France. The outfit won a *Presidential Unit Citation*. Jim had a long career with Prudential HQ Property Development and Management, Newark NJ.

Phil Notestine reported that Irv Partelow was notified by the French Counsel General that he is to be inducted into the French *Legion of Honor* as *Chevalier* on 11 November 2011 at the French Consulate, NYC. In attendance – *Class of '41* members George James (Jim) Coburn, Jack Ferguson, Ed Leonard, Joe Pocaroba and Frank Wiswall; WWII veteran Ed Kublisky, Sam Cunninghame, Ed Leonard (son of Ed Leonard), Ken Mahan, Don Tracy and Phil Notestine.



COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty was the recipient of the National Military Outreach Volunteer of the Year Award for extraordinary effort and dedicated service to the members of the Guard and Reserve from the Department of Defense's, National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. The award was presented on September 21, 2011 in Washington DC by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs Mr. David L. McGinnis.

During the *Spurs and Sabers* Dinner Dance, Major Ron Deloatch introduced Association Member COL Thomas Bryant and his wife Lea Ann. MAJ Deloatch told of Tom's father COL Lawrence Bryant (Deceased), a renowned and greatly admired NJ Cavalryman. Their military biographies:

Military Biography - COL (Ret) Lawrence H. Bryant ...volunteered for service to his country in World War II in early December 1941 at the age of 17. With his mother's stipulation that he finish high school, he received her permission to enter the U.S. Army. As part of his entrance agreement, his three choices were Horse Cavalry, Armor or the Air Corps and COL (RET) chose Armor. On 23 July 1942, Larry Bryant was inducted into the service of this nation and attended basic combat training and advanced individual training at Ft. Knox, KY to become a tank crewman and radio operator prior to deployment to the 4th Armor Group at Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii.

A little known fact is that COL Bryant was an extremely talented and avid runner. As PFC Bryant, he took advantage of his off-duty time to improve the impressive track record he had while attending Thomas Jefferson High School in Elizabeth, NJ. PFC Bryant ran many marathons and participated in the All-Service Marathon in 1943. During the course of this race, he led the marathon and finished 6th overall, against a field that included the American 10,000 meter record holder. His time of 2 hours and 36 minutes was a superb time for 1942, and today!

Larry Bryant saw various combat duties as a tank crewman in the Pacific Theater of Operations, and became gravely ill with dengue fever while in theater. After the hostilities ceased, Larry Bryant returned to New Jersey as a "gang-planked" Staff Sergeant on 5 November 1945. The very next day, Bryant joined the Enlisted Reserve Corps and 4 months later, in 1946, the New Jersey National Guard at Westfield, New Jersey. At Westfield, he continued his career as a Cavalryman and an Armor Crewman. Due to the rules at the time, he started his New Jersey National Guard career as a Private in the 50th Recon Squadron and started 22 years of service in that Cavalry unit. Over the years, Bryant rose again to Platoon Sergeant in A Troop before going to Officer Candidate School and Armor Officer's Basic Course in 1950 at Ft. Knox, KY. He received his commission in CAVALRY on 20 June 1950 and began his 31 years of Army commissioned service.

Larry held every company/troop-grade officer position in the now 5th of the 117th Cavalry Squadron, 50th Armored Division. He was a platoon leader, XO, Troop Commander, and held numerous squadron staff positions. In the mid-50's, Larry became the full-time training officer of the "CAV" and eventually rose to the Squadron's S-3 and Operations Officer in the mid 1960's.

After numerous deployments to the cities of northern New Jersey for the riots of 1967 and 1968, then Major Bryant became a noted expert in the use of Armor Cavalry in cities and the use of National Guard troops in support of civil disturbance suppression.

Finally, after 22 years, Major Larry Bryant left his beloved 5th/117th Cavalry and working in his hometown of Westfield, New Jersey. A staunch family man and one who moved numerous times during this nation's Depression as a child, he kept his family in Westfield at great personal and professional sacrifice, often commuting over an hour one-way to keep his family in place.

In 1968, Major Bryant arrived at his new assignment in West Orange as the 102nd Armor Group S-3, a large, Brigade-sized tank force that consisted of 2 tank battalions and a transportation truck battalion. The increased responsibilities continued to roll in, as 1970 saw now LTC Bryant become the Chief of Training at the New Jersey National Guard's Military Academy in Sea Girt, N.J. for two years. In 1971, LTC Bryant was chosen to become the Squadron Commander of a Heavy, Regimental Cavalry Squadron, the 3rd of the 104th Cavalry. This 8 troop or company squadron spanned 6 locations across North Jersey, to include Teaneck, Mahwah, and Riverdale.

After successful squadron command, mandatory realignment of National Guard forces saw the 3rd of the 104th Cavalry realigned to become the 3rd of the 113th Infantry. Because of his proven leadership, LTC Bryant was asked to stay on as the new Battalion Commander to oversee and ensure the transition was effective. After over 5 years as a Squadron and Battalion Commander, LTC Bryant was promoted to the rank of Colonel and served his remaining military service at the State Headquarters on Eggerts Crossing Road in Trenton, NJ or at the High Technology Center at Ft. Dix, NJ.

COL Lawrence H. Bryant retired from the NJNG in August 1981 with over 39 years of military service to his country, nearly 22 of which was as a field grade officer.

After military retirement, COL (Ret) Bryant stayed on as a civilian employee of the State of New Jersey as the State's training officer until his "civilian" retirement in 1990. After a very brief retirement, and at the age of 66, Bryant was asked to work as a shift leader from 2300 hours to 0700 hours in the Ft. Dix Emergency Operations Center during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

Following Desert Storm, COL Bryant served in a concept planner position for nine years, finishing his service to the United States of America that spanned across seven decades.

COL (Ret) Bryant was married for 53 years to the former Helen Donnell of Springfield, NJ. Larry and Helen had two sons, Laurens Patrick Bryant of Warrentonville, IL and COL Thomas H. Bryant, currently stationed at Fort Eustis, VA.

COL Lawrence H. Bryant passed away on 30 April 2001. His wife Helen Bryant died on 1 January 2004.



Colonel Thomas H. Bryant was born in Summit, NJ on 17 August 1961. He was designated a Distinguished Military Graduate and commissioned in the Regular Army upon graduation from Bucknell University in May 1983. After an initial tour at Ft. Irwin, CA, he was subsequently inducted into Aviation Branch upon completion of flight school and was assessed into the Army Acquisition Corps in 1993.

He assumed his current duties as Commander of the Aviation Applied Technology Directorate, US Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, Fort Eustis, VA on 30 June 2009.

COL Bryant's civilian education includes a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from Bucknell University, a Masters degree in Aeronautical Engineering from Naval Post Graduate School and a Masters degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. COL Bryant's military education includes: the Military Intelligence Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; the Army Command and General Staff College; and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He has attended both the Rotary and Fixed-Wing Aircraft Qualification Courses. Colonel Bryant is a Master Army Aviator, Distinguished Honor Graduate from Class 105 at the U.S. Naval Test Pilot School, certified Experimental Test Pilot, member of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, and has accumulated approximately 3,100 hours in more than 56 different aircraft.

COL Bryant has had various assignments in over 28 years of active military service. His assignments include: Commander, AATD; Science, Technology and Acquisition Corps Advisor, US Forces Afghanistan; Commander, AATD; Project Manager, Technology Applications Program Office; Project Director, Rapid Fielding Initiative; Product Manager, Air Warrior; Aviation Weapons Staff Officer, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology; Assistant Product Manager for the MH-60K and MH-47E Special Operations Helicopters; and Army Experimental Test Pilot and Test Coordinator at Edwards Air Force Base. COL Bryant's tours prior to selection for Naval Test Pilot School provided extensive experience in Aviation Electronic Warfare and Aerial Exploitation Battalions (AEB), including tours with the 18th Airborne Corps' AEB throughout Central America and the Caribbean, and the Military Intelligence Battalion for Low Intensity Conflict in Honduras. As a Company-Grade officer, COL Bryant served in various Company and Battalion positions in Air Cavalry, Infantry, and Military Intelligence units in Ft. Irwin, CA, and Korea.

COL Bryant's awards and decorations include the Expert Infantry Badge, the Master Aviator Badge, Parachutist Badge, the Legion of Merit (2), the Bronze Star (2), the Meritorious Service Medal (4), the Army Commendation Medal (3), the Joint Service Achievement Medal, the Army Achievement Medal (2), the National Defense Service Medal (2), the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Korea Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service Medals and the NATO Medal.

COL Bryant currently resides in Williamsburg, VA with his wife Lea Ann, their three children, Jennifer (17), Laura (15) Margaret (11) and their 3 Labrador Retrievers, Kona, Beau and Rebel.



FIRST ANNUAL SPURS AND SABRES DINNER DANCE

Held at the Summit Hotel, this event was well planned full of Cavalry Spirit! The Ladies were all lovely, and the men all handsome and dashing! Some pictures:





Membership Update – SMG (Ret.) Ken Mahan Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2010 or later, you are behind in your dues. Your subscription to *The SPUR* is going to run out due to non-payment of dues. A sample of label:

SEPT 2012

**KENNETH L. MAHAN
12 W. WALNUT ST
METUCHEN NJ 08840-2616**

To Members behind in their dues, you will have date circled in RED! This is the only notice you will receive. Send information and/or dues to me at the Metuchen address shown above. **Annual regular dues of \$20.00 are due in September.** Make checks payable to **117th CAV Association.** We cannot continue to mail *The SPUR* to lapsed members. Stick with us, we want you as a member, but you must pay your own “freight”! **Email:** Please send your email address to me at kmahan117@aol.com . We are compiling an email list of members and we want to include you. **Association web site:** www.117th-cav.org/ Read past issues of *The SPUR*, look up the WWII histories of the 38th, 102^d and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). **New Members: From the Class of “41”**, John Ferguson, Vincent Rettino, and Jim Coburn. **From 1-102nd Cavalry**, CPT Ryan Bailey, 2LT Joe Cecere, CPT John Craddock, 2LT Jose Couselo, CPT Mike Cruz, MAJ Ron Deloatch, CPT Joe DeSantis, 2LT Andrew Garnier, 1LT Denis Hynes 1LT Frank Palaez, CPT Eric Sproesser, 1LT Jeff Strallow, CPT Vince Tirri, 1LT Aaron Tomasini. **Already Members** - LTC Edward Chrystal, CPT Joe McNamara, CPT Michael Tarricone, 1SG John Rowe, CSM Christopher Sheridan, SSG Edwin Soto, SSG Pablo Chavez, SSG Michael Hughes, LTC William Morris **Associate Member** - Sam Cunningham

TAPS



William Ahrens Lake, 93, of Vero Beach, Florida, passed away October 9, 2011 at VNA Hospice House. He was born in New York City on April 12, 1918. He treasured his childhood at Lake Hopatcong in New Jersey and was educated in the Roxbury Township School District, graduating from high school in 1936. He attended Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania but left college to work for the Bank of the Manhattan Company in New York City due to the Depression.

In 1937, at the age of 19, Mr. Lake enlisted in the New Jersey National Guard in the 102nd Cavalry (*The Essex Troop*). He loved the horses and was so proud of being a member of the armed forces. In 1940, his regiment was partially mechanized, and then inducted into active duty on January 8, 1941. In September 1942, the 102nd Cavalry Regiment embarked to England for intensive training in preparation for the Normandy invasion. By June 1944, he had risen to the rank of Captain in command of Troop E (Assault Guns) of the 102nd Cavalry squadron, which landed at Omaha Red Beach during the Normandy Invasion on D-Day. The squadron fought through the first five European Campaigns and was highly decorated. It was among the first in Paris, first to cross the Meuse River into Belgium, and among the first to attack the Siegfried Line in Germany and on to the meeting of the Russian Army at the Elbe River. He was especially

proud of the *Belgian Fourragere* awarded to his reconnaissance Troop “A” of the 102nd for their participation in liberating Belgium in September 1944, their part in repulsing the German Offensive in December 1944, “*Battle of the Bulge*”.

Post war, Mr. Lake rejoined the New Jersey Army National Guard and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in command of the 215th Tank Battalion of the 50th Armored Division. In 1951, due to the pressure of business, he resigned his commission. Over the years, he kept contact with *The Essex Troop* and in 2005, was awarded the “Colonel James E. Fleming Award” and was made a “Distinguished Member” of *The Essex Troop*. Among his citations are the *Silver Star*, the *Bronze Star*, the European Theater Ribbon with a Silver Star (five campaigns), and the Bronze Arrowhead Device. In September 2010, he was awarded the *French Legion of Honor* for his actions on French soil.

In 1951, Mr. Lake and his family moved to Skaneateles, New York. For ten years, he worked for CARRIER Corporation in Syracuse and rose to the position of General Sales Manager of their largest division. From there, he moved to York, Pennsylvania, and in 1964, joined the Pennsylvania-based Peirce-Phelps, Inc. He became an executive Vice President with duties in both Philadelphia and Camp Hill. During this period, he and his family lived in Camp Hill. Twenty years later, he retired from Peirce-Phelps.

During retirement, Mr. Lake became an active business mentor in the Harrisburg Chapter of SCORE and a Hospice volunteer. He was a member and past president of West Shore Country Club in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania and a member of St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. In 1999, he moved to Vero Beach, where he continued his work as a Hospice volunteer. He was also a member of the Vero Beach Country Club and St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal Church. Further, he was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Veterans of The Battle of the Bulge, as well as a member of *The Essex Troop* and the *117th Cavalry Association*.

This information illustrates an outstanding military, professional, and volunteer career, yet it pales in comparison to his character as a man. A longtime friend states, “Over a lifetime, Bill was the sort of friend who told me what I needed to hear at those times when I didn’t especially want to hear it. He was truly authentic. He once told me that he wanted to be a force for the good, and indeed he was. We are marking the passing of a truly great man.” A family member said, “Everyone who was blessed by being in Bill’s life knows what a special gift he was--you would be lucky to meet a man of his caliber once in your lifetime.”

Bill was an avid golfer and enjoyed playing the game until the age of 92. He was quite proud of his accomplishment of not one, but two, lifetime holes-in-one.

Family was central to Bill’s life. He has always been close to and very proud of his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Survivors include: his loving wife of 12 years, Betty Jane Lake; his son, William A. Lake Jr. and his wife, Virginia, of Austin, Texas; his

daughter, Debra L. Lusk and her husband, Michael, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; his granddaughter, Whitney Lake Harlan of Austin, Texas; his grandson, William A. Lake III of Austin, Texas; his granddaughter, Danielle M. Count of New Cumberland, Pennsylvania; his great-grandchildren, Jamison, Reina, and Vivian of New Cumberland, Pennsylvania and Ainsley of Austin, Texas; his nephew, John Lake, of Palm Beach, Florida; his stepdaughters, Michelle DeMars of Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Amy Lehoullier, her husband, John, and their sons, Ben and Jack, all of Fellsmere, Florida.

He was predeceased by: his first wife of 57 years, Louise Harrington Hall Lake; his son, Martin Hall Lake; his brother, John C. Lake, Jr.; his sister, Velma Lake Koleszar.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association at P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312



Domenic L. Melso, 89, died at his home in Edison on Friday, Sept. 16, 2011. He was born and raised in Newark before moving to Edison in the 1960's. He worked for Mobile Oil in Edison for many years before his retirement and then he was a driver at Ray Catena in Edison until 2002. A "Class of '41" member, he was a Veteran of the US Army serving in Africa and Europe during WW II, he was a member of Troop B of the 117th Calvary Recon Squadron (Mecz). "Danny" rejoined post WWII serving in the 102nd Cavalry, NJARNG. He would attend National Guard meetings on a regular basis at the Armory in Westfield. He was predeceased by his wife, Irene in 2000; and all of his siblings. He is survived by his daughter, Loretta Pante of Edison; and his grandson, Joe Pante of Port Monmouth.



Raymond John Leone Died September 3, 2011. It is with a deep sense of sadness that the family of Raymond John Leone, 88, announces his passing in Carson City, Nev. Raymond was born on April 4, 1923. He was raised in Duluth, Minn. and graduated from Duluth Central High School where he played the drums in the school marching band and also for several dance bands around the city. After graduation, he decided to become a machinist, but was drafted in 1943 for the Armed Forces before he could complete his training. By April 1943, he was on his way to basic training in Texas, and by November 1943, he was shipped to England where he would serve his country in the European Theatre as a Reconnaissance Scout with the 38th Cavalry Recon Squadron, 102nd Cavalry Group until the end of World War II. After the war, Raymond married Virginia on May 6, 1946 in Duluth. He then returned to school and earned his BA from UMD in 1954 and his MA in geology from the University of Missouri in 1956. Raymond would work as a geologist in mining for the next 30 years. Although he spent most of his working career in the states, he also spent time working in Red China and Costa Rica. Raymond and Virginia moved to Carson City in

1996. They quickly fell in love with the beautiful Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, and spent much of their time enjoying the scenic hiking trails in the summer and skiing in the winter. In July 2011, Raymond completed and published a book he had been writing for the past three years. The name of his book is, "*In Front of the Front-Line.*" The book is a detailed account about his 11 months of combat in World War II. Raymond is survived by his wife, Virginia; his sister, Julia; his three adult children; eight grandchildren; and three great grandchildren. He shall be missed greatly by his family and many friends, and will live on in our hearts forever



Theodore "Teddy" Osorio Passed away on May 21, 2011 in New York City. Born and raised in Harlem. Upon graduating from Rice & Gompers HS, Teddy the track star enlisted in the US Marines serving in Vietnam, later joined the Army Reserves in Staten Island, and eventually joined Troop D (AIR), 5-117th Cavalry NJARNG at Westfield NJ. Osorio earned a BA in Criminal Justice from John Jay College. He began working as a teenager in his father's Harlem moving company. When he returned from Vietnam in 1969, Teddy joined the Banker's Trust Co. Several years later, he was accepted into the NYC Fire Department. A proud member of Engine Co. 46 in the Bronx, he was a Firefighter 1st Grade and after several years, became Engine Chauffer (driver), which he loved. During the end of his 20-year career, he became a Fire Safety Instructor, teaching school kids fire safety and first aid, throughout his beloved NYC. He loved running, and was a marathoner. Food was a passion, and he bowled in many leagues with his wife Azalia. Teddy loved people and family!

He was first married to Regina James; three children were born in this union. Later he married Azalia Guzman (known as Saly) and had two children. Cherishing his memory are his wife Azalia Guzman-Osario; five children Theodore Jr. (Rena), Shenette, Eric (Roberta), Jillian (Eloy) and Azalia; three siblings – Daniel, Shireen and Albert and three Grandchildren.





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Shown at the left of each name is the last issue and year in which your entry will be published.

SP = Spring, SU = Summer, FA = Fall, WI = Winter



SP-15 EMIL & MARGARET ALLGEIER
 SU-15 NANCY ASHFORD & JEANNIE BROWN (sisters)
 (mem. father) SSG WM. T. TITTER
 WWII B TROOP 117th CAV
 FA-12 BILL ANTONUCCI (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY SR.
 SU-25 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
 SU-13 CRAIG BEACHER
 FA-12 ROSE MARIE BENNERT (mem. of) BILL BENNERT
 WI-19 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
 WI-12 MSG TOM BULLOCK A Troop
 FA-12 SANTI CARNEVALI *Class of '41, 117th CAV WWII*
 SU-12 STEVE CUP, SCOUT A TROOP 102nd CAV WWII
 SP-13 SSG (Ret.) CLEMENT & JEAN CURRY
 WI-12 LTC (Ret.) PETER D'ELIA
 WI-13 COL (Ret.) DENNIS DOUGHERTY
 WI-13 1SG (Ret.) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop
 FA-13 LTC PATRICK du TERTRE (ARMY OF FRANCE)
 WI-11 1SG (Ret.) DAVE ELLIS, D Troop
 WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
 WI-13 LTC (Ret.) ALAN R. FISHER
 WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem. of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
 SP-12 WILLIAM FISHER JR.
 WI-11 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
 WI-32 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop
 WI-12 ROBERT GREEN
 SP-13 LOIS HAASIS (mem. of) CW4 WALTER HAASIS
 FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
 SU-15 LTC (Ret.) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117th CAV
 '43-'44
 FA-14 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO.
 WWII 117th CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*
 FA-15 CHARLES JOHNSON WWII 117th Cavalry Recon
 SP-14 COL (Ret.) KEN KLEIN in loving mem. of wife JOANN
 WI-12 ANDREW LASNER in Honor of his Father, Arnold Lasner
 SP-12 ESTELLE & ARNOLD LASNER, WWII 117th CAV
French Legion of Honor
 FA-13 JAY LASNER in Honor of his Dad, Arnold Lasner
 SP-13 RON La VERDE (mem. of uncle) T-5 THOMAS G.
 HENNESSY, A Troop, 117th CAV KIA 5 JUNE '44 ROME
 WI-11 ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE
 WI-13 EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41, PSG B Troop*
 117th CAV, Montrevel POW *French Legion of Honor*
 SP-12 BOB LUTZ *Class of '41, C Troop 117th CAV WWII*
French Legion of Honor
 SU-12 CSM(Ret.) ARTHUR MAGGS (mem.)
 CSM (Ret.) JAMES E. KIERNAN
 WI-13 JEAN & SGM (Ret.) KEN MAHAN
 SU-12 KEVIN MALONEY (mem. of) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
 WI-17 BRIAN & BRUCE (mem.) 1SG WM. B. MALONEY
 FA-20 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
 WI-14 ED & BETH MATTHEWS (mem. of Ed's father)
 T-4 ED MATTHEWS B TROOP 102nd CAV WWII

SU-13 PAMELA THONACK MILLER (mem. of father)
 HERBERT A. THONACK, *Class of '41, 117th CAV*
 SU-15 JUANITA MITCHELL (mem. of husb) FRANK,
Class of '41, PSG B Troop 117th CAV, Montrevel POW
 WI-11 CW5 (Ret.) FRANK MNICH & JANET
 SP-12 ZACK MOUSHEGIAN (mem.) JAMES A MOUSHEGIAN
 FA-13 RONNIE NIER
 WI-12 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON
 Troops C & E, *Class of '41;*
 602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
 SP-12 JOYCE & HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN, *Class of '41,*
 117th CAV WWII
 WI-11 FOTINOS PANAGAKOS
 WI-11 FRANK & BETTY PATRICK
 FA-14 COL (Ret.) BOB PEARCE & CAROL, (mem. of)
 RICK APBLETT
 FA-12 (mem. of) MAJ CHARLES B. PIERCE, WWII 102nd CAV
 WI-12 TOM PETTY
 WI-16 (mem. of) COL (Ret.) TOM PIDDINGTON, *Class of '41*
 FA-15 SALLIE LEE PIERCE (Widow of) DANIEL LEE, **CMH**
 WI-12 CSM (Ret.) AL PHELAN Jr. (mem. of) MSG FRED MATTOX
 SP-12 DOT & LTC (Ret.) KEN QUAAS
 SU-12 MSG (Ret.) ART & RUTH REINBOLD (mem. of)
 "POP" CHRISTOPHER
 WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
 WI-24 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN
 F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
 SP-13 DONALD SAMSEL (mem. of Father) COL (Ret.) HAROLD
 SAMSEL, *Class of '41, 117th CAV WWII FR. Legion of Honor*
 SP-15 SALCIDO FAMILY (in mem. of) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
 (Ft Jackson '42) 117th CAV, F CO. KIA Italy June 1944
 SP-18 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of brother) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
 SP-17 JAMES SCANLON
 WI-12 EILEEN SCHNARR (mem. of husb) WILLIE SCHNARR
 WI-12 ROBERT J. SMITH
 SP-12 JOHN SUITER
 WI-12 CPT MIKE TARRICONE
 WI-15 1SG GEORGE THOMAS
 SU-13 CW4 (Ret.) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
 FA-16 CHARLES A VIVIANO (50th CAV RCN SQDN)
 SP-12 CSM (Ret.) HENRY WETZEL & GRACE, (mem. of)
 GEORGE "RED" EMERY
 WI-14 LTC (Ret.) FRANK WISWALL, USAF *Class of '41*
 B Troop, 102nd CAV '41- '42 Fr. *Legion of Honor*
 WI-27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG A Troop, 3rd Platoon
 117th CAV WWII
 SP-13 FRG HHT 1-102nd CAVALRY

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F Company, 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz) halts for a meal a few days before 3 September 1944 and the Battle of Montrevel...



T5 Harold “Joby” Reynolds, 2nd Platoon, B Troop, 117th Cavalry Recon Squadron (Mecz), driver of “Big Dick” M8 Armored Car readies to mount for duties at Supreme Allied HQ in Frankfort Germany, post VE Day. Reynolds was a farm boy from central New Jersey.



Sometime after VE Day, May 1945, the Squadron had been called from Austria to SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces) at Frankfort, Germany to provide security and ceremonial duties for GEN Dwight Eisenhower and staff, as they had done in Algeria, before going into combat in Italy. This was a great honor, richly deserved.

Philip Notestine, Editor, *The SPUR*
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COL (Ret.) Kenneth Klein
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1ST New Jersey Cavalry



MISSION STATEMENT: It is the continuing objective of *The SPUR* to foster and preserve the Spirit of the 117th Cavalry Association, and to promote and enhance the friendships and camaraderie of our members, who are mutually bound by service and devotion to our country. **NEXT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS - Friday evenings 1930 hours: 11 November 2011, 3 February 2012.**