



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
Volume 38, Number 1 155 Issue (post WWII) Spring 2017



President's Message 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. The "friendships and camaraderie" bind us together, through our service, devotion to our country, and now by sharing the past, present, and future through our membership and participation in our Association. We represent multiple generations of service in our Squadron, or the U.S. Armed Forces, and share in the freedom that we cherish and took an oath to defend. The Association is continuing to progress as an organization, both among our members, as well as our projects. During our last meeting, on Veterans' Day, SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan, proudly announced, as Membership Chair, that 15 new members joined our organization recently, including CW4 Thomas Frickanisce, former C Troop

Commander (while I was A Troop Commander), deployed to Bosnia recently, as well as State Command Sergeant Major Edward Santiago, also a former C Trooper. LTC Bill Morris, our vice president who ran the September meeting, is currently the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team Executive Officer, and former Squadron Commander, LTC Tim Coakley has just transferred command of the Squadron to MAJ Dennis Stiles. CPT Stephen Pruser, our secretary, is also the HHT Commander. So, it is clear-sighted progress on our part that we are combining our membership with those that have previously served together with those that are currently serving. We will greet the future of our Army together.

We are continuing to move forward in several joint projects with the 1-102nd Cavalry. Heritage Room Committee co-chairs LTC Bill Morris and CW5 (Ret) Frank Mnych are preparing to catalogue, assess and categorize our material. The goal is to keep a balance between the different eras of the Squadron. During our 10 February 2017 meeting our members voted to dedicate funds to redo the walls and renovate the Heritage Room. We also voted to rename the Association to the *New Jersey Cavalry & Armor Association* during the 11 November, 2016, Veterans' Day meeting. According to our rules and bylaws, we will publish the change in one more edition of *The SPUR*, to allow member feedback. We welcome any member that wants to help in categorizing or organizing our historic material.

Also, the Association sponsored five couples for *The Spurs and Sabers Dance* at the Grand Summit Hotel on 14 October, 2016 (one couple from each Troop, and an extra). This annual event has combined the Association Reunion with the Squadron's main social event of the year.

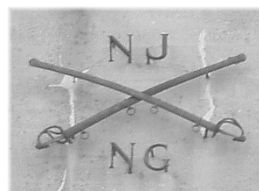
At our 10 February 2017 meeting, we received a briefing from the past Squadron Commander, LTC Tim Coakley, who relinquished command on 1 February 2017 to the new Squadron Commander, MAJ Dennis Stiles (Change of Command Ceremony at 1400 hours on 26 February 2017). We were briefed on the Squadron's two major goals, XCTC (External Combat Training Center) evaluation (platoon/troop level ARTEP-type evaluation) at Fort Pickett, Virginia, followed by the Squadron participating in joint forces Operation Northern Strike in Michigan, giving the Troopers a chance to prove their readiness at multiple echelons. This was followed by another member military biography (see CPT Jim Pressman's biography during the preceding 11 November 2016 meeting) by MSG (Ret) Harry Ayala, who was my Truckmaster when I served as Support Platoon Leader in 1983-1986, served on active duty starting in 1959 through 1973, and later in the New Jersey Army National Guard from 1980 until the early 1990's. His service spanned from Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, Advanced Individual Training at Fort Riley, Kansas, three years in Germany, service in the Dominican Republic, a year in Vietnam, followed by service in the Squadron.

This is who we are, where we came from, we served together at some point and met many great Troopers and Soldiers, and this camaraderie is who we have become. May we always stay in touch, and be remembered as having served in the defense of our great nation's freedoms.

Next Meeting: 2000 hrs. Heritage Room, Armory 500 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey 7 April 2017.

Show 'em The Way!

LTC Michael P. Hrycak, USA Retired
(michaelhrycak@yahoo.com)





From the Squadron Commander It is my great honor to address you as the incoming Squadron Commander. Serving as the Executive Officer under LTC Tim Coakley has been a great experience for me personally and I wish him well as he gets ready to take over the 50th IBCT as the Brigade Commander. I have no doubt that the Brigade will continue to succeed under his watch. Our Squadron has had a tremendous year and we will get no rest in the coming months. We are just a few short IDTs out from an XCTC rotation at Fort Picket, VA. The Troops have been training hard working towards proficiency at the Platoon level. A & B Troops will tackle mounted gunnery and Platoon STX lanes and culminate with Troop STX lanes utilizing a Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE) scenario. C Troop will also conduct live fire training, honing their dismounted reconnaissance skills. The Squadron will move directly to the field upon arrival at Fort Pickett, so I expect that our D Company will have its hands full supporting the squadron in a challenging environment. Our staff has spent the months since the Brigade Warfighter Exercise revising our SOPs (TACSOP, CPSOP and PSOP). The work they have put into this process will certainly yield dividends as we move to

larger and larger collective training events. "Readiness" is the Adjutant General's number one priority and the 102d is ready to deploy in support of our State and Nation. I would like to thank the members of our association who selflessly continue the CAV tradition and support the Squadron. I look forward to speaking with all you as we continue to honor the lineage and heritage of this great organization.

Show 'em the Way!

MAJ Dennis Stiles, Commander
1-102d Cavalry
50th IBCT
42d Infantry
NJARNG



MAJ Dennis S. Stiles is a native of New Jersey and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in October 1994 as a Rifleman. After completing the School of Infantry, Camp Pendleton, California, he attended the 4th MARDIV Reconnaissance Course and served as a member of an Amphibious Reconnaissance Team. In 1999 MAJ Stiles transferred to the New Jersey Army National Guard, graduating Officer Candidate School in July of 2000.

MAJ Stiles' first assignment after OCS was to the 2nd Battalion 113th Infantry Regiment as an Anti-Armor Platoon Leader in July 2000. His subsequent assignments with the 2-113th include Mortar Platoon Leader, Commander of B Company, and S3-Air. MAJ Stiles was deployed to Iraq in January 2008 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In October 2009 MAJ Stiles was assigned as S3, 1st Battalion 114th Infantry Regiment, a position held until April 2012 when he was selected for command of a Military Advisor Team and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon his return, MAJ Stiles accepted a two-year broadening assignment with the 72nd Field Artillery (Operations Brigade), First Army (Division East), finishing as the Brigade S3. In October 2015, MAJ Stiles was assigned as Executive Officer, 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry Regiment and is currently assuming command. MAJ Stiles and his wife Kelley have two sons, Thomas and George. He holds both a Bachelors and a Master's Degree in United States History.

His awards and decorations include: *Bronze Star (1OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (1OLC), Army Commendation Medal (1OLC), Army Achievement Medal (1OLC), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal, Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Silver Hour Glass, M Device and Numeral 2, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, Overseas Training Ribbon (RC), NATO NON-Article 5 Medal (ISAF), Combat Action Badge, Airborne Badge, Air-Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Meritorious Unit Citation (SECFOR BN OIF) and the Royal Netherlands Freefall Parachutist Badge.*





From the Editor Phil Notestine Shortly after moving from Mountain Lakes, NJ to Pinehurst, NC I sought and found an NRA Affiliate range and club. A Life-Patron member of the NRA, I had belonged to the NRA affiliate “Association of NJ Rifle & Pistol Clubs” at Cherry Ridge, Highland Lakes, Sussex County NJ. One of my favorite pastimes is shooting pistol, rifle and sporting clays. Our club, the Moore County Wildlife and Conservation Club <http://www.mcwcc.org/> has good ranges and a large membership. We often have informal matches. Recently I shot a rimfire pistol match at 25 and 50 yards. At my left positions were a 13-year-old girl named Lily, and a soldier SPC Anthony Heinauer. Lily is a member of the club rifle team, and an excellent marksman. She outshot me; that is all I will say! Anthony is now a professional shooter; I believe he took first place, out of about 20 competitors. Here is a bit about SPC Anthony Heinauer:

SPC Anthony Heinauer, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, aims downrange during the 2016 National Trophy Pistol Team Matches



By Brenda Rolin, USAMU PAO / CAMP PERRY, Ohio SPC Anthony Heinauer’s father, an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, and his grandfather, a Vietnam veteran, both set examples for him as Soldiers serving their nation. Yet, while he aspired to follow in their footsteps, he wanted to do it on his own terms, especially after he attended a U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit junior workshop when he was a teenager. “It was actually a dream I had when I was 13 and went to the Army Marksmanship Unit junior clinic,” he said July 14 while competing in the 2016 National Trophy Pistol Matches. “They taught me a lot, and I told my father that was the kind of dream job I

wanted.” From then on, Anthony spent as much time on the range as he did at school. His regimen paid off. By age 17, USAMU was looking at Anthony as a possible new member of the unit. His father, Special Forces Sgt. Major Keith Heinauer, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, started Anthony on his path to the USAMU by introducing him to action shooting when he was 12. “It was more action shooting-practical shooting style-and he took to that pretty good,” he said. Practical shooting evolved from national and international private individuals, military members and law enforcement officers who experimented with different types of self-defense techniques for handguns, according to the U.S. Practical Shooting Association website. SGM Heinauer said while he knew Anthony was interested in a career in shooting sports, he had talked about Anthony going to college for a couple of years - even looking at West Point - and then making a decision after that. “But, I had taken him to the AMU junior clinic, he had met some of the action shooting team and that’s what drove him,” he said. Then, Heinauer took Anthony to the National Trophy Pistol Matches, a bull’s-eye competition where precision shooting is king. “It was just a whole different animal for him, because he grew up shooting action,” he said. After that, the 24-year Army veteran knew his son was passionate about joining the elite USAMU Service Pistol Team, but knowing his son was new to bull’s-eye, he wanted to guide and advise him. “He struggled a bit with bull’s-eye shooting, but he did learn the fundamentals of the sport,” Heinauer said. And Anthony’s dream did come true when he joined the Army in 2014. “I am very grateful to be in the Army and the AMU,” he said. “Sometimes I wake up, and I can’t believe it happened. The Army supplies me with everything- ammo, equipment, great ranges, the best training- and the time I need to perfect my craft.” And Anthony has improved his marksmanship skills immensely in the past two years, his dad said. With reference to MAJ Stile’s bio – I asked him for it so I could include in this issue. I am impressed by his service record and wish that MAJ Stiles has a successful and rewarding command. No doubt that his warrior spirit and winning attitude will be a fine example to his subordinates and troopers of all ranks.

The 4th installment of “*Larry’s War*” is included in this issue. Larry Haskett is pleased to know that his WWII diary is being enjoyed by many. Larry began his Army life as a horse cavalryman in the 102d Cavalry Regiment and was a “founding member” of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron (Mecz).

I am still hoping for a **volunteer to take up the honorable task as Editor of *The SPUR***. Please contact me by phone (910-420-2968) or email notie@msn.com

November 2016 117th Cavalry Association Meeting After our Pledge of Allegiance, and Moment of Silence, our Membership Chairman, SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan, advised that we have 207 members whose dues are paid in full, and within the last few weeks 15 new members signed up. Next, Treasurer- SFC (Ret) Bill Gruss reported, that since the last meeting, the Association Collected \$11,753.06 (\$1,017 dues, \$8,700 dance and a \$2,036 in CD), dance payments (\$640 tip, \$150 cake & DJ (each), and \$5,172 hall) \$533.78 for *The SPUR* (printing and postage), and \$803 for hats, leaving a balance of \$7,790.72 (\$10,329 total checking). Next, COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty, our defacto Quartermaster, reminded the membership that we are selling hats for \$20, and Association crests for \$25, and we can ship hats for \$27. This was followed by the Heritage Room Reorganization Committee Co-Chairmen CW5 (Ret) Frank Mnich; LTC Bill Morris; In addition to their written report, CW5 Mnich explained that the cleanup steps have been completed, and now all the material will be catalogued, assessed and categorized. The goal is to keep a balance between the different eras of the Squadron. For the 102nd Cavalry Squadron Spurs and Sabers Dance at the Grand Summit Hotel, Summit, New Jersey, on 14 October 2016 the 117th Cavalry Association sponsored 10 tickets - 5 couples (one for each troop and 2 more), and there was a record attendance of 169 people. Members were reminded again that Phil Notestine is looking for someone, who can attend meetings, to take over as editor of *The SPUR*, our Association newsletter (Phil's email address and telephone number in *The SPUR*). Then, we moved onto new business. LTC (Ret) Michael Hrycak, presented a brief history of Veterans Day, since the meeting was being held on the same day. This was followed by a member biography by CPT Jim Pressman, who attended Rutgers College from 1963 to 1967, where he was a member of their Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC). Jim was accepted into the ROTC Flight Program and obtained his pilot's license during college. After being commissioned at graduation in May, 1967, and had the distinction of the serving Army Chief of Staff, GEN Harold K. Johnson commission him at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, in July, 1967. Jim completed his military schooling, and was assigned to the 9th Cavalry of the 1st Cavalry Division and deployed to the Republic of Vietnam. During this time, he had a chance to log many hours flying helicopters, and shared one memory of when he was sent temporary duty to the Philippines through Camp Alpha, Vietnam, for Jungle Survival School. He was travelling with several other Soldiers and they had fun going out together. After he was promoted to captain he became the Aviation Project Officer with the 78th Division MTC at Fort Dix, New Jersey. CPT Pressman, after graduating the requisite school, became an Instructor Pilot (IP) verifying pilots' skills for one and a half years, eventually joining Troop D (Air) being assigned as Aero Rifle Platoon Leader in charge of the Blues. He served three years Active Duty, six years in D Troop, 5th Squadron 117th Cavalry, and three years with the 78th Division, MTC. Next, COL (Ret) Dougherty, our immediate past president, made a motion to form a committee to propose the option of members paying dues to become lifetime members of the Association, for example, if you are up to 50 years old you would pay \$200, or if you are 61-80 years old, you would pay \$100, and over 80 years old you automatically become a life member, COL Dougherty and two other volunteers, CPT Pruser, and SSG Martinez, will prepare their recommendations for the membership. Next, the past Essex Troop President SFC (Ret) Walter Hill, and the new Essex Troop President CPT (Ret) Roland Brown, shared some information with the membership. They had just conducted their Regimental Muster on 29 October 2016, where 1st, 2nd, and 5th of the 102nd ARMOR Soldiers showed up with their colors, and they have 238 paid members. They also invited all members to their Christmas Party on 17 December 2016. Finally, COL Dougherty shared some Armory history, that the unit was first stationed there in 1919, and the Armory was dedicated in 1925, after World War II rededicated as 50th Reconnaissance Battalion, then later in the 1970's members served with World War II veterans, the Armory transitioned from 50th Reconnaissance Battalion to 50th Armored Battalion, after 1981 during Desert Storm the Maintenance Section was sent to Fort Drum, New York, until the war ended. Then, during the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), Troopers from the Armory served in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operations Enduring Freedom, and the Armory was finally rededicated to 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry, which is headquartered there today. CSM (Ret) Art Maggs won the 50/50, and donated the proceeds to the Association. It was moved to Conclude Meeting - 2054 hrs. Next meeting Friday, 10 February 2017.

Attendance: *Frank Mnich, James Anglim, Jim Pressman, Dennis J. Dougherty, Don Kondroski, Michael Hrycak, Frank Patrick, Stephen Pruser, Dave Mormak, Art Maggs, Ken Mahan, Dan Sullivan, John Kieslor, Walter Hill (Essex Troop), Roland Brown (Essex Troop), Wilber Dome, Pedro Martinez*

February 10 2017 117th Cavalry Association Meeting After our Pledge of Allegiance, and Moment of Silence, our Membership Chairman, SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan, advised that there is no change, we have 207 paid in full members. Next, Treasurer- SFC (Ret) Bill Gruss reported, that since the last meeting, the Association Collected \$805 (\$445 dues, \$180 dance and \$180 Boosters), made payments for *The SPUR* \$581.97 (\$206.97 and \$375) The Heritage Room \$159.01 (\$123.56 and \$35.45), \$418 for insurance (which our Bonds of Courage, Danielle Bracco and Jennifer Silva reimbursed), \$119 for November meeting refreshments, and \$62.97 miscellaneous, leaving a balance of \$9,787.05. Next, COL (Ret) Dennis Dougherty, our defacto Quartermaster, reminded the membership that we are selling hats for \$20, and Association crests for \$25, and we can ship hats for \$27. This was followed by the Heritage Room Reorganization Committee Co-Chairmen CW5 (Ret) Frank Mnich; LTC Bill Morris; In addition to their written report, CW5 Mnich explained he has been working with members for the last four Wednesdays from 1300-1700 hours, getting material catalogued, assessed and categorized. The goal is to keep a balance between the different eras of the Squadron. LTC Bill Morris, our vice president, also explained that a Squadron member has volunteered to remove some of the Heritage Room paneling, and install sheetrock. The material is being donated by the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, and the labor will be \$1,700. Once the sheetrock is installed, the committee foresees the need for an additional \$500 for material to finish

and paint the new walls. COL Dougherty made a motion to provide the \$1,700, seconded by SGT Daly, which motion passed unanimously. Next, CPT Harty made a motion for \$500 to be held in escrow as needed, seconded by SGT Mormak, also passed unanimously. LTC (Ret) Michael Hrycak explained to the membership that a motion had carried at the 11 November 2016 meeting to rename the Association to *New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association*, but that we were still going to wait for this to be published in the next Spur until we pursue a more formal name change. Also, that we are now *117th Cavalry Association d/b/a* (doing business as) *New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association*. During the following discussion, LTC Morris explained that we have been proceeding for the last eight plus years to be an Association that is inclusive of all Soldiers that served either in Cavalry or Armor units (as well as honorary members), and COL Dougherty also explained that we have plans in the long term to establish a New Jersey chapter of the *U.S. Cavalry and Armor Association*, and our renaming was a step in accomplishing this goal. Members were reminded again that Spur Editor Phil Notestine is looking for someone, who can attend meetings, to take over as editor of *The SPUR*, our Association newsletter (Phil's email address and telephone number in Spur). Finally, COL Dougherty, our immediate past president, reported on behalf of the Lifetime Membership Committee, that based upon present projected lifespan of 90.5 years, they propose that a lifetime membership be issued upon a \$400 payment for members under age 55, and 55 years old or over members pay \$200 for a lifetime membership. After some discussion, a motion was made by SSG Martinez, seconded by COL Dougherty, which was passed unanimously to become effective immediately (at least five lifetime memberships we paid by the meeting's conclusion). Then, we moved onto new business. LTC Tim Coakley, who has just (1 February 2017) relinquished command of the Squadron to MAJ Dennis Stiles, explained the Squadron's next two months will consist of field training, which will culminate with a three-week Exportable Combat Training Center (XCTC) evaluation at Fort Pickett, Virginia, reminiscent of ARTEP evaluations of the 1980's and 1990's, at platoon level, culminating at troop level. MAJ Stiles will then lead the Squadron in Operation Northern Strike in Michigan, an annual exercise that includes sister services Marine Corps and Air Force in an intensive combined arms operation. The new Executive Officer is MAJ Omar Minot, the former Squadron S3, and MAJ Stiles was a former Marine and Infantry officer (LTC Coakley is now taking command of the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team). This was followed by a member biography by MSG (Ret) Harry Ayala, who was born and raised in Puerto Rico, enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1959. He completed Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, followed by Advanced Individual Training at Fort Riley, Kansas, and then Jump School. MSG Ayala was then assigned to Germany for three years (where he served for a time alongside Elvis Presley), where he reenlisted. Next, he was transferred to the 101st Airborne Division, during which time he was sent to the Dominican Republic for three weeks, and later deployed to Vietnam for a year. MSG Ayala was NCO in charge of Transportation and later the S4, but separated from Active Duty after fourteen years because he wanted to be able to start a civilian career and have another source for a retirement pension. He joined the New Jersey Army National Guard, and served during the Newark riots in 1967, and again separated, rejoining in 1980. In 2001, MSG Ayala finally received a document from the Army that he doesn't have to serve anymore, and retired. Next, CW5 (Ret) Frank Mnich shared new legislation enacted 16 December 2016 that now recognizes all National Guard and Reserve Soldiers who served 20 years or more as veterans. Prior to this those Soldiers needed to have at least 179 days' active duty service, not related to initial training. SGT Steve Daly won the 50/50, and donated the proceeds to the Association. It was moved to Conclude Meeting- 2057 hours. Next meeting Friday, 7 April 2017.



Attendance: Frank Mnich, James Anglim, Jim Pressman, Dennis J. Dougherty, Don Kondroski, Michael Hrycak, Stephen Pruser, Danielle Pruser, Dave Mormak, Art Maggs, Ken Mahan, Pedro Martinez, Steve Daly, Kevin Murphy, Bill Gruss, Ryan Harty, John Blake, Joe Manto, Harry Ayala, Mitch Corrado, Herbert Holmes, Robert J. Richardson, Timothy Coakley, Bill Morris, Danielle Bracco, Jennifer Silva, Aaron Tomasini.

Of note: MSG (Ret) Thomas Bullock my former Platoon Sergeant, who served in A Troop for two decades, is currently residing at the Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital in Lyons, New Jersey. I would encourage, just as SGM (Ret) Mahan did and SGT Mormak and SGT Daly are planning to, members stop by and visit him.

SHARE OUR STORY INITIATIVE



COL Dennis Dougherty USA, Retired presents 1SG Paul Greenberg and CPT Aaron Tomasini of Troop C 1-102d Cavalry with a Troop Picture of their command taken during the last training year. This picture is a product of the *Share Our Story*, outreach effort by the *117th Cavalry Association* and the Northern NJ Chapter of AUSA to capture and share the history of NJ Cavalry and Armor formations.

COL Dennis Dougherty USA, Retired presents 1SG Mike Hughes and CPT Devon of Troop A 1-102d Cavalry with a picture of Troop A of the 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron in action during WWII. This picture is a product of the *Share Our Story*, an outreach effort by the *117th Cavalry Association* and the Northern NJ Chapter of AUSA to capture and share the history of NJ Cavalry and Armor formations.



Sergeant First Class Mauricio Vega Selected as the 1st Sergeant William B. Maloney Trooper of the Year for 2016



Sergeant First Class Mauricio Vega enlisted as a Private on active duty from Elizabeth New Jersey in 1988. He served as a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) specialist assigned to the 98th Chemical Detachment (DECON) in Munchweiler Kaserne and the 50th Chemical Company in Nelligen Kaserne Germany and as a survey team member, before joining the New Jersey National Guard in 1994.

Sergeant First Class Vega first served in the New Jersey Army National Guard as the CBRN NCO of A Company 2nd Battalion, 113th Infantry. His subsequent assignments include being a member of the Counter Drug Task Force as a translator; survey team member for the 21st Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team; multimedia illustrator and public affairs NCO for the Joint Training and Training Development Center / Training and Training Technology Battle Lab. He served as a recruiting and retention NCO for the New Jersey Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion from 2003 until 2011 where he had several assignments; marketing NCO, recruiter, operations NCO recruiting support program, military entrance processing station guidance counselor, education team member. He currently serves as the S6 Signal Section Chief for the 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry. His awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation medal

(2BOLC), Army Achievement Medal (1SOLC, 1BOLC), National Defense Service Medal (bronze star), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Senior Recruiting and Retention Badge.

He is married to his wife Lenore; they have one daughter, Sofia Caterina, and one son, Alexander James.

50th RECONNAISSANCE BATTALLION



DISTINCTIVE UNIT INSIGNIA



COAT OF ARMS

Distinctive Unit Insignia. Description: A Gold color metal and enamel device 1 1/8 inches (2.86 cm) in height overall consisting of a shield blazoned: Or, a horse's head erased Azure in chief two fleurs-de-lis Gules, all within a bordure Vert. Attached below and to the sides of the shield is a Gold scroll inscribed "SHOW 'EM THE WAY" in Red letters.

Symbolism: The shield of the coat of arms for the former 102d Cavalry Regiment, differenced by a border, indicates the descent of the 50th Reconnaissance Battalion from that organization. The colors yellow and green are for Armor. The horse's head is taken from the historic crest of the Essex Troop. The fleurs-de-lis represent service in France.

Background: The distinctive unit insignia was approved on 8 March 1954. It was rescinded on 26 July 1961.

Coat of Arms.

Blazon:

Shield: Or, a horse's head erased Azure in chief two fleurs-de-lis Gules, all within a bordure Vert.

Crest: That for the regiments and separate battalions of the New Jersey Army National Guard: From a wreath of the colors Or and Azure, a lion's head erased Or collared four fusils Gules.

Motto: SHOW 'EM THE WAY.

Symbolism:

Shield: The shield of the coat of arms for the former 102d Cavalry Regiment, differenced by a border, indicates the descent of the 50th Reconnaissance Battalion from that organization. The colors yellow and green are for Armor. The horse's head is taken from the historic crest of the Essex Troop. The fleurs-de-lis represent service in France.

Crest: The crest is that of the New Jersey Army National Guard.

Background: The coat of arms was approved on 8 March 1954. It was rescinded on 26 July 1961.

Constituted in the Army of the United States as the 102d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and organized 2 January 1944 in England from new and former elements of the 102d Cavalry. Inactivated 23 October 1945 at Camp Shanks, New York. Redesignated 9 July 1946 as the 50th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, allotted to the New Jersey National Guard and assigned to the 50th Armored Division. Reorganized from Westfield elements of the World War II 102d Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron and Federally recognized 26 September 1946 with Headquarters at Westfield. Redesignated 1 March 1949 as the 50th Reconnaissance Battalion. Consolidated 1 March 1959 with the 50th Armor, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental system.

CAMPAIGN STREAMER

World War I

Meuse-Argonne Alsace 1918

World War II

Normandy (with arrowhead) Northern France Rhineland Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe Decorations

French Croix de Guerre with Palm, World War II, Streamer embroidered *BEACHES OF NORMANDY* (102d Cav Recon Squadron cited for action on 6 Jun 1944; DAGO 43, 1950)

Here we continue "Larry's War", installment #4:

Now it was November. Finally, we got strong again, took Baccarat, and were on our way to Strasbourg, getting near the German border. The closer we got, the harder the fighting became. It was about this time that our gunner, Rod Grassman was hurt during an encounter with some German armor. He had been "borrowed" and was in another armored car at the time, and he got the "million-dollar injury" that sent him home and to a discharge. It was winter now, and bitter cold. The armored car was like a refrigerator, turned down as low as possible. Held up again, it was here, along a river- which one, I don't know, that I spent the entire night leaping from inside the armored car into my foxhole in the side of the dike, and back again. We were shelled all night, and which ever I was in at the moment, armored car or foxhole, I felt that the other would be safer.

We moved ever slower-- it was getting close to Christmas, and we heard about the German counterattack and the *Battle of the Bulge*. Our time was coming too, although on a smaller scale. (Except for those of us involved in it) On New Year's Eve, we were manning a thin line of outposts in the Bitch Woods, not too many miles from the Fatherland. At just about midnight, all hell broke loose. The messages started coming in from all up and down the line that we were being attacked. They (the Germans) came in, yelling and screaming, and it seemed like they would never stop coming. Our first and third platoon were overrun, and now Headquarters and the second platoon, which had been held in reserve, were fighting for their lives. We were pushed back, (that is, the whole area front line, and when we finally stopped them, what was left of our first and third platoon was hardly enough to even make one unit. This was the German offensive *NORDWIND*, the last of the Reich.

Most of the noncoms were gone, and I was promoted from Tech 4 to Buck Sergeant and with my friend and comrade Sergeant Robert Lutz were given the task of combining what was left of our two platoons and making something out of them. We called it our ERSATZ platoon (meaning a substitute, or artificial platoon), and we held it together for a few weeks until we got new vehicles and equipment from the rear, and replacement soldiers, fresh from the States.

Now, back up to full strength, we had a platoon with a lieutenant and a buck sergeant, and that was it. Corporal Earl Dublin was made point sergeant, Taylor, English and Hiemrl as corporals. Now we had a full platoon again, A little raw and inexperienced, but the noncoms were battle-wise, and it didn't take us long to shape up. I think that making Earl Dublin point sergeant was probably one of the smartest moves we could have made. He had been corporal of the first section, (point) and he knew his job. Deb was a steadying influence on the newly appointed corporals, and of course on our fresh replacements.

I lost a lot of friends whom I had been with since leaving the United States, some killed, some wounded and some missing. Most of the missing turned up and rejoined us over the next two or three weeks, and as time went on we learned that a number of them had been taken prisoner. We licked our wounds, took a deep breath and moved on towards Germany once more.

*Take it easy, take it easy
There are lots of Krauts ahead of you,
And Tigers, too.
Take it easy, take it easy
If you don't, you know you're sure
To wind up in the stew.
Take your time, take your time,
Reconnoiter with ease.
Take your time, take your time
Slow! if you please.*

Message from Squadron Headquarters:

To all Troops - New Code Names will be as follows
Headquarters Troop-----Chin strap
A Troop-----Tan bark
B Troop-----Saddle
C Troop-----Stirrup
E Troop-----Curb chains
F Troop-----Muzzle

Although the horses had been gone since from almost the start of the war, as you can see, we were still Cavalry. A, B and C Troops were the Reconnaissance Troops, E was our Assault Gun Troop, and F was our Tank Troop.

At the start of this narration, I said that while I have tried to keep some semblance of time and sequence, fifty years is a long time, and I remember so many things that I just can't put them in their proper order and time frame, so I'll just ramble on and tell about a few of them here.

Somewhere along the way, we came over the crest of a hill, and there before us was a German patrol, on bicycles. They dumped their bikes and fired at us with their rifles, which really wasn't overly bright of them, because we were in our armored car. We fired back with our machine guns, and they scattered, dashing back into the town, which was just behind them, with us following on their tails. I went down into a cellar after one of them, and after I got him out, I sort of wondered why I had done such a thing. He was twice as big as me, but under the circumstances, he was also twice as scared as me, which kind of evened things out.

While we were still in France, I don't know just where, we chased a German horse drawn artillery unit up into the hills. They just abandoned everything and melted away into the countryside, leaving their horses, their equipment and all. We saddled up the horses, pushed everything else up into one great pile, and blew it up. We then rode the horses (Cavalry style) back down to our Command Post. Trouble was, all these horses were used in double harness, and were wagon trained. So, whenever we rode one, its pal tagged along. When it was time for us to move out again, we gave the horses to the local French farmers, who were most happy to get them.

At another time, we took a town that had a small makeshift German Military hospital in it, more an aid station, really. It also had a German General. A general who wanted to surrender, but didn't know how to go about it, because we didn't have an officer with us for him to surrender to. We convinced him that he ought to surrender anyway. He did, and our Medical corps took over the wounded German soldiers, we took over the rest of his men, shipped the whole kit and caboodle back to a POW camp, and everyone was happy. At least, we were.

One town had its telephone system still working, was in communication with the Fatherland. We didn't think that this was a very good idea. We also thought about calling Mr. Adolph Schickelgruber, but figured that he probably wouldn't accept our call, so we cut the lines, took all the fuses out of the telephone office and brought them along with us. I do hope that by this time they have located some replacement fuses somewhere

And last, we found and liberated a cave that was full, and I do mean FULL of liquor of every kind, shape and description. Squadron Headquarters took charge of this booze. I'll have more about that later.

About this time, (whenever that was) there was a lull in our activities, and a group of us got a few days off and a pass to go to Paris. 2LT Harold "Smokie" Owen was the Officer in charge of the detail, and we took off in two jeeps, bound for the City of Light. After driving most of the day, we came to a cross roads in the middle of the town where we planned to spend the night. In the center of the road was a Combat MP directing traffic. We drove up and asked where we could spend the night, "No problem, Larry," he answered, and I suddenly recognized him as a fellow who had worked with me at the Palmer House Hotel, before the war, where we had both been elevator operators. We had pretty good quarters that night, and in the morning continued on our way to Paris.

Paris was a little disappointing to me. It was filled with PBS's all in nice, clean pressed uniforms, and shiny boots. I realize that these soldiers were a necessary part of the war effort, but still---- Our clothes were fairly clean, but not too well pressed, and our boots most assuredly were not very shiny. We went to a Service Club, but no one wanted too much to do with a bunch of crummy combat sores. I guess we had a good time, if only because no one was shooting at us. I went for a walk in the rain, and got stopped by the MPs to make sure that I was not AWOL from the war. We were there for three days, and it was raining most of the time. I think we were all rather glad to start back for the front.

Another letter from my mother. She had just learned, through the International Red Cross that my brother Bob had parachuted safely from his plane, a B17, and was now a prisoner of war in Germany. She also wrote that my brother Lester was on his way to Europe. Brother Jack was stationed in the Panama Canal Zone throughout the war as Security for the Canal. Every now and then he would write, saying he felt that he should transfer out and get into the shooting part of the war. I would just as often write back, telling him not to be a "damn fool" and to stay put.

....to be continued...



Membership Update – SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan Trooper! Look at your address label! If the date is not September 2015 or later, you are behind in your dues. Your Subscription to *THE SPUR* is going to run out, due to non-payment. A sample of label:

SEPT 17

**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 and Associate dues \$15.00 are due in September.** Make checks Payable to **117th CAV Association.** If you pay booster money, that is for Widow's list not for your dues 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 Kennethmahan22@gmail.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, 102nd and 117th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz).

All WWII Veterans and members over 80 will no longer pay dues, you will see WWII over your name. **New Members:** Dwane Banghalt, Jay Falcon, Mauricio Vega, John Holly

TAPS



Eugene "Bink" Romanick, Jr., 69, of the Clearview Lake section of Hampton Township, passed away on Tuesday, January 17, 2017, at Karen Ann Quinlan Home for Hospice in Fredon Township. Born in Paterson, Gene was a longtime resident of Sussex County. His education was extensive. He received his Masters from William Paterson University, graduated from the US Army Command and General Staff College in 1983, graduated from the US Naval War College in 1985, and graduated from the Air University Graduate School in 1997. A Retired Lieutenant Colonel with the Army National Guard, Gene served in three Branches of the Army during his career: Infantry, Armor and Cavalry. He began his career as a tank mechanic with 3-104 Cavalry, then served the S3(Air), 3-113 Infantry, the S1, 3-113 Infantry, was Commander of Headquarters Company, 3-113 Infantry, Executive Officer with 5-102d Armor, and was a Budget Officer and United States Property and Fiscal Officer.

Gene was a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, where he was a Deputy National Director of Human Relations, a District Staff Officer -1st CG District – Human Relations, a Flotilla Commander, an AIDS Verifier, a Public Education Instructor, a Vessel Examiner and was a Qualified Boat Crew member. Other memberships included the Essex Troop Association, 5th 102nd Iron Horsemen Association, and the USABOT (USA Brotherhood of Tankers), where he served as Vice President /

National Executive Officer, as well as Chief of Staff and Chief Administrative Officer. He was also a volunteer coordinator for the Sussex County Sheriff's office from 2005 to 2006, a Forest Fire Warden, a member of Masonic Harmony Lodge No. 8, and a former Newton fireman.

His most cherished awards included the Order of St. Maurice, awarded by the United States Army Infantry Association; the Order of St. George, Bronze Medallion, awarded by the United States Armor Association of the US Army; the Order of St. George, Silver Medallion, of the United States Armor and Cavalry Association, presented by USABOT; the Army Commendation Medal; and the Meritorious Service Medal.

The son of the late Eugene Romanick, Sr., and Catherine (nee Hughes) Romanick, Gene is survived by his wife of 29 years, Donna (nee Riker) Romanick; three daughters, Jennifer Adamec of Somerville, Melissa Morales of New Milford, and Rebecca Traylor of Unity, Maine; as well as three grandchildren, Allison, Daniella and Cassidy.

Sallie Davis Lee Pierce, 97, of San Antonio, TX, formerly of Blackshear, passed away peacefully with beautiful grace Saturday, October 1, 2016. A native of Pierce County, she was a daughter of Jacob Lloyd Davis Sr. and Cassie James Davis. She was preceded in death by her first husband, *Congressional Medal of Honor* Recipient Captain Daniel W. Lee Sr. and her second husband, Ken Pierce; her daughter, Beverly Wanda Lee, her parents; her sisters, Mildred Hand, Audice Lee, Lois West, Cora Mae Head and Zell O'Steen and her brothers, Troy Davis, Guthrie Davis and Dewey Davis.

She lived the past 54 years of her life in San Antonio, most recently at The Madison. She was a member of Coker United Methodist Church and the John Wesley Class and she was formerly a long-time member of Shearer Hills Baptist Church.

Her life was focused on her family here and in the Southern Georgia area of Blackshear, Alma and Waycross where she was raised. She loved to be with her family, cooking for them and ensuring they were together to celebrate life. With both Dan and Ken, she experienced the joy of traveling around our great country visiting friends and family. In addition, she was a true patriot and loved her country with all her heart. Following the death of Captain Daniel W. Lee Sr, she worked tirelessly to ensure this true American hero's legacy will be retained. She will be greatly missed by her family as her love of life and the ability to bring her family together will be difficult to replace. "We love and miss her greatly," said her family.

Survivors include her brother Jacob Davis, Blackshear; her three children, Daniel W. Lee Jr. (Ann), James Lee (Cheri) and Elizabeth Lee von Merveldt (Eric); three step-children, Barbara Stevenson (Dick), David Pierce (Sonia) and Bill Pierce (Pam); 13 grandchildren, Dr. Daniel W Lee III, Courtland Lee, Christopher Lee, Shaun Lee, Jordan Lee, Kelly von Merveldt, Corey von Merveldt, Laura Theurer, Jennifer Stevenson, Robbie Stevenson, Michael Stevenson, Jonathon Stevenson, Matthew Pierce, and Kenny Pierce and many great-grandchildren who added joy to her life.



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



FA-20 EMIL ALLGIERE
 WI-26 CHARLES ANGELLO
 WI-17 SHARON & BILL ANTONUCCI mem.
 1SG BILL MALONEY SR.
 SP-26 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR
 WI-18 COL (Ret) KEVIN AUSTIN 5-117 CAV
 SU-18 JAMIE AYALA
 SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR)
 5-117th CAV
 SP-17 BILL BENNERT
 FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE
 SP-17 MSG TOM BULLOCK TROOP A 5-117th CAVALRY
 FA- 24 JUDGE SANTI CARNEVALI, WWII 102nd & 117th CAVALRY
 WI- 20 STEVE CUP WWII 102d CAVALRY
 WI-17 LTC (Ret) PETER D'ELIA
 WI-18 COL (Ret) DENNIS J. DOUGHERTY
 WI-18 1SG (Ret) PHILIP DUNN, A Troop mem. wife BETTY
 SP-22 JACKIE ELLIS (mem) MSG DAVID JAMES ELLIS 5-117 CAV
 WI-17 MANUEL G. FERRI
 SU-19 CPT (Ret) GERALD D. FISCHBEIN
 WI-17 LTC (Ret) ALAN R. FISHER
 WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem.of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER
 FA-19 BOB FOLEY (HHT Ret)
 WI-17 HENRY & MARION FORSTENHAUSLER
 WI- 72 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117th CAV
 WI-17 BILL & LINDA GRUSS
 FA-20 BARBARA HANSEN wife of TOM HANSEN
 SP-18 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117th CAVALRY SGT Troop C
 WI-18 LTC (Ret) JOHN S. HUFF (mem. of) C Troop, 117th CAV
 '43-'44 mem. HANK EGBERT & BILL CRONE bros.-in-arms
 WI-18 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO.
 WWII 117th CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*
 WI-19 ANNE MARIE & GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO
 SP-17 DONALD KONDROSKI
 WI- 20 LTC (Ret) WILLIAM KALE mem. NJ CAV SOLDIERS
 WI -24 ESTELLE, ANDREW & JAY LASNER in mem. Arnold
 Lasner - husband, father - proud veteran Troop B 117th CAV
 SU-19 1LT (Ret) EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41*, PSG B Troop
 117th CAV, Montrevel POW French *Legion of Honor*
 WI-18 C. J. MacNICHOLS
 SP-18 CSM (Ret) AUTHUR G. A. MAGGS, JR.
 WI-17 BARBARA MALONEY mem. BARRY, TIM & WILLIAM SR.
 WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL MALONEY SR. and
 My brother TIM MALONEY
 WI-33 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ
 SP-17 PEDRO MARTINEZ
 FA-19 LTC (Ret) W. SCOTT McCANN
 SP-29 CSM SCOTT MECHOWSKI 1-102nd CAVALRY
 SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE

FA-20 RON NIER
 WI-17 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET
 SP-17 DENNIS & GARY MONAHAN (mem. father) PVT MILLARD D.
 MONAHAN TRP B 117th CAV - POW MONTREVEL
 SP-17 PHILIP NOTESTINE (mem. of) MAJ JOHN B. COULSTON
 Troops C & E, *Class of '41*; 602nd Tank Destroyer BN '43-'45
 FA-37 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN,
Class of '41, 102nd & 117th CAV - B & C Troops WWII
 FA-20 FOTINOS S. PANAGAKOS
 WI-17 FRANK PATRICK
 SP-18 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN mem. 1SG ED MURPHY
 SP-19 THOMAS PETTY
 SU-19 ANTON and MARILYN PLONNER
 SP-17 mem. ARTHUR REINBOLD
 WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)
 WI-43 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN
 F Company (tanks) 102nd CAV WWII
 SP-18 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of brother) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO
 SP-17 JAMES SCANLON
 WI-97 EILEEN SCHARR mem. husband WILLIE
 FA-19 BILL SEDLAK
 SP-22 LTC (Ret) ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB WWII 38th CAV
Fr. Legion of Honor
 WI- 20 DONNA STINNER mem. SKIP STINNER
 FA-17 JOHN & MARGARET SUITER
 FA-21 GEORGE L. THOMAS
 SP-23 SSG WILLIAM T. TITTER WWII TRP B 117th CAV
 (mem) NANCY ASHFORD
 SP-19 JOE & SABRINA TOOMEY (mem. of) BROTHER
 SGM ANTHONY FREDA JR.
 WI-17 CW4 (Ret) DON TRACY & CHICKIE
 SU-17 GRACE & CSM (Ret) HENRY WETZEL (mem)
 1SG GEORGE W. EMERY
 WI-18 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-19 SFC SHEILA ZELASKOWSKI (past member) F TRP 5-117
 SP-18 MARTHA ZOLLER, FRANK MITCHELL JR. & PAM GUNTER
 (mem. of) FRANK & JUANITA MITCHELL
 SU- 3013 FRG HHT 1-102nd CAVALRY

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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 - Fridays 1930 hours:** April 7; June 9; September 8 and November 10, 2017