



44th Infantry Division Association

Incorporated

NEWSLETTER

November 2004

From your President:

Thank you to all who helped to make our 2004 reunion in St. Peters a success. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves with friends and former 44th Division comrades. The only complaint that I have is about how fast the time went by! We had a great bus tour that was highlighted by a beautiful Veterans Memorial Walk and perfect weather for us to sit out and enjoy at Sugar Creek Winery. The best was most certainly saved for last when John Conrad and his Barbershop Group entertained the "troops" after our banquet dinner. Lots of sing-alongs that brought back fond memories and not a sour note was sounded! We are starting work on the 2005 reunion which has been slated for Pittsburgh, PA. I will keep you all abreast as more information and details become available.

Due to medical reasons our Association Treasurer, Clement Shirtzinger, could not make our reunion this year. We all missed "Schirtz" and know that he missed being there. Clem has stepped down as our treasurer after many great years of service to our Association. We look forward to seeing you at next years' reunion. On behalf of all of our membership – THANK YOU – for all that you have done for the 44th Infantry Division Association! John Conrad has agreed to become our new treasurer and has assumed the role as of the 2004 reunion. John is another member of the Association who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping to keep this Association moving forward. Thank You, John. At this years' reunion we were fortunate to have another second generation member become involved with our Board. Matt Jolma, who's father served with the 119th Medical Bn., has joined up as our new Vice President. Matt is in the process of writing a story with him. You can go to Matt's web site at [www'.flumecreek.com/](http://www.flumecreek.com/) to see pictures that were taken at this years' reunion. Thank you for joining up, Matt.

So, another great reunion with old friendships renewed and many new friendships started thank all of our 44th Infantry Division veterans for the job that you did and the sacrifices that were made. I am honored when I am in your company and am glad that in a small way I can show you my appreciation by helping to make our Association as successful as possible.

Best Regards,

Jeff Burgess



Sugar Creek Winery



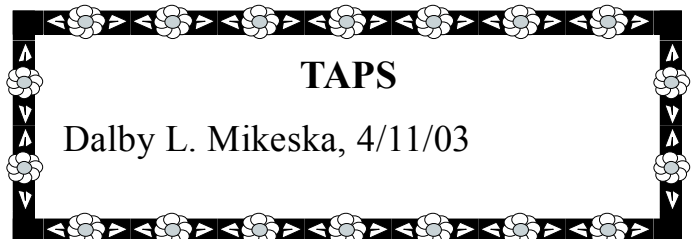
44th Infantry Division



POW's



Co. L, 71st Regt.



TAPS

Dalby L. Mikeska, 4/11/03

Telling stories . . .



To the esteemed soldiers of the 44th Infantry Division Association members, family and friends:

On September 19, 2004, this green 'replacement' reported for duty with the 44th Infantry Division at the 60th Anniversary Commemoration "Repple Depple" in St. Peters, Missouri. It was there, with great pride, that I stood before many of you and spoke about the personal meaning the 44th I.D. holds for me and my family, as my father, now at rest, was a veteran of this accomplished outfit. You are legendary heroes, so young some 60 years ago and today precious icons of valor, devotion, and of duty fulfilled and selflessness. You bore the cost and left a better world for us, the following generations. Reflecting on my fathers' service and the fresh memories of the just completed reunion, the meaning of camaraderie cannot be overstated. Thank you for making it possible for me to connect with my heritage, through the association with real men, the veterans of the 44th. I am both honored and humbled to be a member of 44th I.D. Association and to serve on the Association board this year.

Briefly, the work of writing the 44th Infantry battle history continues. The track well underway is building an accurate 'who, what and when' divisional timeline by unit. Another parallel track is the capture of individual veteran stories and is just underway.

What is the mission of the 44th I.D. Assn in 2004 and beyond? In my view, the answer is clear. Its duty is to maintain the spirit of the 44th Infantry Division as it was during World War II. Each member has an important role. To the veterans, it is incumbent upon you to entrust your account to us, the generational 'replacements'. Collect your memories and accounts. Preserve your stories of service for our benefit and for future generations. Entrust your full story and those precious letters and documents to others for their safekeeping. And keep on maintaining the bond of friendship and comradeship formed in service with the division. Stay in touch with your buddies. Attend future reunions and encourage others to do the same, including family and friends. To my fellow generational 'replacements', we are custodians of their legacy. Would you help carry the banner of the 44th Division that motivated these gallant G.I.'s to victory some six decades ago? Capture the veteran's account. Preserve your and our legacy. Join us in the achievement of one more 44th Infantry Division "Mission Accomplished".

Matt Jolma, Vice President

Some post reunion news from the new treasurer –

For those of you who were at the reunion in September, you already know that Shirts had to resign from the job of treasurer for health reasons. For the rest of you please be informed that the new treasurer is John E. Conrad, former president. So from now on, please send your dues to me: John E. Conrad, 11361 Taylor Pines Dr., Maryland Heights, MO 63043. Please make out *any* checks to – 44th **Inf. Div. Assn.**, not to me. Our bank account is under the 44th name. Any checks that are made out to me I would have to put in my account and we don't want that.

At the time Shirts took over the treasurer's job, some five years ago, I had just met him; didn't know him from Adam. I soon found out that he really did a bang up job as treasurer and he and I got to be very good friends. We both thought alike and got along very well in our jobs for the 44th Assn. From two total strangers, we got along like brothers and never had a minutes worth of disagreement. We worked together and got things done; not only in our jobs but also in taking care of the reunions that we had together. And we had the help of our wives who also got to be friends and worked together. My prayers are with you, Shirts, and I hope that we can enjoy many more reunions.

Shirts had two operations on his back that kind of took its toll. At this writing, I have just talked to Shirts and he is now having trouble with his shoulder in addition. So he's not feeling too well. Please keep him in your prayers.

Our past reunion, I thought, went pretty good on the whole. There were a few snafus, but I think they were rectified to everyone's needs. A few people were charged more for their rooms but when they reported that to me, I saw the manager and he made the correct changes himself. The hotel staff really worked with us to correct any snafus.

On our tour we ended up with a few lunches short when we got to the winery. Blame that on me because when we had a few seats open on the bus, several people said that they would go along. I forgot that the lunches were already totaled up the day before. The owner of the winery put himself out by going into town (Defiance) and getting us enough lunches. Sorry that we didn't get to inspect the winery and taste some of the wine and buy some, but we were running late because of the bus snafu. It was supposed to be in the front of the hotel at 7:30 but it went around to the back of the hotel while we waited at the front.



Waiting for our tour bus

John Conrad's letter continued:

Besides having a new president from the second generation, we now have a vice president from the second generation--Matt Jolma. For those of you who have computers, Matt has a great web site about the 44th that is outstanding. And he is writing a book about the 44th's adventures in WW II. I hope he can finish it before I'm no longer around. His web site is <http://44thdivision.efour4ever.com/> Also try <http://www.flumecreek.com/>

Our President, Jeff Burgess, has offered to be the reunion organizer in the future unless someone else offers; and Matt Jolma will assist him in keeping the hospitality room up to snuff. If you have any suggestions about the hospitality room please tell him.

Also, please inform both Jim Milliron, Secretary, and me when you get any news of our members passing away. Report their name, units and the day of death. We will keep adding names to our honor roll of the dead. It helps a lot when other relatives (generations) call to get information of their loved one.

John Conrad, Treasurer



Connie & John Conrad



The Daniel Boone Home



**War Memorial
(note the boots)**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Reunion 2005 will be held
September 13 through 17th
Pittsburgh, PA**



**44th Infantry Division
Association, Incorporated
James Milliron, Secretary
3702 Hunt Street N.W. Space 56
Gig Harbor, WA 98335-8202**

DUES

Yearly dues are \$10.00 to be made payable to: **44th Infantry Division Association** and mailed to our Treasurer who is listed below. **John Conrad.**

Officers:

President: Jeff Burgess, 95 Pound Hill Road, Comish, ME, 04020-8933, Phone (207) 625-8933.

Vice President: Matt Jolma, 4627 193rd Place SE, Issaquah, WA, 98027, Phone (425) 444-2365, matt@flumecreek.com

Treasurer: John Conrad, 11361 Taylor Pines Dr., Maryland Heights, MO, 63043-1885, (314) 739-8408.

Secretary: James B. Milliron, 6236 Harbor Sunset Lane, Gig Harbor, WA 98335, (253) 851-4244 E-mail annjaml@aol.com