

505 R.C.T. WWII

Regimental Combat Team

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The Panther

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Oct. 2008



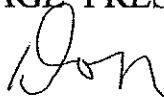
CENTRAL FRONT

We have always shared with you the mark of the Soldier that volunteers to jump from an airplane. Now we also share the mark of combat, and, unique to veterans of combat operations, the pain of losing our beloved friends and fellow paratroopers in battle. We too have buried our own. We strive now to continue to live up to your example, to honor our fallen not only by memorializing them, but by living lives that are worthy of their sacrifice.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you again for the honor of joining you today. I will tell you more about the current state of the 505th tomorrow evening. But for now, I offer only my Regiment's humble condolences for the losses that you suffered and continue to bear, and my Regiment's heartfelt pride in, and thankfulness for, your accomplishments in the name of the liberties that we continue to enjoy.

To our great friend & BROTHER OF COMBAT; LT COL MICHEAL SHINNERS. Of the world famous 505 regimental Combat team, 82nd airborne Div. We want to extend a big Thank you to you and your great Unit members, as you continue Your fight to hold World Peace. We have always continued to To admire the caliber of men who choose the Paratrooper units Of the 82nd Airborne div. WWII members will soon be gone & Younger members will continue to step forward. Again we thank All for Joining the fight. Best always and AIRBORNE.

DON MCKEAGE PRESIDENT



Lt Col Micheal Shinnors

Paratroopers, Glidermen, friends and family of the 505th Regimental Combat Team.

Thank you for allowing me to represent today's Panthers at this important ceremony. I speak on behalf of the regimental commander, COL Tim McGuire, CSM King Parks, and the Officers and paratroopers of the 505th PIR, when I say that it is an honor to be included today and to be thought of by men of your caliber as brothers.

We have tried...during our war, to emulate your heroism on the field of battle. You collectively showed us how to live the Warrior Ethos, and you set a high standard for valor to which we have tried to live up during operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

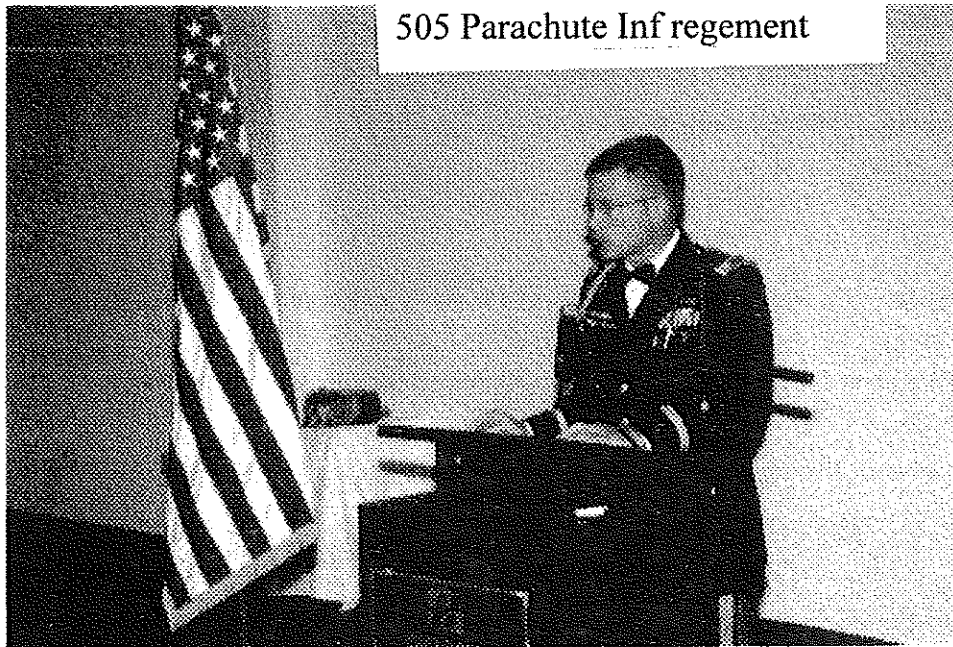
However, today's ceremony reminds us that your example did not end when you left the battlefields of Europe. Not only must we strive to fight as well as you did, we must also emulate your veneration of your fallen comrades after the fighting is done. For over 60 years, you have gathered and kept alive the memories of your fallen--brave men who, because of your efforts, live to this day in your spirits.

It is a challenge to today's leaders to instill in our Panthers the dedication to their mission, pride in their unit, and love of their fellow paratroopers that is so strong that it becomes a part of us for the rest of our lives.

Missing Man's Table



Lt col Michael Shinnors of the
505 Parachute Inf regement





505 PIR.



82nd A/B Div.

505th Parachute Regimental Combat Team

This is a letter written by Bob Murphy and given to me to read at the 505 RCT Airborne Honor Luncheon in Dayton, Ohio. Bob was unable to attend this years reunion because of chemo treatments and he wanted to be there so very much. He asked me to read it to all his friends and fellow 505RCT veterans. We did honor his wishes and he listened over a cell phone and spoke to the gathering. It was a touching moment.

As I write this I have just learned from his daughter Christina that he passed away this evening at 5:25 PM October 3, 2008. He will be missed dearly by all his many friends here and abroad. He has made his final jump.

Jim

AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY

To all my comrades in arms and my Family and Friends of the 505

Regimental Combat Team Associations. And we are a team. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve with our members in the 456PFA, 307PE, 80th AA and our medics. We all fought together and needed each other from our days in the

505th RCT WWII UNITS

****505 PIR * 456PFA * B-307ENG * 307MEDICS * 80AA****

blistering hot Africa to the freezing cold in Ardennes. Some of you here at Dayton can remember those days.

But I think Dave Bullington, and I, from Company "A" may want to forget a couple of those funny days in Naples with the poor girls. There were some good days in Northern Ireland and over to Quorn in our tent city, fish and chips and girls who spoke English. Those were the days but then came the world famous battle of D-Day and the 505 RCT liberated the first town in Normandy, Ste Mere Eglise. On many return trips to Normandy after the war, we would go down to the Pegasus Bridge area to meet with the British Airborne and debate about who were the first liberators of a town in Normandy..... Sometimes it would take a whole afternoon in a Pub with all our thirsty British friends.

My first trip back to Europe was in January 1961 where five of us met Mayor Alexandre Renaud and Madame Renaud. They welcomed us to their D-Day home and

pharmacy which as all visitors know is still there at the same address. My close friend, John F. Lee from 505 Headquarters Company 2nd Battalion and I were both skydivers and we asked Madame Renaud if we could come back to the 20th anniversary of D-Day, 1964, and

“Drop in on them”. She loved the idea and we did exactly that on June 6, 1964. We brought over our own parachutes, rented a little plane and jumped before a few hundred folks from the area. That was the beginning of the annual parachuting in Ste. Mere Eglise. I have made many jumps since 1964 over Ste. Mere Eglise with the French Army Paratroopers and my French Parachute Club friends; up to 1994.

The WW II C 47 aircraft that you see in the Ste. Mere Eglise Museum last flew in March 1982 and about ten of us jumped from it over Ste. Mere Eglise. Last June there were 400 Americans, French and German Army paratroopers in six C-130's jumping over the noted battlefields of LaFiere, led by

U S Army Colonel Dave McNeil who has led these active duty troopers for many years in the annual D Day anniversary jump.

There have been many trips to England, France, Belgium and Holland. I've been back to Salerno and Paestum to view our September 1943 DZ area all the way up to Naples and the Volturno River where our valiant and great "A" Company Commander, Captain Ed Sayre was badly wounded in one of our last battles.

Those were the days that locked in our comradeship that has lasted a lifetime, to this present day. Thanks to my good friend General Jack Norton and General Gavin and guys like Don McKeage who has devoted a lifetime to the 505 RCT Association as well as being a national president of the 82nd Airborne Division Association. Of course, with the help of his good wife Jennie.

Speaking of the 82nd Association, I have attended many conventions, ran one in Boston and was National President in 1961.

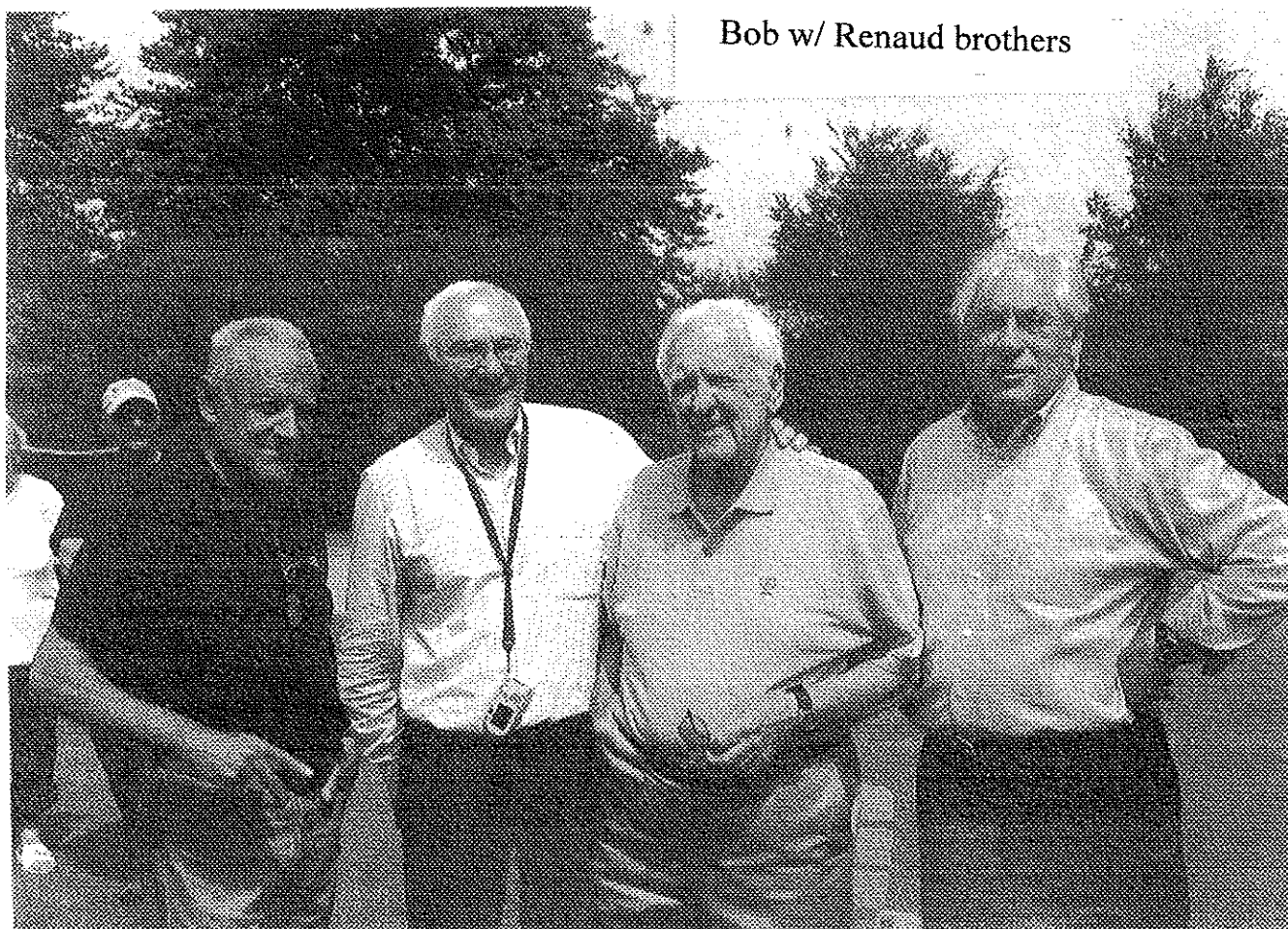
and 1994. But my brotherhood is with our 505 Combat Team Comrades. That has been my life since I was 17 years old and got my parachute wings at Fort Benning. My life changed that day and I have been proud to say I was a paratrooper with the 505th Regimental Combat Team.

It has been my pleasure over many years to be on the 505RCT Board of Directors and President. I am very sorry that due to my very serious medical problems and sickness and treatment I cannot join you at Dayton. You are my family and always will be.

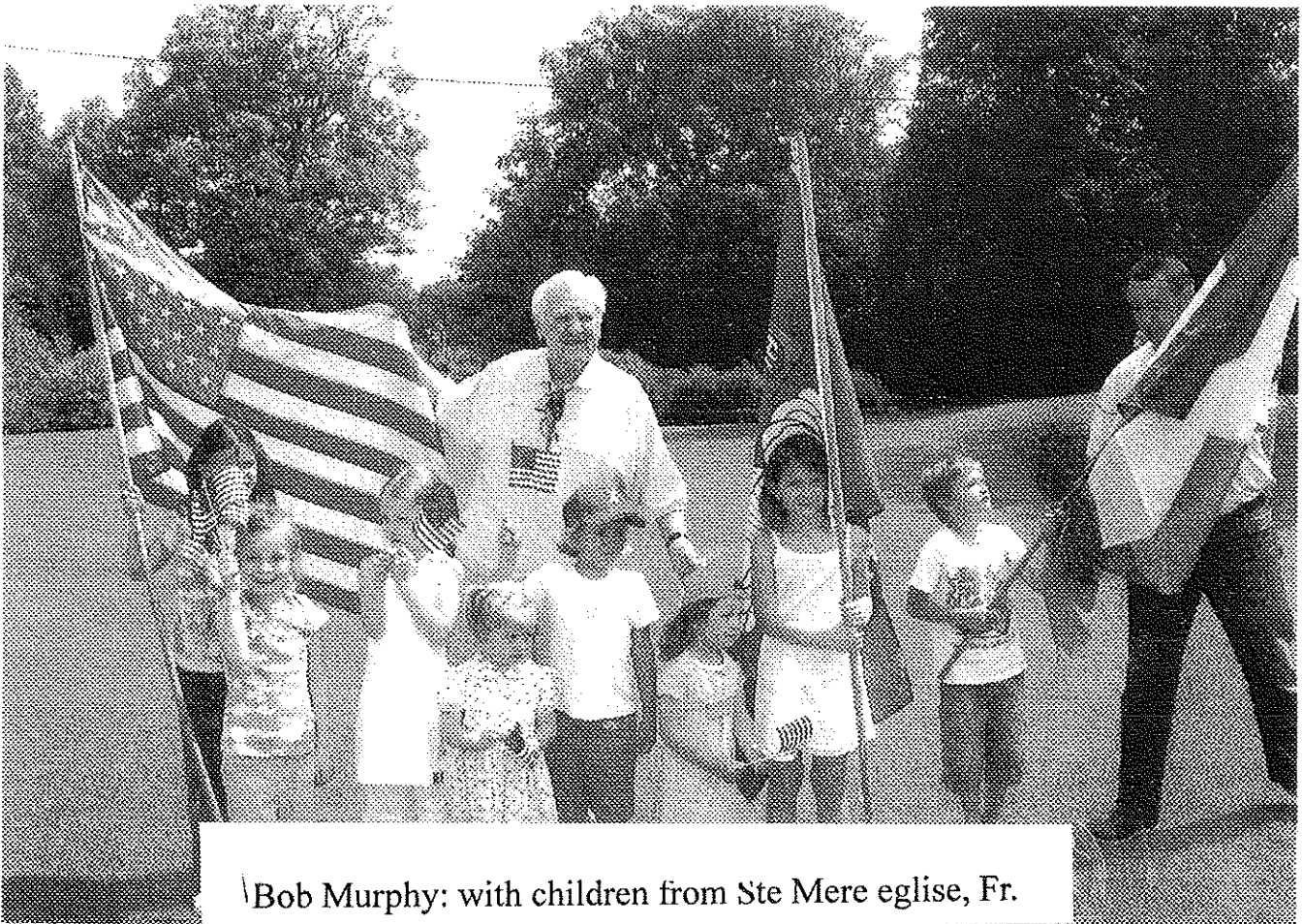
It is not an easy job to run a reunion and the association all year. My thanks go to all those members. Our Family and Friends will continue their wonderful work in taking over and keeping us active. For Ellen Peters, our Airborne Treasurer who spends hour upon hour keeping records, we owe her our gratitude and to Bob Burns, who put together most of the details and work for this Dayton Reunion, we need you as our Family and Friends President. And to Jim

Blankenship, our founder and non-stop worker, I say thank you and if it was not for you stepping in, we would not have our active RCT and Family and Friends Associations without your work to keep our 505 Association alive. Enjoy your reunion at Dayton and I send my best wishes for good health and to enjoy your friendship that was formed in battle.

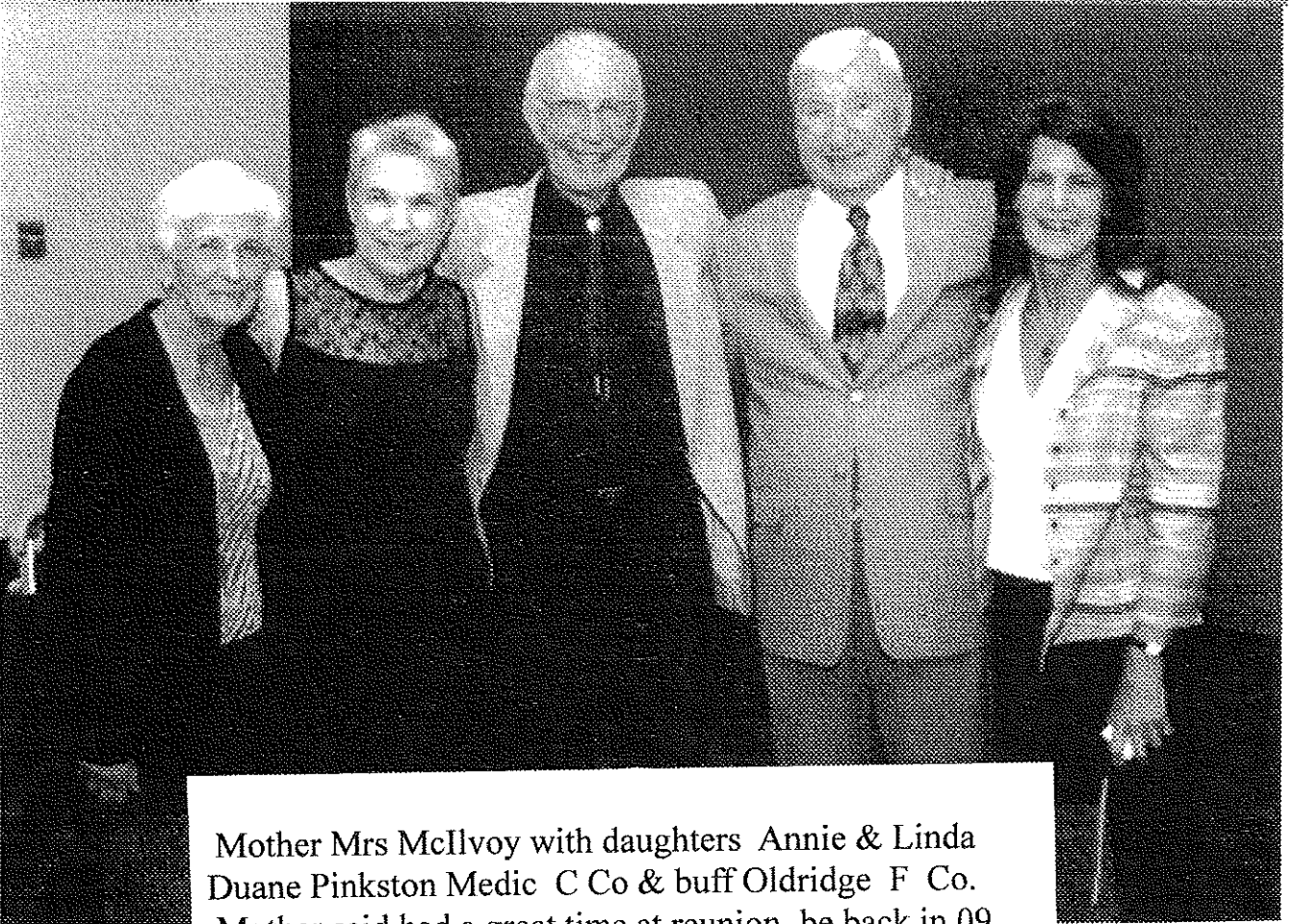
To all my Comrades and Family I say "Airborne all the way". BOB MURPHY



Bob w/ Renaud brothers

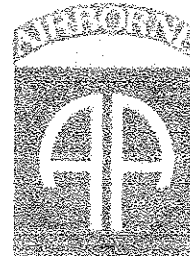


Bob Murphy: with children from Ste Mere eglise, Fr.



Mother Mrs McIlvoy with daughters Annie & Linda
Duane Pinkston Medic C Co & buff Oldridge F Co.
Mother said had a great time at reunion, be back in 09

The 505 RCT WWII send their condolences to the
FAMILY OF COL. ROBERT M. MURPHY.
HE WAS A GREAT COMRADE TO ALL



L'Association des Amis des Vétérans Américains de Sainte-Mère-Eglise
a le regret de vous faire part du décès de

Robert Murphy

Vétérant parachutiste de la deuxième guerre mondiale
Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur
Médaille d'or du Sénat de la République Française
Citoyen d'Honneur de Sainte-Mère-Eglise

Survenu le 3 octobre 2008 à Cape Cod (U.S.A.) dans sa 84^e année.

Un service religieux à sa mémoire sera célébré le mardi 28 octobre à 18h00
en l'église de Sainte-Mère-Eglise.

On the Saturday following his passing away, the memory of Robert Murphy was honoured in the church of Sainte Mère Eglise, but in order to make this moment more solemn, and for his numerous friends to be able to say their gratitude one last time, a Memorial Service will take place on October 28th, 2008 at 6p.m. in Sainte Mère Eglise, with French officials and an American delegation.
henri jean
Renaud

To President and Quarterly Editor
Don McKeage

Dear World War II Vets and our Friends & Families of the
505 th Parachute Combat Infantry Team,

Our reunion in Dayton ,Ohio and Wright Field was in my opinion a great
success .

We of course greatly missed Bob Murphy and Star Jorgenson but the Friends
and Families that were there did an outstanding job.

The organizer of the activities kept us all busy and we saw things relating to the
aircraft of World War II that were enlightening and interesting to all of us.

I was still trying to get over getting run over by one of my cows last April ;
however my many friends helped me get around .

Barbara Fortenbough, Ellen Peters and many others, were kind enough to get
me through the security checks at the airports.

Many of our attendees want us to meet somewhere further west in 2009 .
Fort Bragg is still my choice; even, if we need to stay off post .

If the majority of members agree El Paso might put us far enough west to satisfy
most of us. It is an interesting city and Ft. Bliss has a military post that I think
might help.

Regardless of where we meet , I hope to be able to get around well enough to be
there.

Airborne all the way !



Dear Don very glad to have met you and all the veterans
My dad and I will be back next yr.
Christine Kellam Nardone granddaughter Lt Col. Kellam
1st bn commander KIA Juin 6th 44



Walking in Grandpa's Footsteps

On May 29th 2008, three grandchildren (Tyson, Todd, and his wife Kim) set out with their Grandpa (Donald W. McKeage) to tour Europe and follow in his footprints of his World War II experience.

We arrived in Paris on the 30th of May and drove in town to see the Eiffel tower. After seeing the metal monster we head in the direction of Mount Michel to see the abbey before making our way to St. Mere Eglise for all the D-day festivities. On arriving at Mt. Michel the grandson explored the abbey while Grandpa and I took in some people watching, to much cobblestone and stairs for us.

After the abbey visit we headed towards our destination St. Mere Eglise. Upon arrival we checked-in to our B and B located across the street to the left of the church and town square. While in St. Mere Eglise we went to the Iron Mike monument, the museum, La Fleur bridge, Utah and Omaha beaches, the cemetery, the courtyard of the veterinarian's home where Clifford landed, point du hoc, the stop bar to meet with Mr. Murphy and Mr. Sullivan and to the jump and ceremony where Grandpa presented a German soldier his blood wings. Grandpa even had dinner with Mr. Renaud and his wife.

The history we had heard through out the years was coming to life before our eyes; while putting a deeper perspective and comprehension of the events that happened sixty-four years earlier. We were able to see first hand how thankful people were of the sacrifices made for them by brave soldiers of the war. I was amazed at all the people that wanted to shake hands, get autographs, take pictures and speak to grandpa and other veterans. We always knew that our grandpa as well as all the other men who fought in World War II was selfless heroes, but to see with our own eyes that perfect strangers felt that way also, is very hard to put into words.

We met lots of great people while in SME. We met Mark and Rowley across the pond in England. Ellwood who now owns the veterinarians house. Ellwood has a lovely café in the front courtyard called the C-47 Café. Grandpa signed the wing of a C-47 in the café. Other signatures I noticed were of Bob Murphy and Bill Sullivan.

Next on the stop was Belgium. We arrived in Webormont to stay with Madame Lemmon's at the Hotel Ardennes. We went to see Andres and Gilberto Gregoire and their family. Andres was two years old when grandpa stayed with her family in Theux

during the war. We spent the week touring the battle sites of the Bugle and spending time with the Gregoire family.

We went to Bastone, the Massacre of Maumaldy site, and the new museum Baugnez 44 that opened in 2007 (we all highly recommend going there if your in the neighborhood- it's excellent). We went to Trois Pont to see the railroad site, la Glaze museum to see a tiger tank, the CP house were grandpa spent his Christmas that year as well a visiting an 11 century castle called Franchemont. Belgium is a beautiful country with heavenly views of majestic mountains and magnificent valleys.

The last leg of our journey was north in the Netherlands. Our first stop was in Margraten to visit the American Cemetery. Next we went to Groesbeck where we visited the rendezvous point for the paratroopers who jump into the area, but to our dismay there were no rooms at the in for us. They were booked solid. While in Groesbeck we visited with Ben Theissen, a friend on Grandpas. We had refreshments at the Wolfburg Hotel which was the German Headquarters during the war and a lovely dinner with Ben. We also spent the day with the Dierks family (more friends of Grandpa's) were we saw the area were Grandpa landed. We also visited the Museum there.

On our way to Amsterdam we met up with Emil La Croix for a day of sightseeing. We went to a beautiful citadel and Waterloo the sight of Napoleons defeat. All of us with the exception of grandpa walk up the 222 steps of the monument to a breathtaking view of the area.

Our arrival in Amsterdam meant that our trip was wrapping up. We toured the area for a couple of days before boarding our plane for home.

This trip was the most amazing historical journey that we were able to share with Grandpa. Thank you Grap for the opportunity of a lifetime, it was a trip that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I know that my husband and brother -in-law feel the same way. This trip provided us with a deeper understanding of what sacrifices were made by the brave, courageous and selfless heroes who fought and for some died in battles on foreign soil to defend people they didn't even know.

Words can not express the pride, respect and admiration we have for our HERO (SGT. Donald W. McKeage) and the thousands and thousands of veterans who fought so fiercely for the freedoms we enjoy still today. Thank you for your **Sacrifices!!!!**

Don,
Hope this will work for you.

On Thursday Sept 4Th, 2008 we began our Family and Friends of the 505 reunion in Dayton, Ohio. Mom and I were accompanied in by the "Road Runner" Shirley Gossett. Dayton could not find a better ambassador. The hotel rooms were great, the accommodations hospitable. How wonderful it was to see everyone again. Entering the hospitality room was better then a family reunion. Growing up the daughter of a paratrooper I always felt a little different then my peers. I could never put a finger on why I felt that way. I thought everyone's Dad was just like mine. Being a kid I did not realize the things that he and his buddies had done during WWII. That collectively they had preserved freedom for our and many generations to come. That they as an elite group of the 82ND Airborne had set the standard for the future of the unit, America's Guard of Honor. That the standard was extremely high. Dad would sometimes mention one of his friends or one of them would come to visit. When it was one of his paratrooper friends he stopped what ever he was doing. Nothing was more important then the Airborne. They were all just doing their best to live a full productive life. There were little things that Dad would do that I look back on now with much greater understanding. He would say "I am living on borrowed time" or "If you ever need to Katie you can take a mans eyes out with your thumbs just like this". Then he would show me how. He taught me to do a PLF (parachute landing fall) at four years old.

In the evening we would sit around the kitchen table, Dad with a glass of beer. Sometimes we would dance to big band a tune on the radio. On the shelf he kept a Burgundy book. It was the "Saga of the All American". His had many layers of tape on the binding. Looking back I could almost call it his bible. I would sit on his lap and he would open the book to different sections depending on his thoughts. We almost always ended up looking at the section on Ludwiglust, Germany.

My Father would tell me never to let this happen in our country. How he has seem men alive and dead stacked like cored wood. That it was the German people who elected Hitler and that they let this atrocity happen. He would be holding back tears and his voice would crack as he spoke. By now you are wondering what this has to do with the reunion.

Perhaps the best moment of the reunion for me was one that I shared with Mr. and Mrs. Duaine Pinkston. It was the last day of the reunion and we had just come into the hospitality room from lunch. There was a gentleman who had set up some memorabilia in the back of the hospitality room. There sat Mr. Pinkston with his wife looking through the burgundy book. A copy of one just like my Father had. I said to them "Oh you are looking at the "Saga of the All American". He looked up at me and said "Is there a section on Ludwiglust"? Knowing the book well I turned right to the page.

Mr. Pinkston told me he was a medic "Pinky the medic". He was one of the first guys in to the concentration camp. He said "He walked into a room...more like a horse stall. The camp had a stench that just can't be described. He looked around, hollered out to the others "I don't think there are any alive in here". At that moment, he saw a pair of eyes move to look at him. He knelt down, picked up a man who was nothing but skin and bones and carried him outside. He told me that he and the other men with him carried men (who were nothing but skin and bones, who were mixed with those who were dead and dying) for the rest of the day to get them medical attention. He said "You could smell the stench for at least 6 miles away from the camp". That men had been stacked in layers 6 across and then 6 across

like cored wood, alive and dead together. That there were trenches of bodies outside that had not been covered.

That night when they had finished transporting the survivors to get medical attention he scrubbed and scrubbed himself but could not get the smell off of him. The next day when he returned to the medical facility that they had set up for these poor souls he felt eyes upon him. Pinky said "When you are a soldier who has been in combat you instinctively know when someone is watching you". He looked around and saw the man...the first man he had carried out of the camp the day before watching him. The man motioned for Mr. Pinkston and he walked over to him. The man stood up and put his arms around Pinky the Medic and hugged him. He was so grateful to be rescued. "Could you believe he remembered me", Pinky said. There were no words to describe the emotions.

There I stood with tears running down my face. So were the tears running down all our faces. I put my hand out and squeezed Mr. Pinkston's hand. I knew that what Duaine "Pinky" Pinkston was telling me was true. I had felt those emotions with my Father, Bob Dumke so many times growing up. My Father never told me what his part was at Ludwiglust. You know, I never asked him. I just knew it was painful for him. I thank Mr. Duaine "Pinky the Medic" Pinkston for sharing his story with me. I felt like my Dad was there with us. Like he had his arms wrapped around the three of us to comfort us.

That afternoon we heard stories from many of the other guys as we had that morning. Most seemed a little uncomfortable. I knew they were brave to be giving us their account of things that happened to them during their time in WWII. I knew all the memories were painful for them and I appreciated their effort to share with those of who so yearn for the knowledge of their experiences. Sitting there listening I could not help but think they were giving us the sanitized version of events. From their eyes it seemed all they had done was the job they were sent there to do. From my eyes, they saved the world. Then went back home and made a life for them self and their family.

My cup of gratitude overflows to all the veterans for all their sacrifice and the things they have done. To the families, you are my extended brothers and sisters. The peers I feel comfortable with. The ones who understand why and who I am. Until next year.....

Katie Dumke Troccoli
A paratrooper's daughter

Katie Dumke Troccoli
815-228-2058 Mobile

This is to inform everyone that Emile Lacroix is no longer associated in any way with the C-47 Club. Due to unfortunate circumstances all ties have been severed. There is a new Belgian chapter that has no involvement with Emile Lacroix. If you receive anything from the Belgium Chapter of the C-47 Club, please be aware that this is not from Emile Lacroix. The In the Footsteps of the 82nd March will not be affected by these severed ties in any way. The march has always been run by Emile's All American Jeep Group and will continue to be run by them. Of course, all members of the C-47 Club are welcome to attend Emile's march as they have always been welcome to do so.

dwmderbby

From: <SARAHCREWS@aol.com>
To: <dwmderbby@charter.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 05, 2008 6:46 PM
Subject: Chaplain's Corner Oct. 1008

Chaplain's Corner Oct. 2008

General Matthew B. Ridgway wrote a Foreword for Allen Langdon's book "Ready" published in 1986. Excerpts from his Foreword follow:

"My long and happy association with the 505th Parachute Infantry began at Fort Bragg, N.C. on February 12, 1943 ... When I say happy I mean it in the sense that early on I learned that when I gave the 505 a job to do, it would be done and with little or no direction on my part. I have no doubt that based on its record, the 505 was the best parachute regiment to come out of World War II."

The words of General Ridgway reinforce our pride in having served with the 505. The men and women who have served in later wars and now in Iraq to carry on our fight for freedom also deserve our pride and appreciation.

A Paratroopers Prayer

By Chaplain George B. Wood

Almighty God, Our Heavenly Father; who art above us all, within and around; Drive from the minds of our paratroopers any fear of the space which Thou art ever present. Give them confidence in the strength of Thine everlasting arms to uphold them. Endue them with clear minds and pure hearts that they may participate worthily in the victory which this nation must achieve in Thy name and thru Thy will. Make them hardy soldiers of our country. Amen

God Bless you all, Love,
Jesse

Members of our Family & Friends ; Loraine & Jim
KOSKI OF MICHIGAN' S U P WENT ON A GREAT TRIP
TO THE BATTLE FIELDS OF EUROPE; AND HAVE
WRITTEN A GREAT REPORT. WE WILL HAVE IT PDY,
AND SENT TO OUR WEB SITE WWW505RCT. ORG
WEB MASTER JOHN SPARRY GRANDSON
OF COL MARK ALEXANDER DECEASED

By Ellen Peters

2008 505 RCT Reunion

The 2008 505 RCT Reunion began, for me, when I arrived at DFW Airport on Wednesday, September 3. There at the departure gate were two of my favorite troopers, Otis Sampson and Ed Sayre. Seated with them was my good friend and new F&F member, Jan Silver. While we were waiting, Ed told me the story of how he got his commission. Prior to WWII, he was a Sergeant with the 36th Infantry Division. They were short on 2nd Lts. and gave all the sergeants a test and told them those scoring in the top 10 % would be made a 2nd Lt. Ed happened to be one of those. He never even went to OCS! Considering the way Ed's career went, I would say making him an officer was a very wise decision on the army's part.

Prior to boarding the plane, the four of us managed to get seats together. Jan and Ed sat on one side of the aisle - Otis and I sat on the other. Otis told me all about his childhood family during the flight. I so enjoy the time I spend with Otis. He is incredibly interesting – whether he is telling me war stories or about any other time in his life. What an amazing life he has led. He told me that when he was young, he always wanted to lead a life of adventure so that when he was old, he would have lots of fond memories to look back on. At 97, he is finally slowing down a bit and doing just that. He often tells me what a wonderful life he has had. I am so thankful I get to be a part of it.

Upon arrival in Dayton, Otis Sampson, Jr. was there to pick up his dad. It was certainly nice to see him again. It always does my heart good to see that father and son duo together. They are both so very proud of each other, and one can see the love between them. Otis, Sr. told me that he carried his son's baby shoes with him throughout the war – right next to his heart.

We met Bob Burns at the airport in Dayton and Shirley Gossett of the 325 very kindly picked us up and took us to the Hope Hotel. While we were waiting for Shirley, Ed told us about getting wounded in Italy. What a harrowing story. They kept shuffling him from hospital to hospital with the mistaken belief that he was going to die – they didn't want to mess up their good survival record. At one point, Ed told the ambulance driver, "just leave me here, I'm dying!" His ordeal was probably fortuitous as he ended up in a hospital with a specialist in the area he required. The doctor saved his life. Years later, Ed happened to see the doctor's name on a building in New Orleans and went to his office where he left a note with the receptionist. Before Ed got to the elevator, the doctor caught up with him and brought him back to his office for a visit, leaving a crowded waiting room full of patients. I love stories like that!

We arrived at the Hope Hotel and checked in. Prior to the reunion, I asked the hotel to book my room next to Ed's so I would be nearby in case he needed any help during the reunion. He didn't – Ed is truly amazing. At 92, he is still going strong. We unpacked and then went down to the hospitality room together. We saw the Franco's on the way. It is always wonderful to see Doc

and Ilene and, of course, their lovely daughter, Barbara Sherer. I love that family! It would be hard to imagine a reunion without them.

In the hospitality room, we saw Jim Blankenship and his lovely wife, Jean and Don McKeage and his lovely daughter, Barbara Fortenbaugh. Egbert van de Schootbrugge of Holland was there and it was wonderful to meet him. What a fine young man he is. I managed to get a great picture of Egbert and Otis. It later occurred to me that there is almost 80 years difference in age between the two! Christine Kellam Nardone, granddaughter of Major Fred Kellam came over and said hello. It was so nice to finally meet her after our many telephone conversations.

The reunion was attended by 57 people. Our numbers are a little down from prior years, but not our genuine joy at seeing old friends. I especially want to thank Barbara Sherer and Barbara Fortenbaugh for all the help they gave me during the reunion. I am afraid my skills as association secretary are rather lacking and I could not have performed my duties without their help. I owe both of them a big debt of gratitude.

On Thursday morning Jan Silver joined me to meet some relatives who live in Dayton. We had a nice visit and lovely lunch returning to the Hope Hotel around 1:00. Several people had arrived including one of my favorites, Bill Sullivan. He was wearing a Dallas Cowboys shirt and I certainly enjoyed seeing that! Most everyone had arrived by late afternoon. The veterans had their annual meeting in the hospitality room and Bill Sullivan gave a lovely toast to Bob Murphy who was unable to attend due to his illness. He was missed. It is hard to imagine a 505 RCT reunion without him.

We spent Thursday evening visiting. I especially enjoyed listening in on a conversation between Ray Fary of the 80th AA Btn. and Otis Sampson of E Co. talk about St. Saveur le Vicomte. Ray had a photo of an 80th AA gun that had been knocked out and Otis had been wounded on that same street near where the gun was. Otis was telling what he remembered of the action that day.

Friday morning we boarded a bus and went to the Air force Museum. We divided into small groups and were given tours of the WWII section. My group consisted of Ed Sayre, Ken Kasse, Bill Sullivan, Jan Silver, Dan Roper, and I. I took a picture of the three veterans in front of the C-47. I also got some great shots of Bill. One pointing out the POW camps he was in from a listing hanging on the wall and another of him in front of the Holocaust section where a sign was hanging that read "Work will make you free" in German. Bill said they had the same sign in all the POW camps he was in. I also got a picture of him in front of a 40 and 8 (40 horses or 8 men). He told me they would transport about 90 prisoners in one of these.

After our museum visit we went to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base for our annual Memorial Luncheon. Bob said a few words and introduced Lt. Col. Michael Shinnars who was our speaker

at the banquet. His speech was brief, but very moving. We had a lovely luncheon and managed to make our outgoing President, Bob Murphy, a part of it. He had email his President's remarks to me for Jim Blankenship to read at the luncheon. Prior to reading Bob's remarks, I called Bob on my cell phone so he could listen in. As is so typical of Bob, he was worried about me using my cell phone minutes! I assured him I had more than I could use in a lifetime. I put him on speaker phone so everyone could hear him. He seemed to enjoy hearing his speech read and hopefully, it made him feel a part of the reunion.

After the luncheon, we returned to the hotel where we had our annual Family and Friends meeting. It ran a little long, but we got a lot done.

Saturday, we had a panel discussion with the veterans. They all gathered around a table and passed a microphone around and talked about whatever they wanted to talk about and we were given the opportunity to ask questions. John Perozzi, an E Co. man in Otis' platoon talked about a time in Normandy when they had the Germans on the run. He went to Otis and said, "Sarge, let's go get 'em." to which Otis replied, "Nay, we'll get 'em later!" Medic Pinky Pinkston, talked about tending to a wounded man who kept saying, "Don't leave me...don't leave me." Pinky said, "I'm not going to leave you.", and he stayed with the wounded trooper until he died. That's the kind of story that really gets to me. I asked Don McKeage to talk about leading F Co. in the attack at Abrefontaine in Belgium. He said their captain was wounded and he said to Don, "You take the company. There's no one else left." All the officers had been wounded or killed, so Don led the attack as 1st Sergeant. The panel discussions were very interesting for me (and everyone, I am sure) and I got it all on tape.

Saturday night we had a lovely banquet at the Hope Hotel. Lt Col Shinnars spoke as did Don McKeage. Everyone had a wonderful time. After the banquet, we returned to the hospitality room for our final evening of visiting. I stayed up too late and drank too much, but had a lot of fun.

I had a 7:00 am flight Sunday morning, so I didn't get too much sleep. I sat between Otis Sampson and Ed Sayre on the plane ride home. On the plane going to last year's reunion, Ed told me all about his role in the Korean War, this year he told me all about his role in the Viet Nam war. He was on General Westmoreland's staff. It was all so interesting, luckily I got it all on my digital recorder. He also told me a great WWII story about Sicily. A squad of about 8 men from his company were mis-dropped and a Lt. from Hq. Co. took over. They saw about 12 or 13 Germans coming towards them and the Lt. said they would have to surrender. One of Ed's sergeants began to argue with the Lt. saying, "Hell, no – we are not going to surrender. We haven't even fired a shot." While the Lt. was chewing out the sergeant, the Germans came in and surrendered to them! When Ed heard what had happened, he really chewed out the Lt. and called him a coward. The battalion CO called Ed in and told him he shouldn't have called the Lt. a coward and he needed to go apologize to him. Ed went to the Lt. and said, "I've been ordered

to apologize to you, so I'm doing that now, but if you ever do that again, I'll kill you!" Years later Ed had to take a class at Ft. Benning on the proper way to drive a jeep. Who was teaching the class? The Lt. he had chewed out years before. Out of 100 officers taking the class, one failed – Ed!

When we arrived in Dallas, I had intended to see Otis to his gate, but his next flight was in another terminal. He got on one of those cart things and they drove him to his terminal. I hated to leave him and told the driver he was precious cargo and should be treated like a VIP. He assured me Otis was in good hands. I called him later that evening and he had, indeed, arrived home safely. Thus ended another successful 505 RCT reunion.

My pictures can be seen at www.eeptx.phanfare.com.

Ellen Peters Sec -Treasure

Bob Burns President F&Fs

Subject: 505 reunion

Dear bob: I want to say that we have just returned home from a very fine reunion at dayton. You and the F&Fs did a great job all the way. Much of the thanks must go to you for your leadership. Much of the Reunion was well planned and put in order. Every one including the veterans and family & Friends were smiling & very happy. We all thank you from the bottom of our HEARTS. Barb sent me a note when she arrived back in Georgia, that it was great and everyone was most happy with many smiles to return home. Thank you Thank you thank you. Best always Your most happy President don

To all:

I would like to remind all that any men who were in the the 505 after May 1945 may have come from the 507. My record of the 505 only extended to that point, when high pointers from the 505 moved into the 507 and 507ers replaced them. My total experience was in 505, yet my discharge says 507 because that was where i was assigned when I came home. So the 505 roster does not include those who went on to Berlin. Bob Gillette

----- Original Message -----

Subject: 505 Reunion

Dear Ellen: It was very nice seeing and visiting with you at the fine reunion. It seems every one had a great time and visited well with all. I espically want to thank you for all your work this past year with our finanical records. we just could not have done it without you Best always LOve don

A big thank you to Jim & Jean Blankenship for a great Hospitality Rm.

Many Many thanks for all those who worked and all those who came To visit znd enjoy them selves. See you all next yr.

Family & Friends of the 505 RCT Association
Governing Board
2008-2009

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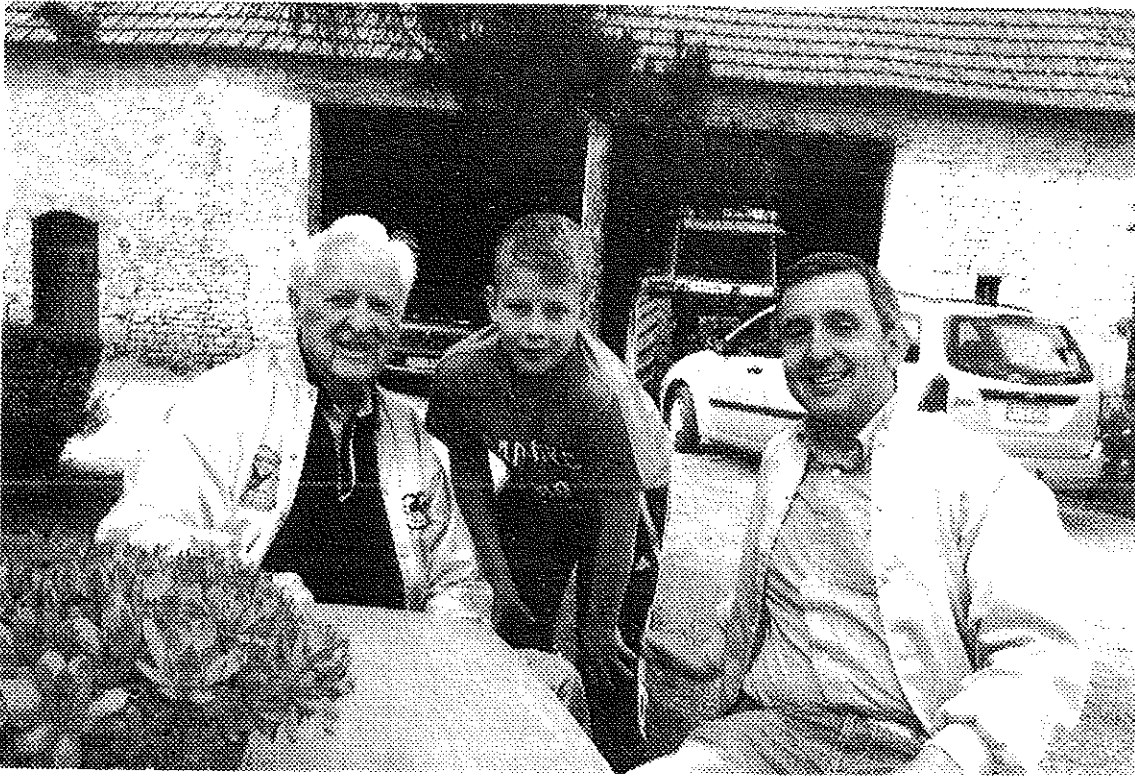
Perhaps we should put a statement in every Panther - reminding people to inform us if their address changes as the Panthers are not returned by the post office and it is up to them to notify us. Word it however you think appropriate. I think the wording should be fairly strong to impress on people that it is their responsibility. Otherwise, strangers will be receiving their copy of the Panther!! That wastes our money and they will miss out on 505 news.

Trustee, Duane Pinkston: 1398 Knoll Road; Portland, MI 48875-9763; Home (616) 374-7909

Trustee, Dave Bullington: 822 Sandra Ave.; Dyersburg, TN 38024-7312; Home (731) 287-7984

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**Reunion, F&Fs Bob Burns: 2453 Loft Ave.; Baldwin, NY 11510; Home: (516) 867-2918; Cell:
(516) 770-1815; rjburns19@aol.com**



Don,

Things have been very quiet here in the UK. I have been very busy producing more of my columns for the Static Line, I am up to number 133 at the moment. Instead I am sending you a photograph taken in Normandy this year of my old friend, Bob Murphy, with my son, David, and my grandson James who has just celebrated his twelfth birthday. They are hoping to go to Normandy next year again.

The other photograph is for you with the two boys.
Deryk.

505 RCT Board for 2008 – 2009

Governing Board

2008 - 2009

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**Historical, Phil Nordyke: 2803 Carraige Trail; McKinney, TX 75070-4307;
Home (972) 562- 2677; orders@allamerican82nd.com**

A Haunting
By
Tim Dyas

*While we both started life
as babes
I never knew you until I
glanced
Beneath my feet as I stepped
over you
And, since then I have never
forgotten thee.
As we moved to the road
to surrender
Your young body, clad as
a soldier
In our enemy's uniform
Was a poignant example
of war.
While you looked so peaceful
I knew you were killed
in battle
At an age when one ascends
to manhood
And so, I carry you eternally
in my heart.*

From 10 July 1943 onward

ROBERT M. "BOB" MURPHY



SOUTH DENNIS — Colonel Robert M. "Bob" Murphy of South Dennis and Bonita Springs, Fla., formerly of Roslindale and Westwood, passed away peacefully on Friday, Oct. 3, 2008, at Cape Cod Hospital, surrounded by his loving family.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 35 years, Barbara (Atwood) Murphy (2002), and his former beloved wife of 16 years, Joanne (Murray) Murphy (1962).

Bob was born on July 7, 1925, in Boston to Joseph and Anna Murphy, brother to Steven Murphy, and sister Virginia (Murphy) Healy, and predeceased by his brother, Walter Murphy.

Robert joined the Army on Oct. 1, 1942, serving in World War II with the 82nd Airborne in Italy, Holland, Africa and Normandy, France. He received the Purple Heart (3), Valor (2), Bronze Star, Medal of Honor, and the highest honor given by France, "The Legion of Honor."

Bob Murphy was a proud member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston. He was author of the book "No Better Place to Die," depicting D-Day, June 6, 1944, in Saint Mere Eglise, Normandy, France, where Bob had returned in the 1960s to continue skydiving with his veteran friends as well as the airborne divisions of France and Canada. He celebrated and honored the events of D-Day his entire adult life, keeping alive the memory and importance of this historical time for him and his brothers-in-arms along with his adopted family of Normandy, France.

Bob received his J.D. at Suffolk University, Boston, 1950, and was a postgraduate of Harvard University, 1969. Bob practiced law with the firm of Murphy and Murphy in Boston. He also served as assistant attorney general of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1989-1991; chairman of the Massachusetts Parachute Commission in Boston and Orange, 1960-1963; chief executive officer of National Check Protection Services Inc., 1994-1996; Col. USAR (ret.); Mem 82nd Airborne Division Assn. (pres.) 1960-1961, 1994, board of directors); 505 Parachute Inf. Regt. Assn. (pres. 1991-92, 2008); Roman Catholic avocations; skydiving, travel and ancient history.

Bob leaves behind two children, Dion Murphy of Bonita Springs, Fla. and Christina Murphy Mazgelis of Osterville; four stepchildren, Robert Wilkinson, Cheryl Ludwig, Helen Mazzoni and Dana Lukens. He is predeceased by sons Robert Michael and Gary Vincent, daughter Marie Bernadette, and stepdaughters Brenda Wilkinson and Barbara Jo Menzel. He is also survived by grandchildren Ryan K. Murphy, Eden Brumini, Cassandra and Ian Mazgelis, Calvin and Tara Kennedy, Nate and Spencer Lukens, Mathew and Dana Marie Mazzoni, Hamish and Seth S. Wilkinson, Eric and Andrew Ludwig, Alyssa and Brittany Ayalla, and three great-grandchildren. In addition, he is survived by adoring cousins, nephews and nieces, and companion Gloria O'Brien of Concord.

He is loved, honored and respected by a magnitude of close friends throughout the world. His legacy and his love for living life to its fullest will be remembered and carried on by all who were lucky enough to have had him in their lives. He will always be a hero, a warrior, and a legend to his country, family and friends. The world is a better place for having had Bob Murphy in it. Geronimo!

ROLL OF HONOR 2007-2008
505th WWII Regimental Combat Team

*We Mourn the losses of these veterans and Reflect on their contributions to
 America's freedoms and continuing greatness*

Richard Aiken		456PFAB
Eddie Arndt	E Co.	505PIR
Elmo Bell	C Co	505PIR
Frank Bilich	D Co	505PIR
Delbert Bragg	HQ 1BN	505PIR
John Cages	E Co.	505PIR
Albert Cappa	B Co.	307 ENG
William Clark	SV. Co	505PIR
Charles Coppings	C Co.	505PIR
Art DeFilippo	D Co.	505PIR
Rev. Ralph Epps	HQ	80AABN
Thomas Goins	B Co	307 ENG
Thomas Hagy	G Co.	505PIR
Fred Heblin	E Co.	505PIR
Marshall Herman	HHC	505PIR
Don Lassen	E Co.	505PIR
John McFadden	HQ & B Bty	80AABN
Paul Medich		505PIR
Robert O'Connor	A Co.	505PIR
Dennis O'Laughlin	E Co.	505PIR
Horace Neilsen	F Btry	80AABN
Robert Piper	G Co.	505PIR
James Ricci	A Co.	505PIR
John Sadler	HQ	80AABN
John Scarlato	E Co.	505PIR
Leonard Skolek	D Co.	505PIR
Harold Thain		456PFAB
Leo Traeder		456 PFAB
Joseph Vincent	C Co.	505PIR
Lawrence Weifling	HQ3BN	505PIR
Walter Winton	HQ1BN	505PIR
Walker Wood	HHC	505PIR
Frank Woolsey	E Co.	505PIR
Joseph Youey	E Co.	505PIR
Bob Murphy	A Co	505 PIR

*And for all those Airborne troopers who have passed on without our
 noticing, we pray that these brothers in-arms and life are nestled in the
 comforting arms of our Heavenly Father. Amen*