

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

P.O. Box 604931 Bay Terrace, New York 11360-4931



www.77thinfdivroa.org

# THE LAMPETTE

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III, USA (Ret)

#### Winter 2016 Issue

# 1. THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

On behalf of the Directors of the Association, I welcome our Members, friends and other readers, to this winter 2016 edition of *The Lampette*. We certainly hope that the Holiday Season was most enjoyable and safe for all of you.

Activities that took place since our last edition started with a number of Members attending the Armed Forces Reserve Family Assistance Fund (AFRFA) Golf Tournament on 15 August at West Point. This annual event is dedicated to the memory of MG Francis T. Donohue, a long-time member of our Association and a former Commander of the 800<sup>th</sup> MP Brigade and the 77<sup>th</sup> ARCOM. Each year, the outing raises funds that are used 100% to assist families of Reserve soldiers on Active Duty who are in dire need of assistance.

On Sunday, 11 September, the Association was well represented in attending the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony in the 77<sup>th</sup> Memorial Grove at Fort Totten, honoring the six 77<sup>th</sup> Soldiers who were lost in the World Trade Towers. COL Pamela L. McGaha, Commander, 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade; LTC Thomas P. Sullivan, Deputy Commander; and a number of Soldiers from the Brigade's subordinate units were in attendance.

The Association's Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting was held on 19 October at the Swan Club in Glenwood Landing, NY. Members and guests were welcomed and the General Officers present were recognized: MG George E. Barker, MG Evo Riguzzi, Jr. and MG William Terpeluk. The Treasurer's Report was summarized by Mr. Malcolm R Schade, Assistant Treasurer. A copy of the formal report is reproduced in this publication. A summary of the Association's activities during the past year was presented to the attendees. The slate of Directors to be elected for the next term was voted on and approved by the Members who were present in person and by proxy.

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Service was conducted on Sunday, 6 November in the Fort Totten Chapel and in the 77<sup>th</sup> Memorial Grove. Speakers in the Chapel were MG Barker and COL McGaha. Dr. Pam Phillips once again provided the piano music and sang *Ave Maria* and *The Lord's Prayer*. LTC Sullivan was the speaker during the wreath laying ceremony immediately following in the 77<sup>th</sup> Memorial Grove. The 389<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, a unit of the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, provided support and participated in both services.

2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the organization of the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Camp Upton in Yaphank, L.I., NY. Our Association's plans for the recognition of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary are presently

being firmed-up and will include expanded Memorial Services in Central Park on Saturday, 10 June, and at Fort Totten on Sunday, 5 November. The latter will be followed by a Recognition Reception in Kaine Hall. We are currently developing the programs, inviting speakers and coordinating logistics. The 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade with its various units will be supporting the events, as will the 319<sup>th</sup> US Army Band and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 307<sup>th</sup> Regiment (an Active Army unit that inherited the colors and lineage of the original 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 77<sup>th</sup>).

During early planning of these events, COL Robert M. Newbert suggested that we develop a commemorative/challenge coin as a tangible remembrance of the anniversary. The Directors adopted the idea, and SGM Anthony A. Filosa and others proceeded to investigate and make a final recommendation to produce the coins. We wanted to ensure that the coins would be modestly priced so that as many Members and friends as possible would be able to enjoy having one, especially the Soldiers presently assigned to the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade. The price is \$10.00 per coin plus \$1.25 for mailing. If you are interested, please place your orders with SGM Filosa.

On 4 November, the movie, *Hacksaw Ridge*, was released. The film is the real-life story of Desmond Doss, a member of the 307<sup>th</sup> in WWII who was a recipient of the Medal of Honor and other awards for his courage as a Medic on the battlefield. Corporal Doss was an American Hero, who passed away on 23 March 2006. BG Harry J. Mott, III and his son MSG Jeffrey J. Mott represented the 77<sup>th</sup> and our Association at Desmond's funeral at Chattanooga National Cemetery, TN, and we also honored him at our Memorial Service at Fort Totten later that year. An obituary of Desmond Doss appears on our website at: http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/news/obituaries.html .

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of our Members who continue to work on behalf of the Association with their talents and financial support. We do this not only to honor the memory of the 77<sup>th</sup> and the sacrifices of those who have gone before us, but also to set an example for the Soldiers currently serving in the 77<sup>th</sup> to follow. Likewise, we greatly appreciate the support of the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade and other units so that we may continue to be a viable and contributing organization.

We look forward to a New Year and the anticipated celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We will keep you informed well in advance of the events so that as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

Best wishes for a healthy and safe New Year.

#### 2. FUND RAISING:

The 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division ROA is offering for sale 77th Infantry Division wine glasses and whiskey tumblers etched with the 77th "Liberty" patch. The glasses and tumblers are \$8 for one (plus \$4 for shipping and handling), \$15 for two (plus \$6 for shipping and handling), \$29 for four (plus \$8 for shipping and handling, and \$85 for a dozen (with shipping and handling included). Wine glasses and whiskey tumblers can be mixed in any of these orders.

77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division baseball-type hats are available in various colors for \$15 each. The Association's new 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative/challenge coins are \$10, plus \$1.25 for shipping and handling. To order any of these items, please contact SGM Tony Filosa at 917-279-0744 or by email at: the 77 infasso@aol.com. (This is a special email address for merchandise orders only.)

Also available are Memorial Bricks, at \$125 each, installed in the 77th Memorial Grove at Fort Totten. Each brick can be inscribed with up to three lines, and each line can contain up to a total of 20 characters and spaces. Order forms are available at our web site at: <a href="http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/forsale/index.html">http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/forsale/index.html</a>.

# 3. 77th SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE REPORT:

The following contribution was received from COL Pamela M. McGaha, Commander, 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade:

Season's Greetings from the 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade! I wish everyone well, and thank you for your continuing support to 77<sup>th</sup> SB Soldiers & Families. This past Quarter, the Brigade has participated in numerous New York City events such as marching in the Veteran's Day Parade, proudly carrying a field-size American flag during a recent Jets game, loading Christmas trees from Dee's Nursery onto DHL airplanes for troops overseas, and supporting American Airlines' "Snowball Express", an annual event which flies the children of Fallen Heroes to Dallas for 5 days to honor their parent's sacrifice. Finally, over 300 Brigade Soldiers attended the movie premiere of "Hacksaw Ridge" where they learned the historic and heroic story of PFC Desmond Doss and the brave men of the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in World War II.

In other big news, the 874<sup>th</sup> MCT won the prestigious Chief of Staff, Army Logistics Excellence Award, a distinction that was bestowed upon only 9 units Army-wide. I am honored to lead Soldiers who are dedicated to Excellence in accomplishing their military mission and also in supporting their local communities.

Before I conclude, I would like to proudly welcome back our 10 Soldiers from the 142<sup>nd</sup> MCT who spent this past year deployed in Afghanistan. Plans are underway for their official "Welcome Home" event in early February, and I hope Alumni can attend and meet them personally. Fifty-four Soldiers from the 354<sup>th</sup> MCB are also readying to deploy in February, and we will let the Association know the Send-Off event details. Lastly, please keep our deployed Soldiers from the 408<sup>th</sup> Postal Platoon in your hearts this holiday season. They are all doing very well, and working hard keeping the mail moving throughout the Middle East. Liberty Warriors – Never Forget!

# 4. FALL LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING AT THE SWAN CLUB:

On 19 October 2016, our Association held its Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting at The Swan Club in Roslyn, New York. Attendance was similar to last year, although low by historical standards, and the event was enjoyed by only 17 Members and 11 spouses and guests. As usual, the schedule began with a cocktail reception with passed hors d'oeuvres, which were followed by a served luncheon.

During the luncheon, President Lou Sudholz conducted a brief business meeting, and reported regarding the healthy financial condition of the Association, recent Association activities, plans for the rest of the year, and events planned for 2017. As is customary, he began by recognizing the General Officers who were present: MG George E. Barker, MG Evo Riguzzi, Jr. and MG William Terpeluk.

CW4 Stephen C. Josephs briefly addressed the attendees regarding his continuing efforts to promote recognition of the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division song, "They Didn't Think We'd Do It, But We Did". He also distributed copies of the historic program for a performance, which included that song, in 1918 by "The Argonne Players" (an *ad hoc* ensemble of 77<sup>th</sup> Soldiers) in a German-built theatre in the Argonne Forest, 24 hours after it had been captured by the Division from the enemy.

COL Sudholz introduced our new member, COL Joseph J. Massaro, and presented him with the now-customary 77<sup>th</sup> lapel pin and etched wine glass.

Mr. Malcolm Schade, as Secretary, and CW4 Bernard M. Kaplan then conducted the election of Directors. Despite the presence in person of only 17 voting (Regular or Honorary) Members, proxies given prior to the meeting enabled the meeting to achieve the required quorum of at least 21 voting Members (10% of the total number of Members eligible to vote). All of the candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee were unanimously elected for two-year terms, and until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified.

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

In attendance were: MG George E. Barker; COL John M. Cashin; COL Ivan Cornielle; SGM Anthony A. Filosa; SGM Leonard Finkelstein; COL Kevin F. Harrington; 1SG Emmanuel Johnson; CW4 Stephen C. Josephs; CW4 Bernard M. Kaplan; COL Seymour Kaplan with Mrs. Harriet L. Kaplan; COL Joseph J. Massaro; CW5 Robert Neglia; SFC Ronald I. Peters with Mrs. Virginia Peters; Mrs. Ivy F. Richardson with Mrs. Eileen McKenzie; MG Evo Riguzzi, Jr.; Mr. Malcolm R. Schade with Mrs. Cherie

Schade; LTC Joseph Schroder; CSM Julius C. Stein; COL Louis H. Sudholz, Jr. with Mrs. Joan Sudholz; LTC Thomas P. Sullivan; MG William Terpeluk; LTC Victor E. Tuohy; and COL John E. Wohrle. Photos of this event will be available for viewing on our web site.

# 5. TREASURER'S REPORT:

We are pleased to report that our fiscal 2016 revenues exceeded our expenses, unlike our two previous fiscal years. The main reason for this result was the generosity of a number of our members who sent us donations. Since we do not assess annual dues, donations play a significant role in our ability to maintain our organization and we greatly appreciate all financial assistance regardless of the amount provided.

As you might note, our two largest categories of expenses continue to be our annual memorial service and printing/postage. We continue to utilize e-mail, wherever possible, to reduce the latter category and urge any members who have not yet forwarded their e-mail address to please do so.

This year we anticipate two additional significant expenses: finishing the refurbishment of Kaine Hall, and ceremonies associated with the  $100^{th}$  Anniversary of the  $77^{th}$  Infantry Division. Although we will manage expenses carefully, we continue to foresee the need to count upon the generosity of our loyal membership to maintain our financial stability.

77<sup>th</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION ROA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS YEARS ENDED 8/31/2016 AND 8/31/2015

	Y/E 8/31/16	Y/E 8/31/15
ASSETS		
JP Morgan Chase Bank		
Checking	4,534.70	3,336.61
Savings	11,430.44	11,426.95
TOTALS	15,965.14	14,763.56
FUND BALANCES		
General Operating Fund	12,324.88	10,857.05
Memorial Funds	3,640.26	3,906.51
TOTALS	15,965.14	14,763.56
RECEIPTS		
Interest	3.49	8.64
Donations	2,045.00	359.00
Raffles	413.00	705.00
Socials – Excess Receipts Over Exp.	225.00	268.00
<b>Initiation Fees from New Members</b>	250.00	150.00
Memorabilia Sales – Net	206.18	-2.00
TOTALS	3,142.67	1,488.64
DISBURSEMENTS		
Rental of P.O. Box	132.00	128.00
Postage/Printing	524.58	415.91
Web Site	350.00	484.50
Memorial Service	891.25	725.62
Misc. Supplies	43.26	133.60
TOTALS	1,941.09	1,887.63
NET RECEIPTS / EXPENSES	1,201.58	-398.99

# 6. ANNUAL ECUMENICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AT FORT TOTTEN:

On Sunday, 6 November 2016, our Association held its 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service in the Post Chapel at Fort Totten. This Memorial Service specifically remembers Soldiers of the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and its successor commands, as well as other veterans who have been long-time friends of the Association, whose passing has come to its attention during the preceding year. Since 2005, these Soldiers have specifically included Members of the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Veterans Society. In addition, the Memorial Service honors all other members of the 77<sup>th</sup> family who have served and currently are serving their country.

We were pleased that the Memorial Service this year was attended by numerous family members and friends, some of whom traveled considerable distances, of the Soldiers being remembered, as well as by many Members and other guests of our Association. Also attending were: LTC Kevin McGuire, Commander, and CSM Carol A. Cox, 389<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion; LTC Jeffrey J. Lesperance, Commander, and CSM Walter A. Embich, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 307<sup>th</sup> Regiment (Fort Dix, New Jersey); and NYS Senator Tony Avella (11<sup>th</sup> District).

The Service began with a welcome by our President, COL Louis H. Sudholz, Jr., and the Posting of Colors by a Color Guard of the 389<sup>th</sup> CSSB. COL Sudholz also introduced the other participants and read the Last Roll Call. His introductory remarks were immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by MSG Jeffrey J. Mott, USA (Ret), and the singing of the National Anthem by the Congregation.

The Invocation and Scripture Reading were offered by CH (LTC) Murray E. Stadtmauer, USA (Ret), and the Prayer and Benediction were offered by CH (CPT) Roxanne Birchfield, 479<sup>th</sup> Chemical Battalion (USAR). Dr. Pam Phillips accompanied herself on the piano and sang *Ave Maria* and *The Lord's Prayer*, in addition to playing a Prelude and Postlude.

The first Speaker was COL Pamela L. McGaha, Commander, 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, and a Member of our Association. Her Remarks centered on the importance of ceremonies such as this in promoting and preserving understanding of the valuable service of veterans to our nation.

The Keynote Speaker was MG George E. Barker, USA (Ret), Former Commanding General, 77<sup>th</sup> Army Reserve Command, who is a long-time Member and supporter of our Association. His Remarks focused on the important role of families in supporting those who serve in the Armed Forces, and the special role of the Reserves in defending our country.

Eulogies of the following departed members of the 77<sup>th</sup> family were delivered by MSG Mott, who is a Director of our Association: COL Robert Braverman, SFC Robert J. Conti, CW4 Arthur Stanley Dixon, COL Theodocia C. Farrales, PFC Donald E. Fitz-Gerald, COL John J. Ford, MAJ Seymour Greene, CPT Bruce D. Gursey, COL Leon Francis Mangin, LTC James Peter Nesdill, MAJ Joseph R. Sena, CW4 Betty Siciliano, COL Joseph Henry Slaymaker, CH (COL) Wesley H. Smith, and COL Conrad R. Waldinger.

In addition, eulogies of two additional 77<sup>th</sup> Soldiers who were members of the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Veterans Society were delivered by COL Edwin G. Logan, USA (Ret), who is the Treasurer and a Director of our Association, and President of the 307<sup>th</sup> IVS. Those departed Soldiers were: SGT Richard Helburn (Co. L) and CPL Arthur Lebsack (Co. M).

Personal remarks by other participants, and by friends and family members who were among the Congregation, supplemented several of the eulogies.

A Trumpeter of the 319th US Army Band, SSG Joseph M. Young, USAR, rang a chime and played TAPS during the Last Roll Call.

Immediately following the Memorial Service in the Post Chapel, our Association held its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the 77<sup>th</sup> Memorial Grove next to the Ernie Pyle USAR Center, Fort Totten. This Grove, which contains several memorial trees, memorial benches, and numerous memorial bricks, was established by our Association in 2002 to honor all members of the 77<sup>th</sup>. In that year, we also

dedicated a polished granite monument in the Grove to six members of the 77<sup>th</sup> Regional Readiness Command who perished at the World Trade Center on 9-11-2001.

After Introductory Remarks by COL Sudholz, additional Remarks regarding the significance of the Grove and the sacrifice of those six Soldiers on 9-11-2001 were offered by LTC Thomas P. Sullivan, Deputy Commander, 77<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, and a Director of our Association. Chaplain Stadtmauer offered a Prayer for Soldiers and a Prayer of Remembrance. COL Lawrence M. Bellman (Ret) and CW4 Bernard M. Kaplan (Ret), both Directors of our Association, presented the Memorial Wreath. Dr. Phillips led the attendees in singing *God Bless America*, and SSG Young played TAPS.

Immediately after the Wreath Laying Ceremony in the 77<sup>th</sup> Memorial Grove, an informal Reception for all participants and other attendees, with refreshments, was held in the MG John W. Kaine Memorial Hall, on the first floor of the adjacent Ernie Pyle USAR Center.

A copy of the program and photos of these events will be available for viewing on our web site.

# 7. MEMBERSHIP NOTES:

MG William J. Collins, Jr. informed us recently that MG Wesley A. Beal passed away at the age of 74 on 5 November 2016 and was buried on 16 December at Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery. A "warrior to the core", MG Beal was a former Commander of the 78<sup>th</sup> Division (Training Support), USAR and known to many in the 77<sup>th</sup>. He was a distinguished officer who counted the Distinguished Flying Cross among his many decorations.

### 8. 307th INFANTRY VETERANS SOCIETY:

The 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Reserve Officers Association and the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Veterans Society will be holding our annual Commemoration Ceremony at the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment Memorial Grove in Central Park on Saturday, 10 June 2017, beginning at 1100 hours. The service this year will be expanded to also observe the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the activations of the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

In an effort to encourage as many members (and their families) as possible from both the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division ROA and the 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry Veterans Society to attend this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony in Central Park on 10 June, we are considering arranging for "free" transportation between Fort Totten and Central Park. We recognize that a possible deterrent to attendance for many is a reluctance to drive into Manhattan, and the difficulty or expense of parking near Central Park. Therefore, **if there is sufficient interest**, your respective organization would arrange to provide bus transportation from Fort Totten, where there is ample parking available, to Central Park and back. The bus would depart from Fort Totten at approximately 0930 hours, and return shortly after the conclusion of the ceremony. However, **we need your input in order to make any such arrangements!** Please let us know soon by regular mail or email if you would avail yourself of this transportation.

# 9. A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE 77th INFANTRY DIVISION IN WWI:

The following contribution was received from LTC Joseph Schroder, a Director of our Association: The 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (originally also called the "Metropolitan" Division and later also known as the "Statue of Liberty" Division) was activated in August 1917 in the National Army. The 77<sup>th</sup> ID was one of three infantry divisions activated in New York State. Along with the 77<sup>th</sup>, the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry ("New York") Division and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Infantry ("Rainbow") Division made up much of the New York State contribution to the war effort. The 27<sup>th</sup> and the 42<sup>nd</sup> were Army National Guard Divisions. Each Division had a similar table of organization and allowances with approximately 27,000 officers and men. Most of the men were draftees.

The 77<sup>th</sup> was activated at Camp Upton, New York, now the home of Brookhaven National Laboratory. Camp Upton could hold about 18,000 men. While some training was done at the camp, it was really a holding area for units being deployed to Europe as they awaited transport by Long Island Rail Road to the troop ships leaving New York City. Much of the training was actually done at Camp Mills, Garden City, New York. There is a monument to Camp Mills near the old Garden City rail road station at Clinton Avenue.

The Division was activated, organized, manned, "trained" and deployed to France in April of 1918: only eight months to put together a division of 27,000 officers and troops. Today, it takes over two years to man, equip, train and certify a new division ready to conduct combat operations. Modern divisions consist on average of between ten thousand to fifteen thousand personnel, depending on the type of division and the mission.

The 77<sup>th</sup> participated in sixty-eight days of combat in May through October 1918: taking part in the first commitment of American troops in the Oise-Aisne Campaign, then in the Battle of Chateau-Thierry in July, and Meuse-Argonne. The Meuse-Argonne Offensive was the largest offensive in American military history, with over 1,200,000 troops committed to the battle. This final battle of the war started on 26 September and ended on 11 November, when the German Army literally ran out of ammunition. The Americans suffered a loss of 26,277 lives and the Germans about 28,000 lives.

During the Meuse-Argonne, the famous "Lost Battalion", made up of companies from the 307<sup>th</sup> and 308<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiments of the 77<sup>th</sup> ID, was not "lost". Division HQ knew exactly where they were: they had advanced forward of friendly lines and were surrounded by the German Army, who considered them a threat to their entire front line in that sector. After six terrible days of being hit by artillery and constant rifle fire, during which 197 of the 554 men were killed in action and another 150 became missing or captured, 194 were rescued. Major Charles Whittlesey, the commanding officer, was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions and leadership.

The 77<sup>th</sup> was one of forty-two US divisions that were rushed to the Western Front in France. The haste to get to the Western Front was one reason for the high casualty rates for the period: there were 10,194 casualties, with 1,486 killed in action and over 200 missing in action. Almost forty percent of the Division were casualties before replacements in combat operations during the late spring, summer and fall. These figures do not include men who later died of disease and infection from their wounds or those who died of non-combat related activities. The weather was improving as spring and summer of 1918 came, and the warmth made life in the trenches more bearable. Fortunately the war ended on 11 November, Armistice Day. The Soldiers spent the winter of 1918-19 in the field preparing to return to the States. The 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was redeployed for separation and inactivation in April 1919.

The actions of the men of the 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in World War One are a great source of pride to all who followed and were able to wear the 77<sup>th</sup> Statue of Liberty patch on their shoulder.

#### **10. ASSOCIATION HISTORIAN:**

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

Sergeant Joseph E. Muller was born on 23 June 1908 in Holyoke, Massachusetts. At some point, he moved to New York City and enlisted as a Private in the Army at the age of 33, on 19 March 1942, at Camp Upton, Yaphank, NY. His enlistment records stated that he had completed grammar school and was a painter by trade. He rose to the rank of Sergeant and served with distinction in the 305<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 77<sup>th</sup> in the Pacific Theater. SGT Muller was killed in action on 16 May, 1945, and eventually was buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously (on 17 July 1946) for his actions on the final two days of his life. The SGT Joseph E. Muller USAR Center, at 555 East 238<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY, eventually was named after him, and at different

times it was the home of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battle Group, 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade, 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division; and the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 307<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

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

"The President of the United States of America, in the name of Congress, takes pride in presenting the Medal of Honor (Posthumously) to Sergeant Joseph E. Muller, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty on May 15 and 16, 1945, while serving with Company B, 305<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 77<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, in action at Ishimmi, Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands.

When his platoon was stopped by deadly fire from a strongly defended ridge, Sergeant Muller directed men to points where they could cover his attack. Then through the vicious machinegun and automatic fire, crawling forward alone, he suddenly jumped up, hurled his grenades, charged the enemy, and drove them into the open where his squad shot them down. Seeing enemy survivors about to man a machinegun, he fired his rifle at point-blank range, hurled himself upon them, and killed the remaining four.

Before dawn the next day, the enemy counterattacked fiercely to retake the position. Sergeant Muller crawled forward through the flying bullets and explosives, then leaping to his feet, hurling grenades and firing his rifle, he charged the Japs and routed them. As he moved into his foxhole shared with two other men, a lone enemy, who had been feigning death, threw a grenade. Quickly seeing the danger to his companions, Sergeant Muller threw himself over it and smothered the blast with his body[;] heroically sacrificing his life to save his comrades, he upheld the highest traditions of the military service."

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

### 11. FLORIDA DETACHMENT:

As previously reported, the 2016 annual luncheon was not held due to insufficient interest and lack of agreement regarding a convenient venue and date. MG Richard S. Colt will attempt to start planning for the 2017 annual luncheon after the New Year. Please contact him with your suggestions at: rscdjc@aol.com .

#### 12. DATES TO REMEMBER:

Spring Luncheon at the Swan Club

Ceremony in 307<sup>th</sup> Inf. Regt. Mem. Grove, Central Park
Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting at the Swan Club

Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service at Fort Totten

10 May 2017
10 June 2017
18 October 2017

#### 13. TELEPHONE CONTACT:

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

#### HAVE WONDERFUL AND SAFE WINTER!

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