



**77th INFANTRY DIVISION
Reserve Officers Association, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 604931
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www.77thinfdivroa.org

THE LAMPETTE

Editor: BG Robert J. Winzinger, Sr., USA (Ret)

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III, USA (Ret)**

2019 Issue

1. THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Members and friends of the Association, welcome to this, our third *annual* publication of *The Lampette*. This newsletter has been published continuously since The 77th Infantry Division Reserve Officer's Association, Inc. was founded in 1958.

The year 2019 began and ended on sad notes with the passing of Colonel Ed Logan in February and Captain Doug Wilke in October. Both Colonel Logan and Captain Wilke were long-time members of the Association and served on our Board of Directors for more than thirty years. In addition, Colonel Logan was a past President and Treasurer. Captain Wilke was a key member of several committees which were involved in major projects. Further details of both officer's contributions are described in a separate article later in this issue.

This year, we held three scheduled events: the Spring and Fall Luncheons and the Annual Memorial Service at Fort Totten. The board made the decision to forego the Commemoration Ceremony in the 307th Infantry Regiment Memorial Grove in Central Park in June due to the passing of Colonel Logan, who had been the principal officer involved with those ceremonies. We hope to resume sponsorship of this service in 2020.

We are pleased to report that our Association is in financially sound condition. Special thanks to the members for their voluntary support and to those who generously participate in our raffles which take place during the two luncheons. The proceeds from the raffles and the contributions support the memorial services and our moderate administrative expenses. The Treasurer's Report appears later in this issue.

The 99th Readiness Division and the 77th Sustainment Brigade continue to support our Association in many ways, including the continuing refurbishing of Kaine Hall in the Ernie Pyle USAR Center and our memorial service this year. It would be virtually impossible for us to conduct the service and to honor our fallen comrades without the assistance from these Army Reserve Units, and their downward trace units.

Also this year, two former Commanders of the 77th Sustainment Brigade were promoted: Brigadier General Deborah L. Kotulich was promoted to Major General, and Colonel Pamela L. McGaha was promoted to Brigadier General. We congratulate both Generals, acknowledge their many accomplishments, and will always be grateful for their past support of the Association.

On 12 May, the Headquarters and several units of the 77th Sustainment Brigade, under the command of Colonel Jake Kwon, deployed to the Middle East. MG William Terpeluk, Colonel Ivan Cornielle, Mr. Malcolm R. Schade and I attended the Deployment Ceremony the previous day at Fort Dix. We understand that the Brigade is doing very well with their missions in Kuwait. You can obtain periodic news and updates regarding their activities by joining the Brigade's Facebook page. Staff Sergeant David Clemenko, the PAO, publishes special one-minute videos that feature Soldiers and mission-related subjects. Colonel Kwon also has furnished a State of the Brigade report to share with our members, which appears later in this issue.

On 24 May, it was my privilege to present our Association's Award for Excellence in National Security and Public Affairs to Cadet Timothy C. Sweeney, during the Graduating Awards ceremony at West Point. This was the 49th consecutive year that our award was presented to a graduating Cadet.

On 8 June, I attended the Change of Command Ceremony at the 1179th Transportation Surface Brigade, Fort Hamilton. Colonel Thomas P. Sullivan, a member and director of our Association, assumed command of the Brigade. The ceremony was well-attended by members of Colonel Sullivan's family and by many former members of the unit, including Major General and Mrs. William Crupe. CSM Brian Ladlee and SFC Ron Peters were also in attendance.

The Association has published *The Lampette* for 61 consecutive years, which some might say is quite an accomplishment. We have been most fortunate to have members, including Mr. Schade, who have taken an interest and devoted much time to communicate the activities of the Association, and to help continue this publication. We are always interested in hearing about our members, and we invite you to send articles to us so that they may be shared. Also, please visit our website (at: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/>) for additional articles and photos of the Association's events. Please also note the dates of Association events and try to attend!

Your Board of Directors remains committed to perpetuating the traditions of the 77th and, once again, I take this opportunity to thank all of our dedicated Directors for their service.

Best wishes to all of our members and friends for a healthy and successful 2020!

2. 77TH SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY:

On 11 May 2019, a Deployment Ceremony was held for elements of the 77th Sustainment Brigade, shortly before their deployment to the Middle East.

The ceremony, which was held outdoors in Sharp Field, Fort Dix, New Jersey, was hosted by COL Jake S. Kwon, Commander, 77th SUS BDE, and Brigade CSM Ricardo M. Saunders, both of whom are leading the deployed Soldiers.

The ceremony was attended by numerous officers of the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) ESC, of which the 77th SUS BDE is a part, and many family members and friends of the deploying Soldiers. Also attending the ceremony, on behalf of our Association as guests of the Brigade, were the following Directors: MG William Terpeluk; COL Louis H. Sudholz, Jr., President; COL Ivan Cornielle, Vice President; and Mr. Malcolm R. Schade, Secretary.

Immediately following the Deployment Ceremony, a reception, which included sandwiches, other refreshments and a "cover" band, was held for all of the attendees in a nearby helicopter hangar.

On 17 October 2019, we received the following, updated "State of the Brigade" report from COL Kwon:

"To our fellow Liberty Warriors and family, greetings from Camp Arifjan, Kuwait!

Unfortunately, due to the recent events in the world, I was unable to get this update in time for the annual luncheon. Our folks are wholeheartedly involved in the enduring requirements around the Middle East while responding splendidly to the recent conflict erupting in Northeast Syria. Regardless of what

ordered, the professionalism and training of Liberty Warriors showed time and again as they've moved into multiple countries in support of the U.S. Central Command mission.

For the curious, the Brigade is a complex mix of Regular Army, Reserve, and National Guard troops united behind the Lady Liberty crest. The 2,600 officers and Soldiers of the Brigade deployed forward are spread across multiple locations in 10 countries and remain linked with the remaining 1,400 Liberty Warriors who continue to train and remain ready in the Five Boroughs of New York. Despite the dispersion and intensity of operations, our family is a tight, cohesive, and dedicated group who are writing the next chapter of the 77th's history with honor.

Back home, the unit bid farewell to the 462nd Movement Control Battalion, who transferred their colors to the 475th Quartermaster Group based out of Ferrell, Pennsylvania. While we bid them a fond farewell, they still remain a part of the larger family in the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary). As such, we are now three battalions in firmly in New York with our headquarters remaining forward until the Spring of 2020.

While this is a short update, I write this on behalf of our Soldiers to our alumni and wish you a safe and happy holiday season with family and friends. We will continue to sustain the fight against our Nation's enemies to keep them off of our doorstep and advance our interests abroad. We thank you for your support and ask that you keep us in your thoughts as we finish the second half of this deployment. We're looking forward to linking up in the Spring when we return from our duties and settle back into the area. *Never forget!*"

3. 2019 SPRING LUNCHEON AT THE SWAN CLUB:

On 15 May 2019, our Association held its Spring Luncheon Meeting at The Swan Club in Roslyn, New York. The weather was sunny, and the event was enjoyed by 19 members and nine spouses and guests. As usual, the schedule began with a cocktail reception with passed hors d'oeuvres, which was followed by a served luncheon.

During the luncheon, President Louis H. Sudholz, Jr. conducted a brief business meeting, and reported regarding recent Association activities and plans for the rest of the year. He also read to the attendees a "State of the Brigade" report, dated 14 May 2019, from COL Jake S. Kwon, Commander, 77th Sustainment Brigade. COL Sudholz added that he, and our Directors MG William Terpeluk, COL Ivan Cornielle and Mr. Malcolm R. Schade, had attended a Deployment Ceremony on 11 May 2019 at Fort Dix, New Jersey, for elements of the Brigade, led by COL Kwon, which are being deployed to the Middle East.

President Sudholz called upon our member, COL Anthony P. Moncayo, to introduce our special



guest, 2LT James G. Plackis, now aged 94, who is shown in the accompanying photo taken during the meeting. At age 19, 2LT Plackis became a B-24 "Liberator" co-pilot in the 867th Bombardment Squadron, 494th Bombardment Group, Seventh Air Force, during World War II. Later in the meeting, COL Moncayo delivered remarks about 2LT Plackis' distinguished career as a bomber pilot and later as an FAA test pilot for 38 years. Among other exploits, on a mission on 25 December 1944, after his plane was badly damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire during a bombing run, 2LT Plackis made a successful emergency landing at Taclobon, Leyete, Philippine Islands, and was cared for by elements of the 77th Infantry Division for ten days. Our Director, SGM Anthony A. Filosa, also read the citation for the Distinguished Flying Cross awarded to 2LT

Plackis in 1945 for heroism and extraordinary airmanship during that mission.

On behalf of the Association, COL Sudholz also recognized our newest member, COL Stephen A. Labate, and presented him with a box containing the customary "Statue of Liberty" Division etched glass

and lapel pin. COL Labate, who formerly served in the 343rd Military Police Detachment, Fort Dix, currently is assigned as Military Assistant, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (M&RA), at the Pentagon.

President Sudholz also recognized our Director, COL Thomas P. Sullivan, and announced that COL Sullivan will be assuming command of the 1179th Transportation Surface Brigade at a ceremony scheduled for 8 June 2019 at Fort Hamilton, New York. All members of our Association have been invited to attend this event.

Next, COL Sudholz reported that our Association has purchased a “shadow box” display of 77th campaign medals for addition to our sponsored display of 77th memorabilia in Kaine Memorial Hall in the Ernie Pyle USAR Center, Fort Totten, New York. He showed the boxed medals to the attendees at the meeting, and expressed gratitude to our Director, LTC Joseph Schroder, who was unable to attend the meeting, for initially suggesting and arranging for this acquisition.

The luncheon concluded with a very popular raffle of ten donated prizes conducted by CW4 Bernard M. Kaplan, Director, the proceeds of which will go toward funding our memorial services and other activities.

In attendance were: MG George E. Barker; COL Lawrence M. Bellman, Director; COL Ivan Cornielle; SGM Anthony A. Filosa, with 2LT James G. Plackis; SGM Leonard Finkelstein; COL Kevin F. Harrington; COL David E. B. Husing; CW4 Stephen C. Josephs, with his son, Mr. Steve B. Josephs; CW4 Bernard M. Kaplan; COL Seymour Kaplan, Director, with Mrs. Harriet L. Kaplan; COL Frank J. Koegl; COL Stephen A. Labate; CSM Daniel J. Mari; COL Anthony P. Moncayo; CW5 Robert Neglia; LTC Pamela M. Niosi; SFC Ronald I. Peters; Mr. Malcolm R. Schade, with Mrs. Cherie Schade; CSM Julius C. Stein, with his daughter, Ms. Peck Stein; SGM Stephen Steinbaum; COL Louis H. Sudholz, Jr., with Mrs. Joan L. Sudholz; and COL Thomas P. Sullivan.

Photos of this event can be viewed on our web site at:

<http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/news/Luncheon.html> .

4. 2019 WEST POINT AWARD:

On 24 May 2019, COL Louis H. Sudholz, Jr. presented our Association’s Award for Excellence in National Security and Public Affairs to graduating Cadet Timothy C. Sweeney. Cadet Sweeney majored in Economics and, during his first year, he studied abroad at Lille Catholic University in Lille, France.

During his time at West Point, he was a participant in the Sandhurst Competition and a member of the Powerlifting Team. In his free time, Cadet Sweeney enjoys working out, spending time with friends, studying French, and reading. He subsequently was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (Infantry) in the 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

A photo of Cadet Sweeney can be viewed on our web site at:

<http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/news/WestPointAward.html> .

5. 2019 FALL LUNCHEON AND ANNUAL MEETING:

On 16 October 2019, our Association held its Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting at the Milleridge Inn in Jericho, New York. Despite rainy weather, the event was attended by 24 members and 12 spouses and guests. The schedule began with a cash bar cocktail reception with cheese and fruit platters, which was followed by a served luncheon.

During the luncheon, President Louis H. Sudholz, Jr. conducted a brief business meeting, and reported regarding recent Association activities, plans for the rest of the year, and events planned for 2020. As is customary, he began by recognizing the General Officers who were present: MG George E. Barker



and MG Anthony R. Kropp; and he also recognized the following former 77th Command Sergeant Major and Sergeants Major who were present: CSM Daniel J. Mari; SGM Anthony A. Filosa, Director; SGM Leonard Finkelstein; and SGM Stephen Steinbaum. He also noted the recent passing away of our long-time Director, CPT Douglas A. Wilke.

COL Sudholz then recognized a recently joined member of our Association, SFC John E. Morris, and gave him his customary 77th lapel pin and etched whiskey glass. SFC Morris served in the 1154th USAR School at Fort Totten from 1989 to 1986, and in the 136th Field

Service Company from 1980 to 1989. He also previously served with distinction in the 125th Signal Battalion, 25th Infantry Division in 1966, during the Vietnam War.

COL Sudholz and COL Ivan Cornielle, Vice President, also recognized a guest who had initiated his application for membership in our Association during the meeting, MAJ Howard Chin, and presented him with a 77th lapel pin and etched glass.

CW4 Bernard M. Kaplan, Treasurer, summarized the Financial Report for the Association's fiscal year ended 31 August 2019, and offered to provide a copy to any member who desired it.

COL Thomas P. Sullivan, USAR, who is one of our Directors, then reported regarding his new assignment as Commander, 1179th Transportation Surface Brigade (Fort Hamilton, New York), and his attendance at the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania this past summer. He also displayed a photograph of a painting depicting the so-called "Lost Battalion" of the 77th during World War I, which is a duplicate of a gift from his class to the War College. He and COL Sudholz announced that the photograph, which COL Sullivan has donated to our Association, will be offered at an auction to be held next year, to raise funds for our Association. (See separate article below; additional details will be announced later.)

Mr. Malcolm R. Schade, as Secretary, and CW4 Kaplan then conducted the election of directors. Based upon the presence in person of 24 voting (Regular or Honorary) members, augmented by numerous proxies given prior to the meeting, the meeting more than achieved the required quorum of at least 19 voting members (10% of the total number of members eligible to vote). All of the candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee were elected for the respective terms described in the proxies and ballots, and until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified.

The luncheon concluded with a popular raffle of seven donated prizes conducted by CW4 Kaplan, the proceeds of which will go toward funding our memorial services and other activities.

In attendance were: MG George E. Barker; COL Lawrence M. Bellman, Vice President, with Mrs. Eileen Bellman; MAJ Howard Chin; COL Lawrence E. Connors; COL Ivan Cornielle, Director; 1LT Gene DeSantis; SGM Anthony A. Filosa, Director; SGM Leonard Finkelstein; COL Kevin F. Harrington; COL David E. B. Husing; CW5 William F. Iannone; CW4 Stephen C. Josephs, with his son; CW4 Bernard M. Kaplan; COL Seymour Kaplan, Director; MG Anthony R. Kropp, with Mrs. Joanne E. Kropp; COL Stephen A. Labate; Mr. (rank unknown) Fred Landon; CSM Daniel J. Mari; LTC Bernard F. McGovern; LTC Glennie L. Millard; SFC John E. Morris; CW5 Robert Neglia; Mr. (rank unknown) Vincent O'Connell; LTC John W. Peterkin, Director, with Mrs. Ann Peterkin; SFC Ronald I. Peters; Mr. Malcolm R. Schade;

CW5 Paul M. Silverman; SGM Stephen Steinbaum; COL Louis H. Sudholz, Jr.; COL Thomas P. Sullivan; COL Richard K. Treacy; and LTC Victor E. Tuohy.

Photos of this event can be viewed on our web site at:

<http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/news/AnnualMeetingandFallLuncheon.html> .

6. 2019 ANNUAL ECUMENICAL MEMORIAL SERVICE AT FT. TOTTEN:

On Sunday, 3 November 2019, the 77th Infantry Division Reserve Officers Association held its 43rd Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service in the MG John W. Kaine Memorial Hall, Ernie Pyle USAR Center, Fort Totten. The Memorial Service was held in Kaine Hall again this year because the Post Chapel is still undergoing extensive renovations by the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation.

This Memorial Service specifically remembers Soldiers of the 77th Infantry Division and its successor commands, as well as other veterans who have been long-time friends of our Association, whose passing has come to the attention of the Association during the preceding year. Since 2005, these Soldiers also have specifically included members of the 307th Infantry Veterans Society. In addition, the Memorial Service honors all other members of the 77th family who have served and currently are serving their country.

Immediately following the Memorial Service, our Association held its 17th Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the 77th Memorial Grove next to the USAR Center. 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 77th. In that year, we also dedicated a polished granite monument in the Grove to six members of the 77th Regional Readiness Command who perished at the World Trade Center on 9-11-2001.

We were pleased that the Memorial Service was attended by numerous family members and friends of the Soldiers being remembered, as well as by many members and other guests of our Association.



The Service began with a welcome by our Vice President and Director, COL Ivan Cornielle, USA (Ret), who later introduced the other participants and read the Last Roll Call. His introductory remarks were immediately followed by the posting of the colors by a Color Guard of the 389th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 77th Sustainment Brigade.

This was followed by the singing of the National Anthem by CH (CPT) Nafatara J. Sugrim, USAR, Chaplain, 389th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

The Invocation and Scripture Reading were offered by CH (LTC) Murray E. Stadtmauer, USA (Ret), who is a long-time member and supporter of our Association. The Prayer and Benediction were offered by Chaplain Sugrim.

Remarks regarding the importance of military service, and the historic role of Fort Totten in the history of the contributions of New York to the defense of the nation, were delivered by New York State Senator John C. Liu. He represents the 11th District, which includes Fort Totten.

The keynote address regarding the proud history of the 77th from the beginning in 1917 and its significant role in both World Wars and afterwards, and the important current role of the Army Reserves, was delivered by MG William Terpeluk, USA (Ret), Former Commander, 77th Regional Readiness Command. MG Terpeluk is a long-time member and Director of our Association.

Eulogies of the following departed members of the 77th family were delivered by COL Lawrence M. Bellman, USA (Ret), who is a Vice President and Director of our Association: SGT Leonard Axel Anderson*, LTC Romeo Dagdayan, SSG Edward A. Greer*, PFC Henry C. Huneken*, MAJ Joseph J. Leto,

COL Edwin G. Logan, COL Joseph J. Massaro, CPT Alexander J. Mitchell, LTC Brendan Timothy Murphy, COL Milton Norman, COL David John Ramsay, SGT Burton Roberts*, MAJ John J. Robinson, COL Cromwell G. Smith and CPT Douglas A. Wilke. (* Indicates a member of the 307th Infantry Veterans Society.) Personal remarks by other participants, and by several family members and friends who were among the Congregation, supplemented five of the eulogies.

COL Cornielle also read additional personal remarks written by our President, COL Louis H. Sudholz, Jr., who was unable to be present for the Service, regarding two Directors of our Association who were among the members of the 77th family being remembered. Those departed members of our Board of Directors were: COL Edwin G. Logan, USA (Ret) and CPT Douglas A. Wilke, USA (Ret).

A Trombonist of the 78th Army Band, SGT Brandon Drew, USAR, then played “The Lord’s Prayer”. He also played “Nearer, My God, To Thee” after the Scripture Reading.

COL Cornielle read the Last Roll Call, during which SGT Drew rang a chime after each name, and then SGT Drew played TAPS.

Numerous members of the Congregation from the Memorial Service then joined the participants for the Wreath Laying Ceremony in the 77th Memorial Grove.

Another posting of the colors by the Color Guard was followed by brief Introductory Remarks by COL Cornielle. MG Terpeluk then delivered brief Remarks about the importance of remembering the six Soldiers and others who were lost on 9-11-2001. Chaplain Stadtmauer offered a Prayer for Soldiers and Chaplain Sugrim offered a Prayer of Remembrance.

MG Terpeluk, CW4 Bernard M. Kaplan, USA (Ret) and Senator Liu presented the Memorial Wreath. CW4 Kaplan is Treasurer and a Director of our Association. SGT Drew played TAPS.

Immediately after the Wreath Laying Ceremony, all participants and attendees were invited back to Kaine Hall for an informal Reception, with refreshments.

Copies of the Program, and photos of this event, can be viewed on our web site at: http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/news/Ecumenical_Memorial.html .

7. LAST ROLL CALL FOR TWO LONG-SERVING DIRECTORS:

During 2019, our Association lost two of its longest-serving, active Directors: COL Edwin G. Logan and CPT Douglas A. Wilke.

COL Logan passed away in Stamford, Connecticut at the age of 88 on 20 February 2019, after a brief illness. In addition to serving as a Director for more than 30 years, he was a Past President, and was serving as our Treasurer from 2010 until his death. (A photo of him from 2013 appears in this article.)



Following his graduation in 1952 from the University of Maine at Orono, where he was a member of the Army R.O.T.C., he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, Infantry, and served as a Platoon Leader in the 9th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division in the Korean War. After that, while still on active duty, he taught R.O.T.C. at the University of Vermont, and then transferred to the Army Reserves in 1957.

From 1959 to 1965, COL Logan served in the 77th Infantry Division, including service in the 2nd Brigade, 307th Infantry Regiment. After the Division was deactivated in 1965, he was an Assistant G-3, Plans and Operations, in the Headquarters of the 77th ARCOM. He retired from the Army Reserves in 1985.

COL Logan was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, UN Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

In his civilian career, he was employed for 30 years by The Chase Manhattan Bank, until he retired as a Vice President in 1990. Since 2005, he had also served as President of the 307th Infantry Veterans Society, and was active in resuming the holding of Commemoration Ceremonies in the 307th Infantry Regiment Memorial Grove in Central Park, New York.

On 10 July 2019, COL Logan was interred at Arlington National Cemetery, following a funeral ceremony with full military honors. An article with photos regarding that funeral can be viewed on our web site at: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/news/obituaries.html>. (Scroll to the second article.)

CPT Wilke, a long-time resident of Glen Head, New York, passed away at Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City on 26 September 2019, at the age of 86. Shown below in this article in a 2008 photo with his late wife, Beverly, he also was a member of our Board of Directors for more than 30 years.

After having been an Eagle Scout and high school track star, CPT Wilke enlisted in the regular Army in 1952, as a Private, and completed a course in Ammunition Renovation at the Ordnance School, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland. After briefly serving as an instructor there, he attended the Infantry Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and in 1953 he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Ordnance Corps.

He then served until 1955 with the 547th Ordnance Field Maintenance Company, stationed in Basec, France, where he was, successively, Area Bomb Disposal and Inspection Officer, and Shop Field Maintenance Officer.

Afterwards, he served in the Army Reserves, including HHC, 3rd Infantry Brigade, 77th Infantry Division, until he retired in 1968.

CPT Wilke was awarded the National Defense Service Medal.

He also graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering from New England College in 1959. After working in the City Engineers Office in Concord, New Hampshire for several years, he enrolled at Columbia University and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture in 1967. In his long civilian career, he was an architect and engineer, with an emphasis in renewable energy, and historical preservation.

A more detailed obituary can be viewed on our web site at: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/news/obituaries.html> .

Two of CPT Wilke's many historical preservation projects are of special interest to the Fort Totten community. One of these was the restoration of the current Bayside Historical Society. Originally constructed in 1887 for the US Army Corps of Engineers, and in the shape of a castle, it was used as their Officers' Mess Hall and Club.

The other historical project of CPT Wilke which is of special interest at Fort Totten is the 77th Memorial Grove, adjacent to the Ernie Pyle USAR Center. In 2002, CPT Wilke was intimately involved in the design of that Grove, including its granite monument to the six Soldiers of the 77th Regional Support Command who perished at the World Trade Center on 9-11-2001.

An article and photos regarding the 77th Memorial Grove can be viewed on our web site at: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/memorials/fttottenmemorial.html> .



8. MEMBER NEWS:

In May of this year, **MAJ Cortland E. Mehl**, who retired from the 77th ARCOM, met with COL Sudholz to share some recollections of his late father, 1LT Cortland A. Mehl, who served with distinction in the 161st Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division (Washington National Guard) in the South Pacific during World War II. During that time, 1LT Mehl participated in the relief of U.S. Marines at Guadalcanal; the invasion of Luzon, Philippines; and 90 days of continuous combat during the Battles of San Manuel, San Jose, San Luis, and Manilla, until he was wounded and sent to recover in the Dutch West Indies. After that, he returned to Manilla, and was preparing for the invasion of Miazaki Airfield, Honshu, Japan, when the war ended. 1LT Mehl was awarded the Bronze Star, and Presidential Unit Citation. He passed away in Watertown, New York seven years after the war, from a heart attack, at the age of 37.



MAJ Mehl also related that, prior to graduating from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia in 1942, his father had been assigned as a Corporal to the 302nd Medical Battalion, 77th Division, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. MAJ Mehl kindly gave us his father's overseas cap, with unit insignia, from that period, which we have placed on display in the 302nd Medical Battalion chair rail in Kaine Hall, Ernie Pyle USAR Center, Fort Totten. An article and photos regarding the Kaine Hall exhibits can be viewed on our web site at: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/memorials/KaineMemorial/index.html> . He also gave us some photographs of his father, one of which appears earlier in this article.



9. TREASURER'S REPORT:

While there was, on the face of it, a large swing of about \$3,000 from positive net receipts over expenses of \$1,849.34 in FY 2018 to negative (expenses over receipts) of -\$1,213.02 in the fiscal year (2019) just ended, the actual picture is not alarming. Almost all of that change was the result of a reduction of approximately \$3,000 in donations received, year-to-year. Much less important to that overall result was the fact that we also experienced negative receipts over expenses from our FY 2019 social events of -\$158.00, compared with a positive \$146 for that category in fiscal 2018. While we have been concerned about dwindling attendance at our luncheons, we hope that the strong attendance at the Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting at the Milleridge Inn on 16 October 2019 is a good omen for the future.

We actually achieved a reduction of almost \$400 in our total disbursements for the year just ended. However, this was mostly because our Memorial Service in November 2018 was much less expensive than the one we held the previous year, when we were observing the 100th anniversary.

Most importantly, our total assets (checking and savings balances) only declined by \$957.12, from fiscal year-end to fiscal year-end.

The probable reason why we experienced a decline in donations was that we did not actively solicit them during the fiscal year just ended. This was because we had made a big, successful push for donations to support our Kaine Hall Improvement and 100th anniversary activities, and most of those donations were recorded in fiscal 2018.

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. Since we do not assess annual dues, donations play a significant role in our ability to maintain our organization and we would greatly appreciate all financial assistance, regardless of the amount provided.

77th INFANTRY DIVISION ROA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
YEARS ENDED 8/31/2019 AND 8/31/2018

	Y/E 8/31/19	Y/E 8/31/18
ASSETS		
JP Morgan Chase Bank		
Checking	2,886.79	4,847.27
Savings	11,440.19	10,436.83 (1)
TOTALS	14,326.98	15,284.10
 RECEIPTS		
Interest	3.39	2.98
Donations	148.00	3,185.00
Raffles	566.00	690.00
Socials - Excess Receipts Over Exp.	-158.00	146.00
Initiation Fees from New Members	250.00	250.00
Memorabilia Sales – Net	323.26	311.08
TOTALS	1,132.65	4,585.06
 DISBURSEMENTS		
Rental of P.O. Box	136.00	134.00
Postage/Printing	315.51	467.28
Web Site	350.00	350.00
Memorial Service	895.00	1,536.52
Kaine Hall Improvements	438.00	98.00
Misc. Supplies	211.16	149.92
TOTALS	2,345.67	2,735.72
 NET RECEIPTS / EXPENSES	 -1,213.02	 1,849.34

Note (1): FY '18 balance reflects temporary transfer of \$1,000 from savings acct. to checking acct. in order to finance current operations prior to receipt of member donations. This was restored to savings after 8/31/18.

10. SPECIAL AUCTION OF 77th MEMORABILIA:

Two exceptional gifts recently were received by our Association. One of these, mentioned above in the article regarding our 2019 Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting, is a signed photo-duplicate of a painting, by Andrew Scott DeJesse, which was commissioned by our Director, COL Thomas P. Sullivan's



class at the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania last summer. The original painting was presented by the class to the War College as its traditional end-of-class gift, and the high-quality duplicate photo was donated to the Association by COL Sullivan on 16 October 2019. This colored work, which measures 24 inches high by 36 inches wide and is unframed, depicts MAJ Charles W. Whittlesey, MOH, and other Soldiers of the famous “Lost Battalion” of the 77th Infantry

Division in the Argonne Forest during World War I. An image of the photo appears in this article.

The other exceptional gift is a standard US Army-sized American Flag, which was flown by the 404th Signal Company, 77th Sustainment Brigade, over the skies of Kuwait on 23 September 2019 during their current deployment as part of Operation Spartan Shield. The cased flag is accompanied by a colored Certificate of Authenticity signed by CPT George M. Hopkins, Commander of the 404th, who is a member of our Association, stating that the flag was presented to our Association. An image of the Certificate appears in this article.



Because the Association does not have any suitable, permanent place to display these items, we have decided to offer them separately for sale to our members and guests by open auction during our 2020 Spring Luncheon, which currently is scheduled for 13 May 2020. Although we have tentatively planned to hold this luncheon at the Milleridge Inn in Jericho, New York, the details of the event will be confirmed on our web site and in the usual email and postal mail distributions, closer to that date. Those email and postal distributions will also contain details regarding the auction. The proceeds of the sales of these two items will go to support the activities of our Association.

11. FUND RAISING:

The Association's 77th Infantry Division 100th anniversary commemorative/challenge coins are available for sale at \$10 per coin, plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling 1-3 coins. Please add \$1.33 for each additional coin in the same package.

We are also continuing to offer 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.

77th Infantry Division golf shirts, T-shirts and baseball-type hats are also available in various colors. Prices are \$25 each for golf shirts, and \$15 each for T-shirts and hats (plus \$5 for shipping and handling). To order any of these items, please contact SGM Tony Filosa at 917-279-0744 or by email at: the77infasso@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: <http://www.77thinfdivroa.org/forsale/index.html> .

12. DATES TO REMEMBER:

Spring Luncheon at the Milleridge Inn*	13 May 2020*
Ceremony in 307 th Inf. Regt. Mem. Grove, Central Park*	6 June 2020*
Fall Luncheon and Annual Meeting at the Milleridge Inn*	14 October 2020*
Annual Ecumenical Memorial Service at Fort Totten	1 November 2020

* Indicates information is tentative as of date of publication -- check "Meetings and Events Schedule" page of our web site after 5 February 2020.

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 A WONDERFUL AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!

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