



**NJ Cavalry and Armor Association**  
<http://njcavalryandarmorassociation.org>

102d CAV (Mecz) 38th CAV (Mecz) 117th CAV (Mecz) 50th CAV RCN SQDN 50th RCN 5th RCN 5-117th CAV 1-102d CAVALRY  
 Volume 40, Number 1 160th Issue (post WWII) Winter 2019



**President's Message** Hello Cavalry and Armor Soldiers throughout New Jersey. As your new President I would like to introduce myself and say a few words. First of all my name is Dan Mahon, my time spent in the 5-117th Cavalry was as an Enlisted soldier following my return from service in US Army Germany for three years as a Military Policeman. I joined the Squadron in the "Try One" program and stayed for many more years. I have always said the best years of my military career were right here in Westfield where I served 5 years as an M-Day soldier and became a Full Time Technician/AGR soldier. In 1986 I was appointed a 2LT and transferred to 5-102nd Armor in Dover. From that point on I have had the typical career of an Armor Officer, Staff jobs, Command at Company and Battalion level culminating as the G4/Director of Logistics and promotion to Colonel.

Now that we are acquainted, let me express my sincere appreciation to LTC(R) Mike Hrycak for his superior job as President of our Association and his transformation to the new organization.....The New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association..... Great job and accomplishments Mike, congratulations. However we still look forward to your continued support and attendance in so many of our activities. Driver Move Out !!!

I would like to remind everyone that we are members of a small but elite group of men and women who have answered the call to service and to pay back a small portion of our lives to a country which has given us so much to be Thankful for along with those who have shown us the way forward. As you all know the Cavalry is the tip of the spear and Armor is the Combat Arm of Decision. We make up the fighting force along with the Infantry, but, without the support soldiers we are Combat Ineffective. So I implore all MOS's to join our Association for a mere \$20.00 per year and we offer Life Membership for 55 years old and younger \$400.00 and those of us over 55 it is \$200.00. We are reaching out to current Squadron members to join with us and be a part of our own great organization.

In the past few months we have been a partner in great activities such as the "Spurs and Sabers Dance", well attended by Association members along with former members of the Squadron and LTC (R) John Kieslor the President of our fellow Association "The Essex Troop", Casino Night hosted by our friends in Bonds of Courage again many of our members attended. In the next few months we will be asking our members to come out and see our Soldiers of 1st Squadron 102nd Cavalry off on their Deployments around the world's "Hot Spots" and wish them well and assure them we are here to support their loved ones if they are in need.

In closing let me just ask you to come out for our next scheduled meeting on 8 February 2019 at 2000 hours, but come early and see "old" friends.....and please everyone try to make it if not this meeting one as soon as you can.....we miss you.....and you can see all the changes to the Heritage collection and displays (First change in 30+ years) we hope you like it, a lot of volunteer work went into these updates. Other future meeting dates are 12 April 2019 and 14 June 2019. We are looking for our Aviator brothers to rejoin the crew.

I pledge to keep our Association moving forward, BUT, we all need your support and willingness to chip in helping once in a while. Please EVERYONE talk up Membership.

Show 'Em The Way!

Daniel T. Mahon

Colonel, Retired, USA

col.daniel.t.mahon@gmail.com





**Squadron Commander's Message:** Our Squadron is conducting final preparations for our deployments to Jordan and Somalia. HHT, A Troop, and B Troop will deploy to Jordan to train with our Jordanian Border Guard Force partners, while C Troop will attach to the 2-113<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion to provide security and training to our various East African partners in the Horn of Africa. While four of our troops are forward-deployed, D Company and our Squadron Rear Detachment will continue to train on their mission-essential individual and collective tasks. Altogether our Squadron will make history as we assume our global footprint on behalf of the Nation.

Accordingly, these past few months the Squadron has been hard at work sharpening our sabers in the pursuit of mission excellence. We completed crew-served weapons qualification in October, and we will conduct individual weapons qualification at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst during annual training in January.

Subsequently the Squadron will depart for pre-mobilization training at Fort Bliss before assuming our overseas missions.

In early December we also held our annual Holiday Parties and our Squadron Pre-Deployment Yellow Ribbon Event. During the Yellow Ribbon Event our troops and families learned about key resources and organizations available to assist our troopers and families while we're deployed overseas. Additionally, our Squadron Family Readiness Group has labored tirelessly throughout the year at numerous events, with this crucial work enabling our Squadron to thrive both professionally and socially.

All told while we will miss our families and loved ones dearly, we are laser-focused on mission-success in Jordan and Somalia.

Show 'Em the Way!

Major Omar Minott,

1-102<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Squadron Commander



NOTE: The Spur will be published electronically to all members, unless a hard copy mailing is requested. Please send your updated information and The Spur publication requests to SSG Martinez and MAJ Harty at (732)499-5662, [117thcavmemberships@gmail.com](mailto:117thcavmemberships@gmail.com) or to the Headquarters 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry, Armory, 500 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey 07090

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**From the Editor – MAJ Ryan C. Bailey** Troopers, as we approach another mobilization cycle and as your presently serving National Guardsmen once again prepare to bid loved ones farewell and render Reconnaissance service in defense of our Country and world security we look forward in the coming year to sharing some of the Squadron's important activities and accomplishments. We are excited to welcome a new Squadron Commander & new President. We look forward to their observations shared in these pages from the head of the column. At this historic time the Troopers add to the storied heritage of our Lineage and Honors. Across multiple theatres and continents they will be forward on our behalf continuing to Show 'Em the Way! [ryan.c.bailey@hotmail.com](mailto:ryan.c.bailey@hotmail.com) phone 856-213-3430.

## ***New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association Heritage Room Committee Progress Report***

As we move forward, we continue the ongoing process of arranging our display cases depicting the history of our unit. We have now completed the eight display cases that are located in the back room and are arranging the items to be on display in the front area cases.

Additionally, we are still holding workshops from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM almost every Wednesday to continue the remaining milestones of sorting, categorizing, logging, and labeling all items for accountability. We are in need of more help; and if you would like to be a part of this historical effort, please contact Frank Mnich or COL Bill Morris. We would gladly welcome your assistance and place you on our Heritage Room Committee and our workshop e-mail listing.

### **UPDATED - ONGOING and COMPLETED PROJECTS AND RENOVATIONS:**

- Our Squadron's Family Support Group Leader and Heritage Room Committee member, Danielle Bracco, had the Congressional Medal of Honor displays honoring 1LT Lee framed; and they are now exhibited on the left side wall as you enter the Heritage Room bar area. At our last association meeting we thanked the two high school wrestlers and their parents from the local area for the generous donation that their sons earned wrestling.
- Our German Nazi Flag has been reframed professionally and is now hung on the right outside wall in the back room. Danielle is also working on the background history of how the flag was captured. A narrative will be presented on a citation next to the flag to explain its remembrance and importance to our association. Additionally, she requested to have the flag moved to another location which will better display the flag along with the citation explaining the amazing story behind it. Her request was approved by the Heritage Committee, and the flag will be repositioned accordingly.
- As noted from our last meeting, we are having the entire electrical wiring system above the drop ceiling redone because it needs to be reinstalled in accordance to the current state electrical code. When completed, the state electrician will inspect the work for approval.  
**NOTE:** We are fortunate enough to have committee member Art Maggs donate material, his time and his expertise to get this task done. However, we may still need to have additional funding approved by our membership to purchase material which we are not able to obtain.
- MAJ Harty's Father will be presenting his estimate for the replacement of all Heritage Room floors with laminate floor covering from his family business sometime after the holidays. They are providing the material, and we are awaiting the estimated cost for the installation.
- And lastly, we are still awaiting a current status from our new full time Armorer, who has submitted MAJ Harty's request to have a professional contractor clean the outside of all the building's windows.

Respectfully submitted by Co-Chairmen, COL Bill Morris and CW5 (Ret) Frank Mnich

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**Ukrainians, only Born Outside of Ukraine  
by LTC (RET) Michael Hrycak, Immediate Past President,  
New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association**

10 October 2018

It was an unusual, but welcome, development, when my Ukrainian Wounded Soldier Project Team was visiting wounded Ukrainian Soldiers in Kyiv, Ukraine, and we were introduced as Veterans of the United States Armed Forces that are Ukrainians, although not born in Ukraine, but here because they love and support Ukraine. Our team consisted of myself, Myron Melnyk (Army), Carl Harvey (CDR, USN, Ret.), Ihor Rudko (Air Force), National Commander, Ukrainian American Veterans (UAV), Peter Bencak (MAJ, USA, Ret.), and John Steciw (Army). Ihor had traveled to Ukraine many times after its 1991 independence, and was impressed that this was the first time that we weren't considered outsiders (inozemny).

Our project, Ukrainian Wounded Soldier Project, started when we attended the wake of one of the Ukrainian Soldiers that had been severely wounded in the Russo Ukrainian War died after being treated at the Yale Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut (Roman Lutsiuk, 21 March 2016) . The UAV had provided an Honor Guard for our fallen Brother in Arms, and, after watching his widow cry throughout the Panakhyda service, we approached MG Volodymyr Havrylov, Military Attache from the Ukrainian Embassy, Washington, DC, with our proposal to help our Ukrainian Soldiers that are battling the Russian Army after they invaded the Luhansk and Donetsk Oblasts of the Donbas Region of Ukraine, with modern tanks, artillery, missiles, and other Cold War era weapons, resulting in 4,000 Ukrainian Combatants Killed in Action. We found ourselves in the offices of Senator Richard Blumenthal in April, 2017, after the senator had supported not only Roman Lutsiuk's treatment, but 9 other Ukrainian Soldiers' treatment and rehabilitation at Walter Reed Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. His staff recommended we pursue an amendment to the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would authorize treatment of wounded Ukrainian Soldiers as well as training for Ukrainian Health Professionals. The legislative amendment was fast tracked, and after several subsequent visits to The Hill, to gather support from other Senators from the Armed Services Committee, as well as Representatives, the amendment, included in the final version of the NDAA, passed both Houses, and President Trump signed it into law in December, 2017.

Our project team worked closely with the Defense and Military attaches to the Ukrainian Embassy in Washington, DC, and were surprised at an invitation to attend a Veterans' Forum In Kyiv on 22-23 August 2018 from the Veterans Affairs Committee of the Parliament (Vekhovna Rada). Colonel Andrii Ordynovych, the Military Attache, explained that this was an important invitation that required our collective attendance. The organizer, Oksana Hawrylyuk, put together a comprehensive two day conference at the Arsenal in Kyiv, Ukraine. Different members of our project team participated in four different panels. We arrived in Boryspil Airport in Kyiv, Ukraine, on the afternoon of 21 August 2018. We were approached by our two Ukrainian guides. They were Ukrainian Army officers, a captain and lieutenant colonel. We stayed at the Ukraina Hotel, which overlooks the Maidan, where the Revolution of Dignity occurred from November, 2013, through March, 2014.

The next day, the Veterans' Forum started with a welcome speech by President Petro Poroshenko, followed by an introduction speech by our national commander, Peter Bencak (President Pooshenko thanked him for his speech being given in Ukrainian). On the first day, our co-chairmen, Myron Melnyk and Carl Harvey (Post 33, New Haven, Connecticut) participated in two panels, Foreign Experience in Veteran Socialization and Regional and Target Programs of Veterans Socialiation. We also met with Dr. Ulana Suprun (Board Certified Radiologist from Michigan, USA), the acting Minister of Health, as well as Vadym Svyrydenko, director of treatment for wounded Ukrainian Soldiers and Natalia Zaretska, his assistant.

On 23 August 2018, the second day of the Veterans' Forum, Myron Melnyk and Carl Harvey participated in another panel, Volunteer Legislative Initiatives, and John Steciw (National Adjutant, Chicago, Illinois) and Michael Hrycak (Judge Advocate, New Jersey Department Commander) participated in a panel, Role of Volunteer Programs in The Current Period of the Russo Ukrainian War. We met with Colonel Khomenko, a military physician in charge of treatment of Ukrainian Soldiers for our program, as well as Colonel Haluszka, his assistant. That evening we visited the wall by Saint Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church, which listed all the Ukrainian Soldiers Killed in Action (at this point it has reached 4,000), and found one of our Ukrainian American Veterans, Markian Paslawsky (KIA 19 August 2014), and formed up and rendered honors. Then we were given

a tour of a display by volunteers that had served with our Ukrainian Army lieutenant colonel in search and recovery missions, including the recovery of remains of about 340 casualties from two Ukrainian mechanized infantry battalions that were attacked after the first Minsk Agreement was entered after the Battle of Illovaisk in August, 2014.

On 24 August 2018, we were invited to stand in a VIP section next to President Poroshenko's reviewing stand for the Ukrainian Independence Day Parade. It lasted several hours, included the five military components of the Ministry of Defense, and ended with several fly overs by Ukrainian Air Force aircraft. The parade was preceded by a presentation of awards of valor, the first, posthumously, to a lieutenant's family, followed by a moving speech by President Poroshenko, and presentation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine by General of The Army Stepan Poltorak, Minister of Defense.

On 25 August 2018, we visited The Kyiv Military Lyceum, a military high school whose director is Major General Ihor Hordiychuk. General Hordiychuk was severely wounded during a battle in August, 2015, in the Donbas region, where, as a special forces colonel, left for dead, after leading a squad behind enemy lines when they were attacked by a Grad, BM-21 multiple rocket launch system, after two days his forces found him alive. He was accepted for treatment at Walter Reed Military Medical Center. We received a very informative tour and then briefing by General Hordiychuk. Next, we visited wounded Soldiers at the Kyiv Military Medical Center, followed by the Irpin Military Hospital, outside of Kyiv. We had a chance to visit with, and give words of encouragement to, freshly wounded Ukrainian Soldiers, including multiple amputees.

We traveled to Lviv, in Western Ukraine, the next day, 26 August 2018, stopping along the way at Zhytomir Military Hospital, as well as a veterans' center that was a local project renovating an existing building that was due to be opened in October. We stayed overnight in Lviv, giving us a chance to enjoy the city nightlife. The next morning, 27 August 2018, we visited the Armed Forces of Ukraine International Peacekeeping and Security Center (IPSC) at Yavoriv. This Combat Training Center (CTC) is modeled after the United States Army CTC in Hohenfels, Germany, or Fort Irwin, California, employing Observer Controller Trainers (OCT) to evaluate multi-echelon training of Brigades, at echelons down to squads, both in simulation and in Field Training Exercises (FTX). The 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment, Tennessee Army National Guard had just assumed command of training under the Joint Multinational Training Group-Ukraine (JMTG-U) from US European Command (EUCOM) from the New York Army National Guard, and was anxious to greet United States' veterans and explain the training cycle of the Ukrainian Army brigade that had just started the comprehensive training. Following this, we traveled back to Lviv, for a meeting with our Host, Colonel Oksana Hawryliuk, as well as with the Military Attache from the Ukrainian Embassy, Colonel Andrii Ordynovych, who happened to be on leave in the area at the time. This was followed by an eight hour drive back to Kyiv, for our flight home on 28 August 2018.



LTC(RET) Michael Hrycak, Immediate Past President (L-R, second from left and third from left above) during his Ukraine Tour with Ukrainian Wounded Soldier Project Team 21-28 August 2018 at wall of fallen Ukrainian Soldiers, St. Michael's Orthodox Church, Kyiv, and at Yavoriv Armed Forces of Ukraine International Peacekeeping and Security Center (IPSC) at Yavoriv

***New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association Minutes*****9NOV18**

Meeting was called to order at 2000 hours by COL Mahon. Col Mahon expressed his appreciation of being elected to the presidency of the NJ Cavalry and Armor Association. A moment of silence was invoked to commemorate all the veterans that have served especially on the 100 year anniversary of the World War I armistice.

COL Mahon warmly thanked the immediate past president, LTC Michael Hrycak for his service to the organization as president over the past two years. Hearty applause ensued.

The president recognized Christopher "CJ" Composto and Michael "Luke" Scanlan as our two distinguished guest for the evening. Their accomplishment was discussed later in the meeting.

***Old Business***

Minutes of the last meeting were accepted and the reading of the minutes was suspended.

***Treasurer's Report***

The current balance of the NJC&AA checking account is \$13,240.00. A check for \$6340 was cut for the Spurs and Saber Dance and a check for \$1,800.00 was given to MAJ Harty for miscellaneous expenses related to the dance. Recent dues and monies collect for the Spurs and Sabers were not included in the total above.

9th Annual Casino Night is being held on 17Nov18 The president recommends that all members take advantage of the opportunity to bond with local members of the community and members of the squadron.

President Mahon alerted members that the NJC&AA newsletter would be delayed as the editor MAJ Bailey was returning from an ODT (Overseas Deployment Training) with 50<sup>th</sup> Brigade and that submissions to the newsletter be made by 20Nov18.

The aforementioned Spurs and Saber dance was a smashing success due to putting fantastic people in a terrific location. Plans were formulated to use corridors to meet the expected demand at future events.

The co-chairmen of the Heritage Room, CW5 Frank Mnich and COL Morris invited all interested parties to participate in raising the awareness of the history of 5/117 and 1/102 Calvary by becoming members of the Heritage Committee.

***Distinguished Guest Recognition***

At this time the president recognized the efforts of Christopher "CJ" Composto and Michael "Luke" Scanlan. CJ and Luke took the initiative to raise over \$5,000 when needing a confirmation project. They obtained backers who donated money when they pinned their opponents in wrestling matches. The money was used to provide care packages to service members serving overseas. They received many appreciative letters from recipients of their largesse. The money that they had left over they decided to have LT Daniel Lee's Medal of Honor reformatted and reframed.

Col. Dougherty presented the Patriotic Service Award from the First Region AUSA to Luke and CJ. Col Morris presented Luke and CJ with 1/102 Challenge Coins and stacked brass.

***New Business***

Members should be aware that SGM Ken Mahan is currently residing at the JFK Hartwyck, 10 New Brunswick Ave, Edison, NJ 08817, Room 283. Col Goldstein reports that he is very lucid and would like to have visitors.

Col Morris spoke about the new initiative of community outreach between local units and their host towns. He seeks ambassadors to go to meetings in the local community to make them aware of the unit's heritage.

Col Dougherty reminded members that two days hence will mark the century anniversary of the armistice of World War I. He encouraged members to remember all veterans and asked them to attend local ceremonies

honoring veterans.

Membership chairman LTC Chris Sands stated that there were 293 members on the books but only 57 are current with their dues.

We had visitors from the area of Montrevel, France doing research about 5/117 Cavalry involvement in the Battle of Montrevel. They proposed making Westfield and Montrevel sister cities. They spoke to the mayor of Westfield, who was very receptive to the idea.

LTC Hrycak gave an impromptu talk on Medal of Honor recipient Lt Daniel Lee's role in the battle of Montrevel and his actions that won him the nation's highest award.

Next meeting 8Feb19

Winner of 50/50 was CPT Ed Barry who donated the money back to NJC&AA

### ***New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association Meeting***

**14SEP18**

After our Pledge of Allegiance (2005 hrs), and Moment of Silence for Troopers who went to Fiddler's Green: Emil Allgiere, SFC, USA Ret. Served 27 years, 21NOV17, 78 years old, Clement Curry, SSG, USA Ret. Served 25 years, 3SEP16 Motion was carried to waive reading of 8 June 2018 meeting's minutes, which were accepted; Our Membership Chair, SSG Pedro Martinez was excused; LTC (Ret.) Chris Sands didn't have numbers, but has taken over from SSG Martinez during Squadron's pre-mobilization and mobilization ; regular dues are \$20/year, Life Member dues are \$400 for under 55 years old, and \$200 for 55 years and older. Next, Treasurer- SFC (Ret.) Bill Gruss reported since last meeting, the starting balance \$13,852.86; payments of \$100 to COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty; \$375 to Watson Graphics (Spur printing); \$60 to COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty (Plaquest and memorial wreath, for total payments of \$463.20, leaving a balance of \$13,249.86 (Heritage Room expense so far \$6,111.11). COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty, Historian/Quartermaster, excused, but Association is selling hats for \$20, and Association crests for \$25, and Squadron Executive Officer, MAJ Mike Cruz has belt buckles with Squadron Crests \$30, with belt \$50. This was followed by the Heritage Room Reorganization Committee Co-chair COL Bill Morris gave an update on the progress being made in the Heritage Room: i) flooring – we are waiting for estimates to replace flooring, or will clean and polish; ii) the wiring in the ceiling is being updated to meet electrical code requirements, including 3 LED lights, by CSM (Ret.) Art Magges, waiting for state electrician, who has volunteered his time and labor; iii) Nazi flag, seized during WW II by Class of '41 has been remounted and brought into Heritage Room ; iv) COL (Ret.) Dan Mahon explained the organization of the display cases in back room; iv) 1LT Lee's Medal of Honor presentation, has been submitted for reframing as well by Danielle Bracco (2 Westfield High School wrestlers undertook a fund raising project, raising \$5,000, of which \$1,000 has been pledged to our Heritage Room); v) We were advised that the first garage contains a horseshoe kiln, which will be evaluated for inclusion in Heritage Room. Spur Editor, MAJ Ryan C. Bailey (excused) is in the process of preparing the Fall 2018 edition of The Spur, and is soliciting contributions, with an emphasis on current Squadron members sharing ongoing experiences. Next, New Business: We are soliciting stories from Squadron units and members sharing the pre-deployment training, mobilization and deployment. The deployment comprises two efforts: 1. Troops A, B, and HHT, will deploy to Jordan in support of Operation Spartan Shield, to train their Border Patrol (Jordan has borders with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Syria and Israel), two battalions at a time with mounted Cavalry Troops, with plus up from 3-112<sup>th</sup> FA Battalion. They are starting their first Annual Training, comprising gunnery and then phased Mobilization directed tasks, and will have another Annual Training period in January; and 2. C Troop deploying Somalia, within AFRICOM, with a new commander, taking over from CPT Tomasini, who is a Ranger qualified infantry officer, and will be working for 2-113<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion, LTC Karcher, which will have a great reach-back capability. Currently, the Squadron is concentrating on the DMD (Deployment Manning Document), which specifies the manning required to support their respective missions. During Annual Training, C Troop personnel cross-leveled from the Squadron, and METL (Mission Essential Task List) and Mobilization tasks were trained and validated, and they are following their respective Mobilization Timelines. Next, the Heritage Room received World War II artifacts from Fred Rodman, from Los Angeles California. He contributed \$50.00 to receive The Spur and donate the rest as a booster, as well as the artifacts from WWII, his brother, Walter L. Rodman, served in Co. F, 102<sup>nd</sup>

Reconnaissance Squadron, during World War II. Also, members reminded that the next Spurs and Sabers Dance will be at the Grand Summit Hotel on Friday 12 October 2018, and the cost will be increased one dollar. Casino Night will be conducted by the Bonds of Courage on Saturday, 17 November 2018. Next, elections were conducted: Vice President COL Bill Morris was given a waiver to stay in his present position, and a unanimous vote elected COL (Ret.) DanM Mahon as president and Jim Anglim as Secretary. LTC Hrycak reminded the members that LTC (Ret.) John Kieslor, President of Essex Troop, has invited them to participate in their Troop Muster at 1400 hrs. at the West Orange Armory on Saturday, 20 October 2018. LTC Sands reminded everyone of Vettix (Veterans Tickets) that allows veterans as members and provides free tickets to various events, music performances, sports, etc... 50/50 was won by CW5 (Ret.) Frank Mnich, who donated the proceeds to the Association, which were \$39.00.. It was moved by COL Morris, seconded by CSM (Ret.) Maggs to Conclude Meeting- 2054 hours,

Next meeting Friday, 9 November 2018, 2000 hrs at the Heritage Room Westfield Armory, 500 Rahway Avenue, Westfield, New Jersey 07090. Future meetings 8 February 2019; 12 April 2019; 14 June 2019.

Attendance James Anglim, , Michael Hrycak, Frank Mnich, Chris Sands, Arthur Maggs, Daniel Mahon, Don Kondroski, Bill Gruss, Jim Pressman, Bill Morris, Jerry Infantino, Walter Hill (Essex Troop past president), John Kieslor (Essex Troop president), Dan Sullivan (Essex Troop past president), Ed Barry, Phil Dunne  
Of note: MSG (Ret.) Thomas Bullock my former Platoon Sergeant, who served in A Troop for two decades, is currently residing at Veteran's Haven North, 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 Fax: 908-537-1987 Telephone: 908-537-1999 Toll Free: 877-648-0091.

**New Jersey Cavalry and Armor Association Membership** Life Membership \$400 for under 55 years old, and \$200 for 55 years and older. Send electronic mail to SSG Martinez and MAJ Harty at [117thcavmemberships@gmail.com](mailto:117thcavmemberships@gmail.com) or call Headquarters, 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 102d Cavalry 732-499-5662. Regimental Ballcaps, American Made, In Coyote Brown; OCP ACU Scorpion W2 or Coyote 498. The same color presently worn by our Troopers overseas on the Frontiers of Freedom in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. COL (Ret.) Dennis Dougherty, Hats for \$20, and Association crests for \$25.



**Of note:** MSG (Ret.) Thomas Bullock, who served in A Troop for two decades, is currently residing at Veteran's Haven North, 200 Sanatorium Road, Suite 101, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826 Fax: 908-537-1987 Telephone: 908-537-1999 Toll Free: 877-648-0091. SGM Ken Mahan is currently residing at JFK Hartwick Nursing Home, 10 Brunswick Ave, Edison, NJ 08817, ATTN: SGM Ken Mahan RM 238

**Submission Deadlines for The SPUR:** March 1<sup>st</sup>, June 1<sup>st</sup>, September 1<sup>st</sup>, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Call for Articles: Contributing Columnists will receive certificates of achievement via email.

**Membership Update – SSG Pedro Martinez:** First, please join me in extending our warm gratitude to SGM (Ret) Ken Mahan for his many years of faithful service to the organization. You have always been an outstanding supporter of the organization, will are grateful for your dedicated service. Fellow members, we will soon begin a campaign to remind you when your dues are due and extend the ability to pay electronically. *The Spur* will be soon be published electronically to all members, unless you specifically request hard copy. Please send an email to MAJ Harty at [117thcavmemberships@gmail.com](mailto:117thcavmemberships@gmail.com) or call the Headquarters 1<sup>st</sup> Squadron 102d Cavalry (732)499-5662 so that we have your email on file. Send your dues to the return address on this issue.

**Annual regular dues of \$20.00 and Associate dues \$15.00 are due in September.** Make checks Payable to **117<sup>th</sup> CAV Association.** Association web site: <http://njcavalryandarmorassociation.org> Read past issues of *The SPUR*, look up the WWII histories of the 38<sup>th</sup>, 102d and 117<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadrons (Mecz). All WWII Veterans and members over 80 will no longer pay dues, you will see WWII over your name.

### TAPS

**RALPH J. WILSON**, age 78, of Edgewater, passed away suddenly in his home Saturday, February 24th, 2018. Ralph was predeceased by his wife of 56 years, Barbara Wilson, who he laughed with, lived for, and loved. He is survived by his two children: his son, Mitch Wilson of Ocean, New Jersey; and his daughter, Michele



Mazza of New Smyrna Beach, Florida. He also leaves behind four grandchildren: Alexandra and Breanna Mazza of Edgewater, Florida; and Christopher and Kate Wilson of Ocean, New Jersey; as well as nieces, nephews, other relatives, and dear friends. Ralph was a veteran of the Army National Guard and the Coast Guard. During his long and distinguished career he earned numerous medals and awards. He retired from the service as Chief Warrant Officer 4. The discipline and the patriotism he learned in the military never left him. He was an avid reader, fisherman, woodworker, Lionel train enthusiast, and lifelong baseball fan. His favorite pastimes included watching TV, working on his boat with his partner in crime, Raymond Mazza, and doing anything to avoid pulling weeds with his wife, Barbara. A Military Funeral Honors ceremony will take place at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery where Ralph and Barbara will have their final resting place together

### **JOSEPH POCOROBA Obituary - Basking Ridge, NJ | The Star-Ledger**

Joseph H. 'Bob' Pocoroba WWII veteran was known for his dedication to family Sadly, Joseph H. "Bob" Pocoroba of Brick, N.J., passed away on Aug. 16, 2018. He is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Basking Ridge, N.J. For further information, or to light an online condolence candle, please visit [www.gcfuneralhome.com](http://www.gcfuneralhome.com) Bob was born Aug. 12, 1919, in Newark, N.J., where he attended Our Lady of Good Counsel grammar and high schools. In 1940 Bob enlisted in the Essex Troop 117th Cavalry and was part of their mechanized reconnaissance squadron during World War II. He saw action in North Africa, Italy, and France where he was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement on New Year's Eve 1944. He was honorably discharged after five years of service. In November of 2014, the French government awarded Bob the insignia of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by the French government, an honor that is equivalent to knighthood. Also in 2014, the mayor of Brick declared Dec. 11 to be Bob Pocoroba Day. After the war, Bob worked first as a commercial realtor, and then opened his own residential realty in Clifton, N.J. Ultimately he spent the majority of his career with Bamberger & Co. in Paramus, N.J. Bob married Doris Smith of Nutley, N.J., in 1947. They raised their family, two daughters, Jane and Elizabeth, in Pompton Plains, N.J. Bob was a devout Catholic and longtime parishioner at both St. Mary's Church in Pompton Lakes and Church of Epiphany in Brick. Bob was a community volunteer at Greenbriar II. He was a news anchor on the community's CCTV and also delivered healthcare/medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, to homebound residents. He enjoyed performing in the community theater group, The Greenbriar Follies. Bob was a devoted son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and a noble friend. Above all, he was a good man - trustworthy, charitable, compassionate, and honest to a fault. His passion was his family. He never missed the opportunity to tell whoever was in earshot about something his children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren had recently achieved. He was predeceased by his parents, Hector and Amalia Pocoroba, his sister, Rose P. Danna, his wife, Doris and his daughter, Elizabeth Barbato. Bob is survived by his daughter, Jane Patterson, and his seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes you to make a donation to a veterans' charity of your choice. Published in Star-Ledger on Aug. 19, 2018

**CW4 (Ret) Donald A. Tracy**, a long-time resident of Chatham, passed away at Care One at Madison in Morristown on Thursday, March 22, 2018. He was 86. Born in Summit, Don was raised in Millburn and Chatham. Don joined the NJ Army National Guard, in 1947, while still in high school, as a member of the 50th Recon Battalion in Westfield. He later served with the 5/117th Cavalry and 102nd Cavalry and Armor in West Orange. He retired in 1991, after over 40 years of service, as a Chief Warrant Officer. Don's career was also with NJ Army National Guard, where he worked full-time as Technician, beginning in 1951 until his retirement in 1986. During his active time with the Guard and into his retirement, Don was a member of multiple organizations related his Army National Guard duty including the 117th Cavalry Association, the 102nd Essex Troop Association, the Retired Officers Association, the NCO Association of NJ, the NJ National Guard Association and the US National Guard Association. He was also a member of American Legion Post 213 in Wantage for over 20 years. Don was also very active in the community. He was a member of the Chatham Borough Volunteer Fire Department since 1966. He regularly gave blood at Overlook Hospital and was a member of the "2 Gallon Club." Don was always doing something for someone- whenever anything needed to be done in the neighborhood, he was the one who stepped up and did it. A true patriot, Don loved all things military and enjoyed visiting military historical sites, such as Valley Forge and was a volunteer for many years NJ National Guard Museum in Sea Girt. Don was the beloved husband of over 65 years to Mary "Chickie" (nee Tyrone). He was the loving father of Dennis Tracy and his wife Sally of Chatham, Diane Bleibdrey and her husband Edward of Edinburg, TX, Deane T. Tracy of Summit, Dan S. Tracy of Madison and the late David W. Tracy and Donna M. Tracy. He was the cherished grandfather of 12 and great-grandfather of 10. He was also pre-deceased by his brothers, Keith and Neil Tracy.



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 SP-26 BOB & LORRAINE APGAR  
 WI-19 COL (Ret) KEVIN AUSTIN 5-117 CAV  
 SU-19 JAMIE AYALA  
 SU-32 ED BARRY (mem. of) BILL BARRY TROOP D (AIR) 5-117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 FA-21 RALPH BOCKINO (mem. of) by wife CATHERINE  
 WI-19 CRAIG BOYLAN  
 SU-19 MSG TOM BULLOCK (mem) SGT RON MANNING  
 FA- 24 JUDGE SANTI CARNEVALI, WWII 102<sup>nd</sup> & 117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY  
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 WI-22 MIRIAM FISHER (mem.of husb.) WILLIAM E. FISHER  
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 WI- 72 JOHN FRANTZ, LT A Troop 5-117<sup>TH</sup> CAV  
 WI-19 BILL & LINDA GRUSS  
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 SP-19 LAURANCE HASKETT, WWII - 117<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY SGT Troop C  
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 WI-19 BILL HYNDMAN (mem. of) CPT PAUL SEIDEL, F CO. WWII 117<sup>TH</sup> CAV. *Silver Star, Fr. Croix de Guerre*  
 WI-19 ANNE MARIE & GERALD "JERRY" INFANTINO SU-18 DONALD KONDROSKI  
 WI- 20 LTC (Ret) WILLIAM KALE mem. NJ CAV SOLDIERS  
 WI -24 ESTELLE, ANDREW & JAY LASNER in mem. Arnold Lasner – husband, father – proud veteran Troop B 117<sup>th</sup> CAV  
 WI-22 SSG(Ret) ROCHUS E. & CELESTE LAWRENCE  
 SU-19 1LT (Ret) EDWARD J. LEONARD, *Class of '41*, PSG B Troop 117<sup>TH</sup> CAV, Montrevel POW French *Legion of Honor*  
 WI-19 C. J. MacNICHOLS  
 WI-22 TOM PETTY MAJ, RET SP-19 CSM (Ret) AUTHUR G. A. MAGGS, JR.

WI-20 KEVIN MALONEY (mem.) 1SG BILL MALONEY SR. and My brother TIM MALONEY  
 WI-33 PETE & EDITH MARTINEZ  
 FA-19 LTC (Ret) W. SCOTT McCANN  
 SP-29 CSM SCOTT MECHOWSKI 1-102<sup>nd</sup> CAVALRY  
 SP-23 CW4 (Ret) BILL MERRING & CHARLOTTE  
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 WI-20 CW5 (Ret) FRANK MNICH & JANET  
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 FA-37 JOYCE OWEN wife of 2LT HAROLD "SMOKIE" OWEN, *Class of '41*, 102<sup>nd</sup> & 117<sup>th</sup> CAV - B & C Troops  
 WWII FA-20 FOTINOS S. PANAGAKOS  
 SP-19 CSM (Ret) AL PHELAN mem. MSG ROCCO SPANO  
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 WI-92 MRS. ROBERT D. ROBBINS, (mem. of ROBBIE)  
 WI-43 FRED RODMAN, (mem. of brother) WALTER RODMAN F Company (tanks) 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV WWII  
 SP-19 ROBERT SALCIDO (mem of brother) 1LT MANUEL SALCIDO  
 WI-19 LTC (Ret) CHRIS SANDS  
 WI-97 EILEEN SCHARR mem. husband WILLIE  
 FA-19 BILL SEDLAK  
 SP-22 LTC (Ret) ALFRED H. M. SHEHAB WWII 38<sup>th</sup> CAV *Fr. Legion of Honor*  
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 WI- 20 DONNA STINNER mem. SKIP STINNER  
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 SP-19 JOE & SABRINA TOOMEY (mem. of) BROTHER SGM ANTHONY FRED A JR.  
 WI-19 GRACE & CSM (Ret) HENRY WETZEL (mem) 1SG GEORGE W. EMERY  
 WI-19 LTC (Ret) JOHN A. WILSON  
 WI-19 LTC (Ret) FRANK WISWALL, USAF *Class of '41* B Troop, 102<sup>nd</sup> CAV '41-'42 *Fr. Legion of Honor*  
 WI- 27 FRANK A. WOODS, PSG - A Troop, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon 117<sup>th</sup> CAV WWII  
 SP-19 SFC SHEILA ZELASKOWSKI (past member) F TRP 5-117  
 SP-19 MARTHA ZOLLER, FRANK MITCHELL JR. & PAM GUNTER (mem. of) FRANK & JUANITA MITCHELL  
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