

The 95th Division Journal

IRON MEN OF METZ

A Publication of The 95th Division Legacy Association



One of the attractions we will visit during the 76th Annual Reunion of the 95th Division Legacy Association in Dayton, Ohio will be the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. A premier exhibit at the museum is Bockscar, the B-29 Superfortress bomber that dropped the atomic bomb Fat Man on Nagasaki on Aug. 9, 1945. Photo by Mike Flora

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from the president



Mike Flora

Hello Friends,

I am Mike Flora, and I am honored to be your new president of the 95th Division Legacy Association. I have always had a deep interest in history, especially the history of WWII. Five of my uncles served throughout WWII, and my father-in-law, Edward DeWayne Snell, was in Co. F, 378th Reg., 95th ID.

I was captivated by their stories and began attending 95th reunions with DeWayne in 1992.

The 75th reunion (my 30th) was held in New Orleans. The National WWII Museum's displays, films and attractions were fantastic. Many of us toured New Orleans down the Mississippi River aboard the Natchez steamboat. The stroll down Bourbon Street and the French Quarter on Halloween created a lively and colorful atmosphere. A stop at Café du Monde filled us with mouthwatering beignets and coffee.

During the formal banquet, Clif Twaddle introduced our new 95th Division Association and Foundation website, one of the most significant and important projects we have undertaken. Not only does it preserve the oral recordings of our WWII veterans, but it provides a more reliable platform for education, research and communication. This website was constructed by incredible volunteers

who worked many hours researching photos, documents, books and films. Additional oral recordings of our veterans are being processed by David Meyer, MG James Archer (ret) and Col. Terry Earnest (ret), as this is an ongoing part of enhancing the new website.

I'm excited to announce that our 76th reunion for the 95th Division Legacy Association will be held Aug. 19-23, in Dayton, Ohio. The reunion HQ will be at the DoubleTree by Hilton Dayton/Fairborn, which has just been renovated in an aviation theme and is located ten minutes from the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. If you have not visited or been there in a few years, the Air Force museum is an extraordinary facility that houses over 360 aircraft representing the Wright brothers' first flight through today's most sophisticated aircraft and spacecraft.

Another attraction we will visit is Carillon Historical Park. This park tells the history of inventions and discoveries made in the Dayton area. Key sites include the Wright Brothers National Museum which houses the original 1905 Wright Flyer III airplane, innovation exhibits, historic buildings, the 151-foot Carillon Tower with 57 bells that play music and a 4-D presentation. They have two restaurants on site: Carillon Brewing Company serves historic German brews and food, and Culp's Café is a soda fountain that serves soups, sandwiches and ice cream desserts.

Wishing you all the best, and I will see you in Dayton.

Sincerely,

Mike, President

95th Division Legacy Association

NATIONAL OFFICERS

President

MICHAEL J FLORA
mike.flora.1717@gmail.com

First Vice President

CLIF TWADDLE
ctwaddle@comcast.net

Second Vice President

BILL SODERBERG HHC, 95th Division (IT) (Ret)
panzerbill24@gmail.com

Secretary

TANYA CHANG
psuswim@verizon.net

Treasurer

TRACY McNEILLY
tracymc629@gmail.com

Public Relations Officer

MARSHA S. FLORA
marsha.flora@gmail.com

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CEO E. BAUER I/377
(989) 875-0293

MARY GOMEZ CURLL HHC, 5th BDE, 95th Division (IT)
southtownclinic@aol.com

THERESA BUNN HHC, 95th Division (IT) (Ret)
Theresa.Bunn@okc.gov

DOUG MADDEN CHAPLAIN
adougadden@yahoo.com

DAN McCARTHY 6th BN, 3rd BDE, 95th Division (IT)
daniel.f.mccarthy14civ@mail.mil

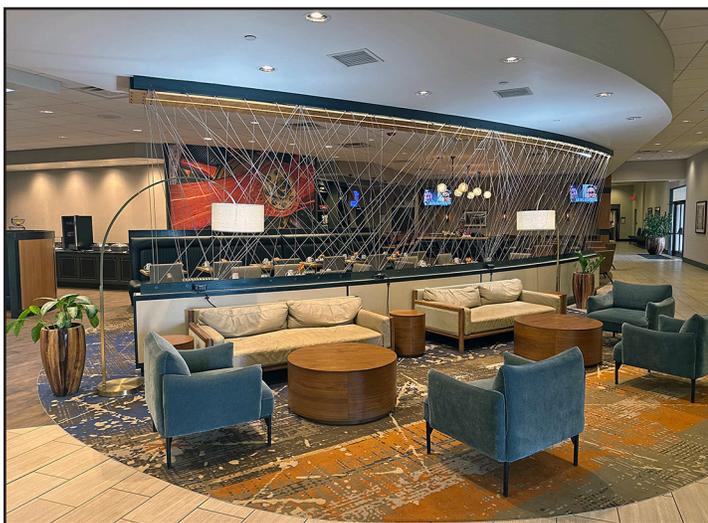
KRISTIN WHITTINGTON
landmarkfarms@lightbound.com

Use the Officer and Council contact information shown above for questions, death notices or other information to share.

Destination: Dayton

In addition to the National United States Air Force Museum, Dayton is home to Carillon Historical Park, which features a plethora of innovations from the Dayton area. Exhibits include the inventions of Wilbur and Orville Wright, the Yellow Pages, cash registers, pop-top cans, Cheez-Its and more. A 4-D theater tells the stories of local innovators like the Wright brothers, John Patterson (founder of National Cash Register Company and Charles Kettering (inventor of the all-electric starting, ignition and lighting system for automobiles). The Carillon campus includes over 30 historical structures, including the Wright Brothers National Museum.

Other sites of interest in the Dayton area include America's Packard Museum and shopping in nearby Yellow Springs, "an eclectic and progressive village known for its vibrant arts scene, diversity and natural beauty." For ice cream lovers, Young's Jersey Dairy is just outside of Yellow Springs.



Top: Attendees of the 2026 Reunion are invited to stay at the Doubletree by Hilton Dayton/Fairborn. The hotel has been newly renovated and features an aviation theme. The restaurant is named the Wright Place and is located near the lobby at the front entrance. *Photos by Mike Flora*

Left: The Wright Brothers National Museum with a replica of the Wright Cycle Company and the original fully-restored 1905 Wright Flyer III, the first practical airplane, is on the Carillon campus. *Photo by Marsha Flora*

Victory Belles

Hello Victory Belles!

Were you able to attend the Reunion in NOLA last year? Didn't we have the most wonderful time?

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all again in Dayton, Ohio, this August.

Today I was looking through our wonderful new website. There is a section titled "Who We Are." I'd like to quote a small portion of the section that states one of the objectives of our 95th Division Legacy Association: "Maintain and strengthen the bonds of comradeship shared by its men and women and to unite and promote fellowship among current 95th Division soldiers and their families, veterans, descendants of veterans and friends of the Division throughout the world."

In the spirit of this stated objective, I would like to propose something a bit different for our luncheon. We will gather as usual for a meal (in two groups: Victory Belles and "others") and the Victory Belles will have our Raffle (please bring your items to donate!). Then, I hope all attendees will each share something we have brought that furthers the goal of remembering those who have served in the Division or the friendships that have been fostered over the years between members of the Division (past and present) and their families and descendants.

Thanks to all who have or are now serving! Cheers to all who support them!

See you in Dayton in August!

Safe Travels!

Susan Feely

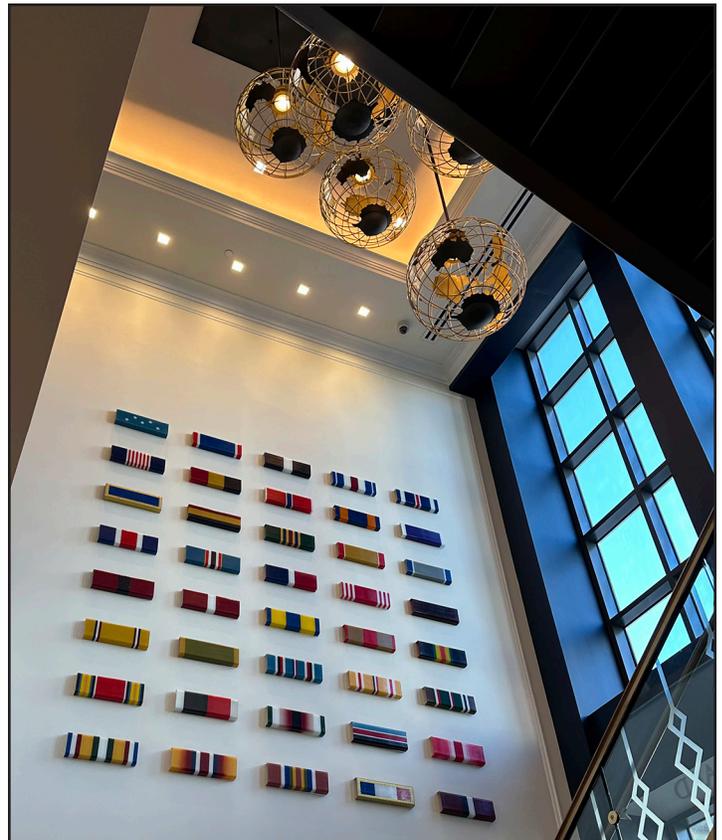
708-641-2254

DrMom80@aol.com

3635 Cleveland Ave, Brookfield, IL 60513

Meg Graf

meganmgraf@gmail.com



Top Right: One wall near the main staircase in the Higgins Hotel prominently displays American military ribbons awarded during World War II.

Bottom Right: The lounge area at the Higgins Hotel carries the World War II theme throughout its decor. The leather and steel chairs replicate the design of an aircraft cockpit. The chandeliers hanging from the Art Deco ceiling are fashioned like the plexiglass nose of a B-17 Bomber. A Jeep hood, signed with "Kilroy was here," is used as a wall decoration.

Photos by Marsha Flora

Vehicles such as the LVT on display at the WWII Museum were used to transport troops and equipment across rivers, lakes and shorelines in Europe and the Pacific.



Reunion in New Orleans

The 75th Annual 95th Division Reunion was held October 29 through November 2 in New Orleans with 68 individuals in attendance for the Formal Banquet on Saturday. A considerable number of first time attendees were present. The reunion was held at the Higgins Hotel, which is owned by the National World War II Museum and is located directly across the street from the museum. The Art Deco decor within the hotel complemented the WWII theme.

Attendees visited the National WWII Museum and many cruised the Mississippi on a riverboat and explored the French Quarter.

Additional photos taken at the 2025 reunion in New Orleans can be viewed on the website at 95divassociation.com under the Association's tab, then scroll down to almost the bottom to "Past Event Galleries."



The National World War II Museum is located directly across the street from the Higgins Hotel. *Photos by Mike Flora*

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Top Left: The Victory Belles of the National WWII Museum, a vocal trio who sing music of the 1940s, pose with Ceo Bauer before entertaining our group prior to the Luncheon. *Photo by Théo Muller*

Top Right: Ceo Bauer explains his "Pump Handle" dance before singing and dancing with the Victory Belles on Saturday. *Photo by Marsha Flora*



During Metz Hour, Sunday, Nov. 2, 2025, Doug Madden speaks about his father's (Paul Madden's) experiences during WWII. *Photo by Marsha Flora*



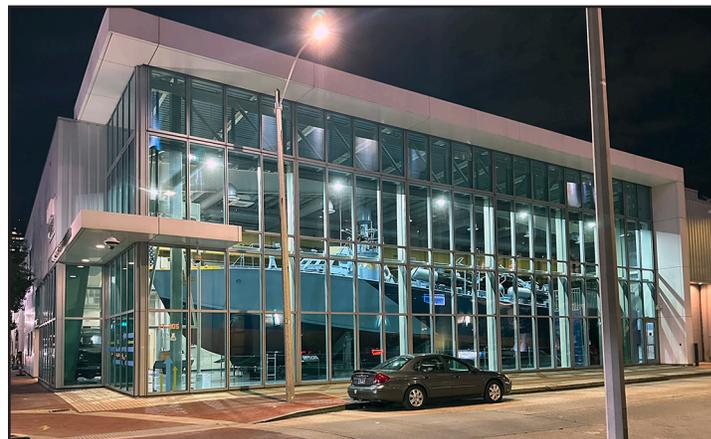
Théo Muller and Jim and Nancy Broadway report findings from their research at the National Archives. They accessed 95th ID Morning Reports and After Action Reports. *Photo by Marsha Flora*



Top Left: Café du Monde was a popular destination in the French Quarter for those wanting to sample beignets.

Top Right: Many reunion attendees took a riverboat cruise aboard the Natchez, a steam-powered paddleboat.

Middle Right: A PT-305 fills an entire room in the National WWII Museum. All photos on this page by Mike Flora



Bottom Left: My Gal Sal, a B-17E Flying Fortress, was made famous because of an emergency landing on an ice cap in Greenland, June 27, 1942. The crew survived and was rescued after ten days.



French friend Philippe Leclercq passes away

Longtime friend of the 95th Division Legacy Association, Pierre Philippe Leclercq passed away at his home Jan. 6, at the age of 92. Philippe is survived by his wife, Françoise; two sons, Benoît and Olivier; a daughter, Marie and four grandchildren.

The Leclercqs were present and involved with each of the five-year commemorations of the liberation in France and attended Association reunions in the U.S. for years. Philippe and Françoise warmly welcomed and often hosted veterans of the 95th and their families when the Americans traveled in the Metz area. Philippe will be greatly missed.

**95th Division Legacy Association
P.O. Box 1113
Oklahoma City, OK 73101**

Wednesday, August 19 – Sunday, August 23, 2026

76th Reunion

Dayton, Ohio

To make reservations at the DoubleTree by Hilton, Dayton/Fairborn, call (937) 426-7800. To obtain the group rate (breakfast included), identify yourself as being with the 95th Division Legacy Association. Room rates are \$145 plus local/state taxes (12.75%). Online reservations can also be made at <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/95thdivisionlegacyassociation/>. To receive the group rate, reservations must be made by close of business on Monday, July 20, 2026.

The Registration form for the 76th Reunion will be available at 95divassociation.com when bus schedules and meal plans are finalized later this spring.