

# 'Thundering Herd'

Newsletter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association



Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe

**Fall - 2013 - Vol. II No. 1**

Dear Veterans of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division, Members of the Association,  
Descendants, Family and Friends,

Welcome to the Fall - 2013 edition of the Association Newsletter. We visualize this newsletter as a means to communicate with the membership, share information, tell the stories of the veterans, and preserve the memory of this gallant fighting unit.

A number of original veterans, descendants and those committed to commemorating the service of the veterans of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division have re-incorporated the Association and are planning events, ceremonies and dissemination of articles on the history of the Division.

We invite all living veterans of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division to join the Association as honorary members, no dues required, although donations are welcomed. We are also seeking members who share our mission and goals. Please take a look at the outstanding Division web site

<http://www.8th-armored.org/>

created and maintained by Okey Taylor, C-58<sup>th</sup> AIB to obtain membership applications to fill out and mail to the Association address:

8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association

2345 E. Dauphin St

Philadelphia, PA 19125

Use the E-Mail address: [8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com](mailto:8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com)

to communicate. We also feature a 'Facebook' account and ask all interested to enroll in order to stay in contact and share comments and information:

New Association 'Facebook' page

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647/>

Our future plans include:

- \* a WWII Reunion Tour in Europe
- \* Memorials at Arlington National Cemetery
- \* 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division themed merchandise

**We are in need of volunteers to assist with the following:**

**Web Master** - to take over for Okey Taylor who wishes to pass on the operation of the site he designed so beautifully.

**Newsletter Committee** - we need an editor and assistants to put together an on-line version of the 'Thundering Herd' as a 'pdf' file to distribute to the membership who have an e-mail address. (For those who do not have e-mail, we will mail out a hard copy). They will also maintain contact with members via E-mail blast announcements.

**Membership** - to assist in maintaining the membership rolls and sending out membership cards

**Publications** - a Committee to help distribute published works or articles on the 8th Armored Division, especially by veterans, such as

Ray Ross' ('When Your Number's Up')

Vern Miller's ('My Brother's Keeper')

'In Tornado's Wake' (Division History)

Dr. Bernard Metrick's ('The Dentist')

**Council** - would be composed of appointed or elected non-executive officers who can assist the Association through input, creative ideas, oversight of the affairs of the Association, and fill in when needed to help in any area of the Association.

**Reunions** - a volunteer committee to work on the details of a potential annual reunion/Association meeting where yearly business and elections and planning can be conducted.

President – Andy Waskie, Jr.

[8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com](mailto:8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com)

Vice President – Gloria Zuccarella Layne

[laynes@peoplepc.com](mailto:laynes@peoplepc.com)

Treasurer – Carol Neumann

[carol.neumann@tuhs.temple.edu](mailto:carol.neumann@tuhs.temple.edu)

Membership Chair – Joseph Neddill

[neddillj@ct.metrocast.net](mailto:neddillj@ct.metrocast.net)

Chaplain – Norm Olson HQ-49<sup>th</sup> AIB & Dr. James Christiansen

[norm.olson1922@comcast.net](mailto:norm.olson1922@comcast.net)

Association Web master – Okey Taylor 58-C & Scott Thorpe

[oet58c@8th-armored.org](mailto:oet58c@8th-armored.org)

[scott@scottthorpeflyfishing.com](mailto:scott@scottthorpeflyfishing.com)

Newsletter Committee Chair – Rick Miller & Sally Shapiro

[r-jmiller1@juno.com](mailto:r-jmiller1@juno.com)

[sally.shapiro@email.rcn](mailto:sally.shapiro@email.rcn)

## **Brief Report on the Reunion, Association meeting and History Tour in Philadelphia, and WWII History Symposium**

**8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association – September 13 -14 - 15, 2013**

### **Veteran Presidents Emeritus:**

**Sidney Bishop (18-A) – 2012**

**Vernon Miller (130-HQ) – 2013**

**Okey Taylor (58-C) - 2014**

A group of 23 including 8 WWII veterans met on Friday evening September, 13, 2013 at the Radisson Hotel in Trevoise, PA to hold the annual Reunion dinner and meeting of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association, discuss the reunion, projects, and elect 2014 officers.

Association President, Andy Waskie called the meeting to order and presented the meeting agenda. After opening introductions and greetings, an invocation was delivered on behalf of the Association Chaplain Rev. James Christiansen.

Election of officers for 2014.

### **Elected were:**

Okey Taylor (58-C) – President Emeritus

Andy Waskie – President

Gloria Layne – Vice President  
Carol Neumann – Treasurer  
Okey Taylor (58 AIB-C) – Historian

**Committees:**

Sally Shapiro, Rick Miller – Newsletter  
Joseph Nesdill – Membership  
Sally Shapiro – Merchandise  
Scott Thorpe, Andy Waskie, III, Nick Waskie - Web Masters

**Unfilled positions (seeking volunteers):**

Reunions/Events  
Fund Raising  
Communications

After a lively discussion of future events and projects of the Association, a reception was enjoyed by all attendees with refreshments and beverages.

Attendees enjoyed a large display of artifacts, photos, books, documents, and souvenirs of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division veterans as provided by Anthony Adamsky, and WWII Reenactors, and members.

On Saturday, a contingent of Association members and 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division veterans departed the hotel a history tour of sites and institutions in Philadelphia.

The itinerary included visits to the Independence Park with visits to the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the Union League, German Society of Pennsylvania, and a driving tour of the historic areas.

The group enjoyed a luncheon at a Spring Garden area restaurant near the German Society.

On Sunday, the group departed the Hotel to travel to the historic West Laurel Hill Cemetery in the beautiful Conservatory where the attendees enjoyed a WWII History Symposium and displays of WWII gear, weapons, and equipment, as well as reenactors of the 28<sup>th</sup> Division. At the conference attended by 100, including 30 WWII veterans, a superb luncheon buffet was served. The Conference featured 14 WWII veterans speaking about their individual service and experiences gathered together in themed panels.

All agreed that they enjoyed the Reunion and Tour, and it was also agreed by the Association officers that there would be future 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association Reunions. Time and place to be determined.

(We are looking for a Reunion Chair to take over the planning for this. If interested, please contact Andy Waskie – [8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com](mailto:8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com))

Projects underway to commemorate the veterans of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division are:

1. placing a memorial marker/plaque at Arlington National Cemetery
2. Purchasing a memorial TREE at Arlington to the memory of the fallen of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division.

3. Updating the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division's outstanding web site, the creation of Okey Taylor.
4. Adding new merchandise to our stock and inventory

### Present Merchandise

We still have 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division caps:  
 Gratis to 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division veterans  
 \$15 to all others

8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Challenge Coins  
 \$5 per piece

8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division shoulder patches  
 \$10 a piece

8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division License plates  
 \$15 a piece

8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Decals  
 \$2 a piece



Soon, we hope to have a beautiful 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division wind-breaker jacket; polo shirts.

If you have any ideas for memorabilia, please let me know.

Please continue to send in your **membership dues**:

8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division veterans are GRATIS

Individual membership - \$20 per annum

Family membership - \$35 per annum

your dues support the work of the Association and are the life blood of the organization!

Join our 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association 'facebook' page! It is an excellent way of staying in touch with other veterans, members and families.

Association 'Facebook' page. Please consider joining for updates and information!

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/269231523148647/>

Association web page: <http://www.8th-armored.org/>

Please send me any stories of service in the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division; any photos, comments, for use in our **Association newsletter ‘Thundering Herd’**

Documents, memorabilia, reports and photos will be included in the Division archive, which will be shared with members at Reunions and on request.

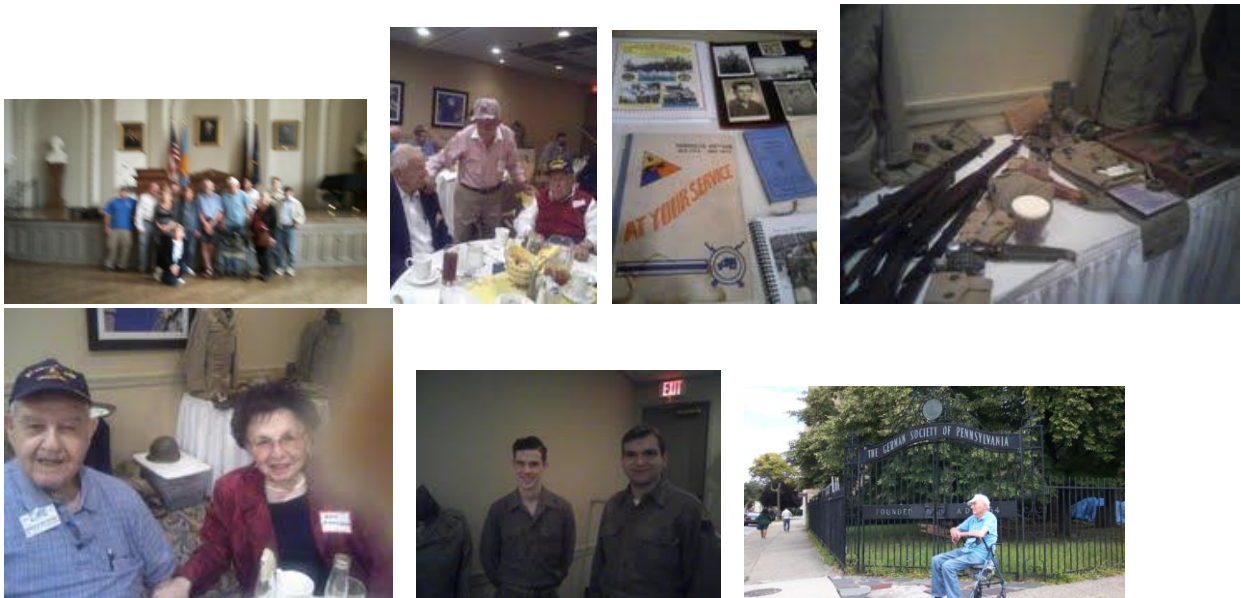
Next edition of the ‘Thundering Herd’ will be the Winter edition, due out in December. Please send in article and stories!

I look forward to hearing from you! Our mission is to honor and commemorate the veterans of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division and their noble and gallant service in WWII!

Respectfully,

Andy Waskie, Jr. President (father – Lt. Andy Waskie, Sr. 130-HQ)

A few photos from the 2013 Reunion of the 8<sup>th</sup> Armored Division Association



## Survey:

1. **Would you like to see future Reunions of the Associations?**
2. **If so, would you attend?**
3. **Where and when would you like to hold a future Reunion?**

**Please e-mail answers to our e-mail:**

**[8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com](mailto:8thArmoredDivision@gmail.com)**

**OR post on our Association ‘facebook’ page**