



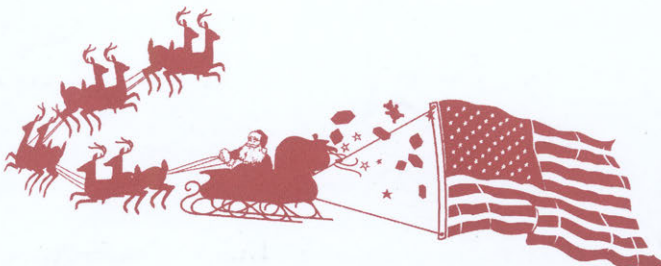
66th Anniversary Gala

“THE CHRISTMAS WE NEVER HAD”

Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
Florida Southeast Chapter (62)

PROGRAM

December 19, 2010



BATTLE OF THE BULGE

THE LARGEST LAND BATTLE FOUGHT BY THE UNITED STATES ARMY

12th Army Group	42nd Infantry Division
First US Army	69th Infantry Division
First Allied Airborne Army	75th Infantry Division
Third US Army	76th Infantry Division
III Corps	78th Infantry Division
V Corps	Ninth Air Force
VII Corps	Eighth Air Force
VIII Corps	80th Infantry Division
XII Corps	82nd Airborne Division
XVIII Airborne Corps	83rd Infantry Division
1st Infantry Division	84th Infantry Division
2nd Infantry Division	87th Infantry Division
4th Infantry Division	90th Infantry Division
5th Infantry Division	94th Infantry Division
9th Infantry Division	99th Infantry Division
17th Airborne Division	101st Airborne Division
26th Infantry Division	106th Infantry Division
28th Infantry Division	2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th,
30th Infantry Division	8th, 9th, 10th & 11th
35th Infantry Division	Armored Divisions

Presentation of Colors:	Victory Forge Military Academy
Welcome Remarks Master of Ceremonies	George Fisher Chapter President 26th Infantry Division
Pledge of Allegiance:	Celina Portnoy and Janine Mendelsburg (they were teenagers in Belgium during the occupation & liberation)
Invocation and Moment of Silence for Our Fallen Comrades	Rev. Anthony Beazley, Chief Chaplain VA Medical Center
Retire the Colors:	Victory Forge Military Academy
Introduction of Guests:	Albin F. Irzyk, Brig. Gen. USA (Ret.) Chapter Commander 4th Armored Division
Proclamation from the Governor: Battle of the Bulge Day in the State of Florida	Bob Erskine Combat Medic 78th Infantry Division
Introduction of Soldiers (& Families) on Leave from Iraq & Afghanistan	Murray Stein, Adjutant, 106th Infantry Division
	<i>Luncheon</i>
Special Program:	Dr. Gordon H. "Nick" Mueller, PHD will speak about the National World War 2 Museum, Past, Present and Future. His power point audio and video presentation will include a "virtual walk thru" of the Battle of the Bulge exhibit that is under development.
Closing Announcements:	George Fisher, Chapter President, 26th Infantry Division

Extra Added Attraction: The Victory Belles,
direct from New Orleans, will sing songs from the 40's.

BATTLE OF THE BULGE FACTS

The Largest Land Battle Fought by the United States Army

WHERE: The heavily forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium and Northern Luxembourg.

WHEN: December 16, 1944 • January 25, 1945

WHO: More than one million men!

- 600,000 Americans (more than the combined Union/Confederate forces at Gettysburg) - 3 American Armies and 8 Corps (equivalent to 31 divisions)
- 55,000 British - 3 British divisions plus contingents of Belgian, Canadian & French
- 500,000 Germans - 3 German Armies and 10 corps (equivalent to 25 divisions)

CASUALTIES: American: 81,000 including 19,000 killed
British: 1,400 including 200 killed
Germans: 101,000

EQUIPMENT: 800 tanks lost on each side; 1,000 German Aircraft.

Three powerful German armies plunged headlong into the rugged mountains and dense forests of the Ardennes determined to break the American line of defense, and trap the Allied Forces in Belgium and Luxembourg.

They met fierce opposition the minute they engaged the thinly spread American line and paid a heavy price for every inch of ground they gained.

The battle raged for three consecutive days until powerful Allied reinforcements arrived to join the fighting, and keep the Germans from breaking through.

The fighting then continued for four weeks in bitter cold and snow, and all the Germans could accomplish was to put a small bulge in the line. And at the end, the line held firm and the Germans suffered a terrible loss of men, tanks and planes.

Those who fought in the Battle of the Bulge will never forget it. The Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge (VBOB) was organized to make **CERTAIN THAT IT WILL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN.**

The Malmedy Massacre, which occurred during the Ardennes Campaign, was the worse atrocity committed against American troops in Europe during the World War II.