



# 612<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion Association Newsletter November 2006

**Fayne Haynes**  
Association Chairman

**Tena Phillips**  
Treasurer /  
Memorials & Flowers

**Rick Pidosny**  
Web Site & Roster Data Base  
www.microrap.biz/612th-tdb

**Susie Pidosny**  
Newsletters



## 2006 REUNION RECAP

The following note was included with the group photos and I just wanted to share it with everyone.

Dear 612<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Friends,

I hope your pictures get to you safely! If there are any problems with the pictures or you want different ones sent to you, please just let me know.

We were so happy to see all of you back in Tarpon Springs for this reunion! We enjoyed the entire event and appreciate you being here with us. Everyone helped out and made it an easy affair.

For those of you who couldn't be with us, we sure missed you!

It has always meant a great deal to all of us in the Karaphillis family to have the honor of being part of this wonderful group of people. Thank you for always welcoming us and everyone who attends as part of the "family".

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in Tennessee next summer! Hopefully, even more people will be able to attend.

Please take care of yourselves and keep in touch. May God bless us all with a year of good health.

Sincerely,  
The George Karaphillis Family

Since Rick and I were unable to attend the reunion this year we've had to rely on other members to share with us the news from our July reunion. Thanks so much to Tena Phillips, Mary Ann Wesoly and Iris Morris for helping to fill us in on the events that took place.

By all accounts our 53<sup>rd</sup> reunion at the Holiday Inn in Tarpon Springs, Florida was a big success. Our numbers may have been down considerably this year but that didn't stop those in attendance from having a fine time.



A **Big THANK YOU** to **Mary Ann Wesoly, Tena Phillips** and the **entire Karaphillis Family** for the fine job they did in hosting our

annual event. As always, **George and Verona**, daughter **Irene Tharin** and her husband **Bob**, son **Theo** and his wife **Dayna** made everyone feel welcome with their warm Florida hospitality. A big highlight was that Verona was feeling well enough to attend for a few hours each day.

Things kicked off on Thursday with **Tena** manning the registration desk and folks enjoying refreshments and fellowship in the Tarpon Room. After going back and forth for several months on whether or not we could bring in outside food the hotel management kindly allowed us to bring in our own refreshments. To those of you who had wanted to bring some goodies from home we apologize for the confusion.

Prior to the Saturday night banquet a brief business meeting was held. At this meeting the dates and location of next years reunion were selected (more to follow) and **Fayne Haynes** graciously accepted the position of Association Chairman.

In other business George Karaphillis asked Tena Phillips to take on his position as Flower Fund Chairperson. It was decided that Tena will now handle both the Flower Fund and the general fund. Since returning home Tena has received the flower funds from George as has

deposited them. Tena is currently recovering from surgery and in rehab. We will be sure to include the total amount of our 612th funds in the next newsletter.

As always the Flower Fund Raffle was a big hit with folks providing lots of goodies to be raffled off.



**Irene** did an excellent job on our group photo this year. She was kind enough to send me copies of several photos (Thank you Tena for requesting them for me!) as well as a picture of the beautiful cake she brought to the banquet with the 612<sup>th</sup> logo on it.

**Mary Ann** outdid herself with all the lovely table centerpieces and room decorations she made for the Friday night buffet and the Saturday night banquet. Folks seemed particularly impressed with the mason jars she hand stenciled with the 612<sup>th</sup> logo on them. I heard so much about these mason jars that I e-mailed Mary Ann to see if she had a photo that I could include in this newsletter. She did send me a photo but unfortunately the mason jars were not clear enough in the photo that copying them would not do them justice. So you'll have to take my word for it. ☺ They were awesome! Thanks, Mary Ann for all of your hard work and for graciously stepping in when Rick and I realized we wouldn't be able to make the trip to Tarpon.

Those in attendance this year included:

#### A Company:

George and Verona Karaphillis - Medic  
 Irene and Bob Therin  
 Theo and Dayna Karaphillis  
 Toni and Adam Harvey  
 Gert Flanagan (Jack )  
 Diane and Colleen Flanagan  
 Marty and Shelda Flanagan and Erin and Megan  
 Mary Ann Wesoly

#### B Company:

Fayne and Beatrice Haynes  
 Janice Bellamy  
 Anita Stanley  
 Iris Morris (Charles)  
 Evelyn Tallman  
 Carolyn Verhoeven  
 Judy Ramhoff  
 Tena Phillips (Travis)  
 Glenda Millar

#### C Company:

Avery Sanders  
 Diane Kelton  
 Candice and Matt Northcutt and Chloe

#### ReCon:

Donn Fischer

And no it's not a misprint – after making it to all of the past 52 reunions **Jewell Raulins** was unable to make it this year. Well Jewell since you are such a good guy we will cut you some slack and we will overlook this little slip up. Next year Sgt. Raulins we expect you front and center! All joking aside we sure hope to see you and Ouida next year in Tennessee!

And speaking of Tennessee that brings us to plans for our 2007 reunion.



**54<sup>th</sup>  
 Reunion  
 August  
 2007**

For our 54<sup>th</sup> Reunion we will be returning to the beautiful city of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. **Fayne Haynes** has been hard at work and has made arrangements once again with the Fairfield Inn and Suites. The dates are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August 2, 3 and 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Room rates are \$79.00 per night plus taxes. Fayne and his wife **Beatrice** as well as their daughters **Janice Bellamy** (and husband **Jim**) and **Anita Stanley** (and husband **Randy**) have kindly offered to be our hosts. **Diane Kelton** and **Mary Ann Wesoly** have also offered to help and are

already hard at work on planning decorations and centerpieces.

We will have lots more information about our 2007 reunion in our April/May newsletter.

We hope to see you there!

## 612<sup>th</sup> Association Chairman



As you know, the passing of Francis Hayes left us without an association chairman. Members attending the 2006 Reunion Business Meeting elected **Fayne Haynes** as our new association chairman. Congratulations Fayne. We know you will do a great job.

## Tidings from Tena



As always I'd like to remind our members that dues are \$5.<sup>00</sup> annually. These dues go primarily to cover the costs of printing and postage for our newsletters.

Please make your check for dues payable to:

Katherine "Tena" Phillips  
11606 O'Donnell Drive  
Houston, Texas 77076-1008

Once again I'd like to thank those folks who have sent in their dues since the May 2006 newsletter was published. Thanks to:

Don Smart	Jewel and Ouida
Wm. Redifer	Raulins
Otto Lemke	Geneva Smith
Ansel Dreggors	Bill and Elnora
Evelyn Debro	Leininger
Amelia and Clara	George Karaphillis
Harding	Avery Sanders
Edna Showalter	Donn Fischer
Dorothy Tomlinson	Fayne Haynes
Frances Bertrand	Gert Flanagan

Dean Ousley  
Wm. Groff  
Iona Nix  
Earl and Glyn Sain

Iris Morris  
Judy Ramhoff  
Mary Ann Wesoly  
Carson Spencer

In addition to dues we have received Memorial donations in Memory of:

**Rufus Noland** and **Limuel W. Pate**  
from Douglas Pate, son of Limuel Pate.



Susie and I have received several letters from members since our last newsletter. We appreciate your taking the time to drop us a note so we can share your news with our fellow members.

Our good friends from Benton, KY, **Ruth and Talmadge Riley** were unable to make the reunion this year. Ruth had to have a pacemaker inserted and that resulted in her contacting a staph infection. She had a pretty rough go for a while and is still anemic but she is starting to feel better and stronger. Ruth and Talmadge we hope to see you and your family in Tennessee next year.

On June 5<sup>th</sup> **Earl Sain** (B Company, Medic) underwent surgery to have a kidney removed. Prior to that, in order to prepare him for surgery he had to have a pacemaker implanted. I'm delighted to report that both procedures were a huge success and that he is home, doing well and getting stronger every day. Glyn and Earl were sorry to miss the reunion this year and look forward to seeing everyone in 2007.

**Beatrice Haynes** is currently in Rehab after having hip surgery. Fayne reports that she is doing well and they are hoping Beatrice will be able to walk again very soon. Please keep her in your prayers.

**Judy Odum** wrote that her son-in-law left for Kuwait in early October. From there he will be going on to Iraq. (Please remember him and all of our servicemen in your prayers!) Her mom **Iona Nix** has been busy canning green beans.

Judy says Iona has canned over 17 cases so far and there are still lots of beans left. Iona had suffered a stroke earlier in the year. She wrote that when she first got home from the hospital she couldn't comb her hair or brush her teeth. After lots of therapy and exercise she is doing much better (as you can tell by all the green beans she's been canning!).

**Frances Bertrand** has moved to Lake Charles, LA., to be closer to her children. She sold her house and is living in an apartment. Bert had surgery and is unable to drive. Since this all took place just prior to the reunion she was unable to attend this year. She did send along her best wishes to everyone.

**Elnora and Bill Leininger** (C Company) of Mishawaka, Indiana wrote to say Hi. Elnora writes that Bill is still favoring his arthritic hip and uses a cane. Elnora is using a walker. On April 21, she fell and broke her hipbone. She says she is still having trouble with it because her stroke ended up in that hip and leg. She also said *"You are doing a good job, Tena! Keep up the good work."* In closing she wrote that Bill finally got his service medals a few months ago, (about 50 years late, I should say).

**Bill Redifer**, C Company, Salem, Ohio wrote to Tena: Glad to hear that Bill and Elnora Leininger are still alive and kicking. Bill was in C Company 612<sup>th</sup> TDB and also the 810 TDB. I remember him from mail call in the 810.

**Judy Ramhoff**, B Company, Youngstown, Ohio wrote Tena after the reunion to let her know she had lunch with the Redifer's. She gave Bill one of the mason jars Mary Ann Wesoly had stenciled for the reunion.

**Dean Ousley** of Kokomo, Indiana sent a long a brief note with her dues. She wrote that as she's coming on 93 years she doesn't travel much anymore so she won't be able to make the reunion. She says she'll be thinking of everyone and knows we will have a good time.

**Evelyn Debro** of Pickford, Michigan wrote that she always enjoys Tena's cards and notes in the newsletters. The last reunion she attended was in Louisville the year before her husband,

**Eldon** passed away. Remembering how much he loved the reunions makes it difficult for her to attend alone.

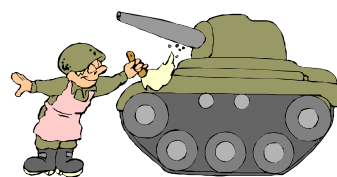
**Ouida and Jewell Raulins**, A&B Company, Meridian, MS. Ouida wrote that it just breaks her heart but they won't be able to make it to the reunion this year. She wrote that Jewel is doing pretty good but is not up to the long drive and hot weather. (They will be sorely missed!)

We heard from **Don Smart** of Hico, Texas. Don wrote that his wife Clara had both knees replaced in January and that made him chief cook and bottle washer for a long time. Clara is now ok and finished with therapy. Don says he enjoyed the last newsletter but was very sorry to hear about Francis Hayes. He's still waiting to hear just when his story about Company A at Hofen will come out. He sends his best regards.

Following the reunion Tena received a nice long letter from **Hazel Scott**, A Company, Franklin, Tennessee.

**Hazel** wrote that she enjoyed the card and written message she received from Tena. She was glad to hear that everyone that went to the reunion had a good time. She is looking forward to coming next year. She writes that she is doing very well. She keeps busy cutting her own grass and enjoys working outside. She says this summer has been really hot with temperatures in the 90's for most of August. A neighbor of hers worked up a small place out back and they had a little garden of vegetables. Too much rain and then too much "dry" didn't help much with the garden.

**Geneva Smith**, HQ, Chattanooga, Tennessee wrote that she will miss everyone. Hopefully she can make it next year. She asks that we please say Hello to everyone!



**Otto Lemke**, Plymouth, Minnesota sent the following note.

*Hi Tena and Glenda-*

*As you know we lost Herb and Elfreda and Leo. We also lost Marlene, Elfreda's daughter and Dennis, Leo's son-in-law. That sure changes things. Myself I'm on oxygen 24 hours a day. That takes some getting used to. I do enjoy the newsletter.*

Way back in May, Susie had a call from **Bill Hawkins**, B Company, Atoka, Tennessee. Bill called to say he had just received the newsletter and he was so happy to hear how all the folks were doing. He said that **Earlene** fell in January and fractured her skull. She was in the hospital for three weeks and then had some speech and physical therapy before coming home. Bill said her long-term memory is fine but her short-term memory is shot. After one very frightening episode, he had to hide the car keys from her. Bill said he spoke with **Ed Winslow**, HQ, Bartlett, Tennessee. Ed had a cancerous spot removed from his ear. He says he is fine now but the ear sure is tender. Bill also said he visited with **James F. Boatright**, B Company, Whitesburg, GA.

Speaking of **Mr. Boatright**, in our last newsletter I asked if anyone could update us on his where abouts and how he was doing. Not to long after, I had an e-mail from his daughter Elaine Sauls. Elaine wrote:

*This is just a note to let you know that my dad is still living at his home.*

*1277 Main Street, Whitesburg GA  
30185.*

*He has a caregiver 24/7 but is able to be home.*

*He celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Since my mom Alice's death in November of last year and the death of Deb Bryant in January of this year, dad's health has declined sharply. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers. He is so very proud to be a part of your special group and always spoke of his friends in the 612<sup>th</sup> with pride and fondness.*

*Sincerely,  
Elaine B. Sauls*

I had an update from Elaine in June when she wrote that her dad had fallen on Memorial Day afternoon and broke his right hip. She wrote that it's hard to say what his condition is since one day he's stable and the next day unstable, however he is able to take a few steps now. She asks that we please remember him in our prayers.

**Iris Morris**, B Company, Attica, Indiana wrote that as always she and her friends had a great time at the reunion. Iris asks that we keep her family in our prayers. Her brother has gone through about 5 surgeries in the last 7 to 8 months. In early September they found several active spots in his lungs, liver, kidney and adrenal glands. He is due to go in for a biopsy of his lungs at which time the doctors will discuss treatment options. Iris, we wish you and your family all the best during this difficult time.

Finally, we received the following letter from Thor Ronningen.

*Dear Rick and Susie,*

*"I just received your May 2006 bulletin and congratulate you on doing a great job and for your dedication to my veteran friends. Jack Flanagan and I got acquainted when I was doing research for a book about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 395<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 99<sup>th</sup> Division during WWII. We were defending the German town of Hoefen in December 1944 when the Germans launched the Battle of the Bulge and A Company, 612 TD Bn had joined us as part of the planning for the U.S. attack on the Roer River dams. Jack was a big help to me and we got to be good friends. At Jack's invitation, my wife Ruby and I attended the 612<sup>th</sup> reunion in Baltimore a number of years ago. We had a great time and really enjoyed meeting all of the 612'ers and learning of their experiences.*

*Jack and I became good friends and as a result I became an Associate Member of the 612<sup>th</sup> Association. I have enjoyed the association with your group and I hope you will understand when I say I want to resign. Jack was really my basic*



connection with your group and with him gone that connection has been broken. While I am basically in good health, at age 81 I have slowed down a lot. I remain very interested in "our" war, but do much less research, etc than I used to do and the deaths of many of my close friends has somewhat cooled my ardor.

I congratulate you on the efforts so many of you have made to keep the memories of what so many fine men did in WWII alive and wish more people felt as you did. I wish all of you well and enclose a small check to use however you see fit as I fade away.

Thor Ronningen, Sgt. (ret)  
1 Company - 395<sup>th</sup> Infantry

## Passings



The hardest part of writing the newsletters is when we have to announce the passing of our dear friends and veterans. Even sadder is the large number of passings we are reporting at this time.



### **Rufus Hales Noland**

TUSCALOOSA –

Rufus H. Noland, age 87, of Tuscaloosa, died Aug. 27, 2006 at home. Services will be 10 a.m. today at Piney Grove Baptist Church with

Bro. Lawrence Rogers and Bro. Larry Bonner officiating. Burial will follow in Piney Grove Baptist Cemetery with American Legion Graveside Rites and Sunset Funeral Home, a Dignity Memorial Provider, directing. Music will be by Larry Wallace. The body will lie in state one hour prior to services at the church.

His son, Rufus H. Noland, Jr., his parents, Jim and Julie (Guy) Noland, his siblings, George Noland, Edith Stockman, Ida Noland, Curtis Noland, Edna Young, Olan Noland, Edward Noland and Aubury Noland, preceded him in death.

Survivors include his loving and devoted wife of 58 years, Leslie Pearl Cook Noland; brother, Milton Noland; children, Dennis Noland (Dorothy) of Tuscaloosa, Gaile Phillips (James) of Dothan and Nancy Ewing (Jay) of Gadsden; grandchildren, Sherry McAllister, Jennifer Edgeworth, Scott Noland, Darryl Loftis and Tracy Watkins; great-grandchildren, Aaron and Aerial Wilson, Kirsten and Kelsey Noland, Rebecca Noland, Virginia and Madaline Edgeworth and many precious nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Aaron Wilson, Tracy Watkins, Shane Edgeworth, Thomas Wilson, Chris McAllister, Milton Noland, Jr. and Tracy Phillips.

Honorary pallbearers are the Lake Nicol Community, Mount Paran Baptist Church members, Yellow Creek Baptist Church members, Piney Grove Baptist Church members, the 612<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Unit of WWII, Hospice of West Alabama, VA Home Based Program and Drs. James Robinson and Avanish Nichani.

In 1960, Rufus was ordained as a deacon at Mt. Paran Baptist Church. He also served as Sunday School Director and teacher at both Mt. Paran and Yellow Creek Baptist Churches. Up until his illness, Rufus was an active member and inactive deacon of Piney Grove Baptist Church. A special thanks to all of the Hospice of West Alabama staff, VA Home Program staff and Dr. James Robinson.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to:

Piney Grove Baptist Church  
12123 Sellers Lane,  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35406

and/or

Hospice of West Alabama  
3851 Loop Road  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35404.

A memorial donation was sent on behalf of the 612<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion.



**Clara Emma Harding**, 88, of Olmsted Falls, Ohio, passed away July 7, 2006, at Southwest General Medical Center, Middleburg Heights. She was born on January 14, 1918. She was a 1936 graduate of Olmsted Falls

High School and a 1937 graduate of Spencerian College. She worked as an executive secretary at National City Bank from 1938 to 1983. She belonged to NACLBA for 25 years. She was a past Matron of the Eastern Star and a member of the Women's City Club. She was named an honorary alumni of Baldwin-Wallace College. Clara was the beloved daughter of the late Harry L. and Clara D. Dear sister of Amelia and the late Capt. Charles Harding. Memorial service Tuesday, July 11th at 2:30 p.m. at Olmsted Community Church, 7853 Main Street., Olmsted Falls. Friends may call Monday at Baker-Osinski-Kensinger Funeral Home, 206 Front Street, Berea. From 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Memorials may be made to Olmsted Community Church or the Harding Heart Center at Southwest General Hospital.

Rick and I were honored to be able to attend Clara's memorial service in Olmsted Falls. It was truly a lovely and fitting memorial for such a fine lady. Olmsted Community Church is a large church and understandably so there was not an empty seat. While we all gathered in our shared loss to honor this lovely lady our lives were forever made richer by having known her.

Following the service a lovely gathering took place on the Charles H. Harding Memorial Bridge.

I met Clara and Amelia at my first reunion in Lexington, Ky., in 2000. As I have found with so many members of the 612<sup>th</sup> within minutes of meeting her I felt as if I had known her forever. She often commented to me at future reunions and during visits to her and Amelia's lovely home in Ohio that it was amazing how our lives were interlaced throughout the years. Clara's

beloved brother Charles was my dad Willard Webb's captain in A Company. Although both men had passed away years before Clara, Amelia and I would ever meet – their lives having crossed was what ultimately caused us to meet.

Please keep Clara's sister, our dear friend **Amelia** in your thoughts and prayers.

George took care of sending a memorial donation to Amelia to be used in memory of Captain Charles Harding as Clara had requested.

Tonya Puccini a niece of **Herman McCollum** contacted Tena to inform her of her Uncle Herman's passing on January 18<sup>th</sup> 2006. Tonya was kind enough to forward us the following obituary.

**Herman McCollum**, 90 of 103 S. Sunny Knoll Drive, Apt. 14, Winchester, IN died at 5:05 p.m. Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at Randolph Nursing Home, Winchester. He was born January 18, 1915 in Winchester to the late John and Eunice (Curry) McCollum. He was retired from Anchor Hocking Glass in Winchester. He was a member of American Legion Post #39, Winchester and the Winchester National Guard. He served in the Army during WWII and fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was a prisoner of war.

Survivors include his wife of 70 years, Evelyn (Crist) McCollum of Winchester; two sisters, Evelyn Gollither of Farmland and Christina Sisk of Winchester; a brother, James McCollum of Hawaii; three grandchildren; three nieces, Tonya (husband Tim) Puccini of Union City, Ind., Nikki (husband Kenny) McCoy of Winchester and Sandy (husband Bob) Miller of Lancaster, Ohio; and three nephews, Rick (wife Ruth Ann) Crist, Tony (wife Stacey) McCollum and Tim McCollum, all of Winchester.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Jack McCollum; and a brother, Bernard McCollum.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, January 21 at 11 a.m. at the chapel at Fountain Park Cemetery, Winchester. Dr. Kenneth Rickett officiated. Military services were conducted at the cemetery. Burial was at Fountain Park Cemetery.

A memorial donation from the 612<sup>th</sup> TDB was sent in memory of Mr. McCollum to American Legion Post #39 in Winchester, Indiana.

Judy Ramhoff was kind enough to forward to me the following obituary for **John O'Brien** of B Company.

**John E. "Jack" O'Brien**, Sr., age 87. Beloved husband of the late Elva K. (nee Walker); dear father of John E., Jr. and Cheryl Ann Lewis (Richard); grandfather of Lisa, John R. and Jeremy O'Brien, Emily Ruebsteck, Adam Lewis and Cindy Cleveland; great-grand father of Alexander and Abigail Cleveland; brother of Emma Rita Mihal. WWII U.S. Army Veteran. Member of American Legion Post #421. Visitation Sunday 4-7 p.m. in the Chapel at Sunset Memorial Park, 6245 Columbia Road where services will be held Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. Arrangements by Dostal Funeral Service.

**Alvin Hargrove's** passing was briefly mentioned in the last newsletter. We learned of his death just as we were going to print and at the time had no additional information. We now know that **Alvin C. Hargrove** of Murfreesboro, Tennessee passed on March 24, 2006. Since then we've learned that Fayne Haynes attended the funeral and arranged for flowers to be sent. Fayne says he believes Mr. Hargrove was in his 80's.

In late May, Bill Hawkins called. During our conversation he mentioned that **Foy Peavy** and his wife **Mary** of Jacksonville, Florida had passed away earlier in the year. If anyone has more information they would like to share about Foy and Mary it would be appreciated.

**Melvin Barr** of Leonard, Texas died on August 2, 2006. Gert Flanagan received a call from a relative of Mr. Barr asking to inform the 612<sup>th</sup> members of his passing. Tena was able to contact a family member and Jimmie Barr was kind enough to forward an obituary for Mr. Barr.

**Melvin H. Barr** - Funeral services for Melvin H. Barr, age 83 of Leonard, Texas were held at 2 p.m. Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, at the Taylor

Funeral Home Chapel in Leonard with Charles Wrenn officiating. Burial followed in the Leonard Cemetery. He died Wednesday, August 2, 2006 at the Clyde Cosper Texas State Veteran's Home in Bonham.

He was born February 28, 1923 in Wolfe City, the son of John F. Barr and Mary Teague Barr. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Leonard. He was in the U. S. Army and served in WWII. He was a cattle trader and a butcher. He married Lenora Martin on May 19, 1984 in Leonard. She preceded him in death. He is survived by a sister-in-law, two step grand daughters and numerous nephews and nieces.

Visitation was held Friday, August 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. Taylor Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Tena has sent a memorial check to Mr. Barr's family.

Tena received the following letter from Doug Pate the son of 612<sup>th</sup> member **Limuel T. Pate**.

Dear Mrs. Phillips:

It was a pleasure speaking with you regarding the 612<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion Association. As we discussed my father, Limuel T. Pate was a member of the organization and we attended several of the reunions. I have some great childhood memories of those events.

I have included a copy of my father's obituary for your records. I have also included a check for a memorial donation in his memory and in memory of Rufus Noland.

If you would, please add my mother to you mailing list for the newsletter.

I would like to thank you for your hard work in keeping the tradition of the 612<sup>th</sup> alive, and wish you and your family many more years of happiness and health.

Sincerely,  
Doug Pate



**Limuel Temple Pate**, 75, of 12267 Pate Dr., Elrod, died Jan. 22, 1998, at his residence. Services will be Sunday at 2 p.m. at Elrod Baptist Church with The Rev. Bobby Sanford officiating, and Stabler-Robbins Funeral Directors of Reform directing. Burial will be held in the Elrod Community Cemetery.

Mr. Pate was preceded in death by his parents, Earney and Mattie Pate; a brother, Johnny Pate; sisters, Dorice Blakeslie, Eunice Kirk, Margaret Webb, and his grandson, Shane Pate.

Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Reda Mae Pate, of Elrod; a daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and J.C. Hunter, of Elrod; sons and daughters-in-law, Dwain Pate and Beth, of Gordo, Derrell Pate and Lynda, of Elrod, and Douglas Pate, of Venice, Fla.; sisters, Ruby Guy, of Tuscaloosa, Mavis Crocker, of Artesia, Miss., Lois Kelly, of Coylington, La., Jewel Kizziah, of Texas; 12 grandchildren, Kris Pate, Joshua Pate, Jeremy Pate, Christie Marchant, Scott Pate, Melissa Mauffray, Chad Pate, Redda Rhymer, Jason Pate, Lacy Hunter, Jeremy Hunter, Jason Hunter; five great grandchildren, Garrett Swann, Tara Swann, Heather Rhymer, Temple Pate, and Dylan Mr. Pate served as Staff Sergeant during World War II in Europe with the 612<sup>th</sup> Tank Destroyer Battalion.

Pallbearers will be his grandsons.

The family will receive friends from 6-8 p.m. tonight at the funeral home. The body will be placed in the church thirty minutes prior to the service.

(On a personal note, I would like to apologize to Doug Pate for not responding to your e-mail message to me. Our computer crashed before I got a chance to respond and I lost your e-mail address. I do sincerely appreciate your contacting me to notify our group of the passing of Rufus Noland and again I apologize for not getting back to you. Susie)

## *God's Garden Must Be Beautiful*

*God looked around the garden,  
and found an empty space.  
He looked down upon the Earth,  
and saw your tired face.  
He put His arms around you, and lifted you to rest.  
God's garden must be beautiful  
for He only takes the best.*

*He knew that you were weary,  
and He knew you were in pain.  
He knew that you would never,  
be well on earth again.  
He saw the roads were getting rough,  
and the hills were hard to climb.  
So He closed your weary eyelids,  
and whispered peace be thine.*

*God saw you were getting tired,  
and a cure was not to be;  
so He put His arms around you,  
and whispered, "Come with Me."  
With tearful eyes we watched you suffer,  
and saw you fade away.*

*Although we loved you dearly,  
we could not make you stay.  
A golden heart stopped breathing,  
hard working hands had to rest;  
God broke our hearts to prove to us,  
He only takes the best!*

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families and loved ones of our dearly departed friends and comrades. May it bring you comfort to know you are not alone in your sorrow. You are all in our prayers.



Tena is out of the hospital and in rehab.

She had her daughter Vivian call to tell me to be sure and thank everyone for the phone calls, cards, prayers, flowers and well wishes. She says she can't wait to see everyone next year in Murfeesboro.

## Do You Recognize This Soldier?

I had an e-mail from Warren Shanks McEachem. He is preparing an autobiography on the life and service of Pfc **Rainer Griswold** who served through 5 campaigns with the 612<sup>th</sup> TDB in C Company. He asks if we can put him in contact with someone who actually served with Pfc Griswold. Mr. McEachem's phone number is 334-573-2857. Additional contact information is listed under the roster updates section.



He has also requested help in identifying the photo seen here. "This is a photo of a corporal in the 612<sup>th</sup> I would like to identify. The photo was in Rainer's military papers. I assume it was his squad leader. Can you help?"



## Roster Updates

Included with this newsletter is an updated membership roster. Following is a list of updates and changes to the roster.

Frances Bertrand  
1531 Country Road Apt. 518  
Lake Charles, LA 70605

Stanley Zabetakis  
249 Courtyard Blvd. Apt. 207  
Sun City, FL 33573-5789

Rick and Susie Pidosny  
New phone numbers: 734-516-6906  
or 734-516-5709

Judy Odum  
143 Windchime Circle  
Demorest, GA 30535  
706-754-3645  
bdo@windstream.net

Mr. Jamie Kanos  
Magnolia Grille  
600 Alt 19 North  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Irene Therin  
846 Palm Court  
Palm Harbor, FL 34683  
727-784-4938

Jimmie R. Barr  
120 Leslie  
Bonham, TX 75418

Marty and Shelda Flanagan  
935 Tally Court  
Glen Burnie, MD 21061  
410-761-6474

Mrs. Reda Pate  
12267 Pate Drive  
Elrod, AL 35458

Douglas Pate  
1910 Hawthorne Road  
Venice, FL 34293

Carson Spencer  
410 Banyan Street  
Sebastin, FL 33068

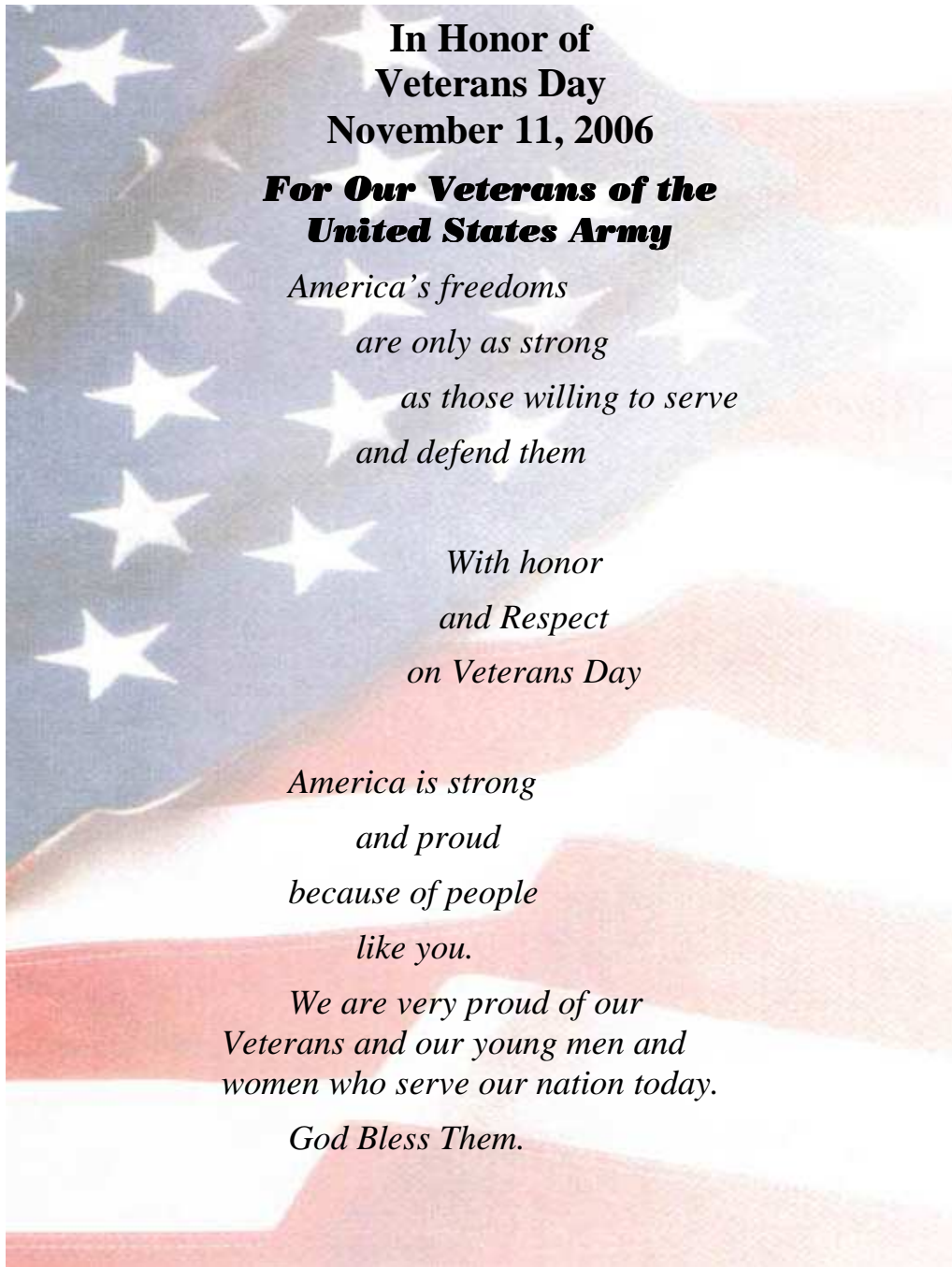
Warren Shanks McEachem  
3870 County Road 29  
Alberta, AL 36720-2837  
334-573-2857  
operationamerica1972@excite.com



APRIL / MAY  
NEWSLETTER

Our next newsletter is scheduled for April / May 2007. So please keep those cards and letters coming. We love sharing your news.

Susie Pidosny  
42159 Briarcliff Court  
Canton, MI 48187  
734-516-6906  
mouseketeer@MicroRAP.biz



**In Honor of  
Veterans Day  
November 11, 2006  
For Our Veterans of the  
United States Army**

*America's freedoms  
are only as strong  
as those willing to serve  
and defend them*

*With honor  
and Respect  
on Veterans Day*

*America is strong  
and proud  
because of people  
like you.*

*We are very proud of our  
Veterans and our young men and  
women who serve our nation today.*

*God Bless Them.*



*and*

*Best Wishes for a Happy and  
Healthy New Year*