



CENTURY SENTINEL

VOLUME 39 NO. 4 HOLIDAY 2024

President's Message



COL Larry D. Abel (Ret)

Greetings to all AOC members and soldiers of 100th Division. What a year 2024 was for the Association of the Century!

I am honored and humbled to be your AOC President for 2025. Good times are on the horizon.

For those who don't know me I joined the Army in March 1968, found myself in Vietnam in September 1968 and made it home a year later only to be assigned to Ft Gordon, Ga. A burly SGM upon my arrival there asked me what my plan was for the next 18 months of my enlistment. I said I don't know but I don't think I want to go back to Vietnam. He said he had plans for me to go to Drill Sergeant School at Ft Jackson, S.C. I had other ideas about my time left but he told me in no certain words that it would be best for me to attend the school. As a 20-year-old Sergeant E5 I went to DS school and back to Ft Gordon where I trained soldiers at the MP school there.

After Three years of active duty, I left the active service and three years later I joined the 100th Division Army Reserve. I attended KY NG OCS and was commissioned in June 1976. 25 Years later and many assignments I was promoted to Colonel and served as the 100th Division G3 right after the 911 disaster. Those were interesting times for the Division. I retired in 2006 after 31 years and I am vested in promoting and keeping the tradition of the 100th Division alive and well.

This upcoming year looks like an exciting year for the AOC. In December members of the AOC Board will interact with 100th Division Soldiers performing their Annual Training at 100th Division Headquarters. During this time Board Members get the opportunity to explain what we are all about. It will also be a great time to exchange ideas between agencies.

We are excited about going back to Owensboro this year for our annual convention. I am proud of my hometown and look forward to enjoying another reunion on the fabulous riverfront there. The Hampton Inn will again be our host Hotel and the Convention Center will be our party place. We are planning a couple of surprises so plan on attending the fun with old soldiers and friends. The Annual Reunion next year will be August 22-23 2025.

On a final note, I have to thank the 2024 President, MSG Wayne Gerding for his hard work and dedication to our mission. Wayne went above and beyond in making our 2024 Annual Reunion in Owensboro a resounding success. I have never seen the whole room of attendees on their feet, clapping and singing with the Bluegrass Band. He and others on the board should be commended for going above and beyond. There are too many to list here but you know who you are.

Soon the Holidays will be upon us. This is the time of the year for family, friends and plenty of good food. Let us all be thankful for what we have. It is also that time of year that we think of those fighting to preserve our freedoms.

From the AOC Board to your family, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

Chairman's Foxhole

MG Bill Barron, USA Retired

In the last **Century Sentinel** I spoke of the 'smooth track' that the 100th Division was getting on with the new leadership Team in the 100th Division headed up by BG Marty Jung. On the 7th of December, 2024 the Association of the Century has been invited by BG Jung to participate in a Leader Development Program at the Division HQs which will feature the AOC at its best. Big plans for the afternoon of the 7th include a laydown of the Association's programs for the entire Headquarters to include our Scholarship program, our Museum program and our Corridor of the Century program. I have asked Ty Reid, the Director of the Patton Museum to do a "show and tell" of the WWII weapons that the AOC Museum has stored at the 100th Division. There will also be time available for quick tours of our Museum Cases as well as time to visit our "Supply Room" to purchase newly purchased items of clothing for the fall and winter months. We will also have a membership area set up for easy access to applications for annual and life memberships in the Association of the Century. To close the day, we will all go to the Sam Adams Brew House at 1700 for Happy Hour.

On Monday of that same week, the Association of the Century is helping the 100th Division sponsor its first iteration of the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency testing. This test must be administered by an actual German Physical Training Instructor and covers several physical training exercises much like our own physical training. It covers three days of time with the graduation being on Wednesday the 11th of December. The award, once issued, may be worn by any U.S. soldier, Officer or Enlisted, on his dress uniform. All 100th Division soldiers are eligible to participate in the competition for the award and I am told that there are over 300 individuals signed up to participate currently. This should be a great morale builder for members of the 100th Division!

This month at our Board Meeting we will pass the President's gavel from Wayne Gerding to Larry Able. I want to thank Wayne for his tireless efforts this year in leading the Association and to welcome Larry Able who assumes the role of President as we move into our second year in Owensboro. See you on the high ground!

MG B

100th Division Christmas Eve 1944 near Bitche, France

December 24, 1944, when the men of 'B' Company 399th Infantry Regiment, 100th Infantry Division, celebrated their Christmas with a big Christmas Dinner composed of roast turkey with dressing, cranberry sauce, creamed potatoes, pineapple, biscuits, mine meat pie, among other foods.

The Company History said: "The environment was different but the spirit the same. Packages were plentiful and the meal on Christmas was excellent. It was not as bad as expected here now."

With Kelly Fleck (B/399) saying: "Cooks brought up mermite cans of turkey and trimmings. Later someone brought up PX rations and beer (French)."

ATTENTION!!

ATTENTION!!

ATTENTION!!

**ANNUAL DUES AND LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE INCREASING EFFECTIVE
JAN 1, 2025.**

**ANNUAL DUES WILL BE \$25.00 PER YEAR AND LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL BE \$250.00
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025.**

100th AOC Facebook Page

We have a new way quickly pass information to AOC members on our Facebook page. You'll find it very user friendly and updated frequently. Here's the link or you can simply go to Facebook and search for "100th Division Association of the Century:"

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100069594849384>



The Association of the Century, Inc.

Post Office Box 34393
Louisville, KY 40232-4393
WWW.100AOC.ORG

1 March 2024

The Association of the Century, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the enhancement of our nation's defense, particularly and specifically through a strong, mission capable U.S. Army Reserve 100th Division. It is administered by a duly elected all volunteer Board of Directors composed of former and retired officers and enlisted personnel from the 100th Division.

One of our goals is to perpetuate high standards of excellence within the 100th Division by providing a strong link between active and former Century Division members. To accomplish this goal, we (1) recognize past 100th Division members who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service, (2) provide awards to recognize exceptional achievement by active members of the Century Division, and (3) conduct an Annual Meeting for Association business and fellowship. The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held in Owensboro, Kentucky on the weekend of August 24th.

One of our key initiatives is providing scholarships to students related to active duty and former 100th Division members. Monies raised through our fundraising efforts have provided as many as ten or more academic scholarships to qualifying students in a single year. Our current scholarship awards are \$1,000.

To help raise the funds for each of our annual programs; along with covering our operational and event costs we are seeking your support in the form of cash donations or items to be used as auction items. Association members in attendance at our Annual Meeting bid on the auction items to generate funds for the Association. As a reminder, The Association of the Century is a not-for-profit veterans' organization. It is designated as a 501(c) (19) corporation (EIN) 31-0931318. Generally, all contributions are deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.

Thank you for considering our request for a contribution. You may contact us at the above address.



MG Bill Barron
US Army Retired
Chairman of the Board



MSG R. Wayne Gerding
US Army Retired
2024 Association President

Perpetuating the Excellence of the 100th Division Since 1978



The Association of the Century, Inc.

Post Office Box 34393
Louisville, KY 40232-4393
WWW.100AOC.ORG

Receipt For Donated Goods or Services

Date: _____

Donated by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

The donation of Goods or Services requires a systematic mention by listing the donated item(s). The description, quantity and value in detail will be beneficial for the donor and the Association records.

The following items were donated to the Association of The Century.

Items Donated:

Total Value of Listed Items: _____

No Goods or Services Were Provided In Return from the Association.

Items Received By: (Association of the Century Representative)

(Date) (Print name) (Signature)

(Copy of this document to be retained for AOC records)

Thank You!!

We Appreciate Your Support to the Association Of The Century

The Association of the Century is a not-for-profit veterans' organization. It is designated as a 501(c) (19) corporation (EIN) 31-0931318. Generally, contributions to 501(c) (19) organizations are deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.



The Association of the Century, Inc.

Post Office Box 34393
Louisville, KY 40232-4393
WWW.100AOC.ORG

Receipt For Cash Donation and Use of Same

Date: _____

Donated by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

The donation of Cash requires a systematic mention by listing the donated amount. The total amount and use of same should be reflected and will be beneficial for the donor and the Association records.

A Cash Donation in the amount of \$_____ dollars is hereby made to the Association of the Century, Inc.

The Association will determine the use of the donated amount to support their yearly programs; along with covering their operational and event costs as stated in cover letter; unless otherwise stated by the donor.

I the donor wish my donation to be used as stated below:

Items Received By: *(Association of the Century Representative)*

(Date) (Print name) (Signature)

(Copy of this document to be retained for AOC records)

Thank You!!

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Corridor of the Century

It is time again to recommend Nominees for the Corridor of the Century. Nominations are due 1 June 2025. Nominees must have been truly outstanding in all phases of their Army careers and are no longer assigned to the 100th Division. Contributions by nominees to the excellence of the 100th Division is of primary importance and continued support of the Division is highly desirable. Any former 100th Division Soldier is eligible for nomination. As a minimum, each of the following categories shall be addressed, but nominations are certainly not limited to these areas:

- Years of service in the 100th Division
 - Highest Rank Achieved
 - Positions held in the 100th Division (and timed served in each, if available)
 - Association of the Century Membership, Life or Annual.
 - Decorations and awards,
 - Extraordinary contributions to the 100th Division. (This category shall be expansive in narrative and specific in nature. This is the most important category in the determination of selectees.)
 - Other Community Service
1. **Nominations must be typed, single space, to include awards and decorations on one page, and should include an 8"x10" head and shoulders photo.**
 2. **A sample Recommendation can be viewed at the AOC website, www.100AOC.org. Send nominations to: COL James G. Russell, ATTN: Corridor of the Century, 3285 Frogtown Road, Loretto, KY 40037.**





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Hopkinsville, KY, 100th "Breakfast Battalion" Report, 17 October 2024

The **100th Division "Breakfast Battalion"** has successfully met its objective at our A.O., The Village Restaurant. We had **8** highly motivated individuals for our October operations, 3 of which left before I remembered to get the snapshot taken. The three omitted from the photo were *Tommy Brooks, Chuck Derrington, and Ronnie Moore*. I extend my sincere apologies for being too slow on getting the pictures taken.



**I'm unable to provide the "Box Score" for our attendance due to having lost the totals due to a computer hard drive crash recently.*

Hope to see the Breakfast Battalion "locked and loaded" and standing tall at our Rally Point on 21 November 2024.

Nothing follows.





Veteran and Soldier Benefit Potential Spending Cuts or Increases before Congress

Veterans and presently serving soldier benefit increases or decreases in spending bills presently before Congress was the big topic briefed to the monthly Lexington area 100th Division and other veterans gathering on November 4, 2024, in Lexington. BG (R) Leslie Beavers, US Army, former Commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs addressed more than 30 veterans about this topic.

Recent Tricare for Life pharmacy reductions are greatly impacting veterans with Walmart and Kroger having stopped accepting Tricare due to lower Government payments to them. Walgreens and CVS continue to accept Tricare but are reducing the number of pharmacies across the US. Congress can increase Tricare pharmacy funding to address this issue.

He also emphasized veterans can participate in Tricare for Life's mail order pharmacy program whereby they can get about 90 days of prescription drugs mailed to their home without visiting a pharmacy.

Tricare dental coverage at no cost is in bills Congress is now considering.

Bills to increase presently serving younger active-duty soldier pay and Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ) are before Congress. All veteran organizations agree these need to be increased due to bigger costs of living, but Congress must pass laws to make them a reality.

General Beavers informed the group they should let their congressman and two Senators know their views on these important matters. Members of MOAA (Military Officers of America Association) can also report their views to MOAA at [MOAA.forum.us](https://www.moaa.org/forum)

All veterans can search the MOAA site for updates in legislation at [MOAA.forum.us](https://www.moaa.org/forum). You do not have to be a member to review these issues on the website.

The Lexington group meets the first Monday of each month at the Golden Corral, 185 East New Circle Road, Lexington, KY, at 11:00 AM.



Keeneland Lunch on the 19th of September



From left to right: Frank Bland, Jim Johnson, Bill Barron, Cleland White, George Mason, Jack Perkins, Earl Sosby, Ben Zimmerman

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and present soldiers of
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5. Your AOC member number (its printed on the mailing label of this Sentinel)
6. Your address

Here's an example-

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