



# **Anzio Beachhead Veterans**

## **OF WORLD WAR II, INC.**

**[www.anziobeachheadveterans.com](http://www.anziobeachheadveterans.com)**

*"We share the past..."*

*...We serve the present..."*

*...We educate the future."*

**ANZIO VETERANS' LETTER 2015, VOL 5**

**SEPTEMBER 2015**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Greetings from New Orleans, LA.

This past May 13 - 17 we held our 36th and last reunion. The decision to dissolve the organization was a difficult one, but the Executive Board, after months of discussion, was unanimous in their decision.

Because of health, age and financial problems of our members, attendance at the reunions have fallen off dramatically. It had also become very difficult to attract members to serve on our Board of Directors making it difficult to operate efficiently. Thankfully, Martin Kunofsky, Edward Kunofsky, Nicholas Penna, sons of veterans, have faithfully served on our board, but they have full time jobs and families, and that comes first.

It was also decided that any funds left over in our treasury be donated to the National Museum of the United States Army. Here, in the Veterans Hall, a Bronze plaque, with the name ANZIO BEACHHEAD VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II, will be placed, for all the world to see, for all time.

Because our fiscal year ends October 31, and until we have paid all of our bills, we will not be making any donation until later this year. It has been suggested, that instead of just mailing in a check, that we have a "Presentation Ceremony", a small reception with some of the Army dignitaries, We will look into this and send out notices for those wishing to attend. We estimate at this time we will have \$10,000 to donate.

It has been my pleasure to serve as President of this organization. It has given me the opportunity to know and meet the "greatest generation in the world".

Have a great year,

**Ed Benezech**



## Charleston SC Hosts Anzio Beachhead Veterans

Well, we did it! The “Next, Last Anzio Beachhead Veterans Reunion – 2015” is one for the history books. And, if I do say so myself – it was great! Once we got past the excitement (and annoyance) of having a real TV show being filmed in the hotel lobby, everything else went according to plan.

### **Our Visit to the USS Yorktown Was Amazing**



Beyond the fun of touring a real WWII aircraft carrier, many of our veterans had the opportunity to be interviewed by the Channel 2 news team. A number of photos and a short article can be found here: <http://bit.ly/1eZPJ1X>

Our own “Anzio Angel”, Ramona McCormick was featured on Charleston ABC Channel 4. Type the following link into your browser to watch her interview.

<http://bit.ly/1MgYu6y>

### **Veterans of bloody WWII battle honored at Patriots Point**

Posted: May 14, 2015 6:02 PM EST  
Updated: May 14, 2015 6:11 PM EST



Provided.

By Gregory Woods  
gwoods@sbgtr.com

CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV) — The year was 1944. Thousands of U.S. Army soldiers were sent to the coast of Italy with one goal in mind — to take over the German occupied territory.

Operation Shingle took four brutal months to fight off the Germans and secure Anzio Beach.



Ed and John give the kids a history lesson on the flight deck while Lou gives an interview to channel 2 in the hangar.



### Northside Christian School – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Tribute to Our Veterans



Following a delicious lunch the 5<sup>th</sup> grade class from Northside Christian School gave a wonderful presentation. Their songs and poem were a tribute to all.



## Joint Base Charleston served up a very large airplane



I can still picture the looks on so many faces as we walked into the hanger and stared, in disbelief, at the sheer size of the C130 cargo craft just waiting for us to descend on it.

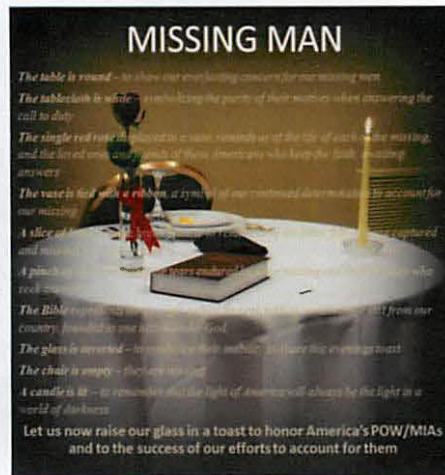






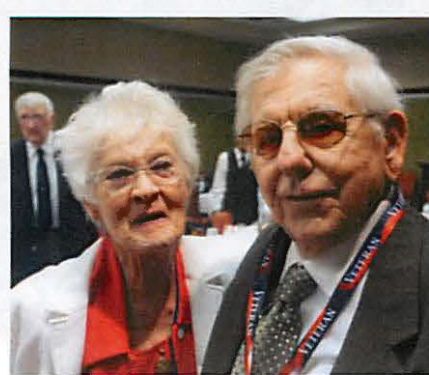


# Banquet Night



So many “final” things:

The final speeches by our president and Secretary/Treasurer. The final “missing man” table. So many people to remember.





## The Final Group Picture



Some final thoughts. Throughout the years that I have been involved with the Anzio Beachhead group, I've had the privilege of getting to know some of the finest people I've ever met. It was an honor for Perri and me to have been involved in the planning of this, the last reunion, for such a distinguished organization.

It's been said so many times it's almost cliché, but I'll say it once more. Thank you for your service. There is no imagining what this world would look like today but for your effort and sacrifice.

I hope that somehow, we will be able to keep in touch with one another for years to come. Hopefully, the next generation will not forget from where we came, how we came to be friends and that we will find a way to keep these memories alive. To that end, though there will not be another official reunion, please watch for correspondence early next year with ideas for an informal type of gathering. We will use the email listings that we currently have, so if anything changes or if you know someone who would like to be included, please let me know at: [mkunofsky@gmail.com](mailto:mkunofsky@gmail.com)

This newsletter, plus lots of pictures and an updated video will be published on Dropbox at the following link: <http://bit.ly/1MgXMgw>

Please share with anyone you feel would be interested. If you have pictures you would like to add let me know at the above email address and I will open the link for you to do that.

Our thanks to all of you who have made these reunions and especially this one so memorable.

Marty, Perri and Ethan Kunofsky

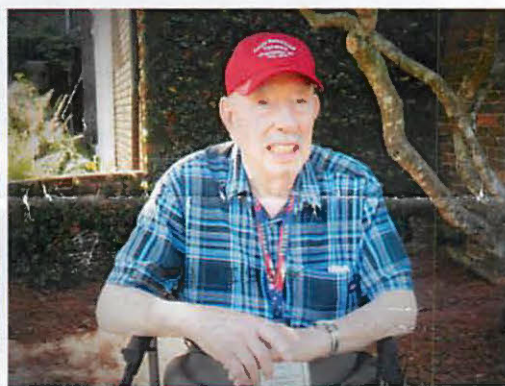


## Flag Lowering Ceremony at Joint Base Charleston



## Boone Hall

Our final day in Charleston was a tour of some of the highlights of this beautiful city. First, a stop at Boone Hall, a still functioning plantation followed by a bus tour of the city's many old homes and historic sights.



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