

March 2007

# The ORION GALLIVANTER

## 1917 - 1919

*Dickebush Sector*

*Mount Kemmel*

*Vierstraat Ridge*

*East Poperinghe Line*

*Hindenburg Line*

*LaSelle River St. Souplet*

*Meuse-Argonne St. Mihiel*



## 1940- 1945

*Makin*

*Majuro*

*Eniwetok*

*Saipan*

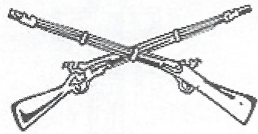
*Okinawa*

## 2001- Present

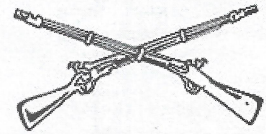
*Enduring Freedom*

*Iraqi Freedom*

*Noble Eagle*



## The 27th Division Came Marching Home



### The Parades

Many of us have marched in a parade at one time or another and I know we all have taken part in the traditional "Pass and Review" with our unit. In our home towns the Veterans Day, Memorial Day, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades have always been big parades to march in. I am sure everyone who has taken part in these events have gotten that proud feeling when you are marching along the parade route, the crowd is clapping and cheering, kids are waving little American Flags, you pass in front of the announcers stand and they introduce your outfit to the crowd and they clap and cheer even louder.

Looking back, the 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment had taken part in two parades of epic proportion while serving with the 27<sup>th</sup> Division.

### "Send Off"

The 27<sup>th</sup> Division marched in the "Send Off" Parade in New York City, on August 30, 1917, prior to the Division's shipment to Camp Wadsworth, to begin combat training for the World War. The entire 27<sup>th</sup> Division, about 20,000, marched the parade route down 5<sup>th</sup> Ave-

nue from 110<sup>th</sup> Street to the Washington Arch, at Washington Square Park. Many of the officers and men that were present were veterans of the divisions' federal service in the Mexican Border just a few months earlier.

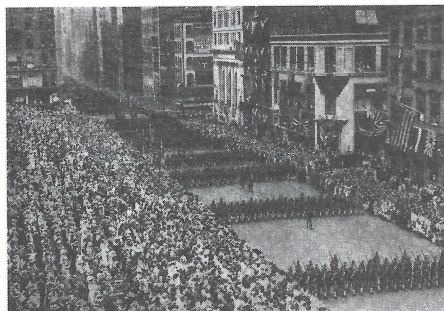
The entire route was lined with family members and spectators. "Apparently it was realized by the people along the parade route that many of the officers and men in the passing column would not live through the war to take part in any homecoming parade, for sadness was more notable upon the faces of the spectators than enthusiasm. The officers and men, however, were in fine spirits and made a most soldierly impression in their swing down Fifth

Avenue."

At the end of the "Send Off" Parade many of the units marched directly to the departing trains, heading to Camp Wadsworth. Nine Months later they were in France.

### "Home-Coming"

In February 1919, three months after the War was over, the officers and men of the 27<sup>th</sup> Division returned home aboard transport ships and sailed up to the Hoboken piers. Most of the Division was aboard the Leviathan but a majority of the 108<sup>th</sup> was aboard the Mauretania Liner. These boys were returning heroes and were met in the bay by escort ships and at the docks by crowds of cheering people, bands playing, and whistles blowing. The divisions accomplishments in Europe were well known by everyone here at home and they referred to the division as "O'Ryan's Roughnecks" "The Glorious 27<sup>th</sup>" "The New York Division" and "New York's Own". They were now famous for their part in breaking the Hindenburg Line and it was printed in all of the newspapers here at home.



# THE ORION GALLIVANTER



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VOL. XLVIII March 2007 NO. 1

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# Commander's Message

Greetings to all,

By the time you read this message, I am in hopes that the worst of the winter is over and that we can look forward to a pleasant spring. It is also my hope that all of you survived the winter and are in good health.

As I stated in the December 2006 edition of the Gallivanter, The time is already here to prepare for next years reunion. A Board of Directors and Officers of the 27th Division Association meeting was held on the 27th of February, 2007. The Road conditions were not the best, and I want to thank again all those that were at the meeting. It should also be noted that, I realize that those that did not make the meeting would have liked to have been there. Many things were covered and you can plan on a well rounded reunion.

The Dates for the reunion are 3-5 August 2007 in Syracuse, NY. The price range will be the same as last year. The Registration Forms and other Information about the reunion will be printed in the Gallivanter. Much work is being put into this reunion to make it a big success and I am looking forward to seeing all of you there.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Gallivanter Editor, Robert F. Romano For the fine job he did with the last edition of the Gallivanter. Keep up the good work and thank you Robert.

As I conclude this message, I ask that your thoughts and prayers continue for our troops both at home and abroad. Please include their families, as they also serve that wait.

Yours in Comradeship,

Raymond E. Swift  
National Commander

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### 27th DIV ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

- Unit & Personal Remembrances
  - 80 Plus Club to the Editor
  - Historical stories
  - Reunion Notices
  - Mailbag items
    - Taps
- New Membership application
- Membership Dues—\$10.00
- Memorial Fund Donations
  - Gallivanter Donations
  - Change of address

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**Roberta Comerford**

**P.O. Box 2522**

**Syracuse, NY 13220-2522**

**Email:**

**roberta.comerford@us.army.mil**

Make checks payable to:  
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## Editor's Corner

Welcome to the Editor's Corner! This is my second effort as your Gallivanter Editor in Chief and I'd like to thank everyone for their kind comments concerning last quarter's edition.

In this issue, I've added a new section, "The Shutterbug Page". I hope to continue this feature with archived and modern day pictures of the 27th DIV. If any member has photos that they'd like to share, feel free to mail a copy to the association PO Box or e-mail an electronic version to me directly.

The Division lives on with the 27th BCT and our history continues to be written. In February, another group of soldiers wearing the Stars of Orion headed out from our shores heading to Afghanistan to support the continuing efforts to train the Afghanistan National Army. In the coming months, I hope to bring you "dispatches from the front" from some of the soldiers on this mission.

The 2007 Division Reunion is coming together and we're hoping for a large turn out. Several events are planned, including a "petting zoo" where the modern equipment of the 27th will be displayed.

Finally, a special bit of thanks to COL Gary Yaple (yes, the rank is correct—he's a full grown Colonel now!) for his assistance in handing the reigns over to me. Last quarter's edition wouldn't have been a success without his help.

Thanks again, and I'll see you next quarter!

## ATTENTION: SAIPAN VETERANS

*To: The Gallivanter, Attention: Veterans of Saipan*

*I am writing to let members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Division Association know that the experience of the 27th during the Gyokusai attack on Saipan will be the subject of an upcoming television documentary.*

*The program will air on the National Geographic Channel as part of a series of programs on some of the most fiercely fought battles in American history. It is being produced by Kurtis Productions, a Chicago based company which has created many award winning television programs for PBS, A&E and The History Channel.*

*As is well known, the account of the 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division's role in Saipan was initially not accurately reported. This program provides a great opportunity for veterans who were there to tell the story exactly as they saw it. If you were one of those who witnessed the Japanese attack on July 7, 1944, please give me a call. You can leave a message at 312-242-6104. You can also write to me by e-mail at [mbedell@kurtis.com](mailto:mbedell@kurtis.com).*

*I hope to hear from as many of you as possible. You have amazing stories to tell and we have an audience that is eager to hear what really happened on that day in battle.*

*Thank you so much for your assistance with this exciting project.*

*Sincerely,*

*Molly Bedell*

*Kurtis Productions*

## REUNION UPDATE!

This years Annual 27th Division Association Inc. Reunion will be August 3rd-5th, 2007 at the:

*Holiday Inn-Syracuse  
441 Electronics Parkway  
Liverpool, New York 13088*

### **—Schedule of Events—**

#### **Friday, August 3rd, 2007**

3:00pm - 6:00pm Registration  
6:00pm - 9:00pm Blinger

#### **Saturday, August 4th, 2007**

7:00am - 9:00am: Breakfast  
9:00am-10:30am: Static Displays  
10:30am: Memorial Service  
11:15am - 12:15pm: Members Meeting  
12:30pm: Commander's Luncheon  
5:00pm: Cocktail Hour  
6:00pm: Dinner

#### **Sunday August 5th, 2007**

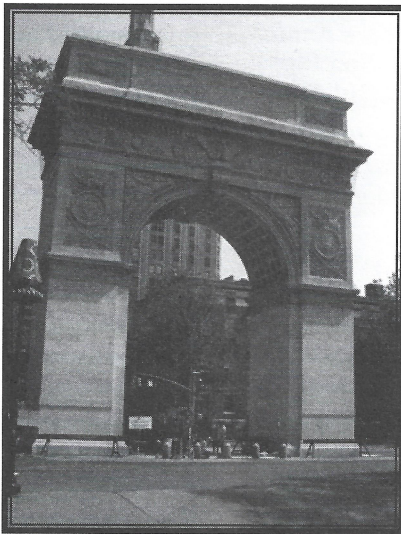
7:00am - 9:00am Breakfast  
10:00am Farewells

*Package Reservation and Meals Only  
Reservation Cards will be in the June  
2007 Newsletter.*

## 27th Division Came Marching Home

(Continued from Page 1) When the Division arrived, it was made known to General O’Ryan that a Parade in their honor was to be arranged and that it was to be an extraordinary event. The Division HQ was temporarily established at the Biltmore Hotel in the City of New York and the plans for the parade were underway. During the time of planning the men and officers of the 27<sup>th</sup> were banqueted and entertained all around the city in its many hotels and establishments.

“A great arch had been erected at Madison Square and another at Fifth Avenue and 60<sup>th</sup> Street. At night powerful searchlights illuminated these structures.” The arch at 60<sup>th</sup> Street was covered with crystal glass, which reflected the beams of the searchlights in such manner as to present an astonishing appearance. At the New York Public Library, on Fifth Ave near 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, an Altar of Liberty had been built. Before the altar were grouped “long battle pikes” of an ancient design and shields bearing the 27<sup>th</sup> Division insignia. “These were said to represent the warlike armament of the returning soldiers, which had been laid upon the Altar of Liberty.”



It was decided that the route would be the opposite of the 1917 farewell parade and start in Washington Square Park, travel up Fifth Avenue and be dismissed at 110<sup>th</sup> Street. The order of march was arranged to be led by a memorial feature of the parade was a caisson drawn by eight black horses with the caisson loaded with flowers and wreaths. Following was a column of several thou-

sand wounded soldiers of the Division in open automobiles along with huge banner bearing 1986 gold stars, representing the number of men killed in battle or have died of wounds. Then came the Division led by the Police Band of NYC.

Thousands of people had taken up spectator positions the prior evening to insure an excellent vantage point. Tens of thousands continued to arrive and the crowds exceeded all calculations that had been made by the police.

“The parade started on the minute of the time prescribed. The great number of wounded soldiers, many of them carrying crutches, others with arms and heads still bandaged, created a tremendous impression as they proceeded up Fifth Avenue. There was little cheering. The great crowd seemed spellbound. Their emotion was too deep for cheers. This emotion was produced not only by the sight of so many wounded soldiers, a column of them, more than a mile long, but also by the memorial caisson and the service flag with 1986 gold stars, which headed the parade.” In the area of Madison Square the amount of spectators became so vast that they surged into the street causing the parade column to narrow. When the last wounded soldier cleared the Washington Square the Division Staff, along with the Division units followed.

“As the troops appeared on Fifth Ave. the vast crowd seemed to experience reactions from the emotion which had held them while they viewed the caisson, the service flag and the wounded. With appearance of the troops in their steel helmets, fixed bayonets and packs, swinging along with the stride of hardened outdoor men, their bronzed faces showing the lines which bespoke the determination that had marked their battle conduct, the multitude became frantic with cheers.” Every vantage point all along the route was packed, including the side streets. Confetti and ticker tape was thrown from roof tops and windows until the air was filled with the cheerful rain. Great numbers of horns and noise makers added to the din.

The masses at Madison

Square in the vicinity of the great arch became so out of hand that they engulfed the street blocking the route. It took several minutes for the police reform a lane sufficient enough for the parade column to pass through. “The column proceeded up Fifth Ave. and passed the Altar of Liberty, receiving the same extraordinary welcome and amid the same scenes that



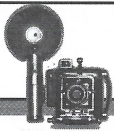
they had received in lower Fifth Avenue.” When the head of the column reached 110<sup>th</sup> Street, the Division Staff pulled aside and took up positions in the plaza. General O’Ryan watched his war time Division for the last time pass and review. At that time the 54<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, headed by General Pierce, began to swing by. General Pierce then joined the Division Commander to watch his Brigade. “It was a magnificent spectacle to see the 108<sup>th</sup> Infantry and 107<sup>th</sup> Infantry of his brigade to march past this last reviewing point of the parade. It was a sad occasion also; for this review marked the disintegration of this Great War organization with its superlative men and associations that had become a part of the daily routine of life.”

The units continued to pass and in the end they disappeared into the side streets and traveled to their camps and armories.

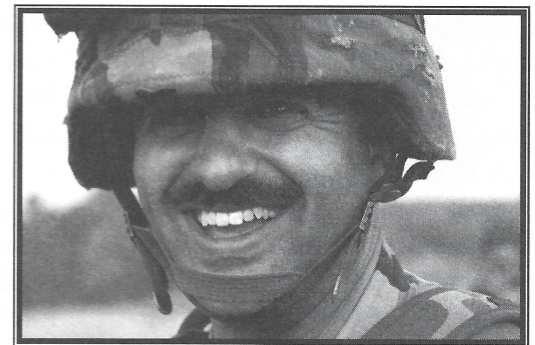
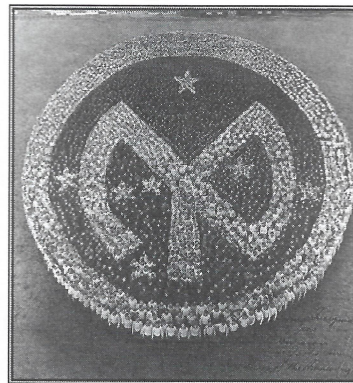
The following day all units of the division were located at either Camp Upton or en route to, for final mustering out. By the end of April the last unit had been mustered out of federal service thus ending the war service of the “New York” or 27<sup>th</sup> Division during the World War.

*Information extracted from 27th Division in the World War, Vol. 1, By Maj. Gen. John F. O’Ryan, 1921, pub. by Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co. New York.*

*Editor’s Note: Thanks to Dan Markle for this article.*



# THE SHUTTERBUG PAGE



Have a picture you want to submit for the Shutterbug Page? Mail a copy of the photo to the Editor's Home address (See: Masthead) or E-Mail a scanned copy to the Editor at: [Robert.romano@us.army.mil](mailto:Robert.romano@us.army.mil)

## MAILBAG

### Post 11 News

Our annual Christmas holiday season luncheon-meeting was held on 1 December 2006 at the Johnson City VFW. The ladies of the VFW prepared and served a wonderful feast of turkey & dressing with all the trimmings. Commander Ray Swift opened the event with a pledge of allegiance and salute to the colors. A prayer was offered by our Chaplain Stan Gardner followed by a moment of silence to our departed members. Secretary and Treasurers report given by Bob Wartonick

45 members and guests attended: M/M Anatole Babykin, Dale Barber, M/M Robert Barton. M/M Al Cadwell, M/M Larry Casey, Mary Cavallaro, LTC Carlton Cleveland, M/M Frank DeDersis, Nelson Dickey, M/M Richard Fidurski, Matt Garbett & Guest, M/M Stan Gardner, M/M John Gorman, M/M Richard Holly, M/M Jack Howey, Harold Jones, M/M Peter Julian, Peter Kozak, John Lamomaco, and Ann Lipka, Matt Miller, Joe Podrazil, Gene Robinson, M/M Dewitt Schell, M/M Art Slocum, Ray Swift and Nadine Young, Ray Swift Jr., Elwood Thorp, and M/M Bob Wartonick,

LTC Carlton Cleveland, Commander of the 204th Engineer Bn. gave a brief talk about the activities of the 204th Engineer Bn....John Gorman donated a gavel formerly used by the members of Compny E, 106th veterans of WWII at their functions; it was graciously accepted by Cmdr Ray Swift....Next event scheduled for

7 July 2007.....Retired the colors and meeting adjourned.

### Request for Assistance

My name is Chris Vaughn, and I am a news reporter with the Fort Worth Star-Telegram newspaper in Fort Worth, Texas. I sent you a message last week and haven't heard back, so I am sending this again. I am researching the life of a man named Sgt. Presley B. Land, who was killed in action on Okinawa on June 17, 1945. He served in Alpha Company, 165th Infantry Regiment. If there was a battalion, I don't have it. As an aside, he earned a Silver Star and Bronze Star on Okinawa for actions unrelated to his death. He was actually killed by friendly fire.

Michael Aikey suggested I contact you because I tracked him down looking for a 27th Division Association. The only person alive around here who remembers Sgt. Land is his wife, who is now 85 years old. His blood family is all dead. The only other people who might remember Sgt. Land is someone from Alpha Company who served with him. That's ultimately who I am trying to find.

Any help or suggestions would be most welcome. I am trying to write a story honoring this man before his story completely fades into history.

Regards,

Chris Vaughn  
Fort Worth Star-Telegram  
(817) 390-7547

### Request for Assistance

My name is James Magby . My father Wayne L Magby Served with the 27th in WW2 and has died .

I am trying to contact his division to pass on this sad news . I can be reached at  
j\_magby@hotmail.com

### **—TAPS—**

**Devere W McRorie**, 83, Inducted into the US Army soon after graduating high school. He transferred into the Air Force and was based at Foggia Italy with the 15th Air Force, 461st B6765 BSQ. He flew as an engineer/gunner on a B24 "Liberator" bomber. After the war he served in the Air Force Reserve and the NYARNG and retired as a M/Sgt from the 104th Artillery and the 204 Engineer BN. He was a LIFE member of the 27th Division Association, Post 11. He was predeceased by his wife, Theda Lucille, and is survived by his daughter, Lucinda.

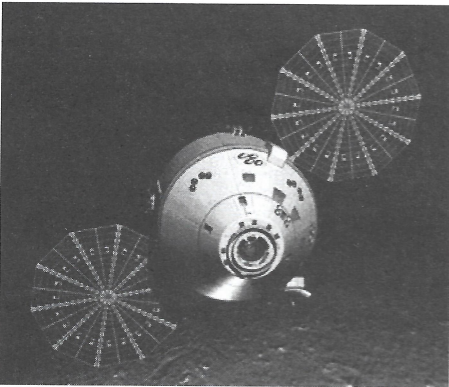
**Charles Hollis**...Charles Hollis of Owego, NY passed away on 11 December 2006. He went with the 27th Division to Ft McClellan in 1940 with Co. E, 106th Infantry and served with them throughout the Pacific Campaign. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Marie, a daughter, Sheryl and son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Bess Hollis and 3 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

## Orion in Space?

*(Editor's Note: On August 31, 2006, NASA announced a new manned space program.)*

America will send a new generation of explorers to the moon aboard NASA's Orion crew exploration vehicle. Making its first flights early in the next decade, Orion is part of the Constellation Program to send human explorers back to the moon, and then onward to Mars and other destinations in the solar system.

A component of the Vision for Space Exploration, Orion's development is taking place in parallel with missions to complete the International Space Station using the space shuttle before the shuttle is retired in 2010.



Orion will be capable of carrying crew and cargo to the space station. It will be able to rendezvous with a lunar landing module and an Earth departure stage in low-Earth orbit to carry crews to the moon and, one day, to Mars-bound vehicles assembled in low-Earth orbit. Orion will be the Earth entry vehicle for lunar and Mars returns. Orion's design will borrow its shape from the capsules of the past, but takes advantage of 21st century technology in computers, electronics, life support, propulsion and heat protection systems.

Lockheed Martin Corp was awarded the contract to build Orion on Aug. 31, 2006.

The vehicle is Orion, named for one of the brightest and most recognizable star formations in the sky. It will be a multi-purpose capsule -- the central member of a family of spacecraft and shuttle-derived launchers that NASA's Constellation Program is developing to carry astronauts back to the moon and later to Mars. The first flight with astronauts aboard is planned for no later than 2014. Orion's first flight to the moon is planned for no later than 2020.

*(Final note: The Editor's cousin works for NASA and has been contacted concerning establishing a connection with the 27th and the Orion program.)*

## Sharing Their Stories

By: MARGARITA RAYCHEVA,  
The Saratogian

SARATOGA SPRINGS - As he patted the shoulder of the 24-year-old National Guard specialist Ben Munn inside the Military Museum on Saturday, National Guard Ray Swift, a National Guard veteran, noticed the patch of the 27th National Guard Division on Munn's shoulder. "It was the same patch I sewed on in 1950," Swift said. "I was 16 years old. But they didn't ask for birth certificates back then."

Two generations of veterans shared their stories at the annual reunion of the 27th Division Association at the New York State Military History Museum on Saturday morning. Citizen soldiers from the modern-day 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team got to meet and exchange experiences with about three dozen World War II National Guard Veterans.

They all wore the 27th Division shoulder patch, decorated with the Orion constellation and honoring of the World War I Commander John O'Ryan.

Young and old National Guard Veterans toured the museum and

compared stories from Saipan and Okinawa to those from Baghdad and Samarra. At a memorial ceremony outside the museum, they honored together the fallen soldiers who wore the 27th Division shoulder patch in Europe, the Pacific and Southwest Asia.

"World War II veterans are getting older and it is important to give them an opportunity to meet the newest generation," said National Guard Major Richard Goldenberg.

Goldenberg returned from Iraq in Nov. 2005. He found that World War II veterans would easily understand how American soldiers in Iraq were welcomed as liberators by the Iraqi Kurds, while many Iraqis looked at them with suspicion. World War II veterans experienced the same contrasting attitudes when they crossed from France into Germany, he said. "There is much that ties us together," he said. "The New York National Guard is like a family."

As all other major army divisions, the 27th was formed during World War I. Every division was assigned a number, with one through 25 were assigned to active duty and 26 to 41 were National Guards. Number 27 was the New York state division. Later, the division became known for breaking the famed Hindenburg Line of German Defenses in September 1918.

Jean Jackson, 78, who came to the event with her husband Tiny, a World War II veteran, used the chance to talk to Ben Munn, who came back from duty in Iraq in 2005. "I wanted to know if they have the equipment to do the job," Jackson said. "We have four children, ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. One of our grandchildren is in the Coast Guard in D.C. As a grandmother, I want to know."

*(Originally published in "The Saratogian", Sep 30, 2006)*

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(First) (Middle) (Last)

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(House Number and Street) (City) (Zone) (State) (Zip)

Current Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ or Check if member At Large \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Served \_\_\_\_\_

Date: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Rank (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

*Make remittance (\$10.00) payable to: The 27th Division Association, Inc.  
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Full Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(First) (Middle) (Last)

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(House Number and Street) (City) (Zone) (State) (Zip)

Current Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post No. \_\_\_\_\_ or Check if member At Large \_\_\_\_\_

Age Please check <30 \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ 31-40 \$190 \_\_\_\_\_ 41-50 \$170 \_\_\_\_\_  
51-60 \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ 61-70 \$120 \_\_\_\_\_ 71-80 \$90 \_\_\_\_\_ 81 & up \$60 \_\_\_\_\_

LIFE MEMBER

### LIFE MEMBERS:

Dues paid to National for life memberships are NATIONAL DUES only. Remain a member of your local post and pay your POST DUES.

**REMINDER:**  
2007 Dues are \$10.00  
(or Life Membership)

### At Large Members

Please make checks payable to:  
**The 27th Division Association, Inc.**  
Mail to: Secretary  
**Roberta Comerford**  
P.O. Box 2522  
Syracuse, NY 13220  
Member of a Post?  
See your Post Secretary