

Dear Friends and Supporters of the National Guard,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about one of the most compelling stories of my long television career... and ask you for your support.

It involves a film production about a little known or publicized National Guard Division during WWII. The 30<sup>th</sup> "Old Hickory" Infantry Division comprised National Guard and volunteers (mostly southern farm boys from Tennessee, Georgia, and the Carolinas), who were rushed to war to shore-up the invasion at Normandy. Although initially scheduled as replacements, the Old Hickory Division would end up fighting in all five major battle campaigns of the ETO.

They not only fought in the Hedgerows, spearheaded the break-through at St. Lo, defeated one of the largest German counter-offensives at Mortain, liberated much of Belgium and Holland, were the first division to penetrate the vaunted Siegfried Line, fought in the Battle of the Bulge, captured Aachen (the first city inside Germany), but also met the Russian Army at Magdeburg.

This unlikely group of "citizen soldiers" became a highly effective fighting force, repeatedly proving their worthiness, and gaining recognition among US Commanders as "The Workhorse of the Western Front."

At war's end, they had so distinguished themselves that they were rated by S.L.A. (Slam) Marshall, chief U.S. Army combat historian during World War II, the "Number One" division in the ETO, and were recommended to receive the highest commendation a Division can receive, the Presidential Unit Citation. Inexplicably, they were denied that honor, while regular Army divisions were so honored.

But the accolades they had won throughout the war are not the final chapter ...

Through our film "Heroes of Old Hickory," we hope to preserve this incredible piece of history so that future generations will never forget the debt we owe these veterans. For the past five years, we have recorded a large amount of footage and stories both here in the US and Europe to capture the story of the 30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division.

During the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Allied invasion of France, we filmed a group of Old Hickory veterans returning to the towns and villages they had liberated 6 decades before. We were astonished to witness thousands of Europeans who came to honor the men that had restored their freedom, a part of the story that while uplifting, is little known here in America.

We are much closer to our objective and the completion of the film...but we need your help! Please help us complete this very worthwhile project by retransmitting this message to your members and associates, fellow soldiers, families, and friends, and even by providing links to our website to help spread the word.

These men are now mostly in their late 80's and early 90's, so time is short! Only with your help and support can we preserve this little known and outstanding story....a key part of the legacy of your National Guard!

One of our primary sponsors is the National Guard Association of Texas Educational Foundation, which is working closely with us to preserve this divisional legacy of the National Guard. I have included a list of some of our other sponsors below.

Please feel free to contact me directly. I look forward to the opportunity to provide you with more information about this incredible project.

Sincerely,  
Lew Adams  
Producer

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*“Heroes of Old Hickory”*

Sponsors, Support Groups and Endorsements:

Army Heritage Center Foundation  
30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Veterans of WWII  
30<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Association  
National Guard Association of Texas Educational Foundation  
Cain Foundation  
Campbell Soup Family  
Ed Rachal Foundation  
Patton Foundation  
Summerlee Foundation  
US Battle Monuments Commission  
Dutch Adopt-a-Grave Committee  
Dutch Adopt-a-Grave Foundation  
Orange Committee Kerkrade, Holland  
City of Mortain, France  
Vincent Heggen WWII Museum, Belgium  
WWII Memorial Museum, St. Lo, France  
Les Fleurs de la Memoire (French Adopt-a-Grave committee)