



# HELPMATE BULLETIN

Official Newsletter  
of the

284th F. A. Bn. WWII

December

28,

2005

RONNIE'S MESSAGE CENTER JOHN B. SUMMERS, 5494 ABERDOUR LN. ST LOUIS, MO. 63129  
INTERNET LOCATION : HLPMATE284@AOL.COM TEL. (314)845-2086  
284th FA BN WEBSITE: [HTTP://HOMETOWN.AOL.COM/FABN284/INDEX.HTML](http://HOMETOWN.AOL.COM/FABN284/INDEX.HTML)

Greetings, Helpmates, Happy Holidays,

Well, another year has rolled by, and we are still among the living. Life has been tolerable, if not actually good. We are sorrowful for those we have lost, and grateful for those who remain in our midst. We have much to be grateful for.

I am going to wait until I get all the greetings before I mail this. Most of those reporting in wish good greetings for particular friends, and I would wish to acknowledge each of these, if my brain keeps working.

Jerri Polson called in November and was so bright and cheerful. She wished that the reunions would have continued, but does understand that enough is enough. She had been unable to make the last several, and understands well how difficult it is to work gatherings out. Her voice sounded great—much stronger than noted in the recent past. I think she must be dipping into the merchandise at the health store. She still helps a bit there, does some work for the Moose, and seems to be enjoying her 80's happily. She wishes to be remembered to all the group. She does not drive anymore, but has much help from family getting around.

Received an E-mail from Glenn Bennett, son of our comrade Glenn, tells me that his dad died peacefully earlier this year, and his mother died shortly thereafter. Glenn Sr. was very proud of his army service, and he and his wife, Jessie, enjoyed attending several of our reunions in the past. He apologizes for the delay in notifying us of this circumstance, but understands well this father's love for our close-knit group. He wishes us well in our work to keep the group together.

Received a note from Haaning. He is planning going to FI this winter. He is contacting Ralcewich and Carney for a possible meeting while he is down there. Made a donation to Miss Kitty, and thanks.

Got a letter from Lester Lenker. He also included a donation. Does well for now. Wishes well to all. Recent checkup and stress test turned out fine. Plays with cat, and roams the woods watching colors change. Wife doing well. Thanks much for the note.

Clair called on the 8th. Does well. Chatted. Wishes me to give regards to all everywhere. We always have a meaningful chat when we get together on the phone.

The Ralcewiches called on the 9th AM. General chat. They are currently doing fine. Glad to know that I would shortly be down in their neck of the woods.

I just returned from a month in Florida. The weather was coolish, but warmer than in Mo. All of Florida was sick, including Ray Crismond, and George Ralcewich. But George was well enough to join me in a few card games, and several trips to the gambling spots down there.

I spent much of my time trying to corner the attorney who is supposed to be helping me with my realty problems. Never did eyeball him, but got empty promises from him. I believe I shall have to change bases.

Now, to get down to the greetings part of this note. I received quite a few greetings with additions for Miss Kitty. As in the past, I did not report from whom these donations came, but wish to make a simple thank you for your kindness. The kitty is back in the black, and should remain there much of this

coming year. Thank you all so much for your consideration. Now that the money situation is settled, send NEWS. This is the 5th issue I have sent out this year, and I usually sent out 7 or 8. There is just no news to send. Please!!!!

George and Dorothy Ralcewich greet all, and would like to know of Joe Molnar's address. I do not have it any more, so if anyone out there has this info, send it to me, and I will send the data to George, after I copy it to my records.

Dick and Rae Marie Bozzo relate that Dick had a second cataract surgery, and all went well. Rae Marie has developed vision problems, and is having quite a bit of trouble getting around. He recently visited the web site that John Wasilewski developed and maintains, and enjoyed it much. I am going to get some info to him about the content of this website, so that he can enjoy it more.

Bob and Sumiko Rosen send greetings to all. Next March, a daughter is taking Sumiko to Italy where a granddaughter is in a school. Bob has had several trips to the Caribbean for his tennis and kayaking fun, and he will go back in the early winter for more. They are repairing, rebuilding, and refurnishing the homestead, and it costing more for this than the house cost in 1976 when it was purchased.

Generally, health matters are not a problem in their family. He misses the reunions already, and hopes a chance meeting will happen some day soon.

Don and Diane Haaning (Henning) are well at this time. They are going to Florida in February and hope to meet with several old acquaintances while there. The old folks down there are just as anxious, Don. He trusts me to keep the cannon ball in our logo from really hitting the deck.

Eunice Tibbott is well, except for vision and other eye problems which require special equipment to continue her paper work. She walks several miles a couple of times a week, but no longer drives. She enjoys the bulletins so much.

Mel and Betty Donaldson are looking forward to their annual trek to Florida in January. Mel has had many medical problems this year, and hopes the next one will be less trying. I am hoping that we can get together while Mel is down

this winter.

Ray and Marge Crismond have sent greetings to all every time I see them Marge has some significant breathing problems, but does as the doctor orders, and stays active.

Pat and Ruth Maier send greetings, and is so glad to get the newsletter to hear what little news is placed therein. They have generally good health, and still get around well.

Mary Ciccone greets all, and hope that all have a positive 2006.

Tony and Dee Lembo send greetings, and best wishes for 2006.

Clara Chmura likewise wishes all a bright future, and a happy holiday season.

Bea Beck sends greetings and best wishes to all. She was in the path of Hurricane Wilma, spent 13 days in the world without electricity, but lost only a few tiles from her roof, thanks to the work of her kids, who boarded up the windows. She does not recommend cold showers as anything but bare necessity. I hope next year will be kinder to our southern friends.

Zelma Rigney greets all, and wishes all to enjoy a prosperous 2006.

Ann and Harvey Smith sent a newsletter as they greeted all. Their big surprise was when son Erik called them from Portland and asked for a ride to visit them. He later joined a sister in Eugene Oregon, and remained there to work and live.

Harv was found to have a small lung tumor, and it was found early, and seemed to be helped by chemo and radiation. So far, the tumor has gotten smaller, but more treatment is mandatory. They plan to visit the East in September of next year. Good luck, Harv.

Millie Nelson sends greetings to all. She has been blessed with a great grandson Zachary and he remains the highlight of her life. She has had good health, and hopes the same for all of the Helpmate group.

Patricia Entile remains in good health, and is very glad to get the newsletter to read. She has seen Lloyd Lage several times this past year, and he continues to have his usual good time.

She remembers so well our European trip in 1993, and is so glad that she made it. She and

son Steve plod along, glad to put one foot in front of the last step.

Lois Weary also made the trip to Europe with us. She enjoys the newsletter, and thanks for sending it. She and her family are doing well, and are glad to have good health and good friends.

Gerald and "Mugs" Stensberg send greetings to all. Gerry is having some "older aging" problems, but will do well under her care. Mugs and Clair Schneider correspond by phone, and enjoy this much.

Charlie and Ruth Zimmer send best wishes to all. Things go well in Kentucky, and Ruth hopes the same for Helpmates everywhere.

Dave and Virginia Hawkins sent a news note with the greetings. They did a lot of air and ground travel this past year, and hope to be able to keep it up. They had no problems with the hurricanes, and altho they like to visit the relatives in Wisconsin, they are glad to be out of the COLD. They wish the best for all in 2006.

A note from Marion Hartley with wishes for all. She is happy for her move to Penn., but sure misses the heat and the sun. She fell in a store recently and fractured her pelvis. She had a few weeks in therapy, and is glad to report that she has learned to walk again at her young age. She asks for some news from Martha Ellis, but I have no recent data on this. The address I have is:

6550 Socrum Loop Rd,  
Lakeland, FL., 33809.  
Her phone 941-686-9834.

Received greetings from John and Patti Wasilewski and family for all. All must be well for these nice folks. Thanks, John.

I saved a special spot for Leonard Leviton. He wrote a "special note" and I will put the whole thing down here.

"At the age of 90, my hands are all thumbs. Could use my band baton as a walking stick. Hope this finds you in the best of health." Thank you very much Leonard. Your note is much appreciated.

Harry and Florence Podolsky send greetings to all, and hope their greeting finds me in good health. Thanks, folks, and I wish the same for you, and for all of our group.

I received a long call from Clair Schneider on

the 22nd. We talked about everything, including some of you folks. I never know what agenda Clair will pursue on any given call, but I do know it will be interesting. I enjoy any call I receive, but with Clair, it is a present.

This was an unusual year with the cards. I usually forget to acknowledge one or two, but I believe that I remembered all. And I got my last card the day before Christmas. There are usually a straggler somewhere in the mix.

I will go down to Florida next week. I will stay most of January, and may even stretch it to Feb. Will see. Nothing but time and tides are in my way.

Well, I had better get this on the way before the postal rates change. Take good care of yourselves, and keep in touch.

As always,

JBS



