



**Veterans of the Seventh Regiment
Newsletter -
October 10, 2023**

Dear Veterans and Friends:

**INVITATION
HINDENBURG LINE DINNER**

You are cordially invited to our Hindenburg Line Dinner on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 6:00PM at the Park Avenue Armory. Our guest speaker will be Elizabeth Tebow, Professor Emeritus in Art History at Northern Virginia Community College, with a teaching career of 40+ years. She traveled with the 7th Regiment Veterans to WWI sites in Europe in 2017.

Enclosed you will find a flyer regarding attendance at the dinner. Please RSVP as soon as possible

VETERANS DAY OBSERVANCE

Our Veterans Day Observance will be held on Saturday, November 11, 2023, beginning at 10:30AM at the Armory where Veterans and Friends will assemble. Those who wish will march to the 7th Regiment/107th Infantry Regiment Memorial, Fifth Avenue and 67th Street, Manhattan, for a brief observance and wreath-laying, then will march back to the Armory for a brief program followed by a complimentary luncheon.

VETERAN'S CALENDAR

Breaking of the Hindenburg Line Dinner, Saturday, October 28, 2023, 6:00PM
Cocktails, 7:00PM Dinner, Board of Officers Room, Armory

Virtual Board of Management Meeting, Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 5:00PM

Veterans Day Observance, Saturday November 11, 2023, 10:30AM, Veteran's Room, Armory

Annual Membership Meeting and Holiday Party, Tuesday, December 12, 2022, 6:00PM, Company D Room, 2nd Floor, Armory

New Year's Day President's Reception, Sunday, January 1, 2024, 12:00 Noon, Board of Officers Room, Armory.

Notifications of schedule changes will be on our website: www.theseventhregiment.org

Veterans of the Seventh Regiment Memorial Day Observance 2023

A gathering of approximately 75 assembled in the Armory for our Memorial Day observance on May 28, 2023. It was a fine day for the traditional march to the 7th Regiment/107th Infantry Regiment Memorial at 67th Street and Park Avenue. This Memorial

Day Observance was made particularly memorable by the presence of several friends from French-American organizations, who contributed enormously to our Memorial Day. In



addition to the Veteran's own wreath, wreaths were presented by: The French Reserve Officers Association in the USA; The American Society of Le Souvenir Francaise; and The French Will Never Forget. A wreath was also left at the Monument by a volunteer organization, The Memorial Day Foundation. The 7th/107th Memorial has not been so "well-dressed" for Memorial Day in many years! A copy of the program is included.



Left: Your President making remarks at the Memorial. Right: Four wreaths before the Memorial.

Remarks of your President at the 7th Regiment/107th Infantry Memorial 5/28/23:

"We are the Seventh Regiment, also called the 107th Infantry Regiment, the first unit to be called National Guards in our nation, so named in honor of the Marquis de Lafayette, who had named his French counterparts the Guards Nationale.

The Seventh Regiment was beloved by our entire nation. They were the only military unit trusted to occupy Washington, DC during the Civil War.

France helped us become a nation during the Revolutionary War. They helped us with money, with armaments, and with soldiers. With us today and also presenting wreaths are representatives of three organizations closely tied to our continuing association with France:

The French Reserve Officers Association in the USA
The American Society of Le Souvenir Francaise
The French Will Never Forget

Please remember those who served before and those who currently serve, not just today, but every day. Please remember their commitment to our country and make your own commitment to stand up for them: they need your help.

We owe it to our military and their loved ones to remember; we owe it to them to tell the story of how and why they served; we owe it to them to honor the ideals they embraced in the past and they embrace today.

Now we will have a laying of the wreaths, the invocation, and the playing of Taps.”

Invocation: “Almighty and eternal God, protect our soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. And bless our veterans, who gave their best when they were called upon to serve and protect their country.

In remembrance of Memorial Day, accept our thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family, our friends and our military, past, present and future. Help us live each day in the most loving ways. Amen”

Remarks of your President at the Armory Memorial Day Observance 5/28/23:

“Veterans and Friends, I am Thomas Principe, the proud President of the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, a position I have held since March, 2007. I would like to welcome you to our Memorial Day Observance today and I hope you will be able to stay for lunch, which will immediately follow this ceremony in the corridor outside this room.

“I would like to introduce special guests we have here today.

-Our 2nd Vice President, Former Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, Hon. Randall T. Eng is here today, not only in his capacity with the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment, but as Commander of the very distinguished Kim Lau American Legion Post #1291.

-Simon Hu, Commander of American Legion Post #107

-COL (R) Will Bodt, President, Seventh Regiment Fund

-Chris Eggers, son of Alan L. Eggers, Medal of Honor recipient for actions during the WWI Battle of the Hindenburg Line

-Ralph Madalena, grand-son of Michael A. Valente, Medal of Honor recipient for actions during the WWI Battle of the Hindenburg Line

-Our Guest Speaker, Patrick du Tertre, who is President of the French Reserve Officers Association in the USA and Co-President and Co-Founder of The French Will Never Forget, which is based in the United States and promotes French and American Friendship.

-LCDR(R) Thierry Chaunu, who was our Guest Speaker one year ago at our Memorial Day Observance, and is President of Le Souvenir Francais, which preserves the memory of the French soldiers, sailors and airmen who gave their lives for freedom, as well as those who did great deeds in the United States.

-Dr. Gerard Epelbaum: Elected official of the French Republic, representing the French community in the USA to the French Congress and President of the Association of All French Associations in New York.

-Dr. Epelbaum's mother, Mrs Luce Epelbaum (a French Jew who survived the holocaust hidden by French families)

-LT Pierre-Antoine Benoit of the French Operational Reserve

-LT Pierre Gervois of the French Honorary Reserve

-Mr. William du Tertre, son of our Guest Speaker

-Mr. Alain Dupuis and several of his colleagues who are French War Veterans”

REMARKS: “The painting *Surrender of Lord Cornwallis* by John Trumbull is on display in the Rotunda of our United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The subject of this painting is the surrender of the British army at Yorktown, Virginia, in 1781, which ended the last major campaign of the Revolutionary War.

You don't need to see the details, because even from a distance I can point out that the artist chose to show a British general in the middle, who is about to hand over his sword to an American on a white horse, with long lines of surrendered British soldiers massed in the distance. On the right are Americans, underneath a waving Stars and Stripes flag—and on the left are French officers and volunteers, beneath the white and gold banner of France's Bourbon monarchs. This painting portrays the two forces as equal combatants against the British, indicating how much America's founding fathers owed to the French in their battle for independence.



I have spoken before about how the Marquis de Lafayette left France and enlisted with George Washington's forces. But Lafayette was only the beginning of massive French support, the beginning of a deep relationship that proved vital to the success of the revolution.

Patrick Henry declared "Give me liberty or give me death!" in March 1775. Patrick Henry's declaration echoed the writings of French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who wrote "Man is born free and everywhere he is in chains."

By the 1760s, the founding fathers and their peers eagerly devoured French political philosophy. It became almost a patriotic duty for colonists to admire France instead of the increasingly hostile England. America's future founders disparaged the way the British (in their eyes) trampled on our own rights, turning instead to France for new ideas about freedom and independence, while France looked to the colonies as a hope for a new kind of government that would have checks and balances instead of a monarchy.

France was still smarting from its defeat in the Seven Years' War and its loss of colonies worldwide, and France saw America's rebellion as an opportunity for revenge. The wily Comte de Vergennes, France's foreign minister, urged Louis XVI to support the Americans, arguing that "providence has marked out this moment for the humiliation of England."

But France was a country with their own colonies, so they wanted to assess whether the American colonists could REALLY succeed. The French regime sent a secret envoy to assess if the colonists REALLY MEANT to overthrow the British. The envoy reported back to France, "Everyone here is a soldier," beginning a secret relationship with France that began THREE YEARS BEFORE formal treaties were made.

Benjamin Franklin and his team sent Silas Deane to Paris disguised as a merchant looking for goods to sell to the Native Americans. But Deane's real quest was very different: He sought military engineers, along with clothing, arms and ammunition for 25,000 soldiers. AND credit from the French to pay for it all. Within two weeks of arriving, Mr. Deane had what he wanted, and France was a secret supplier to the revolution.

When Benjamin Franklin himself traveled to Paris in November 1776, much of the secrecy surrounding the negotiations with France fell away. But Franklin's popularity with everyone from the aristocracy (he encouraged Lafayette to volunteer) to the general public put more pressure on the French regime to keep supporting their new allies.

Washington recognized his new Army lacked any sort of engineering expertise, as demonstrated in 1775 in a letter to the president of Congress: "The war in which we are engaged, requires the Knowledge comprehending the Duties of the Field and Fortifications."

Louis Duportail and his three countrymen arrived in the thirteen colonies in the spring of 1777. They brought high levels of professionalism to the Continental Army and it was Duportail who made the greatest contributions. General Washington appointed Colonel Duportail to be the chief engineer of the Continental Army in July 1777. The two officers developed a close working relationship and personal friendship. Reaching the rank of major general, Duportail held his post as chief engineer until the end of the American Revolution in 1783. He started the first formal School of Engineering, commanded the first formal Corps of Engineers, and integrated engineer units into the Continental Army's force structure. He is regarded as the "Father of the US Army Corps of Engineers."

To this day the insignia of the Army Corps of Engineers is a fortress, representing both offense and defense, with the French word ESSAYONS, which means “WE WILL TRY”, but it means more than that, maybe something like ‘we will try to do better than anybody.’ Later in 1778, the Father of the US Army Corps of Engineers swore allegiance to the new United States and thus claimed American citizenship.

America’s uprising depended on French willingness to provide open-ended credit that enabled the shipping of supplies to the depleted revolutionaries. Ultimately, France provided about 1.3 billion French livres of desperately-needed funds as well as goods to support the revolution. Estimates suggest that at the colonists’ October 1777 victory at Saratoga, a turning point in the war, 90 percent of all American troops carried French arms, and they were completely dependent on French gunpowder.

The Saratoga victory prompted the French to open their treasury wider. Once the relationship was formalized in twin agreements early in 1778, the Treaty of Alliance and the Treaty of Amity and Commerce, the flow of supplies soared, along with the numbers of soldiers and sailors crossing the Atlantic to fight for the American cause.

Roughly 12,000 French soldiers served our Revolution, with over 5,000 losing their lives, along with some 22,000 naval personnel, who arrived aboard 63 warships. Lafayette was the one of the earliest—and most prominent—officers to join our Revolution. The Comte de Rochambeau, commander in chief of all French forces, played a crucial role in containing the English fleet and in the final campaigns. The Comte de Grasse reinforced revolutionary forces in Virginia with French troops from France’s own colony of Haiti in the Caribbean, then dealt Britain’s navy a decisive defeat at the 1781 Battle of the Chesapeake.

It would be an army led by Washington, Lafayette and Rochambeau together that struck the decisive blow at Yorktown. There were 7,000 French troops present at the British surrender at Yorktown, not including naval forces, only a little less than the 9,000 Americans present.

Without France’s aid, American revolutionaries might have been seen by other major powers merely as treasonous colonies rebelling against their rulers. The French willingness to help gave legitimacy to American leaders. The Treaty of Amity and Commerce of 1778 formally acknowledged the United States as an independent nation and opened the way for Americans to continue trading internationally.

Following the Yorktown surrender, France’s diplomatic support (and yet another loan) proved critical in reaching a formal end to the conflict, with the 1783 Treaty of Paris.

France helped make the victory of the United States possible. Continental soldiers used French weapons and wore French-made uniforms and, by the end of the war, they fought alongside French soldiers. The French army and navy battled the British *all over the world*, from Asia and Africa to the Caribbean, which strained the capabilities of the British war effort in America. A number of Revolutionary War battles didn’t even include Americans – the last battle of the war occurred when British and French ships clashed off the coast of India in 1783. But the American Revolution continued long after the Revolutionary War was over. Ideas about liberty and equality helped inspire the French Revolution, with the burden of debt France had taken on to help us out speeding the outbreak of the French Revolution as well. Thank you.

Introduction of Guest Speaker Patrick du Tertre: "Patrick du Tertre began his military career in a French Army Airborne Rangers Regiment. After he moved to America, he served under the command of the French Military attache as not only a member of the French Military Reserves, but in the US military as a liaison officer. He ended his military career in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, as Commanding Officer of French Army Reserve Officers residing in the U.S.

He has received many medals and distinctive honors and belongs to many Veteran's groups, including the 42nd "Rainbow" Division of the New York Army National Guard. At the same time as all I have mentioned, he had a successful career in business, and a family

He is President of the French Reserve Officers Association in the USA as well as Co-founder and Co-President of "The French Will Never Forget," dedicating himself to strengthening friendship between France and the U.S. Ladies and Gentlemen, I present Mr. Patrick du Tertre:"

Mr. du Tertre spoke eloquently about his childhood in rural France and how he learned the meaning of the words "Made in USA" from his parents when he was a small boy learning how to read. His family was of small means but they had a new tractor, "Made in USA," which had been given to them free of charge during war-restoration efforts.

His family had suffered much during both World War I and World War II and had known not only great privation but horror. They lived only 13 miles away from the small village of Oradour-sur-Glane in Haute-Vienne in Nazi-occupied France. This village was destroyed on June 10, 1944, four days after D-Day, when 643 civilians, including non-combatant men, women, and children, and even just people passing through the village, were massacred by a German *Waffen-SS* company.*

Mr. du Tertre alluded to a famous saying attributed to the U.S. Military when they arrived to render assistance to the French during WWI in 1917. On July 4, 1917 there was a celebration in Paris of the United States' arrival into World War I. The war would soon enter its fourth year with no end in sight. Every French family had been touched by the injury and loss of loved ones, and the austerities of war.

The arrival of the first units of American soldiers was a much anticipated and welcome symbol of relief to the war-weary French. The first of the American military to arrive in Paris found a city speckled with American flags of all sizes, and citizens extremely grateful that their new allies, the Americans, had arrived. During a march from Les Invalides to Picpus Cemetery where Lafayette is buried, General Pershing wrote in his memoirs, "The humbler folk of Paris seemed to look upon these few hundred of our stalwart fighting men as their real deliverance. Many children dropped on their knees in reverence as the flag with the stars and stripes went by. These stirring scenes conveyed vividly the emotions of a people to whom the outcome of the war had seemed all but hopeless."

At the grave of Lafayette, Lt. Col. Charles E. Stanton made remarks, including the following memorable passage: "America has joined forces with the Allied Powers, and what we have of blood and treasure are yours. Therefore it is that with loving pride we drape the colors in tribute of respect to this citizen of your great republic. And here and now, in the presence of the illustrious dead, we pledge our hearts and our honor in carrying this war to a successful issue. **Lafayette, we are here.**" The phrase was echoed throughout France.

Mr. du Tertre then showed a video from the organization "The French Will Never Forget," of an enormous video event which first aired on July 4, 2007, coinciding with the time of the 250th Anniversary of the birth of the Marquis de Lafayette. The event assembled 2,500 French people on Omaha Beach to spell out the words FRANCE WILL NEVER FORGET. Here is a link to a video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MQzF4o3qM14&t=4s

"The site of Omaha Beach was chosen not only for its history, but also because of its symbolism. The beach is located nearby the main American cemetery where hundreds of American soldiers who died in this war have been laid to rest. More soldiers were killed in one single day on this beach during the famous D-Day attack, on June 6, 1944, than in any other location in France." is stated on thefrenchwillneverforget.org website. The French Will Never Forget is committed to demonstrating the deep respect and gratitude of the people of France for America's sacrifices during the Second World War.

A Visit to Normandy and Brittany

In August, 2023, your President, his wife, and our friend Tracy Packard visited D-Day and other deeply meaningful WWII sites in Normandy and Brittany. The first of two sites I would like to share with you in this newsletter are the National Guard Monument at Omaha Beach, Normandy, which is located on top of an old German bunker, right above the beach, which bunker had inflicted catastrophically heavy casualties on National Guardsmen of the 29th Infantry Division as they landed in the Dog Green sector of Omaha Beach. This massive U-shaped concrete monument has black inscriptions on the inside of the U that details the extent to which the National Guard was used during both World Wars.

Inscription: 1917 - 1918 The National Guard answered the call to arms when the United States mobilized its forces in 1918 and virtually every guardsman served in France with the historic American Expeditionary Force. Approximately every fifth soldier in the AEF was a citizen soldier of the National Guard. National Guardsmen fought in every battle in which American troops were engaged. And, of the 48,900 American battle deaths, 18,238 were Guardsmen who gave their lives that the people of France, Belgium and Holland might live once again, in freedom and peace.

"To the glory of the citizen-soldier our troops have faithfully fulfilled their trust and in succession of brilliant offensives have overcome the threat to our civilization" -General John J. Pershing, February 1919

Lunéville, Chemin des Dames, Toul-Boucq, Château-Thierry, Amiens, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, Vesle, Baccarat, Fismes, Oise-Aisne, Somme, Verdun-Fromereville, Clermont, Grange-le-Comte, Essey- Pannes, St-Mihiel, Ypres-Lys, Avocourt, Troyon, Meuse-Argonne, Thiaucourt.

"For our comrades in arms who have fallen, may the blessing of the Almighty God descend upon this spot and remain forever." -To Chaplain, 29th Infantry Division, June 1944

Thousands of citizen-soldiers of the National Guard stormed ashore on these beaches on June 6, 1944 as part of the Army of the United States. They fought valiantly and with great distinction in all the ensuing battles and campaigns of World War II. More than a quarter-century earlier, in World War I, their fathers shed blood in Europe in the cause of freedom. To all of them, and to the principles for which they fought, this monument is dedicated.

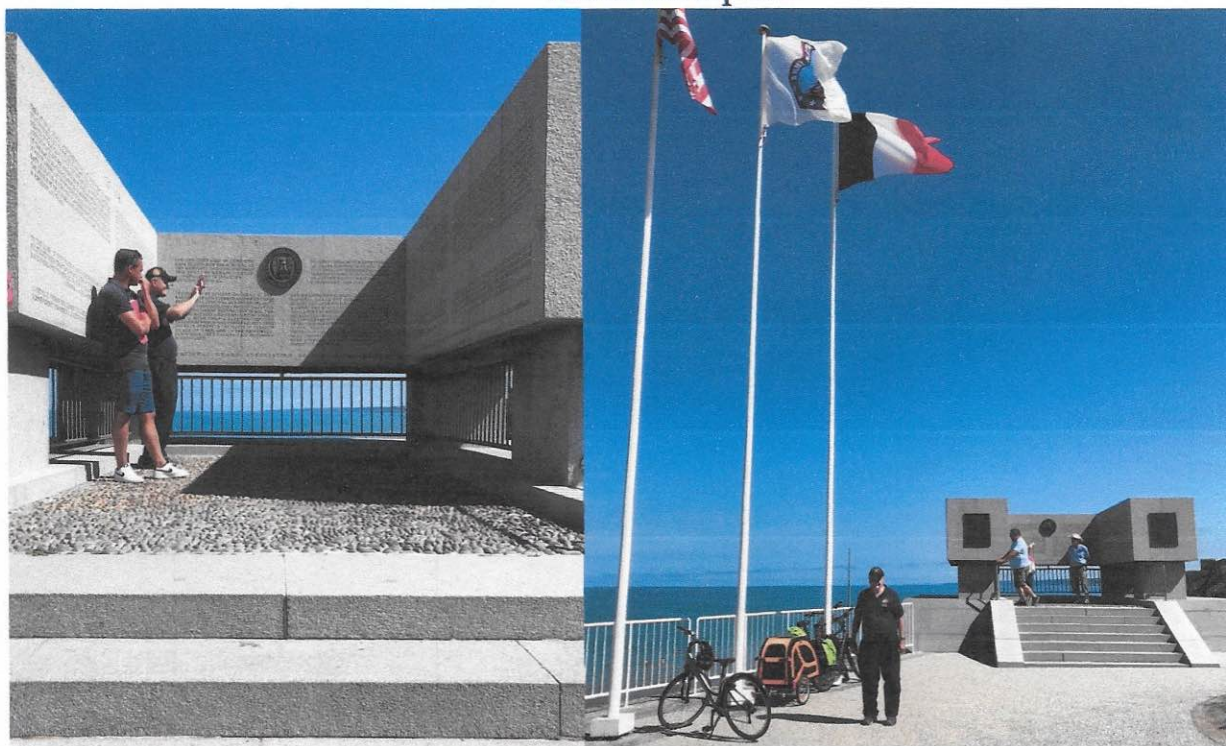
1940 - 1945 In the greatest war in history, citizen-soldiers of the National Guard fought in every action in which the United States Army engaged. Compiling brilliant combat records in every corner of the world, some 300,000 National Guardsmen were mobilized in 1940-41 as America made ready for a conflict that was to engulf much of the civilized world. National Guardsmen took part in 34 major campaigns and seven assault landings, including the historic assault which took place on the beaches below this site on 6 June 1944. Thousands became casualties within view of this monument. Many of them cut down by fire from the battered enemy pillbox upon which this memorial stands.

"I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can. Yet there is one thing to be said on the credit side. Victory required a mighty manifestation of the most ennobling virtues of Man: faith, courage, fortitude, sacrifice.

-General Dwight D. Eisenhower, June 10, 1946

Normandy, Southern France, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, Alsace-Lorraine, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg

-end of inscription-



Left: your President and Guide Matt Key in the Memorial; Right: your President by the Memorial flags

The second site I would like to share with you is a memorial to one National Guard soldier, Technical Sergeant Frank D. Peregory. On 8 June 1944, advance elements of the 3rd Bn. 116th Regiment, 29th Infantry Division, were halted by the deadly fire of a German machine gun. T/Sgt Frank Peregory attacked the enemy with daring using grenades and bayonet. He captured 35 enemy soldiers. For the valor and courage demonstrated by this American soldier during this action, he was awarded the highest U.S. military decoration: The Medal of Honor. Location: Rue Gambetta, 14450 Grandcamp-Maisy, France



I hope to provide more details of the Normandy/Brittany visit in future newsletters. Our tour guide was outstanding: knowledgeable on many levels, professional, thoughtful, and a constant student of World War II who had many reference materials available at all times. His name is Matt Key of Gold Beach Company, www.goldbeachcompany.com.

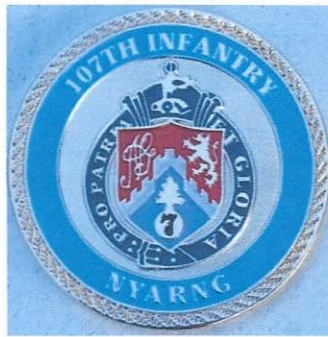
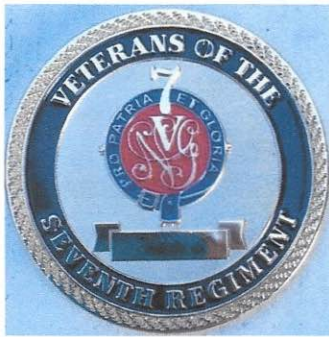
By a vote of the Board of Management, the annual dues will be increased to \$50.00 beginning in 2024. We ask those of you who are life members to consider sending any additional contribution you can to benefit the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment. Our New Years Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day events and meals are hosted free of charge by the Veterans, sometimes with the help of the Seventh Regiment Fund and/or American Legion Post #107. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

As your President, my goal is to make the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment a relevant and vibrant organization, with a heritage ever-more meaningful in the 21st century. To those of you who read the newsletter but are unable to visit us personally, we want you to know we are thinking of you, we appreciate your correspondence, and we are glad to know you appreciate ours.

PRO PATRIA ET GLORIA

Sincerely,
BG(R) Thomas J. Principe
President, Veterans of the Seventh Regiment

*Resource for massacre by Nazi of the village of Oradour-sur-Glane in Haute-Vienne, France 6/10/1944:
<https://www.sciencespo.fr/mass-violence-war-massacre-resistance/en/document/oradour-june-10th-1944-nazi-massacre-occupied-france.html#:~:text=Oradour%2Dsur%2DGlance%20is%20a, and%20children%2C%20in%20one%20afternoon.>



Seventh Regiment Veterans

Commemorative Coins are \$10.00 per coin. Proceeds of coin sales will benefit the Veterans of the Seventh Regiment. The coins are a substantial 2" in diameter with Veterans of the Seventh Regiment (and logo) on one side and 107th Infantry NYARNG (and logo) on the reverse. Please see order form below.

Commemorative Coin Order Form

Make payment to: Veterans of the Seventh Regiment
Send payment to: Thomas J. Principe
207 Brookville Rd.
Glen Head, NY 11545

Number of coins ordered @ \$10.00 each _____

Send to: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

The Veterans of the Seventh Regiment thank you for your coin order!

2024 Dues Notice

Make payment to: Veterans of the Seventh Regiment
Send payment to: Thomas J. Principe
207 Brookville Rd.
Glen Head, NY 11545

Dues Amount: \$50.00 per member

Member Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

The Veterans of the Seventh Regiment thank you for your dues!