

VETERANS DAY 2020 HONORING RAINBOW SOLDIERS





REVEILLE

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CAMPAIGNS

World War I: Lorraine-Champagne-Aisne-Marne-St. Mihiel-Meuse Argonne World War II: Central Europe-Rhineland-Alsace-Ardennes War on Terrorism: Operation Noble Eagle – Operation Iraqi Freedom – Operation Enduring Freedom – Operation Spartan Shield

Chairman's Message Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! We wish all in our Rainbow family a healthy and prosperous 2021. While many areas of our country have experienced another round of shut downs and travel restrictions we must all remember that we will get thru this together. Be smart and be safe. There are still a few seats available for the WWII Rainbow Trail Tour scheduled for July 6-21, 2021. If you are interested, please contact our RDVF Historian, MAJ (R) Pat Chaisson. There are still travel restrictions in the European Union but we expect they will be lifted in time for our trip. A final decision will be made by April 1, 2021.

The Division returned from Kuwait last month and their deployment for Operation *Spartan Shield*. They successfully accomplished their mission during a period of regional uncertainty and change, including dealing with the pandemic. Congratulations to MG Steven Ferrari, the command team, and all Rainbow soldiers for a job well done.

Congratulations to MG Tom Spencer of Massachusetts. He has been selected to command the 42d Infantry Division vice MG Steven Ferrari. MG Spencer will assume command this January with a change of command ceremony in the spring. Rainbow, Never Forget! **Paul Genereux**, **RDVF Chairman**











RAINBOW REVEILLE

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Kelly Fancher, contact info above
With copy to REVEILLE editor, Suellen McDaniel

Gifts payable to RDVF (see page 8) and DUES FOR RDVF MEMBERS (\$25./annually;\$50.LIFE for WWII veterans; \$200.LIFE for all others) may be sent directly to RDVF Treasurer, Peter P. Riley (USPS above); or online at <rainbowvets.org>

CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

First printed in the January 1988 issue of The Rainbow REVEILLE

God of love and hope. We come before You, trusting in You and seeking to do good with the strength and wisdom that You promise to provide. May we delight ourselves in You, O Lord, so that we may receive the desires of your heart. We commit our way to You and trust in You to make your righteousness shine like a new day and that justice with love may prevail in all that we do.

May we be quiet before You and wait patiently in the face of trial, trusting and believing that your grace is sufficient for all of our needs.



Help us to turn from evil and do good for then you promise that we will live securely in the land; for You love the good and You promise not to forsake your faithful ones. Lord, may we walk in the light of your presence and rejoice in your name at all times. You are our glory and strength. In the name of Him who calls us out of darkness that we may share in your light. Amen.

Rev. Ray H. Willemssen, Associate Chaplain Company F, 2nd Bn., 222nd Inf. Regt., 42nd Inf. Div. WWII



photo presentation by Béatrice Dahm

Photos on page 1, left to right -

Photo one – US Military Academy, West Point, NY; LTC Shawn Shutts, G3, 53d Troop Command CDR, 427th BSB, 27th IBCT

Photo two – Fort Drum, NY; Wreath presentation at OIF Memorial, which begins, "The 42nd Infantry Division honors those Soldiers who mobilized and deployed from Fort Drum and Fort Dix in 2004 as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom...."; COL Michael T. Bice, New York Army National Guard

Photo three – 42nd Division Memorial, Fort Dix, NJ; LTC(R) Robert F. Vicci

Photo four – Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles, FR; presentation Christmas 2020 by Béatrice Dahm

Photo five – Garden City, NY The Annual 42^{nd} New York Army National Guard (NYARNG) Infantry "Rainbow" Division World War I Veterans Day memorial service was held on November 7^{th} , 2020. The service commemorates the history and service of the 42^{nd} Infantry Division during World War I and is held at the former site of Camp Mills, present site of Garden City, NY. Camp Mills was the birthplace of the 42^{nd} Infantry "Rainbow" division where soldiers would train prior to departing for overseas combat during World War I. Members of the NYARNG 69^{th} Infantry Regiment Veterans Association, 42^{nd} Infantry Rainbow Division Association, and 42^{nd} Infantry Rainbow Division Foundation (RDVF), were all in attendance at this year's Veterans Memorial event. The Color Guard and Honor Guard Firing Party were provided by the 11^{th} New York Regiment USA-Volunteers (USA-V), singing of the National Anthem, and playing of TAPS was provided by LTC Louis Dileo, 11^{th} New York Regiment USA-V. (Photos Division and Military Naval Affairs New York Guard Captain Mark Getman/Released).

Photo six - Memorial wreath laid at Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis War Memorial "In memory of the Soldiers of the 42nd Division U.S. Army in World Wars I and II...."; photo and presentation by Ken Marshall, son of WWII Rainbow Veteran, Charles F. Marshall, C/122 Med Bn (RDVA Past National President) and Frances L. Marshall (RDVA Past National Auxiliary President).

Photo seven – Wreath placement at Montgomery, Alabama Union Station Rainbow Soldier sculpture; Nimrod T. Frazer, son of WWI veteran, William J. Frazer of the 167th Regiment (4th Alabama) and author of "Send the Alabamians" and "The Best World War I Story I Know...; LTC John C. Craft, USARMY NG ALARNG (USA)

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY Official Opening 11 November 2020

By BG(R) Paul Genereux, RDVF Chairman



Last November 17th Rosalie and I visited the newly opened National Museum of the United States Army in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The Museum traces the evolution of the Army from the first muster of the

Massachusetts militia in 1636, the beginning of the National Guard, through today. There are separate exhibit halls of key interest for the Rainbow Division including WWI, WWII, the Cold War and the War on Terrorism. There are also several interactive and educational exhibits that are of interest to visitors of all ages and experience.

The RDVF sponsored a plaque commemorating the 42d Infantry Division. It will ensure the Rainbow is prominent in a place of honor in our military history. I encourage all to visit if they have the opportunity.



Photo one - <u>National Museum of the United States Army</u> (thenmusa.org)

Photo two – by BG(R) Paul Genereux

THOSE RAINBOWS!

From The Rainbow REVEILLE March 1981



This is in response to a REVEILLE article by Past National RDVA President Ralph Heasty, MG Co., 168th Infantry (3d Iowa) WWI, regarding the appearance of rainbows in the sky at some special moment in time.

I was a 1st Sergeant, Battery C, 402nd FA Battalion, at the staging area in Rosenheim, Germany, in June 1946. Col. Sullivan,

Engineer, placed me in charge of the packet which was leaving Europe to go home to be discharged. The only thing any of the officers or men in the packet had in common was that they were to be discharged at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

We were in formation outside the barracks at Rosenheim, about three hundred of us, getting ready to board the train for Bremerhaven. Col. Sullivan introduced me to the group and asked me whether I had anything to say to the troops.

At that moment, two huge, bright double rainbows appeared, spanning the distance between two of the barracks buildings. Very few of the detachment were veterans of Rainbow, so I pointed to the double rainbow and inquired, "OK, all you Combat Charlies, just what in hell has your outfit done for you as a parting gesture?"

I was careful not to walk too close to the rail on the way home. *Carroll R. Anderson, Santa Fe, NM*

EATING ON THE RUN (Part One)

By Patrick J. Chaisson, RDVF Historian

The Rainbow Division Veterans Foundation has an incredibly diverse membership roster. Our ranks include Second World War veterans now in their 90s as well as currently-serving soldiers born after the turn of the 21st Century.

What unites our foundation's members besides a love of country? Those who read this newsletter likely have some connection to the 42nd Infantry Division, but much has changed over the years in terms of tactics, equipment, and weapons. We all eat, though, and this two-part history discussion will examine the food served to Rainbow Division troops.

(To keep it manageable, our story shall cover combat rations from World War II to present.)

At the risk of offending some readers, we'll begin by stating the United States fed its service members better than any other combatant nation in World War II. Our leaders knew that "an army fights on its stomach" and worked hard to provide hot, nutritious chow for every American in uniform. The military trained thousands of cooks, whose job was to feed all those hungry G.I.s.

Yet it simply wasn't possible to make gourmet meals on the front line. The Army knew this too, and created a number of prepackaged combat rations that required no special preparation and could be eaten either hot or cold.



The most common individual meal consumed by members of the Rainbow Division in WWII was the K-ration. It came in three separately boxed meal units: Breakfast.

Dinner, and Supper, and could be easily carried in a soldier's pocket or pack.

A typical Breakfast Unit contained canned chopped ham and eggs, biscuits, dried fruit bar, pre-mixed oatmeal cereal, water purification tablets, a four-pack of cigarettes, chewing gum, instant coffee, a packet of toilet paper tissues, and sugar.

The Dinner Unit came with canned processed cheese and bacon, biscuits, five caramels, sugar, salt, cigarettes and matches, chewing gum, and a powdered beverage packet.

Lastly, the Supper Unit included canned meat, biscuits, a chocolate bar (late version), a packet of toilet paper, a four-pack of cigarettes, chewing gum, and a bouillon packet (cube or powder).



K-rations were supposed to be eaten for only two or three days until field kitchens could be brought forward, but several 42nd Inf. Div. veterans recall subsisting on them for weeks at a time.

There was also an emergency D-ration, intended for use only if the soldier was cut off from normal resupply channels. Manufactured in the millions by Hershey Food Corp., this high-calorie chocolate bar was made to be deliberately tasteless ("little better than a boiled potato") and hard to chew so troops would only consume it in a crisis situation.

Finally, canned food was frequently issued to soldiers on the front line to be eaten hot or cold (but mostly cold). It came in two forms, the individual C-ration and the "10-in-1" for small units.

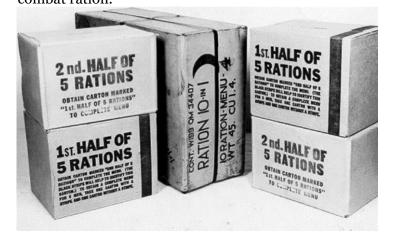
The C-ration fed one person for one day. Consisting of three "M" (meat) units, one "B" (bread and dessert) portion, and one "A" (accessory, or condiments) unit, it does not appear to have been an especially popular item. Soldiers frequently complained the C-ration was heavy, bulky, and bland. Until late 1944, it only had three meat varieties: Meat Stew with Beans, Meat with Vegetable Hash, and Meat Stew with Vegetables (carrots and potatoes). A spaghetti meal was added later.



Included with each C-ration was a tiny can opener, nicknamed the "P-38" (entire books have been written about how this handy soldier's device got its name). Often, though, troops resorted to opening their ration cans with a bayonet or pocketknife.

The luckiest
Rainbow Division
members ate
something called a
"10-in-1" ration.
So-called because it
was designed to
feed one meal to
ten soldiers (or ten
meals for one
man), the 10-in-1's
size and weight

meant it could not normally be carried by a foot-mobile infantryman. Those outfits with wheeled transportation, however, occasionally enjoyed this much-sought-after combat ration.



A typical 10-in-1 menu contained such canned items as butter-substitute spread, soluble coffee, pudding, meat units, jam, evaporated milk, and vegetables as well as biscuits, cereal, beverages, candy, salt, and sugar. Accessory items included can openers, toilet paper, soap, towels, and water-purification tablets.



Those who served with the 42nd Inf. Div. in World War II mostly ate their unheated field rations out of a can.

"The trouble with K and C rations was their monotony," observed cartoonist Sgt. Bill Mauldin. "I suppose they had all the necessary calories and vitamins but they didn't fill your stomach and you got awfully tired of them."

What are your memories of combat rations? Contact the RDVF Historian at Patchais@aol.com to share your stories of "Army Chow" – the good, the bad, and the inedible. We will publish them in a future issue of the Rainbow Reveille.

Next: 40 years of Meals-Ready-To-Eat.

Photo One K-Rat: Originally designed for paratroopers and commandos, the K-ration came in packages labeled Breakfast, Dinner (lunch), and Supper. You ate whatever meal they handed you, however.

Photo Two D-Rat: Also called the "Logan Bar" for the officer who invented it, the D-ration packed calories and sugar into a barely-edible emergency ration that never melted even under tropical conditions.

Photo Three C-Rat: The World War II-era C-ration was designed to be eaten hot or cold. Soldiers found the meal choices boring and bland, especially when they were forced to subsist on C-rats for long periods of time.

Photo Four 10-in-1: As explained in the text, this ration fed ten men for one meal or ten meals to one man. Too heavy for individual soldiers to carry, it was popular with vehicle crews.

Photo Five P-38: The ubiquitous P-38. Was this little canopener named for the fighter plane, the German handgun, or because it took 38 turns to cut the lid off a C-ration can? Let the debate begin.

Photo Six 42ID in WWII: This image, entitled "A hole for a home, a K-ration and the enemy 200 yards away" came from 42nd "Rainbow" Infantry Division: A Combat History of World War II by Huah C. Dalu.

(Credits: Photos One thru Four: US Army Quartermaster Museum. Photo Five: Author's collection. Photo Six: Daly.)

THE RAINBOW BREAKS THROUGH THE SIEGFRIED LINE

By Robert B. Munson (Stuttgart, Germany)

In the early morning of March 19, 1945, Companies F and $G/2^{nd}$ Battalion/232nd Infantry Regiment began the Rainbow's assault on the Siegfried Line. They took and attempted to hold two bridges near the small German town of Ludwigswinkel in the face of unrelenting German counterattack.

The Siegfried Line, known as the *Westwall* to the Germans, stretched over 395 miles from the Dutch border in the north to Switzerland in the south and was designed to protect the Third Reich against attacks from the west. The Germans began building this defensive line in 1938 but halted construction in 1940 after defeating France. Once the Allies landed in Normandy, Hitler ordered construction to recommence. A whole system of bunkers, ditches, tank traps, AAA emplacements, tunnels and underground defensive caverns paralleled the German border with the goal of defeating any ground attack in its tracks.

On the 19th of March, the German counterattack forced both Foxtrot and Golf Companies back off the bridges. This would, though, only be a short setback for the 42nd. After a massive artillery barrage and air attack, the 222nd and 242nd Regiments took the lead and broke through the Siegfried line on March 21st, opening up its campaign into Germany. My father was in Company G (232nd) and likely involved in Rainbow's initial assault. To better understand the battle, I went out with a group of military history enthusiasts one summer afternoon to see the Siegfried Line in person.



The Rainbow entered into Germany in what is now a quiet corner on the German-French border, covered by low mountains and the Pfälzerwald, the largest forest in Germany. After breaking through the Siegfried Line, Rainbow soldiers spent several days in the area rounding up German troops and beginning the destruction of the bunkers before heading east. After the war, French occupying troops continued the destruction of the

defensive line so it could never be used again. Later, the German government removed many of the remaining bunkers and other defensive works so the land could be returned to other uses. Thus, despite the original Siegfried Line length, not much of it remains to be seen in 2020.

One of the best places to see what remains is roughly 10 miles east of where the Rainbow crossed the border. Here, near the small town of Oberotterbach, you can hike a remaining section of the Siegfried Line along the "Westwallweg" hiking trail. A number of signs mark the route, describing the history of the Westwall, the construction details of the bunkers, battle highlights, and put the Westwall into its historic context. German historical markers, such as these, seldom glorify the military history and this trail was no exception – German historians did a good job putting the line into its historical context. While the bunkers along this trail had been destroyed, the sheer size and thickness of the concrete remains told an interesting story.

As we walked through the forest, we could see the bunkers' massive construction from different angles, but in our eyes, the very few firing ports, perhaps two or three per bunker, seemed insufficient. The historical signs provided diagrams of the bunkers and explained construction detail. It seemed as though the effort put into constructing the four-foot-thick walls had been wasted by the lack of an ability to fire out of the bunkers. For the American offensive, though, perhaps that was a good thing. Fences surround the bunker remains to keep curious hikers away from the perilous drops created by the upended bunker walls. Nature claimed many of the concrete remnants with vines, moss and even trees growing out of the massive piles of rubble.

From the trail, we saw the vestiges of trenches between the now-ruined bunkers running through the forest. As nature reclaimed the bunkers, the trenches helped to spur erosion. The forest now densely surrounds the ruins, but its age, younger than the end of the war, suggest that the German defenders had denuded the hills of trees to give themselves good lines of fire.



After the hike we visited the small *Westwallmuseum* in the nearby town of Bad Bergzabern. This museum,

housed in three large surviving bunkers, shows the not too appealing life on/in the Siegfried Line for the German soldiers who manned the defenses. Walking into deep bunker basements and seeing the small bunk rooms with sleeping bunks stacked up in a damp, claustrophobic concrete closet emphasized the day-to-day reality for the German troops who waited for the Americans in March 1945.



From Bad Bergzabern, we drove west to Ludwigswinkel where the Rainbow's offensive began. We attempted to follow the battlefield's description from the division history.* We came across where the bridges which Companies F and G tried to seize likely stood. The roads still exist, but the bridges in their 1945-form no longer exist. Since the end of the war, the local German government has constructed low dams along the roads to create a string of several long, narrow lakes in the swampy land. The 1945 low-lying battlefield has become a boating and recreation area.

We thought back to Companies F and G fighting for these two bridges. We could imagine the enemy fire coming from the hills which rose up just north of the bridges. These hills were just like those we had hiked earlier in the day and 1945-era maps show them too covered with *Westwall* defenses. These battlefield walks gave me the chance to appreciate my dad's service in the war, see where he fought, but also understand how the German-American relationship has grown close in the 75 years since the Rainbow first crossed the border and took on the Siegfried Line.

Photos are by Robert B. Munson

Photo one – Ruins of a Siegfried Line bunker **Photo two** – Westwall Museum, Bad Bergzabern **Footnote** * - Specifically: Hugh C. Daly, <u>42nd "Rainbow"</u> <u>Infantry Division</u> (Baton Rouge: Messenger Printing co., 1946, reprinted 2004)

(Editor) To revisit Part One of Bob Munson's articles on following his father's WWII Trail of the Rainbow, see the October 2020 issue of REVEILLE at <rainbowvets.org> and his article, "A Visit to Dachau and Allach."

RAINBOW 2021 MILESTONES OBSERVED WITH OUR GRATITUDE AND BEST WISHES!



(Center) 23 February **Russel Fielding**, Anti-Tank Company, 222nd Inf. Regt. – 100 years.

Thank you!!

(L) 20 January **John R. Walker**, Company G, 2nd Battalion, 222nd Infantry Regiment WWII – 99 years (R) 4 February **James A. "Jim" Derry**, Anti-Tank Company, 242nd Infantry Regiment WWII – 101 years.





(Editor) If you will let us know, we would like to celebrate all such Rainbow milestones with you!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO DON THOMPSON FOR BEST SCREENPLAY FEATURE, New York Film Awards, December 2020, based on his father, Norman A. Thompson's (G/242) book, *KALTENHOUSE REMEMBERED*. This is the story of the US Army's Rainbow Division as told through the front-line soldiers who battle fear,



fatigue and the harshest winter in decades to confront and ultimately defeat the final assault of the German army into France during the late stages of WWII.

This book may be purchased on Amazon.com, here – <u>Kaltenhouse Remembered: Thompson, Norman A:</u> <u>9781977224736: Amazon.com: Books</u>

"An action-packed war story which follows a group of soldiers stationed in the French commune of Kaltenhouse in the closing stages of WW2... fresh and exciting, the camaraderie between the soldiers is delightfully portrayed. There is clearly great respect shown for the characters within the story and dedication towards portraying their heroic endeavors." – Shore Scripts

REMEMBERING PFC WAYNE C. CRUSE, Anti-Tank Company, 222nd Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division, whose life ended in the battle of Schweighausen, France on 26 January 1945. Our thanks to Erin Faith Allen whose unique work as a mixed media artist has now created a beautiful tribute to this fallen Soldier and his family.

Remembering PFC Wayne Cruse of the 42nd 'Rainbow' <u>Division - YouTube</u>

MARTIN A. TREPTOW REMEMBERED

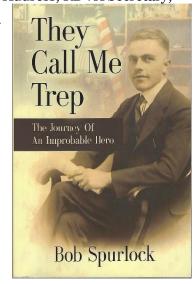
The March 1981 issue of *The Rainbow Reveille* carried a story of WWI Rainbow Division Soldier, Martin Treptow, killed in action 28 July 1918, a member of the 168th Infantry (3rd Iowa). The occasion of this printed story was the first Inaugural Address by President Ronald Reagan, who recalled the sacrifices made by American military personnel, pointing across the Potomac River to the sloping hills of Arlington National Cemetery with its row upon row of simple white markers, "... Each of those markers," he said, "is a monument to the kind of hero I spoke of earlier. Their lives ended in places called Belleau Wood, the Argonne, Omaha Beach, Salerno and Tarawa, Pork Chop Hill, the Chosin Reservoir, and in a hundred rice paddies and jungles in a place called Vietnam. Under such a marker lies a young man – Martin Treptow – who left his job in a small-town barber shop in 1917 to go to France with the famed Rainbow Division. There, on the Western Front, he was killed trying to carry a message between battalions under heavy artillery fire. We are told that on his body was found a diary. On the flyleaf under the heading, My Pledge, he had written these words: 'America must win this war. Therefore, I will work, I will save, I will sacrifice, I will endure, I will fight cheerfully and do my utmost, as if the issue of the whole struggle depended on me alone'."

Concluding his speech, President Reagan said: "The crisis we are facing today does not require of us the kind of sacrifice that Martin Treptow and so many thousands of others were called upon to make. It does require, however, our best effort and our willingness to believe in ourselves and believe in our capacity to perform great deeds, to believe that together and with God's help we can and will resolve the problems which confront us. And, after all, why shouldn't we believe that? We are Americans."

Immediately following the Address, RDVA Secretary,

Peg Keating began receiving phone calls from reporters of the New York Times, the Associated Press and United Press, asking for more information concerning Martin Treptow.

Here now is a newly published book on the life of Martin Treptow, uniquely written, rich with local history and well-researched to give a flavor of traveling with him throughout his life as seen in the eyes of those who loved him, remembered him, stories about him,



vignettes of colorful characters of the times and visits to France where battlefields were walked and life in general observed. The author, Bob Spurlock, grew up a block away from Martin's boyhood home in Bloomer, Wisconsin and learned the "*Treptow Pledge*" in grade school. An enjoyable and inspiring read.

Amazon.com: They Call Me Trep (9781647190392): Spurlock, Bob: Books

THE RAINBOW IN WORLD WAR I



The first great testing of the assembled Rainbow Division in France in December of 1917 has been called, "The Long March," "The Great Hike", the "Valley Forge Experience" or simply, "DOWN RAINBOW TRAIL" - December 1917. For five miserable, torturing days and four freezing, comfortless nights the men had lived as wretchedly as the soldiers of Washington at Valley Forge, or Napoleon on his retreat from Moscow. American boys, fresh from the comforts of American homes had hiked almost 100 miles in the heart of one of the most severe winters known in Europe or America in years. Men's souls were tried—but the spirit of the Rainbow Division was made.

Reprinted from the December 1966 Rainbow Reveille

Photo/caption - After a three days' march in the snow, the 42d Div. arrives in Rolampont area. This is the 117th supply train. At the head of the column Mr. J. G. Luckett recognizes Maj. A. E. Devine, Sgts. Milton Gaines, Marion Settegast, Capt. Robert L. Smith and himself. (Official Pictures of the World War p. 90)

WWII RAINBOW MEMORIAL LIST Deaths Reported Since October 2020

CHAPP, Elmer F.

COHEN, David

DAHME, Howard

DIXON, Edward "Teddy"

KROHE, James H.

STROUD, Adrian

DELIGATION SINCE October 2020

Edward infantry

Legand Infantry

F/ 222nd Infantry

42nd Division Band

Medic

ZOLANDZ, Raymond R. Btry A/232nd Field Artillery Bn

RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS FOUNDATION, INC Contributions 10 October 2020 – 10 January 2021

Rainbow Scholarship Fund

Thomas D. Kinley – 500. Gerald D. Silliphant – 10. Rose Carter Pettus – 250. In honor and memory of James R. "Pete" Pettus, K/232 from his loving wife, Rose; Bill and Donna Priebe – 70. In honor and memory of Wilbur Priebe, K/242; R. Kenneth Packer – 40. In honor and memory of Robert K. Packer, C/242 Sara Dallman – 100. In honor and memory of Edward Dallman K/242; Charles Podhaizer – 25.

Thank you!!

If you would like to make a contribution by U.S. mail, please send your gift to the RDVF Treasurer, check payable to RDVF and mailed to:

Peter P. Riley 22 Almond Tree Lane Warwick, NY 10990-2442 We may also support Rainbow online at <rainbowvets.org> All gifts are gratefully received and acknowledged