

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2022

VOLUME 11 - NO. 6

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Patton Battalion - USABOT is a chapter of the US Army Brotherhood of Tankers and is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit.

Patton Battalion - USABOT covers Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky & Tennessee.

The Blood and Guts Newsletter covers events and activities within our area and USABOT National.

EIN:
And registered with the state of Kentucky

Patton Battalion - USABOT

Total: 93 paid members

24 Lifetime Members

53 Annual Members

2 Associate Member

438 on Battalion Facebook Page

PATTON BATTALION - USABOT

ILLINOIS - INDIANA - KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE

Lee Robertson has celebrated his 100th Birthday this month. I called him on his birthday and he was getting ready for his celebration at Western Kentucky University. He said that there were expected to be some 400 guests. I was not able to attend but I did send in a message for his party.

There is a page on the Western Kentucky University website for the Lee Robertson Scholarship. As a part of his 100th Birthday you can leave a birthday message or donate to the scholarship fund. The link is: <https://www.wku.edu/chf/robertson/>

I also have a review of a book recently finished. If you were in the Army from 1973 until Desert Storm this will interest you. *General William E. DePuy; Preparing the Army for Modern War* by Henry G. Gole. This book covers General DePuy's service in WWII and up to the assignment to Training and Doctrine Command, (TRADOC).

So far the summer has been very quiet. I know that we need to have a get together and spend some time interacting with other but it just doesn't seem to be falling in place.

I have a new stack of books for the summer and fall. I will share more on that next month. Still waiting on some of the books to come in.

KP Morris
Patton 6

[HTTPS://DOUGHBOY.ORG](https://doughboy.org)
[WWW.USABOT.ORG](http://www.usabot.org)
[HTTPS://19SERIESCLOTHING.COM](https://19seriesclothing.com)

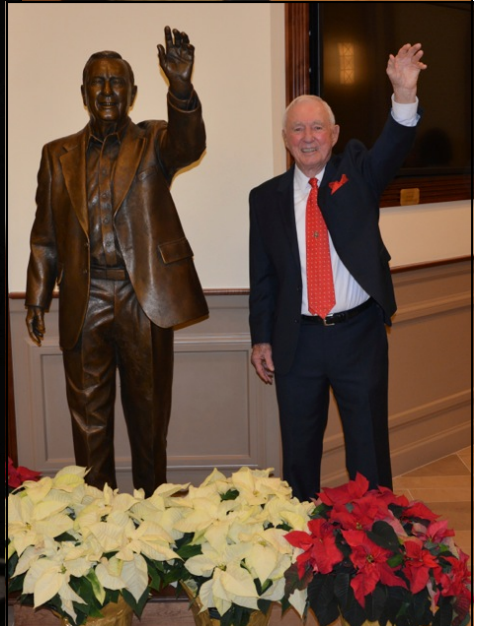
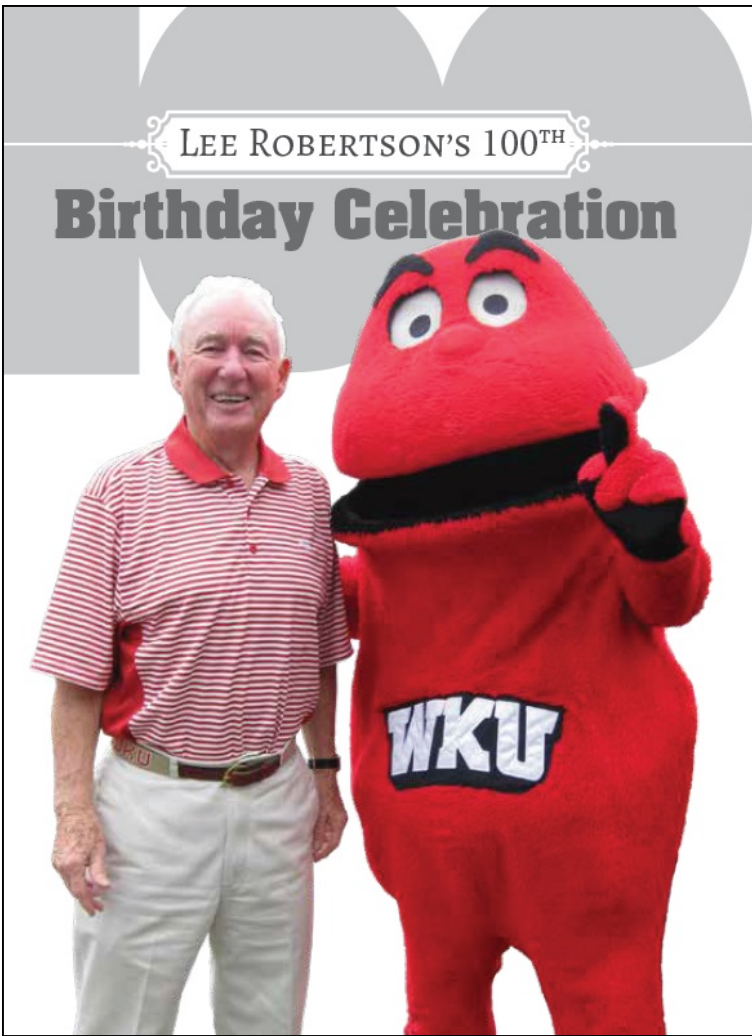
Another great photo from III Corps and Fort Hood Facebook page.



Lee Robertson 100th Birthday!!!

On Thursday June 16th Lee Robertson celebrated his 100th Birthday!!!

The birthday message from the Patton Battalion I sent in was
“Dear Lee, It was an honor to meet you last spring and present you with the US Armor Association Order of St George Black Medallion for your service with the 44th Tank Battalion in WWII. From all the members of USA Brotherhood of Tankers and the Patton Battalion have a HAPPY 100th Birthday!!!!”



Lee Robertson 100th Birthday!!! - Cont.



General William E. DePuy; Preparing the Army for Modern War by Henry Gole

General William E. DePuy; Preparing the Army for Modern War
by Henry G. Gole

Foreword by U.S. Army (Ret.) Stofft Major General William A.
Published by: The University Press of Kentucky
408 Pages, 6.00 x 9.00 x 1.50 in, 44 illustrations
HARDCOVER - 9780813125008
PUBLISHED: SEPTEMBER 2008

Description

From the late 1960s to the late 1970s, the United States Army was a demoralized institution in a country in the midst of a social revolution. The war in Vietnam had gone badly and public attitudes about it shifted from indifference, to acceptance, to protest. Army Chief of Staff General Creighton Abrams directed a major reorganization of the Army and appointed William E. DePuy (1919–1992) commander of the newly established Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), in 1973.

DePuy already had a distinguished record in positions of trust and high responsibility: successful infantry battalion command and division G-3 in World War II by the age of twenty-five; Assistant Military Attaché in Hungary; detail to CIA in the Korean War; alternating tours on the Army Staff and in command of troops. As a general officer he was General Westmoreland's operations officer in Saigon; commander of the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam; Special Assistant to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Assistant Vice Chief of Staff, Army. But it was as TRADOC Commander that DePuy made his major contribution in integrating training, doctrine, combat developments, and management in the U.S. Army.

He regenerated a deflated post-Vietnam Army, effectively cultivating a military force prepared to fight and win in modern war. General William E. DePuy: Preparing the Army for Modern War is the first full-length biography of this key figure in the history of the U.S. Army in the twentieth century.

Author Henry G. Gole mined secondary and primary sources, including DePuy's personal papers and extensive archival material, and he interviewed peers, subordinates, family members, and close observers to describe and analyze DePuy's unique contributions to the Army and nation. Gole guides the reader from DePuy's boyhood and college days in South Dakota through the major events and achievements of his life. DePuy was commissioned from the ROTC six months before the attack on Pearl Harbor, witnessed poor training and leadership in a mobilizing Army, and served in the 357th Infantry Regiment in Europe—from the bloody fighting in Normandy until victory in May 1945, when DePuy was stationed in Czechoslovakia.

Gole covers both major events and interesting asides: DePuy was asked by George Patton to serve as his aide; he supervised clandestine operations in China; he served in the Office of the Army Chief of Staff during the debate over "massive retaliation" vs. "flexible response"; he was instrumental in establishing Special Forces in Vietnam; he briefed President Lyndon B. Johnson in the White House. DePuy fixed a broken Army. In the process his intensity and forcefulness made him a contentious figure, admired by some and feared by others. He lived long enough to see his efforts produce American victory in the Gulf War of 1991. In General William E. DePuy, Gole presents the accomplishments of this important military figure and explores how he helped shape the most potent military force in the history of the world.

Author

Henry G. Gole has taught at West Point, the U.S. Army College, the University of Maryland, and Dickinson College. He is the author of *The Road to Rainbow: Army Planning for Global War, 1934–1940* and *Soldiering: Observations from Korea, Vietnam, and Safe Places*. In addition, he served as a rifleman in Korea and completed two tours as a Special Forces Officer during the Vietnam War.

<https://www.kentuckypress.com/9780813125008/general-william-e-depuy/>

Review - If you served in the Army that fought in Desert Storm or shortly after you should read this book to see the impact Gen DePuy had on the Army that fought there.

I finished book over Father's Day weekend. Wow! So as you follow the career of Gen DePuy in WWII it reads very much like BG Irzyk. The difference is DePuy was Infantry and Irzyk was Armor. But they were both Majors and S3 of the battalion. And later both commanded a battalion. Operations were mission-type orders and performance was the key. Both came through Vietnam but BG Irzyk retired in 1970. DePuy (TRADOC Commander), tasked with Gen Abrams (Chief of Staff of the Army) and Gen Kerwin (FORSCOM Commander), began to turn the Army around after Vietnam.

Today we are in the same situation as 1973. We have come out of a twenty year war, the Army is trying to transform from that war, we have a war in Ukraine with Russia, much like the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, we have leaders in place to turn the Army around. For those men and women serving today this is a must read book.

Some things I found interesting.

“What DePuy meant by “procedural-mechanical” training was the strict adherence to the *time-oriented* Army Training Program that characterized training in WWII and lasted into the 1970s. A soldier or units spent so many hours or days on a subject. The object was to get the training done in order to put a mark on a checklist, not to teach. Thus, complained DePuy, “the process completely

General William E. DePuy; Preparing the Army for Modern War by Henry Gole

obscured the product.” Formal *performance-based* training was not introduced to the US Army until the mid-1970s. At the end of that “block of instruction,” all present were “trained” – whether or not they even saw what was taking place up front. “The learning function was obscured and secondary to the scheduling function. Few took training seriously,” said DePuy.” Page 19

This sums up training in the Guard from 2008 through 2011. When I wrote the training plan for TOC personnel in the Engineer battalion I was in that’s what I changed. I made a list of tasks that the staff wanted them to know. I found the Task, Conditions and Standards, trained them on the task and then evaluated them on a individual basis, Go-No Go. This creates *knowledge* and *performance* as the keys to training.

“It is not enough for leaders to know what to do, to be technically and tactically sound. They must also demand that soldiers do the right thing when they seem too tired to do so. Infantry soldiers are routinely on the verge of exhaustion. That is their normal state. Soldiers will take life-endangering shortcuts, such as crossing open areas rather than going around them and failing to dig and camouflage when it is prudent to do so, because they are tired. “Fatigue makes cowards of us all.” The good combat leader is the unpopular SOB who demands that his soldiers do the hard, right things necessary to keep them alive so that they can close with and destroy the enemy.” Page 38.

“His compulsion to know and his striving for excellence were private traits that would become public as he rose in rank and responsibility. In the vernacular of a later day, he was a self starter. When DePuy later controlled the army’s school system, he would identify subordinate self-starters and give them great latitude. Those deserving to lead large and complex organizations would teach themselves by study and by watching masters at work. Most Army schools, by contrast, teach hands-on skills, practical subjects. In DePuy’s scheme of things, ideas per se are individual accomplishments of the very capable. Self-starters, by definition, are few. Schools were useful for the less driven, the less talented.” Page 90.

“His self-confidence came from intuition and experience, things not taught in schools. Those around him invariably remarked that he knew exactly what he was doing and how to go about getting things done. In addition, the creativity in his thinking shaped both his leadership and his views regarding the training of soldiers and leaders. His reservations about the training at Leavenworth increased with the passage of time. The staff course at Leavenworth attended by the majors who would become battalion commanders and staff officers emphasized thoroughness and what DePuy regarded as voluminous written orders that arrived late. DePuy’s style was closer to what George C. Marshall as Infantry School Commander had taught at Fort Benning in the 1920’s.” Page 92.

This is the style that MG Dager used during WWII.

“DePuy emphasized the importance of field work in training. Commanders had to learn to move large groups of real people in real time in real geography by doing it. His experience in war taught him that arrows and military symbols on maps, friendly and enemy order of battle, and learning theory invoking Clausewitz, Sun Tzu, and Jomini may be useful, but the acid test for commanders is in the doing. Many American errors in the early stages of combat in WWII would have been less costly if senior American commanders had had more practical experience of maneuvering large formations of troops before encountering skilled enemies.” Page 93.

“DePuy’s decision to spend his time “at the bottom” specifically addressed what he found in 1954, but he made the same decision in his battle group in 1961, in his division in 1966, and as the TRADOC commander in 1973. His lifelong conviction was that if you get it right at the squad and platoon levels, the rest would fall into place. Considering the key part he played in the upper echelons of national and military strategy, dealing with top military and civilian officials, including the President of the United States, it is noteworthy that the nitty-gritty of soldering comes instantly to mind when those who knew him best describe him. He never tired of teaching at the squad and platoon level.” Page 94-95.

This is one of those things that my dad talked about religiously when it comes to training.

“DePuy contended that it was as battalion commander in Budinggen that he used the term “overwatch” for his first time in teaching tactics to his troops and junior leaders. He had used the technique of fire and maneuver as battalion commander in combat, long a part of US Army doctrine. But he credits the tank training conducted by General Hamilton Howze in the 2nd Armored Division with being a personal revelation. While at V Corps he took the opportunity to watch tank training, concluding that everything Howze wrote about how to train a tank platoon “struck me as precisely the way to train a rifle squad, since each of them has two operating sections or teams.” Page 95

“There were, and are, officers who later expressed reservations about a general seemingly obsessed with minor tactics and fundamental combat techniques. According to DePuy’s critics, those concerns – digging foxholes and the like – are the business of sergeants and junior officers. Generals have other, grander issues to ponder, than how to fight at the squad and platoon level. That was his conviction as a battalion commander and as TRADOC Commander.” Page 96.

While keeping his unit in the field for long periods of time. ““The wives didn’t like that, but it was absolutely super training. It was the kind of training that you would do if you knew you were going to war.” The troops were dirty, the vehicles were dirty, clothing was torn, but they had learned to maintain themselves in the field. “They were not eating candy bars anymore. They were eating Army food. The replacement system, the maintenance system, the supply system, and the tactical system were all working in the

General William E. DePuy; Preparing the Army for Modern War by Henry Gole

field.” Page 123.

“In his later musings on the strategy in Vietnam, DePuy said, “We were captives of our own emphasis on counterinsurgency, which blinded us to the escalating dimensions of the war.” By “we” and “us” he meant his contemporaries who were charged with thinking about how to address revolutionary warfare. DePuy’s own view was that the level of enemy activity and capability by the end of 1964 required the employment of overwhelming US Conventional force. DePuy regretted that the United States did not view the war from a theater perspective that included both Vietnams, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. The enemy did.” Page 163.

“DePuy’s influence went well beyond tending to business on his watch. It extended into the future with the confluence of his doctrine, training, and weapons systems on the battlefield. The Army he had prepared to fight the Soviet Army in Europe became the perfect instrument for swift victory in the next war, the first Gulf War. As one scholar noted, “Gen William DePuy had always said that it took roughly ten years to develop a new weapons system or doctrine, and another five to get them comfortably out into the hands of soldiers in the field. As in so many other things, the tough old general, whom General Starry considered perhaps the greatest soldier of his time, was close on the mark.”” Page 295.

I bought this book for my dad who was a Captain leaving company command and going to battalion staff when in 1973 the Arab-Israeli War happened. He was at Fort Knox attending the Armor Officer Advanced Course. General Starry was there and my dad always said that training changed after that. Everything we did changed.

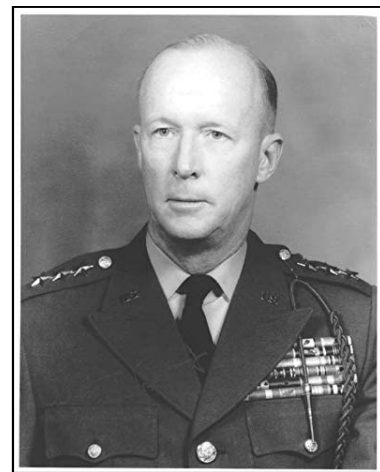
This was a book about one of the key players in that change. I think that the change that was coming down was a huge impact on my dad and how he lead. My dad said that he felt the book made it seem to him that DePuy didn’t do the things my dad thought he had done. I see this differently. I see the that Gen DePuy was the guy who made training better. More focused on the performance and knowledge with experience as the key to the victory that would be Desert Storm.



General Creighton Abrams Chief of Staff of the Army



General William DePuy TRADOC



General Walter Kerwin, Jr. FORSCOM

Patton Monument Report for 2021

As of June 26, 2022, the Monument fund has \$26,289.00.

Total in Monument Account: \$26,289.00.

The Bourg Tee Shirts we have on hand. **(UPDATED)**

Large: Yellow - 2, **2XL:** Yellow - 2, Tan - 2, OD - 3, **3XL:** Yellow - 2, Tan - 2, OD - 1, **4XL:** Yellow - 1.

M4 Tee Shirt

Large: Tan - 1.

2XL: Tan - 1

New Mugs!!!

We now have the 15oz Red Ball Express mug and the new 15oz Treat'em Rough Mug!

Lapel Pins

We are looking at \$12 each for these.



Patton Battalion Funds / Memberships / Dues

The Patton Battalion, as of June 26, has 438 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$.86 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$388.96 in the Patton Operating account. Battalions funds are \$388.96. There are no Monument funds in the Battalion account as of this time.

In order to be a paid member of the battalion you must be a paid member of USABOT National. Again, a paid first year membership of \$15.00 which gets you a free battalion patch. Since we now have the battalion patch in the larger size both in color and subdued you have a choice as to which one you want free with your paid membership.

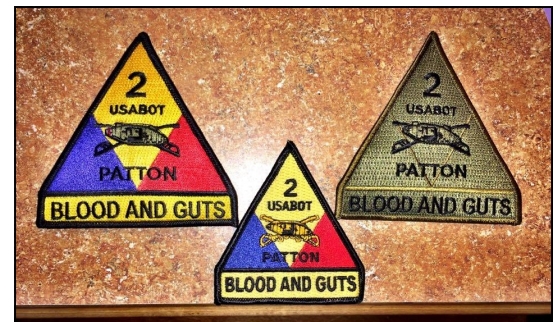
Both patches are also available for \$5 EA.

Your annual membership renewal will be \$10.00 every year after that. **Annual dues for the battalion are now due in June of each year!**

You can pay for your battalion membership through Paypal at: **pattonbattalion@outlook.com** or **patton.battalion@usabot.org**.

If you don't have a Paypal account you can send a check or Money Order to:

Patton Battalion - USABOT
1432 Flood Road
Shelbyville, KY 40065



ATTENTION

USABOT Memberships can be renewed and purchased By mail at

USABOT
68 West Marion ST
Doylestown, OH 44230

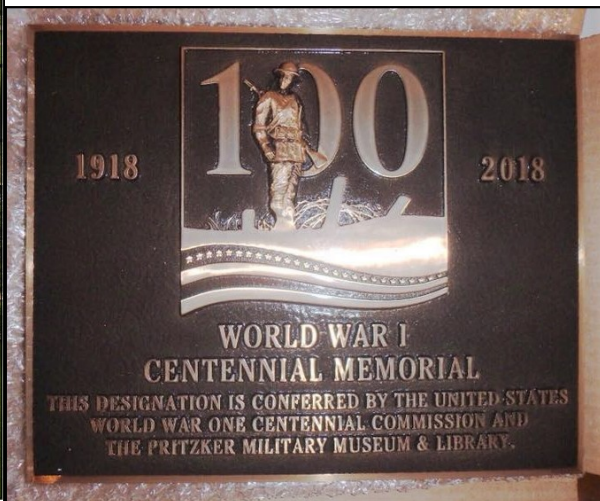
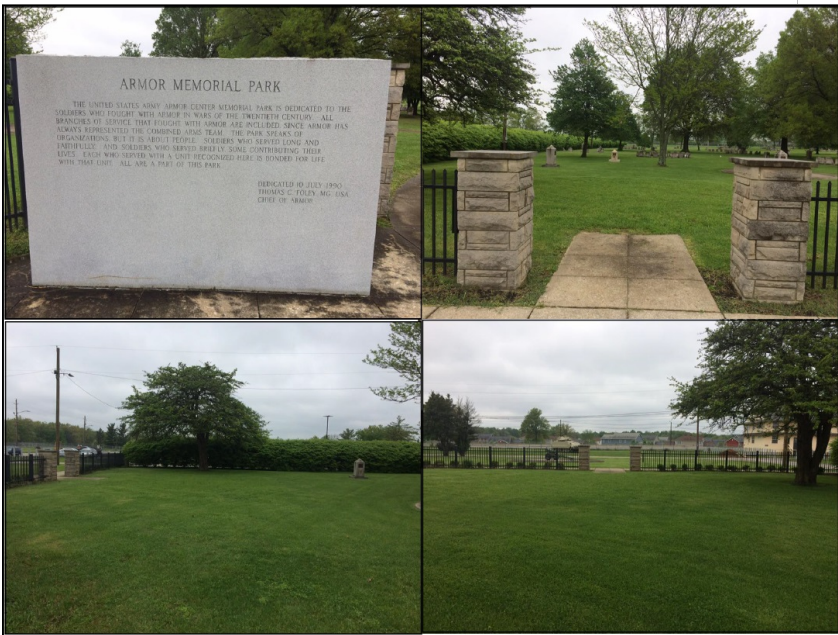
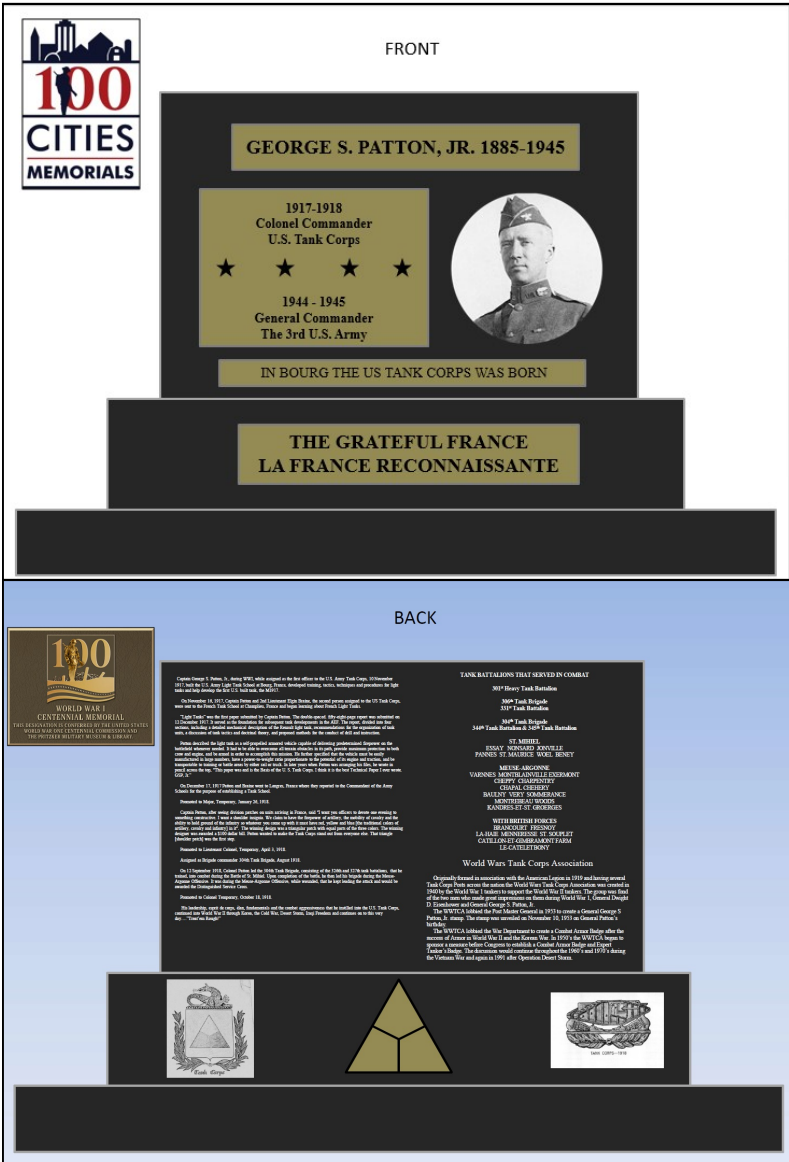
Make checks payable to USABOT
If at all possible try to go the USABOT Store Online and register there so that the G4 can track.

WWW.USABOT.ORG

Patton Joins the US Tank Corps Monument

The US Tank Corps shirts we still have few tees left!

<https://19seriesclothing.com/>





Patton Battalion - USABOT

Board of Directors

- Matthias Martinez
- Karlen P Morris
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- William Starks
- Dion Walker, Sr.
- Phillip Wilburn



Be sure to check us out on
Twitter @pattonbattalion



From the III Corps and Fort Hood Facebook Page
On the way!
#IIIArmoredCorps, #IvySoldiers, #TankTuesday
4th Infantry Division

Coming up in the July Issue - New books, Tank Display Clean Up & Painting

Upcoming Events

US Cavalry & Armor Association Chapter Fort Knox - Stable Call monthly meeting, 3rd Thursday of every month, Location TBD - Fort Knox, KY.

Indiana Military Museum Schedule 2021
WWII Salute to Veterans - September 2 & 3.
Vietnam Appreciation Day - October 15.

Tenth Annual Tanker Homecoming - Gettysburg, PA. - October 13-16, 2022.

Gainey Cup - Plans for the Gainey Cup to return around the same time in 2023.

Operation Anvil - Battle for Southern France 1944- Phil Moore Park, Bowling Green, KY, October 1, 2022.

Patton and the US Tank Corps Monument - Fort Knox - *TBD*

