

Press Release
From Tad Pritchett
Chairman, Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge
Northeast Kansas Chapter
October 25, 2011

The Northeast Kansas Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge will celebrate its third annual celebration of the crucial World War II battle from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM on January 14, 2012 with a luncheon at the American Legion Post in Manhattan, Kansas. The Post will be open at 11:00 AM for a reception for the Veterans and Luxembourg Consulate Robert Schaeffer. Following the reception, the Veteran's will pose for their annual picture and meet attendees followed by lunch.

Dr. Jerold Brown from the Command and Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth will provide a historical perspective of the important Battle and how it led to the world that we have today. Colonel Robert Seitz (Ret), Ft. Riley Military Affairs Council will present the modern day soldier and Battle of the Bulge Veterans will tell of their experiences in WWII. The Military Vehicle Club will have vintage WWII vehicles available and military artifacts from private collectors will be on display. There will be book sales and information booths where people can learn about Freedom Flight Program and the Combat Air Museum from Topeka.

Jim Sharp, a Manhattan Battle of the Bulge veteran, will present a summary of Chapter members' week long "US Veterans Friends of Luxembourg" celebration. Each year the country of Luxembourg expresses its appreciation for the Veteran's sacrifices in freeing the country from Nazi tyranny during WWII by hosting fifty veterans and family to a weeklong commemoration. Jim will present pictures and discuss the annual event. Other events will be announced as they become available.

The Battle of Bulge was the largest land battle in which the United States participated in World War II. On the morning of December 16, 1944, the Germans launched a surprise offensive through the Ardennes Forrest with the objective of recapturing the supply center at Antwerp, Belgium. The Offensive charged westward pushing the Americans into what was referred to as a "bulge" in the American battle lines. More than a million soldiers including some 600,000 Germans, 500,000 Americans, and 55,000 British battled across an eighty mile front. There were over 300,000 casualties including civilians of the gruesome battle that was fought in one of the worst Belgian winters on record. By January 25, 1945, Americans pushed the Nazi's back to the German border and the Battle was officially over.

The Chapter's Veterans are the citizens who risked their lives to protect the world from the Nazi tyranny. They came from the farms and small towns of northeast Kansas, many drafted or joining the Army as soon as they graduated from high school or in their first year of college.

Again, they will come together in January to share in the celebration. Their experiences are breathtaking, unique in the context of today's environment. This will be an opportunity for all Kansans to hear their stories, meet them and express our thanks for their amazing sacrifices.

If you would like to volunteer or for further information check out visit our website at www.bobvetsneks.com or call Tad Pritchett at 785-554-9059.