



53rd Annual Q-8 Company Dinner

Saturday, April 25, 2009

SAPPO!



25 April 2009

The Plainview Holiday Inn
Plainview, New York

Dear Members and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the 53rd Annual Q-8 Company Dinner. The dinner began in the 1950's when Company Q, 8th Regiment, National Society of Pershing Rifles was founded at Hofstra University. We pay tribute to our founder and namesake, General of the Armies John Joseph Pershing, by continuing to support Q-8 and General Pershing's belief in the discipline, teamwork and camaraderie that young people need to become effective leaders.

This year we welcome 12 new brothers to the fraternity. This equals in number the group that restarted Q-8 in the fall of 2000. We have not seen classes of this magnitude since the 1980's. This brings our total to 15 active members. We have one member graduating and being commissioned this year. I am extremely proud of our current leadership team for the recruiting and retention work they performed, and for the traditional pledge cycle that focused on training and excellence.

I also want to thank all of the Alumni. You have made a difference in these young people's lives. When people ask me what we do, I tell them we help our future generation. We mentor and advise our active members during their tenure at Q-8 and provide a global network of brothers who open their hearts and provide a friendly face, a home to visit, and a network of support that makes our brothers feel at home anywhere there are Pershing Riflemen. I couldn't be more proud of all that we have accomplished together. I am very proud to call you my brothers.

I am grateful for the opportunity that you have given me to lead this association. We have high hopes for the new members and wish our new alumni the best of luck in their careers.

Thanks to all of you for your continuing support!

Bill

William J. Wagner, Jr. '78
Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Q-8 Alumni Association, Inc.

prq8alumni.com

United States National Anthem

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?



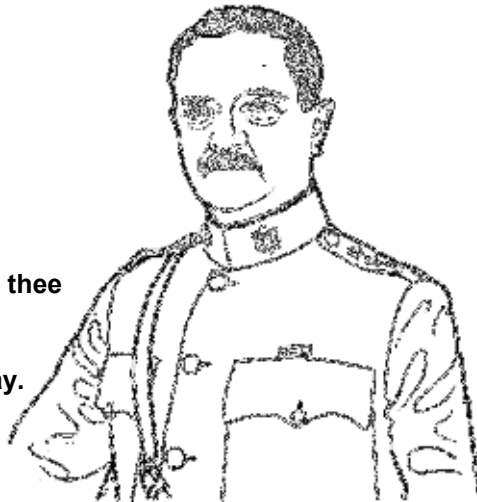
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

The Pershing Rifles Hymn

To the tune of "The Halls of Ivy"

Oh! We love the Pershing Rifles
For true love and brotherhood
That it has brought among U.S.
As no one ever could.

Oh! We'll always love and serve thee
Though we may be far apart
For in our hearts we know
That you will brighten up our day.



For as we journey on
The love that we have shown
Will always hold U.S.
Brothers in the bond.
Someday we will return
And then we'll understand
Why every P/R's heart lingers here.

Oh! We love the Pershing Rifles
And we will try our best to be
Of noble men, who march for thee
Throughout eternity.

Heraldry
8th Regimental Colors
National Society of Pershing Rifles



The 8th Regimental and National Colors were donated for use by the brothers of the Q-8 Alumni Association.

1. Major Colors:

White – Signifies purity, life, and cleanliness.

Royal Blue- Signifies loyalty, devotion, friendship, justice, and truth.

2. Helmet of Pericles: The symbol of chivalry, the cornerstone of the character of every PR member. It is a prime requisite for the conduct, a necessary part of every true heart.

3. Chameleon: The chameleon atop the helmet symbolizes the tri-service aspect of the National Society and its members' adaptability to change and constant preparedness.

4. Helmet Torse: Represents the Pershing Rifles active cord.

5. Lower Scroll: The scroll bears the written name of the regiment.

6. Numerical Designation: Refers to the 8th Regiment in the traditional military style.

7. Shield: The shield is the symbol of readiness to meet any situation anywhere, on the battlefield or wherever we may be called. The six white stripes on the shield refer to the PR membership ribbon and stand for:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| •Devotion to country | •Leadership |
| •Boldness | •Military proficiency |
| •Readiness to meet any situation | •Scholarship |

8. Upper Scroll: Contains the 8th Regimental motto, which is a quote from the great Carthaginian General Hannibal, "We will either find a way, or make one"

9. Crest: The American bald eagle symbolizes immortality, courage, farsightedness and strength. It is grasping 13 arrows in its right talon and an olive branch in its left, symbolizing readiness in peace and in war. The head faces the olive branch, vigilantly seeking peace.

Program

- 19:00 - Cocktail Hour / Silent Auction**
Entertainment: DJ Small World Entertainment
- 19:55 - Guests Are Seated**
- 20:00 – Posting of Colors**
National Anthem
- 20:10 - Invocation**
- 20:15 - Formal Toasts (See next page; no ad-libs please!)**
- 20:20– Q-8 Commander’s Remarks**
Introduction of New Brothers
Presentation of Fraternity Pins
- 20:30 - Dinner and Dancing**
Entertainment: DJ Small World Entertainment
- 21:30 - Alumni Chairman’s Remarks**
- 21:35 – Ceremonies**
Q-8 Year in Review
Q-8 Pershing Rifles Awards
Scholarship Announcements
Company Q-8 Change of Command
8th Regimental Change of Command
- 21:50 - Presentation of Alumni Awards**
Induction of Honorary Brothers
Ronald B. Midgette Leadership Award
Benjamin Freed Devotion to Duty Award
Thomas F. Zvonik Brotherhood Award
Jewish War Veterans Award
Michael J. Constantinou Alumnus of the Year Award
- 22:00 - Retiring of the Colors**
Dancing
- 24:00 – End**

Formal Toasts

(No ad-libs please!)

Response: Repeat the Toast

The United States of America	-	Mr. Ridley
The Commander in Chief	-	Mr. Cameron
The United States Army	-	LTC Boden
The United States Air Force	-	LT Cosgrove
To General of the Armies John Joseph Pershing	-	Mr. Scheuermann
The National Society of Pershing Rifles	-	P/R MG Carlsen
The 8 th Regiment	-	P/R BG Walsh
To Company Q-8	-	P/R LTC Belford
The Q-8 Alumni Association	-	Mr. Wagner
To HOFSTRA University and all of our Alma Maters	-	LTC(R) Farinella

Response: Hear! Hear!

To our honored guests	-	LTC (R) Flora
To all of our service members at home and abroad	-	LTC(R) Bilello
To absent friends	-	Mr. Zvolensky
The Traditional Q-8 Toast:	-	All

Not for me,
Not for you,
But for Q!

Company Q-8 Members 2009

Mateo Belford	P/R CPT	Commander
Alex McHale	P/R 1LT	Executive Officer
Pedro Ramos	P/R 1SG	First Sergeant
Kathryn Funcheon	P/R PV2	S-1 Personnel & Administration
Alexandria Wiedenbaum	P/R PV2	Asst S-1 Finance
Agatha Sanchez	P/R PV2	Asst S-1 PAO
Nelson Collado	P/R PV2	Asst S-1 Alumni Representative
Mike Kocsis	P/R PV2	S-3 Operations & Training
Jewlianna Serrano	P/R PV2	Asst S-3 Training
Josh May	P/R PV2	Asst S-3 Operations
Kryslyn Lotspiech	P/R PV2	S-2 Intelligence
Josh Hlavka	P/R PV2	S-4 Supply
Zeki Ozylimaz	P/R PV2	Asst S-4 Armorer
Matt Clements	P/R PV2	S-5 IFC Representative
Carlos Vilela	P/R PV2	S-6 Communications
Paul Baumgartner	P/R MSG	
Wilmer Arredondo	P/R CPL	
Kristen Josephs	P/R CPL	
LTC Michael Boden	ROTC	Faculty Adviser

Q-8 Alumni Association Board of Trustees and Staff 2009

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P/R MG Tom Carlsen
Commander National Society of Pershing Rifles

The new National Commander hails from Company C-4, Clemson University, having pledged in the Spring of 2006. His hometown is Duluth, GA. He rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant by serving his company in numerous events and performing in NATCON 2008. He then moved on to serve as the National G-6 and the NATCON 09 planning staff for the 2008-2009 year before moving up to his current position as National Commander.



P/R BG Andrea Walsh
Commander 8th Regiment

P/R BG Andrea Walsh pledged Company O-8, Canisius College in Fall 2005. She has served as the company First Sergeant (2006-2007), Company Commander(2007-2008), Deputy Regimental Commander(2008) and this past year was the 8th Regimental Commander. Andrea has competed at NATCON as the color guard captain and members of the squad regulation and team exhibition drill teams.

P/R BG Andrea Walsh grew up in Amherst, NY and graduated Williamsville South High School with Honors. She is currently a Nursing Student at D'Youville College and a member of the Golden Griffin Army ROTC Battalion. Next year P/R BG Andrea Walsh will serve as the Deputy Commander of the National Society of Pershing Rifles.



P/R LTC Mateo Belford
Commander Company Q-8

P/R LTC Mateo Belford Commanded Q-8 for 2008-09 year. During his tenure Mateo focused on recruiting and retention and as a result Company has gained 12 new members. 100% Pershing Rifles are Army ROTC Scholarship holders! Mateo conducted fund raising Halo 3 tournaments and collected for the Wounded Warrior Project. He has been a member of the Ranger Challenge Team, Army Ten Miler Team, and the Hofstra ROTC MAC Rifle Team.

P/R LTC Belford had previously served as 8th Regimental Adjutant. He has held the positions of Q-8 Executive Officer, Pledge NCO, S4, and Q-8 Trick Drill Team Member. He has assisted with Q-8 and 8th Regimental Drill Meet in 2005, and performed Drill Team activities for school, veterans and governmental organizations and in numerous parades. Mateo was the Key Note speaker at the Hofstra Veterans Day Ceremonies. His awards include Pershing Rifles Silver Medal, Airborne Wings, and Physical Fitness Award. Next year Mateo will serve as Deputy Commander of the 8th Regiment.

The Ronald B. Midgette Leadership Award

This award is presented to the active member of Company Q-8 who has most consistently demonstrated the 14 leadership traits of justice, judgment, decisiveness, integrity, dependability, tact, initiative, enthusiasm, bearing, unselfishness, courage, knowledge, loyalty, and endurance.

Ron Midgette was a leader in every sense of the word. He helped raise his siblings after the death of his parents and enlisted in the U.S. Army prior to attending Hofstra University. While at Hofstra, Ron took a job with Public Safety to help pay for college and support his family. He enrolled in the Army ROTC program at the University, and pledged Q-8, all while remaining in the Army Reserves.

Ron was assigned to the 423rd MP Company in Hempstead, N.Y., as a platoon leader after he was commissioned a second lieutenant. Ron was always there to lend advice or simply listen. He was elected Q-8 Company Commander and helped steer the company in the right direction during some tough times. Many a future Q-8 Commander or ROTC cadet modeled themselves after Ron's leadership style, and his impact was felt in many ways.

Tragically, Ron was lost to a heart attack in the mid-1980s. Several months after his death, his wife gave birth to their only child, a daughter who never knew him. One thing is certain – Ron Midgette will never be forgotten.

The Benjamin Freed Award for Devotion to Duty

This award is presented to the active member of Company Q-8 who has most consistently demonstrated the spirit of mission accomplishment, commitment to duty, and personal courage.

Ben Freed stood out in a crowd. He endeavored, despite a learning disability, to become one of the program's finest cadets. His devotion to duty and personal commitment were unparalleled in the ranks of Q-8. Ben joined the Ranger Challenge Team, volunteered for Airborne School and was a standout ROTC cadet and PR brother. As a pledge, he was unshakeable and devoted to his pledge brothers and would always shoulder much more than his fair share of the pledge burdens. As a brother, he was the life of the party and the center of every good time. Many of the brothers and military leaders he came in contact with frequently commented that they wished they had 40 Ben Freeds in their unit. There was no one more motivated. He never quit until the mission was complete.

While still a cadet, Ben joined the National Guard and attended Basic and Advanced Individual Training, earning his infantry blue cord. He was selected to be part of the Long Range Reconnaissance Unit of the 101st Cavalry, 42nd Infantry Division. He volunteered for extra training, graduating from JOTC in Panama. In 1990, during Desert Shield, Ben and 11 of his Long Range Surveillance Unit team members relocated to Georgia to join the newly mobilized 48th Infantry Brigade, with the intention of serving in the Gulf War. However, the war ended before his unit completed training at the NTC. But the active duty bug had bitten Ben, and he couldn't wait for a commissioning. He enlisted in the regular Army and was stationed with B Company, 2d battalion 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. He finally felt at home, completing his life's dream to be a soldier. He thrived in this environment, earning his Expert Infantry Badge and graduating at the top of his Fort Bragg pre-Ranger class.

Ben volunteered and was selected for Ranger School, where on 13 March 1992 he awoke displaying the same enthusiasm, spirit and determination that he gave every day of his life. But on that day he tragically lost his life following his passion and giving his all. His death sent shock waves through the ranks of Q-8. We had lost a great friend and brother, and the Army lost a great soldier. It is for all this that we dedicate the Annual Devotion to Duty Award in the name of Ben Freed.

The Thomas F. Zvonik Brotherhood Award

This award is presented to the active member of Company Q-8 who has most consistently demonstrated the fraternal bonds of the society, and has selflessly devoted his tenure to the members of his fraternity.

Tom Zvonik (1980), or TZ as we all knew him, was the epitome of a brother. TZ was the ROTC adviser to Q-8 who pledged as an active duty Sergeant First Class to demonstrate his commitment to the brotherhood. TZ did several tours of duty in Vietnam. He never spoke of his duty there and never wore any of the awards he received. This experienced Non Commissioned Officer joined our ranks because of his affection for the members and his belief in the society's ideals. TZ opened his heart, his home and his family to us. Many a brother with nowhere else to turn spent a night or holiday with TZ and his wife, Cyd, and their children. The invitation was always open, you never had to ask, and you could show up anytime, day or night. No questions were asked, no lectures given. You only had to be in need and you were accepted as family. TZ went above and beyond his role as adviser, and ensured that P/Rs were always taken care of at ROTC. After his tour at Hofstra, TZ continued to be a focal point of the fraternity by being "Q-8 Forward" in Nuremberg, Germany, and hosting European-based brothers or visitors. TZ retired as a Master Sergeant at Fort Riley, Kansas, and passed away suddenly in 2001. He truly was our teacher, our brother, and our friend.

The Michael J. Constantinou Alumni of the Year Award

This award is presented to an alumnus. who has exhibited leadership, selflessness, and a penchant for doing whatever he can for the active members, the alumni and the association. The alumnus who receives this award should exhibit all the characteristics of the active members, such as leadership, devotion to duty and brotherhood.

Michael J. Constantinou was truly a brother to be admired and respected. He pledged Q-8 not once, not twice, but three times. The first two times he pledged were unsuccessful, and yet he still came back for a third try during a time when each cycle was 13 weeks long. After successfully completing the pledge cycle, which now meant his total pledging time was 39+ weeks and counting, Mike was then inducted into Q-8 in the Fall of 1963.

After a tour of duty in Vietnam and one in the Persian Gulf War, time and illness forced Mike out of his beloved Army. For those who knew Mike, he was a source of inspiration; a brother who never forgot his beginnings and came to every Company Dinner, including the 2002 version after a six-year halt to the event.

In September 2003 Mike was hospitalized after years of illness caught up with him, and he passed away on March 23, 2004, exactly one month before the next Company Dinner. That dinner was named in his honor, and the first recipient of the Michael J. Constantinou Alumnus of the Year Award was recognized in front of a crowd of his peers, his friends, his brothers.

Thanks to our Chinese Auction Sponsors!

Please join me in thanking them by
patronizing their businesses
or by thanking them in person for their generosity

- La Famiglia Restaurant, Plainview, NY
- COL (R) & Mrs. John Thomas
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary Russ
- Kaitlin Peterson '05
- Dr. Michael Fishkin '66
- Jim Ridley '82
- Richard Cacciato '64
- Enrico Squeri '82
- T. D. Davidson, CPA
- Lester, Schwab, Katz & Dwyer, LLP
- Paul Flora '64
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- Paul LaPierre '60
- Bill Wagner '78
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- Victoria Cameron

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LTC (RET) PAUL F. FARINELLA '69,'74

***PRESIDENT- HOFSTRA VETERANS ALUMNI
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ADJUTANT/TREASURER-MILITARY ORDER OF
WORLD WARS OF NY***

AND

CAROLYN FARINELLA '70,'72 (AOB)

SALUTE

***THE TWELVE NEW BROTHERS OF ACTIVE
PERSHING RIFLES COMPANY Q-8***

AND

***THEIR NEWLY ELECTED COMMANDER FOR
2009-10***

SAPPO!

*PERSHING RIFLES
COMPANY Q8
FALL '68 PLEDGE CLASS*

*Les Albers
Clint Bond
Jim Cameron
Bob Hambly
Mark Kennedy
Al Oltmer
Vincent Viveritto
Greg Vogel
Hank Harken (F8, Syracuse University)*



*John Algner
Mike Cain
Joel Halprin
George Jaeger
Ted LaMonte
Stan Pohmer
Paul Verry
Jeff Zane*

Not "former" brothers,...just "old" brothers.

**Extends Congratulations and Best Wishes to the
New Brothers of the 2009 Pledge Class
Keep the Tradition Alive!
For Q! For Q! For Q8!**

In Memory of Mike Cain, Ted LaMonte and Charles Churchill

**Best wishes to P/R Co Q8
and the
Q8 Alumni Association**

Fall 1969 Pledge Class

- Tom "Baby Huey" Barry
- Walter "Little Shaver" Dahlmann (AKA Kuehnhold)
- Fred "Derf Nhuk" Kuhn
- George "Tiger" Ladny
- Ken "Numo" Newman
- Pax "The Rapper" Riddle
- Bob "Adolf" Scherer
- Clint "Lurch" Stahlman
- Charlie "Wicked Witch" Telese
- Pledge Sergeant – SGT Les "White Fang" Albers
- Pledge Cdr – WO1 Jeff Short



"You made us what we are today"

(thanks?)

How lucky can any mom be than to have two amazing sons who epitomize the true essence of sacrifice? From the time you were old enough to understand what it meant to sacrifice, you have been doing so in every sense of the word. I am so proud to be your mom and want you to know that we are all lucky to have someone like you in a position of influence. I came upon the words that follow some time ago and immediately thought of you. Read them and know that YOU ARE A TRUE LEADER!

Leaders must be tough enough to fight, tender enough to cry, human enough to make mistakes, humble enough to admit them, strong enough to absorb the pain, and resilient enough to bounce back and keep on moving. Jesse Jackson

Love, Mom

Congratulations Michael on all your successes and achievements. We are all proud of you!

Love, The McGinnis Family

We are so proud of you for what you are doing for yourself and your country. You are a wonderful Grandson and a great example for your friends and family. Thank you Michael for caring and May God Bless you always.

Love, Grandma & Poppa



Michael Kocsis

It has been said that "Success is best measured by how far you've come with the talents you've been given." Although you are still young, you are a very mature young man and have had much success thus far in your life. We wish you all the best as you begin your next journey. We know that you will excel and are so proud of you for what you are doing for our country. You are an excellent role model for all children.

Love, Aunt Barbara, Uncle Dennis, Alex, Joseph, Olivia & Alaina

Some thoughts and words of wisdom for you.....

Your strength, fortitude, intelligence and determination have made us very proud of you! Remember to always reach for the stars and dream big for life is not a dress rehearsal. Take time to enjoy this ride through life. Spend time with those you love and appreciate them as, inevitably, they will have made a difference in your life and you in theirs. In the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." You may never know the impact you may have on others, but along the way try to make a difference. The world is a better place because you are in it! Live each day to the fullest.

Congratulations!

Love, Aunt Nancy, Uncle Nick, Meredith, Nicholas and Gabrielle



HOFSTRA
UNIVERSITY



**THE HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY
VETERANS ALUMNI CHAPTER**

SALUTES

**THE ALUMNI OF
PERSHING RIFLES COMPANY Q-8,
AND
ESPECIALLY THE MEN AND WOMEN CURRENTLY
DEPLOYED IN
IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN**

Congratulations
to the
Q-8 Alumni Association



for
Their Continuing Efforts
to
Assist ROTC students

Keep Up the Good Work!
Lloyd, Lynne, & Alexander Wohlner



**In honor of the members of my family who proudly served in the
Armed Forces of the United States of America**

William J. Wagner, Sr.* SSG U.S. ARMY Air Corps WWII	Henry Layer* SN2C U.S. NAVY WWI	Donald R. Kunz* S2C U.S. NAVY WWII
Raymond Wagner* SGT U.S. ARMY WWII	Henry J. Layer* PTR2C U.S. NAVY WWII	Donald R. Kunz Jr. U.S. NAVY Vietnam
Richard Wagner* PFC U.S. ARMY WWII	Dennis Layer* MSG(R) U.S. Air Force Vietnam	James Westhall* S2C U.S. NAVY WWII
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Robert Wagner U.S. NAVY WWII	John R. Thomas COL(R) U.S. ARMY Cold War	James Healey Jr. U.S. NAVY Cold War
Robert White* U.S. ARMY WWII	Gary H. Russ 1LT U.S. ARMY Cold War	Kelly Healey U.S. NAVY Cold War
	George Maurer, Jr.* U.S. ARMY WWII	

* - Deceased

When we were needed, we were there...



American Legion Post 958
71 Main St. East Rockaway, NY 11518

The Officers and Members
Of American Legion Post 958

Send their Best Wishes To

Company Q-8
National Society of Pershing Rifles



On Behalf of
Lt William "Dredd" Cosgrove and the 614th Space Communications Squadron,
Vandenberg AFB, CA
Congratulations on a Successful Year and
Thank You for Carrying on our Tradition of Excellence and Brotherhood

**“When someone you love becomes a
memory, the memory becomes a treasure”**



**SSG William J. Wagner, Sr.
U.S. ARMY Air Corps
WWII**

Miss you forever...Clara

Best of luck to Q-8!

**Stephen David “Flacco” Fink ‘65
Attorney and Counselor at Law**



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Congratulations

and

Best Wishes

from the



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Best Wishes to Company Q-8



BG (R) Bob Winzinger '62
S-8 Niagara University



Pledge Commander
Executive Officer
Drill Team Member

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Special thanks to
Ron Kopp '79
Frank Tartaglia '78
and
Paul Farinella '65
For supporting their active brothers in need

SAPPO!



P/R Colin Powell
CO A-8 CCNY

For the first time in my life I was a member of a brotherhood," GEN (R) Colin Powell would later say about the Pershing Rifles. "The discipline, the structure, the camaraderie, the sense of belonging were what I craved. I found a selflessness within our ranks that reminded me of the caring atmosphere within my family. Race, color, background, income meant nothing".



GEN Colin Powell
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs



Boosters

Best Wishes to Q-8! - Celeste & Gary Russ

Airborne! - Frank Casey '66

SAPPO! - Tony (Corporal Agarn) '74 & Linda Bilello

Best of Luck to Q-8! - Matilde Broder



**The Federation of Pershing
Rifles Alumni Associations**

The FPRAA is an independent organization that assists in creating Company - level alumni associations for units that do not have one. We will also work to align associations that have no active component in restarting or adopting an existing unit. The FPRAA also works with established associations to assist units in restoring Pershing Rifles traditions, conducting social events, and in raising funds for scholarships or operations. We help at - risk units to remain active, and to improve their relationships with their host University and ROTC Departments. We also assist in the recruiting and retention of Pershing Riflemen and their units, and other tasks as requested by the local Company and Regimental Commanders.

The FPRAA is composed of both independent Company level alumni associations and at large members. All members receive a newsletter and other benefits and services as offered by the FPRAA. For more information, or if you wish to join the FPRAA, please contact us at www.fpraa.com.



Frontier Campaigns
Spanish American War
Philippines Insurrection

Mexican Expedition
Commander AEF WWI
US Army Chief of Staff

John Joseph Pershing General of the Armies

John Joseph Pershing was born on 13 September 1860 in Laclede, Missouri. After a period spent as a schoolteacher at Prairie Mound, nine miles from Laclede, Pershing (known as "Black Jack Pershing") entered a competitive examination for an appointment to West Point in spring 1882, his primary aim being to secure further education. Pershing won the exam and went to West Point.

He was recognized early on by officers for his leadership qualities. He was elected president of the Class of 1886, and each year held the highest rank in the Cadet Battalion. Pershing commanded the Corps of Cadets when it crossed the Hudson from West Point to Garrison to stand and present arms while the funeral train of Ulysses S. Grant passed by. Pershing took up duty as Professor of Military Science and Tactics at the University of Nebraska in September 1891, a post he held for four years.

During his varied military career, Pershing performed frontier duty against the Sioux and Apache from 1886-1890, where he won the Silver Star Medal; fought in the Cuban War in 1898; fought in the Philippines in 1903, cleaning up the Moro insurrectionists; and fought with the Japanese army during the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-1905, as an observer. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 1906. This was followed by the Mexican Punitive Expedition (of 10,000 men) to capture Pancho Villa in Mexico in 1915.

Following the U.S. declaration of war against Germany in 1917, Pershing – now a General – was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF). At the time of his appointment, there was no expeditionary force available as such; the regular army comprised 25,000 men at most, and no effective reserves. Pershing needed to recruit an organized army of 500,000 and get it into the field. Eventually the National Army grew – over the period of a year and a half, to nearly 3 million men. Pershing led the successful Meuse-Argonne offensive of 1918.

In 1921 Pershing became U.S. Army Chief of Staff. He retired from active duty in 1924 at the age of 64, having been awarded the title General of the Armies by Congress, a post previously held only by George Washington (and only then retrospectively awarded in 1976). Although this is the equivalent of a Six Star General, Pershing never wore more than four. His autobiography, *My Experiences in the World War*, was published in 1931, winning the Pulitzer Prize for history in 1932. John Joseph Pershing died on 15 July 1948 in Washington, D.C.