



# Living Memorial Tree and Monument Dedication



November 19, 1999  
10:30 AM

Arlington National Cemetery  
Arlington, Virginia



# Memorial Plaque Inscription



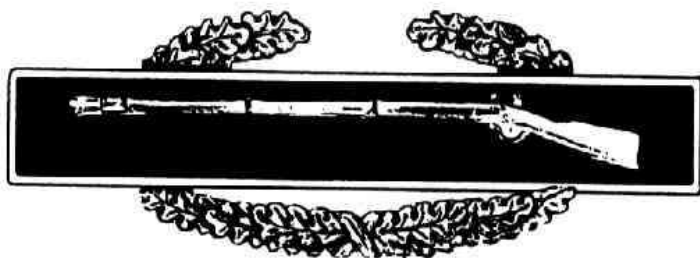
**LEYTE**  
**1944**



**OKINAWA**  
**1945**

*IN MEMORY OF OUR FALLEN COMRADES OF THE  
96th Infantry Division, U.S. Army*

*KILLED ON LEYTE, PHILIPPINES AND OKINAWA, JAPAN  
AND TO ALL DEADEYES WHO FOUGHT WITH VALOR AND  
DISTINCTION TO DEFEAT IMPERIAL JAPAN.*



*DEDICATED NOVEMBER 19, 1999 BY  
96TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION*



## **Monument Committee:**

**Donald Dencker(Chairman), Lawrence Ulrich, Richard McCarthy**

The 96th Infantry Division Association wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, 3rd U.S. Infantry (Old Guard), Arlington National Cemetery Director and staff, and to the Deadeyes and friends whose contributions made this memorial possible.

# Memorial Monument Dedication

## Program

### **Introduction**

Donald Dencker

Past President, 96th Infantry Division Association, Co. L, 382nd Infantry

### **Sound Attention**

(Please Stand)

Bugler, U.S. Army Band (Pershing's Own)

### **Post the Colors**

U. S. Army Color Guard, 3rd U.S. Infantry (Old Guard)

### **National Anthem**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Lawrence Ulrich

Co. M, 383rd Infantry

### **Retire the Colors**

U.S. Army Color Guard

### **Invocation**

Chaplain (Major) David Acuff

U.S. Army, Arlington National Cemetery

### **Dedication Message**

Senator Ron Wyden, Oregon

Presented by Molly McCarthy, Staff Assistant

### **Dedication Remarks**

Brigadier General David Irvine

Deputy Commanding General, 96th Regional Support Command

### **Keynote Address**

James Causey

Vice President, 96th Infantry Division Association, Co. C, 381st Infantry

### **Dedication Remarks**

Claudius M. Easley, Jr.

Lt. Col., U.S. Army (Retired)

### **Unveiling of the Monument and Placing of Wreaths**

Richard McCarthy, Co. B, 383rd Infantry

Leonard Lazarick, Co. K, 382nd Infantry

### **Taps**

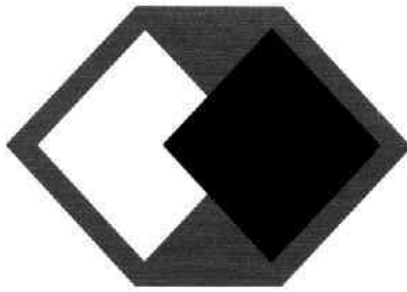
Bugler, U.S. Army Band

### **Benediction**

Chaplain (Major) David Acuff

### **Dismissal**

Donald Dencker



## **The 96th Infantry Division**

### **U. S. Army**

### **World War II**

The 96th Infantry Division was activated on August 15, 1942 at Camp Adair, Oregon, under the command of Major General James L. Bradley. The Division trained at Camp Adair, Fort Lewis, Washington, Bend, Oregon Maneuver Area, Camp White, Oregon, and Camp San Luis Obispo, California. The Division then departed San Francisco on July 25, 1944 for Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. The Division sailed from Hawaii for the October 5, 1944 landing on Yap Island. The Yap operation was cancelled en route and the 96th Infantry Division then led the return to the Philippines, landing on Leyte Island October 20, 1944.

The 96th Division then seized Leyte beaches on landing, Hill 120 and Catmon Hill. Moving inland, they defeated major Japanese resistance at Tabontabon and took all assigned objectives. The Division was instrumental in crushing the attack of the 2nd Parachute Brigade on Central Leyte Valley airfields. The Division then completed the Leyte mop-up and prepared to depart for the Ryukyus Campaign.

The 96th Infantry Division landed on Okinawa on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945. The Division continued ceaseless attacks against heavily defended Japanese positions including Kakazu and Tombstone Ridges. Against intense resistance, they captured Tanabaru and Maeda escarpments. In May, 1945, the Division captured the Dick Hill mass and Conical Hill, breaking the right flank of the main line of Japanese resistance. The Division then moved south, seizing the final line of Japanese resistance on the Yuza-Yaeju escarpments and completing mop-up of enemy resistance on June 30, 1945.

In late July of 1945, the 96th Infantry Division sailed from Okinawa to Mindoro Island in the Philippines to prepare for the planned invasion of Japan. The Division ultimately returned to the United States in January, 1946 and the "Deadeye" Division was officially disbanded on February 3, 1946 at Camp Anza, California.

During its lifetime, the 96th Infantry Division killed 30,000 Japanese troops while suffering almost 13,000 casualties, a very heavy price borne by those we honor here today, including Deadeyes buried at Arlington National Cemetery.