

# ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **CLINT BORDEAUX LIVED A FULL AND HAPPY LIFE** *Eulogy by Terry Martin (Husband of Peggy Martin, Clint's Niece)* *Franklinville, New York, January 21, 2013*

Clint Bordeaux celebrated his 100th birthday in May of last year at the nursing home in Salamanca where lived since October, 2012. Many people attended his celebration including family and friends. Other nursing home residents who are also veterans, staff, Senator Cathy Young personal representative, an Honor Guard from a local veterans group, and reporters also attended.

A Proclamation was read in Clint Bordeaux's honor while the Honor Guard stood next to Clint in his wheelchair holding two large photographs of him from World War II. Every veteran in the room was also introduced and applauded. As the reading ended, Clint pointed to the Proclamation and said, "I like that!"

People laughed with delight at his response. The Salamanca Press published an article on his 100th birthday which described his many experiences and accomplishments.

Sadly, eight months later, last week, [Clint Bordeaux](#) passed away. He died peacefully in his sleep. His pain and suffering have ended, and we know that he is in a better place.

When my wife, Peggy Bordeaux Martin, was a young child, she remembers her family driving from Franklinville to Buffalo to visit Clint during World War II. He was in the U.S. Army getting ready to ship out to Europe just prior to the Normandy invasion. Clint was with the third wave of the Normandy crossing, with a military police unit under General Patton's Third Army. Once on the beach, they were assigned to bring order to the tens of thousands of men and vehicles that were unloading from ships and organizing for forward movements.

On this trip to Buffalo, Peggy, her sister Joan and her parents Bill and Loretta Bordeaux, drove up to the Army encampment in Buffalo where Clint was stationed, but the guards would not let him out of the front gate. Peggy ran up to them with her little arms outstretched asking for her Uncle, and the guards relented. They arranged for Clint to get a pass to leave the encampment so he could visit with Peggy and her family. Those are one of many, many good memories.

Clint and I met in 1975, but it was in the years 2000 to 2004 when we got to know each other much better. This occurred when I shared with him my Army experience in northeast Thailand during the Vietnam War. He finally began to tell me about his Army days in Europe during World War II. This led us to spending many afternoons and evenings together for several years. He let me interview him in depth, and I helped him write that article on the history of the Village of Franklinville which Cattaraugus County published in its guidebook called, "Saving Our Villages."

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A bond formed as fellow veterans. I still have unpublished notes on his memories of what he did in Europe after they got through the beach landings and organized allied forces as they moved inland. Clint Bordeaux served with one of the military police units guarding General Eisenhower's headquarters as it moved progressively closer to Berlin.

Today we are here to honor Clint Bordeaux's memory. He was a good person in life. He has given us an excellent example of how to live a long, productive, responsible and graceful life.