



**Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation, Inc.**

Since the beginning of man’s awareness, the rainbow has been a mystic symbol, displayed in the heavens to signal the passing of yet another storm. So it is today. Twice in the past century, and today, the Rainbow has signaled to millions of people the end of tyranny and oppression, and the beginning of new hope for a better world.

The 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division was formed in August 1917 of National Guard units from 26 states and the District of Columbia. After Chief of Staff Major Douglas Mac Arthur remarked that the Division “would stretch over the whole country like a rainbow,” the coalesced national guard units were christened the Rainbow Division. In World War I the Division saw its first action in February 1918 fighting alongside the French.

In World War II the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division was reactivated on July 14, 1943 and in the Autumn of 1944 its three regiments were rushed overseas, soon followed by the entire division. It liberated the Dachau concentration camp on 29 April 1945, entered Munich on 30 April 1945, and served in Austria until the summer of 1946.

Following the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center, 42<sup>nd</sup> Division National Guard units were federally mobilized and have served in protecting the U.S. and abroad. The Rainbow story is one of patriotism and dedication to the cause of freedom.

**THE 42<sup>ND</sup> RAINBOW DIVISION VETERANS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

[WWW.RAINBOWVETS.ORG](http://WWW.RAINBOWVETS.ORG)

**PROUDLY PRESENTS**

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**THE RDVMF HONORED MEMBER PRESENTATION CEREMONY**

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**BEGINNING AT**

**5 p.m.**

**MAY 25, 2009**

**MUNICH AIRPORT MARRIOTT**

**HOTEL**

**Alois-Steinecker-Str 20**

**Freising**

**Germany**



**Program for**  
**The RDVMF Honored Member**  
**Ceremony**

**Master of Ceremonies**  
**RDVMF Memorials Officer**  
**Jim Clemons**



**Verna Krenkler**  
**National Auxiliary Chaplain**  
**Presents Invocation sent by**  
**Father Robert Weiss**



**Jim Clemons**  
**Foreword and Acknowledgements**



**James R. Pettus**  
**RDVMF Reunions Officer**  
**Some Thoughts on the Day**



**Fritz Krenkler, RDVMF Trustee**  
**Presentation of**  
**Honored Member Certificate**



**Acceptance Remarks**  
**Ludwig Stöckl**



**A Message from RDVMF**  
**Chairman**  
**Carlton Simonson**



**James R. Pettus, RDVMF**  
**Reunions Officer Presents**  
**Benediction by**  
**Chaplain Ernie Owen**

**MY AFFIRMATION**

The Purple Hearth Jewel which I've created was given to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation on June 15<sup>th</sup> 2008 in Fredericksburg, VA as my expression of honor for the troops of the United States of America and especially the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow Division veterans.

It was these proud people who liberated my home town of Dachau in 1945. I want to thank them and the people of the United States for the friendship given to my country, Germany, and I want to affirm this friendship. I also want to thank all who presently fight and have fought for freedom, liberty and justice, an ideal which liberated Germany and its many victims from the horror of the Third Reich.

To forever remember the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow, the RDVMF presented the Purple Heart Jewel to the Virginia Holocaust Museum where it is on public display. I am honored by Pete Pettus of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow, who today is with us here. It was he who began a "Rainbow of Valor" donation program based on the Purple Heart Jewel to support current 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow troops and their families.

A special detail about the Purple Heart Jewel made from 18 carat gold and diamonds.

Gold, precious and everlasting, embodies appreciation for the veterans and the people of the United States. The sparkling diamonds, exactly 29 of them, represent the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 1945, that special day, when elements of the 42<sup>nd</sup> Rainbow liberated the Dachau Concentration Camp.

Ludwig Stöckl