

Borough of Brookville
Brookville Municipal Authority
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BOROUGH / BROOKVILLE
BROOKVILLE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

August 9, 2018

Dear Representative Chris Dush,

I write on behalf of Brookville Borough Council in support of the Laurel Board's and Veteran's Association's proposal to name the Pickering Street Bridge in Brookville, Pennsylvania in honor of James Slagle, a wounded veteran of World War II.

A graduate from Brookville Area High School, James Slagle qualified to serve on the second Ranger Battalion. On June 6, 1944 he stormed the shores of Normandy as part of the D-day operation. His unit landed on Omaha Beach, but he never reached the shore. He was hit seven times by German machine gun fire, and laid in the surf most of the day. James would often say he would have drowned in a shell hole if an anonymous soldier had not dragged him to higher ground. He spent the next eighteen months in army hospitals recovering from his wounds. James Slagle was discharged from the army in 1945 and returned home to Brookville. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and served as the Commander of Post 204. He was also named a Flag Man and operated Slagle's Ice Cream. James Slagle passed away in 2003.

We support honoring the veterans of this community, and hope the Pickering Street Bridge will be named in honor of James Slagle on June 20, 2019.

Sincerely,

Dana D. Schreckengost, CBO
Borough Manager

WATER • SEWER • PARKING • ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT • EXPANSION PROGRAMS

MEMBERS OF:



Borough Council Meetings
1st and 3rd Tuesdays of Each Month
7pm Council Chambers

Authority Board Meetings
2nd Tuesday of Each Month
4pm Council Chambers

Planning Commission Meetings
2nd Monday of Each Month
6pm Council Chambers

To: Rep. Cris Dush
August 7, 2018

Dear Rep. Dush,

The purpose of this letter is to request your support in an effort to recognize a Brookville veteran for his service in World War Two.

James Slagle, a wounded veteran of World War II, was a graduate of Brookville Area High School. Mr. Slagle qualified to serve in the Second Ranger Battalion. On June 6, 1944, Mr. Slagle stormed the shores of Normandy as part of the D-Day operation. His unit landed on Omaha Beach. The landing was documented in the award-winning movie "Saving Private Ryan." Jim Slagle's unit is depicted in the opening scenes of the movie.

Jim Slagle never reached the shore on June 6. He was hit seven times by German machine gun fire and laid in the surf most of the day. Jim would often say he would have drowned in a shell hole that had not an anonymous soldier dragged him to higher ground. The

casualty rates among the American attackers were severe. One Ranger Company lost 96% of its compliment. Only two of those Rangers were left standing at the end of that terrible day.

Jim Slagle spent the next 18 months in Army hospitals recovering from his wounds. He was discharged from the Army in 1945 and returned home to Brookville.

Jim never lost his love for his country. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and served as the Commander of Post 204.

Jim Slagle was also known as the “Flag Man.” It was his idea to place an American Flag on each street light pole on Main Street. After his passing in 2003, the “Flag Fund” became the “James Slagle Memorial Flag Fund” in his honor.

You may ask why the Pickering Street Bridge? It seemed only fitting because after Jim learned how to be an ice cream maker he purchased the ice cream store on Pickering Street from the original owner, Dan Smith. He

and his wife opened Slagle's Ice Cream, a business he operated with his wife for many years.

It seems only fitting that Jim Slagle's service to his country and his community be recognized in this manner.

We thank you for your support in this matter.

William Littlefield
Commander,
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Post 204



David Deemer
Vice-Commander
American Legion
Post 102



Army of the United States



Honorable Discharge

This is to certify that

JAMES W. SLAGLE

33 253 642, Tac 5 Company A 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion

Army of the United States

is hereby Honorably Discharged from the military service of the
United States of America.

This certificate is awarded as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service
to his country.

Given at 1315 SCU HOSPITAL CENTER, CP PICKETT, VA.

Date 3 August 1945

F. H. Petters
F. H. PETTERS, Col., MC
Commanding

FINISHED RECORD AND REPORT OF SEPARATION - HONORABLE DISCHARGE									
1. Last Name, First Name - Middle Initial		2. Army Serial No.		3. Grade		4. Army or Service		5. Component	
Slagle James W.		33 253 642		Tac 5		Inf		AUS	
6. Date of Separation		7. Place of Separation							
3 Aug 1945		Hosp Center Cp Pickett Va.							
8. Date of Birth		9. Place of Birth		10. Date of Entry into Active Service		11. Place of Last Service			
1 Aug 1920		Brookville, Pa.		6 Oct 42		Altoona Pa.			
12. Address From Which Reimbursements Will be Sought		13. Color Hair		14. Color Eyes		15. Height		16. Weight	
Box 265 Brookville Pa. See 9		Brown		Brown		6'		175	
17. Civil Occupation and No.		18. U.S. Citizen		19. U.S. Status		20. On-Line Component and No.			
Boiler House Repairman 5-83.661		X		A		Boiler House Repairman 5-83.661			
MILITARY HISTORY									
21. Date of Induction		22. Date of Enlistment		23. Date of Entry into Active Service		24. Place of Entry into Service			
22 Sep 42		6 Oct 42		6 Oct 42		Altoona Pa.			
25. Branch		26. Last S. & S. Report No.		27. Country and State		28. Home Address at Time of Entry into Service			
Inf		1		Jefferson Pa.		109 Pine St, Brookville, Pa.			
29. Military Occupational Specialty and No.		30. Military Qualifications and Data (See Instruction 10 and amendments below, etc.)		31. Military Qualifications and Data (See Instruction 10 and amendments below, etc.)					
Light Machine Gunner 604		Combat Infantryman Badge		Combat Infantryman Badge					
32. Particulars of Campaigns		33. Decorations and Citations							
Normandy GO 33 WD 45		European African Middle Eastern Theater Medal Purple Heart 60 1 Ho 40th GH 44. Distinguished Unit Badge GO 26 Ho 1st U.S. Army 44.							
34. Wounds Received in Action		35. Dates of Awards							
6 Jun 44 European Theater		1 Dec 43							
36. Campaigns		37. Date of Discharge		38. Distribution		39. Date of Appeal			
25 Feb 44		26 Feb 44		26 Feb 44		27 Dec 44			
40. Campaigns		41. Date of Discharge		42. Distribution		43. Date of Appeal			
15 Dec 44		U.S.A.		27 Dec 44					
44. Remarks and Authority for Separation		45. Remarks and Authority for Separation							
Certificate of Disability for Discharge See 1 AM 615-361 2d and Ho Hosp Center, Cp Pickett, Va., dtd 31 Jul 1945.		Certificate of Disability for Discharge See 1 AM 615-361 2d and Ho Hosp Center, Cp Pickett, Va., dtd 31 Jul 1945.							
46. Service School Attended		47. Education (Year)		48. Education (Year)					
None		5		3					
PAY DATA									
49. Leave for the Purpose		50. Monetary Due Pay		51. Military Discharge		52. Travel Pay		53. Unemployment Compensation	
None		None		None		21.50		W.W. Hall, Capt., PD	
INSURANCE NOTICE									
IMPORTANT - If questions are asked when due or with other due date, insurance will issue. Make checks or money orders payable to the Treasurer of the U.S. and Forward to Collection, Education, Veterans Administration, Washington, D. C.									
54. Kind of Insurance		55. How Paid		56. Effective Date of Allowance		57. Date of Next Payment		58. Premium Due Each Month	
None		X		31 Jul 45		31 Aug 45		6.60	
59. Remarks		60. Remarks							
None		Inactive Service ERC 22 Sep 42 to 5 Oct 42 No time lost under AM 1074 Lapel Ribbon Issued Certification made for Mustering out Payment amount of \$300.00 R.P. Krebe--Deputy W.W. Hall, Capt PD							
61. Signature of Member Being Separated		62. Personal Officer (Type name, grade and organization - stamped)							
James W. Slagle		I DORTCH WQJG USA 1315 SCU Hosp Center I Pickett							
63. Date of Separation		64. Signature of Officer							
3 Aug 1945		F. H. Petters							

Brookville bids fond farewell to the 'Flag Man'

By Randy Bartley *JD*

BROOKVILLE — Jim Slagle, Brookville's "Flag Man" died Sunday, April 6, 2003 at the Brookville Hospital.

Slagle, a retired Brookville businessman, was best known as the founder of the Main Street Flag Association, a volunteer organization that purchased and maintained the United States flags along the county seat's Main Street.

In a 1997 interview, Slagle said he had the idea for the Main Street Flag project after he returned from the 50th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy in 1994.

"There were only four fags up on the Fourth of July," said Slagle. "That prompted me to do it." *04-10-03*

"I think Jim was very proud of his community," said Patti French, executive director of the Brookville Area Chamber of Commerce said. "He and his wife were very active in the Brookville Area Business Association for many years. He was a great patriot and the Main Street Flag Association he created will carry on as his legacy."

"Jim was the epitome of humility," said Brookville Police Chief Ken Dworek, who served as the vice-president of the Main Street Flag Association. "Jim was always an inspiration to me. He was one of those people that made Brookville great."

Slagle and his wife, Helen, owned and operated Slagle's Ice Cream in Brookville until his retirement. He had worked for Dan Smith's Ice Cream starting in 1958 and became the plant manager in 1965. In 1960 he completed a course in ice cream manufacturing and quality control at Penn State University.

Born in Lake City, Elk County, Slagle moved to Brookville and graduated from the Brookville High School.



THE 'FLAG MAN'— Jim Slagle was on hand when the American Flags were posted along Main Street recently. Slagle, known locally as "The Flag Man" was always on patrol to be certain Old Glory was flying high. (Photo by Emily Straitiff)

"Jim was the epitome of humility."

Brookville Police Chief Ken Dworek

He served with the U. S. Army during World War II and was one of the Army's first Rangers. He served in the Second Ranger Battalion and was involved in the June 6, 1944 invasion of Normandy, France. It was his unit depicted in the movie, "Saving Private Ryan." Slagle was shot seven times before he could reach the beach. He was saved from drowning by another G.I. who pulled him from a water-filled shell hole. He never learned who his savior was. He spent the next 18 months in army hospitals recovering from his wounds.

Slagle saw "Saving Private Ryan" and gave the movie high

marks for authenticity. In a 1998 interview, he said, "I had to see this movie, possibly just to see how the Rangers were portrayed. They (the producers) did a good job. I'm amazed at the special effects. I don't know where they filmed the movie but the terrain looked exactly like the beach."

Slagle's ranger unit was on the beach by mistake. They had trained in England for one mission-knocking out a heavy German gun emplacement on Pointe du Hoc. To do that the Rangers were trained to scale the cliffs in the face of enemy resistance, destroy the guns, and move inland. The first

wave of Rangers accomplished the mission but discovered the guns had been removed. The second wave of Rangers were supposed to reinforce their comrades but through a communications error, were sent into the maelstrom on Omaha Beach.

"He took great pride in being a Ranger and also took great pride in his country," said Dworek. "It wasn't until after he visited France and saw how the French people honored our Flag that he got the idea of the Main Street Flag project. I think he saw in our troops serving in the Persian Gulf today the same pride and patriotism he experienced in his generation. He would have been very proud of them."

See FLAG, Page A 6

Arthur Slagle

Arthur Slagle, of Farmington hills, Michigan, died Thursday, September 19, 2002.

Born on April 2, 1925 in Brookville, he was the son of Sam and Leona Slagle. *JD 2002. 10. 03*

Mr. Slagle worked as an engineer and as a supplier to the automotive industry and enjoyed being a mentor to the young engineers in the industry.

Mr. Slagle had a lifetime passion for model airplanes and generally shared his knowledge with others in the hobby.

He is survived by his wife, Avonelle Barr Slagle, and two daughters: Gail Hartge and Gloria Irvin, two sons: Arthur G. Slagle and Gregory Slagle and eight grandchildren.

Flag continued from Page A 1

In May, 1945, he married the former Helen E. McGregor in Distant. Helen Slagle survives her husband at home.

Jim Slagle was very active in veteran's affairs and was the post commander of Veteran's of Foreign Wars Post 204 in Brookville.

In the summer of 1990 he hosted a reunion of the original

World War II Rangers in Brookville.

Four years later he returned to Normandy and participated in the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

He enjoyed hunting and fishing and was a member of Project Brookville's Fish for Fun. He also was a member of Trout Unlimited.

Fifty-six years later, D-Day memories still strong for survivor

25-13-2001

By Kathy Young
Of The Spirit

BROOKVILLE — Jim Slagle is a soft-spoken, gentle man. He is a good husband to his wife of 55 years, the former Helen McGregor, and a devoted father and grandfather to his three daughters, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

A retired businessman, commander of the Brookville Veterans of Foreign Wars Raymond "Bud" Hetrick Post 204 and a member of the Brookville First Baptist Church; in appearance and actions, Jim seems no different than most small-town citizens.

But Slagle is a survivor; he is one of the World War II veterans who took part in the June 6, 1944 Battle of Normandy, the decisive battle that changed the course of world history, and left thousands of American soldiers dead on the bloody ground of France.

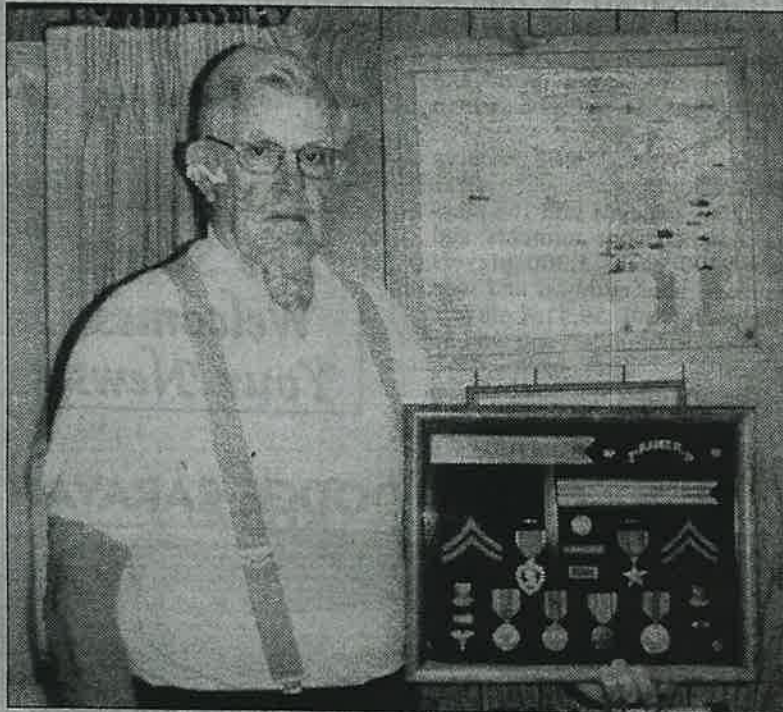
His memories of that time will forever set him apart.

A member of the Second Ranger Battalion, Slagle was on the first boat that landed on Omaha Beach. Their objective was to scale the rugged, rock cliffs and take out the German gun emplacements that commanded the beach.

Of the 66 men in his outfit who landed there, Slagle was one of 16 who survived.

More than 2,000 soldiers were screened in order to select the 500 men to be trained in rock climbing.

"We trained for six solid months," Slagle remembers, "practicing on scaling the British Cliffs of Dover. It seemed like it would be easy and no one was too worried. Then they brought in Chaplains to talk with us; that wised us up fast as to what was



Jim Slagle stands in front of a picture made for him by his grandchild commemorating D-Day, when the Allied Forces launched a massive attack on Normandy during World War II. He is holding a framed montage of memorabilia of that fateful June 6, 1944. D-Day was later heralded as the turning point of World War II, and for Slagle, who survived the battle, the memories remain strong. (Photo by Kathy Young)

coming. Even the non-believers were there with the rest of us."

Wounded in the back, hip and shoulder with shrapnel, Slagle was one of the first casualties of the day.

Helpless in the water, Jim was carried to shore time after time by the relentless waves, only to be dragged back out to sea as the waves retreated. Finally, after hours in the frigid water, someone grabbed him and pulled him ashore.

"There was a soldier next to me

on the beach," Slagle recalls. "He was holding his stomach in with his own hands. Two medics came up and the one offered him some whiskey. The other one asked him if he was crazy, you don't give liquids to stomach wounds. The first one said to let him enjoy it, he wasn't going to make it anyway. He did, though. There was a scene in 'Saving Private Ryan' a lot like that; I think that's where they got the idea."

Slagle spent one-and-a-half (See D-Day on Page 8)



Pvt. Berl Slagle



Pvt. Charles P. Slagle



Cpl. Leonard Slagle

D-Day

(Continued from Page One)

years in hospitals after he was evacuated, first in England and then in the United States. He was discharged from the Army from a rehabilitation center where he spent his final days of recuperation.

In 1994, on the 50th anniversary of D-Day, Slagle was one of 83 ex-rangers and their wives and family members who returned to Normandy.

Although the Battle of Normandy ended many years ago, the tributes and honor given to these survivors and their fallen comrades did much to heal the scars carried by the veterans.

Presented with the French Medaille du Jubilee by the president of France, the veterans were feted at banquets and receptions while the residents of the town of Cricrueville provided free lodging for their American guests.

A plaque on the wall of the town church, whose steeple had served the soldiers as a guide, bore these words: "Christians, do not forget the American soldiers who risked and sacrificed their lives for you on this hill on June 6, 1944. You owe it to them to faithfully pray for them so that God welcomes them."

Among the guests honoring them was President Bill Clinton, who shook each veteran's hand and thanked him personally.

Although Slagle admits that was pretty impressive, he remembers another handshake.

"A young French military man shook my hand and said, 'Thank you for all you have done for us.' That was something."

Another memory that stands out is that of a small boy, "maybe four or five years old," standing in the parking lot waving an American flag.

A memory almost too painful to be shared is when he stood in a German pillbox and saw the four large plaques commemorating the rangers that died there.

"Ten of my comrades were listed in the first column," he says, his voice breaking.

National newspeople present at the anniversary likened the scene to a green moonscape, full of craters and holes, noting that D-Day was "the beginning of the end."

After returning from France, Slagle noticed that only three houses displayed an American Flag on the Fourth of July as he made his way from his home in

Belgiumtown to Main Street.

"It hit me that the people of France seemed to have more American spirit than we do here."

As a result, Slagle launched a campaign that brought American flags to all the lightposts on downtown Main Street.

A familiar sight since then to the people of Brookville has been that of Jim walking the street unfurling the flags the wind has tangled.

Helen Slagle, who accompanied her husband to France, praised the therapeutic effect of the trip on her husband.

"He was never able to talk about it before," she said. "Our kids and grandkids had no idea of what occurred there. It opened a gate for him."

For the past 20 years, members of the Rangers have held reunions, and the Slagles took their turn at hosting one in 1994. This September, the reunion will be held in New Orleans and the Slagles plan on attending.

It is not a time of rejoicing, but a time of remembering, and for Jim Slagle, the memories remain and will forever do so.

Two county vets honored

By John Pozza

BROOKVILLE — Two veterans from Brookville have been honored with distinguished military awards from the country in which they served.

World War II veteran James Slagle, 81, who participated in the liberation of France during the Normandy landing, and Korean War veteran Leon Popson, 74, received certificates of recognition by the Jefferson County Veterans Affairs Office at Tuesday's commissioners meeting.

Slagle and Popson are two of the more recent Jefferson County veterans to have received the certificates. They accepted them on behalf of all of the veterans within the county who served in the two countries. U.S. acceptance of military awards from a foreign country only recently became possible through an act of Congress.

"It isn't easy to see friends die while fighting," Slagle said upon accepting his certificate. "I can only pray that this doesn't hap-



POPSON

pen to our country anymore."

In addition to a certificate, Popson also received the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, ending a five-year effort by veterans organizations to obtain eligibility guidelines.

"In 1951, the Korean government was to present this to our servicemen, but Congress then did not allow them to accept any gifts, or other honors of notoriety from foreign governments," VA representative Janet Hegburg said.

"We will accept awards for several other veterans; these two just happened to be ones that came to our office."

The commissioners recently received notice from the state Bureau of Forestry requesting



SLAGLE

they issue a 30-day burn ban in the county due to the prolonged dry spell.

Chairman Dave Black said placing a burn ban would create somewhat of a hardship on families having outdoor barbecues or using campgrounds, particularly with the upcoming Labor Day holiday. "To my knowledge, the state has not issued a fire ban on state-owned grounds, and conditions have since improved, so as chairman I have not requested for this to be put on the agenda," Black said. "Rather than have to (issue a ban), I would just ask that people voluntarily refrain from lighting an unprotected brush pile and make sure that any fire is not left unattended. It's just using good common sense. We don't need to

subject our volunteer fire companies to any more unnecessary dangers."

Despite opposition from neighboring Clarion County, the commissioners reiterated their support behind a letter writing campaign to convince the state Public Utility Commission to keep the abandoned Piney Branch rail line open between Brookville and the Piney Dam area. The board still sees potential for future tourist activity if the Indiana-based Kovalchick Corp. can convert the line for future use as an excursion route or rails-to-trails development.

"We think it's premature at this time to have to tear down that span, based on conversations

we've had over the past two years with the Kovalchicks on plans that they have for that rail line," Black said. "We believe it would be an asset to Jefferson County. We're just not ready to say that it can't be done, and ask that the bridges be torn down. We think it needs more evaluation and more time so, therefore, we are supporting the reopening of the record."

Black addressed the status of a petition circulating throughout the county on the establishment of a Home Rule charter. He said the county election board has not yet determined whether or not the question could be placed on the ballot.

"There appear to be some ir-

regularities within the various reports, and we have now turned that over to the district attorneys office for further investigation," Black said.

In other business, the commissioners:

-Executed a resolution authorizing the adoption of a second tax-deferred retirement plan through Valic Inc. for permanent county employees. The plan provides another option for employees to make individual retirement contributions in addition to the existing plan with Nationwide, at no cost to the county.

-Rejected all bids received for the Punxsutawney Ski-Hi Drive Sanitary Sewer and Street Improvement project opened at the

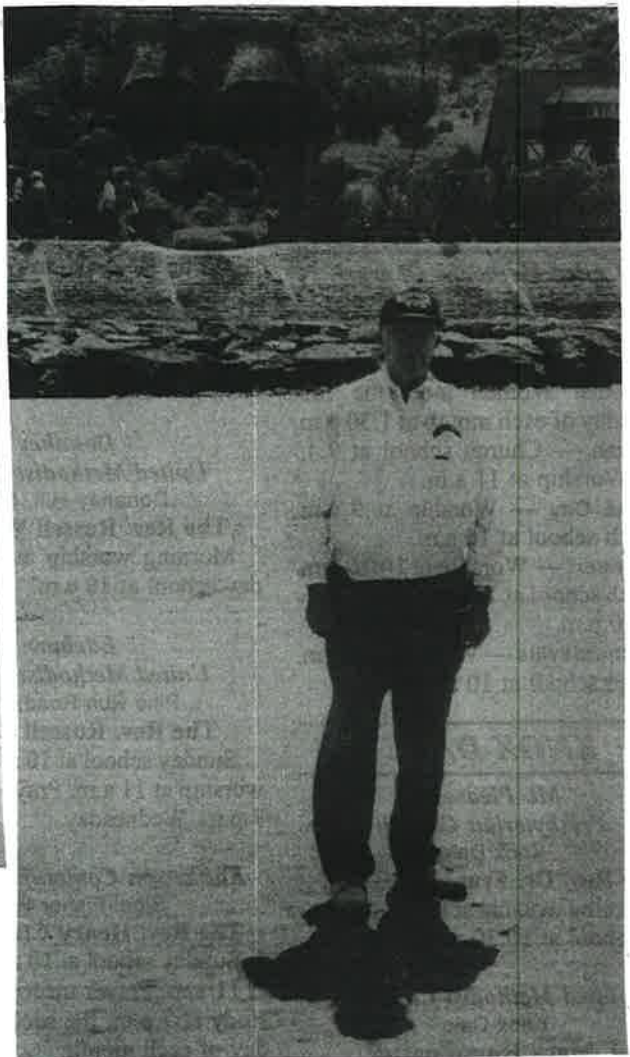
Aug. 7 meeting. The lone bid for the project was \$17,000 over the county's estimate. Since the county was unable to negotiate a more favorable price with the bidder, the project will be re-bid. The bid was also rejected by Punxsutawney Borough. Although eligible for Community Development Block Grant funding, the project needs to be completed by May 2002.

All county offices will be closed Mon., Sept. 3 in observance of Labor Day. The next commissioners meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m., Sept. 4 at Jefferson Place in Brookville.

JD 1896 Death of William Slagle. 423.

William Slagle, of South Brookville, died at his home on the afternoon of Sunday of this week, April 19th, 1896, aged 62 years, 4 months, and 16 days, of Bright's disease. He had not been able to do any work for several months, and for a number of weeks was confined to his home, unable to get out of the house.

He was born in Northumberland county, Pa., in December of 1833. About 1837 he came with his parents to Armstrong county, and afterwards, about 1837, the family removed to Ringgold township, Jefferson county. Here he was married about 1859 to Miss Mary Martz. In the fall of 1861 he enlisted in Captain Freese's company of the 105th regiment, from which he was discharged in January of 1863, on surgeon's certificate of disability. In the spring of 1864 he moved to Brookville, where he has resided ever since, being most of the time engaged in lumbering. He leaves a wife and six children, the latter being William and Charles Slagle of Brookville, Mrs. (m) Overbeck of Elk county, Mrs. John Yeomans of Brookville, Mrs. Lewis Arnold of McKean county, and Bertha still at home. His funeral was on Tuesday, interment being in the new cemetery. Mr. Slagle was an industrious, honest man, and highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was buried with the honors of the Grand Army of the Republic, by comrades of E. R. Brady Post, of which he was a member.





Mr. and Mrs. Sam Slagle Celebrate Golden Wedding

Shows 4-25-1971
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Slagle, of Brookville R. D. 1, celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on April 20 and 21.

They celebrated on Saturday with a family dinner, given in their honor by their son Arthur and his wife Avonelle, in the Corsica Room at the Short Stop Restaurant.

Attending this gala event were: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Slagle, daughter Gail and her husband, Tim Hartge; sons Gaylan and Gregory, and another daughter, Gloria, all of Detroit, Michigan; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kline, Prospect; Mr. and Mrs. Martin Luther, and Miss Rosamund Luther, Pittsburgh; Mrs. Florence Luther, Verona; Mrs. Martha Luther, Sigel; and Mrs. Eldora Bar, Brookville R. D. 2.

An open house reception was held on the afternoon of April 21 in the Fellowship Hall at the First United Methodist Church, attended by an estimated 200 friends and family members. They came from this area and from Detroit, Mich., the Pittsburgh area; Erie, Greensburg, Ridgway, Altoona, Eldred, Verona, Du-Bois and Prospect.

Leona and Sam were married on April 16, 1924 at Brookville by Rev. W. P. Murray, of the First Methodist Church. In attendance were Mrs. Joseph Luther, mother of the bride, and Florence and Rosamund Luther, sisters of the bride.

At the time of their marriage, Mr. Slagle was employed by the L. A. Leathers Company, and continued in this employ until he retired in 1963.

Mrs. Slagle is a registered nurse, graduated from the Shadyside Hospital in Pittsburgh.

Mr. and Mrs. James Slagle, of R. D. 2, Brookville, observed their silver wedding anniversary on Sunday, June 14.

Mr. & Mrs. J. Slagle Observe Silver Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. James Slagle, of R. D. 2, Brookville, celebrated their silver wedding anniversary at open house festivities on Sunday, June 14.

The couple was united in marriage on May 31, 1945 in C Distant, by Rev. Fargo. They have resided in Brookville all of their married life and have three daughters, Mrs. Bohdan Chopko, Corning, N. Y., Mrs. John Barret, Pittsburgh, and Miss Pamela Slagle. Mr. and Mrs. Slagle are the grandparents of one grandson.

Mr. Slagle is employed as manager of Dan Smith's. He was a Ranger in World War II.

Mrs. Slagle attended Distant Grade School and New Bethlehem High School. Mr. Slagle attended Brookville Schools.

For the open house festivities, the honored couple's children decorated the home with the help of Sam Reynolds. A four-tiered wedding cake was baked by Mrs. Allen Himes. Mr. and Mrs. Slagle re-

ceived a set of redwood lawn furniture from their children for their twenty-fifth anniversary.

Among the many guests receiv-

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Slagle

1924-03-20

James Slagle by Phyllis Calhoun



I interviewed James Slagle of Brookville. He served in the battle of D-day in W.W.II.

He was drafted into the war at the age of 22. He was a member of the 2nd ranger battalion; he was a highly trained combat infantry.

His job was to attack the German pillboxes. Once they reached Omaha Beach his company was reduced to 12 men in one hour on the first day he was there.

The event he remembers the most is the landing on Omaha Beach because about

6,000 men were killed, also because he was one of the first people there.

James said his worst event was when he was wounded from an artillery gun because he laid in the water for hours before anyone found him and he almost drowned.

He also had to use all of his strength to push another soldier that was shot and killed off of him.

His wounds from this event were his back, shoulder, and hip.

These wounds caused him to return to England and



Jim Slagle

stay in the hospital for 18 months. His company was then reinforced in Czechoslovakia to meet the Russians; this is where the war ended. He was discharged from the service in September of 1945.

Phyllis Calhoun

JD 5/4/2000

William Slagle
William, son of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Slagle, Port Barnett was born in Brookville, March 3, 1898, and died in the Brookville hospital, March 16, 1924. He had been operated on for appendicitis and peritonitis developed with fatal results. He was married to Minerva Reese, daughter of James Reese. To this union were born four children: Dorothy Bell, five years old; James William, four; Berl Marshall two and Leonard Eugene, nine months. In addition to the foregoing he is survived by his father and mother; one sister, Dorothy, at home, and one brother Sam, who has only recently left the hospital following an operation. Mr. Slagle was a member of the local lodge of Odd Fellows and of the M. E. Church. Funeral services were held at the home of William F. Slagle, Port Barnett, Wednesday, March 19, the Rev. W. P. Murray officiating. Interment in the Brookville Cemetery.

James W. Slagle

James W. Slagle, 82, RD2, Box 229, Brookville (Belgiumtown), died Sunday at the Brookville Hospital.

Born Aug. 1, 1920, in Brookville, he was the son of the late William F. Slagle and Minerva Reese. He was married to Helen E. McGregor May 31, 1945, in Distant. She survives.

04-08-03

He served as a U.S. Army Ranger in the 2nd Ranger Battalion during World War II. He was wounded on D-Day when his unit came ashore on Omaha Beach, Normandy.

He worked as the installer for PermaStone of Brookville. He also worked for Dan Smith's Candies in Brookville and was the former owner/operator of Slagle's Ice Cream in Brookville.

He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Brookville. He was also a member of the World War II Ranger Association, Trout Unlimited, Brookville Eagles Post No. 983, and president of Main Street Flag Association. He was the past commander of the Raymond Bud Hetrick Post No. 204 Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He is also survived by three daughters: Carol S. Slagle of Syracuse, N.Y., Hazel M. Barrett and Pamela J. Reynolds, both of Brookville; one sister, Dorothy B. Sherman of Sebring, Fla.; one brother, Berl M. Slagle of Erie; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by one brother, Leonard E. Slagle.

□ □ □

SLAGLE: James W., RD2, Box 229, Brookville (Belgiumtown), died April 6, 2003. Friends will be received from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Tuesday at the McKinney Funeral Home in Brookville. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at the First Baptist Church in Brookville with the Rev. Rohn Peterson officiating. Burial will be in St. John Cemetery, Windy Hill, Rose Township. Memorial donations may be made to the First Baptist Church, 101 Main St., Brookville, PA 15825 or the Main Street Flag Foundation, RD1, Box 521A, Brookville, PA 15825.



IN MEMORY OF

Marie A. Slagle

PASSED AWAY

March 9, 1990

BORN

November 9, 1893

OFFICIATING

The Rev. Bernard L. Shuey

SERVICES FROM

Galbraith - McKinney Funeral Home

Monday, March 12 at 3:00 P.M.

INTERMENT

Brookville Cemetery

Phyllis E. Slagle

Phyllis E. Slagle of Brookville died Monday, September 19, 2005 in her home. She was 77 years of age.

Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Friday in the McKinney Funeral Home in Brookville, where services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday. Officiating will be the Rev. Tim McConville and Major Chaplain Glenn McQuown. Interment will be in the Roseville-Bethel Cemetery in Union Township.

JD 2005.09.22

Mrs. Slagle was born April 12, 1928 in Brookville, the daughter of Harry and Martha Reitz Shick Jr. She was married January 10, 1948 in Brookville to H. Richard Slagle, who survives.

She graduated from Brookville High School in 1946 and was retired from Riverside Market, where she had been head cashier. Mrs. Slagle was a member of the Evangelical United Methodist Church in Brookville all her life. She volunteered much of her time to the church until she became ill. She also served as Clerk of Elections for Rose Township and for 17 years was treasurer of the Brookville Senior Citizens.

Surviving in addition to her husband are two daughters: Patsy Himes and her husband, Larry, of Virginia; Brenda McQuown of Brookville and her husband, Major Chaplain Glenn C. McQuown, presently serving with the 42nd Infantry Division in Iraq; six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; one sister, Caroline Nuzum of California and one brother, David Shick of Brookville.



D-Day Ranger- Local Vet Enjoys France- This Time

Jeff Dem. 6/16/94

SLAGLE

by Randy Bartley

It was the "trip of a lifetime" - the second time around.

The first time Jim Slagle saw France 50 years ago he was a part of the "great crusade" to free Europe from Nazi tyranny. The second time was to commemorate that victory and honor those who had fallen in the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944.

Slagle, a retired Brookville businessman, joined the survivors of the 2nd United States Ranger Battalion atop the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc beneath the stark monument to courage erected in their honor. Joining them were President Clinton and the other heads of the Allied states.

The veterans were seated within about 10 feet of the President while their families, including Slagle's wife, Helen, were a short distance away.

"The President did a really good job with his speech," said Slagle. "He honored everyone. What more can you expect from a speech?"

The President went down the lines of the of Rangers, shaking each man's hand. But the President chose to jog down to the end of the line before starting the next row - a sight that amused Helen Slagle.

A more impressive spectacle were the modern Rangers who scaled the same cliffs Slagle's 2nd Rangers had climbed in 1944.

"These fellows are something else. We thought we were sharp but these boys know what they are doing. I believe they are the best trained men in the world. You'd have to go some to match them," said Slagle.

The Rangers formed an honor guard for the old Rangers at every official function.

The veterans had a little time to walk the cliffs and remember their comrades before the ceremony. The German gun emplacements, three feet thick in places, were still there and still looked menacing.

"I couldn't help wondering how anyone got up these cliffs," said Slagle. But on June 6, 1944, the Rangers did scale those cliffs and knock out the German guns.

Below the cliffs, on the wall of a German pillbox was a plaque that meant more to Slagle than all of

But being a Ranger was "the smartest thing I ever did in the army," said Slagle. "I never regretted it."

The 2nd Ranger Battalion was raised at Camp Forrest, Tenn. in June 1943 and moved to Fort Pierce, Alabama in Sept., 1943.

The Rangers were shipped to Scotland and continued their training - training that ominously included climbing cliffs and attacking pillboxes.

They were billeted with civilians and, by a strange twist, Slagle shared the same French host family with the very same man he shared a British home with 50 years earlier.

Their French hosts, Roger and Susan Chincholle "could not do enough for us." The Rangers and their families stayed with various French families in Grandcamp-Maisy.

"We were lucky. Our hosts could speak some English," said Helen Slagle. The Rangers first night in Normandy set the tone for the rest of the visit. A banquet was held in their honor that went on for four hours.

"The French people were absolutely magnificent," said Slagle. "They really appreciated what our soldiers had done for them."

One morning when the Slagles were waiting for their bus a young French military man rode by on his bicycle, recalled Helen Slagle.

"He stopped and came back and asked if Jim was a Ranger. We told him that he was and he shook Jim's hand and said, 'Thank you for all you have done for us.' It was a really touching moment," said Helen Slagle.

The Rangers have been remembered by the French with a museum and monument at Pointe du Hoc. It is a monument to valor.

On D-Day three Ranger companies were assigned the job of a direct assault up the cliff. Slagle, a

member of A Company and one other company were supposed to scale the heights but, due to a foul-up, were landed on Omaha Beach with one of the first waves.

The advance to the shore was a near-disaster. Many of the assault boats were hit in the water, spilling the heavily laden G.I.s into the surf.

When the ramp on Slagle's landing craft was lowered, the German's had it in their sights. Both of the platoon leaders were shot down. The other men bailed over the sides of the boat.

Slagle never made it to the beach on his own. He was cut down near the shore line by seven bullets.

Temporarily paralyzed but fully conscious, Slagle was left lying in the surf, gently washing in and out with the waves. A sergeant raced out and pulled him to shore - no doubt saving him from drowning. He never saw that man again.

"That was the end of the war for me," said Slagle. "I spent the next 18 months in a hospital."

Standing on the same beach 50 years later, Slagle could barely believe it was the same place. "It's a recreation area now. Fifty years ago there was only one house left here. I remember that house and the bunker just down the beach. It was that bunker that got so many of our boys," said Slagle.

Of the 65 men in Slagle's company, 63 percent became casualties on D-Day. One-fifth were killed outright.

"The countryside in Normandy is so clean. You can't even imagine a war of that magnitude was fought here 50 years ago," said Slagle.

But the French remember the sacrifice of their allies. The Rangers were awarded medals from the French government, commemorative Francs, individualized dagger-shaped letter openers, bottles of wine with the Ranger emblem and tons of good will.

Perhaps the most important souvenir for Slagle was something her picked up on Omaha Beach - a little sand and a few rocks. Momentos of a momentous day for the world, a nation and a few brave men.

"It was the trip of a lifetime. I'm glad I went," aid Slagle. And the French were glad he went - both times.