

**The Free Newsletter of the 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association of WWII**  
By Joseph Piekunka, 314<sup>th</sup> WWII Webmaster & 2019 Reunion Chairman  
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**1. World War One Veterans' Descendants Are Invited**

While our October 10-13, 2019 reunion is a WWII reunion, we are inviting The Descendants and Friends of the 314th Infantry Regiment, A.E.F., of WWI to our reunion. Their president, Nancy Schaff, has tentatively planned to attend our reunion to give a presentation on the history and legacy of the 314th from a WWI perspective. Also, all Americans belonging to a WWI association from any branch or service are invited to attend our reunion.

Why are we inviting WWI descendants? After WWII, WWI fell out of focus and some history on WWI has been lost. Likewise, we have a national WWII memorial in Washington DC but we do not yet have a completed WWI memorial ([www.worldwar1centennial.org/honor/national-wwi-memorial.html](http://www.worldwar1centennial.org/honor/national-wwi-memorial.html)) It is sad that WWI was quickly overshadowed by WWII. We want to honor late WWI veterans and their descendants during our reunion to help bring WWI efforts and sacrifices back into proper focus. Immediately after our memorial service and before a 21-gun salute, active military, veterans and descendants of veterans may stand and remember a late veteran from any era.

The Descendants and Friends of the 314th of WWI recently held their annual memorial service at Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge, PA. They graciously invited our reunion chairman, Joe Piekunka, from the 314th of WWII to attend, which he did. Before the service began, our reunion plans were announced by their president and she announced she would disseminate our reunion details to their broader membership. The 314th Infantry Association of WWII is very grateful to the Descendants of the 314th Infantry of WWI for this cooperation. We hope to have dialogue, break bread together and share stories from the two world wars during our October (10-13) reunion.

There is speculation that the 314th is the only active military unit which is complimented with both an active WWI and WWII association. If this is the case, this uniquely distinguishes the 314th from all other military units. If this speculation is incorrect and there are other active associations of the same unit from both world wars, the 314th would still be distinguished from the great majority of other military units. We invite you and others to help confirm or deny this speculation. We understand other WWI organizations exist on paper, but how many others, if any, have descendants actively meet each year? Regardless, it is amazing that the 314th WWI group still meets annually. We encourage you to visit their website and to sign up for their free newsletter at <http://www.314th.org/index.html>

## **2. About Joint Base McQuire/Dix/Lakehurst and Our Reunion**

This year's reunion will, for the first time, be a combined reunion of the WWII 314th and 315th infantry associations. It will be the 73rd annual reunion for the 314th and the 72nd for the 315th to be held the weekend of October 10-13 (Columbus Day weekend) inside Fort Dix in southern NJ. The WWII 314<sup>th</sup> is hosting this year's reunion, and the 315<sup>th</sup> will host next year's reunion. The WWII 314<sup>th</sup> is very pleased with this new arrangement and look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration with the WWII 315<sup>th</sup>.

Some veterans did their basic training at Fort Dix and remember the base name as "Fort Dix." Fort Dix has a new name as it is now attached to an Air Force base – McGuire, and a Navy base – Lakehurst. The formal name of this unique joint base is Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst or JB MDL. This is the only American "Tri-Service" base in the world - where all three branches of the DoD are housed and share common base resources. The Marine Corps and the Coast Guard are also located here. There is more information on this in our February newsletter at [www.314usa.org/free-newsletter](http://www.314usa.org/free-newsletter)

## **3. Hotel Accommodations**

We will be staying at the Air Force All American Inn at the base. This is a modern hotel with all the modern conveniences of most modern hotels. There is a microwave and refrigerator in each room. Internet and parking are free. There are no taxes as it is inside the base. The room rate is \$70/night. Each room has one queen bed.

Our reunion reservation code will be distributed via this newsletter and the registration forms. The best way to ensure you get a registration packet is to complete a Pre-Registration Survey available at our website at <http://314usa.org/events/register-for-the-meeting>

## **4. Airports and Transportation to JB MDL**

The closest airport to JB MDL is Philadelphia International Airport which is about an hour from the base. Newark (NJ) International Airport is slightly over an hour. Either airport is a good option. The least expensive way to get from either airport is to rent a car, keep it for the weekend, and return it to the original place of rental. You may also try Uber, Lyft or public transportation, but since it is at least an hour from either airport, it may be most affordable to rent a car. It may also be useful to have a car on base if you want to leave and re-enter the base over the weekend.

There is a Hertz<sup>TM</sup> car rental office on the base near the PX. If you rent a car, we recommend that you rent from Hertz – just in case you have any issues with your rental. As such, we have obtained a group (corporate) discount code from Hertz for our event. The discount code is: CDP# **2181767**. You are not required to use this code but it *may* save you a few dollars on your Hertz rental.

For those who arrive at the visitor's center without a car, we will provide car transportation from the visitor center to the hotel on Thursday and Sunday only. This may consist of volunteers and their private vehicles and it may take a while for a volunteer to arrive at the visitor's center. We will have more information for those who need transportation from the gate to the hotel in our next newsletter and in the registration materials.

## **5. Gate Security Entry Requirements**

All reunion guests must register with the 314<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association of WWII or they will not be allowed on base. We will be required by the base to collect your date of birth and driver's license on our registration

form. If you fail to give us the correct information, we cannot facilitate your access to the base nor the reunion. The street address of the welcome center is: JB MDL, 3021 McGuire Blvd, Trenton, NJ 08641

There are other gates to the base but this gate is the closest one to the hotel on base. Each adult will need to show picture ID and have a fingerprint taken. Those with criminal records will not be allowed on base. Anyone with a criminal record who registers for our reunion and pays our reunion fees may not be refunded. The 314<sup>th</sup> of WWII does not have access to the database which gate security uses and we cannot verify whether you are eligible for base entry.

Once on base, we recommend that you do not leave the base, even though you will be free to re-enter with your temporary pass. On rare occasions, military bases go under lockdown for short periods of time, sometimes for a few hours. If you leave the base and a lockdown occurs, you will not be allowed back on base even with your pass until the lockdown is lifted. Also, all visitors must carry their gate security pass with them at all times while on base.

## 6. Cost of Attendance and Pre-Registration Survey

While the final cost of attendance cannot be announced now, we can give you some estimates on the various costs. First, we must inform you that both the schedule of events and the cost estimates of the events are tentative. These estimates are for civilian attendees. Uniformed active military attendees will have lower fees and costs.

Thursday evening reception – appetizers, cost is included in the registration fee

Each hot breakfast, \$14

Each lunch, boxed or buffet, \$11

Friday night banquet, \$45

Saturday dinner, yet to be determined

Bus tour costs are tentatively planned to be included in the registration fee

Registration fee may be \$25 per family or \$15 if you complete our Pre-Registration Survey

Pre-Registration Survey <http://314usa.org/events/register-for-the-meeting>

Again, these estimates and the schedule of the weekend is tentative and will likely change. A final schedule and cost of attendance will be included in the registration packet. To save money on the registration fee and to help us plan this weekend, be sure to complete the Pre-Registration Survey.

## Additional WWII Resources

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| <b>314<sup>th</sup> Facebook</b>      | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/314thInfantryAssociation/">https://www.facebook.com/314thInfantryAssociation/</a>   |
| <b>315<sup>th</sup> Facebook</b>      | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/315thinfantryregimentwwii/">https://www.facebook.com/315thinfantryregimentwwii/</a> |
| <b>Friends of the 79<sup>th</sup></b> | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/301455523233899/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/301455523233899/</a>       |
| <b>79<sup>th</sup> Div. of WWII</b>   | <a href="https://www.facebook.com/79thInfantryDivisionWWII/">https://www.facebook.com/79thInfantryDivisionWWII/</a>   |
| <b>314<sup>th</sup> of WWI</b>        | <a href="http://www.314th.org/index.html">http://www.314th.org/index.html</a>   |

### Email

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Please help spread the word about our expanded and unique reunion by phone, email, postal notes to a friend and especially through social media. Please direct newcomers to <http://314usa.org/free-newsletter>