

HILL TOWNS DISCOVERY 2017



Dear 10th Mountain Family and Friends,

On behalf of 10th Mountain Division Descendants, Inc., I would like to personally invite you to attend the 2017, Hill Towns Discovery trip sponsored and organized by 10th Mountain Division Descendants Inc. together with the National Association of the 10th Mountain Division. This trip will focus entirely on the “Hill Towns” where the 10th Mountain first saw combat, to Tole where the breakout from the mountains was completed, January through April 1945.

Many of you have attended one or more return trips, and we encourage you to do so again on this iteration. For the many who have not, I encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to travel the combat route of the WWII 10th Mountain Division and walk in the footsteps of those soldiers from some 70 years ago. In many locations very little has changed since that time - foxhole indentations are still very visible, homes that sheltered the soldiers remain, and with a good eye you might even be lucky enough to find a WWII era artifact. Take in the view atop Mt. Belvedere looking back towards Riva Ridge and you will instantly understand the significance of February 18-20, the Belvedere Offensive, to the Allied advance. You will visit the hill towns of Lizzano in Belvedere, Vidiciatico, Gaggio Montano, Querciola, Iola Castel d’Aiano, Iola, and others. But there are several more personal reasons why I strongly encourage you to attend the 2017 trip. First, as noted, this is the area where our family member’s saw their first, and most difficult combat, one of the single most important events of their lives. We descendants and Friends can show our respect to our veterans and their legacy by keeping this tradition of honor and friendship strong going forward. Second, the gratitude, warmth, and generosity of the Italian people, especially in the hill towns towards the 10th family – of which each of you is a part – must be experienced to be fully appreciated. Third, you will visit the American Cemetery and Memorial near Florence, and walk on hallowed ground where the saying “Freedom is not free,” is realized, and where 326 10th Mountain Division soldiers remain at peace.

I encourage you to read the enclosed brochure for the details of the full itinerary and options offered. As is always the case, this is a trip you will not want to miss! Please join us in 2017

Sempre Avanti

Steve Coffey

President, 10th Mountain Division Descendants Inc.