

10 September 2023

Dear Mr. DiRe –

I understand that an exemption for demolition/renovation of the Chestertown Armory is being presented to the Historic District Commission on 4 October. Although the preservation of any part of the existing armory is of great importance to me, I live in Virginia and am unable to attend the meeting. Therefore, I wish to extend my thoughts to you in advance of the meeting, hoping they will be taken into consideration when decisions are made.

I am the daughter of 1SGT Edward Ringgold Elburn, who served in the Army and the MDARNG for a total of 42 years. Except for training in England and deployment to Normandy he spent all those years at the Chestertown Armory as the Company Clerk. He landed as a medic on Omaha Beach. He is a hero.

Throughout the presentation to be made at the 4 October meeting, I see the drill hall consistently referred to as the drill hall or the drill floor. That section of the Armory has a name – Elburn Hall. On 5 December 1993 there was a ceremony where Major General James F. Fretterd, Adjutant General, State of Maryland, declared the drill hall “Elburn Hall.” There originally was a plaque on the wall dedicating the drill hall to my father. I had been promised by then Mayor Margo Bailey that if the armory was ever demolished or renovated, that the plaque would come to me. Over the years, it seems the plaque has disappeared.

The presentation seems to indicate that the front portion of the armory and the drill hall will be preserved. I respectfully request that all references to the hall use its proper name – Elburn Hall.

When the time comes to collect photos and artifacts for any sort of memorial display of the armory and the brave men who served there, I would be most interested in helping any way I can. Our heroes must not be forgotten.

Respectfully,

Joan Elburn Farley

8103 Hobson Lane, King George, VA 22485

farleyje@va.metrocast.net

ELBURN HALL DEDICATION
CHESTERTOWN ARMORY
DECEMBER 5, 1993

PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION OF THE MASTER OF CEREMONIES	MAJOR JEROME JANKOWIAK EXECUTIVE OFFICER 2-115TH INFANTRY (L)
OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	LIEUTENANT COLONEL DONALD H. COX JR. COMMANDER 2-115TH INFANTRY (L)
PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS	COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR RONALD CHRISTOPHER 2-115TH INFANTRY (L)
INVOCATION	CHAPLAIN CEVERT LEWIS MARYLAND DEFENSE FORCE
INTRODUCTION OF MAJOR GENERAL JAMES F. FRETTERD THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, STATE OF MARYLAND	LIEUTENANT COLONEL COX
REMARKS	GENERAL FRETTERD
THE UNVEILING OF THE PLAQUE	GENERAL FRETTERD LIEUTENANT COLONEL COX
INTRODUCTION OF FIRST SERGEANT EDWARD RINGGOLD ELBURN	LIEUTENANT COLONEL COX
REMARKS	FIRST SERGEANT ELBURN
INTRODUCTION OF COLONEL (RETIRED) JAMES W. MEIKLE	LIEUTENANT COLONEL COX
REMARKS	COLONEL (RETIRED) MEIKLE
SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS	GENERAL FRETTERD LIEUTENANT COLONEL COX
CLOSING REMARKS	LIEUTENANT COLONEL COX

HOLIDAY MEAL

FIRST SERGEANT EDWARD RINGGOLD ELBURN

First Sergeant Edward R. Elburn enlisted in the Maryland National Guard as a 17 year-old Private on December 1, 1935 as a combat medic. After initial training, he was promoted to Private First Class on June 1, 1937. On January 1, 1941, his unit was re-designated Medical Detachment, 115th Infantry. Shortly after promotion to Sergeant on January 21, 1941, the 115th Infantry was called to active duty for World War II, and Sergeant Elburn was entered into active service on February 3, 1941. As a medic attached to the 115th Infantry, Sergeant Elburn went ashore on Normandy Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944. He fought with the unit across Europe until the end of the war. Despite being wounded at St. Lo, Sergeant Elburn remained with his unit until it linked up with the Russians at the Elbe River. Shortly thereafter, the Germans surrendered and Sergeant Elburn returned home after discharge from active service on June 27, 1945.

On February 5, 1947, he rejoined the Maryland National Guard and was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. He immediately saw the need to strengthen his unit and recruited enough men to form Company G, 115th Infantry. He became the First Sergeant of the company on May 6, 1947 and served in that capacity through several re-organizations until his retirement in 1978 after 40 years of distinguished military service.

Even after his retirement, First Sergeant Elburn has remained a strong supporter of the Second Battalion, 115th Infantry (L) and the Maryland Army National Guard. He has resided near Chestertown all of his life and is a vital link between the community and the Maryland Army National Guard. His service to community, state, and nation has spanned a half of a century. His career, accomplishments and service record show him to be a citizen soldier of the highest caliber.



1st/Sgt. Edward R. Elburn

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

COMBAT MEDIC BADGE
BRONZE STAR MEDAL
PURPLE HEART MEDAL
GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL
DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATION MEDAL
AMERICAN DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
AFRICAN/EUROPEAN/MIDDLE EASTERN
CAMPAIGN MEDAL, WITH ARROWHEAD
WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL
ARMY OF OCCUPATION MEDAL, GERMANY
NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
ARMY RESERVE COMPONENTS ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL
MARYLAND COMMENDATION MEDAL DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE MEDAL, 40 YEARS SERVICE

