

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. John Orthodox Church honors destitute 10th Mountain Division Veteran with memorial service and fundraiser

For the Tenth Mountain Division, their combat initiation came late in the War, in January of 1945. But the storied Division's lightning assault on the snowy mountains of Italy was one of the fastest examples of allied progress in the entire war.

"Jim Ayers told me the conditions were brutal. Brotherhood and camaraderie were necessary just for sheer survival," said Jennifer Dancy, spokesperson for Post Falls St. John Antioch Orthodox Church. "Italy was a war-torn country and terrain made troop and supplies movement very difficult."



St. John Antiochian Orthodox Church in Post Falls is sponsoring a memorial service and a "Beer and Brats" fundraiser in honor of Ayers on November 2 from 1



pm till 3 pm. Ayers, who was permanently disabled with a loss of hearing, died destitute recently. An anonymous member of St. John Orthodox Church fronted the costs of his funeral, and Ayers is now buried in the Parish Cemetery. Although Ayers was qualified to be buried in any national veteran's cemetery, he chose to be buried among his Orthodox church "family" instead, according to Dancy. The church is

sponsoring the event to reimburse the donor and to provide perpetual care for the gravesite of this unique veteran.

"Jim told me a lot about his service. The terrain was impassible for motor vehicles, so mules were an integral part of combat. Ayers served in the artillery, and often relied on mules to move the howitzer gun emplacement that he fired, " according to Dancy. "Jim Ayers told me that the 10th Mountain troops were as stubborn as the mules that transported their artillery."



The fundraiser will commence with a Memorial Trisagion in Jim's memory, to be conducted by Fr. Gregory Roth, and Deacon Mark Townsend, according to Dancy.



"The media is invited to film and view this beautiful, awe-inspiring and ancient ceremony," said Dancy. "The Orthodox church has kept the ancient Trisagion tradition alive for 2,000 years. "

"The Memorial Trisagion expresses Orthodoxy's profound respect for the dead," said Dancy. "Moreover, this is a soldier who made St. John's his final family."

[Great Entrance video](#)

For further information, contact Jennifer Dancy at [208-640-8596](tel:208-640-8596). The media is invited to use any of the photos and video in this press release.

