



Mr Lionel Fournier
Mayor of Rombas
Member of the
Regional Council of Lorraine

To Our Honored Friend
Veteran of the 243rd Field Artillery
Battalion of the third US Army

Rombas, October 5, 2006

Dear Sir,

Sixty two years have passed since you and your brothers in arms of the 243rd Field Artillery Battalion came to France to liberate our country. Here in Rombas, the memories of our liberation and the memories of your stay in rue de Metz are still vivid and I would even say, more vivid than you can imagine.

Your presence among us was one of the greatest events in the history of our town. Indeed, you gave us back the most precious thing we had lost: our liberty. Furthermore, you restored hope among a population who was suffering under the German occupation, sometimes physically but mostly because it could not accept to live under the Nazi rules and yet had no power to fight against them.

Some of your companions of the 243rd FAB gave their lives in this exhausting war. We do not forget them and we pay tribute to their sacrifice. We do not forget either all the courage, the strength, the spirit, the efforts that each of you, day after day, week after week, month after month, put in that restless fight against a determined opponent but also against an evil and oppressing political system which urgently needed to be neutralized.

You were part of this liberation force that made us free again and able to live with our own democratic rules and we cannot thank you enough for that.

The memorial that was erected in 2000 in Rombas is an evidence of the gratitude of the people of Rombas in tribute to the men of the 243rd FAB and the next generations will still know who they owe their freedom to.

As the mayor of Rombas, I want to personally thank you once again for all the sacrifices you did for our country and for our town and if you come to Rombas again I would be glad to personally welcome you as a guest of honour.

Sincerely

Lionel Fournier
Mayor of Rombas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Fournier", with a horizontal line drawn through it.