Celebrating the Legacy of the 10th Mountain Division With A Premier Winter Event

Vail Legacy Days was established in 2019 to celebrate Vail’s unique history and pioneering spirit and recognize today’s service members and veterans. A partnership between Vail Resorts, Town of Vail and Colorado Snowsports Museum, this year’s event incorporated a presentation by 10th Mountain Division Foundation historian Dave Little on the history of the WWII 10th Mountain Division; an outdoor film featuring 10th Mountain Division veterans Pete Siebert, Sarge Brown and Bob Parker, Vail and American Ski Industry pioneers; skiers bedecked in WWII replica winter uniforms skiing serpentine style to Gondola 1 where they joined nearly 100 active Army soldiers to parade through Vail Village with a thousand family, friends and visitors cheering them! Saturday showcased six active military teams competing in the Trooper Traverse Race - pull-ups, climbing, skinning up and skiing down, repelling and grenade tossing were essential skills. Sunday featured a military style staff ride and history tour along with winter training at Camp Hale, the historic WWII training ground of the Division. On Monday, Feb. 21, the 77th Anniversary of the 10th Mountain Division’s triumphant assault on Riva Ridge Italy to break the German Gothic line was celebrated with soldiers, descendants, veterans, friends and guests schussing down Vail’s now famous Riva Ridge Run. Truth in the old adage “It takes a village” is embedded in this event. A principal participant this year, the 10th Mountain Division Foundation is profoundly grateful to all the Villagers: Jeff Wiles, event visionary and Manager of Guest Service and Beth Howard, COO of Vail Resorts, the Town of Vail, Jen Mason at Colorado Snowsports Museum, Ryan Thompson and his team at 10th Mountain Whiskey for their contributions to our VIP bundles. And all of the local and visiting villagers that made this an exceptional 10th Mountain Experience!

Ski Trooper Traverse Race Results
Jeff Wiles of Vail Resorts (left) admires the winning team Mountain Muchachos, 10 group special forces mountain warfare training center based in Ft. Carson, CO. Other winners:
2nd place - Slovenian team
3rd place - 19th Group Special Forces
4th place - 1-57th National Guard team
5th place - 10th Mountain Division, Ft. Drum, NY

Foundation President Nancy Kramer, whose father was a medic in the original 87th G, was honored to meet 10th Mountain Division L 87th Regiment soldiers: Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Glonek, Commander 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, Captain Max Smith, Commander of C Company, Captain Patrick Beauregard, Commander of B Company, Staff Sergeant Kyle Fleetwood, B Company, and Sergeant Trey Michael, B Company. See more event photos on the Foundation website.

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Sempre Avanti,
Nancy Kramer, President

Soldiers from Fort Drum participated in the Winter FTX at Camp Hale, CO. 10th Mountain Division Foundation board member and U.S. Army Maj. Richard Piltingsrud discusses the training event and talked with local re-enactors of the 10th Mountain Division Living History Display Group about what Camp Hale was like when it was an active installation. See the video of the event.