

Rochester, MA: On Saturday, June 22, 2009, Published Author, Alberta Sequeira of Rochester was one of the vendors at the Rochester Country Fair this past weekend. She shared her booth with authors Joyce Walsh of Lakeville, Tom Cirignano of Lakeville and Pat Perry of Fairhaven.

While autographing their books, Ms. Sequeira was told that the 26<sup>th</sup> Infantry “Yankee” Division was on the field re-enacting the WWII Living History. The Baker Company 104<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment travels throughout the New England States reaching Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

At the time, Ms. Sequeira was selling her memoir *A Healing Heart; A Spiritual Renewal* (2006 by PublishAmerica). It’s a powerful and emotional story about her life with her father, Albert L. Gramm, who was a retired One-Star Brigadier General. It wasn’t until his death that she learned he had more to be explored with his military status than she had realized.

Mr. Gramm was one of the commanding officers of the 26<sup>th</sup> Yankee Division during WWII, and he fought throughout Europe in some famous battles in Metz, Lorraine and the Battle of the Bulge. Her father is mentioned five times in the Novel *The Command is Forward; The 101<sup>st</sup> Infantry in Lorriane* by James C. Haahr. Her father received the Bronze Star for his fighting in the Battle of the Bulge.

The author went on to the field to introduce herself and her book to the officers of the 26<sup>th</sup> Yankee Division. She carried the framed photograph of her father in his uniform to learn more about his rank when it was taken. The picture is always placed on her table when she autographs her book.

They told her the picture was taken just before he went into the war, and he was a Lieutenant. On his right shoulder he had a strap that only commanding officers wore. His medal was that of the 101<sup>st</sup> Infantry of the 26<sup>th</sup> Yankee Division. He also had a medal that

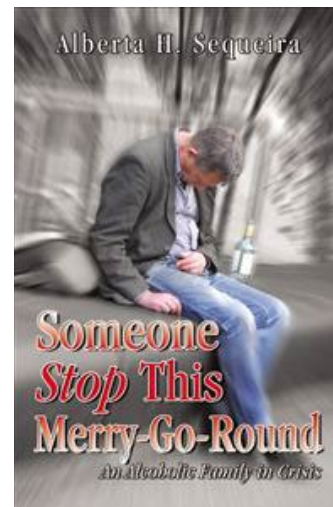
was won for a raffle award at one time. The officers were fascinated by his 26<sup>th</sup> Yankee Division patch on his left sleeve. The shape of the patch has since changed since WWII.

Alberta presented Captain George Devlin, the Company Commander, her memoir in memory of her father and to the dedication of the men of the 26<sup>th</sup> Yankee Division. The Captain was going to investigate Mr. Gramm's background further when he had returned to his location.

On June 19, 2009, Ms. Sequeira's second memoir *Someone Stop This Merry-Go-Round; An Alcoholic Family in Crisis* was released by Infinity Publishing. It's available at Baker Books in Dartmouth and online stores. The memoir is about her seventeen years of marriage to Richard Lopes of North Dighton. Slowly their life, along with their two daughters, Debbie and Lori, turned to confusion, broken promises, fear and abuse when Richie's drinking turned to blackouts. On February 10, 1985, Mr. Lopes died at forty-five years of age at the VA Medical Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island.

Ms. Sequeira is completing the sequel *Please, God, Not Two; This Killer Called Alcoholism*. It's the continuation of their lives after Richie died. Alberta watched as her daughter, Lori Cahill of North Dighton, followed the same path as her father. On November 22, 2006, after a rehabilitation stay at the Butler Hospital in Rhode Island and twice at the Gosnold Rehabilitation Center in Falmouth, Massachusetts, Lori died at thirty-nine years old from the same demon.

Since losing two loved ones from this illness, Alberta has been speaking at rehabilitation centers, halfway homes, and other locations wanting to hear about the affects of alcoholism on the whole family. The abuser and family members become "Silent Sufferers" from this incurable, worldwide disease.



Visit Alberta's website at [www.albertasequeira.com](http://www.albertasequeira.com) or contact her at [memoirs@albertasequeira.com](mailto:memoirs@albertasequeira.com).

