



John A Barnes III (MOH) New England Chapter 9 173rd Airborne Brigade Association



[Mission Statement](#)

April 2011

The history of the 1st US Flag [1st Flag](#), [I am The Flag](#) .[Star Spangle Banner](#)

Sadly we report the loss of another one of us. Leonard Mackler C 3/503 died in a plane accident while flying his private plane in Alaska. The Association had no knowledge of his passing. Rest in Peace Sky Soldier!

March 30th is designated as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Days [Welcome Home](#). The resolution now moves on to the House of Representatives.

The next General Membership Meeting is: 14 May, VFW Post 5988, 180 Shore Drive, Buzzards Bay, MA, 12:00 - 14:00 hrs. Everyone is invited.

John Barnes annual Vigil 29 May 0700 – 1900 Hrs. A family event, with free food and drink for everyone. Come mingle, have some laughs, it's a good time. [Map](#) [Past Vigils](#)

Annual reunion in San Antonio Texas 22 – 26 June [Texas Reunion](#).

Cape Cod for the Troops, a close friend to our Chapter, has a busy year [Schedule](#) .

Airborne Beer [WWII Airborne Beer](#)

Vietnam 50 years [Vietnam](#)

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President:

I am fortunate to be able to add my 2 cents to these newsletters. Know that the Chapter is well and that the Officers we have in place are doing their part and that the Chapter continues to move forward. We are a live Chapter that is involved with The Brigade, community activities, the VA's, and various Veterans' organizations. All this takes both physical involvement as well as financial involvement.

The Chapter is trying something new in attempts to raise revenue. In the past we have sold products at the Annual Reunion successfully. This year because of the distance (Texas) the cost of shipping our goods negates any profits from sales. We are having a "Summer Raffle". A separate envelope is being mailed to each member with 2 tickets enclosed. These tickets are for sale or for purchase by you. If each member responds we will have a successful Raffle, You need not be a member to purchase or to win. The mailing will detail the program, and how to win, we are counting on member participation to make this a success.

Thanks for serving our great Country.

Peter Klausner

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Secretary:

Hello Everyone,

Here we are into the middle of April and our next chapter meeting will be in May. Then on May the 29th. the chapter will conduct our eighteenth year John A. Barnes, III vigil in Dedham, Ma. Then June comes and the Annual Reunion will be in Texas. This is the start of the busy time for the chapter, and many members will be needed for one thing or another to accomplish our projects.

On June 2nd. I will be having my right knee replaced, so I will be out of operation for at least a month. Please do all that you can to assist the chapter Officers during my absence.

Dues and donations go hand in hand as always. There are still many members who have not paid their dues for 2011. I request from those who still owe to send in your dues to me as soon as possible. Remember dues are \$24.00 a year or \$173.00 for life, the choice is yours. There also is much information missing from member's records with National and the chapter. As you all should be aware, if not that Chapter 9 is now handling the membership for National. This was started on January 31st of this year. Peter and I have been very busy attempting to ensure that all chapter 9 members' records are correct both nationally and through the chapter. It is easy to do nothing, it is more important to do the right thing and remain current. If your membership card is not a lifetime or a 2011, then your dues have lapsed and you need to renew as soon as possible. If you are having financial problems, please let a chapter Officer know and arrangements can be made to get your dues current. This will be a case by case situation. Wishing you all a great spring and summer

Dennis Hill, (Chapter Secretary)

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Service Officer:

By Elaine Sanchez
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 30, 2011 – [TRICARE](#) officials are extending a state-of-the-art program that's intended to ease the path to mental-health services.

The [TRICARE Assistance Program](#) will now run through March 20, 2012, to give officials more time to measure the program's effectiveness, a [TRICARE release](#) said. Through the program, TRICARE health care beneficiaries use the Internet and a Web cam to speak "face-to-face" with mental-health counselors around the clock and from anywhere in the United States.

People can log on from home to receive short-term, nonmedical counseling for situations that may arise from life circumstances such as deployment stress, relationships, personal loss and parent-child communications.

These services are available in the United States to active-duty service members, active-duty family members who are at least 18 years old, beneficiaries using TRICARE Reserve Select and beneficiaries covered under the Transitional Assistance Management Program, the release said.

For some people, the online services aren't an appropriate level of care or video services aren't accessible. In that case, a licensed professional will refer the beneficiary to the right organization.

To find out more about this program, beneficiaries can go to [TRICARE's website](#)

Joe Armstrong

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Medal-of-Honor awardee says farewell to Army, Italy, 173rd ABCT

Story and photo by Spc. Michael Sword *173rd ABCT Public Affairs Office*



“More than five months after the announcement that he would be the nation’s first living Congressional Medal of Honor recipient from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and more than three years after his heroic actions in Afghanistan’s Korengal Valley earned him the military’s highest decoration for valor, Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta said farewell in a ceremony Monday.

“Lately I’ve been able to stand up front of a lot of people and say a whole lot of things,” Giunta said, “but to stand up in this room today and to know the 173rd has been my family for the last seven years and Battle Company has been my home, it really means the world to me to be able to stand here among the people whom I’m so privileged to serve with.”

During the ceremony, Giunta was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal for his service in the Army by Maj. Gen. David R. Hogg, commander, U.S. Army Africa. Also, three plaques detailing Giunta’s actions on Oct. 25, 2007, were unveiled and will hang in the battalion and brigade headquarters buildings, as well as the post’s Hall of Heroes.

Hogg said, “Staff Sgt. Giunta is going to be part of this unique group of warriors and heroes who will be part of our Army legacy to our future generation of Soldiers who will use you as an example of what it means to have pride, standards, determination, courage under fires and most importantly, a representative of what the professionalism of being an American Soldier is all about.”

In front of a crowd that included his fellow paratroopers and post leaders, Giunta thanked those who helped make the post in Italy feel like home.

“I want all of you to know it’s my honor to be with you, and to be part of this great unit and to be part of this opportunity to serve with each other for the greater good of all,” he added. “I’ll be forever proud of that”..

Chaplain's Corner:

Did you ever notice when you buy a new car you get an owner's manual written by the manufacturer and tells you how to operate it. Have you ever read the owners manual for your new car?

The Bible is authored by God and written by many men God created life, so the Bible is the owner’s manual on how to operate your life correctly.

Have you ever read that owners manual? You should try it sometime is very enlightening. Remember if any of you need to talk at any time, call me. My number is 413-339-8391 I will do what ever I can help you.

God bless
Rev. Guy Hodgkins

We wish you a good door position and safe landing.

