



**New England Chapter 9  
John A. Barnes III (MOH)  
173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Association**

[Mission Statement](#)



Dec 2011

As always we welcome you to our newsletter. The Holidays are here as is the cold weather. We wish you and yours the very best of your Holiday Season, may the New Year bring you good health, peace and happiness.

Elections were conducted on 3 Dec, the Officers for 2012 - 2013 are:

Bill Maloney, Treasurer  
Dennis Hill, Secretary  
Al Champeau, Vice President  
Peter Klausner, President

[Respect at The Tomb](#)

[50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary](#)

[National Reunion 2012](#)

**President:**

I am again humbled being elected as your President. During the last 2 years we as a Chapter have evolved into a larger and stronger chapter than ever before. We traveled to the corners of our AO, met members that have never had the opportunity to attend a meeting before. We listened to what you had to say, and adopted many of your ideas. We completed many of the goals we had set 2 years ago, with some still pending. The largest unfinished business is the naming of a highway or structure after the 173<sup>rd</sup>.

We are revamping our meeting schedule for 2012 to see if we can achieve even larger numbers of our membership. For those of you that are reluctant in attending let me assure you that they are informal, entertaining, and informative. Most importantly it is a time to be with fellow Sky Soldiers. It's a time to reflect back and enjoy each other's company.

I am in hopes that in these next 2 years we will continue to evolve. Even with the officers we have in place we alone cannot do it all. We need more member participation. We are well worth the effort. We are a part of Americana, much like the Minute Men of old. We have carved our names into the history books with our blood sweat and tears. Sky Soldiers will be talked about for generations, our legacy continues with the warriors of today. Help us in preserving this legacy.

Peter Klausner  
Chapter 9 President



## Secretary:

A Happy New Year to all of you members of Chapter 9. What a great last two years your chapter has experienced. During these years many new members were recruited within the chapter. Our membership roster is almost at the 500 mark. This is quite an accomplishment. Of course many have not paid their dues for the upcoming year which brings me to this subject. **DUES**. Yes dues are now due for the year 2012. Now is the time to sit down and write that check to the chapter secretary for \$24.00 for 2012 or \$173.00 for life. I have been writing about this for many months and the response has been slow. A chapter this big, dues should be flowing in now at a good rate. So while sitting down doing your yearly subscriptions don't forget to send a check to the New England Chapter for your dues. You must be current to attend a National reunion, and besides, why wait and keep listening to me harping on the subject.

Send your check to Dennis Hill, 97 Earle Street, Norwood, Ma. 02062-1504. As soon as I receive your check, it will be processed and your membership card will go out in the next day's mail. Remember; send your check to the chapter and not to National. The chapter receives \$8.00 from every yearly dues and \$52.00 from a Lifetime dues, the rest is sent to National. Let's do it again this year and be the largest chapter in the United States and the chapter to bring in more dues than any other chapter. It is a win, win situation for the chapter. We have come a long way in the last four years. Some of the accomplishments of the chapter as I write are: Breakdown of membership as follows for new members. 2008=65, 2009=43, 2010=40, 2011=100, that is a total of 248 NEW members joined the chapter. We were the top chapter to bring in more dues than any other chapter for 2011. We were the largest chapter in the United States for 2011.

We became financially solvent in 2011.

We now rent our own conex where we store all of the chapter equipment and it is dry and secure. We now have a printing source to help us with mass printing of cards and etc. We sent out Christmas cards to every member. In January we will start sending birthday cards by mail and email to every member. We will run the July raffle once again where members will have the opportunity to win good size money prizes. Many of us will be attending the National Reunion in Kentucky in 2012. We hope that many members attend the 18<sup>th</sup>. Year John A. Barnes, III vigil. And it would be nice to see more volunteers at the Rhode Island National Guard Leapfest in August.

Last but not least it would be great to see more new faces at the chapter meetings. The chapter did all that it could to make it easier for members to attend meetings. Some took advantage of this and attended a meeting for the first time.

REMEMBER, it is my job to stimulate the members to pay their dues and remain current. If you are not aware of your status, look at your membership card. If it is Life , you are fine, if it is for the year 2011, than your dues are due for 2012. Check your cards, any problems you can call me at 781-769-6062. I am home most of the time and I man HERD CENTRAL for 13 hours a day, seven days a week.



Happy New Year to you and yours, I wish you all continued good health, and better health to those in need.

Dennis P. Hill  
Secretary

### **Service Officer:**

This year has been an exceptionally long one for myself and my family, but we made it through. Our wish for you and yours is for a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a safe and happy NEW YEAR.

"Congress should stop treating veterans like they're asking for a hand out when it comes to the benefits they were promised, and they should realize that, were it not for these veterans, there would be nothing to hand out. "

*Nick Lampson*

### **Aggravation**

If you entered active duty service with a pre-existing condition and your military service caused that condition to become worse over time, you may be eligible for a [service connected](#) disability benefit.

[Title 38](#): PART 3, Subpart A

§ 3.306 Aggravation of pre-service disability.

(a) General. A preexisting injury or disease will be considered to have been aggravated by active military, naval, or air service, where there is an increase in disability during such service, unless there is a specific finding that the increase in disability is due to the natural progress of the disease. (Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1153)

(b) Wartime service; peacetime service after December 31, 1946. Clear and unmistakable evidence (obvious or manifest) is required to rebut the presumption of aggravation where the pre-service disability underwent an increase in severity during service. This includes medical facts and principles which may be considered to determine whether the increase is due to the natural progress of the condition. Aggravation may not be conceded where the disability underwent no increase in severity during service on the basis of all the evidence of record pertaining to the manifestations of the disability prior to, during and subsequent to service.

(1) The usual effects of medical and surgical treatment in service, having the effect of ameliorating disease or other conditions incurred before enlistment, including postoperative scars, absent or poorly functioning parts or organs, will not be considered service connected unless the disease or injury is



otherwise aggravated by service.

(2) Due regard will be given the places, types, and circumstances of service and particular consideration will be accorded combat duty and other hardships of service. The development of symptomatic manifestations of a preexisting disease or injury during or proximately following action with the enemy or following a status as a prisoner of war will establish aggravation of a disability.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 1154)

(c) Peacetime service prior to December 7, 1941. The specific finding requirement that an increase in disability is due to the natural progress of the condition will be met when the available evidence of a nature generally acceptable as competent shows that the increase in severity of a disease or injury or acceleration in progress was that normally to be expected by reason of the inherent character of the condition, aside from any extraneous or contributing cause or influence peculiar to military service. Consideration will be given to the circumstances, conditions, and hardships of service.

Joseph Armstrong  
Veteran Service Officer

### **Chaplain's Corner:**

God bless you all I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and a happier New Year. By the time you read this site will be in Oklahoma visiting family there. If you need to get a hold of me contact Dennis and he will give me the information.

Just remember that you are loved by God and his son Jesus Christ who is with you at all times.

Guy Hodgkins

**We wish you a good door position and safe landing! Happy Holidays**

