



**New England Chapter 9
John A. Barnes III (MOH)
173^d Airborne Association**

Mission Statement



Jan 2012

Welcome to our newsletter. The Holidays are over and the days are getting longer. The Patriots are headed for the Super Bowl, and the Bruins to the Stanley Cup, life is good in New England (we hope).

The Officers for 2012 – 2013: [Chapter Officers](#)

President: Peter Klausner	Vice President: Al Champeau
Secretary: Dennis Hill	Treasurer: Bill Maloney
Quartermaster: Fred Lewis	Sgt at Arms: Mike Gilbert
Service Officer: Joe Armstrong	Chaplain: Guy Hodgkins
Public Relations: Anthony Albarello	

Our goals for the coming years remain unchanged:

- Our Membership
- Our Fallen
- Our Gold Star's
- Support to our current warriors

Books written by, or about Sky Soldiers: [Books](#)

Annual Reunion: 6 – 10 June, Lexington Ky. [Reunion](#), time to make your reservations, the Chapter will be there with a table selling our goods. Hope to see you there.

FEMA readiness [FEMA Home Page](#)

President:

We begin another year. So far this year we have enjoyed a good winter, (unless you are a skier). We have the chapter officers in place, and at our first Officers meeting we will work out the details of meetings, budget, Leap Fest and the Barnes Vigil. This will all be published in our future newsletters and our website. There is always a lot to do as we begin another year.

During the previous 2 years we enjoyed growth in numbers, funds, sponsorship, and support. Our sincere thanks go out to our membership for their support. This year our Warriors are again looking at deployment. We will keep everyone informed as to units being supported by us, and what we can do to help in this effort.

We have some unfinished business that I am in hopes of completing during my tenure that is the naming of a highway or substantial structure after The Brigade. We have learned with working with state government is not always an easy task...



Finally, I want to thank the Chapter for their support, understanding and advice during my previous 2 years as President. It was not always a fun position, but it was always rewarding.

Peter Klausner
President, Chapter 9

Secretary:

Here we are into 2012 and I hope all had a pleasant and safe New Years. I for one only hope that my health stays well and I get through another year without any serious medical problems. Seems we're all getting to that age where our bodies are telling us to slow down. All of us Vietnam vets are now in our 60s and our bodies are telling us to take it easy. This is especially so during the winter months. Please take your time and pace yourself during outside activities.

Now that were starting a new year, it is time for me to put some numbers and statistics out there for you all to read. Since the beginning of 2008 until now the chapter has recruited 255 new members to its list. Our chapter has brought more dues into National than any other chapter in the United States for the last three years. Chapter 9 is the biggest chapter in the United States with more than 485 names on our roster. When we have recruited seven new members from various states, this chapter will be able to boast that we have a member from every state in the United States to include Canada, Alaska, Hawaii, and several other countries. Now these are some numbers to be proud of.

It is also time for members who pay their dues annually to step up and send in your dues. The chapter has 33 members left from 2011 that need to send in their dues. Presently 32 members have paid their dues for 2012. If you received a letter from me within the last month than you need to send in your dues. Remember dues are \$24.00 a year or \$173.00 for life, the decision is up to you. Please take a few minutes to send in your check and remain current. Due to the fact that Chapter 9 is also holding the position of National Membership Secretary, your membership card will be mailed to you within eight hours of receiving your check. If you are in doubt if your dues are current or not, contact me, (Dennis Hill) at (781)-769-6062 and I will let you know.

Stay healthy and I wish you all a great 2012.

Dennis Hill
Secretary, Chapter 9

Treasurer:

First of all, I want to wish everyone a Happy New year and I hope that we have a good year to look forward too.

I want to thank everyone for making 2011 a year in which the Chapter broke some new ground in its finances mainly due to our members outstanding support of our Summer Raffle. When Al Champeau came to us last winter with his idea on the Raffle. We were very cautious in getting it started, but we were overwhelmed by our members participation.

I'd also like to give a shoutout to our Secretary Dennis Hill who over the last two years has outstanding success with his year end reminders on dues. In early January 2012, this has already yielded 26 annual renewals, and four of our members becoming Life members.

The end of the year is an appropriate time to thank people who made contributions to the Chapter during 2011 which ranged from \$1 to \$1,000; William Chase, Peter Klausner, Robert Antoniuc, Margaret Fera, Klaus Foster, John Donoghue, Donald Desrochers, Edward Dolan, William Heath, Charles Hicks, Robert Doyle, Michael Lagerstedt, John O'Dea, Paul Littig, Dan Roden, Richard Dolan, Rita O'Connor, David Curtin, Perry Acres, Jon Jenmark, Reana Staigers, Anna Likely, Patricia Young, Peter Vergados, Bill Patenaude, Dennis Hill, Dedham Firefighter Association (For the Vigil), Stanley Baranski, Bill Maloney, Richard Dolan(Again), John O'Dea(Again), Peter Klausner(Again), Margaret Fera(Again), Don Richards, Rena Staigers(Again), Johnny Gaetani, Edward Holley, and Tom Whittaker.



Thanks to everyone mentioned above, and please let me know if I have missed anyone. Stay Tuned. Next month, I will publish a list of the organizations to which we made \$3,300 in contributions over the year

Bill Maloney
Treasurer, Chapter 9

Sgt at Arms:

First and foremost, thank you all for your service. We hear it from civilians and occasionally from fellow service members, but I hope I speak for all current and recently active members of the Herd when I convey the utmost respect and gratitude to all the Vets who served before us. It was great to meet some of you at the last meeting in Bellingham, MA and for those not present, please allow me to briefly introduce myself.

Born and raised in Norfolk, MA, I was fortunate to attend Brown University where I played football for Mark Whipple, current quarterbacks coach for the Cleveland Browns, and graduated with a Business Economics degree in 1998. After school I lived in Boston, moved to Huntington Beach, CA and then found myself buying a house and getting married in Sioux Falls, SD. Several years in corporate America working in pharmaceutical sales, equipment leasing, and subprime home finance and watching the OIF and OEF missions on CNN left me feeling like I could do more for my country.

On 06Feb06 I shipped out to Ft Sill for Basic and AIT before stopping over at Ft Benning for what we know as "ground week, tower week, jump week" and ending up in Bamberg Germany to join the newly formed 4/319th AFAR just after labor day 2006. We in 3rd PLT A-BTRY deployed May 2007 for OEF VIII with our platoon spending the majority of our time at COP Lybert in the Gowardesh region of Northern Kunar Province Afghanistan. May our 42 173rd brothers who never made it home rest in peace.

I returned to Massachusetts in March 2009 and rejoined the American workforce at Biogen Idec in Cambridge, MA a changed man. My guess is you all understand.

As your newly appointed Sgt at Arms, I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to support and be of service and I look forward to playing a more active role in helping our Chapter achieve its goals. Tien Bien,

Mike Gilbert
Sgt at Arms, Chapter 9

Service Officer:

Special Extra Earnings for Military Service

Since 1957, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings credits are **not** granted for inactive duty training.



If your active military service occurred

- **From 1957 through 1967**, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.
- **From 1968 through 2001**, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.
- **After 2001**, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

How You Get Credit for Special Extra Earnings

The information that follows applies **only** to active duty military service earnings from [1957 through 2001](#). Here's how the special **extra** earnings are credited on your record:

Service in 1957 Through 1977

You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

Service in 1978 through 2001

For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details.

Joe Armstrong
Service Officer, Chapter 9

As always, we wish you a good door position, and safe landing!

