



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



January 2011

173rd uncases colors, honors Soldiers, families



After a year-long deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom X, the Sky Soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team uncased their colors in a ceremony on Hoekstra Field, Dec. 9.

In attendance were Soldiers of the 173rd, families of the brigade's wounded and fallen heroes, Mayor Achille Variati, the mayor of Vicenza, members of the Vicenza military community, as well as the 173rd's Medal of Honor recipient, Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta.

"It's important that we take this time to recognize our unit's sacrifices and accomplishments as it highlights the honorable service of this great brigade and reminds us of why we serve," said Col. James Johnson, 173rd ABCT commander.

During the ceremony, the 173rd ABCT Association unveiled a monument dedicated to all of the brigade's fallen heroes.

"This monument represents the fact that we will never forget our fallen heroes who gave their lives so that others could live," said Johnson.

"Every Soldier that gets wounded deserves to be recognized," said Ewa Payton, a spouse of a 2nd Battalion Soldier. "As a wife of a wounded Soldier, I definitely felt a deep connection to the other families and what they were going through." "Overall, I thought it was done well, but it was also very sad," she added.

Johnson also thanked all members of the 173rd as well as family members, with a special emphasis on the family members of the fallen.

"Your presence today reinforced our efforts to never forget the sacrifices that your sons, brothers and husbands made so that we may succeed and live," he said.

We welcome you to the 1st newsletter of this New Year. May this new year bring happiness and good health to you and yours.

The Chapter will resume membership meeting in March, dates times and locations will be posted to our website as well as promoted in our newsletters.

www.thegolfchannel.com/human-energy/?select2=14760 (We do not advocate any organization; it is simply information to our members).

Captain Dick Winters (Band of Brother's, Easy company Commander) dies at 92.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110110/ap_on_en_tv/us_obit_winters

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President: Happy New Year. As I reflect at my 1st year as President I have seen and met many new faces. It is always a happy time when Sky Soldiers gather regardless of their purpose. This year we continue to move our meetings throughout our AO. The exact dates and locations are still in limbo, but we will visit places never visited before. Our Chapter continues to grow in numbers, we have approx 500 members identified, and many of us still require contact. The word is getting out that we in New England have a Chapter. We cover a full spectrum of ranks from 4 stars to PVT. We are now all one, Sky Soldiers. Visit our website and sign into our guestbook with your thoughts and ideas of further enhancing our Chapter. It would be appreciated.

We have been asked to accept the responsibility of membership for the entire Association, and have accepted. In the upcoming months we will be learning more of the running of the Association. Hopefully we will be able to enhance our Chapter with things learned from our HQ.

I am fortunate to have Chapter Officers that have aided me through my 1st year in office; I look forward to another year with them by my side. We have accomplished a lot, with many things yet to finish.

Peter Klausner
Chapter 9, President

Secretary: Hello everyone and I wish you all a Happy New Year and good health throughout the New Year. Here we are into January and it is the month to pay your membership dues for 2011. As of this writing the chapter has 176 names on our roster of past and future members who need to pay their dues for 2011. If everyone paid their dues this would bump up the Chapter's account by \$1,408.00. Much needed funds when you think that the chapter put out thousands in donations and etc for 2010. Remember out of the \$24.00 that you pay to be a member, National receives \$16.00 and the local chapter receives \$8.00. Expenses for the chapter run in the thousands each year and it is hard to generate funds to keep the chapter running and able to make the type of donations that we do. I ask you to please send in your dues for 2011 while it is on your mind. The chapter will be mailing individual letters to those whose dues have lapsed and ask each individual to become active by means of payment of dues.

Another area that needs support is the chapters PX. There are many items up for sale by the chapter and they all are 173d Airborne related. Wear a hat or a shirt from the chapter and wear your colors with pride. This is one way of locating new members when they see a hat or shirt from the 173rd. To those of you that support the chapter each year, I thank you. Those who are not current, get current, this is your chapter, be proud to be a member, you earned the right.

Be mindful while shoveling snow this year, were all not as young as we use to be.

Airborne All The Way!

Dennis Hill, Secretary

Service Officer:

Five Myths about VA Health Care Eligibility

Myth Number One

I wasn't injured in the service, so I'm not eligible for VA health care.

Status: **False**

One of the most common myths revolves around eligibility for health care at VA. Many think that you have to first establish a disability rating before you can start to make appointments, see doctors and receive medication. That is not the case. If you served in the military, even during peace time, and were honorably discharged, [you likely qualify for VA care](#). Even if you don't meet those requirements, special circumstances might apply, like Vietnam service, exposure to Agent Orange and household income. The best way to find out if you qualify is to submit an application for health benefits. [You can fill one out online](#) or at a VA Medical Center. If you are an Iraq or Afghanistan Veteran, [there are special combat Veteran benefits](#) from VA, like temporary access to dental care and guaranteed access to Priority 6 for five years (unless you are eligible for a higher priority group). [See the priority enrollment groups here](#).

Also, if new regulations are established regarding health benefits, VA will automatically reassess your case if it's on file.

Myth Number Two

I can only receive care for service connected injuries.

Status: **False**

You can receive VA hospital and outpatient care for any ailment, service connected or not if you are enrolled in the VA healthcare system, but you may have to pay a copayment. For example, if a Veteran is service-connected for a bad knee, any VA hospital and outpatient care and medication for the knee is free of charge. However, if the same Vet goes into surgery to remove an appendix and it's not service connected, he may be subject to a co-pay depending on the amount of his disability rating and other factors. Familiarize yourself with [co-pay guidelines](#) and [rates](#).

A small number of Veterans, such as those with [bad conduct discharges](#) that VA has determined were issued under conditions other than honorable and who are not subject to certain statutory bars to benefits, can only be treated for their service connected disabilities and nothing else. If one of those Vets is service connected for their left foot, they can only use VA health care for their left foot and nothing else.

Myth Number Three

I make too much money to qualify for VA health care.

Status: **It depends**

If you do not have a service connected disability, you may want to use VA's financial calculator to see if you qualify for free VA care, medication and travel benefits. If your income is too high (over a maximum income level set every year), you may have to pick up the tab for traveling and receive your care and medication by paying a co-pay. Recently, the rules have been changed for Priority 8 Veterans to permit more of them to enroll for VA health care. [Go here for more information](#) and an income calculator to see if you qualify under the new rules.

Myth Number Four

I can't use VA health care if I have private health insurance.

Status: **False**

From VA's [Health Eligibility Center](#) Director Tony Guagliardo:

"We strongly encourage Veterans to receive all your health care through VA. However, if you choose to receive treatment from private doctors, VA will work with them to meet your health care needs and coordinate effective treatment. We call this Co-managed Care or [Dual Care](#) — which means that your VA and private doctors will work together to provide safe, appropriate, and ethical medical care."

Myth Number Five

If I'm 100 percent disabled, that means I'm permanently disabled

Status: **False**

You could have a 100 percent disability rating as a temporary status while you undergo surgery, and have it reduced to its previous rating after you heal. 100 percent doesn't necessarily stay with you.

Joseph Armstrong

Veterans Service Officer

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Chaplain's Corner:

God bless you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a great new year. My wife and I drove out to Oklahoma to see my youngest daughter and her family; it was a very long drive, out and back. We had a wonderful time visiting them in Oklahoma. Just wanted you guys know that I'm still here and available to talk to you about anything you'd like, just drop me an e-mail with your phone number and I'll call you and we can talk.

God bless you.

Rev. Guy B. Hodgkins D.D.

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"I don't measure a man by how high he climbs the mountain, rather by how high he bounces when he hits bottom."

General George S. Patton

We wish you a good door position and safe landing.

