



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



May 2010

Chapter 9 welcomes you to another edition of our Newsletter. May and June are very busy months for the Chapter and the Association. We are in hopes that you will be able to attend at least one of these functions.

Bad news has finally hit our Chapter. Specialist Wade Slack from Waterville Maine was killed in action. Sp Slack was assigned to the 707th Ordinance Battalion, attached to the 173rd. [Spec Wade Slack](#). Flowers and member presence were at the service. Our condolences were given on behalf of a grateful Chapter.

The April membership meeting in Moosup Connecticut had 3 members that had either never attended a meeting or seldom attended because of distance. With this the Chapter President considered the meeting successful. Emails and phone calls are nice, face to face is better! Next meeting will be in New Hampshire for our Northern members. Date, time and location will be announced. All of our activities are located on our website. [Chapter Calendar](#)

New members joining our ranks:

Tom Benoit, SPT 67-70 Michael Frost, Eng 07-08 Ben Colford A 2/503 61-64,
C. Manadakas, HHC 2/503 66-67 Walter Lamont, B 1/503 Gregory Corvo A SPT.

We have received many thank you emails from the troops down range for "goodie packages" they received. Thanks to all for their support of this.

OUR Chapter currently communicates with members in 34 States and 4 Countries, not counting APO's .

We have added the current copy of the Sky Soldier Magazine to our website for those of us that do not receive a copy. [Sky Soldier](#)

14 June is Flag Day. Display our flag with pride.

Happy Birthday Chapter 9, 21 years old, created 23 May 1989.

A Memorial Day Concert is on PBS: [PBS Concert](#)

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President:

We continue our voyage of locating and helping our members and veterans. I find that when making contact with a Herdsman that I am received well. Spreading the word is an easy thing, a window sticker or a shirt with our patch, often opens the door to communication. We continue to believe in "Leaving No Man Behind". There are many more of us out there that have never been contacted. We all are charged with keeping our legacy alive for future generations.

When paying dues it is a calendar thing. Jan – Jan. When you pay your dues you should receive from National a membership card as well as the Sky Soldier magazine. If there are problems with this let our secretary know. [Dennis Hill](#) .

Peter Klausner
President

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Secretary:

Hello everyone, once again the time is flying and there is so much on our plates these days that it takes a computer to keep track of everything. I would like to just touch on a few items.

The Chapter will be running its sixteenth year John A. Barnes, III vigil in Dedham, Ma. On Sunday, May 30th. This year due to additional commitments, the vigil will only run for twelve hours instead of the twenty-four. The times will be from 0700 hours till 1900 hours. Everything will remain the same, food will provided as usual and we will have products to sell. We need all volunteers as possible to keep the tour watch covered for the twelve hours. If you are going to be around, drop down and stand a tour, bring the family and have a day of it. All are encouraged to attend.

The National Reunion will be held on June 2-6 at North Myrtle Beach in South Carolina this year. I wish all of those who attend a great time; I will not be attending as I will be running the Barnes Vigil back here in Massachusetts.

What would one of my articles be without a mention about Chapter Dues? There are thirty nine members who were active last year who have not renewed their dues for 2010. That is a large amount to be in errors. Please take the time to send your dues into the Chapter Secretary, (me) so we can get you all back and up to date.

In the month of June I had some minor surgery done and I was in the hospital for a week or so for one problem after another. I want to thank all of you who called, or sent cards, that was very nice of you and I appreciated it very much.

In closing I would just like to say Thank you to all of the members who stepped up and demonstrated their support to the chapter and its members and missions this past year. The chapter has been very busy with many projects and many of these could not have been accomplished without membership participation.

Airborne All The Way
Dennis Hill

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Service Officer:

LITTLE-KNOWN BENEFIT AIDS VETERANS of WAR

Those who serve during conflict are eligible for up to \$19,000 a year.

By Paula Burkes Published: February 8, 2009

<http://newsok.com/article/3344150>

A little-known veterans' benefit for long-term care expenses is available to wartime veterans and their spouses. But the benefit is being overlooked by thousands of families, industry observers say. The Special Pension for Veterans' Aid and Attendance pays up to \$1,644 a month, \$19,736 annually, toward assisted living, nursing homes or in-home care for veterans 65 and older who served at least 90 days and one day during wartime — stateside or overseas. Veterans and their spouses can receive up to \$23,396 annually and spouses of deceased veterans, \$12,681. Yet, an estimated \$22 billion a year goes unclaimed. In 2007, only 134,000 seniors nationwide received the benefit, which was established in 1952.

INTRODUCTION TO THE VETERANS' AID AND ATTENDANCE SPECIAL PENSION

The Veterans' Administration offers a Special Pension with Aid and Attendance (A&A) benefit that is largely unknown. This Special Pension (part of the VA Improved Pension program) allows for Veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing, undressing or taking care of the needs of nature to receive additional monetary benefits. It also includes individuals who are blind or a patient in a nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity. Assisted care in an assisted living facility also qualifies.

This is a "pension benefit" and is not dependent upon service-related injuries for compensation. Most Veterans who are in need of assistance qualify for this pension. Aid and Attendance can help pay for care in the home, nursing home or assisted living facility. The Aid and Attendance Benefit is considered to be the third tier of a VA program called Improved Pension. The other two tiers are Basic and Housebound. Each tier has its own level of benefits and qualifications. If you or your loved one does not qualify for Aid and Attendance, you may want to check to see if you qualify for another level of the Pension.

THE AID & ATTENDANCE PROGRAM

Eligibility must be proven by filing the proper Veterans Application for Pension or Compensation. This application will require a copy of DD-214 (see below for more information) or separation papers, Medical Evaluation from a physician, current medical

issues, net worth limitations, and net income, along with out-of-pocket Medical Expenses. For more general information about the Aid & Attendance Special Pension, please see <http://www.vetassist.org/faq.htm>

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Chaplain's Corner:

Hi guys, I'm here if there is anything I can do for you send me an e-mail and I will help you any way I can. I hope to see you at the vigil.

God bless you
Rev. Guy Hodgkins
[Chaplain](#)

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[2010 Reunion Events](#)

[The 173rd Memorial](#)

[National Veterans Guide](#)

[Million Dollar shot](#)

Send an email to one of our troops serving thanking them for their service. [Support Our Troops](#)

“Things may come to those who wait...but only the things left by those who hustle.”

Abraham Lincoln

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

