



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



July 2010

Welcome to New England. Summer has arrived and the living is easy! A belated Happy Independence Day to all.

The troops downrange are scheduled for return November of this year. As always these dates are not locked in concrete and are subject to change. This is great news, keep your heads down for these last days and get back to your loved ones safely.

[Next Chapter General Membership Meeting is 12:00 Hrs 18 Sept, VFW Post 7532, Springfield Ma. 63 Veterans Way, Springfield Ma. All are invited.](#) A good take while we are there is the Smith and Wesson museum that is nearby.

Medal of Honor Recipient ? http://www.armytimes.com/news/2010/07/army_MOH_070101w/

More new members are welcomed into our Chapter: Father Charles Davis (replaced Chaplain Watters MOH recipient) HHC 2/503, Joe Ames 4th Inf Div.

Those of us who are retirees, there is only one "Retiree Appreciation Day" in our AO this year, <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/rso/rads.asp> 31 July, Concord NH.

Info on the Combat Action Badge (CAB) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Combat_Action_Badge

National Airborne Day 16 Aug. <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=44792>

Rhode Island Leap Fest, the Chapter will be there selling burgers, dogs & drinks, along with new Chapter items, a great family time, come join us. August 7th, 3119 Ministerial Rd, Kingston RI, 07:30 - ? If you have never attended one of these it is something you don't want to miss. Jumpers are continual and within 100 feet of the crowds. <http://www.leapfest.com/about>

Dennis Hill update: Dennis had a knee replacement on 3 Jul at the West Roxbury VA. As with any joint replacement, recovery/rehab is slow and painful. He is in good spirits and is recovering at home.

The Chapter is in dire need of a secure dry storage area where we can keep our infrequently used items, (tents, grill, folding chairs), approximately 200 square feet is needed. If anyone has an area available let us know. webmaster@newenglandskysoldier.com

Do you remember these: <http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/files/C-Rations.pdf>

Cape Cod for the Troops is having their 2nd annual Cape Cod Canal walk/run, Chapter members will be supporting this great event. http://www.capecod4thetroops.com/upcoming_events.html

Camp Edwards is having an Open House <http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/files/MMR.pdf>

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President

Happy Birthday America, July 4th 1776, on this date 234 years ago we declared our Impendence from England to become a free nation. Many things have change during this time. We as veterans have given up much to help maintain this freedom, from the shot heard around the world, to the bowels of Germany to the jungles of Viet Nam, to the sands in Iraq, to the mountains of Afghanistan. We have lived through the unimaginable, done and seen things that most Americans only heard rumors of. Too many of us have paid the ultimate price. We have all paid in one way or another to help to keep our nation free.

We are a proud group, able to hold our heads up high knowing of our accomplishments, knowing that in some small way we helped our nation to become the best nation in the world. Today we continue to have our nations best in harms way. Our country continues our fight for democracy and freedom, at home and in distant lands. Today's armed forces are as able, and as brave as our colonial soldiers were 234 years ago. We wish them a safe tour and speedy return to their loved ones.

You have earned the right to say Happy Birthday America [Happy Birthday](#)

We wish you a safe and healthy summer. We are in hopes that you will be able to attend one of our functions in the near future.

Peter Klausner
President

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Secretary

Hello Everyone,

I hope you all are having a great start to the summer season. Mowing the yard, tending to the flowers and nourishing the gardens, waiting for that first tomatoes to be picked, knowing that you grew it and savoring the first sweet bite. Yes this is the time to go swimming and look forward to spending some time with family and friends at cookouts, and just enjoying the summer, finally being able to complete those tasks on your honey do list. Let's not forget that many men have died and many more have given so that we are able to do these things. The only thing we can do for our fallen brothers is remember their sacrifices and do what we can to honor those men who have passed on before us. We need to remember. How can you help

you ask? Become active within your chapter and help preserve the past. Should you are unable to help physically, support your chapter by being a paid member. There are 49 members from 2009 who have renewed their dues, but still 35 of you who have not paid your 2010 dues. Please take a few minutes and sit down and write that check to the chapter for your dues. Dues are very important to the chapter in many ways. Mailing the newsletter by regular mail; donating to Gold Star Wives, supporting our troops down range, purchasing items for sale by the chapter and many other worthwhile projects. Please send your dues of \$24.00 to the Chapter Secretary as soon after you have read this article.

Enjoy your summer with your friends and family, I hope to see many of you at the Rhode Island National Guard Leapfest in North Kingstown, Rhode Island the first week in August.

Airborne All The Way
Dennis P. Hill, (Secretary

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Chaplain's Corner

And whatsoever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.
But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Colossians 3 : 23-25.

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173rd Airborne Combat Patch Ceremony (found on the internet)

Close up of 173rd Airborne combat patch.

“When soldiers walk past each other, first they look for officer/enlisted insignia and then their eyes gravitate towards the right shoulder sleeve in search of a combat patch; the patch worn on the left sleeve is worn as the unit patch. It wasn’t until I was assigned to an Army unit, I became aware of this phenomena and the importance of the combat patch was explained to me. Unlike the Air Force who stopped wearing their combat patches in 1950’s, the Army proudly wears them on their uniform like a badge of honor. These patches identify which combat unit they have or are assigned to. The combat patch signifies their unit’s active participation or support of ground combat operations against hostile forces in which they have been exposed to the threat of enemy action or fire, either directly or indirectly.

Today was an opportunity to see my new teammates being awarded their combat patch in a ceremony held next to the camp’s flag poles. Most of these members already wore a combat patch but this was a symbolic service held for those who didn’t have one or were newly assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat

The 173rd is currently headquartered in Vicenza, Italy and has a rich history dating back to 1917. But the “Sky Soldiers” notoriety stems from their combat action in Vietnam. They received their official nickname (Tien Bien translates to Sky Soldiers) from the Taiwanese locals during exercises when they were parachuting in Taiwan. The 173rd was the only major conventional airborne operation (Operation Junction City...82 days) during Vietnam War. Since Vietnam, they have been actively participating in Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. On 26 March 2003, 1,000 Sky Soldiers parachuted opening up the northern front in Iraq.

You might have recognized the 173rd combat patch in Hollywood films, such as Apocalypse Now and Lethal Weapon. Country duo Big & Rich sang about them in their hit “8th of November.” This song was a tribute to the 48 Sky Soldiers who died in Vietnam when their brigade was ambushed by 1,200 VC soldiers.

These country singers also performed live to help raise donations for the 173rd Airborne Memorial being built near Fort Benning, Georgia. This memorial will honor the 1,790 Sky Soldiers that have paid the ultimate price for freedom.”

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For many years most of our equipment has been stored at Dennis Hill's house. When the equipment is needed for the few functions we have, someone has to drive their vehicle over Dennis's lawn and load the equipment into a vehicle and reverse that procedure when returning the equipment.

The shed we store the equipment is falling apart. If someone has connections at a storage facility or owns land that the chapter could erect a small shed on to store the equipment that would be great. Some of our equipment is stored at other member's houses and it would better serve the chapter to have all the equipment in one place. If anyone has any ideas or connections would you please forward your ideas to the chapter ASAP.

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“Live for something rather than die for nothing”

George Patton

We wish you a good door position and safe landing.

