



**John A Barnes III (MOH)  
New England Chapter 9  
173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Association  
Newsletter**



October 2009

We welcome you to another edition of our newsletter. We are in hopes that you and yours are well.

As we push the envelope looking for members, we frequently find bad news as well. As we find members that have died they are placed on the Chapter's Eternal Listing.

Dr Frank Tally (Battalion Surgeon) died 10-1-96. We were never notified of his passing, Condolences were given to the family by our Secretary as well as a card from the Chapter.

Kevin M Spellane, died 12-02. Again, we knew nothing of the death. Condolences were given to the family by our Secretary, as well as a card from the chapter.

Neither of these Troopers were Association Members.

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veteran's Day. The Chapter Officers would like to say to all: Thank you for serving our Great Country! We will never be forget.

General Elections will be conducted at our next membership meeting on 19 December. Have your voice heard, attend this important meeting. If you are considering running for an office, let the Chapter know NLT 1 Dec, [dhill173@verizon.net](mailto:dhill173@verizon.net) . All positions are available. If you are voting, you MUST be in attendance at the General Election Meeting.

Membership continues to haunt the association. It is prudent that dues are paid through the Chapter rather than through National directly. It is another means of checking and cross checking. Our Chapter Secretary and Treasurer keep a 100% paper trail of all transactions. If you are a current paid member, you should be receiving the National Magazine quarterly. The Chapter can make changes to your address, etc. Keep your information up to date! If there are problems or changes with your membership let Dennis know, [dhill173@verizon.net](mailto:dhill173@verizon.net)

SFC Jared Monti, MOH Recipient: <http://www.cmoths.org/recipient-detail/3467/monti-jared-c.php.com>

Our next Newsletter will be November 27<sup>th</sup>, Happy Thanksgiving to all from the Officers of Chapter 9.

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## 2010 Christmas Down Range

Greetings for the month of October

By Christmas of this year the 173rd Airborne Brigade will be downrange in Afghanistan and in harms way. We are now looking for a committee of many to spearhead Chapter 9's support of the troopers downrange and the families they leave behind. I am asking for a chairperson and some worker bees to get support and supplies downrange to our troops. This committee will be the work horse for the chapter's efforts to get things done for the troops. The chairperson will work one on one with and active duty N.C.O. downrange to help get them what they need. The chairperson will then report to the president and also publish a report in the monthly news letter in regards to the efforts of the committee. We can expand on the committees responsibilities after the committee is established but as of this writing we need the names of people interested in assisting the chapter in this endeavor. We have over 400 talented members in this unit and the support of our active duty units and their families is part of the reason for the Chapter's existence. If you are interested in being part of this project please contact Dennis Hill at [www.dhill173@verizon.net](mailto:www.dhill173@verizon.net).

The general membership meeting we had in Dedham this October was one of the best meetings I have ever attended. The meeting was great because of the motivation and professionalism of the members that attended the meeting. Together all of us acting as a team were able to put our thoughts together and get resolve to some problems that have been plaguing the chapter. Little by little because of the quality of the members of this Chapter and the dedication of the members of this chapter we are slowly resolving some of these long term issues.

I have appointed Joe Armstrong as the Veterans Service Officer until the end of this year. The position has been vacant and during the Dedham meeting Joe traveled all the way from Sanford Maine to lecture the group on Agent Orange. The lecture was very informative and shocking to say the least. This is what I mean about the quality of our membership. We have great people and we have a mission before us to take care of our troops down range.

Please take the time to consider joining the down range committee and assisting the active duty troopers and their families as they re-deploy to Afghanistan in the winter of 2009. Don't look for an excuse not to help, look for an excuse to help and get things done in the true airborne spirit of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Airborne all the way

Fredrick Lewis

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**VICE PRESIDENT:**



Hello All,

November is upon us, let us reflect on Veterans Day and remember the sacrifices of all our men and women who have served and our brothers and sisters today in harms way. With that said our men and women of the Brigade will be heading out once again and we will need all the support we can get. There will a committee put together to oversee the shipment of parcels to them so not one person bears the brunt of this monumental task, I urge all of you to find out if you can assist, even if it is just an idea of items to send. I was absent for training during the meeting but am pleased to hear Joe Armstrong was appointed as Veterans Service officer, he will be a great asset to all of us, Welcome Joe. Well we have come very far these past few years and cannot believe this is the same chapter started so many years ago. I urge all of you to call/email and snail mail us to see what you can do to assist us as we are moving forward and tackling many projects especially with The Brigade moving out again. I hope to see many of you at the December meeting and until then,

All the way!

Sean Roden

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**SECRETARY:**



Hello Everyone,

Here we are heading into the end of October and in two months the chapter will be heading into a new year and many new adventures. A refreshing chill is now in the air and it will be time for us all to bundle up and start attending the chapter meetings.

2010 is formulating into what I believe will be a banner year for the chapter. More and more new members are being located and joining the chapter. In 2008 the chapter became 65 new members stronger. In 2009 the chapter has welcomed 36 new members as of this writing. The chapter is becoming stronger and stronger each day. Many new and exciting venues are planned for the chapter in the coming years and it will take the entire membership pitching in to accomplish some of the tasks that lay ahead of us.

I would like to touch base on membership. It is important that each member has in his or her procession a membership card. National insists that each member must be a card carrying member to be counted. So if your membership card is not current, please take the time and start sending in your dues for 2010. As you know, the chapter relies very heavily on dues to help support the chapter's projected goals. Replacement cards for Life members can be

purchased through National for a \$10.00 fee. If you need one, contact me and I will get you hooked up.

In the coming months the chapter expects to expand the items for sale in the PX to include winter jackets. Keep checking the PX for new items arriving all of the time.

If you have moved, changed your email or made any other changes, please contact me and I can update your records within the chapter and notify National. It is important to keep your information up to date.

December 19<sup>th</sup>. 2009 the chapter will hold elections and a full house of members is desired. Please take a moment to mark your calendars and make an effort to attend the meeting. More information will be in the next chapter newsletter.

The chapter has a sponsor page and for a \$100.00 you can post your information on the site for one year. This is really short money if you want to advertise something and get the word out about a service that you are offering. If you want to just list your family, a loved one or even your favorite pet you can do so for the low price of \$100.00.

Last but not least by any standard, the Brigade will be deploying down range once again in November and the chapter will be supporting Chosen Company, 2/503D. The chapter will need funds to purchase items that the troops will need. All donations will be gratefully accepted and 100% of moneys received for this project will be utilized for the troops. Something nice to think about for Christmas during the Christmas Holidays.

I wish you all and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving and let us not forget those who are and will be in harms way in the coming months.

All The Way

Dennis Hill, (Secretary)

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**Service Officer:**



### **Agent Orange linked to heart disease, Parkinson's**

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press Writer –

WASHINGTON – Medical researchers say there may be a link between exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange and other herbicides used during the Vietnam War and an increased chance of developing serious heart problems and Parkinson's disease.

A study from the Institute of Medicine released Friday contains several caveats, but suggests there is a stronger connection than previously thought about the health risks to Vietnam veterans.

The research was sponsored by the Veterans Affairs Department, which will decide what to do with the findings.

American forces sprayed millions of gallons of Agent Orange and other defoliants over parts of Vietnam from 1962 to 1970. Military authorities used the defoliants in an attempt to massively prune away the dense jungle cover used by North Vietnamese forces to hide. American troops and others exposed to the chemicals later complained of numerous health problems, however, and researchers are still trying to determine the scope of the damage. The Institute of Medicine, a division of the National Academy of Sciences, is mandated by Congress to review every two years evidence about the effects of Agent Orange exposure. To determine whether Vietnam veterans faced an increased chance of ischemic heart disease — a condition involving reduced blood supply to the heart — researchers reviewed several studies that showed links between higher exposure levels and greater incidence of the disease.

Other factors such as smoking, age, and weight can also play a role, they noted. Still, they said veterans exposed to the chemicals may be at greater risk.

The conclusion on Parkinson's was based on a review of 16 studies that looked at herbicide exposures among people with the disease or Parkinson's-like symptoms. But the study cautions the review was hindered by the lack of studies specifically investigating Parkinson's rates among Vietnam veterans. <http://search.nap.edu/nap/cgi/de.cgi?term=12662>

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Computer Security: Here is an abstract from USAA: "As identity thieves prowl the Web, they don't rely on painstaking guesswork. They're armed with password-hacking programs that do the work for them. If you are still using the name of your pet or your favorite team as a password, you are easy prey".

Lengthy: At least 8 characters, longer is better.

Multi-Character: Use numbers, symbols, punctuation and both upper and lowercase letters.

Memorable: How to make a long, complex password that's easy to remember. Build it around a sentence", Peg and I were married April 1, 2008. Your password would be PandlwM1, 2008.

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T-11 Parachute: <http://www.army.mil/-news/2009/10/15/28805-soldiers-test-armys-newest-parachute-in-preparation-for-army-wide-fielding/?ref=home-headline-title1>

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Monumental Challenge: <http://www.legion.org/magazine/2873/monumental-challenge>

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Daylight Savings time ends November 4<sup>th</sup>, clocks BACK one hour.

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**Last Word:**

One of the bennies of doing the newsletter is that I have the last word. As you may or may not know Joe Armstrong is our Service Officer. Joe will be highlighted soon in our meet & greet area. But allow me to give you a thumbnail of what a great asset Joe is to our Chapter. He is a certified service officer. He has the knowledge, expertise, and training for us to submit our claims or to resubmit them. There are benefits that we have no idea exist. Joe will educate the Chapter so that we get what is due us. The Officer's have already asked him to make a small presentation at each of our meetings, (just another reason to come to a meeting).

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"We're surrounded. That simplifies the problem."  
Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller, USMC

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