



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



December 2010

Our Holiday wishes are extended to you and your families. May you be able to spend some quality time with your family and loved ones. Happy Holidays from the Officers of your Chapter.

Another Sky Soldier has been added to the ranks of the American Heroes. The tradition and history of "The Brigade" lives on.



[SSG Giunta](#)

President

During this festive season our Holiday wishes go out to you and your family. May it be a great season for you. The Brigade is back and enjoying their down time, I remember coming back from RVN, so many years ago. It was a good time, then all too soon back into the routine.

I have been President now for almost a year. I admit that it was overwhelming at times, but always gratifying. We have come a long way! As we meandered around our AO having membership meetings, we had the opportunity to meet members that would have been previously unable to attend because of distance. To see faces of names that we have had on our rolls for years, to hear the stories and to enjoy the single thing that we have in common, that of being a Sky Soldier.

To the Officers of the Chapter I say thank you for your help and support this past year. We may not have always agreed, but we were always a team. You make my job easier, thank you!

To the membership, I say thank you for your loyalty, support and understanding during our trials and tribulations. I am in hopes of seeing you in 2011 as we continue our journey. Be well, think spring, and enjoy the Holidays.

Peter Klausner
President, Chapter 9

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Secretary

Hello Everyone.

I hope you all are not too busy with shopping and running around in the malls picking up your last gifts for this wonderful Christmas season. In a few days it will be Christmas and if you are lucky enough you will be able to share the joy of a young child as he or she wakes up all excited to be the first one to be at the Christmas tree. There is no better joy than watching a child so excited when they see the presents under the tree. They don't know which one to open first and the excitement goes on and on until the room is littered with wrapping paper and bows.

Please take a moment and remember those who are and will be in a far away land fighting so that we all can have a Merry Christmas. Our troops of the 173rd are back home in Italy and once again out of harms way. The price of joy and glee back home was paid dearly by many, and those families will bear the burden of a missing loved one. As the Christmas season is a time of joy it is also a time to reflect on the price many of us past, present and future soldiers have and will bear for our freedom. I ask that you steal a few moments and thank God for what you have and to remember those who have passed on before us to ensure we are able to enjoy the season.

In a few weeks we will be ringing in the New Year and continuing with the joy and wonder of a new year, fresh snow on the ground and New Years resolutions. I don't know about you, but I

never complete a new years resolutions. Let's try one together like paying your dues to the chapter for 2011. There are many members who have not paid their dues for 2010, and to expect the dues to flow in for 2011 is another subject. This chapter, (your chapter) is becoming one of the largest chapters within National and with your support the sky is the limit of what we will be able to achieve in the year 2011. Dues are very important to the chapter in many ways. This year the chapter made many donations totaling in the thousands. This is accomplished only by membership support.

Please take a moment and send in your dues of \$24.00 to me at:
Dennis Hill # 97 Earle Street, Norwood, Ma. 02062-1504. Not sure if you owe? Give me a call at: (781)-769-6062 and I will advise. Membership support is very important to this chapter. Take a few minutes and check out the PX of items for sale. Wear your colors by means of a new chapter hat or shirt. Be proud of your service and let people know who you served with. You might bump into a fellow trooper who did not know of the chapter.

My family and I wish you and your family a Very Merry Christmas and a Great New Year. Stay well and safe as without your health you have nothing.
Keep God in your prayers.

Airborne All The Way
Dennis Hill, (Secretary)

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Treasurer

I wanted to wish everyone Happy Holidays as this newsletter goes to press. This year has been an enjoyable one for me as the Treasurer of the Chapter, and I hope the same is true for all of our members.

I wanted to take a little time, again, to thank people who had worked for the Chapter this summer in making The Vigil, the Annual Meeting, and Leapfest successful

In addition to the Chapter making other contributions during the year, we supported the Brigade while it conducted operations in Afghanistan and made contributions to support their homecoming. These contributions were directed by our National organization towards companies E 1/503rd and D 2/503.

I wanted to acknowledge, and thank, people for their monetary contributions to the Chapter during the last few months of the year:

Tom Goodwin
Margaret Fera
Daniel Garceau
Rena Staigers
Bruce Mellon

Charles Hicks, Sr

At the end of 2009, members made contributions in Support of the Troops upon their deployment to Afghanistan. We wanted to let you know monies have been accounted for, and spent it accordance with the purpose for which it was made. Contributions to the Chapter are very important, because unlike dues, we do not have to pay two-thirds of them to the National Association.

I also wanted to mention that the Chapter officers identified a significant backlog at National in the issuing of memberships. Luckily, the Chapter's records were accurate enough that we were able prove to National that the problem was real and our members were not being treated properly. National has asked us to support them more in these matters in the future.

Bill Maloney
Treasurer

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Sick Call:

Ms. Rena Staigers is recovering from knee surgery
Curt Prichard, still in the hospital recovering from surgery. (E 1/503)
Roy Wheelock, is recovering awaiting a transplant (HQ 4/503)

Our get well wishes to you all.

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Each of us should start considering getting the National Magazine "Sky Soldier" via email. Costs for printing and mailing continue to rise. We know that this is not the way we have always done it, but it is reality. It would be the same magazine only in email form. Times are changing, we must adjust. This not only allows you to get the magazine sooner than thru regular mail, but it also saves the Association money. Let Dennis know if you want to change to the email version.

Dhill173@verizon.net

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Updating of your membership record is your responsibility. Log onto National's website and update your demographics. If you need assistance notify Dennis for your username and password. We at Chapter level can only work with the info we have from you.

DAV Magazine Nov/Dec 2010

Suicide

"Takes 18 Veteran's lives each day, The VA has created the Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255. Additionally, the VA created an online chat option at www.suicidepreventionhotline.org. All of the 135 VA's have suicide prevention coordinators."

Let us never have a member of our Chapter fall into this category, call a fellow veteran during this Holiday season!

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Those of us that were with the 4th Battalion, here are many pictures of our Unit
http://www.geronimobattalion.com/Battalion_Pictures.html .

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WARNING TO VETERANS - Forwarded by Kevin Secor, VSO Liaison, Office of the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

An organization called Veterans Affairs Services (VAS) is providing benefit and general information on VA and gathering personal information on veterans. This organization is not affiliated with VA in any way. <http://www.vaservices.org/us/index.html>

VAS may be gaining access to military personnel through their close resemblance to the VA name and seal. Our Legal Counsel has requested that we coordinate with DoD to inform military installations, particularly mobilization sites, of this group and their lack of affiliation or endorsement by VA to provide any services.

In addition, GC requests that if you have any examples of VAS acts that violate chapter 59 of Title 38 United States Code, such as VAS employees assisting veterans in the preparation and presentation of claims for benefits, please pass any additional information to Mr. Daugherty at the address below.

Michael G. Daugherty
Staff Attorney
Department of Veterans Affairs
Office of General Counsel (022G2)

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An organization here in the Greater New England Area: [Homes for our Heroes](#)

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AIRBORNE MUSEUM NEW LOOK

If you have not recently visited the Airborne and Special Operations Museum located in Fayetteville, NC, you will probably not recognize its entrance. Thanks to the Airborne and Special Operations Museum Foundation and the City of Fayetteville, the Museum has a new look!

As you emerge from the Museum's front door, you will see two newly emplaced statues and surrounding the area, a new Veterans Park. Part of an initiative to "spruce up" Fayetteville, the Park is part of a major face life being applied to the area.

Anyone who has been stationed at or visited Fort Bragg should easily recognize the first statue. The venerable "Iron Mike" has left the Post and now proudly resides in front of the Museum. At a greater distance in the Veterans Park is a newly sculptured rendering of General Hugh Shelton, donated by Ross Perot. Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Shelton is one of our own, having served in the Herd in Vietnam.

Engraved pavers similar to those located on the front and rear patios of the Museum may be purchased through the Museum Gift. The Gift shop also has a wide array or Airborne items that are suitable for gifts year round. [Gift Store](#)

A trip to the Airborne Museum is a "must make" to see the Herd Vietnam era diorama as well as Sky Soldier artifacts from the Vietnam and Iraq/Afghanistan eras. The Museum itself is a remarkable structure that will be enjoyed by Sky Soldiers and family members of all generations.



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Created and produced by LTC Paul Fisher, 3/503d, this new Sky Soldier coin is now available. All profits from the sale of coins will be donated, one-half to the 173rd Memorial Foundation and one-half to feed local area poor during this winter. To order a coin contact Paul at:

[Paul Fisher](#)

Anthony Alberallo sent in this picture. I don't remember any flower gardens !!



173rd ABCT Recognition Ceremony scheduled Tuesday

www.USAG.Vicenza.Army.Mil

“The 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team will host a Recognition Ceremony Dec. 9 from 10-11 a.m. on Hoekstra Field.

The Vicenza military community is invited to join the 173rd ABCT Soldiers, families and personnel for the ceremony.

“The purpose of the ceremony is to honor the sacrifices of our fallen Sky Soldiers and their families and to highlight the accomplishments of the brigade over the past year in Afghanistan,” said Maj. Matthew Yandura, 173rd ABCT public affairs officer.

The 173rd ABCT lost nine Soldiers during the deployment. Three of the paratroopers were stationed at Vicenza and six Soldiers were in Germany-based units. There are recognition ceremonies being held in Germany also to honor the Sky Soldiers who were killed in action during OEF X. The fallen Soldiers are: Sgt. Louis Robert Fastuca, D Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment; Spc. Matthew Robert Hennigan, B Co., 173rd Special Troops Battalion; Spc. James Anthony Page, A Co., 173rd Brigade Support Battalion; Spc. Matthew Eric George, A Co., 173rd BSB;

Sgt. Raymond Chavez Alcaraz Jr., C Co., 173rd BSB; Staff Sgt. Vinson Bryon Adkinson III, A Co., 173rd BSB; Pfc. Nicholas Scott Cook, B Co., 2nd Bn., 503rd Inf. Regt.; Sgt. Lucas Tyler Beachnaw, Headquarters, Headquarters Co., 2nd Bn., 503rd Inf. Regt.; and Spc. Russell Edward Madden, D Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regt.

Families of some of the fallen Soldiers will attend the ceremonies.

The ceremony will also serve to uncuse the brigade colors and to honor the safe return of the troopers who redeployed to Caserma Ederle in the past weeks”.



Chaplain's corner

Don't sacrifice your whole life just because you have a wound in one area, disappointments in life, yes: but never failures. We play till we win. We are masters of defeat, not masters in defeat. We care greatly, love immeasurably, and live dynamically. Finally it's really not how long we live that counts, but rather it is the quality of our lives while we are living.

God Bless you all and your families, and may you have a Very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

God bless
Rev. Guy Hodgkins D. D.

We wish you a good door position and safe landing

Happy holidays

