



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



January 2010

The officers wish you a Happy New Year. We are in hopes that your Holidays were good ones and that you had the opportunity to spend some time with your loved ones. The Chapter has been busy with the new Presidency getting situated.

Chapter 9 recently applied for, and received the OK from National's President Roy Scott to include in our AO, Alaska, and Canada. We have members in both locations.

Our next Membership Meeting is 20 Feb, 2010, in Brandon VT, 12:00 hrs, at the Brandon Inn.

PRESIDENT:

First of all, thank you for this honor, I am truly humbled. Most of the world will never be what we were, and what we are today. They will never truly know of our exploits, gains and personal losses. These memories will be with us forever. We have lost much. Those that weren't there will never know what it was like, the heat, the everyday stink, and the smell of napalm and the sound of Huey's.

It's a different day, a different nation, and a different war. Our young are again in harms way. They know of our exploits from those of us that were there, and from the books they read. The Brigade today is every inch as good as we were soo many years ago. They are young and indestructible just as we were.

They are experiencing the agony of war as we did. The physical wounds, nightmares, loneliness, and thoughts of their friends will haunt them forever. They are being attacked by weapons we never heard of IED's and suicide bombers. They are different warriors, yet we have a common thread. The Brigade! We were,,,, we are,,,,, still Airborne.

We are as one, in a Chapter amongst friends and comrades. We have shared the same experiences in our own way. To be amongst such warriors as you makes me proud & honored. We are one Chapter, with one voice. Everything that we do, or do not do reflects on each of us. If we elect to go down in history as "Those guys in Nam" so be it. But I ask, is that fair to those we left behind.

We have evolved into a Chapter of many, it is now time, as we grow older and fewer to show the Nation just how good we are. What can we do as a chapter? First let us identify all of us that are living. Secondly let us honor those that have passed. Lastly, let us support our troops today and tomorrow.

If WWII Veterans were the greatest generation, we were the forgotten generation. As we continue to be fewer and fewer, we will be replaced by today's warriors. Let's continue to prove that we too were the Greatest Generation. It is now or never for us to stand and be counted. Our Chapter is the strength of 3 rifle companies. There is nothing that we can't do!

The current Presidency will be completely transparent in all our actions. Our goal is to make the Chapter stronger, more homogenous, and more involved in our communities. To achieve these goals we will need your help. As we move our meetings, make an effort to attend, meet your friends and fellow troopers. It will be appreciated not just but the Officers, but by everyone there. It is a good feeling to be around such warriors.

Peter Klausner
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President, Chapter 9

VICE PRESIDENT:

Hello to everyone

I would like to introduce myself to those who do not know me. My name is Jim Lemoine and I live in a small town called Danielson, Connecticut. I am your new Vice-President of the "GET IT DONE CHAPTER" Chapter 9. I am going to give you a brief history of my military background so you know who I am as a representative of this great Chapter.

I was drafted in February 1966 and went to Ft. Dix, NJ, to Ft. Ord CA to Ft Benning. I think you all know where that is. I wanted to make that extra \$55.00 dollars a month for a car payment back home.

While at Ft. Benning I was told I was being submitted for a security clearance. On Graduation Day I received my wings and orders to Germany. I was assigned to 7th CORP to a LRRP team in Southern Germany at Nelligan Barracks. The team was made up of a 5 men; a team leader, 2 scouts, 2 radio operators [Morse code] remember that? We operated along the Czech. border in the mountains of Southern Germany for two week missions on average, We sent coded messages to command and yes, we always had a sealed envelope in case the s_ _ _ hit the fan.

One day I was surprised to receive orders to Vietnam to the 101st Airborne. I was given a 2 week break at home prior to going to Oakland, CA. for a civilian flight to NAM. While at home I received a western union to stay home to await new orders, a few days later I received orders for the 173rd I was to report to B 4/503. I landed in March of 1967 and spent my first 2 weeks in Bien Hoa trying to get use to the heat after leaving the snow of Germany. I am a survivor of hill 875 and many other fun places around Dak To and the Central Highlands. I was still in the field 3 days prior to discharge when everyone realized I should have been headed home 30 days prior, anyway I MADE IT HOME.

Home finally, a friend talked me into joining the Reserves. I joined the 76th Training Division who were Drill Instructors. I retired from the Reserves in 1995 after a total of 29 years of service.. I hope I didn't bore anyone but I thought you should know who I am and where I'm coming from. I like to listen first, then, make my thoughts known. I love my country and my fellow Comrades; I wouldn't like to see anything change that. I don't like what is going on in Washington, DC and as brothers we have to make our voice heard.

God Bless you all and I pray you and your family have a healthy New Year. I hope to see you all in Brandon Vt, lets make a good showing.

PS: Hi, Ted and Bonnie hope to see you soon.

Vice-President Chapter 9
Jim Lemoine
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SECRETARY:

Hello Everyone:

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season. Well here we are into the first month of 2010 and your chapter is gearing up to start a new year and accomplish many new tasks. Being that I am the Chapter Secretary, one of my important tasks is membership. As of this writing there are sixty, (60) members, (Regular, Associates, and Gold Stars) with dues that have expired and are now due. I would like to give you a breakdown of the dues that you send to the chapter. Once you have sent the chapter your \$24.00 for membership, we the chapter must fill out a membership form to national with all of your important information on it. The most important is the last six numbers of your social security number. This is the number that National files your application under. Along with the form the chapter sends National \$16.00 of your \$24.00 that you sent. The chapter keeps \$8.00 as revenue. Now take the sixty members whose dues are up and that is a total of \$1,440.00. National receives \$960.00 of the funds and the chapter keeps \$480.00. That is all of the money that this chapter will receive in 2010 for membership dues. This amount will help pay for the costs of sending out newsletters to the members, but there will still be a large amount of money spent to complete this task. So you can see that dues are important to any chapter, but no chapter could exist on membership dues alone. It cost a few thousand dollars a year to run this chapter. This is why the chapter sells items in the PX and conducts projects to help generate much needed funds. So, please after reading this article if your membership is up, please forward the \$24.00 to the Chapter Secretary as soon as possible. Please do not send your dues to National, send them to this chapter directly as there will be a problems of getting the chapter's amount if not received by the chapter.

Now, onto another subject, member's information. Some members move, change phone numbers, post office box's, divorce, and die. If there is any change in your personal information, please contact the Chapter Secretary so our data base can be updated. Many members move and forget to tell us or National. Once I am informed that a member has moved or passed on, I make the necessary changes and notify National. If you have moved this is important so that you will continue receiving your Skysoldier from National. There are many Life members who joined many years ago and at that time furnished little information. I will make it a project of mine to contact everyone within this year and ensure that all information in our database is correct.

May this year be good to us all and keep all safe and healthy.

Remember our Troopers now stationed in Afghanistan, they need our help and support. Wishing you all and your family's the very best for 2010, Airborne All The Way

Dennis P. Hill, (Secretary)
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SERVICE OFFICER:

THE OTHER LITTLE or UNKNOWN V.A. BENEFITS

Let's discuss those little V.A. benefits that are often overlooked or veteran service-connected and non-service-connected benefits that many veterans don't know about, such as wheelchairs (electric and manual), clothing allowance, auto adaptation, eye glasses, hearing aids, bathroom appliances, orthopedic shoes and more. Remember that non-service-connected and service-connected veterans may have different eligibility requirements.

If a veteran is service connected at 10 percent for any disability, he/she may get free hearing aids and glasses from their local V.A. Non-service-connected veterans may be eligible for hearing aids if low income or they may need to pay three co-payments of \$50 each for three visits (total \$150) for high quality hearing aids that would cost thousands from private vendors.

If a veteran needs a wheelchair, braces, canes, shower seats or such, again, the V.A., at no cost to the veteran, can supply these by simply asking the veteran's V.A. doctor to prescribe it.

One benefit that is often overlooked is the \$641 a year for clothing allowance. A service-connected veteran who requires a brace or wheelchair for his service-connected condition or who has a service-connected permanent skin condition that requires creams or lotions that eventually wear out their clothes, may be eligible for this benefit, which is paid out once a year.

Blind veterans may be furnished a trained guide dog and/or mechanical or electronic equipment as appropriate. The V.A. will also furnish the training-including expenses for travel, food and lodging if required.

The V.A. will make a one-time payment of \$11,000 toward the purchase of an automobile if the veteran is service connected for anatomical loss of use of one or both hands or feet, or defective vision in both eyes. My Agent Orange diabetic veterans who suffered an amputation because of their disease often overlook this benefit.

The V.A. has two adaptive housing programs to pay for alterations to the veteran's home if he requires a wheelchair, ramps or railings. The adaptive housing program for service-connected veterans can pay up to \$50,000 to buy, build or adapt a home to the veterans needs. There is also a V.A. loan up to \$33,000 to help defray those costs.

The V.A. has smaller grants under the Home Improvement and Structural Alteration program (HISA) for other service-connected (\$4,100) and non-service-connected (\$1,200) veterans.

As a veteran's service-connected conditions increase in percentage, the federal and state benefits increase. At a 10 percent rating a veteran becomes eligible for glasses and hearing aids, free access to all federal parks -- that includes everyone in his vehicle when he goes through the entrance, 30 percent pay for dependants, and if needed, aid and attendance for a spouse.

When a veteran's percentage reaches 50 percent, there are no co-payments; there are free prescriptions.

Often the V.A. is not aware of the local state benefits so the veterans need to verify their eligibility for state benefits with their local state or county veteran advocates.

Joseph Armstrong

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We now have long sleeve Tee Shirts with the 173rd patch on them available. dhill173@verizon.net

Mailing costs the Chapter money, if you have an email address let the Secretary know: dhill173@verizon.net. We then can better communicate without SPAM, jokes etc.

Dues, Dues, Dues, annual members it's again that time, dhill173@verizon.net

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"No bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country".

General George Patton

[As always, we wish you a good door position and safe landing.](#)