



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



March 2010

Welcome to Our Newsletter, giving information of current and pending events affecting our Chapter.

New members have joined our ranks, Robert Phillips, C 1/503 65 – 66, Ralph Meader, D 4/503 66 – 67, Dan Garceau D 4/503 Eng 69-70, Nick Sbano C 2/503 02-06 , Anthony Koroski A 1/503 67 – 68 , Joan Duggan (GS Hagerty), CSM ( R ) Teddy Godwin C 4/503 67 -68, Welcome!

Next membership meeting will be 24 April, 12:00 hours at the American Legion, 66 Prospect St., Moosup, Connecticut. Members and spouses are invited.

This is the link that pertains to the VA in our region. <http://www.newengland.va.gov> , also on "Face Book" <http://www.facebook.com/VABoston>, worth the time to check it out.

The Peter Foote Memorial Dedication will be May 15th, @11AM. It will be held at the present Viet Nam Veterans Memorial Skating Rink on Route 8A in North Adams. This is adjacent to the South View Cemetery. The Chapter will have a presence there, everyone is encouraged to attend. [http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/files/North\\_Adams.pdf](http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/files/North_Adams.pdf) . This is a recent date change.

Our Membership meeting @ Brandon Vermont will go into our history books as one of the best meetings ever. We had perfect weather, a good turn out of members & spouses, and wonderful hospitality from the town. A resolution was made by the Town Manager and presented to us during our meeting, declaring that 20 Feb 2010 was to be Sky Soldier Day, an honor that the Chapter President received with thanks to the town. Our thanks go out to the members and to the town of Brandon for their help in making this so successful. This reinforces the reason for moving our meetings within our boundaries. <http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Brandon.html>

This years Vigil will be different from years past. As you all know the Chapter has conducted a 24 hour vigil at the Barnes Memorial each Memorial Day for 16 years, <http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Vigil.html> . This year, because of conflicting events (4/503 Reunion & National's Reunion) we have elected to shorten our vigil, but not our cause. The Vigil will be Sunday 30 May, 0700 – 1900 hrs only. There will be our normal presence and activities during this time, only difference is that it is for a reduced period of time. We will never

forget! The Chapter will offer food and drink to all. Join us there, help to honor John Barnes and all that have served and are currently serving. We hope you are able to attend.

Brigade Combat Team Liaison Jim Bradley reports that the Brigade Public Affairs Officer is writing an article about current members of the BCT who have had a relative serve in the Brigade. It would be extremely helpful to him if the veteran member of the duo comes forward, since the Brigade members down range have a war to fight and are widely dispersed. Please send to Jim ([webmaster@173rdairborne.com](mailto:webmaster@173rdairborne.com)) your name, your former unit, the city and state where you live, and the name, unit and relationship of your relative.

Michael E. Montie  
Vice President  
173d Airborne Brigade Association

+++++

**President:**

After a Membership Meeting like we recently had in Brandon VT. The chapter can only grow stronger. Our numbers increased again this month. We are getting the word out that this is not the same old chapter. Numbers increasing is good, activity level of our members is a better thing. I know that involvement is a personal thing, We all have our reasons for joining or not joining, being an active participant or being not so active. I can tell you from experience that after leaving a meeting the bad days are not thought of, but instead you think of being around fellow Herdsman that enjoy the moment, remember the past, but live for the future. There is laughter and smiles, reminiscing, remembering names.

When attending a meeting your input is valued, you help to direct our future. Many things are discussed and worked out with our members help. There are no unimportant members, you are as important as any of the officers. During the next year we are moving to various locations to increase our presence, to meet face to face, to hear your ideas. Come join us, it would be appreciated by everyone there.

Peter Klausner  
President

+++++

**Secretary:**

Hello Everyone,

Well here we are into the end of March and before you know it the hot weather will be here and it will be time to plant your gardens.

The chapter has been and will be very busy within the next few months. The following are some dates to remember:

- 01.) April 24<sup>th</sup> Chapter meeting in Moosup Connecticut
  - 02.) May 30<sup>th</sup>, Sixteenth year conducting the Annual John A. Barnes, III, (MOH) vigil.
  - 03.) June 1<sup>st</sup>. Memorial Dedication in Columbus, Georgia
  - 04.) June 2-6<sup>th</sup>. Annual Reunion at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
  - 05.) June (TBA) Chapter meeting in New Hampshire or Maine
  - 06.) August 7<sup>th</sup>. RI National Guard Leapfest in North Kingstown, Rhode Island
  - 07.) October (TBA) Chapter meeting in Massachusetts
- So mark these dates on your calendars, more information forth coming.

Dues, Dues, Dues. There are right now 34 members who have paid their dues for 2010. There are 50 members whose dues have not been paid for 2010. Please check your membership cards and see if you are current. The chapter is right now loosing around \$400.00 in dues revenue. You must be a paid up member to attend and vote at the National Reunion. So please take a moment and if your dues are in error, take a moment and send them in. The chapter relies very heavily on this money to help defray the costs of running the chapter.

Have you moved, changed your email your phone number, got married, divorced or etc? If any of your information has changed, please take a few minutes and let the Chapter Secretary know so that the Chapter can maintain updated information in our records and we will notify National of the changes for their records.

One of the most important pieces of information we need is your email address. There are many members whose email addresses we do not have on file. The Chapter needs these so that we can email you your newsletters and advise you of on the spot information if required. This also saves \$ when sending out the newsletters. Postage is very expensive and having an email address can save us money in the long run.

Did you know that it costs thousands of dollars to run your chapter each year? The chapter is relying on donations and product sales to generate funds to run the chapter. Have a few extra buck lying around, (not many of us do in this economy), send in a donation. Can't afford to donate, no problem, we will cut corners when we have to. Many Chapter Officers donate funds through out the year out of their pockets for one thing or another. Can't afford your dues, please let us know, we can make arrangements to help. Many members send in a few bucks here and there to assist chapter brothers who can't afford to pay their dues. Till next month, enjoy the weather and let's get ready for a great summer.

All The Way  
Dennis P. Hill, (Chapter Secretary)

+++++

## **Meet & Greet:**

Hello My Brothers & Sisters

My name is Joseph Armstrong; I am a member of the original 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion that came from Fort Campbell back in "66". I served in B Co 4/503 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon I started out as an M-60 gunner and later was assigned as an RTO and rifleman.

I presently live in Sanford, Maine and have done so for over 18 years. I have been married for over 41 years to my lovely wife Gerry. We have 5 children and 14 grandchildren.

I am a certified Veterans Service Officer with the Department of Veterans affairs although I DO NOT work for the VA, but I am certified through them. The organization that I work with is The National Veterans Organization of America. I have been asked and have accepted the position as your Service Officer for the chapter. What exactly is a Service Officer? Well I will try to keep the definition simple. A service Officer's responsibility is *"To provide quality advocacy for all US Veterans, Armed Forces members, their dependents and survivors, through benefit counseling and programs, claims, and outreach services."*

Your probably sitting there asking yourself "OK how does this affect me?" It's really simple, do you presently have a claim with the VA? Have you tried to update it? Do you have an ailment that qualifies for a disability and do not realize it? Do you know of a widow who's husband died from a qualified disability and does not know that she and her family may qualify for compensation?

These are just a few questions and subjects that a Service Officer can answer and hopefully help with. If you have any questions or concerns about your health or your compensation claims please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 490-2094.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

Respectfully

Joseph Armstrong

+++++

"It is not big armies that win battles, it is the good ones!"  
Marshal Maurice de Saxe ("Mes Reveries")

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