



**New England Chapter 9
John A. Barnes III (MOH)
173^d Airborne Association**

[Mission Statement](#)



Nov 2011

Welcome to our newsletter. The days are growing shorter and colder as we prepare for Old Man Winter and the Holidays. Hopefully each of us will be able to spend time with friends and family while enjoying good health.

Our 3 Dec meeting will be held in Bellingham MA. [Map](#), 12:00, we will be discussing; elections, a recap of the Chapter's past 2 years, our financial status, as well as our future plan by our new President.

A member of our chapter and the 2nd Chapter President has passed MSG (R) George Brnilovich 11/18/2011. George was retired and living in Florida, the Chapter sent our condolences and flowers. Rest easy Sky soldier.

Maine honors fallen Sky Soldier: [PVT Larry j. Nadeau 173rd Airborne](#)

Veterans Day @ Northeastern University [Veterans Day](#), our Treasurer Bill Maloney was instrumental in adding Rutherford Welsh a Sky soldier to their "Wall". Great job Bill.

American Heroes, B-17 "Old 666" [B-17](#)

Family readiness [FEMA](#), Fred Lewis Chapter 9, is involved with MEMA/FEMA and provides us updates as they become available.

Social Security, COLA increase [AARP COLA](#)

President:

Good day to all. As we approach the end of the year and the end of this reign of many of the current officers we can reflect back and say that we have accomplished many things, but more importantly left many things unfinished. December's meeting will dictate the path our Chapter will take in the coming two years. If I am elected, and my health holds out I hope to remain Chapter President to finish what we have started. We have learned a lot, traveled roads that this chapter has never walked before, and stumbled many times. Regardless of who the new president is I know there are changes on the horizon.

My thanks go out to all for making my job so much more pleasant. A special thanks to my wife Peg; who has put up with me, listened to me, and been by my side during thick and thin, and had many weekends alone.

I have talked to many of you, emailed most of you and have received many suggestions, recommendations and complaints. None of these fell on deaf ears, your voices were heard.

During my tenure we have lost fellow Sky soldiers and identified some that had passed earlier, I can say that we all grieve at their loss, and whenever possible represented all Sky Soldiers at their ceremonies.

Because of you, our Chapter is larger, stronger, and more financially stable than ever before. We are the largest chapter outside of The Brigade, with that comes responsibly to the Association and to the smaller chapters that we do what is right, not only for us but as a guidon to all. We have done our part, be proud of your Chapter.

Be well and thanks for serving our great Country.

Peter Klausner
Chapter 9 President

Secretary:

Hello Everyone,

I hope all of you and your families had a very nice Thanksgiving, and took a moment to remember our brothers and sisters who are still not home and in harm's way.

We now start off the Christmas season and it seems I haven't even finished the left over's from Thanksgiving yet. We all will be running around doing our shopping and mailing our Christmas cards out.

It is also time to re-new your yearly dues with the chapter. Why not take a moment and send in your dues to me at: Dennis Hill, # 97 Earle St. Norwood, Ma. 02062-1504. Make checks payable to chapter # 9 and your yearly dues are \$24.00 or \$173.00 for Life.

I know I always bring this up, but Chapter # 9 is now the largest chapter within the association in the United States. Let's keep this up and let National know that we are a strong chapter. Please take a moment and send your dues in. Remember to send your dues to me (Dennis Hill) and not to National. We will process them and have your membership card in the mail the very next day. Chapter # 9 has taken over membership for National and as of this writing our turnaround time is less than 12 hours. I will bet you never heard that before from National. Being that I am the Chapter Secretary I am dedicated to ensure that the chapter remains strong and active with the guidance of the Board of Directors for the chapter. We have had a banner two years; membership has grown by 170 new members. This is unheard of in the past by any chapter.

One of my other duties as Secretary is to inform all of passing members. It is with a heavy heart that I must announce the passing of George Brnilovich in Florida. George experienced a stroke last week and went into a coma, two days later he passed. George was the second President of Chapter # 9 many years ago. The chapter has sent flowers and a card of condolence from the chapter to the family

We're all getting older and our health is not what it used to be. Take the time to make appointments with your doctor and have all of the tests that we older gents need done. Be good to yourself, but take care of yourself also, we want you around for a long time.

I hope to see you all at the meeting in Bellingham.
Happy Holidays
Dennis Hill
Chapter Secretary

Treasurer:

At the end of October 2011, the Chapter had a cash balance of \$10,421. We could not have accumulated this amount of money without the significant support of our members, and I would like to thank you sincerely.

During the last two months, we have made contributions to charitable organizations to which the Chapter supports. In September, we made a Spartan contribution of \$2,000 to provide for the maintenance of the 173rd Memorial at Fort Benning, Georgia. In October, we made a contribution of \$173.00 to Cape Cod Cares for the Troops to help defray the shipping costs of packages sent to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On November 5th, we had a great turn out at the Chapter meeting in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. I would like to thank everyone who attended and participated in the 50-50 raffle at the end of the meeting. It has been a while since we had experienced that kind of a turn out outside the Boston area. It was good to see so many people there after the 30 inches of snow the prior weekend.

At Northeastern University on Veterans Day, Northeastern added four veterans to its Veterans Memorial. One of those people was a Sky Soldier with the 82nd Aviation Battalion, AKA: The Cowboys, Rutherford 'Jim' Welsh. Jim was killed in a helicopter crash on July 27, 1966. Jim's sister Patti Welsh represented Jim's five brothers and sisters at the ceremonies. Northeastern presented Patti with a duplicate copy of his 'dogtag' that hangs on the Memorial. The dogtag reads as follows:

(Conflict) Vietnam
(DOD) July 27, 1966
(POD) South Vietnam
(Service) US Army

University College
(Class of) 1968

(Rank & Name) WO Rutherford J Welsh
(POB) Toronto, Canada
(DOB) June 9, 1942

Becoming familiar with Jim Welsh's circumstances was an educational experience for me. Jim Welsh's name is also included on the Canadian Vietnam Veterans Memorial, The North Wall, in Windsor, Ontario. The North Wall commemorates the service of 30,000 to 40,000 Canadians who served in the US armed forces in the Vietnam era. 107 of those Canadians died in Vietnam. We continue to serve to this day with our Canadian brothers and sisters. 157 Canadians have died in service in Afghanistan.

In talking to Patti Welsh, she described how her family had to be brought in the back door of the American Embassy in Toronto to receive her brothers decorations, because American draft protesters were picketing the Embassy as an anti-war protest.

A video of the ceremonies at Northeastern is available at:

<http://www.northeastern.edu/veterans/veteransmemorial/events/index.html>



Service Officer:

VA Launches Open Source Custodian
Open Source Electronic Health Record Agent Begins Operations

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced it has completed an important milestone on its joint path with the Department of Defense (DoD) to create a single electronic health record system for service members and Veterans. OSEHRA, the Open Source Electronic Health Record Agent, has begun operations and will serve as the central governing body of a new open source Electronic Health Record (EHR) community.

"We developed our open source strategy to engage the public and private sectors in the rapid advancement of our EHR software, which is central to the care we deliver to Veterans and service members and to our joint EHR collaboration with the Department of Defense," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "With the launch of OSEHRA, we begin the implementation of our strategy and we look forward to the creation of a vibrant open source EHR community."

As part of the initiation of OSEHRA operations, VA has contributed its current EHR, known as VistA (Veterans Integrated System Technology Architecture), to seed the effort. OSEHRA will oversee the community of EHR users, developers, and service providers that will deploy, use, and enhance the EHR software.

Individuals and organizations interested in participating in OSEHRA are invited to join through the community website. Established as an independent non-profit corporation during its initial phase of operation, OSEHRA is putting in place the framework and the tools that will enable the public sector, private industry, and academia to collaborate to advance EHR technology.

Draft documents describing key framework components, such as the design of its code repository and the definition of its software quality certification process, are available on the OSEHRA community website. Community feedback is welcome as the OSEHRA team finalizes these designs in preparation for launch of full technical operations this fall.

The design of OSEHRA is being led by The Informatics Application Group (tiag) under a contract awarded by VA in June 2011.

Moving to an open source model invites innovation from the public and private sectors. It is an important element of VA's strategy to ensure that VA clinicians have the best tools possible, and that Veterans receive the best health care possible.

Joseph Armstrong
Veterans Service Officer



Chaplain's Corner

Food for thought.

Personality is what you are before people; character is what you are when you are alone with your real self.

Age is not a liability, but a provider of time to give you scope and understanding. In 10 years you will be able to do some things in 15 minutes that takes you four hours to do now.

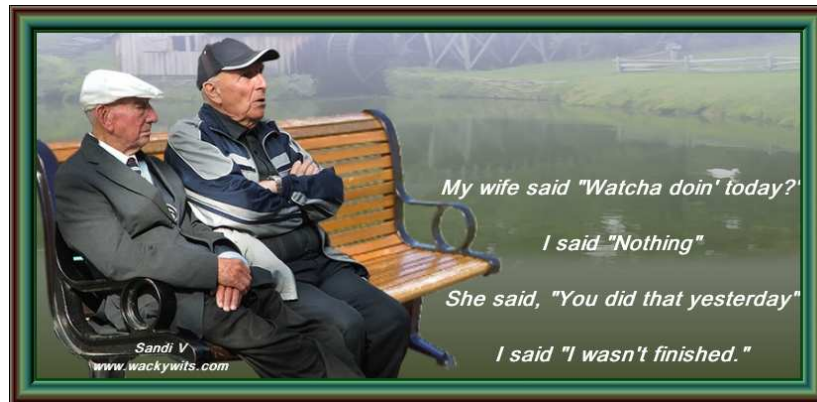
When you recognize opportunity from the front, then you've never need to view it from the back.

And one last thought. All strain is drain, remember that.

I want to wish all of you to have a great Thanksgiving and a wonderful holiday season.

Thank you and God bless.

Rev. Guy Hodgkins



We wish you a good door position and safe landing