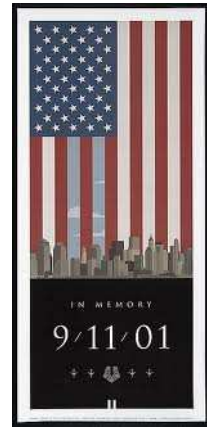


**New England Chapter 9
John A. Barnes III (MOH)
173^d Airborne Association**

[Mission Statement](#)



Sept 2011

9/11/01 “a day that will live in infamy”.
We will never forget.

Welcome to the New England Chapter’s Newsletter.

Summer and hurricane Irene are passing memories as we prep for winter. Irene impacted on us all in one way or another; hopefully things are as back to normal as possible.

National Patriot Day 11 September 2011 [Patriot](#)

National POW/MIA Day, 16 September 2011 [POW/MIA](#).

The next Chapter membership meeting is 24 Sept, 12 – 14:00, Mystic Ct. [Calendar](#)

A worthy organization by any standards, Cape Cod Cares for Our Troops. [Cape Cod Cares](#). Our Chapter supports this organization.

President:

When the first plane struck I know exactly where I was and what I was doing. I remember saying that we were at war, the teachers and staff around me laughed at me and said the United States will never go to war again. How wrong they were! Ten years later our Nation’s best continue to be in harm’s way defending us and our way of life. The world has changed forever.

Our chapter finally has a storage area. Because of the generosity and support of you our members we are able to rent a dry permanent storage container in Mansfield, MA. A veteran owned company that is providing us with a new 10’ CONEX container for \$50.00 a month. [CONEX](#)

The 2 year tenure of President, VP, Treasurer and Secretary are drawing to an end. If you have interests in any of these positions let Dennis know. Elections will take place at our Dec meeting.

Our webmaster has included a new page on our website; this will be for newsletters from other Chapters as well as “sub-chapters” (individual battalions). This is a work in progress as it is dependent on information being provided to us. A good addition to our site as communication helps us all. [Others](#). If you are getting newsletters from your unit or chapter you can forward them to our webmaster for inclusion.
webmaster@newenglandskysoldier.com

In closing, let me say that the chapter is alive and well, numbers are increasing and with the moving of membership meetings we are able to meet members that are seldom if ever seen. I hope to see you at the Sept meeting in Connecticut.

Peter Klausner.
President

Secretary:

Hello All,

Well September 11th is the tenth year anniversary of the attack on the World Trade Center which has come and gone. I myself pray every day that such acts of terrorism are never allowed to be played out again. The way of life for us was forever changed on that fateful day. We must NEVER forget.

We are now heading into fall and this is my favorite time of the year. The days get cool; the leaves begin to fall and apple picking time is fast approaching. It's time to say goodbye to the lawnmower for another year and start thinking about the white stuff which will greet us some morning when we wake up.

It is also the time of year to start thinking about sending in your dues for 2012. I would like to advise you that Chapter 9 brought in more dues into National than any other chapter in the United States for this past year. That is a great accomplishment and you all should take a bow. Our membership rolls are growing and this year we have more new members than we have in the last three years. Guess we are doing something right. Our membership roster holds the names of more than 453 members; of course all are not up to date members.

This year the chapter has accomplished many projects and quite a few dollars have been donated to various organizations. Of course most of this could not have been accomplished without the total support of the chapter members. I wish to take this moment and thank all of you for your support of the chapter. I am truly amazed at how much this chapter has grown in the past few years.

Our next meeting will be in Mystic Ct. and I would love to see some new faces at the chapter meeting. Remember this is your chapter and we are moving our meeting

locations around to accommodate members in other states, so try and make a meeting, you might just enjoy it.

At the end of this year in December, the offices of the Board of Directors will be up for bids once again. Anyone interested in running for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer should make their intentions known as soon as possible. The positions

will be for a two year period. Elections will be completed at the December meeting. If interested, send an email to me at dhill173@aol.com.

In closing I wish to thank you all for a great year and I look forward to many more. I extend wishes of good health to you and your family.

Airborne All The Way
Dennis Hill
(Chapter Secretary)

Treasurer:

For the last five years, I have been involved with the conduct of Veterans Day ceremonies at the Northeastern University Veterans Memorial. The Northeastern Veterans Memorial has honored 280 Northeastern Alumni who died during our countries conflicts since Northeastern began in 1898. The alumni honored on the Memorial include two members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, 1LT Carlton J Mendall and 1LT Robert W MacNaught.

On Veterans Day 2011, Northeastern will add four more alumni to the Veterans Memorial including an additional Sky Soldier. Rutherford 'Jim' Welsh a helicopter pilot from the 82nd Aviation Battalion. In March of this year, our president, Peter Klausner found the following comment on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"Gone but not forgotten!!!! Jim and I were stationed at the Chelsea Naval Hospital. He enjoyed lacrosse at Northeastern University .It was a lot of fun going with him to the team games. He almost didn't get flight school because of a shot given to him wrong. Jim was the best. I wanted him to be my 'best man, there are many good memories and fun times".

Peter asked me to check into this information and I was able to verify that Jim Welsh had attended night school Northeastern and that his name should be added to the Northeastern Memorial.

Another helicopter pilot from Vietnam will also be added to the Northeastern Veterans Memorial, Thomas Knuckey. Tom Knuckey was not a member of the 173rd, but the details of his death are contained on the website of the New Jersey Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Knuckey was listed as missing in action on May 27, 1971, in Cambodia. His remains were repatriated on February 26, 1993, and identified on August 2, 1993. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Knuckey received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star, Air Medal, the Purple Heart and various Vietnam medals and ribbons.

Synopsis (from the POW Network) as to the circumstances behind being listed as MIA: On May 27, 1971, 1Lt. Thomas Knuckey was the pilot and Sgt. Phillip C. Taylor the observer on board an OH58A helicopter which was part of a force conducting battle damage assessment in Krache Province, Cambodia, where air strikes had been made in attempts to destroy an enemy machine gun position. The location of the gun emplacement was near the border of Cambodia and South Vietnam, about 8 miles southeast of the city of Snuol.

During Knuckey's final pass over the gun emplacement, his aircraft was hit by enemy ground fire, and exploded while still in flight. The helicopter then crashed and exploded a second time and burned. Witnesses reported that the crew could not have survived. Because of heavy enemy activity in the area, a ground search was not possible. "

The 26th Infantry Division Band will provide music during the ceremonies at the Memorial. Ceremonies at the Memorial will begin at 2:30pm on November 11th. Those ceremonies will be preceded by a Remembrance Ceremony held in 240 Egan, right next to the Memorial beginning at 1:00pm. During the Remembrance Ceremony, the names of all the people honored on the Memorial will be read.

The dog tags placed on the Memorial contain the name, date of birth, place of birth, date of death, place of death, rank, service, and class at Northeastern of those people memorialized. The World War II service members include people who died in places such as Pearl Harbor, Bataan, the skies over France and Germany, Omaha Beach, Iwo Jima, and the skies over Tokyo. The service members for those 25 alumni who died in Vietnam include Binh Dinh, Quang Tri, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Kontum, Laos, and North Vietnam.

The website for the Northeastern University Veterans Memorial is <http://www.northeastern.edu/veterans/veteransmemorial/> .

Last year Senator Scott Brown spoke at Northeastern's Veterans Day Ceremony <http://www.northeastern.edu/news/multimedia/video.html?contentID=zeYoGKPzN0OtrdSOYupd7g>

A map of Northeastern's campus can be found at <http://www.northeastern.edu/campusmap/printable/campusmap.pdf> .

For further information please don't hesitate to email me at billmaloney5@verizon.net

Service Officer:

How To Write A Notice Of Disagreement Letter

First: [Consider Hiring A Lawyer!](#)

Eventually it is more likely than not that you will receive a notice from the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) advising you of an action that you disagree with. The notice may be a denial of your application for benefits, a notice of an apportionment action against your benefits, notification of a proposal to reduce your benefit amount

because you're in violation of the "fleeing felon" regulations or a host of other issues.

Any letter from the VBA that suggests that an action is about to occur that may cause you to lose benefits must be addressed quickly. The sooner you respond to such notice, the more likely it is that the outcome will be favorable to you.

Receipt of such a letter from VBA is no reason to panic. If you work quickly and thoughtfully, you'll interrupt or reverse the process without too much fanfare.

As with all actions and communications with VBA, the written letter is a powerful tool to have at your disposal. A well crafted letter is a physical object that must be faced by the VBA. In contrast, a telephone call to the toll free number is probably not going to garner any attention at all for you and a false sense of security may make you miss a time requirement. Faxing isn't much better...fax machines are notoriously unreliable.

The letter delivered via certified mail, return receipt requested is the best way to ensure the delivery of your document.

As with all written communication to your VBA, the letter should be professional in appearance, to the point with no unnecessary verbiage and be as brief as possible while including the required language.

Here is a template that you can use;

01/01/2010

Department of Veterans Affairs
Regional Office
P.O. Box 01234-5678
Your VBA City, State
Zip

Your Name and All Relevant Numbers (SSN, C-File, etc.)

Dear Sir/Madame:

I have received your letter dated (enter the date of the VBA letter). In that letter you have advised me that (my benefits are denied, you propose to reduce my benefits, someone has asked to apportion my payments, you believe I am a fugitive felon, or any other action VBA has advised you of).

Please accept this document as my Notice of Disagreement with your (name the action or proposed action).

I request that you take no action to reduce or modify my monthly benefit amount at this time.

I request that I be allowed a personal hearing and de novo review of my file and this (proposed?) action by a Decision Review Officer.

Thank you for your kind attention to this issue. I await your notice that my personal hearing has been scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Sixpak

Address
Telephone Numbers
Email Address

You'll notice that there is no argument in this letter to tell VBA why you believe they've erred. This letter is only intended to halt whatever process is occurring and to buy you some time to think of how you should respond.

The VBA believes that your timely notice is very important. They don't hold themselves to any such time limits. A brief letter like that above will satisfy any 30 day rules. By getting this to VBA within 30 days of the date of the letter they sent to you, you've put the ball back into their court. It's now up to VBA to schedule that hearing.

Before the hearing, if you're able, you should present your evidence and argument that will prove why VBA has made a mistake in trying to reduce your benefit. You may mail it in, enclosing a cover letter similar to the letter above that explains your position. If you've done a good job, you may get a notice that the personal hearing isn't required and the matter may be dropped.

At the very least, you've bought time in which you may prepare a good defense, consult with an advocate and you're much more in control of how the process will affect you.

Joseph Armstrong
Chapter 9
Veteran Service Officer

Summer edition of the Sky soldier Magazine [Sky Soldier](#)

A VC propaganda newsletter I found:



We wish you a good door position and safe landing.