



New England Sky Soldier Chapter 9 173rd Airborne Bde (Sep)



Email edition

February 2009

Welcome to the February edition of the Chapter 9 Newsletter. We hope that this newsletter finds you in good health, and that you made it through the Holidays without too much stress. Another year is here, we all get a little older. A great New-year resolution for us all would be to attend at least one Chapter Meeting this year. We are moving our locations to make it easier to attend.

Our website has exceeded 25,000 visitors since April 2008, quite a milestone for the Chapter.

NEW MEMBERS:



Dan Severson (DSC) Adam Hunt Christopher Reardon Darrel Chiasson

PRESIDENT:



I just returned from the Mid-Winter Conference in Myrtle Beach, and although all the details of the meeting will be in the next Association news letter I thought I would share a few points of interest. First of all I was very impressed by the professional attitudes and the dedication to the Association of all the chapter officers that attended the meeting as well as the leadership of the elected officers that run the Association.

Some of the important subjects that were discussed were.

- (1) Caring of our wounded assigned to the Wounded Warrior Transition Brigade.
- (2) Conducting a chapter census summary from a C.D. that was supplied by Mike Monti.
- (3) Helping to pass H.R.7111. The Honor and Remember Flag,
- (4) Ken Smith reported the status of the monument and the changes that have come about,
- (5) Official names of chapters, now is the time to get them right,
- (6) Down range support for the next deployment,
- (7) Mini reunions at the national reunions,
- (8) Repair of the Ft. Campbell memorial,
- (9) Voting Dave Dolby (C.M.H.) life membership,
- (10) Nominating President Emeritus and the procedures to do so.
- (11) National's web site will be changing dramatically.

These are only a few of the items discussed, there were many more however you will have to read the Association Newsletter as a follow up to this briefing.

I would like to close by saying the main lesson learned from two days of meetings is that good communication however transmitted is going to be a major key to keeping the Association alive and

thriving and also good communication will allow the Association to move forward and at the same time be passed on to the next generation of warriors



VICE PRESIDENT:

As I sit here contemplating what to write for this month's newsletter I am reflecting on our achievements and accomplishments during this past year and our prospects for this one. I find that am truly proud to be a part of THIS chapter. We have set a "standard" this past year. This year we must all keep the momentum going. We have laid the groundwork and I encourage all of you to try to make the meetings if possible; you the member are the heart of our chapter. It is also a great opportunity to get together if only for a few hours to catch up with each other. Right now we have many projects that are being conducted, everything from our Gold Star Families to the little league were working on, and are currently finalizing more. We want and need your input for all these to be truly successful and so far we are on the right path to success. Your voice is and will always be the core of our chapter. If you are unable to attend but feel there is something you want to participate in or have an idea contact us at our website www.newenglandskysoldier.com or show up to a meeting, we want to see all of you there and your input is truly valued and desired. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the next meeting.

All the way!

Sean Roden, VP

SGT AT ARMS:

Fellow Sky Soldiers,

My name is Dan Roden. I proudly serve you as your Chapter's Sgt at Arms. I was born in Malden, MA. 3/14/1949. My family moved to Saugus in 1957, and I reside there now. I graduated from Saugus High School in 1967, and entered the U.S. Army on 31 Aug. of that year. I was inducted at the Boston Army Base, and bussed to Ft. Dix N.J. for basic training. The D.I.'s made it quite clear where most of us would be going and one, a 101st vet, told me if you're going to be in a faraway land with a lot of hostile natives, you're better off being with people who think it's perfectly OK to exit an aircraft in flight. I then went to Ft. Gordon GA. for A.I.T. and then bussed across Georgia to Ft. Benning for Jump School. Upon completion, I received orders for the Brigade. I arrived in-country at Cam Rahn Bay 3 Apr. 1968, and, already assigned, preceded to An Khe for Jungle School and in-processing. After about a week there I went to Tuy Hoa and joined B 4/503. It was dark when we got to the 4th Bn. area and shortly after sunrise I got my first (of many) Huey rides out to Bravo Co. During my tour I served as Grenadier, Rifleman, and R.T.O., until Apr 69, when I extended for six months and went to Brigade HQ at L.Z. English as a V.I.P. driver for the Command Section. I Left Viet Nam in November 69 and finished my term of enlistment at Ft. Benning, GA., separating 28 Aug 1970.

My first year of civilian life consisted of working on the docks as a longshoreman and as a boilermaker on various jobs around New England. I was initiated into the apprenticeship of Ironworkers Local 7 in August 1971, and retired March 2005. On 12 Oct. 1975, I married Rose Ann Trudeau. She passed away on 30 July 2003, and is greatly missed by all.

I have one son, Sean, and my daughter in law Kristen. Sean, as many of you know, served with the Brigade (C/2/503) in Iraq, making the combat jump on the Bashur Air Field, 26 March 2003, and is currently the Chapter's Vice President. For the first twenty or so years after Viet Nam I was sort of "in the closet" as a veteran. I belonged to the V.F.W. and the Brigade Society but not very active in things that I should have been, then one night I got a call from John O'Dea, who was the Chapter President at the time, informing me about our own New England Chapter. As we talked we discovered that we were

both working on the same construction site in Boston. I started getting involved and believe it's been very beneficial for me. The Chapter and my comrades from Bravo 4th Bn. were extremely supportive following the death of my wife, and helped me through a very low period of my life.

In closing, I hope to see more of you guys as we are trying to hold meetings in different locations around New England, and if anybody goes to the Bedford V.A. I'm there at volunteer services Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, (Donut Dolly)

AIRBORNE
Dan Roden

SECRETARY:



Mid Winter Conference in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina is over and President Fred Lewis was in attendance. This past year was a banner year for chapter # 9 and here are two of the biggest accomplishments covered and noted by National.

- 1) Chapter # 9 was able to have National vote on and approve Life membership for Medal of Honor Recipient, Dave Dolby. The vote was unanimous. Dave Dolby is now a Life Member of Chapter # 9.
- 2.) Chapter # 9 brought more new and recurring members to current membership than any other chapter. You can see our membership drive has been a success up to date

Speaking of membership, our roster now holds the names of 355 past and present members. Out of that number 111 members are not paid up to date. So if you are one of those who have not paid your dues for 2009, please do so as soon as you are able. The chapter Officers would love to set a new goal as the largest chapter within the Association second only to chapter 173, which is the active Brigade.

Before you know it, it will be time to conduct the fifteenth year annual John A. Barnes, III , twenty-four hour vigil. The dates and times of the vigil are as follows: 0700 hours on May 24th through 0700 hours on May 25th. Please mark your calendars now for this historic and great event. More information will be forth coming as the event draws closer.

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

Stuff:

The next General Membership meeting will be held **21 March 2009, Dedham MA American Legion at 10:00.** If possible try to attend this meeting

Agenda Items:

Remember and Honor Flag and Project
Barnes Vigil
Open Chapter Positions
Sponsor of Chosen Company during next deployment
Unity Ride in Sharon for DAV
Cape Cod Race
Gold Star Family Card Project

Brian Hart, one of our Gold Star Parents, is contributing to the fight on the war on terrorism. http://www.blackrobotics.com/About_the_Company.html . Great work for a family that has gone through the unimaginable.

Our on line PX has increased dramatically, check it out, is there is something that you want contact Dennis Hill, 781.769.6062 or dhill173@verizon.net

<http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/PX.html>

We, as a Chapter are working on identifying and locating our fallen. If you know of a location, gravesite or memorial (street, intersection, and building) email me so that we can make record of it and make efforts to insure that it is maintained to airborne standards. webmaster@newenglandskysoldier.com .

There are still many of us unaccounted for, we continue our pursuit. If you know of a fellow Sky Soldier let us know. It still mystifies me that people don't know that the 173rd is on the internet. Help us, in finding each other. We are closing in on 400 members.

Our largest expense by far in the running of the Chapter is our mailing costs. Keep your information up to date so that we can better communicate with you. Dennis 781-769-6062, dh173@verizon.net .

The Chapter is again supporting Chosen Company 2/503 "should" there be further deployments of the Brigade.

Chapter 9 supports the Honor and Remember Flag Bill.

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=110_cong_bills&docid=f:h7111ih.txt.pdf

<http://www.honorandremember.org/index.html>

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED

After the Mid Winter Conference, National has made it a priority in regards to supporting and displaying of the Flag which is from Honor and Remember, Inc. The chapter would like to have one of the flags, but the cost is \$250.00 for one. This flag would be displayed anytime that the Chapter or National has a function of any kind. You can go to www.honorandremember.org and see the flag and while there please take the time to sign the petition. Also needed will be a pole and stand which cost an additional \$75.00, so the grand total for everything will cost \$325.00.

All donations, regardless of amount are welcome.



Email from our National President to our Members "Down Under"

Subject: Yahoo! News Story - 35 dead in Australia's worst fires in decades - Yahoo! News

Hey Mates , Hope all our Down under Brothers and Sisters are all OK ! Can you give me a sitrep ? Receiving calls from Concerned Members, I told them I haven't received any information yet, appreciate some input, we are CONCERNED ! Airborne All The WAY,

Eric A. Hitchcock

G'day Eric,

It is 0745hrs Monday morning and sadly I report that 108 people have now died in the bushfires and more dead are expected to be found today. Over 700 homes have been lost that total is also expected to increase as access is gained back into the affected area. I have not heard of any members of Chapter 27 in Victoria being affected ... but that could possibly be the case ... communication to the area is out of the question at this stage. I will keep you informed.

To top things off in North Queensland we have devastating floods that is affecting an area the size of Texas. We have Chapter 23 members in that area and my enquiries find that all members are on high ground and not at risk.

Thank you for your concern, I will be back in contact.

Regards,
Ray



40 Years Ago!

Cell phone numbers become public information next month. To avoid telemarketers from calling you must register your phone #. You must be calling from your cell phone. The number to call is 888-382-1222. This is the number to the Government's "Do Not Call List."

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

"My responsibility, our responsibility as lucky Americans, is to try to give back to this country as much as it has given us, as we continue our American journey together."

General Colin Powell