



## 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade (Sep) New England Chapter 9 Newsletter



Email Version

March 2009

Can it be that spring has finally arrived to New England? We again welcome you to the March, Chapter 9 Newsletter. The Chapter continues to increase and decrease in numbers at the same time. A life member, Victor Morton passed away on 27 Feb 09. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family. We are getting older, war and time takes its toll on us all. Our average age is now 59.8 years.

Our next Membership Meeting will be held on 21 March, 10:00 hrs in Dedham Mass., American Legion. All are invited. This will be the last meeting before The Vigil.

### New Members



LTC Paul McNamara

Ms. Juliana Williams (GS)

Bill Kaltenbach

### PRESIDENT



#### Sky Soldiers / Mini Meetings

Because we are such a large chapter and moving the meetings around is not always easy or successful the thought of mini-meetings has some merit. One of the ways to do this is to place an ad in the local paper in the personal section, title it Sky Soldiers and pick a time and a place to meet.

Some of the chapters around the country are doing this and it has been successful. If you have a restaurant that you frequent, run an ad, name the time, give the address and a contact phone number and invite any Sky Soldiers in you area to attend. The worst that can happen is you go out for a good meal in a restaurant that you are comfortable in and no Sky Soldiers show up however you still had the good meal and if a sky soldier does show up you have yourself a mini meeting and talk over what's happening with chapter 9.

The thought here is for members to meet other members in their area and keep the communication channels flowing towards a better chapter.

The chapter can also help with the mini meetings by doing a posting on the web site so give it some thought and next time you plan on going out to eat invite some sky soldiers in your area.

Thank You

Fred Lewis (President)  
John a Barnes (MOH) Chapter 9



Hello Again,

Well Men here we are once again at the end of our “winter lull” and the breakout of our yearly missions. We have many projects to complete this year with the first round belonging to the Chapters Barnes vigil. For those of you who do not know or may not have realized but this will be our 15<sup>th</sup> year the chapter has conducting the vigil and with each year our involvement and participation has slowly gotten better but we as always, we could use more. From what was plastic tarps and brown bag dinners has matured into a 24hr event with Tents, Drinks, Tables and Chairs, items for sale, and a never ending BBQ and above else the company of brothers. We encourage each of you to attempt to make your way down and check out the operation, for those who may be hesitant to attend or are unsure of wanting to come by please drive by at least take a look to see if you want to stop and just say “HI”. We have many members from numerous outfits that make their way down from our brothers in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Gavin Chapter, to our local Gold Star Parents, Last year we had the privilege of having CMH Dave Dolby stop by along with re-enactors coming from local parades stopping by, and yes they let us play on their jeep! Also the line of locals who stop by to see the going’s on. But what we would like to see is each of you there and attempting to help us make this once again a success. Each year we have made it a little better, and with each year your participation has made it more of a success, but each year a little more needs to be completed which means a little more help to complete the mission. Many of us are on financial hardships and our family and professional timelines and obligations are always nipping at our heels and each year we all are not getting any younger but I encourage each of you all to make an effort to come down and if you are unable to make your way down please contact Dennis at Herd Central (781)-769-6062 and see if you can assist us in some way to ensure our continued success as there are many tasks to be completed and with your support we will have another memorable vigil.

I want to encourage each of you again to make the attempt to attend and as a reminder we have a Meeting at the American Legion on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March at 1000hrs, stop in and see where and what direction your chapter is going. Hope to see you men there.

Airborne, All the way!

Sean Roden  
VP

**SECRETARY**



Hello All,

Well here it is the middle of March and Oh My God what a full plate the chapter has this year. We are going to be very busy through out the year and we will need as much participation from the members as possible.

The first event coming up is the John A. Barnes, III Vigil. This is going to be the fifteenth continuous year for this event. It is hard to believe that fifteen years ago a handful of us started the vigil. I can remember standing a total of six hours during the twenty-four hour period and when not standing, huddling under sheets of plastic that we had strung up to keep the rain off of us. We had nothing to eat other than what was donated by people when they came by and saw us shivering. What progress we have made since the first vigil. I am proud to have been one of the founding members of this event. So what am I trying to say?

Were all getting older, and standing at the memorial is getting harder. I stopped standing about three years ago due to my rapid declining of my legs and knees. I felt guilty at first, but have done all that I could to make up for it by taking care of the logistics etc. So the bottom line here is we need your participation to make this vigil work. If you have a uniform we need your help. It takes 48 shifts to cover the twenty-four hour period of the vigil. Many members have to stand two to five shifts to ensure someone is always standing in front of the monument. Please do all that you can to participate, we need your help.

If you have never attended a vigil, you be surprised! We set up tents, a car port to keep everyone and equipment dry should we experience inclement weather. We sell all kinds of 173rd items, from shirts, hats, stickers, coins and etc. We rent a grill on wheels and feed anyone and everyone who stops by free of charge. We turn no-one away, all are welcome. So come by and stand a watch or two, greet old friends and make new ones. Bring the family and make a day of it. Food is free and the coals on the grill are glowing red all day and night. Make a donation this year and receive a free DVD copy of the movie (Taking Chance) which came out on HBO last month, starring

Kevin Bacon, or a copy of the First Days in Afghanistan with the 173rd. Come and spend some money and support the chapter, make new friends, have a bite to eat, come by anytime within the twenty-four hour period. If you cannot sleep, come by and have some coffee and chat with the guys. This is your time, your function. Without your assistance, this worthwhile project will not be a success. The dates and times of the vigil are as follows:

Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 0700 hours through 0700 hours on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Attendees include, Gold Star Parents, Wives, Siblings, Boy Scouts, family members and passers by. This is a large function for the town of Dedham, Ma. The vigil is well supported by the town and its residents.

Any questions on the vigil you can contact a Chapter Officer or you can contact me at *HERD CENTRAL* at (781)-769-6062 any time up to 10:00 PM. Seven days a week. Let's make this vigil one that we will be talking about for many years to come.

Dennis Hill, (Secretary)

For first timers, there are directions to The Vigil on our website, just click on this link:

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

**Stuff:**

We want to thank everyone for their generosity and support in our purchase of the Honor and Remember Flag". We received sufficient funds and now have the flag, stand, cover etc. This will be present at all our gatherings.

Any members that have any information on this please contact Joe Ames directly.

*I am a Vietnam Vet and served with the 4th Infantry Division in 68-69. A friend of mine, Owen Macnamara gave me this site to go to to attempt to get some help.*

*My best friend, Peter W. Foote, was killed on January 30th, 1968, and was posthumously awarded the Silver Star ("V"), but it originally was the C.M.H. downgraded.*

*I currently co-chair his scholarship fund, which is given out annually at our old high school, Drury High, in North Adams, and we are approaching our 42nd award this June !!*

*However, I am trying to have his original award re-stored, and having Peter awarded the C.M.H. is my life-long dream. I recently learned that the man that he saved either IS or WAS from Holyoke, Ma., however, I don't know who he is or whether or not he's even living !!*

*If there is anything at all you can do to help me locate or identify this man, I'd really appreciate it !!*

*I've been told that I would have to locate witnesses to the actual incident that occurred on January 30th, 1968 in the province of Tuy Hoa. The "after-action" reports may help and I am in the process of locating them. However, any help or advice from you or contacts will be appreciated!!*

*Thanks Dennis and God Bless you and yours,*

*In Brotherhood,*

*Joe Ames  
amesjoe@comcast.net*

We hope to see all of you at "The Vigil" in Dedham. It truly is a good time for the entire family. For those of us that have young children there is an adjoining playground also. The food is hot, drinks are cold, and friendship is abundant. Stop in to say hello, meet some of the Chapter members, and reminisce about the "old days".

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

*"Some of you young men think that war is all glamour and glory,  
but let me tell you, boys, it is all hell!"*

General William T. Sherman

