



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



Email edition

June 2009

We again welcome everyone to our monthly newsletter. We managed to get through our 24 hour Barnes Vigil with no help from Mother Nature. We received several bouts of cold monsoon rain and hail during setup and the vigil itself. Because of the weather, turnout was less than we had hoped for. The good news was, there were no heat casualties. The food was plentiful and tasty, the company was great and there were more than enough laughs to go around! There are pictures on our website: http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Vigil_2009.html

Welcome to our newest members:

Tim Kelley Perry Ulander Michael Mock Jacques Lemoine

President



An Airborne greeting to you all.

It's feedback time

For all of you that have ever served in a leadership roll I am sure you are aware of how important feedback is. Feedback is an important tool to act as a barometer as to how the leadership is doing their job.

Feedback, good or bad has its merit.

The vigil did not go as good as it has in the past and we need to be on top of that situation while it is fresh in our thoughts. We need to make changes and adapt to the current situations that plague the vigil. I for one don't think it was the weather, I think people showing up and having to leave knowing other people are giving up their weekend and staying at the vigil for twenty four hours puts a lot of pressure on visitors so they just stay away. Some troopers don't want anything to do with a uniform of the day or the thought of posting for guard duty with an M-16 and that's understandable.

For everyone that does not get involved with the vigil there is a reason or an excuse and that's also understandable.

My thoughts are and this is my feedback that the vigil should first of all go to a committee. The vigil should also be shortened to twelve hours with a ceremony at the end of the vigil. Involving the families may help the vigil to be more successful also.

With the loss of funding for Memorial Day parades in many communities the vigil can and should fill the void of honoring and remembering all those that lost their lives for our freedom.

The vigil is not going to go away, we won't let that happen. We have a year to plan the vigil and make it better but we need your feedback. Your feed back to the newsletter editor at webmaster@newenglandskysoldier.com will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your input.

Fred Lewis (President)



Secretary

Hello Everyone,

Well we completed the fifteenth annual John Barnes vigil and to say the least it was WET. We received three separate rain storms, not showers along with hail and that made for one big mess for me. All of the chapter products became wet. My house looked like a Chinese laundry as I had to wash all of our tee shirts, dry and re-fold them along with the tent tarps to dry. The vigil did not end for me for at least a week or so later.

This is the first year that the chapter had to suspend watch at 2400 hours due to not having enough members to cover the tour watches. What a sin, we were not able to complete what we had started out to do. I am only hoping that it was the weather that kept the members away? As Fred stated in his article, please send in your comments and ideas about the vigil to our Web Master, webmaster@newenglandskysoldier.com. Many people work so very hard to put this event on each year.

Now, to my special project. DUES, we need to have everyone pay their dues. There are still 13 members from 2008 who have not renewed their dues. We have many more still out there sitting on the fence wondering if they should join or not. You earned the right to wear our shoulder patch, and you should be PROUD of that. Support your local chapter and wear your colors. We are finding new members every day.

Remember our motto: We will leave no man behind. Find a new member, pay your dues, and support the chapter. After all it is YOUR chapter, so be proud and walk tall knowing you were with the BEST there was to offer.

Last but not least our adopted company (Chosen Company, 2/503) will once again be deployed with the Brigade in the near future. We will need to at least, and hopefully beat the 500 pounds of goodies sent down range last year.

Until next newsletter, enjoy the weather, cherish your health, your family and keep the faith. Airborne All The Way!

Dennis P. Hill, (Chapter Secretary)



Treasurer

Treasurers Report

I'm not a usual contributor to the monthly newsletter, but I wanted to write the membership about a couple of things that are happening with the Chapter's finances with a hope that some of them are of interest to you.

At this time in the calendar year, after the Memorial Day Vigil and before the Annual Meeting and Leapfest, we are about a \$1,000 behind where we were at this time last year. In the middle of June 2008, we had about \$6,000 in the Treasury, and this year we have about \$5,000.

Some of this decrease in monies is due to the tidal wave that we got hit with at the Vigil. It was a double whammy. People who would have normally have visited us at the Vigil were driven off by the rain, and some of the new and old members who might have come to see us didn't. Therefore, the Vigil's product sales and donations suffered.

Last year's first half cash receipts were also helped by a raffle that Ed Donnelly ran conjunction the Homecoming Committee for the return of the 173rd from Afghanistan. We did not have those receipts this year.

In giving the above update, I am hoping that people will consider helping the Chapter make up the difference by making a donation, or paying their dues which might be in arrears. Contributions are important in meeting the annual expenses of the Chapter. The Chapter has approximately 360 members. About half our membership are Lifetime members which is good news and bad news. The good news is that the Chapter realizes more money when these dues are first paid. The bad news is that this is a onetime only event, and the Chapter sees no more money from that person unless he buys products from us, or makes a donation. The other half of our membership are people paying their dues annually. Unfortunately, only about 40% of this half of the membership have paid their dues so far this year. If you can, we would really appreciate it if you can get your dues up to date !

While I'm talking about dues, I did want to mention that about two thirds of all dues payments go right out the door to the 173rd Airborne Association, our national organization. This is what makes donations so important to us.

We have filed the necessary forms with the Internal Revenue Service for them to confirm us as a 501(c)(19), veterans organization, a not for profit organization . Although we were not required to so, this filing was recommended several years ago by National, and it asks the IRS to confirm Chapter 9 of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association, the John A Barnes III (MOH) New England Chapter 9 as a bona fide organization. A not for profit organization may also take advantage of lower postal rates.

As more than 90% of our membership are war veterans, donations to our organizations may also qualify as charitable contributions. I will acknowledge all donations by a letter from the Chapter.

Meet Our Members: STEVE GOODMAN

I never ever thought that I would be asked to write about myself for a news letter insert, I am truly honored to share my story with my Brothers in Arms for whom I have the utmost respect, and admiration.

I was born May 22, 1942, in Boston Massachusetts, and grew up and went to school in Dorchester, Ma. I graduated in May 1959, and enlisted in the Army on August 7, 1959.

I was sent to Ft. Dix (NJ) for both basic and Advanced Infantry Training. In AIT we were offered the opportunity to try out for the Airborne, some 50 tried, and only 6 of us passed the PT test. Upon completion of AIT, I was given a few days leave, and reported to 82nd. Airborne Replacement Company, and arrived the day before Christmas.

In those days the units needing replacements sent their Sgt. Major to address us, they gave us the BS about their units, and Sgt. Major Finn's bill of goods sold me on the 2/503, and on Jan 4, 1960, I was assigned to Bravo Company, 1st. Platoon, the Rock had its newest member. Shortly afterward I was in Jump School, class 1-60, and earned my Jump Wings.

In Late March, early April we were told that the 2/503 would be moving to Okinawa in May, and the tour of duty would be 18 months, well that turned out to be 24 months for many of us due to tensions in areas that you are familiar with. We jumped not only on the Yomitan DZ on Okinawa, but also on the Han River DZ, Seoul Korea, Clark Air force Base, and Ping Tung Air force base in Taiwan.

I served in all the basic Infantry MOS's, Basic Rifleman, BAR man, 3.5" Bazooka man, and my favorite the M1919A6 Browning Light Machine-gun.

I was a good Soldier; all my scores for conduct, and efficiency while in the 2/503 were excellent. I did manage to earn several Article 15's, and in a pissing contest with MSGT. Robert Burnette, I earned a Summary Court Martial. I made E-3 twice, and was promoted to SP4 on March 20, 1962, just 49 days prior to leaving Okinawa for CONUS.

Fast forward to October 6, 1973, Egypt, and Syria attack Israel, and it appears that all is lost on both fronts. I volunteered to go over, and help in any capacity. I was in Israel's Golan Heights from early November 73 to end of August 74. From my arrival in the Golan until the Israeli-Syrian cease fire

agreement in May, we were under almost constant artillery, missile, fire, constant threat of Commando attacks, and in several instances bombed by Syrian Migs.

The morning of April 11, 1974 started of like any other day, a group of 5 of us were going to patrol a Pipeline that runs to the border of Lebanon. We finished the first leg, and then continued on to Kiryat Shemonah to refuel the jeep, drink some coffee, and repeat the first leg in reverse. We were drinking coffee at the gas station when the siren went off, the signal that a terrorist attack was either in progress or imminent. As luck would have it the attack was on a hillside street opposite to the gas station. We were there, we were armed, and we set out in a 5 man skirmish line to try and locate the terrorists. We were nearing the top of the street when we heard a window being opened, we looked up at the 4th floor, and saw 3 weapons pointed at us, a Kalashnikov, a light machine gun, and an RPG, and they opened fire at a distance of 50-60 meters, how they missed us I will never know. We raced for cover behind some parked cars, and when the MG stopped firing we ran to take cover behind a huge boulder. We held our fire as we did not want to hit any survivors / hostages. The IDF (Israeli Defense Force) arrived, we gave the location of the terrorists, and they ordered us out, they gave covering fire and we withdrew down the hill. It was a savage day, the terrorists killed 15 civilians, mostly woman and children. In the final assault the terrorist killed 2 Israeli Soldiers, and the Sgt. leading the attack was wounded and paralyzed.

Fast forward to January 15, 1991, it is 14:30 hours and I have just landed in Israel, again as a volunteer willing to do what ever was asked of me to help out. Less than two days latter the Iraqis hit us with the first of (by my count) 41 Scud ICBMs. I hooked up with an organization that helps the elderly, shut ins, and the mentally challenged, with daily food and meds. I and a friend were assigned to the Jaffe-Tel Aviv-Ramat Gan areas. Basically we were working in the bull's eye.

You had to be there to appreciate the situation, most Scud attacks happened after the sun had set. You can actually see the incoming Scuds, and then you see the Patriot anti-missiles fired in pairs at the Scuds, a finger of flame streaking down from the heavens, and two oval shaped balls of fire from the Patriots, all streaking toward each other at a combined speed of about Mach 8-9, and the ensuing explosions put the best of 4th of July fireworks to shame. During one missile attack which I will never forget, my friend and I were caught out in the open on our way to Tel Aviv to drink some beers (we managed to send his wife to stay with her parents in a safer location), so we took cover in a large Citrus Grove. We actually had a short argument as to where to take cover until we looked up and saw this huge finger of fire pointing straight down (from our perspective) and almost simultaneously two Patriots were closing in on the finger of fire, and bang two huge explosions (the Patriots), and the next sight is the Scuds rocket propulsion system just tumbling through the air, tossing of these huge red balls of fire, just when we thought things were over, this deafening sonic boom from the missiles damn near gave us a heart attack. We continued on to Tel Aviv, and yes we definitely put some brews away. The next morning we learned that the war head from the Scud did land intact in our Citrus Grove and was recovered by the military, theirs and ours. These Scuds, and Patriot Missiles exploding in the air, and on the ground caused a lot damage. Our apartment building was hit by pieces of Scud, and Patriot missiles, one chunk hit beside my bedroom door, and a large chunk of Patriot Missile motor landed beside the propane gas tanks we use for cooking.

I moved to Israel in January 2000 and true to my double volunteer (RA, & Airborne) I joined the all volunteer Civil Guard as a uniformed volunteer Police Office. I had a great 10 year adventure that sadly at age 67 (22 May 09) I will have reached mandatory Civil Guard retirement age. I am not sure what adventures the future holds, but I do not intend to roll over and play dead.

Once again I want to thank Dennis Hill, and the 173rd. Airborne Association for the privilege of sharing some of those moments that are forever etched into my mind.

Once Airborne, always Airborne.

Most sincerely yours,
Steve Goodman

Stuff:

Our chapter's supported little league Team has had a GREAT season, they are undefeated. There are pictures our on our website. We send our congratulations to both coaches and players for a job well done. Here is an excerpt of their article posted to their website.

"Patrick Shore and Mike Pisano combined to throw a 13-0 no-hitter against the Rays on Tuesday evening. Shore went five and one-third innings, striking out 16 hitters. Pisano came on and retired the next two Rays' batters to preserve the no-hit game.

Shore had a day most athletes dream about as, in addition to a no-hitter and 16 strikeouts, he blasted three home runs and drove home five RBIs.

Second baseman David Flaherty continued his torrid and timely hitting with three hits and four runs batted in. Leadoff man Mike Pisano also had three hits and scored three times. John Damon had a pair of hits.

The Yankees also had a double by Jake O'Rourke and singles from Kevin Hines, Chris Heckman and Danny Sullivan.

The Rays turned in several fine defensive games from Michael Flynn, who tossed out a running trying to steal third and made a fine grab of a foul pop up; Paul Keady and Joe Derouen. Conor Riggle did a great job at third base.

The Yankees are proud to have Chosen Company of the 173rd Airborne as their sponsor this year."

http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Little_league.html

We want to remind all that Ward 8 is having their annual picnic, details are on our site, http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/files/Ward_8.pdf

We have several members that are on our sick call list. If you have a chance and an extra card or phone call would brighten their day.

http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Sick_Call.html

As you all know “the Chapter” is involved with the Rhode Island Leapfest each year. We will be there again this year. Come pay us a visit.

<http://www.leapfest.com/about>

http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Leap_2008.html

The Pier View restaurant in Onset MA., is having their annual “All Airborne” function held on the Town Green across from the restaurant. Everyone is invited. The owner Steve Baptiste is a member of our Chapter and each year he hosts this event. This year it will be held on Sunday, 13 September. We are all invited.

http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Pier_View.html

LAST WORD:

On behalf of the Klausner family, both retired and active. We thank you for the many cards and well wishes received for our son Eric. 17 months after his IED attack he is finally coming back to the States. He and his family will be stationed at Ft Bragg (WTB) awaiting a medical decision.

“We don’t thrive on military acts. We do them because we have to, and we thank God we are efficient.”

Golda Meir

We wish you a good door position and safe landing.