



New England Chapter IX 173rd Airborne Bde.



January 2009

We welcome you to a New Year, we hope it will be healthy and rewarding one to everyone. In looking back over the previous year the Chapter has accomplished a lot. Grown in membership, moved our membership meetings, made contact with the majority of our members, contacted each of our Gold Star families, and in general became more organized, computerized, and stronger. There is still a lot to be done and positions to be filled, members to be contacted, graves of our fallen warriors identified and honored. It will be another challenging year.

We ask that you give us your ideas, on what would make our Chapter better, many heads are better than a few. Contact any of the Officers and tell them what you think. All their emails are on our website.

NEW MEMBERS:



James Pouliot

Michael Ripa

Dominic Pungitore

NEWS:



There will be Chapter Membership Meeting 17 Jan 09. 10:00 Hrs, VFW Post 9013, 9-A Milk St. Westborough MA. All are invited.

Chapter IX Members in North Adams, Mass are working to get their skating rink named after one of our fallen.

http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Chapter_news.html Good work to all involved!

SKY SOLDIER

PRESIDENT



Happy New Year to all of you.

Looking back on last year a lot of hard work by all the members of Chapter IX produced a lot of great results. Now it's time to look forward. We have now doubled in size. One of my main goals will be to tighten this stick up, see what we have for talent and resources and make sure the chapter is strong and healthy before we start any new projects.

We have some projects out there now that have to be completed before we move on. These projects include finding out where some of our deceased members are buried, contacting life members, along with just meeting and greeting as many members as we can. Other projects will follow in time. Again my goal will be to finish the projects we have started.

I will be attending my first mid-winter conference this year and I hope to walk away from that conference with a new sense of awareness as to managing a large chapter and a sense of where National is headed.

Thanks to all
Fred Lewis (President)
New England Chapter IX John A. Barnes III

SECRETARY



Hello Everyone,

As your Secretary it is one of my duties to keep the records correct and up to date on the membership at all times. This is a tough task to accomplish without the help of you, the membership. Please take the time to update your membership information and of course if your dues are in errors, please send them in. The following is a blip I put in a newsletter many times in the past and I thought I would put it out there once more.

WAYS TO KILL A CHAPTER

Don't come to meetings, but if you do, be late.

If the weather does not suit you, don't think of coming

Find fault with the work of your Officers and other members.

Never accept an office, for it is easier to criticize than to do things.

If asked by the President to give your opinion regarding some important matter, tell him you have nothing to say--than after the meeting tell everyone outside how things should be run.

Do nothing more than is absolutely necessary, but when others roll up their sleeves and willingly, and unselfishly use their abilities to help others along, howl and complain that the organization is run by a clique.

Hold back your dues as long as possible, or just don't pay them at all.

When a banquet is given, tell everyone how money is being wasted on blowouts and parties.

If no banquets are being held, complain that the chapter is dead.

Always keep your eyes open for something wrong.

When you do decide to go to a meeting, vote to do something and then go back home and do the opposite.

Agree with everything that is being said at the meeting, and once outside of the meeting disagree.

Take all that is given to you and give nothing back

I wish you and your families nothing but the best for 2009. Please remember that this is your chapter, and your input is not only desired, but critical to the operation of this chapter. If you do not attend meetings and give your input, then the officers are forced to do what they think is right. Take the time to attend a meeting, you might just enjoy yourself.

**All The Way
Dennis Hill**

Meet your Officers



CHAPLAIN

Hello, My name is Ted Humber

TED WAS BORN ON 1-12-49 IN MASSACHUSETTS. HE WAS RAISED AND EDUCATED IN WESTBORO, MASS. CLASS OF 67

HIS BASIC TRAINING WAS AT FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA IN 1968. HE ATTENDED CAM CROCKETT, AT FORT GORDON IN 1968. HE THEN ATTENDED JUMP SCHOOL AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA IN 1968. TED THEN WENT ON TO INFANTRY NCO SCHOOL AT FORT BENNING IN 1969,

HE SERVED IN VIETNAM IN 1969 WITH THE 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE. CHARLIE COMPANY, E, COMPANY F.O. FO., 75 RNG CO.

TED WAS WOUNDED BY A LANDMINE ON OCTOBER 19, 1969. HE IS RATED AT WELL OVER 300% COMBAT WOUNDED, BESIDES GIVING HIS LEGS ON THE BATTLEFIELD. HE WAS FORCED TO RETIRE BY THE ARMY IN APRIL OF 1970.

IN 1975 HE MARRIED HIS WIFE BONNIE AND HAVE ONE SON.

HE ATTENDED FISHER JUNIOR COLLEGE AND RECEIVED AN ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS SCIENCE, IN 1978. HE THEN ATTENDED ROGER WILLIAMS COLLEGE IN RHODE ISLAND FOR A YEAR AND A HALF IN 1980, HE CHOSE TO STOP, BECAUSE I DEVELOPED VERY SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS WITH MY PREGNANCY AND ALMOST DIED HAVING OUR SON.

TED WENT ON TO GET A JOB WITH THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE THROUGH A SEVERALLY HANDICAPPED PROGRAM. THAT WAS A 6 MONTH TRIAL. HE DROVE TO BROCKTON AND THEY PUT HIM THROUGH THE PACES AT \$4.75 AN HOUR AND WAS GIVEN A 4 HOUR SHIFT. HE WOULD BE TOLD MANY TIMES AFTER AN HOUR OR TWO, THAT HE WAS TO GO HOME. HE WORKED FOR THEM FOR 23 YEARS AND RETIRED IN 2006.

HE IS A LIFE TIME MEMBR OF THE FOLLOWING: DAV, VFW OF WESTBORO AND BREWSTER, MA. AMERICAN LEGION, NAM VETS ASSOCIATION, THE PURPLE HEART ASSOCIATION, COMBAT ASSOCIATION, INC. AND THE 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE. HE IS LIFETIME MEMBER OF CHAPTER NINE OF THE 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE.

HE RECENTLY WAS AT DEATH'S DOOR WITH AND WAS HOSPITALIZED AND CRITICAL THIS PAST SUMMER. THE AIRBORNE FAMILY OF CHAPTER NINE, HE CAN'T THANK ENOUGH, FOR ALL THEIR LOVE, COMPASSION, KINDNESS AND GENEROUSITY. I WAS VERY GRATEFUL THAT THEY ALL RALLIED AROUND NOT ONLY ME, BUT MY FAMILY AS WELL,

IN MY DARKEST HOURS THE SUPPORT AND LOVE THEY GAVE MY WIFE BONNIE AND MATT. SHE SAID SHE DEFINITELY WOULD HAVE FALLEN APART WITHOUT THE AIRBORNE FAMILY!!! SHE IS VERY GRATEFUL TO ALL MY BROTHERS, FOR BEING THERE FOR ME, BUT FOR HER ALSO. I WAS IN A COMA FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AND EVERY OTHER IMAGINABLE DEVICE TO KEEP ME ALIVE. I CREDIT THE HOSPITAL, DOCTORS, AND STAFF, BUT MOST OF ALL CHAPTER 9.

I WENT TO THE NEXT MEETING AND MY BROTHERS NOMINATED ME TO BE CHAPLAIN OF THE CHAPTER. IT IS WITH GREAT JOY AND HAPPINESS THAT MY BROTHERS HAVE CHOSEN AND ELECTED ME. I HOPE AND PRAY I CAN DO A GREAT JOB FOR THEM AND NOT LET THEM DOWN.

I'M STILL SICK WITH NUMEROUS ILLNESS AND HAVE MANY MORE MOUNTAINS TO CLIMB, I AM READY TO TAKE IT ALL ON. I'LL CLIMB THE MOUNTAINS AND GET BETTER. AS DENNIS HILL, SAID AFTER MY ILLNESS THIS SUMMER, I WAS STANDING BY THE DOOR FOR MY LAST JUMP, BUT GOD, "WHISPERED TO ME, SON YOU ARE NOT READY, I HAVE OTHER THINGS FOR YOU TO DO. DENNIS WAS RIGHT AND I HAVE MANY MORE THINGS TO DO, ESPECIALLY TO BE THE VERY BEST CHAPLAIN TO MY BROTHERS. IT IS WITH GREAT HONOR AND PLEASURE THAT THEY ELECTED ME!!! I CAN'T THANK THEM ENOUGH.

Happy New Year...

Thank you to everyone who helped **Cape Cod Cares for the Troops** during 2008. Over 4600 care packages have been sent to our troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan including 600 Christmas Care Packages,

Dylan made three visits and provided gifts for our Wounded Warriors at Bethesda Naval Hospital and Walter Reed Medical Center, boxes of supplies have been sent to orphanages, schools, medical and dental clinics in both Iraq and Afghanistan. All this has been possible because of your generous donations.

We are hoping everyone will join us for the **5th Annual** Troops in the Spotlight show support for our troops serving in the "War on Terror" and honor all of our veterans who have proudly served our country.

Mark your calendars for Sunday May 25th and Monday May 26th.

Plans are now being made, we want to make this years event the biggest yet but we need your help...

- **Businesses, Schools, Churches and Community Groups to run "Donation Drives and Fundraisers" for the Troops During the months of April and May.**
 - **Anyone willing to write cards and letters to our troops (we need cards and letters to put in each care package)**
 - **Individuals or groups willing to put posters up and distribute flyers in their towns**
 - **Restaurants to donate food/water/soda, etc during Troops in the Spotlight**
 - **Businesses to donate prizes for our Support the Troops raffle**
 - **Military personnel willing to stand during Troops in the Spotlight (a one hour shift)**
 - **Most of all...everyone willing to stop by sometime during this 24 hour event to show their support for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to honor our veterans.**
- Please send us an email if you have any suggestions or would be willing to volunteer.

You can help now by sending this email to everyone on your email list, let's get the whole Cape involved in this years Troops in the Spotlight. Lets make this the biggest Memorial Day Event in the Northeast!

Thank you in advance, please check the web site for updated information and to see the slide show from last years Troops in the Spotlight.
www.capecod4thetroops.com

STUFF:

I always get the last word. We have come a long way under this regime. Things are happening, and everyday they make an improvement, some are small, some are monumental, and of course, some stink! But, I believe it is better to try and fail, than to not try at all.

The naming of buildings, monuments, roads, intersections, with our warrior's names, these will last for decades to come. As our generation fades away the 173rd's history will last forever as warriors that went above and beyond the call of duty. Any veteran of our era knows of our accomplishments. We were, we are, truly are The Chosen Few!

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

"Nothing is as exhilarating in life as to be shot at with no result".
- Winston Churchill -

