



New England Chapter IX 173rd Airborne Bde.

October 2008

Welcome to Chapter IX's monthly newsletter. Another busy time for the Chapter. new members; a general membership meeting, the inclusion of Gold Star families, and the Chapter evolving.

We welcome *our* newest members.

David Levesgue
Skip McCinnis
John Siemer
John Dias
Ed Dolan (GS)

Paul Leduc
Pat Finnegan
Edward McIntyre
Stephen Laline
Dennis Cranson (GS)

James Long
Howie Lund
Theresa Davis (GS)
Richard Dolan (GS)
Bill Curran (GS)

* GS = Gold Star Family

As of this writing we have 359 people assigned to the Chapter, we are continuing the process of locating and contacting these people. *Our* oldest recorded member was born 1930, *our* youngest recorded member 1985. 180 members were born between 1940 – 1950. We are a diverse bunch, Generals to Privates, scientists to blue collar workers. We are please that we now have in our area of operation Canada. Our neighbors to the North have an impressive website: We hope to establish a kinship to our fellow paratroopers.

<http://www.airborneassociation.com/cgi/links.php>



President

Gold Star Families

I had the distinct pleasure of talking to six gold star families since our last news letter. What an honor and privilege. Every time I picked up the phone to make a call to one of these families I never knew how I would be received. When the

calls were answered and I introduced myself I was greeted like a long lost friend. I spoke to mothers that were in their late eighties or early nineties, I spoke to brothers and wives all who were extremely happy to make a connection again with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Each call lasted between an hour to an hour and half and if you need to be reminded of what the definition of patriotism is, connect with a gold star family. These families represent a special breed of Americans that seem to live in silence, never asking for much more than connecting with the friends of their lost loved ones, and the hope that no other family has to endure a loss the same way as these folks have.

The chapter is making every effort to connect with these families and making sure they are being taken care of. It is my hope that by the time we have the next standown in May of 2009 these gold star family members will be able to make the trip to Dedham and we may sit amongst them, share some stories and help fill that empty void that still plagues them after all these years.

To all the gold star families I thank you for your kindness in putting me at ease in receiving my telephone calls and thank you for your sacrifice.

Sincerely
Fred Lewis (President)
New England Chapter 9



TREASURER

I am Bill Maloney, and I am Chapter IX's Treasurer. I first found out about Chapter IX just prior to the 173rd National Convention when it was held in Boston in 1998. I have been a member of the Chapter since that time, and I have become more active in the Chapter since I retired from my day job in 2004.

In the 173rd, I was in the 172nd Military Intelligence Detachment at LZ English at Bong Song from April 1970 through April 1971. Although I was truly a REMF, I have always carried a respect for those people in the 173rd in the Brigade's combat units who earned the Brigade its reputation and honor.

The 172nd MID was composed of four sections: Order of Battle (trying to identify who the 173rd was fighting), Counter Intelligence (security clearances and investigations), Imagery Interpretation (the Snoopy sniffer flights), and Interrogation of Prisoners of War. For about six months, I headed a section trying to identify members of the Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI). My last three months in the Herd I was responsible for issuing people their security clearances.

Prior to the 173rd, I was assigned to the 82nd Division Support Command which included the 307th Medical Battalion, the 782nd Maintenance Battalion, the 82 Air Equipment Supply (AES), and the Division Band. Yes, my company was identified as HHC & Band! As you would expect, the Support Command had the finest group of support officers in the Army. Two of the junior officers I knew in the 82nd and in the 173rd eventually became four star generals, Johnny Wilson and James Link.

After Vietnam, I was special agent in charge of the military intelligence office in Buffalo, New York. Our office conducted security clearance background investigations for the seven most western counties of New York State. During the 15 months I was there, two interesting things happened. Our office was broken in to by draft resisters. Those people were caught inside the building by the FBI. And, the riot occurred at Attica State Prison. We knew the law agencies involved in these events, because we operated similar law enforcement agency.

I grew up in Cambridge and went to Matignon High School and Northeastern University. I now live in Reading with my wife Marie. I have three daughters who live in the Boston area.

After leaving the Army in 1972, I became a CPA and worked for Ernst & Young in Boston until 1980. I then became tax manager for Teradyne in Boston where I was lucky enough to work for 24 years. I retired from Teradyne in 2004. I now do corporate tax contract work for other companies in the Boston area.

I should really tell you something about how the New England Chapter makes and spends its monies. Believe it or not, the Chapter makes only about 30% of its income on dues. Of that 30% collected, we pay out two-thirds of it to the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Association (National).

In the year ending in June 2008, Chapter IX made twice as much of its income from straight contributions to the Chapter as it did from the local portion of dues.

The monies collected from dues, contributions, and the other large revenue source, product sales, is used to pay for the expenses of the Chapter which are postage and expenses incurred the Memorial Day Vigil and Leapfest.

Importantly, members of the Chapter showed the Brigade's colors at the services for five of our members last year. The sending of a floral tribute was part of this presence.



Next Chapter Meeting will be held on 8 Nov @ 1300 hours at the Pier View Restaurant, 201 Onset Ave, Onset MA. This date was picked to help commemorate Operation Hump (8 Nov 65). This is truly an airborne establishment. The owner, Steve Baptiste (recently joined) caters to the airborne 365 days a year. Come early and join us for a late breakfast prior to the meeting.



Officer changes: Sean Roden (VP & Chaplain) was relieved of his dual role as Chaplain. Ted Humber was nominated and accepted the position of Chapter Chaplain.

Don Richards was relieved of his role as Service Officer. This additional duty was offered to and accepted by Bob Faibairn.

STUFF

The general membership meeting on 20 Sept had a lower than hoped for attendance. We know that geography is *our* enemy. We are exploring various options that would lesson driving and encourage more member interaction. Some of these options are the moving of the meetings, and the possibility of a live feed over the internet, whereby you can just click onto our website and see what is going on. We have the technology; it's the resources that still need to be worked out. As a matter of interest we have members in 25 states, and APO's, and 4 countries (not counting those currently serving). We are trying various options to get as many members involved in *our* chapter as possible.

We are the size of three airborne rifle companies!

Dues

Please, those of you that are 2008 or older submit your dues. These are essential to *our* Chapter. The procedure is on the website.

http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Chapter_Administration.html . We would also be appreciative of any donations that you care to make to the Chapter, the mailing address is listed above In the link. In appreciation for any donation the person, family, or company will be listed in our sponsor's area of the website.

We now have *our* membership roster on line as well as *our* Gold Star Families. Visit "*our*" families, they have endured the unimaginable, the loss of a family member. We will never forget!

We also have the names of the KIA's from RVN listed by state. This is linked to The Wall. We are also in the process of including *our* current warriors that were killed in action. We will never forget!

The website much like the Chapter continues to evolve. Stop in, sign the guestbook, and let *us* know what you think. What are we are doing right or wrong. This is *OUR* Chapter, *our* website! We need your input.

The town of Needham Mass, is hosting “The Wall That Heals” 30 Oct – 2 Nov <http://www.thewallthathealsneedham.com/>. They need help in various areas, details on their website.

The Officers are diligently working, and making improvements to the Chapter. Untold hours are spent trying to contact members, planning, helping members, answering questions, and moving the Chapter forward. They have put out “warning orders” for many new projects, some of which are; checking on the graves of our fallen warriors, broadcasting membership meetings over the internet, increasing membership, and increasing revenue. The goal is to have this Chapter not only survive, but to flourish, we don’t want to be that “last man in the stick”.

"An army is a team. It lives, eats, sleeps, fights as a team. This individuality stuff is a bunch of bullshit."

General George Patton Jr.

Help *us* out, *we* have many challenges ahead of *us*. *Our* heritage, and *our* future are worthy of *our* efforts. If you have ideas, time or resources that you can share with the Chapter, contact any of the officers. They will be more than receptive.

Last Word:

4 November is Election Day. It is our responsibility to vote. This is why we served, to be free!

Do YOU remember?

- 5 points of contact
- Good Door Position
- Counting to 4
- Check your canopy
- Assume a good landing position
- PLF

We wish you a good door position and safe landing!