



**New England Chapter 9
173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep)
Newsletter**



Email edition

April 2009

As always we welcome you to our monthly newsletter. The Officers and Staff have completed a year in office. They all should be proud of their accomplishments. We have evolved from a medium sized chapter to the 2nd largest, only to the Active Brigade. Great leadership and hard work is to thank for this. We have seized the high ground, we must now hold it! We look forward to another difficult and busy year serving our members, our fallen, and our active duty. I say *Bring it on!*

New Members:

Robert Doyle
Tom Wyatt

John Golz
Tom Lynch (H)

Greg Gwise (H)

President:



One year in retrospect

After looking over the past publications of our newsletters one can see that we have accomplished a lot in one year. We have moved forward in building our foundation and our membership and chapter 9 has become a stronger chapter. It is very easy as chapter president to become overwhelmed when I think of all the challenges that face the chapter however I am very lucky that I have a great crew of people that have enough motivation and skills to meet the challenges that face the chapter.

Unfortunately in the course of this past year we lost some members along the way either to the big jumpmaster in the sky or to the fact that they do not re-new their membership. These troopers will truly be missed. To our troopers who are being treated for wounds and medical conditions in facilities all over the world our thoughts and prayers are with you every day.

As for lessons learned in the first year I would say meetings, meetings, and more meetings amongst the officers and chapter members seem to be the key for staying on target. As for running the chapter while snow birding in Florida I found it to be more difficult than I thought it would be even with all the technology available. I have learned that having boots on the ground at the chapter H.Q. is the only way to properly conduct chapter business and get things done.

This coming year the current officers get another chance to do what needs to be done. I am aware of our accomplishments but more so I am aware of our weaknesses as a chapter. I am aware that I must try harder and push harder to make the chapter stronger. We have not made it to the point of more accomplishments behind us than in front of us. Being an elected officer is a huge commitment and requires putting in a lot of man hours and travel every week. When elections come in 2010 the chapter will be looking for new people to take the helm. Hopefully new faces will emerge and step forward and offer their talents to lead the chapter to a point where the members of chapter 9 can say we are a strong well organized chapter and we can take care of our own and have a strong bond with all that the national chapter is trying to succeed in accomplishing.

To all that have helped us in the first year I thank you for your hard work and determination.

God Bless our troops
Fred Lewis (President) New England Chapter 9
John A Barnes (M.O.H.)
International Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade

Vice President



Well as I am here thinking of what to write again I am aware all of the hard work done and accomplishments during these past few months. There is much work ahead for us. Each of us should be truly proud to be a part of the New England Chapter. We have many events ahead with the Barnes vigil in May, Leapfest in August, the Little League Team we are sponsoring in Norwood this summer. There is also the National Reunion in Florida. Hopefully you all will be able to make it to at least one of these events. The little league team schedule will be posted soon. I encourage all of you too take a moment and go through the website www.newenglandskysoldier.com and see if there is something you would want to assist in directly or indirectly. Each of these missions are important, at the end of the day it is to the hard work and dedication to our personnel who have made these events possible.

I hope each of you are well, I am hopeful to see more of you at the coming meetings and events, until then my best to all.
All the way!

Sean Roden

Secretary



Good Morning Troops

Here we are in April and before you know it we will be running our fifteenth year John Barnes vigil. Plans and projects are already in the making and we are hoping for a great turn out for this vigil.

For you new members this vigil is a twenty-four hour vigil where a uniformed person stands in front of the John A. Barnes, III, and Congressional Medal of Honor Monument which is located in Dedham, Ma. The tour of standing is broken down in half hour shifts and we start at 0700 hours on Sunday, May the 24th and end at 0700 hours on May the 25th Monday morning. We set up tents and sell products and feed everyone who drops by regardless of who you are and it is free. This is truly a family event where you can bring the family, have a bite to eat and buy some herd products for yourself and the family. Member participation is strongly needed to make this event a success. We need the manpower to cover shifts and the buying of products to raise money for the operation of the chapter. Average cost of running the vigil is around \$700.00 and in the past the town of Dedham has helped the chapter with the expenses. This year of course funds have been slashed by the town so money will be a little tighter this year, but this does not hamper us in our plans to provide free food for everyone. We will have hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hotdogs and steak, soda and water all paid for by the chapter. So mark your calendars and please make an attempt to come down and be prepared to enjoy yourself. Cannot sleep during the night? Come on down at anytime, we will be up for the entire twenty-four hours. Need a place to sleep?, we have a tent set up to pitch a sleeping bag or cot and sleep and not worry about getting wet should it rain. The vigil goes on regardless of the weather. Remember the dates and come on down.

On another note the chapter has just reached the first year mark of having a web page and an aggressive recruiting program. Both projects have been very successful, and of course this could not have been accomplished without hard work and dedication to the chapter.

We have 17 members left who have not renewed their dues from 2008. If you are one of them, why not drop your payment of \$24.00 in the mail and become current. We could say we have a 100% membership goal accomplished if you last 17 people pay your dues.

High goals have been accomplished, and this would take us over the top. If your membership card does not read 2009 or Life than your dues are in errors, become current today.

Hope to see you all at the vigil? Airborne All The Way! Dennis Hill, (Secretary)
Below are the directions to the vigil in Dedham, Ma.

DIRECTIONS TO JOHN A. BARNES, III MEMORIAL 24-HOUR VIGIL

Take route # 128 South or North to route # 1, (Dedham). After turning onto route # 1 you will come to a set of lights at which time you will see construction of a new mall on your right, Proceed down route # 1 past the lights till you come to the third set of lights. On your right you will see (Liberty Travel). At this set of lights take a right hand turn. This will be Eastern Avenue (no street sign visible, but there is a Staples right in front of you). After taking this right onto Eastern Avenue, follow the street past the Jacob Jones VFW Post # 18 on your left and continue on the road and you will pass the American Legion Post # 18 on your right. There is a tank in the front of the building. Continue past this to the intersection, which will be Eastern Avenue and East Street. We will be setup on your left side as you approach the intersection.

You should have no problem seeing personnel standing at the intersection. Park your car on the side of the road and come and join us.

The vigil starts at 0700 hours on Sunday the 24th and runs through Monday the 25th at 0700 hours. I will be the fat guy sitting behind the table selling items

Any questions or if you get lost you can call me on my cell phone at (781)-724-3492.

Dennis P. Hill



Spotlighting Our Members: (Greg Offringa, RVN 68 – 69)

My first unit in Vietnam was with the 597th TC we were based out of Phu Tai. I was a machine gunner on armored trucks and gun jeeps escorting convoys on highway 19 and 1 in the central highlands, traveling daily to destinations around either Plei Ku or Bong Son. After surviving many ambushes around either the An Khe pass or the Mang Yang pass (Torpedo Alley) and along QL 1 north of Phu Cat I was feeling like my luck was drawing thin so I put in my transfer papers for the 1st Aviation Brigade. I was fortunate enough to be granted that transfer and was lucky enough to be assigned to the 335th AHC – the Cowboys and was a gunner on a UH-1H helicopter (slick). I was in the 1st flight platoon the Ramrods. During my time with the Cowboys most of our combat assault missions were with the Herd staging our assaults from one of three locations, Bong Son, Phu Heip and/or An Khe, towards the later part of 1968 we were mostly flying single ship missions with LRRPs, 5th special forces, ROK tiger Division LRRPS (or equivalent) although, I can remember some large assaults (November 1968) with the heard just before we were relocated to Bear Cat on December 3rd, 1968 (our new AO became areas in III and IV corps). We always thought that they were going to return us to II corps and our long affiliation with the 173rd, but that never happened. The Cowboy gunners were mainly made up of many 173rd troopers like Richard Brice, Larry Kendrick, Jim Olson and many others as well as those of us from other ground units. I served with two great crew chiefs, Larry Smith and Terry (Dinky) Hofeldt on Cowboy 380. After returning to the states I was assigned to D/2/9 Cav at Ft Riley, KS and became a crew chief on an OH-13. and in June of 1970 was honorably discharged.

After my 3 year enlistment I served on the Wareham police force for the summer of 1970 and then I started undergraduate school at Central College in Pella, IA, in 1977 I went on to Boston University gaining a Masters degree in Social Work, in 1980 I became a fellow at the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy and lastly I completed my doctoral studies in Clinical Psychology at The Fielding Institute in 1997. I presently am in private practice in Boston and Sharon Massachusetts and was on staff at the Boston Institute for Psychotherapy for a number years until 2005 as part of the senior clinical staff.

I have been married to my wife Barbara for 26 years and have two great children. My experiences with the Cowboys and the 173rd taught me well and I will never forget the love, care and pure dedication of my fellow Cowboys and Herd brothers



Movie Trailer: What Makes a Warrior <http://www.warriorsthefilm.com/Movie.html>

Last Word:

All the Officers & staff hope that your summer is safe and healthy. Enjoy your family, our great Country, and our world. We are truly blessed to be Americans. We hope to see you at one of our events. Changes to times and or dates will be current on our website.

We wish you all a good door position, and safe landing.

“Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him.”

Dwight D. Eisenhower