



New England Chapter IX 173rd Airborne Bde.



July 2008

We hope that everyone had a great 4th of July, and that you were able to spend sometime with your family and friends.

The Chapter continues to grow:

New Members

Tom Whittaker, Brandon, VT

Scott Stewart, Boston, MA

Anthony Albarello, Brandon VT.

Robert Corry, Brimfield MA.

Margaret Fera, Gold Star Wife

Welcome all

President



To all the New England Chapter IX John A Barnes III members:

I thought I would take some time to introduce myself for this month's newsletter and each officer would do the same in the following issues each month. I was born and brought up in

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Randolph, Mass. and was drafted into the service in 1970 and did my basic at Ft. Dix N.J. and A.I.T. at Ft. Ord, California and we all know where we did jump school. I arrived in Viet Nam as a 11B4P in July of 1971 and was assigned to A2/503 Inf. and stayed with the Herd until it was deactivated on Jan.14, 1972 and from that point I was with the 101st Abn., until August of 1972. When I got out of the Army I then went from job to job until 1978 when I got on the Randolph Fire Department and have remained there and will be retiring this month after thirty years of service. I have been married for eighteen years to my lovely wife Juanita and how she puts up with me I will never understand.

Working with the great staff of Chapter IX is enjoyable and rewarding and will also help fill in that void that will come upon me as I do retire soon. As you will see in the future news letters we have a highly motivated and talented staff and I am honored to be associated with them as they truly embody that airborne spirit and drive that have made this chapter so successful.

Thank you to all
Frederick Lewis
President

MISSION STATEMENT, Chapter IX: 

Purpose of Chapter IX:

To help sustain and improve the common bonds existing between all service members who have been assigned to, or attached to, the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sky Soldiers).

To maintain contact with and to help, as practicable, Sky Soldiers who are seriously disabled as a result of military service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

To assist Sky Soldiers in Veterans Affairs matters, if needed and as practicable.

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To honor and perpetuate the memory of Sky Soldiers who died in the service of the United States.

To help to shield graves of Sky Soldiers from neglect.

To foster fellowship, and esprit de corps among all members of Chapter IX.

To render acts of charity and service; provided, these acts are consistent with Chapter IX's bylaws, and with the bylaws of the Association of the 173d Brigade, Incorporated.

To give priority effort to tasks within the geographical areas in which Chapter IX's members reside.

STUFF

We now have over 350 assigned members. *Our* numbers have doubled in 3 months. We are undertaking the tasks of locating, and updating of demographic records to ensure that data is correct with both *us* and National. We will try to publish *our* membership listing next month so that all the members will see who is assigned. There is still a lot of work to do between now and then.

Dennis Hill is the person to contact if it has been a while since you last updated your address or email. dhill173@verizon.net. Communication is a key to success. ** note that Dennis has changed his email.*

We are emailing over 180 newsletters monthly, meaning that there are still many that go snail mail. This is both a cost to the Chapter as well as a slow way of communication.

We are considering the possibility of sponsoring a little league or T-Ball team next summer. If you know of a team that is in need of sponsorship let us know. What are your thoughts on this? We would like your input on this matter. This can be done by email or phone calls to any of the Chapter

Officers, all email addresses are on the website, or send them to me at this address. I will forward them to the appropriate persons.

The Chapter is gearing up for Leapfest 2008 (9 August); mark it on your calendar, a family event where the Chapter sells various food items, shirts and pins. Come for a visit, chat with us, and spend the day with your family watching paratroopers from around the world compete.

<http://www.riguard.com/modules.php?name=Content&pa=showpage&pid=64>

The original 4th Battalion had our reunion at Fort Campbell last month, it was a terrific event. Our original Battalion Commander, then, LTC Healy, now, Gen Healy (R) celebrated his 80th birthday with us. There will be pictures etc posted to our website as they become available. Great seeing the “old” guys, lots of laughs and a good time. Fort Campbell was smiling having paratroopers on it again! If you were in the original 4th Battalion and haven’t made contact with anyone the person to contact is Jack Tarr jtarr5@cox.net. The next reunion will be with National’s at Daytona Beach.

There is some important information in regards to pay and disabilities that are on *our* site. If you were medically retired from the Army this pertains to you. It is well worth your effort.

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

Tom Lynch, The Energizer Bunny! Tom’s son Daniel is serving with the Brigade in Afghanistan. Tom has been raising awareness and \$ for the Troops as well as supporting our Chapter. Tom is a model for *us* all, our prayers and well wishes are for his son Daniel, as well as Tom’s continued success.

Old Iron Sides is flying *our* flag! Truly amazing pictures, you can see them on *our* site. *We* are raising the bar on awareness of *our* Chapter and the 173rd!

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

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The Officers are rebuilding *our* foundation of the Chapter and moving upward. There are draft emails going between them, as they become available they will be sent to all. Again I assure you that there are many hours being expended improving *our* Chapter. We are fortunate to have such a Presidency.

We inserted *our* application for membership on *our* homepage of the website, simply open it, print it, then fill it out, write out a check to Chapter IX and mail to Dennis. Hopefully that will make it easier to stay current on dues. All identification with National and *us* will be the first letter of your last name, and your last 6 digits of your SSN, example: k123456 . This is because today's Army does not use a service number like we did, and that SSN's are sensitive.

Requesting Military Records, sponsors, dependents, next of kin:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>

Help to support our Troops and their homecoming. We are selling 173rd Posters on our site, ALL PROFITS going to the Brigade.

<http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/PX>

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