



New England Chapter IX 173rd Airborne Bde.



August 2008

We have lost another one of *our* brothers. Lawrence Gruntler. Larry lived in NY and was taken by cancer. Annemarie his daughter, made contact with *us* just before Larry's passing. Annemarie was able to enroll her Dad with the VA in New York and register her Dad as an Agent Orange recipient. Rest in peace Larry!

Our hearts go out to those fallen warriors of C 2-503 and their families, and comrades. *We* are reminded that the price of freedom is never cheap, and that there are still many of our warriors in harms way! Stars and Stripes articles on *our* site.

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

NEW MEMBERS:

Ed Lastkowski, Manchester, NH

Bryan Bielefeldt, Millford, CT

Elwood Hawk, Rock, WV

Gary Stanley, Brandon, VT

William Martineau, Wells, ME

John Gaudette, Colebrook, NH

Dave Dolby, CMOH recipient

Patrick McCann, Nashua, NH

President:



Please take the time to look at the web site or last month's news letter and read the mission statement. This mission statement is what keeps *us* on track, and gives *our* chapter purpose for where *we* need to be heading in the future. Please take the time to read it and understand it.

Part of the mission statement is to help shield the graves of Sky Soldiers from neglect. If you know where a member of the 173rd is interned please contact one of our officers and we will make sure the site is taken care of.

The second item I would like to discuss is the "snail mail" or should I say old school postage stamp type mail. If you have a way of getting the news letter online please let *us* know as *we* are spending a lot of money and man hours getting the "snail mail" out to *our* members and that type of service is costing the chapter hundreds of dollars each year.

Thank you
Frederick J Lewis
Chapter IX President

Vice President:



To all the New England Chapter IX John A Barnes III Members and Affiliates:

I would like to take the time to introduce myself to you as your Vice President / Chaplain. I was born and raised in Saugus, MA to Daniel and Roseann Roden, "Dan is also the Sergeant At Arms having served in B/4/503 68-69". In 1999 I joined the Army as an 11X ". I was told that the X meant airborne contract I did not know that 11X actually meant unassigned infantry" how wrong I was. My basic, A.I.T and Bradley training were all done at Ft Benning, GA were I was assigned as an 11M Mechanized Infantryman. I was assigned to C/1/22 4th ID at Ft Hood serving from 99-00, from 00-02 I was assigned to D/1/9 2nd ID Camp Hovey S. Korea, in Korea I Re-enlisted for Airborne training and from 02-04 was assigned to C/2/503 173rd ABN Caserma Ederly Italy, serving in Iraq from 03-04. After I returned home in late 04 i took jobs working construction and lobstering on the side. in 05 having missed the military took a position as an Active duty Guardsman as a 19D Cavalry Scout with B/1/182 out of Melrose, MA and J.F.H.Q Milford, MA. In 06-07 I deployed with B/1/182 Cav to the Balkans "Kosovo" in support of peacekeeping operations.

I currently live in Quincy, MA and still on active duty and have been married to my lovely "and patient" wife Kristen of 3 years.

I am very proud to have served and continue to serve with this distinguished group. I am equally proud of how hard everyone has worked to make this Chapter a continued success, We have come a very long way and still have work to do, as a Chapter we are growing by leaps and bounds weekly from membership to our website and everything in between, and I salute all of you for making this possible.

Airborne All the way! Chosen Few.

Sean M Roden

STUFF

Next Chapter Meeting will be held on 20 September 2008, at the Dedham American Legion. All members are invited.

There will be a cookout at West Roxbury VA on Saturday August 23 at 1100. Members of the Dedham DAV will be hosting this for the patients and need our help to distribute the meals to the patients. We have done this in the past and it was a very rewarding experience.

We have 2 officer positions that require filling, Chaplain, and Judge Advocate, if interested in either attempt to make the meeting. Both are currently double positioned by other officers.

Our sick call area; support *our* sick and ailing brothers. Cards, emails balloons, help to lift their spirits. They are one of *us*. We have provided the necessary info that you will need on the website. Tell the world we care about *our* members.

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

It appears that I was in error in a previous Newsletter as to when *Our* Chapter was formed. Roy Wheelock, started forming the Chapter in 1985, and received the actual charter at the reunion in 1988. We are 20 years old, older than we first thought.

On 9 August the Rhode Island National Guard held their annual Leap Fest, the Chapter set up a booth to sell food and miscellaneous other articles.

Dennis Hill: "Those supporting the Chapter; Fred & Juanita Lewis, Sean & Dan Roden, John O'Dea, William Maloney, Elton Ricker, Bob Fairbairn, Kevin Shaw and myself (Dennis Hill)". The Chapter did well, sold all the food products, some clothing, and pins. Everyone worked as a fine tuned violin. This was the most successful Leap Fest to date. Thanks to everyone who helped and to those who came down.

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

I again apologize that some of you may have received two email newsletters, or no newsletters. We are working to get *our* email listings. We continue to get many rejects

on emails, if you like reading about *us*, keep your demographics up to date. This can be done thru our website guestbook, phoning, or emailing any of the officers or myself.

Our website has had tremendous success. It has had over 10,000 hits in 3 months, more than we had ever hoped for. There is room for Sponsor's. A place where you can tell the world of your business, your family, or just to show support for your chapter. The cost is \$50.00 a year for unlimited space, a really good deal. This is also an excellent way of showing off your family pictures to loved ones far away. Data, pictures, upload them to me and mail the check to Dennis, mark sponsor on the check. That's all there is to it.. *We* will do the rest!

Brandon VT. Is a small rural town with a population of under 2,000. What are the chances of having three members living and knowing each other? Gary Stanley, Tom Whitaker, Anthony Albarello. *We* welcome all three new members and the town of Brandon Vt.

Adding to the airborne spirit in Brandon, Anthony Albarello's daughter Chrystal received National's 1/508th scholarship award. Congrats to Chrystal! Brandon surely is an airborne town!

There was an Officer meeting on 27 July. Leap Fest was the prime topic, with membership, and contacting of members also discussed. A plan of attack was devised. Members will be asked to contact members. This is simple task, requiring very little of our time. What's in it for me? Nothing more than satisfaction and knowing that you talked to a Brother in Arms belonging to the best fighting force the Army has ever had. No, pushing of joining, dues, or attendance, just a friendly visit. *We* are counting on your support in this matter. Many of *our* members have gone too long without hearing an airborne voice. Your support is needed and appreciated. More details will follow.

Dues, did you know that the Chapter gets \$8.00 from every yearly membership paid. Every Life Membership, the Chapter gets a one time \$52.00, the remaining monies are sent to National. It takes considerable money to run a Chapter of *our* size. Paying of dues is important to *our* survival. Emails and snail mail will be sent nearing the end of the year as a reminder to those concerned.

The Newsletter Editor always gets the last word! During the past few months I have had the opportunity to call inactive as well as active members. Sometimes to say I need to know something, sometime to say hello. I have always been received warmly, and treated as a brother. We have such a diverse, caring membership. Professional people of all sorts, Police, Fire fighters, you name it, we got it. We all have a common bond, that of being a Sky Soldier! They know that and I know that. We have seen a lot, done a lot. We all have ghosts in the closet. We all have lost loved ones. We all have been wounded in one way or the other. But, we are a Chapter, brothers until the end. I for one am proud to say I AM A SKY SOLDIER!

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