



**New England Chapter 9  
John A. Barnes III (MOH)  
173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Association**  
[Mission Statement](#)



Jan 2015

We again welcome you to our newsletter. Hopefully your Holiday Season was enjoyable and that you were able to spend some time with your loved ones. There have been many changes at the National level that impact on us all:

A new website has been created and running that gives us more information and resources, [www.skysoldier.net](http://www.skysoldier.net) that were never afforded to us before. It also allows us to read all the past magazines. If you have problems logging on for the first time email Dennis at [dhill173@verizon.net](mailto:dhill173@verizon.net). While on National's site you also have the ability to verify and update your info. National is encouraging us all to receive our magazines thru email; a slick program has been installed for viewing our magazine. We have the summer edition on our website so that you can view how it looks.

[www.newenglandskysoldier.com/3D Magazine](http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/3D_Magazine) . Using the digital version has many advantages, cost savings, saves resources, faster delivery and stores easily on your computer. Logon to National and give it a try. One of many goals of the new website is to become more transparent in all our dealings, as well as being more informative. Again, any problems let Dennis know.

Locally we are about to launch our Annual Raffle. The tickets are enclosed or will be mailed to you; winners are posted each day for viewing, all winning tickets are placed back into the pot for the chance of more wins. Any money that is made by the Chapter is used directly in support of the Chapter.

**Our next Chapter meeting will be at the Foxboro, MA. VFW Post 2626 on Feb 14, 2015. There will be a free breakfast cooked by our award winning chefs. Breakfast is at 10:00, meeting starts at 11:00. Hope you are able to attend.**

President:

I have been fortunate to have been President for 4 years; I have had the opportunity to meet many of you at meetings, and communicated with you thru emails. We have evolved from a small Chapter of some 150 members to a Chapter that is now 650+ members strong. For the most part it has been an enjoyable journey. We are a sound Chapter; financially, Officer wise, and member wise. There have been a few bumps in the road; we have smoothed out many of them. Our evolution continues. If you think you want to help fellow Sky Soldiers let me know, there is always room for more, my email is [logpc@comcast.net](mailto:logpc@comcast.net).

Member participation is key to improving our Chapter, the old saying that 2 heads are better than 1 comes to mind. As hard as the Chapter Officers work and think of ways to improve, we can't think of everything. Your input is critical to our improving; let us know your thoughts and ideas. Attend a meeting and let us know. We move around our area, not because we like driving, rather it's to meet our members and to hear their thoughts and ideas. Come join an upcoming meeting and tell us what you think.

Peter Klausner  
President  
A 4/503 66-67

### Secretary:

Happy 2015 to everyone. The Snow Gods have been good to us in Norwood and I am so pleased that I have not had to turn my snow blower on once this season. If we make it through the entire snow season with no snow, I will be one happy camper.

As always it is a new year and time for annual members to pay their dues for 2015. You want to remain current as you want to continue receiving the Sky Soldier to know what is going on with the 173D. Dues for a calendar year are still \$24.00, and Life dues remain at \$173.00. If you are reading this why not break out the checkbook and send in your check right now while it is fresh on your mind. Mail payment to Dennis Hill, 97 Earle Street, Norwood, Ma..02062-1504, checks payable to Chapter 9.

It has been a long cold winter, but gas prices have been dropping every week for months and this helps everyone with gas and heating bills. I am sure it will drop more and this is good for us all.

2015 is a new year and why not think about getting a little more active within your chapter? New faces and new ideas are always welcome. Many of us are now retired and have some time on our hands, why not get involved.

I hope to see some new faces at the next chapter meeting. Remember to see your doctor and keep your appointments. We're not getting any younger, and need to keep track of our health for our families.

Stay well and my best to you and your families for 2015

Dennis Hill

### Treasurer:

Well winter is upon us, but they are telling us the "Arctic Vortex" is giving us below average temperatures and pushing all of the snow coming up the coast out to sea. If I had to make a choice, I guess I won't complain.

I would like to thank those who came to the November Meeting in Millbury, Massachusetts. After having a great turnout at our September meeting in September, we had good feelings about how important it is for our members to meet the officers and other members of the Brigade.

Thanks to those who made contributions to the Chapter during 2014: These people are; Kay Red Carlson, Alan Cote, David Curtin, Klaus Foster, Jean Francis, Lisa

Garcea, Robert Hoitt, Steve Kenney, John Kimball, Michael Lagersteadt, Howard Mitchell, Gerald McGarry, Tom Needham, Christopher Reardon, Reana Staigers, Walter Valentine, David Vonreyn, and Tom Whittaker. Contributions are always important to the Chapter.

I have written previously of the yearbooks of the Brigade available online at <http://archive.org/details/chapter9of173rdairbornebrigadeassoc>. The interest in the yearbooks has not fallen off. At this time, approximately 5,000 downloads have been made of these yearbooks.

I wanted to mention that one of those financial commitments Chapter 9 has made is to be a perpetual member of the fund that maintains the 173rd Memorial at Fort Benning. I am looking forward to seeing the Memorial at the 2016 Annual Meeting at Fort Benning.

See everyone than can make it at our February breakfast meeting in Foxboro..

Bill Maloney

### Service Officer:

Social Security: Special Extra  
Earnings for Military Service

Since 1957, if you had military service earnings for active duty (including active duty for training), you paid Social Security taxes on those earnings. Since 1988, inactive duty service in the Armed Forces reserves (such as weekend drills) has also been covered by Social Security.

Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit.

Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings credits are not granted for inactive duty training.

If your active military service occurred from 1957 through 1967, we will add the extra credits to your record when you apply for Social Security benefits.

From 1968 through 2001, you do not need to do anything to receive these extra credits. The credits were automatically added to your record.

After 2001, there are no special extra earnings credits for military service.

“Note: In January 2002, Public Law 107-117, the Defense Appropriations Act, stopped the special extra earnings that have been credited to military service personnel. Military service in calendar year 2002 and future years no longer qualifies for these special extra earnings credits”

### How You Get Credit for Special Extra Earnings

The information that follows applies only to active duty military service earnings from 1957 through 2001. Here's how the special extra earnings are credited on your record:

### Service in 1957 Through 1977

You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

### Service in 1978 through 2001

For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security

Joe Armstrong  
VSO

**We wish you a good door position and safe landing**