



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



Aug 2015

Good day to all Sky Soldiers, family and friends. Welcome to our Chapter newsletter. Our hopes are that this is worthy of your reading, and your service to our great Country. We have included many links that are also available on our website: www.newenglandskysoldier.com

Know that our Chapter is well, financially as well as in membership. We are over 600 strong. As we Viet Nam Veterans grow older the "young blood" will hopefully fill our shoes. The legacy of the 173d will never fade.

Much has happened this summer. Our Summer Raffle was a success, and congratulations go out to all our winners, and sincere thanks to all that participated. To those that received checks and have not yet cashed them, now is the time or return them to the Chapter, with our thanks. At our Membership Meeting in Jaffrey NH we were welcomed by their Post Commander and fellow herdsman Andy Roy. Thank you for your hospitality.

For those of us the use Amazon, there is an option to donate a percent of the sale to a nonprofit organization, https://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas The Foundation. To do this use then select the 173d, it costs you nothing, and gives money to the foundation.

I assure you all links & files are safe

What is a Viet Nam Veteran? [Viet Nam Vet](#)

National Airborne Day: [National Airborne Day](#)

Tomb of the Unknowns [Tomb of the Unknowns](#)

WWII Vets dancing: [World War 2 Vets](#)

Jan Scruggs & the Viet Nam Wall: [The Wall Creator](#)

Memorial Day Video: [Path of a Warrior](#)

Airborne History: [History](#)

President:

Greetings all, as written by our newsletter editor, the Chapter is well in all areas with the exception of member participation. We have moved our locations within our AO, and adjusted our meeting schedule to coincide with schools, vacation periods and weather, yet participation is not what it should be considering the numbers we have. It is a good time to meet and chat with veterans that know of the things you speak and to share experiences. After a membership meeting I am always reinvigorated. I am betting that you would be also.

Our next scheduled General Membership will be: 12 Sept, VFW Post 7272, 940 S. Main St. Bellingham, MA. **1300 – 1500 Hrs.** We ask that you make an effort to attend, and give input how we as a Chapter can improve, tell us what we are doing right & what we are doing badly at.

Keep in mind that the terms of the current Chapter Officers will lapse the end of next year, replacements will be needed. I for one will not go a 4th term. More on that will be shared mid-2016.

My thanks to all the made the Foundation Golf Outing a success. We have received many accolades for our support. Excellent job!

Secretary:

I hope everyone has been having a great summer? It has come to the attention of the chapter in regards to summer meetings that attendance is strongly lacking. Because of this it is almost certain that summer meetings will be no more. The Chapter Board of Directors have done all we can to reach out to the membership by moving the chapter meeting to many different locations. This has not been a success. Do any of you have a fresh idea to make meetings more favorable to attendance?

In the past few months I have been advised of many members and friends whose health is failing for one reason or another. I have for many years expressed how important it is to keep regular checkups with your doctors. We take for granted our health when all is ok and wonder why us when it is not perfect. I beg you all to make an appointment with your primary doctor and stay on top of your health, it is all we have.

I had the opportunity to volunteer my assistance to the Foundation Golf outing at the Manchester Country Club in Bedford New Hampshire on Monday the third of August. The last three Medal of Honor Recipients from the 173D Airborne Brigade were present and I had the opportunity to meet all three of them, what a great group of young troopers, Kyle White, Ryan Pitts, and Sal Giunta. We can all be proud of their accomplishments.

In regards to many members of the chapter, your membership is lacking. If your membership card does not list you as Life Member or has an expiration 2015 then your dues are expired. Your membership must be up to date to receive the National SkySoldier magazine. Need to pay your dues, life is \$173.00 and annual is \$24.00. Send your payments to me and I will process them and Peter will send you your membership card.

Wishing you and your family a good rest of the summer.

Dennis Hill

Treasurer:

2015 Summer Raffle

All the checks have gone out to the winners in the 2015 Summer Raffle. The winners are listed at http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Raffle_2015.html. I want to thank all of those members and others who participated. Our top salesmen were Ed Donnelly and Kevin Shaw.

Special congratulations to multiple day winners Ed and Laura Donnelly, Jim Morey, the Ellsworth family and Dan Roden. The geographical distribution of the winners is a representation of what Our Chapter has become. We had winners from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Florida, Texas, Oregon, Arizona, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

On August 2nd and 3rd, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Foundation hosted events at the Manchester Country Club in Bedford, NH and a separate Meet and Greet in Amherst, NH. The events were held to raise money to fund programs for its Gold Star family members and Wounded Veterans.

Chapter 9 was the sponsor for the 10th hole in the golf outing. See pictures below:



Left to right. Kyle White (MOH), Ryan Pitts (MOH), Dennis Hill (Secretary of Chapter 9), Sal Giunta (MOH).



Left to right: Mark Seavey, Bill Hewitt, Ryan Pitts (MOH), Kyle White (MOH), Sal Giunta (MOH), Erik Hitchcock (President <http://www.theherdfoundation.com/>), Jackie Lofton, Steve Kearns, Jed Deloria.

Thanks to those members of Chapter 9 who volunteered to work at the golf outing, Dan Roden, Michael Oakes, Dennis Hill, Fred Ponds, Adam Boyle and his friend Mike McCorkel. Special thanks to Paul Littig, who played and performed above and beyond, as he was paired with two hackers who had not played much golf before this event. Another outing is planned for July 24-25, 2016.

The Last Yearbook from Vietnam

The yearbook from the Brigade's last year in Vietnam, titled Sky Soldier Magazine Summer, 1971, is now online at:

<http://archive.org/details/chapter9of173rdairbornebrigadeassoc> The yearbook contains summaries of each battalions operations for the year as the Brigade assumed more and more responsibilities as the last operating U.S. unit in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. There are many photographs of people serving in the Brigade prior to being withdrawn in July of 1971.

Bill Maloney

We wish you a good door position and safe landing