



**New England Chapter 9
John A. Barnes III (MOH)
173^d Airborne Association**



June 2018

Greetings to all Sky Soldiers, family members and friends. We hope that this newsletter finds you in good health and that is informative bringing you up to date as to what has and is transpiring within our Chapter.

President: Peter Klausner, logpc@comcast.net

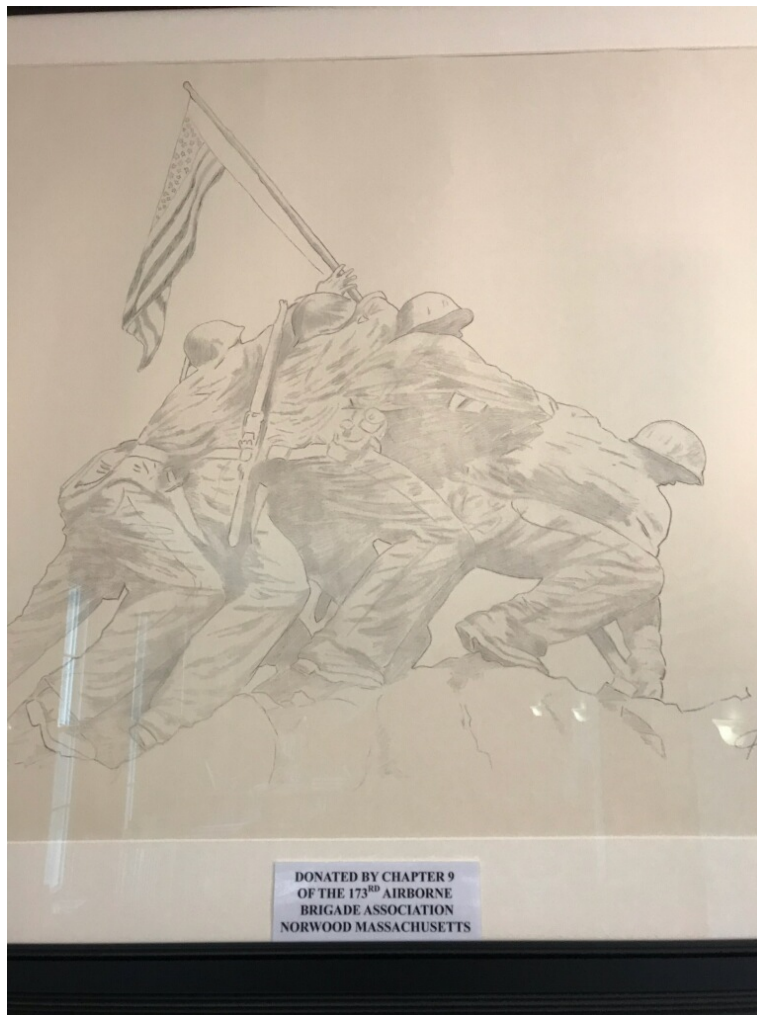
The Chapter remains strong both financially as well as in numbers. We remain 600+ members residing in all New England, Alaska as well as a sprinkling in other states. It is no secret that the we are growing older and travel for many of us is getting more difficult. With this in mind I have directed the Officers to select meeting places with the highest numbers of members in the general local. In the coming months we are going to experiment with online meetings as well. The technology is there, the question is, are we. This I hope will be in place by the end of the year. If you have an email address share it with us, newsletters are both time consuming and costly, we never send out spam emails! The 2018 Reunion was a tremendous success and enjoyed by all that attended. Next years Reunion will be in South Carolina. Our website will identify the dates and time of Chapter meetings as well as information pertaining to us all www.newenglandskysoldier.net.

Keeping your information up to date is essential for communication, this can be done on National's website. www.skysoldier.net or by contacting our Secretary, Dennis Hill dhill173@verizon.net.

Chapter 9 submitted Bob Kessler as Sky Soldier of the Year and was approved by National's Board of Directors. Bob resides in Alaska and established a JROTC program for Alaska and Hawaii. Congratulations to Bob for his long hours and challenging work, job well done.



The Chapter made a major donation to the Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Museum. The numbered print of raising the flag over Iwo Jima was donated and is proudly hung within the museum.



Secretary: Dennis Hill, dhill173@verizon.net

Hello Everyone,

Well as you all know; the chapter did not conduct the John Barnes Vigil for 2018. The Vigil had been conducted for the last twenty-three years and this year would have been the twenty-fourth year. There was no vigil was to the following reasons. Peter Klausner had major surgery, Al Champeau was experiencing breathing problems, I had experienced a stroke, TIA, and the National Reunion was finishing up in Washington. Seems everything happened all at the same time and there was no one available to setup and breakdown the Vigil. Anyway, God willing we will start up again next year and continue honoring John Barnes for his act of bravery that awarded him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Bill Maloney, billmaloney5@verizon.net

The 2018 National Reunion took place at the Alexandria, Virginia Hilton from May 23 to May 27 2018. The Reunion was attended by approximately 950 members and guests of the Association. The Reunion contained several memorable events.

On May 23rd, there was a tour to Arlington National Cemetery in five buses. First, there was a welcome and ceremony took place at the 173rd Airborne Brigade Marker, remembering the service and sacrifice of all Sky Soldiers. The tour then visited and laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers.

Upon completion of the Arlington tour, most people chose to continue with a nighttime tour of the District of Columbia. For the most part, this involved stops at the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, The Vietnam War Veterans Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. There was also a brief patrol to observe the illuminated White House from a distance.

On May 25th, six buses of people were taken to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. After a welcoming speech by the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association President Terry Aubrey and Bill Harris from Association Chapter 1. Bill Harris told our group that he is now a veteran park ranger with over 15,000 hours at the National Memorials. After those speeches, a wreath was laid at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

On May 26th the Reunion Banquet was held in the Hilton's ballroom for over 700 people. The primary speaker at the Banquet was Gregg Zoroya author of [The Chosen Few: A Company of Paratroopers and Its Heroic Struggle to Survive in the Mountains of Afghanistan](#). The author's speech reflected the time he spent embedded with Chosen Company. The banquet was a great night of tribute to first and second-generation Sky Soldiers.

[The 173rd Airborne Brigade and The Wall of Faces](#)

The Vietnam Memorial has recently begun a new effort to complete the Wall of Faces that are contained on the Memorial website. At the present time the website contains approximately 56,000 of the 59,000 names listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and there is a renewed effort to complete the Wall of Faces, and it is an effort that we can all make extended efforts to complete. Bill Harris, previously mentioned from Chapter 1, has compiled a list of Sky Soldiers whose faces are not yet shown on the Wall of Faces. This list can be seen on the Chapter website at [Sky Soldier Missing Pictures](#)

We think that all of our members would have an interest in making sure that all those people on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial should be shown on the Wall of Faces. We hope that you may view the 173rd people whose photos are not on the Wall and make an effort to complete this worthwhile effort.

Treasurer Bill Maloney billmaloney5@verizon.net

Thanks to all who participated in the Spring 2018 Raffle. Every year I am amazed at the great and widespread support our Raffle receives from our members. All the checks have gone out, and we had winners in a lot of states: Florida(5), Hawaii(2), Massachusetts(10), Missouri, New Hampshire(2), New York(2), Pennsylvania, Rhode Island(6), South Carolina, and Virginia. I was pleased to send a check to one of my grandchildren who doesn't know what he will do as a 7-year-old with 50 bucks. He wanted to take it to school and show his friends. Thanks also to those who donated their winnings to the Chapter.

At this point it does not appear that the 173rd Foundation will be scheduling a golf outing in Manchester, New Hampshire this summer.

The yearbooks of the 173rd Airborne Brigade are still available at [Year Books](#).

Have a healthy, safe summer everyone.

We wish you a good door position and safe landing

