



Good day to one and all. As you can tell the Chapter has a new person at the helm of our newsletter. Bill Maloney, our Treasurer has agreed to act as the newsletter editor until a permanent volunteer steps forward.

The Chapter remains well, in numbers and financially. Recent donations were made to the Brockton VA, Providence VA and to The Fisher House at West Roxbury, each received \$1000.00 from our Chapter.

The area that we are weakest in is participation, Sky Soldiers that are willing and able to take on Chapter positions. Currently all of us that are holding down the fort have been in place for many years and new blood is needed to; move forward, to come up with innovative ideas, and continue our Chapter's legacy.

At 10:30, 12 November, the Chapter will be commemorating the battle for Hill 875, 50 years ago. The President of the MA. Purple Heart Association, and many others will take part with a wreath laying ceremony at the Barnes Memorial in Dedham. Pictures will be on our website. You are asked to attend this short but meaningful event.

At our next membership meeting in Jan elections will be held, for President, Treasurer, and Secretary. The exact location and time will be posted to our website. Check with the website prior to the Jan Membership Meeting to ensure that weather conditions permit us to meet. Consider donating your time and talents by taking on one of these positions. We are worth your time, and effort! Your input is crucial in all that we as a chapter do, and plan to do.

Our website <https://www.newenglandskysoldier.net/> remains current, and you are invited to visit our site, suggestions to our webmaster of things that you think warrant being placed on line are encouraged. Remember to visit our website it prior to the Jan Membership Meeting. Again, your input is crucial.

Peter Klausner
President, Chapter 9

New England Chapter Membership

Lately, there has been discussion as to whether we should continue supporting the membership of members who are outside of the New England states. Chapter 9 is the John A Barnes III Chapter, but it's roots are based in New England. The question has come up if some of our members might be better served by transferring their membership to a chapter through which they could attend local or regional meetings.

We would like have our members input on this. Please contact Dennis Hill at dhill173@verizon.net if have some thoughts on this subject.

Mack McClintock

It saddens me to advise the membership that one of our past Chapter Presidents, Mark W. McClintock made his final step into the door on September 6, 2017. Mack as he preferred to be called was a member of the chapter since 1998 when he attended the Boston reunion and loved it so much that he joined the chapter. Mack lived in Worcester and had three children. Mack had been battling liver cancer and fought a good fight. Edward Donnelly and Gold Star Brother, Mike Ellsworth attended the ceremony and represented the chapter. Mack was buried with full military honors.

Secretary

Hello Everyone, and welcome to the month of Halloween and all of the ghosts and goblins that will be swarming the streets at the end of the month.

I will not make this a long venture newsletter article. Mostly I want to comment on the attendance of the twenty-third John Barnes Vigil. What a poor attendance we had, because of the lack of attendance by members we had to close down at 1700 hours, what a crying shame.

This Vigil was so under supported by the membership, and it made me embarrassed to be there.

Does anyone ever expect to stand up and fill some of the Chapter Officer positions, or do you want the chapter to fold? How long do you think we can go on if no one steps forward to assist the chapter into the future? Does anyone really care? I myself will stay for the next two years but would gratefully turn the Secretary position over tomorrow if someone was interested and wanted it.

This is your chapter and your Officers have bent over backwards to make it easy for you to attend a meeting. Have driven to other states and many cities and the turnout is always the same, next to nothing. It is starting to get old seeing the same diehard

members and no one else. If things do not change in the future, I do not see us having a future. The choice is yours.

Dennis Hill
Chapter Secretary

Treasurer

The Chapter would like to express its appreciation to Tom Needham, Salvatore Tagliamonte, Mark Robinson, Klaus Foster, John O'Dea, and Richard Dolan for their donations to the Chapter.

Contributions help the Chapter to make contributions to other charitable organizations that have worthy causes. We recently made contributions to Fisher House of the West Roxbury Campus of the VA Healthcare system; the REACH program at the Brockton Campus; and the Providence, RI VA Trauma-Recovery Unit of the PTSD Clinic.

I wanted to express the Chapter's appreciation to Dennis Hill for making the arrangements to have John A Barnes' gravestone cleaned.

Dennis is also working on having the gravestone relettered with the gold lettering that is available to the families of recipients of the Medal of Honor.

The yearbooks of the 173rd Airborne Brigade are still available at:
<https://archive.org/details/chapter9of173rdairbornebrigadeassoc> .

Bill Maloney
Chapter Treasurer

Veterans Service Officer

NOTICE TO VETERANS WHO SERVED AT FORT MCCLELLAN:

MANY VETERANS WHO SERVED AT FORT MCCLELLAN WERE EXPOSED TO HARMFUL HERBICIDE AGENTS, INCLUDING THOSE USED IN AGENT ORANGE.

If you are a veteran who served at Fort McClellan from 1969-1976, and have one of the following medical conditions, it could be related to your military service: acute and subacute peripheral neuropathy, AL Amyloidosis, Chloracne (or similar acneform disease), Leukemias, Diabetes mellitus, type II, Hodgkin's disease, Ischemic heart disease, Multiple Myeloma, Parkinson's disease, Porphyria Cutanea Tarda, Prostate Cancer, Kidney cancer, Liver cancer, Bladder cancer, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, Respiratory Cancers, Soft Tissue Sarcoma, Aplastic Anemia or other Myelodysplastic

syndromes, Immune-related diseases, and Neurological conditions, e.g. Multiple Sclerosis.

If you have one of these conditions and you served at Fort McClellan between 1969 and 1976, it could be due to exposures during service. This could mean that you are entitled to substantial VA benefits.

Joseph Armstrong
Veterans Service Officer