



Dick Yates, Editor
5216 Cather Road
Springfield, VA 22151

The DC Trooper

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER INC.
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC.

2001 No. 4– AUGUST 2001

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Fellow Troopers,

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer. The highlight for me was taking a group of veteran WW II 82d Airborne Division Paratroopers to Normandy, France. It was quite memorable to have them together in front of the church at Ste. Mere Eglise.

The disappointments for me were missing the Chapter picnic and the Association's Convention. At the picnic, it was quite special to have the French general present certificates of appreciation to Chapter members and other veterans who fought to liberate France during WW II. Thanks again to Trooper Bob Elliott for making it a most special event.

From the Convention in Charleston we had two great things happen to the Chapter. First, Trooper Gordon Sumner was again selected as a National Director. Congratulations Gordon. Second, the Chapter was awarded the Association's "Membership Excellence Award for 2001". Much of the credit for this achievement goes to Trooper Dick Yates. Great job Dick.

Finally, Chapter elections are held in November for new officers and directors. The nominees are presented to the members at the October meeting. I look to my fellow troopers to step forward and fill these positions. More to follow.

Airborne – All The Way"! Bill

From the Secretary:

I was honored to be the Chapter's Delegate to the 55th National Convention held in Charleston, SC. Chapter members attending were National Director Gordon Sumner, who was reelected to another two year term; association Legislative Chairperson Bud Dutton; MG Jack Norton (Ret.); Gerry Porter; Bob Beck; Jim Rodier; Ken and Rita Leggett and Paul and Vivian Mentzer. If you haven't been to a National Convention you need to try next year. Norfolk will be the site for 2002, a short drive from the area.

Our membership continues to grow. We have 235 active members and 58 non-renewed for 2001. I would appreciate any assistance in contacting the 58 lost jumpers. Most of them are hanging in the trees and need help getting their feet on the ground. The Washington, DC Chapter was awarded the Association's "Membership Excellence Award" for 2001. The award is presented to chapters that have an increase of 40 new members or reinstatements during the year. Troopers signing on after the National Convention will be paid up for the year 2002. For those who are not "Paid for Life" members, remember that to be an "Early Bird" renewal you must renew by November 10th, 2001. My suggestion would be to renew for a two-year period (an easy way out for you and me) or best of all, **become an "All American" Paid-for-Life** member (and then no more renewals!!) Renewal Membership Forms can be found and printed from the Chapter's Web: <http://www.sy-dc.com/82nd>. **NOTE:** Each Early Bird renewal earns the Chapter a \$1.00 Rebate or \$4.50 for each All American member!

Dick Yates

Secretary

703 256-7397

ry82divarty@hotmail.com

Next Activity: Chapter Dinner Meeting.. 1800 (6 PM) - Spates Hall, Ft. Myer



WASHINGTON, DC CHAPTER 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 9TH 2001 MEETING

The general membership meeting of the Washington, DC Chapter was held in Spates Hall, NCO Club, Fort Myer, Virginia on June 9th, 2001. Chairman Bill Ridley opened the meeting at 1300 hours with 16 members and 12 guests present. Chaplain Buck Simmons gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Past Chairman Gordon Sumner made a motion to accept the May Minutes as distributed and as read by the membership, seconded by Trooper Bob Beck and approved.

Chairman Ridley thanked 82nd Assn. National Director Gordon Sumner, the CMH Leonard Funk/D-Day Memorial Committee Chairman, for an excellent program, luncheon arrangements and his heartfelt address, honoring our fallen 82nd brothers of all wars, but especially WWII. The ceremony was held just prior to this meeting. The Ceremony consisted of laying wreaths at the 82nd Airborne Division Memorial and at the 1ST SGT Leonard Funk Gravesite. Fort Myer's "Old Guard" furnished the Color Guard and Bugler at each site. The lunch, as usual was great. It was a pleasure to have as our guest of honor, Mrs. Gertrude Funk, widow of 1ST SGT Leonard Funk.

Chairman Bill noted the replacement DC Chapter Flag has been order and should arrive shortly. The replacement is required, as the old flag has brown stains from a wet plastic casing occurring a few years back. Bill also noted the new chapter T-shirts have arrived and will be available at the chapter picnic on July 14th. Trooper Bob Elliott gave a briefing on the Annual Picnic, explaining the cost is ten dollars, visiting historic Harpers Ferry, entertainment by the U.S. Army Band and Trumpets. The quest speaker is Dr. Alphonso Batres , Nat. Dir. of Readjustment Counseling Service, Veteran Administration.

OLD BUSINESS: The next scheduled dinner meeting, September 18th will have as our program Pat O'Donnell " Beyond Valor" describing his experiences writing this great book. Pat is a long time friend and Honorary Member of the Washington, DC Chapter and the Airborne Community. Many of the DC Chapter members had the pleasure of attending the book signing ceremony at the Springfield, Virginia Barnes and Noble bookstore.

CORRESPONDENCE: The chapter received raffle tickets from the National Association. The prizes consist of Army weapons, pistol and rifle. This raffle supports the Nat. Assn. and will be available during the Annual Picnic.

Trooper Jim Rodier made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ken Leggett and approved. Chaplain Buck Simmons gave the Airborne Benediction.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretary, Richard Yates.

Meeting and Event Schedule 2001

18 SEP	Dinner / Meeting at Spates Hall
13 OCT	Early Bird Recruiting Drive (Ft. Belvoir)
14 OCT	Army 10 Miler
16 OCT	Dinner / Meeting at Spates Hall
3 NOV	Meeting (Ft. Myer Chapel)
1 DEC	Meeting (Ft. Myer Chapel): plan Christmas Party
7 DEC	Christmas Party, Ft. Myer Officer's Club

Chapter Gallery



Reggie Grier – Reading the National Airborne Day Proclamation (Chapter Picnic – 14 July)



The Chapter Attendees (Chapter Picnic – 14 July)



Chapter's Membership Excellence Award 2001

September Meeting Program

The Chapter is honored to have Mr. Pat O'Donnell as our guest at the September 18th Dinner meeting. He is the noted author of "**Beyond Valor**", an acclaimed book on the exploits of World War II Ranger and Airborne veterans. Pat will speak about his experiences in researching and writing the book. There will be copies for sale. This will be a super evening. So, make plans to come on out. Dinner (buffet) is at 6 PM, meeting at 7 PM. Meal cost is \$6.95. All members, their families and friends welcomed.

Chapter Elections 2001

During the November meeting the Chapter will elect new officers and new directors. Once again, you have a chance to stand up and be counted, and make a contribution to your Chapter. Get involved and take an Officer or Directors' position. All officer positions are up for election. Some incumbents hopefully will run again for their positions. I, in accordance with the Chapter Bylaws, which limit a Chairman to two consecutive years, will not be able to continue in this position. Trooper Gordon Sumner is serving as our Elections Committee Chairman. In accordance with the By-Laws, all nominations must be presented to the General Membership at the October Meeting so these positions must be filled soon.

Officer Positions open for election:

1. Chairman 2. Vice Chairman 3. Secretary 4. Treasurer 5. Chaplain

Board of Directors

Three of the Five Director positions need to be filled. Outgoing in 2001 are: Bill Lemnitzer and Bob Beck. We had one vacancy. Remaining Directors are: Reggie Grier and Bob Amos.

Appointed Positions Required to be Filled :

1. Sgt at Arms 2. Quartermaster 3. Programs/Functions

If you need more information and/or interested in these positions, contact Gordon at his office: 703 769 1427, FAX: 703 769-1456 or email: gsumner@sy-dc.com.

"VOLUNTEERS Needed for Veterans Day"

From 9-11 NOV the Chapter will operate the Associations Hospitality Suite at the Days Inn, across from Ft. Myer. This is in conjunction with the Veteran Day activities in and around Arlington Cemetery. We need people to help set up, maintain and take down the room, more than just tending bar. Contact the Chairman at 703-250-3044 or bktravel@erols.com.

MDW Vehicle Registration

With the growing concern of the Vice Chief of Staff, Army for the security of our military installations, including those in the DC area, there is an increasing possibility that Army installations will soon begin closing posts. This will mean a change from the current "open Access" and now require vehicle decals for admission to any installation. All Washington, DC area personnel (active and retired) can register at either Fort Myer or Fort Belvoir. The following documentation is required to both installations when registering a vehicle:

1. Military/Government (for civilian working on the installation) ID Card.
2. Vehicle Registration
3. Proof of Insurance
4. Driver's License
5. Hard Tags – If temporary tags are on the vehicle, a temporary decal will be issued

Hours of Operation: 24 hours, preferred times are during normal duty hours (8-5).

Locations: Fort Myer – Building 216 Fort Belvoir – Building 1131

For those members with vehicles not registered for our Tuesday Dinner or Saturday meetings, you will be questioned on the purpose of your visit, asked to produce a picture ID, signed in and allowed to enter. If you unfortunately are not allowed to register your vehicle, you will have to go through this procedure. You can minimize the delay by having the required ID available. Plan accordingly.

Volunteers Needed for the Army 10 Miler

On 14 October the Chapter will support the Army's Annual 10 Mile Run. This support entails moving light baggage in the baggage handling area. It requires about three to four hours of your time. We currently have 8 volunteers. With 7 more (15 total) we receive a plaque and a chance to display our Chapter banner. All volunteers will receive a long sleeve 10 Miler T-shirt. For more information and sign-up contact Trooper Pete Gentieu at home (703 922-4382) or at work (703 428-8381) or email: Peter.Gentieu@hqda.army.mil. Pete's mailing address is 6557 Yadkin Court, Alexandria VA 22310-2422

Check out the improved Washington DC Chapter Website for all the latest news and information, both locally and nationally, as well as get membership forms online. Just go to: <http://www.sy-dc.com/82nd>. Thanks Bob Fritz for continuing such an outstanding job as WebMaster !

Support the Order of the Purple Heart

One of our most distinguished veteran organizations is the *Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)*. One of the best ways to support them is by donating useable clothing and/or a car (tax deductible) for the needy. For clothing pick-up call: 1-800-828-8756 or 301 277-0063. For cars call: 1-888-414-4483

New, Transfer and Reinstated Members

Rodger S. Barton	4 th S & T (Pathfinders)	Walkersville, MD
Darren L. Clark	D Co. 2/325	Frederick, MD
Floyd Duckett	ParaMarine, USMC	Springdale, MD
Edward E. Horne	82 nd Airborne	Brookville, MD
Kenneth E. Mack	C Co. 2/504 PIR	Landover Hills, MD
Daniel McEvoy	C Co. 3/325	Bear, DE
MAJ Wm F. Schiek	307 Medical Bn	Fairfax, VA
COL Lynn Sherlock	Airdrop Mission Cmdr, Spt 18 th Abn Corps	Falls Church, VA
COL Rick Sherlock	159 th AVN Group, 2 nd Bn SF	Falls Church, VA
James Yacone	160 th Sp Ops AVN Regt.	Stafford, VA

(Correction to June Newsletter)

Gerald L. Biedenkapp A Btry 2/321 AFAR, HHC, 82nd Baltimore, MD

An AIRBORNE Welcome to All!

Deceased Veteran Alert: Our Chapter has been in communication with daughter of a WW II 504 veteran, Harold O'Connor. Harold is deceased, but his daughter, who lives in Buffalo, NY. plans to visit with the Chapter during Veterans' Day in November. She would certainly like to meet any 504 vets who might have served with her father.

Note of Gratitude: *Our Washington DC Chapter member and National Director, Gordon Sumner, would like to "Thank" all of our Washington DC Chapter members for their support in his re-election as "Their National Director". Airborne! Air Cav!!*