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The DC Trooper

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

2005 No. 1 –FEBRUARY 2005

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Fellow Paratroopers, Glidermen, and Friends,

I want to begin my message by wishing you and your family all the best for a healthy and prosperous New Year!

I am again honored to serve as your Chapter Chairman. I look forward to an active and rewarding Chapter program, which will continue to promote the comradeship and spirit of the Airborne Trooper. My goal, in conjunction with the Chapter Officers and Directors is to spread our net further and bring more of the membership into active participation in Chapter activities and events. The future of the Chapter is based on getting more of the membership INVOLVED. The World War II troopers have passed the baton to the next generation of troopers and if no one picks it up, the Chapter can not sustain itself. Our membership base numbers approximately 400. Excluding members who are deceased and in arrears with their dues, we have over 300 fellow troopers that have paid up memberships and the majority of these troopers DO NOTHING to become involved with the CHAPTER. With few exceptions, we see the same 20 members at our meetings and activities. The majority of those attendees are the WW II Troopers. They are the ones who established the Chapter and put their heart and soul into making it an organization which embodies the "Can Do" spirit of the Airborne. They have done their job well and it is time to for a battle hand-off. The message is: *"The WASHINGTON, DC Chapter needs new blood to step up and participate."* It is easy to be a participant, come to our meeting this Saturday, 5 FEB, 1300 (1:00 PM) at the Ft. Myer Chapel Center. This is directly across from the Main PX.

As you read through the newsletter, please note the various activities and events that are scheduled for 2005. To support this ambitious program, there is a need for troopers to participate, especially to serve as program chairman. We are looking for chairman for the following events: Orde Wingate Ceremony, ISG Leonard Funk Ceremonies & Luncheon, Chapter Picnic, Army 10 Miler and Veterans' Day Hospitality Operation. If interested and ready to Stand In the Door, call me at (703) 250-3044.

So, much to do and I look forward, with your help, to getting the job done!

"Airborne All the Way"

Bill Ridley



From the Secretary

I am honored to have been elected to serve you as Secretary of the DC Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association for the year of 2005. My goals remain much the same as that of my predecessor, Bol Amos, that of providing the DC Chapter membership the best possible service as relates to the duties of the Chapter Secretary. Toward that end I resolve to maintain effective communications with each and every Chapter member so to provide timely information concerning the many and varied activities of the Chapter and to serve the needs of individual members.

For communications to be effective, the cooperation of each member is requested so to insure that the Secretary has on file, at a minimum, the member's current address and phone number. If any member does not receive a copy of the monthly meeting minutes, the quarterly DC Chapter newsletter, or a reminder notice of the monthly meeting, please notify me at the postal or email address or phone numbers listed below.

Email communications provide the best means for rapid, mass communications and saves the Chapter postage expense; a considerable amount when up to 300 members could be involved in mailings of postcard notices and quarterly newsletters. For those members having access to the Internet, a reminder that information concerning DC Chapter activities, meeting minutes and correspondence is in order. The DC Chapter Web Page address is as follows: <http://www.82ndairborne-washdc.org>

A number of members are in arrears for Year 2005. Keep in mind that membership fees are due by December 31 for the subsequent year. Also, effective for Year 2005, membership dues are now \$15 per year. All-American Membership (Paid for Life) is really the way to go. Drop me a note or call for a renewal application.

As of this December 31, 2004, Association members affiliated with the DC Chapter were 309 paid up members, down from the Year 2003 average of 323 members. Membership breakout (awaits verification by Association) is as follows:

- All-American for Life.....237 members
- Regular current.....72 members
- Regular (1 year arrears)....33 members (49 more than 1 year in arrears)
- Honorary7 (1 National; 6 Chapter)

In addition to Secretary, I serve as the Membership Coordinator and the Quartermaster for the DC Chapter. Quartermaster items are posted on the Chapter web page and I intend to include an attached flyer to the February meeting minutes that will display the QM sales items available. The Chapter averages up to \$300 per year in net profit from the sale of these items.

I invite all members to write or call if information about the Chapter or activities is desired or if any complaints.

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New Chapter Chaplain

It will be hard for us to replace Trooper Buck Simmons as Chapter Chaplain. Buck has done wonderful work as our Chaplain. I speak for all of us in expressing our gratitude for his spiritual guidance and support. Buck, thank you for a job well done! In answer to our prayers, we have a new Chaplain. COL (ret.) William A. Martin has come forward and offered his services as our Chaplain. Trooper Martin is eminently qualified for the position. He is a retired Army Chaplain, and served in the Division and as XVIII Airborne Corp. Chaplain. Because the Chaplain is an elected position, his name will be put in nomination for a vote at the next Chapter meeting. Welcome aboard Chaplain Bill!

PHOTO CHUTE



Army 10 Miler Support Award



Chapter Picnic – June 2004



Officers' Swearing in – DEC 2004



Gordon, Bill & Ken – Christmas Party 2004

WASHINGTON, DC. CHAPTER
82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Activity Calendar for 2005 (tentative)

Sat Jan 8 Chapter meeting

Sat Feb 5 Chapter meeting*

Thu Mar 3 Chapter dinner meeting (TBD)

Sat Apr 2 Chapter meeting
----- Orde-Wingate Ceremony... .POC (TBD)

Sat May 7 Chapter Meeting*
Fri May 20-22 Armed Forces Day Air Show @ Andrews POC Chairman Ridley
--- May ??? All-American Week

Thu Jun 2 Chapter Dinner Meeting (TBD)
----- 1SG Leonard Funk Memorial & Luncheon ... POC (TBD)
----- Chapter PicnicPOC (TBD)

Wed Aug 10-13 82nd Airborne Division Association Convention @ Milwaukee

Sat Sep 3 Chapter Meeting*

Sat Oct 1 Chapter Meeting*
Oct 2 Army 10 MilerPOC (TBD)

Sat Nov 5 Chapter Meeting
Fri Nov 11-13 Veteran's Day Operations

Sat Dec 3 Christmas Party / Holiday BanquetPOC Skip McGrath

*Board of Directors Meeting 1 hour prior to Regular Meeting