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The DC Trooper

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

2007 No.3 – August 2007

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Chapter at a Crossroads

Fellow Troopers:

As I write this letter we are about at the end of the summer period. September begins the last quarter of the Chapter's year. For me it is a special period in the Chapter's calendar. In October, we have the Army 10 miler. November brings the special day to honor our fallen comrades and demonstrate our airborne hospitality with the Hospitality Room. Of course, the Christmas party is one of the most special times we gather to share the Christmas spirit with our fellow troopers.

The one day I have not yet mentioned is the Election of new officers. To me this is as special as any of the days of celebration and remembrance mentioned earlier. This is the day when we pick our Officers and Directors or hope someone volunteers to fill these positions. This is the day that our Chapter is at a Crossroad. In the past I've asked you all to do a little something to support the Chapter with your physical presence. When I say physical presence, I am not talking about coming to drink our beer and eat our food at the hospitality room on Veteran's Day. I am talking about work in direct support of the Chapter. If each did one thing it would be easier on the few who are always there to do it ALL. Well, like a broken record, I'll tell you nothing has changed since my first two terms and last three years as Chairman. It is pretty much the same few that are always there. I've had a lot of promises, I see some troopers at a few meetings, and then they are gone.

Well, I am tired and will no longer continue to serve as Chapter Chairman beyond this term which ends in December. Our Secretary, Ray Hilgart, has always performed above and beyond the call of duty. He has really done the hard and demanding day to day work of the Chapter. I hate to think of where we would be without him. He has been instrumental in keeping us going. For his tireless efforts I am truly indebted and thankful. Ray has been doing this job long enough and is ready to pass the baton of the Secretary's position. Finally, our Vice Chairman, Matt Brady, will PCS the end of this year.

(continued on next page)



Next Chapter Meeting: SAT (8 SEP) 13:00
Fort Myer Chapel Center – Ft. Myer, VA

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER (continued)

So, we have the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary positions that need to be filled. I challenge you to step forward and fill these vacancies. This is the last time I will seek your help. Our crossroad will be reached in approximately 4 1/2 months. At that crossroad we either have Troopers coming forward to take the lead or we have a Chapter without proper leadership, without someone to take care of the necessary work to keep us viable. Ask yourself these two questions: 1. Is the Washington DC Chapter important enough to keep? 2. Am I able to give more to keep it?

I have faith that among the 300 plus membership of our paratrooper brotherhood, some will STAND in the DOOR and lead the Chapter.

Airborne All the Way!

FROM THE SECRETARY:

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER NEWS

The 1SG (MOH) Leonard Funk Education Fund Award: William "Bill" Bell, a Washington DC Chapter Director, was appointed In May as the Committee Chairman of the 1SG (MOH) Leonard Funk Education Fund Award Committee. As such, he will direct and coordinate the committee's efforts in (1) establishing criteria for the award, (2) determining eligibility of each applicant for the award, (3) selecting most qualified applicant(s) to receive the award and (4) making arrangements for award presentation. Again, a reminder to all Washington DC Chapter members that November 1st, 2007 is the latest date that the application must be in the hands of the Chapter Secretary. Incomplete applications, those not in the prescribed format and those received after the November 1st deadline will not be processed. Get started now. The first step is to obtain the Chapter Education Fund Award Plan and Application, then follow the steps and requirements as outlined in the Award Plan and complete the application as outlined on the form itself. Contact the Chapter Secretary below if there are any questions regarding the application.

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A Tip of the Beret to Trooper Billie Jo Kingfisher: The Washington DC Chapter members salute the tenacity and effort of Billie Jo for his success in getting Resolution 82 (National Airborne Heritage Day) approved by the Senate on 20 June 2007. Also, upon receipt of the Resolution, the President of the United States issued his Proclamation which will be published in the Fall Issues of the Paraglide. Hearty congratulations to Chairman Billie Jo, his Committee members and Senator Hagel and his staff. Although Billie Jo now resides in South Dakota, he has chosen to remain affiliated with the Washington DC Chapter.

Washington DC Chapter Membership Status: As of July 31st, 2007, the Washington DC Chapter has exceeded its membership numbers of Year 2006 by 26. The chart below identifies the current chapter membership numbers. Those 17 members in arrears (Year 2006) were sent a renewal form with the last Chapter newsletter. They were also sent a reminder by the Association in Feb or March.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY	
DC CHAPTER MEMBERS	31 JUL 2007
Paid-for-Life AA Members (Active Duty)	83
Paid-for-Life AA Members (Veterans)	224
Paid-Up Annual Members for 2007	58
Honorary Memberships (Association)	1
Total Paid-Up DC Chapter Members	366
Washington DC Chapter Honorary Members	7
2006 Association Members in Arrears	17

Top Five Chapters as of June 30th, 2007

Historical Member Numbers for DC Chapter

SEQ	CHAPTER	MEMBERS	DATE	MEMBERS	% INCREASE
01	Fayetteville, NC	1,250	31 July 1996	129	XXXX
02	508 th Airborne (Veteran)	558	31 July 1997	139	08 %
03	Washington DC	363	31 July 1998	156	12 %
04	North Jersey, NJ	339	31 July 1999	179	15 %
05	Central Pennsylvania	330	31 July 2000	195	09 %
			31 July 2001	236	21 %
			31 July 2002	272	15 %
			31 July 2003	323	19 %
			31 July 2004	338	05 %
			31 July 2005	339	00 %
			31 July 2006	340	00 %
			31 July 2007	366	07 %

Deaths, Sick Call and / or Condolences:

- Sadly we announce the passing of Charles Preston Schaffer of District Heights, Maryland on May 8th, 2007. Charles, a member of the Washington DC Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, was a WWII Veteran of the highest order. He served as an infantryman with Company B of the 505th PIR from late 1943 to early 1946. The funeral for Charles was held the date of his burial at Arlington National Cemetery. Our Chapter Chaplain, Reggie Grier, attended the funeral and burial and honored his memory by emplacing the 82nd Abn Div seal on the casket.
- Major (Ret) James F. Russell, Sr. of Arlington, Virginia and a long time member of the Association and the DC Chapter made his final jump on Monday afternoon, July 23rd, 2007. Jim served with Company G, 508th PIR in WWII and the 187th AIR during the Korean War participating in the WWII Division airborne assaults in Normandy and Nijmegen and two in Korea, During his military service he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Bronze Star (V) with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Infantryman's Badge (2nd award), Master Parachutist Badge (4 combat jumps) and numerous other US and foreign awards and decorations. A number of DC Chapter members attended the viewing with our Chaplain, Reggie Grier, emplacing the 82nd Abn Div seal on the casket.
- Trooper Jim Rigas, WWII Vet of the 82nd, is back with us again on a fairly regular basis, having participated in the National Memorial Day Parade and the monthly meetings. Not yet able to fully use his vocal chords, it is enough so that we know his thoughts and desires. We wish him also, a speedy and full recovery from the big C.

- Sadly, we also note the passing of the Father of Dina Infanger, wife of Trooper James Infanger. Our prayers and sympathy go out to her and her family.
- Trooper Ken Leggett is under a medical care having fractured his hip in a fall in early May. He is down for awhile, he says, but not out. We all know Ken for his hard work and diligent efforts in keeping the Chapter up and running over these many years, especially his leadership in the All-Airborne Convention held here in Washington DC in the early 1990s, his participation each year in the Association's Veterans' Day local activities, his efforts in getting the Congress to establish the National Airborne Heritage Day each year and the other numerous Association and Chapter activities with which he was associated over the years. We all wish him a speedy recovery.

Teaching Unit on the Airborne Soldier: The message below was received from Dr. James W. Stockard, Jr. We believe it is a worthy cause so anyone who might accommodate his request is urged to do so. He writes:

Quote: My secondary social studies students (who will become high school history, geography teachers) are planning a teaching unit on the airborne soldier. In that regard, we need some patches, bumper stickers, posters, caps, t-shirts, etc. for creating a display along with the teaching unit. Anything that you can contribute to us for this effort would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!

FROM: Dr. James W. Stockard, Jr., Department of Educational Theory, Policy, and Practice
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ASSOCIATION SHORT SHOTS

1ST BCT (504 PIR) DEPLOYMENT: The Devils in Baggy Pants Task Force deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom last month. The first group left on 10 June 2007. The entire Division is now deployed with only a few remaining minor personnel serving as the Rear Detachment Operations. The membership is encouraged to add these proven warriors to their prayers.

325th AIR GETS NEW COMMANDER IN IRAQ: COL John G, Castles II assumed command of the Falcons in May. He was previously assigned to the US Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA. COL Castles is not new to the Division as he commanded the 3-325 AIR in the 90s. He is an AAM in the Association. Our congratulations and best wishes to him, his wife Ann Robyn and their four children. He is replacing COL B. D. Farris who was wounded in Iraq by small arms fire on 3 May 2007. The wound was not fatal; he is doing well and expected to fully recovery.

MOVING UP IN THE WORLD (BRIGADIER GENERAL): Three names of former Colonels from the Division are on a recent list submitted by the President for Senate Confirmation. They are as follows:

- ✓ William K. Fuller - Former Commander of the 325 AIR (Falcons) serving seven months of his command tour in Iraq. He has also been inducted into the Rangers Hall of Fame..
- ✓ Arnold N. G. Bray - Former Commander of "the 325 AIR (Falcons). He led the Brigade during the invasion of Iraq in 2003.
- ✓ Patrick J. Donahue II - Former Commander of the 504 PIR (Devils in Baggy Pants). He led the Brigade Task Force once in Iraq and twice in Afghanistan.

2007 VETERANS' DAY: The Association will operate a Hospitality Suite in the Washington, DC area during the Veteran's Day events 8-11 Nov 2007. Details will be in Summer Issue of the *PARAGLIDE*.

BLOOD ON THE RISERS: Your Chapter Secretary has available the complete set of words. If you desire a copy of this historical and inspirational song, let him know.

PAST EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/DIRECTOR PASSES AWAY: It is with regrets that the National Headquarters announces the passing of Robert L. Riggs on 11 June 2007. Bobby was a former Association Executive Secretary & Director, serving from 1976 - 1982. He was also the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Tillman E. Beikes Chapter throughout the years. He served with the 82nd Signal Company from 1944 – 1952. Bobby is survived by his wife, Polly and two children. The viewing took place on 14 June followed by the internment. Condolences may be sent to the family home at: 317 S Butler Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46219-7021. The family requests that donations be made to the Educational Fund in lieu of flowers.

VETERAN MEMBERSHIP GOES HIGH SPEED IN JUNE: Congratulations to all. The Veteran side of the house not only recruited the 94 members we needed to match last year's numbers (as reported last month) but went above and beyond to end June with 269 members, giving them a bonus of +175 members. This proves the Airborne Mystique and camaraderie is still alive with our LGOPs stepping up to the plate and doing what needed done to answer the call announced last month. Also, please note that the Active Duty Military, in harms way and fighting the War on Terrorism in two different countries; is still supporting the Association by sending a steady stream of memberships in bulk. While they are short 4,099 to match their total from last year, it will be a surprise if they don't make it. In fact we are only 3,924 short of matching our total for last year. Nevertheless, we cannot let our guard down and must continue to recruit.

2007 CONVENTION: Our 61st Annual Convention (Harrisburg, PA) is less than 45 days away and the number of registrations are coming in slowly (248), when compared to the number of rooms reserved. Members can continue to register for and even during the Convention; however, to protect our blocked rooms and lower rates they are encouraged to send their registrations in as soon as possible. Members should be advised that the cost of registration will go up \$10.00 (to \$85.00) after the 25 July 2007 deadline. The more accurate the numbers the easier the planning for activities, particularly the hospitality room and number of meals, will be for the Host Chapter personnel. The deadline for Hotel Registrations is 23 July. There might be a small jump and it is possible that troopers from the 3-4 ADA Battalion will attend if their current plans continue. As in the past, please remind your members that we veterans should attend in full force so as to partake with our new combat veterans ... many of them also with two and three combat tours. It has been discovered during All American Week(s) that these young "studs" welcome an opportunity to talk to others who have "been there" and compare the different methods of completing the "mission".

CONVENTION AGENDAS: The proposed agendas for the 2007 Convention are available from the Chapter Secretary and include:

- ✓ Agenda for the National Convention (Thu 16th, Fri 17th, and Sat 18th of August)
- ✓ Agenda for the Delegates Meeting (Friday 17th of August at 0800 hours)
- ✓ Agenda for 82nd Abn Div Educational Fund, Inc (Fri 17th, and Sat 18th of August)

NATIONAL COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN (CFC): The 82d Abn Div Association Educational Fund has been approved and accepted to participate in the 2008 (Fall 07) Combined Federal Campaigns throughout the country. Association Members and friends of the Association who are either federal or postal employees may donate to the Fund through the CFC conducted in their local area. **The specific number is 11449 and this is a NEW number.** It will be listed in the CFC Brochure/Pamphlet under Military, Veterans, and Patriotic Public Service Organizations of America. Chapter Officers are encouraged to brief their members at their next meeting and highlight this information in their next newsletter. This is an excellent opportunity to really enhance our Educational Fund, which continues to grow despite the increase of grant money.

TRANSIENT MEMBERSHIP: Chapter Officers should continue to encourage their membership to notify the Chapters and the National Office when they are changing addresses, even apartments in the same building. The "Moving On" item is a permanent fixture of the PARAGLIDE, and the Web site also has a section where members can update their addresses between mailings. "Snowbirds" are reminded to report their new addresses in plenty of time so not to miss receipt of the PARAGLIDE. Keep in mind that the mailing addresses are sent to the distributor at least two (2) weeks prior to the distribution date published in the PARAGLIDE. Please note that if the members have not informed or properly notified their Post Office of the new address; we are not responsible for returned magazines. Even if they have contacted us yet the Post Office stops the PARAGLIDE and returns it to National Headquarters with the old or incorrect address. Each returned PARAGLIDE represents a cost of \$0.75 that could be better utilized somewhere else.

EDUCATIONAL FUND: Donations and ideas on how to best solicit donations for the Educational Fund are being accepted. We are intent on providing assistance to deserving needy students and troopers returning to civilian life, as finances are available. Please keep in mind and plan ahead for November 2007, which is designated as Educational Fund Month by the Board of Directors. An extra effort should be applied during that month to solicit funds and local businesses should be canvassed early.

SERVICE ON NATIONAL COMMITTEES: Members who are not National Directors but who have special experience and/or expertise are invited to volunteer for service on National Committees. Interested members should write to the Executive Director, NLT 30 September 2007, describing their qualifications and indicating on which committee(s) they would like to serve. This also applies to the Director-Elect who will take office 1 January 2008. Volunteering for a specific Committee does not guarantee that position; the President has the final say on Committee members.

WORLD WAR II M1942 JUMP SUITS: Manufacturers of the Jump Suites are going out of business. Hence they have a large stock of uniforms available at below cost to all Airborne Troopers. Sizes are Medium to XXXL jackets and 30W to 46W pants. The price is \$125.00, which includes shipping. They also have brown Corcoran jumpboots (size 7 & 7 ½) priced at \$50.00 plus shipping. Those interested can coordinate directly with the owner, John Meis at johnrmwahoo@yahoo.com or by writing him at: c/o Chattahoochee USA, PO BOX 3236, Alhambra, CA 91803 or John Meis, 2124 Westboro Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803.

ASSOCIATION WWII VETS: As of 30 June, there are 2,751 WWII Vets who are members of our Association.

SAMPLE BALLOT FOR ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS: Below is the chart containing the list of the ten nominees for Association National Directors. Those voting for these nominees at the convention in Harrisburg may only vote for eight. Ballots marked for more than eight will become invalid.

	BRISENO, MICHAEL A. "MIKE"
	FRAZER, STEVEN A. "STEVE"
	GLANCY, RANDOLPH J. "RANDY"
	HICKS, JOHN B. "BLAKE"
	LARSON, ALLEN F. JR.
	LONG, RALPH N. "PETE"
	LOVELAND, DAVID J. "DAVE"
	SCHROEDER, HAROLD A.
	TIJERINA, SANTIAGO L. JR.
	WOLFE, RUSSELL A. "RUSTY"

PLANNED ACTIVITY CALENDAR FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR 2007
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR YEAR 2007

LOCATION - UNLESS ANNOUNCED OTHERWISE, MEETINGS TO BE HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL WITHIN THE MAIN POST CHAPEL @ FT MYER, VIRGINIA. THE MAIN POST CHAPEL IS LOCATED DIRECTLY ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MAIN POST EXCHANGE.

Sat*	Sep 8	1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Meeting
Sat	Oct 6	1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Meeting
Sat*	Nov 3	1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Meeting
Sat	Dec 8	1300 Hours – DC Chapter General Membership Abbreviated Meeting at the Christmas/Holiday Banquet. Location to be Announced.

Note: Asterisk (*) denotes a Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled one hour prior to the general membership meeting. All Officers and Directors should attend.

OTHER MAJOR ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR REMAINDER OF YEAR 2007

Mon – Sun	Aug 13 – 19	82 nd Abn Div Assn - 61 st Annual Convention @ Harrisburg, PA
Sunday	Oct 7	DC Chapter supports the Army Ten-Miler. The date is tentative and the specific date will be announced at the September 8 th general membership meeting. The Point of Contact will also be designated at that meeting..
Tue – Sun	Nov 8 - 11	Veteran's Day Operations – Chapter operates the Hospitality Suite for visiting Veterans at the Arlington Days Inn near Fort Myer. The Hospitality Suite is staffed by volunteers from the Washington DC Chapter. VOLUNTEERS SOLICITED EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.
Saturday	Dec 8	Christmas / Holiday Banquet, to be held at the Officers Club at Fort Myer, Virginia. The Chapter always lines up great guest speakers for this event. Join in the festivities in an atmosphere of airborne comradeship. Our host, Skip McGrath, is marvelous in planning and organizing this event. More information will be forthcoming and the Flyer-Application to attend this event is planned for distribution toward the end of October.

PHOTO CHUTE



Memorial Day Parade - WWII Half-Track at the Starting Point
(Ray Hilgart on the 50 Cal) (Dick Yates Waving the Flag)



JOINT-CHAPTER PICNIC - RT CHAPTER HOSTS
If you weren't there you missed some great food



<<<←---- ARMED FORCES DAY AT ANDREWS AFB