



# The DC Trooper

NEWSLETTER OF THE WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER INC.  
*82<sup>ND</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION INC.*

2008 No.1 – May 2008

Fellow Paratroopers, Glidermen, and Friends.

As the past Chapter Chairman, I am informing the Chapter that our current Chairman, Marc Mest, has resigned from the Chair position. The reason for this is due to his new job position that requires additional travel and time commitments which will no longer allow him to perform the duties of Chairman. We are sorry to see Marc leave the position, and wish him well in his new position.

The Bylaws prescribe that a replacement Officer to serve until the next annual election will be nominated through a committee appointed by the Vice Chairman. A final decision on this procedure will be made by your Board of Directors, leading to a membership election.

So, it appears we are back to looking for a Chapter leader. For those who have not come forward to take up the standard, here is a perfect opportunity to contribute to the Chapter and serve your fellow Troopers.

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!  
Bill Ridley. Ex Officio

**Next Chapter Meeting: SAT (3 May @ 1300 Hours  
American Legion, Fairfax, Virginia**

## FROM THE SECRETARY:

### WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

**1. Need for a Chapter Secretary:** On September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, the position of Secretary for the Washington DC Chapter will be vacant as I will be involved in activities which will take me too far distant and too often to be effective in the job. I will remain as a Director until my term has expired. I will also remain as the Membership Coordinator and the Newsletter Coordinator and continue to serve in these two positions at the pleasure of the Chairman. Accordingly, over the next few months I will be actively seeking a Chapter member to assume the duties of the Chapter Secretary, such duties being essentially those listed below and most of which are merely custodial tasks.

- a- Receive, Log, Handle and Distribute correspondence to action individuals
- b - Develop, Present and Maintain file of Chapter and Board meeting minutes
- c - Maintain a current list of Chapter Officers and Directors
- d - Maintain a current list of Committees and Appointments
- e - Maintain a current roster of Chapter Members (input from Membership Coordinator)
- f - Maintain custody of Chapter Continuity File consisting of:
  - Association and Chapter Bylaws
  - Association and Chapter Educational Fund Procedures
  - Association Convention SOP
  - Association Awards SOP
  - Association Communications and Public Relations SOP
  - Appendix F to the Association Educational Fund SOP
  - Association Monthly Bulletins
  - Chapter Newsletters
  - Association and Chapter After-Action reports
  - Association and Chapter reports related to annual events and activities.

### **2. 1SG (MOH) Leonard Funk Education Fund Award:**

**a. *Year 2007 Winner:*** The award of \$500 was approved by the Chapter Board of Directors for issuance to the bursar of Bob Jones University in South Carolina for credit to the account of TiAndra Wiggs. TiAndra was the 2007 winner of the 1SG (MOH) Leonard Funk Education Fund Award, an annual financial award organized and administered by the Washington DC Chapter. TiAndra's father is MSG (Ret) Andre Wiggs who resides in Hope Mills, NC. A member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, MSG Wiggs is affiliated with the Washington DC Chapter.

**b. *Year 2008 Applications:*** Don't wait until too late. The application must be in the hands of the Chapter Secretary not later than November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008. Get the award plan and the application now from the Chapter Web Page (download) or contact the Chapter Secretary at 540-359-5061 or email at [rhilgart@infionline.net](mailto:rhilgart@infionline.net). Then get started in collecting the necessary documents, transcripts and affidavits.

3. **Washington DC Chapter Honorary Members:** The Chapter Board of Directors recently conferred an Honorary Membership on the following individuals:

a. ***SFC Jonathon Mackey***, NCOIC of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div Liaison Team at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, for his steadfast devotion and tireless effort toward insuring the well-being of those wounded warriors under his charge.

b. ***SSG James Babin***, a Wounded Warrior serving as the 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div Casualty Assistance Liaison NCO at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, for his steadfast devotion and tireless effort toward insuring the well-being of those wounded warriors under his charge.

c. ***Dina Infanger***, spouse of AA Member SSG James D. Infanger, for her extraordinary efforts and dedication displayed over the past two years in furthering the goals and objectives of the Chapter.

4. **Taps, Sick and/or Distressed:**

RECENT TAPS REPORTS - CHAPTER MEMBERS

RICHARD B. OWEN  
CHARLES P. SCHAFFER  
JAMES F. RUSSELL  
JAMES P. FAHEY, JR  
HARRY W. ROLLINS  
GEORGE F. PETERSON  
DORSEY D. BROWN

SICK, DISTRESSED AND/OR LAID LOW

JIM RIGAS – Cancer therapy  
BILL KATZENSTEIN – Nursing Home Care  
VERLE TURNER – Home Confinement  
MARC MEST – Spinal disk therapy

5. **Chapter Officers and Directors** - Note that an asterisk (\*) indicates that the individual is serving in an “acting” capacity pending new appointments.

CHAPTER OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN William J. Ridley (\*)  
VICE-CHAIRMAN Richard “Rick” Sherlock  
SECRETARY Raymond J. Hilgart (\*)  
TREASURER Kenneth M. Younger  
CHAPLAIN Reginald C. Grier

CHAPTER DIRECTORS

DIRECTOR #1 – Reginald C. Grier  
DIRECTOR #2 – Robert F. Elliott  
DIRECTOR #3 – William H. Bell  
DIRECTOR #4 – Wilson Carr, III  
DIRECTOR #5 - Vacant  
DIRECTOR #6 – Raymond J. Hilgart

**6. Combat Veterans' Health Care Update:** VA News Release dated February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008 states that military veterans who served in combat since November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1998 are now eligible for five years of no cost medical care for most conditions from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This measure increases a two-year limit that has been in effect nearly a decade. "By their service and their sacrifice, America's newest combat veterans have earned this special eligibility period for VA's world-class health care," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake. The five-year deadline has no effect upon veterans with medical conditions related to their military service. Veterans may apply at any time after their discharge from the military --even decades later -- for medical care for service-connected health problems. The new provision, part of the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 signed by President Bush on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2008 applies to care in a VA hospital, outpatient clinic or nursing home. It also extends VA dental benefits -- previously limited to 90 days after discharge for most veterans -- to 180 days. Combat veterans who were discharged between November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1998 and January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2003, and who never took advantage of VA's health care system, have until January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to qualify for free health care. See VA News Release cited above for full details.

**7. Armed Forces Day Events and Activities:** Trooper Bill Ridley, the committee chair for this event, stated that the Air Show at Andrews Air Force Base is a GO for Friday (16<sup>th</sup> May) through Sunday (18<sup>th</sup> May). The DC Chapter will set up a table on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> of May in one of the aircraft hangars adjacent to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Display area with the fourfold purpose being to (1) recruit new members to the Association and the Chapter, (2) promote and support the Airborne Spirit, (3) market chapter and airborne paraphernalia, and (4) show the Flag. Volunteers are urgently needed to man the DC Chapter table to meet these objectives. Sign up now or at the next meeting or notify the Chapter Secretary at 540-359-5061 or email at [rhilgart@infionet.net](mailto:rhilgart@infionet.net). Come on out to help meet the Chapter's goals and objectives, meet new and interesting people, talk and tell airborne stories with today's airborne troopers, see one of the Division's units stage a parachute drop on the airbase, see all the new (and old) military hardware on display and in general, have a good time doing all this.

**8. Memorial Day Parade:** This event will take place on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008. DC Chapter participants will be provided the opportunity to be in the parade while riding in military vehicles. This opportunity will exist for only the first 12 chapter members to step forward to participate so call the Chapter Secretary early to reserve your place. The parade route will be down Constitution Avenue in Washington DC and start time is 1400 hours. Further details, to include assembly details, VIP and Wounded Warrior participants and special celebrities will be forthcoming at the May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008 Chapter meeting.

**9. Chaplain's Report:** The Chapter Chaplain, Reggie Grier, reports the following

**a. *Baby John Kingfisher:*** Billie Jo and Megan Kingfisher report that their baby John is progressing well. Baby John, was born with a cardiac defect requiring a series of open heart surgeries. Although Billie Jo now lives in South Dakota, he has chosen to remain with the Washington DC Chapter. As mentioned elsewhere within this newsletter, Billie Jo serves as the Association's point man in dealing with Senator Hagel (Nebraska) in establishing a permanent National Airborne Heritage Day.

**b. *Interment of 82<sup>nd</sup> Troopers in Arlington National Cemetery:*** The following five troopers of the 82nd Airborne Division, recently killed in action in either Iraq or Afghanistan, were interred in Arlington National Cemetery. Chapter members attended memorial, funeral and/or graveside services. A metallic seal, a replica of the Division shoulder patch, was emplaced on each of the caskets by the Chapter Chaplain.

- SSG Yancy T. Gray, Troop C, 1st Squadron of 73rd Cav Regt, (2nd BCT)
- SGT Michael Hardegree, Troop C, 1st Squadron of 73rd Cav Regt, (2nd BCT)
- SPC Ari Brown-Weeks, HHC, 1/325th AIR (2nd BCT)
- CPL Christopher J. West, 1st Squadron of 73rd Cav Regt, (2nd BCT)
- SGT Laurent J. West, Troop A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Squadron, 73<sup>rd</sup> Cav Regt (1<sup>st</sup> BCT)

**10. Treasurer's Report for the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of Year 2008:** The Chapter Treasurer provided the following financial data:

**TREASURER'S REPORT (YEAR 2008 – 1<sup>ST</sup> QUARTER)**

<b>General Fund (Checking Account)</b>	
--Beginning Balance - January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	\$4,511
--1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Receipts	\$1,752
--1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Disbursements (See Notes 1 & 2)	\$2,316
--Ending Balance – March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	\$3,947
<b>Education Fund (Savings Account)</b>	
--Beginning Balance - January 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	\$12,296
--1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Receipts	\$144
--1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Disbursements	\$50
--Ending Balance – March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	\$12,390
<b>Total Cash &amp; Savings Funds</b>	
--Total Cash & Fund Balance – March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2008	\$16,337

Note 1: Disbursements include Funk Education Fund Award.

Note 2: Disbursements include Payment for Quartermaster Items

Note 3: Amounts rounded to nearest dollar.

**11. SPECIAL EVENTS MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:** At the general membership meeting this past March 1<sup>st</sup> the membership agreed to have the 1SG (MOH) Leonard Funk Memorial Ceremony and Luncheon, the D-Day Ceremonial to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div and the Summer Picnic all rolled up into one function. Hopefully this consolidation of activities will attract greater participation. To enable the membership to make prior arrangements and plans to participate, the following information is provided at this time.

**a. The date is Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and includes following activities and events:**

**b. CEREMONIALS AT ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY– TIME & LOCATION**

Between 1100 and 1115 hours, the Automobile Convoy assembles on the Event Leader at the START POINT. The Start Point is just outside the main gate to the Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Drive adjacent to the 101<sup>st</sup> Abn Div Memorial. At approximately 1130 hours, Convoy proceeds into Arlington National Cemetery and follows the Leader to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Memorial and to the 1SG (MOH) Leonard Funk Grave site Memorial. Sequentially, at these two locations, the convoy will stop, occupants dismount and walk to the memorial markers where color guard and wreath laying ceremonies are conducted and appropriate remarks are made by Airborne notables. Invariably these activities attract large crowds of Cemetery visitors. At the close of these ceremonies, the convoy proceeds back to the START POINT. All will then proceed individually to Fort Myer where those attending the Picnic and ceremonies will gather at Spates Community Center. **DRESS:** Dress appropriately for Memorial Ceremonies. Dress should NOT be casual as the ceremonies will be solemn events.

**c. 1SG (MOH) LEONARD FUNK PICNIC LUNCHEON AT FORT MYER - TIME & LOCATION:**

Between approximately 1130 and 1200 hours – Assemble at the Spates Community Center on Fort Myer in the picnic area behind the Community Center. Food served will be hamburgers, hot-dogs, BBQ Spareribs, baked beans, potato salad and condiment salad and iced tea. Participants may bring own desserts. A cash bar will be available. Alcoholic beverages are not provided but may be procured (purchased) separately.

**DRESS:** Dress garments will naturally carry over from the ceremonials to the Picnic but participants may change garments, or “undress” so to speak, for picnic activity. The Spates Community Center restrooms may be used for changing garments if desired.

**d. CEREMONIAL & PICNIC FLYERS** is included on the back page of this newsletter. Cost per participant will be \$10 for those over the age of 12. No cost for dependent children under age 12. Children under age 12 should remain in the car (with an attendant adult) during the ceremonial memorials in the Cemetery.

**e. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:** Direct to the Chapter Secretary at Ray Hilgart, Secretary, DC Chapter, 8211 Poplar Grove Dr., Warrenton, VA 20187-4361, Phone: 540-359-5061, Email: [rhilgart@infionline.net](mailto:rhilgart@infionline.net)

**12. Member Changes of Address:** Save our Chapter postage money. If you have a change of address, please utilize the “change of address” form located on the inside front cover of the Spring Paraglide. Alternately, utilize the Association’s web page to report your new address.

**13. Association Short Shots:** The following items have been extracted from the more recent Association monthly bulletins and formatted to fit within this newsletter.

**a. *Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Memorial Monument:*** The GWOT Memorial Monument, located on the grounds of the 82d Airborne Division War Memorial Museum on Fort Bragg, needs to be expanded. The persistent increase in Fallen Warriors from the Division dictates that the current monument be expanded in order to

continue honoring those troopers who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of the freedom we Americans enjoy today. The total cost of this project is substantial and the Association's Executive Committee is asking its Chapters and members to not only make a donation but to contact their local corporations and businesses for support. National Headquarters would like to challenge all 105 chapters (whether Active Duty or Veteran) to make a minimum donation of \$100.00 each. All donors will have their names published in our quarterly magazine, the Paraglide. See Page 18 of the Spring issue of the Paraglide for a graphic portrayal of the proposed monument and a form by which you can submit your donation.

- b. 325<sup>th</sup> AIR (2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team)** has completed its redeployment to Fort Bragg from Iraq.
- c. 508<sup>th</sup> PIR (4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team)** is winding down operations in Afghanistan and will redeploy this month (April) to Fort Bragg.
- d. National Airborne Heritage Day (August 16<sup>th</sup>):** Project Officer, Billie Kingfisher, continues to work diligently with Senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska to make its permanence a reality. As previously noted, the Senate will not make it a Permanent Resolution; therefore Senator Hagel, in cooperation with friends in the House, is trying to attach it to a Bill for submission to the President for Signature.
- e. 82<sup>nd</sup> Sustainment Brigade** - CSM Barry E. Maieritsch replaced CSM Nathan J. Hunt as the unit's Senior Enlisted Trooper during ceremonies held last month.
- f. Association Looking for Oldest Members:** The Association requests that each Chapter poll their membership and report back their two (2) oldest members not later than 30 June 2008. Information required is: full name, unit(s), date of birth and dates of service. The DC Chapter does not possess information related to a member's date of birth so if you are over 80 years of age, please contact the Chapter Secretary at the address shown at the end of this newsletter.
- g. Association Policy on Parachute Jumping:** The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, Inc. does not sponsor nor lend its name in any way to parachute jumping activities. This includes, but is not limited to, individual jumps, competition jumps, demonstration jumps or any and all jumps sponsored or contracted for by any individual or group whatsoever. No person or organization has any authority or right to use the name of either the Association or of any of its Chapters. No does any person or organization have the authority to imply the sponsorship of the Association nor of any such Chapter in connection with any parachute jump nor any form of parachute jumping or competition whatsoever.
- h. All-American Week:** The Division's All-American Week at Fort Bragg is scheduled for Monday thru Sunday (May 19<sup>th</sup> thru May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008), only 3 weeks away. Be sure to read closely pages 16 & 17 of the Winter 2007-08 Paraglide for full details. Most of the Division will be "home" for the occasion.

## Calendar of Events for May, June, July, August and September, 2008

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Sat May 3<sup>rd</sup>            General membership meeting following the 1300 hours Lunch at American Legion in Fairfax, Virginia. Board of Directors meeting at 1200 hours before the Lunch.

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Fri May 16<sup>th</sup>            Armed Forces Day Activities (Open House) at Andrews Air Force Base. Time is from  
to                            0800 to 1600. Chairman Bill Ridley will serve as the Point of Contact (POC) and  
Sun May 18<sup>th</sup>            coordinate all Chapter activities. (See paragraph 7 of this newsletter)

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Mon May 19<sup>th</sup>            All-American Week Activities at Fort Bragg, NC. Entire Division (with exception of  
to                            the 1<sup>st</sup> BCT (504 PIR) will be back home. Chairman Bill Ridley will serve as  
Sun May 25<sup>th</sup>            Coordinator and Chapter Delegate. (See paragraph 13h of this newsletter)

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Mon May 26<sup>th</sup>            Memorial Day National Parade & Activities in Downtown Washington. COL Bob  
Elliott is Committee Chair for Event. Assembly is 1400 hours at location to be  
announced at the meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2008. (See paragraph 8 of this newsletter)

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Sat Jun 7<sup>th</sup>             D-Day Activities & Memorial Ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery.  
(See paragraph 11b of this newsletter)

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Sat Jun 7<sup>th</sup>             Chapter Summer Picnic at the Spates Community Center at Fort Myer, Virginia.  
(See paragraph 11c of this newsletter)

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Sat Jun 7<sup>th</sup>             General membership meeting (abbreviated) during the Summer Picnic at Spates  
Community Center, Fort Myer, Virginia. Meeting Time: At Call of the Chairman.

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Mon Aug 11<sup>th</sup>            62<sup>nd</sup> National Convention of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div Assn at St. Louis, Missouri in the  
to                            Millennium Hotel. Hosted by the Gateway Chapter. See back cover (inside &  
Sun Aug 17<sup>th</sup>            outside) for registration form and detail and description of activities and events.

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Sat Sep 6<sup>th</sup>             General membership meeting at Main Post Chapel, Fort Myer, Virginia.  
Board of Directors meeting at 1200 hours.  
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**82<sup>ND</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC  
WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER**

Summer Picnic Lunch in Honor of 1SG (MOH) Leonard Funk, Fort Myer, Virginia  
1130 – 1400 hours, Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008

Our 2008 Summer Picnic will be held on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at Fort Myer, Virginia at 1130 hours. It will serve as a picnic lunch in honor of 1SG (MOH) Leonard Funk, an event which in previous years was a more formal luncheon. The location will be the picnic area behind the Spates Community Center complex on Fort Myer. The Spates Community Center is taking care of the food arrangements. Its location is about 200 yards from the main post chapel, the one directly across the street from the main Post Exchange. A large parking area is directly across the street from the Spates Community Center.

The cost of the picnic is \$10 per person. Mail in your payment, or pay at the picnic. Cash or check is fine. If paying by check, make check payable to "Washington, DC Chapter." If paying by cash, having the exact amount would be great. If pre-paying, please mail to the Chapter Secretary, Ray Hilgart, at 8211 Poplar Grove Drive, Warrenton, VA 20187-4361. However, regardless of how you pay, we do need to know ahead of time how many will attend. To that attend call the Secretary at 540-359-5061 or email at [rhilgart@infionline.net](mailto:rhilgart@infionline.net) so we know how many is coming. We need to have a final count by 30 May 2008.

The chapter will be providing some drinks; but please bring any particulars that you may want to have yourself. If you have dessert that you might want to share with others, that would be great also. If you have a cooler, bring along to keep the drinks cold at the picnic. Your cooler support will be greatly appreciated.

**IF SENDING YOUR PAYMENT, PLEASE CUT HERE AND MAIL THIS PORTION WITH  
CHECK TO THE ADDRESS ABOVE. THANK YOU AND AIRBORNE!**

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**PLEASE RESERVE FOR ME THE FOLLOWING MEALS FOR THE PICNIC ON  
SATURDAY, JUNE 7<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

WE WISH TO HAVE \_\_\_\_ MEALS AT THIS YEARS PICNIC.

ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR \$\_\_\_\_\_ AT \$10.00 PER MEAL.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_