



**New England Chapter 9
John A. Barnes III (MOH)
173rd Airborne Association**



Summer 2017

Welcome to our newsletter. Our hopes are that you and your family are well. Since our last Newsletter our website has been completed and is up and running. www.newenglandskysoldier.net . Pay it a visit, there is a lot of information there. This will be where new activities, and information will be posted as we are notified.

Our next Chapter Meeting will be 23 Sept, VFW Post 3329, 16 S. Main St, Millbury, MA 01527 at 10:00 Hrs., we are in hopes that you will be able to attend. There are several items of business that needs to be addressed.

If you are receiving this by US mail we do not have your current email address, send an email to Dennis telling us what it is dhill173@verizon.net, we don't SPAM, send jokes etc., only things pertinent to the Chapter are emailed.

President:

Greetings to all, know that your Chapter is well financially as well as in numbers. As always, your support of our annual raffle was outstanding, we appreciate your support, congratulations to all our winners and a special thanks to those that donated their winnings back to the chapter.

You will notice that on the bottom of each of these pages there is a saying that the active troops use, We ARE one team!

As you are may be aware National has a new President, Terry Aubrey. Roy Scott opted not to run for another term in office after 3 terms as President. Terry has promised to make changes and to make us more unified among other things. He has our support and are looking forward to these changes.

The 2018 Reunion will be hosted by Chapter 1, the New York Chapter in Alexandria VA, finally there is one close by. Updates as they arrive will be on our website: www.newenglandskysoldier.net/reuion-2018 . Registration and information are available on National's website www.skysoldier.net . While you are on National's website it would be a good time to verify your information insuring that your demographics are correct and up to date.

We again conducted our 12-hour Memorial Day Vigil, this was our 23rd consecutive year. Because of age and participation our thought today is that the Vigil as we know it today will end in 2 years.

November 17th is our last meeting of the year. Elections for President, Treasurer and Secretary will take place. I have been President for 6 years and NOT running again, health and family are factors in this decision. It's been a good run, I believe that we made some positive changes in the past 6 years. New blood, innovative ideas, and new energy are needed to keep our Chapter moving forward. We are too good of a Chapter to fade into the history books! If interested let Dennis know of your intentions

and we will make sure that your name is on the ballet. I will be available to insure a smooth transfer.

Peter Klausner

Secretary

Hello Everyone,

I would like to wish you all a Happy June and please by all means have a great summer.

On May the 28th., the chapter conducted the 23rd. Annual John A. Barnes III, twelve hour vigil.

In all of the years that I have participated in the vigils this was the worst I have ever attended. The participation from chapter members was totally unacceptable. Almost 90% of those who attended in the past were absent. Due to the extremely poor attendance, the vigil was shut down at 1700 hours. This was the first time that the vigil was ended because of poor attendance. What a shameful attendance. I am so ashamed over the vigil, words cannot express how I feel.

Because of the above there will be only two more vigils, 2018 and the final in 2019 when the count will be 25 years that the chapter has honored John Barnes for his act of bravery. What even makes it worse is that John Barnes cousin and wife attended and brought Johns Medal of Honor for all to see.

This chapter and its Officers have done all that they can to make it easy for members to attend a meeting or a vigil and the attendance has become less and less at every event. There really isn't anything else the chapter can do to make it convenient for membership to participate in events.

I have attended twenty-three vigils and almost every meeting for the last twenty-five years with the exception of medical problems, but this year's vigil attendance has almost made me to say the hell with it and walk away, but I am bigger than that.

For those of you who took the time out of your day to attend, I thank you very much and believe me when I say it was appreciated, we couldn't have done it without you.

Wishing you all and your family and great summer.

Dennis Hill

Treasurer

Thanks to all who participated in the Spring 2017 Raffle. All the checks have gone out, and we had winners in a lot of states: Alaska, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Congratulations to Howie Lund and Wayne D'Agostino, who each won on two days, and to Fred Lewis who was a triple winner.

I had wished to see more old friends on Memorial Day at the Vigil. But I was glad that our past President John O'Dea was able to come and spend most of the day with us. Hank Young returned from the northern hinterlands of Maine, and it was great to see him also. Every year everyone becomes more important to us, because I'm aware that we lost several members during the past year who we could always count on at the Vigil.

At this point it does not appear that the 173rd Foundation will be scheduling a golf outing in Manchester, New Hampshire this summer.

Ever wonder why the 173rd Airborne Brigade became the 1st Army unit to be sent to Vietnam ? I was reading a book lately named [Dereliction of Duty: Johnson, McNamara, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the Lies That Led to Vietnam](#) written by President Trump's National Security Adviser, H.R. McMaster and published in 1997. In 1965, the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended that three divisions be sent to Vietnam to combat the escalating attacks by the Viet Cong. However, President Johnson was not willing to do it, because he did not want to be criticized for it, and it would complicate the passing of the Great Society Legislation that he was trying to get through Congress. Therefore, they decided to send a brigade rather than three divisions, and they did not want to send a brigade from the US, because it would lead to too much negative publicity in the US so they sent the 173rd Airborne from Okinawa.

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

Have a good summer everyone. See you at the Sept Meeting as well as on the Chapter's Election Day in the Fall of 2017.

Bill Maloney

Service Officer:

VA Hearing & Vision Benefit Update Only 1 in 4 Vets Utilize

Approximately 46 million Americans experience some form of communication disorder. Communication disorders can compromise physical and emotional health and affect the social, educational, vocational and recreational aspects of life. Hearing loss, loss of speech and other communication disorders can lead to feelings of isolation and a lack of connection with family, friends and community.

Veterans have higher rates of hearing loss and tinnitus than the general public due to the occupational injury that can be incurred as a result of the noise levels encountered while in the service, including gunfire, aircraft, machinery and much more. Tinnitus and hearing loss are the top two service-connected disabilities among Veterans enrolled in VA for care. In 2016, more than 190,000 Veterans were awarded service-connection for tinnitus and more than 103,000 Veterans were awarded service-connection for hearing loss. In total, more than 2.7 million Veterans currently receive disability benefits for hearing loss and/or tinnitus. Although noise-induced hearing loss can be permanent, rehabilitative technology such as hearing aids can significantly improve users' quality of life. Yet, only about one in four of those who could benefit from hearing aids have ever used them. This is why VA provides comprehensive hearing health care services to Veterans as part of their medical benefits and Veterans have direct access to audiology clinics for evaluation and treatment of hearing loss. VA's delivery of hearing health services includes access to a full continuum of hearing health

care from prevention to diagnostics to treatment, continued follow up and maintenance.
Access covers:

- Screening, assessment, evaluation, treatment, and/or management of hearing loss, tinnitus and balance disorders
- Fitting and programming of hearing aids, wireless accessories, and other assistive listening devices (e.g., TV and telephone amplifiers) and post-surgical rehabilitation for cochlear and other osseointegrated auditory implants
 - Hearing screening and prevention services; auditory rehabilitation services to optimize residual hearing
 - Progressive Tinnitus Management which includes education, sound therapy (including hearing aids) and interdisciplinary counseling
 - Vestibular Diagnostics and Rehabilitation
 - Audiology Compensation and Pension Exams
 - Utilizing an evidence base for delivery of best practices and services, supported by expertise at VA regional and national centers of excellence (e.g., Cochlear Implant centers, Research Centers)
 - Utilizing multiple contracts to provide high quality technology for digital hearing aids, wireless communication systems, assistive/alerting devices, cochlear implants to provide devices needed to meet communication needs of the Veteran (i.e., six hearing aid companies currently on national contract)
 - Widespread utilization of audiology telehealth for remote diagnostics, hearing aid fittings and maintenance, and both tinnitus and auditory rehabilitation education
 - Partnering with community providers to contract and offer hearing health care in a timely manner closer to home. VA also collects clinical outcomes for patients using hearing aids reported across multiple categories (e.g., Hearing Aid Use, Perceived Benefit, Satisfaction, Impact on Others, Activity Limitation, and Quality of Life). Across all categories, reported clinical outcomes are consistently high for Veterans receiving hearing health services within VA, and exceed those reported for general norms.

[Source: Vantage Point | Dr. Rachel McArdle | May 15, 2017 ++]

Joseph Armstrong
Service Officer

Next Chapter meeting is 23 Sept VFW Post 3329, 16 S. Main St, Millbury, MA 01527, 10:00 hrs.