



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



We welcome you to our "Winter Newsletter".

Our current Officers:

President: Peter Klausner
 Vice President: Al Champeau
 Secretary: Dennis Hill
 Treasurer: Bill Maloney
 SGT at Arms: Kevin Shaw
 Chaplain: Guy Hodgins
 Service Officer: Joe Armstrong

President:

The Holidays are fast approaching as is the cold weather. Let me begin by wishing you all a happy and safe Holiday Season. Your Chapter is well, financially as well as our numbers. We are 600+ strong, unfortunately we are getting older and losses are inevitable. Our warriors of today are slow in joining, getting the sand out of their boots and readjusting takes time. Many of us were also slow in joining. Keep our current warriors in your thoughts and prayers.

In the near future our website will be changing, it's expected that this will transpire 1/1/2017. The new website will be: www.newenglandskysoldier.net. There will be many enhancements and the ability to add new features that our current website does not offer. Stay tuned, stay informed.

Our 2017 Raffle will again happen. Tickets will be mailed out as well as available for downloading from our website (1/1/2017). This is a way to support our chapter as well as a tax deduction. We are a 501(C)319 Military Organization.

I would like to introduce our new Sgt at Arms; Kevin Shaw. Kevin has been a Life Member for many years and a member of our Chapter. We welcome him. A little about Kevin:

I am married to Linda D. Falardeau. Except for three years in the US Army I've spent my life in the town I was born in, Woonsocket, RI. I Joined the Army on 10-31-1967. Jump School April 68. MOS's as a Heavy Equipment Operator (62E2P) transferred to (11B2P) and was awarded CIB. While in RVN I was assigned to C 4/503. I served 9 months prior



to deployment and 9 months after Viet Nam at Ft. Bragg. I am currently 66 years old and retired. As a civilian I worked as a bricklayer, HVAC Tech and a Facilities Engineering Tech.

Peter Klausner
President

Secretary:

Hello Everyone,
Here we are into the middle of November and before you know it, we will be having Thanksgiving dinner with our loved ones. Please take a moment during your activities to remember those fantastic soldiers who will not be able to have dinner with their loved ones because they are defending our freedom and others not as lucky as us. I remember one Thanksgiving in Vietnam as if it was the other day. A few of us were sitting around and talking about Thanksgiving and wondering what our love ones were doing. The chopper came in and I received a box from the state of Massachusetts and in it was a canned ham and others items. Boy after we cooked up the ham we all had a great dinner and it made us feel a little better not being home. Take a moment and please remember our troops.

I need to speak about chapter meetings. The last few chapter meetings to say the least have had the worst attendance I have ever been involved in. This is your chapter and your Officers are trying to run things the right way, but can always use your impute. Were all at the retirement age so there is no excuse why you cannot attend a meeting. It is terrible after we drive many miles to run a meeting in different states and towns and few attend. There really isn't much more your chapter officers can do to make it easy for you to attend. I am into my twenty-second (22) years as the chapter secretary and it is about time some members step forward to assist. What's going to happen when some of the officers say enough is enough, and I cannot do the job anymore? Are you going to allow the chapter to shut down, or are you going to assist and keep the chapter alive? A good first step would be to attend a meeting.

I wish you all and your families a very Happy Thanksgiving and God Bless our troops.

Dennis Hill

Treasurer

If you are not a Life member, please check to make sure that you have paid your 2016 dues. If you don't see a check to the Chapter in your late 2015, or 2016, checkbook for \$24 most likely you need to send in your dues. Of course, we will accept the prepayment of 2017's dues.



I want to extend my appreciation to those have made recent contributions to the Chapter. This roll call goes to Ed Donnelly, Ed Donnelly (in Memory of past Chapter President Jim Morey), John Kimball, Thomas Needham, and Salvatore Onte. Additional thanks to Harold Mahar, William Davis and Patrick Babcock, who donated their raffle winnings to the Chapter.

Listing these contributions out has made me realize that I need to make a contribution to get in, and to get a deduction on my 2016 tax return. How quickly a year goes by!

A few words on taxes. A member of a 501(c)(19) or 501(c)(4) veterans' organization, **which we are**, may deduct his travel expenses if they are incurred in the performance of official duties? If the organization satisfies the requirements of IRC 170(c)(3) and there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation in such travel, the expenses may be deducted as contributions. A war veterans' organization is one that satisfies both a membership requirement and a purpose requirement. To be eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions under IRC 170(c)(3), at least 90% of the members must be war veterans **which we also are**. Substantially all of the other members must be veterans, cadets, or spouses, widows, or widowers of war veterans, veterans or cadets. "War veterans" are defined as persons who have served in the United States Armed Forces during a period of war.

Your past support of the Chapter has allowed us to make a recent donation to the REACH Program at the Brockton VA. In the upcoming months, we will make contributions to the Goldstar Mothers in Lowell, MA and in Rhode Island.

Bill Maloney
Chapter Treasurer

VSO

REMINDER!!!! - All veterans should make sure that all documents associated with their military service are in a secure location and accessible to family members when the need arises. It is unfortunate that, all too often, veterans put their military papers in boxes or files and family members have no clue as to where to look to find them.

The veteran's discharge papers — Form 100 Discharge, DD214 or NGD22 — are critical for any benefits for which a veteran or their family may be eligible. Do not keep the family in the dark on where they are located; make a list of all these documents and include a copy of the most recent "Federal Benefits for Veterans and their Dependents" pamphlet.

Too often, a situation arises in which the VA could provide valuable assistance and a



delay is caused by a lack of essential documents to speed the process for medical coverage or dependent assistance. Make it is easy for your loved ones to assist you if the need arises.

I know that there will come a time when I will be in need of my family's assistance, and I want them to be able to find and use the documents to ease their stress and have access to all eligible VA benefits. There are many websites and information sources that are vital to veterans and their families; I recommend that they become familiar with these and make a list of these resources, so that the veteran and their family can have access to them immediately when needed.

Here is a list of information and details that veterans should have available to their loved ones:

- Name, Address, State, Zip Code;
 - DD214, DD215 or NGD 22, Form 100 Discharge;
 - Date of Enlistment - Location;
 - Date of Discharge — Location;
 - Branch of Service — Service Number;
 - Date of Birth & Birth Certificate;
 - Date of Marriage & Marriage Certificate;
 - VA Medical Card & Medicare Cards;
 - Government or Life Insurance Policies;
 - VA Claim Number — Social Security Number;
 - Certificate of Eligibility (COE) — Home Loan;
 - Bank Accounts — Safe Deposit Box & Location;
 - Records Location and any VA or Social Security
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- Government or Life Insurance Policies;
 - VA Claim Number — Social Security Number;
 - Certificate of Eligibility (COE) — Home Loan; ■ Bank Accounts — Safe Deposit Box & Location;
 - Records Location and any VA or Social Security Compensation;
 - Other Documents — Deeds, Mortgages, Will, Living Will instructions, and more; and
 - VA Office where records are located

Joe Armstrong
VSO

[We wish you a good door position and safe landing](#)

