



## February 2018

On November 12, 2017, the Massachusetts Purple Heart Association, Chapter 9 and many other organizations took part with a wreath laying ceremony at the Barnes Memorial in Dedham in order to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of John A Barnes III's sacrifice for his fellow Sky Soldier's and for our country. Additional pictures will be on our website.



At our membership meeting in March elections will be held, for the President, Treasurer, and Secretary positions. This information is also available on our website, Legion Post 208, 136 Curve St. Millis MA 01054, 11:00 – 13:00 hrs., on 24 March 2018, be sure to check with the website *prior to the March Membership Meeting to ensure that weather conditions permit us to meet.* <http://www.newenglandskysoldier.net/>

President:

Greetings to one and all, hopefully your Holidays were enjoyable, safe and that you are in good health. It isn't any secret that none of us are getting any younger. A new year is upon us and the Chapter needs your help. We all have been Officers for many years, it's time for new blood, new ideas, and new enthusiasm. The March meeting is the time and place for this to transpire.

We are a large Chapter covering many states, 600+ strong, all of the officer positions are enjoyable. This first thing you would notice is that our members love to talk when you get them on the phone. We are as varied of a crew as you would ever want to find. WWII thru current, PVT to MG we are all share the same heritage, that of being a Sky Soldier.

The organization that is currently in place within our chapter is sound, our finances are sound. Our only shortfall is attendance and members stepping up to the plate for Officer Positions. Time is our enemy, I am well aware of that (It has been a long time since I have been carded at a bar). I have served 8 years, it is time for someone new.

None of the positions are 8 – 5 jobs, they mostly run themselves. A few hours a week is all that is required. We are worth the effort!

I have enjoyed my time as the President, my job is easy thanks to the other officers. I have enjoyed interacting with both members and National. I will miss the interaction as much as anything else. We are a good group, proud of our military heritage, and service to our great Country. I have never had to say anything more to a veteran who asked, "what unit did I serve with" other than saying the 173d. They know us well.

In closing I want to say thanks for all that each of you have done for the Chapter and for me. I am not going away, I have some institutional memory and would always be available to share this with the new President should he ask.

Peter Klausner  
President

Secretary:

Happy February to you all,

Here we are staring a new year and already the second month into 2018. I hope all of you and your families are doing well?

I would like to start off by suggesting that you make an effort to attend a chapter meeting. Attendance at the meetings has been terrible. We even attempted to have a luncheon meeting with the chapter footing the bill and what a turn out, (three responses), what a crying shame, had to cancel due to lack of participation.

What do we have to do to stimulate members to attend a meeting? Does anyone have any suggestions? So far nothing has provided positive response from the chapter members.

It is like we have a chapter and the only ones who give a damn are the chapter officers.

On January the 7<sup>th</sup>. I started my twenty-fourth year as your chapter Secretary and there is no light at the end of the tunnel. What do you suggest the chapter to do? What is going to happen when we finally say enough is enough and have to walk away from the chapter, is that what most of you want to happen? I do not want to sound like a bitcher, but what are we supposed to do? Please help that is all I can say to each one of you.

OK, enough of the above, it is a new year and that means it is time to pay your dues for 2018 if you are not a life member. Send me \$24.00 with your current information and we will get your record updated and send you your new membership card for 2018. Mail to: Dennis Hill, 97 Earl St, Norwood, MA. 02062-1504

Chapter Secretary, Dennis Hill

#### Treasurer:

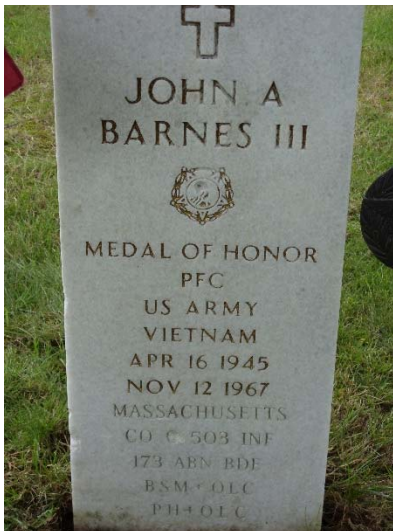
Dues, dues and dues. For those people who are not Life Members 2018 are now due. Please send your dues to Dennis Hill our devoted Secretary for the last 24 years.

Contributions help the Chapter to make contributions to other charitable organizations that have worthy causes. We have recently made a contribution to 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Foundation for the placement of a bench at the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade National Memorial. If you haven't visited the Memorial website lately it can be seen at <http://www.173dairbornememorial.org/the-memorial/> I'm sure that the bench can be used by many of us while visiting the Memorial.



Thanks to those people who have contributions since our last newsletter: Peter Klausner, Frank Young, and Tom Whittaker. Contributions remain important to us as we are able to retain these amounts to sponsor Chapter programs and events.

Dennis Hill made arrangements to have the John Barnes gravestone cleaned last summer. If you look closely at the below picture you can see that the lettering on the stone is gold which is a tribute to his Medal of Honor status. Some of this lettering has faded over the years. We intend to work with John Barnes's family in order to submit a request to the Veterans Administration to request that the stone be re-lettered. However, such a request involves submitting paperwork to the VA. Would any of our readers be able to assist the family in this request?



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

Bill Maloney  
Chapter Treasurer