



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

Mission Statement



January 2016

Greetings to all Sky Soldiers, family members and friends. The Chapter starts a new year. We are continuing moving our meeting locations to better meet our membership. Living in New England, experience has shown that during the winter month's attendance is low due to weather conditions, as are the summer months because of vacations, kids being out of school etc. In the near future we will post our schedule of dates and locations on our website taking this into consideration.

www.newenglandskysoldier.com.

There are many links to websites that are of interest to us as veterans. There are many more, this is but a sampling of what is available on line. The Chapter does not advocate any of these organizations, rather is provided as an informational tool to veterans.

<https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>

http://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/

<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html>

<http://www.mass.gov/veterans/> (This info is available for each state)

<http://www.vva.org/>

http://vfwma.org/?s=Veteran%20Service%20Office&search_404=1 (Available each state)

http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-agent_orange.asp

We are again having our yearly raffle; tickets will be in the mail later this month, winning names will be posted daily: http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/Raffle_2016.html. Additional tickets may be downloaded and printed directly from our website using the above link. There are numerous worthy organizations that we support, there are also expenses associated with running our Chapter: storage fees, office supplies & mailing costs to name but a few. The annual raffle is the major means of revenue for the Chapter.

President:

Happy New Year, my hopes are that this will be a healthy year for us all. We are made up of primarily RVN era, with that said we are getting older and "wiser". This Johnny Cash & Willie Nelson song is for us

http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/files/Drive_On.mp3. We take this into account when planning our meetings trying to get as much bang for our buck with the location chosen. We have a large area of operation, with MA being our largest concentration of members. Since our Chapter's creation in 1989 we have learned a lot about our

members, what their likes and dislikes are. Ideas are always welcome on how to improve us as a Chapter. Let us know your thoughts for improving.

The 2016 National Reunion is fast approaching this year at Fort Benning where it all began for us many years ago. Jump School; pushups, duck walks, runs, swing land trainer and my favorite the suspended harness. Then graduation the pinning of the silver wings, and for a lot of us RVN, I would do it all over again!

The Chapter in general is well. Our membership participation is slowly declining. This will be one of our goals this year to try to come up with a plan to increase our numbers at meetings and The Vigil. I will be ending my tour as President 1 Jan 2017 after 3 tours. It is time for new blood and ideas. Consider submitting your name for a Chapter position. *We are worth it!* Chapter 9 is one of the larger chapters within National, 600+ members in many states and Canada, making communication difficult for those of us without email. It is imperative that you let Dennis know of any changes to your demographics.

We are working on our website updating, adding and deleting items, you might want to take a look and see the changes. Again, ideas of things to add or take away let us know, it is "our" website. www.newenglandskysoldier.com

Remember that tickets are already available for our raffle on line. http://www.newenglandskysoldier.com/files/2016_Raffle_Tickets.pdf simply print them out and mail them to Dennis. Printed tickets will be mailed later this month. Good luck to us all

Peter Klausner
Chapter President

Secretary:

Hello Everyone, I would like to first wish each one of you and your loved ones a very Happy New Year. Let us all hope that 2016 is good year for all of us. Why not start your year off by having a medical checkup by your primary Doctor. We are all getting older and starting to realize that our bodies are not what they were when we were twenty years old.

On January the seventh I have started my twenty-second year as your Chapter Secretary. On January the 30th. Peter Klausner and I have completed five years as Co-Chaired National Membership Secretary.

I do believe that it is time for someone to start thinking about stepping up to the plate and consider filling some of our Chapter positions. We cannot keep doing the jobs forever till we die. What will happen if one day we are unable to continue the jobs? Is the chapter going to fold or will someone step up to the plate at that time?

As I am the Chapter Secretary one of my functions is membership. Quite a few members need to send me their dues to keep their memberships up to date. Send your \$24.00 check made payable to Chapter 9 to me. My address is on the chapter web site and on the application sheet in the Sky Soldier. I really hope that more of you will make an effort to attend meetings and support your chapter.

Dennis Hill
Chapter Secretary.

Treasurer

It still doesn't feel like it's winter yet here in New England, but I want to give you these prophetic words that I put in last January's Newsletter. "Well winter is upon us, but they are telling us the "Arctic Vortex" is giving us below average temperatures and pushing all of the snow coming up the coast out to sea." Boy was I wrong ! We ended up with 100 inches of snow in the next two months and broke the record for a winter in Boston by a fraction of an inch. Next week's forecast, an Arctic Vortex !

I wanted to write you about how the finances of the Chapter are for the year just coming to an end. It looks like we will end up being down in our finances by about \$1,000. And, unless something changes, we don't look forward toward to reversing this in 2016.

Thanks to those who made contributions to the Chapter during 2015: These people were; James Brockmiller, Kay Red Carlson, David Curtin, Ed Donnelly, Klaus Foster, Jean Francis, Dennis Hill, Peter Klausner, Michael Lagersteadt, Fred Lewis, Robert Magee, Harold Mahar, Bill Maloney, John O'Dea, Rena Staigers, Sal Taglamonte and Tom Whittaker.

Contributions are always important to the Chapter. We know that a lot of people consider making contributions. If you desire to make a contribution, please mail it to Dennis Hill, Secretary, 97 Earle Street, Norwood, MA 02062-1504.

I'd like to thank Dennis also for all of the recent work he's done sending out dues reminders. If you haven't sent yours in yet, send it to Dennis at the above address.

We have recently made a contribution to the Internet Archive which is the not for profit organization that allows the yearbooks of the 173rd Airborne to be viewed online. During 2015, Internet Archive added another yearbook, for the last year the Brigade was in Vietnam, to the library. The interest in the yearbooks has not fallen off. At this time, approximately 8,000 downloads have been made of these yearbooks.

[173d Yearbooks](#)

Bill Maloney
Chapter Treasurer

We wish you a good door position and safe landing

