

82nd Airborne Division Association

1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

April 2009 Newsletter

Chapter Calendar

Monthly Meeting-Wednesday,
April 15, 2009 at The Royal Place
2660 Library Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15234
412-882-8000

Join us for dinner at around 5:30! **IT'S A BLAST!**



FROM THE CHAIR...



Tommy Thompson

Our March meeting was well attended and we were pleased to have Sgt. Ed Greiner return after completing U. S. Army Recruiting School at Ft. Benjamin Harris. Ed will be recruiting in the Pittsburgh area. Welcome back, Ed and we wish you success in your recruiting endeavors.

Diane DePalma was with us for dinner and the meeting. Diane and her wonderful staff put the DVD together for our Washington, D. C. trip and so it was with great pleasure that she was presented a Certificate of Appreciation from the Chapter. Congratulations Diane and thank you from all of us for the hard work and long hours that went into the DVD

Also in attendance was one of our "All American" members who we haven't seen in a while, Art Masimiani. Welcome back home Art, we sure hope to see you more often. A new member was on hand; Bob Eakin joined us for dinner and the meeting. I want to again welcome you and invite you back. It is great to welcome back some of our Chapter members who return for the meetings as well as welcome our newest members.

Again, it is with great sadness that I have to report to you the passing of two more of our Brothers. On March 18, Edward Lee Leithauser, a Paratrooper in the 82nd passed away. His family told us how proud he was to have been in "America's Guard of Honor" and showed us his jump log.

We also had one of our Chapter Life Members make his final jump. On March 23, John A. Rybar passed on. John was 78 and a veteran of the Korean War. All of us who attended the memorial service were proud and honored to do so. Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of these departed Paratroopers.

Don't forget our next meeting on April 15. Come early and have dinner. Happy Birthday, Mrs. Thompson!

All The Way!
Tommy

Reminder for "Tribute To Our Veterans"-Senator Jane Orie

A reminder to those of you that have signed up to attend the "Tribute to Our Veterans" put on by State Senator Jane Orie on May 1, 2009, please be at the Pittsburgh Marriot North, 100 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066, no later than 8:30 am so we can all sit together. The event is FULL. Remember to wear something AIRBORNE, dress appropriately and bring your beret. Additionally, make sure to wear your Chapter name tag. If you don't have one call Kirk and he will have one for you the morning of the event. If something comes up and you can't attend, please contact Kirk or Pete so someone else might be able to go. See you there.

Pete and Kirk

**February Treasurer's Report
Tom Jensen**



BEGINNING BALANCE	\$4,101.52
DUES	\$145.00
DONATIONS	\$46.50
50/50	\$46.50
TOTAL INCOME w/Sales	\$280.00
DISBURSEMENTS	\$246.85*
ENDING BALANCE	\$4,134.67

* Dues to National-\$140: Print March Newsletter-\$78.85: License plate fees-\$28.00



Chapter Directors And Officers

CHAIRMAN- Tommy Thompson
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DEPUTY SERGEANT AT ARMS- Jim Aker

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TRUSTEE- Cal Cunningham

TRUSTEE- Tom Riley
 TRiley5054@aol.com

1SG Leonard A. Funk Boosters

Tommy & Susanne Thompson, Kirk Fellabom, Vince & Ginny Kimberland, Tom & Margaret Jensen, Thom Jones, Mike & Arlene Troster, Monte & Desiree Griffith, Cindy Fellabom, Walter Archibald, James & Rebecca Yacone, Tom Lysiak, Glenn & Phyllis Ribblett, Diane DePalma, John L. Price, Leonard Gorzynski

Chapter Directory 2009

If you would like to be included in the Chapter Directory complete and sign the form below and mail it to Kirk Fellabom. Don't forget to sign it! Do it today!



Kirk Fellabom
356 Hellen School Rd.
Acme, PA 15610



Information for Leonard A. Funk Chapter Directory

Last name _____ First name _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Unit _____ Years of service _____ to _____

*I hereby give my permission to have all of the above information included in this Directory.
I further agree that all of the above may appear on our Chapter website.*

SIGNED: _____

82nd Airborne Division Association Membership Application

New members must fill out completely

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

RENEWAL _____ REINSTATEMENT _____ NEW MEMBER _____ TRANSFER TO 1SG LEONARD A. FUNK CHAPTER _____
(Signature required to transfer _____)

ENCLOSED: _____ \$15.00 DUES FOR THE YEAR _____ INCLUDING PARAGLIDE SUBSCRIPTION.
_____ \$100.00 FOR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP IF OVER 50 YEARS OF AGE.
_____ \$150.00 FOR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP IF UNDER 50 YEARS OF AGE.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

ASN/SSN _____ AIRBORNE SERVICE DATES _____ TO _____

AIRBORNE UNIT (S) (be specific) _____

PRESENT OCCUPATION _____ SINGLE _____ MARRIED _____ SPOUSE'S NAME _____ NO. OF CHILDREN _____

CHAPTER: 1SG LEONARD A. FUNK, PITTSBURGH, PA

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION. MAIL TO: TOM JENSEN
3335 ALTHERTON DR
BETHEL PARK, PA 15102
412-851-1229

PROOF OF AIRBORNE SERVICE OR TIME IN THE 82ND IS NECESSARY. (DD-214 IS PREFERRED)

RECOMMENDING MEMBER _____

PLEASE SIGN BELOW TO HAVE YOUR INFORMATION INCLUDED IN OUR CHAPTER DIRECTORY.

I AGREE TO HAVE THE ABOVE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN OUR CHAPTER DIRECTORY _____

SIGNED _____



Chairman Tommy Thompson and Kirk Fellabom went to Forever Greene Flowers in Plum Boro last month to meet with Barbara Greene to present her with a Certificate of Appreciation from the 82nd Airborne Division Association, and a plaque from our Chapter. Both were in recognition of her making and donating the wreaths for the grave site of 1SG Leonard A. Funk, and the Tomb of the Unknowns, at Arlington National Cemetery. Both wreaths were presented by our Chapter members in September, 2008. Ms Greene has both of these awards hanging on the wall behind the counter in her store for all to see.



Gus Drake poses at the meeting with Dean Labby and his lady Rose. Rose had just thanked Gus for his service during WWII.



The 1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter welcomes the following new members and renewals:

David C Phillips Hummelstown, PA 3 PSYSOPS

Do you have a blank membership application in your pocket?



Vice Chairman Kirk Fellabom has accumulated quite an assortment of Airborne apparel, hats jackets, license plates, magnets, bumper stickers, window decals and many other items. They are on display for sale at every Chapter meeting. Prices are very reasonable. This stuff is top quality. No junk here! All the proceeds and profits from the Quartermaster Sales tables revert back to the Chapter.

March Meeting Highlights

The March meeting was attended by 35 members and guests. It was called to order at 7:25 pm by Tommy Thompson who did the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Vince read the minutes from February which were accepted by the Chapter after motions by John Price and Pete Rentzepes. The Treasurer's report also accepted as read after motions by Vince and Tom Riley. Tommy briefed those in attendance about Valor magazine and the prints available. Barbara Greene sent an email of thanks to the Chapter for her plaque and Certificate of Appreciation. Reminder to get personal info to Kirk for inclusion in the Chapter Directory. Reminder to get on the email list to receive the newsletter. Briefing by Tom Riley about the tour of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial on March 28. Vince Kimberland and Mel Kessler will represent the Chapter as delegates at the annual convention in Indy. Kirk presented \$400 to the Chapter Treasury from Quartermaster sales. Tom Presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Diane DePalma for the Washington, D.C. DVD. Announced the passing of Chapter member Robert Fields. John Price won the 50-50 drawing of \$53. Tommy T gave the benediction. Mike Grubesky moved to adjourn and the move was seconded by Frank Bedekovich. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.



Moving?

Don't forget to let us know!

Please print clearly and mail to:



*Vince Kimberland
1610 Glenn St.
McDonald, Pa.
15057*

Name _____

Old address _____

New address _____

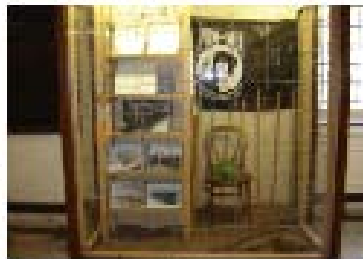
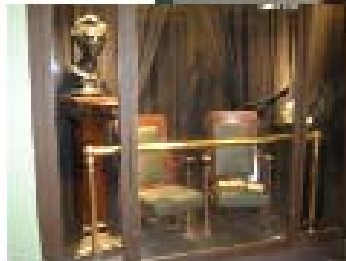
Telephone # _____

E-mail address _____

Always remember:

*Once a Paratrooper, Always a Paratrooper
We are all Brothers in the Silk
And we always will be!*

The Sights of Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall



We had over 20 Chapter members and family members attend the tour of the facility on Saturday, March 28. We viewed all the exhibits from the Civil War up to and including the Global War on Terror. Following the tour most of our group had lunch down the street at Panera's Bread.

82nd Airborne Division Association, 1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter
Day trip, Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall, Oakland, PA
Saturday, March 28, 2009 10:15 AM

Our chapter visited this Memorial Hall and heard commentary by our guide, Tim Neff. Tim informed us there are more veterans in Allegheny County than in any other in the U. S. After an introduction in the auditorium, we visited each of the four halls surrounding the auditorium. The tour started in the West hall at the Civil War display. This wound through the North hall and the East hall with uniforms, equipment and plaques progressing through the World Wars and up to present-day conflicts. A corner room is the Hall of Valor which had plaques of Western Pennsylvanians who received the MOH, DSC, and Silver Star. Leonard Funk's plaque was in this hall. Chapter member Russ Bateman is included on the electronic register for his Silver Star. We finished in the south hall named the Entrance Hall, since this is a "Northern" Civil War Museum. Tom Riley gave Tim Neff a copy of the 508th write-up on First Sergeant Funk's actions and awards.

Tim Neff is very knowledgeable of the contents of the museum and U S history. He is particularly well versed on the Civil War. In the area devoted to WWII, Tim was sensitive to the fact that some of our group had been in those battles and lived and made the history of that time. Our hats off to Tim for a fine presentation and his devotion to the Museum.

Soldier's and Sailor's Hall is a grand monument to our military veterans and a reminder of sacrifice made by so many men and women over the years for us. It is a regal building, well tended and affordable to the public. It should be more widely known.

After the tour, we drove to Panera Bread and enjoyed telling our own stories over lunch. Thanks to all who participated. The outing seemed to be a good one. In attendance were:

Kirk Fellabom, Monte & Desiree Griffith, Lenny Kaczynski , Gus Drake, Dawn McQuillen & Kim Losego, Ann & Steve Buttlar, Margaret Knable, Glen & Phyllis Ribblett, Mel & Marge Kessler, Suzanne Thompson, Vince Kimberland, Tom Jenson, Pete Rentzeperes.

Coordinators were: Tom & Bette Jean Riley and Dave and Kathy Park.

(Please see some pictures of this event in this issue).

CHAPTER DIRECTORY

Don't forget ... The latest edition of our Chapter Directory will appear in next months issue of the newsletter. Find the form in this issue, send it in if you have not done so, and your name and information will be included next month. You just might find someone that you served with.

82nd Airborne Division Association PA License Plates continue to be available to Association members and Auxiliary members. Contact Kirk Fellabom if you would like to have one.

**412-445-2601
or
PA Plate 82 @aol.com**



Here is another PA Plate that has been available for some time. To obtain one of these you'll have to go to a notary and get the proper form. You'll need proof of service. There are Pa Plates available for WWII up to the present conflicts. The forms are available online, also: www.dmv.state.pa.us Go to Military plates.

A note from your Vice-Chairman

This little organization we call the 1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association is made up of people that share the common bond of serving in the United States Military as Paratroopers and/or Gliderman. As with most groups there is a core group within the larger membership that attend the meetings, functions, and are involved in the daily operation of the Chapter. Many hours are spent by the Directors weekly making sure that the Chapter is well run, the members are informed, that there are activities planned and executed, and that we have the funds to make all of this happen. Please take the time to reflect on how you benefit from your membership. If it is positive, kindly consider adding your name to the BOOSTER LIST by mailing an extra donation to the Treasurer, Tom Jensen. Our funds are running very low and we need your extra support. The money we get from dues doesn't come close to matching our cost for each member. Thank you in advance.

Also, try and attend one of our meetings. It seems that when people come to them they come back. They have dinner and have a fun evening out. Try it out and you just may want to get involved in the running of the Chapter.

Kirk Fellabom