

82nd Airborne Division Association

# 1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

February 2009 Newsletter



Tommy Thompson-Chairman

## Chapter Calendar

*February Meeting– February 18, 7:15 pm*

*At the Royal Place, 2660 Library Road*

*Pittsburgh, PA 15234*

*412-882-8000*

*Come at around 5:30 and have Dinner with us!*

*IT'S A BLAST!*



Vince Kimberland-Editor

We held our January Chapter meeting at the Royal Place on the 21st. After a fine dinner the meeting was called to order at 7:17 pm by Chairman, Tommy Thompson. He then offered a toast to paratroopers, glider men and 1SG Leonard A Funk. Vice Chairman, Kirk Fellabom read the Airborne Prayer and Tommy Thompson lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Vince Kimberland read the minutes from December . Tom Riley moved to accept the minutes as recorded and the motion was seconded by Carmen Venezia. The Chapter vote to accept was unanimous. Treasurer Tom Jensen gave the treasurer's report and it was motioned into the Chapter's records on a motion by John Price and seconded by Vince Kimberland. The Chapter vote to accept was unanimous.

We welcomed Dean Labby, from Pittsburgh, into the Chapter. Dean chose to become an All American member. Dean served with B Co. 2nd Bn Abn 325th Inf during the mid 1970's.

Tommy Thompson read correspondence from National informing Chapters that the Association HQ moved to 2915 Raeford Rd., Fayetteville, NC 28307. We also had correspondence from member Ed Griener saying hello and sending best wishes. There were no committee reports.

Under old business a member wondered why he didn't show up on the Chapter Directory. Tommy explained the procedure to be included and the issue was closed.

In new business, Tommy explained the illness of Mel Kessler and said Mel was now feeling a little better with some new medication. We wish the best to Mel and Marje and hope to see them soon. We discussed adopting SFC Solmon Taylor as a soldier to correspond with and also someone to send goodies and other needed items to, including the Chapter newsletter. A motion to adopt was made by John Price and seconded by Kirk Fellabom. We also discussed hosting Widows and Survivors of deceased members at the July meeting at the Royal Place. A motion by Kirk Fellabom and a second by Tom Riley to host the dinner was accepted by a unanimous vote.

We discussed having a Comedy Night fundraiser at the Royal Place in which several comedians would perform for a set price. The members would sell tickets to the event. However, no action was taken on the issue. The Chapter unanimously voted to pay the fee for an Association license plate for Iraq veteran, and new member, David Stemmerich.

We have a date for the annual Chapter picnic. That date is June, 28, 2009 at 1:00 pm. The picnic will be held at West Mifflin Park. I will place a map in the May newsletter with directions to the park.

**Don't Forget...Wear something Airborne!**



*What manner of men are those who wear the maroon beret  
They are firstly all volunteers and are toughened by hard  
physical training. As a result they have that infectious optimism and  
that offensive eagerness which comes from physical well Being. They  
have Jumped from the air and by doing so have Conquered fear.  
Their Duty lies in the van of the battle. They are proud of this*



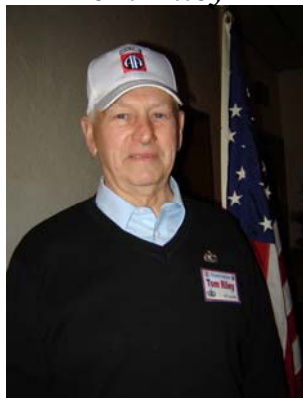
*Honour and have never failed in any task. They have the highest  
standards in all things whether it be skill in battle or smartness in  
exertion of all peace time duties. They have shown themselves to be as  
tenacious in defense as they are courageous in the attack. They are in  
fact, Men apart, every man an Emperor.*

*Of all the factors which make for success in battle, the spirit of the  
Warrior is the most decisive. That spirit will be found in full measure  
in the Men who wear the Maroon Beret.*

*Montgomery of El Alamein*

## Getting to know...

### Tom Riley



Tom has been with the Leonard A. Funk Chapter since 1981 which makes him one of the longest tenured members of the Chapter. He enlisted in the Army in 1952 and went to basic at Ft. Hood, Texas. Tom then went to Korea for 9 months. When Tom returned stateside he went to Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Following graduation he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. He served as a Platoon Leader then XO of Charlie Company in the 44th Tank Battalion.

After three years in the 82nd, Tom went to Hawaii in 1959. There he served in the 25th Infantry "Tropic Lightning" as a Company Commander in the 68th Tank Battalion and also a CO with the 4th Cav. After leaving Hawaii, Tom went to the armor battalion at Ft. Stewart, Ga. Where he was CO of B company. In 1961 Tom left the Army and studied engineering at the University of Pittsburgh. At the same time he went into the reserves and into 2nd Special Forces Group which soon changed to the 11SF Group. Tom served as a Team Leader in both groups. After 18 years of service Tom left the military in 1970. Since leaving the service, Tom has worked in engineering in the steel industry until retiring in 1999. Since that time his travels have taken Tom to India and Canada. He is on the Board

of the McCandless Township Sanitary Authority for the past 10 years. He has served as a Deacon and Elder at Memorial Park Church. Tom has been married to his beautiful wife, Bette Jean for 47 years. The couple has two children, Debbie, married to Tom Wells. Debbie and Tom have 8 year-old twins, Megan and Nicholas,

and Neal, who spent 12 years in the 19th Special Forces Group. Neal was a medic with Operational Detachment "A". He served in Kosovo, Kuwait, Iceland, United Arab Emirates and Iraq. He did a MIA Recovery Tour in Laos where his team found the remains of door gunner, John Crowley. **ALL THE WAY, TOM!**



**Chairman Tommy Thompson (L) presents the All American Membership Certificate to Dean Labby our newest lifetime member. Dean served with B Co. 2nd Bn Airborne, 325th Inf in the**



**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.**

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**December Treasurer's Report  
Tom Jensen**



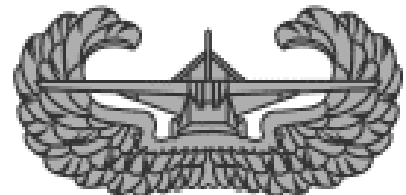
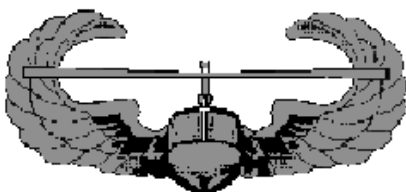
<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$5,638.21</u></b>
<b>DUES</b>	<b><u>\$160.00</u></b>
<b>DONATIONS</b>	<b><u>\$150.00</u></b>
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
<b>X-MAS PARTY</b>	<b><u>\$600.00</u></b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b><u>\$910.00</u></b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u>\$2,378.45 *</u></b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b><u>\$4,169.76</u></b>

\*-Disbursements include Laptop @ \$727.59, X-Mas party @ \$1,210.86, Entertainment @ \$300, Dues to National @ 140.00 = \$2,378.45

**From the gallery...**



**Oops!!!**



# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Howard F Boeltz from Pittsburgh, Howard Penley from Boomer, NC, and All American member Dean Labby of Pittsburgh. We also welcome Morgan LaVelle, from Pittsburgh, back after renewing his membership.*

*We also had a member transfer his membership. James T. Smith of Latham, NY transferred to the Tri-State Mid Hudson Chapter. We send best wishes to James on his new endeavor.*



## 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**