



82 Airborne Division Association

1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Chairman-Tommy Thompson

January 2009

Vince Kimberland-Editor

NEXT CHAPTER MEETING: January 21, 2009 at the Royal Place, 2660 Library Road, Pgh, PA 15234 at 7:15pm

From The Chairman... Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that yet another year has come and gone.

Our Christmas Party was fantastic this year... we even had a surprise guest, Santa Claus, complete with a maroon beret! For those of you who didn't recognize him, that was my son, Carl. In the few years that I have been a member of the Chapter, I have never seen a turnout like we had this year (about 80 people). I want to thank ALL the members of the Ladies Auxiliary for the tremendous job they did in planning, organizing and executing the Christmas party this year. Marje Kessler (Ladies Auxiliary Chairperson), Jeannie Bedekovich, Betty Jean Riley, Marty Martindill, Susanne Thompson did a super job and your hard work is greatly appreciated. A "special" thanks to the members, wives, friends and guests who attended and made the party such a success.

As I look back over 2008, our Chapter has had its ups and downs. The "ups" include the "Memorials and Wreaths" trip to Washington, D.C., the contribution to the Yellow Ribbon Girls along with Kirk Fellabom introducing Ed Greiner (82nd Airborne Division), our Chapter picnic put together by Arlene Troster, the Association license plates, our new Chapter jackets, Gus Drake's granddaughter, Allie Kurp, who sang our National Anthem at the July meeting and her sister, Katie, and last but not least, our plaque from National for increasing our membership by 40 people (Thanks Mike).

The "downs". We lost our beloved Brother, friend, and member, Joe Moreland. Mike Troster fell from a ladder and was injured, then got ill and had to have surgery (get well soon and get your 4th point of contact back to the meetings). We also lost several other "Brothers" who were not Chapter members, but were fellow paratroopers.

I thank all of you who elected me to represent you (at the Tomb of the Unknowns as well as your Chapter Chairman). I have some very large shoes to fill and appreciate the trust and confidence you have placed in me. I will do my very best. Thanks to all of you for bearing with me through all the mistakes I have made at the meetings and will probably continue to make and more importantly, have given me your support and help with this position.

I have a few goals in mind for the upcoming year and hope all of you will continue to support the Chapter by enlisting new members and helping our Chapter to grow and carry on the Airborne tradition and "wear something Airborne".

ALL THE WAY!

Tommy Thompson

A Special Thank You From Marje Kessler

I would like to thank all the ladies that baked cookies and contributed in any way to make the Christmas party a success. Also, Mel and I would like to wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Marje Kessler

Ladies Auxiliary Chairperson

The 2009 Leonard A. Funk Chapter Officers



L-R; 1st row- Gus Drake-Sergeant at Arms, Vince Kimberland-Secretary, Mel Kessler-Trustee, Tom Riley-Trustee, back row- Thom Jones-Public Relations, Tommy Thompson-Chairman, Tom Jensen-Treasurer, Kirk Fellabom-Vice Chairman Missing from photo; Jim Aker-Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Cal Cunningham-Trustee



David Stroyne performs the Chinese Rings at the Christmas Party

Highlights from the 2008 Christmas party

As most of you know we held our annual Christmas party/monthly meeting on Wednesday, December 17. We had a record 78 people attend (my count). We enjoyed a great buffet of ham, standing rib roast, chicken, rice, baked potatoes, etc. Dessert was provided by the Ladies Auxiliary, Chaired by Marje Kessler. The Ladies provided tons of cookies cakes and pies and we thank them for that. One thing is for certain...nobody went home hungry! For entertainment we had a magician perform for us. Mr. David Stroyne, from McCandless Township did many tricks and illusions which amazed the crowd. He did some card tricks including one in which he had someone choose a card from an oversized deck. He then placed the card back into the center of the deck and placed the deck in a rack. The chosen card then magically rose from the deck. He also performed the Chinese Rings in which he linked solid steel rings together and then separated them again. Overall, Dave's performance was outstanding. Following a short Chapter meeting, we had a surprise guest visit us...Santa Claus, complete with maroon beret! Ole St. Nick called many numbers for the raffle and in general brought good cheer to the party. All in all the Christmas party was a huge success.

Minutes from the December meeting

Tommy Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:30 pm. Steve Demel read the Airborne Prayer and Tommy T led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Chairman then offered a toast to paratroopers, glidermen and Leonard A. Funk. No minutes from November were read since they were covered in the last newsletter. Treasurer Tom Jensen read the November finance report as follows:

Beginning Balance-\$5,058.45

Dues-\$305.00

Donations-\$51.00

License plate sales-\$31.00

Christmas party-\$675.00

Total income-\$1,061.00

Disbursements-\$481.24

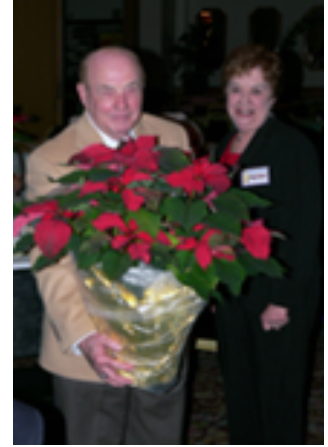
Ending balance-\$5,638.21

Tom Riley made a motion to accept the finance report and the motion drew a second from Mel Kessler. Under old news we rescinded the amendment to ban weapons from our meetings. The motion was entered by Bill McCartney and seconded by Vince Kimberland. The vote was unanimous. Kirk Fellabom noted names were still needed for the Chapter directory and that Association license plates are still available. We discussed building a new Chapter web site. Bill McCartney made a motion to build the site and got a second from Kirk Fellabom. Tommy Thompson agreed to build the site. Two members were awarded their All American Membership Certificates. Eric Woodmancy and William Colbert received the Certificates from Tommy Thompson. We agreed to send Christmas cards to the Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed. Tommy Thompson thanked the Ladies Auxiliary for the great job they did for the Christmas party. Tommy Thompson swore in the officers for 2009 and then he was sworn in by Vice Chair, Kirk Fellabom. Diane DePalma showed a slide show consisting of photos taken on the Chapter's Washington, D. C. trip. Included were photos of the wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns. Tommy Thompson led us in the closing prayer. A motion to adjourn was made by Thom Jones and seconded by Lenny Gorzynski. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.



Santa Claus made an unexpected visit to the Christmas party. Santa arrived by C-130 and declared upon arrival, "It was a long haul with in-flight rigging but I couldn't let my Brothers in the Silk down. Later tonight I'll be rappelling into the Benvenitiz-Patterson Chapter in El Paso, Texas...ho ho ho."

Marje Kessler, Ladies Auxiliary Chairperson with husband, Mel



Tommy Thompson presented All American Memberships to William Colbert (l) and Eric Woodmancy



2009 Directors:

Chairman-Tommy Thompson

82paratrooper@comcast.net

1605 Amity Ridge Rd.
Washington, PA 15301
724-206-0290

Vice Chairman-Kirk Fellabom

CaptKirkPa@aol.com

356 Hellen School Rd.
Acme, PA 15610
412-445-2601

Secretary-Vince Kimberland

vnckimberland0@gmail.com

1610 Glenn St.
McDonald, PA 15057
724-926-2670

Treasurer-Tom Jensen

mtmpitt@verizon.net

3335 Altherton Dr.
Bethel Park, PA 15102
412-851-1229

Public Relations-Thom Jones

tjones@thomjones.com

958 Pine Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15234
412-885-6488

Officers:

Sergeant at Arms-Gus Drake

Deputy Sgt at Arms-Jim Aker

Trustee-Mel Kessler

SHELBY82ndG@aol.com

Trustee-Cal Cunningham

Trustee-Tom Riley

TRiley5054@aol.com

Ladies Auxiliary Chairperson-

Marje Kessler

SHELBY82ndG@aol.com



2009 Chapter 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

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 _____

Correction

In the December Newsletter it was incorrectly stated that "anyone who was a POW would receive a Purple Heart." It should have read, "is authorized a Purple Heart." They will have to go through proper channels to have the medal awarded.



Congratulations in order!

I would like to thank and congratulate the following Chapter members for becoming Life Members:

Thom Jones, Craig Nolan, Peter H. Guevara, John M. Weimer, George W. Wilson, Raymond W. Patrick, John D. Kelley, Joseph W. Martindill, Ross P. Trovato, Edward F. Greiner Jr., Joseph E O'Hanlon III, Richard E Castelveter, A. A. "Gus" Drake, Leonard F. Gorzynski, John L. Price Sr., John G Franco, Charles L Boone, Glenn L Ribblet, William J. Colbert, Hartmut R Hausser, Dean Labby *A Sincere "ALL THE WAY" to each and everyone of you.*

-Tommy

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 ___

ALL AIRBORNE (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. DOB ____/____/____

_____ \$**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 Drive

Bethel Park, PA 15102

412-851-1229

JOIN THE AIRBORNE, AGAIN!

(It's a hell of a lot easier this time)

Proof of Airborne service or time with the 82nd is necessary. (DD-214 preferred) **Recommending Member**

Please sign below to have your Name, Address, Phone number, Unit(s), and years in service included in our Chapter Directory.

I agree to have the above information included in the 1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter Directory. Signed

Use this application to sign new members, become a LIFETIME MEMBER, or REINSTATE YOUR OWN MEMBERSHIP by paying for this year. Do it today! We need you back!

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

Please Include my information in the 1SG Leonard A. Funk 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: _____

Panthers on the move Again: *The 3d BCT (505 PIR) began deploying approximately 3,500 troopers to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom right after Turkey Day (27 November). This will mark their fourth deployment in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The Panthers deployed to Afghanistan from July 2002 – January 2003 and then twice to Iraq from August 2003-April 2004 and August 2006-October 2007.*



Always, wear something Airborne!