

82nd Airborne Division Association

1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

July 2009 Newsletter Editor - Vince Kimberland



Monthly Meeting-Wednesday,
July 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!



Annual Picnic A Success—As Usual!

The annual Chapter picnic was held on Sunday, June 28 at West Mifflin Park and, as usual, it was great. We must give much of the credit for this event to the **Chapter Auxiliary** who worked tirelessly in order to make the picnic the success it was.

The ladies arrived at 10 am Sunday morning to prepare the pavilion for the 1 pm start time. All the tables were covered with tablecloths, the chow line was set up, last minute details were taken care of, and the food was set out. Finally members began to arrive and the party was on!

We would be amiss not to thank everyone who helped in the planning and execution of this years picnic. To Cal Cunningham, who reserved the pavilion prior to his passing, and all the behind-the-scenes folks who did what had to be done, like Margaret Jensen who took all the great picnic photos you see in this newsletter...**WE THANK YOU!**

A very special thanks goes out to “Chef” Billy McCartney, pictured above, who labored over the grill and cooked the “burgers and dogs” to perfection.

Additionally, the weather was near perfect for the picnic. It was a little breezy but the day started off warm and towards the late afternoon it got a little chilly and sweaters and jackets came out.

We had 52 members and guests present for the picnic. We did a 50/50 drawing which was won by Mel Fisher. His winnings of \$56 was donated back to the Chapter. Thanks Mel, we appreciate it!



Ginny Kimberland and Susanne Thompson prep the drop zone for the 1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter assault on West Mifflin Park.

**ALL
THE
WAY**



Margaret Knable and Bette Jean Riley get ready for some real fun at the picnic.

AIRBORNE!

June Meeting Highlights...

The June meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm by Chairman Tommy Thompson. Bill McCartney read the Airborne Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Tommy led the Chapter in the Airborne Toast.

Tommy briefly discussed the passing of Chapter Life Member, Frank Longiotti, and non-member, but an Airborne soldier, Richard Shaw. We then held a moment of silence for our fallen comrades.

We also received thank-you cards from the families of Cal Cunningham, Mr. Longiotti, and non-member, Steve Pucell.

Following Tommy's reading of the Rigger's Pledge, Vince Kimberland read the minutes from the May meeting. Billy McCartney moved to accept the minutes as read and Pete Rentzperes put forth a second on the motion. The vote to accept the minutes as read was unanimous.

Tom Jensen gave the May Treasurer's Report which was unanimously accepted by the membership after motions by Pete Rentzperes and Ed Greiner.

Tommy read a letter from State Senator, Jane Orie, thanking us for our support at the "Tribute to Veterans" event held in May. He also read an email from Cindy Fellabom thanking us for our service to this great nation.

We then moved to Old Business and decided to have our "Comedy Night" fundraiser on October 2, 2009 at the Royal Place.

The Chapter decided to have Kirk Fellabom, Vice Chairman, take care of coordinating the Challenge Coin orders. He did a great job with the design and we thank him for that. The Challenge Coin will be an excellent money-maker for the Chapter. Thanks Kirk!

The Widows and Survivors Dinner will be held at the July meeting. We also will take Chapter photos at the same meeting...dress accordingly. Photos will be available, free of charge, to anyone wanting them.

Please give your birth date to Tommy ASAP...**Month and day only!**

We decided to table the Wounded Warrior Convention Program until the July meeting. The Program calls for a Chapter to sponsor a Wounded Warrior to the Convention in Indy at a cost of approximately \$850 per soldier sponsored.

Frank Bedekovich and the Tamberitzen Band will perform at the September meeting. Cost is \$10 per person.

Tommy appointed Monte Griffith a Trustee to take over the term of Cal Cunningham. The vote to accept the appointment was unanimous. Monte and Jim Aker were each sworn in-Jim as Deputy Sergeant -At-Arms and Monte as Trustee. Congratulations to both these fine men.

Keep SFC Solomon Taylor in your prayers as he is our adopted soldier and, at last report was hospitalized. His condition was not known and we are trying to gather information as to what's going on with him.

Olivia Larson won the 50/50 drawing and donated 65 of her \$70 back to the Chapter. Thanks Olivia!

Tommy read the Benediction and Alan Larson moved to adjourn with John Price giving a second. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Phone Number for Association New Address and National HQ

The Association National HQ continues to get mail and phone calls on the old phone lines and PO Box. Keep in mind, if you must contact the National HQ here is the new address and phone number:

82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc

PO Box 87482

Fayetteville, NC 28304-7482

(910) 223-1182

**June Treasurer's Report
Tom Jensen**



BEGINNING BALANCE- \$4,413.06
FLOWER FUND- \$161
DUES- \$15
DONATIONS- \$47
SALES- \$43.50
50/50- \$46 ADVERTISING-\$200
TOTAL INCOME—\$411.50
DISBURSEMENTS-\$95.59
ENDING BALANCE- \$4,699.03

Chapter Calendar

Chapter Meeting-Wed., July 15, 2009
Chapter Meeting-Wed., August 19, 2009
Association Convention- August 19-22
Indianapolis, Indiana
Chapter Meeting- Wed., September 16,
2009
Comedy Night-October 2, 2009
The Royal Place

Chapter Directors And Officers

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.
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412-445-2601

CHAPTER AUXILIARY CHAIRPERSON-
Marje Kessler
SHELBY82ndG@aol.com

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724-926-2670

TREASURER- Tom Jensen
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412-851-1229

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tjones@thomjones.com
958 Pine Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15234
412-885-6488

SERGEANT AT ARMS- Gus Drake

DEPUTY SERGEANT AT ARMS- Jim Aker

TRUSTEE- Mel Kessler
SHELBY82ndG@aol.com

TRUSTEE- Monte Griffith
cag248@comcast.net

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, Dave & Kathy Park, Ross Trovato, Joe & Marty Martindill, Mel & Marje Kessler, Mel Fisher, John Stockman, Robert W. Eakin

The 2009 82nd Airborne Division Trooper and NCO of the Year

2009 Trooper of the Year

PFC Anthony Stollenmaier Jr, an Intelligence Analyst assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, was born on 11 February 1988 in Greenville, TN and graduated from Mount Pisgah Academy in 2006.

PFC Stollenmaier enlisted in the US Army on 20 February 2008 and attended Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO. Upon completion of Basic Training he attended AIT to become a 35F at Ft. Huachuca, AZ and then attended Airborne School where upon his graduation was assigned to Division.

His short term goals include attending Ranger School, becoming a Jumpmaster and deploying. Long term goals are to finish a Bachelors Degree in History and become a Warrant Officer.

PFC Stollenmaier's military education includes Airborne School and the Combat Lifesaver Course.

His military awards include the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Parachutist Badge and German Parachutist Badge.



Monte Griffith (L) and Jim Aker (R) were sworn into office at the June meeting. Monte as Trustee and Jim as Deputy SGT-AT-Arms.

NCO of the Year

Sergeant Joshua K. Tyree, a driver, gunner and truck commander assigned to D Company 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team was born on 18 July 1987 in Hanau, Germany. He grew up living on many military installations but spent most of his time at Ft. Knox, KY where he graduated high school on 25 May, 2005.

SGT Tyree enlisted in the US Army on 15 February 2006 and attended OSUT Training at Ft. Benning, GA. Upon completion of OSUT Training and Airborne School he was assigned to Division in August 2006.

SGT Tyree deployed with his unit to Iraq in June 2007 as an M2 .50 Caliber Gunner; he is currently a Section Leader. Since his return to the States in July 2008 he has continued to train and develop his Paratroopers through counseling, coaching and mentoring. His most recent accomplishments include becoming a Jumpmaster and earning the Expert Infantry Badge.

His short term goals include becoming Ranger Qualified and leading his Troops through their next deployment without losing anyone. Long term goals are to earn a college degree and being selected to the rank of Command Sergeant Major.

SGT Tyree's military education includes: Airborne School, Warrior Leader Course and Jumpmaster School.

Awards include, the Army Commendation Medal w/2OLC, Army Achievement Medal w/1OLC, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, EIB, Parachutist Badge and Driver/mechanic's Badge w/Wheel.

Congratulations to Our Trooper and NCO of the Year!



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. Kirk is constantly updating the inventory with many new items. You may want to check out the many automobile decals or maybe you need a new hat...whatever the case may be. It's all here!

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



Bike Trip

Anyone in the chapter interested in a motorcycle trip please contact Vince Kimberland at 724-926-2670. We have had some members respond and it looks like we will plan a ride, on Saturday, August 29. We will meet at the Washington Crown Center Mall at 0900. We will depart at 0930. A map to the mall will appear in the August newsletter.

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 _____

Please read and respond if this applies to you...

Captain C. Monika Stoy, US Army (ret.)
President, Outpost Europe
Society of the 3rd Infantry Division
6531 Milva Lane, Springfield, VA 22150 USA
28 June 2009

I am contacting you because your organization may have members who participated in Operation Dragoon, the invasion of Southern France , in August 1944.

We all watched the Normandy 65th Anniversary activities on the news this June. As always the ceremonies were first class and our veterans were well treated and appropriately feted. This brings me to the sad point that so very few Americans know of the landings in Southern France in which the 7th Army (3ID, 36th ID, 45th ID), with the 1st Allied Airborne Task Force (1st AATF) and the 1st Special Service Force, played major roles.

In an effort to gain some national recognition in the media for the veterans of Operation Dragon, I am working to organize a commemorative ceremony on 5 August at Fort Myer, Virginia with as many veterans who landed in Southern France in August 1944 in attendance as we can find. With hard work and a little luck we hope to arrange for a prominent government official or well-known personality to join us for the event and generate national press attention for our great veterans.

If you have members who participated in the landings in Southern France, fought their way up the Rhone Valley or secured the flank of that movement on the border of Italy, and are able to get to Northern Virginia on 5 August, we'd love to hear from you! Let's make their 65th Anniversary of the second and Forgotten D-Day as memorable as the Normandy celebration.

At this time I already have received commitments from LTG (ret.) Grange and LTG (ret.) Seitz as 1st AATF veterans to participate on 5 May. From the 3ID side I have MG (ret) Lloyd B. Ramsey, who landed at Cavalaire as a Battalion Commander in the 7th Infantry Regiment.

I can be reached at telephone number (703) 912 4218, or this email address. As time is short, email and phone are the preferred method of communication. Thanks, I look forward to hearing from you and your WWII veteran members, soon!

Rock of the Marne !
Monika Stoy



**Is there anyone who doesn't
remember these things?**



The Annual Chapter Picnic



More Picnic Photos





The following businesses are gracious enough to place ads in our online newsletter. Please take time to patronize their establishments. All are worthy of our business.

- Vince



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