

82nd Airborne Division Association

# 1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

June 2009 Newsletter Editor - Vince Kimberland



Monthly Meeting-Wednesday,  
June 17, 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!

## Chapter and Life member passes...



Calvin W. Cunningham, Jr., 80, of Clairton, a Life member of the 1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter died on Friday, May 15, 2009. Cal was engaged to his lovely fiancé, Arlene Ehrin. Cal served with the 504 PIR in the Korean War and earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Cal was also a member of VFW Post 914 in West Mifflin and Pine Run United Methodist Church. Cal was a great member, serving as a Trustee in the Chapter for years. He was very instrumental in organizing the chapter picnic for many years and always looked forward to Chapter events. Additionally, Cal served on the Chapter Color Guard. We held a memorial service at the Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home, Inc. where we placed the Association medallion on Cal's casket. We will miss Cal because he was a member we could count on, he was ready to help out with any task but he'll be missed mostly because he was a Brother In The Silk. Rest easy, Airborne, we love you.

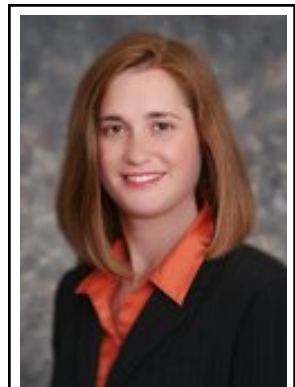
## Convention ball rolling...

We set the wheels rolling to enter our bid to host the 2012 Association Convention in Pittsburgh. I had a meeting on Monday, June 1 with Brenda Hill of Visit Pittsburgh, who coordinates conventions to be held in our city. During the meeting I presented Mrs. Hill with a copy of the Convention SOP and we went through it together. She explained all the things Visit Pittsburgh could help us with including coordinating tours such as the North Shore Casino, river excursions, shopping and options available to us on other tour ideas.

Visit Pittsburgh also will help us coordinate the host hotel. Right now there are 3 possible sites in the downtown area that may be suitable. We, the Chapter, must negotiate with the host hotel in terms of room prices, etc. We will be forming our committees after the July meeting.

I will make every attempt to keep every member of the Chapter updated on the status of progress on the planning of the convention.

Vince



**Brenda Hill**



## May meeting highlights and Chapter Minutes

The May meeting attendance was down somewhat from April as we had only 16 members and 4 guests. Attending were: Tommy and Susanne Thompson, Vince and Ginny Kimberland, Jim Strutt, John L. Price, Mike and Barbara Grubesky, Dave Park, Monte Griffith, Glenn and Phyllis Ribblett, Charles, "Snooks" Sphar, Tom "Crusher" Jensen, Dean Labby, Lenny Gorzynski, Robert Eakin, Art Massimiani, Gus Drake with his lovely daughter, Dawn, and Ross Trovato. Missing, but usually in attendance, were Mel and Marje Kessler. We later found out Marje had fallen and had to be hospitalized. Thankfully, after a thorough examination, Marje was found to have no serious injuries and was discharged. We hope you are feeling much better and hope to see you and Mel at the June meeting. We also missed our friend Tom Riley who had his gall bladder removed. Hope you're feeling better, Tom, and we hope to see you soon as well.

Tommy Thompson called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm and Dave Park read the Airborne Prayer. Tommy lead the Pledge of Allegiance and also the Airborne Toast. The announcement was made regarding the death of All American and Chapter member William 'Bill' Traband. Tommy read the new version of the Airborne Creed. There were no new members and only the guests mentioned above were in attendance.

Vince read the April minutes and a move to accept them as read was put forth by Jim Strutt and seconded by John Price. The vote to accept was unanimous.

Tom Jensen then read the Treasurer's report. The report was accepted by unanimous vote after a motion by Mike Grubesky and a second by John Price. Bob Eakin won the 50-50 drawing and donated his \$43 back to the Chapter. Thanks Bob, it is greatly appreciated.

It was announced that the 508th PIR will deploy to Afghanistan this summer. In early April, 2009 900 troopers from the XVIII Airborne Corps returned home after a 15-month tour in Iraq as the Multi-National corps.

Lee Yovanof, owner of the Royal Place, gave a briefing on the proposed Comedy night. We discussed the Challenge Coins and the Chapter picnic to be held June 28th at 1 pm. The site is West Mifflin Park. The price is \$10 per person with children under 12 free.

At the July meeting we will be taking photos of members, women's auxiliary, and the Widows and Survivors. Please dress accordingly.

We decided to table the Wounded Warrior proposal until the July meeting.

Vince gave a short briefing on the bidding process for the 2012 Association Convention. The Chapter voted to go ahead with the planning process to hold the event.

We discussed ads in the newsletter and Tommy pointed out that anyone can sell advertising for our online newsletter.

Copies of the Washington, DC DVD that do not use Power Point are available...see Tommy. Also discussed were the Chapter Directory, Association License Plates, and receiving the newsletter via email.

Tommy gave the benediction and following a motion by Dave Park and a second by John Price we adjourned at 8:30 pm.

***The Chapter's 2009 picnic, will be held on Sunday, June 28 at 1:00 pm - rain or shine - at West Mifflin Park. The deadline for RSVP to Tom Jensen is June 15. Just give Tom a call and let him know how many you have coming and you can pay the day of the picnic. Price is \$10 per person and children under 12 eat free. Tom's phone # is 412-851-1229. Thanks!***

**May Treasurer's Report  
Tom Jensen**



BEGINNING BALANCE- \$4,193.67  
Flower Fund- \$189  
DUES- \$0  
DONATIONS- \$235  
Sales- \$172 (\$160- License Plates: \$12- jacket)  
50/50- \$45  
TOTAL INCOME—\$691  
DISBURSEMENTS- \$471.61  
ENDING BALANCE- \$4,413.06

**Chapter Calendar**

Chapter Meeting-Wed., June 17, 2009  
Chapter Picnic-Sunday, June 28, 2009  
West Mifflin Park 1pm  
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

**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.  
Acme, PA 15610  
412-445-2601

CHAPTER AUXILIARY CHAIRPERSON-  
Marje Kessler  
SHELBY82ndG@aol.com

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

SERGEANT AT ARMS- Gus Drake

DEPUTY SERGEANT AT ARMS- Jim Aker

TRUSTEE- Mel Kessler  
SHELBY82ndG@aol.com

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, Dave & Kathy Park, Ross Trovato, Joe & Marty Martindill, Mel & Marje Kessler

## The Mercer Memorial Day Parade Photos



**Color Guard and Chapter members standing tall & looking good. The cars fly the “All American” colors.**



### Memorial Services

The Chapter conducted three Memorial Services in the last 30 days, Services for Cal Cunningham, Frank Longiotti, and Steve A. “Jake” Pucel. Cal served in the 504 PIR in the Korean War while Frank served in WWII with Company C 508 PIR and made 2 combat jumps Both were Life members of the Association and our Chapter. Although not a Chapter member, Steve served as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division during WWII.



Frank Longiotti



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, possibly in July or August. If you have any ideas on a route or destination, please contact me. The tri-state area is a great place to experience everything the region has to offer. Give a call...let's ride!

### 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.

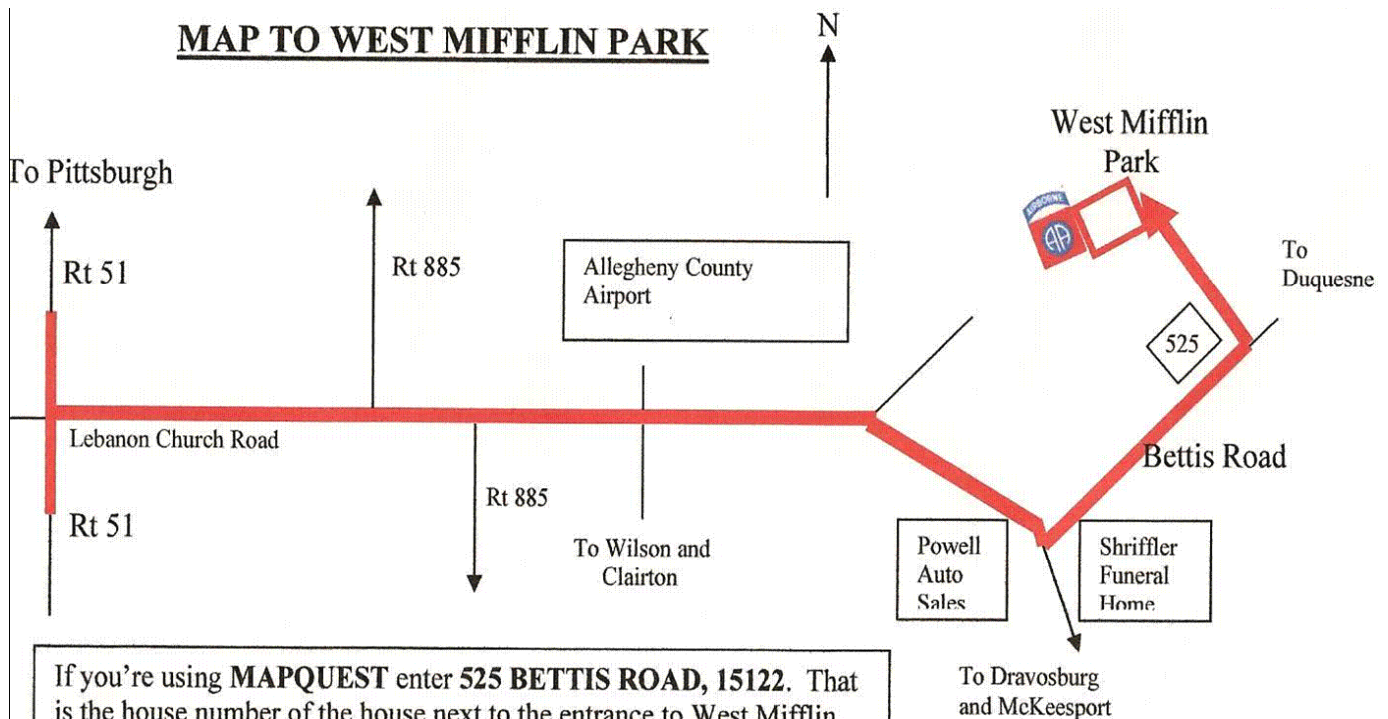
I AGREE TO HAVE THE ABOVE INFORMATION INCLUDED IN OUR CHAPTER DIRECTORY \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

**Tommy and Vince did a recon of possible sites for the drop zone to be used for the Association Convention. Pictured below is one of them located near McDonald, Pa. This site is plenty large enough to accommodate the biggest drops.**



**The site is at least 2.5 miles long and over a mile wide at it's widest. The top photo is a Tommy Thompson panorama. It was stripped of coal many years ago and then planted with grass. It has some scrub oak but not enough to cause a problem. It also has three small ponds but only one may come into play for the drop. We also have a couple more sites available to check into. That will be done soon.**



If you're using **MAPQUEST** enter **525 BETTIS ROAD, 15122**. That is the house number of the house next to the entrance to West Mifflin Park. Turn into the park; go up a hill to the parking lot on the left. We should be the first pavilion that you see. **LOST: 412-445-2601**

**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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[gail.patterson@bankofamerica.com](mailto:gail.patterson@bankofamerica.com)  
 BANK OF AMERICA HOME LOANS  
 1742 Washington Road, Pittsburgh PA 15241  
 Equal Housing Lender



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Barbara Thompson  
 412-787-5919

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 E-mail: [barbthompsonrtc@yahoo.com](mailto:barbthompsonrtc@yahoo.com)



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