

82nd Airborne Division Association

# 1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

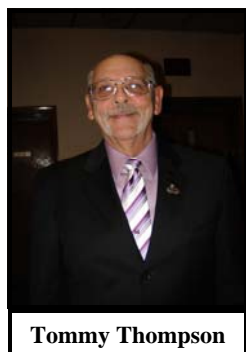
March 2009 Newsletter

## Chapter Calendar

March Meeting-Wednesday, March 18, 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!**



Tommy Thompson

I can hardly believe that March is here and spring is just around the corner, (I hope). It was great to see all the familiar faces, as well as some new ones at the February meeting. I hope that this will continue and we will have more of our members attending future meetings.

We were all glad to see Cal Cunningham and Arlene return as well as a new member, Bert Lamport, who served in the 82nd with the 307th Engineers. Accompanying Bert was his lovely fiancé, Kaye Warman. Let's all continue to enlist some new members for the Chapter. Keep a blank membership form in your wallet and always wear something Airborne.

The members of the Chapter are continuing to put ideas into motion. Tom Riley and Dave Park are currently working on a "Field Trip" to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall in Pittsburgh. It's a local get-together and, if possible, we should all try to go. I am ashamed to say that I have never visited this memorial and look forward to going. Pete Rentzepes called me to let me know that Senator Jane Orie is once again holding a "Tribute to Vets" free breakfast on May 1st. Pete and Kirk Fellabom attended last year and said that it was a very nice event. We would like to get an entire table (10 people) of 82nd Airborne Paratroopers to not only represent the Division, but our own Chapter. One of the guest speakers will be Mike Novasel Jr. who served with his father, CW4 Mike Novasel (Medal of Honor) in Vietnam as dust-off helicopter pilots. I read his book and this is one brave and interesting man. If you are interested in attending, see or contact Pete Rentzepes or Kirk Fellabom, ASAP.

I sent an email to Arlene and Mike Troster to check on their grand daughter, Amanda, as well as check on their well being, but haven't heard back from them. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

I look forward to seeing all of you Paratroopers, Glider men and your significant others at the next meeting, so drop everything, and come see your old (and new) friends, break bread and enjoy some of the best company you can find. "ALL THE WAY"

- Tommy Thompson

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

## January Treasurer's Report Tom Jensen



BEGINNING BALANCE	\$4,169.76
DUES	\$220.00
DONATIONS	\$166.50
50/50	\$32.50
TOTAL INCOME	\$450.00
DISBURSEMENTS	\$518.24 *
ENDING BALANCE	\$4,101.52

\* Dues to National-\$200; Load lap top-\$69.00; Print January Newsletter-\$76.24; Stamps-\$126; License plate fees-\$47.00

## 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

## Former CG Lawrie passes

Major General Joe S. Lawrie, who commanded the 82nd Airborne division from August 1965 to April 1967 died on February 25, 2009 in Richardson, Texas. He is survived by three children. The family has requested that any memorial donations be made to the Association's Educational Fund.

## Chapter Directors And Officers

**CHAIRMAN-** Tommy Thompson  
82paratrooper@comcast.net  
1605 Amity Ridge Rd.  
Washington, PA 15301  
724-206-0290

**VICE CHAIRMAN-**Kirk Fellabom  
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356 Hellen School Rd.  
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412-445-2601

**CHAPTER AUXILIARY CHAIRPERSON-**  
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SHELBY82ndG@aol.com

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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  
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**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



C-141's drop troops on Sicily Drop Zone during a mass tactical airborne operation.

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

## February Meeting

Thirty-six members and guests enjoyed the February meeting held at The Royal Place. After a fine dinner, Chairman Tommy Thompsom called the meeting to order at 7:21 pm. Following were the Airborne Prayer, led by Frank Bedekovich, the Pledge of Allegiance and monthly toast.

One of the highlights of the evening was a presentation by Tom Riley. Tom set the wheels in motion for a field trip to Soldiers and Sailors Memorial, bordering the campus of the University of Pittsburgh in Oakland. The trip should be a great one since Soldiers and Sailors houses some of the

most important historical data as it relates to Pittsburgh area combat veterans.

Tommy T. still needs members photos for the DVD he is putting together. Any old military photos are ok. Tommy swore in Cal Cunningham as Chapter Trustee. Cal had missed some meetings and so he was sworn in in February. Welcome back Cal! Kirk Fellabom won the monthly 50/50 drawing and donated his winnings, \$46.50 back to the Chapter. Thanks Kirk! John Price won the drawing for pick of the table. Congrats John! Kirk showed the beautiful plaque and Certificate of Appreciation for Barbara Greene and the Certificate of Appreciation for Dave Troutman who were both instrumental in bringing last summer's Washington DC trip to fruition. The Chapter thanks them both.



**Cal Cunningham (r) gets sworn in as a Chapter Trustee during the February meeting. Cal has been a member of the Chapter for many years.**

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

*Bert Lamport Pittsburgh, PA 307th Engineers*

*Dale E. Thompson 84, PA 3/187th Airborne Brigade*

*Howard P. Edsall Rochester, PA HHC 2/508*

***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.

# 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!*

Pete Rentzeperes and Kirk Fellabom

13<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Tribute  
to our Veterans and Present Service Men and Women

Sponsored by State Senator **JANE CLARE ORIE**  
Majority Whip

Date: Friday, May 1, 2009      Time: 9:00 am to 11:00 am

Pittsburgh Marriott North  
100 Cranberry Woods Drive  
Cranberry Township, PA 16066

Seating is limited so please let us know no later than March 18, 2009 at our Chapter Meeting, or call Pete Rentzeperes 412-761-4491 or Kirk Fellabom 412-445-2601, before then, to get a seat for this event.

There will be interesting speakers to include Gen. Michael V. Hayden, former CIA Director under George W. Bush, and Mike Novosel, Jr, Son of M.O.H. winner CW4 Michael Sr.

Pete and Kirk attended this event last year and Pete said that “Next year we should fill a table with PARATROOPERS.” I couldn’t agree more.

It’s a “Class act” put on by Senator Orie. Pete and I both agreed that the purpose of the get together was just Senator Orie’s way of saying THANKS for our service.

Breakfast is served at 9:00 am.

There is no charge for this event.

Space is limited!

Pete and I hope that you will take the time to make reservations and attend.

We want to show The Senator what **United States Paratroopers** are all about!

*From Tom Riley and Dave Park*

**82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association,  
1SG Leonard A. Funk Chapter**

Day trip,  
**Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall,**  
Bigelow & Fifth Ave, Oakland, PA

Saturday, March 28, 2009, 10:15 AM  
(90 minute guided tour)

We are arranging a trip to visit this Memorial to the military personnel from the Civil War till today. Uniforms and personal equipment are on display and there is a **Hall of Valor** containing pictures and citations of men and women honored for Service and Valor during past and present wars.

Drive or carpool to garage under the hall, parking entrance on Bigelow. (5.00 / car).

The tour will start at 10:15 AM and last 1 hour. (\$3.00 / person) Then drive to **Panera Bread** on the Blvd of the Allies (Blvd of Allies & Halket across from former Isalys), to buy lunch (soup, sandwich, salad, pastries). We are trying to reserve their room.

If interested, please sign up today by contacting Tom or Dave so they can plan.

Trip information will be available at our regular Chapter meeting on March 18, 2009.

(Wear your Chapter nametags and bring your cameras)

Contact Tom Riley 412 366-2399 or Dave Park 412 885 3977

From Kirk Fellabom

Please don't forget to renew your membership for 2009!  
Better yet, use the membership form in this newsletter to become an  
**ALL AMERICAN MEMBER!**

Reminder – Those of us that have **82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association PA License Plates** MUST be current with their dues to continue the use and display of your Plate. MV-904SP (11-05) reads in part: *When the applicant ceases to be a member in the organization, the registration plate must be returned to the PA Department of Transportation.* (MV-904SP (11-05) is the form that you completed and signed when you applied for your 82<sup>nd</sup> Plate). If you are not an All American Member please renew today so you may continue to use your 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne PA Plate!

There are 197 of these Plates out there somewhere in the state. If you would like to have one please contact Kirk Fellabom at 412-445-2601 or [PaPlate82@aol.com](mailto:PaPlate82@aol.com) and we'll get the ball rolling.



Speaking of our Airborne License Plates, on the left are two young people that we all are looking forward to meeting some time very soon. This is David Stemmerich along with his beautiful wife, Stephanie, who are from Parker, Pennsylvania. David, if you remember, is the soldier who was honored by our members last month when we voted to have him receive his 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Plate as a gift from the Chapter. David served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division while pulling 2 tours in Iraq. It was my privilege to meet and have lunch with David and Stephanie in February. They are shown here, in the rain, showing off their new Plate. Thank you for your service, David. (This guy has 82<sup>nd</sup> blood in his veins).



## Chapter Directory

We plan on publishing the Chapter Directory in May of this year. We'll use whatever names that we have so far. Please complete the form in this newsletter and mail it to me before May 1<sup>st</sup> to be included, if you have not done so already. Don't forget to sign it. You may live just around the corner from someone that you served with and not even know it. Your paid up membership in this Chapter does NOT mean that your name and information will be included UNLESS you have completed and signed the Chapter Directory form. Please do it TODAY!