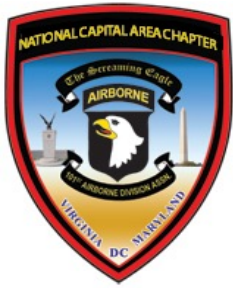


National Capital Area Chapter
The 101st Airborne Division Association



NEWSLETTER
JANUARY – APRIL, 2016



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MEMORIAL DAY – 2016:



The Chapter will again be hosting Memorial Day activities in May 2016. All are cordially invited to join us in four days of reflection and celebration commemorating our current and fallen comrades.

Please join us for a day of reflection and celebration. The **Registration Form** is at the end of the newsletter.

Friday, May 27, 2016

11:45 AM – Leave the Visitors Center at Arlington National Cemetery to walk to the Tomb of the Unknowns.

1:15 PM – Division Association wreath will be laid at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

2:30 PM – Hospitality Suite open at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel.

Saturday, May 28, 2016

10:00 AM – Bus leaves the hotel for the National Mall. Association wreaths will be laid at the WWII Memorial, the Korean War Memorial and the Vietnam Wall. Participants may gather for an informal lunch on return to the Hotel. Hospitality Suite will open.

Sunday, May 29, 2016

10:30AM – Memorial Ceremony, including the laying of wreaths* at the 101st Airborne Division Memorial.

12:00 Noon – Luncheon at the hotel. Hospitality Suite opens after lunch.

Monday, May 30, 2016

1:00 PM – We will assemble on the Mall for the Memorial Day Parade which starts at 2:00 PM. Look for the Eagles and the Car Club at 7th Street and Jefferson Drive. The nearest Metro station is L’Enfant Plaza - walk down 7TH Street to the Mall (Jefferson Drive). You can also be dropped off at the north end of the Mall on 4th Street from where you can walk to the assembly area. The parade will travel down Constitution Avenue and end at 17th Street.

*The price is now **\$90.00 per wreath**. Anyone interested in purchasing a wreath to be placed at the 101st Division Memorial should contact **Bob Ponzo at 540-659-7212** or e-mail him at oznopsf@gmail.com.

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SNOWBIRD REUNION – FEBRUARY 2016:

The **Florida Gulf Coast Chapter** hosted the **2016 Snowbird** reunion in **Tampa** with their usual outstanding hospitality that characterizes these meetings. Snowbird provides a relaxing break from winter snows and temperatures that also serves as the mid-year meeting of the Board of Governors. **C. K. Gailey** and **Dick Schonberger** attended from the chapter. In addition to the well-used hospitality suite, interesting local tours are available, and for those so inclined, a parachute jump is usually scheduled.

In addition to hearing committee reports and other business, **President Shamblen** announced the **William C. Lee Chapter** will be hosting the **2016 Annual Meeting** of the Association in **Norfolk** from 17th to 21st August. For those local chapter members who don’t usually attend national reunions, here’s your chance to once more be immersed in your **Screaming Eagle** heritage not to mention enjoying the company of old and new friends. The Association encourages and supports troopers who schedule reunions to think about doing so in conjunction with the national reunion. It provides economy of scale in costing as well as a larger back-drop that enriches unit reunions.

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U.S. Army deploying 1,800 troops to Iraq, Afghanistan:

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Campbell, Ky., January 10, 2016 (UPI) -- The U.S. Army announced it is deploying **1,800 troops** to **Iraq** and **Afghanistan** to take part in assistance and **advisory efforts** for **indigenous forces** in both countries. The **101st Airborne Division**, based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., is sending about **1,300 soldiers** from its **2nd Brigade Combat Team** to Iraq as part of **Operation Inherent Resolve**. The group will assume the mission of the **1st Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division**, which is rotating back to **Fort Drum, N.Y.**, after arriving in September to train and advise **Iraqi security forces** fighting the Islamic State. Likewise, the **10th Mountain Division** is deploying **500 troops** from its **2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment** to **Afghanistan** this winter for a nine-month mission as part of the **National Support Element** at Bagram Airfield.

Both units will join their respective division headquarters in either country. The **10th Mountain Division's** headquarters element is station at **Bagram Airfield**, and the 101st's headquarters is expected to deploy soon to **Iraq and Kuwait** to serve as the **Combined Joint Forces Land Component Command-Iraq** under the division's commander, **Maj. Gen. Gary J. Volesky**, Stars and Stripes reported. About **3,500 U.S. troops** are serving in **Iraq**, mainly as advisers to Iraqi security forces, and **9,800** are serving in **Afghanistan** under a similar role for the **Afghan** army and police.

NATO officially handed the combat mission in **Afghanistan** to local forces at the end of 2014, but a resurgence in Taliban attacks in the country prompted changes in the withdrawal timeline.

President **Barack Obama** had planned to **reduce** U.S. troop strength there to **1,000** by the end of **2016**. However, under recommendation from **Afghanistan commander Gen. John Campbell**, **President Obama** later said he would keep the amount of U.S. military personnel in-country at about **9,800** through 2015. **Gen. Campbell** said a plan to **reduce** U.S. troops in **Afghanistan to 5,500 by 2017** should be delayed as long as possible.

Recently, **NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg** announced that **12,000 troops** would remain in **Afghanistan** through **2016** to assist local security forces. **Secretary General Stoltenberg** commended the efforts of Afghan security forces but noted that "challenges and capability gaps persist," adding that anti-militant operations by local forces needed to be "sustained and enhanced."

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Campbell's 101st Airborne Division held a color casing ceremony as the Division prepares to deploy to Iraq over the next couple of days. The division will be helping Iraqi security forces take back Mosel from the Islamic State.

OBITUARIES:

Sadly, we must announce the passing of two Association and Chapter members, **Charles K. Gailey and Robert D. Lott**.

The sudden and untimely death on February 22, 2016 of **Chapter President Charles K. Gailey**, known to all as "**CK**", is a great loss to the National Capital Area Chapter and the National Association. **CK** was struck down by an apparent heart attack. **CK** was a long time member of the Association and the National Capital Area Chapter. As an Association member he was serving as a **Junior Governor for DISCOM** and had also been the **Memorial Committee Chair** for many years. **CK** was a Member of the **National Capital Chapter** and served as **Vice President and President** for many of those years. His leadership during his tenures was responsible for successfully continuing the Chapter's mission of conducting **Memorial Day and Veterans Day** activities in the Washington, DC area as **representatives** of the **National Association** and the **active Division**. His organizational abilities and understanding of the ins and outs of dealing with various governmental and civilian agencies in the Washington, DC area insured the successful accomplishment of the Chapter's mission. Additionally, **CK** was responsible for the inception and implementation of a number of activities over the years which directly and indirectly supported the ongoing mission of the National Association. It was **CK's** initiative to involve

the Chapter in attendance at **funerals at Arlington National Cemetery**, for current and former **Screaming Eagles**, as representatives of the Association and Division. This came about from the Chapter's attendance at funerals of many Association and Chapter members being buried at **Arlington Cemetery** at a time when we were losing many of our WWII veteran members. CK believed that due to the closeness of some Chapter members to the cemetery, it would be an appropriate gesture to have Chapter representation at these funerals. Since early 2007, under this Chapter initiative, **Chapter members** have represented the Association and Division at **over three hundred Screaming Eagle funerals at Arlington Cemetery**. The value of this initiative has been illustrated repeatedly by the overwhelming **positive reactions** of thanks and appreciation from the **families** of those being placed at Arlington. Another **CK initiative** has been the Chapter's involvement in **December 12th remembrance ceremonies** for the 502nd Regiment victims of the **Gander**, Newfoundland air disaster at Arlington Cemetery. This began with our attendance at the **25th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony** in the cemetery's **Section 60** on December 12, 2010. Speakers at this event were **BG Mark A. Milley**, former **ADC 101st Airborne Division** and **Charles K. Gailey**, President **National Capital Area Chapter**. Every December 12th since, Chapter members have placed miniature Division flags at the gravesites of **24 Screaming Eagles in Section 60 and Columbarium Court 1** and have spent time visiting with various family members and colleagues if those interred. CK was also responsible for the coordination and conduct of the annual **Memorial Day** placement of a wreath at the **Tomb of the Unknowns** and the Chapter's participation in the **Washington, DC Parade**.

Since his retirement from the US Army CK has been an active member of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the **Archeological Society of Virginia**, serving for many years as **Treasurer and then Vice President** of that organization. He was also actively involved as a **Board Member of the Bakers Creek Memorial Association (USA)**, an organization dedicated to preserving the memory of the sole survivor and **40 American servicemen** who lost their lives in a **B-17 Flying Fortress crash near MacKay, Australia on June 14, 1943**. Since **2003** CK was actively involved in the location of **families** of the **victims** of that crash and in the planning and organizing Commemoration ceremonies for the past **12 years** in the Washington, DC area.

CK was a valuable, respected and cherished friend and colleague to all those who knew him and he will be dearly missed. This was put forward simply by **LTG (R) John E. Miller** in his comments in the funeral home guestbook: "**CK was an Army friend** whom I made as we served in the **Pentagon** in the early 80's. He was a steady, reliable comrade always with a smile and a gentle temperament...and he was smart and helpful." That was **CK** in a nutshell. A wonderful friend and comrade whose passing leaves definite void for all who knew him. A **Memorial Mass** in Honor of Charles K. Gailey was celebrated **on March 18, 2016** at the **Holy Spirit Church in Annandale, VA**. The family is making arrangements for burial at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

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Robert "Bob" Lott was a long-time member of the **National Association** and was a member of the **National Capital Area Chapter** for many years. He was a very friendly and outgoing fellow who always thanked us for letting him be involved in our activities. He couldn't understand that it was us who were honored to have his participation. The photograph shows Bob, on the far left, sitting with four other WWII members of our Chapter at a **Labor Day picnic/barbeque** in 2007. From left to right next to **Bob** are **Dominic Dell'Erba**, 506th, **Clancy Lyall**, E CO, 506th, **Ralph Payne**, 501st, and **LTG R Harry W.O. Kinnard**. **Bob** was the sole surviving Chapter member in that photograph until his passing. The following paragraph is excerpted from information provided by Bob's family.

SSG Robert D. Lott, 91, passed away on **January 29, 2016** at **Perry Point VA Hospital** after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. He was born on July 1, 1924 in Forty Fort, PA and entered the **US Army in 1943** and was assigned to the 101st Airborne Division. **Bob** was in the **401st Glider Infantry** and took part in the **D-Day Invasion**. In December 1944, he was **wounded** in the **Battle of**

Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge. Before being shot, while under attack by **14 German tanks**, **Bob** found a **discarded bazooka**, fired it at a **lead tank** and disabled it, **killing or wounding ten of the enemy**, allowing a number of other **US soldiers to escape**. For his actions, **SSG Lott** was awarded the **Bronze Star for Valor** and subsequently was awarded the **Purple Heart**. As the war was ending, **Bob** was assigned to **guide** visiting **Allied Officers** around the **tunnels underneath Hitler’s Berchtesgaden** hide-out. **Bob** returned from the war and joined **NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center** in Greenbelt, MD, as a mechanical engineer/designer. Over a 25 year career he was instrumental in the design of the **Mass Spectrometer** aboard the **Galileo probe to Jupiter**, launched in 1989. He was also involved in the design of two measurement instruments on the **Cassini probe to Saturn and Titan** launched in 1997 and an instrument on the **Nozomi probe** launched in 1998. **Bob** was a member of the **Masonic Lodge, Shrine, American Legion, DAV, Orbital Club**, and 101st Airborne Division Association. He became well known in the Washington DC area as a **Keystone Kops clown for the Shriners**, once entertaining children at the **Nixon White House**. There will be a **“Celebration of Life”** in **Bob’s** honor on April 23, 2016 at the **Yellowfin Steak and Fish House** in Edgewater, MD. The family is planning arrangements for **Bob’s** burial at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.



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KUDOS TO A CHAPTER MEMBER:

On April 27th, 2016 the “Dr. Michael McKee Award” will be inaugurated at the headquarters of the Notre Dame Army ROTC in South Bend, Indiana. This award will be presented annually to an outstanding member of Notre Dame’s Army ROTC.

The award is named in honor of Chapter member Mike KcKee, an alumnus of that university and their Army ROTC program. Mike went on to serve in the 101st Airborne Division as an Infantry Platoon Leader, S2 Battle Group Intelligence Officer, and command of two Airborne Infantry Companies. Mike has been a valued member of the National Capital Area Chapter for many years and we take this opportunity to say congratulations Mike, a well-deserved honor.

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**National Capital Area Chapter
Memorial Day Weekend, 27-30 May 2016
Registration Form**

Name _____ Spouse _____ Or Guest _____

Unit _____ WWII _____ VN _____ DS _____ OE/IF _____ FC _____

I/we plan on participating in the following events:

_____ 27 May AM: Wreath Ceremony, Tomb of the Unknowns # _____

_____ 28 May 10 AM: Bus and War Memorial Ceremonies # _____

Note: Bus originates and returns to Sheraton, \$5 each at boarding

_____ 29 May 10.30 AM: 101st Memorial ceremony and luncheon # _____

Note: Luncheon is pay-as-you-go at the Sheraton

_____ 30 May 1 PM: National Memorial Day parade (current and ex-military)

_____ I am able to march if required

_____ I will need to ride

_____ I would like to ride if available

Mail registration forms NLT 15 May 2016 to:

**Bob Ponzio, National Capital Area Chapter,
93 Sentinel Ridge Lane, Stafford, VA 22554**

Note: There will be a block of rooms available in the Sheraton Pentagon City beginning Friday, 22 May. Reservations for the weekend can be made by calling **703-521-1900** or **1-800-325-3535**. Identify yourself as being part of the 101st Airborne Division Assn in order to get the group rate of \$119 (plus tax – rate may be lower). Reservations must be made by **April 19, 2016** to obtain the group rate.

2016 Memorial Day Wreath Order Form

Name/Organization of person ordering wreath:

Person(s) placing wreath (if known):

Inscription for ribbon(s) adorning wreath:

Cost is \$90.00 per wreath. Order from Bob Ponzio, 93 Sentinel Ridge Lane, Stafford, VA 22554.
Telephone: 540-659-7212, e-mail: oznopsf@gmail.com.

Wreath orders must be received NLT 18 May, 2016