

# National Capital Area Chapter

The 101st Airborne Division Association



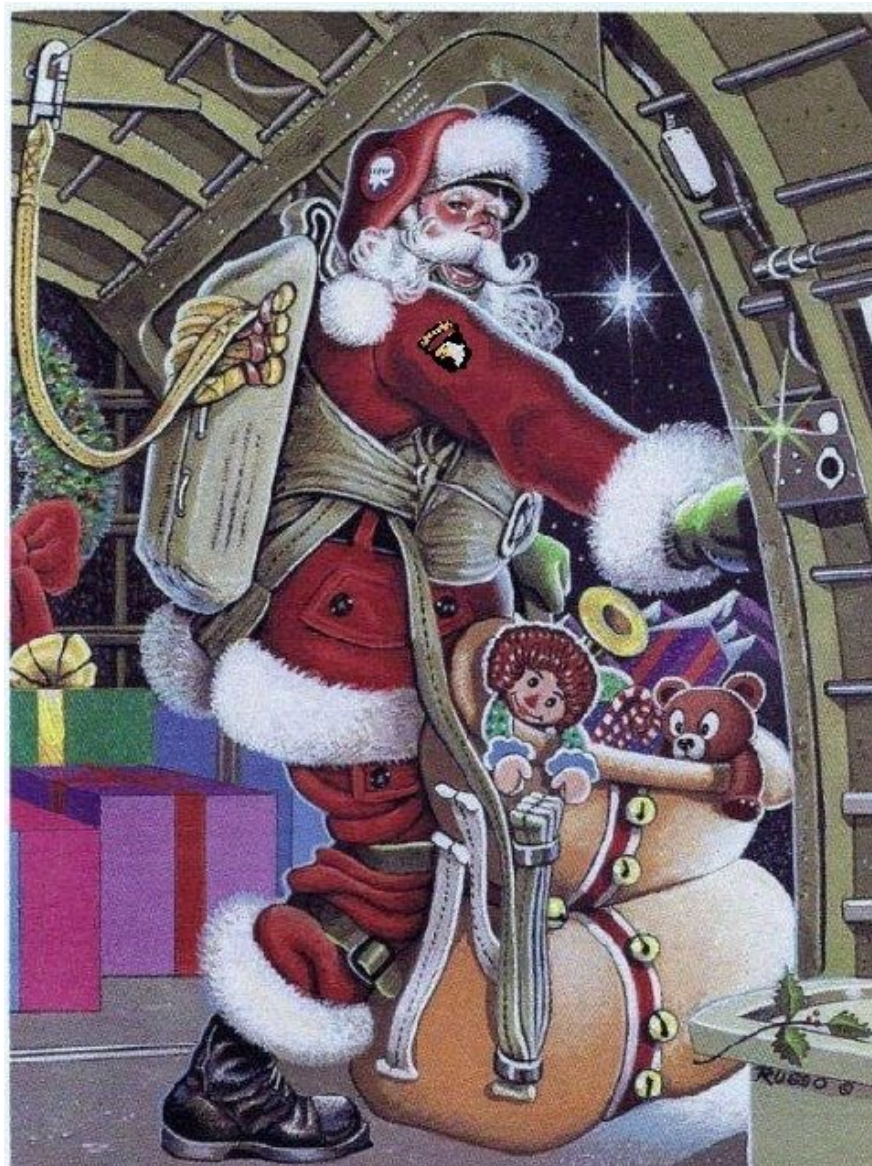
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## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER, 2015

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***“WE WISH ALL OUR FELLOW SCREAMING EAGLES A MERRY HOLIDAY SEASON AND  
MAY 2016 BE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY ONE FOR ALL.”***

## **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 101<sup>st</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Jefferson Drive. The nearest Metro station is L'Enfant Plaza - walk down 7<sup>TH</sup> Street to the Mall (Jefferson Drive). You can also be dropped off at the north end of the Mall on 4<sup>th</sup> Street from where you can walk to the assembly area. The parade will travel down Constitution Avenue and end at 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

\*The price is now **\$90.00 per wreath**. Anyone interested in purchasing a wreath to be placed at the 101<sup>st</sup> Division Memorial should contact **Bob Ponzio at 540-659-7212** or e-mail him at [oznopsf@gmail.com](mailto:oznopsf@gmail.com).

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## **VETERANS DAY – 2015:**

The National Capital Area Chapter was pleased to host Veterans Day activities this past November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. On the 10<sup>th</sup> our Hospitality Suite at the Sheraton Hotel was opened for the afternoon and evening which was visited by number of Association members and other Screaming Eagles who shared comradeship and stories late into the evening. On the 11<sup>th</sup> we had several veterans of the 101<sup>st</sup> present the Division wreath at the Vietnam Wall as part of the National Commemoration. That was followed by a ceremony at the 101<sup>st</sup> Memorial at the entrance of Arlington National Cemetery in which the following **eight commemorative wreaths were placed**: The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division – Air Assault; the National Association; 327<sup>th</sup>/401<sup>st</sup> Infantry; **COL John P. Geraci** Chapter; **MSGT Elvin W. Anderson**, 377<sup>th</sup> PFA; **Dennis Husereau**, 502<sup>nd</sup> Inf RVN; **CPL Peter Pulaski, Jr**, 42<sup>nd</sup> Scout Dog PLT; and **COL Leonard C, Krawczyk**, 3<sup>rd</sup> ID and 9<sup>th</sup> ID, father of **Mike Krawczyk** President of the **Geraci Chapter**.



**On December 12, 2015, the Annual Christmas Wreath** extravaganza took place at **Arlington National Cemetery** in which tens of thousands of corporate sponsored **Christmas wreaths** were placed on gravesites. **Unfortunately, this event precluded our Chapter from conducting our annual placement of miniature 101<sup>st</sup> Division flags at the graves of 24 502<sup>nd</sup> Screaming Eagles** lost in the fatal air disaster at **Gander, Newfoundland** on December 12, 1985. Twenty-three graves are located in **Section 60** and the twenty-fourth is in Court 1 of the Columbarium. This year was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that unfortunate day.

On November 23, 2015, a **funeral** was held at **West Point, NY** at the Chapel of the Most Holy Trinity for **Nancy Troland Cushman**, beloved **wife of Chapter member LTG (R) John H. Cushman** whom she married in June 1946 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. With her husband Nancy raised five daughters and two sons generating a family that now embraces 18 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. A flower arrangement expressing our Chapter's sympathy and condolences was sent to the funeral service.

The Chapter is continuing to **provide support**, assistance and comfort to our **wounded Screaming Eagles** and their **families at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center**. As of this writing the Chapter has **distributed more than \$33,000** in financial assistance to approximately **160-170 soldiers and family members**. The Chapter will continue this important effort for as long as needed. **No donated funds** are spent for any administrative or other costs; **one hundred percent goes directly to those in need**.



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## THE FOLLOWING ARE INTERESTING MILITARY QUOTES:

*"Incoming fire has the right of way."*

*"There are no atheists in foxholes."*

*"Try and look inconspicuous ... the enemy may be low on ammunition."*

*"If you are low on anything except the enemy ... it's a combat zone."*

*"Teamwork is essential - it gives the enemy someone else to shoot at."*

*"If an attack is going well ... it's an ambush."*

*"If the enemy is in range, so are you."*

*"The brave may not live forever, but the cautious do not live at all."*

*"Amateurs train until they get it right. Professionals train until they cannot get it wrong."*

*"You've never lived until you've almost died. For those who fought for it, life has a flavor the protected will never know." ~*

*~ all of the above authors are unknown. "The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." ~ General Douglas MacArthur*

*"War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. The person who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing which is more important than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature, and has no chance of being free unless made or kept so by the exertions of better men than himself." ~ John Stuart Mill*

*"Lead me, Follow me, or get the hell out of my way." ~ General George S. Patton*

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## WHAT DOES WEARING RED ON FRIDAY MEAN?

Sadly, there is not enough "RED" on Friday's. Not the bad kind of red as in "I am seeing red today," but rather a good red. Red to remind us, and to show support, to those who are sacrificing themselves for our freedom. People have asked what "Red Friday" is all about and it all can be explained by the name itself:

### **Remember Everyone Deployed**

It's just that easy and the easy way for everyone who appreciates our men and women who are deployed fighting every day for you and me. It's easy to forget that American men and women have been fighting and dying in what has been America's longest war.

Let's be **thankful** for those who are **deployed** by showing our support and wear a **red shirt, dress, blazer or hairdo** each and every Friday!

**Let us Never Forget!**

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**MISCELLANEOUS**

The National Capital Area chapter now has our own **Facebook** page which is located on **Facebook** at: **101st-DC Chapter**. We will use the page to provide **information** on both our **Memorial and Veteran Days activities**. We shall endeavor to keep the page up to date with current information so please use our page often. Should you have any comments, please do not hesitate to contact either **Bob Ponzo** or **Sylvia Schonberger**.

If you live in **Maryland** and are interested in getting **101st license plates** - send an email to: **telemere@gmail.com** - the subject line should say: "license plates". You must be a member of the 101st Association to get the tags.

We would like to encourage our members to participate in our newsletter. If you have a suggestion, article, or anything you believe our members would be interested in, please send to me at [sylvianps@gmail.com](mailto:sylvianps@gmail.com).

**DUES – DUES – DUES:**

**We would like to take this opportunity to remind our members that membership dues should now be paid. Our membership is dwindling and we would like to encourage everyone to remit your dues as soon as possible. Thank you.**

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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: 101<sup>st</sup> 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 2015 to Bob Ponzo, 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 101<sup>st</sup> 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, 2015** to obtain the group rate.

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**2015 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 Ponzo, 93 Sentinel Ridge Lane, Stafford, VA 22554. Telephone: 540-659-7212, e-mail: **oznopsf@gmail.com**.

**Wreath orders must be received NLT 18 May, 2015**