



# National Capital Area Chapter

The 101st Airborne Division Association

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## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER, 2016

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***“WE WISH ALL OUR FELLOW SCREAMING EAGLES A MERRY HOLIDAY SEASON AND MAY 2017 BE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY ONE FOR ALL.”***

**MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND – MAY 26-29, 2017:**

You are cordially invited to join the **National Capital Area Chapter** of the **101st Airborne Division Association** in commemorating our fallen comrades.

**Friday, May 26, 2017**

15:30 PM – Hospitality Suite opens.

This year the **Chapter was unable** to secure a scheduled time on Friday, Saturday or Sunday for the placement of a wreath at the **Tomb of the Unknowns, precluding that ceremony this year.**

**Saturday, May 27, 2017**

Due to the **adverse effects** on attendance encountered because of **Rolling Thunder** during our prior years Sunday wreath ceremonies and luncheon, the chapter has decided to combine the **Saturday and Sunday** events into one day as follows:

9:30 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**. Hospitality Suite will open upon return to the hotel.

3:00 PM - Memorial Ceremony, including laying of wreathes\* at the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Memorial.

5:00 PM - Dinner served at the hotel. Hospitality Suite will re-open after dinner. Note: Dinner payment is pay-as-you-go.

**Sunday, May 28, 2017**

This will be a free day for visitors to partake in any of the many events taking place in the Metropolitan area.

11:00 AM – Hospitality Suite will **open** and remain open until **12 midnight (or later)**.

**Monday, May 29, 2017**

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.

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**REGISTRATION FORM:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ or Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ WWII: \_\_\_\_\_ VN: \_\_\_\_\_ DS: \_\_\_\_\_ OE/IF: \_\_\_\_\_ FC: \_\_\_\_\_

I/we plan on participating in the following events:

\_\_\_\_\_ 27 May – 9:30 AM Bus and War Memorials ceremonies: # \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Bus originates and returns to Sheraton Hotel, \$5.00 per person.

\_\_\_\_\_ 28 May – 3:00 PM 101st Memorial ceremony and dinner: # \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Dinner payment is pay-as-you-go.

\_\_\_\_\_ 29 May – 1 PM National Memorial Day Parade (only 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 to **Bob Ponzio**, National Capital Area Chapter, 93 Sentinel Ridge Lane, Stafford, VA 22554. Registration Forms should be received **no later than May 17, 2017**

NOTE: There will be a block of rooms (price to be determined) available in the **Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel** beginning Friday, 27 May. For reservations against this block of rooms, contact **Diane Husereau at 301-528-3165 or [dhusereau@aol.com](mailto:dhusereau@aol.com)**. The special discounted rate will be available on a first come basis, so please contact Diane as soon as possible.

**2017 Memorial Day Wreath Ordering Form**

Name/Organization of person ordering wreath:

\_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) placing wreath (if known):

\_\_\_\_\_

Inscription for ribbon adorning wreath:

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost is still **\$90.00 per wreath**. Please place orders with: **Bob Ponzio**, 93 Sentinel Ridge Lane, Stafford, VA 22554. Telephone: (540)659-7212 or email at [oznopsf@gmail.com](mailto:oznopsf@gmail.com)

**Orders for wreaths must be received not later than May 22, 2017.**

**VETERANS DAY, 2016:**

The **National Capital Area Chapter** again hosted Veterans Day activities at the **Vietnam Memorial Wall and the 101<sup>st</sup> Monument at Arlington National Cemetery**. We began with a Hospitality Suite on the afternoon and evening of the 10<sup>th</sup> of November, which was attended by veteran Screaming Eagles and their guests. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November, our Chapter wreath of the **Division patch** was placed at the **Vietnam Memorial (The Wall) by Chapter President George Malleck** as part of the National ceremony honoring the more than **58,000 casualties** listed on that Memorial. Following that ceremony the Chapter conducted a **wreath laying** at the **101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Memorial** at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery. **Eleven memorial wreaths** were placed honoring the following units and individuals: 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault); The National Association; 327<sup>th</sup>/401<sup>st</sup> Infantry; Task Force 3/506<sup>th</sup> Airborne Infantry, Geraci Chapter; **MSGT Elvin, “Andy” Anderson**; **CPL Peter Pulaski, Jr** 42<sup>nd</sup> Inf Scout Dog Plt, KIA 4 Jan 70; **Dennis L. Husereau** 2/502<sup>nd</sup> Inf; **COL Leonard C. Krawczyk, (Father of Mike Krawczyk)**; **PFC Victor John Stanfill**, 2/506<sup>th</sup> Inf; **LTC Charles K. Gailey** 801<sup>st</sup> Maint Bn; and a wreath by Chapter member COL Eric Heist commemorating Army service.

On December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the Chapter visited the **graves of twenty four 502<sup>nd</sup> Screaming Eagles** in Section 60 and Columbarium Court 1 at Arlington National Cemetery who were lost in the air disaster at **Gander, Newfoundland on December 12, 1985**. Miniature Division flags were placed on each grave and Chapter members spent the morning meeting with family members and friends who came to pay their respects.

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**ROBERT PONZO:**

On a happy note, **Chapter Vice President Bob Ponzo** and his very long time **fiancée Natalie Murphy** were **married on November 4, 2016**. The **wedding and reception** were held at The **Washington Square in Old Town Fredericksburg**, a truly lovely location on a beautiful autumn day. There were more than a **hundred guests and family** in attendance including people from every facet of **Bob and Natalie’s lives**, encompassing their professional law enforcement careers with the Federal government and **almost fifty years of Bob’s military career** and involvement in **Veterans organizations** from his days in Vietnam to the present. The following National Capital Area Chapter members attended: **George and Anne Malleck, Richard and Sylvia Schonberger, Ed and Diane Davis, Morris and Cindi Pearson, Pat and Patsy O’Reilly, Mike and Gretchen McKee, Dick Winters and Bob Tait**. The reception and dinner were exceptionally good and a very broad selection of music was provided by a very talented DJ.



*Natalie and Bob Ponzo “The Happy Couple”*



*Bob Tait, Bob Ponzo, Ed Davis, Dick Schonberger, Ann & George Malleck, Natlie Ponzo and Diane Davis*

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**WALTER REED MEDICAL CENTER:**

Of our three combat-wounded, **Clay Casteel** departs with medical discharge on **December 31, 2016**, and **Pullen and Spencer** will also depart with **medical discharges** in early **2017**. We have had a few non-battle injuries from Iraq and Afghanistan pass through, all have been transferred back to Ft Campbell. Hope it stays this way.....

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**C.K. GAILEY:**

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016, deceased **Chapter President CK Gailey** was laid to rest at **Arlington National Cemetery** with full **Military Honors**. Attending were **National Association President Jim Shamblen** and his **wife Becki**, **Association Executive Secretary/Treasurer Randal Underhill** and **daughter Samantha**. The following Chapter members were also in attendance: **Richard and Sylvia Schonberger, Morris and Cindi Pearson, Ed Davis, Bob Ponzo, Dick Winters, Bob Seitz and Bob Tait**. It was a sad day but very beautiful in that the weather could not have been more pleasant. **CK's** family **hosted a lunch** later in the day for attendees.

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**OBITUARY:**

It is with deep sorrow that we say goodbye to one of our most dedicated members, **James G. Bourie**, who passed away on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016. **Jim** was 70 years old. Upon completion of his basic training, **Jim** was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion, 501<sup>st</sup> at Fort Campbell, KY. He then was deployed to Detroit to help quell the 1967 riots. **Jim** had two tours in Viet Nam where he participated in combat operations in the A Shau Valley and Hue-Phu Bai areas, including the Tet counteroffensive. He earned the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Air Medal, and Vietnamese Cross for Gallantry, Good Conduct Medal and Vietnamese Jump Wings. Following his service, Jim spent almost half a decade in lobbying in Washington, DC on behalf of **Veterans' Rights** with AMVETS, Department of Labor and several presidential campaigns. Jim is survived by his two sons, **James Bourie** of Alexandria and **Porter Bourie**, Washington, DC. **Jim** was buried with full military honors at Arlington Cemetery On December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, at 9:00 AM. The funeral was attended by chapter member **Bill Barth** and Vice President, **Bob Ponzo**.

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**AULD LANG SYNE:**

As the end of the year approaches, many of us will be attending parties and I dare say singing "Auld Lang Syne" but how many know the true meaning of this song? **Robert Burns, Scottish National Poet**, is credited as being the author. This song is about friendship, the friends near to us and the others who, although we do not see often, are in our thoughts. As the chorus goes:

*"For Auld Lang Syne, my dear,  
For Auld Lang Syne,  
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet  
For Auld Lang Syne"*

This roughly translated means "for days gone by we'll drink (alcohol) a toast to our friends and of the memories we shared. This could have been written to all our friends who wore the "Screaming Eagle" patch. Being a Scots lass, I wish you all "A guid New Year and mony more to come."

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