



National Capital Area Chapter

The 101st Airborne Division Association



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NEWSLETTER

JANUARY – MAY, 2017

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 101st 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.

FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

The great American jurist, **Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.** was a decorated veteran of the Civil War. In a now famous **Memorial Day** speech in **1884** he said: “So to the indifferent inquirer who asks why **Memorial Day** is still kept up we may answer, it celebrates and solemnly reaffirms from year to year a national act of enthusiasm and faith. It embodies in the most impressive form our belief that to act with enthusiasm and faith is the condition of acting greatly. To fight out a war, you must believe something and want something with all your might. So must you do to carry anything else to an end worth reaching. More than that, you must be willing to commit yourself to a course, perhaps a long and hard one, without being able to foresee exactly where you will come out. All that is required of you is that you should go some whither as hard as ever you can. The rest belongs to fate. One may fall-at the beginning of the charge or at the top of the earthworks; but in no other way can he reach the rewards of victory.”

Soldiers throughout the ages have **remembered their fallen comrades**. For those of us who have had the privilege to stand shoulder to shoulder with **brave men** and to have witnessed them make **their ultimate sacrifice**, we feel a special need to keep them always somewhere in our hearts. In the years since my service with the **101st Airborne Division**, I have keenly felt their presence in my life. I remember **Lieutenant Fletcher**, a man of great heart and possessed of that certain **Virginia character** of soldiering who fell at **Fire Base Maureen** and who now lies in **Mount Hebron cemetery**, only feet from the **Confederate dead** killed in the battle of **Winchester**. I remember **Sergeant Bass and Sergeant Borgman** and so many others with whom I served and who will, as they say, remain forever young even as I age.

The **101st Airborne Division** has in my military memory always been an active participant on **Memorial Day**. Since my service in **1969**, its activities were centered around a ceremony at the **101st Airborne Division National Monument in Arlington National Cemetery**. Over the years, the **Division Commander, chaplain** and an **Honor Guard** were active participants. It is only right that they should do so. There are more **Screaming Eagles** bearing witness to this **ceremony at Arlington** than at any other location on **Memorial Day**. Most do so silently; they lie in rows throughout those sacred grounds and count among them heroes with the **Medal of Honor** and soldiers who simply died that this nation of ours might live. It is to remember these honored dead, after all, that we are gathered in the first place.

Before I regularly attended and came to lead from time to time the Association’s observance at Arlington Cemetery, it was my practice to visit the grave of **Lieutenant Fletcher** in **Winchester, Virginia**. I came to feel that in joining other **Screaming Eagles** at **Arlington Cemetery on Memorial Day** it allowed me to embrace in those moments, all the **brave soldiers** who I knew and those who time has forgotten. It was to this common purpose that we gathered; veterans of **World War II, Korea**, the cold war, **Vietnam** and now the **Middle East**, and celebrated the lives of those cut short by war. The ranks have thinned and many of those with whom we celebrated now lie in the very cemetery that provoked our memories.

George Malleck, President, National Capital Chapter

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WALTER REED:

The **101st Airborne Division** has completed multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan since 2003. On each of these operations, young troopers have suffered life-changing wounds and injuries, and in most cases, these casualties require long periods of therapy and recuperation before they can get on with their lives, either returning to active duty or leaving military service. For the past and current overseas deployments of the **101st Airborne Division**, the our National Capital Area Chapter of the **101st Airborne Division Association** provides support to our wounded troopers and their families when they arrive back in the United States.

The majority, between 2003 and 2010, came to the old Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington DC, which was closed in 2010. Now all wounded arrive at the former Navy Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland was expanded with new recovery facilities and is now named the Walter Reed National Medical Center, as the two hospitals merger in 2009. This merged facility is now staffed by Army, Navy, and Air Force medical personnel has become an integrated military medicine center and tri-service hospital. Of course, many wounded can go to other medical facilities throughout the USA.

The National Capital Chapter of the **101st Airborne Division Association** has been visiting and supporting our wounded and their families since the first deployment in 2003. During the first visit to the soldier, each wounded soldier is provided with a **101st baseball cap, 101st T-shirt, 101st break-away nylon trousers and gym shorts**, all with the **Screaming Eagle**

patch. These sharp looking clothing items help our soldiers feel proud and raise morale as they settle into their lengthy recoveries. In addition, each soldier also receives a large 101st flag with a silver glitter marker so visiting family and friends may write personal get-well wishes. Also, small 101st pins are provided parents, wives, and other family members.

Our veteran visitation program, more importantly, ministers often to unrecognized needs of both the wounded trooper and his/her family. When we walk into to the soldier's room for the first visit, we meet their mothers and fathers, their wives and children, aunts and uncles, younger and older brothers and sisters, and other family friends. Their needs during this difficult time of recovery are sometimes similar, but can vary greatly. The members of the National Capital Chapter assess the needs of each trooper and their family and provide assistance through continued visitation, to include financial support which greatly assists the travel expenses and other unanticipated needs of the wounded soldier's family. Over this period of time, we also bring the wounded troopers into the 'brotherhood' of our veteran family. As their recoveries progress, the soldiers may take convalescent leave to their homes for a couple weeks before moving from the hospital wards to out-patient facilities. Once our wounded and recovering soldiers are in these out-patient facilities, they have more independence to go back and forth to the hospital for their appointments and physical therapies. These out-patient facilities also accommodate family members to stay with the soldier as they are like a small apartment with a living room and small kitchen.

For these soldiers in out-patient facilities, the National Capital Chapter has coordinated with several local VFW lodges to provide spring and summer BBQs for the soldiers and their families. In addition, many other caring local organizations and individuals provide other opportunities for the soldiers and their families to leave the hospital grounds to attend musical concerts, sporting events, fishing and hunting trips, luncheons and other social events. The National Capital Chapter also brings wounded soldiers and their families to our Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. We also provide financial support to the soldiers to assist them with their travel back to Fort Campbell, to be there on the airfield when their unit returns from deployment.

The Army has a Warrior Transition Brigade at Walter Reed for all recovering soldiers. Similar Warrior Transition Battalions (WTB) have been organized at many Army installations in the U.S., including a large new facility at Ft Campbell. The soldiers are organized into squads, platoons and companies that provide close supervision and coordination with their nurse case managers. The soldiers have formations several times a week, their appointments schedules are reviewed, and any problems are resolved with the support of their chain of command. Soldiers are also strongly encouraged to take educational courses, and participate in internship programs offered by various commercial and US government agencies during their recoveries. As they near the end of their recoveries, many soldiers are now ready to return to their units at Fort Campbell, and continue their care at the WTB on post. Some soldiers will also leave the Army and return to civilian life.

As of 25 April, 2017, we are supporting only two soldiers with illnesses and one with a non-battle injury at Walter Reed. The last of our combat-wounded soldiers departed Walter Reed with medical discharges in February 2017. Hopefully, there will be no more combat-wounded, however, if there are, we will be ready to support them and their families during their recoveries. And we also hope the 3rd Bde units in Afghanistan will continue to have 'uneventful' deployments. 2-506 returns in May 2017 and the 1-187 and 3-187 return late summer.

Our chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association is very proud to help our wounded Eagles make the challenging transition to a new life. Your ongoing support for this program is appreciated reflecting the links that bind all Screaming Eagles....."Airborne, Air Assault, All the Way, All Together.....Always

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VETERANS DAY, 2016:

The **National Capital Area Chapter** again hosted Veterans Day activities at the **Vietnam Memorial Wall and the 101st Monument at Arlington National Cemetery**. We began with a Hospitality Suite on the afternoon and evening of the 10th of November, which was attended by veteran Screaming Eagles and their guests. On the 11th 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 **101st Airborne Division Memorial** at the entrance to Arlington Cemetery. **Eleven memorial wreaths** were placed honoring the following units and individuals: 101st Airborne Division (Air

Assault); The National Association; 327th/401st Infantry; Task Force 3/506th Airborne Infantry, Geraci Chapter; **MSGT Elvin, “Andy” Anderson**; **CPL Peter Pulaski, Jr** 42nd Inf Scout Dog Plt, KIA 4 Jan 70; **Dennis L. Husereau** 2/502nd Inf; **COL Leonard C. Krawczyk, (Father of Mike Krawczyk)**; PFC Victor **John Stanfill**, 2/506th Inf; **LTC Charles K. Gailey** 801st Maint Bn; and a wreath by Chapter member COL Eric Heist commemorating Army service.

On December 12th, 2016, the Chapter visited the **graves of twenty four 502nd 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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FYI:

PBS announced the broadcast premiere date for “**The Vietnam War**” a new 10-part 18- hour documentary film series directed by **Ken Burns and Lynn Novick**. The series will premiere on PBS stations nationwide **on September 17, 2017**, and concurrent with the broadcast premiere, the **first five episodes** of the series will be available for streaming on all station-branded **PBS platforms**. In addition, PBS station member with Passport will have access to the entire series beginning September 17th.

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DUES:

I wish to thank all members who have sent in their dues, I appreciate your support. To those members who need a gentle reminder, please send a check for \$20.00 made payable to “*National Capital Area Chapter.*” For the past eight or nine years the Chapter has afforded members the opportunity to pay \$101.00 for a six year membership and a significant number of members have taken advantage of this. We encourage you to consider this option and take advantage of it. It serves the dual purpose of saving the member one year’s worth of dues and lightening the Chapter’s administrative burden of keeping up with annual dues. Thank you and I look forward to seeing many of our members at the Memorial Day weekend. *Sylvia*

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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.

27 May – 3:00 PM 101st Memorial ceremony and dinner: # _____

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

28 May is an open day.

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 Ponzo**, 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**. The special discounted rate will be available on a first come basis, so please contact Diane as soon as possible.

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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 Ponzo**, 93 Sentinel Ridge Lane, Stafford, VA 22554. Telephone: (540)659-7212 or email at oznopsf@gmail.com

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

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