



National Capital Area Chapter

The 101st Airborne Division Association

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NEWSLETTER JUNE – SEPTEMBER, 2017

VETERANS DAY – NOVEMBER, 2017:

The National Capital Area Chapter will again be hosting a hospitality suite over Veterans Day **November 10 – 11, 2017** at The **Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel**, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204, telephone **703-521-1900**. The **Hospitality Suite** will open at **2.00 PM** on **Friday November 10th** until midnight and again between **4.00-5.00 PM** on **November 11th** until midnight. The Chapter will participate in **two separate wreath laying ceremonies** on the **11th**, the first at **1.00PM** at the **Vietnam Veterans Memorial** for placement of a wreath representing the Chapter/Association/Division. We will be accompanied by the Color Guard, speakers and tribute will be paid to all who served and sacrificed during the Vietnam War. The second ceremony will be the placement of wreaths at the **101st Airborne Division Memorial** statue at the entrance to **Arlington National Cemetery** at **3.00 PM**. All are invited to participate in both events. Anyone interested in ordering **wreaths** to be laid at the 101st Memorial at the **3.00 PM ceremony** should contact **Bob Ponzo** at: email oznopsf@gmail.com or telephone 540-659-7212 or mail a request to him at 93 Sentinel Ridge Lane, Stafford, VA 22554. The cost of the wreaths will be \$90.00.

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MEMORIAL DAY, 2017:

The National Capital Area Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association was pleased to host the Association's annual national Memorial Day observance in Washington D.C. and in Arlington, Virginia. The program began on **Friday, May 26, 2017** when **Bob Ponzo, Vice President of the Chapter**, opened the customary Hospitality Suite at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel.

On Saturday morning memorial **wreaths were placed** at the **WWII, Korea, and Vietnam Memorials**. At the **WWII Memorial** Association Past President **Dick Schonberger** spoke eloquently about the service and sacrifices made by **"The Greatest Generation"** in that war. He spoke of all the Screaming Eagles who participated in the conflict and how few of them are left. He spoke of the **loss experienced** by both the Association and Chapters with the passing of so many of our cherished members. Association President **Jim Shamblen** spoke at the **Korea Memorial** describing the efforts and experiences of a specific unit which is now one of our Division's regiments. The **187th Regimental Combat Team (Abn)** participated actively and well in the **Korean conflict** and in future years became one of the **101st Airborne Division's** brigades and remains so to this day.



Wreaths laid at the 101st Memorial



Dick Schonberger at the WWII Memorial



Jim Shamblen at the Korean Memorial

At the **Vietnam Wall**, Chapter Vice President **Bob Ponzo** spoke about the fact that while there were over **58,000 stories on that wall**, the stories of each of those individual's families, friends and acquaintances actually would number in the millions. He also quoted from a list of statistics about the significance of those numbers, such as: The first and last known casualties; the number of soldiers killed on their first day and the number killed on their last day in Vietnam; the number of soldiers lost by **age group**, from age **15 (PFC Dan Bullock) through age 22**; and many more statistics pertaining to families, towns and schools and their particular losses. The **Vietnam Wall** usually has a very large number of visitors during this time and it was noted that a great many of them stopped to watch the presentation of the **101st Airborne Division's** wreath and listen to the subsequent remarks. The official Association **Memorial service** was held at 3:00 PM on Saturday afternoon at the **101st Airborne Division Memorial**, located on Memorial Drive in Arlington National Cemetery. The monument, built in 1977, required approval by Congress before it was erected. The ceremony was conducted by **Chapter President George Malleck**. **Captain Eric Bryan, Chaplain of Arlington National Cemetery** gave the Invocation and Benediction. **National Association President Jim Shamblen** gave remarks and introduced our guest speaker, **Colonel Val Keaveny, XO to the G8, Headquarters U.S. Army**. **Colonel Keaveny** served at multiple levels in the 101st Airborne Division, from **commanding the Division Long Range Reconnaissance Company**, to command of the **4th Brigade Combat Team and the 506th Regiment including a deployment in Afghanistan** and as **Chief of Staff** of the Division. He deployed in support of **the Division's Ebola humanitarian mission** in Africa. **Colonel Keaveny** gave a moving address, harkening back over the three generations of **Screaming Eagles** who now repose in **Arlington Cemetery** and remembering those now serving in harm's way.

After remarks, **35 wreaths** were laid in memory of units and personnel associated with the Division since **World War II**. The playing of Taps by a bugler from the U.S. Army band concluded the ceremony. Following the ceremony, a dinner was held at the **Sheraton Hotel**. **Colonel Andras M. Marton**, the Staff Judge Advocate and legal advisor to the Commanding General, 101st Airborne Division was the division's command representative. **Colonel Marton** combines a distinguished legal career in the Army with a wide breadth of Army service in the field. He gave a detailed and well-informed analysis of the division's activities and future plans.

On Monday, May 29, 2017, attendees were invited to participate in our **Nation's Memorial Day parade in Washington, DC**. Participants had the opportunity to walk in the parade or ride in vehicles provided by the **Central Virginia Mustang club**.

The Chapter has continued the **visitation and support** of our injured and wounded soldiers at **Walter Reed** since the beginning of the year. There have been a number of non-combat injuries suffered by soldiers in recent months requiring significant hospital stays as well as several recent combat **casualties** from the **187th Infantry and 320th Field Artillery Regiments**. The following is an excerpt from a weekly status report submitted by Bob Seitz concerning these recent arrivals: "Both **Spc Miller and SSG Lyons** were having a very restful day after their surgeries this past Thursday. **SSG Lyons** will have another surgery tomorrow, not sure when **Spc Miller's** next one is scheduled. Both will continue to remain on **Ward 4** for at least another week or more as in-patients...still no discussions on when they would become outpatients. Both would like to be at **Fort Campbell** for the return of their units in the next two weeks, but cannot, however, they and their wives are genuinely looking forward to the big **Rakkasan Ball** in late August. As you know, our local chapter of the **101st Assn provides considerable \$\$\$** for unanticipated expenses of the families. Yesterday, as both wives have been by their husbands' bedsides since they arrived, with no time to shop for their kids (**Aiden Lyons – 2 and Hayden Miller – 10 months**), we bought each several sets of clothing and other kid necessities from Babies-R-Us and both families absolutely loved the clothing items for their kids!!" That is but one example of the **support provided** to our soldiers by our **Chapter** representatives at **Walter Reed**.

WOUNDED EAGLES:

Now for the good news - as of this writing we have **no combat** wounded **Screaming Eagles at Walter Reed** and there is only one ill soldier who is going through cardiac rehabilitation. The Chapter will be monitoring that individual's progress for the foreseeable future.

We have been in **recent communications** with the **Screaming Eagle Foundation** who indicated that they intended to provide funds to support the activities of our **Chapter's Wounded Eagle Fund**. We were asked for, and provided, our financial records for the past 13-15 years of our activity providing **financial assistance** to wounded **Screaming Eagles** and **their families**. Upon review of those records the **Foundation forwarded** a very **substantial** contribution to that effort. We are extremely grateful to the Foundation for their support which will ensure that we can continue to provide support for future deployments in the coming years.

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MEMORIAL DAY 2018 IN WASHINGTON D.C.

The Chapter is back on track with all four events for our **Memorial Day observances**. We have secured a date and time for the placement of a memorial wreath at the **Tomb of the Unknowns which is 1:15 PM on Friday, May 25, 2018**. We will also be working with the new schedule of events which was put into effect this past Memorial Day, both **wreath laying** ceremonies and the **annual dinner** will be conducted on **Saturday, May 26, 2018**. As of this writing **Sunday, May 27, 2018**, is an open day for people to do whatever they wish. **Monday May 28, 2018**, will be the Chapter's participation in the annual **Memorial Day Parade** along with the Central Virginia Mustang Club. A **complete schedule of events** and registration forms will appear in the **Winter Issue of the Screaming Eagle**.

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72ND NATIONAL ANNUAL REUNION:

The Association hosted their 72nd Annual Reunion in **Nashville from August 23-28, 2017** and it was a grand event to say the least. **Chapter members** who attended were **Pat O'Reilly and his wife Patsy, Dick Winters, and Bob and Natalie Ponzo**. Of particular importance to our Chapter is that this year's recipient(s) of the **"Pappy Norris Spirit Award"** were none other than **THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA CHAPTER** "In recognition for their continued **selfless service** to the 101st Airborne Division by assisting its many **wounded Soldiers** and their families at **Walter Reed Medical Center**. The Chapter's selfless actions further the Association's goals to better serve the **Veterans and Soldiers of the Screaming Eagles** and embody the ideals of the Airborne Community." The following **Chapter members** are named as joint recipients representing the Chapter: **C.K. Gailey, Bob Seitz, George Malleck, Dick Winters and Bob Ponzo**.

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IN MEMORIUM:

Chapter member **Lloyd Neale Cosby, COL, USA Ret**, passed away on **June 4, 2017**. He had a distinguished 30 year Army career, notably as a **Platoon Leader of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery**. **COL Neale** served two tours in **Vietnam** as an **advisor to the 7th ARVN Division** and later as **Commander, 2nd Battalion of the 502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division**. Among his awards was the **Sentinel Badge** from his time as a **Guard of the Tomb**. His commitment to that assignment led him to be the founding father of the **Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**. In retirement he was involved in planning the commemoration of the **100th anniversary** of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to be held on the **11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month**, in the year **2021**. **COL Cosby** was a valued member of our Chapter and a strong supporter of our endeavors. He will be missed. He will be interred with **full military** honors at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

Ian A. G. Malleck, youngest son of our **Chapter President George Malleck**, passed away unexpectedly on **August 10, 2017**. Ian was born in **London, England on August 12, 1981** and spent the **first 12 years** of his life growing up abroad in the **Middle East and Northern Africa, as the son of an American Foreign Service Officer**. In 1993 the family settled in Arlington Virginia where he graduated from **Washington-Lee High School**. **Ian** served with the **82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina** before returning to Arlington and working a variety of jobs. **Ian** will be remembered by his loved ones and friends for his kindness and his enormous heart. A **Memorial Service** celebrating his life was held on **Saturday, August 19, 2017** at Unitarian Universalist Church, Arlington

VA. The Service was attended by several Chapter members, **Bob and Robin Seitz, John Fatherree, Ed Davis and Bob and Natalie Ponzio**. **Ian's** ashes will be placed with his grandparents in New England in the family plot.

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CHAPTER WEBSITE:

The National Capital Area Chapter has a new website, www.ncac101.org, that is up and running but still is a work in progress. Any submissions, **suggestions** or ideas are welcome but please address them to **Bob Ponzio, Diane Husereau, Sylvia Schonberger or George Malleck**. We currently have several years of Newsletters available and not much else. We are working on an **Events section** as well as a **Photo Gallery** and a links page. We have a membership page which will shortly have a newer version of our **Membership Application**. Our website developer/manager is a member of **Bob Ponzio's Special Forces Association Chapter** and created and has managed that Chapter's website for a number of years. Interested parties can review that website at www.sfa19.org to see the quality of what our website will become. Again, input from the membership is requested and welcome.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS:

We would also appreciate input from the membership about our Newsletter. We welcome any ideas and thoughts you all might have concerning topics of interest to include in the Newsletter. We are currently trying to maintain a publication schedule of once every four months, but are considering shifting back to a quarterly schedule if we can generate enough topics would be interesting and informative to our readership.

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DUES:

We wish to thank all members who have sent in their dues, we appreciate your support. If you have **not already paid dues** for 2017, please send a check for **\$20.00 payable to National Capital Area Chapter** to **Sylvia Schonberger, Secretary, 8804 Kenilworth Drive, Springfield, VA 22151**. For the past eight or nine years the Chapter has afforded the members the opportunity to pay **\$101.00 for a six** year membership which a significant number of members have taken advantage of. We encourage you to consider this option and **take advantage** of it. It serves a dual purpose of saving a member one year's worth of dues and significantly lightens the Chapter's administrative burden of keeping up with annual dues. Thank you again and we look forward to seeing all of you in the coming months for Veterans and Memorial Days activities.

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LICENCE PLATES:

If you live in Maryland and are interested in obtaining 101st License Plates – send an email to: telemere@gmail.com. The subject should read "101st License Plates". You must first become a member of the 101st Airborne Division Association to qualify for the tags.

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