



# National Capital Area Chapter

## The 101st Airborne Division Association

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### NEWSLETTER JANUARY – APRIL, 2018

The National Capital Area Chapter will again be hosting Memorial Day Events in May. As we have reported in past, we have made significant changes to the Memorial Day schedule of events. The wreath placements previously for Saturday and Sunday and the Memorial Dinner will all be conducted on Saturday. The changes have been instituted due to the congestion of Rolling Thunder and the Sunday road closures in Arlington County in preparation. This had drastically impeded the ability for people to attend our Sunday events.

You are cordially invited to join the National Capital Area Chapter of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association in commemorating our fallen comrades on Memorial Day weekend.

### MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, MAY 25-28, 2018

#### Schedule of Events:

#### **Friday, May 25, 2018**

- 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
- 3:00 PM – Hospitality Suite at the Sheraton Hotel will be open.

#### **Saturday, May 26, 2018**

- 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 wreaths\* at the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Memorial.
- 5:00 PM – Dinner served at the hotel. Hospitality Suite will re-open after the dinner.

#### **Sunday, May 27, 2018**

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 28, 2018**

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 in the vicinity 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. Parade organizers in golf carts will have maps with organization's locations. The parade will travel down Constitution Avenue and end at 17<sup>th</sup> Street.

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\*The price remains at **\$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 email him at [oznopsf@gmail.com](mailto:oznopsf@gmail.com).

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**ANNIVERSARY:**

Humans have a long-held habit of embracing fiftieth anniversaries. Who has not attended a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary celebration that wasn't special? We are once again approaching **Memorial Day** and for many of us, the commemoration comes at a time of reflection that if we have not experienced it already, we will soon mark the **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of our service in **Vietnam**. Arlington National Cemetery and cemeteries all over America hold the **remains** of the **comrades-in-arms** with whom we fought. Some of those have been at rest since falling in combat those many years ago. Names like **Lt. Larry Fletcher, Sergeant Borgman** and **Private Bass** come to mind for me. Others have died more recently, like **Specialist Ralph Matkin, a 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne medic** who treated me and who passed away of cancer last year. **Ralph** is in Arlington now.

I would like to bring to everyone's attention efforts now underway to commemorate the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War**. The **2008 National Defense Authorization Act** authorized the **Secretary of Defense** to conduct a program to commemorate the **50th anniversary** of the **Vietnam War** and "*in conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War.*" A website has been developed to assist Vietnam veterans and others seeking information on commemorations, timetables and historical resources. You can find it at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com>. Anyone looking for a local event can search on the site for things planned in their geographic area. I would also like to invite suggestions on things we might do as a chapter, be it a reception, a picnic or some other event. Please let me, **Bob Ponzio** or **Sylvia** know if something comes to mind.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Memorial Day weekend! **Bob Ponzio**

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**AWARD CEREMONY:**

On Saturday, **March 31, 2018**, **Richard and Sylvia Schonberger** graciously hosted a dinner in their home to **honor** the memory of our **Past President, C.K. Gailey**. At the **2017 Annual Association Reunion in Nashville**, The National Capital Area Chapter was presented with the **Pappy Norris Spirit Award** for the Chapter's efforts in support of **wounded Screaming Eagles and their families**. **Five Chapter members** were presented with certificates as **representatives of the Chapter**. One of those certificates was for **Charles K. Gailey**. The Chapter decided to hold on to C.K.'s certificate until such time as we could organize a proper venue to present it to his family. **C.K.'s wife Jane** was **presented** with his **certificate** at the **Schonberger's dinner** and was very grateful and appreciative that the Association and Chapter he had served for so long would **honor** him in this way. Chapter members in attendance besides, obviously, **Richard and Sylvia** were **George and Anne Malleck, John Fatherree, Ed and Diane Davis, Bob and Natalie Ponzio and Bob Seitz**.



*Jane Gailey and Bob Ponzio*

**IN MEMORIAM:**

Ivan Garran Worrell, 89, died peacefully on **June 12, 2017**, in Sweetwater, TN. **Ivan** will be buried with full military honors at **Arlington Cemetery on May 3, 2018 at 3 p.m.** Attendees should meet at the **Administration Building by 2:15 p.m.** Please allow enough time to get through the new security procedures at Arlington.

Ivan proudly served his country in **World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.** After graduating from Maryville High School, Maryville, TN, he joined the **Navy** at the end of **World II** serving on the destroyer minesweepers **USS Rodman and USS Hambleton.** After his Navy service he attended Georgia Military Academy graduating with an associate degree in 1950 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the US Army Reserves. When he returned to Maryville he worked at Alcoa and attended the University of Tennessee where he met the love of his life, Alice Ruth Robinson and their love story continued.

**February 1951**, during the **Korea** conflict, he answered the nation's call and entered the **Army.** After training at Fort Benning he was assigned to the **1st Loudspeaker and Leaflet Company in Korea.** After returning from Korea he was assigned to Fort Bragg where he became one of the first seven members of our nation's now famous **Special Forces** as an **A Team Leader in the 10th Special Forces Group.** The Group moved to Germany and after 3 years Ivan returned to **Fort Campbell** where he was assigned as the **first Company Commander of Company C, First Airborne Battle Group 327th Infantry at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.** He later served as the assistant **S-2 of the 327th.** In 1960 he was assigned to a second tour with the **10th Special Forces Group in Germany** and served again as a team leader and as Group S-2. On his return to the States he served as a B Team Leader in the **5th Special Forces** Group, S-2 of the **6th Special Forces Group.** He attended the University of Omaha where he received a **Degree in Journalism.** Ivan Served as **Executive Secretary** of the **101st Airborne Division Association.**

In **May of 1966** he became the **Information Officer of the First Brigade (Separate), 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.** On his return to the States his last assignment was as **Information Officer of the 82nd Airborne Division** where he retired in **August of 1969.**

Ivan was a Distinguished Member of the **327th Airborne Infantry Regiment,** Past **Board Member of the 101st Airborne Division Association,** served on the board of the Sweetwater Library Foundation, was an **Elder in the First Presbyterian Church,** life member of the **101st Airborne Division Association,** the Special Forces Association, the 82nd Airborne Division Association, VFW and American Legion and Combat Infantrymen's Association. He belonged to his local Masonic Lodge and Odd Fellows Lodge.

In lieu of flowers it was **Ivan's wish** that a **contribution** be made to **the Home Health Care of East Tennessee, 717 New Highway 68, and Sweetwater, TN 37874.**

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**DUES:**

We like to take this opportunity to remind our members who have not yet sent in their dues, to do so now. Please send a check for \$20.00 made payable to **“National Capital Area Chapter”** and mail it to **Sylvia Schonberger, 8804 Kenilworth Drive, Springfield, VA 22151.**

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**National Capital Area Chapter  
Memorial Day Weekend, May 25-28, 2018  
Registration Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ or

Guest \_\_\_\_\_

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

I/we plan on Participating in the following events:

\_\_\_\_\_ 25 May – 1:15 PM Wreath Ceremony, Tomb of the Unknowns: # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 26 May – 9:30 AM Bus and War Memorials Ceremonies: # \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ 26 May – 3:00 PM 101<sup>st</sup> Memorial ceremony and dinner: # \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Dinner is pay as you go.

\_\_\_\_\_ 28 May – 1PM 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 20 May, 2018

NOTE: There will be a block of rooms (price to be determined) available in the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel beginning Friday, 25 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.

**2018 Memorial Day Wreath Ordering Form**

Name /Organization of person ordering the wreath(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

Person(s) placing the wreath (if known):

\_\_\_\_\_

Inscription and color preference for ribbons adorning wreath(s):

\_\_\_\_\_

Cost is \$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](mailto:oznopsf@gmail.com).

**Orders for wreaths must be received not later than May 22, 2018**

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