



82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.
NJ – CPL Steven Koch “All Airborne” Chapter



The “Jump In”

Spring Issue - February 2025

A lifeline for Paratroopers and Glidermen

Bob Dritschel, Editor

New Jersey -

CPL Steven Koch Chapter

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dchel@aol.com

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dritschel@earthlink.net

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donalcdmartin@msn.com

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2025 Chapter Officers

The NJ – CPL Steven Koch Chapter has elected the following officers for 2025: Chairman – Mike Vasquez, Vice-Chairman – Dave Chelak, Treasurer – Vic Balint, Secretary – Bob Dritschel, Chaplain – Charlie Moe and Sgt at Arms – Henry Moe.



The Chapter Facebook page and website are currently active. Please visit both the “82nd Airborne Division Association New Jersey CPL Steven Koch Chapter” Facebook page and website for recent news and articles.

Posts and submissions are always welcome.

The Chapter is requesting donations from its members to support the 82nd Airborne Association’s Wounded Warrior Fund. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

Please forward any donation to the Chapter PO Box.

CURRENT CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

#3 - NJ – CPL Steven Koch Chapter
376

AIRBORNE LICENSE PLATES

(910 Issued)



Contact Vic Balint at 732-721-3997 for Information

CHAPTER MEETING

PLACE

AMERICAN LEGION

Post 25

4 J.F. Kennedy Drive

Milltown, NJ 08850

MEETING TIMES

Meetings Begin

12:00 PM

On the 3rd Saturday
of the month

MEETING DATES 2025

January 18

February 15

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

July 19

August 16

September 20

October 18

November 22

December 20

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Airborne Day

Activities

August 16, 2025

Norwegian Foot

March

October 11, 2025

Chapter Officer

Elections

November 22, 2025

Chapter Christmas

Luncheon

December 20, 2025

Airborne Day Ceremony

August 16, 2025

The Chapter will once again conduct a ceremony at the Test Platoon marker. All wishing to attend please contact the Chapter Officers.

82nd Airborne Division All American Week - 2025

All American Week is to be conducted this year between May 19 – 22. Registration can be mailed in or you can register online at The Association website.

Hotel reservations have been arranged, for registered Association members, at IHG Army Hotel (Airborne Inn - Moon Hall). Please contact the hotel directly.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Troopers,

Happy New Year, hopefully this finds all of you healthy and doing well. I hope that if you guys know of any one of our brothers/sisters that are not up to par, you reach out and give them a call to check in on them and I know the call will lift their spirits. This past year we had a couple of events with the NJ Special Forces Chapter 19, including the Norwegian Foot March and the breakfast with the West Point Marathon Team. The team ran from West Point, with the Army/ Navy game ball, and was able to join our Chapter along with Special Forces Chapter 19 and several local Veterans for breakfast along the way. We were much honored to have our very own Chapter member Medal of Honor Recipient Col. Jack H. Jacobs join us for the breakfast. After breakfast, our chapter had presented Jack with one of our chapter coins and then was fortunate enough to hear Jack speak for a while, which was very, very entertaining.

Ending on a high note I am very happy to say that the Chapter has had the privilege of installing 6 new members in 2024 and also, due to the time and effort of our Vice- Chairman Dave Chelak, we have had 4-5 All American members who are now back attending our meetings. It's nice to see that are meetings are growing in size.... last but not least, I want to remind all of us to carry on the AIRBORNE Tradition, "WE ARE NOT LEGS". If I can help anyone or you just need to talk, please know that you can call me (24-7) 732-735-4017. Stay safe brothers and sisters! Airborne, All The Way, Mike Vasquez

News & Views from the Secretary

I hope everyone has had a Happy New Year. The coming year in the Chapter will be filled with activities that I am hoping the members will take part in. It is good to stay in touch with your fellow paratroopers. And on that note, the Chapter has again taken on the task of reaching out to all of the members on the Chapter roster. At this time, we have contacted, or tried to contact, almost half of the 400+ members on the roster. On a good note, the Chapter has re-connected with members from the past. But, sad to say, the Chapter has found numerous members that have passed that we were unaware of. It is disappointing that the Chapter, and its members, were not able to recognize the departed troopers at their services. I would like to ask everyone to understand the importance of notifying the Chapter of any change in address or health status. Airborne, Bob

Chapter Member Contribution

Assigned to Fort McClellan for Basic and One Station Unit Training, listening to the NCO instructing troops on the pistol range in the hot Alabama sun, he ended his block of instruction with " Who here is from the South? " I shouted out I am Sergeant, where you from in the south son? The South Bronx Sergeant. All of us laughed and this Opie Taylor carrot top freckle faced Richie Cunningham look alike exploded. Come here troop, pick up these two BFR's, (big friggin rocks), extend your arms like Jesus, do you believe in Jesus troop? Yes, I do Sergeant Jesus is everywhere especially here with me in this hot as hell pistol range. It cost me 20 push-ups so what. During a week-long binge of music, beer and bratwurst in Munich my barracks rat buddies made a decision to go Airborne. Graduating Jump School at Fort Benning we drove north to Fayetteville at night. Assigned to the 82nd we crashed for a short sleep in the barracks. Early next morning the barracks came alive with shouts of Edre Edre Edre. Half asleep we grumbled No Edre here thinking it was an Italian name and the soldier was AWOL. The door opened and the 1sg shouted "Get Up". Top there is no Edre here just Ayala, McGaughey and Reynolds we drove up last night from Jump School. He saw the insignia on our BDU's 8th Infantry. Edre, Edre it's the same as ALERT, get moving.! Three years of duty in the 82nd, jumping with the best, working at Division HQ's. Twice a month on payday two soldiers would approach me with "Sarge we have to go down to Battalion HQ's these Article 15's are screwed up and we have to speak to Captain Morgan". This charade goes on for months. One NFL Saturday afternoon, I hear a knock on my door, put down the slice of pizza and the soldier says, Sarge Captain Morgan is in our room, ya want to meet him? Oh yeah I do, it pisses me off that on a Friday twice a month you two have to leave Division to speak to this O3. I walk in the room seeing pizza boxes beer cans and no Captain. Did this O3 leave? Nah Sarge, meet Captain Morgan and hold out a bottle of Captain Morgan Rum from the class 6 store. A vacancy opened up for a Jump assignment MOS specific at 10th Special Forces Group. Driving up I 95 north in a T top Camaro, listening to Van Halen and AC/DC on cd, life was good. Duty at 10th Group was dynamite, jumping, rappelling, night vision goggles, ski school and snow mobiles in Caribou Maine. The Jumpmaster course was planned for summer. In every class there is one, don't be that one. Our class had that one. A soldier who needed a full 30 seconds to engage his brain. In the 80's and 90's the Army motto was shoot/move/communicate very basic keep it simple stupid. This clown was from the enabling learning objective/ terminal learning objective new Army mantra. It was time for his first Jumpmaster cherry blast. He gave the commands Get Ready, Hook Up, 6 Minutes, so far so good. We shuffle to the door of the C130. This bright as a 3-watt bulb Soldier forgot to keep his hands inside the aircraft while looking for the drop zone and got sucked out over the Leominster Mall. The 10th Group Sergeant Major said he should be charged with stupidity as we laughed on the drop zone and dispatched a Humvee to the mall. Funny days and times in the 82nd and 10th Group. Enjoy your holidays everyone. Jump In.

Michael McGaughey
MSG/Retired
1983/2013

SICK CALL

Please take time to contact your Airborne Brothers...

Ray LoLargo 68 Worden Ave Hopelawn, NJ 08861

Larry Taylor 26 Congressional Rd Jackson, NJ 08527

TAPS

A final salute to our departed Airborne Brothers

As identified by the current Chapter Outreach.....

Nick Acocella	Ralph Ballinger	Edward Boccafogli
Fred Brown	Jack Burlew	George Coppola
P. Oscar Covello	Martin Cummins	Jack Deserable
David Daltuch	William Druback	Manual Evaristo
James Foster	Donald Frankland	Robert French
Herman Frick	Harry Gebhardt	Raymond Geipel
John Gilligan	James Glover	Joseph Hampton
John Hayes	Conrad Hoffman	Edward Hollasch
Lamont Howse	Robert Jamet	Patrick Hutchinson
Ken Jeanneret	Gordon Jonas	Otis Jones
Darl Lamb	Steve Kingsbury	Franklin Kneller
Conrad Kratky	William Kessinger	Michael Locasio
Ray Malisszewski	Howard Morrow	Frank Mulligan
Edward O'Boyle	Philip Oliveri	Al Panebianco
Frank Pardo	Joseph Pracon	John Price Jr
Joseph Rego	Steven Ross	Leonard Sacharoff
Michael Sanford	Charles Searfoss	Walter Semchenko
Karl Sentak	Wliiam Siebel	Lee Siegfried
William Sikkema	Lew Sonn	Harry Taylor Jr
Robert Tiensch	John Tirpak	Zoltan Varga
Wayne Wallace	Ralph Walters	ChesterWisolmerski
James Williams	Edward Wolf	William Wraga
Harold Yood	Chester Yuknavage	Mike Zeliczkovics
Lewis Jones		

National Association Website & Email

Website: www.82ndairborneassociation.org

Email: execdir@82ndairborneassociation.org
execsec@82ndairborneassociation.org

PARAGLIDE Website Address

www.82ndairborneassociation.org/paraglide.html

2024 Norwegian Foot March

Members of the Chapter had manned one of the rest stops/check-in points at the Norwegian Foot Match conducted at Lakehurst Naval Air Station. The event consists of a timed 18.6 mile - 25 lb ruck march thru the base starting at midnight. The march is recognized by the Norwegian Military and all participants that finished the march within the required timeframe were awarded a medal from the Norwegian Consulate. The Chapter members at the check-in point were able to direct and assist any participants where needed and enjoyed the interaction with each passing marcher. One of this year's top finishers included Lauren Hakey, the granddaughter of Chapter member, Larry Taylor.



West Point Marathon Team Football Run - 2024

Members of the West Point Marathon Team again took part in the annual running of the Army/Navy Football gameball from West Point to the football stadium, which was in Washington, DC. The team ran the 288 miles. The team was able to stop in Ringoes, NJ on their way to Washington, DC. for a breakfast hosted by Joe Hann of Flemington Foreign Car Repair. The Chapter and the Special Forces Group 19 were present at the event. The highlight of the breakfast was the speech given by Medal of Honor Recipient Col. Jack Jacobs.



Chapter News

The Chapter has included the 2025 raffle tickets in this newsletter. This raffle drawing is one of the only income producing activities of the Chapter. I hope that all will be able to take part and purchase the tickets to help the Chapter continue with their activities. The raffle will be drawn at the September meeting.

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Please contact the editor with any information pertinent to the chapter. Members can always contribute to the newsletter or the Facebook page. Member updates of Chapter and Association records can be made by using the application on the newsletter or by the association website.

New Jersey-CPL Steven Koch Chapter
82nd Airborne Division Association
PO Box 82
Milltown, NJ 08850



JOIN US AT OUR MEETINGS



82nd Airborne Division Association Membership Application



NJ – CPL Steven Koch "All Airborne" CHAPTER

Personal Information;

Name (Print): _____ (M.I.) _____ (Last) _____

Street Address: _____

City, State and Zip Code: _____

Email: _____ (No email address will restrict your access to information)

Chapter Preference: _____ Affiliate Chapter (Active Duty Only): _____

Phone (Home): _____ (Cell): _____

SSN (last four only)/ASN: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Occupation: _____ Spouse: _____

Please check one _____ Annual Membership (\$35.00) _____ All American Life Member \$350.00

-----Reinstate _____ Transfer _____ New Card (\$5.00) _____ New Certificate (\$10.00) _____ Update

I would like to donate _____ \$10.00 _____ \$25.00 _____ \$50.00 _____ \$100 _____ Other Amount

To _____ Association General Fund _____ Chapter General Fund _____ Education Fund _____ Wounded Warrior Fund

Service Information:

Current Status: _____ Retired Military/Veteran _____ Active Duty/Reserve/National Guard _____ Rank

****Time In Service: Entered Service (month/year) _____ ETS Date (month/year) _____ ****

Unit: _____ from month/yr _____ to month/yr _____

Combat Tour/Conflict _____ from month/yr _____ to month/yr _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please include a copy of your DD214 for new member applications