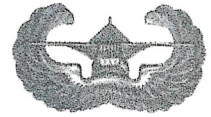




82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.

NJ – CPL Steven Koch “All Airborne” Chapter



The “Jump In”

Winter Issue - October 2024 *A lifeline for Paratroopers and Glidermen*

Bob Dritschel, Editor

New Jersey - CPL Steven Koch Chapter PO Box 82 Milltown, NJ 08850 Chapter Website: www.njc82abnassociation.org Chapter Email: NJ-Koch@ 82ndairborneassociation.org CHAPTER OFFICERS CHAIRMAN: Mike Vasquez mvairborne@comcast.net VICE-CHAIRMAN: Dave Chelak dchel@aol.com TREASURER: Vic Balint Ah1kobra@aol.com SECRETARY: Bob Dritschel dritschel@earthlink.net CHAPLAIN: Charles Moe SGT at ARMS: Henrik Moe TRUSTEES: Vic Balint Don Martin donaldcmartin@msn.com Rich Allen randr1226@aol.com	<u>2025 Chapter Officer Elections</u> The NJ – CPL Steven Koch Chapter will once again have its election of officers during the November meeting, November 16, 2024. All members present at the meeting will be able to cast a vote for the 2025 officers. The slate of officers elected to the 2025 positions will be installed at the December meeting and will lead the Chapter in the coming year. As always, if there is someone who would like to serve in any of the positions up for election, please indicate your preference and request formal nomination to the slate to be voted on. 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. NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP <table><tr><td>#1-Fayetteville</td><td>#2- North Jersey</td><td>#3- Washington DC</td></tr><tr><td>1472</td><td>436</td><td>419</td></tr></table> AIRBORNE LICENSE PLATES (910 Issued) Contact Vic Balint at 732-721-3997 for Information	#1-Fayetteville	#2- North Jersey	#3- Washington DC	1472	436	419	CHAPTER MEETING PLACE AMERICAN LEGION Post 25 4 J.F. Kennedy Drive Milltown, NJ 08850 <u>MEETING TIMES</u> Meetings Begin 12:00 PM On the 3rd Saturday of the month <u>MEETING DATES 2024</u> October 19 November 16 December 21 <u>MEETING DATES 2025</u> January 18 February 15 March 15 April 19 May 17 June 21 July 19 August 16 September 20 October 18 November 22 December 20 <u>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</u> Norwegian Foot March October 12, 2024 Chapter Officer Elections November 16, 2024 Chapter Christmas Luncheon December 21, 2024
#1-Fayetteville	#2- North Jersey	#3- Washington DC						
1472	436	419						
Veterans Day All are encouraged to attend local events honoring your service and the service and sacrifice of all veterans	82nd Airborne Division Association Veterans Day Activities Every Veterans Day, for decades, the 82nd Airborne Division Association Members have come together to continue our promise to “NEVER FORGET” our fallen. In continuance of this promise, they will lay wreaths at several sites at Arlington National Cemetery, and at the National War Memorials on the National Mall on November 8 - 10.							

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Airborne Soldiers,

Wow, that was a fast 10 months. I hope all of you guys are healthy and doing well, and let's reach out for our brothers who are a little under the weather. A PHONE CALL GOES A LONG WAY! This Saturday / Sunday Oct 12, 13 we are helping the SFA -Chapter 19 with the Norwegian Foot March at NAS, Lakehurst. Remember to set the clocks back Sunday Nov 3rd. We have Election Day coming Nov, 5 let's get out and do our duty and vote. Marine Corps Birthday Nov 10th. Veterans Day will be Nov 11th. I want to THANK all of our members and the SFA- Chapter 19 members who helped with All Airborne days, which was a great success, including the 17 Paratroopers who came up from Ft. Bragg. Guys we have added some new members which is good and we have two more that will be at our Oct 19 meeting. Let's always be talking and looking for new members. Don't forget we have coins, shirts and hats that are available which when purchased helps our Chapter. We have been looking at new shirts and hats to increase our inventory sales also. While you are out and about, if you see someone who could use a hand don't be afraid to help them. Please continue to attend our monthly meetings, being with our fellow troopers is very good for the soul. If you cannot make a meeting or need a ride, please let me or another officer know and we will make it happen! If you ever need someone to talk to, personal or not, my phone is on 24/7. Throw that Airborne shirt on today when you go and walk proud. 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 please call me 732-735-4017

Airborne, All The Way, Mike Vasquez

News & Views from the Secretary

I am hoping that this newsletter finds everyone safe and in good shape. As you know, the presidential election is to take place in less than a month. I urge everyone to ensure that they are registered to vote and do indeed participate in the election of our nation's next president. As for the New Jersey Chapter, this past year has seen an uptick in the members actively participating, both at the monthly meetings and at all of the events that the Chapter has been involved in. This is great to see as the lifeblood of the Chapter is its active members. I know that the officers of the Chapter have made a concerted effort to recruit new members and touch base with existing ones to continue the success. The members that participate in the meetings and events can vouch for the good times and camaraderie during the times together. If you would like to attend a meeting or event and cannot due to transportation, please contact one of the Chapter officers and we will arrange for you to attend.

Airborne, Bob

Chapter Member Highlight Mike Vasquez



In 4th grade (1961) Mike read the book called U S Paratroopers and that's all he wanted; 10 years later Mike was drafted into the Army, Jan 13, 1971. He did basic training Fort Dix, NJ and then on to Fort Knox, KY for AIT and became an 11E (Armor). In June he went to Fort Benning and graduated Jump School July 1971. His first jump was from a C-119. He arrived at Fort Bragg, NC July 2, 1971 and was assigned to A Troop 1/17 Cav 1st Platoon 82nd Airborne Division. He became a Sheridan (17 tons) tank driver which could be and was dropped by air. Mike's cherry blast was from the C-5A. During this time there were many pilots returning from Viet Nam and as he was in a Cav unit they also had many choppers which the pilots needed to stay current so they had the opportunity to jump almost weekly, if you wanted too. (Mostly all Hollywood jumps.) In Sept 1971, He was selected to go to Airborne Division Recon School which was really a great time, and graduated that in Nov 1971. Going into 1972 his platoon was sent out numerous times to the field to try and capture (Escape & Evasion) the recent Green Beret class(s). As you can see Mike sort of had good times in the military, but the BEST was and you have heard him say this before was "being a member of the 82nd Airborne Division). He was told up to the day he got accepted "you are never getting in the 82nd Airborne Division". Well, he got lucky..... He ETS'd on Jan 18, 1973, he should have gotten out on JAN 12, BUT it snowed and he had to spend 6 extra days in the military for the convenience of the government because as he was told "there are no snow plows down here, and you can't clear post" (again, this was 1973). He married in 1980 to his wife Janet, no children by choice. He is a life member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association and is our current Chapter Chairman.

National Airborne Days Ceremony

This year the Chapter took part in a ceremony recognizing National Airborne Day. The ceremony was attended by several members of the Chapter, along with members of the NJ Special Forces Chapter #19, representatives of the Army Band, the Color Guard from the Philadelphia Chapter of the Association, current paratroopers from both the 82nd Airborne Division and the 11th Civil Affairs Unit and local dignitaries and veterans.

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

Leonard Scarano (1923 – 2024)

Joseph Balint (1970 – 2024)

Edward Murzenski (1938 – 2024)

Airborne Trooper Deployment

Elements of the 11th Airborne Division, and the 1st and 3rd Multi Domain Task Forces landed on Shemya Island, Alaska, Sept. 12, 2024. The Soldiers were deployed to the island as part of a force projection operation, working with the U.S. Air Force to move Soldiers and equipment to the remote location in the North Pacific Ocean. The division, stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and Fort Wainwright in Alaska, not only defends the northern and western-most reaches of the U.S., but also the Arctic, an increasingly competitive space as it becomes more accessible with the accelerating impacts of climate change. In addition, the 11th Airborne Division is also assigned to U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, the Department of Defense's priority theater and an area representing more than 50 percent of the world's population.

Norwegian Foot March

Members of our Chapter, along with the members of the NJ Special Forces Chapter #19, will again take part in providing support during this year's Norwegian Foot March that is to take place at the Naval Air Station in Lakehurst, NJ. The Chapter members will be manning one of the rest stops with-in the march course to provide support and aid to all of the marchers. The Norwegian military has for years demonstrated their combat readiness by completing a 30-kilometer (18.6 mile) march with combat equipment within a specific time and are then awarded the Foot March medal by the Norwegian Consulate. This year the marchers number greater than 200 and come from both the current and former service members, who will put themselves thru this grueling test. Best of luck to all of the marchers during this year's Norwegian Foot March.

Chapter News

The Chapter has drawn the annual 50/50 raffle at the September meeting and the winners are as follows:

1st Prize – Lisa Kelly (\$1000)

2nd Prize – Dave Scott (\$223)

3rd Prize – Mike Campbell (\$82)

The Chapter thanks everyone who had participated and congratulates the winners in this year's raffle. The raffle helps support the Chapter in its annual activities.

National Association Website & Email

Website: www.82ndairborneassociation.org

Email: execdir@82assn.org

execsec@82assn.org

PARAGLIDE Website Address

[www.82ndairborneassociation.org/
paraglide.html](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/paraglide.html)

Take a look at the new format of the Paraglide, it is much easier to read.

82nd Division News

Soldiers from the U.S. Army had commemorated the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands, September 12-22, 2024, in the Netherlands. Approximately 120 soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division and the 82nd Airborne Division, alongside approximately 300 troops from Allies and partners, honored the service and sacrifice of the Greatest Generation by participating in more than 60 ceremonies and events in the Dutch provinces of Limburg, Brabant, and Gelderland. As the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Netherlands commences, America remains forever indebted to fallen soldiers and the veterans who demonstrated the selfless service and sacrifice that characterizes the Greatest Generation in defending global peace and security. These activities honor the bravery of both the soldiers and the civilians involved.

Army Times Statistics

Global War on Terror

KIA – 2369

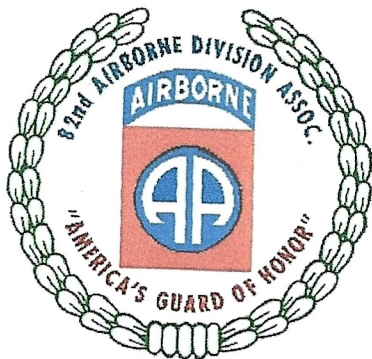
WIA – 20,245

Please note that recent casualty information is not included in these numbers. The *Army Times* does not update these figures anymore. As known to all, these numbers increase and will be updated as formal numbers are given.

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 Div. Assoc.
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: _____

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

Phone (Home): _____ Affiliate Chapter (Active Duty Only): _____

SSN (last four only)/ASN: _____ (Cell): _____

Occupation: _____ Date of Birth: _____

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