



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



The “Jump In”

Special Spring Issue - April 2025

A lifeline for Paratroopers and Glidermen

Bob Dritschel, Editor

New Jersey -
CPL Steven Koch Chapter
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Medal of Honor Facts

Nearly half of all of the Medals of Honor bestowed were received by members of the Armed Forces that had fought in the Civil War.

Honoring Chapter Member Medal of Honor Recipient Jack Jacobs

March 25 is designated as National Medal of Honor Day and the NJ-Cpl Steven Koch Chapter is publishing this newsletter to honor one of our own, Chapter Member, Medal of Honor recipient Jack Jacobs. Col Jacobs, then a First Lieutenant, earned the Medal of Honor for his heroic activities while in Viet Nam.



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
#2 - NJ – CPL Steven Koch Chapter
454

AIRBORNE LICENSE PLATES
(910 Issued)



Contact Vic Balint at 732-721-3997 for Information

National Medal of Honor Day

National Medal of Honor Day is observed annually on March 25th, a day to honor the courage and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients. Congress designated March 25th as National Medal of Honor Day in 1990 to foster public appreciation and recognition of Medal of Honor recipients. The first Medals of Honor were presented on March 25, 1863, to six members of the Andrews Raiders.

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 29
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

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Paratroopers,

Hopefully all of you are healthy and doing well. I know that we had discussions at our chapter meetings about having 2 newsletters instead of 3 or 4 for the year due to the ever-increasing costs associated with the printing and mailing of these newsletters. Well, on March 25, 2025 down in Arlington, Texas, a new National Medal of Honor Museum was opened and dedicated. This museum showcases the extraordinary actions and legacy of each of the Medal of Honor recipients, along with a history of the medal itself. We decided to do this Special Edition newsletter for the chapter to honor all of the Medal of Honor recipients and especially one of our very own, chapter member, Col. Jack H. Jacobs. Having the honor of a lifetime just recently, I was fortunate to spend time with Jack and enjoy a great lunch while sharing many stories...

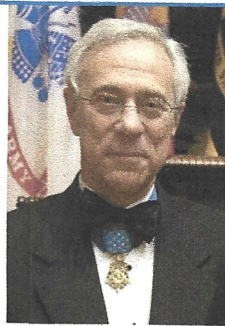
This is one Special Man, after all, he is 82nd AIRBORNE! In the past, Jack has attended several functions with Chapter members and we are very lucky because we will get to be able to be in Jack's presence again August 16th this year, as he will be attending the Chapter's All Airborne Day ceremony and will be joining us for the picnic that follows.

Airborne, All The Way, Mike Vasquez

News & Views from the Secretary

It is with great pride that I am able to forward to all of our Chapter members this special issue of the newsletter honoring one of our chapter members, Medal of Honor recipient Col. Jack Jacobs. March 25 is dedicated as National Medal of Honor Day and it seemed fitting that the Chapter devote this special edition of the newsletter to Jack. The chapter has benefitted by hearing Col. Jacobs speak at several chapter events, including the most recent West Point Marathon Team Football breakfast conducted in Ringoes, NJ. Jack's stories of his experiences, both while in the military and while an instructor at West Point are always entertaining and a "you don't want to miss this" experience. It is been a great honor to have been able to meet Jack and to be able to be in his presence at our events.

Airborne, Bob



Member Highlight

Jack Jacobs

Medal of Honor Citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Jacobs (then 1st Lt.), Infantry, distinguished himself while serving as assistant battalion adviser, 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, Army of the Republic of Vietnam. The 2d Battalion was advancing to contact when it came under intense heavy machine-gun and mortar fire from a Viet Cong battalion positioned in well-fortified bunkers. As the 2d Battalion deployed into attack formation, its advance was halted by devastating fire. Capt. Jacobs, with the command element of the lead company, called for and directed air strikes on the enemy positions to facilitate a renewed attack. Due to the intensity of the enemy fire and heavy casualties to the command group, including the company commander, the attack stopped and the friendly troops became disorganized. Although wounded by mortar fragments, Capt. Jacobs assumed command of the allied company, ordered a withdrawal from the exposed position, and established a defensive perimeter. Despite profuse bleeding from head wounds which impaired his vision, Capt. Jacobs, with complete disregard for his safety, returned under intense fire to evacuate a seriously wounded adviser to the safety of a wooded area where he administered lifesaving first aid. He then returned through heavy automatic-weapons fire to evacuate the wounded company commander. Capt. Jacobs made repeated trips across the fire-swept, open rice paddies, evacuating wounded and their weapons. On three separate occasions, Capt. Jacobs contacted and drove off Viet Cong squads who were searching for allied wounded and weapons, single-handedly killing three and wounding several others. His gallant actions and extraordinary heroism saved the lives of one U.S. adviser and 13 allied soldiers. Through his effort the allied company was restored to an effective fighting unit and prevented defeat of the friendly forces by a strong and determined enemy. Capt. Jacobs, by his gallantry and bravery in action in the highest traditions of the military service, has reflected great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Use the below website link to hear an interview with Jack Jacobs

Video/audio link to Interview

<https://vimeo.com/398061271>

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

None to report this newsletter

Jack Jacobs Biographical Information

Jack was born on August 2, 1945 in Brooklyn, NY. In the 1950's, his family moved to Fords, in Woodbridge Township, NJ where he went to school and graduated from Woodbridge Senior High School in 1962. Jack then attended Rutgers University, where he earned both Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees. A member of the Rutgers Army Reserve Officer Training Corps program, he entered military service as a second lieutenant in 1966. In the course of his military career, Jack served as a platoon leader in the 82nd Airborne Division, a battalion executive officer in the 7th Infantry Division, and a battalion commander with the 10th Infantry Regiment in Panama. He spent two tours of duty in Vietnam, both times as an advisor to infantry units in the Army of the Republic of Vietnam. In addition to the Medal of Honor, he received two Silver Stars, three Bronze Star Medals, and two Purple Hearts in Vietnam. In his memoir, Jack recounts that he had to use subterfuge to return to a combat role in Vietnam after being awarded the Medal of Honor, as the military was unwilling to assign Medal of Honor recipients to combat roles. Jack was a faculty member at the United States Military Academy in West Point, teaching international relations and comparative politics for three years, from 1973 to 1976, and at the National War College in Washington, D.C. He retired from the army in 1987 as a colonel. Jack wrote two books, "If Not Now, When. Duty and Sacrifice in America's Time of Need" and "Basic: Surviving Boot Camp and Basic Training" are excellent reads and highly recommended.

Medal of Honor History

President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation creating the Army's Medal of Honor on July 12, 1862. On March 25, 1863, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton presented the first Medals of Honor to six surviving members of the Andrew's Raiders, who had attempted to disrupt a railroad supply line in Georgia. The first Medal of Honor ever awarded was to Private Jacob Parrott. The one and only woman that was awarded the Medal of Honor was Mary E. Walker, who received the award for her actions as a contract surgeon, and subsequent prisoner of war, during the Civil War. Currently there are 3547 awardings of the Medal of Honor; with 19 individuals receiving the medal twice, all 19 which had taken place for actions in World War I or earlier. At the time of this writing there are 61 living individuals who have been awarded the Medal of Honor. The Medal of Honor is also bestowed on the US Unknown Soldiers. The unknown soldiers of the US allies of World War One, Belgium, France, Great Britain, Italy and Romania, were awarded the Medal of Honor; the only to a foreign country's military.

National Association Website & Email

Website: www.82ndairborneassociation.org

Email: execdir@82ndairborneassociation.org

execsec@82ndairborneassociation.org

PARAGLIDE Website Address

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

Medal of Honor Day Recognition

On National Medal of Honor Day, March 25th, you can honor the recipients by continuing to honor their legacy by engaging in the following:

- Visiting the National Medal of Honor Museum
- Visiting Memorials
- Volunteering or Donating to Veteran's Service Organizations
- Adopting one of their gravesites
- Flying the US flag
- Visiting the tomb of the unknown soldier
- Learning about the stories and values by researching them
- Supporting the Medal of Honor Society
- Attending local events for the Medal of Honor recipients
- Following the Congressional Medal of Honor Society on social media
- Connecting with living Medal of Honor recipients thru the Medal of Honor Society

Chapter News

The Chapter continues to absorb members from local New Jersey chapters that have closed due to declining participation. Our chapter has reached out to these members and have included them in our events invites and newsletter distribution. Being a part of our great airborne community, it is our resolve not to let the remaining members of these chapters go unnoticed.

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