



BADGER AIRBORNE NEWS

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION • BADGER STATE CHAPTER

January 2009



The All Americans

New Members

M/Sgt Sean Beaudette
Sparta
Bill Hannigan
St. Paul
David Kemp
Eau Claire
Doanld Lewandowski
Sheboygan
Thomas Roesler
Baraboo
Larry Zink
North Freedom

Welcome to the Badger State Chapter of the World's Greatest Association of Glider Riders & Paratroopers!

Airborne Memorial Bridge

BSC Historian & Market Garden Paratrooper, Doc Stolp, says of our Airborne Memorial in Stevens Point.

"Remember, it is the job of Paratroopers and Glider Riders to operate behind enemy lines, seizing and holding bridges for the Infantry, thus the Airborne Bridge Memorial."

You can place your name on this memorial to all our Airborne Brothers and Sisters for only \$100!

Contact Tom Gaukel for more info.

BSC presents Dietz Airborne Art to King



Presentation to King Veterans Home: Tom Gaukel R, on behalf of the BSC, presented "You Have Your Orders" a James Dietz framed print of the first Airborne jump (made in Africa) to Bill Crawley, Commandant at the King Veterans Home. This was a Thank You for their generosity in letting the chapter hold meetings there. Mr. Crawley said he was pleased that we think of King as our "home base". (Laney photo)

The story: At approximately 2105 hours on 7 November 1942, the first of 39 C-47s took to the air carrying 2nd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry



Vice-Chair M/Sgt Sean Beaudette, Sparta, is sworn in by BSC Chair Mike Haller at the King meeting. Paratrooper Sean is a 7th ID combat vet who fought in Panama. On active duty at Ft. McCoy, Sean has also volunteered to chair the Airborne Day Committee. Welcome Sean! (Laney photo)

into the history books by being the first U.S. Army Airborne Battalion to jump into combat. Before the first Paratrooper exited the door, the Battalion would fly more than 1600 miles from England to North Africa, completing the longest Airborne invasion ever attempted. At approximately 0815 hours on 8 November 1942, LTC Raff, yelled over his shoulder, "Stand In The Door!" to his fellow Paratroopers. The jumpers in the rear of the plane moved up until all were lock step behind their commander. As the bell rang, he led the 509th Parachute Infantry into history and validated the new tactical maneuver that we still use today, the vertical envelopment. The 509th would complete their mission and move to the Tafaraoui airfield where they linked up with armored forces moving in from the beach. The 509th would make an additional four combat jumps during World War II, which was more combat jumps than any unit in the Army. Their adaptability and tenacity lives on today in all Airborne units throughout the United States Army.—(From the print description.)



Badger State Chapter
82nd Airborne Association

Officers

Mike Haller, Chairman
608-356-3235
Sean Beaudette, Vice-Chair
608-269-0513
John Givens, Secretary
608-788-3651
Reuben Clark, Treasurer
608-222-4833
Gerald Diemel, Sgt. at Arms
715-758-8365
Steve Helms, Adjutant
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Trustees

Tom Gaukel- thru 2010
608-355-2382
Gordy Starck- thru 2010
414-425-3908
Frank Morris- thru 20010
715-693-6161

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Message from Iron Mike

Chairman Notes

Thank you to all members, wives, friends, and guests who were present at our last meeting of the BSC Chapter at the King. We had an excellent meeting attendance!

We also need to support the BSC in asking our new Senators and Congressmen to pass legislation to honor Fond du Lac native and honorary member of the BSC, Jim Megellas. We would like to have him awarded the Medal of Honor. This award is long overdue and needs our support.

Airborne Day is set for July 18th with a dinner honoring our WWII Airborne Heroes. Details will appear in the March newsletter.

Happy New year and let's continue the Airborne spirit in 2009!

Go Airborne all the way,

Chairman Mike Haller



Rangers Recon



(Editor's note: Kipp will be writing his Rangers Recon column in upcoming editions of Badger Airborne News. He should have some exciting words about patrolling Madison's streets! A big AIRBORNE welcome to Kipp, Paratrooper/Cop/Reporter!)

Hello fellow Paratroopers and Glider Riders, my name is Kipp Hartman. I am a former Sgt. With the 2nd of the 504 PIR of the 82nd Airborne. I served from 1999 to 2002 with some of the finest Paratroopers around.

I had my parents sign a waiver so I could enter into the Army at the age of 17. I joined the Paratroopers to be

more than just an Infantry soldier and for the adventure. I completed Ranger school, class 07/01, and completed my time with the 82nd before leaving the Army.

I served with SSgt. Travis Nixon who was awarded the Silver Star Posthumously for his actions in Afghanistan. Travis was like a brother to me and he is missed everyday.

I received an honorable discharge and I am now a police officer with the City of Madison PD. My current assignment is in Patrol on the south side of the city. I also serve on SWAT and I am assigned to the Entry Team.

I work with Mike Brennan who lost his son, Sgt. Joshua Brennan, in Afghanistan in October of 07. I have been thankful for all of the support the Badger



Chapter has given to Mike and his family.

I am looking forward to writing for the BAN and will discuss not only the good times had in the Paratroopers but also current issues. I continue to look forward to meeting everyone in the Badger Chapter and keeping the spirit and memories of Paratroopers alive.

All The Way,

Kipp Hartman

AIRBORNE MUSEUM DISPLAY

The Badger State Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc. is attempting to gather authentic Airborne memorabilia to be used in display cases to be placed in Veterans' facilities and local museums throughout the State of Wisconsin.

Our goal is to promote the legacy of Wisconsin Airborne Veterans. If you have any authentic Airborne memorabilia that you would be willing to share for our displays, we would greatly appreciate it. Your name will be placed with any donation on display and any memorabilia you donate will be returned to you at your request. Donations could include: patches, uni-

forms, pictures, medals, materials, equipment, etc.

If you would like more information on our Museum project to promote the Wisconsin Airborne Legacy or to find out about membership, please contact Tom Gaukel, 1721 Manassas Dr., Baraboo, WI 53913. Call: (608) 355-2382."

Car Pool— For those of you who don't care to drive or are concerned with the price of gas, (like all of us), why not try car pooling to BSC Meetings? Call and ask a Trooper to attend a meeting with you. It's worth a try!

Next Meeting

March 27, 2009
Site to be announced in next BAN.
In the meantime: Have a Happy Airborne New Year!

Badger State Chapter - Nov. 15, 2008 - Meeting at King Veterans Home - Marden Hall - King, WI.

Minutes

Prior to the regular meeting, a special meeting was held to discuss the possibility of having an Airborne Day or Days in July 2009. Mike Haller opened the meeting at approx. 1:45 PM. He stated that the purpose of Airborne Days would be to honor Wisconsin and other Airborne Troopers, especially the WWII veterans. Bert Schmitz mentioned that the Ridgeway Chapter conducts an Airborne Day, and we could contact Ben Beekman for details. Motion by Frank Morris to form a committee, 2nd by Tom Laney. Discussion followed. Sean Beaudette talked about Ft. McCoy as a good place to have Airborne Days. He is on active duty there. The following people volunteered to serve on the committee. Sean Beaudette, John Givens, Tom Laney, Frank Morris, and Bob Phillips.

The General meeting was called to order at 2:21 PM by Chairman Mike Haller. He led the Pledge and Reuben Clark the prayer. A quorum was verified. The meeting was dedicated to Harold Kasper, a member who passed away that had resided at the King Veterans Home. John Givens announced that Gerald Diemel was unable to attend because of forthcoming surgery. Tom Gaukel stated that Reuben Clark had raised the question about the legality of motions passed at the Eau Claire Sept. 27th meeting because there was not a quorum of the BSC Executive Committee, but the motions were approved by the participating members as required by the by-laws. Motion by Tom Gaukel, 2nd by Frank Morris, that all of the motions approved at the Eau Claire meeting as published in the 9-27-08 minutes be approved. Motion passed. Motion by Tom G., seconded by Doc Stolp to approve the 9-27-08 minutes after the motions were approved, motion carried. **Treasurers Report;** Reuben Clark distributed the Balance Sheet. He reported that there are 38 Regular members and 126 Life members, for a total of 164. There are only about 4 members currently delinquent. He personally called all of these members who had a listed phone number. Reuben presented to Chairman Mike Haller a certificate of appreciation for the BSC donation to the Global War on Terrorism Memorial.

Tom Gaukel, with Reuben's help, prepared a spreadsheet of the BSC Convention Fund Budget that showed the income, proceeds from the 2005 82nd Airborne Div. Assoc. National Convention, and the budgeted dollar amounts. Motion by Tom Gaukel to approve the Treasurers report, 2nd by Bob Phillips, passed.

Secretaries Report; John Givens announced that the 82nd Airborne Div. Assoc., Inc. Bulletin dated Nov. 3rd had been received. He mentioned that Nov. 11, 1926 - Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day in 1954. Assoc. membership numbers, 2006, 30,180 - 2007, 31,188 - 2008, 34,795. To become an All American member, cost \$150.00. 20 years continuous membership, cost \$90.00. 25 years continuous membership, cost \$60.00. At age 50, cost is \$100.00. Active duty cost is \$82.00. John presented some interesting figures taken from a La Crosse Tribune article (A Message of Freedom: Veterans Day) Veterans Day honored 42,172,128

who have served in a branch of service during one of the first 10 wars. Veterans Day honors all who have served in war or during peace time. The U.S. has existed for 232 years. We have been at war during 46 of those years. In the First War, the Revolution to secure our freedom, 10,623 new Americans were killed or wounded. In the Fourth, a horrendously bloody Civil War, an estimated 871,213 American Soldiers died or were wounded on the battlefields. Nearly 1.1 million Americans were wounded or gave their lives for their country in WWII. Korea claimed another 140,000. Viet Nam, 211,512 dead or wounded. Just in these Five Wars, Revolution, Civil, WWII, Korea, & Viet Nam, 2,333,348 were killed or wounded. Thank You all, especially the Airborne Troopers. I am very proud to be a member of this group of veterans. John Givens.

Vice Chairman's Report; Tom Laney passed out his report to members present. His remarks highlighted the continued effort to obtain the Medal of Honor for Jim Megellas. Ripon College has approved a display case for the college in which Megellas memorabilia will be shown, along with a replica Thompson Machine Gun. Tom L. plans to bring all the items that will go into the display case to the next meeting. The items and the display case will be taken to Ripon and set up sometime soon after the next meeting. M/Sgt. Sean Beaudette will be setting up our new website. Tom Laney announced that he would not be running for Vice-Chair again.

Chairman's Report; Mike Haller emphasized the honor it is for him to be associated with people who have served their country and given so much. Presentation to King Veterans Home; Tom Gaukel, on behalf of the chapter, presented a framed print of the first Airborne jump (made in Africa) to Bill Crawley, Commandant at the King Veterans Home. This was a Thank You for their generosity in letting the chapter hold meetings there. Mr. Crawley said he was pleased that we think of King as our "home base".

Care Package Report; Bert Schmitz mentioned that not all care packages can be of the same items. Some soldiers have requested cigarettes and tobacco. Contribution to the 505 Panther Association; Motion by Bert Schmitz that the chapter donate \$200.00 toward a picnic at Fort Bragg for the women and children of the 3rd Brigade, which is being deployed. Seconded by Bob Phillips, motion carried.

Project coordinator report; Tom Gaukel reported that we have two display cases. One will be placed at Ripon College (Jim Megellas). The second one, will be placed at the Sauk-Prairie Fine Arts Center for three months. It will be delivered in December or January. Tom has discussed this with the woman in charge and she was very agreeable to having the display case at their Center for that time. There was no opposition, so Tom will follow through. Tom had agreed to send articles to the Paraglide and will have one in the Winter edition. He wishes to be relieved of that duty for next year. Tom made a motion that we reserve five BSC Challenge Coins to be given to places where we hold meetings if they do not charge us, as a Thank You. Seconded by Doc Stolp, motion carried. Tom thanked Frank and Marge Morris for the wonderful job they did cleaning the Airborne Memorial at the Hwy 10 bridge in Stevens Point. Tom mentioned that the interest from the three CD's, which were generated from members who have their names placed on the Memorial, create funds to hire a woman from Stevens Point who puts flowers at the memorial in the summertime. Reuben reported

that \$75.00 is paid for this care.

Doc Stolp introduced Bill Ellenbecker, a guest and potential new member from Appleton. Doc is donating a German Brownie gas 32 caliber pistol to the display case. Doc encouraged everyone to try to find copies and read three books written by Robert Ardrey. They are, "The Social Contract", "African Genesis", and "The Territorial Imperative".

Old Business; Status of Airborne Days. It was agreed to proceed with plans for this project. Sean Beaudette was approved as Chairman of the planning committee. New Member Project; This project will be incorporated with Airborne Days.

Tom Laney made a motion that we purchase a replica Thompson Submachine Gun for the Jim Megellas display case to be placed at Ripon College for no more than \$250.00. Seconded by Bob Phillips, motion carried. The machine gun has been approved by Ripon College, but the bayonet, trench knives, etc., will not be added until the case is moved from the main school area to the museum.

Election of Officers; The Trustees act as the nominating committee. Tom Gaukel, representing the committee, reported that no one came forward as a candidate for any office, therefore, the committee made a motion that all the present officers be re-elected for the year 2009, with the exception of Tom Laney who is not running again for Vice-Chair. Seconded by Frank Morris, motion carried. Nominations were then open for Vice-Chair. Tom Laney nominated Sean Beaudette, seconded by Bob Phillips. There were no other nominations. Motion carried. One Trustee's term was up, Gordy Stark. Tom Gaukel had contacted Gordy and he wishes to continue as a Trustee. Tom Gaukel made a motion for Gordy's re-election, seconded by Frank Morris, motion carried.

Motion by Tom Laney, seconded by bob Phillips, to appoint Christina Steiner, a PR person on active duty at Fort McCoy, as Media Consultant. Motion carried. Tom Gaukel suggested that a job description be written for Christina's job, in the event that she would be transferred. This will be taken care of.

Fund Raising; Deferred to the next meeting.

January Update; It was agreed that since the next meeting will not be held until March 2009, an Airborne Days update letter, will be sent out on the opposite months of the newsletter.

Installation; Mike Haller installed Sean Beaudette as Vice-Chair of the Chapter via a swear in ceremony.

Next Meeting; The next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 27, 2009. The time and place will be announced in the Newsletter. Adjournment; Motion to adjourn, seconded by Bob Phillips at 5:20 PM, motion carried.

John Givens, Secretary, and assistant Liz Clark



Badger Airborne News
82nd Airborne Division Assoc.
E6304 866th Ave.
Colfax, WI 54730



Check your dues! Keep Badger Airborne News Dropping/Gliding in! RE-UP BSC today!

Thank you to the BSC from 173rd Paratrooper Sgt. Josh Brennan's Dad



173rd Paratroopers partying just like the 82nd!

Thank You to all of those soldiers for their service. This was a special time for me because I also got to say Thank You to some of the members of my son Josh's platoon that came to his rescue after being shot nine times and being carried away by the Taliban while still alive.

I was able to personally thank Sgt. Sal Guiunta, Sgt. Erik Gallardo, Specialist Frank Odegard and others that each ran into gunfire and shot and killed the Taliban taking my son away.

Each of these soldiers were shot multiple times themselves in their ballistic vests, helmet and legs. Sgt. Guiunta was nominated for the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery. There was no other way to properly thank these fine young men than to personally shake their hand and thank them for allowing me to have my son's body back. Josh survived the firefight but died six hours later from his injuries.

This trip really provided some closure for my family and I. I want to personally thank Kipp Hartman for bringing this worthy cause to your attention and thank all of you for your support.

Sincerely,
Michael Brennan
Father of Sgt. Joshua Brennan
KIA Assadabad Afghanistan Oct 26, 2007

Dear Members of the Badger 82nd Airborne Association,

I want to thank all of you for your financial support of the welcome home party for the 173rd Airborne Brigade to Vicenza Italy. My son Sgt. Joshua Brennan served proudly with this unit prior to being killed in Afghanistan on October 26th 2007. The unit served fourteen months in the mountains of Afghanistan and lost 52 soldiers during their deployment. The Army stated that they did not have the money to throw a welcome home party for these fine and

deserving warriors.

My family along with the family of fallen soldier SSG Matthew Blaskowski, Leta Carruth, and a few other patriotic Americans took it upon ourselves to give these fine soldiers the welcome home that we would have wanted for our son's. With your help we raised over \$125,000 to throw a welcome home gathering in Vicenza Italy for these soldiers. The gathering included over 900 soldiers and 24 wounded warriors from the unit that we flew from Hospital's in the States over to Italy for the event. My family had ten members fly over to Italy to say