

AIRBORNE



# BADGER AIRBORNE NEWS

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION • BADGER STATE CHAPTER

January 2010



## The All Americans

**Get involved! BSC Bus to 82nd Convention**  
Charleston, W. V.  
August 18-21, 2010

**Airborne Wounded Warrior program.** For the 82nd trip and for Wounded Warrior 82nd Contact Gerry Diemel, 715-758-8365; or, Frank Morris, 715-693-6161.

**Big Airborne Thanks to Gerry Diemel, Frank and Marge Morris and Bert Schmitz, for their attention to the Stevens Point Airborne Memorial last year.** Gerry has arranged to add two more Flag Poles this Spring!

**Thank you Sen. Russ Feingold for asking President Obama to award MOH to Maggie!**

**LZLambeau**  
May 20-23  
Wisconsin's Biggest Vietnam Vets Tribute! Please help! Volunteers needed!  
Tom Laney, 7150962-4365 or, <http://lzlambeau.org/>

**Glider Symposium**  
Sept. 9-11  
Madison  
Wisconsin's biggest Glider Rider & Pilot Tribute!  
Volunteers needed!  
Tom Laney, 715-962-4365.  
[tlaney1776@gmail.com](mailto:tlaney1776@gmail.com)

## Congratulations Norb Studelska and Chase Bohan!



Chase & Norb.

*The BSC is forever proud of one of our greatest men and leaders. Norb Studelska – 508<sup>th</sup> Combat Paratrooper, Life Coach, and Good Neighbor! Congratulations and ALL THE WAY Sir! to our friend Norb on this:*

The Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce has awarded Norbert Studelska, Sr., who has embraced community service throughout his life, it's Outstanding Citizen Award.

Norbert was nominated by his 11-year-old grandson, Chase Bohan, who submitted the letter to surprise and lovingly honor his Grandpa. Chase accompanied Chamber officials to tell his Grandpa that he had been selected to receive this honor and said, "I am so excited, this is better than Christmas!"

Norbert Studelska, Sr. is being recognized for his significant contributions to the Grafton area, his selfless dedication to the Grafton School District, as well as service to the Village, and to his Church.

A veteran of the famed 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in World War II, Norbert moved his family to Grafton in 1955. Just one year later, Norbert was elected to the Grafton School Board. He served until 1992, and held the office of President for the

last 10 years of his time on the Board. A strong proponent of developing young leaders, Norbert encouraged his children to become involved in their community through scouting programs. He set a fine example by leading Boy Scout Troop 840 for over 20 years, and he also assisted his late wife, Elaine, with her leadership in Girl Scouts from 1960 until 1970.

Norb served on the committee to fundraise and develop Grafton's first public swimming pool in 1960, serving on the Village Board of Review in the 1990's and currently serving on the Historic Preservation Committee - Norb can also be found serving lunch at the Senior Center on most weekdays. Norbert served on the Building Committee of the last addition that was made to St. Joseph Catholic Church in 1999. In his letter of nomination Chase Bohan included a quote from his grandfather - Norbert Studelska, Sr. stated, "I have seen the Village grow from a small hamlet to a thriving business, industrial and residential community of over 10,000. I am happy and proud to be a resident of the fine and thriving Village of

Grafton."

The award was presented at the Grafton Community Christmas Celebration which also featured a three song performance by American Idol finalist Danny Gokey and a 5th Quarter performance by the UW Marching Band. – *St. Joe's Bulletin.*

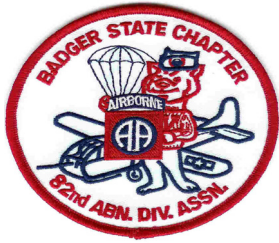
## Bob Phillips becomes Signal Lt. Phillips



*Bob and Kathie Kehoe Phillips at the Signal Ball celebrating Lt. Phillip's graduation from the Army's Signal School. BSC Paratrooper Phillips is an Airborne Historian. Congrats to this GREAT couple!*



**Packer LB Coach Kevin Greene met 82nd WWII Vets Les Schwarm and Gene Strutzenberg at Packer Family Night.** "These are the real heroes, these great men who fought for our freedom. It's an honor to meet them," said Greene who graduated from Jump School when he was 18. More Kevin later. (Laney photo)



**Badger State Chapter**  
**82nd Airborne Association**

**Officers**

Mike Haller, Chairman  
608-356-3235  
Bob Shrader, Vice Chair  
920-748-5299  
Tom Laney, Secretary  
715-962-4365  
Reuben Clark, Treasurer  
608-222-4833  
Gerald Diemel, Sgt. at Arms  
715-758-8365  
Steve Helms, Adjutant  
920-832-9090

**Trustees**

Bill Tobin- thru 2011  
608-754-0497  
Gordy Starck- thru 2012  
414-425-3908  
Frank Morris- thru 2010  
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Send in your AIRBORNE  
news and stories!



**Apache Smoke** *By Tom Laney, Secretary/Editor*



*Maj. Dan Walsh, Bill Hannigan, Chip Hannigan with Bill's recent awards. (Laney photo.)*

Happy New Year to all you Troopers and your wonderful wives who put up with you Airborne "characters" as Ben Rous called us!

2009 was a great year for the BSC and 2010 should be even better. We have Gerry and Frank working on Wounded Warriors; Gerry has arranged for two new flag poles at the Airborne Memorial. We have LZLambeau in May and the Glider Symposium in Sept. I hope we can get more volunteers for those two events. The Chapter can raise some funds by working on concessions at LZLambeau. The Glider Symposium will honor our Glider Riders and inform the public of what heroic Airborne Soldiers these men were.

We are on track to get some fundraising done through LZLambeau, memorabilia sales and a gun raffle. We will be discussing a possible bid to host another 82nd Convention.

I apologize for not having a photo of the new BSC leaders. (No flash on the camera, picture next month.) I am the new Secretary; Bob Shrader is the new Vice-Chair and Bill Tobin is the new Trustee filling Tom Gaukel's last year after Tom retired.

The Badger Chapter is indebted to John and Tom for their tireless BSC work and devotion to the Airborne Spirit! Thanks also to MSG Sean Beaudette for his ability to crystallize organizing for us. The BSC appeals to all for involvement, outreach and connection to other Veterans. Organizing happens by introducing ourselves to others. Sometimes it happens accidentally. Frank & Gerry met Troopers from the John Steele Chapter who want to meet us and do some Wounded Warrior work together.

I met the three men above accidentally. Major Walsh commands the 32nd ID in Eau Claire. His Dad won the DSC with the 504 in WWII. Dan gave us the tents for Baraboo. I met Bill Hannigan through his son who worked with a mutual friend. Met his son Chip at lunch with his Dad. Met 82nd LTC Will Huff at an 82nd Convention and he has twice sent 508th Paratroopers to our BSC events. Met Maggie through Steve Helms. Met Les Schwarm, Walter Pakulski and Bruno Mueller and a bunch of 101st guys at Ben Rous's funeral. I accidentally met Dave Green, 75th Ranger/173rd Sky Soldier, a man who did a wonderful tribute to Judy Durkee and her Mom Evelyn, Les



**Paratrooper Millard Wayne Edgerley**, age 87, of Princeton, passed away on January 2, 2010 at Juliette Manor in Berlin.

He was born on February 24, 1922 in Danville, IL. a son of the late Arthur Warren and Hazel Leone (Huff) Edgerley.

He joined the 33rd Division of the Illinois National Guard in 1939. Millard proudly served his country, in the US Army during WWII, from March 5, 1941 to September 20, 1945.

He graduated from Parachute Jump School and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. Mr. Edgerley parachuted from North Africa up to the end of the war. He had 3 combat jumps and was in the Battle of the Bulge. He earned ribbons and medals during the war which included the European Theatre Operation Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon, Victory Ribbon, Pearl Harbor Ribbon, Bronze Star, Bronze Battle Star, Silver Battle Star, Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster; Belgian, French, and Holland Unit Citation; Parachute Wing with 3 Combat Jump Stars, Combat Infantry Badge, Bronze Arrow Head, 4 Overseas Bars, and 2 Service Stripes.

Millard married Esther Marie Resheski in 1948, in Niatic, IL. He worked for the US Postal Service in Chicago. Mr. and Mrs. Edgerley moved to Princeton after his retirement. He was a member of the Terrace Shores Evangelical Free Church of Markesan and a proud life member of the VFW Post 10452 in Princeton. Millard is survived by 4 sisters-in-law; Delores Walker of Green Lake, Dorothy Rogers of Acampo, CA, Regina (Glenwood) Chapman of Princeton, Jennie Mashuda of Zelenople, PA; 3 brothers-in-law, Duke (JoAnne) Resheski of Princeton, Ralph (Audrey) Resheski of Neshkoro, Thomas (Shirley) Resheski of Princeton; nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was also preceded in death by his wife, Esther; brother, Warren; sister, Winifred Schafer.

Services were held January 6, Rev. Gary Zacharias officiating. Burial, with full military honors, was in the Princeton City Cemetery. The BSC was represented by Bert Schmitz, 505 PIR Association Secretary. Brother Millard will be remembered by the BSC and the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

Schwarm and Bill Hannigan. Dave is now a BSC member. He does tear-jerker Welcome Home's for our Troops! We accidentally met some 101st guys who want to be our friends! (More on that later.)

Organizing, "marketing" and promoting the Airborne can be as easy as making friends with Airborne Troopers, staying in touch with them and building organization from there. We need to use BAN and we also need to build up the email list to communicate Airborne developments to as many BSC members as possible. We need to form committees to get things done between meetings. BSC leaders are meeting Jan. 23 in Portage on that.

Thank you to Mike and Les for the King Special Airborne Rifle Salute, Taps & Prayers for Nancy Pakulski, Iris Huebschen, Big Ed Moerhke and our Troops. God bless them all.

ALL THE WAY! - Tom

## The Airborne Legacy Is Carried by a 508th Daughter

Airborne Ambassador Judy Durkee says, "I'll always remember dancing with my husband at the Sugar Camp Town Hall when Gary Knucklebecker's Old Lager Orchestra was playing a slow waltz. My eye caught the sparkle of a lapel pin on a gentleman dancing by. It was the tiny silver wings of a Paratrooper.

"After the music ended I caught up with him and asked him about the pin. "I'm a Paratrooper from WWII," he stated. I could feel the tears behind my eyes and fought them back as I quietly reached out to hug this stranger."

The biggest hero in Judy Durkee's life was KIA fighting for all of us on January 30, 1945 in the last days of The Battle of the Bulge. Judy's Dad, and our Brother, Pvt. Glenn Ward, Rhinelander, died after being mortally wounded by the machine gun he was rushing near Wallerode, Belgium.

Glenn had been grievously wounded at Normandy. He missed Market/Garden because of the severity of his wounds.

But his 508th buddies were not going anywhere without Glenn when The Bulge broke out. He rejected a non-combat assignment. In the Airborne Way, far from recovered, he insisted on leaving the hospital to march into The Bulge with his 508th buddies. He died fighting for them, saving the lives of his squad by giving his own.

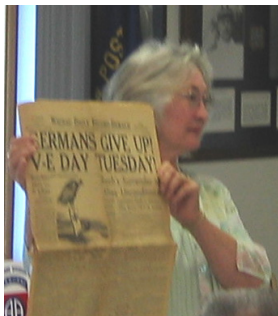
Across the street from the Oneida County Courthouse's WWII Memorial containing Glenn Ward's name, is a nicely crafted white home flying the flag of the famed 82nd Airborne Division. It is Judy Durkee's home. She flies the All American flag for her Dad, and for all the 82nd heroes who did not make it home and for all our troops. This is the way it works for recognition for the Paratroopers, Glider Riders and Air Assault. We need to build our own legacy. The Airborne does not have unlimited PR budgets like the Marines. The Airborne has always been regarded by the Leg Army as a bunch of reckless maniacs who outside of combat can be big trouble.

Ever-Humble Paratroopers and Glider Riders never brag other than to occasionally admit that we have always been the best.

Whether dancing, working, writing, traveling, appearing on TV, in the newspapers or distributing flags to the kids on Memorial Day or delivering a terrific speech to the BSC's WWII Heroes last Summer, Judy



All American Airborne Ambassadors Les & Judy supporting the Troopers on Eau Clair TV last Summer. . (Laney photo)



Durkee does the job. She memorializes her heroic father and represents us all like a true Airborne Trooper. She is a great organizing and connecting model for us all, from hudding a WWII Paratrooper on the dance floor to supporting today's 508th she is friendly and Airborne knowledgeable, always reaching out to and for the troops, even as far as Belgium! Here's a little bit of what Judy does so well:

"The Battle of The Bulge which lasted from Dec. 16, 1944 to Jan. 28th, 1945 was the largest land battle of WWII. More than 1 million men fought in this battle including 500,000 Americans.

The casualties were—81,000 Americans wounded with 19,000 killed in action. Here we are today...remembering, reminiscing, and honoring those brave men who were truly heroes—Men who gave us freedom to assemble under our flag if Peace and with the freedom to speak, to worship and gather together without fear.

They were Men of the Greatest Generation of heroes who gave up their youth, desires and future for their country. There is no way we can ever say enough "thank you's". I only pledge to you that my generation will never let others forget the price of freedom. My 21-year-old Daddy quickly enlisted in the Army after pearl Harbor. I was just three years old when the 82nd Airborne Division, 508th PIR became his new home. His family became the 82nd Troopers who pledged to defend our flag at all costs. Not a Day goes by that I haven't missed my beloved, brave Father. God bless you brave men of the Battle of The Bulge. (Part Two in Feb.)



## Fury From The Mountains!

By Lt. Andrew Malon, 2/321st AFA, 508th PIR, 4th BDE CT, 82nd Airborne (who helped us out at the Air Show)

Strap on your boots Team FURY!" was the battle call as the 4th BDE Combat Team began its historic deployment to Afghanistan.

One of the hardest things that a paratrooper is asked to do is to say goodbye to their family members for a long, hard year. The troopers kissed their babies who won't be babies when they return, and had to tell their wives quietly not to cry because everything will be ok.

War for the current members of the 82nd Airborne may be different than the days of Market Garden and Bastogne, but the painful goodbyes and quiet fears of the unknown remain the same. Once on the plane however, the teardrops are wiped away and the mission is the focus. Faces show only concentration and resolve. Our team is ready.

After a 3-day journey around the globe, the troopers finally arrived at their staging point at Kandahar Airfield. The harsh environment and new climate was immediately encountered. The "moon-dust" of the country immediately covers everything that the troopers own. While the frustration of growing anticipation was ever-present, the troopers did get some much needed rest and time to adjust to a new combat lifestyle. After a few days of training from foremost experts in the current Afghanistan threats and operation of new US Army equipment, it was time to move to our new home. So it was onto a helicopter and onward to our final destination.

Upon reaching FOB Wolverine our troopers have hit the ground running and have not yet stopped. Priorities of work have begun, starting with improving our base to make everyone safer and more comfortable. The small team we are replacing has been extremely helpful and will set us up for much success during our time here. Many complex tasks currently exist that keep everyone busy, working odd hours, and getting plenty of sunshine. It is ironic that our Battery arrived for the mission on September 11th. The Assassins (Unit tag) are motivated by the fact that we are here where it all began 8 years ago. We are here to keep our families, friends, and fellow citizens safe. We are here to ensure that there will never again be another dark day in American history. We are here and we are ready. All the way! Fury From The Mountains!

Note:  
The 2/321st Airborne Field Artillery, 508th PIR dedicated their Deployment Ball to Judy Durkee's Dad (and OUR Brother) Glenn Ward, KIA, January 30, 1945 in Belgium while fighting for his 82nd Airborne Brothers.



Go Airborne!

Year In Review



Howard at Highground.

King BSC Memorial Nov. we had rifle salute, said prayers and played Taps for our missing Brothers and Sisters.



Historic meeting with our 101st brothers last January!



LTC Gregg Gadson with BSC pal LTC Will Huff boost the Wounded Warriors now spear-headed for BSC by Gerry Diemel and Frank Morris.



Thanks Tom for Everything!



Thank you John for all your hard work!



Judy Durkee and her mom, Evelyn; Bill Hannigan, Les Schwarm honored last June. By VFW 1018.



Les & Sgt. Crooks at Baraboo.



“There is a very special bond between Paratroopers and Glidermen, the Airborne. I am deeply honored to be amongst you all today.”

“I thank the Badger Chapter for this wonderful honor and I would like us all to see it as a memorial for all our friends from Ripon, from America, who led from the front in Italy, St. Mere Eglise, Holland, The Battle of the Bulge; who did not make it home.”

- Jim “Maggie” Megellas



The Gang turned out big at Ripon in August!



Gene & Herb WWII media interview Prais...



Baraboo Air Show Crew.



Maggie and Justin Connaher All American Photog.



Les Schwarm & Walt Pakulski included The Wausau Bulge Memorial in our Glider Tour.



Bill Hannigan and Maggie returned to Holland in Sept. & Crossed the Wall again.



THEY are the 82nd Airborne!



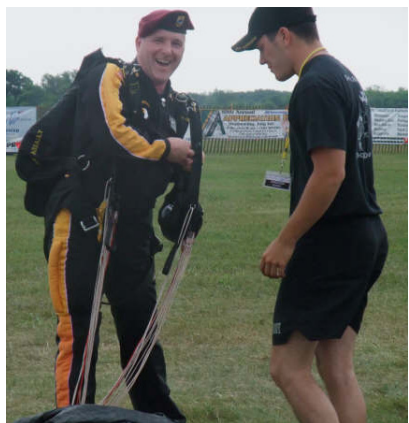
Packer Fan Santiago Tjierna, 504 PIR, takes over for Manny. GREAT guy!!!



Frank & Marge Morris beautified the Memorial and two more flag poles will be added this year.



King Taps.



Brothers all!

101st did a nice job at Baraboo . This Sgt. has one leg- "Nothing like jumping out of an airplane."



Thanks to Tom Gaukel for the WWII Honors Dinner for these guys. Because of them we get to shoot off our big mouths without arrest.



You can tell from Gene's decorations that he was not one of those guys who spent a lot of time in WWII "Donut Lines"! (Details next month. )

*(Continued from Page 8)*

who put his shoulder back in the socket and strapped his left arm tightly to his body. This was Injury No. 3 and he fought with one arm for the next month. This injury still troubles Gene to this day!

Gunfire was increasing on the DZ and Paratroopers were rushing across a dike. He leaped into a hole but the hole was a well. Fortunately the well was dry! By a miracle he was able to pull himself out with one arm and his feet pushing up against the walls. Once out, he found two Troopers who had been with him, dead. He located the Co. E CP in a lull in the hard fighting. It was in a nice house with plenty of wine and the Paratroopers were enjoying themselves with a few drinks. Gene's Angelic intuition told him the place was too good to be true - that it was booby-trapped. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Believed Gene and ordered everybody out immediately. "We were two blocks away when the ground shook and that house was just a memory!"

Dec. 17, After Holland, the 504 moved to Sissone, France. Leading a squad through town one night Gene turned back to hurry the replacements along. "I rounded a corner and a gunner tuned just in time to catch me in the mouth with the machine-gun on his shoulder," Gene reminisces. "My front teeth were knocked out and I got four stitches on my nose." (Injury No. 4.)

"We pulled into Laon, France thinking we had a rest coming after constant battle. But that night we were bugled "Call To Arms". The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division was on its way to stop the German advance in the Ardennes, to fight elite German troops, armored divisions and the elements in the epic Battle of The Bulge.

"We made contact with the enemy near the town of Rahier, Belgium. We moved into position to hold them at the bridge. The Germans lined up about 20 tanks with the hated 88's and fired at us at point-blank range. We stopped them in hand-to-hand combat but the 504 took a high number of casualties." We stopped them again at the bridge over the Ambleve River at Cheneux where we had armored artillery to back us up."

"We were dug in on the forward slope of the hill before the bridge, looking straight into the German guns. After digging my foxhole deep I began covering it with the trunks of trees we cut down. As I had one more log to place, the last I remember was being blown into the air and then picking myself off the ground. My foxhole took a direct hit from German artillery and everything was blown to bits. Many fine men in my company were lost that day, some who were friends I was with since Italy.

"One man was a new replacement Trooper. He was in my foxhole showing me pictures of his wife and daughter whom he had just received when there was a direct hit on his foxhole.

"I asked him to stay with me, not to return to his hole. 'No,' he said, 'the chances of another hit are impossible.'

"Within 10 minutes, the 'impossible' happened and this trooper was blown to bits.

"That night I led a patrol out to harass the enemy positions. I was checking for mines and booby traps when we were hit by one of our own shells. It exploded four feet from me and I held my breath because of sulphur and no oxygen."

(Continued next month.)

## RANGERS RECON

*By Kipp Hartman, Ranger/504PIR*

### A Big Change!

In 2009, Rangers from WWII were invited to attend a graduating class of current Ranger School Students.

When WWII veterans were asked if these new young soldiers were as tough as they were, the reply was **"tougher!"** Veterans commented on how the new Ranger training was more advanced than during WWII. One major improvement was night vision they said. With night vision issued to every Ranger and Infantryman it is easy to see why it is said that "We own the night."

Another big change is the Airborne Ranger. The Ranger Regiment has become an Airborne unit since WWII. They have made some of their own combat jumps such as Panama and more recently Afghanistan.

They now possess the ability, much like the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne to arrive to the battlefield by means of parachute.

No one will argue that the Rangers from WWII had easy assignments from climbing the cliffs at Pointe Du Hoc to freeing the Bataan Death March POW's at Cabanatuan in Luzon.

The WWII veterans recognized at the graduation ceremony that today's Rangers are better equipped to fight at night with the night vision technology available to them. But one of the bigger changes to Rangers is not new technology it's something that was created back in WWII and its being Airborne. Now Rangers can say that they can arrive to the battlefield by land, sea, and AIR.

Airborne All The Way

Kipp Hartman, Airborne Ranger

### *Airborne Memorial Bridge*

You can place your name on this memorial to all our Airborne Brothers and Sisters for only \$100! Contact Tom Gaukel for more info. 608-355-2382.

### **Look Airborne!**

The BSC has jackets, t-shirts, sweatshirts, ties, caps, flags, pins, patches, medals, cushions, cups, glasses, everything to help you look and feel your

### **AIRBORNE BEST!**

If we don't have it we can get it. Competitive prices and all proceeds go to benefit your Chapter.

### Airborne Events

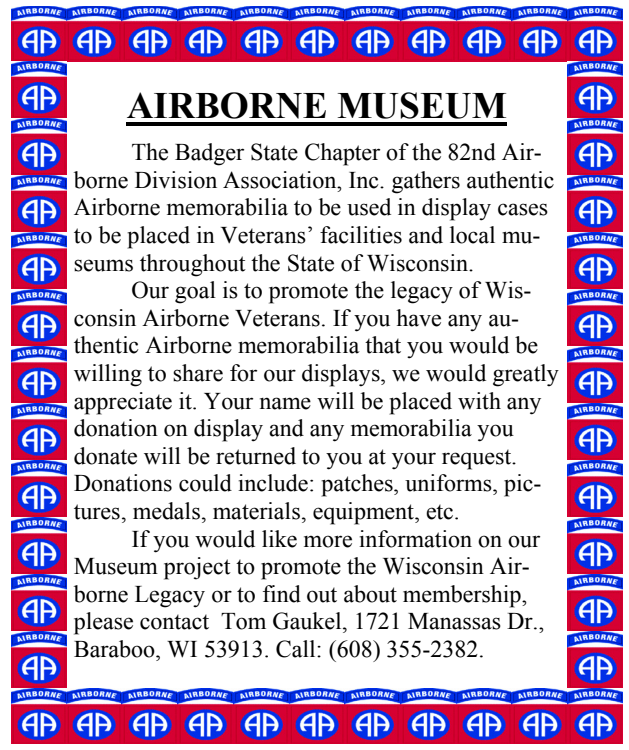
- Jan. 23 11:00 AM, BSC Leadership Meeting Dino’s, Portage
- LZLambeau Organizational/Volunteer Meeting Check LZLambeau.org or call Tom Laney 715-962-4365
- Feb. 20 BAN Deadline
- March 27 BSC meets at King
- May 22 BSC meets in Green Bay
- June Baraboo Air Show
- July 17th BSC meets at place to be named.
- August 18-21 82nd Airborne Division Convention, Charleston, West Virginia. Contact Gerry Deimel or Frank Morris if you’re going. (See Page 2)
- Sept. 9-11, Glider Symposium Madison, Airborne Badger Football BSC meets on the 11th
- Nov. 13th? BSC Vets Day and Taps for our BSC members and Troops at King.
- Possible meetup with 101st & John Steele Chapter?

### AIRBORNE MUSEUM

The Badger State Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc. gathers 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, uniforms, 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.



### Membership Application

### 82nd Airborne Division Association

**Paratroopers, Glider Riders from all Units, Divisions, Services—  
Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard — Welcome!**



(Circle one) New Member      Renewal      Reinstatement      Life Member

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ ASN \_\_\_\_\_ Or, SSN \_\_\_\_\_

Airborne Unit(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Airborne Service \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
Month, Day, Year      Month, Day, Year

Rank \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse’s Name \_\_\_\_\_ Children’s Names \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter preference \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Beer(s) \_\_\_\_\_

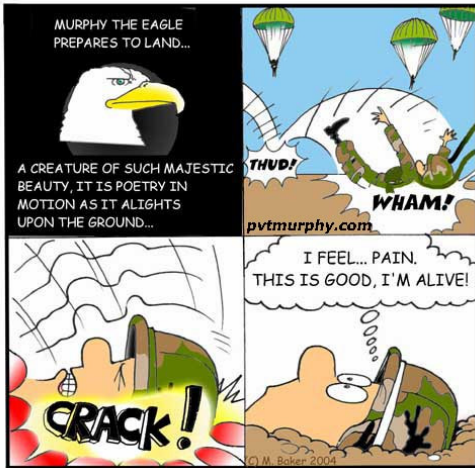
(Provide DD214 proof of Jump/Glider qualification.)  
Enclosed is \$15.00, my membership dues for 2008 (Includes subscription to *Paraglide* magazine)  
**ASK— About our terrific Life Membership deal!**  
**Make checks payable to:** Badger State Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.  
**Mail to:** Reuben Clark, BSC Treas., 5318 Greenbriar Lane, Madison, WI 53714-3404



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



**ALL AMERICANS!**



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

**Paratroopers are no Angels but are watched over by Angels**



**Gene Strutzenberg, Hero!**

**HE** had leaped into the midnight blackness somewhere over Leicester, England. It was a soft and quiet, nearly HALO jump at 4000 feet! But now Gene Strutzenberg was dropping like a stone.

He had been descending quietly, minding his own business when the fighters roared in. A wing of British fighters was just returning from a bombing run in Germany and a Spitfire's prop ripped a 12-foot apex in his chute. It worried the 504 Trooper a little bit but also alerted his Guardian Angel. Again.

His now rocket descent just missed impaling him on a haystack center pole as he slipped to the side, lucked out and landed in freshly plowed ground. His Jump Boots sunk a foot into the soil. Thanking the Angels and counting his blessings, he stepped out of his foot holes and fell down. Both feet were broken. This was Gene's Injury No. 2.

This little capsule is pretty much the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, 504 PIR, and WWII life of Staff Sergeant Gene Strutzenberg, Brodhead, Wisconsin.

Gene is a Paratrooper who accrued no time in donut lines and got plenty of security from Guardian Angels. He needed it!

Earlier, Jump Master Gene had survived a training jump at 300 feet! "At this height the chute opened about the same time my feet

touched the ground," he said. He had the CO stop that insanity.

After N. Africa, Gene joined the 82<sup>nd</sup> during fierce fighting at Mt Abbey, Italy where his feet were frozen resulting in gangrene and hospitalization. This was Injury No. 1.

Gene recovered in time to almost be buzzed up by the Spitfire, and saved by the DZ medics who had watched him fall 1500 feet - basically with no chute! He endured a hospital stay of five weeks. He missed Normandy because the 504 PIR was held back for replacements after their costly fighting in the Italian Mountains and Anzio Beach.

By July 9, 1944 he was back in training for the invasion of Holland. On Sept. 17, Gene jumped a BAR into Grave, Holland with the 504 PIR. As his chute opened he had slipped through the riser catching his left arm. The pain was excruciating! Landing, he found a medic (Continued on Page 6)

**Next BSC Meeting  
 King Vets Home  
 March 27**

*Details next month.*