



# BADGER AIRBORNE NEWS

BADGER STATE CHAPTER \* 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

September 2010

## The All Americans

New Members:

**Scott B. Anderson**

Downing

**Frank L. Kirby**

Milwaukee

**Welcome Home Troopers!**

**Jump In:**

**You're invited!  
Gordy Starck  
Wisconsin Vets  
Service Award,  
9AM, Aug. 20, Port  
Washington**

**BSC Airborne Display,  
Sauk Prairie  
Fly-In August 28**

**WWII National  
Glider Symposium,  
Madison,  
Sept. 9-11, Head-  
lined by Maggie  
and 82nd Associa-  
tion Exec Sec.  
Santiago Tijerina**

**82nd Convention  
Charleston, W. V.  
August 18-21**

**BSC Airborne  
Chili Cook-Off**

**The Highground,  
Oct. 2**

**WooooHoooo!**



## Gordy Starck to Receive Vets Honor August 20!

"Many of our honorees have been WWII Veterans but we've never had anyone with the combat experience Gordy has. I can't imagine jumping out of an airplane once. To do it four times under fire is incredible", said Vets Rep Pete Moran, Superior.

"Please let your Chapter members know they are welcome to attend the honor," Moran said.

A Board of Veterans Affairs subcommittee consisting of three Board members including Pete, selected Gordy Starck to receive the prestigious Wisconsin Veterans Service Award

Lots of 505 Paratroopers made it home from WWII because of fearless medics like Gordy. He joined the 82nd in N. Africa and saved 505 PIR men *All The Way* to Berlin. He endured the four combat jumps, a cracked back, a bayonet slash,

the 82nd's battles in Sicily, Italy, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany and came home to be a civic, labor and Catholic leader.

Gordy was a city councilman and Mayor of Franklin. He's a rabid Brewer/Packer fan and one of those great people who make this world a better place. Ditto for Margie his Trooper wife.

This award was initiated by Paratrooper Col. John Scocos, the former Secretary of Wisconsin's Veterans Affairs and Gordy will be the first Paratrooper to receive it.

The award's selection criteria focus on the nominee's lifetime achievements in the military, in veterans' affairs, and as a citizen in service to his/her hometown, the State of Wisconsin and the United States of America.



*Tom Laney, Mike Haller and Doc Stolp with Gordy at the March BSC meeting. If you look real close, you can see those four little stars on Gordy's wings!*

### Gordy's Award

9:00 AM, August 20

Country Inn & Suites  
350 E. Seven Hills Rd.  
Port Washington, WI

(262) 284-6740



## 82nd Airborne Honors Maggie!



*82nd C.O. MG Scaparrotti awards Maggie the SCSA at Ft. Bragg August 5th. (82nd APO photo,)*

Major General Curtis Scaparrotti, Commander of the famed 82nd Airborne Division, is not waiting for the President or Congress to further honor our Division's most decorated officer.

The 82nd Airborne's All Americans, assembled for the Division's change of command August 5, hosted Jim "Maggie" Megellas and wife Carole, formerly of Fond du Lac, to award Maggie the Army's "Superior Civilian Service Award".

In the past few months Maggie has received highest

honors from the Texas DAR; the National DAR; the Greek AHEPA Freedom Medal; and now the highest award Major General Scaparrotti can give him.

Back here on the ranch we are waiting to hear from Senator Russ Feingold on the re-introduction of Senate/House Bills to finally award Maggie the Medal of Honor for which the 82nd recommended him in 1945. A Maggie update letter is going to the 82nd Convention and a Facebook petition is in the works. This medal would honor all Airborne!



## 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

608-754-0497

(Term expires at year's end)

Gordy Starck

414-425-3908

Frank Morris

715-693-6161

**BSC Elections are at our Nov. meeting. All terms expire except for two Trustee spots. positions Please submit nominees to the Trustees ASAP.**

## Apache Smoke



Hi folks-

Thanks to everyone who came to the flag dedication in Stevens Point. It was really a very special occasion with most of us meeting Col. John Scocos for the first time. I hope he gets his job back soon! And thanks to Frank Morris for leading the program at the Airborne Forces Memorial. Frank could be an MC somewhere.

Next up will be honors Aug. 20 for Gordy and Margie Starck in Port Washington. I know many of the Troopers who would ordinarily be there will be unable to make it because of the 82nd Convention. We will be there too after Gordy receives his well-deserved tribute.

I will be passing out an update at the 82nd Convention about Maggie and asking people to sign a petition on Facebook to be delivered to Senator Feingold. This medal of Honor is long overdue not just for Maggie but for the 504, 82nd and all Airborne.

Following that we have the 2nd National Glider Symposium in Madison. I attended the first in Minneapolis two years ago and it was very informative and there lots of good people there.

Wisconsin's NG Commander, Brig. Gen. Dunbar made a good speech about "The Long Red, White & Blue Line" to which we all belong. He will be giving that speech to our Glider Symposium along with honoring Wisconsin's Glidermen. Try to make this. It's going to be good!

<http://www.2ndwwiiglidersymposium.org/Home>

325 Chef/Brewer Howard Rennhack has now obtained a recipe for Texas chili with which we intend to invade The Highground's Chili Cook-Off on October 2. There's a Car Show with the chili. Starts at 10 AM. Come on out and let Howard blow up your taste buds.

Bob Mingus is now home. Send him a card at:  
N8147 Cty Rd G  
Taylor, WI 54659-0044  
715-662-3903

ATW, Tom Laney, Secretary

## Send us your Airborne Stories!!

### Badger Airborne News

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tlaney1776@gmail.com

#### Websites:

<http://sites.google.com/site/badgerairborne/>

<http://82ndassociation.org/Index.html>

### BSC AGENDA

Sept.18

Baraboo, Wisconsin

1. Call to Order: 2:30 PM. Meeting dedicated to deceased and wounded warriors fighting the war on terrorism
2. Pledge and Prayer
3. Approval of May 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes at Green Bay
4. Secretary report
5. Treasurer report
6. Vice -Chairman Comments
7. Chairman Comments

#### Old Business

1. Status of redesigning BSC challenge coin
2. Status of display cases
3. Wounded warrior program
4. Fund raising

#### BREAK

#### New Business

1. Suggestion and Comments to the good of the order
2. Name tags on Stevens Point Memorial.

#### Adjourn

## Reuben on Volunteers

July 31, 2010: "A volunteer is someone who sees a need, nurtures a hope and gives from the heart. Today we award our volunteers who make our Badger Chapter something to be proud of.

"Since 1942 an Airborne Soldier has been a volunteer. He or she is not conscripted to join Airborne Forces—they do the job willingly. The awards we give today are but a small appreciation of your generous service.

"Incidentally, our Chapter has an endowment fund for any members who chooses to have his/her name put on the back of the Airborne Monument.

"The cost is \$100 and the money is for perpetual maintenance of the Airborne Memorial."

## Next BSC Meeting: Sept. 18, Farm Kitchen, Baraboo

### Farm Kitchen

S5718 State Road 123

Baraboo, WI 53913

608-356-5246

Meeting 2:30 to 4:30

(Or Shorter!)

### *Eat, Drink & Be Merry!*

4:30 to 5:30 Cocktails and attitude adjustment.

5:30 Dinner—buffet with dessert --\$16.50 (includes tip and tax)

Please send checks by 9/13 to:

Reuben Clark, Treasurer,

5318 Greenbriar Lane

Madison, WI 53714-3404

### Lodging

Thunderbird

Motor Inn

1013 8th St.

Baraboo

\$59 +tax for two

Call 608-356-7757  
by 9/13.

## Sauk Prairie Fly-In will feature Military Memorial Dedication and BSC Airborne Display

Saturday August 28th

Sauk Prairie Airport 7 AM to 4 PM

### Military Memorial Dedication

Living Flag 10:45 Memorial Dedication 11 AM

*Paratroopers + Planes + Choppers + Music +  
Jugglers + Dancers + Food*

### Badger State 82nd Airborne Display

Breakfast 7 AM to 11 AM

Hot Air Balloon Rides 7 AM to 9 AM

**Enter via Hwy 12 North of CTH PF**



**WOUNDED WARRIOR  
PROJECT®**

woundedwarriorproject.org

#### MISSION

To honor and empower  
wounded warriors

**BSC Wounded Warrior  
Program**

Contact Gerry Diemel, 715-758-8365; or, Frank Morris, 715-693-6161.

# “Rosie the Riveter” Finnegans thank BSC!

Hello Mike and Tom;

Thank you BOTH for the thoughtful letter and awards that Herb bestowed upon John and I. We thank you, but we truthfully believe the awards are 100% deserved by Herb and all the true heroes of his generation. They truly sacrificed all and preserved freedom for the future of the world.

What John and I organized with the VetsRoll was simply a very small "thank you" to acknowledge the Greatest Generation.

In the attached picture, from left-to-right: Barbara Finnegan (our mother, Cy's widow, a "Rosie the Riveter" in a Beloit factory), the one who started it all (as far as deciding to have eight kids and not stopping after the 5th one).



Thanks again and may God continue to Bless you all!!

Mark Finnegan



*Barbara “Rosie the Riveter” Finnegan did a heck of a job raising these two guys! And she did it while working in a Janesville factory to back up the WWII effort! The Finnegans sent over 100 Vets to the WWII Memorial in Washington by RV and Motor Coach! This was BIG news in S. Wisco but reached us in the Tundra thanks to Herb Huebschen, 325 GIR, our Beloit Airborne Reporter, who wrote the story in the last issue of BAN. Herb presented Mark and John with the BSC Thank You’s they’re holding last week. America lives!*



**WELCOME TO THE**

**2ND WWII GLIDER SYMPOSIUM**

"G" is for Guts



Based at the Marriot Madison West, this program will be outstanding for the Airborne! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet all these WWII heroes, writers and experts.

I wanted to print a condensed program here but the smallest I could get it was 2 1/2 pages!

So here is the link again:  
<http://www.2ndwwiiglidersymposium.org/>

I know not everyone uses the computer. I will send a program to anyone who asks. Just call me at 715-962-4365 and I will get one out to you.

The Glider Symposium opens Sept. 9 and runs through the early morning of the 11th.

For us, it is headlined by Jim

“Maggie” Megellas, the 82nd’s most decorated officer; Santiago Tijerina, the new, buoyant Executive Secretary of the 82nd Airborne Division Association and our own Chapter friends.

There will be many glider experts there and many authors. There will be WWII Glider Pilots. And there will be our own Airborne Glider Riders from the 82nd, the 17th and 101st Airborne Divisions.

The 401st GIR, re-enactors from Madison will be there with their 101st stuff on. We Paratroopers will be there giving our Glider Brothers their long overdue credit.

This is very important—the organizers are asking Glider Riders to speak at the sessions but ask that you let

them know you’d like to do so. If you have a computer you can register at the link as a speaker.

If not, call me and I will make sure you get registered. We’d really love to hear from Les, Schwarm, Bruno Mueller, Herb Huebschen, Walt Pakulski, John Anderson, and all the Glider Riders from the 101st.

We’d even like to hear from the WWII Paratroopers about why they’d rather jump out of an airplane any day than load up in a WACO.

Wisconsin Forestry’s Sara Witter Connor and the 101st’s Jim Romlein have put a ton of work into this Symposium.

Don’t miss it! Thanks to them it will be terrific!



**BSC Flag Day ! Thank you Volunteers!**



## 82nd Bulletins and the Flag business

We have the 82nd Airborne Division Association Bulletins at the meetings for your information.

Now the Association has started to email the bulletins so I have been forwarding them to the BSC members on my email list. If you'd like to receive these bulletins by email just send me a note at:

tlaney1776@gmail.com

And I will see that you get them.

Sorry, I can't afford to mail them—the latest one is 32-pages!

Some highlights from the July Bulletin:

1. MG James Huggins took over command of the 82nd from MG Scaparrotti on Aug. 5th.
2. CSM Bryant Lambert became the Division CSM July 15.
3. Iron Mike is being moved Aug 14 to the Airborne & Special Ops Museum in Fayetteville.
4. The Chapter is supposed to use the new membership form which appears in this issue of BAN.

5. Interested members should volunteer to serve on National Committees by writing to Santiago.
6. A Senate Resolution is being offered again to make August 16 National Airborne Day.
7. Leo Hobson is asking support for the "Operation Christmas Stocking Project".
8. 2010 82nd NCO of the Year is SSG Lance Noell, Detroit. Trooper of the Year is SPC Jordan Dahl, Fresno. Jumpmaster of the Year is SSG James Gresham, Dallas.
9. The Association continues the St. Michael Award.
10. The Associations' archives are being moved to Ohio State U.
11. Please join the 82nd's Historical Society. (Lifetime membership only \$5 bucks!) Send it to 82nd Airborne Historical Society, PO Box 70119, Ft. Bragg, NC 28307-0119

### Flags for Sale

Thanks to Doug Rasmussen we now have American Flags, Made in America, for sale for the low, low, price of \$12! These are the same flags I've been paying \$19 to \$28 bucks for—3x5, nice nylon, sewn flags that I purchased from the State of Wisconsin. They are the same flags that fly over the State Office Bldgs. Thank God they're not flying the Chinese flag! (Yet)

\$12 includes shipping too. Call or email me and I'll send one out. We also have quite a number of Airborne items, patches, T's, stickers, license plate brackets, etc. for sale. We make a very tiny profit on these items as a fundraiser for the Chapter.

Come to a meeting and peruse our Airborne wares!  
Look Airborne!  
Tom Laney, Secretary

## Badger Airborne History big hit at LaCrosse Library



Here's the Tom Gaukel Case with Tom's Jump Boots, Airborne pictures, Normandy map, BSC banner, goggles, etc., Ed Moerhke's helmet, Walter Reinking's "Iron Mike", Ike jacket from a Berlin Honor Guard Trooper and other memorabilia. It was welcomed by Menomonie Library Director Ted Starck, 3rd ID. For a local hook, we added Menomonie Paratrooper's Jeff Frawley's picture and Jared Leable's jacket to the Menomonie display. Jeff's dad said, "It's amazing!" We are working on a 2nd case with stories of Wisco Airborne Vets. Lend us your Airborne stuff! (Laney photo.)

Are these great looking people or what? LaCrosse Library Maintenance Coordinator Russ McClintock; LaCrosse Director of Libraries, Kelly Krieg-Sigman and BSC member John Givens as the Airborne Display Case left the LaCrosse Library two weeks ago for the Menomonie Library. "People were interested in this history. We saw lots of people looking at it," Kelly said. Kelly welcomed the case and Russ even asked that we delay the pick-up until after his vacation because he wanted to help us! Kelly has Packer plates on her car and is devoted to Aaron Rodgers. John is looking to pick up another piece of Airborne history—he wants to buy an 82nd jeep for parades! (Laney photo)

## Airborne Events

- **August 20, Gordy Starck receives Wisconsin Veterans Service Award, Port Washington**
- **August 18-21 82nd Airborne Division Convention, Charleston, West Virginia. See Paraglide or call Don Jennings, 304-456-4956 or: <http://82ndassociation.org/Index.html>**
- **August 28, Sauk Prairie Airborne Display**
- **Sept. 9-11, Glider Symposium Madison, Airborne Badger Football, Big, Bad Badgers**
- **BSC meets on the 18th in Baraboo.**
- **October 2, Highground Chili Cook-off. Laney/Rennhack Airborne Chili Team plan to win this one!**
- **Nov. 13th BSC Vets Day Meeting at King, Taps for our BSC Members and Troops.**

## 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 all 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 BSC membership, please contact Tom Laney, Call: (715) 962-4365.

Email: [tlaney1776@gmail.com](mailto:tlaney1776@gmail.com)



## NOTICE:

**JOIN THE BEST! For a limited time you can get/give BSC Life Memberships for only \$50! Or, why not give a friend a 1-year membership for only \$15?! Build the BSC by signing up at least one new member every year! And remember, we take all service Paratroopers and Glidermen.**

## VETERAN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.

Formal Name (No Nickname) \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

9 Digit Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ ASN \_\_\_\_\_ or SSN \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR YR \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 OR \_\_\_\_\_ \$16 (\$1 DONATION TO EDUCATION FUND)

\_\_\_\_\_ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (\$150 FOR 49 YEARS AND UNDER OR \$100 FOR 50 YEARS +) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### CURRENT VETERAN/MILITARY STATUS (Check status below and complete the rank and date entries)

\_\_\_\_\_ ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY—Current Rank and Date of Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ RETIRED MILITARY—Retired Rank and Date Departed Active Military Service \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ MILITARY VETERAN—Rank and Date Departed Military Service \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ RESERVE OR NAT'L GUARD—Current Rank and Date of Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

### LIST AIRBORNE UNIT(S) (Be Complete; Include FROM and TO Date)

—Unit #1 \_\_\_\_\_ FROM MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_ TO MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_

Combat Tour. Location: \_\_\_\_\_ FROM MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_ TO MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_

—Unit #2 \_\_\_\_\_ FROM MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_ TO MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_

Combat Tour. Location: \_\_\_\_\_ FROM MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_ TO MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_

—Unit #3 \_\_\_\_\_ FROM MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_ TO MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_

Combat Tour. Location: \_\_\_\_\_ FROM MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_ TO MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_

**New members MUST include proof of airborne qualifications or service with the 82nd Airborne Division**

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Preference \_\_\_\_\_ For a complete list visit: [www.82ndairborneassociation.org](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org)

MAIL TO: 82d AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 87842, FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28304-7482

## Badger Airborne News

82nd Airborne Division Assoc.

E6304 866th Ave.

Colfax, WI 54730



This is Paratrooper Simon Renner, 504 PIR now with the Airborne Angels. His Granddaughter has written a stirring story about him which will appear in the *All Wisconsin Airborne Reporter*.

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

## BSC flies new flags for Airborne Forces

Wisconsin must have a ton of Warriors for Veterans to let the Veterans Affairs Board fire a man like Col. John Scocos.

The former Secretary of Wisconsin's Veterans Affairs came all the way from Washington with two of his sons to address our little BSC group, assembled July 31 in celebration of new flags and honor of the Troopers who have gone before us.

John Scocos is a man in The Good Fight. He spends his life fighting for Veterans, Veterans of ALL the wars. He talked to us about how important it is these days especially to care for the wounded who are coming home from Iraq and Afghanistan—to fight for the funding to give these Soldiers, Sailors, Fliers and Marines the care some of them will require for the rest of their lives.

"I looked in his eyes and I knew right away that he is a good man," said BSC member Marge Morris. "He cares, and that is what our wounded Veterans need, a leader who cares and will fight for them."

Nevertheless, a new Veterans Board fired



*Col. John Scocos holds up the BSC Thanks certificate presented to him by Frank Morris on the Chapter's behalf. "He's the best damn fighter Wisconsin Vets have ever had," said one BSC Vet. "I want to see him back in that office!" Should happen if there's any justice. (Laney photo)*

Scocos for what they said was his lack of accountability, two months after he returned from his second deployment to Iraq! We need to be going *All The Way* for this leader!

The occasion was spurred by Gerry and Bev Diemel and Frank and Marge Morris who have spent 100s of hours not only sprucing up the Airborne Forces Memorial site but getting

two new flag poles installed.

We were honored to have Col. Scocos as well as the Plover VFW Post 10262 Honor Guard, a prayer by Lester Schwarm, a Goosebumps speech by VFW Post 10262 Commander and Special Forces Vet John "Trapper" Schultz on the Airborne Elite; Paratrooper Jim Romlein who chairs the 101st's Old Abe Chapter and made stirring remarks about his Chapter's Eagle Feather and Old Abe; WWII Glider Rider Walter Pakulski who described the work to get the Airborne Memorial.

Following the flag dedication we adjourned to the Blue Top for refreshments and dinner.

Liz decided to spend her 39th birthday with us so we gave her a cake and sang Happy Birthday to her. Then Frank presented Reuben

with BSC thanks for all he and Liz have done for the Chapter.

Reuben presented like awards to Gordy and Margie Starck, Lester and Faye Schwarm, Frank and Marge Morris, Gerry and Bev Diemel and Walt Pakulski for all they do. We had a great time!

Reuben's remarks pg. 2, pics pg. 5.