



THE WISCO ALL AIRBORNE REPORTER

PROUDLY DEDICATED TO JIM "MAGGIE" MEGELLAS, THE 82ND AIRBORNE'S MOST DECORATED OFFICER



M.Sgt. Steiner models the Sky Dive!



We found her! M.Sgt. Christina Steiner in the air somewhere over Ft. Knox, Kentucky. Steiner is a friend & favorite military model, of the Badger State Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association. We track her latest assignment inside and wonder whoinhell is Hot Larry?! Check out Christina's Colonel. Pg. 20. (Photo by some Leg. Who is a very good photographer.)

Megellas, Hannigan, Cheney retrace 82nd's WWII Battles

Tim Gray's Maggie/82nd Documentary is coming along. Now back from their European Airborne Battle Tour, Tim has released a trailer that is being shown at the 82nd Convention.

This is an extremely costly project and funds are still needed to get this show televised.

Please see page 3 for details on how to access the trailer and how you can help!



Ghostlike, WWII 82nd Heroes, Maggie, Bill Hannigan and Bernard Cheney, visit their Brothers who never made it home. Photo courtesy of Tim Gray, Emmy Award Military Historian.



INSIDE:

MOH LETTERS

MAGGIE TOUR

DAKOTA CITY HONORS 82ND!

WACO IRON MOUNTAIN DEDICATION

MAAA PIG ROAST

Who is Jim “Maggie” Megellas?

“He was the bravest man I ever saw. He cared about each one of us, he appreciated us all so much! He would do anything for us, and we would follow him anywhere. It wasn’t just that he was a Paratrooper and a combat leader. He was the best at that of course. But he is more. He is a good man. He’s done good things for people all his life.” - S/Sgt Bill Hannigan, 504 PIR Paratrooper, 89, St. Paul, MN on Jim Megellas. Bill was a squad leader in Maggie’s platoon. Bill is also a very good man.

“We were catching hell from a Panther when I saw someone charging the tank with a Thompson sub-machine gun! I asked myself, ‘Who in the hell is that crazy sonuvabitch?!’ I saw him knock that tank out with a couple of grenades and found out later it was Maggie. He saved us all!” - Col. George Geib, Paratrooper 504 PIR, Special Forces Vietnam.

Maggie’s Heroes

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/105005234.html?page=1>

The Wisco All Airborne Reporter

This is the third edition of the electronic, quarterly *All Wisconsin Airborne Reporter*, now renamed The *Wisco All Airborne Reporter*.

We are dedicated to honoring James “Maggie” Megellas, the most decorated officer in the 82nd Airborne’s proud history, as well as all of our Wisconsin Airborne.

We aim to keep you up to speed on the work to get the Medal of Honor Maggie so justly deserves; and all Airborne heroes and events in our beloved Wisconsin.

We will have more stories and pictures about Airborne activists and your stories and pictures if you will send them in.

We will update you with upcoming MOH appeals by Col. Ed Sims and any new Department of the Army, Congressional or Presidential action for this Medal of Honor. We want this medal for Maggie, for his platoon, for the 3rd Bn 504 PIR, the 82nd Airborne Division and for Airborne Troopers everywhere.

“The 82nd Airborne Division was, and is, the best Airborne Division in the world,” says our pal, 325 Glider Rider Les Schwarm who rode a WACO into Market/Garden and fought *All The Way* to Berlin.

These pages are open to 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd, 101st, 173rd, 501st, 551st, Rangers, Special Forces, Delta Force, Air Force, SEALs, USMC Force Recon, Air Force, all Paratroopers and friends of the Airborne.

All The Way!

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The Wisco All Airborne Reporter *Honoring Jim “Maggie” Megellas and Wisconsin’s Airborne*

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All American Airborne Photog Emeritus:
Justin Connaher now at Elmendorf Air Base,
AK

Scouts: Dave Green, 173rd Abn, 75th
Rangers, Welcome Home Organizer, New
Richmond, WI; Ed Barnes, USMC Jumper,
Mover & Shaker for Maggie MOH, Fond du
Lac, WI and YOU!

Be Somebody:
Volunteer for Our Staff!



DIVISION HONORED—1st Lt. James M
gellas of Fond du Lac (left) is congratulated by Jan Meijne
Netherlands Minister of War, after accepting a Dutch decorati
for the U. S. 82nd Airborne Division in Berlin recently.
Associated Press photo

Maggie Documentary coming soon!

Just back from the European Maggie/82nd Airborne tour, Tim Gray, one America's best combat story teller's is about to give the 82nd it's due.

Tim Gray's coming documentary on Wisconsin's great citizen warrior, Jim Megellas, leader of arguably WWII's best platoon, will finally give the 82nd Airborne Division the notice and credit it earned as the first-in, last-out Airborne Division of WWII.

The Skinny: This project has the approval of Lt. Col. James "Maggie" Megellas and donations are tax-deductible through the Rhode Island PBS Foundation, a 501 (c)(3). This will be An HD Documentary Film for national and international distribution. **Narrator/host of film:** [Kyle Chandler](#) of NBC TV's *Friday Night Lights*

The Documentary Film "Maggie": In mid-1943 James Megellas, born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and known as "Maggie" to his fellow Paratroopers, joined H Co., 3rd Bn, 504 PIR, 82nd Airborne Division. His first taste of combat was in the rugged Apennine Mountains outside Naples in Italy. Soon Maggie's platoon was tapped to run some of the most star-crossed missions of World War II. From the Italian Mountains to the beach of Anzio to Field Marshall Montgomery's vainglorious Operation Market-Garden in Holland, The Battle of Herresbach and *All The Way* to Berlin. James Megellas is the most decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne Division. After he was wounded and hospitalized at Anzio he returned to his unit and never missed another day of combat until May 8, 1945, the end of the war.

Leadership: The film will also focus on leadership skills in combat and Maggie's ability to motivate, inspire and lead men when initial planning has broken down. All these 82nd Airborne principles are still important today to those who lead and set the stage for others to succeed. Leadership is a topic which Lt. Col. Megellas continues to lecture on all over the world.

Today: At 94 years old, Megellas recently returned from spending Christmas in Afghanistan with his old outfit, the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, along the Pakistani border. He continues to travel and lecture around the world.



[Support the Maggie/82nd
Documentary!](#)



[\(Click Ctrl—Support above to see trailer & for more info\)](#)

Maggie gets Texas coverage

COLLEYVILLE, TX — Through a hail of German bullets and exploding shells, the soldiers of Company H, 504th Parachute Infantry frantically paddled their way across the Waal River in The Netherlands on Sept. 20, 1944.

Lt. James Megellas, known at “Maggie” to his men, and half of his platoon occupied one craft in the initial assault across the river. Their objective: Capture and hold the northern ends of two bridges at Nijmegen. Those bridges were to be part of the lifeline for the air and ground campaign known as Market Garden.

The other half of Megellas’ platoon was in the boat next to him, until it was hit by a shell, spilling the men into the river. Many of the other boats were also ripped and punctured by bullets and shells, forcing troopers laden with gear to swim across the swift river.

It was the combat engineers’ responsibility to get the British-supplied boats across the river and back to ferry more soldiers. But, like many of the others, Megellas, lacking a paddle, used what was handy to get to the other side as soon as possible. He used the butt of his Thompson submachine gun.

“Fear gave way to hysteria,” Megellas, now of Colleyville, wrote years later in his book *All the Way to Berlin*. “The fear of making it never entered my mind. I was one of about 250 fanatical men driven by rage to do what had been asked of us.”

What was asked of these men — boys really, ages 17 to their early 20s — was to cross the river, run more than 200 yards in the open to an embankment, clear out the German soldiers, fight their way to the bridges and secure those bridges before they were blown up. All of it in the face of an enemy determined to use any means to stop them.

That the men of the 504th, which was part



Maggie with Sgt. Leroy Richmond after taking the Nijmegen Bridge.

of the 82nd Airborne Division, succeeded was due to their determination, their “rage,” as Megellas put it.

Back to The Netherlands

Now, almost 67 years later, Megellas is on a trip back to the Waal River, Nijmegen and those bridges. He is going with two of his former sergeants, Bernard Cheney of Bangor, Maine, and Bill Hannigan of St. Paul, Minn.

A film crew is documenting Megellas’ return to some of the European battlefields that he crossed in more trying times. The documentary, to be called *James Megellas: All the Way*, is being made by Tim Gray, a Rhode Island-based film maker as part of a series. (The Paratroopers are back and you can watch a trailer by clicking the link on pg. 3.)

“This will be a documentary on leadership in combat in World War II,” Gray said before departing for the trip. “It is not a history of the war, but a history of Maggie’s war. What he did. How he led as a platoon leader.”

Megellas, now 94 years old, says in his book that “wars are not fought on maps by moving pins designated as armies and corps. They are fought on the ground by squads and platoons of young soldiers.” And those soldiers are led by junior officers and non-commissioned officers — the sergeants and the corporals — who are

the same age or slightly older.

But “being an officer and a platoon leader did not automatically command the respect of the men,” he says in another part of his narrative. “It had to be earned, and that could be done only by leading.”

Gray agreed that out of World War II came great leaders, not just the generals like Dwight D. Eisenhower and George Patton, “but also the men who actually fought.”

He said Megellas is “a fascinating guy,” who remembers everything about his war experiences. “It seems like men in war are born to lead,” Gray said. “You talk to men in his platoon, and they say he made all the right calls, he led from the front and he earned the respect of his men.”

Filming nearly finished

Gray said the trip to Europe will bring the filming for the documentary almost to a close. He has followed Megellas to World War II reunions and even to a Green Bay Packers-Dallas Cowboys football game, where the former soldier was a featured guest. He hopes the project will be ready to air on television later this year.

Megellas ended the war as a captain and the most-decorated officer in the history of the 82nd Airborne Division with 25 medals and decorations. Those decorations include the Distinguished Service Cross, two Silver Stars, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts and Presidential Unit Citation. He also was selected in 1945 by his commanding general, James Gavin, to receive the Military Order of Wilhelm Orange Lanyard from the Dutch Minister of War. More recently, Megellas has been nominated twice by congressional resolution to receive the Medal of Honor based on his actions during the Battle of the Bulge. — By Steve Norder

snorder@colleyvilletexascourier.com:

AIRBORNE MANIFESTS

Southern Wisconsin 82nd Airborne Chapter Dinner



Casa Capri Restaurant

2129 Birch Rd., Kenosha, WI

5PM Cocktails, 6PM Dinner

Sept. 3, 2011

Italian Smorgasbord

Chicken, Lasagna, Roast Beef

Only \$20 (includes Tax & tip)

Bring a dessert if you like!

Honored Guest: Bill Eberle, President, 82nd Airborne Association



Send checks to:

Nick Pulera, Chairman,

Southern Wisconsin All Airborne Chapter

7527 19th Ave.

Kenosha, WI 53143

262-656-1193



Chili Cook-Off

Saturday Oct. 1, 2011

The Rennhack-Laney Airborne Chili Team will be serving their All The Way Airborne Chili beginning at 10:30 am.

Be there!

The Highground W7031 Ridge Rd. Neillsville, WI 54456



Last year's Airborne Chili experts. That's Howard Rennhack and Tom Laney on the right. The other guys are Special Forces and 82nd judges for this year who cannot be named at this time. Suffice it to say that last year's judges were all Legs. We expect to be No. 1 this year.

Hajick/Mokan 82nd Philly Chapter honors Maggie, Steven Koch



Bill and Christine Koch with Maggie and Carole at the Hajick/Mokan 82nd Chapter Honors Banquet for Maggie and Steven March 25 in Philly. Cpl. Steven Koch, 508th, 82nd Airborne Division died fighting for his 82nd Airborne friends March 3, 2008 in Afghanistan. We will remember Steven. (Photo by Hillary Shemin.)

http://www.photosbyhillary.com/Events/Award-Cermonies/82nd-Airbourne-All-Ameri-can/16365483_PEGx5#1230966730_ugWJ7



<http://www.freewebs.com/steven-koch/>

FORMER SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS SCORES COURT WIN FOR VETS

On April 29, 2011, the Dane County Circuit Court ruled that John Scocos, former Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, would be able to pursue both federal and state claims for damages for his illegal dismissal by the Doyle administration.

Under federal law (USERRA) and state law, veterans returning from active duty are provided numerous protections, including the right to be reinstated in the jobs they left in order to serve, and the right to hold those jobs for a year. On his return from a second tour of duty in Iraq, Mr. Scocos, then the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, was briefly reinstated as Veterans' Secretary, but was then dismissed, without cause, at Thanksgiving in 2009 by the Board of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The Court's ruling allowed all of Mr. Scocos' claims on USERRA and state law that protect the jobs of returning veterans, as well as his civil rights claims regarding job protections, to proceed. The Attorney General's office had argued that no returning veterans who are state employees are entitled to the protections of state law or federal law, and that the State of Wisconsin can fire returning veterans from their jobs at any time during the year after their return from active duty. The Court summarily rejected the State's assertion of immunity and noted that Wisconsin has a seventy year tradition of honoring and protecting returning veterans.

"I am pleased on behalf of all veterans that this case will be going forward," Mr. Scocos stated after the hearing. "All veterans – including those veterans who work for the State of Wisconsin – deserve the protections of state and federal law. This decision is an im-

portant step toward ensuring that veterans in Wisconsin get the protections that they have earned through their service to the United States."

The Court also noted that Mr. Scocos' open meetings claims, which allege that the Board of Veterans Affairs violated Wisconsin's Open Meetings laws in its handling of Mr. Scocos' firing, would be allowed to go forward if filed separately from the present lawsuit. The case is *Scocos v. State of Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs*, No. 2009-cv-6213, and is in the Dane County Circuit Court, Branch 3, before the Honorable Judge Albert.

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setroupis@trouplawoffice.com or
jrtrouplawoffice.com

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL

ALL AIRBORNE DAYS

WW II

KOREA

VIET NAM

PANAMA

GRENADA

DESERT STORM

AFGHANISTAN

IRAQI FREEDOM

Hosted by **Midwest All-Airborne Alliance**



Saturday
August 13, 2011
Pig Roast/Picnic
MN Air National Guard
"Contact Club"
Fort Snelling, MN
Noon to 6:00 PM
\$15.00 per person
Post Colors at 12:00

Paratroopers, Glider Riders, Airborne of ALL eras
Airborne of ANY branch of service, ANY Nation!



The Midwest All-Airborne Picnic 2011
Food served at 13:00 hrs.
Many additional buffet items!
Air Guard Museum open!
Vintage street rods on display!
Raffle items, Airborne memorabilia,
Airborne Camaraderie, and much more.
Sixteenth Annual

Reservations required by August 5, 2011
Make checks payable to:
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NOTE:
YOU CAN STILL CALL JACK RUNNING AT 651-488-4227 OR 651-387-3762 TO RESERVE. Jack will add your names to the roster so you can clear Air Force Security. Then you can pay at the Pig Roast

Airborne History delivered to Wisconsin Veterans Museum at King



3rd ID Vets Tom Driscoll and Charlie Nelson plus 82nd Badger Chapter Secretary Tom Laney and Legion Honcho Terry Budworth delivered the case to King.

It was said it could not be done but there it is! The Wisconsin Airborne Tribute Case is now in the King Vets Museum.

3rd Infantry Vets Tom Driscoll & Charlie Nelson plus Prescott Legion Commander Terry Budworth helped me get the thing into the museum and set it up. I can't thank them enough for riding all the way from Prescott to King and lending their muscle to this exhibit!

Madison Vets Museum Curator, Jeff Kollath ok'd the Airborne Case and it's placement next to a 173rd exhibit! "This case can stay as long as you want the case here," he said.

Bonus: I asked Laura Mays, Agency Liaison, King, if the 509th PIR print we donated to King a few years ago could be moved near the case? She made that happen too! (They re-framed the print and it is beautiful!)

Laura also ok'd a dedication of the case by Frank when we meet at King for Vets Day in Nov.

So now, when you enter the King Military Museum, 10 steps ahead on your left you will see our case. The print will hang a bit above it and to the left. An existing, smaller Plexiglas case containing a field jacket with 173rd Airborne patch and Wings is at a right angle to the print and our case. The jacket is loaned by Dave Kies, a Vietnam Vet who was reported KIA in Vietnam but who is, in fact, alive in Madison - minus legs - and a friend of Jeff Kollath's. The display was very well received by Laura and Jeff. I still have some things to add. Herb Huebschen, 325 GIR has answered my call for an authentic cap and my green cap will now be replaced with Herb's WWII Glider Cap which he has been good enough to loan to the display. The Ike jacket

has ribbons & CIB donated by Bill Oullette and a 3rd BN, 504 PIR background donated by Jared Leable, Menomonie, who served with the 3rd just before it was de-activated a few years ago, a nice generational connection. The case also contains: A parachute with notes on static line, Capewells, and chute extraction; black Jump Boots, list of loaners/donors; WWII helmet with 504 PIR Skull & Crossbones

combat markings, Herb Huebschen's Super Airborne 82nd portrait; Mike Haller's Jump Wings with Artillery background, Mike's Unit Crests and Sharpshooter Badge, Mike's tan cotton, Overseas Cap with Glider Patch and sewing kit; Lester Schwarm's Medal and Coin Display; 1945 Oneida News on Glenn Ward KIA; authentic 1945 VE Day 82nd Paraglide edition; 1945 504 PIR Prop Blast editions, one containing story on 504's elimination of a Panzer Division at Cheneaux that mentions Knobby Walsh's DSC; four picture/background plaques on BSC WWII Combat Vets Gordy Starck, Les Schwarm, Gene Strutzenberg, Knobby Walsh; picture/background plaque on 504 then 508th 82nd Iraq/Afghan Combat Vet Sgt. Jared Leable; Leable's Afghan Combat jacket; BAN front page on Norb Studelska; BAN funeral page on Mark Nagan containing Ed Frawley's letter to Dennis Nagan which so soulfully explains the Airborne Legacy; front page of 2010 Convention edition MOH for Maggie; description of the BSC's work with invitation to join; thank you to those who loaned/donated items; various jump pictures; stickers & patches recognizing the 82nd, Rangers, Special Forces, 101st, 173rd, USMC Force Recon and SEALs.

There's been a lot of talk but some confusion about the "Airborne Legacy". In re-reading Ed Frawley's letter to Dennis Nagan upon the death of his father Mark, it struck

me that Ed described it best. It is truly a wonderful, moving letter and an important feature of the display alongside the description of the BSCs work. I am going to enlarge it for the Portage WWII Museum.

I am still working on a page explaining the Airborne Bridge Memorial and Doc's book, "As We Were", a story on Howard Rennhack, 11th, 13th, 17th, 551st, & 1st Allied Airborne patches.

Bought Jeff and the Legs lunch at King's Table and then headed to the Portage WWII Museum to drop off more BSC informational stuff for Brett Esse. Brett is doing an amazing job there for the Airborne! Since our March tour he has acquired a Pathfinder strobe light in mint condition plus a bunch of other stuff. He is proceeding with his idea of adding an Airborne ROOM! I think we should be supporting this kid every way we can!

I'd really like to see a niche there for our BSC members who fought in Vietnam. Bruce Markert and Larry Zink fought with SF; USMC Force Recon, Col. Jim Williams earned two Silver stars there; Jim Morris left the 82nd and joined the 1st Cav when he found out the 82nd wasn't going to Nam and got shot twice there; Bill Kunhke got shot with the 101st there; Dave Green got the Silver Star and serious wounds with the 75th Rangers, 173rd; etc. I'm working on those stories.

I have addresses of active duty Troopers. So we will hopefully, find more of the young Wisconsin Paratroopers willing to tell their stories and join the Chapter like Sean Beaudette and Bob Phillips have.

I received permission from Doc Stolp, Les Schwarm and Walter Pakulski about moving news clippings, photos and drawings of the Airborne Bridge Memorial to the Portage County Military Museum at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. I am working with Phil Kallas to see what can be done and will keep you all posted.

This has been a considerable amount of work with Troopers I love! I can't tell you how happy and proud I am to have an Airborne Corner in this beautiful Military Museum honoring our Wisconsin Airborne Heroes!!

Thanks to all of you who have made this possible!

ATW/SF,

Tom Laney, Secretary
Badger State 82nd Chapter

<http://www.thehighground.org/newsletter/documents/summer-newsletter-2011.pdf>

8th ANNUAL CAR SHOW

To Benefit Our Wounded Veterans

100% of all funds raised will go to our wounded warriors.

**SEPT. 4th. 2011,
SIMMONS ISLAND,
KENOSHA, WI.
8:00AM TO 4:00 PM**

Show Entry \$10.00
Spectators Free

No Judging
or Classes -
Choice Awards
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to first 200 cars

All Cars,
Motorcycles,
Military
Vehicles,
Trucks,
Welcome

**Food, Drinks &
Family Activities**

**50-50 Raffle, Door Prizes, Personal Military Displays, Military Vehicles,
Face Painting, Raffle Items, Music, Dunk Tank, Car Smash**

For Information Call:

Nick Pulera, Kenosha (262) 656-1193 npulera@wi.rr.com

Steve Pulera (262) 620-1613

Tom Hacker (414) 747-1944 Milwaukee



When the world needed them, they were the first to jump!

REMEMBER - ALL GAVE SOME - SOME GAVE ALL

Army, Navy, Air force, Marine Corp, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, National Guard, Reserve Units
Honor Those Who Served For Us • Noon ceremony to honor troops

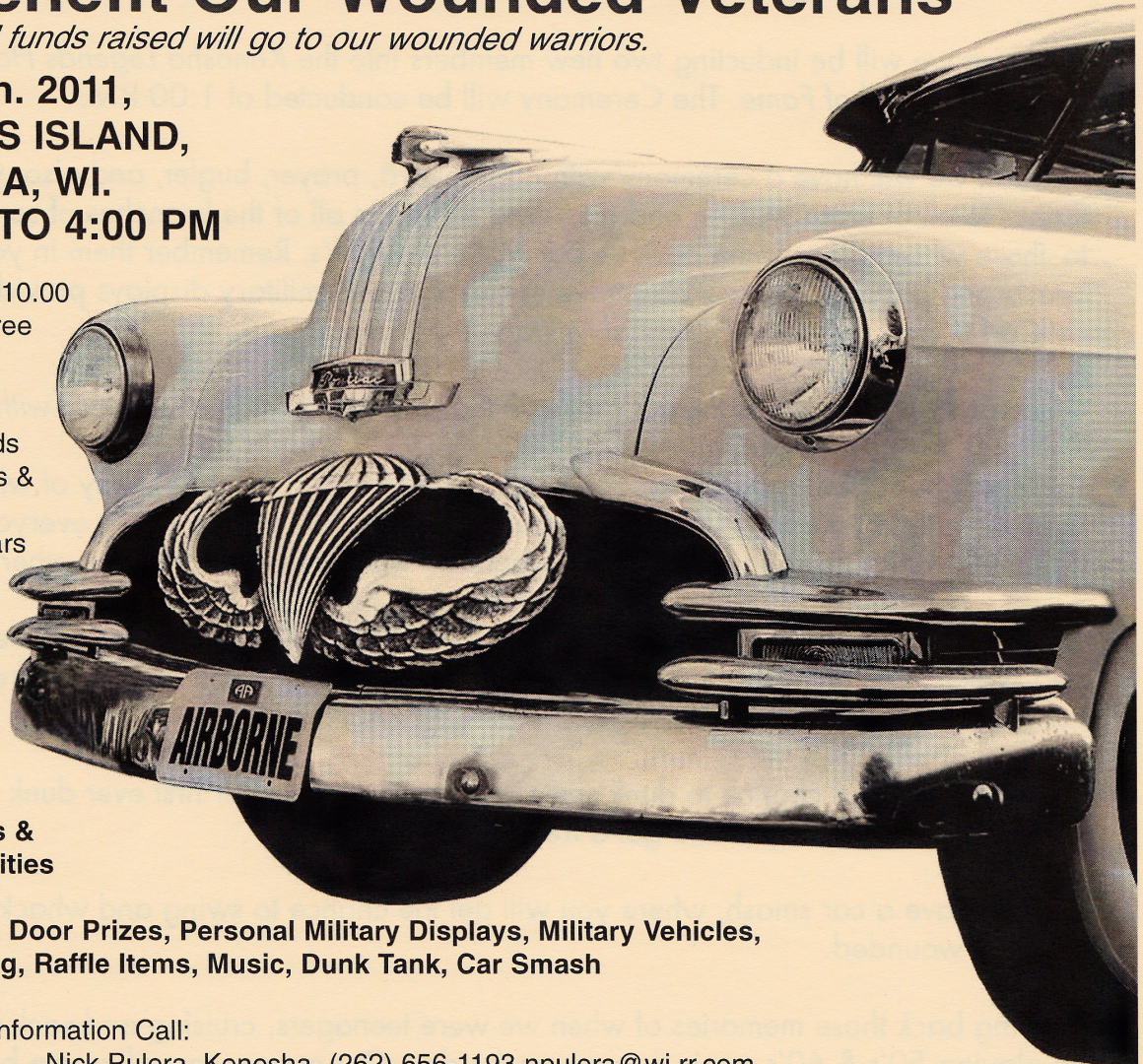
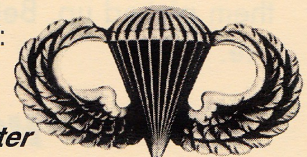
Directions

Take Hwy 158 east into Kenosha all the way to the lake. Turn left and go to the first set of lights. Make a right turn, go over the bridge. The show will be immediately in front of you.

We are accepting donations of used unbroken toys, books, puzzles, and games, for children

SPONSORED BY:

***The Southern
Wisconsin All
Airborne Chapter***



Living the Airborne Dream, 82nd Airborne Re-Enactors do us all proud!

By Tom Laney, Editor

To be clear, I never really liked jumping out of planes. But I did love hanging out with maniac Paratroopers who love it. Most of all, I love those Troopers who went to war and beat the crap out of the Nazis so we can continue to shoot off our big mouths. It perturbs me that people think the 101st was the premier WWII Airborne outfit and that so many people know nothing of 82nd heroes like Delbert Kuehl, Knobby Walsh, Jim Megellas and many others.

So I was overjoyed to be invited to the Farmington, MN, Dakota City Re-Enactment last Spring by Ben Lund. There I met a bunch of guys so devoted to the 82nd's WWII history that they have modeled a unit after H Co., 3rd Bn, 504 PIR, 82nd Airborne! Ben introduced me to the group which is dedicated to the memory of 504 Chaplain Delbert Kuehl who passed away last year in Alexandria, MN. I met Dylan Hauer a friend of Rev. Kuehl's who is writing a serial here on the popular Chaplain. I also met Brian Pesce, 1st Sgt., 508th PIR Pathfinders. Brian, Ben and Dylan are walking, talking Airborne History and they are getting involved now on the Maggie MOH push. I got my pal Bill Hannigan there with a couple of his many kids. Sweet, Ol Bill was respected by this bunch like the 504 Paratrooper he is. Brian even detailed an honor guard for Bill! We'll



Ernie Lamson, 508th PIR and Bill Hannigan, 504 hold 82nd flag amongst the 82nd's living historians during a lull in the action at the 2011 Dakota City Re-Enactment. Dylan Hauer is at left, Ben Lund is kneeling by the 82nd flag and Brian Pesce is left of Ernie. Laney photo.

have more info on this group—they even made me an Honorary Member—as we go. Dakota City was a great event. They kicked the Germans butt! I encourage you all to make it next Spring. Bill Hannigan will be a speaker. Maybe we can get Maggie there?! Please connect with these guys on Facebook. Get them and their weapons displays to your meetings and/or Airborne events. I will try to get this

newsletter out more often with their schedules.

For now, God bless these guys for honoring the world's greatest Airborne Division!

INFO: BEN LUND ON FACEBOOK

OR, EMAIL:

GRILLO_LUND@YAHOO.COM

Delbert Kuehl Remembered by Dylan Hauer

The first time I met Delbert Kuehl I was 16 years old and I was in my 11th grade English class. We were doing a segment on WWII of which I was very interested, Delbert came in to talk to us about his experiences.

As Delbert talk and we listened I learned I wanted to know this man. After the class I talked to him for a long time and asked if it would be possible to talk more with him, he's said yes and gave me his phone number. I called and set up a time to talk. My life has been touched by Delbert in a powerful way, he helped show me the way to the Lord. Delbert was born in Alexandria on a small farm near Lake Louis, he walked to school everyday with his sister. In the winter he stayed in an attic of an elderly widow woman so he wouldn't have to walk as far. Delbert never had time for the Lord. When Delbert was in High School I

believe his family moved to Minnetonka, which is near the Twin Cities. There he met "a brilliant electrical engineer. One of the smartest men I have ever met" Delbert would always say. "But one thing I could never understand about him was his faith in God."

Delbert's family was not at all religious growing up. The electrical engineer would always encourage him to come to Sunday school and learn of the Lord. "I DONT HAVE TIME FOR THAT FOOLISHNESS!" Delbert would always quote that very loudly in telling this story. But the brilliant electrical engineer was very persistent with Delbert. So he finally decided to attend Sunday school. He still didn't fully recognize the power of the Lord. At night Delbert began secretly reading the Bible, and Gods words touched him with John 3:16. And so God so loved the world that he gave his

only begotten son. So that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. "So that whoever believes in him" Delbert proclaimed, that means me too. Delbert fell in love with the Lord. He began trying to get into Seminary school, and succeeded. So war broke out and Delbert had a great and true love for his Country and decided to join the army. He became a Chaplain and at one point the Chaplains were told of a new program called The Paratroops and they needed a few Chaplains to volunteer.

Delbert thought it might be a lot of fun and he joined the recruits for the training.

(Continued next issue.)



Chaplain Kuehl

Old Abes work to host National 101st Convention in Green Bay!

Ron Gillette,
Reunion Chairman
101st Airborne Division Association



Chairman Gillette and members of the Reunion Committee;

The Old Abe Chapter of Wisconsin is pleased to submit this Letter of Intent to host the 2014 Association Reunion at the Radisson Hotel in Green Bay Wisconsin, an event we have named **Operation Eagle Feather**.

After an extensive evaluation of the facilities available to host this event in Wisconsin, The Chapter has agreed that the combination of facilities at the Radisson, combined with the other events and amenities in the immediate area, will make the 2014 Reunion most memorable in Association history. Here is an outline of our proposed event.

Meeting Dates: We have an alternate date options available:

Primary: July 31 (Thursday) – August 3rd (Sunday) 2014 – These dates coordinate with Oshkosh EAA Fly In dates in 2014 of July 28th through August 3rd that will be a short hour's bus ride away.

Alternate: August 7th (Thursday) – August 10th (Sunday) 2014 - Unless we receive your direction to use the alternate dates by October 1st, we will target the primary dates.

Facilities: During Operation Eagle Feather – the entire Radisson hotel facilities have been reserved for this event.

The Radisson has 387 rooms available in the Radisson structure and an additional 80 rooms in the Wingate structure both owned by the Oneida Nation that also own the adjacent 18 hole golf course, and the two adjacent casinos. The hotel representatives have reviewed the Event Hosting SOP and will meet all the requirements. The Oneida Tribe has expressed eagerness to host this event and will provide surprising cooperation and privileges to the soldiers.

Travel: Green Bay International Airport is located across the boulevard from The Radisson Hotel/Casino complex which offers complimentary shuttle service. There are at least six flights daily from Chicago to Green Bay.

To ensure the success of this Operation, Col Ray Boland has accepted the Chairman's responsibilities and will be attending the 2012 Reunion to further expand on the possibilities available.

Our centerpiece of the reunion will be the Eagle Feather Ceremony where members of the eleven Wisconsin Indian Nations will present an Eagle Feather to representatives of the Association. These Eagle Feathers commemorate the bond we in Wisconsin, home of Old Abe - The Battle Eagle - who is symbolized on our 101st patch, have with the Division. Many native 101st veteran warriors will participate in this event in full traditional dress.

The Green Bay Packer organization, well known for their patriotic support, also stands ready welcome the Association.

Sincerely:

James W. Romlein - President

Ray Boland - Chairman



Old Abe Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association
1042 Richards Ave. Watertown, Wisconsin 53094-5024

Iron mountain Glider Dedication



Chaplain Dave Anderson

More than a thousand people viewed the WACO Glider July 17 that was built in Wausau and Iron Mountain over the past five years. Chaplain Dave Anderson, a Corpsman who served in Vietnam, delivered a most stirring dedication speech. Here are some excerpts:

This dedication salutes the CG-4A glider because it is a unique, one of a kind piece of flight history. This fragile craft made of wood, canvas, and metal tubing was originally designed and built quickly by furniture, kitchen appliance, and ironically a casket company as well as many other non-aviation companies to meet the urgent needs of war.

Designed primarily as a cargo carrier, thus the CG or Cargo designation, it was a work horse in the transport of troops, equipment and munitions in the crucial years of the war from 1942-1945. It not only car-

ried troops and equipment into enemy territory for strategic battles, it also carried wounded troops out for the medical care they needed. In a risky maneuver called "snatching" they were wrenched from the ground by skilled pilots who would swoop down and with an attached hook on their plane grab the tow cable of the glider that had been suspended on between two poles in a filed or clearing. The acceleration rate for the snatched glider went from zero to 100 mph in 5-6 seconds.

The contributions of the glider pilots have received less recognition than they deserve for the dangerous missions they performed. They flew in the European, Pacific, and the China/Burma/India theaters. They flew many special missions that remained classified for decades following the war. The Military High Command at the time considered them a "necessary nuisance" in the words of one glider pilot. Their brave actions were often lost in after-action shuffles for notoriety amongst the more highly visible members of the 101st and 82nd Airborne Paratroopers alongside whom they fought as infantry once on the ground.

But ask the Paratroopers whether they would want to be part of a glider squadron or parachute from a plane into hostile territory. They will quickly tell you, "I'd rather parachute out of a plane."

The glider pilots and glider infantry wore no parachutes in combat missions. The added weight of the parachutes meant that fewer troops and supplies could be carried in each glider.

These Troopers consistently distinguished themselves in combat.

As one veteran glider pilot explained, "You are very generous in your praise of us glider pilots but the real heroes were the Glider Riders who covered themselves with glory in combat."

Were these men daring heroes? Unquestionably. During the Battle of the Bulge on a re-supply mission into Bastogne for the 101st Airborne, only 65 gliders or 100 made it through.

I think of all those who have died in our wars; their youth spent in combat and all the dreams and hopes they held for the future. They were young, idealistic, and brave but now sacrificed on some foreign battle field, miles from Mom and Dad for what we oft time stake for granted today. I want to cry. Here I am a veteran of the Vietnam War at age 63, having enjoyed the benefits of an education, a career, a marriage, what it means to be a father, what it mean to be able to remember with pride and profound sadness the contributions of each one who did not come back. I'm overwhelmed and this place will always remind me of ultimate sacrifices.

Today, as we dedicate this place and the men who flew into battle in these amazing aircraft we also remember all whop answered the call of duty; to all who have contributed to the war efforts of our country that have kept us free. We remember all who gave life and limb in the battles against tyranny and especially to all of us gathered here today who may have lost loved ones.

May God bless us and humble us each time we gaze upon this artifact of a day gone by. We will never forget!

And thank you to each one of you who made this possible for the rest of us to remember, reflect and enjoy. Thank you!



POWs taken by Glider Pilot George Thies in Operation Varsity. Thies fought with the 17th Airborne after landing his WACO.

Fly into combat in one of those WACO Gliders?

This is what the Glider Riders were like:

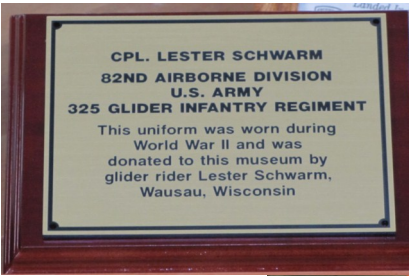
On the morning of 23 December 1944, elements of the U.S. 3rd Armored Division were retreating from the Germans in the Ardennes Forest near Fraiture, Belgium. A sergeant in a tank destroyer spotted an American digging a foxhole. The GI, a Private First Class of Co. F, 325th Glider Infantry Regiment, looked up and asked, "Are you looking for a safe place?"

"Yeah," answered the tanker.

"Well buddy," he drawled, "just pull your tank in behind me... I'm the 82nd Airborne and this is as far as the bastards are going!"



WWII 325 GIR, 82nd Airborne Vets, Emergency Co-Pilot Herb Huebschen, Beloit; Walter Pakulski, Plover and Lester Schwarm Wausau back in a WACO Glider for the first time in 66 years! Lester put in a lot of hours building this Glider fuselage in Wausau.



Glider Rider Brotherhood, Les & Herb meet another WWII 325 GIR Vet Rasmus Johnson from Foster City, Michigan.



Mr. and Mrs. Sid Cohen beating the heat. Plane builder Sid engineered the fuselage work in Wausau organizing dozens of volunteers thousands of hours for over six years. Without Sid and Clyde Unger, there is no Glider.

We'd rather jump out of an airplane any day!



Glider Pilot Bill Cheolas, Melvin, MI with Herb who was also a 325 fill-in Co-Pilot. For Market/Garden. "Were you nervous Herb?"

"I spent the whole time praying nothing would happen to the Pilot!"



Faye and les Schwarm with body guard.



L-R, Sid Cohen, Wausau WACO project engineer; CSM Jim Yanchesky, Vice Chair 82nd Badger Chapter; Roger Willoughby, WACO volunteer, Iron Mountain; Les Schwarm, 325 GIR; Clyde Unger, Iron Mountain WACO Project Engineer; Herb Huebschen, 325 GIR; Frank Morris, Chairman, 82nd Badger Chapter and Walter Pakulski, 82nd & 13th Airborne Divisions. (Laney photos)

Shutters had the best seat of all!



Ben Clark, Pickeral, MI was in the WWII 82nd 325 and the 101st 327 GIR. Still Airborne Solid!



The Glider Riders three years ago in Iron Mountain. Shirley "Shutters" Hartline, r, 325 Machine Gunner, loved the Glider project but died in Jan. Surely, he had the best seat of all. Paratrooper Bruno Mueller, left, Nekoosa, went into Operation Varsity in a Waco. He was in the 13th, 17th and 82nd Airborne Divisions. (Laney photo)



Les Schwarm rode in this seat position when the 325 GIR went into Market/Garden. "They threw everything but the kitchen sink at us going into Holland," says Les. Les continues to memorialize his Airborne Brothers and especially his beloved 82nd.



Mr. and Mrs. Dick Edwards, 325 PIR, 82nd, L'anse, MI, are friends of Howard Rennhack's!



Damn right it was hot! But we were in the company of Glider Rider heroes like Bob Cheolas and Herb Huebschen so we did not complain.

It is an honor to know these guys!!

What's it like to have your son in two wars & repeated combat?

by Ed Frawley father of Jeff Frawley,
(written two years ago.)

I have to be careful that I don't get on a rant when I am faced with anti-war, anti soldier pacifists. I find them so disturbing. I get so upset with the news media saying that only 23% or 28% of the American public consider this war or the threat from Muslims Extremists is important.

I would like to point to two incidents that hit very close to my home. My son went into the military with 3 of his best friends right out of high school. They enlisted at the end of the 11th grade and left 4 days after graduation. They all felt strongly about 9-11. All 4 have done tours in Iraq. My son (Jeff) and one other of the 4 are 14 months into a second 15 month tour in Afghanistan. They have seen more than any 22 year old young man should have to see. Most other kids their age (4 years out of high school) will either be graduating from college or 4 years into a career of some sort.

Jeff's friend who is in the 82nd Airborne with him had his room mate die in his arms from an IED while in Iraq. Another soldier in his unit also lost a room mate in Iraq. When they re-deployed back to Ft Bragg (after Iraq) they asked to room together, which they did for 2 years. Then 14 months ago they shipped out to Afghanistan together. During those 2 years they became best friends. They had plans to vacation together when they got home. While Jeff and his high school buddy are in the 82nd Airborne they are in different battalions and in different places Afghanistan, But still not all that far apart in the mountains on the Pakistan border.

Last Monday a suicide bomber drove a truck bomb through compound gates and into the building where the Americans were staying. In fact he drove it right into the building where the Americans lived. Two killed and 15 wounded. Jeff's friend survived because he was on a guard tower that night. He helped fight off the attack that followed. His room mate did not survive and was killed. Jeff's friend flew in the helicopter that took the bodies of his two friends back the Bagrham Air Force base. Two days later he sent me an email that basically said "Ed it was really really bad. I am luck to have survived". We didn't hear about this on the news.



82nd Airborne SSgt Jeff Frawley, Menomonie, stands in an Afghan IED hole. He is presently in Special Forces Selection.

This past Sunday (March 8th 2008) Sgt Gabriel Guzman in Jeff's company died while on a combat patrol when his vehicle hit an IED . One other soldier was injured.

So we have three families who had been so very excited because they were within weeks of having their sons, husbands and/or fathers finish their 15 month deployment. In the last 7 days these 3 families got the worst knock on their door of their lives and now they are planning funerals.

I cannot bring myself to believe the media. In fact I think they have their head in their ass most of the time. I refuse to believe that 75% of Americans don't consider this war serious business. I have a hard time believing that so many people who flew American flags at their homes and on their cars after 9-11 have forgotten how dangerous Muslim extremists are. How many suicide bombers need to slip through the cracks and make it to America before this country would go into a melt down? Would you guess the number to be 5 or 10? Hell Jeff was within 200 yards of 6 or 7 suicide bombers while in Bagdad that killed

over 60 people. (no Americans – but does that matter?) If 10 suicide bombers hit America it would make the current economic housing crisis look like a stroll through the park on a sunny Sunday afternoon. And to those naive individuals who think that pulling out is going to make these fanatics forget how much they hate us – I say “NUTS” !!!

If the Americans leave Iraq I wonder if Barack Obama thinks these extremists are going to go off and buy homes in the suburbs of Baghdad? Does he think that these suicide bombers are going to take off their suicide vests and hang them in the closet? Or is Bin Laden going to buy a house in the country and thank Mohamed that it's over?

I hate this war. I hate what it does to families who lose soldiers. I hate getting up every morning and looking to see if there is a military car sitting in my drive way. I hate going 8 weeks without a phone call, an email, or a letter from my son because he is so far out there that there is no way to make contact or because he gives his very few satellite phone minutes to the young married soldiers that are with him. I hate my cell phone because it has not been more than 5 feet from my body for the last 13 months.

One time I had not talked to Jeff in 3 weeks. Three weeks is about the time frame when the stress starts to get bad. Well I had forgot my phone on my desk up stairs when it started to ring – I ran like hell got to it just as Jeff was about to hang up. That never happened again. I hate having to wake up from a dead sleep when the phone rings at 3 am and have it be Jeff. I am overjoyed that it's him and mad that my head doesn't work because I just woke up and we only get a 7 minute satellite phone call. So I scribble notes as best I can while I talk so in the morning I don't forget what we talked about. I then treasure those notes for weeks.

I hate having to keep a running check list on my desk about the things to tell Jeff the next time he calls. There are times I stare at that list for weeks and just keep adding to the list. Yesterday I got a 2 minute call. It has been almost 3 weeks. The satellite connection was so bad we never completed one sentence back and forth. But I was able to hear his voice and his laugh as he got mad about how bad the connection was. But in those two minutes I knew he was alive and he was ok – and I heard him

“My rant goes on as long as my son & his soldiers are in harm’s way.”

LAUGH.

I hate the fact that twice my son went 8 weeks without a shower because they did not have showers at the firebase his platoon was at. It was too far out there. Can the average American imagine 8 weeks without a shower? I think not.

I hate the phone calls that start out “Mr. Frawley this is the Army calling to let you know there has been a death in your sons unit – your son is OK. I am sorry we don’t have any further details.” The first one of those calls makes the hair stand straight up on your neck but after you hang up you realize if it had been your son you would have got the knock on the door.

I hate feeling guilty about feeling lucky that it was another soldier who died and not my son. I feel guilty it is another soldiers family that got a knock on the door only to find a military Chaplin standing there in his dress uniform. The instant this happens they hoped it was a bad dream, a wrong address, or maybe there son was just wounded and not killed. But this is not the case and now they are planning funerals.

I hate hearing Barack Obama talk about change and pulling out. The only change we will find if we pull out of Iraq will be that we will have another 9-11 and the next one is going to be bad.

Do those who are against this war (aka Barack Obama) think these people will be satisfied by only killing a few Americans: or only be satisfied by only attacking us one or two more times? Will they give up their ambition to kill Americans if we pull out? Please how naïve is Obama? He insults our common sense with his naïve statements. He insults my son. He insults every American soldier who has fought in this war. It doesn't matter if the reasons we got in this war were correct or not correct - what matters now is that we are there and the Muslim Extremists are concentrating on fighting us there and not here.

My sons Company has built a lot of schools in 14 months. They hired an Afghan to be the general contractor to help build the schools. The soldiers are proud when little girls who have never seen a school come to the schools they help build. The Taliban killed the general contractor and cut his head off and stuck it on a stake outside the American compound.

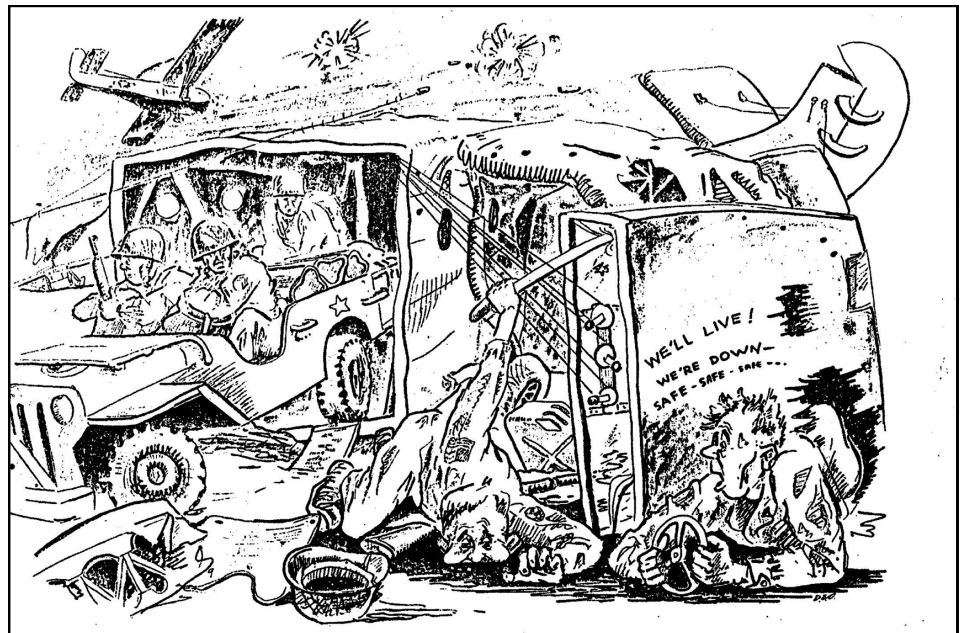
What will Obama do about people who can do these kinds of things? Does he think he can CHANGE them? Mr. Obama please tell us how?

More than anything I hate the thought that this next presidential election could put someone in the white house who doesn't have the balls to deal with these Muslim extremists.



Jeff & Ed after Jeff's first leap at Ft. Benning's Jump School, in 2004.

What I believe is that there are more silent Americans out there with the common sense



to see the forest for the trees. There are more silent Americans out there who will do what's right for our country. This is not a democrat or republican issue. This is not a black Vs. white issue. This is not about a housing crisis. It is an American issue that's concerned with the security of our nation.

So this is the end of my rant, it's not the end for me or my family or the end for every military family.

My rant goes on tomorrow and the next day and next week, for as long as my son and his soldiers are in harms way.

If you have a friend who just doesn't seem to get it – send them my words. Because these are not my words, they are how every military family gets through a deployment.

If you are reading this and you are an American you could say rather him than me, or rather them than my family. Or, you can do something for the security of your country.

You can make sure we elect a president that will take the security of our country as seriously as these young men do.

Editor Note: Whatever your position on the wars, Ed Frawley is one hell of an All The Way Airborne Dad! Ed is a Patriot and successful small business man.

You can Google Leerberg Kennels for more info on his German Shepard's.

Geronimo!

There's nothing like growing up in small town America and having a Championship Town Team like Prescott's Cardinals.

We had the best shortstop in the country on our team. Dick Leseman with a glove arm rebuilt with cartilage, fielded and hit with the best. We all knew he had been a Marine and his left elbow had been shot out by a Jap sniper on Tarawa.

But it wasn't until a few years ago when Dick was interviewed by military historian Dr. Bill Laney, that the real hero was USMC Scout Sniper Sgt. Leseman who had won the Silver Star on Tarawa. Dick and a couple of his guys carried Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Hawkins off the battlefield when Hawkins was mortally wounded.



Popeye

Dick was mid-80s before talking about it. "Hawkins took the bullet that would have killed me," he said. His sister, Dorothy Wetterlin has arranged for us to get a CD of Dick's interview done a year ago by a family member. Details will follow next issue after reviewing the CD.

A memorial Service was held for Dick last week. The Marines sent a superb Honor Guard and a Corpsman blew the taps. Amongst 50 or so family and friends was Rakasan Eugene "Popeye" Tronnier. Combat Paratrooper. Popeye, 187 ARCT, Korea, two Purple Hearts, generally scoffs at Marines. But Dick Leseman was one very special man to Popeye and all of us in Prescott.

On the Medal of Honor for Maggie front, Col. Edward J. Sims, is writing to the 82nd Airborne Division for their help. Col. Sims has never received a reply from two letters he sent to President Obama. (See MOH correspondence section pg. 21.)

I have recently written the President asking that Col. Sims be given the respect he earned as a highly decorated combat Paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne in WWII and as an Infantry Company Commander in Korea.

Last year Wisconsin's Senator Russ Feingold succeeded in getting us a phone call with Col. Patrick Gawkins of the Pentagon. Col. Sims

asked again for a review of the Herresbach facts and explanation of why the total action does not qualify for the Medal of Honor.

Upon review by Col. Gawkins, the case was again dismissed by the Department of the Army (DOA). They refuse to explain why the Medal of Honor is not warranted.

What can be done?

The 82nd Airborne Division Association has decided this is a political matter that they cannot be involved in officially. We are hoping the Association's leadership can point us toward individual Paratroopers who are willing to help. Our Badger Chapter delegates are discussing this with

82nd Association President Eberle and Adjutant Henry at the 82nd Convention.

A website will be up soon with Col. Edward Sim's appeals to the DOA and presidents as well as the position of the Army.

It seems to me that we must find people who either know the President or know someone who does. We need someone to approach President Obama and simply say, "Look at what Col. Sims has to say about this magnificent Paratrooper!"

In order to find people who can make an approach like that we need some sort of national organization. We should also consider forming a National Chapter of the 82nd Association named after Maggie.

Please contact me if you can help with the Maggie MOH documents website.

Portage WWII Museum

Bret Esse has done a masterful job of displaying Airborne history and artifacts at his museum at 119 W. Cook, Portage. He now plans to dedicate an entire section to the Airborne. If you're wondering what to do with your Airborne gear drop in and ask Bret if he has a place for it. Huge expense for Bret. Let's back this guy up!

Happy Birthday!

Best Airborne Wishes to my friend Don Olson, Black River Falls on his 91st Birthday! Howard Rennhack bought us all lunch and we had a great time with the 502nd Screaming Eagle who won the Silver Star fighting for his friends at The Bulge. Airborne!

All The Way my friends!

Tom Laney, Editor



82nd Airborne Paratrooper Mike Haller and Bret Esse outside the Museum in downtown Portage. Bret has done a masterful job here for the Airborne! Let's back him up! (Laney photo)

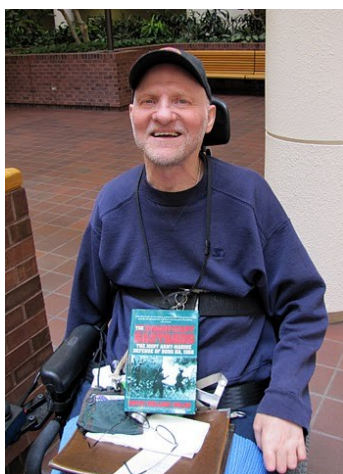
Troopers who do Great Work!

Tom Boettcher

Although confined to a wheel chair, Tom Boettcher is a daily volunteer at the Minneapolis VA where he lends spirit and good humor to all.

He served in Vietnam as a Corpsman with the USMC 2/4, 3d Marine Division, also known as "The Magnificent Bastards". He experienced some of the most fierce fighting with Marines he calls his Brothers and was fortunate to make it home in 1967. He planned to become a nurse but a car accident in which his best friend died and left Tom disabled finished that dream. So, he comes to the VA every day for morning Mass and Communion and then sets about befriending and assisting everyone who comes in. He has helped a few of my friends and they all love him.

There is a book about The Magnificent Bastards by that name and my cousin, Col. James Laney Williams is in it. When Tom told me he had been with The Magnificent Bastards, I asked if he knew Jim? Tom remembered Jim from his picture in the book. Jim is a Force Recon Marine, a Paratrooper and member of the Badger Chapter, 82nd Airborne Assoc.. In the photo Tom has a new copy of the book autographed by Col. Williams who was awarded two Silver Stars for being a Magnificent Bastard.



John Givens

The best bowling Alley in Lacrosse is South Lanes owned by Paratrooper John Givens. You can raise your average just by the adrenaline rush you get from one of the best Green Bay Packer memorabilia displays in Wisco. You can also enjoy very good pizza.

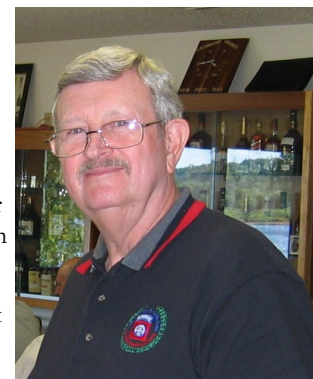
John is fond of the WWII Honor flight program. For May 2011, John and his son-in-law who runs the pizza side, did a promotion that put \$2 towards the Honor Flights for each large pizza sold.

Trust me, there are some huge eaters and beer drinkers in the town of LaCrosse who are also extremely Patriotic.

"From the May pizza sales we are donating \$1206 to the Wisconsin Honor Flights for September," John announced. He is encouraging the Badger Chapter, 82nd Association to help Airborne Veterans make the Honor Flights.

John is a members of the Badger state Chapter, 82nd Assoc. He is an 82nd combat Veteran and former Secretary and Vice Chairman of the Chapter and is presently Editor of Badger Airborne News.

If you're in LaCrosse drop in at South Lanes to see Packer Hall of Fame West, bowl a few lines and have a pizza; And meet one of Wisconsin's nicest guys and a great Patriot.



Doug Rasmussen, Phillips, top row, 3rd from right, is never pictured alone. Doug is always surrounded by Vets, kids, Wounded Warriors and family. Here is his most recent group of "Hooked On Fishing" kids. Next edition we cover his work with disabled Vets and try to get some idea on when he rests. Doug is an 82nd Airborne Paratrooper and member of the Badger 82nd Chapter.

Out in the breeze with Hot Larry!



Master Sergeant Christina Steiner left Wisconsin for all the gold in Ft. Knox and is now sky diving, doing Army PR and modeling with Ft. Knox C.O. Col. Sanders. I will have to later identify Hot Larry, Christina's sky diving coach since I've lost my notes. But he looks pretty darn Airborne to me. I hope all the Badger Troopers who wondered what happened to Christina and how she's doing can now rest. Looks like she's doing just great!

(NO ANSWER FROM THE PRESIDENT!)

428 Heron Point
Tinton Falls, NJ 07753

February 11, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I respectfully request that you personally approve an upgrade of the 1945 Silver Star awarded to then 1st Lt. James Megellas, to the Medal of Honor. At Tab "A" is the complete "Form 638, Recommendation For Award." (4 copies as required were sent to awards board but I request you directly approve this request due to their previous negative approach.) Here is a brief description of what 1st Lt. James Megellas did:

On 28 January, 1945, while fighting the Germans in "The Battle of the Bulge," 1st Lt. James Megellas was a rifle platoon leader in Company H, 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division. At the time, I was executive officer of Company H and we were moving east toward the border of Germany in one of the snow-covered fire breaks in the Ardennes. It was the beginning of dusk when suddenly a U.S. Jeep was moving toward our column with four German soldiers as occupants. The driver was shot and the others were taken prisoner. From them we learned that a large German force, on foot, was following them from the village of Herresbach, Belgium.

1st Lt. Megellas was given a hasty order to take his platoon (27 men) and two tank destroyers* (TD) and attack this large enemy force. Without delay, he increased the pace of his small force in the direction of Herresbach. Initially, he and his men followed behind the TD's, but within minutes they met, head on, the advancing columns of Germans. 1st Lt. Megellas instantly moved from behind the lead TD into the midst of this enemy force with devastating automatic fire from his Thompson sub-machine gun. His men followed his action and all were immediately engaged in close combat. The supporting TD's, due to the close intermingling of forces, had a limited fire capability, but did present a major threat to the enemy troops. Although there was much confusion within the enemy forces, some were able to return fire. In this rapid face-to-face action, 1st Lt. Megellas and his men continued to dominate over the enemy and fought their way along the road toward Herresbach and the fleeing Germans. About 10 minutes had passed and as they reached the outskirts of the village, a German tank (Mark V) appeared, moving and firing automatic fire in their direction, causing them to seek cover and disrupting progress. Aware that the supporting TD's were not in position to engage the German tank, 1st Lt. Megellas, individually, without hesitation, moved rapidly along the edge of the tree-lined road toward the oncoming tank as it continued to fire. When in range, he stopped the tank's forward progress with a well-thrown Gammon Grenade (concussion type) and then he immediately ran up to the tank and tossed a hand grenade into the open hatch, killing the entire crew. At this point about 15 minutes had elapsed from the time the first shot was fired upon meeting the Germans. After the tank was put out of action, 1st Lt. Megellas reorganized his force and moved into Herresbach to clear the village of enemy forces, including many who fled the initial attack. During this action he killed more enemy soldiers and caused some to be captured. A hasty defense was established in preparation for counterattacks by the Germans.

Our forces in this action had no casualties. Enemy casualties, as reported in the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment's History, lists over 100 killed and 180 captured. 1st Lt. Megellas was personally responsible for 25 of those killed. The count of enemy casualties during this action remains controversial. The 82nd Airborne Division History lists 65 killed and 201 captured. An individual count by a staff member of the 504 has 138 killed and 200 captured. We in Company H, who did not stop to

*These were M-4 Sherman Tanks. Because they were built to destroy enemy tanks, we called them tank destroyers.

count enemy casualties, believe the count to be much higher, such as over 250 killed and over 250 captured.

Even with the enemy casualties cited (over 100 killed and 180 captured), this was a monumental accomplishment with close-in fighting by each individual, and it was 1st Lt. Megellas (the most outstanding combat officer that I know) by his own courageous actions and deliberate exposure to enemy fire who was the single driving force that motivated the men he led to excel. Although far outnumbered by the opposing enemy forces, 1st Lt. Megellas, by his aggressive and dauntless actions, surpassed what would be expected by destroying the fighting capability of this large enemy force and one enemy tank with crew.

Following the action in 1945, I informed the Commanding Officer of Company H, 504, that 1st Lt. Megellas should be recommended for the Medal of Honor for this amazing accomplishment. Upon inquiring about this, we were informed that because there were no U.S. casualties during this action, there was no chance of having a Medal of Honor approved. He was, however, awarded the Silver Star, which, in the citation (signed by M.G. James M. Gavin), omitted a major individual act of valor by him, the destruction of the Mark V tank and crew. In my opinion, previous evaluators wrongfully ignored the destruction of the Mark V tank and crew by Megellas.

On May 12, 2000, I resubmitted a request to the President to upgrade the Silver Star to the Medal of Honor (this citation would include the destruction of the Mark V tank and crew). Previous evaluators (except for one) failed to even mention the Mark V Panther tank being destroyed by Megellas. The one who did, wrongfully believed that the tank was insignificant. What is disturbing is why so many supposedly intelligent evaluators were unable to assimilate the Mark V tank destruction into this action as a major accomplishment.

I believe Title 10, United States Code, Section 1130 is appropriate for the submission of this award recommendation to upgrade previously approved awards, regardless of time constraints. Two Congressional members, Senator Cornyn and Representative Petri, previously submitted bills to their constituents requesting their approval.

James Megellas and Carole, his wife, reside at 1600 Douglas Avenue in Colleyville, Texas 76034-6263. Phone: (817) 481-4553.

Very respectfully yours,



Edward J. Sims
Colonel A.U.S. Retired
Phone: (732) 922-6391

CC SEN. CORNYN
REP. PETRI
AWARDS BOARD
MEGELLAS

Enclosures:

Tab A is a completed Form 638, Recommendation For Award, with a new date, requesting an update to the Medal of Honor.

Enclosures to Tab A:

1. Previous Awards
2. Citation for Silver Star
3. Map location of Herresbach
4. Description of Mark V tank
5. Proposed Citation for Medal of Honor
6. Statements of comrades with 6 eyewitnesses
7. Precedent
8. Wisconsin Legislature

(NO ANSWER FROM THE PRESIDENT!)

**Badger State Chapter
82nd Airborne Division Association**
E 6304 866th Ave.
Colfax, WI 54730



May 23, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am the Secretary of the Badger State Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association and Badger Project Organizer for the Medal of Honor for Lt. Col James "Maggie" Megellas. I am writing to you to request that you, personally, give respect to Col. Edward J. Sims who appealed to you twice last year to award the Medal of Honor to Lt. Col. Megellas. However, someone is referring Col. Sim's letters to you to the Department of the Army (DOA) which only compounds a DOA mistake made 12 years ago. I beg you Sir, please read what Col Sims has to say.

It was Col. Sims who recommended then 1st Lt. Megellas for the Medal of Honor after the Battle of Herresbach in 1945. Col. Sims is himself, a highly decorated Paratrooper and man of sterling integrity. His appeals to the Department of the Army (DOA) have not been dealt with in a rational or just manner. As you can see from the enclosed brief (Pg. 2, Sims 5/12/2000 letter) facts repeatedly submitted by Col. Sims to the DOA, have been repeatedly ignored by the DOA as just cause for the upgrade to the Medal of Honor. The DOA continues to say, that even accepting the total action as fact, that the appropriate award remains the Silver Star.

We know of no other Soldier who led, from the front, his undermanned platoon (27 Paratroopers) against a superior enemy force of some 400 Germans; who personally killed 25 enemy while his platoon killed and captured more than 300 enemy; who selflessly charged a tank firing on his platoon with grenades and a Thompson sub-machine gun, knocking out the tank and crew and saving his platoon; who then re-organized his platoon, pursued the enemy into Herresbach and led them house-to-house clearing the town; who then positioned his men for a counter-attack and defeated that attack. We don't know of anyone else who has done anything like this who has received less than the Medal of Honor.

66 years ago, Col. Sims, now 91, recommended the Medal of Honor for this incredibly heroic action. It is time to make this right. The 504 PIR and 82nd were immersed in fierce fighting. Col. Sims and the and the Division were unable to pursue the paperwork. When the Division made the Silver Star award they omitted the tank action, which alone would seem to be a Medal of Honor award. Thanks to Col. Sims All American tenacity and perseverance, the DOA now recognizes as fact the action against the tank. The DOA accepts the total action as fact. Then they somehow reason that the appropriate award remains the Silver Star. They refuse to explain this reasoning. It makes no sense whatever then, to keep kicking Col. Sim's appeals back to the DOA.

I voted for you Sir because I believed you are the rarest of modern American politicians—an honest man. I beg you to review this matter and correct a grave injustice to our most decorated officer of the world's greatest Airborne Division. I believe that if whoever reads this letter gives it to you instead of the Pentagon, this injustice will be rectified.

Maggie is 94 now. He is a great fan of the Green Bay Packers who honored him last season before the Cowboy game. In my view, his Airborne Karma launched our run and fired the Packers into our 13th World Championship. It would be appropriate then, if you would include the Packers, all his Airborne Brothers and friends when you award him the Medal of Honor he and our 82nd Airborne Division so justly deserve.

God bless you *ALL THE WAY* Sir!

Thomas J. Laney, Secretary
Badger State Chapter
82nd Airborne Division Association
tlaney1776@gmail.com
(715)962-4365



Baldwin Airborne Day rained out, Bob Shrader scheduled to jump next year!



Special Forces can do almost anything but change the weather and this years jumpers were rained and low-ceilinged out. But we had a great time anyway with jump stories, good food and beer. Top Left, Army Nurse Loretta Fairchild and Linda Consignant tell Bill Hannigan about the Wounded Vets Warriors Hockey Club in Minnie; center, Rakkasan Gene “Popeye” Tronnier, 2 Purple Hearts 1 combat jump 187 ARCT, blesses John Hanks, WWII Special Service and Bill Hannigan 504 PIR, 82nd. Right, John Stepan, 508th, 82nd and Special Forces Vet presents certificate of appreciation to Baldwin Sky Dive Club leader Cheryl Smith. Don’t miss this event next year! (Laney photos.)

Scott Anderson on Memorial Day—Our most sacred holiday



Excerpts from a memorial Day speech by Scott Anderson, Post Commander, American Legion, Boyceville, 325PIR Vet and Badger Chapter 82nd member.

and honor that was declared over two centuries ago when America first fought for her freedom. So today, on this most sacred day, we pause to reflect on what has been given and

sacrificed. Let us never forget.

God bless you all and God Bless America.

Memorial Day reminds us that without Patriotism we would have no heroes to honor today. Oliver Wendell Holmes called this “our most important holiday” and he urged that “we not ponder with sad thoughts the passing of our heroes but rather ponder their legacy—the life they made possible for us by their commitment and pain.”

They are all heroes—facing enemies every day. Yet they stand resolved to carry out their mission to keep America safe. Those who serve now and have served in the Armed Forces are no less committed to protect our nation than were the men who signed the Declaration of Independence. Their final words state, “for the support of this Declaration, with a from reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.” Today our Armed Forces maintain this same commitment



Bob Shrader drives it on!

He says he likes it but why is there blood on that strut? Bob made another Maggie Jump last week and has already agreed to jump in Baldwin for Airborne Days!



T/Sgt. William D. Walsh, town of Westport, is shown at the right above as he received the distinguished service cross from Maj. Gen. James M. Gavin, 82nd airborne division, in Europe. Sgt. Walsh lived at 133 N. Butler st. when he worked at Weber's restaurant here before entering service.

Thanks Major Dan Walsh for this letter!

"...absolutely nothing to write about." Riiight!.....

Dec 10, 1944

Dear Jane

I don't know what the hell I am writing for because there is absolutely nothing to write about. I just decided to scratch off a few letters tonight because it is raining too hard and I can't go to a show. I hope little Audrey is doing o.k. I am looking forward to meeting your family when I get back. There is a battery on now with about 5 out of 30,000



In the footsteps of his father, 504 PIR Hero William "Knobby" Walsh, DSC, Cheneaux, Major Dan Walsh of the famed 32nd Infantry, Eau Claire, has been a very special benefactor to the Wisco Airborne. Here Dan copies us on a letter from Knobby that contains some priceless art work on the next page. (Yes, you will have to turn the letter sideways). Knobby came home to run a hardware store in Cross Plains. He never made a big deal about being one of the 82nd Airborne Division's biggest Heroes. He was just a father, a successful small business owner serving his community, a Catholic and all-around good citizen.

But his grave marker does have a parachute on it.

comes for me. I sawing
 expect me back on a 30
 day furlough. I don't see a
 candle on the window until
 you hear more. I have not
 missed any combat since
 except 60 days when I
 got hit so if we ever
 get started sending guys
 home, I should be home
 by 1948 or 9. I probably
 won't have to close this
 abortion soon because
 it gets worse, the more
 I write. I think I will
 write to Father, Melle

and thank him for the
 card he sent me.
 T. CPL. TANK CMDR.

0-D TYPE CHAMPION HAT
 1000 BULL
 PERRC HANDLED
 COLT 45
 37 MM
 CAMERA

← DIRECTION OF FLIGHT

DIRECTION GUN IS TRAVERSING

FOCKE WULFE 190
 SMOKE AFTER FIRE GIVES AWAY POSITION.

20MM
 OR
 FARK 38
 OR
 2 CM I had to fill up the 90mm will have to close this
 with
 SOLOTHURN
 13 LOCK
 Please come with
 POT OF
 FIRE

ENG LIGHT
 AOK FOR
 CREW

PROBABLY
 54 309
 51 MILLS

Ron Gillette,
 Reunion Chairman
 101st Airborne Division Association



Chairman Gillette and members of the Reunion Committee;

The Old Abe Chapter of Wisconsin is pleased to submit this Letter of Intent to host the 2014 Association Reunion at the Radisson Hotel in Green Bay Wisconsin, an event we have named **Operation Eagle Feather**.

After an extensive evaluation of the facilities available to host this event in Wisconsin, The Chapter has agreed that the combination of facilities at the Radisson, combined with the other events and amenities in the immediate area, will make the 2014 Reunion most memorable in Association history. Here is an outline of our proposed event.

Meeting Dates: We have alternate date options available:

Primary: July 31 (Thursday) – August 3rd (Sunday) 2014 – These dates coordinate with Oshkosh EAA Fly In dates in 2014 of July 28th through August 3rd that will be a short hour's bus ride away.

Alternate: August 7th (Thursday) – August 10th (Sunday) 2014 - Unless we receive your direction to use the alternate dates by October 1st, we will target the primary dates.

Facilities: During Operation Eagle Feather – the entire Radisson hotel facilities have been reserved for this event.

The Radisson has 387 rooms available in the Radisson structure and an additional 80 rooms in the Wingate structure both owned by the Oneida Nation that also own the adjacent 18 hole golf course, and the two adjacent casinos. The hotel representatives have reviewed the Event Hosting SOP and will meet all the requirements. The Oneida Tribe has expressed eagerness to host this event and will provide surprising cooperation and privileges to the soldiers.

Travel: Green Bay International Airport is located across the boulevard from The Radisson Hotel/Casino complex which offers complimentary shuttle service. There are at least six flights daily from Chicago to Green Bay.

To ensure the success of this Operation, Col Ray Boland has accepted the Chairman's responsibilities and will be attending the 2012 Reunion to further expand on the possibilities available.

Our centerpiece of the reunion will be the Eagle Feather Ceremony where members of the eleven Wisconsin Indian Nations will present an Eagle Feather to representatives of the Association. These Eagle Feathers commemorate the bond we in Wisconsin, home of Old Abe - The Battle Eagle - who is symbolized on our 101st patch, have with the Division. Many native 101st veteran warriors will participate in this event in full traditional dress.

The Green Bay Packer organization, well known for their patriotic support, also stands ready welcome the Association.

Sincerely:

James W. Romlein - President

Ray Boland - Chairman



Old Abe Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association
 1042 Richards Ave. Watertown, Wisconsin 53094-5024

DAV WTF Department: How chickenshit is this?

May 14 I showed at DAV Chapter 26 to get some shots but thinking no one would be crazy enough to show up for a bike ride in the rain. But I underestimated the Leatherneck's desire to support disabled Vets and drink some beer.

They look pretty darn spiffy these guys in their Leatherneck leathers and Marine Corps pride. Good guys out for a good cause, whatever the weather. "We get the hard core on days like this," said Rob "Rocket Man" Morse, who was a little damp but high-spirited after riding down from Ladysmith.

The hard core of this Corps turned out to be somewhere between 50-60 riders. When the day was done they returned to Chapter 26 for some eats, music, beer and camaraderie.

Missing the camaraderie and the point was one



Robert "Rocket Man" Morse, Ladysmith, schmoozes with a constituent before braving the rain for Disabled Vets. Semper Fi!

Ken Kuehnl, Jr. the DAV State Adjutant way down in Union Grove.

Ken and others decided that since Chapter 26 used the DAV National Logo on a promotional flyer for the event and failed to ask permission from the State DAV to help Vets, they were in deep trouble. And that deep trouble cost the Chapter a 90-day suspension.

"They know the rules," said Kuehnl who says he is unhappy with Chapter 26 because they do not raise enough money for the State DAV.

Sources in Chapter 26 say they have a heavy mortgage duty and the suspension will make it even harder for them to service their debt.

One thing that is certain, is that Kuehnl is not making it any easier for Chapter 26 to contribute to the State DAV coffers.

Chapter 26 Delegates to the DAV State Convention were intent on protesting what appears to be an extremely unjust suspension. They were denied the floor there on the grounds that the Chapter is suspended.

I know these Chapter 26 guys. They are some of the nicest guys I have ever met anywhere. They run what appears to be a model organi-



Do these guys look like criminals? More like Model Vets: The USMC's Steve "Full Flavor" Beidel, St. Paul East Side, Jerry Merritt, Chapter 26 VP; and Jim "Morthead" Mordal, Elk River, MN before the problem ride. (photos by Laney)

zation. They have bent over backwards to assist the Badger State Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Association, helped us with everything we've asked and even honored our Chapter members.

Not everyone does that for the Airborne.

Vets helping Vets is what Chapter 26 is all about. So I don't understand why Mr. Kuehnl is not supportive but will continue try to find out. 90 days? Why not 90 seconds?

Semper Fi. Indeed.. Stay tuned.

- Tom Laney, Editor



Here's an Airborne Company that really gets things done! From the "Airborne Circle" to their monthly meetings and Annual Airborne Picnic at Ft. Snelling this outfit of over 500 Leapers has a lot of fun remembering the Airborne. Organizer Hal Roed, L, and an unidentified Ranger at R. toast our Airborne Brothers in a Propblast during last year's picnic.

How do you join? Just show up.

(Ctrl then click on the link below for more info:

<http://www.midwestallairborne.com/index.html>





MIDWEST ALL-AIRBORNE ALLIANCE



“The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.” G.K. Chesterton

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Airborne



Thank you Mr. hard-boiled Paratrooper Bert Schmitz, 505 PIB National Association Secretary for the terrifically designed 82nd BSC challenge coins below!

A fundraiser for Wounded Warrior, these coins can be had for only \$12 bucks! (Plus postage)
Contact Reuben Clark, Treasurer, 82nd Badger Chapter, 5318 Greenbriar LN, Madison, WI
Email: lnclark@aol.com
608-222-4833



From Semper Fi to WTF?

Leathernecks gathered in the rain at DAV Chapter 26, Menomonie for a DAV Benefit Ride May 14 to Trout Creek and back.

The Marines supported each other (who sticks together better than Marines) and all Veterans for a DAV Chapter that works for all of us.

50-60 hardcore Jarheads from all over Minnesota and Wisconsin rode through the day’s drizzle to help their Brothers and had a good time doing it.

When it was over, the State DAV suspended Chapter 26 for 90 days! (See story on page 28.) Laney photos.



Airborne Photog Squad Arrives Alaska

Jess, Justin and Tundra Apache Ranger Steven Connaher are now settled in Alaska where Justin continues his outstanding All American Airborne Photog work at Elemendorf Air Base and Ft. Richardson, home of the 501st Airborne Brigade, aka The Apaches.

Tundra Airborne Ranger Apache, Steven, 7, is cranking out beautiful Airborne art work when he’s not facing down Grizzlies.

Sample for our 101st pals at right::

Jess is assembling a book on Stevenisms.

Justin has covered Maggie all over the U.S. and ETO Airborne sites. See his work below:

<http://www.wix.com/jconnaher/fotog>

