

Chicago Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association Newsletter

March 2019



Chicago Chapter Officers:

- Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary: Mark Mueller
- Vice Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, and Historian: Glenn T. Granat
- Service Officer: Vacant

Upcoming Events:

- **10 March, 2019:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Ram Brewery in Rosemont, IL, 14:00-16:00.
- **14 April, 2019:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Rock Bottom Brewery and Restaurant in Warrenville, IL, 14:00-16:00.
- **27 April, 2019:** Chapter 37 Special Forces Association Annual Military Ball. Please check for Chapter website for additional details.
- **5 May, 2019:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Prairie Bluff Country Club in Lockport, IL, 14:00-16:00.
- **24 May, 2019:** Chicago Vets Ruck March. Every day, 20 Active Duty and Veterans commitment suicide. The 20 mile ruck march help bring awareness, assistance, and resources to address this very critical situation. If you would like to join us and other veterans, you can register at <http://chicagovets.org/ruck/march-2019> or contact the Chapter's Vice Chairman Glenn Granat at 630-209-2834.

Chairman Granat with other Veterans at last year's ruck march.



- **Outings and Events: LET'S GO FISHING!** Vice Chairman Granat will be hosting the Chapter's first fishing day on Saturday, June 1st 2019 from 8:00AM-2:00PM at Tampier Lake in Orland Park. We will meet on the west shore of the lake, directly adjacent to the west parking lot, (just look for the AIRBORNE flag). Tampier Lake is home to Northern Pike, Walleye, Yellow Perch, Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass, Bluegills, Punkinseed Sunfish, Yellow Bass, Gizzard Shad, Crappie, Bullhead, Channel Catfish, and the always-popular Carp! Tampier is 131 Acres, averaging 10 feet deep with the deepest spot being 13 feet deep. The lake also has abundant shore fishing as well as boats that can be rented. Please bring your lunch, beverages, and fishing tackle! There will be a very cool prize for the largest fish of the day! (A valid State of Illinois fishing license is required).
- **Chapter Meetings:** In addition to Chapter and Association updates, there is a monthly history report and static display of very cool Airborne items. There is also plenty of social time to meet and connect with other Airborne Troopers!
- Any Trooper that is interested in taking a more active role in the Chapter, please contact our Chapter Chairman Mark Mueller markmueller@ameritech.net
- The 2019 Airborne calendars are available and can be purchased at each monthly meeting or on the Chicago Chapter web site for \$10.00 each.

1SG Leonard Funk, 508th PIR WWII



First Sergeant Leonard Funk was a Medal of Honor recipient and one of the most decorated paratroopers of World War II. He also received the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts.

Funk joined the Army in June 1941. He volunteered to be a paratrooper. After completing his jump training he was assigned to Company C of the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He jumped into Normandy on D-Day as well as jumping into Holland during Operation Market Garden. In December 1944 he fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

On January, 1945, he distinguished himself by gallant actions against the enemy. After advancing 15 miles in a driving snowstorm the company executive officer became a casualty, and 1st Sgt. Funk immediately assumed his duties. Under his courageous leadership the 3d Platoon took 80 prisoners. An enemy patrol captured the American guards, freed the prisoners, and began preparations to attack Company C at which time 1st Sgt. Funk approached the enemy patrol. A German officer ordered 1st Sgt Funk to surrender as he pushed a machine pistol into his stomach. Although outnumbered and facing almost certain death, 1st Sgt. Funk pretended to comply as he unslung his submachine gun, brought the muzzle down and dispatched the German officer. He then fired on the other Germans while shouting to the other Americans to seize the enemy's weapons. During this fire fight, 21 Germans were killed and the remainder captured. 1st Sgt. Funk's bold action and heroic disregard for his own safety were directly responsible for the recapture of a vastly superior enemy force, which, if allowed to remain free, could have endangered the entire attack plan.