

Chicago Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association Newsletter

July, 2019



Chicago Chapter Officers:

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

Airborne Farewells: Over the past 2 months the Chapter has done Airborne Farewells for two of our Members: Matt Wojtaszek: Glidermen World War 2 and Alan Bold Cold War Veteran. We will miss our Airborne brothers and may they have light winds and soft landings. AATW.

Upcoming Events:

- **14 July, 2019:** John Steele Chapter Summer Picnic, (replace July meeting). Please join us to spending a day with our Airborne Brothers in the John Steele Chapter in Ottawa, IL.
- **7-10 August, 2019:** 73rd Annual 82nd Airborne Association Convention in Washington, DC. Please contact Chicago Chapter Chairman Mark Mueller for further details.
markmueller@ameritech.net
- **11 August, 2019:** Chicago Chapter monthly membership meeting at the Rock Bottom Brewery and Restaurant in Warrenville, IL, 14:00-16:00.
- **16 August, 2019:** NATIONAL AIRBORNE DAY! ALL THE WAY! LET'S GO FISHING! Vice Chairman Granat hosted the Chapter's first fishing day on June 1. Glenn was joined by Chicago Chapter Member Steve Corcoran. Steve & Glenn had a great day of comradery, fishing, telling Airborne stories, recounting our days as paratroopers as well as Steve's time on a Blackhawk Helicopter in Iraq, (Welcome Home Steve). Please watch the Newsletter and Facebook for upcoming fishing dates.



Glenn and Steve enjoying a day of fishing at Tampier Lake!

Chicago Veteran's Ruck March 2019

Thanks to everyone who participated in this event, which bring awareness and resources to the current suicide epidemic with Veterans and Active Duty Service members, (there are still 20 suicides a day). This event also helps our brothers and sisters in arms that are struggling with PTSD and making the adjustment back to civilian life.



Left to Right: Olivia Damask, (friend from Brookfield Zoo), Lauren Bilotta, (IL. National Guard Medic), Katie Berg, (friend from Brookfield Zoo), Craig Stevens, (U.S. Navy Submarine Veteran, served on the USS Buffalo, SSN 715), and Chicago Chapter Vice Chairmen Glenn T. Granat: (82nd Airborne, C 1/504 STRIKE HOLD! LGOP).

- 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 First Airborne Infantry “Test Platoon”



In June of 1940, the US War Department created an Airborne Infantry “Test Platoon” at Fort Benning, GA. This test platoon was composed of 2 officers and 48 enlisted soldiers from Fort Benning’s 29th Infantry Regiment. First Lieutenant William T. Ryder was the test platoon’s leader and also considered the first American paratrooper.

Lieutenant Colonel William C. Lee, was intently interested in the test platoon, and he recommended that the men be moved to the Safe Parachute Company at Hightstown, NJ for training on the parachute drop towers used during the New York World’s Fair. Eighteen days after organization, the platoon was moved to New Jersey and trained for one week on the 250-foot towers.

Less than 50 days after being organized, the first official jump from an airplane was made by the Test Platoon from a Douglas B-18 over Lawson Field on August 16, 1940. Prior to this drop, the platoon held a lottery to determine what lucky soldier would follow Lieutenant Ryder out of the airplane. Private William N. “Red” King won this lottery and became the first enlisted man of the test platoon to jump out of an airplane.

Today, the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 507th Infantry Regiment has the responsibility to conduct the U.S. Army Airborne School. Army Airborne School, also called “Jump School”, is where students learn how to jump out of aircraft, navigate by using a parachute, and then land on the ground and move on to combat objectives.