



## 2009 Calendar

### June

- 14 – Chapter meeting
- 14 – Flag Day

### July

- 4 – Independence Day
- 12 – Summer picnic, Ottawa

### August

- 9 – Chapter meeting
- 19-23 - National Convention
- 16 – National Airborne Day

### September

- 7 – Labor Day
- 13 – Chapter meeting

### October

- 11 – Chapter meeting

### November

- 8 – Chapter meeting
- 11 – Veterans Day
- 15 – Early Birds Due
- 26 – Thanksgiving Day

### December

- 7 – Pearl Harbor Day
- 13 – Chapter meeting
- 25 – Christmas
- 31 – New Years Eve

## Chairman's Message

First off, a thank you for all of your patience and well wishes that I have received over the last few months. As some know my father in law has been battling stomach cancer for quite a while, in the recent months the situation worsened and ended up with some major touch and go surgery. While my absence from the chapter has been difficult for me personally, I hope everyone understands that first and foremost family is the #1 priority. So with my father in law on the hard road to recovery, I hope to resume chairman duties and get back into the chapter schedule.

We have some great summer events coming up, including a co-chapter picnic with the John Steele chapter in Ottawa on June 12 and of course the 82<sup>nd</sup> Association National Convention over August 19-23 and only a few short hours away in Indianapolis. I hope that since we are so close to this year's convention our chapter will have a strong showing.

Thanks again, and I look forward to getting back together with my extended trooper family.

All The Way!

Mark Christianson, Chairman



## Memorial Day Parade in Naperville



Thanks very much to our members for participating in the Memorial Day parade in Naperville on May 25. Participating from our chapter was (in no particular order): Tony Vallos, Barney Janecki, Bob Bell, Ralph Calderon, Brian O'Sullivan, Alan Bold, Jay Siler, and Cal Roesner, along with me and my family. We also later caught up with members Phil Maughin and Jim McGinley. The weather held out long enough and everything else seemed to work out fine. I think it was nice to have the Jeep and it was great that the organizers moved us up front with the rest of the Veterans.

Airborne, All the Way!  
Mark Mueller, Vice Chairman

## Tough Economy, Tougher Paratroopers

Unless you've been without any media coverage you likely have not only heard about but felt the economic crunch in the past few months. Many of our friends, family and coworkers have endured lay-off's, pay cuts or outright closure of businesses. For our retired members, medication costs continue to rise and retirement plan money continues to shrink.

I don't think anyone from 8 to 80 is exempt from feeling the impact but one thing is for certain, nothing is tougher than paratroopers. With this in mind, recently the officers of this chapter formulated a plan to turn our attention to help those in need that we consider family. We are working towards creating a special fund for our members who might need a hand to get them through.

The plan is in the early stages but if you find yourself in a tough situation and don't know where to turn, remember that we are your family and we don't walk away from family members. If you need assistance, please contact any of the chapter officers and we will work with you as much as possible.

If you are doing well and wish to donate funds or assistance to fellow troopers, please contact any chapter officer to discuss how you can help be someone's emergency parachute.

Official newsletter  
of the Chicago  
Chapter



"America's Guard of Honor"

AFRICA SICILY FRANCE THE NETHERLANDS BELGIUM GERMANY DOMINICAN REPUBLIC  
VIETNAM GRENADA PANAMA PERSIAN GULF AFGHANISTAN IRAQ



## 2009 Chapter Officers

Chairman  
Mark Christianson

Vice Chairman  
Mark Mueller

Secretary  
Rafael Calderon

Treasurer  
Glenn Granat

Sergeant at Arms  
Ken Sullivan

Chaplain  
Ed Caldario

Trustee  
Chester Aszklar

Trustee  
Matt Wojtaszek

Trustee  
Tony Vallos

Paraglide Editor/PR  
Marge Mazik

## CHICAGO CHAPTER HEADLINES

### Sponsoring an 82nd Wounded Warrior

Once again our Chapter is proud to be sponsoring an 82<sup>nd</sup> Wounded Warrior at the National Convention. Last year we were one of only about seven chapters who participated in this program to bring wounded warriors to the convention, but this year the program has been significantly expanded under the leadership of Bill Eberle and includes more than 20 sponsoring chapters.

Each chapter funds a room at the convention hotel and travel arrangements. Typically we try to pull together materials to create a welcome gift as well, so if you have any ideas or would like to be a chapter ambassador during the convention, contact Chairman Christianson.

### Chapter Pins are Back in Stock!

Our popular Chicago Chapter pins are back in stock and available for purchase (image shown at right). The idea started as a fundraising and membership awareness program and quickly turned into a good will item. Many members are wearing these pins and keeping a few in their pocket to give to troopers they meet on the street.



Pins are available at any meeting, or by contacting a chapter officer. The price is \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Wear them everywhere and carry a extra for a new friend.

### Troopers on the Internet

For the computer savvy, the world gets a little smaller as we move into the world of Social Networks. Online groups of people that connect based on friendship, family or comment interests. A few short months ago a page on the popular site Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) was created for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association and today it has over 2000 members attached to it!

Interested? Log onto [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and then search for 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association and you can hook up with lost friends or make new ones. It might be the next best way to get new members in local chapters so the Chicago chapter might be looking into it as we seek to expand our reach as much as possible in this electronic world.

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Flyers Game

Early information on a July 4 American Legion night at the Schaumburg Flyers baseball game is in the works. If you are interested in attending what promises to be a great night of baseball and fireworks then get in touch with Vice Chairman Mueller or email [Chicago@82ndassociation.org](mailto:Chicago@82ndassociation.org) for details.

### Chapter Service Officer: Ralph Calderon

Chapter secretary Rafael "Ralph" Calderon has been on the job as the chapter service officer in addition to duties as secretary. He is keeping an eye on chapter members and visiting or organizing visits to those in need. Ralph can help organize the chapter for visits to hospitals, funerals or health and welfare home checks.



### Chapter Flags Replaced

After a long wait, the chapter has approved funding for a new set of flags - the U.S and Chicago Chapter. While we cannot be certain at this point we are pretty sure that the current colors are either the original or an update from a long time ago.

This is a costly undertaking but one that everyone agreed was worth the effort. We are working out a way to preserve the old chapter colors in order to keep that portion of our history intact for the future.

### Chicago & John Steele Picnic Together

Our Chicago Chapter has been invited back for a third year to picnic with the John Steele in their backyard of Ottawa, IL. The event will take place on Sunday, July 12 beginning at 12:00 until around 18:00.

If you have not been out to this event, we highly recommend you attend. Bring your whole family and friends to enjoy a patriotic ceremony, raffles, an in-ground pool, terrific food, and of course, the company of the finest paratroopers and glider men in the area.

Directions from Chicago (roughly an hour from the city):

- Take I-55 South towards Bloomington
- Take exit 250B onto I-80 West towards Des Moines
- Take exit 93 towards Ottawa
- Turn Left onto IL-71
- Turn Right onto Champlain Street
- Arrive 1919 Champlain Street for the picnic
- 1919 Champlain Street, Ottawa, IL 61350-1658**

For additional information feel free to contact Chet Phillips of the John Steele Chapter at 815-224-4537.



**Upcoming Chapter Meetings & Events**

**June 14**

14:00 to 16:00

The Ram Restaurant  
9520 West Higgins  
Road Rosemont, IL  
60018

Meet us in the private room.

**July 12**

Noon – 22:00

John Steel Picnic  
1919 Champlain St  
Ottawa, IL 61350

Replaces our regular meeting

**August 9**

14:00 to 16:00

Rock Bottom  
Restaurant & Brewery  
28265 Diehl Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555  
(Across from the AMC  
Cantera theater)

Meet us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor loff!

**August 19-22**

82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division  
Association National  
Convention

Indianapolis, Indiana

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION HEADLINES**

**2009 National Convention - Indianapolis**

The 63rd annual National Convention will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana August 19<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>. Accommodations at the host hotel are always first come first serve so don't delay. Reserve your room at the Marriott Indianapolis East early and then get your registration into the host chapter to avoid late fees and ensure your place at this amazing event.

Some extra scheduled events include:

- Winery Tour
- Indiana 'Live' Casino
- Indians Baseball Game
- Golf Outing
- Indy 500 Museum Tour
- Local mall excursions

**508<sup>th</sup> (4<sup>th</sup> Brigade) off to Afghanistan**

The 508<sup>th</sup> is deploying this summer to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. They had previously been scheduled to deploy to Iraq however a change in mission is nothing new to a Division trooper!

**Association Membership**

As of 1 May 2009 there were 12,083 veteran members in the association but numbers are slowing each year as we lose older troopers and attempt to locate and hook up with the younger troopers. Always keep your eye out for new potential members and give a call to those who may have become delinquent and might be in need of some help finding their way back.

On the veteran side, current total stands at 13,390 as we pull into the active duty membership drive season. We expect the active duty to bulk up to over 20,000 once again this year.



*Graves marked with US and French Flags Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial in Colleville sur Mer in Western France*

**VETERAN WORLD NEWS**

**D-Day + 65 Years, We Still Remember You**

The 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy was once again a moving tribute to the proud veterans who served and died on that historic day.

Tributes from the Allied nations included President Obama, British Prime Minister Brown, Canadian Prime Minister Harper and French President Sarkozy

*"Your story was written by men like Zane Schlemmer of the 82nd Airborne, who parachuted into a dark marsh, far from his objective and his men. Lost and alone, he still managed to fight his way through the gunfire and help liberate the town in which he landed -- a town where a street now bears his name."*

- President Barack Obama

**LOCAL VETERAN INTERESTS**

**Upcoming Events at Pritzker Military Library**

Pritzker Military Library  
610 North Fairbanks Court, 2nd Floor  
Chicago, IL 60611  
312-587-0234  
events@pritzkermilitarylibrary.net

**Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**

Counter-insurgency expert David Kilcullen will appear at the Pritzker Military Library to discuss his new book, *The Accidental Guerilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One*. This event is free and open to the public. The presentation and live webcast will begin at 6:00 p.m., preceded by a reception for Library members at 5:00 p.m. It will also be recorded for later broadcast on WYCC-TV/Channel 20.

**Wednesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

**TRUMAN AND MACARTHUR**  
Policy, Politics, and the Hunger for Honor and Renown  
Truman and MacArthur is a detailed account of one of the most fractious relationships between a commander and commander-in-chief in American history. In the waning months of World War II, Truman assumed the Presidency and inherited MacArthur as his commander in the Pacific; and as he dealt with challenges in post-war Europe and a difficult re-election campaign, Truman was long willing to defer to the popular general on policy toward post-war Japan and Korea.



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**ABOUT THE CHICAGO CHAPTER**

The Chicago Chapter is the oldest Chapter in the Association and officially organized as the Illinois State Chapter on 25 March 1946. On 15 April 1948, the Chapter reorganized to make room for more Illinois paratroopers and received its charter as the Chicago Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

The 82nd Airborne Division Association was honored on 5 November 1990 by The United States Congress in receiving a Congressional Charter.

Today, the Chicago Chapter is more than 150 members strong and very active in social and service activities.

**Visit the Chicago Chapter Website:**  
[www.82ndassociation.org/chicago](http://www.82ndassociation.org/chicago)



2009 Memorial Day Parade (L-R): Tony Vallos, Cal Roesner, Ralph Calderon, Alan Bold, Jay Siler, Brian O'Sullivan, Barney Janecki. Not pictured: Bob Bell, Mark Mueller



Charter member Don Strazer and Honorary member Victoria Vallos celebrate milestone birthdays.

CHICAGO CHAPTER  
82<sup>ND</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
C/O MARK MUELLER, VICE CHAIRMAN  
521 W. GARTNER ROAD  
NAPERVILLE, IL 60540

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