

Chicago Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association Newsletter

April 2019



Chicago Chapter Officers:

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

Upcoming Events:

- **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. If you don't feel a 20-mile ruck march is something you can do, we can always use a ride back from the end of the march, back to our vehicles in Glencoe.

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). If you don't fish, please join us for some Frisbee, hiking, and an overall great time with fellow Paratroopers and Glidermen.

- 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 \$15.00 each.
- **LGOPs: Little Groups of Paratroopers.** It's believed that General Gavin coined this phrase during the D-Day/Normandy Invasion when American Paratroopers were spread all over the Normandy area. These brave young Paratroopers assembled into groups of two, three, four... Paratroopers and took the fight to the Nazis. The Chicago Chapter has used this tradition to support the teamwork and comradery amongst our members to include various activities, (fishing, shooting, golf, ruck marches, and the always-popular breakfast). Most recently, Chairman Mueller and Vice-Chairmen Granat enjoyed a very early Saturday breakfast at the Denny's in Willowbrook. We'll post dates, times, and locations of our next informal gathering for all of you who would like to spend time with your Airborne family.



Chairman Mueller on the right and Vice-Chairman Granat on the left.

The DuPage County Veteran's Association will be holding their annual Honor Flight Chicago fundraiser at the DuPage Airport on 4 May, 2019 from 11:00am-2:00pm. A variety of military

reenactors, military displays, vehicles, and music and some great chow will be there for everyone to enjoy. Vice Chairman Granat will also have a very large collection of military items including every Allied Paratrooper uniform from World War 2 in addition to Korea, Vietnam, the Cold War, the Gulf War and the current theater of operations. Honor Flight Chicago provides, free of charge, Veterans from World War 2, Korea, and Vietnam Era, (1963-1975) an opportunity to spend a very memorable day in Washington D.C. where they will visit the Lincoln Memorial, the Space and Air Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, and the World War 2, Korea, and Vietnam Memorials. The DuPage Airport's address is 2700 International Drive, West Chicago, IL 60185.

United States Army Unit Patches

A shoulder sleeve insignia/embroidered patch first used by the U.S. Army during World War 1. The Army is unique among the U.S. Armed Forces: requires all soldiers to wear the patch of their headquarters as part of their military uniforms. The patch is worn on upper left shoulders of all U.S. Army uniforms. Patches worn on the right shoulder on Army uniforms denote wartime service. AKA; Combat Patch. A recent change requires that the combat patch, when worn on dress blue uniform is a metal pin type patch that is worn on the upper right jacket pocket. Initially, patches were bright colors. Because of the risk to soldiers in combat, field uniforms were changed to a subdued pattern in 1970. In World War 1, the 81st Infantry Division "Wildcat" was the first U.S. Army unit authorized to wear a patch. Other divisions challenged the right of 81st soldiers to wear the patch. General Pershing ruled that the 81st could keep their patch and that other units should adopt their own unit patch most of which were hand-made. By World War II, all army units were wearing patches. The 82nd Airborne Division, which included an "AA" on its patch alluding to the "All-American" soldiers from every state. The 29th Infantry Division, "Blue and Gray" indicated soldiers from states on both sides of the Civil War.



81st Infantry Division "Wild Cats"



29th Infantry Division "Blue and Grey"