



2021 Calendar

January
10: Chapter Meeting

February
14: Chapter Meeting

March
14: Daylight Savings begins
14: Chapter Meeting

April
11: Chapter Meeting

May
02: Chapter Meeting
24-27: All American Week
29: Chicago Vets Ruck March
31: Memorial Day/Parade

June
13: Chapter meeting
14: Flag Day; US Army Birthday

July
04: Independence Day
11: Chapter meeting

August
08: Chapter Meeting
11-15: 75th National Convention
16: National Airborne Day

September
12: Chapter Meeting

October
10: Chapter meeting
15: Assn Scholarship Apps Due

November
07: Daylight Savings ends
11: Veterans Day
14: Chapter meeting

December
12: Chapter Holiday party

Download a complete 2021 calendar from our website at www.chicagoairborne.com

The Chicago Chapter is a registered 501(c)(4) non-profit organization.

Chairman's Message

Hello Chicago Chapter!

It's 2021 and we're still knee-deep in the COVID-19 pandemic. I sincerely hope that you and yours are coping well with our shared situation and that you all are healthy and safe. With this new year, we're going back to this previous newsletter format, hopeful that we can better share information with you and provide more value as an organization.

This year, our Chicago Chapter turns 75 years old! As one of three original chapters in the Association, our strength is our membership. We currently have 190 members, most of which live around the greater Chicagoland area; however also have members across the United States and even a couple of members living abroad. No matter where you live, we want to ensure you feel proud to be a member of this chapter.

Currently, we host monthly meetings online and that allows remote members to participate for the first time in our chapter history. At some point this year, we're hopeful that we can get back to in-person meetings but will use technology that will allow us to continue to include our remote members at the same time. We encourage all of our members to participate in meetings and other events to share your experience, your stories, and your talents towards making this the strongest chapter possible.

Airborne, All The Way!

Mark Mueller
Chairman



2021 Board

These members were elected by our membership to our Executive Board for 2021. Per our By-Laws, Executive Board nominations occur at the October meeting, elections in November, and installation in December.

Mark Mueller

Mark currently serves as Chairman and Treasurer and enters his 10th year as Chairman. His military service includes four year assigned to HHC, 82nd Airborne Division in an Admin role and Colonel's driver. He served in Operation Desert Shield/Storm and left service as a Specialist/E-4. In his civilian life, Mark and wife Kelly live in Winfield, IL. He works for Quicken Loans and also owns a small marketing agency. Mark loves biking the Illinois Prairie Path, all of the Marvel movies, American history, and cooking.

Glenn Granat

Glenn currently serves the Chicago Chapter as Vice Chairman and Sergeant at Arms, and has served on our Executive Board for more than a decade. His military service includes four years with 1/504th PIR, where he was a proud Infantryman and earned the rank of Sergeant. In civilian life, Glenn and his wife Becky live in Lemont, IL, and Glenn works as a Curator at the Brookfield Zoo. Glenn enjoys his pets, nature, spending time in the north woods of Wisconsin, and fishing.



Carl Schuett

Carl joins the Chicago Chapter Executive Board in 2021 as Secretary. His military career included three years with 1/319th AFAR, where he earned the rank of Specialist. *More on Carl in our Member Spotlight below.*



"America's Guard of Honor"

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



2021 Chapter Officers

Chairman, Treasurer
Mark Mueller

Vice Chairman, Sgt at Arms
Glenn Granat

Secretary
Carl Schuett

Favorite Links

82nd Airborne Div Association
www.82ndassociation.org

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs
www.va.gov

IL Dept. of Veterans Affairs
veterans.illinois.gov

Pritzker Military Library
www.pritzkermilitary.org/



Airborne Merchandise

Association members and friends looking for Association or 82nd Airborne Division merchandise have a number of good options, including:

Association Sales: Airborne and Association branded merchandise is available online at 82ndairborneassociation.org

Museum Website: The 82nd Museum Gift Shop offers merchandise online. Visit 82ndairbornedivisionmuseum.com

CHICAGO CHAPTER HEADLINES

Current Headcount

Our Chicago Chapter is currently 190 members strong, including 180 All American Members and 10 Active Annual Members.

Welcome Our Newest Members

A mighty Airborne welcome to our newest Chicago Chapter member:

- **Ronald Gensaw of Merrillville IN.** He served with 2/508 PIR from 1983-86 and earned the rank of SGT.

Recent Annual Member Renewals

Renewing their Annual membership this year is:

- Chris Israel of Seabrook, TX
- David Mueller of Palos Heights, IL

Contact Updates

To keep our records accurate, please share all contact info updates with us, particularly changes to your mailing address, email and phone. All members can update their contact info on our website at www.chicagoairborne.com or drop us an email at info@chicagoairborne.com.

Looking For Volunteers

We're looking for members interested in helping out the chapter. Let us know if you are interested in contributing in one or more of these roles:

- Service Officer
- Graphic design
- Social media
- Content contributors - Veterans Benefits

Support Your Chapter

Donations to the Chicago Chapter are always welcome and appreciated. The ongoing generosity of our members and friends allow us to continue to meet our organizational goals. Donations can be made securely on our chapter website or via mail. Contact Chairman Mark Mueller to discuss making a donation today.

January Birthdays

1/15 Roger Coon, 69, of Hammond, IN
1/17 Russell Pritchett, 77, of Romeoville, IL
1/22 James Krautstrunk, 88, of Ponte Vedra, FL
1/25 Stan Piekienly, 73, of Longmont, CO
1/26 Kevin Lidstone, 41, of Willow Springs, IL
1/31 Stephen Corcoran, 58, of Yorkville, IL

February Birthdays

2/02 David Winfield, 39, of Quincy, IL
2/02 Rodney Brown, 72, of Ingelside, IL
2/03 Leroy Almanza, 76, of Mokena, IL
2/18 Norbert Klauens, 86, of Riverwoods, IL
2/18 John Biggs, 72, of Monmouth, IL
2/20 Joseph Yntema, 36, of Denver, CO
2/27 John Hughes, 94, of Geneva, IL
2/28 Barbara Christie, 65, of Palatine, IL

CHICAGO CHAPTER MERCHANDISE

Our eBay Store offers the following Chicago Chapter-branded items for sale. Links are available on our chapter website or search for seller ID "chicago-82ndassn".

- 2021 Airborne Calendars, \$15 each
- Challenge Coins, \$12 each
- St. Michael Medallions, \$12 each
- Lapel Pins, \$5 each
- Wristbands, \$5 each
- Window Decals, \$4 each
- Holiday Cards, \$12 for pack of 20

Member Spotlight: Carl Schuett

I grew up a military brat. My father spent 31 years in the Air Force and retired the rank of LTC in 1970. As a result, we have traveled all over the world as most military families do. Our family moved from Okinawa



to Chicago, IL upon his retirement and I've been here ever since. As much as we've traveled and never spending more than 2 years in any one location, I wouldn't change a thing. I'm envious of my friends who have maintained lifelong friendships, but I can't complain. I've lived a pretty good life, been married for 42 years to a wonderful woman (my wife Karen), have 2 healthy sons (ages 31 and 27) and my wife and I are about to relocate to South Carolina. It can't get much better than that. Oh yeah, I already asked my kids if they wanted to come with us, both said unequivocally no, then, well maybe.

As far as hobbies go, I like to play golf, go for long rides on my 2017 Indian Road Master motorcycle, woodworking, watch soccer and football, and since I'm officially retiring, really start to enjoy life, one day at a time.



Online Chapter Meetings

Since the start of the pandemic last March 2020, our chapter, like so many other organizations, have moved our meetings to online formats.

Our chapter uses Google Meet for our online meetings. Members can join these meetings using any device connected to the Internet (PC, laptop, tablet) or any smartphone (web, app, or call). Meeting links and telephone numbers are emailed to members.

For more info on Google Meet, visit meet.google.com, or download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play Store.

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Phone: 773.478.3033



NATIONAL ASSN. HEADLINES

2021 Alumni Book

The Association-sponsored 2021 Alumni Book, also referred to as the Member Directory, is currently being published. Most Assn members have been notified via email and/or postcard to participate in the directory and to optionally purchase the book. Shipment is expected in the June/July 2021 timeframe. If anything changes, we will let you know.

Operation Bourbon

The Association teamed up with Boundary Oak Distillery of Radcliff, KY, to produce a special batch of bourbon in recognition of the 82nd Airborne Division. The 100 proof spirit is currently in very limited distribution and priced at \$99 per bottle. We're keeping an eye out for distribution in the Chicagoland area. So far, the distillery has not answered our inquiries.



All American Week 2021

The 82nd Airborne Division will once again host All American Week (AAW) at Fort Bragg and invites all veterans to attend the festivities. This year's event will occur over 24-27 May. Event registration remains at \$120 per person. Visit 82ndairborneassociation.org for all the event and registration details.

The main hotel will once again be The Airborne Inn at Moon Hall on post, with a special rate of \$75/night for a standard Queen room. The hotel rate includes a full buffet breakfast each morning. Rooms for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. Members can make reservations online at IHG.com or contact the hotel directly at (910) 853-7624 and use Group Code "AAW".



2021 National Convention

After a one year hiatus due to the pandemic, the 82nd Airborne Division Association will host its 75th National Convention over 11-15 August 2021, in Houston, TX. Registration is \$150.00 per person by 05 August, which includes two formal dinners and food and drink in the hospitality rooms. A couple of special features include tours of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and NASA's Houston Space Center.

The host hotel will be the Marriott Westchase in Houston, TX, which is about 32 miles from George Bush International Airport (IAH). The rooms are \$109 for a standard room per night. Hotel reservations can be made online or by calling (713) 978-7400. Registration forms and all the details are available at www.texaslonestar82.org.

All Chicago Chapter members are encouraged to attend the convention - it's a great opportunity to reconnect with the Airborne friends.

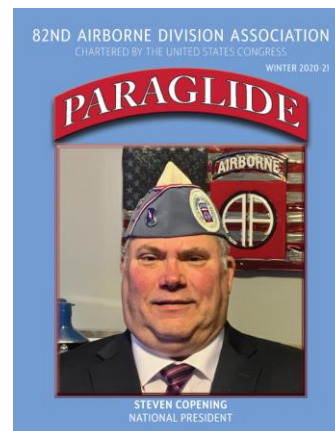
Association Education Fund

The 82nd Airborne Division Association Education Fund is available to dependent children of Airborne veterans or Airborne veterans themselves who apply within two years of separation. The fund provides grants to those eligible and who apply and meet all requirements. The firm deadline for receipt of completed applications is 15 October. Details and applications are available on the Association website at www.82ndassociation.org, or contact Chicago Chapter Chairman Mark Mueller at (630) 561-2139 or chairman@chicagoairborne.com.

Donations to the Education Fund are always welcome. The Fund is set up as a unique legal entity and is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; donations are tax deductible.

Association PARAGLIDE Magazine

Just a friendly reminder that the Paraglide magazine, official publication of the Association, continues to be published quarterly and is only available online. The latest edition, featuring new Association President Steven Copenig, is Winter 2021 and is currently available to download from the Association website at www.82ndairborneassociation.org.





CHICAGO CHAPTER
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WINDY CITY WINGS | JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2021



ABOUT THE CHICAGO CHAPTER

The Chicago Chapter is one of the three original chapters in the Association, 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 nearly 200 members strong and active in social and service activities. The Chapter is managed by an Executive Board elected by chapter members and governed by our chapter By-Laws.

AIRBORNE HISTORY

A monthly installment by Vice Chairman Glenn Granat

WWII Victory Parade

On January 12th, 1946, the World War II Victory Parade was led by 13,000 men of the 82nd Airborne Division, including the African-American 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion. General James M. Gavin led the All Americans down Fifth Avenue in New York City as a grateful nation admired the U.S. Army's premier fighting unit. The parade also included Sherman tanks and other armored vehicles, such as self-propelled howitzers, and a fly-over by a formation of glider-towing C-47s. The 82nd also participated in the September Berlin Victory Parade of 1945.

In preparation for the New York festivities, the Division trained three times daily since late 1945, after having finished their garrison duty in Berlin. The Division arrived back in United States on January 3, 1946, aboard the HMS Queen Mary and continued training for the parade at Camp Shanks, NY.

The parade began at Washington Square, then proceeded up Fifth Avenue for four miles. It was a ticker tape parade. Government officials witnessing the parade included New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey, New York City Mayor William O'Dwyer, and former New York City Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia. New York was the site of the largest American Victory in Europe Day celebrations. One of our deceased Chicago Chapter members, Tony Vallos participated in this parade.