



Missouri Gateway Eagle

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2nd Year for the Gateway Chapter

As we come out of the winter months, the Chapter is beginning it's second full year of existence with lots of activities.

We started the year with the 1st Jump Dedication (info inside). Now it's on to all our planned Spring and Summer events.

If you haven't as yet been able to participate in Chapter events, you're missing some great fellowship, fun and needless to say hard work. We meet a lot of great people at the events we attend.

Our presence at events such as Memorial day ceremonies gives us an opportunity to expand membership, but the most important thing is it gives all of us a chance to talk to past and present vets, offer assistance and information.

We distribute benefits booklets from VA and the various states in our region, pass along contact information of vets looking for assistance, and offer support where possible.

Included in this edition are upcoming events and activities that need your support. Now that we have built our inventory of materials, we can staff multiple events such as Memorial Day celebrations.

To do this, we need any time you can contribute to staffing our tents and displays.

If you're new to the Chapter and/or the Association and want to learn more about the activities just call or email any of the following:

Fred Foggie 314-610-5913
fred.foggie@gateway101.org

Barry Hana 314-753-8932
barry.hana@gateway101.org

Randy Whitehead 314-825-3985
randy.whitehead@gateway101.org

Tim Sorth 832-444-8250
tim.sorth@gateway101.org

We're looking for resources not only for our events, we especially need Webmaster and Newsletter resources. If you're a computer person, we could really use the help and the Chapter would benefit greatly.

1st Jump Dedication March 1st, 2013

Despite some bone-chilling temperatures, on 1 March we culminated over a year's worth of work to dedicate a new marker and stone at Jefferson Barracks. The occasion was the 101st anniversary of the first parachute jump from an airplane, which took place at what is now the parade ground of the Missouri Air National Guard HQ at Jefferson Barracks.

While celebrating the anniversary, we and members of the airborne community (82nd, 101st, 173rd, 187th, and Special Forces) placed a granite marker honoring the Army Airborne brotherhood. We are presently working on getting photos posted to the website, www.gateway101.org

Below are a few selected shots of the ceremony:



Gateway Eagles Fred Foggie, Walt Sitzwohl, and John McDaris



Eagle Tom Mundell with Lt. Gen [R] John Miller keynote speaker and ex-CG 101st Airborne Div.



Gateway Chapter member Jack Armstrong, WWII veteran of C Co/326th Glider drops on France and Holland.



Lt. Gen Miller, Bubba Thompson, Barry Hana, and Fred Foggie review the marker and granite.

Former CG 101st Airborne Division
(You can view Gen. Miller's full remarks on the website)

Thanks to all attending – you honor us with your presence.

Of special note are those three WW II Airborne Troopers in our presence. What a special privilege it is to be here with you today to dedicate this memorial to all our fellow troopers.

Outline of brief remarks: I will first give a brief history of the Airborne Units we recognize and then I will say something about the character of the Airborne Trooper who we honor here today.

First , a little bit of history:

Army Airborne Units being recognized here today are the 82nd Airborne, the 101st Airborne, the 173rd Airborne, the 187th Airborne, and the Special Forces (Airborne).

The 82d and the 101st Airborne come from common roots-they were both spawned from the 82d Infantry Division. The 82nd Infantry Division was organized on March 25, 1917 at Camp Gordon, Georgia. It served with distinction in WWI and then was deactivated and then recalled for World War II in March of 1942. The Division was re-designated the 82nd Airborne Division the following August. It was split up and it provided the initial units to form the 82d Airborne Division and its sister airborne division, the 101st Airborne Division. During WWII the 82d Airborne Division conducted parachute assaults into Sicily, Salerno, Normandy, and Holland. At the battle of Anzio in Italy, a German officer called the paratroopers "those devils in baggy pants", a nick-name they carry to this day. Now let us fast forward from WWII to January of 1968, during the Tet Offensive when the 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division was deployed to Viet Nam. The 3rd BDE 82nd stayed in Vietnam for 22 months of combat. The 82d has participated in all major and minor conflicts in recent years including the invasion of Grenada, Operation Just Cause in Panama, Desert Storm, and operations in Haiti, Honduras, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. The 82d Airborne remains the US Army's and the Nation's strategic reserve division today.

101st Airborne Division: The 101st Airborne Division was activated August 16, 1942 at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana. Its first Commanding General, Major General William C. Lee, noted that the Division had no history, but that it had a "rendezvous with destiny" and that the new Division would be habitually called into action when the need was "immediate and extreme", and so it has!

Throughout its 66-year history, the Division has amassed a proud record, as it served with distinction during WWII in Normandy, and together with the 82d Airborne in the Liberation of Holland in Operation Market Garden and in the Battle of the Bulge at Bastogne – It was in this battle, according to what Lieutenant General Kinnard told me many years later, that when the German general demanded the beleaguered 101st's surrender that then Lieutenant Colonel Harry Kinnard, the Division's G-3, said the idea of surrender was "Nuts". And so BG Tony McAuliffe, the acting Division Commander's response to the Germans was, "Nuts", a word that became part of history. The 101st served in Viet Nam from 29 July, 1965 to 1972. It was the last Army Division to leave Viet Nam. It was in all the major campaigns there with 17 Troopers receiving the Medal of Honor. At the start of Desert Storm in 1991, the 101st conducted the longest Air Assault in history in Desert Storm, penetrating over 100 miles into Iraq. It was one of the lead divisions in Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and then in Afghanistan. They are in combat today as they have, for at least the 5th time, just deployed a brigade combat team to Afghanistan.

The 173rd Airborne Brigade: The 173rd Airborne Brigade has over 45 years of service spanning almost 88 years. The Brigade was activated in 1917 as the 173rd Infantry Brigade and assigned to the 87th Infantry. It was demobilized in January of 1919. The Brigade was re-designated in February 1942 as the 87th Reconnaissance Troop, 87th Division. The Brigade experienced extensive combat in Europe as part of General George S. Patton's Third Army, to include the battle of the Bulge and the Rhine river crossing. In 1945, the brigade again was deactivated. The greatest chapter of the Brigade's history began in 1963. The 173^d Airborne Brigade (Separate) was activated on the island of Okinawa on March 26, 1963. The "Sky Soldier" as the nationalist Chinese paratroopers called the 173^d, made thousands of parachute jumps in a dozen different pacific area countries. The Brigade was the first Army unit sent to the republic of South Vietnam in May 1965. Deactivated after Viet Nam, some of its units became part of the 101st Airborne. It was reactivated in 2000 and continues its service today having deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. It remains as part of NATO's Strategic Response Force based in Vicenza, Italy.

187th Airborne Regiment: The 187th Infantry Regiment is the only airborne regiment in the history of the US Army to fight in every war since the inception of airborne tactics. From glider to parachute to helicopter, the Rakkasans have entered combat in each mode of airborne warfare and have pioneered its implementation. Throughout their history, the Rakkasans have upheld the motto "Ne Desit Virtus - Let Valor Not Fail" and

continue to do so today. Today, the Rakkasans continue to serve as a Brigade Combat Team in the 101st Air Borne Division – Air Assault.

Special Forces: The Special Forces were formed in 1952. The Green Beret's, initially under the U.S. Army Psychological Warfare Division. Since their establishment in 1952, Special Forces soldiers have operated in Vietnam, El Salvador, Panama, Haiti, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, the Philippines, and, in a foreign internal defense role, in Operation Enduring Freedom - Horn of Africa, which was transferred to United States Africa Command in 2008. The first Medal of Honor for Heroism in Viet Nam was awarded to CPT Roger Donlan, for his heroic actions as an A Team Leader of the 7th Special Forces Group near the Laotian Border on July 6, 1964. COL (R) Donlan, a good friend of mine, now lives in Leavenworth, KS with his wife Norma.

The character of the Airborne Trooper – what it is to be an American Airborne Trooper – why do all of us think being an airborne trooper is so special?

I take you back to June 1994 on the 50th Anniversary of D Day. President Clinton looked out on the American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer in Normandy and spoke these dedicatory words: “These are the men who gave us our world. The simple sounds of freedom we hear today are their voices speaking to us across the years”.

We dedicate this wonderful memorial today to those airborne troopers, who, like Joe Beyrle, have demonstrated selfless service, personal courage, faith in our principles and faith and allegiance to each other in battle. The quality and character of their selfless and courageous service continues to inspire and humble us all.

2013 is going to be a busy year for the Gateway Eagles, with events all over the Midwest. If you're new to the Chapter, or haven't been able to participate lately, lots of great opportunities to make a contribution, help our veterans, and meet some great people.

Calendar for Upcoming Events

WEATHER
RAIN OR
SHINE

St. Louis Reenactor Bulletin

FREE FOR
REENACTORS
AND PUBLIC

VOLUME I - NO. MMXIII

JEFFERSON BARRACKS, ST. LOUIS, MO

APRIL 26-28, 2013

**U.S. 2nd Ranger Infantry Battalion of St. Louis presents
WWII Weekend ★ April 26-28, 2013**

<p>Living History Camps ***</p>  <p>Over 500 reenactors expected with units representing: US Rangers, US Airborne, US Armored Forces, US Infantry, Russian Infantry, British Airborne, Canadian YMCA, Canadian RCME, Italian Infantry, German Heer, German SS, German Paratroopers, and German SS Panzer forces.</p>	<p>Three Staged Battles! ***</p>  <p>At historic Jefferson Barracks! Saturday 1000 and 1500 and Sunday 1200</p>	<p>Military Vehicle Displays ***</p>  <p>Courtesy of the MVPA and participants.</p>
<p>Canteen Dance! ***</p>  <p>A dinner and dance will be held on Saturday Night, tickets can be purchased through the Friends of Jefferson Barracks. Please call (314) 544-5714.</p>	<p>Weapons Demonstrations ***</p>  <p>2NDRANGERS.ORG</p>	<p>Over 20,000 Spectators! ***</p> 

For more information including: maps, vendors, parking, sponsors, camping, and reenactor specific information visit 2ndRangers.org.
Event Coordinator: 2nd Rangers President Kevin Owens (314) 467-0741

April 26-27th

WWII Weekend (sponsored by 2nd Rangers)

Jefferson Barracks Park, St. Louis

for more info see www.2ndrangers.org

This event features in excess of 300 re-enactors and exhibitors, and draws over 20,000 spectators.

The Gateway Chapter will set up display tents and materials to solicit membership and provide info and assistance to veterans in attendance. More info to follow.

Calendar for Upcoming Events (Continued)



May 18th

**Kansas City Salute Our Heroes Parade
Parade and displays in downtown KC, 9am-6pm
Washington Square Park
more info see www.njc-foundation.org**

**We need to staff an information tent and provide at least two vehicles to which we can attach 101st colors.
Eagle Bubba Thompson will be key coordinator
hairdoctor60@aol.com, 816-304-3770**



May 25-27th

**Memorial Day Columbia Missouri
3 day event, one of the best in the country
101st Airborne Demonstration team will jump into
downtown Columbia on Monday the 27th
Canadian Skyhawk parachute team will join
Need to staff information tent and vehicles
More info at www.salute.org
Contact Barry Hana barry.hana@gateway101.org or
Randy Whitehead randy.whitehead@gateway101.org**

May 27th **Memorial Day Honor Ceremony St. Peters**
Present the 101st colors
Eagle Walt Sitzwohl is key coordinator
walter.sitzwohl@att.net 636-697-7253

May 27th **Jefferson Barracks Memorial Day Ceremony**
Schedule to be determined

June 6th **D-Day Memorial by 101st**
Short ceremony honoring the Band of Brothers
Mass grave of command element Easy Co., 506th
PIR
Details to follow

Screaming Eagle Gear

If you're in need of supplies, check the website at www.gateway101.org

For those of you who need headgear, we've gotten a price break from Ft. Campbell on the hats below. Member prices is \$12.00. Those in the immediate area we'll get to you or announce a place for pickup. Mail by envelope will be a flat \$2.50 charge.

You can order via web or send payment to:

Missouri Gateway Chapter, PO Box 142431, St. Louis, MO 63114

