



101st Airborne Division Association
Michigan Chapter



THE MICHIGAN SCREAMING EAGLE
Volume 2 (1)

January 15th, 2022

“No one left behind!”

Greetings Screaming Eagles,

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you and yours doing well ... And, not to be overlooked, this past December 14th marked our chapter’s 35th anniversary! So, ... *Happy Anniversary!* It’s a significant marker in our history that should be recognized, acknowledged, and celebrated as we move forward into the new year!

At the beginning of every year, most of us engage in the annual process of looking back and reflecting on the past year, then resolving to make certain changes in our behavior, attitude, or direction in life so we might make the upcoming year somehow better for ourselves and/or others. It’s the time of year when we take stock of where we are, where we want to be, and resolve to make some changes so we can get there! We can then look forward to moving into the new year with a renewed sense of optimism, hope, and promise!

In our culture and society, *January* -the first month of the calendar year, is named after *Janus*, the Roman god of endings, transitions, and beginnings. He symbolizes the process of reflection, transition, and change. In art and sculpture, Janus is usually depicted as having two faces looking in opposite directions at the same time: One is looking behind in reflection, the other is looking forward in anticipation. In a Janus-like process, the past informs the present as one anticipates and plans for the future!

As this is the first January edition of *The Michigan Screaming Eagle*, it seems only fitting that we look back, reflect on our recent past, and see how it has informed our planning for the chapter and its future, especially over the past five years. And, it’s very important to do so! All too often, those individuals or groups that don’t become “stuck in time” and don’t evolve, change, or adapt to the changing times! And over time, they become increasingly irrelevant and are left behind: They don’t survive!

Looking back over the past five years, the presiding question before our chapter has been, “How do we increase our membership?” a question that’s at the very heart of our survival! After all is said and done, the life-blood of any group or organization is a steady infusion of new and younger members: It’s the key to any group’s survival! Without younger veterans joining our chapter, we simply won’t survive for too long into the foreseeable future!

In 2016, our chapter’s executive team enlisted the assistance of Concordia University of Ann Arbor to study and make recommendations as to how we might best go about increasing our

membership and establishing more of a presence in Michigan's local communities. Their recommendations led us to join Face Book in April 2017; revise and expand our mission statement in September 2019; design, develop, and go on-line with our website in January 2020 (101stairbornemichiganchapter.com); and -most recently, launch our quarterly newsletter - *The Michigan Screaming Eagle*, in April 2021.

Over the past five years, we have been evolving, changing, and adapting to the changing times! We are currently establishing an increased presence in Michigan's local communities; enabling our members to reach out and interact with each other; and, advancing the history, core values, and cherished beliefs and traditions of the 101st Airborne Division Association throughout Michigan -and beyond, for that matter. But, there's something more that's needed to increase our membership: *Relevancy!*

Not only do we have to continue establishing our presence in Michigan's local communities, we must become more relevant to the current generation of younger veterans in these communities! In October 2021, we launched *Operation Lone Eagle*, became more relevant in the lives of younger veterans and their families, and altered our chapter's directions as we move forward into 2022 and the years beyond.

The overarching principle guiding our executive committees in their thinking, planning, and decision-making during the past five years has been: "We will do whatever is necessary to establish our chapter's presence, increase our relevancy, and insure our survival!" And so, ...

Some Reflections on the Recent Past:

The Global Pandemic and Our Survival!

Looking back on our recent past, the global pandemic leaps immediately to the forefront. How could it not! It has permeated, dominated, and overshadowed everything else over the past two years. No question. Its continued presence and threat touches everyone and everything: It dominates the media and nightly news, its threat of infection and hospitalization disrupts our everyday lives, and its lethality has taken too many of those we know and love.

Needless to say, the coronavirus and its Alpha, Delta, and Omicron variants have upended our chapter's plans and monthly meetings for the last two years as it has for countless other groups and organizations. Fortunately, we were able to meet in 2021 for our May and June luncheon meetings and again in September for our annual reunion (Fenton). Unfortunately, we have not met since as Michigan consistently has been rated as a "High-Risk" or "Severe-Risk" state, as determined by its reported numbers of covid-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

The coronavirus is novel. There's much we don't know about it and we probably won't for quite some time: It's an ever-evolving virus *and* science! As with every other group and organization, we'll continue adjusting, adapting, and dealing with it as best we can! And, we'll do so for as long as it takes! No question. Moving forward, we'll remain informed by the data, make our decisions accordingly, and gather for monthly meetings whenever possible!

Before moving on, however, some time should be taken to acknowledge that the past two years have been tough for all of us! ... When is a lunch just a lunch? Our shared past experiences, events, and memories forge deep, personal, and meaningful bonds that -over time, “having lunch” means to gather and lunch with our Airborne/Air Assault *brothers* and *sisters*! (See John Sosa’s article, p 4): The mutual respect, trust and friendship present at our luncheon meetings is rare and deeply missed! ... When is a cup of coffee just a cup of coffee? For those who have known, sipped, and tasted this rare blend of camaraderie, having a cup of coffee during a zoom meeting is simply not the same as having a cup with a brother or sister during a luncheon meeting!

The past two years have been tough! And, it’s tough to move into the new year, not knowing with any degree of certainty when we might meet again. All that can be said with any degree of certainty, I suppose, is, “*We will meet again when we meet again!*” And, “*...until that time, may God hold you in the palm of his hand!*” ... Airborne!!! Air Assault!!!

As we enter the third year of the pandemic, we are more than ready to say goodbye to the coronavirus, its variants, and the restrictions imposed on our lives. Unfortunately, they’re not yet ready to say goodbye to us! The global pandemic continues to cast its dark shadows over us and our little corner of the world, ... *but* hidden in its shadows is -I believe, reason for hope and optimism as we enter the new year!

Earlier this month - on January 4th, 1 *million* new cases were reported -a new high for one day. We are currently in the midst of the Omicron surge! And according to the CDC, this newest variant represents 95% of all new cases reported in the U.S., ... *but*, the percentage of hospitalizations and deaths produced by its viral infections have *decreased* dramatically and significantly, a very hopeful and promising sign! “How so?” someone might ask. ... Well, I’m glad someone asked!

While the data suggests that the Omicron variant is *more contagious* than its immediate predecessors -the Alpha and Delta variants, it’s much *less virulent*! That is, people are not getting as sick or dying as they once were! Moreover, this *decrease in hospitalizations and deaths* is consistent with the history of pandemics as they run their natural course and begin winding down: With each new variant, the strain gradually weakens. The Omicron variant appears to be following this historical pattern: Its respiratory symptoms are *lessening* in their severity and lethality!

As other variants continue to emerge during the upcoming year -as they probably will, hopefully they will continue this trajectory. As we look forward to 2022, we might do so with a realistic measure of optimism and hope -if not the promise, that the severity and lethality of future variants will continue to weaken, the worst is behind us, and we’ll be able to resume our monthly meetings on a regular basis. ... We’ll see! In the meantime, we can plan on meeting during the upcoming year whenever possible, like we did last year.

On a somewhat brighter note, we have been moving forward over the past two years on other fronts *in spite of* the pandemic! Whereas most of our luncheon meetings have been cancelled since February 2020, our executive committee has been meeting monthly by email, phone, and -whenever possible, in person. “Why?” someone might ask. And -once again, I’m glad someone asked!

We’ve continued meeting over the past two years to see how we could best adapt, evolve and adjust to the changing times -the global pandemic notwithstanding, so we would not only survive, but hopefully thrive in 2021, ... *and* 2022, ... *and* beyond. Some of the resolutions we’ve considered and enacted over the past two years have significantly altered our chapter’s future directions:

- In April 2021, we launched *The Michigan Screaming Eagle (MSE)*, our first quarterly newsletter;
- In May and June, we met for our monthly luncheon meetings in Livonia;
- In August, we met and planned for our 34th annual reunion in Fenton;
- In September, we began planning and preparing for hosting the Association’s 77th national reunion in Grand Rapids (August 2022) and our own 35th annual reunion in Frankenmuth (September 2022);
- In September, we discussed the humiliating debacle of our nation’s confused and chaotic exit from Afghanistan, our fellow Americans and Afghan interpreters left behind, and the necessity of reaching out and connecting with Michigan’s Lone Eagles;
- In October, *Operation Lone Eagle* was developed and launched and our fund-raising campaign and membership drive were introduced (see *MSE*, vol.1(3));
- In November and December, we continued planning and preparing for the Association’s 77th national reunion; shifted our 35th annual reunion from Frankenmuth to Brighton (see p. 8-9); and, expanded our fund-raising efforts for *Operation Lone Eagle* to other interested groups;
- In January 2022, we finalized arrangements for our 35th annual reunion in Brighton; planned and coordinated the articles for this edition of the *MSE*; and,
- Later this month, several of us will travel to Grand Rapids to meet with the Association’s executive director and staff to discuss, coordinate, and finalize some of the logistics involved in hosting a successful national reunion.

As we settle into 2022, we continue moving forward -evolving, changing, and adapting to the changing times *in spite of* the pandemic. And, I certainly want to thank the members of our executive committee not only for their willingness to serve, but also for their dedication and commitment of time, energy, and effort. We have re-positioned ourselves so we might continue moving forward in the years ahead! ... Reflecting. Planning. Resolving. Moving. ... Surviving!

And, with the launch of *Operation Lone Eagle* this past October, we began moving away from the more traditional “social club” organizational model for veterans’ groups and

organizations to a more contemporary “service-inspired and service-oriented” model. Another evolutionary change and adaptation made in the best interests of increasing our membership and our chapter’s “Survival!”

Operation Lone Eagle:

Evolving and Adapting – “Survival!”

Without younger veterans joining our chapter, we simply won’t survive for too long into the foreseeable future. The problem of declining membership, however, is not particular to our chapter. For quite some time, veteran groups across the country have been experiencing a noteworthy decline in their membership. The VFW, for example, currently has approximately 1.5 million members, a decrease of 1 million since 1992. Moreover, their member’s average age is 67, with 400,000 members over 80. The largest organization of veterans’ clubs -the American Legion, has 2 million members, down from 3.3 million in 1946. And consistent with this national trend, our chapter’s membership also has been declining, as dramatically and significantly. Our members’ average age is 70+, with those on our executive team over 83 (*not* that we’re old, just older).

If we are to survive, if not thrive (our chapter, that is), it’s vital and necessary to know as much as we can about this national decline in membership, reflect on some of the underlying reasons for it, and -so informed, resolve to do whatever is necessary to evolve, change, and adapt to the changing times in planning for the future. Thus, “What are some of the significant underlying reasons for this national membership decline in our veterans’ groups and organizations?” It’s time to drill down, as they say ...

In her recent article in the Wall Street Journal, Faith Bottum considers three of the underlying reasons (*Opinion*, 9/24/21):

- First, there are fewer veterans to join our veterans’ organizations: There is a significant decline in the number of veterans who served in the Armed Forces during World War I (16.5 million) and those who served more recently during the War on Terror (3 million);
- Second, our cultural and societal norms have been changing dramatically and significantly over the past 75 years which, in turn, have had a profound impact on our younger veterans and the kind of organization they join: They are not joining the older “social-club model” of veteran organizations established after WWI like the VFW and the American Legion; and,
- Third, younger veterans tend to be more issue-focused, detached from their local communities, and more interested in joining service-inspired and service-oriented national organizations like Team Rubicon.

Clearly, the times are changing: Our cultural and societal norms; the nature, character, and spirit of the military *and* our younger veterans; and, the kind of organizations they seek out and tend to

join. The problem of declining membership in our veterans' groups and organizations goes far beyond the fact that there are simply fewer veterans since WW11.

Thinking about the nature, character, and spirit of a veterans' group like Team Rubicon helps us to understand something more about those kinds of groups younger veterans are joining. Team Rubicon, for example, originated when a group of veterans came together twenty years ago in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in NYC. It has since evolved into a humanitarian organization that strives to alleviate human suffering by uniting the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy and provide relief to communities in need. In many respects, Team Rubicon mirrors the new philosophy underlying the changing character, spirit, and mission of our Armed Forces:

They are an all-volunteer, professional, and highly specialized group of veterans integrated with first responders; they are service-inspired and service-oriented, focused on natural disasters and humanitarian crises; and, they are quickly deployed, accomplish their mission, and return to their base-camp, ready and eager for their next deployment.

The cultural and social times are changing and we do well to take an historical perspective so we might more fully understand how the *organizational model* of veterans' groups is changing so we can update our chapter's model, adapt to more contemporary times, and alter the future direction of our chapter!

An Historical Perspective: Moving from a “Social Club” to a More “Service-Inspired and Service-Oriented” Organizational Model – “Survival!”

The 101st Airborne Division Association was formed on the fields of Europe in May of 1945 by WW11 Screaming Eagles who wanted to ensure that all those who fought wearing the Screaming Eagle patch would not lose touch with each other after the war. The strong bond that existed between them was forged in the fires of their shared war-time experiences in places like Normandy, Holland, and Bastogne. Their deep mutual respect, trust, and friendship provided the foundations upon which the Association was founded 77 years ago.

As a chapter, we trace our genealogy back to the small group of WWII veterans from the 101st Airborne Division that met in Detroit at the old Veteran's Memorial building located on the banks of the Detroit River overlooking Windsor, Ontario. They first met in December of 1983 to commemorate the Battle of the Bulge and to honor the memory of their fallen comrades. Three years later -on December 14th, 1986, our chapter's national charter was rendered at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY at which time we became a chartered member of the national Association.

Since the end of WW1, the VFW and American Legion evolved from small interest groups into vast national networks of local social clubs. Their presence, purpose, and activities were highly visible and integrated into local communities across the nation. And, their system of patriotic values was woven tightly into the delicate knit of the communities' social fabric. They sponsored and organized everything from essay contests to holiday parades to little league

baseball teams to family picnics to Friday fish fries to scholarships for veterans and their spouses and children.

Since the Association was founded in May of 1945 nearly 77 years ago, the times have changed, profoundly so. It does not bode well for our chapter -or any other veterans' group or organization, for that matter- to continue clinging to the "social club" organizational model first established by the American Legion in 1919 at the end of WW1, adopted by our Association in 1945 at the end of WW11, and embraced by our chapter in 1986, *especially* when younger veterans are joining more service-inspired and service-oriented groups and organizations.

To continue functioning within the "social club" organizational model seems to continue down the path -albeit unwittingly, of declining membership! And, the corollary? Those veterans' groups and organizations that evolve and adapt with the changing times, might not! Indeed, they might survive -if not thrive, in the years ahead!!! Of course, only time will tell...

The Significance of *Operation Lone Eagle* in Our Chapter's Continuing Evolution and Change

With the introduction of "Operation Lone Eagle" in October 2021, we combined certain aspects of the more traditional "social club model" with those of the more contemporary "service-oriented model." The choice was not *either-or*. That is, it was not that we would follow *either* the "social club" model *or* the "service-inspired and service-oriented" model. Rather, we combined the best aspects from *both* models.

From the social club model, *camaraderie* remains our foundational cornerstone: Our monthly meetings and annual reunions will continue to emphasize and facilitate mutual respect, friendship, and trust at our luncheon meetings. And this holds equally true for whenever and wherever we meet as a group and for whatever other functions we hold or sponsor. Also, we certainly continue our full support for the Association's scholarship, emergency assistance, and other such programs. No question.

From the "service-inspired and service-oriented" model, we move forward reaching out and connecting with Michigan's *Lone Eagles*, those Eagles from Afghanistan and Iraq who are in danger of being overlooked, forgotten, and left behind much like the returning Vietnam Eagles of the '60s and '70s: They are the Lone Eagles of our time! *No one is left behind!* is now an integral part of our chapter's mission and purpose: It is our *Rendezvous with Destiny!*

Operation Lone Eagle is simply part of our transition from a strictly social club model (the old) to a more service-inspired and service-oriented model (the new): It mirrors and embodies the changing character, nature, and spirit of our younger veterans. And it has a certain moral clarity, purpose, and direction: It is *good* and *right!* It can make a meaningful and significant difference in the lives of our Lone Eagles as they connect with themselves, their families, and their communities through our community-based outreach and efforts.

(to be continued...)

Planning Ahead for the New Year -2022:

The 77th National Reunion; Our 35th Annual Reunion

We are privileged and honored to host the Association's 77th national reunion in Grand Rapids in August 2022. Later this month, a small group from our executive committee -led by John Sosa, Chair of our National Reunion Committee, will meet with Randall Underhill -the Association's executive director, at the Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids to tour its facilities, organize the week's events, and discuss the myriad details involved in hosting a successful reunion. Every chapter member can participate and contribute in a meaningful way to its success.

Your contributions of time, energy, and/or money are most welcomed and needed if we are to successfully host the Association's 77th national reunion. Volunteers are needed in each of the following areas.:

- **Shuttle Drivers** are needed to transport those attendees arriving from around the country: The air travel will be collated on the registration form that is sent into the Association's office, and forwarded to the chapter. Drivers will be selected once we know how many chapter members are attending the reunion. We will poll them for their commitment in terms of their days and times available.
- **Registration** is a very important and key function at the reunion. Registration begins on Wednesday morning at 0900 hours and ends at 1700 hours each day of the reunion. The ladies from the chapter usually perform the daily registration functions, -e.g., the chapter officers' wives and other volunteers. On the Monday -and possibly the Tuesday, before the reunion starts, volunteers also assist in filling the Welcome Bags, usually donated by the visitors and convention bureau or the USAA.
- **Hospitality Room & Evening Raffles:** The hospitality room will open every day at 12:00 noon and close around midnight. The raffles will begin after everyone has returned from their evening dinner when we will conduct the raffle(s), -e.g., collect the monies and disburse the raffle items. *It's time to think about and set aside those items you would like to contribute to the raffle(s).*

(See the *Volunteer* sign-up form on p.13 and, also, the *Donation* form on p.14)

At our reunion this past September (Fenton), the membership voted to hold our 35th annual reunion in Frankenmuth (September 2022). Unfortunately, their facilities are completely booked through the month of September: They have a two-year backlog of weddings, conferences, and other meetings due to the covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns. And anything we could cobble together in terms of food and lodging is way too cost-prohibitive: It's a very expensive town in September!

So, after exploring different options, we reached agreement with the Hampton Inn in Brighton where we now will have our 35th annual reunion in September 2022. For those interested, the Brighton Chamber of Commerce will provide a list of weekend events as we get closer to our reunion weekend. Brighton is a nice, comfortable, and scenic “walking town” and there is easy access to the 1-96 & US 23 freeways for those interested in daytrips to places like the Detroit Zoo or Greenfield Village.

Further details about the Associations’ 77th national reunion (August 2022) and our own 35th annual reunion (September 2022) will be forthcoming in future editions of the *MSE*.

In the meantime,

Support the chapter and each other;
Be safe and cautious; and,
Stay healthy and positive ...

Patrick B. Kavanaugh, Ph.D., President
101st Airborne Division Assn., Michigan Chapter
Airborne! Air Assault!

Proud to Call Him Brother
By John C. Sosa

I first met Jim Keeton at one of the first annual reunions I attended in either Indianapolis, Indiana or Lexington, Kentucky. Jim introduced himself and we soon discovered that we both had served in the 101st Airborne Division in the artillery during the Vietnam War. Jim advised that there were not many artillerymen that attended the annual reunions, mostly infantry and aviation veterans. He went on to explain the structure and makeup of the Association, starting with the Association and its officers and then its board of governors of which he was a sitting member of Division Artillery. His easygoing demeanor made it very comfortable to speak and be with him.

When I attended the next reunion, I was recruited to serve on the Board of Governors as a junior alternate for Division Artillery. And, so began my introduction, involvement, and participation in the Association with Jim serving as both my guide and mentor. We had many conversations about many different topics ranging from the key personnel within the Association to the major issues discussed to how they were managed and dealt with by the board of governors. And, so began our friendship...

Our spouses met and we quite easily became good friends. Linda Keeton is like Jimmy and is, of course, a pleasure to be with. In time, my wife Kathleen became more interested and involved in the Association, assisting with registration at different reunions. Both my wife and myself felt welcomed and valued as members of the Association, much like stock holders -or stakeholders, in a major corporation: We had a vested interest and sense of ownership in the

Association. Over the years, I sat on many committees and, in time, was approached about my willingness to be nominated and serve as a trustee on the newly formed “Screaming Eagle Foundation” alongside my friend Jimmy Keeton. I accepted without hesitation.

Jim went on to be elected Vice President of the Association in which office he served for two years, followed by his election to the office of President for another two-year term. For many reasons, I followed in his footsteps. After Jim Shamblen became president, I was nominated for the office of Vice President, served my two-year term, and was then nominated for the office of President, elected, and served for another two years. At the 2019 National Reunion in Colorado Springs, I turned the gavel over to newly elected President, John Thompson.

Jim and his family owned and operated Keeton Industries, Inc., and had traveled to Vietnam on many occasions because of his business. During Snowbird reunion 2015, I was invited to go with him on a “Return to Vietnam” tour made up, primarily, of former members of the 101st Airborne Division and their spouses. In March of 2016 I traveled with Jim, Linda, and many other Vietnam veterans back to Vietnam. Our travel arrangements were made through the Vietnam Battlefield Tours, a company out of San Antonio, Texas that specializes in tours to Vietnam. Our group met in Houston, Texas, where we boarded EVA airlines for the flight to Hanoi, Vietnam with a stop in Taipei, Taiwan and then on to our final destination.

For myself, the most important sites and experiences on the trip were climbing Hamburger Hill and paying tribute to our fallen comrades who had fought so valiantly. Also, visiting Tay Ninh, Trang Bang, Ho Bo Woods, Michelin Rubber Plantation and Cu Chi where we experienced some of the most vicious fighting, near the Iron Triangle and the Cambodian border. When our group was offered the opportunity to explore the underground tunnels, I respectfully declined. Once was enough.

Next on the itinerary, we travelled to Saigon and the Mekong Delta where we boarded watercraft and then transferred to smaller sampans. Later in the evening we were treated to a remarkable and memorable feast fit for royalty! Jim’s business associate had the feast prepared for the group. He spared no expense in making sure that everyone was comfortable, well-cared for, and well-fed. The last day of our trip, we spent touring the “Paris of the Orient,” ending the evening with a memorial dinner “al fresco” at a major hotel in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

I thank Jimmy for having invited me. The entire trip was memorable and worth every minute, including the “emotional roller coaster” many of us were on as we revisited so many of the Vietnam places, memories, and experiences from so long ago. I am glad I made the trip. These were but some of the many different ways throughout our friendship that Jimmy said, “*You are my brother!*”

He never complained about much of anything, including his own health issues. He was a major supporter of the Association, displayed humility, courtesy and kindness to everyone, and was always ready to pitch in and lend a helping hand with whatever needed to be done. A kind “Hello!” and a smile were what he wore whenever you ran into him: That’s who he was as a person, a man, a mentor, and a friend!

Jimmy eventually succumbed to his illness and left those who knew him with their memories of a real humanitarian and a faithful friend. I will always be honored to have known him. What can I possibly say other than, “*He was my brother!*” May he rest in eternal peace!

Milestones & Markers:

-Received from Keith Sousa, Past President:

We recently lost a fellow Veteran and good friend of mine, Louis Michilli (1 July 1926 – 3 November 2021). I first met Louis when I worked for the Vietnam Veterans of America in Detroit. I happened to answer the phone when he called asking for assistance: He was a fellow Veteran in need. I was able to help him file a claim with the Veterans Administration (VA), help with his everyday living expenses, and help file a claim for pension benefits.

I gradually became more involved in Louis’ life, visiting him at home, taking him to his appointments, and going out to lunch and running errands with him. With each passing week, we got to know each other a little better and, in time, we became good friends. Born in Salt Lick, Kentucky, Louis had a hard life, leaving school after the 8th grade to work in the tobacco fields, drive trucks, and do whatever he could to make a living. When he was old enough, his mother gave her consent for him to join the Army and he was off to do his part during WWII. Shipped off to the Philippines to fight the Japanese, Louis had to have emergency surgery on the troop ship to have his gall bladder removed: The new experimental drug - “penicillin,” saved his life. It was a rough start before beginning his tour in combat.

Louis spent several months fighting the Japanese in the Philippines. When the war ended, he and his fellow Soldiers had to convince the enemy that the war was actually over and they had to surrender. They took several prisoners and he was able to get to know several of them. Unfortunately, some of his war-time experiences subsequently bothered my friend for the rest of his life. Amazingly, he still could speak some of the Filipino language (Tagalog among others) and sing a few of their native songs after 70+ years.

After the war, Louis married and they had five children. He always bragged that he was married for 60 years, but it took him 3 wives to do it. Two of his sons served in the Army; one in Vietnam, and the other in Operation Desert Storm, later retiring as a Master Sergeant and settling in Rockford, MI.

In recent years, I was able to see Louis only occasionally due to the COVID and my own medical issues. After several years of failing health, he was placed in a nursing facility and, shortly thereafter, diagnosed with the COVID-19. Louis passed away 3 November 2021. He will be buried at the Holly National Cemetery with full military honors sometime in the near future. He will be missed. R.I.P.

-Received from Sven Hahr, Chapter Member:

Col. Edward Shames of Norfolk, Virginia died peacefully at his home at the age of 99 on December 3rd, 2021. He was the last surviving member of the World War II parachute infantry regiment (PIR) known as the “Band of Brothers” which inspired the 2001 HBO miniseries *-Band of Brothers*, and the book of the same name by Stephen Ambrose. According to his obituary posted by the Hollomon-Brown Funeral Home:

Shames enlisted in the Army in 1942 at the age of 19, trained at Camp Toccoa, Ga., and was subsequently involved in some of the most important battles of WW11. He made his first combat jump into Normandy as part of Operation Overlord, volunteered for Operation Pegasus, fought with Easy Company of the 506th PIR, 101st Airborne Division in Operation Market Garden, and fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne.

He also was the first member of the 101st to enter Dachau concentration camp, just days after its liberation. And when Germany surrendered, he and his men of Easy Company entered Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest where he managed to acquire a few bottles of cognac, the labels indicating they were “for the Fuhrer’s use only.” Later, he used the cognac to toast his oldest son’s Bar Mitzvah.

Shames was preceded in death by his wife, Ida, in 2019 after 73 years of marriage. He is survived by sons Douglas and Steven, four grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. A graveside service was held at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk, Va.

R.I.P.

(*ed. note*: No doubt, the spirits of all those interned at Dachau gathered with the spirits of all those who served with Easy Company to witness Col. Shames pour the Fuhrer’s special “Reserved” spirits and toast his son’s Bar Mitzvah! ... Poetic justice of the first order! The Michigan Chapter proudly salutes you - Col. Edward Shames, the men of Easy Company, and all that you did in the name of Liberation and Freedom! Your spirits live on!... Mazel Tov!)

No one left behind!
-Volunteer Form-

Give some thought as to those area(s) in which you are interested, willing and able to volunteer for the Association's 77th national reunion. Please so indicate on this form and return to the address below.

- _____ **Shuttle Driver** (Drivers will be selected once we know how many chapter members are attending the reunion. We can then poll those members who volunteer for their final commitment.)
- _____ **Registration** (Regular registration begins on Wednesday morning at 0900 hours and ends at 1700 hours. The ladies from the chapter usually volunteer to assist with registration, -e.g., the chapter officers' wives and volunteer attendees.)
- _____ **Hospitality Room & Evening Raffles:** (The hospitality room will open every day at 12:00 noon and close around midnight. The raffles will commence after everyone has returned from their evening dinner at which time we will conduct the raffle(s), -e.g., collect the monies, select the winner, disburse the items.)
- _____ **Contribution to the Raffle(s):** (*It's time to start thinking and setting aside those items you would like to contribute to the raffle(s).* The association will also bring items for the raffle.) Please list your contributions below:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

Please send your completed form to:

Robert Kilmer, Chair
Volunteer Committee
62 Hickory
Troy, Michigan 48083

... Thank You!

No one left behind!

-Donation Form-

Our mission is to establish our chapter’s presence in Michigan’s local communities; develop satellite groups and community-based outreach programs for those who have been left behind -our “Lone Eagles;” and, tell the story of the 101st Airborne Division Association to the next generation of young Americans. In so doing, we -at once, interweave our core values of *patriotism, equality, liberty, and justice for all* ever more tightly into the social fabric of our local communities and promote a deep and abiding respect for all who serve -past, present, and future, for our great nation, and for our Flag and all it represents.

Your generous participation in our appeal for donations can help make a significant difference in the lives of those in Michigan’s Airborne/Air Assault community who gave and sacrificed so very much to protect our individual freedoms, cherished liberties, and preserve our national and individual sovereignty! Life-altering opportunities that might not otherwise exist for them and their families can happen through your compassionate giving and caring.

We are duty bound to uphold our oath to the Constitution; we are honor bound to help and support each other. Contribute whatever is possible; support our mission so that no one is left behind. Your gift can be influential in shaping our local Michigan communities and the everyday lives of our brothers and sisters who have been left behind! For an even greater impact, consider making your gift a pledge or recurring gift.

Please fill out the following information and earmark where you want to direct your gift:

Name: _____
Address: _____ City, State, Zip _____
Phone: _____ (Cell) _____ (Home) _____
Email: _____ Please update my information: _____

CORPORATE GIFTS	LEADERSHIP GIFTS	SUSTAINING GIFTS	_____ GREATEST NEED
_____ \$25,000	_____ \$5,000	_____ \$250	_____ “LONE EAGLE FUND”
_____ \$15,000	_____ \$1,000	_____ \$100	_____ CHAPTER SUPPORT
_____ \$10,000	_____ \$500	_____ \$25	_____ IN MEMORY OF...

Please send your contribution to:

John Sosa, Treasurer
1569 Mill Street
Lincoln Park, MI 48146-2358 ... Thank You!