

101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association  
Michigan Chapter

*THE MICHIGAN SCREAMING EAGLE*  
*Volume 1 (3)*

October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021

*"No one left behind!"*

Greetings Screaming Eagles,

After two years, we finally were able to meet in Fenton this past September for our annual reunion and memorial banquet. Our reunion was cancelled in 2020, one of the many casualties of the coronavirus pandemic. So, it was exciting to get back together again, renew old friendships, catch up on what's been happening, and take care of chapter business. Nominations were made, elections were held, and -of course, the subject of many conversations over the weekend centered on "9/11" and the nation's recent exit from Afghanistan, ostensibly ending the longest war in American history -our intergenerational "War on Terror" (2001-2021).

This year's memorial banquet was especially significant and poignant, given that it fell on September 11<sup>th</sup>, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the terrorist attack on the iconic Twin Towers at the World Trade Center (WTC) in 2001. The images of the two planes hijacked by the radical Islamic terrorist group Al Qaeda crashing into the North and South Towers of the WTC are forever seared into our cultural and personal memories. Not surprisingly, they provided the context for our Saturday morning meetings, conversations during the day, and memorial banquet on Saturday evening.

**Chapter Business:**

**Nominations and Elections (2021-2023)**

At the general membership meeting on Saturday morning, Past President Keith Sousa - chair of the nominations committee, presented a slate of candidates for the consideration of those members present. The following chapter members were (re-) elected to the following offices:

Col. Edward H. Hirsch (Ret) ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (2021-2022)  
John Sosa ..... Secretary/Treasurer (2021-2023)  
Dave B. Kelly..... Chaplain (2021-2023)  
Allen H. Lopenski..... Sergeant-at-Arms (2021-2023)  
Henry Heatley..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Executive Committeeman (2021-2023)  
Robert Kilmer..... 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive Committeeman (2021-2023)

Congratulations!

And on behalf of the membership, I would like to thank each of you for your willingness to step forward, be involved, and donate your time, energy, and efforts so that our chapter, might not only survive, but thrive in the years ahead!

As to our “line of succession,” President Keith Sousa’s term in office ended last year whereupon I assumed the office and duties of president (2020-2022), John Malejan became 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President (2020-2022), Col. Ed Hirsh was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and -in accordance with our bylaws, Past President Keith Sousa automatically became our 1<sup>st</sup> Executive Committeeman (2021-2022). Our line of succession has been renewed, refreshed, and reenergized; it remains strong moving forward.

### **The 2021 Memorial Banquet:**

#### **We Remember! ...No One Left Behind!**

Once again at the Saturday evening memorial banquet, past Presidents Russ Eaton and Dennis Rebecca conducted the memorial service honoring all those Eagles who had soared from our ranks since we last met in 2019. And immediately following this sacred and solemn ceremony, Col. Edward Hirsch (Ret) -our newly elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President, began our MIA/POW ceremony and -upon its conclusion, proposed a toast in their honor.

And this year we reserved a special table -a “Table of Remembrance,” where the spirits of all those Eagles who have gone before us over the years could gather and be present amongst us. Their family members, friends and comrades were invited to come up to this special table during the course of the evening, -if so inclined, and share their memories and tell their stories - or, to just come up and be with their own personal thoughts, knowing they were surrounded by others who had gathered to remember their loved ones, grieve their loss, and celebrate their lives. ...*We remember our soldiers and families!*

At this year’s banquet, we also observed a special moment of silence for the nearly three thousand people who perished on September 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by a toast dedicated to, “All those who served so honorably and sacrificed so much during the War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past 20 years.” Two hats purchased on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2001 at the still-smoldering cratered-site of the WTC were placed on this Table of Remembrance in recognition and honor of -at once, the fallen heroes of the NYPD and FDNY who gave their lives trying to rescue those trapped in the Twin Towers, and the police officers and firefighters who mobilized and came from across the country to NYC to aid their brothers and sisters. ...*We remember! And we strive to leave no one behind!*

*No one left behind!* is one of the core principles and values woven tightly into the delicate knit of our social fabric. It is deeply ingrained in the American character, spirit, ethic, and ethos. It influences and shapes our social policies; it underlies our willingness to support social programs through our tax dollars and charitable contributions. And, it occupies a central place in the U.S. Armed Forces core principles and system of values, “*We do not leave anyone behind!*”;

it's a foundational pillar of the Warrior's Ethos, "*I will never leave a fallen comrade!*" (see Robert Kilmer's contribution on p.13). Given the centrality of this core American principle and set of values, the August 13<sup>th</sup> exit from Afghanistan provided another significant contextual layer for our 2021 annual reunion.

Most Americans were in favor of ending the never-ending 20-year intergenerational War on Terror in Afghanistan and Iraq. Most did not approve, however, of President Biden's exit plan -or lack thereof, as unknown hundreds -if not thousands, of American citizens, Afghan interpreters, and allied others were sealed off from the Kabul airport, trapped behind enemy lines, and left behind! Shock and outrage - *not* "Shock and Awe," over his poorly designed and executed exit strategy dominated the national news, cable news, and radio talk shows.

The exit from Afghanistan was confused, confusing, and chaotic and -for many Americans and veterans, infuriating as they listened and watched helplessly as fellow Americans and Afghans were knowingly left behind, openly violating -if not mocking, one of the core principles and values of the American people's ethic and ethos, and the Warrior's Creed: *No one is left behind!*

After Al Qaeda's terrorist attack on the Twin Towers on September 11<sup>th</sup> at the WTC, things unfolded very quickly: Nine days later -on September 20<sup>th</sup>, the first chapter in the story of our response was written when President Bush declared a global War on Terror; twenty-six days later -on October 7<sup>th</sup>, a U.S.-led coalition began attacks on Taliban controlled Afghanistan with an intense bombing campaign by American and British forces; and, over the next 20 years many, many different chapters were written not so much to vanquish or conquer the enemy, but rather to win over the hearts and minds of the people. Twenty years later -on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the last chapter was written -supposedly, with President Biden's withdrawal from Afghanistan, just 27 days before our annual reunion in Fenton.

### **Exiting Afghanistan:**

#### ***"Saigon on Steroids!"***

The desperate, frenzied, and chaotic scramble to leave Afghanistan is, perhaps, best captured in an August 16<sup>th</sup> headline in the Wall Street Journal, "*Saigon on Steroids!*" For those Eagles from the Vietnam Era, it reawakens vivid memories of Black Hawks desperately trying to evacuate more than 7,000 civilians and personnel from the roof tops in Saigon on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, 1975. For those Eagles from the Afghanistan-Iraq Era nearly 50 years later, the images of Afghans falling to their death from the tires and wheel wells of C-17 military aircraft rolling down the runway and lifting off from the Kabul airport are now forever etched in their memories.

The lack of a coherent exit strategy from Afghanistan should, in no way, reflect poorly on our brave and patriotic young men and women who volunteered to serve in the War on Terror, many of whom volunteered for multiple deployments. They went to war for their nation; they did everything that was asked of them. They fought honorably and with valor with their comrades.

We cannot -we *must* not, leave our Eagles from Afghanistan and Iraq behind -feeling alone, forgotten, and betrayed, as were so many Vietnam Eagles from fifty years ago who were shunned, shamed and looked down upon when they returned home. We must let them know that they are not alone -they are *not* “Lone Eagles”. They are members of Michigan’s Airborne/Air Assault community; they are our brothers and sisters. We must do everything we can to not leave any Michigan Eagle from Afghanistan, Iraq, or Vietnam behind! ... *We do not leave our comrades behind!*

Many of Michigan’s Eagles from Afghanistan and Iraq feel angered and betrayed by how the August 13<sup>th</sup> exit unfolded! Many believe that their many sacrifices were for nothing! And too many feel profoundly alienated from *themselves*, their families, their communities, and society-in-general. All too often, they are left alone to fight their own personal War on Terror, repeating and reliving their traumatic war-time experiences by themselves. Overlooked, left behind and forgotten, their personal War on Terror can very well be never-ending, lasting for their life-time, much longer than the nation’s 20-year War on Terror.

No one -absolutely, no one, comes home from war the same as when they went. For our Lone Eagles, the personal horrors and terrors of their war-time experiences become, all too often, their “new normal,” becoming their all-consuming reality in which they live and breathe, preventing them from adapting back into civilian life. They’ve lived and functioned for too long in “the fog of war” -scared, terrified, and not knowing if they would survive, much less make it back home! ... They’ve smelled the stench of death! They’ve walked to the edge of the abyss! They’ve been captured and imprisoned in its darkness where they constantly live and relive their conflicted and traumatic war-time experiences.

We must let our Lone Eagles know that their sacrifices were not in vain! We must let them know we know something about the darkness at the edge of the abyss, their inexplicable dreads and anxieties, the contradictory and conflicted realities in which they live, and the ever-present moral anguish and guilt and agitated anger over feeling betrayed. All too often, the only viable solution is suicide, in one form or another.

As a chapter, we must do whatever we can to reach out, connect with, and provide our brothers and sisters with some life-altering opportunities and life-enriching experiences so that, indeed, *“No one is left behind!”*

**On Michigan’s Lone Eagles:  
Our *Rendezvous with Destiny!***

While it is a distinct honor to be elected to office by others in the chapter, none of us on our newly constituted executive committee believe we hold honorific positions. Given the pressing urgency to reach out to Michigan’s Lone Eagles, we met on September 20<sup>th</sup> -just eight days after our Fenton reunion, to discuss how we might best reach out and connect with those

Lone Eagles who served in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Vietnam. We must try to not leave *any* Michigan Eagle behind!

Our vision is to establish our chapter's presence in every local community throughout Michigan. Our mission is to connect with our Lone Eagles and let them know that they are neither forgotten nor alone, that they are valued members in our Airborne/Air Assault chapter and family, and, that their service to our nation truly matters! At this September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, we decided that "Operation Lone Eagle!" would be our chapter's central project moving forward and represents nothing less than our *Rendezvous with Destiny!*

Our chapter has been honored and privileged to host the Association's 77<sup>th</sup> national reunion in Grand Rapids at the Amway Plaza Hotel in August 2022. Obviously, considerable effort, time, and energy is involved in planning, preparing, and coordinating the logistics involved in putting on a successful and memorable reunion in Grand Rapids ten months from now (August 2022) and our own annual reunion the following month in Frankenmuth (September 2022).

We are-in-need-of donations of time, energy, effort, and money, especially as we move forward in our planning and preparations. More specific information and details on the Association's reunion in Grand Rapids will be forthcoming in future editions of the *Michigan Screaming Eagle*, -e.g., volunteer sign-up forms, the week's schedule of events, and the various activities during the week. In the meantime, save the dates (August 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2022), spread the word, and begin reaching out and connecting with the Lone Eagles in your community. ... Why?

Hosting the 77<sup>th</sup> national reunion provides us with the rich opportunity to -at once, increase interest and membership in our chapter, generate publicity and revenue for our chapter, and reach out to Michigan's Lone Eagles and bring them into our Airborne/Air Assault community. To this end, we have established "The Lone Eagle Fund." Our goal is to raise \$25,000 by next July 15<sup>th</sup>. All donations received will be used to help defray the costs associated with registering as many of Michigan's Lone Eagles as possible so they can attend the national reunion in Grand Rapids and our annual reunion in Frankenmuth.

Your donations and contributions can make it possible for as many Lone Eagles as possible to register for the reunion and participate in some of the week's life-altering and life-enriching experiences. Any donations received will be applied to the costs associated with attending the reunion(s) ranging from the registration fees to the costs of transportation and lodging to helping with fees for activities like golf outings or charter boat fishing to helping out with some of the chapter's "greatest needs" so that we can continue to reach out and move forward with our chapter's project (see "Donation Form" p.19).

We cannot let what happened to our Vietnam Eagles happen again to those who served in Afghanistan and Iraq -never, *ever*. In some way, every chapter member can make a meaningful and significant difference in their lives -if they so choose, through their donations of time, effort,

energy, and/or money in support of Operation Lone Eagle! (See John Sosa's article on p.9) Whatever you can do is much-needed and greatly appreciated.

What else can we do? A lot. Many in Michigan's local communities have never heard of our chapter. Let them know! Start a satellite group. Join a group that already exists. Reach out and connect with as many Lone Eagles in your community as possible. Invite them for coffee. Listen to their stories and experiences. Share yours. As you form or join satellite groups in your local communities, reach out and connect with our Lone Eagles and encourage them to join your group and chapter. *There is no cost for the first two years of their chapter membership!*

What else can we do? Make 20, 30, 40 copies of this edition of *The Michigan Screaming Eagle -whatever*, and distribute or leave them at your local VA, churches, schools, PTAs, school board meetings *-wherever*. Spread the word! Let them know that not only does our chapter exist, but that our mission is focused on, *Leaving no one behind!* And there is something more...

Our chapter is organized around education. Its focus is on developing educational outreach programs in Michigan's local communities; its emphasis is on transmitting our values, beliefs, and traditions to the next generation of young Americans. Let them know that, for example, our chapter stands for and advances such values as *patriotism, commitment, self-sacrifice, and the American Flag* and all that it represents! And, also, that we support the Constitution and its principles of *equality, freedom, liberty, and justice for all!*

Over the past several months, students have been leaving the nation's public schools in droves. Many parents believe that Critical Race Theory is a radicalized and racialized ideology that has permeated their children's educational curriculum. As a consequence, the number of students in homeschooling has tripled during this time.

Let them know that we oppose any racialized ideology, act of discrimination, or form of censorship that violates or compromises any American citizen's fundamental rights. Let them know something about the history of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division during World War II fighting against the ideology and mythology of Aryan supremacy! ...or its involvement in school integration in 1957 during the civil rights movement! And let them know that our local chapter members are willing to meet with students involved in the Home School Movement.

Also, let them know that we have different categories of membership and that we invite and welcome as Associate Members all those who share our vision, mission, spirit, and values but do not meet the requirements for Regular membership.

What else can be done? Encourage other Airborne/Air Assault veterans in your circle and community to join our Association and the Michigan chapter. Make copies of the "Benefits of Membership" and "Membership Application Forms" (see p.15-18) and distribute or leave them at your local churches, school board meetings, local VA, VFW, PTA, American Legion, support group, or with family members, friends, neighbors, and acquaintances - *whomever*.

What else can we do? This edition of *The Michigan Screaming Eagle* is organized around what can be done to ensure that no Michigan Eagle is left behind. It contains information that can

be very helpful in living their day-today lives Read them. Reach out and let others in your community know about the information. (see Dr. Ed Hirsch’s article on p.11 and Past President Keith Sousa’s on p.13). The information in these articles can provide Michigan’s Lone Eagles with some very practical, life-enriching, and life-altering opportunities! It could very well open the door to the possibilities of possibilities in their lives! Knowledge is power! In passing it along, you become a vital link in their empowerment!

...Be a force-multiplier in your local community.

## **Michigan’s “Lone Eagles:”**

### **Financial Donations, Gifts**

At the time of our enlistment, each of us took an Oath to support and defend the U.S. Constitution. For many of us, the Oath we took did not expire when we received our DD-214 discharge papers; it was not time-limited. Indeed, for many of us, we believe that we are *duty bound* to uphold our Oath and advance the principles of *liberty, freedom, equality, and justice for all* throughout our lives! And, for many of us, we feel *honor bound* to “Leave no one behind!” It is an integral part of our moral code, ethic, and system of values that, also, last throughout our lives; it did not evaporate when we received our DD-214 discharge papers.

Our goal of raising \$25,000 by next July 15<sup>th</sup> is ambitious. No question. We believe, however, that it’s possible and do-able, that its purpose has moral clarity and direction, and that it provides a sense of moral purpose and commitment for our chapter and members. *No one is left behind!* is deeply ingrained in our character, our spirit, and our shared ethic and ethos as members of the Airborne/Air Assault brother hood and sisterhood.

Any financial contribution received in support of “Operation Lone Eagle” -whatever the amount, is much appreciated. Your contributions can be earmarked and directed to wherever you might indicate on our “Donation Form” (p.19).

What are some other considerations in making a financial contribution or gift to help underwrite the costs of “Operation Lone Eagle”?

## **2021 Tax Planning and Beyond:**

### **Donations, Gifts, and a Continuing Legacy**

With the 2021 tax planning season upon us, many chapter members are looking for charities to which they might contribute. Keep us in mind! We are a 501(c)(19) veterans’ organization, a non-profit to which any donation, gift, or endowment is not only tax deductible but deeply appreciated!

You can help us fulfill our commitment to *Leave no one behind!* In so doing, our Michigan Lone Eagles can experience some life-altering opportunities they might not otherwise

have. Consider making your contribution to our “Lone Eagle Fund”. Together, we can make a significant and meaningful difference in their lives!

Your contribution is an opportunity to make a statement about your principles, beliefs, and values. All contributions received will be used in some way to help underwrite the costs involved in reaching out into our local communities, connecting with our Lone Eagles, and involving them in life-altering opportunities like the Association’s national reunion in Grand Rapids (August 2022) and our annual reunion in Frankenmuth (September 2022).

For those in the position to do so, please consider creating a perpetual legacy in your estate planning or making a reoccurring pledge. Your life’s work (and subsequent legacy) is also an opportunity to make a statement about your principles, beliefs, and values.

For those interested in contributing or gifting to the “Lone Eagle Fund,” some important year-end considerations include:

- If you are 59½ or older, you can make a distribution from your IRA and then make a gift to the Michigan Chapter or Association without penalty. If you itemize your deductions, you can take a charitable deduction for the amount.
- If you are 70½ or older, you can give or transfer any amount up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA directly to the Michigan Chapter; a married couple can give up to \$200,000. You will not pay income taxes on the gift or transfer. And if you are 72 or older, you can use this transfer to satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD).

We must receive your gift by December 31<sup>st</sup>, for your gift to qualify this year. If you have check-writing privileges on your IRA, please mail your check by December 18<sup>th</sup> to allow time to process your gift.

For those interested, you might consider making a future gift as part of your legacy. You could continue your generosity long after your lifetime. Some options include:

- *Percentage giving.* Through your will, you can designate percentages of your estate as you see fit. For example, designate 5% of your total estate to the Michigan Chapter, while leaving 95% to loved ones.
- *Blended giving.* Give an outright gift of cash or other assets today, combined with a future gift, such as naming the Michigan Chapter in your will.



- *Beneficiary designation.* A simple form is all it takes to name the Chapter or Association as a beneficiary of your retirement plan assets, unneeded life insurance policy or donor advised fund.

Be sure to consult with your tax consultant, CPA, attorney, or adviser to determine how to best implement your wishes. Whatever you decide, we are here to help you fulfill your goals.

In closing, I want to mention that our October 20<sup>th</sup> luncheon meeting was cancelled. At the time of cancellation, there was a state-wide, upward trend in the numbers of covid-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths reported: Michigan was considered a “Very High Risk” state. A very important factor in our decision to cancel is that vaccinations and booster shots do *not* prevent infections; they help mitigate the severity of covid-19 related symptoms and the length of hospitalization.

The status of our November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting will be determined early next month based on the state of Michigan’s “Risk Level” at that time. ... In the meantime,

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

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

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### **Evolution and Change:**

#### **“Time Waits for No Man!”**

by

John Sosa, Secretary/Treasurer

We all have heard the axiom that, “Time waits for no man”. So true are those words of wisdom. Each of us is a part of the evolutionary process as we move through time from the past to the present to the future. All things change with time as does our Association and Chapter. When the Association was first formed, the membership was made up entirely of WWII veterans. Without question, they wrote the charter of how it would govern itself.

It wasn’t until the Division was building up to full-strength for the ensuing Vietnam War that the face of the Association began to change. Many of us joined for the first time during the 1960’s. At that time a life membership cost a \$101-dollars, quite a bit of money for a newly assigned Pvt. E-2 “slick-sleeve”, fresh out of jump school. I was approached by the 1SG to join

the Association and also to maintain my annual membership while I was assigned to the Division during my two years of service. I had never attended an Association Reunion.

After leaving the 101<sup>st</sup> for reassignment to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, I let my membership lapse. It wasn't until I was retired from my civilian job that I had a rekindled interest in the Association and, finally, attended a reunion. The majority of our current membership is made up of Vietnam veterans; the average age is 70+ years. Now that we are retired, we have more time and have the resources to pursue our interests in the Association, however we might choose.

The biggest hurdles we face as a veterans' organization are two-fold; first, membership and retention, and second, the financial aspects in generating income for operating costs. And the big question now is, "How do we attract the modern-day soldier -both active duty and veteran, and retain them?" If we compare our own journey as to when we became active in the Association (and our chapter), then we may be able to answer these questions.

Most of the Vietnam Era veterans become active after retiring either from the military or their civilian occupations. Their children are grown and out of the house, they have a bit more disposable income, and their house is paid off. These are some of the factors as to why we are now ready to commit some time and money to pursue our interests within the Association and the Chapter. And many of us belong to more than one organization. I have often wondered to myself how I was ever able to become so busy after retirement.

As a veteran's organization, operating under the IRS 501(C) 19 rule, we basically depend upon the investments of the Association and donations received to operate day-to-day business. With the exception of the executive secretary/treasurer and the office staff, all the officers, board members, and committee members are not compensated for the work they do on a regular basis. (I guess you could call it a labor of love! What else could it be?) Many of us dip into our own pockets to make sure everything is funded and works. We also make regular donations to the Screaming Eagle Foundation, SE Support Fund, and the Operating & Welfare Fund as well as encourage Corporate Sponsorships. The financial challenges we face on a monthly basis are monitored closely by the executive secretary/treasurer and shared with the finance committee, the investment committee, and the executive committee.

When I joined the Michigan Chapter, I volunteered to assume the duties and responsibilities of chapter secretary as long as someone else assumed those of the treasurer's position. I consider myself very fortunate to have been in the company of so many prominent members from WWII. I won't name them because they are all gone now. The one thought that stands out in my memory is that they thanked me and were so thankful for doing the work of the chapter secretary. This included writing the article for the *Screaming Eagle* magazine, and all the other miscellaneous duties that needed attention and action. We were in it together! Eventually, I inherited the treasurer's job as well.

The legendary author and historian of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division in WWII, George Koskimaki, began hosting an afternoon luncheon in 1983, known as the "Lunch Bunch". George was an original member of the "Nuts" club in Detroit, Michigan that met at the Veteran's

Memorial building on the banks of the Detroit River. As George later became burdened with health problems, he asked if anyone would take over his monthly duties of mailing out the postcards to the membership, paying the caterer, and most of all scheduling the presenter for the afternoon program. Time waits for no man!

I felt it was my duty as chapter secretary to step up and volunteer. Assuming the duties that George did every month was an eye-opening experience. The mailing of the monthly postcards to the membership, gave me the opportunity to know the members on a first name basis. And, more importantly, it gave the members the avenue to take ownership of their chapter. If one of the members did not receive his monthly postcard, he would be on the telephone wanting to know if the chapter was meeting, as we normally did.

Fast-forward to the present, we have continued to meet on the third Wednesday of the month during the year with the exception of July and August. And our chapter reunion is usually held on the third weekend in September. These traditions were established by those WWII veterans of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

As time passes, the approach of doing business and attracting new and younger members to the chapter changes in this modern era. The one thing that will forever remain the same is the legacy of those brave young men who were part the “Greatest Generation”, stopped whatever they were doing for their livelihood, and answered the call to serve their country. They “signed a blank check,” the cost of which often times included sacrificing their lives in the name of ending tyranny and injustice throughout the westernized world. Most of those young patriots had never set foot out of the small rural towns and villages where they were born and raised. They dreamed that they would be called upon to cross the Atlantic and Pacific to defend and fight for the freedoms, liberties, and rights of their fellow man.

As citizens, patriots and veterans, we must never forget the sacrifices of those brave young men and women who answered the call to serve God, country, and their fellow man. It is incumbent upon our generation to remember those that made the supreme sacrifice and honor and remember them in patriotic reverence by living our lives with a moral purpose. We must not leave them and sacrifices behind, forgotten and unremembered by our current generation of young Americans.

May we maintain the dignity and sustain our determination to see each other through these current times of civil and political challenges. May we continue to advance our values, beliefs and traditions in our schools and communities. God bless all those in our Armed Forces - past, present, and future. And may God bless the United States of America!

**THE MICHIGAN VETERANS TRUST FUND:  
AN EMERGENCY GRANT PROGRAM**

by  
Col. Edward H. Hirsch (Ret), 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President

(Dr. Hirsch currently serves as a governor-appointed member on the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund's (MVTF) seven-member Board of Trustees. He was elected 2 years ago as the state Commander of the Jewish War Veterans. He also serves on the executive Board of Post 346, American Legion. The information in this article was provided by the MVTF)

On Feb. 25, 1946, Gov. Harry Kelly signed Public Act 9 into law, creating the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund (MVTF) from \$50 million in post-World War II reserve funds. The interest generated each year is then used to meet the "emergent needs" of eligible Michigan veterans. Since 1946, the MVTF has helped veterans of every era overcome unexpected expenses ranging from utility bills to home repairs to mortgage assistance. Over the past 75 years, the MVTF has distributed more than \$125 million in financial aid for utilities, Medical/Dental services, Transportation costs, Shelter expenses, and other miscellaneous needs. In so doing, it has helped veterans get back on their feet financially.

The MVTF is an Emergency Grant Program that provides temporary financial assistance to help eligible wartime veterans and their families residing in Michigan overcome unforeseen situations causing a temporary or short-term financial emergency or hardship that an MVTF grant will resolve, given that the applicant can demonstrate the ability to meet their future expenses. This is a key factor in determining whether or not a grant will be approved. -e.g., "...the ability of the applicant to manage the obligation for which aid is requested *after* a grant is made." (italics added)

*Who is eligible to apply for an emergency grant?* Those veterans who have been honorably discharged with a minimum of 180 days of active wartime service or have been separated as the result of physical or mental disability incurred in the line of duty are eligible. Veterans who do not meet the 180 days of active wartime service but have been awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and have 180 days of active service are also eligible. Also, assistance may be granted to spouses, un-remarried widow(er)s, and the minor children of eligible veterans.

*How does one apply?* Applications are typically taken through the individual county veterans affairs offices, though veterans in certain counties may apply by contacting 1-800-MICH-VET (1-800-642-4838). Or contact the MVTF county committee serving the county where you reside or fill out and submit an Emergency Assistance Form. Completed applications are submitted to local county or district committees of veterans appointed by the MVTF Board of Trustees, which include representatives from chartered veteran service organizations.

*What is needed to complete an application?* 1) Your discharge papers, separation report, or DD-214 showing your dates of active duty and character of your discharge (call 1-800-MICH-Vet to request a copy of your DD-214); 2) proof of Michigan residence as evidenced by, for example, your driver's license, voter registration card, or state identification card; 3) account statements regarding the items for which you are seeking an MVTF grant; 4) copies of all your other monthly bills; 5) proof of your employment and any other source of income; 6) documentation of any disability rating; 7) marriage certificate and/or birth certificates of minor children, if applicable; and, 8) the death certificate of a deceased spouse or parent, if applicable.

Upon the completion and submission an application for assistance, it is then reviewed and a decision is made by a committee(s) appointed by the MVTF Board of Trustees, a seven-member board appointed by the Governor that has constitutional authority over the Emergency Grant Program's expenditures and policies. The Board of Trustees routinely reviews grants recommended for approval that exceed \$2,000.

If a county or district committee denies a grant request, the applicant can appeal to the MVTF's Board of Trustees. The appeal or review of a committee's decision is sent to the Board of Trustees for consideration at their monthly meeting.

***Markers and Milestones:***

(Please send contributions to John Sosa, Editor)

Two contributions to the *Markers and Milestones* section were received from chapter members since the last edition of the newsletter. Each contribution speaks implicitly -if not explicitly, to one of the core principles of the Warrior's Ethos, *Leave no one behind!*

-Received from Robert Kilmer, Executive Committeeman:

On May 12, 2007, outside of Yousifiyah Iraq, soldiers of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division were ambushed by Al Qaeda-In Iraq (AQI). Four soldiers were killed in the ambush and three others were captured. The body of one of those captured was recovered several days later from the Euphrates River. The other two soldiers were missing in action.

The United States Army Soldiers Creed states unequivocally, "I will never leave a fallen comrade;" "No one left behind" is an integral and foundational aspect of the Warrior's Ethos. Over the next year, four-thousand soldiers conducted an ongoing search for Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez and Specialist Byron Fouty. In June and October of 2007, coalition forces discovered the personal effects of the missing soldiers, including their identification cards and weapons.

During this year long search, many sources were detained and questioned about the location of the two missing soldiers. In July of 2008, Special Operation Forces captured a leader of the AQI who had some connections with knowledge about the ambush of the soldiers. The AQI leader led the Coalition Forces to the site of the two missing soldiers remains.

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the remains of 25-year -old Staff Sergeant Alex Jimenez of Lawrence, Mass. and 19-year-old Specialist Bryon Fouty of Waterford, MI -one of our native sons, were transported to Dover, Delaware. R.I.P. ...*No one left behind!*

-Received from Keith Sosa, Past President:

“No Veteran Left Behind!” is a resource organization designed to assist United States military veterans with any and all needs to adapt back into civilian life, including:

- (after an evaluation) matching the veteran with any mental health or social work professional needed, if necessary;
- assistance in obtaining legal counsel;
- referral to a substance abuse rehabilitation facility (outpatient or in patient)
- (based on evaluation) referring veterans with job seeking skills for resume building, interviewing skills, and referrals;
- helping with financial management and tax preparation upon securing employment;
- assisting with transportation and clothing needs upon receiving employment (proof of employment required);
- assisting in finding reasonable housing both transitional and long term (may be subject to income requirements).

Contact person: Geoff Devereaux (313) 595-1262 or (313) 978-4443

Location: 1515 W. Fort Street, Suite 1429  
Lincoln Park, MI 48146

Website: (noveteranleftbehind.us) -or- (veteranrescue@gmx.com)

## -Benefits of Membership-

- **National Association:**

- *The Screaming Eagle* – receive quarterly magazine (print or digital)
- Online access to the National Association’s website, magazine and store (screamingeagle.org)
- Access to the Screaming Eagle library;
- Division news, highlights and current events;
- “Eagles who have Soared” -those who have gone before us;
- Information about local chapter reunions and national reunions around the country, -e.g., 77<sup>th</sup> National Reunion (Grand Rapids);
- “Band of Brothers and Sisters” – stay connected and informed;
- Eligibility to receive educational scholarships for those who have served and their family members.

- **Michigan Chapter:**

- Annual Reunion and Memorial Banquet (centrally located; family oriented)
- Chapter Website organized around our storied history, addressing three basic questions: *Who are we? Where did we come from? and, What stories do we have to tell, moving forward?* (101stairbornemichiganchapter.com)
- Online Membership Directory (connect with Michigan’s Airborne community);
- *Michigan Screaming Eagle* -receive the chapter’s quarterly newsletter (print);
- Utilize the chapter’s Face Book;
- Monthly luncheon meetings in Livonia (except for July and August);
- Chapter is organized around Education (monthly meetings; outreach into local Michigan communities, -e.g., core values of *patriotism, self-sacrifice, commitment...*);
- Community outreach programs: establish “Satellite Groups” around the state;
- *Education* –Our organizing educational focus is realized through contributions to the National Association’s scholarship fund; educational programs at our monthly meetings; and, by encouraging the establishment of “satellite groups” in local communities throughout Michigan;
- Provides a deep sense of moral clarity and purpose in living our lives...

We invite you to join the Michigan Chapter of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association!

We welcome anyone who was assigned, attached, or are presently assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, their spouses, widows, immediate ancestral family members and lineal decedents.

Veterans of the United States Military, Allied veterans, Reserve or National Guard units that have been attached or OPCON to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division can become Regular Members. The Association also welcomes Associate Members who do not qualify for regular membership but wish to further the Association's aims and traditions.

### **Application Process:**

Joining the Michigan Chapter is a two-step process: one must first join the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association which requires proof of military service; and then, one can proceed to join the Michigan Chapter. All members in good standing with the National 101<sup>st</sup> Division Association are eligible to join the Michigan Chapter.

All who have honorably worn -or now wear the 101st Screaming Eagle patch, and are members of the National 101st Airborne Division Association -or agree to become members of same- are eligible to become Regular Members of the Michigan Chapter upon payment of their chapter dues.

The [Membership Application Forms](#) for both the National Association and the Michigan Chapter can also be found at our website ([101stairbornemichiganchapter.com](http://101stairbornemichiganchapter.com)); both forms are downloadable.

Our Chapter meets at 11:00am, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month (with the exception of July and August) at the

Alex J. Brunett Activity Center  
17500 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48152

Come join us at one of our monthly meetings either *before* or *after* you join.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Continue the legacy!!





## 101st Airborne Division Association, Inc.

32 Screaming Eagle Blvd / PO Box 929

Fort Campbell, KY 42223

Phone: 931-431-0199

Email: [membershipadmin@screamingeagle.org](mailto:membershipadmin@screamingeagle.org)

Website: [www.screamingeagle.org](http://www.screamingeagle.org)

**Eligibility:** Anyone who was assigned, attached, or are presently assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division, their spouses, widows, immediate ancestral family members and lineal decedents, veterans of the United States Military, Allied veterans Reserve or National Guard units have been attached or OPCON to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division can become a Regular Member. The Association also welcomes Associate Members who do not qualify for regular membership but wish to further the Association aims and traditions.

To maintain our non-profit 501 (c) (19) status with the IRS, the Association requires proof of your military service by some type of document such as, but not limited to, a copy of your DD form 214, orders from the 101<sup>st</sup> for full membership – assignment, military award orders, military promotion orders, VA card, etc. Associates include unit orders or DD214.

Check the applicable box:  New Member  Reinstatement  Annual Renewal  Associate

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Annual membership:</b><br>\$30 for one-year membership includes one-year printed subscription of <i>The Screaming Eagle</i> magazine. | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Lifetime Membership:</b><br>\$101 that includes access to the digital copy of the quarterly <i>Screaming Eagle</i> magazine | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Option for Life Member's Printed Magazine:</b><br>\$12 Annual Subscription to receive the printed copies of <i>The Screaming Eagle</i> magazine. |
|---|---|--|

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY): \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank/Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Co/Btry/Trp: \_\_\_\_\_ Bn/Sqdrn: \_\_\_\_\_ Regt: \_\_\_\_\_ Bde: \_\_\_\_\_

All Dates of Service: From \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_ War Time Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Referred By: \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are not/were not attached to the 101st Please Specify Branch: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Are you, or were you, the spouse of a veteran: Yes  Specify Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a descendant of a veteran: Yes  Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Specify Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed  Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I Do  I Do Not authorize the release of my information.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Annual Magazine Fee may increase upon USPO postal fee increases. The \$45 post for international members applies (\$75 total).**

**\*\*\*Members may access the digital magazine through [www.screamingeagle.org](http://www.screamingeagle.org).**

**MICHIGAN CHAPTER,  
101<sup>ST</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
INCORPORATED**



**Michigan Chapter, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association  
Application Form**



Date of (Re-)Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_ Cell# \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit (s) Served With: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

WWII \_\_\_\_ Korea \_\_\_\_ Vietnam \_\_\_\_ Desert Storm \_\_\_\_ Iraq \_\_\_\_ Afghanistan \_\_\_\_  
Other \_\_\_\_ (\*Circle All That Apply)

Regular Member: \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Member \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

DUES: \$50.00 – Life Membership

\$20.00 – Annual Membership (2 Years)

Please Return Form To: Jeanette Novak,  
Administrative Assistant  
427 Covington Court  
Northville, MI 48168

Phone: (248) 348-9536

Email: [jeanettenovak@comcast.net](mailto:jeanettenovak@comcast.net)

*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 to those who have been left behind, and tell the story of the 101<sup>st</sup> 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* more tightly into the social fabric of our local communities' and promote a deep and abiding respect for all who serve, 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.

Your gift can be influential in shaping our local Michigan communities and the lives of our brothers and sisters who have been left behind! 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. For a greater impact, consider making your gift a pledge or recurring gift.

Please fill out the following information and earmark where you would like 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!