

101st Airborne Division Association
Michigan Chapter

MICHIGAN SCREAMING EAGLE
Volume 1 (1)
April 14th, 2021

Greetings Screaming Eagles,

I hope this finds you and yours healthy, safe, and doing well during these difficult times of the pandemic....

I would like to begin by thanking you for your membership in the Michigan Chapter. It's only through your continued interest, support, and participation that we are able to join together and advance our core values, shared beliefs, and proud traditions in local communities throughout the state of Michigan. As you well know, we have not been able to meet during the past year, given the Covid-19 pandemic and the CDC guidelines and DHHS restrictions. Nevertheless, a lot has been happening that has reshaped the very purpose and mission of our Chapter as we move forward into 2021.

First and foremost, our deepest condolences go out to the families of Ed Hallo, Al Rowe, Earl Hassett, and Joe Beyrle who passed since we last met. They are deeply missed. May they rest in peace. And may their families find some comfort in knowing that they now soar with the Eagles that have gone before. We will remember, honor, and pay tribute to them and their families at this year's annual reunion. Their lives, service, and sacrifices will be honored and remembered. And to all those who have gone before us ...

REST EASY, SLEEP WELL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS.
KNOW THE LINE HAS HELD. YOUR JOB IS DONE.
.... REST EASY. SLEEP WELL.
OTHERS HAVE TAKEN UP WHERE YOU FELL,
.... THE LINE HAS HELD.
PEACE, PEACE, AND FAREWELL.

INSCRIBED ON THE WALL OF
THE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL

Freedom is not free; it never has been.

THE MICHIGAN SCREAMING EAGLE
THE CHAPTER'S NEWSLETTER

This letter marks the introduction of the Chapter's first newsletter, the *MICHIGAN SCREAMING EAGLE*. In the months and years ahead, we plan to gradually expand it in its scope, breadth, and reach into our local communities as we increase our membership. At this

(www.101stairbornemichiganchapter.com)

time, we plan on publishing the newsletter on a quarterly basis to better serve our members and so that everyone can keep current with the Chapter's monthly activities, news, and upcoming events. We have, for example, rescheduled last year's National Annual Reunion (2020) - cancelled because of the Covid-19, for September 2022 in Grand Rapids (MI), the details of which will be forthcoming in future editions of the *MICHIGAN SCREAMING EAGLE*.

Organized around the interests of our members, the newsletter is a way of staying informed and connected. If you have any news or information that you believe would be of interest to your friends and other Chapter members, please consider sending it in for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter. Suggested topics include -but are certainly not limited to, something about your own military service and story -or the service of a family member like your father, mother, wife, son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, neighbor, ... and so on, your contacts with -or news about, old friends and buddies, your retirement plans or travels, or your current interests and hobbies.

A section entitled, *Markers and Milestones*, has been set aside in the newsletter for this purpose. Please send all submissions to:

John C. Sosa, Editor
Markers and Milestones
 1569 Mill Street
 Lincoln Park, MI 48146-2358

As we launch the *Michigan Screaming Eagle*, we will be moving forward -no doubt, in leaps and lurches. We'll see how it goes and adjust accordingly...

THE CHAPTER'S MONTHLY MEETINGS RESUME ON MAY 19TH, 2021
ANNUAL REUNION SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 10TH -12TH, 2021

I am very pleased to announce -*finally*, that we will resume our luncheon meetings on Wednesday, May 19th, 2021 at 11:30 am in Livonia, MI. And we plan on meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each month thereafter with the exceptions -of course, of July and August. We will be meeting at the

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

If you plan on coming, call or email Jeanette Novak, our administrative assistant, to let her know and reserve a place (phone: (248) 348-9536; email: jeanettevovak@comcast.net). Lunch will be followed by a program on some aspect of military history or by a guest speaker talking on their military experience(s) or some other topic of interest. Those coming for the first time are considered guests of the Chapter and there will be no charge for the lunch.

And, our annual reunion will be held this year at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Fenton, MI from September 10th - 12th, 2021. Our Saturday night memorial banquet will be held at Lucky's restaurant, conveniently located next door.

The Comfort Inn & Suites
17800 Silver Parkway
Fenton, MI 48430

We have reserved a block of rooms, but space is limited. So, be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible. To do so, call the front desk directly at (810) 714-7171, ask for "the 101st Airborne block of rooms," select your room preference, and make your reservations. (*Do not make your reservations on line.*)

Looking forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings in Livonia and our annual reunion in Fenton. If there are any changes or cancellations necessary because of "covid-19 spikes" and the ensuing CDC guidelines and DHHS restrictions, they will be posted on the Chapter's website and face book page. Hopefully, the worst is behind us and we can return to meeting with some semblance of "normalcy."

If you cannot make it to either the monthly meetings or this year's annual reunion because of time, distance -or whatever, I encourage you to connect, meet, and speak with like-minded others in your local community: Start some kind of informal "satellite group" of the Michigan Chapter. Hopefully, we can continue spreading the word, letting others know that we exist, and developing a close-knit network throughout Michigan.

Screaming Eagles are there for each other. We reach out to each other. We leave no one behind! And these are all integral and foundational aspects of the Chapter's newly revised and expanded mission, "Operation Outreach."

"OPERATION OUTREACH" (2020 – 2021)

OUR RECENTLY EXPANDED MISSION STATEMENT (2019)

Historically, our Chapter's activities have been organized around supporting and providing education in two very significant areas: first, by actively supporting the Screaming Eagle Scholarship Foundation -financially and otherwise, the purpose of which is to provide financial assistance to the Association's members and their families in pursuing their higher education. And, second, by providing educational programs focused on some aspect of military history for our members at our monthly luncheon meetings. For many years, camaraderie and education were the central and organizing purposes of the Michigan Chapter.

At the 2019 annual reunion (Fenton, MI), the Chapter's mission statement was revisited, revised, and approved by those members present. Our educational mission was expanded to include community-based outreach and educational programs. It now reads, in part:

To continue the legacy of the 101st Airborne Division Association through community-based outreach and educational programs.

Following the adoption of our revised mission statement in September 2019, the Chapter's executive committee authorized the costs associated with designing, constructing, and going on-line with a new website for the Chapter. This was our way of, at once, implementing

“Operation Outreach” and extending our educational purpose, mission, and outreach into local communities throughout the state of Michigan.

Thanx to the concerted efforts and teamwork of many of our members, the website went online in January 2020, a relatively brief period from the time of its inception. In four months, it was authorized by the executive committee, designed and constructed, vast amounts of information were gathered and organized, and the final version went on-line, about which -the executive committee believes, every member can be very proud. Visit and browse your new website (101stairbornemichiganchapter.com).

I would like to acknowledge the time, energy, and efforts of those who participated in making this phase of “Operation Outreach” happen, especially the contributions made by John C. Malejan (Historical Vision and Overview), John Sosa (Historical Narrative – Origins section), Dave Kelly (Membership section), Dennis Rebecca (Remembrance section), Bob Hall (Archives section), Keith Sousa (Veteran Services section), and Jeanette Novak (Upcoming Events and Contact sections).

Our Chapter now offers much more than simply supporting the Screaming Eagle Scholarship Foundation and the opportunity to gather for camaraderie and learn more about some aspect of military history -as important, vital, and interesting as these educational opportunities and functions might be. Indeed, we remain deeply committed in our support of each of these areas. There is now something more, however, in which we are currently engaged and through which we can now extend our presence and advance our core values in our local Michigan communities.

Let your family members, friends, and neighbors know about the website. It communicates something about the history, the stories, and the sacrifices made to secure our precious freedoms and liberties. Thus far, we have had a surprising amount of traffic to the website from within the state of Michigan, from across the nation, and from other countries around the world. Most of this traffic has been generated from “word of mouth” or “surfing the net.” Along with our face book page (www.facebook.com/101MichiganChapter), we now have the means by which we can connect and stay in contact with each other. And in this regard, we recently introduced a new section on the website, an online Membership Directory.

Enclosed, please find a “Membership Information Form” to update your contact information for our records. Please indicate if you would like to have any of your contact information included in the online Members Directory. And if interested, there is also a section where you can indicate in what ways you would like to become more involved in the Chapter’s day to day operations or its educational mission. Please return the information form to me sometime before June 15th, 2021.

**OUR “RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY”
BEING AT “THE TIP OF THE SPEAR”**

From an historical perspective, the expansion of the Chapter’s mission statement in 2019 is rooted in the history of the 101st Airborne Division Association itself and its defense of freedom and liberty around the world. Known as “the tip of the spear,” the 101st was first activated in August 1942 in response to Nazi Germany’s global ambitions and its existential threat to the Westernized world. Its first commander, Major General William C. Lee, noted that the 101st had no history, but had “a Rendezvous with Destiny.” In extending our presence into the communities throughout Michigan, we continue the legacy...

How can each of us participate in “Operation Outreach” in a meaningful and significant way? What can we do -as individuals, to carry out the Chapter’s mission and purpose? More than likely, every one of us is already doing so in any number of ways. We do so by, for example, communicating our personal stories, patriotic values, and lived-experiences to our children and grandchildren, our relatives, friends, and neighbors, and -for those interested, to our local community leaders, groups, and students in middle school, high school, and university. In these ways, every member makes their significant and meaningful contributions.

In effect, every Chapter member is seen as an historian who has lived the history, beliefs, and values of which -and from which, they speak: Each has walked the walk -*not* just talked the talk. It is important to now talk about *how*, *when*, and *where* each one of us has walked. And, perhaps most importantly, *why* it has been so very important to have done so. In so doing, we honor the history, values, and traditions of the 101st Airborne Association, our families, friends, and buddies, and those who have gone before us. And as we do so, we participate in weaving our core values of *commitment*, *sacrifice*, *integrity*, and *patriotism* ever more tightly into the social fabric of our local communities.

The Michigan Chapter is committed and dedicated to advancing the spirit, values, and traditions of freedom and liberty in our local Michigan communities. Our recently expanded educational emphasis, effort, and focus provides us with the opportunity to carry on with our more personal “Rendezvous with Destiny” as we communicate our shared history and values to our fellow citizens and to the next generation of young Americans. The expansion of our educational mission into Michigan’s local communities provides the opportunity for each of us to be -in a very real sense, at “the tip of the spear” and carry on our legacy. And in so doing, we continue to live our lives with moral purpose as we support our nation, our communities, and especially each other.

CARRYING ON THE LEGACY:

OFFICERS OF THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER

I would like to thank Keith Sousa -the most recent past president, and his leadership team, especially John Sosa and Jeanette Novak, our assistant administrator: They have been “the glue” and driving force that have kept our Chapter together and moving forward over the past recent years. We owe them a deep debt of gratitude for all they have done. And I am very pleased to announce that Keith has agreed to continue organizing the programs at our monthly meetings and that John continues on as our Secretary/Treasurer.

As for myself, I am deeply humbled and honored to serve as the Chapter’s current president. And, I feel privileged to serve with the following officers and other members of the executive team for ’21-’22:

- John C. Malejan, 1st vice president
- Col. Edward H. Hirsch (Ret.), 2nd vice president
- John C. Sosa, Secretary/treasurer
- Henry Heatley, Sergeant at Arms
- Jeanette V. Novak, Administrative assistant
- Robert Hall, Chapter photographer

Many thanks to every member of the current executive team for their willingness to participate in guiding the chapter as we move forward during these very exciting times.

In closing, I would just like to say that you and your Michigan Chapter are the best representatives of the 101st Airborne Division Association and its core values, beliefs and traditions! Wear the Screaming Eagle patch, become active in your community, volunteer at your local VAMC, and fly our American flag high and with pride! And to those in the community who might ask why we do such things, comes this reply, - pointed, if necessary, Because, we are Michigan's Screaming Eagles! This is our "Rendezvous with Destiny! And we continue our legacy....

Support the chapter and each other;
Be safe and cautious; and,
Stay healthy, positive, and moving ever-forward...

Patrick B. Kavanaugh, Ph.D., President
101st Airborne Division Assn., Michigan Chapter
16376 Oak Hill Dr.
Fenton, MI 48430

Airborne!!!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION FORM

Please provide the information requested below so we can update our records and also indicate what -if any, of your contact information you want to appear on the website Directory.

Publish in
The Website
Directory

Do Not
Publish in
the Website
Directory

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State & Zip Code: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Country: _____
 Home phone: _____
 Cell Phone: _____
 email: _____

Also, please indicate if there is any particular area of interest or type of involvement you would like to contribute to the Chapter's day to day operations, educational mission, or purpose. Or, if you would like to speak of your past military experience(s) at one of our monthly meetings:
