



**WELCOME MICHIGAN CHAPTER**

**Saluting Our Veterans  
from the  
Global War on Terror!**



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



*THE MICHIGAN SCREAMING EAGLE*

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
(v.4; no.2)

*"No one left behind!"*

Greetings Screaming Eagles,

The last known survivor of the sinking of the USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor recently passed away. Lou Conter was 102 at the time of his death. His passing is another reminder of the "Greatest Generation," what they did in the defense of our great nation, and that they are now quickly fading away and bringing to a close their storied chapter in our nation's history. Fortunately, our chapter is blessed to still have John C. Malejan amongst us; John is a WWII veteran of the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division that fought in the Pacific Theatre of Operations.

As sad as it is to see the Greatest Generation fade away, I am glad that so many of our WWII veterans are not here to see the social chaos and turbulence of our times. Our society and traditional values are changing dramatically and -quite possibly, irreversibly. Our historical times and social circumstances are changing. Those American heroes and patriots of WWII would not tolerate what is happening today and neither should we. May those who have gone before us rest in peace and honored glory.

As our times and circumstances change, our chapter membership is also fading away as rapidly as it is with most other veteran groups and organizations. It is time for the next generation of paratroopers to pick up the mantle and build upon what we have done to keep our core beliefs, values, and traditions alive. And it is time to do so before our chapter and communication infrastructure -i.e., our website and the *MSE* quarterly newsletter, fades away, is forgotten in the dustbins of history, and not be resurrected.

The focus of our current mission is to keep our chapter alive and financially solvent so that when we do turn it over to the next generation of veterans from the Global War on Terror, our future leaders will be able to step in, pick up where we left off, and be off and running. Now and in the future, we need to keep increasing our visibility and presence in Michigan's local communities so we might help to restore society's lost sense of history, values, and patriotism.

Our chapter was founded in 1983 on *camaraderie*; that is, the mutual feelings of trust, respect, and friendship for comrades who shared a storied history and legacy, significant life-experiences and events, and a unifying set of beliefs, values, and traditions that united them in a close-knit Airborne community that, in time, evolved to include Air Assault veterans from Vietnam, and more recently our brothers and sisters from Iraq and Afghanistan. *Camaraderie* is the invisible bond that unites us!

Now is the time for us to come together in a united and patriotic manner so that those who follow can know and understand about our core American values, traditional beliefs, and sacred traditions. We all must make a commitment, be it large or small, to keep the torch burning: We are the Keepers of the Flame! And there are many things we can do to keep the torch lit and burning.

For myself, I take every opportunity to thank every veteran I encounter for his or her service to our country. Often, strangers will notice that I am wearing my 101<sup>st</sup> cap, approach me, and thank me for my service. And very often, they go on to say that they have a relative who has served. I return their “thank you” and ask that they remember what their relatives or friends did for our country, especially on veteran’s day. These are some of the small and simple things that help to keep the flame burning.

In the meantime, it’s time to address and make some decisions about our chapter and its future. Attendance at our monthly “Gathering of Eagles” and annual reunion has dropped off considerably: Advancing age and age-related health issues have resulted in too many of us no longer able to attend. At the same time, our costs have increased, especially given the inflationary times since the Covid-19 Pandemic: Cost-cutting measures need to be considered, evaluated, and implemented.

The executive committee is well aware of these issues facing our chapter. We have been reviewing the situation, will be meeting soon, and are open to any suggestions from the membership. If any chapter member would like to attend, let me know. Also, keep in mind that we exist on donations from our membership and the public at large. If for whatever reason it’s necessary to close the chapter, we will be obligated to turn over any monies in our banking account and surrender our charter to the national association.

We will do our best to avoid any such action. In this regard, we have been very fortunate that our meeting location are available to us because of our non-profit veteran’s status. Our thanks to our caterer Jim Winowski and to the Pastor of St Aidan Catholic Church for their support and generosity. Jeanette Novak has been a Godsend to the chapter. We cannot thank her enough for her long-standing commitment and dedication in honor of her father’s service with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division during WWII.

Jeanette and her sister Janice - recently deceased, were responsible for funding a monument dedicated to the paratroopers and glider men of the 101<sup>st</sup> of WWII. For my part, I actively support the National Museum of the United States Army where I have registered the names of my father and father-in-law. During WWII, my father served in the Pacific and my father-in-law served in Europe. This is one way to secure their legacy and of all those who answered the call and served so valiantly.

I conclude with a blessing from the Almighty for all those currently serving in our Armed Forces and for their families who sacrifice so much, maintain their constant vigil, and are living our core patriotic values as they defend our precious freedoms and national and personal sovereignty. You are in our thoughts and prayers ...

John C. Sosa, Col., 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Michigan Chapter, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Association  
Life Member

Airborne/Air Assault!

## THE CRISIS OF SUICIDE SPREADING THE WORD...

by

Patrick B. Kavanaugh, Ph.D., Past President -Life Member

The Crisis of Suicide among our Soldiers and Families continues at the alarming rate of 22 suicides each and every day. As mentioned in other editions of the *MSE*, the Cost of War Project at Brown University has documented and studied the human and financial costs of the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and other related counterterrorism efforts. Its 2021 study concluded that in terms of human costs, four times as many service members and veterans died by suicide



(30,177) as those who perished in combat during the Global War on Terror (7,057) during the same 20-year period of time! These numbers are tragic and shocking ...

Last year, John Sosa raised the presiding question when he asked at one of our monthly Gathering of Eagles, “Are we our brother’s and our sister’s keeper?” Our National Association and our Chapter have

always answered, without hesitation or reservation, “Yes!... Absolutely!” In thought, deed, and action, we are our brother’s and our sister’s keeper! It’s who are! It’s what we do! And, it’s where we come from It’s part of our Association’s and our Chapter’s long-standing history and tradition. ... *We strive to leave no one behind!*

The Pentagon has recognized the problem and has responded by increasing its support and resources for suicide prevention and intervention programs, quality of life services, and mental health and psychiatric services. Their goal is to lower suicide risk factors by increasing public awareness programs while reducing -at once, the stigma of seeking help and the barriers to receiving much-needed services and care. Unfortunately, however, suicide rates have shown little if any sign of decreasing, much less reversing.

This edition of the *Michigan Screaming Eagle* is dedicated to all those who served in the Global War on Terror. Its focus is on increasing our awareness of this Crisis of Suicide and what our Association and chapter are doing to assist and support our Soldiers and Families who have

so faithfully and courageously served our great nation. We provide support through our thoughts and prayers, financial contributions to the Association and our Chapter, and by remaining Keepers of the Flame

Every contribution to the ***Markers and Milestones*** section that follows embodies the powerful and unifying sense of camaraderie in our Airborne/Air Assault brotherhood and sisterhood. Each contribution affirmatively answers -in some way, the question, “Am I my brother’s and my sister’ keeper?” We do whatever we can to leave no one behind! In October 2021, for example, our chapter launched “Operation Lone Eagle,” the purpose of which is to reach out and connect with as many of our Veterans as possible, especially those who feel alienated from themselves, their families, and society (see p. 12). And we do so in many other ways, not the least of which is by increasing awareness amongst ourselves and the general public about the current “Crisis of Suicide” amongst our Soldiers, families, and Veterans.

In this regard, we have published different articles in the *MSE* over recent years on where to seek help and assistance regarding healthcare, finances, legal matters, counseling, and other related matters. And we have sent articles to many Veterans groups and other organizations to increase awareness about this ongoing Crisis of Suicide. Most recently, an article on this crisis was reprinted in the January 2024 edition of the *MSE*. Feel free to reprint it in your group’s newsletter. Make copies and distribute them to your local community leaders, organizations, churches, and VAMCs or wherever else you think it might help to increase the public’s awareness of this crisis. ... Or, simply have whomever is in charge of publications in your Veterans group contact me and I will send them a copy of the article ready for publication ([camsufism@aol.com](mailto:camsufism@aol.com)). The crisis continues! ... *Leave no one behind!*

### ***Markers & Milestones:***

-Received from Cal Kirshner, Life Member:



Col Roger Donlon  
RIP  
Jan 25, 2024  
Recipient of the  
Medal of Honor

Colonel (Ret) Roger H.C. Donlon passed away on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at the age of 89. He first enlisted in the Air Force and then served in the Army. Much of his military

service was with Special Forces. During the Vietnam War he deployed with an A-team of the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne); during which he was awarded the Medal of Honor. Donlon graduated from high school in 1952 and enlisted in the U.S. military. He attended the U.S. Military Academy Preparatory School and qualified in 1955 to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. However, after attending West Point for two years he left to earn his commission through the Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 1959. In 1963 he joined Special Forces. He served for more than 30 years as an Infantry, Special Forces, and Foreign Area Specialist.

On July 6, 1964, his Special Forces detachment (A-726) was attacked by a force of an estimated 900 enemy troops in the early morning hours. The SF team, along with 60 Chinese Nungs and a few hundred South Vietnamese irregulars, defended Camp Nam Dong, South Vietnam. The camp was near the border of Laos. During the battle Captain Donlon repeatedly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire – defending against the enemy, moving ammunition and weaponry, aiding the wounded, and rallying his men. He was wounded several times during the fight.

For his actions that day he was awarded the Medal of Honor. His was the first MoH award for the Vietnam War. On April 10, 2008, he was inducted into the Special Forces Regiment as a Distinguished Member. In addition to the Medal of Honor, he was awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, CIB, and the Parachutist Badge. He attended the Special Warfare Course, Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College. ... **R.I.P.**

-Received from Curtis Cheeseman  
(Nephew of John Buckley; email: candccheeseman@aol.com]



My uncle John Buckley passed away 25 January 2024 in California. He grew up in Royal Oak, possibly attended Dondero High School. He was in the 101st (502nd) 1958-



61. I just thought I would pass this on since there is a possibility that someone in the group may have known him. Best wishes and I hope you are doing well ... .. **R.I.P.**

-Received from Cal Kirschner -Life Member

(An invitation from Bob Harkins, President, National Rakkasans Association)

Fellow Rakkasans, This is my personal invitation to the two Rakkasan Reunions to be held in 2024. The first of these reunions will be **May 13 to May 17** in Clarksville, TN and FT Campbell, KY. This Reunion is sponsored by the Hamburger Hill Chapter of the Association. Attached is an information letter. Please come join us. The second reunion this year will be in August with the 101st Division Association in Springfield Missouri, **August 7 to August 10**. More information about this reunion will be sent later. Let Valor Not Fail! .... Bob Harkins, President

(For more information visit the Association's website at [info@rakkasanassociation.org](mailto:info@rakkasanassociation.org))

Received from Randal Underhill, Executive Director,

101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Assn & Screaming Eagle Foundation (931-431-0199)

(Reprinted from e-letter, March 2024)

- On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, an EF-3 Tornado tore across the Clarksville, TN area destroying homes and businesses. It impacted an area where many Fort Campbell Soldiers and their families reside. The Screaming Eagle Foundation began accepting donations for tornado relief and members and sponsors generously answered the call. On December 28<sup>th</sup>, the Clarksville Area American Red Cross was provided a check for \$30,000 for use in supporting the tornado victims. Additionally, Christmas Gifts donated by Truist and Cheekwood Estate and Gardens, as well as new clothing donated by Richland Country Club in Nashville were delivered to YAIPak Outreach for distribution to the tornado victims. The remaining \$2,200 will be donated to the Fort Campbell Armed Services YMCA for use in their support for the military families impacted, providing diapers and baby formula for dependent infants. Another \$2,500 in direct grants were provided to Tornado Victims from our Fort Campbell office. Thanks to everyone who contributed.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> BCT (Brigade) is deployed in Eastern Europe. Join us in showing our support by wearing red on Fridays.
- If you have a Facebook Account, check out our Facebook Page where we provide items of interest for our members (and potential members) as well as up-to-date information about our Association's events and activities. We also encourage you to share our page with your Facebook Friends and/or Facebook Groups. It's a great and easy way to create interest in our Association and to promote membership.
- **2024 Screaming Eagle Foundation Scholarships:** The Screaming Eagle Foundation and its partner-charity, the Patriot Foundation, are pleased to award scholarships in 2024 for the children of soldiers from Fort Campbell whose parent may have been lost or injured in

the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and other locations where soldiers are engaged in contingency operations against terrorist organizations. This scholarship opportunity also includes children of soldiers currently serving in the 101st Airborne Division who may have previously received a Purple Heart Medal as well as the children of those 101st Airborne Division Veterans of Afghanistan or Iraq, who may have already separated from the Army or have been medically retired. Ten qualified applicants will receive a grant of \$2,500 toward their education. *Completed applications must be received by June 14, 2024 to be considered.* Eligibility requirements are available on the Screaming Eagle Foundation's website at [www.screamingeaglefoundation.org](http://www.screamingeaglefoundation.org).

- ***OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM -3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Crosses the Berm***

On March 17, 2003, President Bush issued an ultimatum that gave Saddam and his sons 48 hours to leave Iraq or face a “military conflict, commenced at a time of our choosing.” On March 20th, about 90 minutes after the deadline had passed, the shock and awe campaign began. At 10:16 pm (6:16 am local time), President Bush announced to the nation that he had ordered an attack against "selected targets of military importance" in Iraq. His announcement was the signal for the coalition ground forces to cross the berm. “The Berm” was a 10- kilometer-deep barrier complex of massive tank ditches, concertina wire, electrified fencing, and berms of dirt on the Kuwait-Iraq border, constructed after the Gulf War in 1991 to protect Kuwait from another possible Iraqi invasion. Although it had been built as a protective barrier, its existence posed a substantial obstacle for the attacking coalition forces and crossing it was a major combat operation. Organizing and coordinating the movement of units, equipment, and thousands of vehicles through the relatively small number of openings required detailed planning and rehearsal.

As shock and awe erupted all over Iraq, the 3rd Infantry Division (3rd ID), with the 3/187 attached, crossed the berm with its M-1 Abrams tanks and M-2 Bradley Infantry Fighting Vehicles, into Iraq. At that time, MG Petraeus, came up on the radio net and announced: “Guidons, guidons. This is Eagle 6. The 101st Airborne Division’s new rendezvous with destiny is north to Baghdad. God speed. Air Assault – Out.” The 101st would soon see action conducting deep attack operations in front of and on the flank of the 3rd ID. Every 100 miles or so, the division planned to establish a Forward Area Refueling Point (FARP) to rearm and refuel the attack and assault helicopters as well as the vehicles. Convoys of fuel, ammunition and supplies from Kuwait would follow.

Although the time had come for the 101st to get into action, the division was not quite ready because not all the ships carrying the division’s ammunition, supplies and equipment had arrived on schedule. Only the Third Brigade (3rd Bde) was fully equipped and ready; accordingly, the 3rd Bde would lead the division’s advance. The first division mission was to establish “FARP Shell,” in a location that would be reachable by a convoy



in about two days. On March 21st, two battalions of the 3rd Bde (1/187 & 2/187), commanded by the Brigade Commander, Colonel Michael Linnington, crossed into Iraq.

- (Reprinted from e-letter April 2024) Attached is the Reunion Schedule, Registration Form and Unit Dinner Registrations for our upcoming reunion in Springfield Missouri. Reunion Chairman Joe Webb, Missouri Gateway Chapter President Randy Whitehead and I visited the hotel on the 26th of March and we have everything lined out for our upcoming event. We sincerely hope that you can attend. The hotel rate will be \$119 + tax at the Oasis Hotel & Convention Center and rooms will fill up quickly so don't delay in making your reservations. We have overflow lodging adjacent to the Oasis at the Holiday Inn just a few minutes down the road if the Oasis fills up at the same rate. The Oasis has limited ADA rooms so if you require accommodations, please contact the hotel early to ensure you receive a suitable room. Both sites include a free breakfast buffet for guests; the Oasis is open from 6-10 am in the hotel's atrium area for dining.
- There is a lot to see and do in Springfield including the Birthplace of Route 66 Festival which has motorcycle runs, music, car shows and all the American Car Culture that the historic Route 66 exemplified. There are also opportunities for golf and visiting the Headquarters of Johnny Morris' Bass Pro Shops. The Springfield location is the home to Bass Pro and includes several attractions at its location. The Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium is the top-rated aquarium in the country with 1.5 million gallons for 35,000 live animals on display. Also on the site are extensive taxidermy displays of the world's animals in their habitat on a scale I've not seen anywhere else. The location also has several other attractions that are free of charge that include the National NRA Sporting Arms Museum, NASCAR Museum, The Archery and Fishing Hall of Fames as well as Boone & Crockett trophies on display.
- We have also planned for an evening at Hammons Field to see the Springfield Cardinals, Double-A Affiliate of the 11-time World Series Champion St. Louis Cardinals play at home against the San Antonio Missions. We are securing seating in the Red Bird Roost Section that includes a buffet of ball park foods and free Coca Cola products at the game on the evening of the 8th of August.
- The 101st Airborne Division's Week of the Eagles will be from 17 to 23 May this year. The calendar of events is attached so you can be aware of the events if you would like to attend. Each year the Saturday Air Assault Demonstration is a high point with a combined arms air assault demonstration on display for the public along with static displays of current military equipment. Also, this year on Saturday 18 May, the US Army Golden Knights will make a parachute jump onto the Sabalauski Air Assault School grounds and, tentatively, the Army Future of Vertical Lift Aircraft will be on display. The 1st and 2nd BCT's (327, 506 and 502d) DMOR and HMOR ceremonies are each scheduled for Wednesday, 22 May. The Welcome Center on Fort Campbell is under construction, so visitors will need to enter the Gate 7 Visitor Center North of the main

gate on Fort Campbell Boulevard (41A) in Oak Grove, KY. Visitors will need a driver license and proof of insurance to gain entry to the post.

- The National Capital Chapter will be hosting events on Memorial Day in the Washington DC/ Arlington, VA area this upcoming Memorial Day. I've also attached the information for the Memorial Day events. If you would like to join in this annual event or lay a wreath, please contact Bob Ponzo at his contact information on the form. Hotel Block for the event is at the Sheraton Pentagon City.
  - We sincerely hope to see you at one of the upcoming events. Until we do, Keep the Eagle Screaming.
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-Received from Ramon Baca -Life Member

#### [Unemployment Compensation For Soldiers | The Official Army Benefits Website](#)

- **Eligibility**  
Members of the Army National Guard released from active duty due to completion of mobilization tour or other active-duty tour may file a claim for unemployment compensation the day after the date on line 12b of the DD Form 214. Criteria for eligibility to be paid unemployment compensation include reason of separation, characterization of service, and other eligibility requirements such as able to work, available for suitable full-time work, and be seeking work. Members of the Army Reserve or National Guard must have completed 180 days of continuous active-duty service to be eligible for Unemployment Compensation.

#### [Unemployment Compensation For Airmen | An Official Air Force Benefits Website \(af.mil\)](#)

- **Eligibility**  
Drilling members of the Air National Guard are not normally eligible for Unemployment Compensation for Ex-Service members. If recently released from active duty due to completion of mobilization tour or other active-duty tour, they may file a claim for unemployment compensation the day after the date on line 12b of the DD214. Criteria for eligibility to be paid unemployment compensation include reason of separation, characterization of service, and other eligibility requirements such as able to work, available for suitable full-time work, and be seeking work. Members of the Air Force Reserve or Air National Guard must have completed 180 days of continuous active-duty service to be eligible for Unemployment Compensation.
- We invite you to join us in a special project to enhance the Livingston County Veterans Memorial located in the City of Howell on the lawn of the historic Livingston County Courthouse. Built in the 1940's, it lists the names of the veterans from Livingston County who gave their lives in World War I, World War II, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.  
The Howell Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation is working alongside local partners and the community to raise funds to enhance the memorial. Six jet black granite

stones displaying the badges of the United States military will be added to the memorial's benches, along with lighting improvements. The cost of the project is approximately \$25,000. In order to have the enhancements installed by Veteran's Day 2024, the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation is looking to raise \$10,000 by April. Your donations will pay tribute to veterans who served.

Anyone interested in donating is invited to use the Howell Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Stripe link at <https://buy.stripe.com/bIYg0962f6ig4ZGfYY>. All funds raised for this enhancement project will be administered by the Foundation which is a 501c3 organization whose mission is to receive and administer funds for educational, cultural, scientific, and charitable purposes and for the public welfare of the Livingston County community.

Updates on the project, an easy link to the donation account, photos of the enhancements, and more will be shared. Help us reach our goal of raising \$10,000 by April by donating and spreading the word of the project to those you know.  
( [https://milivcounty.gov/veterans/veterans-memorial-project-2024/.](https://milivcounty.gov/veterans/veterans-memorial-project-2024/))

**From the Editor, *MSE*  
Submission of Articles:**

Submit All Articles to the *MSE* and the *Markers & Milestone* Section to:

The Editor, *MSE*: (email) [camsufism@aol.com](mailto:camsufism@aol.com)

All articles and contributions must be in a text file such as Microsoft Word. (Ensure that all submissions can be edited.)

**Print Schedule:**

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2023

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 -Submission Date

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2023

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 -Submission Date

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2023

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 -Submission Date

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2023

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 -Submission Date

Patrick B. Kavanaugh, Ph.D., Editor,  
*Michigan Screaming Eagle (MSE)*

*"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 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* 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!