



MICHIGAN CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

By Keith Sousa (Chapter President)

Welcome from the great state of Michigan. The chapter did not meet for our normal “lunch bunch” during the months of July and August to allow time for vacations, etc. However, we did hold our annual reunion in Fenton, Michigan, which ended with our banquet, recognition of our fallen chapter members, and a tribute to our POW/MIAs. The banquet was held at Lucky’s Steak House, and there were approximately forty people in attendance. Recently, some members of our chapter attended the National Chapter reunion in Lombard, Illinois. Those who attended included; Ed Hallo (WWII Veteran), John and Kathy Sosa (John is also the National Chapter President), Jim and Evie Gawrych, Phil Griglio, my grandson Ryan, and myself. I think everyone had a good time, and enjoyed seeing old friends as well as meeting some of the Soldiers who are currently serving in the 101st. These young soldiers continue to inspire us. Our normal “lunch bunch” will resume on September 19th, and we will continue to meet the third Wednesday of each month at the Alex J. Brunette Activity Center in Livonia, Michigan. Lunch is at 12:00, and normally followed by a guest speaker. The speaker for September is John Sosa, who will give a presentation on “Operation Market Garden”. Unfortunately, we recently lost one of our WWII chapter members, Bob Likam. Bob served with Charley Company/326th Engineers and was attached to an infantry platoon. After jumping into Normandy on June 5th, along with most of the Division, he fought in the battle for Carentan. Later, he jumped into Holland during “Operation Market Garden” where he was severely wounded in the legs and the hip. Prior to his passing, John Sosa and I had a chance to visit with Bob at his home. He was very grateful to have someone from the 101st visit him, but it was our privilege to be able to sit with him for a while and hear a few of his stories. Shortly after WWII, a group of 101st Veterans in the Michigan area formed a “Nuts” club, which met regularly in Detroit. Bob was one of the original members of the club. When we visited him, he gave us a couple of original banners of the “Nuts” club meetings, which we will proudly keep within our chapter. Bob was 96 years old when he passed away. He is survived by his four daughters, along with several grand children and great grand children. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. We are continually looking for new members. Most of us carry business cards that have the information about where and when our chapter meets. We also have a Facebook Page (101MichiganChapter). We have also discussed trying to establish a sub-chapter in Northern Michigan, which would possibly involve more of our chapter members. If anyone is interested in starting a Northern Michigan Chapter, or needs more information about our chapter in general, I can be contacted at 1OldSoldier53@gmail.com, or at (313) 580-5408.

