



## THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Keith Sousa, Chapter President

Greetings from the Michigan Chapter. We completed another successful year, which culminated in a chapter reunion being held in Fenton, Michigan in September, 2019. During the reunion, the general membership meeting was conducted following the executive committee meeting. During the general membership meeting, the following officers were elected for the upcoming year: Keith Sousa – President, Patrick Kavanaugh – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, John Malajan – 2d Vice President, John Sosa – Secretary/Treasurer, and Henry Heatley – Sergeant at Arms. Due to personal reasons, however, John Sosa asked to step down as Secretary/Treasurer. He has done a tremendous job as the Secretary Treasurer for several years, and has been the glue that has held our organization together, often providing insight and offering his guidance and wisdom to all around him. He also served on the Board of Governors, and recently as the President of the National Chapter. He served the organization with honor and distinction. He will continue to be an intriguing part of our chapter, and the National Organization. Phil Griglio has volunteered to take over as the Secretary/Treasurer and I'm sure he will do a great job. The remainder of the reunion was capped off with a banquet which included an MIA Table and recognition of our missing comrades, along with a memorial service for those members who passed away during the previous year. Additionally, a 50/50 raffle was held that included a cash prize, and numerous individual prizes.

I'm happy to announce that our chapter will host the 2020 National Reunion in Grand Rapids, Michigan from August 16<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the AMWAY Grand Hotel, which was the same location of the 2014 National Reunion. The event will feature a free golf outing and tournament, charter boat fishing on Lake Michigan, tours of Meijer Gardens, and other area events, and possibly a tour of the President Gerald Ford museum and library (which is within walking distance of the Grand Hotel). Information on the reunion, hotel costs, and registration requirements will be posted in the Screaming Eagle Magazine. We look forward to seeing many of you in Grand Rapids next summer.

Our chapter will continue to hold it's annual reunion, which will be held at the Soaring Eagle Casino, in Mount Pleasant. It's scheduled for 4 to 6 September. We hope to have many of our members attend.

Unfortunately, this year we lost several members of our chapter. Arno Whitbread (327<sup>th</sup> GFI, WWII), Bob Bakowski (1<sup>st</sup> Air Cav Div, Vietnam), Ralph Maiville (4<sup>th</sup> Company, 2d Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces Group, WWII), Calvin Hanawalt (Hq's, 3d Battalion, 188<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, WWII), and Janice Novak our administrative secretary (Daughter of a 101<sup>st</sup> WWII Veteran). We will truly miss all of these people.

We continue to hold our monthly "Lunch Bunch" luncheons the third Wednesday of each month, and normally have a presentation of some kind after the meal is completed. Our June and December Lunch Bunch normally includes wives, husbands, girl friends, boy friends, and special guests, although they are always invited whenever they would like. We are continuing to try to find new members through word of mouth, and are in the process of creating a web page, and expanding our facebook page to increase our membership. In addition, we are participating in a "Hoops for Troops" Veterans hiring fair, and Veteran recognition night in conjunction with the Detroit Pistons in November.

We're enjoying the upcoming fall season, and getting ready for long, hard winter. Always keep in mind those Active Military, Guard, and Reserve who are in harms way, and are deployed world wide to protect our national interests.