



WELCOME MICHIGAN CHAPTER

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



101st Airborne Division Association,
Michigan Chapter



THE MICHIGAN SCREAMING EAGLE

January 15th, 2025

(vol. 5, no.1)

"No one left behind!"

Greetings Screaming Eagles,

A belated Merry Christmas! ... and, a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year to you and your families! With the 2024 presidential election now over and President-Elect, Donald J. Trump having won the "Triple Crown," let us now begin anew with the constitutional mandates the citizens of this great nation expect to be upheld by our elected officials in the US House of Representative and US Senate. May the Almighty shine his grace upon them, so they may proceed with courage, patience, and wisdom. Let freedom ring across our great nation! ... God Bless America!

And our chapter's line of succession continues, as well. Colonel Edward H. Hirsch, (Ret.), celebrated his ninetieth birthday with family and friends at a local restaurant near his home. His wife, Shirley, put the event together and there was a grand turn-out of family and friends who shared their memories and also took the opportunity to "roast" Ed about some of his "ups and downs" through the years. It also provided us with the opportunity to thank Ed for his leadership and guidance as our chapter president from September 2022 - September 2024.

As the current President of the 101st Airborne Division Association, Michigan Chapter, I presented Ed with a plaque memorializing his two-year tenure as chapter president and to thank him -on behalf of all our members, for his many years of participation on our chapter's executive committee and his other valued contributions to our leadership team.



As to other chapter news, long-time chapter member Al Lopenski lost the love of his life last June. Cheryl and Al were married for over forty years and were continuously active in the Flat Rock (MI) VFW. Cheryl had been suffering from heart disease and passed away while in the hospital. Cheryl was a kind and loving person to all those who knew her: Rest in Peace. Al has been dealing recently with his own health problems, is currently hospitalized, and is participating in rehabilitation. I have been staying involved and connected with Al, so I arranged a surprise visit with our Past President Patrick Kavanaugh, 1st Vice-president John Malejan, and myself. It was great to visit, talk, and laugh with Al, and to let him know he is not forgotten.

On a sadder note, our longtime friend and chapter member, Andrew “Andy” Brown, passed away just before Christmas 2024. Andy served in the US Army for twenty-three years with assignments in South America, Europe, and Southeast Asia -more specifically, in the Republic of Vietnam, with the 5th Group of the US Army Special Forces and MACV-SOG. He retired as a well-decorated combat medic. Over the past ten years, Andy courageously dealt with the debilitating effects of Alzheimer’s, succumbing to its deadly course at the age of ninety. Five members from our Michigan Chapter and the Special Forces Association attended his memorial service. Andy forged a distinguished career in both his military and civilian lives, obtaining a bachelor’s degree at the age of forty-two after which he was employed by the General Motors Corporation. Andy is survived by his spouse and son. May he rest in peace.

Chapter member Paul Schwimmer and his team -*History Flight*, is currently in the advance planning phase for another recovery mission in the Netherlands to recover two WWII paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division. Unfortunately, their progress has been stopped by the Pentagon which oversees the Joint Recovery Task Force on MIA’s/POWs from all past military conflicts: A dense thicket of “red tape,” administrative regulations, and legal issues brought their recovery project to a grinding halt.

Paul called and asked for any suggestions as to whom he might contact for assistance. I recalled our chapter’s 2022 annual reunion in Brighton (MI) at the Hampton Inn when several of then-U.S. Representative Elissa Slotkin’s staff presented our chapter with an American flag flown over the United States Capital at her request for “The Michigan Chapter of the 101st Airborne Division Association in honor of dedicated service to the community.” And her staff also awarded our chapter a “Certificate of Special Recognition for outstanding and invaluable service to the community.”

Congresswoman Slotkin’s staff accepted our invitation to stay and witness our missing man ceremony and the reading of names of our recently deceased chapter members. Following our memorial banquet, chapter member Paul Schwimmer gave an update on *History Flight* and its most recent recoveries from both the Pacific Theater and European Theater of Operations. At the conclusion of his report, Representative Slotkin’s staff thanked Paul for his dedication and commitment. Moreover, he was assured that if now-Senator Slotkin could be of any service to Paul and his team in the future, they would do whatever they could to assist in carrying out their mission and bringing much-needed closure to the families.

Hopefully, Senator Slotkin and her staff have been able to use their influence to help cut through the red tape and bend some rules and regulations so that Paul and *History Flight* can make it to the Netherlands, get our brothers from the 82nd, and bring them back home to their families. ... God speed!

And there is some news for all those who held civil service positions in federal, state and local agencies, but did not contribute to the social security system because of their defined pension plans and were affected by the “Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset.” All those who did not contribute to the Social Security system were penalized and whatever contributions they made before and after retirement from their civil service job were cut -almost by half, from their monthly entitlement. Given the recent passage of House Resolution 82 of the *Social Security Fairness Act of 2023*, it is my understanding that, if thirty years of contributions were made, penalties will not occur. House Resolution 82 benefits those that suffered any loss of entitlements and returns their monies retroactively.

Rather than to go into details, I would urge those impacted to contact your local Social Security office, make an appointment with a representative, and discuss the particulars of your situation and circumstance to see *if* you qualify and *how* you might benefit. Remember, the government is here to help you receive all the benefits you have earned and to which you are entitled. Good luck! ... and, God bless!

Lastly, please keep everyone who lost their homes, belongings, or were otherwise impacted by the California wildfires in your thoughts and prayers. And, this also includes the many Veterans and Veteran groups that have volunteered countless hours -at great sacrifice to themselves and their families, to do whatever they can at this time to help our fellow Americans. ... God Bless America! ... and, God bless all those who make our nation great!

John C. Sosa, President
Michigan Chapter, 101st Airborne Division Association
Life Member

Airborne/Air Assault!

Increasing Our Chapter’s Visibility, Presence, and Relevancy: Presidential Citation Certificates

The Presidential Citation is an award given in Appreciation and Recognition of Services rendered to our chapter and members. At our 2023 Fenton reunion, the executive committee expanded the practice to recognizing and appreciating those in our local communities who recognize, acknowledge, remember, or otherwise support our Veterans, Soldiers, Families, or POW/MIAs whether it’s on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, or throughout the year!

This program expresses our chapter’s appreciation as it increases our presence, visibility and relevance in our local communities. Do you know, for example:

- a local Priest, Minister, Rabbi, Imam or church synagogue, or mosque in your community that offers prayers -or otherwise supports, our Soldiers and Families, those serving “in harm’s way,” or remembers our POWs and MIAs?
- a local restaurant owner who provides military discounts on Veterans Day or at other times throughout the year?
- a local gas station, oil change facility, or print shop that recognizes the sacrifices made by our Veterans, Soldiers, and their Families?
- a local hotel, Air BNB, or other place of lodging that does likewise?
- a local VAMC or healthcare provider? your local VFW or AL Post? -or,
- any other person, group, or small business owner that you believe respects and recognizes the sacrifices of our Veterans, Soldiers, and Families?

If so, fill in the form below, send it to John C. Sosa, and a “Presidential Citation” will be printed and mailed directly back to you to present to your religious/community leader, small business owner, healthcare provider, or local Veterans group. If you take a picture of the presentation and forward it to me (camsufism@aol.com), it will be published in the next *MSE*.

“Presidential Citation” Certificate Form

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(Chapter Member Name)	(Phone #)	(e-mail)
-----	-----	-----
(Address & Street)	(City)	(State) (ZIP)

(Name of Person & Place of Worship/Establishment/Business)		

Michigan Chapter T-Shirts:

Also, our Michigan chapter T-shirts are now available to all members, at no cost.



John Sosa

John Malejan

Just fill out the T-shirt order form below and mail it to John Sosa.

Chapter T-shirt Order Form

(Name) (Phone #) (e-mail)

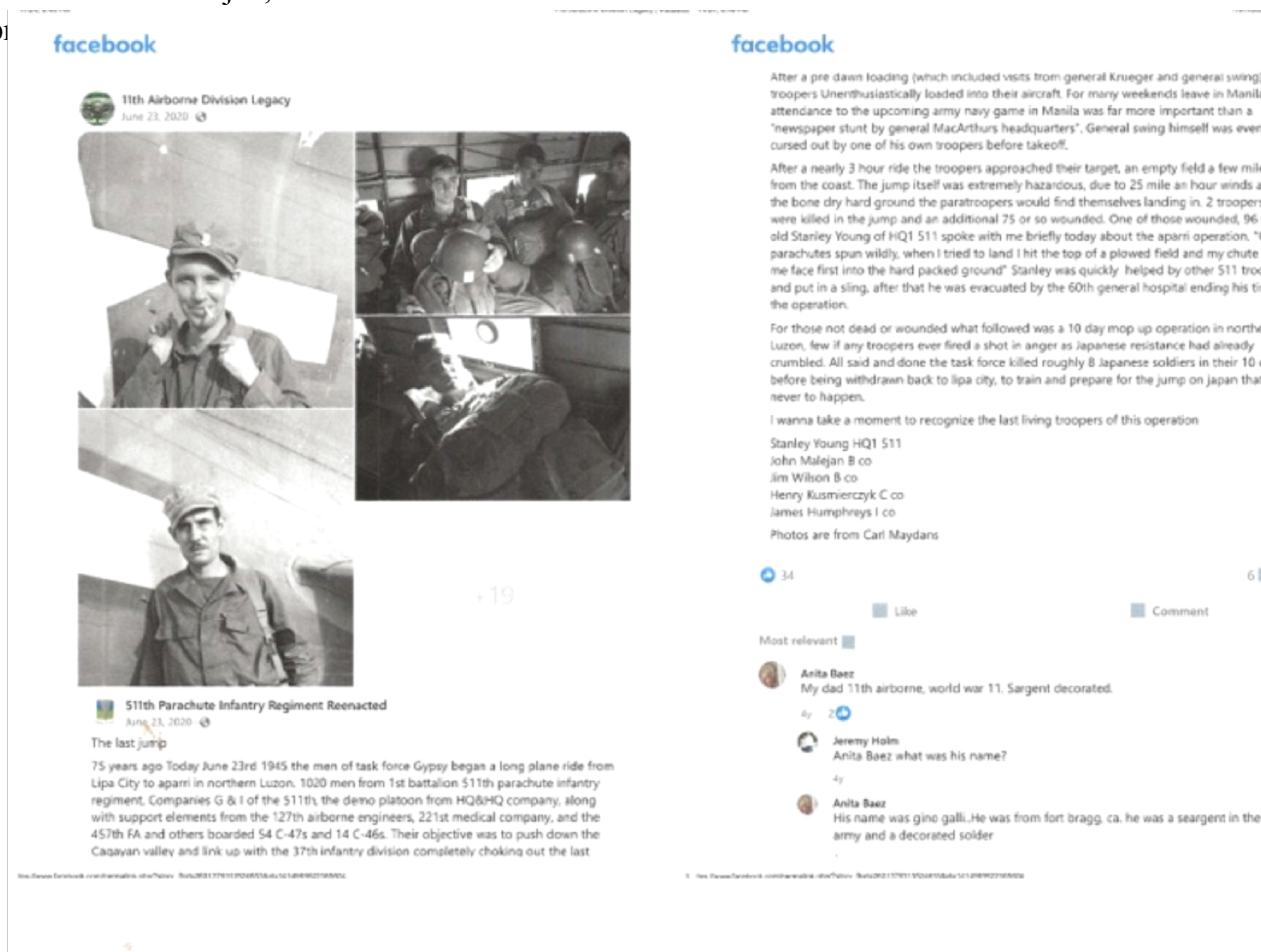
(Address & Street) (City) (State) (ZIP)

Size: M L XL 2XL

Color:Blue Red

Markers & Milestones:

-Received from John C. Malejan, 1st Vice President
(Rep)



-Received from (Ms.) Marty Eddy, Michigan Coordinator, National League of POW/MIA Families, Secretary/Treasurer, POW Committee of Michigan
(email: eddypowmia@aol.com)



1,573 U.S. service members remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War; 48 of them are from Michigan, and 2 of those 48 went missing on dates in January. Here are the 2 with

information from their Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) service member profiles:

- On January 16, 1967, a R-F4C Phantom II (tail number 65-0883, call sign "Masher") with a crew of two departed Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base on a reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam. The Phantom was hit by a surface-to air-missile and crashed in the vicinity of (GC) 48 QWJ 445 718. The pilot ejected, landed safely, and attempted to locate or contact the aircraft commander without success. The pilot was then captured by enemy forces, imprisoned and eventually returned to U.S. control. The Phantom's crash site wasn't revealed to U.S. officials until the 1980s, and the remains of the aircraft commander have not been recovered.



Captain Robert John Welch, who joined the U.S. Air Force from Michigan, served with the 11th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. He was the pilot of the Phantom when it crashed, and it is believed that he did not eject from the aircraft. He remains unaccounted-for. After the incident, the Air Force promoted Capt. Welch to the rank of Colonel (Col). Today, Colonel Welch is memorialized on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

- On January 17, 1967, an RF-4C Phantom II (tail number 65-0888, call sign "Gigolo") with a crew of two departed Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base on a photo reconnaissance mission of a target in North Vietnam in the vicinity of (GC) 48Q WJ 346 072. The Phantom was not heard from after it left base, and when it did not return after its fuel should have been exhausted, it was declared missing and a search effort was initiated. The search was unsuccessful, and the crew members were declared missing in action.



First Lieutenant Fredrick Joseph Wozniak, who joined the U.S. Air Force from Michigan, served with the 11th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron. He was the pilot of the Phantom when it disappeared, and his remains were not recovered. After the incident, the Air Force promoted 1st Lt Wozniak to the rank of Major (Maj). Today, Major Wozniak is memorialized on then Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. His name is also inscribed along with all his fallen comrades on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

- Below is a list received from Ms. Eddy of unaccounted Michigan personnel from the Vietnam War:

• Allard, Richard Michael	Anderson, Warren Leroy.	Austin, Ellis Ernest
• Beckwith, Harry Medford III	Boltze, Bruce Edward.	Buckley, Louis Jr
• Carroll, Patrick Henry	Chapman, Rodney Max	Cline, Curtis Roy
• Crossman, Gregory John	Cudlike, Charles Joseph	Dailey, Douglas Vincent
• Dix, Craig Mitchell.	Feneley, Francis James	Gauthier, Dennis Lee
• Green, Larry Edward	Greiling, David Scott	Groth, Wade Lawrence
• Hill, Robert LaVerne	Holman, Gerald Allan	Jarvis, Jeremy Michael
Jerome, Stanley Milton	Johnson, Bruce Gardner	King, Donald Lewis
• Klimo, James Robert	Klugg, Joseph Russell	Kooi, James Willard
• Leonard, Marvin Maurice	Marvin, Robert Clarence	
• Massucci, Martin John	May, Michael Frederic	Nelson, James Raymond
• Paul, James Lee	Perry, Otha Lee	Riggs, Thomas Frederick
• Roberts, Richard Dean	Seablom, Earl Francis	Stroven, William Harry
• Stuijbergen, Gene Paul	Tromp, William Leslie	Tyler, George Edward
• Walker, Kenneth Earl	Wallace, Michael John	Welch, Robert John
• Woloszyk, Donald Joseph	Worcester, John Bowers	Wozniak, Fred Joseph
• Wright, Arthur		

- Lastly, in remembrance of all our Eagles who have Soared during the past year!



... No one left behind!

Received from Randal Underhill, Executive Director,
101st Airborne Division Assn & Screaming Eagle Foundation (931-431-0199)
(Reprinted from e-letter, December 2024)

We hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family. We all know how fast December goes by and the Holidays are soon upon us. I had a moment of reflection about years past and feel it's unimportant where you are, or what you have, so much as who you're with at the Holidays. Many of us spent the holidays abroad at some point, freezing or sweating, wet or parched, it didn't matter because we valued those we were with. Each of us should strive to share with family and friends and show that it's the people that matter most. We all learned that when we had little other than the clothes on our backs and those beside us.

Snowbird Reunion returns this coming February 12th through the 15th. As I'm sending this out, it's 32 degrees at Fort Campbell and feels like it's 27. Heck, even then we still have it better than most. Give the mild winter weather in Tampa a try this year and join the Florida Gulf Coast Chapter's Snowbird at the Westshore Marriott hotel. We are working through the final details of the 2025 Annual Reunion in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Centre Hotel. This hotel is an amazing property on International Blvd in the prime area for entertainment, eateries, and shopping. Mark your calendar and save the dates August 20th through the 23rd. We will be marking the 60th Anniversary of the 1st Bde (Sep) deploying to Vietnam and the beginning of the 101st Airborne's major participation in the Vietnam War. Plan to come and join your fellow Screaming Eagles.

From the Editor, *MSE*
Submission of Articles:

Please submit all articles to the *MSE* and the *Markers & Milestone* Section to:

The Editor, *MSE*: (email) camsufism@aol.com. All articles and contributions must be in a text file like Microsoft Word. (Ensure that all submissions are both "copy ready" and can be edited, if necessary.)

Print Schedule:

1st Quarter 2023

January 1st, 2023 -Submission Date

2nd Quarter 2023

April 1st, 2023 -Submission Date

3rd Quarter 2023

July 1st, 2023 -Submission Date

4th Quarter 2023

October 1st, 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 101st 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 C. Sosa, Treasurer
1569 Mill Street
Lincoln Park, MI 48146-2358

...Thank You!