



77 Mack Street • Windsor, CT 06095 • 860-688-9396

# THE BLAST

Issue # 18

Summer 2019

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The Official Newsletter of the Greater Hartford Chapter

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## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

Greetings and salutations,

Welcome back to another edition from the greatest chapter in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association. We are headed into the fall of 2019, but that also means our Super Bowl, our Daytona 500, The Rumble is on the horizon.

We are quickly approaching this year's Rumble which will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2019, at Northwest Park in Windsor. Let's all gather and break bread as we remember our past, share stories and each other's company. Our guest speaker is Colonel David Hamilton, a highly decorated Airborne brother, having earned the Special Forces Tab, Master Parachutist Badge and Military Freefall Badge...among many, many others.

Also, let this letter serve as a rally cry. Reach out to your Airborne brothers and sisters, especially if you haven't seen them in a while. A quick phone call or text goes a long way!

Airborne!  
Ryan McKenna



82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, Inc.



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# ***THE RUMBLE***

LET'S Get READY TO RUMBLE!!!! Saturday, September 14 2019, 11 AM to dusk @ Northwest Park in Windsor, CT. 06095 .

Cuisine extraordinaire, libations galore, raffles, guest speakers and above all else Airborne camaraderie. Mark the date, don't be late, it's all great.

## **RAFFLE**

Tickets are selling for \$5.00 each, a book of 5 for \$20.00.  
Get yours now!!!!

**1st Prize: H&R M1 Garand (s/n 4765717) Or Cash**



**2nd Prize: \$500 Cash**

**3rd Prize: \$250 Cash**

## ***OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR THE RUMBLE***

### **Colonel David L. Hamilton**

Deputy Commanding Officer  
Womack Army Medical Center, Ft. Bragg, North Carolina  
Home of the Airborne and Special Operations



Dave Hamilton has been a US Army Physician Assistant (PA) for 23 years, and is a graduate of The Ohio State University (B.S. 1986), University of Texas Health Science Center (B.S. 1996), University of Nebraska Medical Center (M.P.A.S. 1999), University of Oklahoma's College of Public Health (M.P.H. 2004) and the Army War College (M.S.S. 2016). He has been a Soldier for 35 years.

Prior to this assignment COL Hamilton's broadening and command positions included Deputy Commander for Health Readiness, Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado; Commander, Public Health Command District Fort Bragg, Fort Bragg, North

Carolina; and Medical Company Commander in the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Combat Team in Bamberg, Germany.

Other key assignments include: Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) Phase 2 Coordinator at Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado; Staff PA, Schweinfurt Health Clinic, Germany; Brigade Senior PA, 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Bamberg, Germany; Chief of Occupational and Environmental Health, Fort Drum, New York; Battalion PA, 2nd Bn, 37<sup>th</sup> Armor Regiment, Friedberg, Germany; Battalion PA and Medical Platoon Leader, 1st Bn, 4th Infantry Regiment Hohenfels, Germany; Special Forces communications and medical sergeant (18E/18D), 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn of 11th Special Forces Group (Airborne), and Operational Detachment – Alpha (ODA) 564 in 5th SFG(A). His medical career began as a volunteer Emergency Medical Technician on the Felicity-Franklin Life Squad in Ohio.

COL Hamilton is a Fellow in the Society of Army Physician Assistants, the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), and is an active member of



the United States Parachute Association and the Round Canopy Parachuting Team - USA.

His extracurricular interests include dog training, backcountry skiing and snowboarding, skydive coaching and demonstrations, WW2 re-enactment parachuting and traveling with his family.

COL Hamilton has deployed for 39 months as a PA between Iraq and Afghanistan in support of the Global War on Terrorism since 2004. He was selected as the AAPA Military PA of the Year for 2018, The Army Surgeon General's PA of the Year for 2002, and an Army Medical Specialist Corps Iron Major in 2011, and the Order of Military Medical Merit. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters), the Meritorious Service Medal (with 7 OLC), the Army Commendation Medal with (2 OLC), the Combat Medical Badge (2nd Award), the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Special Forces Tab, the Ranger Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge and the Military Freefall Badge.

Dave is married to the former Jane Berumez, from Waterloo, Iowa. His son, Wyatt Hamilton is currently serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas. His parents still operate the family cattle farm in Ohio.

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## ***OXFORD, CT. AIRPORT***

Some of the planes heading over to Normandy for the D-Day festivities, stopped here in Oxford, CT. for a little show and tell. It was a pretty interesting day, with



planes taking off and landing right in front of us. One plane was having a little engine trouble and they were working on the problem. They eventually got it fixed, (A bad seal on one of the valves) as they carry a ton of spare parts for all the planes. Later in the Newsletter will be an article about our own Jeremiah Cain who went over there and jumped from one of these planes.





*Ready for the jumpers*



*Coming in for a landing*







## Cemetery Change

On June 27, 2019, the CT Department of Veterans Affairs signed a policy that would grant burial eligibility to Hmong veterans in the CT State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown, CT. This policy was the first of its kind in the nation for state level veteran cemeteries, recognizing the contributions of the persons who served with special guerilla units or irregular forces, operating from a base in Laos, in support of the US Military during the War in Vietnam. Our own Sar Phoutasack is one such veteran and was an honored guest speaker for the policy signing at the Lao/Hmong Memorial in Middletown. Other key people were CT VA Commissioner Thomas J. Saadi, LG Susan Bysiewicz and BG (Ret) Dan McHale.





## *Military Appreciation Night*

Chairman Ryan McKenna threw out the first pitch at the Hartford Yard Goats Military Appreciation Night game. Never a baseball player, he hoped that he wouldn't hit the dirt before home plate! After a pre-game speech to the crowd about military service, he was given the ceremonial ball and headed to the mound. Without warming up, he threw a perfect strike (or so he says). It was a tremendous honor and a moving night. The Yard Goats recently unveiled a POW-MIA seat that is roped off and never to be sat in.







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## ***SUPPORT OUR TROOPS DINNER***

The Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee sponsors this fantastic dinner. Our trooper, Geraldo Diaz was one of the veterans recognized at this dinner. I had the honor of attending this great event and was impressed with the entire



celebration. I was especially impressed with the turnout of guests, approximately 600 people were in attendance.

General John Lawlor of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division was a guest speaker and was accompanied by his wife.





*This sign will appear on the highway upon entering Waterbury*





*Gerry giving his speech*



*A few of the distinguished guests*



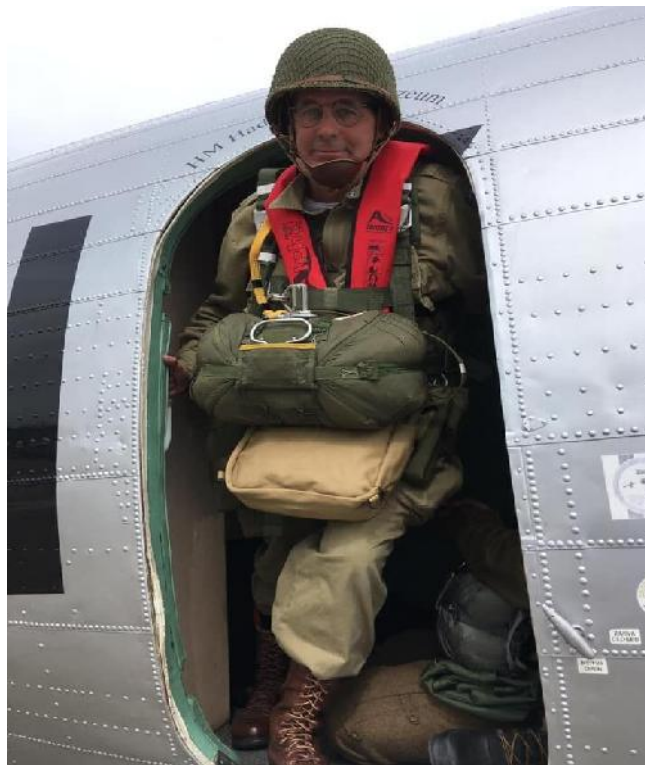
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***FROM THE JUMPMASER JEREMIAH CAIN***

It was an honor to participate in such an operation to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day. On 5 June 2019 I was among only 200 to put on a Parachute and board A C47 and then fly across the English Channel and parachute into Normandie. I also had the honor to be a primary jumpmaster. Then again on 8 June I was able to beat the number one jumper and parachute into a drop zone near in Cassville France an area where the 325th regiment of the 82nd had a link point with the fourth infantry division shortly after D-Day. The common message I received from the people of France was that the people of Normandy remember what the Americans and British did for their country on this day in 1944. It was the experience of a lifetime and something I will never forget I was proud to represent all paratrooper's past and present.

Thank you, Jeremiah Cain













## *Trooper of the Quarter*

**Jeremiah Cain** is the Trooper of the Quarter leading up to this year's Rumble. Jerry recently jumped into Normandy as a member of the Veterans Parachute Battalion (VPB) to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. They donned WWII uniforms and jumped from C-47 aircraft! He also serves on the Executive Board as a Director and was instrumental in bribing Colonel David Hamilton to be our Guest Speaker at the Rumble. Airborne, All The Way, Jerry!!





## Update on the Cromwell Veterans Memorial

**Engraved bricks are in place**





## Quartermaster Corner

**NEW: All Items can be ordered on our Website**  
**[www.paratrooper.org](http://www.paratrooper.org)**



Front



Back

Our **NEW** Chapter tee shirt is still ONSALE! Also available as a Hoodie or regular Sweatshirt. Get yours now!!!!

**Chapter window decals are available**  
\$5.00 each







## CHAPTER BALL CAPS \$15



**Limited Edition** Numbered Chapter challenge coins are available for \$15.

**Get yours now!**



## PARATROOPER State of Ct License plates

Order your State of Connecticut vanity Paratrooper license plate. Life member special \$174.



Off the shelf number \$100. Call Paul Poirier for details.  
860.688.9396



**About Our Chapter:** We currently number over two hundred and thirty All American life members in our ranks and 7 annual members. Seventeen of our All Americans are from states other than Connecticut.

We belong to the most highly respected military organization of soldiers in the world, Airborne Paratroopers. We are all volunteers; we get hazardous duty pay, we jump out of planes loaded down with heavy and cumbersome equipment and we train to kill people and sing songs about it. Show your paratrooper pride by attending and contributing to our great organization at a meeting. Our Chapter is open to any qualified Paratrooper from any branch of the military of any country. Proof of Airborne qualification is the only requirement.

**Chapter meetings** are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the Governor's First Foot Guard Armory, located at the corner of High Street and Foot Guard Place in Hartford, CT. The address to plug into your GPS or map app is 159 High Street, Hartford, CT.

The doors are open at 17:30 for snacks, libations and Airborne camaraderie.

The business portion of the meeting begins at 19:00 hours.

**The meeting is run according to Robert's Rules of Order.**

We encourage members to bring an Airborne friend to the meetings.

- ) Hand them a Chapter business card.
- ) Inform them of the benefits of being a life member i.e. college tuition for them and their dependents, special paratrooper license plate pricing, valuable contacts, and Airborne camaraderie.
- ) Record their name and contact information.
- ) Pass their contact info on to the Chapter Chairman for follow up.

**Classified Section**

If anyone wants to buy or sell something, drop us a note so we can get it listed for you.

**Join us on our Facebook group page or on our web site**

**Greater Hartford Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association**

**Web Site**

[www.paratrooper.org](http://www.paratrooper.org)

**Find us on Facebook**

[www.facebook.com/GHC82ndAbn](https://www.facebook.com/GHC82ndAbn)