



Scions of the 17th Airborne Division, Inc.

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Scionsofthe17thAirborne@gmail.com www.17thScions.org

February 1, 2023

Dear Member of the “Scions of the 17th Airborne Division, Inc.”,

Our Scions organization becomes twelve years old on March 24th, 2023. From a small group that was presented with a Charter at the 2011 Lancaster, PA “Operation Varsity” gathering, we have made much progress - a *brief* summary of which is listed below - and will continue with your support!

Our Mission – To honor the sacrifices made by the veterans of the 17th Airborne Division, to preserve the Division history, and to educate our members and the public about the contributions made by these airborne troopers during WWII.

Communication: Our email newsletter “*Thunder From Heaven*” is a major benefit of membership, keeping our veterans and Scions up to date and providing information on the history of the 17th Airborne Division.

Our **Facebook** page continues to attract new members and provide a forum for Q&A. Visit us at “17th Airborne Division Scions (Descendants)”

Our **website** (www.17thScions.org) provides information on the 17th and has been attracting many new members.

An outreach project in 2016 located over 120 of our 17th veterans, of which 27 are now living. They receive the newsletter in a hard copy at no charge. **We can only sustain this expense with the support of our membership.**

Gatherings: We hold an annual “Operation Varsity” reunion, at which 17th Airborne Division veterans and families gather. In addition, we hold an annual Veterans Day gathering at the memorial to the 17th at Arlington National Cemetery, and visit the graves of the 52 17th Airborne troopers who lie at rest there.

Veterans Outreach/Family Support: Our Veterans Outreach team reaches out to our vets and their families, contacting them at times of sickness and loss. They also frequently send cards to our veterans. This team also coordinates attendance of members of the 17th Airborne Division family at the funerals of our veterans when possible. Members of the organization place wreaths at the graves of the four Medal of Honor recipients - three in the US and one in Europe.

Education: We conduct visits to the National Archives in Washington DC and St. Louis, scanning documents related to the 17th to assist our members. We are planning another major visit to this archive to scan additional 17th records. Our Archives Team, utilizes these documents to assist members who seek information about their 17th Veteran.

This year we plan to launch a major new initiative for MEMBERS ONLY. It will be an online museum with records on individual troopers and on the various units of the division. A major feature will be the inclusion of thousands of photos taken by individual troopers. Perhaps you will find a photo of your 17th trooper that you have never seen before?

In 2015, 2017, 2021 and 2022: members of our Scions organization travelled to Europe to visit the areas where the 17th fought in Belgium and Germany, and to honor the fallen troopers of the division.

In 2017: a memorial to the 17th Airborne Division was dedicated near Hamminkeln, Germany.

In 2019: a memorial to the 17th was dedicated on the Drop Zone in Wesel Germany. We enclose a photo of the monument

In 2021: we dedicated a memorial to Medal of Honor recipient Clinton Hedrick at the site where he fell in Germany.

In 2022: A memorial to Maj. General William Miley was dedicated at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, in Fayetteville, NC.

On the 77th anniversary of Operation Varsity, March 24, 2022, we dedicated an impressive new monument to the 17th Airborne Division in Wesel, Germany. The monument is located at Hotel Haus Duden, which is in the middle of the Drop Zones and Landing Zone areas where the 17th landed. Several 17th Airborne troopers joined us to dedicate this monument.

Membership: Our Membership Committee is working diligently to find new ways to locate both our remaining veterans and their descendants; new members are welcome!

The officers, directors, and membership of the Scions continue to work hard to fulfill our missions. Dues are the principle source of revenue to keep the organization running.

We thank you for renewing your membership, (which includes our monthly email newsletter, “Thunder From Heaven”). If you choose to do so, you can renew for multiple years.

We accept payment via check or PayPal. If using PayPal, please add the appropriate PayPal fees.

Individual Membership (Paypal) - \$36.77/ year, Family Membership (Paypal) - \$52.32/ Year

Checks should be made out to: Scions of the 17th Airborne Division, 62A Forty Acre Mt. Rd. Danbury, CT 06811

PayPal payment can be made to our email address – Scionsofthe17thairborne@gmail.com

Membership Renewal:

Individual Membership: \$35/year X (_____) years = \$_____

Family Membership: \$50/ year X (_____) years = \$_____

Donations:

Memorial Fund Donation \$_____

General Fund Donation \$_____

TOTAL \$_____

Our **Memorial Fund** supports a number of projects, including the placement of wreaths on the graves of the four Medal of Honor recipients, shipping our division flag to the funerals of our veterans, and maintaining memorials to the men of the 17th Airborne Division.

All donations will be acknowledged for tax purposes.

Thank you!

Best regards from the officers of the Scions of the 17th Airborne Division, Inc.
Sincerely,



Gordon "Skip" Greeby, President



Edward R. Siergiej, Secretary