



Scions of the 17th Airborne Division, Inc.

62A Forty Acre Mountain Road, Danbury, CT 06811 203-241-3740

Scionsofthe17thAirborne@gmail.com www.17thScions.org

Calling All Descendants and Family of Those Who Served in the 17th Airborne Division

As the post war 17th Airborne Division Association was making plans to disband, some of the adult children of our veterans expressed a desire to keep the legacy of the 17th Airborne Division alive. Many of us shared a passion to perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices of the 17th, and had forged friendships while attending the reunions. We even referred to ourselves as "The Next Generation," realizing that we were going to have to pick up the mantle if the story of the 17th Airborne Division was to be preserved.

In early 2011, Col. John Kormann, 17th veteran and former President & Historian of the 17th Airborne Division Association, created a charter to form a new organization. In March, 2011 at a reunion of 17th veterans and family at Lancaster, PA, Col. Kormann presented us with that Charter, naming us the *Scions of the 17th Airborne Division*. Col. Kormann selected the term "Scions" meaning "Descendants of Royalty". Before the end of the reunion, we had elected a slate of Officers and in the following months developed Bylaws, which were adopted at our first annual business meeting. In 2012, the Scions organization was incorporated. In 2014 our 501(c) (3) non-profit application was approved by the IRS.

Membership guidelines are intended to be as inclusive as possible. We invite all children, grandchildren, siblings, spouses, widows, and other family members of any veteran of the 17th Airborne Division to become voting Regular Members of the Scions. Associate Membership is offered to those who are not related to a 17th veteran but have an interest in honoring them. All Veterans of the 17th are welcomed as Distinguished Honorary Members of the Scions.

Facebook Page: Our Facebook page allows us to easily post information and to share stories and photos relating to the 17th. Please check out our page at **17th Airborne Division Scions (Descendants)** and enjoy the posts that are popping up! It is a great way for us all to stay connected and informed.

Newsletter: Our monthly email newsletter **Thunder From Heaven** includes historical accounts by 17th veterans, letters from Veterans, Scions, and highlights items available from the **Online Store**. We also produce a hard copy of the newsletter for our veterans who do not use email.

Website: Our website at **17thScions.org** has a variety of information regarding the History and Units of the 17th Airborne Division, as well as our **Online Store**.

Gatherings: Each year we gather at Arlington National Cemetery for a **Veterans Day Ceremony** in Washington, DC. During the ceremony, wreaths are placed at the 17th's memorial in Arlington as well as at the National World War II memorial. We then proceed to the graves of 17th troopers buried at Arlington. We also support an **Operation Varsity** gathering which is usually held in Lancaster, PA each year. This gathering allows our veterans to gather together for as long as they are able, to commemorate "Operation Varsity" – the 17th's combat drop into Germany on March 24, 1945 – to share time and experiences with 17th veterans, to honor those in attendance and remember those who have passed.

Education: We are frequently contacted by family members of 17th veterans who seek to learn about the achievements and incredible sacrifices made by the Division. Our **Historian** and **Archives Coordinator** work to provide as much material as possible to our members. Our website, **17thScions.org** hosts records scanned from the National Archives during annual visits by our team of researchers.

Veterans Outreach: Our **Veterans Outreach Committee** members lead efforts to reach out to 17th veterans and to family members at times of loss. We also acknowledge the passing of any of our veterans in a formal way, with a personal call, letter of condolence, and attendance at memorial services as best we are able. Other members have taken the time to "**Adopt a Veteran**" and make calls to stay in touch with our veterans.

Membership Dues: Annual **Regular (Individual) Membership** dues are \$35. **Family Membership** dues are \$50/year and include children under the age of 21. **Associate Membership** is \$35/year. Membership dues provide funds for us to run the organization, produce a hard copy version of our newsletter for veterans who do not use email, obtain documents and make information available to our members.

Donations are always welcome, whether in memory of deceased 17th Troopers, in recognition of particular units of the 17th, or simply to support continuing the mission. As a 501(c) (3) Non-Profit organization, donations to our *General Fund, Memorial Fund or Dead Man's Ridge Walk Fund* are tax deductible.

Members receive a certificate of membership, membership card, a beautiful photograph of the 17th Airborne Division Memorial at Fort Benning, and a Scion patch.

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Name _____

Address _____

Telephone Number _____ E-mail address _____

Occupation or Talent _____

Relationship to a veteran of the 17th Airborne Division _____

Name of veteran _____ Living/Deceased _____

Unit of the 17th Airborne Division if known _____

Membership: **Regular (Individual)** \$35) _____ **Family** (includes children under 21 (\$50) _____
Associate (\$35) _____

Note: Annual membership renewals are due on 3/24 of each year.

Include my contact information in the Online Directory located in the Members Section of our Website. (This information will only be available to members.) Yes _____ No _____

Method of Payment

Check _____ **Paypal** _____ (Send your payment to: **Scionsofthe17thAirborne@gmail.com**)

Sincerely,



Jeff Schumacher
President

November 2020