



82<sup>nd</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSN. INC.  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

# PARATROOPER

www.82airborne-assoc.com



Chartered by the  
United States Congress

The "All Airborne"  
Fraternity



December 2021

Chris Mirowski, Editor

## Loss of a loved one



**Bob Barnet, (past) Chairman and Parade Coordinator for the Rocky Mountain Chapter passes away at 76 years of age.**

On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the Rocky Mountain Chapter lost a leader. Robert Tracy Barnet passed away at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins after being hospitalized for three weeks after contracting COVID-19. Bob Barnet joined the RMC shortly after its formation

**Airborne Dinner  
December 11, 2021  
See page 7 for information and a map**

See:  
**Barnet** on  
page 2



Continued:  
**Barnet** from page 1

and remained in various officer positions, including (past) Chairmanships. Bob was a fixture with the RMC dedicating much of his time to crafting and/or maintaining every piece of parade equipment, and he stored all of it indoors on his property. He was engaged with all things administrative and maintained the RMC's ties with National. He also attended multiple Association conventions where he voted on issues on behalf of the RMC. Bob left a legacy with the RMC that will last for decades.

**Bob Barnet's Obituary** (edited and condensed)

Robert Tracy Barnet passed away peacefully Tuesday, November 9, 2021. Bob was born the son of Robert Burton Barnet and Marsolin Natalie Barnet on July 9, 1945 in Englewood, CA. He is survived by Dee Barnet, his wife of 53 years, daughter Lynnette Strauser, sons Kenneth Barnet (Cara Keirnes) and Bradley Barnet, brothers Gregory



Bob at an RMC parade

Barnet and Russell Barnet, sister Diane Toma, granddaughter Amanda Strauser, and grandson Samuel Strauser.



A tile that appears at VFW Post 1781

Military service was a rich family tradition, with both his father and his uncle Ken having been pilots in the

Army Air Corps. His uncle, Captain Kenneth Barnet, flew as copilot for 30 missions over France and

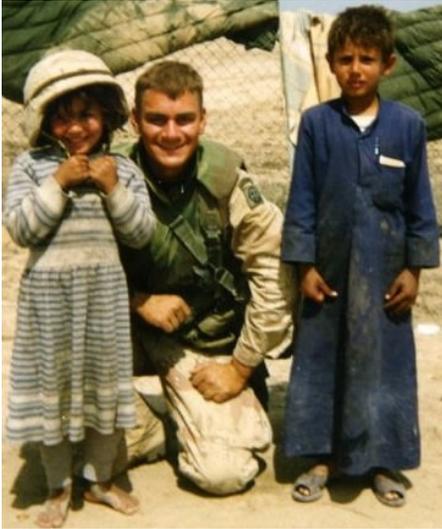
Germany. His dad, 1st Lt Robert B Barnet, piloted the P47 Thunderbolt in the CBI Theater. Without having the extremely keen eyesight it takes to enter flight school, Bob set his sights on his next best option—jump out of perfectly good airplanes with the 82nd Airborne Division of the Army. He completed jump school At Fort Benning.

Bob's love for his country and those who gave so much to defend it showed in his very active participation in VFW Post 1781 and the Rocky Mountain 82nd Airborne Association. He served in multiple positions in both organizations. It is unclear to his family whether or not Bob was a self-appointed historian, yet historian he was. Deemed by many as “Airborne Bob” he spent immense amounts of time documenting military engagements and compiling photographs available to his military friends and their families for future generations.



Newlyweds Bob and Dee on December 21, 1967

## **From the Chairman**



It is with a heavy heart that I write this edition of *From the Chairman*. (Past) Chairman Bob Barnet's passed away on November 9<sup>th</sup>, two days before Veterans Day. We used Bob's passing as a bit of inspiration for the Rocky Mountain Chapter's march in the 2021 Veterans Day Parade in Loveland.

I had the honor of officiating the service at Olinger Funeral – Crown Hill in Wheat Ridge on November 19<sup>th</sup>. There was a good showing and solid outpouring of love, care, and gratitude from Bob's family and friends at the celebration of his life. The Barnet Family asked the RMC for a strong presence with personnel and items like the C-130, the large parade jump wings, and 82<sup>nd</sup> patch. We more than accommodated their requests, and as I looked around before the service, it struck me that I would've preferred those items to flowers as well. Bob would've loved it.

We also had a contingent at the graveside service at Fort Logan National Cemetery. Thank you to all who participated in the events and to those who sent well-wishes. The RMC stepped up in a big way for the Barnet Family in their time of need.

Recognizing there is no smooth way to transition the rest of this article after addressing Bob's passing, I will use headers for the rest because the RMC will continue to move on, and there is important business to discuss.

### **Business Meeting and Election**

The Notice of Annual Business Meeting Elections and ballot for the 2021 officer elections is on page 6. It is simply a ballot and will not be finalized until the actual election. Candidates can be added prior to the election during the Annual Business Meeting. There are no "write-ins." Additions to the ballot must come from nominations from the floor with a second from membership. If your passion drives you towards any particular position, we can and will add you to the ballot. You can nominate yourself, but you will have to garner a "second" from the membership, which should be easy to do.

The chapter bylaws require three Trustees but allow for up to six. Trustees are officers with voting privileges. The additional Trustee positions (between four and six) are added to better the chances of establishing a quorum at any particular meeting. Also, a list of Appointees appears on page 6. If you are interested in any of those positions, please contact me.

### **Judge Advocate Appointment**

With Bob's passing, the position of Judge Advocate was left vacant. The Judge Advocate position is a chapter bylaw position. The duties of the Judge Advocate are to make rulings where there are questions regarding the bylaws at RMC Officer's meetings and facilitate the ballot and elections process at the Annual Business Meetings. The Judge Advocate should be the outgoing Chairman, or a previous Chairman if the outgoing is unable to perform the duties.

I am proud to announce that at the November 28<sup>th</sup> Officer's Meeting, (past) Chairman Jose Aguayo was selected, and he agreed to his appointment for the remainder of 2021. Jose will continue to be

the Judge Advocate for 2022 and beyond until a new Chairman is elected. The outgoing Chairman will then assume Judge Advocate responsibilities.

On a personal note, I am glad to have Jose back in the fold of the officer ranks. I have immense respect for his knowledge and intellect, and he has a solid understanding of the history and operation of the chapter. Welcome back, Jose!

## **Newsletter**

The *Paratrooper* newsletter is the most significant expense to the Rocky Mountain Chapter. Each printing costs us around \$300.00, and our last 6-month rebate from National was only \$32.00. Revenues from dinners and quartermaster are also way down and, in some cases, in the red. Our recent income has come primarily from donations, but those are unsustainable and can't be counted on. And though the chapter recently garnered non-profit status for postage, there is still the issue of folding and stamping, which were volunteer efforts that are also no longer sustainable.

Most organizations have done away with printed copies of newsletters, including most chapters of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Association. Others utilize a hybrid system that promotes the electronic document but has an expressed opt-in process. We will be doing the same for the next edition of the *Paratrooper*.

We are changing to an active "opt-in." **If you still want a mailed copy of the newsletter and do not have access to email or the internet, you will have to call or send a letter to Chris Cummings or me to continue receiving a paper copy.**

## **Reflection**

I've had some time to reflect on where we were and where we are now as a chapter and asked myself the question, "Where are we going?" I've been a member of the RMC for twenty-three years and with almost all of those years, I've held an officer or appointed position, including Newsletter Editor for sixteen years and previous Chairman for three.

I can attest that I and my contemporaries, those who have held the Chairman position in particular, constantly faced the stress of the question, "Will the wheels fall off of the organization under my watch?" That question legitimately kept me awake too many nights in my previous stint as the leader of the RMC.

At the Officer's meeting on Saturday, November 27, 2021 at the Northglenn IHOP, I answered the question, "Where are we going?" The answer is; ***we can only go to the level of commitment that we can give.*** That may not be an all-encompassing answer, but it serves as a good litmus test. For over two decades, the push was to ***GROW***: more members, more money, more services, and more activities. We created a "Membership Coordinator" position a long while ago and sought opportunities to recruit new members. At meetings, we would report on the success or failures of our efforts and purposed to do more to get and do ***MORE***. There was even a push to host a convention in Denver.

I began to see a problem when I attended the 2006 convention in Reno. Every other chapter of the Association and even the Association itself was pushing for ***MORE***, particularly in recruitment. We weren't at all unique in our chapter's drive for ***MORE***.

I interacted with a well-known leader from another chapter who said something that made me uneasy. He said, "We keep pushing membership recruitment as an answer to all of our problems as if we can push off the responsibilities we've created to a bunch of the new guys that we just recruited. The problem is, they're not coming."

It took me a few years to get what he was saying from an experiential standpoint, but in time I realized that if there is stress in the chapter because we think we are failing, that stress is most likely due to **out-sized expectations** for our **limited resources**. By the way, we weren't able to sustain the Membership Coordinator position for more than a handful of years, and the proactive recruiting sessions also faded away. We didn't have the resources or commitment to sustain the position or the action.

I've learned to ask the basic question, "WHY?" when I experience *out-sized stress*. So, why does the RMC exist? ***The Rocky Mountain Chapter of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Association exists to serve as a medium for the fellowship of current and former paratroopers and their families.***

Note, there is no specific function of fellowship or method of communication listed in that mission statement. Essentially, the broad mission statement gives us the ability to expand and contract with the ebbs and flows of time, technology, resources, and level of commitment.

Bob Barnet had a deep passion for the RMC. His life phase allowed him to engage much of his time in the chapter in areas like parades, conventions, and newsletter printings and foldings. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate Bob's service. Looking back, my kids and I have incredible memories because of his labor of love.

At the funeral service for Bob, I stated that he was a sort of glue that held us together, and that was true. But, I also said that of Jess Ryan in the December 2009 edition of *The Paratrooper* after he sustained a severe head injury and could no longer work in the capacities of both Secretary and Treasurer. And, before I said it of Bob and Jess, I said that of (past) Chairman Tom Smith when I spoke at his funeral at Fort Logan National Cemetery in 2007 when he was previously holding virtually all of the working officer positions, Newsletter Editor, and Quartermaster.

Bob left us a legacy, but I will not say that he left a hole or that there are big shoes to fill. To say so would imply that there is something in need of filling and that there will be a void if we don't. We can and will honor Bob by acknowledging his accomplishments within our All-Airborne Fraternity. We also can recognize that great things will always be on the horizon for the RMC in whatever way we decide to fulfill our mission statement. I rest at ease knowing that there will always be new glue.

Please keep this in mind as you vote or participate in the upcoming chapter elections on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, please take the time to thank our chapter officers for their service. Volunteer work is incredibly hard in just about every facet, and the RMC officers carry this burden too. It's not prestigious, and the rewards are limited to just fraternal gratitude, but our officers remain committed all the same because they see the WHY in what we do.

Happy Holidays to you and yours and AATW!

Chris Mirowski  
Chairman, RMC

# Notice of Annual Business Meeting Elections

## Rocky Mountain Chapter Officer Election

Per the National Association's and the Rocky Mountain Chapter's (RMC's) bylaws, notice is hereby given of the officer elections to be held at the annual business meeting that will occur at the American Legion Post #161, 6230 West 60th Avenue in Arvada, Colorado, on December 11, 2021. The meeting will begin shortly after the conclusion of the Airborne Dinner that starts at 3:00 p.m. No other bylaw business is scheduled other than elections. The Judge-Advocate will facilitate the election process with the Secretary, recording the results per the RMC bylaws.

## Election Ballot

Below is the election ballot and list of appointees for the annual business meeting. Motions for any additional nominee(s) may be made by any member in good standing during the meeting, prior to the election. Appointees are selected by the Chairman per the RMC bylaws and serve at his leisure. The Chairman is authorized to appoint positions as he deems necessary to ensure the proper function of the Rocky Mountain Chapter.

<b>Officers (By-law offices)</b>	
<u>Office</u>	<u>Member</u>
Chairman	Chris Mirowski
Vice Chairman	John McGuire
Secretary	Chris Cummings
Treasurer	Alan Jenkins
Judge-Advocate <i>(by virtue of past Chairmanship)</i>	<i>Jose Aguayo</i>
Sgt-at-Arms	Jack Phillips
Trustee	Art Gallegos
Trustee	Tom Lopez
Trustee	Mike Marsh
Trustee	Ron Mitchell
Trustee	Pat Kleckner
Trustee	<b>OPEN</b>

<b>Appointees (appointed by Chairman)</b>	
<u>Position</u>	<u>Member</u>
Entertainment	Art Gallegos
Newsletter Editor	Chris Mirowski
Quartermaster	Tom Lopez
Parade Coordinator	<b>OPEN</b>
Paraglide Contributor	Chris Cummings
Social Media	John McGuire

## 2021 Officers of the Rocky Mountain Chapter

<p><b><u>Chairman</u></b> Chris Mirowski 585 Barnwood Dr. Windsor, CO 80550 (970) 481-5839 <a href="mailto:Christopher.Mirowski@gmail.com">Christopher.Mirowski@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Vice Chairman</u></b> John McGuire 1112 Matthews St. Ft. Collins, CO 80524 719-919-0793 <a href="mailto:Johnmcgruie@gmail.com">Johnmcgruie@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Secretary</u></b> Chris Cummings 5650 N. Argonne St # 12-107 Denver, CO 80249 <a href="mailto:Cwc0022@gmail.com">Cwc0022@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b> Alan Jenkins 550 James St. Highlands Ranch, CO 80126 <a href="mailto:Ajenkins2112@gmail.com">Ajenkins2112@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Judge-Advocate</u></b> Jose Aguayo</p>	
<p><b><u>Sgt-at-Arms</u></b> Jack Phillips 2109 19 Ave. Greeley, CO 80631 (970)-352-0075 <a href="mailto:hjackphillips@gmail.com">hjackphillips@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Newsletter Editor</u></b> Chris Mirowski</p>	<p><b><u>Quartermaster</u></b> Tom Lopez 8202 Dahlia St. Henderson, CO 80640 720-363-0705 <a href="mailto:ThomasdLopez@outlook.com">ThomasdLopez@outlook.com</a></p>	<p><b><u>Social Media</u></b> John McGuire</p>	<p><b><u>Paraglide Contributor</u></b> Chris Cummings</p>	
<b><u>Trustees</u></b>					
Art Gallegos	Tom Lopez	Mike Marsh	Ron Mitchell	Jack Phillips	Verne Walls

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER DINNER and ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:

## December, 2021

### 3:00 – 5:00pm

### American Legion Post 161

**Membership meeting including elections for the 2022 officers  
will follow the meal.**

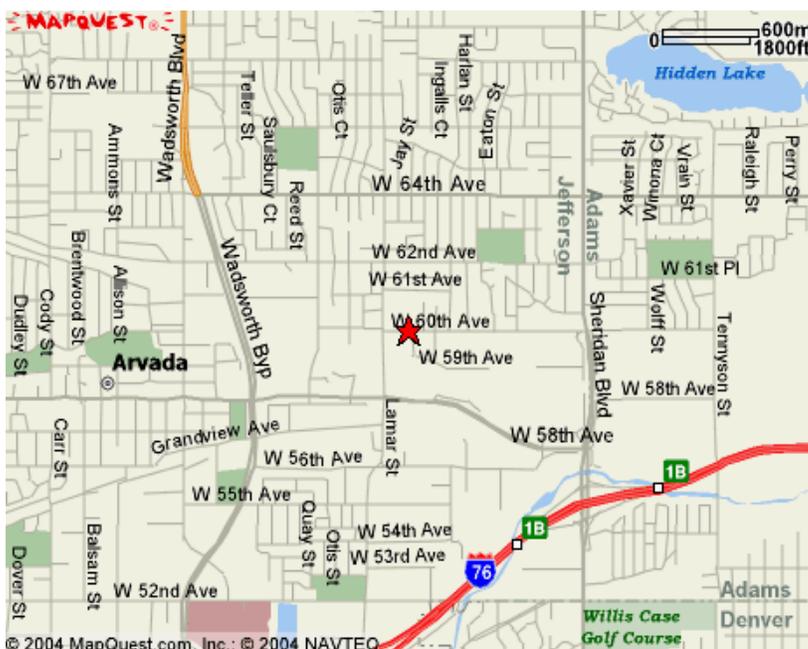
**MENU:** Ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, salad, desert, and coffee

**PRICE:** \$15.00 all inclusive ...per meal

*The price is right and the company is good. Don't miss this opportunity to fellowship with your fellow paratroopers*

Make reservations by **Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** with:

**Chris Cummings 720-418-0222 (Metro) or Chris Mirowski 970-481-5839 (North)**



Map to American Legion Post  
6230 West 60th Avenue

#### Directions

1. From I-25, merge onto I-76 heading west toward Grand Junction
2. Take exit #1B towards Sheridan Blvd/CO-95
3. Turn right on Sheridan Blvd.
4. Turn left on W. 60<sup>th</sup> Ave.
5. Continue to 6230 West 60th Ave



*82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Assn. Inc.  
Rocky Mountain Chapter  
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#12-107  
Denver, CO 80249*

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The “**All Airborne**” Fraternity

## Rocky Mountain Chapter 2021 Calendar of Events

### December

11<sup>th</sup> Annual business meeting and Airborne Dinner  
American Legion, Arvada

### \*\*\*\*\*Change to the Newsletter Service\*\*\*\*\*

Starting January 2022, the Rocky Mountain Chapter will NO LONGER mail a PAPER COPY of the Paratrooper Newsletter

#### **UNLESS:**

You “OPT-IN” by either calling Chris Mirowski or Chris Cummings and let us know that you still need a paper copy and that you do not have an email address. THIS WILL BE THE LAST MAILED PAPER NEWSLETTER YOU RECEIVE IF YOU DON'T “OPT-IN.”

We are sending an electronic copy of the *Paratrooper* newsletter to every member who has an email address on file with Secretary Chris Cummings. If you haven't updated your email address with us, please do so immediately.

Please see the “Newsletter” heading on page 4 for the reason for the change. Feel free to call Chairman Chris Mirowski if you have any questions.