

187th Rakkasan Association, Inc.
CONSTITUTION



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National Rakkasan Association
CONSTITUTION

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CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I
NAME OF ORGANIZATION

The legal name of the corporation is RAKKASANS, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team Association and was incorporated in the State of New Jersey on 5 April 1982 by the New Jersey Department of State Commercial Recording Bureau.

The short name of the organization is "***National Rakkasan Association***".

ARTICLE II
MISSION, VISION, CORE VALUES

Mission: We are the link that helps our active-duty soldiers understand that they are a part of the one of the most prestigious regiments in our great nation. Additionally, we are the best vehicle of continued camaraderie between Rakkasan veterans. Many Rakkasans feel tremendous pride in their service and knowing that there is an association full of people that appreciate their service is immensely valuable.

Vision: To be recognized nationally and by the US Army as the best regimental support organization in the nation.

Core Values: Integrity of action, Communication up and down ranks, Allegiance to the Rakkasan regiment by contributing to its success, Respect for all, Excellence in all actions.

ARTICLE III
OBJECTIVES

A. To sustain the Association and attain maximum participation by members in good standing in all association activities.

- B. Sustain the official communications of the association known as the Shimbun by means acceptable to the Board of Directors.
- C. Support financially and contribute artifacts to the 187th Infantry Regiment collection.
- D. Maintain organizational property and secure its assets.

**ARTICLE IV
POLICY**

The Association shall not engage in any political activity.

**ARTICLE V
MEMBERSHIP**

The Association shall consist of various classes of membership, as defined in the Bylaws of the Association, including all persons assigned or attached to the 187th infantry regiment, or other designation, such as battle group, brigade, or other units. The Association Board of Directors may add new categories by amending the bylaws of the Association.

**ARTICLE VI
DUES, INVESTMENTS AND FUNDS**

- A. **General** - Dues for each class of membership are set at levels commensurate with the degree of privilege accorded to that class and are predicated on the assumption that varying levels are appropriate to the degree of responsibility for the preservation of the Association.
- B. **Responsibility** - The Board of Directors, with the approval of the membership at an annual meeting is responsible for determining the level of dues established for various classes of membership. Refer to the Bylaws for current schedule of dues.
- C. **Association funds in investments and utilization** -
 - 1. The Board of Directors guiding principle in this area shall be to ensure the fiscal strength of the Association, preservation of capital, provide an annual accounting and

accumulation of funds to meet annual operating costs of the Association from earnings from invested capital.

2. Funds received from all classes of life membership fees and contributions, income, bequests, devise, and all other in-kind contributions are to be invested.
3. No form of life member fees or contributions may be used to meet annual operating expenses. However, the Board of Directors by unanimous vote, may authorize the use funds available at the beginning of the Association year in which the use is intended, to meet justified one-time expenses.
4. The funds and other assets of the association shall, as a minimum, be maintained as follows:
 - a. **Life Membership Fees and Contributions Fund** - This fund shall, as indicated in ARTICLE VI(C)(2), be monitored by the president, treasurer, and director of the Association. This fund is inviolate. However, interest earned from the principle of this fund may be used as determined by the board of directors. Unused interest at the end of each fiscal year will be added to the principal of this fund and become inviolate.
 - b. **General Operating Fund** - This fund shall consist of all dues received; interest earned from ARTICLE VI(4)(C)(a), monies received from a sale of Association items and proceeds generated from all sources, such as unspecified donations bequest, raffles, et cetera. Excluding is any reunion and activation Memorial Day profits which are restricted for use as provided in ARTICLE VI(C) above and profits from the preceding reunion accruing to the Association. The day-to-day operating expenses of the Association are met from this fund. The president, treasurer, and a director of the Association shall quarterly review the general operating fund. The Board of Directors have the authority to hire experts when necessary.

- c. **Reunion Operating Fund** - This fund shall consist of all monies advanced to meet cost of the annual reunion and all monies collected from members, vendors,

ARTICLE VII

VOTING

- A. Regular Members in good standing shall have one vote and all other rights and privileges as follows:
 - 1. A vote may be exercised by secret number ballot, an open ballot at any general meeting, or by a show of hands when approved by the Membership and/or by other means authorized by the Board or Directors.
 - 2. Voting Procedures:
 - a) Except as otherwise provided for in the Constitution or Bylaws, all matters subject to vote must be presented to the entire membership.
 - 3. Any vote, regardless of the procedure followed whether or not there is a debate, is decided by simple majority (50% +1) of the votes cast except for the Directors where a plurality shall rule.
 - 4. Issues presented from the floor during membership meeting may be voted upon only if the presiding officer (with the approval of the majority of the Board) decides it is an issue not requiring presentation to the entire membership.

ARTICLE VIII

MEETINGS OF MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Association shall hold an annual meeting, the site of which shall be chosen no less than six months in advance. Determination of site will be predicated upon Chapter proposed sponsorship or, absent such, Board selected site(s). Such meeting may be held electronically if required due to circumstances.

- B. The Board of Directors, by two-thirds (2/3's) vote, at its discretion, may call a special meeting of the membership. Time and place for the purpose of transacting such business may be announced in the notice. Such special meeting shall have at least thirty (30) days notice.
- C. Additional meetings may be held at an appropriate time and place as authorized by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX ADMINISTRATION

1. The Association shall be administered by a Board of Directors (BOD) consisting of up to eleven (11) Directors. These Directors shall consist of Executive Officers (**ED's**) elected by the membership and Non-Officer Directors (**NOD's**) similarly elected. All Directors shall be elected for a period of two (2) years.

1. The elected Officers/Directors (**ED's**) are:

- **President**
- **Vice President**
- **Secretary**
- **Treasurer**

In order to preserve continuity:

- *The offices of the president and treasurer shall be voted upon in the odd numbered years.*
- *The offices of the vice president and secretary shall be voted upon in the even numbered years.*

2. These Officers and Directors shall function as executives, singly in their area of responsibility and as executive committee collectively, authorized to conduct operations essential to the efficient functioning and stewardship of the Association. Each Officer or Non-Officer Director shall have one full vote on all matters relating to areas not covered by the Constitution and

Bylaws, a majority of the Board must concur in any action taken singly or collectively by the Officers.

3. The elected Non-Officer Directors shall be elected without regard to functions by the members but shall be appointed to principal functions by the President/Chairman of the Board. These functions shall delineate their principal area of operation but should not preclude their involvement in other matters nor permit them to avoid responsibility for being fully informed on all matters.
4. Non-Officers Directors are expected to attend all scheduled Board of Directors meetings and all general and special membership meetings.
 1. The elected Non-Officers/Directors (**NOD's**) are:
 - **Directors 5 to 10**
 - *The directors designated 5,7 and 9 shall be voted upon in the odd numbered years.*
 - *The directors designated 6, 8, and 10 shall be voted upon in the even numbered years.*

If there are 4 or fewer directors at the time of elections no more than 2 directors will be voted upon and the remaining directors will have their term extended one year to be voted upon in the subsequent year.

5. The Association may have, when authorized by the majority of the Board of Directors, an executive secretary to the Board. The executive secretary as well as any other support authorized by the Board, may be an employee of the Association when authorized by two thirds (2/3) majority of the Board.
6. Election of all officers and Directors will be held at the time established in the bylaws.
7. The Secretary shall solicit nominations through the Shimbun other authorized communication for Officer/ Director positions at least (6) months prior to any election.

8. The Secretary will provide to the full Board a list of qualifying nominees. The Board will then cause a ballot to be produced listing all nominees by position. Ballots will be then made available to all qualified voting members.
9. A Proctor will be designated by the President and the ballots will be delivered to that Proctor who will verify the validity of all ballots. The Proctor may designate one or more assistants to help with the above process.
 1. Upon completion of the count, the results shall be reported to the Board of Directors.
 2. Any member has until six (6) hours after the announcement to inform the President in writing he or she wants a recount. Such petition will be in writing and will state the reason for the request. The Board, two-thirds (2/3) concurring, will determine the validity of the petition. In the event of acceptance of the recount petition, a recount will take place at a time chosen by the Board and all cost are to be born IN ADVANCE by the petitioner.
 3. The President of the Association will announce the results of the election.
 4. The newly elected directors will assume their respective duties immediately after being sworn in.
 5. Officers and Directors shall be insured and indemnified as appropriate to their position of responsibility.
 6. Any Director may be re-elected without regard to the number of previous terms served or previous position held. The only prerequisite for service as a member of the Board of Directors is to maintain standing as a regular active member and possess a willingness to serve.

ARTICLE X
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A. The Board of Directors Shall:

1. Be fully responsible for carrying out the programs and activities approved and directed by the membership.
2. Have full control to take or approve any action, including expenditure of funds, which is in consonance with the Constitution and Bylaws of this Association, and which is not specifically or generally prohibited by resolution by, or mandate from, the membership, and is not contrary to the implicit and explicit mores of the Association.
3. Conduct the affairs of, and administer to, the Association in an efficient and proper manner.
4. Maintain the Association on a sound financial basis.
5. Recommend to the membership, as required and appropriate, necessary changes to the Constitution and Bylaws.
6. Propose to the membership for election or re-election candidates for Officer and Non-Officer positions on the Board of Directors.
7. Vote singly and collectively on all matters requiring a decision by the Board, after full and sufficient discussion, either during a meeting, or through use of written or telephonic communication. Votes may be by secret ballot, open vote or show of hands and, if and/or appropriate, by mail, telephone, or other electronic communications. If, after proper notification and discussion, any Director fails to vote on an issue in the time provided, he shall be listed as abstaining and shall not be counted in deciding majority vote required.

ARTICLE XI
CHAPTERS / SUBORGANIZATION

- A. The Association may be organized into Chapters and governed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.
- B. The Association may charter Chapters. These Chapters are to be in formal relationship with the Association and shall elect officers that, at a minimum, should consist of a President, Secretary and Treasurer.

ARTICLE XII
PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICES

In absence of rules to the contrary in either the Constitution or Bylaws, the proceedings of meetings of the Board of Directors and the Membership shall be conducted in accordance with current revision of Robert's Rules of Order.

ARTICLE XIII
AMENDMENTS

- A. An amendment may be proposed by the Board of Directors, by petition of five percent (5%) of Regular Members or by majority (50% +1) vote of those members present at a scheduled meeting of the membership.
- B. This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3's) of the ballots cast in favor of the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE XIV
DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION

In the event of dissolution of the RAKKASANS, INC., the Board of Directors, with the approval of two-thirds (2/3) of the remaining membership, in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey, or such state it may be transferred to, shall determine the disposition of all assets of the Association, due consideration to be given to the military associations, and associations devoted

to the welfare of military personnel which qualify under the Internal Revenue Code, as does the Association, to be used solely for the welfare of military personnel.

**ARTICLE XV
ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL**

The regular membership of the Rakkasans, having been informed of the recommendations of the duly elected Board of Directors of the Association, have, by ballot, accepted and approved this revision of the Constitution and related Bylaws by vote of a majority, effective this [current day]

BY ORDER OF:

OFFICERS

President: /s/

Secretary: /s/

Vice President: /s/

Treasurer: /s/

DIRECTORS:

Director: /s/

Director: /s/

Director: /s/

Director: /s/