



Serving Sky Soldiers Past, Present and Future



The Herd Word

Farewell Faithful Servant



Jean Fayette O'Neil

Almost from the beginning, **Jean Fayette O'Neil** has been part of Sigholtz-Capital Chapter 1. Whether as photographer for the Annual Walk to the Wall, Reading of the Names, or other Chapter events, or as a Herd Word editor, revising Chapter by-laws, Jean has been a ubiquitous presence at Chapter events. After a long and debilitating illness, Jean's life of service to others came to an end on May 9, 2015.

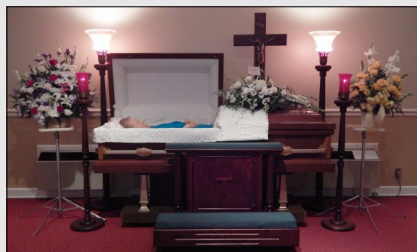
Few, among those who thought they knew Jeannie well, were aware that she graduated from Georgetown University in the same class as Former **President Bill Clinton** and former **Chapter 1 President, Terry Modglin**. Jeannie subsequently graduated from Harvard with a Masters in Public Administration. Jeannie worked on the Hill for 14 years for Maryland Congressman, **Clarence Long**, where she was recognized as the "brains" in his office.

Jeannie also played an important national role supporting the National Association. She is one of a handful of women recognized as a Honorary Member. She was a founding member of the 173^d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation and played a key role in helping the 173^d Airborne Brigade Association Foundation obtain Combined Federal Campaign designation.

The Chapter was well represented at Jeannie's May 14, 2015, funeral. **Joe Flesch, Jeane Flesch, George Farris, Michael Montie, Gene Cartier, Gene Weeks, Nikki Daley, and Mack Brooks** were there with Jeannie's many family members and significant other, **Terry Modglin**. Chapter President, Joe Flesch, presented Terry Modglin with the Chapter Honor set, a folded Brigade flag and the Chapter Certificate recognizing the deceased's contribution to Sky Soldiers. Farewell Jean O'Neil.



Joe Flesch presents Honor Set with Jean's sisters, Ruth and Judy, and brother, Steve.



Jean F. O'Neil



Joe Flesch & Terry Modglin

AIRBORNE
ALL THE WAY

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Message from the Chapter President



On May 9th, long serving, Honorary Chapter Member **Jean O'Neil** passed away. She was buried on May 14, 2015.

We dedicate this Herd Word issue to her. She was a honored and active member of the Chapter for many years. I can only say well done faithful servant. Rest in Peace. A Chapter Honor set was presented to Terry Modglin and to Jeanie's family at the gravesite service.

The Chapter conducted three successful events since our last newsletter. Our social meeting on the 28th of March, was at The Irish Inn, in Glen Echo, MD. It was a great get together. The Gathering of the Herd at the US Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) on April 11th in Carlisle, PA, was well attended and instructive. The Reading of the Names of Sky Soldier KIA, at the 173^d Airborne Brigade Marker, in Arlington National Cemetery, on May 16th was as solemn and inspiring as always.

On April 3rd, we presented **Mrs. Mary Grace Herbert**, the widow of **LTC (Ret) Anthony B. Herbert**, with a Chapter Honor set, in recognition of her husband's service to the Army.

In May, several Chapter members attended the 173^d Airborne Brigade Association Reunion, in San Diego, CA. I want to thank Francis Hinton for representing me and the Chapter at the Board of Directors meeting and for taking our Brigade Colors and Battle Streamers to the Reunion. Well done Francis!

At the Gathering of the Herd, in Carlisle, PA, I presented a proposal from one of our members that we should try to host the 173^d Airborne Brigade Association, possibly in 2017, at Gettysburg, PA.

This would be a major effort for the Chapter. Before we could take on this project, I would need 15 to 20 committed volunteers, who are willing to roll up their sleeves to make it happen.

We would have to present our proposal to the Brigade Association at the next Reunion (2016). Volunteers need to step forward NLT 1 September 2015. Interested troopers should commit ASAP.

Also at the Carlisle, meeting we discussed donating \$500. to USAHEC. **Roy Lombardo** recommended we canvas our membership to donate \$5.00 each to address this effort. USAHEC is a worthwhile organization and worthy of our support.

Mark your calendars. June 20th : Gathering of the Herd Huntington, WV; August 8th Annual BBQ, at my house.

We are still seeking a CPA to audit our books. If you have any recommendations, let me know

Airborne All The Way,



Joe

173^d Airborne Brigade Maryland State License Plates

Maryland Sky Soldiers we need you to participate!

We want the State of Maryland to re-issue 173^d Airborne Brigade novelty license plates.

Maryland exhausted the original order of fifty 173^d Airborne Brigade license plates. They will strike 50 more plates only if they have a minimum of 25 committed requests.

Chapter Member **Rick Young** is our POC for this effort. We have seven commitments, but need



eighteen more for the MD DMV to move forward.

If you and family want a novelty 173^d Airborne Brigade license plates, contact Rick. He will see that you get a MVA VR-124 form.

When we get 25 commitments, Rick will contact each individual for a \$25.00 check. He will take the

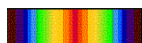
requests to the MD DMV, Glen Burnie, and your plates and registration will be mailed to you.

After the initial batch of 25 novelty plate requests are completed, the Chapter President must sign the VR-124 forms. The requester then takes the form to DMV.

If you live in Maryland, get on the bandwagon. Help us make the 173^d plates available again!

Airborne!

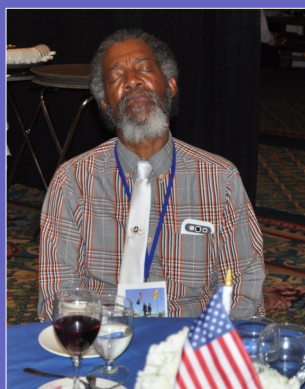
Rick Young: young_rp@usa.net 410-956-5430



Chapter 1 Calendar Year 2015

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
Gathering of the Herd Social Buffet (WV)	20 Jun 2015	1100	Sat	Dino Battista	Bob Evans Restaurant Downtown Huntington Huntington, WV
Chapter BBQ	8 Aug 2015	1100	Sat	Joe Flesch	Flesch Home 11730 Hawkes Road Clarksburg, MD
Gathering of the Herd (VA)	TBD Oct 2015	TBD	TBD	TBD	Richmond, VA TBD
Bravo Bulls Ceremony	10 Nov 2015	1100	Tue	Roy Lombardo Jr.	Multiple Sites Arlington National Cemetery
Walk to the Wall	11 Nov 2015	1000	Wed	Joe Flesch	Vietnam Memorial No-Host Lunch
Wreaths Across America	12 Dec 2015	0900	Sat	Bill Harris	Arlington National Cemetery
Wounded Warrior Visits	Periodic	N/A	N/A	TBD	DC and Richmond VA Area

2015 Herd Reunion Picture Gallery



Curtis Tucker:
"I'm so excited!!!!"



Keynote Speaker



Roy Scott Talking to
Sky Soldier



Francis Hinton giving
Waitress an Airborne Hug



Appropriated Airborne Territory

Chapter 1 Financial Report

Summary as of 31 May, 2015

Balance as of 28 February, 2015	\$10,785.96
Receipts (Dues, fees, and donations)	\$581.10
Disbursements	(\$825.09)
Balance as of 31 May, 2015	\$10,541.97

Receipts included:

Dues and Donations (9) @ \$581.10

Disbursements included:

March The Herd Word production and mailing (115 copies) @ \$108.87

USPS Annual PO Box Renewal @ \$128.00

Note Cards @ \$122.94

BB&T endorsement stamp and checks @ \$65.28

Check to Brigade for 1 life & 1 annual membership @ \$145.00

Fee to IMWFR for Carlisle meeting @ \$255.00

Gathering of the Herd: Gaithersburg, MD

On March 28, 2015, Chapter 1 had a gathering at The Irish Inn, in Glen Echo, MD, for a belated St. Patrick's Day celebration.

The event began with a moment of silence to honor our fallen Sky Soldiers. Joe Flesch reminded the attendees that the Chapter will have the next Gathering of the Herd in Carlisle, PA at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, on April 11.



The Irish Inn at Glen Echo

There was lively discussion on a wide range of topics: current events, grandchildren, and many a war story.

The camaraderie, brunch, and drinks were outstanding.

He encouraged those planning to attend the 173^d Airborne Brigade Association Reunion to register early.



Susan Clemons & George Farris



Susan Clemons, George Farris, Gene Weeks, Trudy Surut, Jeane & Joe Flesch, Garrett Clemons, and John Foley



Gene Weeks & Trudy Surut

Gathering of the Herd: Carlisle, PA



MG (Ret.) Fred Elam

The Sigholtz Chapter membership is geographically dispersed over an area covering Washington DC, Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, West Virginia, and parts of Pennsylvania.

To promote member engagement, the Chapter leadership has striven to bring the Chapter and the Chapter leadership to members outside the Beltway.

Thanks to **Bob Read's** planning, on April 11, the Chapter had a meeting of the Herd at the Army

Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC), located near the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

USAHEC is the Army's preeminent museum and research complex. It is dedicated to educating and preserving the legacy of the men and women who have served their nation as Soldiers. USAHEC archives and houses millions of books, papers, documents, photographs, and artifacts.

The adjacent visitor and education center features a 7,000 square foot interactive exhibit gallery, state-of-the-art conference center with fully equipped meeting and lecture rooms, catering services, a museum store and the Café Cumberland.

The twenty Chapter Association members and spouses enjoyed a program which included a briefing by **LTC (Ret.) Mike Perry**, Executive Director of the USAHEC Foundation. Following COL Perry's informative presentation, several Chapter members donated personal letters and

publications to the 173^d Airborne Brigade.

Chapter **President Joe Flesch** conducted a short business meeting and those assembled enjoyed fellowship and a no host lunch.

All agreed that the USAHEC venue was first class and probably worth of a return visit in the future.



Bob Read



John Kingeter, Mack Brooks, Bob Read, Judy Elam, Gene Cartier, Henry Persons, Joe Flesch, Brenda Persons, Roy Lombardo, Carol Lombardo, Jack Kranchick, Sylvia Kranchick, Jeane Flesch, Gary Evan, Terry Walsh, Chuck Dugo, Ann Schnur, Mike Schnur. Not shown in photo: Mike Perry, Fred Elam, Patrick McGlynn.

Gathering of the Herd Huntington, WV June 20, 2015

Mark your calendars!

No-host Brunch and Chapter meeting in the West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

All Sky Soldiers are urged to attend.

When: Saturday, June 20, 2015; 1100 Hours

**Where: Bob Evans Restaurant
Downtown Huntington**

**Address: 606 3rd Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701**

A Soldier's Family

It's always a seminal moment when the next of kin receives the American flag that was draped over their loved one's coffin.

It was not at the grave site, but the moment was nonetheless just as poignant, when **Mrs. Mary Grace Herbert**, wife of former 2/503, 173^d Brigade, Commander, **LTC Anthony B. Herbert**, received the Honor Set from Chapter 1 President, **Joe Flesch**.

LTC Herbert died of cancer on 7 June 2014, at the age of 84, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery 9 February 2015. A number of Chapter 1 and other Sky Soldiers were present at his burial.

At the request of the family, a



Taylor Herbert, Mary Grace Herbert, Toni Herbert

Chapter contingent of Joe Flesch, **Jeane Flesch**, and **Mack Brooks** met Mrs. Herbert, **her daughter, Toni, and granddaughter, Taylor**, at Mrs. Herbert's residence on 3 April, 2015, to present her with a Chapter 1 Honor Set: a fold-

ed Brigade Flag and a citation recognizing the deceased Sky Soldier's service to the Brigade and the nation.

One could sense Mrs. Herbert's gentleness of spirit and deep abiding love for her husband. Toni and Taylor fussed over Mrs. Herbert before the presentation.

When all was ready, Joe said a few kind words and gave the Honor Set to the weeping widow. Mrs. Herbert expressed her appreciation and everyone was moved.

Afterwards, everyone posed for pictures. There were smiles all around as we departed, each gratified that they had served another Sky Soldier's family well.

My First Herd Reunion

May 2 – May 6, 2015 proved to be a exciting and interesting week for me.

I attended my first 173d Airborne Brigade Association Reunion. I served in the 173^d Airborne in Vietnam from January 1968 through August 1969, in Company A (Admin) Support Battalion. I handled Second Battalion's personnel. I made many friends, three of whom I maintained a close relationship after returning to the States. Two of these friends, **Nelson Keyes** and **William Simms**, joined me in San Diego to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the 173^d Airborne Brigade entering Vietnam.

My mission, when I arrived, was to let **Roy Scott**, know that I had brought the Brigade colors to be used at the reunion, from Maryland. That accomplished, Nelson and I began to circulate and meet as many Vietnam Veterans as possible. These paratroopers were unique. Many were part of the original troops deployed from Okinawa, on May 5, 1965. Brigade flags, shirts, jackets and hats were everywhere.

I represented our **Chapter President, Joseph Flesch**, at the National Officers Board meeting and General Membership meeting. The formal banquet blew me away. I had not expected to see former Soldiers in full uniform, carrying out duties, as if they were still on active duty. I met four other Chapter One members, **Curtis Tucker, James Cherry, James Smith**, and **Bradley Gant**.

This was my first Herd Reunion. God willing, it won't be my last.

Francis L. Hinton

Co A (Admin) 173d Airborne Support Battalion
173^d Airborne Brigade (Separate)

Reading of the Names 2015

There were fewer walking the familiar route to the 173^d Airborne Brigade Marker this year. Notable absentees were MG **Lee Surut**, **Mike Belenky**, and **Jean O'Neil**; nevertheless, the Band of Brothers trudged resolutely forward to perform their duty to ensure our fallen comrades not be forgotten.

The road barriers, limiting vehicle traffic by the Marker, the speaker podium, and the neat row of chairs were testimony to Ed Anthony's consummate planning. Even the bugler was ready and waiting. The Vietnam veterans were pleased to see three new faces waiting at the National Cemetery Admin Building. The first, Bill McQuail, a Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) veteran who had two deployments with 1st and 2nd of the 503rd Infantry, 173^d ABCT. The second was Bill's father, former paratrooper, LTC (Ret.) William H. McQuail. The third was Bill's friend, Matt Van Scoik. The old troopers greeted these unfamiliar fellows with a level of enthusiasm only a paratrooper could appreciate.

Chapter President, **Joe Flesch's**, Pledge of Allegiance and brief remarks were followed by a prayer by **Mack Brooks** and Taps. Afterwards, one-by-one, those present read the names of Sky Soldiers killed in Vietnam, in 1969, and all the Sky Soldiers lost during GWOT. As always, those who gave some were particularly moved when they read the names of someone they knew who gave all. Appropriately, **LTC (Ret.) McQuail**, **Bill McQuail**, and **Matt Van Scoik** read the names of the GWOT losses.

Seemingly, sooner than expected, the last name was read. Everyone posed for pictures, content that each had fulfilled his duty to those with whom we served.



Army Bugler



Terry Modglin, Gene Weeks, Gene Cartier, Michael Montie, LTC (Ret.) William H. McQuail, Joe Flesch, Ed Anthony, Bill McQuail, and Mack Brooks. Not in photo: Matt Van Scoik.



Terry Modglin en route to Brigade Marker

Chapter 1 Web Page

Did you know that Chapter One has a Web Site. The address is <http://173dairbornechapter1.org/>

The Web site sections include: the background and history of the chapter, short biographies of the chapter leadership team, a membership list, and a news section that highlights upcoming and past events. The site also has a Chapter Calendar that can be down loaded or printed out for future reference.

The webmaster, Gene Cartier, is open to ideas on how to improve the site and update content. If you have suggestions, contact Gene cajungene@gmail.com or anyone on the Chapter 1 leadership team. Our goal is to make the site relevant by providing the most current information that support the Chapter's. Check it out <http://173dairbornechapter1.org/>