



Serving Sky Soldiers Past, Present and Future

# The Herd Word

## Vernon "Dale" Short: A Life Well Lived



The Chapter had little time to respond to notice that former Sky Soldier **Vernon "Dale" Short** was to be buried on 1 February 2015. As is its tradition, the Chapter responded and sent a contingent to Hurt, Virginia to ensure that a fellow Sky Soldier would not be forgotten.

Dale was born in 1943, in Pittsylvania County, where he wished to be laid to rest until Kingdom Come. He served with the 503<sup>d</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, on Okinawa, but left Okinawa for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division before the Herd deployed to Vietnam. Nonetheless, the spirit of the Herd never left him. Dale's son and grandchildren wore "The Rock" 503<sup>d</sup> unit crest at the funeral.

Dale graduated from Gretna High School, in Gretna, Virginia, where he lettered in football, baseball, basketball, and track. He was a carpenter, a member of the Carpenters Union and of the Loyal Order of Moose, in Altavista. He was an active youth football and baseball youth coach. He was voted the Gatorade Youth Coach Award for 1984.

Chapter President, **Joe Flesch**, **Rick Koziana** and **Mack Brooks** were graciously received by the Short family and the New Prospect Baptist Church community. The eulogies for Dale painted a picture of a God-fearing man, dedicated to service to his community and the unit in which he only briefly served. He was buried with military honors by American Legion Memorial Post #36 and the three-man Chapter contingent. Afterwards, all were treated to downhome cooking in the best Southern tradition.



Joe Flesch gives Honor Set to Short Family



Mack Brooks & Rick Koziana



Beth & Sam Short

**AIRBORNE**  
ALL THE WAY

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# Message from the Chapter President



To date, 145 Chapter members have paid their 2015 Chapter fee of \$20. Many have been kind enough to donate additional funds to support our General Fund, our Wounded Warrior Program, and special gifts for local Sky Soldiers in need.

Our treasurer has provided a tax information letter to each of you for qualified donations. (The annual Chapter fee is not deductible).

I represented our Chapter at the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Mid-Winter Conference in San Diego, CA January 16-18. As your Chapter President, I am a member of the Board of Directors for the Brigade Association, details are in my article below.

We held our Annual General Membership Meeting for 2015 on January 24, at the Courtyard by Marriott, in Alexandria, VA. I salute all those who attended. (See article on the meeting in this edition of the Herd Word).

On short notice, we were able to assemble a small Honor Detail to honor Sky Soldier Vernon Short and his family, on February 1, in Hurt, VA. We presented his family a Chapter Honor Set.

On February 9, several members of our Chapter and other Sky Soldiers gathered at Arlington National Cemetery, with other mourners, to honor LTC Anthony B. Herbert and his family for his service to our country.

Chapter members included Jim Grimshaw, Ron Leonard, Michael Montie, Gene Weeks and Chapter

Alum Larry Kahila. Other Sky Soldiers included Larry Phippen (FL), Herbert Smith (NJ), and Ernie Webb (FL). We were not contacted by the Herbert family, so did not provide a Honor Detail. Since the funeral, LTC Herbert's daughter contacted me to request an Honor Set. This was provided.

We are still seeking a CPA to audit the Chapter books. If you have recommendations, they would be appreciated.

Airborne All The Way,

Joe



## 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Mid-Winter Conference

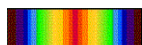
The 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association conducts a Mid-Winter Conference (MWC) each year, where the next Brigade Reunion will be held. All Chapter Presidents are members of the Brigade Association Board of Directors (BOD) and attend the conference as such. This year, the January 16-18, MWC was held at the Town and Country Resort, in San Diego, CA.

Most Chapter Presidents or their designated representatives were present. A representative from the Chapters in Australia participated via Skype. The current 173<sup>d</sup> ABCT Commander, COL Foster, and CSM Clark were also there.

The BOD approved three actions to be voted on by the General Membership at the 2015 Brigade Reunion:

- To change the Brigade Association fiscal year to align it with the calendar year (tax year).
- To drop the word "Incorporated" from our Association name.
- Acceptance of a new Chapter in Missouri to be called Chapter 21, The Gateway Chapter.

The facilities for the 2015 Brigade Reunion are outstanding and our West Coast hosts, Chapter 14, are doing a great job. If you plan to attend the Reunion, I suggest you get your reservations in early for the resort. Registration information is contained in the Fall 2014 Issue of Sky Soldier Magazine. You can also go to the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association web site [www.skysoldier.net](http://www.skysoldier.net) and select the Annual Reunions tag on the left side of the page for reunion registration and information. Additionally you can view and or print Sky Soldier Magazines from the Sky Soldier Magazine tab on the left side of the page.



# Chapter Financial Report

Summary as of 28 February, 2015

Balance as of 30 November 2014	\$10,482.94
Receipts (Dues, fees, and donations)	\$1,602.70
Disbursements	(\$1,299.68)
Balance as of 28 February, 2015	\$10,785.96

Receipts included:

Dues and Donations (15)	\$1352.70
Donation by Nordin family in appreciation of funeral support	\$250.00

Disbursements included:

The Herd Word production (December)	\$77.98
USPS Stamps for mailing IRS exemption letters	\$49.00
Fast Signs of Waldorf to update the Medal of Honor Book	\$170.40
Check to Brigade for three life & five annual memberships	\$639.00
Marriot Courtyard for annual meeting fee	\$387.00

## Gathering of the Herd in Pennsylvania



**Guest Speaker & No Host Lunch**  
**Saturday April 11, 2015**  
**1100-1330 Hours**

**U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center**  
**(USAHEC)**  
**950 Soldiers Drive; Carlisle, PA 17013**  
**Easy access from I-81**  
**USAHEC Website is [www.usahec.org](http://www.usahec.org)**

## SAVE THE DATE

**28 March 2015**

**Chapter St. Patrick's**  
**No-Host Social Celebration**  
**Saturday March 28, 2015**  
**1100 – 1400 Hours**



**The Irish Inn at Glen Echo**  
**6119 Tulane Avenue**  
**Glen Echo, MD 20812**

# Chapter 1 Calendar Year 2015

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
No-Host Chapter St Patrick's Event	28 Mar 2015	1100	Sat	Joe Flesch	The Irish inn at Glenn Echo 6119 Tulane Avenue. Glen Echo, MD 20812
PA Gathering of the Herd at USAHEC	11 Apr 2015	1100	Sat	Bob Read	950 Soldiers Dr. Carlisle, PA 17013
173 <sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Reunion	2 - 6 May 2015	N/A	N/A	N/A	Town and Country Resort 500 Hotel Cir N, San Diego, CA 92108San Diego, CA
Reading of the Names Vietnam and GWOT	16 May 2015	1030	Sat	TBD	Brigade Marker Arlington National Cemetery
Gathering of the Herd Social Buffet (WV)	TBD Jun 2015	TBD	TBD	TBD	West Virginia TBD
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

## Miscellany



On 9 February, several Chapter members and other Sky Soldiers gathered at Arlington National Cemetery, to honor former Sky Soldier LTC Anthony B. Herbert

## 2015 Brigade Reunion

**The 2015 Association reunion is scheduled for 2 - 6 May 2015, in San Diego CA, at the Town Country Resort & Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle N. San Diego, CA 92108. Reservation number is 800-772-8527.**

**See National Association Website for Details**  
<http://www.skysoldier.net/>



# 2015 Annual General Membership Meeting

On 24 January 2015, Chapter 1 held its 2015 Annual General Membership Meeting, at the Courtyard by Marriott, in Alexandria, VA. After establishing that there was a quorum, the minutes from the 2014 General Membership Meeting were read and approved.

Summary of key issues discussed follows. The Minutes will be submitted for approval at the next General Membership Meeting.

**Status of Chapter Audit.** The Chapter was still looking for a credentialed CPA/Accountant to review Chapter finances.

**Chapter Membership Reconciliation Update.** The reconciliation of membership rosters was complicated but progressing well. Soon it would soon be transferred to Bob Read, The Membership Chairman.

**Welcome Kit Update.** The President requested volunteers to take over the Welcome Kit project.

**Chapter Leadership Status.** The Chapter President (Joe Flesch) was elected by secret written ballot. Acting Chapter Treasurer, Jeanne Flesch, was unanimously re-appointed as an Honorary Associated Member and Acting Chapter Treasurer.

**The Mid-Winter National Conference & 2015 Brigade Reunion Update.** The Chapter President represented the Chapter at the Mid-Winter Conference at the Town and Country Resort in San Diego, 17 – 18 January.

**Chapter Representation at National Reunion Meeting.** Joe Flesch will not be available for the 2–6 May 2015, 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Reunion. Former Chapter President, Terry Modglin has agreed to represent the Chapter.

**Compensation for Official Chapter Travel.** The group discussed the financial burden borne by the Chapter President to attend the mandatory Mid-Winter Conference in San Diego, as a Board Member. It was moved that the Chapter financially support the Chapter President or his designated representative at future mid-winter conferences, upon his/her request, up to 100% of the Joint Travel Regulation (JTR) level. The motion was approved.

**Modification to Sigholtz Soldier of the Year Award.** The 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) recently awarded the Sigholtz Soldier of the Year Award to a Lieutenant and three NCOs. The Brigade by-laws will have to be changed to allow officers to receive the award.

**173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Memorial Ceremony.** The Chapter President encouraged members to attend the 13 June 2015 ceremony to honor the latest Medal of Honor recipients.

**Historical Projects and Medal of Honor Books.** Ed Anthony was given kudos for overseeing the publication of a Medal of Honor Book which records the recent ABCT Medal of Honor recipients. The Chapter President now has the book.

**Brigade History on Okinawa.** Judy Elam offered to donate documentation/History of the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Wives Club on Okinawa to the US Army History and Education Center in Carlisle, Pennsylvania.

**ABCT Veteran Sky Soldiers.** The Chapter needs someone to take this on the project to recruit ABCT Sky Soldiers to the Chapter.



Chapter President Joe Flesch



Judie Read, Bob Read, Joe Flesch, Jeanne Flesch, Rick Young



Connie Anthony, Judy Elam, Fred Elam

# The 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Scholarship Program

**Objective:** The 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association scholarship fund provides an opportunity for a better tomorrow by financially assisting Sky Soldiers and their qualified dependents to further their education.

**Policy:** The scholarship fund provides financial grants to students who are attending, or plan to attend, an accredited college, university, or higher technical trade school. Applications for high school or preparatory school levels are not accepted.

**Eligibility:** Sky Soldier is defined as an individual who at the time of application is a current member of the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association or was killed in action (KIA) as a Sky Soldier. Qualified dependents are defined as a spouse, child, grandchild, and stepchild of a Sky Soldier.

## Key Dates:

APR15, 2015	Application Deadline. (Must be postmarked by April 8, 2015)
MAY 1, 2015	Applications to Scholarship Committee for review
MAY 22, 2015	Committee reports rankings to Committee Chair
JUN 15, 2015	Final awards sent to Herd Foundation President
JUN, 2015	Official notification to applicants

**Scholarships:** The 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Foundation normally awards 7 or 8 scholarships of \$1073 each per year. This includes a scholarship donated by C Co 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 503d veterans. The highest scoring applicant also receives an additional \$500 from the Timothy Vimoto Scholarship.

## For Further Information and to download Scholarship Applications:

Go to the Brigade website <https://www.skysoldier.net/Scholarship-Program>

## The 173<sup>d</sup> ABCT Space



Twelve 1/503d Troopers attended the Italian 6th Army Military Mountaineering and Ski Warfare School from 23-26 Feb 15.

2/503rd in Bundeswehr training area, Oberviechtach, GE

# Chapter 1 Activities CY 2014

The following summarize the activities the Chapter submitted to the 173d Airborne Brigade Association

## Leadership Meetings:

- 8 Jan 2014 Fort Myer Officers Club
- 11 Feb 2014 Fort Myer Officers Club
- 11 Mar 2014 Fort Myer Officers Club
- 8 Apr 2014 Fort Myer Officers Club
- 13 May 2014 Fort Myer Officers Club
- 5 Jun 2014 Fort Myer Officers Club
- 1 Jul 2014 Leadership Reorganization Meeting, Clarksburg, MD
- 8 Jul 2014 Meeting Troegs Brewery, Hershey, PA
- 9 Aug 2014 Meeting at President's Home, Clarksburg, MD
- 25 Aug 2014 Meeting to scrub Membership Roster, Clarksburg, MD
- 4 Oct 2014 Gathering of the Herd: Richmond, VA
- 1 Nov 2014 Gathering of the Herd: Gaithersburg, MD

## Chapter 1 Activities:

- 13 Feb 2014 Chapter Funeral Detail: BG (R) Watson
- 23 Feb 2014 Presidents & Sky Soldier of the Year Awards
- 14 Mar 2014 Visit with Cis Sigholtz at her residence
- 27 Mar 2014 Chapter Funeral Detail: LTC (R) Chapla
- 3 May 2014 Reading of the Names of Vietnam  
Brigade Marker  
Arlington National Cemetery
- 21 May 2014 Chapter Funeral Detail: Wife of BG (R) Hutchens  
Arlington National Cemetery
- 10 Jun 2014 Chapter Funeral Detail: 1LT Holbrook  
Arlington National Cemetery
- 14 Jun 2014 Chapter President Dedication  
OER XIII Names on Brigade Memorial
- 15 Jul 2014 Chapter Funeral Detail: COL (R) Belenky  
Arlington National Cemetery
- 9 Aug 2014 Chapter Picnic, President's home
- 22 Sep 2014 Chapter Funeral Detail: SSG Stancil  
Arlington National Cemetery
- 4 Oct 2014 Gathering of the Herd: Richmond, VA
- 1 Nov 2014 Annual General Membership: Gaithersburg, MD
- 10 Nov 2014 Bravo Bulls Ceremony,  
Arlington National Cemetery
- 11 Nov 2014 Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, DC  
Walk to the Wall
- 12 Nov 2014 Chapter Funeral Detail: MG (R) Surut  
Arlington National Cemetery
- 13 Dec 2014 Wreaths Across America  
Arlington National Cemetery

# Chapter 1 Web Page

In case you've forgotten, Chapter 1 has its own web page:  
<http://173dairbornechapter1.org/>

The website serves as a key source of Chapter information. The page includes a section on the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade history, the Chapter By-Laws, Chapter Officer biographies, recent chapter events, past Chapter One "Herd Word" newsletters, and a calendar of Chapter events.

Gene Cartier, the web page administrator, is working to keep the web page current, including updating membership and improving the news events section. The Chapter leadership is looking for suggestions to make the page more useful.

If you have ideas, please contact Gene at [cajungene@gmail.com](mailto:cajungene@gmail.com) or contact any of the Chapter officers. Check out <http://173dairbornechapter1.org/> Tell us what features are missing and what information needs to be refreshed.

