



Serving Sky Soldiers Past, Present and Future

The Herd Word

Chapter Bar-B-Que Redux



Jeane Flesch hosting with humor

On the 8th of August, for the second time, **Joe and Jeane Flesch** opened their home and hearth for the Chapter to socialize and conduct business, at their rural Maryland home.

The weather cooperated. Only the high, puffy cumulus clouds interrupted an otherwise clear sky. Considering this being the Washington area, the temperature, though hot and humid, could only be described as "situation normal." Recent water damage to the Flesch's required the removal of much of their furniture, but did not dull the Flesch's enthusiasm nor their guests.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a silent prayer for the Fallen who could not be with us, the Chapter bar-b-que officially began.

Ed Anthony surprised all present, especially Joe Flesch, by informing him that he had been selected as a Distinguished Member of the 503rd Infantry Regiment. See page 2.

As with last year's picnic at the Flesch home, the 21 Chapter members and their spouses could not but be pleased with the bounty of food and beverage. Joe Flesch was not only the host but also the chef. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, garnishment, were in abundance, just for the asking. In true airborne fashion, the paratroopers wasted no time digging in.

The Flesch's above-ground pool beckoned, but none took advantage of its allure. Quickly, the gaggle broke into small groups. Discussions topics ranged from wars past and present, woman in Ranger School, food in all its form, and long lost friends. Each to their own interest.

Continued Page 5 **Chapter Bar-B-Que**



Roy and Carol Lombardo signing in



Patty and Rick Young enjoying the conversation

AIRBORNE
ALL THE WAY

In This Issue

Chapter Bar-B-Que Redux	Page 1
The Chapter President's Message	Page 2
503rd Infantry Regiment Honors Chapter President	Page 2
Bar-B-Que Continued	Page 2
Chapter 1 Calendar Year	Page 3
2015 Picnic Picture Gallery	Page 3
Chapter 1 Financial Report	Page 4
Gathering of the Herd: Huntington West Virginia	Page 4
COL Rohling Promotion	Page 5
Gathering of the Herd: Williamsburg, VA	Page 5
Chapter Business Meeting	Page 6
Fisher House Donation	Page 6
Roger Shields Funeral	Page 7
Chapter 1 Web Page	Page 7



Message from the Chapter President



Our Chapter continues to be active and thrive. Well done Sky Soldiers. Chapter has conducted many successful events since our last newsletter. Thanks to all who participated in Chapter events.

A Gathering of the Herd took place on 20 June, in Huntington, WV. The turnout was small, but the camaraderie was great. Thanks to member **Dino Battista** for setting up the event and providing 173rd tee shirts.

On 24 July, **Ed Anthony, Mack Brooks, George Farris, and Jim Yarrison** provided funeral honors for Chapter member **MSG Roger L. Shields**, at Arlington National Cemetery. MSG Shields' family appreciated our support. Well done Sky Soldiers.

The Chapter annual picnic was held on 8 August. The 21 participants had a good time. (See front page.) During the brief Chapter meeting, we voted to donate \$500.00 to the Fisher House, at WRNMMC Bethesda. Two members donated additional money to Fisher House to bring our total donation to \$575.00. This

money was donated on 19 August. See Page 6.

The Chapter also approved a \$500.00 donation to the U.S Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC), in Carlisle, PA. This donation will be presented to USAHEC on 14 September.

Fifteen Chapter members volunteered to explore our Chapter hosting a 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Reunion in 2018, in our geographic area.

On 3 August **Roy Scott, Jr.**, President of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association, forwarded an e-mail from LTC Baus, DCO IBCT(A) to me concerning an active duty Sky Soldier, **SFC Cliff Bonner**. Bonner received a severe head injury during a parachute malfunction. He was evacuated to Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda (WRNMMC), until he was stabilized. He is now at the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Medical Center, in Richmond, VA.

Roy asked that we provide assistance to SFC Bonner and his family. John Smith, our WRNMMC liaison, visited WRNMMC SFC Bonner's father and presented him with 173rd memorabilia, hospital kits, and

two miracle quilts. I met with Bonner family on 5 August and, subsequently, have visited with Cliff's wife and have been in phone contact with all three family members. Please keep the Bonner family in your prayers.

Mack Brooks and I represented Association President, Roy Scott, Jr. and 173rd Airborne Brigade Association at **COL Rohling** promotion to BG at the Pentagon, on August 12. COL Rohling was a former Brigade Commander. See Page 5.

Mark your calendars.

On 3 October, there will be a Gathering of the Herd in Williamsburg, VA. On 10 November, there will be a Bravo Bulls ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. On 11 November, we will do our annual Walk to the Wall and, on 12 December, we will participate in the annual Wreaths Across America, at Arlington National Cemetery.

We are still seeking a CPA to audit our books.

Airborne All The Way,

Joe

503rd Infantry Regiment Honors Joe Flesch

In a surprising announcement, at the Annual Picnic, Ed Anthony informed Chapter President, Joe Flesch, that he had been selected as a Distinguished Member of the 503rd Infantry Regiment.

This was a unique honor. The criteria is prescribed in AR 600-82, Chapter 5-3.

Only the most deserving members of the 503rd Infantry Regiment are considered. Nominees can be active duty, or retired warriors, or civilians who meet the criteria and display continuing contribution to the Army and preservation of the Regimental heritage.

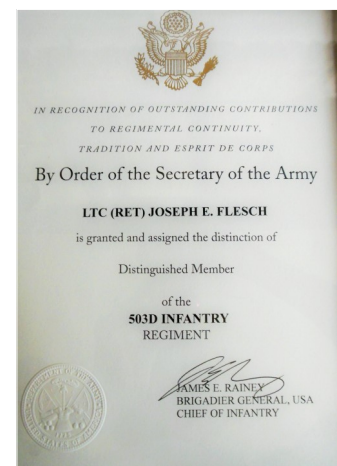
Candidates must be recommended and endorsed by the senior active duty commander of a 503rd Infantry



Ed Anthony Congratulating Chapter President, Joe Flesch, on being recognized as a Distinguished Member of the 503rd Infantry Regiment.

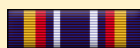
flag bearing unit.

The Certificate is signed by the Chief of the Infantry Branch, BG Rainey, on behalf of the Secretary of the Army.



Chapter 1 Calendar Year 2015

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
Gathering of the Herd (VA)	3 Oct 2015	1100	Sat	Barry Holland	Center Street Grill 5101 Center Street Williamsburg, VA
Bravo Bulls Ceremony	10 Nov 2015	1100	Tue	Roy Lombardo	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 Chapter Bar-B-Que Picture Gallery



Brenda & Henry Persons



Trudy Surut



Rick Young



Bruce Matthews



Terry Weeks & Nikki Daley



William & Bill McQuail



Patrice & Terry Walsh



John Foley

Chapter 1 Financial Report

Summary as of 31 August, 2015

Balance as of 31 May 2015	\$10,541.97
Receipts (Dues, Fees, and Donations)	\$545.00
Disbursements	(\$1,061.17)
Balance as of 31 August, 2015	\$10,125.80

Receipts included:

Dues (2) @ \$40.00	
Brigade Membership Discount	\$420.00
Donations:	
Trudy Surut (Picnic Door Prize to Fisher House)	\$25.00
Terrence Walsh to The Fisher House	\$50.00
Picnic Attendees	\$110.00

Disbursements included:

June The Herd Word production (27 copies)	\$16.60
Annual Commitment to Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation	\$200.00
BB&T safety deposit box annual rental fee	\$70.00
Picnic expenses	\$199.57
Total Donation to The Fisher House, Bethesda	\$575.00

Gathering of the Herd: Huntington, WV

On 20 June 2015, the Chapter held a Gathering of the Herd, at the Downtown Bob Evans Restaurant, in Huntington, WV.

The numbers were not large but that did not dampen the enthusiasm among those present.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence in remembrance of our fallen Sky Soldiers, the Chapter



Joe Flesch, Dino Battista and Gene Weeks

President, **Joe Flesch**, discussed the state of the Chapter. The Gathering organizer, Dino **Battista**, ex-

plained some interesting historic facts about Huntington and local area. Dino kindly gave each attendee a Herd T-shirt.

After a hardy meal and new enthusiasm for all things 173rd, the motley members went their different ways.

Many thanks to Dino Battista, for

organizing the gathering and providing all with commemorative T-shirts.

Herd Commander Promoted



GEN Odierno, COL Rohling, and Aly Rohling

It's not every day that one goes to the Pentagon Hall of Heroes, sees the outgoing Chief of Staff of the Army promote a Colonel, and the promoted officer was a former commander of the 173rd ABCT. That's what happened on 12 August when Chapter President, **Joe Flesch**, and Chapter Secretary, **Mack Brooks**, representing Roy Scott, Jr., President of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association, watched **COL (P) Andrew Rohling** being promoted to Brigadier General.

After the Pentagon security ritual, the two Chapter members were escorted to and seated in the Hall of Heroes. One could not be but be impressed with the oversized Army, Navy-Marine Corps, and Air Force Medal of Honor facsimiles that adorned the Hall's the main wall.

The Army Chief of Staff, **General Raymond Odierno**, stepped up the podium and filled the room with his presence. He

noted that many people don't realize how difficult it is to make general. He complimented COL Rohling and his family for his success.

In short order, GEN Odierno identified some of the highlights of COL Rohlings career: his commissioning from the University of South Florida, his many command and staff positions, his distinguished service with the 75th Ranger Battalion and with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Afterwards, a strack young Soldier read the orders, while GEN Odierno, COL Rohling, and **Aly Rohling** stood at attention. After swearing COL Rohling in, the General and Mrs. Rohling pinned on the General's new shoulder boards.

The newly minted general, thanked his family and the many Soldiers with whom he served. He had particularly warm remarks about his time with the 173rd ABCT. He recognized former Herd a former Command Sergeant Major, with whom he served.

In the reception line, BG Rohling received the Association contingent well and thanked Joe and Mack for coming.

Congratulations, General Rohling! Well done.



GEN Odierno & COL Rohling



Chapter Bar-B-Que

Continued from Page 2

Joe Flesch, Mack Brooks, and Henry Persons had an animated discussion about Civil War strategy and tactics. **William McQuail** and his son, **Bill McQuail**, sitting next to one another, seemed content as they soaked up the noon-day sun.

Yes. Business was conducted, including voting on donations and considering establishing a committee to explore the Chapter sponsoring the 2018 Association Reunion. These matters took a back seat to plain old socializing and the door prize drawing.

As is always the case, all good things must come to an end. Everyone seemed to agree: a good time was had by all.

Chapter Business Meeting

The following business activities were conducted during the annual Chapter picnic.

The Chapter approved the Treasurer's report. Afterwards, the Chapter membership voted, without dissent, to donate \$500 to United States Army U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC). The donation is to support USAHEC's mission.

The Chapter also voted, without dissent, to donate \$500 to the Fisher House in Bethesda, MD. See article below.

In the June 2015 Herd Word, we announced a proposal that the Chapter host a 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Reunion, possibly in 2017, at Gettysburg, PA.

The Chapter President assessed that the Chapter would need 15-20 committed volunteers to evaluate and successfully execute the project. The Association leadership ask the Chapter to consider the hosting the 2018 Reunion. The Association has a Concierge service to assist Chapters in planning reunions. We have 15 volunteers

and a committee to investigate hosting the 2018 Reunion.

The Committee consists of Ed Anthony, Mack Brooks, Gene Cartier, Bill Connolly, George Farris, Joe Flesch, John Foley, Jack Kranchick, Henry Persons, Bob Read, Michael Schnur, Ken Smith, Jack Tarr, Terry Walsh and Gene Weeks. Additional volunteers are welcome. Contact any Chapter leader and you can be on the team.

The next steps:

- Chapter President will work with the committee for advice and venue assessment.
- Chapter President will contact the 173rd Abn Bde Assn concierge service.
- 1st Milestone: Chapter officially declare intent regarding 2018 Reunion.
- 2nd Milestone: Chapter makes venue and plans presentation at the 2016 General Membership Meeting for general membership vote.

Fisher House Donation



Patrice Walsh, Joe Flesch, Trudy Surut, Mike Ybarra, Terry Walsh, and Jeane Flesch

At the Chapter bar-b-que, Chapter 1 voted to donate \$500.00 to the Fish-

er House in Bethesda, MD. Two members added their personal contribution to bring the total donation to \$575.00.

A Chapter delegation of Trudy Surut, Terry and Patrice Walsh, Mack Brooks, and Joe and Jeane Flesch presented a check for \$575.00 to the Fisher House Bethesda, on 19 August. Mike Ybarra, the acting Director of Fisher House Bethesda, accepted our donation. He thanked the Chapter for its generosity.

There are 65 Fisher Houses located on 24 military installations and 24 VA medical centers. Fisher Houses are built and donated by the Fisher House Foundation. While patients are receiving active medical intervention, Fisher Houses provide free

Gathering of the Herd Williamsburg, VA Mark your calendar!

Thanks to Chapter 1, Sigholtz Capital Chapter, member Barry Holland and his wife, Cindy, there will be a Gathering of the Herd, in Williamsburg, VA. This Gathering is part of the Chapter's continuing effort to take the Chapter leadership to the membership.

The event will feature a no-host Brunch and a Chapter meeting. Attendees in the past have had a good time. All Sky Soldiers are encouraged to attend.

When: Saturday
3 October 2015
1100-1400h

Where: Center Street Grill

Address: 5101 Center St.
Williamsburg, VA

Phone: 757-220-4600

Website:
www.centerstreetgrill.com

lodging and support for military personnel and their families (active duty, retired, and veterans) who live more than 50 miles from the treatment facility. For more information on the Fisher Houses go to their website at <https://www.fisherhouse.org>

Funeral Honors for Roger L. Shields



Chapter Member MSG Roger L. Shields

July 24 was a typical hot and humid Washington summer day in Arlington National Cemetery. The cemetery's Administration Building air conditioning system was barely working and gave the mourners little respite from the torrid weather. The mourners for long time Chapter member, Roger Shields were undeterred.

They were there to see Roger Shields off to his final resting place. So

numerous were they that not even the building's entry way could comfortably contain them.

Roger served with the 173rd Engineer Company, in Vietnam. He also served with the Special Forces. Following military service, he worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, until retiring in 2011. Each of these constituencies could be seen among the mourners.

The funeral procession was long and the ceremony fitting for a man who had served his country for so long, in so many ways.

George Farris, Ed Anthony, and Jim Yarrison formed the Chapter Honor Guard. Following the ceremony, Chapter Secretary, Mack Brooks, presented Trooper Shields family with a Chapter Honor Set.

Farewell, Roger. Thank you for your service.



Jim Yarrison, , Ed Anthony, George Farris

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/>