



THE STATIC LINE

WESTERN STATES CHAPTER 10

NEWSLETTER

173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring, 2015

CHAPTER 10 IN 2015

READY OR NOT, IT'S HERE

Newsletter Returns After Winter Hiatus

The Chapter 10 Newsletter is back. We did not publish a winter edition, so it has been a long time between issues. For all you loyal readers and Sky Soldiers looking for information on what the Chapter has been up to, we promise to publish more often.

We started the year by saying goodbye to Walter Rueda, a good friend and longtime associate (see story on page 3). Walt was a highly decorated retired Command Sergeant Major (Special Forces) who was loved by many and he will be missed by all.

The Chapter will participate in many events in 2015 including the Association's Annual Reunion this May in San Diego, which is being hosted this year by our brothers in Southern California Chapter 14. We hope to be assisting Chapter 14 with the Reunion and Chapter 10's Airborne Joe will be making an appearance.

At the March meeting, the Chapter decided to have the annual summertime picnic and BBQ at the American Legion Coastside Post 474 in beautiful Half Moon Bay. The event is scheduled for July 18 and will be a high point of the season. It will also be the first Chapter meeting after the reunion.

Other events scheduled for 2015 such as the All Airborne BBQ at the Menlo Park VA, Col. Maggie's Memorial Day Parade in Marina, the Fort Ord War Horse Show, the Veterans Day Parade in Elk Grove, and the year-end Christmas Party are all things Chapter members look forward to.

These activities should keep the Western States Sky Soldiers from getting bored this year.



The ever-popular "Airborne Joe" will make an appearance at the reunion in San Diego.



WESTERN STATES CHAPTER 10
173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

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The Challenge Coin King

A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion (usually military), bearing an organization's insignia or emblem and carried by the organization's members. A truly unique and impressive collection of these coins exists in our Chapter.

Chapter 10 President Bob Ortiz has one of the largest private collections anywhere, with no duplicates. Bob has been collecting for some years now and has over 1800 coins manufactured for military groups and units from all over the world.

"I'd like to thank all those who have over the years helped in having this personally-owned, 1,846 (no doubles) challenge coin collection ready to be in the Guinness world book of records this year" Bob says.



Bob is still looking for more coins to add to his already impressive collection. If you want add to the collection and be a part of this world record, call Bob at 650.712.0980.



First in Vietnam
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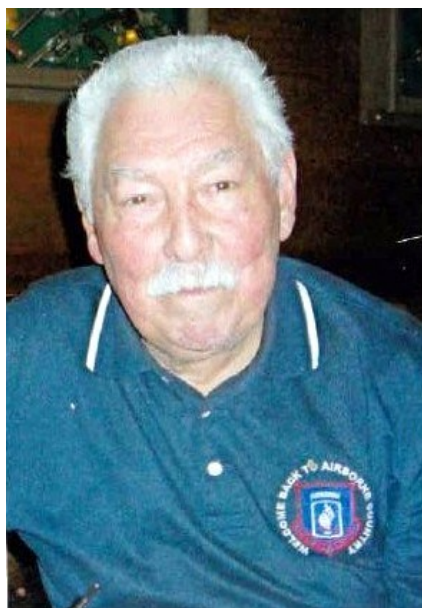
50th Anniversary
May 2-6, 2015



Walter C. Rueda

Family, friends, and Sky Soldiers gathered to say goodbye to Walter C. Rueda. Walt passed on December 11th at the age of 80. He was a highly decorated, retired Command Sergeant Major in Special Forces. Walt served in combat with the Marine Corps in the Korean War after which he joined the Army, became a paratrooper, and served his military career with elite airborne units, including the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam.

After the grave-side service, a reception was held at the American Legion Post 172 in Tracy. Friends remembered Walt, how talented he was at so many things (he was a great dancer), and all the special things he did for so many people. There were more than a hundred people at the reception--a testament to how well-loved Walt was.



Along with being a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Chapter 10, Walt was a parishioner of St. Bernard's Catholic Church and a member of the Secular Franciscan Order. He was also a member of the Tracy Moose Lodge No. 2283, American Legion Post 172, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1537, and the California Honor Guard's Military Order of the Cooties.



Chapter 10 Sky Soldiers say goodbye to Walt Rueda on Jan 5, 2015

Walter Rueda was a well-liked and respected member of our Chapter. He was loved by many and he will be missed by all.



CHAPTER INFO

The next Chapter 10 newsletter will be the summer issue in June



The next Chapter meeting will be the annual summertime picnic and BBQ on July 18, 2015, to be held at the American Legion Coastside Post 474 in beautiful Half Moon Bay.





J.C. Terry Man About Town

He's here, he's there, he's everywhere. Chapter Vice President J.C. Terry is truly "a man about town". Besides being the Chapter Vice President and past President and taking an active role in many Chapter activities, J.C. wears many other hats in the community.

J.C. is involved in activities such as teaching Americanism to middle school kids and having them write essays on what the American flag means to them.

He runs the Chapter's JROTC awards program which recognizes outstanding cadets in the Junior and Senior ROTC (JROTC & ROTC) programs in high schools and colleges throughout the community.

He is also the Grand Hospital Chairman for the State of California, Military Order of the Cooties. Membership in the Cooties is given to VFW members who are recognized for outstanding service to VFW and the community.



The Sky Soldiers of Chapter 10 are all proud of J. C. Terry contributions to the community. Keep up the good work.



CHAPTER 10 2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

April 26 — Dream Machine

May 2 thru 6 —173rd Airborne Brigade Association Reunion, San Diego

June 6 — All Airborne BBQ at the Menlo Park VA

July 18— Annual summertime picnic and BBQ to be held at the American Legion Coastside Post 474 in beautiful Half Moon Bay.

Aug. or Sept.—Col. Maggie's Labor Day parade in Marina. The city will be honoring all paratroopers with a BBQ after the parade and sky dive.

Nov.7— Fort Ord Warhorse Show; all eras and wars are on display. We have the Vietnam War (if anybody has any Vietnam stuff Bob can borrow, it would be great!) All services are there, great speakers, food, and tours.

Nov. 11—Veterans Day Parade in Elk Grove. Hopefully the son of Dennis Felmley will join us.

Dec.5—Annual Christmas Party in Ripon. Good music, lots of food, a great raffle with lot of prizes, and gift a exchange.

If you have questions or want to add something to this list in the next newsletter, call **Bob Ortiz—650.712.0980**



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VVA Chapter 223 of Santa Rosa**

Chapter 223 allows us the use of their high quality copier on which this newsletter is published. VVA Chapter 223 is one of the most active VVA Chapter in the country and a leader in the Sonoma County Veteran Community.

vva-223.org

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Chapter 10 members at the March meeting