

SKY SOLDIER

Newsletter of
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE



Winter 1989

President — BG (Ret.) John W. Nicholson
Vice-President/ '89 Convention Chairman —
Robert Rodriguez

Secretary — COL Kenneth Smith
Treasurer — Michael Schwartz
Editor — Gene Weeks

Vol. 4, No. 1



BG Ellis 'Butch' Williamson, the 173d's First Commander in VN, directing Company Commander CPT Art Stang (deceased) during operations at Bien Hoa.

173d Airborne Brigade History Article #1

The series of articles on our Twelve Medal of Honor recipients is now completed.

We are starting a series on the history of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep). This is in response to the many calls and letters requesting info on the Brigade's formation, campaign's, battles, citations, medals of honor, deactivation and other areas of interest.

We thought it appropriate that the first article be written by Maj. Gen. "Butch" Williamson (Ret) since he was asked to form, train, and take the Brigade to Vietnam.

The following article was written in 1985 by Gen. Williamson and Col. Lawrence W. Jackley (Ret).

Army's First Unit into Vietnam Marks Deployment Anniversary

By Maj. Gen. Ellis W. Williamson
U.S. Army, retired
and

Col. Lawrence W. Jackley
U.S. Army, retired

May marks the 20th anniversary of the first army combat formation deployed to Vietnam—the 173rd Airborne Brigade. The 173rd was born of a concept that small "brushfire wars" could be best dealt with by an elite, independent unit stationed permanently in the region of anticipated operations. The concept was never tested; the unit was, but in a manner not dreamed of by its creators.

In early 1963, the Department of the Army ordered the implementation of a new organization that in later years might be called a "mini-rapid deployment force." The idea was innovative and the new commander, then-Brig. Gen. Ellis W. Williamson, was to organize, equip and train a unique unit which would be a separate airborne brigade stationed on Okinawa and called "the Pacific Area Fire Brigade."

During the next two years, the 173rd Airborne Brigade redefined the word "innovation." The commander was given the authority to try any idea that seemed feasible and to adopt only what worked well.

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From the President

Friendship with fellow combat veterans is unique and supportive. The original founders of the Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade, Don Soland and Jack Kelley, supported by General Jack Deane, knew that "Herd" vets deserved an organization promoting comradeship born in battle just like other, and older, unit associations enjoyed. So, in 1973 the Society was formed. Now, sixteen years later, we have twelve chapters, a roster of 2,600 names, and about 660 paid memberships. This is out of the 35,000 plus veterans who served in the Herd in Vietnam. Many more 173d Veterans could enjoy swapping combat stories, belonging to THEIR outfit's veterans association, and being with buddies who shared the same dangers and laughs in THE prestigious Airborne Brigade. We are stepping up advertising to tell Herd vets how to hook up with the Society. Some chapters are successfully promoting public ceremonies honoring 173d veterans. Dynamic reunions have been held in Chicago and Orlando and are being planned for California in 1989 and Australia in 1991. The 1990 reunion will be in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the U.S.A. Airborne to be held in Washington, D.C. The 173d Scholarship Fund annually assists needy and deserving students. A fitting 173d Monument is being planned to replace the existing flawed one. Herd rings, wearing apparel and other memorabilia are available. The professionally done Newsletter brings reflective joy and anticipation to Society member-readers.

All these opportunities of belonging to the 173d Society are supported by a national growth in appreciation for Vietnam veterans contributions and sacrifices. Although long overdue, this national support is welcomed by our deserving vets.

For these reasons we keep our Society alive. For these reasons we urge 173d Veterans to be active members and to help other Herd members to get on board. So let's find our fellow Herd troopers and tell them about our Society. Membership applications can be found in the Newsletter or by writing to the 173d Society, National Secretary, P.O. Box 1810, Silver Spring, MD 20902. Just as the 173d Airborne Brigade was our sustaining organization in combat, our Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade can serve as a source of lifelong pride for serving in the elite fire-brigade of the entire Vietnam War.

AIRBORNE!
Jack Nicholson
President
Society of the 173d Abn. Bde.

FLASH!

The 173d Society Scholarship Fund just received another \$1,000.00 donation from **Frank Elliott**, former Sky Soldier now living in Dallas, Texas. This is Frank's second one thousand dollar donation, for which the Society is extremely grateful.

Airborne, Frank!

From the Secretary

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Society has opened the scholarship competition for 89-90.

The competition is open to all children or grandchildren of those who served in combat with the 173d Airborne Brigade. The competition is also open to widows of those who died in combat while serving with the 173d Airborne Brigade.

Applicants must be high-school graduates and must be planning to attend an institution of higher learning in the fall of the year during which the award is made (in this case, Fall '89). Applications must be accompanied by a high-school transcript, and must be received by the National Headquarters not later than 15 Apr 89.

Write to the National Secretary, P.O. Box 1810, Silver Spring, MD 20902 for an application.

DUES NEWS

1989 dues are payable NOW. Dues for the year, as set at the 1988 National Convention, are \$20.00. If you belong to a Chapter, there may be Chapter fees. But it is important that you pay through your chapter since they receive a rebate from National headquarters for each dues payment sent in.

In 1988, 37% of the Sky Soldiers on our mailing list supported the other 63%. This is not fair. The Society has kept faith with its members, just as it did when we were on Active Service. If you are behind in your dues, pay what you can to catch up.

Look at your mailing label. The dates listed to the right are those for which you are in arrears. Payments for 86, 87 & 88 are \$10.00. As mentioned above, dues for 89 are \$20.00. Hook up! Stay current, and support the Society!

National Secretary
Ken Smith

From the Editor

A policy of the Sky Soldier Newsletter has been to avoid its use as a platform to launch opinions or programs which may be controversial or for personal gain. However, since I printed a letter by one of our members giving a negative (or as some members have stated an accurate) view of Jane Fonda, I must in all fairness mention that we have received input from others who do not feel the same. Some members feel that everyone has a right to free speech and the right to their own opinion. Most seem to agree that Jane Fonda went "way over the line" in carrying out her "rights."

We are not printing additional letters as we do not wish to "fan the flames" any more. As one member said, "The war is over, the protests are over let's get back to the real world."

Editor
Gene Weeks

A Sky Soldier — Then and Now

Ray Ramirez entered the Army in Sep. of 1964 at Ft. Ord, CA, completed basic and AIT at Ft. Ord, and then transferred to Ft. Bliss, TX to the Air Defense School. There he quickly became bored being a leg, and having two brothers who previously served in the Airborne. He 1049'd for the Airborne when SFC Bill Purcell arrived on post recruiting for paratroopers needed by the 101st Abn Div. Ray went to jump school in Sept. of 1965, and met his brother Philip in the chow hall at Ft. Benning GA, and beat his brother out the door of a C-130 during their first jump. On their third jump his brother Philip broke a leg and was recycled until he was able to complete his last two jumps. The Ramirez brothers went in two separate directions, Philip to Ft. Bragg and Ray to the 1/501st.

Philip Ramirez received orders for the 1st Bde, 101st Abn. in May of 1966 and Ray Ramirez departed for Viet Nam in June of 1966, and while aboard the Gen. John Pope, the teletype machine told the story about U.S. Paratroopers of the 1st Bde., 101st Abn. Div. locked in battle with NVA at a place called DAK TO, and about a young Captain who had called napalm strikes on his own position during the intense fighting. Philip Ramirez joined the battle at DAK TO with A Co. 1/327, and eventually the U.S. Army became cognizant that two brothers were serving in a combat zone contrary to Defense Dept. rules. MACV types from Saigon visited Ray Ramirez at Da Nang and he signed the 1049 to allow his brother to leave Viet Nam and be reassigned to Okinawa.

On December 22, 1966, Ray turned 21 years of age at a place called LZ Stump that was as hot an LZ as anyone would want on their birthday, and Ray joined the Recon platoon a few days later after some conflict with superior officers.

Ray served as a squad leader for the rest of his tour, visited his brother in Okinawa during Operation Junction City, and saw the area where an older brother had served with E Co. 503 RCT in 1961-62.

Ray DEROS'ed in June of 1967, and reported to Ft. Hood, TX, where he met many other troopers from the 173rd and the 101st who hated being assigned to leg outfits after having served with Airborne units. Ray ETS'ed in Sept. of 1967, returned to California, enrolled in Junior College, and worked for the L.a. County Sheriff's Dept. for about 9 years. Then quit his job to finish the last two years of his education and secured a job with the City of Commerce, where he is now the Assistant Director of Community Development/Economic Development. Ray has been married for 16 years, has two children, a boy 15 and daughter 11 years old, and his wife Sharon teaches 1st grade. Ray resides in Whittier, California and has become active in the Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade during the last four years. In fact, he is the President of the Western States Chapter and busy planning a Super 1989 Reunion for July 1 thru 5 in the colorful California wine country.

Ray is another trooper from the 173rd that is wondering why he never received a Good Conduct Medal!!



*Ray Ramirez has a cool one after a "hard day at the office."
4/503 Inf — Da Nang RVN 1966*



CHARLIE CO 4th BAT/503d INF, TUY HOA — '67-'68



Going on a mission — Dak To '67



*Rule #3 — Never put your hooch next to an LZ.
Above photos provided by Art Ortiz C/4/503d.*



*How come I have to carry everything?
'Cos we're short!!*



*"The Dirty Dozen" — looking for "Charlie".
3rd Plt '68*



Penicilin? Hey Doc, I only went to the vil once!



An Khe "Hostess".

Airborne 50th Anniversary

Washington, D.C. — July 1990

The joint conduct of the 50th Anniversary by all the known Airborne Organizations in the country will occur on the 7th and the 8th of July, 1990.

Most of the organizations have scheduled their annual unit convention/reunions to occur on the 5th, 6th and 7th of July in various and separate hotels in Washington, D.C.

The object is to conduct separate reunions on the first two days, and then meet together on the 7th of July for a Parade of the Airborne units. After the parade, the members of the units will return to their host hotels to finish their own unit reunions.

The following day, Sunday, July 8th, all units will converge on RFK Stadium for a mass formation of Airborne personnel for a special program to recognize the official 50th Anniversary of the Airborne.

All Airborne personnel are expected to participate through their parent organization. The Airborne organizations which have already manifested their intent to participate in some way in the ceremonies are:

11th Airborne Division	542nd Pcht Infantry
13th Airborne Division	550th Airborne Bn
17th Airborne Division	551st Parachute Bn
82nd Airborne Division	505th Parachute Infantry
101st Airborne Division	Special Forces
173rd Airborne Brigade	First Special Svce Forces
187th Airborne RCT	Glider Pilots
501 Parachute Battalion	RANGERS — KOREA
503rd Parachute RCT	75th Rangers
507 Pcht Inf Regt	1st CAV
508 Pcht Inf Regt	TROOP CARRIER COMMAND
509 Parachute Battalion	O.S.S.
511 Pcht Regt	AIRBORNE COMMAND
517th Pcht RCT	

If you were ever in the Airborne, you must in some way have been a part of one of these basic Airborne units at some time in your training or during your assignment. Whichever unit it may have been, you will be expected to participate through that unit.

In the case of those very exceptional persons who feel that they never were a part of any of the listed Airborne units, they are invited and welcomed to participate through the auspices of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, whose charter opens membership to any person who has ever been airborne-qualified, regardless of the unit.

Your physical participation in the scheduled activities of the units will be regulated by the units. Not all persons who may want to march in the Parade will be permitted to march. Only a regulated number will be allowed. Some units are requiring that you wear a pre-designed wardrobe in order to be a part of their entourage. You will have to determine the rules and the guidelines of your unit before 1990 if you wish to participate.

All of these guidelines have been set down by an organization which calls itself the U.S.A. AIRBORNE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY FOUNDATION, which is run by an executive committee of which BILL WEBER is the Chairman. Each participating organization is to have representation on an advisory board which works with the executive committee.

The 50th anniversary of the Airborne is the birthday of the "Airborne Concept." It will occur 50 years from the day that the orders were issued to form the Original Parachute Test Platoon.

No-one was dreaming then about Air-Assault, about enemy airborne, about preferred military units; the only thought and intent was to create the Airborne potential for the U.S. Armed Forces.

The living forefathers of today's Airborne forces are B/G WILLIAM RYDER, LTG WILLIAM MILEY, LTG WILLIAM YARBOROUGH, and GEN MATTHEW B. RIDGWAY. These are the men, still living, that were among the early forefathers of the Airborne movement. When we talk about observing anything, these are the men who symbolize our observations.

The living members of the Original Parachute Test Platoon are the symbols of our first efforts to create an Airborne force.

The other portion to be considered in the birthday of the Airborne, are the glider forces. They were created almost parallel with the Parachute forces, and these are the two types of Airborne forces which are to be commemorated. They are the ones to be lionized. Everything else is an off-shoot, an afterthought. Let's recognize the Airborne, the origin of the Airborne, the pioneers of the Airborne. The men of the 501st Battalion are also part of the pioneer forces, and there aren't very many of them left either.

Five men will be selected to represent the entire Airborne Community — "Past and Present." Those five men will be chosen as follows:

- #1 The oldest member of the Original Parachute Test Platoon
- #2 The oldest "Glider Rider" (non-crew member)
- #3 The youngest graduate from the last Jump School class
- #4 The youngest graduate from the last Air Assault class
- #5 The oldest Glider Pilot or Airborne Troop Carrier Pilot

(Above info was obtained from Don Lasson's "Static Line" and Bill Weber, Chairman of U.S.A. Airborne Fiftieth Anniversary Foundation.)

50th Airborne Anniversary Stamp Dies



The 50th Anniversary Stamp of the American Airborne 1940-1990 was turned down by the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee. All the new stamps for 1990 have been approved and now the committee is working on approving stamps for 1991.

This turn down is a shame and if President Reagan had known about it we (the American Airborne) would have had our stamp in 1990.

WESTERN STATES CHAPTER X
SOCIETY OF THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE

REUNION '89 EARLY REGISTRATION FORM



Gen. Westmoreland
will be our honored
guest.

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE: (Business) _____ (Residence) _____
AREA CODE & NUMBER AREA CODE & NUMBER

DATES/UNIT OF SERVICE W/BRIGADE: _____

CHAPTER MEMBER: _____ NATIONAL MEMBER: _____

* **REGISTRATION FEE: \$90.00 Per Person.** Mail check or money order to following address:

HARRY ALLEN, SECTY/TREASURER
P.O. BOX 613288, SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, CA 95761

Deadline for Mail in Registrations — **JUNE 1, 1989**

Number of Persons Registering: _____ Adults _____ Children (13 & Over)

Handicap Facilities Required: _____

* **Lodging Reservations must be made separately on an individual basis directly with the El Rancho Tropicana. 800-248-4747 for Reservations / 800-654-4401 Convention Info**

Room Rates: Single/Double Occupancy—\$60.00 per night (3-4 persons per room OK)
Suites—\$110.00 per night Cribs—\$5.00 Rollaways—\$5.00

250 rooms have been reserved on a first come first served basis. Additional rooms will be reserved subject to availability. Specify that you are with the 173d Airborne.

* **United Airlines will be our Host Airline offering 45% off unrestricted coach fares or 5% off lowest applicable fare (includes first class). 800-521-4041 I.D. #9175-N**

* There is an airport shuttle from the SF International Airport directly to the El Rancho on an hourly basis. The service pickup is outside arrivals by your airline and will drop you directly at the hotel parking lot. Cost of the shuttle is now \$12.00 one way. Information and details will follow in your registration confirmation packet.

* **Please indicate if you are interested in the following tours:**
_____ Wine Country _____ San Francisco _____ Sonoma County Points of Interest

REUNION '89 INFORMATION AND AGENDA

DAY 1 — Friday, June 30, 1989

- A. All day Registration and Check in
- B. Tour reservations
- C. Hospitality

DAY 2 — Saturday, July 1, 1989

- A. Continued Registration and Check in
- B. Welcome Buffet
- C. Sonoma County and San Francisco Tours
- D. Hospitality

DAY 3 — Sunday, July 2, 1989

- A. 9 am-11 am—Breakfast Buffet hosted by El Rancho Tropicana
- B. 11 am—All Faiths Outdoor Memorial Service—Hotel Grounds
- C. Business Meeting
- D. Banquet Dinner Dance in El Rancho Ballroom—Coat & Tie required

DAY 4 — Monday, July 3, 1989

- A. San Francisco Excursion Day
- B. Local Sonoma County Area Tours
- C. Wine Tastings

DAY 5 — Tuesday, July 4, 1989

- A. 1 pm-5 pm—Ox Roast and Country Western Band — Come casual and comfortable; it will be in the 80's.
- B. 8 PM—Fireworks Display

DAY 6 — Wednesday, July 5, 1989

Check out day—Many are planning to stay over as they are planning this reunion as part of their family vacations.

HIGHLIGHTS: General Westmoreland has accepted our invitation and will be our honored Guest. Parachute Jumps, Military Displays, Airborne Concessions.

- A Child Care Room will be provided by the Hotel for specific events and a list of sitters will be furnished that you can call.
- An area map with freeway access and proximity to SF will be included in your packet.
- Rental cars will be available with pickup and delivery service to the Hotel.
- Parking at no charge is available at the Hotel as well as RV Parking w/Hookups—No waste fac.
- Methods of transportation, eateries, etc. will be provided in your registration packet.
- A light windbreaker or sweater is suggested for evenings if at all necessary. Shorts, jeans, slacks are fine for our 80° to 90° weather.

The \$90.00 Registration fee covers the following:
July 2: Breakfast Buffet; All Faiths Service; Banquet Dinner/Dance
July 4: Western Ox-Roast

Reunion Cap / Welcome Beverage / Hospitality
* Cost for the Breakfast Buffet & Ox Roast for guests not registering \$15.00 total per adult and/or 10-16 yrs. Under 10 is free for children of members only.

Alaska Hooks Up As Chapter #12



SSG William Rasool, 6th Inf Div, Alaska '88

AN AIRBORNE SALUTE TO SSG WILLIAM E. RASOOL (3/503 Inf 67) for his untiring efforts in forming up Herd members who will once again honor "The Colors," remember our fallen comrades, and promote the fellowship of our elite combat unit.

The charter has been approved and signed by the President Gen Jack Nicholson (Ret). Here is a partial list of those "Herd" members forming up the new chapter: **Thomas D. Howell, William N. Nottingham, COL James Wood, Daryl Reese, Brian Moniton, Michael Asparen, CSM Teddy Godwin, George Shoemaker, and of course SSG William Rasool (Cook).**

The following letter from SSG Rasool displays the spirit common among the active members of our Society, and reflects the spirit of the Brigade in Vietnam.

Mr. Secretary

Thanks for my membership card. And please send my regards to the baddest group of fighting men in the history of Airborne. I couldn't make the reunion this year but I was there in heart. I wore my 173d tee shirts everyday of the reunion. I'm starting a chapter here in ALASKA. Please add my name and address to your list of "News About Sky Soldiers" I was one of the original 3rd Battalion Sky Soldiers, reformed at Ft. Bragg, 1967. I'm now stationed at Ft. Wainwright, Fairbanks, Alaska, in the 6th Inf Div. (Light). I stayed out of the Army 11 years, and am now trying to hang in there with the youngsters. I turn 40 on the 7th of September this year.

One of my best friends in the Herd was Mike Ludas. Mike and I went thru the Mepps, Basic Training, AIT and Jump School together. We were separated in Nov 1966 when he went to Vietnam and I went to Fort Bragg. Almost one year later when I arrived with the 3rd Bat. I was in An Khe at the E. Provisional Co. going thru the Jungle School, when I saw this guy walking up the road. Even though he was about a hundred meters away, I recognized that walk! I waited until he got closer, and I yelled! "Ludas, Michael B." and he respond with Cook, William E. I knew it was my friend! Tears came to my eyes when I knew he had made it! God had looked down and saw fit to help my old friend.

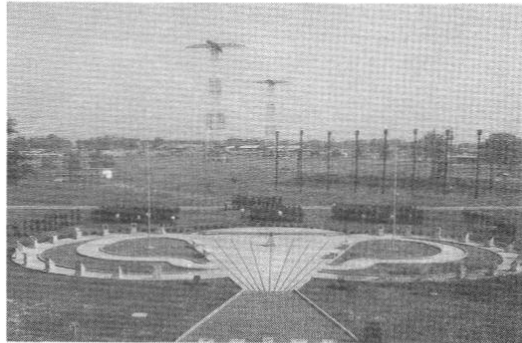
We stood in the middle of the road hugging and jumping around. Ludas was short! He only had a few days left in country, and was in An Khe to start clearing for the trip back to the world on that freedom bird.

He told me about one of our basic training buddies that had been killed. The three of us had won the top three awards in basic training, and a trip to the Lake of the Ozarks for a weekend.

I was saddened by his news. But he told me not to worry about that, because I had one of the hardest years of my life in front of me. . . He was right!

SSG William E. Rasool (Cook)
HHC 2nd Bde
6th Inf. Div. (Light)
Ft. Wainwright, Alaska 99703

AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY!



The completed AIRBORNE WALK at Ft. Benning, GA.

The completed AIRBORNE WALK at Fort Benning, GA, with 27 unit insignias installed and completed, was formally displayed before the Airborne Community April 23.

The keynote address of the Completion Ceremony was delivered by **BG (Ret) William T. Ryder**, the man who was the commander of the Original Parachute Test Platoon. It was **GEN. RYDER** (then LT) who made the very first jump out of an airplane as an Army Paratrooper. It was he who led the way for the legions of brave men who followed him. Following his address on the origin of the Airborne, he and **RED KING** (the first enlisted man to jump) placed a wreath in memory of all those brave Troopers who have passed on, in peacetime and in war. (Regretably Red King has passed away, see page 10.)

The Chaplain eulogized the solemnity of the occasion as Chaplain **GEORGE B. WOOD**, a 4 combat jump veteran Chaplain of the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II, offered prayers on behalf of the veterans, and a veteran Chaplain who served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, offered prayers on behalf of the active duty soldiers.

It is my sad duty to announce the death of one of our Comrades-in-Arms:

Hugh Jones, Jr.

who lived in Arlington, Virginia, died 19 April 1988. Details of his service with the Brigade are not available. May he enjoy the peaceful rest of all who served their Country well.

Kenneth V. Smith, Colonel, Infantry
National Secretary

Sky Soldiers Take Up Sport Parachuting

(Now there's a crazy idea if ever I heard one!)

In '87 Rick Holland and Thom Lemmons decided to take up sport parachuting to celebrate thirty years of friendship. They both now hold "A" class licenses from U.S.P.A. Thom says they have met many "Herd" people thru skydiving. *Once Airborne, Always Airborne!*



Thomas Lemmons
3/503 BRAVO
1970-71

Mike Ellis
2/503

Richard Holland
173d MP HHC
1967-68

David Prosser
1/503 DELTA
1969-70
"Little Doc"



Herd Patch Changes Outcome Of Robbery

If you were a victim of a robbery, would you be happy to have forgotten your wallet? Well, **Henry "Hank" Behr (C Co, 75th Rangers)** is most happy that he had his with him.

Hank was shopping in Dallas, Texas when 3 gunmen entered the store. The store employees and customers were ushered into a store room and directed to hand over their valuables and were tied up and gagged by the gunmen.

One of the gunmen who had taken Hank's wallet, emptied it and tossed the wallet on the floor. Another gunman noticed the wallet — a wallet with the "Herd" patch which many of you Sky Soldiers may well remember — picked it up, looked at the wallet and Hank, and instructed that his belongings be returned. Hank was the only person not robbed that day in the store.

If you still have your Brigade wallet, it may be good not to leave home without it. And we'd all probably be smart to carry some evidence of airborne service.

Hank, we are glad you came out of that event safe and sound.

* Hank is currently serving as 1SG of A/2/505 PIR, 82d Abn Div., Ft. Bragg.

"HOOK-UP"

— I am happy to join the "Herd" again. Several of us troopers also fought in the Rhodesian conflict. I'm trying to locate some buddies from Delta Co 2/503rd '70-'71:

Michael B. Ranger — from Maine ???

Darryl L. Phillips — Texas — "N" Ranger

??? Newton (last name) — with HQ Commo at LZ English

Cpt Johnson — my company CDR.

Contact: **Auddis W. Ward Jr.** (D/4/503 Inf '70), 4079 Reed Avenue, Memphis, TN 38108.

— **James R. Smart** (Sgt) Recon 1/503rd Inf May 70-Jun 71. Jim wishes to contact **Brent West** (Plt Leader) HHC 1/503rd. They were both wounded by the same grenade and were medivaced to different hospitals. Any assistance would be appreciated. Contact Jim at: RR #2, Carthage, Ill, 62321.

— "**Silo Willie II**" Call Sign of (Lt) **Ken Pasquale**

Ken writes:

Enclosed is a money order for life membership in the Society. I am currently a member of the N.Y. chapter. I am proud to have served with the Herd. I served with A/1/503 as a FO May-Sep 68 and A/3/319 Sep-Nov 88. I would like to hear from **Cpt Werner**, **Pete Ardito**, **John Chavanaugh**, **Pete Huff**, **Pancho "Combat"** or any of the guys I served with. Contact Ken at #396 North Broome Avenue, Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757.

— Dear Sir: Seventeen troopers from the original A/3/503 formed from the 82nd at Ft. Bragg are attempting to locate others who served with them. Contact: **Allen S. Hodder**, Route 1, Star Prairie, WI 54026.

— Fellow Troopers: I served with the 173rd in 1970 and 1971. I wish to contact former Sky Soldiers from the 3rd Bat Recon (503rd Inf). **Chuck Knowles**, Rt 3 Box 530, Austin, AR 72007.

— Sky Soldiers: **Milton Crow**, P.O. Box 20107, Oakland, CA 94620-0107 wants any info on the following three troopers: 1Lt **Mike Rogers**, 1Sg **Roy Gammell**, and **SFC Daluca** (he was supposed the first man across the Remagen Bridge in WWII). All three from D/1/503d 1970.

— **R. Morton** (Australia) would like to contact friends and any "old car" buffs on his visit to CONUS for the California Convention in '89. Contact him at #66 Brisbane St., Bulimba, Queensland 4171, Australia.

"LEAN & MEAN"

Additional info on the "Lean & Mean" photo of the last two issues:

— **Gene Myrick** who spent ten months in Okinawa with two of the men says: **John Stewart** who was 19 at the time was the machine gunner in the photo. He played football in Okinawa before going to Vietnam. **Oliver**, the Trooper in the foreground, who was in his forties at the time, was very "*independent but a hell of a soldier — the kind of guy you wanted next to you in a fire fight.*"

— **Frank Baker** (from Maryland) says the last he heard about John Stewart was that he was in Florida.

(We thank Gene and Frank and others for their input.)

BRIGADE HISTORY

(Continued from page 1)

The "Sky Soldiers," as Nationalist Chinese paratroopers called the 173rd, made thousands of jumps in a dozen different Pacific area nations. They experimented with the use of all types of aircraft, submarines and assault boats. Commanders were encouraged to be flexible as well as pragmatic. Units practiced the entire spectrum of combat operations.

As junior commanders became proficient in the basics, they were accorded a level of trust and authority that the Army teaches in the classroom but seldom practices in the field. This philosophy was to surprise allied officers during many combined exercises in 1963 and 1964.

Given this intensive preparation, the 173rd was the logical draw to be the first U.S. Army ground unit deployed to Vietnam in May 1965. Landing at Bien Hoa Airfield, the brigade found itself in an area battered frequently by enemy raids and shelling attacks. By nightfall of the first day, the Sky Soldiers had moved into the surrounding jungles, destroying prepared firing sites and interrupting Vietcong (VC) operations and plans.

For a year thereafter, not a single round of enemy fire fell on that airfield while the 173rd was there. The brigade maintained the initiative, keeping the enemy off balance and holding open the door for the influx of arriving Army units. The experience gained in combined exercises with allied forces paid off as a battalion task force from the Royal Australian Regiment and a New Zealand artillery battery joined up with the brigade, remaining until the summer of 1966.

In the combat operations to follow, the paratroopers made their superb training pay off. They fought the battles of the Iron Triangle, conducted the first major unit combat jump in Vietnam (Junction City), decimated the main force VC units in Tay Ninh, and blocked North Vietnamese Army (NVA) incursions during some of the bloodiest fighting of the war at Dak To during the summer and fall of 1967, culminating in the capture of Hill 875.

After Dak To, the 173rd operated primarily in separate battalion formations ranging throughout the provinces of Binh Dinh, Phu Yen and Phu Bon, effectively sealing off the central Vietnam coast from major NVA threats. The Sky Soldiers fought small-unit battles to deny rice to the NVA, clear the principal routes through that area, and to find and destroy enemy base camps. It was a war of pursuit, based on the careful use of technical intelligence.

Elements of the brigade conducted an amphibious assault against NVA and VC forces as part of an operation to clear the rice-growing lowlands along the Bong Son littoral. In December, the brigade conducted operations Bolling II and Walker, returning to the Binh Dinh-Phu Yen-Phu Bon triangle.

From April 1969 to early 1971, the 173rd primarily supported pacification operations, with one battalion assigned to a district in northern Binh Dinh Province. The paratroopers conducted small-unit patrols around the hamlets and supported Vietnamese Army combat operations, denying population and rice-growing centers to enemy forces. The sizable number of enemy troops killed in action, the enormous amount of foodstuffs uncovered and the failure of the NVA to mount a major operation in the brigade's tactical area of responsibility were prime indicators of the Sky Soldiers' combat success.

The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Parachute battalions, 503rd Infantry, along with the 1st Mechanized Battalion, 50th Infantry, constituted the principal foxhole strength of the 173rd Airborne Brigade during this period. They were ably supported by the 3rd Battalion, 319th Artillery, and the brigade's organic and assigned combat support units.

The soldiers of the 173rd wore their combat badges with pride, and the Army's records tell the story. During more than six years of nearly continuous combat, the 173rd Airborne Brigade earned 14 campaign streamers and four Unit Citations—two U.S. and two Vietnamese. Its soldiers won 12 Medals of Honor and other awards for valor and achievement.

The price paid for this dedication was high. The names of 1,534 Sky Soldiers are carved into the marble of the Vietnam

Memorial, and thousands of Purple Hearts were awarded to members of the brigade during those six years.

When the unit colors were furled at Ft. Campbell, Ky., in January 1972, a unique chapter in the Army's combat history was closed. Created to "quickly snuff out small brush fires in the Pacific," the 173rd Airborne Brigade spent its combat operational life at the cutting edge of the Army's Vietnam campaigns.

The profile of today's 173rd Airborne Brigade veterans is worthy of special note. Far from the media-hyped image of shell-shocked young men psychologically destroyed by the violence of the Vietnam conflict, most of today's former Sky Soldiers have made the full transition from Vietnam combat service to successful military and civilian careers. A large number are currently serving in or are retired from senior military leadership positions, and many of the brigade's veterans hold management-level positions in the private sector.

The enlisted veteran is well represented among these groups. One congressman, a deputy assistant with the National Security Council, an assistant secretary of the Army and the general counsel of the U.S. Information Agency are former Sky Soldiers.

MAJ. GEN. ELLIS W. WILLIAMSON, U.S. Army, retired, was the first commander of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, responsible for organizing and training the unit during its assignment on Okinawa and through its first year of combat in Vietnam. COL. LAWRENCE W. JACKLEY, U.S. Army, retired, commanded the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry, from February to August 1967.

Items For Sale

Society member Manny Rojas designed a unique 173d Decal — a double black line with red letters (i.e. Iron Triangle, Junction City, etc.) embraces "The Herd" patch. Airborne Brigade is of blue letters, the 173d is red, as is 161-Arty and 875. The background is white with the jump wings in silver. Designed for window application. Size is 3-1/2" x 7", \$3.00 each. Chapters write for group rates. Send to: Manny Rojas, 338 Linden #3, Long Beach, CA 90802.



VN Vets Statute — Plaque Replica

Sky Soldier Gerald Cassel, Sr. has a plaque replica of Frederic Harts VN Veterans Statute, located in Washington, D.C. It has taken a little over two years to develop and obtain permission to sell.

For information contact: VET PLAK, Gerald A. Cassel, Sr., 16214-14th Avenue E., Tacoma, Washington 98445. Phone: (206) 537-0193.

Viet Nam Trivia Game — \$26.99

The game was created by Bill Shemeler (a combat medic who served with the 2 Bn/28th Inf First Inf Div, 69 and 70) and his wife Kathy out of concern for the servicemen whose fates are still unknown listed as POW's/MIA's.

For information contact: Vietnam War Trivia, PO Box 321, New Milford, CT 06776.

Awards, Decorations and Military Record Corrections

Many former Sky Soldiers have written to the Society seeking information on how to get awards, replacement medals, and corrections to their DD Form 214. The following information is furnished to certain standard questions:

Q: *Is it too late to process an award recommendation from the RVN era?*

A: The cutoff for submitting RVN award recommendations was October 24, 1975. This does not apply to the Purple Heart.

Q: *I was wounded and didn't get awarded the Purple Heart — what can I do?*

A: Retirees and Veterans can write to ARPERCEN Attn: DARP-PAS-EAW, with information as to when, where, how wounded, and where treated if known. An official record of the wound must be found before it can be awarded. If you have a valor award that mentions the wound, send it with your letter. It is also important to send along a copy of your DD Form 214.

Q: *I served with an Infantry unit as an Infantryman and did not receive the CIB — can I still receive the badge?*

A: Yes. Send a copy of your DD Form 214 to ARPERCEN along with your letter giving information on the unit you served with and when. Remember — you must include full documentation to support your request.

Q: *I lost my medals or my medals are old and worn — how do I get replacements?*

A: Yes. Write ARPERCEN and ask for replacement medals. Be sure and include a copy of your DD Form 214 with your letter. Once ARPERCEN has verified your eligibility for the medals, they will send an authorization to the Army Support Agency in Philadelphia, PA. You will receive a bill for the replacement medals, but it will be at "cost."

Q: *My DD Form 214 is wrong — how to I get it corrected?*

A: Send your letter to ARPERCEN Attn: DARP-PAS-EVS, with the requested corrections. Include a copy of your DD Form 214 and any documentation you have to support your request.

Q: *What is the address of ARPERCEN?*

A: Commander
ARPERCEN
Attn: DARP-PAS-EAW (Awards) or
DARP-PAS-EVS (DD 214 corrections)
9700 Page Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63132

(We thank COL James E. Crouch, JAG Officer 173d 1968-69 for above article.)

Veteran Activities

27-29 April '89 — Annual Airborne Awards at the Airport Sheraton Hotel in Atlanta, GA.

Sky Soldier Directs Vet Memorial In Wisconsin

Sky Soldier **Stephen Piotrowski** (C/3/503d, Feb 69-Feb 70) is currently serving as Executive Director of the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, Inc., a private, not-for-profit organization that is governed by board of directors representing veterans who have served our country during three major conflicts. They are bound by their common experience as veterans and by their desire to see the ideals of patriotic service embodied in a memorial park to all veterans from Wisconsin. Working with a corps of volunteers around the state and supported by an Honorary Council of some of Wisconsin's leading citizens, this group is working to build a memorial park (The Highground) for all Wisconsinites, regardless of their past involvements with our country's military engagements. "The Highground" is not a memorial to war. It is a memorial to people.

A brochure regarding "The Highground" is available through Stephen at P.O. Box 1473, Madison, Wisconsin 53701 or call 608-255-3953.



The "Highground" — A Memorial to People.

* Stephen was known as "Professor" and served as an RTO for CPT Crowe, CPT MacPherson, and 1LT Crazyhorse.

We have learned that **Red King** (first enlisted paratrooper of the Test Platoon of 1940 to jump) has passed away. Red often spoke to graduating classes of the Airborne School. Our own **Charlie "Kid" Butler** has been selected on several occasions to address the Airborne School graduating classes at Ft. Benning. Charlie was a "Devil in Baggy Pants" with C/1/504 PIR in WWII and served with Ross Carter the author of "Those Devils in Baggy Pants." With service with the "Herd" Charlie was awarded his 3d CIB. Charlie is retired from the military and is active with our Ft. Benning/Columbus, GA Chapter.

Charlie can also be found taking pictures of new Airborne troopers during their training. If any members have friends or relatives who will be going through jump training at Ft. Benning and would like to have pictures taken, contact Charlie at 404-561-7678.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Sky Soldiers:

I am a former member of the 173d Airborne Brigade. While in Washington, D.C. last week I ran into a former comrade who showed me a newsletter of our former unit. Of all the units I served in, I am most proud of my service with the 173d and I'd like to continue that association. How can I get the newsletter? I would also like to join a chapter here in N.Y. Please send information.

LTC Howard White (New York)

Dear Gene:

I guess the expression "its a small world" is one of the most overused cliches in the book. However, while doing work at the Marine Midland Bank in Syosset, New York this past September the series of meetings with other contractors turned a difficult job site into an Airborne reunion.

As a supplier of Bank Vault equipment (vaults, safes, safe deposit boxes, etc.) to Banks, I have to meet with the contractors to coordinate their installations with my equipment.

Upon my arrival at the site, I noticed that the ceiling contractor was wearing a baseball cap with jump wings. After the introductions, I found out that he was with the 82d Airborne. That led to meeting the Union electricians. The one electrician had been with the 82d in Vietnam and the other had lost his brother-in-law in Vietnam while assigned to the 1st Air Cav Airborne Brigade.

I then met their boss, the electrical contractor who turned out to have been with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam. He mentioned that he had the greatest Commanding General and related to me how his leadership under fire and courage was an inspiration to him. He said that he often thought about the General and what it meant to him and his squad to serve under him.

He mentioned to me that the General's name was **Major General Williamson** and he served with the 173d Airborne. I called Michael Schwartz, President of the New York Chapter to find out if General Williamson had served with the 25th Infantry after leaving the herd. When Michael confirmed this, the contractor, John Turco, left the site to go home and bring back his yearbook and snapshots of General Williamson. I told John I would call the General and ask him to autograph his book. He could not believe that I had met General Williamson at a reunion.

I spoke with General Williamson and he said he would be glad to sign the yearbook. Although we think of General Williamson as our own, he belonged to others as well. He not only served as a role model and leader to the "Herd", but to everyone's life who he touched. He might be the greatest living testament to the caliber of man who served with the 173d Airborne Brigade and why our reputation endures so long after we served in its ranks.

The last part of this story is that the Vice-President in charge of Branch administration for the Banks Long Island region is a retired Sergeant-Major who served in Vietnam with the 11th Armored Cavalry and knew well the feats of the "Herd". Also, his son is in his third year at West Point and is going Airborne.

I have become good friends with John Turco on a social basis. My conclusion is that most 25th Infantry veterans make lousy golfers but good friends.

Mike Coffas
2/503 67-68

ALL THE WAY!!!! SEE YOU IN SAN FRANCISCO

1SG (Ret) Jim Dresser of Lillington, NC wrote to share an experience that happened to him this past summer. Jim writes, "While reading the newspaper I found that my former company commander, a Captain at that time (1965-66), while serving with A/2/503d was promoted to Major General and was to speak at a local organizational function. I attended, and after his speech I walked up to him and rendered a hand salute. Without hesitation he returned my salute and after approximately 22 years he still remembered me. I served as a Platoon Sergeant under his command. He is Major General Carmen J. Cavezza, a truly fine man, commander and friend.

Jim wanted to insure that all of the Sky Soldiers who served with A/2/503 under CPT Cavezza's command knew about their former CO. MG Cavezza is now commanding the 7th Light Infantry Division at Ft. Ord, CA. The 7th ID has a rapid deployment mission similar to the 82d Airborne and was deployed to Honduras in March '88 under operational control of the XVIII Abn Corps.

In addition to commanding A/2/503, MG Cavezza has commanded the 197th Inf Bde and a battalion of the 2d Inf Division in Korea. Prior to receiving his second star and taking command of the 7th ID, MG Cavezza was the Assistant Division Commander of the 82d Abn Division. MG Cavezza is the recipient of the Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star for valor and Purple Heart.

**Thanks Jim for passing the information on to us.*

James "Chuck" Vickers, son of 1SG (Ret) Charles Vickers (4/503d, Jun 66-Apr 67) graduated from Jump School on 18 Dec 88. Chuck is currently in Replacement Detachment and will be further assigned to 82d Airborne Division Artillery. Congratulations Chuck and best wishes as you venture forth into your military service from the officers and men of the 173d Airborne Brigade Society. Charles sends his best wishes for a Happy 1989 to "Iron Mike" Healy, Charlie DuPont and all Society members and especially the men of 4/503 with whom he served. Charles sends a "thank you" to Charlie Butler for videotaping his pinning jump wings on Chuck at his graduation.

To the "Herd"

I served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in 1970 as a combat medic in the Republic of Viet Nam. Now I am a 1st Lieutenant in the California Army Reserve National Guard.

While on Annual Training I read in a Cal ARNG publication, *The Grizzly*, an article concerning a society of former Sky Soldiers. As a former member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, I would appreciate more information regarding the society, and membership application.

Lee Stieler

To the 173d Society:

I saw the 173rd address in the *Static Line*. I served with the 173rd during the Vietnam war, and as a former member of the Herd, would like to join the 173rd Association.

I would appreciate an application. Thank you very much.

Earl Marcelle
South Dakota

Chapter Activities

CHAPTER I Washington, D.C. — Sigholtz Capitol Chapter, PO Box 27478, Washington, D.C. 20038-0478. Gene Weeks, President.

- As is the annual tradition — Sky Soldiers from as far away as Philadelphia, N.J. and New York assembled at the Wall on 11 Nov (Veterans Day) to honor all our "Fallen Comrades" from Vietnam and the previous wars and conflicts — and especially our 1,534 killed in action while serving with the Brigade. Our National President Jack Nicholson and Secretary Ken Smith were among those attending.
- The Annual Christmas/Holiday Dinner-Dance was held at the historic eighteenth century Mount Airy Plantation. Approximately 70 members and friends enjoyed the evening. Gen. Williamson and Margaret were able to attend which always makes our affairs more "special."
- In August a barbeque was held at the New Zealand Embassy, where LTC Gary Korkin, our host and fellow Vietnam Veteran, welcomed us on behalf of his New Zealand "comrades in arms."
- Chapter I can coordinate free tours and free transportation for 173d groups interested in the memorials, monuments, and Arlington National Cemetery. Also, in April, free tickets can be obtained for the famous military pageant, SPIRIT OF AMERICA, put on by the Military District of Washington, the 3d Infantry Honor Guard, and the Army Band.

CHAPTER II New York — 405 Tarrytown Road, Suite 564, White Plains, New York 10607. Michael Schwartz, President.

- Chapter II has a new address — see above.
- Michael Schwartz was recently reelected as Chapter President. Michael Coffas is Vice President.
- Chapter II is planning a Fall '89 Football Day at West Point. The day will include a tour of the Academy, a Cadet parade and a football game.
- In May 89, Chapter II will conduct its annual "mini-reunion" in conjunction with the annual Memorial Day Parade participation.

CHAPTER III Ft. Benning/Columbus, GA — PO Box 1977, Ft. Benning, GA 31905-0577. ISG (Ret) Cary Rutland, President.

- Cary says his membership is growing and the chapter's future is looking up.

CHAPTER IV Philadelphia/English — PO Box 345, Ft. Dix, NJ 08640. Steve Riley, President.

- Chapter IV reports that Sky Soldier Paul Decker was the winner of the Computer Raffle. The Chapter cleared \$829.00 and will use the proceeds to purchase a set of Colors for their use.

CHAPTER V Ft. Bragg/Fayetteville — 540 Cimmaron Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303. Joe Atkinson, Acting President.

CHAPTER VI Chicago/Elite Forces — 1831 W. Algonquin Road, Suite 205, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. Benito Garcia, President.

- 12 Oct — Chapter Meeting: Mickey Yeager discussed the youth camp, Project Uplift. He and other committee

members went to Wisconsin and looked at 2 different possible sites for the camp.

Lenny Bertini was appointed photo historian and asked for assistance from members, i.e., any pictures that the members may have of the 173d and Vietnam. He wants to put together a slide presentation for Project Uplift.

Chapter VI Ladies are organizing a womens auxiliary.

- 19 Nov — Sky Soldier Paul Zicks was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for his work with the Color Guard during the reunion.

Chapter VI donated and delivered \$1433.16 worth of food products to the Little Sisters of the Poor on 11/20/88.

Chapter VI sends Holiday Greetings and a Very Happy New Year to all Society members.

CHAPTER VII Florida — 1104 Bahama Drive, Orlando, FL 32806. Jeff Mazer, President.

- Jeff says a chapter meeting is planned for early March. Call 407-695-3611 for info.

CHAPTER VIII Hawaii — 3043 Lopeka Place, Honolulu, HI 96817. Paul Scheffel, President.

CHAPTER IX Ohio — 466 Windsor Street, Marion, OH 43302. Marshall Boswell, President.

CHAPTER X Western States — 13438 Beverly Blvd., Whittier, CA 90601. Raymond Ramirez, President.

- The chapter is in high gear planning and following through with the thousands of decisions, phone calls, meetings, and correspondence necessary for a successful reunion. Robert Rodriguez and Ray Ramirez say the chapter is solidly united and the '89 convention will be the best ever!

CHAPTER XI Australian (Down Under) Chapter — PO Box 246, Fairfield, N.S.W. 2165, Australia. Tele 723982.

- The First Annual General Meeting of the Australian "Down Under" Chapter was held on Saturday, November 5, 1988 at the home of the Chapter Secretary Ray Payne.

On the agenda was a discussion on the 1989 Reunion in California. Our Aussie brothers report that several Chapter XI members are very interested in making the trip to Santa Rosa.

Also on the agenda was discussion centering on a reunion proposal for 1991 to be hosted by the "Down Under" Chapter in Australia.

- A reminder that was published in Chapter XI's newsletter is well served for all of us, "Membership is the strength of our Chapter (and the entire Society), keep the Society in mind, we seek any eligible members, to perpetuate the bonds we established on the battle fields, if you know someone that served (with the Brigade) check if they are members, if they aren't, put them in touch with us." Well said "Down Under".

CHAPTER XII Alaska — HHC 2nd BDE, 6th Inf Div (Light), Ft. Wainwright, Alaska 99703. SSG William E. Rasool, Acting President.

- Our newest chapter is on line with Bill Rasool as acting president. The chapter is currently in the development and planning stage.

Application Form



Sky Soldiers Membership Application NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade

Mail to:
National Secretary
P.O. Box 1810
Silver Spring, MD 20902
Annual Dues:
\$20.00
Checks Payable to:
Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Date
Street Address	City	State	ZIP
Area Code/Home Phone	Area Code/Office Phone	SSN	

OLD ADDRESS

Street Address	City	State	ZIP
Area Code/Home Phone	Area Code/Office Phone	SSN	

CURRENT MILITARY ASSIGNMENT OR CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT (JOB TITLE)

Unit/Office Address	City	State	ZIP
Job Description/Occupation			
Military Status (Check One) Active <input type="checkbox"/> Retired <input type="checkbox"/> Discharge <input type="checkbox"/> USAR <input type="checkbox"/> ANG <input type="checkbox"/>			
Current/Highest Rank	Years Active Service	Chapter Affiliation	
Membership Status New <input type="checkbox"/> Life <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>		Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Associate <input type="checkbox"/>	Honorary <input type="checkbox"/>

SERVICE WITH THE BRIGADE:

FROM (date) TO (date)	UNIT (Company & Bn)	Rank Held
FROM (date) TO (date)	UNIT (Company & Bn)	Rank Held
FROM (date) TO (date)	UNIT (Company & Bn)	Rank Held

OFFICE USE ONLY

Dues for Year	Amount for Year	Date	Amount	Date	Amount
Date	Amount	Date	Amount	Date	Amount

REMARKS:

News About Sky Soldiers

CPT Steve Haswell, (2/503 & former "snuffy") who currently serves as an aerospace physiologist at the Andrews AFB Hospital, has been selected to become a member of the elite USAF Combat Control Team. The selection course was conducted at the Pope AFB Combat Control School where 13 officers selected Air Force wide were narrowed after 4½ days of intense testing to Steve and two other officers.

** Thanks To Tim Moriarty (USAF) Steve's roommate during the selection course for sending us the news. CONGRATULATIONS Steve and best wishes in your upcoming year of extremely tough training with CCT. ALL THE WAY!*

COL Jim Crouch retired from active duty on 16 March 1988. Jim's last assignment was Executive to the Chief of Army Legislative Liaison. Since retiring, he has completed the Bar Review Course and passed the Virginia Examination. He was sworn in before a special session of the Virginia Supreme Court on 14 November. However, the most significant event on the 14th of November was his marriage to Miss Linda L. Ely. The Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court performed the marriage ceremony. Congratulations and best wishes Jim and Linda. We would like to thank Jim for the assistance he has given us at National Headquarters.

Fred Gonzales (C/1-503, 67) is a real estate developer who lives in Carrollton, Texas. Fred is a recent Life member.

Arthur L. Holmes (C/1-503 65-66), then a PFC is a LTC and is Battalion Commander/PMS at Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama.

James E. Johnson (C/1-503 68-69) is 1SG, 1-29th INF, Ft. Benning, Georgia.

William "Chuck" Knowles (E/3-503 70-71) is a School Psychologist in Austin, Arizona.

Thomas E. LaFontaine (A/3-503 68-69) is a Scout Platoon Sergeant, 1-34th Armor, Ft. Riley, Kansas.

Lonnie W. Larson (HHB/3-319 67-68) is with the AGR-12th SVC Company, 12th SFG(A) as Rigger and Section Sergeant. AIRBORNE!

Carl D. McKinney (HHC/4-503 & Rigger 70-71) is a Platoon Sgt with B/2-11th Infantry, Ft. Benning, GA.

Rufus Montgomery, Sr (C/1-503 66-67) is a CWO-3 with HHC, 36th Engineer Group, Ft. Benning, GA.

Brian Moulton (C/2-503 70) is living in Kotzebue, Alaska.

Stephen Piotrowski (C/3-503 69-70), is Executive Director of the Wisconsin Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project. All Vets are invited to visit the memorial.

Charles Ramsey (SGT R5, A/3-319 68-69) is a Major in the USAF Reserves and a Pilot for American Airlines.

Tony L. Salter (HHC/17ed Support Cmd, 66-67) is CSM, 197th Infantry Brigade, Ft. Benning, GA.

MSG Frederick E. Sexton (HHB/3-319 70-71) is currently serving as Operations Sergeant of the 82nd Airborne Division and is the President of the 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment Association.

Edward Stevens (C/2-503 65-66) is an Attorney in Pica-yune, Mississippi.

Brigadier General Selectee Wesley B. Taylor, Jr. (B/4-503 69) is currently Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

COL James H. Wood (A/4-503 66-67) is currently com-

manding the 2nd Brigade, 6th Infantry Division (Light) in Ft. Wainwright, Alaska.

Steve Haswell (B/2-503 & Caspers, 68-69) is a Captain in the Air Force and was recently selected to be a member of the elite USAF Combat Control Team. Our congratulations!

David J. Gowen (D/16th, 74th Inf & N/75th Inf, 68-69) is a Senior Estimator for a construction company in Quakertown, PA.

MSG Michael Lester (HHC & D/2-503, 66-68) is assigned to the NCO Academy at Ft. Hood, Texas.

Paul Raisig (CDR, 3-319th FA-68), formerly VP of Designs, LTD is studying law in North Carolina and hopes to become an attorney upon graduation in May 89.

Mark L. Gossett (May-Sep 71) served with the Brigade at LZ English. Anyone who served with him is invited to write to him % The Veterans Center, 1354 E. 3300 South, #100, Salt Lake City, UT 84106-3012.

MG Fred Elam, who relinquished command of The US Army Transportation center in May 88 is now Commander of the Joint United States Mission for Military Aid to Turkey. He sends his best to Skysoldiers everywhere.

Carl P. Davis notes that he served with the Brigade in Oct 67 at DAK TO, and not later as noted in the last newsletter. Carl lives at 5 Forest Park, Portland, ME, and would like to hear from those with whom he served.

BG Joseph Leszczynski, former Commander of 3-319th FA, has been appointed Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive officer of Optic-Electronic Corporation of Dallas, Texas.

Alexander-Allmayer-beck (B/173d Sup Bn 69-70) was elected President of Central NY Vietnam Veterans Association #103 for 88. He is trying to start a Veterans Outreach Center in Syracuse, New York. Keep up the good work, Alex!

Leslie Ball (D/2-503 67-69) is living in Loyall, KY.

James Bernardo (C/1-503 67-68) is living in Santee, CA and working for Solar Turbines, Inc.

John Billman (C/1-503 67-68) lives in Columbus, OH and works for USPS.

James Boyd (173d Eng Co, 63-65) is a Police officer in Philadelphia, PA.

Billy Childs (335th Avn Bn 65-66) works for USPS in Winter Haven, FL.

MSG David Cummings (N/75th & E/17th Cav, 70-71) is Operations Sergeant for the USAIB, Ft. Benning, GA.

Dennis D'Andrea (Caspers, 68-69) has given up the High Tech Industry for a Trucking rig, and operates out of Portland, Oregon.

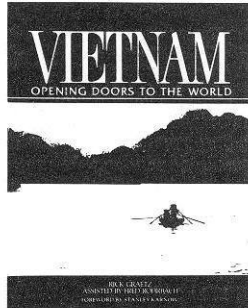
Nolan Dahl, Jr. (Det 1, 3rd RRU, 65-66) is a Purchasing Agent for Carnes Company, Inc., Sanford, NC.

Jack Ford (B/3-503, 69-70) is owner of Veterans Tree Service, Scituate, Massachusetts.

CORRECTION — In the last newsletter we printed a letter from Carl Davis, Carl's first tour of service in Vietnam was from Oct 67 to Oct 68, after returning to the states Carl went "Airborne" and returned to Vietnam and served with the "Herd" (B/4/503d) from Sep 69-Jul 70. One thing Carl did fail to mention in his letter, that has come to the Editor's attention, is the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal that was awarded to Carl while assigned to the 173d in Vietnam.

Publications

- ★ **Vietnam: Opening Doors to the World...** dedicated to Veterans of the Vietnam war.



The beauty of Vietnam today!

270 color photos of the magnificent landscape of Vietnam.

**SAIGON / THE MEKONG DELTA
CENTRAL HIGHLANDS / DA NANG & NHA TRANG
KHE SANH & HUE / HANOI and THE NORTH...
and more**

During 1987 and again in 1988, Rick Graetz of American Geographic Publishing spent several months travelling virtually unrestricted throughout Vietnam. His journeys have resulted in this colorful, 160 page book showing off Vietnam . . . not another war book, but a beautiful color photo book of Vietnam today. The text describes the author's journeys and what has taken place in Vietnam since April 30, 1975. Included is a section on how to visit Vietnam and what to expect while there. Vietnam is now open to visitors.

Sky Soldier Fred Rohrbach (173d Abn '68-'69) assisted Rick Graetz in the publishing of "Vietnam."

To order a copy of **VIETNAM: Opening Doors to the World** send \$17.95 plus \$1.50 for postage (total price of \$19.45) for each copy ordered along with your name and address to: International Headquarters



Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade
P.O. Box 1810
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902
Attn: Vietnam Book

* Thirty-five percent (35%) of the price of "Vietnam" will be donated to the Scholarship Fund of the 173d Airborne Society.

- ★ **Sky Soldier** — By Clif Berry. A recently published Bantam Book. It is a brief illustrated history of the 173d Airborne Brigade in the Vietnam War.
- ★ **When The Buffalo Fight** — By Lex McCanley an Australian who was with the "Herd" in Vietnam. VN from an Aussie's viewpoint.
- ★ LTC Leonard Scott III, (2-503 & N/75th 69-70), author of **Charlie Mike**, has a new book at your local bookstore. Billed as "The Mission Continues..." Scott's new

book is titled, **The Last Run**, and like his first work is published by Ballantine Books (paperback).

- ★ **"Battles of Dak-To"** by Lawrence D. Okendo. Describes the actions of the 173d at this famous battle. For your copy send \$12.50 to Lawrence D. Okendo, P.O. Box 562, Santa Monica, CA 90406.
- ★ Author Lawrence D. Okendo (CSM Ret) requests assistance on 2nd book.

I am working on my second book **The Sky Soldiers**, ★ **"Battle Jump Onto AO Red,"** with jump manifest included. If you jumped in Junction City write and tell me about it. Be sure all photos have your name and address printed on the back so I can return them after use.

Thank you and God bless, till we form again.
Lawrence D. Okendo, P.O. Box 562, Santa Monica, CA 90406.

- ★ **First to Fight**, by LTC Breen, Royal Australian Army. More details on this excellent book later.
- ★ Edward Murphy, author of **Vietnam Medal of Honor Heroes**, (Ballantine Books) is doing research about DAK TO: He would like to hear from those who fought there. Write at 1317 East Hale Street, Mesa, AZ 85203.
- ★ **"Parachuting's Unforgettable Jumps III"** is a 552 page book by Howard Gregory (3rd Edition). Over 300 Photographs, 9x6 Hardcover Book \$23.95. The Army Times said: "...A monumental exploration of the History of Parachuting . . . Highly recommended, especially for Airborne men."

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