

# SKY SOLDIER

Newsletter of  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE



Winter 1994

President — Frank Miceli  
Vice-President — Ken Gaudet

Secretary — Mark Ludlow  
Treasurer — COL (Ret) Kenneth Smith

Vol. IX, No. 1

Editor — Timothy R. Stout

## COPS WHO ROUNDED UP THE “HERD”



Like all elements within the Brigade, the Brigade MP's had an equally difficult job to perform both in the field and at the base headquarters. Pictured here are some of the best to serve with the MP platoon. From left to right, Girgus, Contotto, Michailoff, Moorhead, Gentry, Auth, and Ron Griffin who submitted the photo.

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## DUES

Annually, 31-32% of our members achieve paid-up status. This includes Life and annual members. The other 68-69% either cannot or choose not to pay their dues. This places a burden on those who do.

The Society, with some 4460 names on its rolls as of 31 December 1993, maintains a number of programs. None are cheap — your Board of Directors believes all are useful. These range from our Scholarship Program through donations to worthy causes and includes helping our brothers get VA benefits, legal assistance and counseling, and other support. All your officers are volunteers — no one is paid for their time.

A parachute would not function effectively if it were only 1/3 deployed. Your Society functions — but barely — with only 1/3 of its members contributing to its support. Annual dues, which may be forwarded through your chapter or sent directly to national, are payable on January 1 of each year. If the number following your name is anything except "Life", "Waived," or "95", your dues are payable now.

Annual dues are \$20.00. If you are in arrears, we need your support now. Please mail your dues to the Society at P.O. Box 27822; Washington, D.C. 20038-0822. Do it now while it is on your mind.

Ken Smith  
Treasurer

## NOTICE

Deadline for submitting articles for the Spring edition is: **30 April 1994**

For the Summer edition it is 31 July 1994.

Editor

## From the Editor

I would like to thank all the members who have contributed towards the newsletter. I would especially like to single out Art Ortiz from Chapter X in California who recently sent me 15 pounds of photographs from four or five of the past reunions. The pictures are great and I will be sharing them with the readers in the near future. Thanks Art, the members will be the benefactors of your kind contribution. The mail I've been getting seems to be more upbeat and for lack of a better word, kinder in thought and deeds. It is nice to know that there are many of you out there who give so much of yourselves to help the betterment of other Herd members or other veterans. That should always be the sounding theme for all chapters and members.

As a Society when we direct our resources, determination, and will, we can accomplish much. Just look at our annual reunion and the work that is put into organizing it and the professional results we get. The Airborne spirit is alive and getting stronger and we should always be there to help others who may not be as strong.

Tim Stout

## "HOOK-UP"

**Daniel T. Delaney** (A Co 2nd Plt/4/503 Inf. 2Apr71-15Aug71 173 ABN BDE) then known as "Brother D.", is trying to locate members of his unit to help him in gathering information he needs for a VA claim for PTSD. He is especially looking for George Dove and Milford Cleveland. Anyone who may remember Danny can write to him at: 64 Cuyahoga St., Akron, OH 44304-1008.

**Danny Hargans** (1st RAR 1965-66) was attached to the 173rd in Bien Hoa, where he served as a gunner on helicopters from the Brigade. Danny is trying to locate two Herd members, SGT Robert Hendrick and a pilot by the name of either W.O. Kroegher or Kruger who was later commissioned as a Lt. If anyone knows the whereabouts of these members please contact Danny at: 1010 Broadhurst St., Childers, Queensland 4660 Australia.

*Danny let me know if you have any luck. Editor*

I was attached to the 173rd in Vietnam from Nov. 1967 to March 1968. I was with the 54th Sig Battalion. I now have PTSD and I need for anyone that can remember me to notify me at:

Thomas W. Briggs  
6100 Strathmore Rd., #73  
Richmond, VA 23234  
(804) 271-1486

The VA will not acknowledge that I was with the 173rd because it is not in my records.

Thanks,  
Tom Briggs

## Scholarship Announcement

The Society is pleased to announce that applications are now available for the 1994 Scholarship Award Program. All applications must be post-marked not later than May 31, 1994, to be eligible for consideration. For an application, write to SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN: PO Box 27822; Washington, DC 20038-0822.

## Update on Airborne-Special Operations Museum

Well, the first meeting of the National Airborne-Special Operations Museum (USASOC) Committee is now history. We met in Ft. Bragg on 12-14 December 1993. It was very a very enjoyable and rewarding meeting.

General Williamson was there with his wife for the full proceedings. As you know, the main problem heretofore related to the name of the museum with some (a small minority) objecting to including special operations in the name. I think that problem has now been put to rest and the name now stands as Airborne and Special Operations. General Lindsay, General Yarborough, et al. did an outstanding job of explaining the rationale for the name. It was done to the satisfaction of all, except for a very few disgruntled members who won't be satisfied until they have it their own way (and they ain't gonna get it).

The XVIII Corps and the 82d Airborne Division laid out the red carpet for us. It was indeed gratifying to, at first hand, see a demonstration of our current military capability. Any of our would-be enemies had better think twice about taking us on. I got to take my first ride in a C-130 in 28 years, and my first ride ever in a "Blackhawk". That alone was worth the trip.

It seems that the whole effort is well underway. Most of the planning and design work has been done, and General Lindsay and his people are pursuing the money. We are talking "BIG BUCKS" — about 8 million more than the 4 they now have. Not much was said about the Memorials. I gather that will come later. Also, no definite word was given with respect to the area within the museum that will be allocated to each unit. In response to Gen. Williamson's questions, Gen. Lindsay assured us that we each will have some space and that the details will be worked out later.

It's not too early for us all to start thinking about individually held artifacts and memorabilia that we would want to be placed in the museum. We are a long way from that point now. We must keep in mind that anything we donate to the museum is done legally, and the gift is irrevocable under current law. Gen. Williamson suggested that this law be reconsidered if the gift cannot be used for its intended purpose, i.e. in the 173d Section. A museum official promised that he would look into the matter, but he did not sound very optimistic about any change. More details on the "collectibles" will follow.

Earlier Gen. Williamson had asked me to write a short version of the theme of the museum as I viewed it. A copy of my effort is attached. A copy was provided to Gen. Lindsay's group, but we don't know its disposition.

## Monument Fund Update

The Society acknowledges the generous gifts of the following to the monument fund.

Victor Halme	Daniel T. Delaney
Rick Johnston	Paul Ray in Memory of
Douglas Foster	Lt. Robert Sigholtz, KIA
Angel M. Garcia	Roy Mathis
John B. McPherson	Richard S. Wells
Don "Buck" Lair	James M. Robinson
Walter E. Bantum	Julius A. Otto
1SG(R) Robert M. Duarte	

## Next Year — At The Wall!

Over the course of Herd meetings and in the constant stream of correspondence that I read, there is a refrain that emerges with frequency. Our mantra is "Next Year — at the Wall." This is an articulation of a hope, a pledge, a promise, and a dream that we will see for the first time (or return to experience) the magic and the healing power of this monument. How familiar and comforting this phrase — "Next Year — at the Wall."

For increasing numbers, however, this phrase over the years has assumed a new meaning. Instead of a promise or goal, it has started to become an excuse. They are fooling themselves, and in some sense denying reality, when they mouth the phrase, "Next Year — At the Wall!"

The question we must put to ourselves as we approach the 25th Anniversary of our return from Vietnam and deactivation, concerns our monument. To date, 370 people have contributed \$26,876.00 (but only \$2,800.00 in 1993). Our target for ground-breaking, if not completion, is 1997. Will this monument be a reality, or is it another way of saying, "Next Year — at the Wall."

The reality of the fact is that the monument will cost some \$100,000.00 to \$200,000.00 or more. We are working on a design, and a site near the proposed Airborne museum. Actions are under way, but we need to get serious about this endeavor. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have contributed to date, but now we need everyone to get behind this effort. We owe it to those who died, and those who lived, to have a fitting monument that will mark forever our accomplishments and our passing. Let's make our monument a reality! "Next Year — at the Wall."

Ken Smith, Monument Committee

Hope this brings all of your readers up to date. I had not intended that it be so long, but good news can't be too short. Any good suggestions from all our ranks will be appreciated.

Sincerely,  
John Tyler

----- CLIP HERE -----

### Monument Contribution Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (MI)

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ WORK PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Here's my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ tax deductible contribution for the monument!

Please mail to: Monument Fund, c/o Kenneth Smith  
Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade, PO Box 27822, Washington, DC 20038-0822

## The Casualties Are Not All Counted . . .

We know, with accuracy, the total number and individual names of our brothers who died in Vietnam. We also know that our brothers-in-arms earned more than 6,000 Purple Hearts. History has duly recorded these facts, but the record is not complete. Not all the casualties are counted.

Daily, new casualties are occurring. Mike Creamer, who could not stand the anguish of the Persian Gulf conflict, is one such casualty. Al Turner, who took his life in October, 1993 is another. Al suffered from severe PTSD and rapidly diminishing physical capabilities. In his depression and pain, he found no acceptable alternative to living.

The further we get from Vietnam, the more frequently we see signs of delayed PTSD. These signs manifest themselves in many forms. Most commonly, these are depression, lack of sleep, loss of weight, alcoholism, physical discomfort, or other alterations in behavior. Even the strongest and the most stable can experience these symptoms as a career closes or an event occurs which causes memories to emerge or "survivors guilt" to prey on otherwise "normal" people.

PTSD is not an affliction of the weak. It can and does occur in varying degrees in many people. But what we all need to realize is that no one else needs to be a casualty. If you notice a change in the behavior of someone close to you, or in yourself, help is available. But it is important to do something and do it soon. We lost too many dead and suffered too many wounded in combat. Enough is enough. Don't let another name be added to the casualties not counted.

Ken Smith

### From the office of BRITT SMALL

December 28, 1993

Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade  
PO Box 27822  
Washington, DC 20038-0822

Airborne Brothers,

In my travels, I occasionally meet guys who served in the 173rd, and I haven't always done a very good job of getting their addresses. This is a situation I intend to rectify, because we need to find our brothers.

Because of the beautiful 173rd jacket given to me by Frank Miceli, more of the 173rd are finding me. During a recent engagement in Las Vegas, I met J.R. Johns, who served in the 1st Battalion at the LZ Uplift in 1969 & 70. His address is 4679 Bennett Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89121. Please send him a newsletter and information about the next reunion.

I will continue to send you names and addresses as I locate them. We still need for the individual unit commanders to take responsibility for their men who are languishing in prisons and hospitals all over the country. The unit must become responsible for our own members in need.

Airborne All The Way,  
Britt Small

## UNITED STATES ARMY AIRBORNE AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS MUSEUM

### Ft. Bragg, North Carolina

This edifice stands to tell the story of the Airborne and Special Operations Soldiers of the United States Army — those who were, those who are, and those who surely will be.

They were created in the dark and early days of World War II, when the welfare of our nation was in great peril, and the fate of freedom throughout the world was being challenged by men of ill intent. There was a great need for new and more innovative means of projecting the strength and good will of our still budding nation to distant locations on short notice. Far thinking United States military leaders of that time came forth with a new solution, one that had been talked about and studied for some time but one that little had done to develop — the airborne and special operations soldier who is now known universally as a trooper.

They were forged of necessity and have been tempered over the years in the caldrons of history that have banded the earth from the deserts of North Africa to the sands of Kuwait. They have emerged as the most dedicated and skilled soldiers that our nation has ever produced.

These troopers are a unique group of military professionals. They enter battle in a unique manner and operate in the smallest of formations conducive to mission accomplishment. This might be an infantry squad or a special forces "A" team, or a ranger company, or an airborne battalion. Such fragmentation places an unparalleled burden on junior leaders who must operate frequently without the comforting mantle of a higher echelon with more experienced leaders who can counsel and guide them through perilous times. Junior leaders respond to this challenge because they know full well that their superiors trust their decisions and stand ready to provide a supporting hand when needed.

They now stand at the fore of everything that our nation holds dear. They are a brotherhood whose ranks can be joined only by a demonstrative display of skills and determination, and dedication and loyalty one to the other that is unsurpassed by their like in any army. From the highest to the lowest ranks, they respect and trust each other. They know that they can depend on each other. They know that if they try, they will succeed. Without hesitation, even in the absence of definitive instructions, they do that which they know to be right. In short, their commitment and their dedication are first to their nation, thence to their comrades, and finally to their own self-esteem that puts accomplishment of mission above all other values, even to and including their lives.

This building, then tells their story. It tells who they are, how they came to be, and what they are now. It praises their accomplishments and sanctifies their sacrifices. Let it stand into the ages as proof that their legend lives on.

John Tyler  
December, 1993



## Fort Knox to Name Building After Medal of Honor Recipient

FT. KNOX KENTUCKY. The U.S. Army Armored Training Center will be naming a building after Pfc Michael Blanchfield who was awarded the Medal Of Honor for his actions while serving with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. From the information I obtained from Fort Knox authorities this is only the second time they have named a facility after a non armored trained MOH recipient. The other is the late SFC Lawrence Joel, who was a medic with the 173rd when he was awarded his Medal of Honor.

We are making history again, and it would be great if we had a very strong turnout for the ceremony. Mr. Rick Davis who works in the S-3 shop for the 3rd Bn 81st Armored Regt, and a Herd member who was with Blanchfield when he was killed in action, is the force behind this significant dedication.

The ceremony is scheduled for 22 April 1994 at 1400 hrs (2:00 p.m.) at building 5934, Fort Knox, Kentucky. MG. Timmons will be the guest speaker. He was Blanchfield's Company Commander at the time of the action. There will be other VIP's as well as the Post marching band, refreshments, and other activities. There will be a special plaque and painting of Blanchfield presented to the Armored School from the Department of the Army. For more information you can call SFC Cole or SFC Hollinger at the school. (502) 624-5735. These two fine NCO's are in charge of organizing the dedication. Hope to see you there.

Tim Stout  
Editor

## In Memoriam

### 1SG George W. Henderson

(Co D (Maint) 173rd Spt Bn (1966-67) passed away in September 1993.

SFC (Ret) Levern Craig  
Co C (S&T) 173rd Spt Bn  
1965-66

### Charles J. Widmeier

passed away in May 1993

### Al Turner

deceased Oct. 6, 1993

*May God grant them the eternal rest of those who served their country honorably and well.*

## Scholarship Fund Update

The Society acknowledges the generous gifts of the following to the scholarship fund:

Victor Halme  
Chapter I  
Risden B. Wall, Jr.  
17th Airborne Division (Central New York Area)  
Angel M. Garcia  
Paul W. Sliwa  
John Schimpf  
Elite Forces Military Supply Store  
Clarence D. Martin  
Arthur Ortiz

## 173rd Brigade Texas Reunion Video For Sale

\$29.95	TAPE
\$ 4.00	SHIPPING & HANDLING
<u>\$33.95</u>	TOTAL

Creatively and Professionally captured on video:

- |                                  |                                    |                           |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| ★ Open Registration              | ★ Lone Star Brewery (B-B-Q, Dance) | ★ Retire Colors and Dance |
| ★ Mexican Buffet with Mariachies | ★ Ladies Breakfast                 | ★ Continental Breakfast   |
| ★ Trip to Fort Sam Houston       | ★ Speaker Awards                   | ★ Memorial Service        |

Fill in the form below and send to: **IBANEZ VIDEO PRODUCTIONS**  
3619 San Fernando, San Antonio, Texas 78207  
(210) 434-3933

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## An Open Letter for the 173rd ABN BDE Members

I sat and read the entire newsletter today then decided to write to you.

My name is Debbie Turner, widow of Al Turner, a member of Sky Soldiers. My husband and I were married 21-1/2 years before he took his life on October 6, 1993 at home. My 19 year old daughter, 16 year old son and I were all at home when that fateful shot rang out. Al's time of suffering was over and so was much of ours.

The choice Al made that day was one I can reconcile with because I knew the pain and agony he was going through. The severe PTSD he was suffering caused severe nightmares and violence requiring us to sleep apart most of the time, when we were able to sleep. The physical limitations he had were progressing rapidly to a point of no return. What were those limitations? We never really knew and that was driving us both crazy. His joints would swell constantly to the point of using crutches for walking, while his shoulder pain would not even allow him to button his own pants or apply deodorant. What was it — who knows? Why did he have constant diarrhea, vomit blood, suffer seizures, have constant chest pains, go into states of confusion, memory loss, lose his fingernails and toe nails, have lumps on his feet and purplish discoloration? Who knows? All I know is I am left with a shopping bag full of medications but no answers from VA.

The night he was transported by helicopter to Lehigh Valley Hospital's trauma unit (incidentally, it would have thrilled him to know he went out in the one thing he loved the most — a helicopter) I requested that a full autopsy be done and tissue samples be saved for testing at Triangle Labs in North Carolina. The testing process has begun for Agent Orange. The autopsy report is complete and I'm not really sure what it is saying. I will be getting an explanation of the findings within a day or two.

When is our government going to admit they made a mistake? Never, or perhaps when the last Vietnam veteran has passed away. All I know is that I am now a widow and my children fatherless because of the lack of any consideration for our veterans whatsoever by our government. Al was very proud to be an elite member of the 5th Special Forces and the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He never regretted being part of the War, even until the end. He was deeply hurt and saddened and had a total feeling of rejection because of the way the vets have been treated all these years. He was the strongest, bravest man I have ever known. He fought for 12 years before he finally gave up. He earned the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Army Commendation Medal Air Medal W/V, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Bronze Star. More importantly he left the one thing that he had so much pride in to his son — the Green Beret. God Bless each and every one of you.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Turner

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I hope you can find room in "Sky Soldier" for this story. Ron has gone to a great deal of effort to fulfill a promise to John Holland and I am sure he has no idea what on-going good his efforts will do by bringing these two blokes back together.

Currently the Chapter XI committee is preparing for the AGM to be held on December 18. It is expected that John McNamara will be reelected as President. John has done a phenomenal job and is highly respected by the members. He travels over 100 miles to attend meetings and chapter business. Unfortunately Bill Kaine, the best treasurer anyone could ever ask for, will not be standing as he is moving to the island state of Tasmania, apart from the water it's also some 800 miles from Sydney. We will also lose Vic Lagettie, our quartermaster. Vic could always be relied on to come up with the goods. He is moving to Queensland, the opposite direction to Bill. Both previous lived in the same town, now they will end up some 1400 miles apart. Believe me, neither have body odour.

At the AGM I will be putting forward a proposal to publish a "Cook Book" hopefully it will be accepted. Briefly, the idea will be to gather "original" recipes from the members of the Society, each contributor will be credited with his recipe. This should create an international collection. The profits will be divided equally between the scholarship fund and our Chapter. My plan is to air condition our museum with our Chapter's share. More on this proposal after the AGM and later approval by the International Board

Ray Payne  
Chapter XI Secretary

Dear Editor:

Enclosed please find my dues for 1994. I retired last June 93 with 30 years, 21 days service! 23 years overseas in 9 countries (Germany, Jordan, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Ecuador, Paraguay and Guatemala) I think that might be a record. My wife and I decided to stay in Guatemala for awhile and I opened a small consulting and marketing business.

Col (Ret) Paul & Lynne Scharf  
USMILGP Guatemala (Unit 3301)  
APO AA 34024

Dear Editor:

By my husband's request, I am sending you the enclosed poem I had written for and about him. He served with the "Herd" from April 1966 to April 1967, but has only become aware of the Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade recently, and has become a member of the Florida chapter.

We wanted to share this poem with other members of the Society, in hopes of its reaching a Veteran or family member of a Veteran in some special way.

I am proud of all the "Herd" members and what they fought for, and look forward to "reunion time" in Sacramento.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Marcum  
P.O. Box 41  
Bell, FL 32619

(Continued on page 7)

## THE VIETNAM SURVIVOR

The message was loud and clear:  
"Ask not what your country can do for you,  
but what **you** can do for your country."

You were so young,  
and "all-believing"  
in God,  
country  
and freedom.

At such a tender age you chose to say "Good-bye"  
to all you'd ever known  
and enter a new and strange life.  
Your reasons were sincere and unselfish,  
knowing not what lay ahead,  
only concerned with  
your sense of duty and support of your country.

The training was an adventure  
as well as a great challenge!  
But, no amount of training could prepare you for  
the horrors of war:  
of never knowing whether you'd survive the  
next minute . . .  
or end up in a drab body bag.

I cannot imagine living one day like that,  
but a whole year is more  
than anyone should be made to bear!

And even though you've survived,  
all the memories are there,  
at a moment's recall . . .  
lying dormant until something prompts  
the sights, sounds or smells to come to mind.

I wish I knew some way  
to ease the pain I see in your eyes . . .  
the mixed feelings of pride, regret,  
love of country, but hatred of war,  
the lack of trust you learned  
through hurt and broken relationships,  
through the death of fellow soldiers.

Stone by stone, day by day, the wall was built.  
A wall to protect your sanity,  
your feelings,  
your very life.

At the same time, the wall would shield you  
from attachment with those around you,  
from letting them close enough to hurt you.

Inside this wall, the memories and guilt never faded,  
so you tried ways to blot them out . . .  
to ease the pain.

But there is no way to erase what has happened.

The only hope is in learning to accept the past . . .  
to forgive yourself for things you had to do.

You have survived the fiery trial no man  
should be made to face.  
You did your best,  
but have suffered the consequences of body and soul . . .  
searching to find the meaning of it all.  
I cannot give you answers . . .  
only my acceptance and love  
for every part of the person you are.

Barbara Marcum

Dear Editor:

It is my intention to make this an open letter to all former members of the 173D ABN BDE., particularly those associated with the B Co. 1/503 from 1968/1969. As such, I would sincerely appreciate your assistance in publishing it in the next issue of the newsletter.

In the early spring of 1969 I was med-evaced to Qui Nhon. My ruck sack, which contained all of my worldly possessions was delivered intact to the B Co. supply room at LZ Uplift, of this I am certain. I, along with the remainder of the company, fully expected my return within days, however because of the severity of infections I began a long journey which took me to Japan and eventually home to California.

A couple of months after my arrival back in the "world" a large box arrived at my parents home supposedly containing my personal belongings. In reality the box contained just my boonie hat.

Of all my meager possessions there was but one item that I really wanted and that was my "drive on rag". It was made by a Vietnamese tailor who had a shop at Uplift. The material was infantry blue with a stateside "HERD" patch centered on it. Embossed, in white thread, above the patch was "B Co. 1/503rd Inf." Lastly, "California Dream'n" was below the patch.

This one item, this small piece of cloth represented everything to me: busting your ass every damn day humping the boonies, laying in the rain on bushwhacks, wait-a-minute vines, fatigue one cannot describe, dust-offs, mosquitoes, camaraderie and more than anything the feeling that only pride can bring when one knows he has served with the finest combat unit ever assembled. That small square of cloth was meant to last a life time, more than just a souvenir it was something I would have wanted to pass on to my family.

Why have I waited twenty-five years to seek this out? The answer is quite simple: I have a son. He is only 22 months old and one day he must be told of the 173D Airborne Brigade, and of the men who forged it's proud legacy in blood, sweat and tears. I would very much have wanted to give him the drive on rag his father had made long ago in a little place called LZ Uplift.

What I am asking of my fellow "Sky Soldiers" is that if anyone has this in their possession, or knows of its fate, would you please contact me.

Thank you,  
Mark C. Oldfield  
1130 Neziperce Dr.  
Hollister, CA 95023

(Continued on page 8)

**Letters to the Editor** — From page 7

Dear Editor:

Enclosed is my \$173.00 check for life membership. I have been meaning to do this ever since I first discovered the "Sky Soldier" organization.

I just completed reading Edward F. Murphy's book "Dak To" and it really brought back some vivid memories. As a grunt with B/4/503 on Hill 830 I never totally understood what actually occurred that day (10 July 67). My overall recollection has always been a little blurred as to the actual sequence of events.

All I know for certain is that I was sent out as right flank security when we stopped on the trail that day. I went up about 25 meters and I was just getting ready to reread a letter from my girl back home when the sh\_\_ hit the fan. The sudden intensity of that overwhelming volume of fire raining down from the hill still almost sucks my breath away when I think about it. I can also remember listening to the metallic sound of the bolt on my M-16, chambering and extracting each round. In my memories I can see and hear certain members of my platoon hollering and cursing and laughing hysterically as we began the counter assault. And lastly, I can never forget the sounds of the wounded, crying and screaming all through the damp cold night, especially when someone would send up a handheld flare. Equally unforgettable is the smell of dead and dying men.

Thanks to Ed Murphy for helping to fill in some of the blank spots. Also a really "BIG THANK YOU" to the editor and staff of "SKY SOLDIER" for hooking me back up with brother veterans of the best military organization ever to go into battle. Those of us who know the true horrors of war can only share and understand with others who have been there.

I'm very proud to be "AIRBORNE, ALL THE WAY!"

Jerald K. Lytle (B/4/503, 3/67-4/68)  
P.O. Box 80  
Fort Thompson, SD 57339  
(605) 245-2189

Dear Editor:

I always enjoy reading each *Sky Soldier* newsletter and always look to see if there is someone I may recognize. Chances seem to get slimmer after so many years. The week before my 49th birthday I received my Fall 1993 edition and there on the cover was a picture I remembered . . . myself . . . kneeling at a funeral service for a fellow soldier. To be sure I checked my annual and there was the same picture where I had written my name beside of it over 25 years ago. It seems that time passes quickly but memories stand still.

This inspired me to write and ask to hear from anyone with whom I served. I was with Hq & Hq/Co 2/503d Bn/Recon Panthers, 1966-67. Please write to Evander C. "Dickie" Wright, Route 1, Box 639, Siler City, NC 27344.

Thanks for doing a great job and keeping us posted.

Sincerely,  
Dickie Wright

Dear Editor

I received the following letter from Ron Kelly, a member of our Chapter who attended the Texas Reunion. It's letters like this that makes all the efforts worthwhile.

\* \* \* \* \*

During the Society's reunion in Texas, my wife was speaking with a member of the 173rd, one John Holland from Oklahoma. He mentioned that he'd spent some time in a hospital, while in Vietnam, with an Australian soldier who had been severely wounded in the liver and had died. My wife believed she knew who he was speaking about and stated that he did not die. Ernie (Ned) Kelly and I joined in the conversation and confirmed that we knew the person in question and we believed that he had survived. John Holland stated he would very much like to get in touch with the person, if we could find any information about him.

On returning to Australia, telephone calls were made and between Bill Kaine, Ned and myself and together we confirmed that the person John Holland was asking about was John Densley from Victoria. (His story can be read in Bob Breen's book about our tour, "First to Fight" pages 202/203.)

I contacted John Densley, who had not been to any Vietnam Vet's reunions. He stated he could not remember much about his time in the hospital. With his permission we forwarded his details to John Holland.

Within a short time a very excited John Densley rang me to say that he'd received a letter from John Holland. He spoke for almost an hour and stated that he had remembered some of his time in the hospital, after receiving John's letter. He intended replying immediately and he was amazed at the co-incidence of a chance conversation on the other side of the world, which reunited two people after almost 30 years.

Ron Kelly  
41 Macleay Cres  
St. Marys, NSW 2760

Dear Editor

In 1970, I was assigned to the 1st platoon of Troop E, 17th Cavalry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. Sometime toward the end of that year, our platoon leader was killed. I don't know what state he was from or any family particulars, etc., and I'm not even sure of the correct spelling, but his name was Terrance O'Boyle. He was either Armor or Cavalry branch, but he was a 1st Lieutenant. I have a picture of him with my relics and lately I have been compelled to try and contact any of his relatives to see if they want it, and/or to offer long overdue condolences. If anybody out there knew him, or any of his family, or knows the addresses of family, I would be forever grateful, as this is something very important to me. Please call and leave your name and phone number and I will return the call ASAP.

In brotherhood,  
Donald Lee Palmer  
1701 N. Fireside St.  
Orange, CA 92667-4017  
(714) 637-2283 (Message)

Dear Editor:

I enjoyed talking with you recently on the phone. It's difficult to believe that 25 odd years have passed since our little squad was operating out of Bao Loc. I seem to remember much rain and mud.

Enclosed is a picture of the Kontum Squad, and a brief summary of the last 15 years. It's amazing how you can put a quarter century on just a little over 1 page. Unfortunately, I don't have any pictures of the squad based at Bao Loc. It

(Continued on page 9)



**Letters to the Editor** — From page 8

seems my interest in picture taking completely evaporated during the last 6 months of my tour.

I hope this "Care Package" finds you healthy and happy. I'll check in with you and Goldsberry prior to my next Minneapolis trip. Maybe we can get together.

Ronald Griffin  
HHC (MP PLT)

*Editors Note: Ron is now a corporate jet pilot for Olan Mills Inc., Chattanooga, TN, and is in charge of the aviation department.*

Dear Editor:

I think that it is time to talk about the war I fought when I was a member of the "Herd." I have nothing but the utmost respect for my fellow Sky Soldiers who fought from '65 to '67, but that is all I seem to hear or read about. We had no battles on the scale of Dak To. No combat blasts to immortalize us. What we did have was "Monster Mountain" and that damned no name island off the coast of Cam Ranh Bay. A four day stand down at LZ Uplift and then another thirty day hump in the mountains. We were mostly draftees . . . considered fools by the people back home and not "real soldiers" by the RA's. We fought with pride and dignity and died with honor. . . Sky Soldiers all. My era was '70 to '71.

Regards  
Donald Jones  
(C/2/503)

Dear Editor

I really enjoy the newsletter and I look to the Herd history book. Keep up the good work.

Jim Napolitano  
1744 North Military Trail  
West Palm Beach, FL 33409

Dear Editor:

Your collage in the summer 93 issue was very good, I must admit! It was in very good taste. There was only one problem, either you or your photographer over looked all of the Black Sky Soldiers attending the re-union!!

I usually don't get on this bandwagon, but this time I must speak my piece. We already have a problem getting Blacks to join the Society and an even harder time getting a fair number to attend the re-unions. And then to have this great piece of art work with one, I SAY AGAIN one Black Sky Soldier stuck in the corner, as if to say OOPS we better put one on here or we'll never hear the last of this. I'm sure it wasn't your intention to do that (AT LEAST I HOPE IT WASN'T). But try to understand what I'm saying.

You could have left him off and probably go no response from me or anyone else. I really feel we should do a lot more to attract former Black Sky Soldiers to join the local chapters. And art work like the collage MUST have more Blacks in it. This society should never show favoritism to any race, rank, or unit that was involved in the Vietnam experience!!

I really hope in the future you can rectify this problem. When I show the newsletter to a potential member I want to be proud of the publication, and not have to make excuses for, why aren't there more Blacks in the organization??

I always think back to the groovy 60's and the problems we had back then!! And it burns me to no end when someone discriminates against another Vietnam vet be he Black

or White!! There's no room in this society or our local chapters for racism.

I think anytime we get the chance to highlight Black soldiers that served with the 173rd, it should be done without a second thought. I've been a member of this society since 1967 with a short break in between. I've done everything I know to get members to join. From Ft Bragg/Fayetteville chapter chairman to rounding up lost souls in the deepest, coldest part of the Alaska flat lands. So please don't hurt my efforts by leaving Blacks out of the newsletter.

P.S. Pam and I had a great time in San Antonio, thanks for a warm welcome. "San Antonio is too romantic."

I hope you can reprint this in the newsletter, I really want my feelings expressed to the entire society!! "I love and respect all of you."

Your Brother In Arms!  
SFC William (Bill) Rasool  
DELTA 1st Bn 61st Inf (BCT)  
Ft. Jackson, SC 29207  
(803) 776-4937 home  
(803) 751-3204 work

Dear Editor:

I'm "hooking up" for lifetime membership. I was an FO in HHC 2/503 in 1966-67 and I was attached to A, B, and C companies during that time. If anyone remembers me, especially from the Midwest, please give me a call or write to me.

Sylvester Elders  
77 Watauga Road  
Franklin, NC 28734  
(704) 369-9919

Dear Editor:

MG Ellis Williamson suggested I write you in an attempt to locate two former Company Commanders in the 1/503. I request you enclose in your next issue of *Sky Soldier* a note seeking the whereabouts of former Captains Lowell Bittrich (B 1/503) and Henry "Sonny" Tucker (C 1/503). Both were COs during HUMP, 5-9 November 1965.

In addition, if it is possible, I am searching for anyone who was on HUMP in War Zone D. I am attempting to write a book on that battle and need all the first-hand accounts I can find.

Thank you for your assistance.

ALL THE WAY!  
Al Conetto  
6579 Cooperage Court  
San Jose, CA 95120  
(408) 268-3542 home  
(408) 369-7500 business

Dear Editor

Enclosed is my check for life membership to the Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. I apologize for the delay in my past dues. I served with Co A 2/503 in 1969, and was wounded on 5 June 1969. Also just letting you know I appreciate the newsletter. Airborne All The Way

John M. Ratliff  
Rt. 1, Box 1885  
Demorest, GA 30535

*Ed Note: Hope you are doing well and please let me know if you have not got that back issue.*

(Continued on page 10)

Letters to the Editor — From page 9

Dear Editor:

**SPECIAL LETTER OF THANKS**

I would like to thank Chapter XI (Down Under) for the help they provided in helping me obtaining boomerrangs for my grandsons. I want to especially thank Mr. Ron Kelly and Mr. Bob Cockerill. Enclosed is a photograph of Mr. Roy Barker (wearing muscle shirt) and Bob Cockerill on the right. The gentleman on the left was not identified.

Juan D. Abitu  
2139 W. Summit  
San Antonio, TX 78201-4805



## Team 162

I am the Historian of Team 162. We are the American Advisors that were with the Vietnamese Airborne Division during the Vietnam conflict.

Many of our people also served in your unit at one time or the other.

We respectfully request if you could put the below listed entry under reunions of your units magazine.

If it needs to be edited so be it, any help would be greatly appreciated.

Yours for the veteran.

Mike George  
4107 Flintridge Drive  
Stone Mountain, GA 30083-3134  
(404) 299-1842

### REUNIONS

**Team 162, Red Markers and the Society of the Vietnamese Airborne Division, June 23-26, 1994. Columbus, GA / Ft. Benning, GA. Point of contact MSG (R) Otis Amick, 6060 Canterbury Drive, Columbus, GA 31902. Phone: (404) 323-4028.**

## 1994 REUNION PATROL REPORT

**Situation:**

International Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (SEP) Reunion • July 7-10, 1994 • Sacramento, CA

**Enemy Forces:**

Hot weather is expected — make sure all troopers bring shorts.

**Friendly Forces:**

The City of Sacramento and The State of California

**Attachments:**

Any person who served with or was attached to the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Especially for our fellow troopers from Australia and New Zealand.

**Mission:**

To renew old friendships, tell war stories, and have a good time.

**Execution:**

**7-July Thursday**

1200-1800 Registration  
1200-2200 Reunion Hall Open  
1800-2200 Hospitality Area Open  
Beer and Wine Available

**8-July Friday**

0800-1100 Breakfast Buffet  
1000-1800 Registration  
1900-2000 Twilight Memorial Ceremony at the California Viet Nam Vets Memorial  
2030-2200 Hospitality Open

**9-July Saturday**

0800-1100 Breakfast Buffet  
1000-1300 Registration/Hospitality  
0900-1200 Officers Board Meeting  
1300-1500 Members Meeting  
1300-1500 Ladies Meeting; PTSD  
"How to Live With It"  
1800 Dinner Banquet

**10-July Sunday**

0800-1100 Breakfast Buffet  
**Good-bys and farewells**

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# 1994 REUNION/CONVENTION

of the  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE 173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)

Hosted by the  
**WESTERN STATES CHAPTER X**  
JULY 7-10, 1994 • SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

---

Last Name First M.I.

---

Address City State Zip

---

Phone Chapter

I will be Accompanied by:

---

Name/Guest Name/Guest

---

Name/Guest Name/Guest

\_\_\_\_\_ Handicap Facilities Requested \_\_\_\_\_ No. of children

**Registration Fees: ON OR BEFORE MAY 15TH:** \$90.00 member, \$60 spouse/guest (no registration packet for spouse), \$25.00 children under 15 (no registration packet or banquet).

**AFTER MAY 15TH:** \$105.00 member, \$75.00 spouse/guest.

Additional person(s) for *Banquet only* \$35.00 (each). Please include in registration.

**Registration Includes:** Registration Packet (member only), Breakfasts, Buffets, and Saturday Night Banquet

**Location:** HOLIDAY INN CAPITOL PLAZA, 300 J STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 — (916) 446-0100  
GROUP NAME: 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE REUNION.  
ROOM RATES: \$69.00/SINGLE OR DOUBLE

**HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY JUNE 15TH**

**Make checks payable and mail to:**

173rd REUNION '94  
WESTERN STATES CHAPTER X  
1325 IMOLA AVE. WEST #427  
NAPA, CA 94559

**FOR INFORMATION CALL KEN GAUDET '94 REUNION CHAIRMAN (707) 252-6732**

## Golf Tournament Hosted By Chapter X to Benefit Project Uplift

Chapter X member and R&R chairman for the 1994 reunion Mark Okazaki is organizing a golf tournament for all members and their families to participate in. The purpose of the event is to help raise money for kids to participate in Project Uplift. Mark has issued the following operations order to highlight the events.

### CHALLENGE:

All members and their families to play golf for Project Uplift

### DATE:

8 July 1994 at 0900 hrs (9:00 am)

### LOCATION:

The Lighthouse Marina and Country Club near the Sacramento River.

### TRANSPORTATION:

To be decided

### FEES:

\$50.00 per person, includes transportation, green fees, clubs, golf cart. Donations will be accepted at the golf course for Project Uplift.

For more information and details on how you can get on a "Hawk Flight" write or call R&R NCOIC, Mark Okazaki at (415) 856-0285. All fees must be submitted no later than 8 May 94.

## Chapter X Reunion Planning The Following Activities For Reunion Attendees:

As an after reunion respite, Chapter X is tentatively planning a bus trip to Reno, Nevada for one night of fun and gambling. The cost for this overnight trip is \$40.00 per person (double occupancy) and includes bus transportation, a room at the Hilton Hotel and Casino and \$15.00 in food and gambling coupons. This is on a first come, first served basis and is limited to the first 47 paid respondents.

### TENTATIVE ITINERARY:

#### Sunday 10 July 1994

**4:00 pm** Bus departs from hotel in Sacramento for Reno, Nevada.

**6:00 pm** Bus stops at the famous Golden Nugget Casino for three hours of fun.

**9:00 pm** Bus departs for Reno at the Hilton Hotel and Casino

#### Monday 11 July 1994

**Time open.** Bus leaves for Boomtown, Nevada for a buffet and last minute chance to win the "big one" Return to Holiday Inn, Sacramento, CA by 2:00 pm.

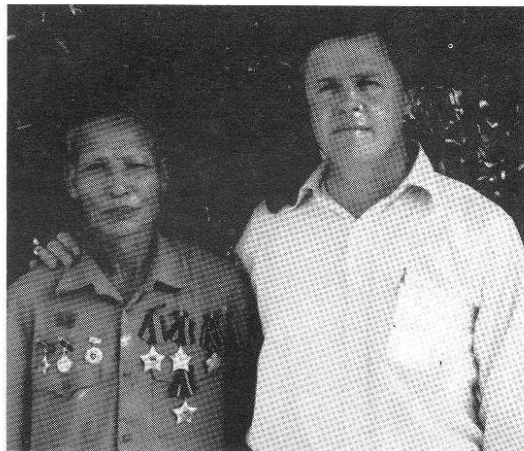
Send your checks or money orders made payable to TALBOT TOURS c/o Mark Okazaki, 2469 Louis, Palo Alto, CA 94303. For more information call Mark at: (415) 856-0285. NOTE: PAYMENT MUST BE MADE 60 DAYS IN ADVANCE TO RESERVE ROOMS AND BUS.

## Sky Soldier Paul Reed's Trek to Vietnam

The trip was everything I expected and even MORE. We landed in Ha noi on the 6th of November, spent the night, then early the next morning we were on our way to a place called Tien Hai Village (the small town) in Thai Binh Province (like our states) where my former enemy was born and raised . . . and waiting for this visit. It's about 75 miles south east of Ha noi near Hia Phong harbor and about a three and a half hour drive by car. The streets are over crowded with bicycles and motorcycles. You can only average 30 miles per hour.

When we finally reached the village, I knew this was where the rubber is to meet the road. I had tried to chicken out in Bangkok by not getting on the airplane but the producer of the film crew wouldn't let me out of his sight. So I couldn't check out now. I had to go through with it. I was as nervous as a hog without a waller on a scorching hot day.

As I turned the corner to meet this man face to face whom I had been sent to Viet Nam some 25 years earlier to kill, I saw him standing on the patio of his home with his hands together and stretched out as if to signify he wanted to shake my hand. His face had a kind, sincere look about it but since he was wearing shorts I could also see his knees were shaking like a leaf in a gale. He was nervous . . . so was I (but I wasn't wearing shorts so I don't think he noticed). Just a few more steps and I would be standing at a place where just a few months earlier I thought would be an impossible dream. But now it about to come true.



Paul Reed and Mr. Nguyen Van Nghia displaying his medals outside his home in North Vietnam — November 7, 1993.

Now, I'm standing face to face with a man who had been sent on a mission in the south to kill me. Strange as it may seem, the enemy now has a face. So he takes me by the hand and leads me inside his house to have tea. Speaking through the translator, he asks how my family, at home is. After I say fine, he tells me to give his regards to them. I said I would.

(Continued on page 13)



## Paul Reed's Trek to Vietnam — From page 12

Then, I proceed to give him back his personal items that I had captured during the battle with him in March, 1968 in Kontum Province (just a few miles from Dak To). One by one, these items were making their way back home (where they belong). As they found their way into his hands I could feel the emotions churning. He expressed himself that he thought he'd never see these items again. But he was deeply, deeply moved that I would bring them home to him. "Out of all these things, the diary means the most to me." He said: "we get a diary when we are young and keep it all our lives, but I thought this one was gone forever." Nobody has any idea as to what was going on inside of me at this point. But I'll tell you it was simply incredible to see the happiness on this mans face and to have this happening to him.

When the flag came out of the bag (the southern liberation flag which we called the VC flag — red on top, blue on the bottom, with yellow star in the middle) he was so excited he jumped up right away and began telling me just what all the colors meant.

In our talks I learned he was a 20 year man in the military. He fought the French at Dien Bien Phu from 1951 to 1958. Then joined the military again in 1965 as a 2nd LT to fight the Americans. Get this . . . after a three month march south down the Ho Chi Minh trail (braving leeches, monsoons, snakes, malaria, B-52's/air strikes, and oh yes, rivers) he made it to Kontum to fight me. He was there for only a short period when he was blinded by agent orange which he mistook for a smoke screen) and spent time in an underground jungle hospital. As soon as he could see again, he was sent back to fight, and on the day we (A Company, 1st Battalion, 173rd Airborne) captured his base camp during a week long battle he was shot in the stomach and nearly died. He said some buddies carried him back to the jungle hospital for his stomach wounds and while there — he contracted malaria.

It wasn't so strange that I thought him to be dead from the battle as he said we killed an awful lot of them at that time. His government had even told his wife he'd been killed in 1968. It was difficult for me to imagine his first being blinded, then shot in the stomach, and then contracting malaria. Then on top of all that, him having to walk home over 700 miles — through the jungle to conceal himself because the war was still going on. This was just too much! He was rewarded by the military a pension for his (20 years) service a total of \$7.00 per month. On this, he supports himself, his wife, three children, two inlaws, and four grandchildren. They raise most of their food, which helps.

I can't help but believe it's a small miracle in itself that this man is even alive . . . after all he's been through. But he's been kept alive for a reason. It is now my hope that personal effects (POW/MIA's as an example) that belonged to Americans will begin to find their way back home just as Mr. Nguyen Van Nghia's diary found it's way home to him,

Only God knows what will come of this visit. But I feel in my heart good things are about to happen. Only time will tell.

Sincerely yours,  
Paul Reed

## News About Sky Soldiers

**Hon. Robert M. Kimmitt** (C/3-319 70-71), former Ambassador to Germany, is now managing Director of Lehman Brothers and lives in Arlington, VA. *Welcome Home, Bob.*

**Larry T. Russell** (C/3-319) 68-70 is a Police Officer with the San Rafael Police Dept. and lives in Fairfield, CA.

**Thomas S. Abraham** (C/2 66-67) is Construction Division Manager, for Maryland and lives in Gaithersburg, MD.

**Robert R. Wasem** (A/4 66) is General Manager of a Jeep/Eagle Auto Dealership and lives in Washington, NJ.

**Morris A. French** (H/Bde 70-71) is a Student at City College and lives in San Francisco, CA.

**James A. Schripsema** (D/1 68-69) is a Dairyman/Farmer who lives in Oakdale, CA.

**John L. Hipp** (H/1 65-66) is a Bartender for Hilton Hotels and lives in San Francisco, CA.

**Dennis P. Gill** (B/2 66-69) works for the U.S. Postal Service and lives in Copingie, NY.

**Stephen W. Fisher** (D/3-319 70-71) is a Physician's Assistant with the GLAH Medical Group and lives in Holtwood, Pa.

**James E. Armstrong** (E/17 68-69) is a DA Library Technician and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

**James F. Condon** (C/1 & H/Spt 66-67) is a CPA and lives in Charleston, SC.

**Albert Conely** (C/1 70) is a Corrections Sergeant at the Central Prison in Raleigh, NC and lives in Lillington, NC

**Fred Crumley** (C/1 65-66 & C/H/3 70-71) is Chief of the Individual Training Branch, XVIII Abn Corps G-3 Training Division, and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

**Richard A. Hodgson** (H&B/3-319 65-66 & H/Spt 68-69) is Business Manager of the Ft. Bragg Rod & Gun Club and lives in Spring Lake, NC.

**LTG E.A. Partain** (H/2 & H/B 67) is retired and lives in Whispering Pines, NC.

**Paul Raisig** (H/3-319 68) is a lawyer and lives in Sanford, NC.

**CW2 Loye E. Stillbower** is a Rigger assigned to the Abn Bde at Ft. Bragg, and lives in Raeford, NC.

**CSM Cravis Taybron, Jr.** (C/75th Inf 70-71) is CSM of 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

**Astor Terry** (H/2 67-69) is a Driver's Education Instructor and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

**Richard D. Tornblom** (H/2 & C/Spt 66-67 & H/3-319 70-71) is Chief, Log Branch, 1st ROTC Region HQ, and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

**Michael R. Slightom** (C/2 70) is a Partner in the Slightom Construction Company and lives in Raymond, IL.

**Darnell Spencer** (H/1 70-71) is a Nuclear Mechanical Inspector at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard and lives in Chesapeake, VA.

**John J. Fitzgerald** (C/2 64-65) is President of Reaction Plastics and lives in Mainville, OH.

**Ray A. Ragauskas** (H/2 67-69 & B/2 69-70) is a High School Teacher in the Dallas Independent School District and lives in Dallas, TX.

(Continued on page 14)

**News About Sky Soldiers** — From page 13

**Charles F. Conine** (C/4 68-69) is an Assistant Engineer with Marittra's (Tugboats) and lives in Wildwood, NJ.

**Col. Bernie Griffard** (H/B/2 67-69) retired after 28 years and is now Professor of Strategic Military Logistics Operations & Planning at the Strategic Leadership Center at the Army War College, and lives in Mechanicsburg, PA

**James C. Benton** (H/1 & H/3 69-70) is an Assembler for Chrysler Corporation and lives in St. Louis, MO.

**Roderick Burritt** (MP 67-68) is a Captain in the Delaware Fish, Wildlife & Boating Enforcement Service and lives in Smyrna, DE.

**Richard K. Sharon** (B2/A2 67) is a Semi-retired Doctor & Therapist and lives in Redwood City, CA.

**Steven P. Hoakanson** (A/2 67-68) works for UPS and lives in Morris, MN.

**Lemar L. Joichin** (C3 70-71) is Owner/CEO of Diversity Corporation and lives in Washington, DC

**Leonard A. Senerote** (B/C/3-319 68-70) is Assistant U.S. Attorney, Northern District of Texas and lives in Grand Prairie, TX.

**Wilbur Palmer** (E/17 65-66) is a Self-Employed Farmer who lives in Centerville, AR.

**Lewis A. Stoneking** (B/1 67-68) is a Papermaker with Northwest Paper Division (Potlatch). He would like to hear from anyone with whom he served. Write him at HC 3, Box 10; Emily, MN 56447.

**Ashley O. Swader** (1/50th 67-68) is a Food Service Officer, 16 MWRSS Sq, Hurlburt Field, FL, and lives in Fort Walton Beach.

**Andres Herrera, Jr.**, (B/1 67068) is an Electrical Superintendent for Himont/Flour Daniel and lives in Deer Park, TX.

**David W. Eaton** (173 Eng 66-69) is an Accountant for A.E. Richardson, CPA and lives in Liberty, MO.

**Ignacio Gutierrez** (C/4 69-71) is a Painter at the Seattle, WA VA Hospital and lives in Federal Way, WA.

**Floyd Reister** (H/B 64-66) is a Department of Natural Resources Forester for Minnesota and Lives in Rochester, MN.

**Kenneth Bee** (46th PIO, H/Bde 71) has recently retired from his position of Lieutenant Inspector for the Rochester, MN Fire Department and lives in Rochester, MN.

**BG (R) David E.K. Cooper** (H/1 68-69 & H/2 69) is President of Pacific American Foundation and lives in Arlington, VA.

**George F. Gramlich** (D/4 67-68) is an Assistant Crew Supervisor for the New Jersey Department of Transportation and lives in Fieldsboro, NJ.

**Thomas J. Levins** (C/4 67-68) is a Lieutenant with the Philadelphia Police Department and lives in Philadelphia, PA.

**Charles Ramsey** (A/3-319 68-69) is a Pilot for American Airlines and lives in Flourtown, PA.

**Joe Smutek, Jr.** (B/1 64-65) works for the Postal Service and lives in Mohnton, PA.

**Jan Patronek** (H/B/3 70-72 & H/Spt 72) Rebuilds Antique Motorcycles and lives in Claremore, OK.

**Bruce A. Holten** (E/3 68-69) is Part Owner of Lantis Conso, Inc. (Construction) and lives in St. Anthony, MN.

**LTG (R) Henry J. Hatch**, who commanded the Engineer Detachment with 2-503 (60-62) is President and CEO of the Law Companies, Inc. and lives in Atlanta, GA.

**Edward K. McDougal** (51 Chem & H/2 69-70) is a Utilities Systems Repairer/Operator and lives in Hope Mille, NC.

**Clarence A. Barto** (C/1 64-66) is a Correctional Counselor in the California State Prison System and lives in Calipatria, CA.

**Joseph R. Franklin** (H/Bde 68-69) is Executive Director of Halfway House Youth Academy, USA, and lives in Pensacola, FL.

**John A. Mendez** (A/4 66-67) works for the US Postal Service and lives in Orlando, FL.

**Rois H. Black** (A/3 67-68) is a Security Officer with Burns International Security and lives in Belmont, NC.

**John F. Gole** (B/4 70) has retired from the NYC Fire Department and is currently a Steamfitter with Local 638, living in Garden City Park, NY.

**Benny B. Scroggin** (H/B 66) is Warehouse and Purchasing Manger for National Guardian Security Services, Corp., and lives in Canyon Lake, TX.

**Marvin C Two Crow** (B/4 66-67) works for the U.S. Postal Service and lives in Dallas, TX.

**Clarence D. Martin** (A2 65-66) is Machine Operator for Master Halco and lives in Reno, NV.

**Ronald Foster** (B/1 66-67) is a Heavy Equipment Driver and lives in Carver, MA.

**CH (R) Roy Mathis** (H/4 69-70) is an Industrial Chaplain for Marketplace Ministries, Inc. and lives in Gaffney, SC.

**Garry Lentz** (C/3 67-68) is an Equipment Operator for the U.S. Forest Service and lives in Berry Creek, CA.

**Billy R. Childs** (335th AHC 65-66) works for the US Postal Service and lives in Lakeland, FL.

**BG Wesley "Wes" Taylor**, (B/4 69) is Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Policy and Missions), Office of the Asst. Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, and lives in Fairfax Station, VA.

**Larry Badger, Jr.** (C/1 67-68) works for the Postal Service and lives in Utica, NY.

**Donal Githens** (B/2 70-71) is Disabled and lives in Santa Barbara, CA.

**Gaylord Plaster** (B/4 68-69) is a Motor Vehicle Operator at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal and lives in Aurora, CO.

**Robert L. Finn** (B/E/4 68-69) is Battalion Commander of the 1-115th Inf, 29th ID (L), Maryland Army National Guard. He would like to hear from Sky Soldiers with whom he served. His address is 200 Kirkhoff Road; Westminster, MD 21158.

**William V. O'Sullivan** (172 MI 68-69) is Executive Vice President of the Ross Agency and lives in Springfield, IL.

**Robert L. Roedocker** (173 Eng and E/17 65-66) is a Veteran Service Counselor for Florida VA and lives in Key West, FL.

**Samuel S. Arnold** (B/2 65-66; A/H/2 67-68; H/3 68-69) is Veterans Service Officer of Bedford County-Shelbyville, TN and lives in Shelbyville.

**Michael K. Crowley** (D/4 69) is a Material Handling Technician for Procter & Gamble and lives in Jackson, TN.

**Sylvester Elders** (H/2 66-67) is a Self Employed Construction Worker and lives in Franklin, NC.

**Thomas S. McMahon** (A/3 70-71) is a Police Lieutenant with the Environmental Police Unit, NYC Dept. of Sanitation, and lives in City Island, NY.

(Continued on page 15)

## News About Sky Soldiers — From page 14

**Anthony L. Perry** (H/Bde 65-66), Medically retired would like to hear from those with whom he served. He is at 875 John Fitch Hwy, #51, Fitchburg, MA 01420.

**James Aschemeier** (A/Spt 68-69) is Senior Engineer, Westinghouse Electronics Systems Group, Baltimore, and lives in Crofton, MD.

**Roger L. Shields** (173 Eng 70-71) is Director of a DOD Testing Facility and lives in Elizabeth City, NC.

**CSM Lawrence E. Collins** (A/Spt 67-68) is retired and lives in Carolina Beach, NC.

**Weldon G. Corney** (B/H/1-63-66) is retired and lives in Ramrod Key, FL.

**MG Paul F. Smith**, Bde Commander in 1966, is retired and lives in Melbourne, FL.

**David Hahn** (D/16 68-69) is Comptroller for Ryan Companies and lives in Brooklyn, MN.

**Glen Draper** (E/17 67-68) is a Self-employed Electrician and Plumber and lives in Rochester, NY.

**Dennis D. Dunegan** (D/Spt 64-65) is a Patrol Commander/Lt. with the Penn Hills Police Department and lives in Murrysville, PA.

**Thomas V. Racho** (E/17 67-68) is a Millwright and Mechanical Trainer for Ford Motor Company and lives in Eastpointe, MI.

**George L. Ramirez** (D/1 68-69) is a Life Insurance Agent for American Amicable Life and lives in Copperas Cove, TX.

## Chapter News

**Chapter I:** Sigholtz Capital Chapter, PO Box 27478, Washington, DC 20038-0478

New officers were elected by the chapter. President Phil Hayden; Vice President Walter (Batman) Bantum; Secretary Russ Ward; Treasurer Bruce Matthews. Chapter members Kirk Patterson and Gene Weeks went out in search of homeless veterans on Thanksgiving Day to serve hot coffee and doughnuts to "those who served". This act was done without being asked by the chapter. They are just two highly motivated Sky Soldiers that assigned this mission to themselves. They are a great credit to our chapter.

**Chapter II:** Lt. Clare Thurston-Lozada-Watters Chapter, 450 West 148th Street, New York, NY 10031

I would like to thank all who responded to our brother Bill Folk with contributions. As you know Bill and his family lost all they had including their pets in a tragic fire. When notified, the National Headquarters responded with a check and some Vietnam memorabilia. Fellow Herd member Britt Small and Festival made a special trip to spearhead a fund raiser with the town. They drove all night to be there . . . without hesitation to help a family in need.

**Chapter III:** Columbus/Ft. Benning Chapter, PO Box 1977, Ft. Benning, GA 31905

The Dave Gunn Presidential Memorial Plaque which we created as a memorial to Dave was transferred from Ray Marshall, outgoing President to Tony Butler, our newly

elected President. The plaque will be on permanent display at VFW Post 665. Chapter members are still active in supporting activities for veterans at the Tuskegee VA medical center. The chapter is also happy to announce two new members, Tarlon Mobley and Lester Kapelka who also became a life member.

**Chapter IV:** Philadelphia/English Chapter, PO Box 345, Ft. Dix, NJ 08640

**Chapter V:** Ft. Bragg Chapter, PO Box 71313, Ft. Bragg, NC 28307

**Chapter VI:** Elite Forces Chapter, 931 South Roselle Road, Suite 173, Schaumburg, IL 60193

Chapter members John Molose and Dennis Rambola recently visited a fifth grade class to talk about what it is like to be a soldier. Both were amazed at the depth of the questions asked by the children. This also marks the fourth year that the chapter has been sending representatives into the classrooms. We are very proud that our chapter has been asked to visit the school each year.

**Chapter VII:** Florida Chapter, 5580 Teakwood Road, Lake Worth, FL 33467 — (407) 966-1323

**Chapter VIII:** Hawaii Chapter, 44-130 Kou Place, #4, Kaneohe, HI 96744

**Chapter IX:** New England Chapter, PO Box 411, East Hampton, MA 01027

Elected new officers: President: John O'Dea; Vice President Rick Taylor; Treasurer Tim Girouard; Secretary (Temporary) Wayne D'Agostino. The Chapter awarded two scholarships to Ms. Nicole Parfitt and Mrs. Lilian Morton. Scholarship awards come from moneys generated by the chapter members.

**Chapter X:** Western States Chapter, 1325 Imola Avenue West, Suite 427, Napa, California 94559 (707) 252-6732

The Western States Chapter elected new officers for the 1994-95 calendar. President Doc Ray Van Wagner; Vice President Harry Nagy; Treasurer David Miller; Secretary J.M. Okazaki.

**Chapter XI:** Australia (Down Under) Chapter, "Duty First", PO Box 45, Chester Hill, NSW, Australia 2162

The chapter held its annual election in December and the following members were elected officers for 1994. President John McNamara; Senior Vice President Val Litchfield; Junior Vice President Paul Goddard; Secretary/Treasurer Ray Payne. The following were elected to committees: Bill Elliot, Ray Raines, Tom Lupton, Dave White, Carey McQuillan, Warren Murray, Paul Israel, Ron Kelly. The 50th birthday reunion of the 1st RAR will be during October 12-15, 1995.

Sadly we report the death of Kerry Chisholm's wife, Betty. She passed away four days after Kerry returned from the Texas Reunion. Our thoughts and support is with Kerry, knowing that Betty will be sadly missed.

Plans are currently under way to raise a squad in Brisbane, Queensland's capital city. The Chapter has many members in this and the surrounding area. Being some 600 miles from Sydney it is difficult for those members to join in Chapter activities. Ray Chapman, a tireless worker in other areas, has volunteered to assist, it's certain he will have many willing helpers.

(Continued on page 16)

## Chapter News — From page 15

ANZAC Day (National Veterans Day) April 25, will see the gathering of Veterans in all cities and towns throughout Australia. No chapter activities are planned, due to major unit reunions. Sydney members are advised that the 1 RAR luncheon will be held at the Tattersalls Club in Elizabeth St. Sydney.

**Chapter XII:** Farthest North Chapter (Alaska), PO Box 35158, Fort Wainwright, AK 99703

**Chapter XIII:** Southwest Chapter, PO Box 732, Lampasas, TX 76550

Now that the reunion is over the chapter will be directing its efforts towards homeless veterans and visits to VA hospitals. Gen Williamson suggested this to Eric Hitchcock, and we should help our brother veterans who are in need.

**Chapter XIV:** Southern California Chapter, PO Box 47, Azusa, CA 91702

We want to announce our Chapter Officers for 1994-1995. Elections were held on 15 January 1994, in Colton, California. President, Ramiro R. Lopez; Vice President, Kenneth J. Lepore; Secretary, James E. Livrenick; Treasurer, Ignacio Zarete, Jr.; Trustee, Art Ortiz; and Trustee, Peter Vasquez.

Our next chapter meeting will be held at The Granado Ranch. It is located just outside Indio, California. This is in conjunction with "The Seventh Annual All Airborne Reunion" which is being sponsored by The Coachella Valley Airborne Assn. Our meeting will start at the conclusion of the presentation of colors, which is set to start at 1200 hours.

There will be an all you can eat Pit Bar-B-Que Dinner. A live band will play for you to dance. Sky Diving will take place on both Saturday and Sunday. Static and Free Fall Jumps are on the agenda for those of you who still want to "Hit the Silk" again. We invite all of you to come join us for . . . fun . . . dancing . . . eating . . . and . . . of course . . . jumping . . . weekend.

For those of you who wish to campout, there is plenty of open space for your RV. Families and children are very welcome. Cost is \$12.00 Adults and \$6.00 for Children under 12.

For information write to: P.O. Box 47, Azusa, CA. 91702.

Call: Ramiro (818) 969-4320; Nacho (818) 448-4786; Robert (909) 686-3386.

We will send you a map and directions on how to get there.

**Chapter XV:** SSG John K. Weber Chapter, P.O. Box 583131, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3131

**Chapter XVI:** Pacific Northwest Chapter, 27610 27th Avenue South, Federal Way, WA 98003

**Chapter XVII:** Western Pennsylvania Chapter, c/o Jerry Sopko, 101 Center Street Ext., Jeannette, PA 15644

**Chapter XVIII:** Oklahoma Chapter, Carl Baldwin, 4350 Will Rogers Parkway, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73108

**Chapter XIX:** New Zealand Chapter, NASU Christchurch, PSC 467, Box 211, FPO AP 96531-2000

**Chapter XX:** 3519 East Water, #B, Tucson, AZ 85716 (602) 326-2465

## Airborne Tradition Continues For Two Sky Soldier Dads

FT. BENNING GA. At a recent jump school graduation two Sky Soldiers had the opportunity to "hook-up" while attending their respective sons' graduation. Jim Ratz (A 2/503 65-66) and Dr. Al Thomsen DDS (Co B-Med 70-71) met while attending the graduation ceremonies. SPC Michael Ratz, (C 2nd BN 75th Rangers) and CPT Brett Thomsen (Medical Service Corps). SPC Ratz like his dad has selected the infantry, and CPT Thomsen, followed his dad's footsteps and became an Airborne Dentist.



*SPC Michael Ratz and his father Jim Ratz.*



*Dr. Al Thomsen and his son Cpt (Dr.) Brett Thomsen.*





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With the photographic expertise of Len Bertini and the artistic encouragement from Andy Brown, both members of the 173rd, they came up with a one of a kind 18" x 24" color poster (shown above in post card size) for members to buy at a very special price of \$10.00 each plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. The poster can also be obtained in post card size along with the card shown below. Cards are sold in groups of 100 for \$25.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. These are great fund raiser items and can be purchased at bulk prices. They also have available cards for other military organizations. To order send your check or money order to: Color/Print Services, Inc., 210 E. Hellen Street, Palatine, IL 60067-6955. You can call (708) 991-2843 for more information. **REMEMBER for each poster sold, \$1.00 goes toward the Society Scholarship Fund.**



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Photo by: Ray Ortiz

*Do a Left P.L.F. . . . OOPS. . .*

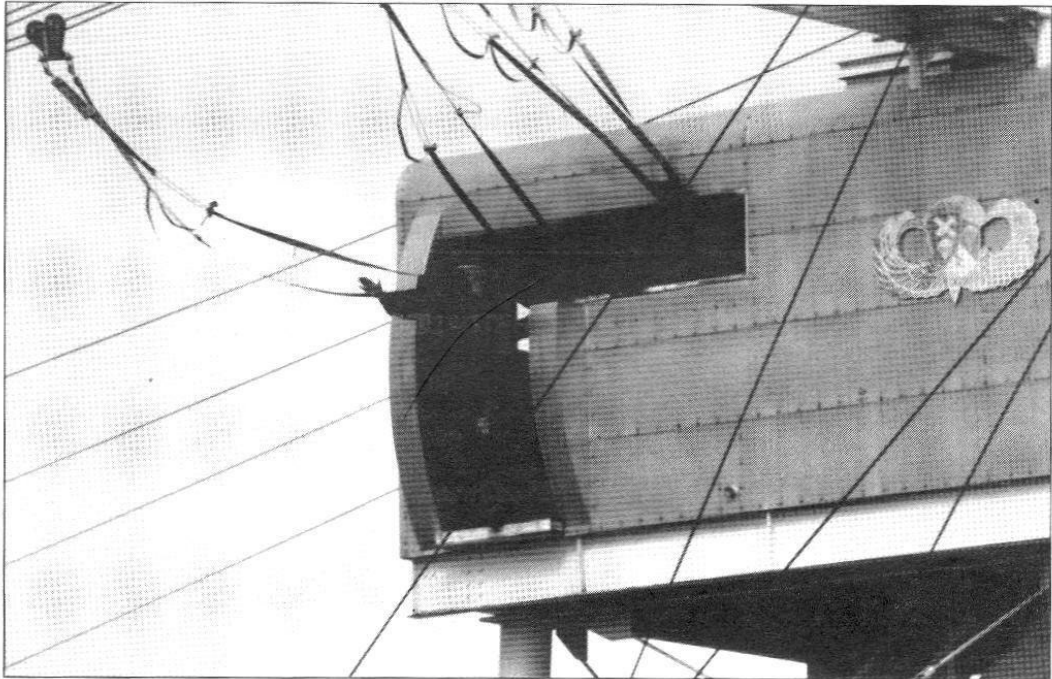


Photo by: Ray Ortiz

*Hey, Who Pushed Me?*



Photo by: Ray Ortiz

*Wake Me BEFORE the Jump!*

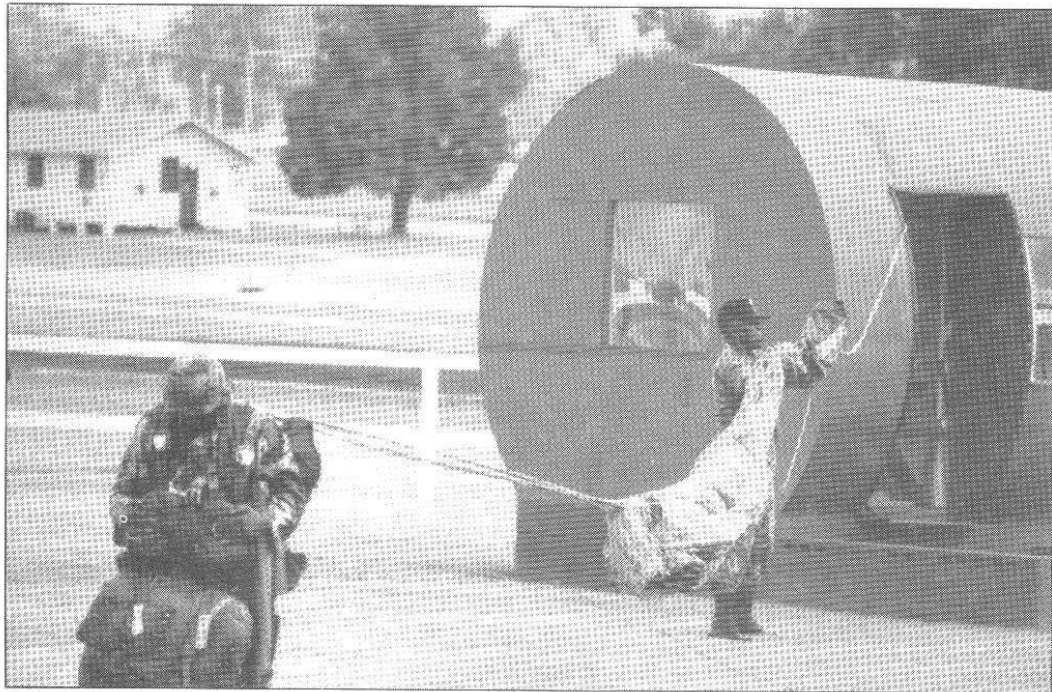


Photo by: Ray Ortiz

*Here is your chance to write a caption for this photograph. Send your entries to The Society, c/o the Editor.*





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