

SKY SOLDIER

Newsletter of
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF
THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE



October 1987

President — John W. Nicholson, Brig. Gen. (Ret)
Vice-President — Michael Yauger

Secretary and Editor — Gene Weeks
Treasurer — Michael Schwartz

Vol. 2, No. 5

Above and Beyond the Call of Duty



Staff Sgt. Larry Pierce—mortally wounded when he dived on an enemy antipersonnel mine to protect his men from the blast. He posthumously received the Medal of Honor.

Editor's Note: One of the purposes of our Society is to keep alive the spirit which sustained and supported Sky Soldiers in the performance of duty. An inspirational force for us all was the example of those men who performed above and beyond the call of duty, frequently making the supreme sacrifice. This is the eighth in a series of reminders of those brave men with whom we were privileged to be associated.

STAFF SERGEANT LARRY S. PIERCE, RA19597808
GO No. 7, Department of the Army, 24 Feb 1966

By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of the Congress to:

Staff Sergeant Larry S. Pierce, RA 19597808, United States Army, who distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his own life above and beyond the call of duty while leading a Squad against hostile forces near Ben Cat, Republic of Vietnam, on 20 September 1965. Sergeant Pierce was serving as squad leader in a reconnaissance platoon when his patrol was ambushed by hostile forces. Through his inspiring leadership and personal courage, the squad succeeded in eliminating an enemy machine gun and routing the opposing force. While pursuing the fleeing enemy, the squad came upon a dirt road and, as

(Continued on page 2)

Remember!

The 173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE will open the **Good Morning America Show** on Veterans Day 11 Nov 87.

Deadline for articles for next newsletter, 20 Dec.

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ABOVE AND BEYOND

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the main body of his men entered the road, Sergeant Pierce discovered an anti-personnel mine emplaced in the road bed. Realizing that the mine could destroy the majority of his squad, Sergeant Pierce saved the lives of his men at the sacrifice of his own by throwing himself directly onto the mine as it exploded. Through his indomitable courage, complete disregard for his own safety, and profound concern for his fellow soldiers, he averted loss of life and injury to the members of his squad. Sergeant Pierce's conspicuous gallantry, extraordinary heroism, and intrepidity at the cost of his own life, above and beyond the call of duty, are in the highest traditions of the United States Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

From the President:

Activity in preparation for the 1988 Convention in Chicago is picking up. LTG Rick Brown, CG of Fourth Army, and MG Tom Carney, CG of Recruiting Command, have pledged full support. Both have their headquarters at Fort Sheridan in downtown Chicago. General Carney is a 173d veteran who made the February 1967 jump in Vietnam and who recently served as the ADC of the 82d Airborne Division.

Michael Schwartz reports progress—the New York Chapter is working towards getting new schools named after 173d Brigade Medal of Honor winners.

Dallas based 173d veterans Sam Boyd and Frank Elliott have sent donations of \$1,000 dollars each to the Scholarship Fund. On behalf of the 173d Society here's an AIRBORNE SALUTE to those generous troopers!

Tom Harvey, 173d in 1968-69, and current Deputy Administrator of the VA, has agreed to manage the Scholarship Program and keep it accelerating.

We will keep you informed on these and other 173d Society actions. Please let us know what help you need in persuading our 173d Vets to join our Society.

— John W. Nicholson, Brig Gen (Ret)

From the Editor

The purpose of the newsletter is to keep our membership informed of the activities of our chapters and members. Promoting the Airborne spirit through articles relating our history and Vietnam experiences — be it personal or unit — is another purpose.

Let us know what you want to see in the National Newsletter. Send in your ideas, articles, etc. Be sure to make a copy of photos, etc. as we cannot guarantee return of these items.

Deadline for next newsletter is 20 December 1987.

Gene Weeks

Sky Soldier KO's Mugger

Leam Atkins (Chapter I) had just gotten money from a "Bank money machine" on the street, one block from the White House Executive Office Building. As he turned to walk away, a man who had been standing in an alley watching Leam, approached. He pulled a knife, pointed it at Leam's throat and demanded the money. This Sky Soldier (Ranger and Special Forces) was incognito with his three piece suit and appeared as "easy pickins." He said "sure" in reply to the demand for money — threw the money in the air — and then 1-2-3 — whop-bam-boom. The mugger didn't have a chance to run. He woke up in the hospital and was there three days. He was arrested, released on \$500 bond, skipped bail and that's the end — so far.

Leam's story is different. His first action to grab the knife (which was all he could do), to keep from being stabbed, resulted in one finger being almost severed from the hand. Three and one half hours of surgery solved that problem and Leam is doing fine now.

We wish Leam the best in recovery and a thanks for demonstrating once again that the Airborne motto of "Preparedness" proves worthwhile in civilian life too. Muggers beware!

Chapter Activities

CHAPTER I Washington, D.C. Sigholtz — Sigholtz Capitol Chapter, Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade, 11132 Lake Breeze Dr., Gaithersburg, MD 20878. Larry DeMeo, President.

— Former members of the "Herd" met at Ft. Myer, VA for a Sept meeting and election of officers. New members were introduced and everyone enjoyed the food and friendship.

— **Vets Day — 11 Nov 87** — Chapter I will again place a wreath at the "Wall" in Wash. D.C. **Assemble at 1000 hrs at the Wall.** This is an annual event in which Chapter I represents the Society of the 173d ABN BDE in remembering and honoring "our fallen comrades"

As in the past Sky Soldiers will gather at the "Pawm Shop" Pub after the ceremony, dutch treat, at 1911 N Ft. Myer Dr., Roslyn, VA (one block from Key Bridge). Tel. No. 522-7400.

CHAPTER II New York — PO Box 610, Bronx, NY 10462. Michael Schwartz, President.

The New York Chapter has received approval from the family of Major Charles Watters, CMH, Posthumous (2/503 Dak To) to petition Jersey City, N.J., for a memorial to the memory of this courageous chaplain. Target date is Nov 87, twentieth anniversary of the Battle of Dak To.

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

(Continued on page 12)

A Sky Soldier—Then, and Now

William Atkins — Airborne qualified Special Forces school and Ranger school. "Learn" was a Sgt on 9th SF Team — Mike Force on his first tour in Vietnam. After graduating from O.C.S. he returned to Vietnam as a LT, and was a Platoon Leader with A/4/503 Inf. Wounded at Hill 875, "Learn" was a med-evac Dec '67. In '69 he attended flight school and after a specials "OPS" assignment, went to Europe for a NATO—nuclear weapons assignment. On a RIF list in '73—he then joined the Reserves. Recently he received a promotion to LT Colonel.

Learn and his wife Pat reside in the Washington, D.C. area, and are members of the Sigholtz Capitol Chapter. This Sky Soldier is now contracted to the government for "special operations." His wife Pat is an active Washington attorney.

'65	Special Forces School
'65	Ranger School
'65	Vietnam — SF Team—Mike Force (6 mos) (Sgt)
Nov '65	Return to Ft. Bragg
Jun '66	Graduated Officer Candidate School
Jan '67	Vietnam — 80th Spt Grp
Mar '67	Vietnam — 173d A/4/503 Inf — PLTN Leader
Dec '67	Med evac from Hill 875
'68	Ft Bragg
'69	FLT School
'70-71	CCN Special Ops
'71-73	NATO — Nuclear Weapons — Germany
'73	RIF
'73	Joined Reserves
'85	Promoted to LT Colonel



NOW —Special Operations — Training.



THEN — LT William Atkins, PLTN Leader, A/4/503 Inf, Dak To, '67.

'88 REUNION

173rd's Elite Forces Chicago Area Chapter 4th of July Weekend

Reunion Committee Chairman Benito Garcia says the **Reunion Committee and the Chapter have put forth a herculean effort to insure that the '88 Reunion is the most memorable to date.**

The theme is "Relax and Enjoy." The schedule allows time with the family, your buddy, in quiet remembrance, and the celebration of our brotherhood. Additional time has been scheduled for recognizing the Ladies of the Society.

Many free activities are available from the City for the 4th of July weekend. Here are a few:

- million dollar fireworks
- "A taste of Chicago" — ethnic diversity
- the Lake Front Air Show
- within walking distances — museums, Shedd Aquarium, Soldier Field, Lake Michigan, shops, stores, restaurants, and nite spots.

The Reunion Headquarters will be the Blackstone Hotel.

Room rates are \$60 a night for single, double, triple, or quadruple. Two hundred and fifty (250) rooms have been booked for the Society, so please stay at the Blackstone. **Registration fee of \$65** is for the reunion activities.

More detailed information will be mailed direct to the members from the Chicago chapter.

Help A Sky Soldier

Western States Chapter President Robert Rodriguez Makes an Appeal To the Society:

October 9, 1987

Mr. Gene Weeks — National Secretary
Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade
P.O. Box 1810
Silver Springs, Maryland 20901

Dear Gene:

I hope you can use this or condense it if you must, in your next newsletter. I can't express how serious and urgent this needs to be circulated.

On September 24, 1987 a 6.1 earthquake hit the Los Angeles, California Area, centered in the town of Whittier. Ray Ramirez (Sgt. 'Rock' one of the original troopers with the 4th Bat. 173d Airborne Brigade going to Viet Nam from Okinawa) Vice President of Western States Chapter X of the 173 Abn Bde resides in the town of Whittier. His family and home have been devastated as results of the earthquake.

Myself and other chapter members have 'networked' to get donations to help his family out. Donations of any size would be appreciated to help his family through this trying time.

Ray is employed by the City of Commerce and is an outstanding, caring public citizen who has gone out of his way unselfishly in his commitment in citizen, Hispanic and Veteran Affairs. He has lent his support to his fellow Veterans in the past and we would like to lend him a helping hand.

The fellowship and unity we shared as a unit in Viet Nam with the 173d continues today and I feel and experience the same support and comradeship today. This is a time when those of us that are fortunate enough can show our support by helping a fellow Veteran.

Please mail your donations by check (no cash) to Ray Ramirez, 13438 Beverly Blvd., Whittier, CA 90601.

Thank you for your Support,
AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY...
Robert Rodriguez

An Airborne thanks to Robert for being alert and advising the Society of Ray Ramirez's need.

"Hook-Up"

— **Donald T. Gray** (New York Chapter) is looking for Lawrence Hoy wounded on Hill 875 in 1967. Please send info to Society of 173d Airborne Brigade, New York Chapter, PO Box 610, Bronx, New York 10452.

— **Thomas J. Wallace** (Sgt—173rd Engr Co. 9/69-6/70) "Glad to see the Society is alive and well! All the Way — Wishes to contact old buddies, 31416 Kenwood, Madison Heights, MI 48071.



Former Sky Soldier George Yahyowan B/2/503 who "came from The Rock", is reportedly the most highly decorated native American in the State of Washington.

Former Sky Soldier Receives Bronze Star

For George Yahyowan, the honor of receiving a Bronze Star came just about 20 years after earning it.

Yahyowan, a former long time Wapato resident now residing in Lyle, was presented the Bronze Star last week on Memorial Day. Making the special presentation was Don Green, adjutant of the Goldendale American Legion post.

The award credits Yahyowan for exceptionally valorous action on Jan. 24, 1968, while serving as a military policeman during a combat mission in Vietnam.

On that January day almost 20 years ago his unit, the 545th Military Police Company, came under intense attack. According to the commendation, "...Yahyowan exposed himself to hostile fire as he directed return fire upon the enemy positions.

"Disregarding his own safety, he waded into a river, showing the remaining vehicles the ford, thus allowing his convoy to continue."

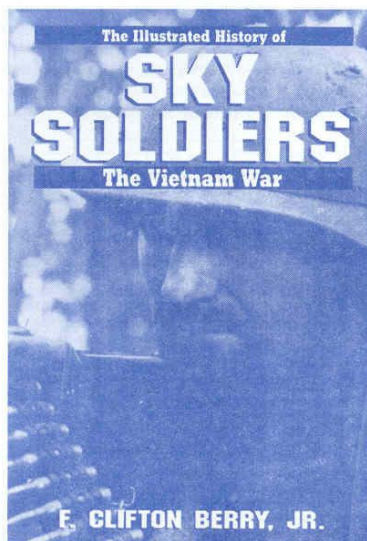
The commendation goes on to explain that Yahyowan's display of personal bravery and devotion to duty is in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service, and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Yahyowan was cited to receive the Bronze Star shortly after the incident occurred, but for one reason or another, the formal presentation never did take place. That oversight was rectified last week when the Goldendale American Legion post formally presented Yahyowan with the special medal.

But for the former Wapato resident, getting recognized officially for his actions during his military career is nothing new. It is believed Yahyowan is the most decorated native American this state has ever produced.

(Continued on page 5)

Publications



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 Ansie's viewpoint.

LTC Leonard Scott III, (2-503 & N/75th 69-70), author of **Charlie Mike**, has a new book at your local bookstand. 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).

Scott, who will be a student at the Army War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania this year, is working on a book about the Battles of Dak To, which he hopes to have out within a year.

Meanwhile, CSM (Ret) Larry Okendo (4-503 66-68) is also working on a major work on the Brigade's experiences at Dak To. Due to additional information recently obtained, publication has been delayed. Larry says the book should be printed sometime this winter.

We wish all of our authors success and urge others with a talent for writing to tell the story of "The Herd."

"Looking For A Few Good Men"

A letter from LTC Nicholas Hubbell (B/4/503-69)

Department of the Army
Headquarters, 1st Special Forces Battalion
11th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces
222 Dupont Avenue, Newburgh, New York 12550-4008
17 Sep 87

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find my membership dues for the year. I let my membership lapse last year. Thanks for remembering me and allowing me to "hook up" again w/the "herd".

I recently made LTC in the reserve and "lucked out" into a great assignment. As of 7 July 87, I took command of the 1st Bn, 11th SFGA.

The unit is populated with a bunch of "super-troops". They are airborne — all the way! The operational detachment are busy year round w/training and overseas tours.

HOW ABOUT PASSING ON THE WORD TO OUR FELLOW SKY-SOLDIERS THAT THE 1ST BN, 11TH IS LOOKING FOR GOOD AIRBORNE TROOPS. The companies are located in Ft. Dix, N.J. as well as Newburgh, NY and Ft. Devens, Ma. We are particularly interested in SF qualified soldiers but will accept soldiers who are willing to go away to training. The Bn headquarters is located in Newburgh, NY. The address is listed above. The telephone number is: 914-565-6300. It is truly a great unit and is striving to be even better.

As you can tell I am quite proud of the unit and I feel justified in being so. The same feeling is also felt about my association w/the 173d.

Thanks again for allowing me to join w/other members of the "herd".

LTC Nicholas Hubbell

BRONZE STAR

(Continued from page 4)

Other military awards that has been bestowed upon him include the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm medal, the Vietnam Civic Action medal, the Vietnam Presidential Citation, the Vietnam Service medal, the Vietnam Campaign medal and the National Defense medal. He has also received the Letter "V" award, the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon, the Meritorious Unit commendation and various marksman and expert weapon performance medals.

The list is long, but so was the time Yahyowan spent on tours of duty in Vietnam. He first stepped on foreign soil on May 5, 1965. Four years later, to the very day, he finally said goodbye to Vietnam.

"You might say May fifth is kind of special to me," Yahyowan said. "I arrived in Vietnam then, and that was the day I got to leave."

All told, he is credited with nearly 48 months of combat duty in Vietnam.

Reprinted from:

Wapato Independent Newspaper, Wapato, WA, 3 June 87

A thanks to Chuck Dean (1/503 & 173 Spt BN) for sending us the info.

News About Sky Soldiers

- Lex McCanley** (RAR) — An Australian with the "Herd" in Vietnam, was recently visiting the U.S. and discussed his latest book about Vietnam.
- Russ Ward** C/3/319th Arty Apr 68-Mar 69 has moved again. This time to Michigan. The "gang" in Sigholtz-Capitol Chapter I, hopes you'll return. We miss you — The Best of Luck in your new job and house and the best to Linda, Jeremy (15 and Airborne) and daughter Ginny (a promising artist).
- Tom H. Palmer** B/4/503 Oct 68-Apr 70. Tom is now a hardware salesman in Kansas.
- Charles Evans** D/E/4/503 Inf Lt Sep 70-Jun 71. Charles is now a Navy aviator serving on the USS Ranger as Squadron Operations Officer.
- Richard Bierman** C/1/503 Inf Sep 68-Feb 69. A senior technician with the Monsanto Company in the Iowa area.
- Thomas D. Davis** B/3/503 Inf Dec 70-Jul 71. Tom is a machine operator in Ohio.
- Donald Githens** B/2/503 Inf Oct 70-May 71. Don says he is a plumber and a soldier of fortune. Resides in CA.
- Robert E. Boliver** 25th Med Det July 65-July 66. Operation foreman for the Houston, Texas Independent School District.
- John D. Bauer** C/1/503 Inf Aug 69-Oct 70. John is a proud disabled Veteran who is using his GI Bill and is presently a student — AIRBORNE!! We welcome John as a new member to the Society.
- Jim Talamantez** A/2/503 Inf 70-71. Fire department chief officer and a hazardous materials specialist in CA.
- Bernard Grifford** (LTC) B & HHC/2/503 Inf Sep 67-Mar 69. New duty assignment chief, Exercise TMA, Battle Command Training Program, Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth, KS. Congrats on your new Job — Airborne!
- Jerry Draper** (COL) HHC/1/503 Inf Mar 67-Oct 67, B/1/503 Inf Oct 67-Mar 68, D/1/503 Inf Mar 68-Apr 68. Jerry is CDR 3d BT BDE, Ft. Dix.
- Michael DeFrancesco** B/1/503 Inf Aug 65-Aug 66. Mike is a partner with R. Ash & Assoc. Inc. Engineers/Architects/Planners in R.I.
- Thomas B. Jones** C/2/503 Inf Jun 65-Jun 66, A/4/503 Inf Mar 69-Aug 69. A "Two Tour" Sky Soldier who is now employed and residing in IL.
- Lewis C. Bremer** C/4/503 66-69. Attending college — majoring in Sociology in Texas.
- Richard L. Quinn** (LTC) C Btry 3/319 FA Aug 68-Jul 69. CDR — 3d Bn 19th FA, Ft. Polk, LA.
- Brian Jones** Co N 75th Inf Regt Jun 70-Aug 71. Brian is a private investigator in CA.
- Gregory M. Hanks** (SFC) E Troop 17th Cav Mar 67-Mar 68. Current assignment — Member, Observer Contingent Co., Joint Readiness Training Cntr, Ft. Chaffar, AR.
- Charles E. Limpus III** D/2/503 Mar 69-Oct 69. Employed in the convention services area. Charles has become a life member — Airborne!
- James T. Vandergriff** D Co Maint Jan 68-Mar 68, A/2/503 Mar 68-Jan 69, C&D/2/503 Aug 69-Dec 71. After

spending a "long time" in Nam with the Herd Jim is managing a small company in FL.

Richard Massa B&D/2/503 Jan 67-Jan 68. Rich is an illustrator, woodworker and a paintball field owner in CA.

Dana L. Castle B/3/503 70-71. Dana is a tool and die maker in N.H.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

"Call Signs" — A Source of Unit Pride

From Col Walt Daniel

I really enjoy the Society newsletter and was especially taken by the section called NOTES FROM THE FIELD. Lawrence Snair, in his article on the origin of the nickname "the herd" mentioned radio call signs. I'll be the first to admit that we kept them to long—in fact, so long that they were "captured" by the enemy on more than one occasion. Nevertheless, they were a source of unit pride equal in all respects to the unit names that resulted from WW II and the conflict in Korea. What soldier does not remember the famous and heroic 26th Inf Regt of WW II and the "Blue Spaders", The 503rd Abn Inf as the "Rock", and the Korean conflict 32nd Inf as the "Buccaneers"? I don't know the origin of these nicknames but I do know that our Vietnam call signs were every bit their equal and I would like to read in the newsletter of other call signs that came to be associated with a particular unit of the Herd.

In my own experience, the longest kept (at least in 1965) call sign for Co A, 1st Bn (Abn) 503d Inf was DIESEL STAMP — not as glamorous as CASPER or COWBOY but more important than I realized at the time. Evidence the following:

A considerable time after Co A's call sign had been compromised and changed, I listened in while one of the squad leaders issued attack order. One of his soldiers asked, "sergeant, is this a DSC?" The sergeant replied, "yes". I interrupted at this point saying, "we are going to attack, but no one is assured that they will get a Distinguished Service Cross". The sergeant, quick in his response, said, "Sir, he's not asking about medals, he just wants to know if this is a Diesel Stamp Command or not". Unit pride was the issue. In the mind of that soldier, an attack order by DIESEL STAMP (the company) was more important than one ordered by any higher headquarters. The nickname DIESEL STAMP may not be as catchy as others earned in combat, but to me (and I hope to other members of Co A, 1st of the 503d) it's as good as BLUE SPADES, almost as good as THE ROCK, and like CASPER, it's a name worth fighting for!

Sincerely,
Walt Daniel
COL, IN
Co A, 1st Bn (Abn), 503 Inf,
173 Abn Bde (SEP), Oct 1964-May 1966

Society of the 173D Airborne Brigade Memorial Scholarship Achievement and Encouragement Award

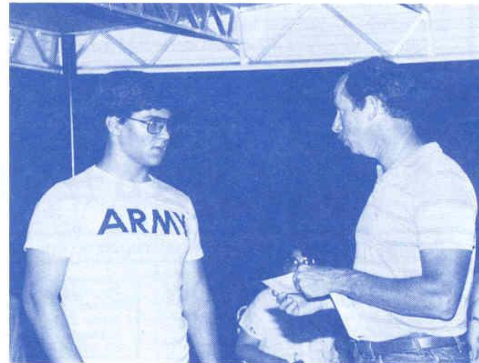
This scholarship is open to all children or grandchildren of those who served in combat with the 173d Airborne Brigade. Awards may also be made to widows of those who died in combat while serving with the 173d Airborne Brigade.

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.

Applicants must be sponsored by a member of the Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade.

All applications must be accompanied by a high-school transcript. Applications must be received by the National Headquarters by 15 March of the year in which the award is to be made.

To receive an application package please write to: National Headquarters, Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade, Attn: Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 1810, Silver Spring, MD 20910.



Gary Rutland, President, Ft. Benning-Columbus Ga. Chapter, presenting the 1st scholarship award of \$500 to Carl Russell Oakley, Son of Benjamin R. Oakley (A/2/503).



COL Ekman presenting 173d scholarship award of \$300 to Patricia Ekman before her departure for VPI in Virginia. Patty says she plans to use the check for books. (COL Ekman served with HHC/1-503/A/1-503 Apr 66-Apr 67)

Scholarship Recipient Carl Oakley

"It is with the deepest gratitude that I received the very first 173rd Abn Bde Scholarship Award. I'm very proud to be an Army "brat", and especially to carry on with my dad's service to our country. I plan to complete Jump School & Ranger School among others before I graduate North Georgia College. Again thank you for selecting me for the scholarship award. I will strive to do my best in college to bring honor to the 173rd Abn Bde and the United States Army."

Carl Oakley



Chuck Dean (1/503rd & 173 SPT BN) presenting 173rd scholarship award of \$200 to his daughter Roby Dean. Also present friends of Roby's and a 2nd Bat Herd member Ray Lockman.

From the Secretary:

An Airborne thanks goes out to Col. Kenneth Smith (the previous Nat. Secretary) and to Gen. "Butch" Williamson (Ret) (previous Nat. President) for their outstanding work in promoting the Airborne Spirit, encouraging new membership, establishing the Scholarship Fund, and tending to our "Family of Sky Soldiers".

Nat. Secretary
Gene Weeks

CHICAGO — ELITE FORCES — CHAPTER VI

The following articles are just some of the info contained in a recent Elite Forces newsletter entitled The "Herd Word". The purpose of reproducing it in the National Newsletter is to show the creativity and wide range of activities that a HOT CHAPTER like Chicago uses to increase and maintain membership.

"All the Way" for a job well done — Keep up the good work — See you at the Reunion in July '88.



ELITE FORCES ASSOCIATION
CHAPTER VI 173RD ABN



The Herd Word

VOL. 10

224 BERNICE DR. NORTHLAKE, IL 60164

OCTOBER 1987

FEATURE STORY

OLD TROOPERS NEVER DIE

We would like to congratulate one of our most active troopers, Joe Ferra. Joe was jumping out of planes in the active Army when most of us were still playing stick ball out on the streets. Joe went to the Spanish American Airborne Association Reunion in Mexico City last week. There was well over 100 Americans and Canadians present. One of the main activities was that everybody jumped. So Joe put his knees in the breeze once again after not having jumped in over 20 years. After suiting up and climbing aboard the C-47 he felt as though he had found an old friend again. After making 529 jumps Joe says he still gets butterflies in his stomach. Immediately following the jump that evening they had one hell of a banquet where they received Mexican jump wings from the Mexican Government and certificates of achievement. Joe was saying it feels good to have that feeling once again as though you were walking on air. All of us old troopers can relate with that. Joe proved to us that the paratrooper in us will never die. God bless you Joe, and Airborne All The Way!

Once again the leaves are turning golden brown and the evenings are getting cooler, so it's time to start thinking about the Christmas Party for the children. We need volunteers to line up a place, bake cookies, get gifts and to get in contact with Santa. If anyone would like to be chairman please contact myself at 980-1189.

The next Chapter meeting will be held Friday, October 9, 1987 at the Black-Stone Hotel, 80 East Balbo, Chicago, Illinois. The meeting will be called to order at 8:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS GOODIES

Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Hiner will be attending our October meeting. They will be bringing their Christmas Catalogue along and make it available to us at a great savings to you. If they make enough in sales they will donate back a percentage to the Chapter. So guys bring your wives and their Christmas list, but most of all their check books.

The Chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Larry Musson, Sr. for building some beautiful frames for our K.I.A. lists. They really look sharp! From all the guys thank you.

At this month's meeting we will be having a special guest from Australia. He was with the 3rd Bat. in Vietnam. If there is any way you can attend this meeting we would like to make him feel at home.

Our Chapter meeting for November will be held on a Saturday at Fort Sheridan, Building 84. The meeting will start at 12:00 noon. For further information contact Major Reggie Yates at (312)-926-5326.

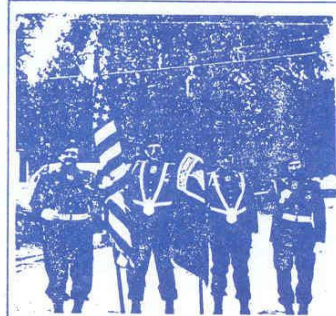
Herdman on the move. Brig. Gen. Wayne A. Downing began his career with the 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade in Okinawa and South Vietnam from 1963 to 1966. From there, he commanded the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., returned for another tour in Vietnam, and worked in the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In 1975, he began working with the 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry as executive officer, and he has since remained active in the Special Operations community.

Though he is leaving 1st SOCOM, Downing will not be leaving the Special Operations community. He is going to Washington D.C., to become director of the Washington office of the United States Special Operations Command.

Brig. Gen. Downing was presented with a Legion of Merit second oak leaf cluster, praising Downing's "crowning achievements and outstanding performance in the years he has served this command".

We salute you for a job well done in carrying on the highest tradition of the 173rd Airborne Brigade.



Here is a picture of our color guard marching in the Bataan Day Parade in Maywood. The following Sunday they showed our colors once again as they marched down Irving Park in the Diamond Anniversary of Schiller Park.

All Correspondence For Chapter VI 173rd
Should Be Addressed To The President



President.....Frank Miceli (980-1189)
Vice President.....Mickey Yauger(364-0020)
Secretary.....Bob Erickson (246-3644)
Treasurer.....Tom Hanlon (671-3042)
Reunion Chairman.....Benito Garcia(342-0242)
Colorguard.....Tom Hanlon (671-3042)
Art Department.....Michael Oliver(668-2326)
Art Department.....John Andras (489-1600)
Art Department.....J.J.Higareda (989-7788)
Public Relations.....Terry Gannon (222-0944)
Historian.....John Rotund (325-5548)
Dance Chairman.....Ron Fogarty (963-3760)
P.O.W./M.I.A.....J.J.Higareda (989-7788)
Sgt Arms.....Michael Pfohl(231-5215)
Sgt Arms.....JR.Contreras (243-2148)

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CHICAGO — ELITE FORCES — CHAPTER VI

THE HERD



"THE HERD WORD"
Non Profit Organization

So guys get out and lift up rocks and kick open doors and find new members. Our current membership is still GROWING.....
And for those of you that haven't renewed your DUES yet in order for this organization to survive we need your HELP !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



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Britt Small Receives National Vietnam Veterans Award

Britt Small, a Vietnam Veteran and band-leader of the 12-piece show-band, Festival was presented with the Vietnam Veterans National Medal in Kokomo, Indiana, at the Indiana Vietnam Veterans Reunion on September 19th. The presentation was made by Tom Burch, Chairman for the National Vietnam Veterans Coalition. Tom Burch stated, "It's the highest honor we have to bestow on one of our own." The Vietnam Veterans National Medal was created by an act of Congress in 1984, to honor these men and women who gave of themselves in effort to ensure democracy and peace throughout the world. Since 1982, Britt Small & Festival have been actively involved with promoting Veterans issues and the POW/MIA issue. As band-leader, Britt Small states, "It's not good enough to just wave the flag, you've got to be willing to stand with it in a stiff wind."

TRICK OR TREAT

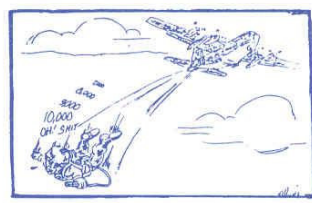
For all you Herdsmen - The Miceli's are having a Halloween Party on Saturday, October 17, 1987 at 224 Bernice Dr., Northlake at 8:00 p.m.. So put on your Halloween mask and scare someone or take it off and scare someone. Adults only, bring your own bottle. If you have some good old sounds bring them along. Costumes please.
R.S.V.P. by 10-14-87 562-5074
I want to see you there W.W..

As you know we won the bid for the 1988 National Reunion. To help cut the cost of liquor in our hospitality suite we are encouraging you to bring full unopened (that means no sampling) bottles of booze to all our meetings to build our Booze and Beer Cheat. The liquor will be entrusted to a non-boozer.

BUSINESS CARD ADS

Ads run for one year from 1st insertion at a cost of \$25.00 per year. We have a circulation of 265 newsletters per month, the money will be used for postage and the cost of the newsletter.

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I'm sorry about last months pictures that Roger Bower sent in. One of the Herdsmen sent them to Roger and he in turn sent them to us, and by the way the parade was in Houston not Dallas. I'm sorry about that guys.

“The Glass Wall”

The New York Vietnam Veterans Memorial at 55 Water Street in Manhattan was conceived and constructed to acknowledge the service and sacrifice of those men and women from across the country who did their individual and collective best during the Vietnam War. This Memorial is not meant to imply approval or disapproval of the purpose or conduct of the War. Neither is it to honor only those who fought or those who fell, although one-third of the 75 people whose thoughts are etched into its surface did die as a result of combat.

The Memorial, which is 66 feet long and 16 feet high, was dedicated on 7 May 1985, the Tenth Anniversary of the official end of American Military involvement in Indochina. (The 5th of May marked the 20th Anniversary of the 173d Abn. Bde. arrival in Vietnam.) It is intended to evoke reconciliation and an awareness of the enduring human values which are reflected in the conflicting experiences of the Vietnam War. While its purpose is not only to remember the Roster of the Dead, the Memorial Honors those who died and celebrates life for those who returned. It embodies the contradictory yet universally shared experiences of War and Peace, Danger and Relief, Weakness and Strength, Isolation and Comradeship. Just as the Memorial invites reflection, so too are visitors invited to leave their own thoughts and mementos on the granite shelf which runs along both sides of the wall.

The excerpts etched into the Memorial were chosen from letters, diary entries, and poems, written by Americans during the Vietnam Era, which were submitted to the New York Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission. These quotes are supplemented by News Dispatches and Public Statements about the War. It is fitting that the Memorial is located one block east of Frances Tavern, where George Washington Bade Farewell to his Officers at the end of the Revolutionary War.

Veteran Activities

- Memorial Service for two Medal of Honor winners Nov. 20-22, New York City and Jersey City, New York Chapter.
- 23-26 Oct — City of Philadelphia dedicated its memorial to the Vietnam Veterans. Activities included Vet reunions, special events and a dedication parade.
- 2 Oct-6 Oct — **Australian Vietnam Forces National Reunion.** Commencing at 0900 on Sat 3 Oct 87, an estimated 20,000 Australian and Allied Vietnam Veterans marched through the streets of Sydney. We are expecting an **After Action Report from Larry Okendo** and his wife who are among those representing the 173d at this once in a lifetime week of comradeship and memories. At press time they are still in Australia — still on R&R.

Two Sky Soldiers have their thoughts engraved on the Glass Wall. They are as follows:

17 Feb 67

Hey LA,

**** The total casualty list for the 2nd Platoon was 17 wounded and 1 KIA *** when a guy is not seriously wounded it's time for laughs, because he knows he's in for rest and "ghost time" **** We start Joking, taking pictures *** All this I guess is a means of keeping your mind off the troopers that aren't breathing and wrapped in their ponchos. We mourn for them only once at the Memorial Service. After that We talk of them only in good spirits in reference to the good times we had or possibly a funny incident ****

*Brother John
SP/4 John A. Kane
A 1/503 Inf.
173d Airborne Bde.
BIEN HOA*

Mother I am cursed — I'm a soldier when soldiers aren't in fashion.

*From a poem by
Sgt Thomas Oathunt
172nd MI DET
173rd Airborne Brigade
1970-1971, Bong Son*

Above info provided by New York Chapter Newsletter
Wendell Vega, Editor

Where Are You? We'll Miss You!

As you know, we mail our quarterly newsletter, **SKY SOLDIER**, to each member in good standing.

Because we want you to receive each issue of **SKY SOLDIER** we have been paying additional mailing costs to the Post Office to send us your new forwarding address. In addition, the national office must re-address your newsletter and again pay postage to re-mail it to you. This overtaxes our volunteer staff and limited budget.

So please tell us where you are and where you are going . . . or we'll miss you. Simply drop a note with your current and your new address before you move. We'll make sure that **SKY SOLDIER** is mailed to your new address so that you don't miss a single issue.

Back issues of **SKY SOLDIER** are available at \$1.00 per issue while supplies last.

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:
\$10.00
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	

Current Military Assignment or Civilian Employment (Job Title)

Unit/Office Address	City	State	ZIP
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"/>			

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:

Date	Amount	Date	Amount	Date	Amount
Date	Amount	Date	Amount	Date	Amount

REMARKS:

DUES

National Member \$10.00
(Regular, Associate and Affiliate Members)

Life Member \$173.00
No further dues to National Society, however a \$5 fee is due your Chapter.

Honorary Members pay no dues to National or the Chapter.

If you are a chapter member please pay thru the chapter.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

(Continued from page 2)

CHAPTER IV Philadelphia/English — PO Box 345, Ft. Dix, N.J. 08640. Steve Reilly, President.

On 23 through 26 Oct 87 Philadelphia dedicated its memorial to the Vietnam Veterans. The Philadelphia Chapter marched in the parade on Oct 26. All 173d Veterans were invited to join with them for the parade and a mini reunion afterwards.

A Sky Soldier wins drawing for free weekend in the "Pocomos Mountains" at the Sept chapter meeting.

CHAPTER V Ft. Bragg/Fayetteville —

CSM McBride (82d ABN DIV). CSM Gaweda (XVIII ABN Corps), as well as their respective CG's and other active duty 173d Vets have pledged support. Jack Kelly, Jerry Mitchell and Joe Atkinson have stated they would push for a re-charging of 173d activities in the area.

CHAPTER VI Chicago/Elite Forces — 224 Bernice Dr., Northlake, IL 60164. Frank Miceli, President.

See Special Feature — Chicago Chapter Newsletter.

CHAPTER VII Florida — 5119 Murray Hill Rd., Tampa, FL 33615. CSM (Ret) Ed Proffitt, President.

CHAPTER VIII Hawaii — 1860 Ala Moana #2202, Honolulu, HI 96815. Paul Scheffel, President.

Published quarterly by the National Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade, PO Box 1810, Silver Spring, MD 20902. Sky Soldier Editor: Gene Weeks.

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

CHAPTER X Western States — 900 West Railroad Ave., Cotati, CA 94928. Robert Rodriguez, President.

— Involvement in the Fremont Vietnam Memorial Dedication which brought new members and exposure for the chapter.

— Following the membership meeting in Aug there was plenty of fun and fellowship at the Cuesta Canyon Park with barbeque and softball.

— Rich Whaley, a new member is the floor manager of a KGO-TV. He is trying to get exposure for the Brigade locally and is asking for any local or national events or info that can be advertised through the media. You can reach him at 415-954-7841.

— The entire chapter expresses their appreciation to Col Torp for his support to the family and friends during the six months prior to the death of Bruce Darby.

Potentially CHAPTER XI Australia — Now in the process of organizing to apply for a charter from the National Headquarters of The Society.



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