

SKY SOLDIER

Newsletter of
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE



Winter 1998

President — COL (Ret) Kenneth Smith

Secretary — Michael Thibault

Vice-President — SFC (Ret) Timothy R. Stout

Treasurer — CSM (Ret) Loren L. Storjohann

Editor — Charles R. Shay

Vol. XIV, No. 1

VETERAN'S DAY CAMARADERIE AT THE WALL



On Veterans Day, a small band of Sky Soldiers from the Sigholtz-Capitol Chapter I gathered at the Brigade living memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to remember our fallen comrades. This early gathering was the first of an annual commitment to ensure that the sacrifices made by members of the Brigade are never forgotten. The Sky Soldiers were joined by the Assistant Australian Army Attache, LTC Alan McClellan, in this tribute. A bouquet of flowers was placed at the memorial in memory of the valiant soldiers of the Brigade that gave all for the cause of freedom. The Chapter also placed flowers at the site of the memorial dedicated to our airborne brothers of the 503rd Infantry Parachute Regiment, the distinguished unit from which the Brigade traces its lineage. After accomplishing this solemn duty, the participants joined other Sky Soldiers at the Veterans Memorial.

THE ARLINGTON TRIBUTE WILL BE AN ANNUAL ACTIVITY OF THE CHAPTER.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the start of 1999, I extend to each of you personally and on behalf of the Executive Board of the Society, best wishes for a wonderful New Year. As with the start of each year, and each day for those who have been close to death, there are wonderful opportunities for everyone who wishes to take advantage of them. How are you going to live tomorrow and the last year of this century?

Life is not a dress rehearsal — we are in this for real. There are no second chances. The question each of you must ask yourself is are you happy with what you are doing and what you have done, and if not what can you do to change it. Each answer will be different.

My biggest dissatisfaction is the number of deaths we experience yearly as a result of Vietnam — PTSD as it manifests itself through depression, alcoholism. I grieve each time I receive word that another Sky Soldier has taken his own life because he is unable to face the past, and in some instances the physical pain from wounds and illnesses incurred in Viet Nam. I ask myself if we as individuals, and collectively, are doing enough to exorcize the demons of by-gone years. I urge everyone who sees in family and friends any signs of abnormal behavior to confront the problem before another life is lost.

In terms of continuing the healing process, each of you must ask yourself if you are contributing as your talents allow — Chapter meetings, annual reunions, our scholarship program, are all ways of helping someone to come to grips with the past. Thirty years ago, you would not have hesitated to risk your life to save another — for we were all heroes then. Are you doing what you can, and should, to support your fellow Sky Soldiers? Are you happy with the Sky Soldier you have become?

There are great days ahead for the Society — we have marvelous reunions planned for 1999 at Fort Bragg, and 2000 in Minnesota, and there will be more wonderful gatherings as long as Sky Soldiers live! There is no such things as an “ex-Sky Soldier.” You may be old, and you may be tired and retired, but you belonged to one of the finest units ever fielded by the Army — and you are still Sky Soldiers! As you drive ahead into 1999, take the steps you need to take to be the Sky Soldier you want to be.

Ken Smith
President

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Greetings! The second annual Cow Pie Bingo will be held on 4 July 1999, at the Al Hodder ranch in Star Prairie, Wisconsin. The raffle tickets were mailed to all chapter presidents in early January, and they should be available to all members. Those of you who are not affiliated with a chapter can order your tickets from National. Tickets are \$5 each, a book of six tickets sells for \$25. Send your check or money order to National Headquarters and your tickets will be mailed directly to you. There were 10,000 tickets printed, and if all are sold, the \$50,000 raised will go into the National general fund. The purpose of the raffle was to keep National dues at its current level and to help defray the cost of printing the Sky Soldier newsletter.

Last year the Society grossed about 10% from all raffle tickets sold; after the winners were paid, there was a net balance of about \$3000 for the general fund. We need to do better this year. If each member sold two tickets, they would all be gone. The Elite Chapter, Chapter — VI Chicago, sold the most tickets by a chapter. Which Chapter is going to top them this year?

Tim Stout
Vice President

We Have A Home Page!



For you computer hacks who want to find something on the Internet, try the Society's new home page. Set up by Sky Soldier Paul Dinardo, the home page address is:

<http://sunsite.unc.edu/173abn/173abn.html>

NOTE: This is an up-dated and corrected home page address. IF you have had problems in the past, this should clear it up.

If you have a computer service provider; AOL, CompuServe, MSN or any other service to the Internet, you can “hook up” with our home page. We encourage your input for the programming of the home page. Contact Paul at:

pdinardo@pica.army.mil

with your comments.

THANK YOU



The Chaplain's Corner



The Man in the Stream

Every man needs someone to talk to. There is a legend among the Cheyenne Indians of an isolated village on the edge of the forest. For years the men had practiced a little routine. One by one they would sneak out of the village and follow a small path through the forest to a silver stream. There was a log over the water, which had been worn smooth by many moccasined feet. Looking around to make sure no one was looking, the Indian would walk out on the log. Looking down into the silver stream, he would see his reflection. Then, in a quiet voice, he would begin to talk. He would tell the stream all the deep things of his heart. Doing this made him feel good. When he was finished he would return to the village.

Even though all the men in the village did this on a regular basis, they never told anyone. However, everyone seemed to know everyone else was doing the same thing-but vanity and pride kept them from openly discussing it.

According to the Cheyenne, the meaning of the legend is that everyone needs someone to talk to and relate to. Someone to whom you can tell all the deep things of your heart. But since sharing about such things is also considered a sign of weakness, you dare not let anyone else know.

The legend is half right. We humans are created with a deep need to relate and share our lives (especially our problems) with each other. However our society has done a strange thing to men. It has conditioned us to look upon sharing sensitive things of our hearts with others as a sign of weakness. We see "success" as the ability to go it alone, to make it

without anyone's help-especially other men's help... and perhaps even God's.

American veterans have a strong sense of independence; and for the most part we are reluctant to ask for help. Yet like the Cheyenne, when we are alone, we are honest. We stand on the log looking down into the silver stream and there is a strong urge to speak the deep things of our hearts-maybe even about the deep secrets of wartime trauma. We need to do that, and when we finally do, we feel good inside. We become emotionally and spiritually stronger.

Let me encourage you, my fellow paratroopers, to avoid carrying the burdens of life alone. There are many Herd brothers, and other veterans, who are not only willing to hear you out, but who also need *You* to listen to them. They need you to take the time to listen and share in the burdens they have carried since coming home from the war. You will easily see how valuable that kind of brotherhood is, and you will recognize the importance of helping another vet feel good that someone (who understands them) actually took the time.

All the way and God bless,

CHUCK DEAN

National Chaplain 173^d Abn Society



In Memoriam

It is my sad duty to announce the following deaths:

1SG (Ret) Bobby "B.J." Horne who served with B/2 and H/4 67-68 and 69-70. 1SG Horne also served with the 187th Infantry during the Korean conflict.

MSG Ronald L. Stagner. MSG Stagner served with C/2 from 02/64-08/65. God called him home on 13 July 1998.

May God grant them the eternal peace deserved by Airborne Soldiers who served honorably and well.

THE LEGACY PROJECT

In July 1997, I asked a group of Sky Soldiers and dependents to examine a proposal to open Sky Soldier Membership to wives and children of Herd members. The report was presented at the Boston reunion. While it was approved by a simple majority of the members present and voting, it failed approval by the majority required to amend the Society's By-Laws. My thanks to the following Legacy project Committee members for their fine work.

John J. Schimpf	Kenneth S. Cox
Dawn DiNardo	Karen Riester
Robert Woolridge	CSM William E. Workman

In the Summer 98 edition of the Newsletter, we published a letter written by Jack Schimpf's son addressing this subject. I would encourage you all to read it.

I intend to forward to the By-Laws Committee a modification of the legacy proposal for submission to the General membership at the 1999 reunion. Because of the controversial nature of this amendment, it is printed below. Modifications to the original proposal have been made such since Gold Star Wives and Children are already eligible for membership under existing by-Laws and to reflect the discussions at the Boston reunion..

LEGACY PROPOSAL (Modified)

1. Wives and children of Sky Soldiers, and widows of Sky Soldiers who were not killed in Vietnam, shall be eligible for Family Membership status.
 - a. Wives and widows of Sky Soldiers who were not killed in Vietnam shall be immediately eligible upon submission of proper application to the Society Headquarters.
 - b. Children of Sky Soldiers shall be eligible for Family Membership upon reaching their eighteenth birthday.
 - c. Family Members will pay the same annual or Life membership dues as Sky Soldiers.
 - d. Family Members may hold appointive office but shall not be eligible for elective office at the Society level, nor for election to the Society Board of Directors (Chapter President).
 - e. Family members may make presentations at

annual meetings but shall not be entitled to vote at issues presented to the General Membership at the annual meeting.

- f. A Family Membership card shall be issued to all qualified applicants.
2. Each individual Chapter will amend its By-Laws to conform with the Society By-Laws.

Comments:

1. The Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade is a "last man" organization. Within 20-30 years, we will be facing extinction. The Family Membership amendment to the By-Laws extends the life of the Society beyond the current generation.
2. The modified proposal to the By-Laws retains control of the Society in the hands of Herd-Members until, at a later date, Herd-members choose to amend the By-Laws.
3. As a result of the Family Membership amendment, wives and children become more closely integrated with the Society, and in fact can formally contribute to its operation and functioning. Exclusion from voting and acceding to elected Society office (Executive Board and Board of Directors) satisfies concerns of many members regarding policy direction and control.

/s/ Ken Smith
President



Member of Congress

Mike Thompson, (B/2 68-69), formerly a State legislator in California, was elected to Congress in November from California's First Congressional District. Mike joins Duncan Hunter (also from California) and Charlie Norwood (GA) as 173d Alumni [and Lane Evans — Honorary Member from Illinois] in the House of Representatives.

SON OF A COMBAT VETERAN

By: Brian J. Wooldridge - "Lil' Opie"

Men of the 173d:

I am the son of a combat veteran. I'm very proud of this fact; very proud. My father volunteered to travel twelve thousand miles from home to fight for his country. He never questioned it, he just did it. He never doubted what it was that he was doing and he never lost faith in himself or his country. My father even went so far as to volunteer for a second tour in Vietnam, even after falling in love and getting married while home in between tours (those of you that know my parents fully appreciate the true love still alive today). One of his main reasons was that he had already survived one year and was good at what he was doing. If he stayed, he could keep others alive and, hopefully, keep other boys from having to come over seas. Towards the end of his second tour, my father was involved in one of the worst battles in Vietnam. He was wounded and shipped out to recover. In a year and a half in Vietnam, he was promoted fast and decorated several times for his selfless actions. My father was and still is a war hero.

The two things I think he didn't realize at the time were the war he would bring home with him and the family he would have for eternity. I don't think any veteran ever realized these things when they left combat. I know it happens because I've talked to other families of combat veterans, especially Vietnam veterans. I've seen it happen. This is absolutely nothing to be ashamed of. Wars do that to people. Bonds are formed between people who hold each others lives in their hands. It is hard to explain and understand unless you have been there or lived with someone who has been there. I do not blame or accuse my father for anything. In fact, I salute him for all he has lived through and survived.

In the last twenty five years of my life, the best family I have known has been the 173d Airborne. I was born with "Airborne" in my blood; it was in my genes. All of the guys from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion have been like second fathers to me. I had heard stories about these guys ever since I could remember. When I was old enough, my parents began taking me to the reunions. I finally got to put faces with names and meet the people who had been looking out for me all my life. I soon formed tight bonds with these guys and their families. I learned what selflessness was. I found what love of family means. Everyone I met that was with the Herd held every real ideal of what it was to give of one's self no matter what the cost. I found the type of friendships I wanted to have. I have two, maybe three friends like that now, but not an entire company of 120 people. I also learned a great deal about pride,

honor, duty, responsibility and, most importantly, family. Little did I know at the time how much the people that wore, and still wear, that beautiful patch would give to me.

I can never explain the love, gratitude and family bonds enough. I will never be able to think of everybody all at once to say the things that need to be said. Doc Worm and Jean, Ken Cox, Gus and Wilda, Phil Scharff, Lt. and Mrs. Cecil, Scotty Heinrich, Capt. Mac and Deb, Hank and Pat are all a major part of who I am, what I want to be, and how I will eventually raise my family. I know I haven't included everyone. I'm sorry to those I left out. You know what you mean to me. One name was intentionally left out above. Darrel Fitch deserves his own line. Darrel upholds every ideal of the 173d to the utmost. He opened his house to me this summer for my field research. He let me keep my rattlesnakes in his home until I could transport them back to my lab. Darrel even went out with me to collect live snakes. Darrel would introduce me to his friends as his son. He was a pillar when I needed one, and I to him. Thank you Darrel. God Bless You. God Bless You All.

Along with the family, I've learned. I've learned how to fight, but in a good way. I began fighting the war that was unintentionally brought home. My family was in the middle of it all. Again, I don't blame my dad or anyone. It wasn't his fault. I know how much he loves me and my family. He would never intentionally hurt us. He is the greatest guy I know. I hope someday to be as great as he is. When I have my own children, I hope they will look at me the way I still look at him. I've spent my time trying to put "the war" behind me. It has been a long, tough road. My dad has been successful. His was a long, hard road. I know; I watched. I haven't lost my hope, either. This letter is part of my healing process. Sometimes the ones that hurt the most are the ones that are overlooked: The Families. My family has endured and it has survived. My family is everything to me. We are strong; Strong because we want to be and strong because we have to be. There should be a medal awarded to each individual in the family of a combat veteran. We have a story to tell. That story deserves to be heard just as much.

When I was a sophomore at Iowa State University, I began writing part of that story. It is in the form of a poem/narrative. At the Tucson reunion in 1997, George Smith of the Chicago Chapter encouraged me to publish it and share it with the world. It has taken me this long to get the courage and strength to share it. Until

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Son of a Combat Veteran

(Continued from page 5)

now, nobody else has ever read it. This is the beginning of my story. Someday, I'll tell the rest. For now, this is exactly what I want to say. I have copied the poem and its dedication exactly as I wrote it at age 19. I hope this letter and poem doesn't fall on deaf ears and blind eyes. I love my father very much. I love the 173d with all my heart, also. It is the best family I know.

Respectfully and Airborne,



Brian J. Wooldridge "Lil' Opie"
330 Waymore Dr. #B22
El Paso, TX 79902

Raised In a Fury... But Fighting Hard

*My dad was in Vietnam.
He fought hard and I'm proud of him.
I was not in Vietnam, I'm not in the military.
But I've been there.
I've seen it all through his eyes;
I've felt it all through his actions.
His tone of voice is the firefights;
His everlasting criticism the protection.
His rages are the heavy rains
Making my progress cautious and careful.
His ever watchful eye and inquisitiveness
are the sergeant leading his squad, ensuring my safety.
His sternness and commandeering ways
ensure my survival in the jungle
that most people call life.
I've felt the loss and seen his buddies
whom I'll never meet.
They are a part of me and guide me through each day.
I've used his experiences as mine.
I learned fast at an early age.
Because of this I am strong and smart.
I can survive in both jungles: urban and canopied.
I can take whatever life throws at me;
I am a survivor.
All my life, I have been raised in a fury,
But I am and always will be fighting hard.
I'm thankful for this and would not
change anything for the world.
For this, I am a better person.
People should envy me!*

Dedicated to all the men of the 173d Airborne, and especially my dad, Opie. Dad, I love you and am very proud of you. Without your love, support and teachings, I'd be lost. Thank you.

A Family Tradition Update

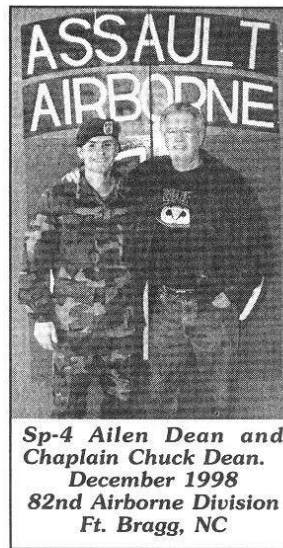
In the Winter 1996 Sky Soldier edition, Chuck Dean, National Chaplain, reported that his son Ailen R. Dean was serving with the 82nd Airborne Division, Assault Platoon, Ft. Bragg, N.C.

In the Spring 1998 Sky Soldier edition, Chuck Dean announced the birth of his Grandson Ezekiel, son of Ailen & Tia Marie Dean. Tia Marie is also a paratrooper.

And now, Chuck Dean, as a 173d Airborne granddad is happily reporting to the Society the

latest Airborne accomplishment of his son, Sp-4 Ailen Dean. In November of 1998, Sp-4 Dean won the "Soldier of the Month" award for the 82nd Airborne Division, and was awarded the Army Achievement Medal.

This photo was taken at the door of the 82nd Assault Platoon at Ft. Bragg when Chuck visited his son during the Christmas Holidays.



**Sp-4 Ailen Dean and
Chaplain Chuck Dean.
December 1998
82nd Airborne Division
Ft. Bragg, NC**

So let another proud Airborne PaPa repeat the command:

Airborne All The Way!

A Sky Soldier Airborne Congratulations to Sp-4 Ailen Dean on a job well done!

And a big heartfelt Airborne Congratulations to PaPa Chuck Dean, National Chaplain of the 173d Airborne Brigade, on his part of the job well done!

2nd Annual COW (PIE) PASTURE BINGO

The Society will be hosting its 2nd annual "cow pasture bingo" on or about 4 July 99 (weather permitting) in Wisconsin. The purpose of this fun filled event is to help raise money for the general fund and to have fun while doing it. This is an event than can move around the country and the world to where ever there are cows and pastures. Here's how it works.

The Society will be selling raffle tickets to whom ever wants to buy them; your friends, (and enemies) family and in laws. *Everyone and anyone is eligible to play.* Tickets are \$5.00 each or books of 6 are \$25.00 and they will be made available from National Headquarters.

Now to explain "cow pasture bingo" to those who may not know what it is. A one square acre of pasture will be divided up into a number of boxes which would be about the same size of a square yard. A lucky cow will be selected and will have the privilege of grazing in the field to allow mother nature to take its course and have the cow make a vertical "free fall" of a "cow pie" onto a square. To ensure that the cow is diligent in its duties, a designated "cow pie observer" will be with the cow when the momentous event occurs, and he or she will be responsible for calling out the winning number. If you are the lucky winner, you will win the main prize of \$2500.

YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

Now here's the rest of the news. If your number is located around the winning square and there can be up to 8 second place winners, with the minimum being three; each of you will win \$173.00. The person selling the winning ticket will also receive \$173.00. Nice number isn't it?

**Send your checks and money orders to:
Cow Pie Raffle, P.O. Box 44173
Washington, DC 20026-4173**

Monument Fund Update

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

Lewis A. Wood	James C. Dickey
Joe McDermott	Carl Davis
BG H. Glenn Watson	Robert A. Lucas
Michael J. Syzdek	

Scholarship Fund Update

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

Mario Pages
Carl Davis
Philip D. Coleman

NOTE: WE DO OUR BEST TO ACKNOWLEDGE ALL GIFTS. IF WE MISSED YOU, PLEASE DROP US A LINE SO WE CAN ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT. WE COULDN'T MAKE OUR PROGRAMS RUN WITHOUT YOU.

----- ✂ ----- . *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 44173, Washington, DC 20026-4173

A Successful Joint United States/Australian Operation

I am a proud member of Chapter 23 - The Queensland Chapter. I served at Bien Hoa and Saigon during 1965-66 with the Australian MP detachment. I saw in the summer edition of the 'Sky Soldier' that the 173D MP Platoon held a reunion in St Louis last October. It was this story that recharged the old memory cells. I was reminded of a story and a photograph I'd like to share with everyone. I believe the



**L-R: Merv Williams & Aussie Texan?
Taken Prior to Operation Cultural Tour!**

statute of limitations would apply, so the story can now be told.

While serving with the Australians at Bien Hoa, I met a 173D MP. He was a Texan, who had engraved on his belt buckle CSA (Confederate States of America). I cannot remember his name, and I guess that's just time and probably just as well. When I was posted to HQ AAFV Saigon, He said, "I'll get down to have a beer with you someday." Sure enough, he was on escort duty to Saigon, and would you believe his "veehicle" developed heart problems! This necessitated an over night stay while repairs were carried out at Phu To motor pool.

I arranged accommodation for him at the Interna-

tional BEQ on Trang Hun Dau. He was dressed in fatigues, which you may recall, were not allowed to be worn by US Servicemen in Saigon after normal working hours. As we wanted to check out all the 'cultural' sights of Saigon, the normal things like, churches, museums, libraries, and of course the opera. I lent him my Aussie uniform complete with slouch hat, as I had a set of civvies. We set off on our cultural sojourn.

You can imagine our horror when we completed our cultural expedition to find that we had let time run away with us and we missed curfew by an hour or so. On leaving the 'opera' we carefully waited until all American and Joint patrols had passed, then we flagged down a Vietnamese MP patrol. We identified ourselves as a joint US/Australian surveillance team and request transport to HQ 716 MP BN quarters. Yes, you guessed it, the International BEQ. Another successful joint US/Aust. Operation.

I often wonder if I'll ever be in contact again, with that 173D MP from Texas. He would be the only 173D MP to wear an Aussie uniform.

Regards,

Merv Williams,
70 Woking Street
Grovely Qld 4054 Australia
Phone: 07 3354 2551

Society Toll Free Number

All members should make an effort to ensure that the society toll-free telephone number is posted at all VA Medical Centers, Veterans Centers, American Legion, VFW and AMVETS Halls. The line is an answering machine and is operational 24 hours a day for new members to call.



The toll-free telephone number is:

**1-888-ABN-1733 or
1-888-226-1733.**

Hook Up

Dear Editor,

I am looking for anyone who served with me in HHC recon platoon 1st Bat then D/1/503, Lt. Browns platoon. I need letters from brothers who were with me in Dak To in November 1967 to help in my support of claim for PTSD.

My claim is in front of the ratings board at this time. A recent letter I received, and It's language has led me to believe I may have to appeal there decision and, will require more documentation.

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following Sky Soldiers please contact me:

Lt Brown,
Sp/4 J. Soupart from Elizabeth NJ
Sgt. Donnelly from Boston

All were with D/1/503, 67-68.

I was wounded Feb. 5, 1968 in Bam Me Thout when D/1/503 hooked up with A/1/503. If you were in this firefight and can recall specifics that may help, please contact me.

Best Regards,
Vic Marciano, D/1/503 67-68
Web Sites: Sky Soldier;

<http://members.tripod.com/SkySoldier/~frames.html>

Dear Editor,

I am looking for my buddies at A Company 4/503 Infantry, and all interpreters that served with the 173^d Airborne Brigade.

Thank You,
Conh Thach
497 Broadway Street
Lowell, MA 01854
H: (978) 441-6884

— *Editors Note: This HOOK UP request submitted by Society Chapter IX.*

Notice from Jack Kelly

John Sahn, 1SG Retired, who served with B/2-503 from '64 to '66, is suffering from ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease). John would appreciate hearing from all Herd members at the following address:

Avalon Place Nursing Home
Room 215
5027 Pecan Grove
San Antonio, TX 78222

Dear Editor,

I have belonged to the Society for several years now and do not remember ever seeing any "reunion notices" listed. I know of many fellows who were in my battalion who also belong to the Society. I would like to know if it would be possible to include a section in your magazine concerning reunions?

If possible, I would like to announce our reunion for the upcoming year in your magazine. The following is the information we wish to see listed.

Any member of 1st Battalion 50th Infantry, Mechanized, who served with the unit at any time is requested to contact the person listed below for information about the Association and the upcoming reunion to be held in Kansas City MO at the Embassy Suites Hotel during the period of September 16th through the 19th, 1999.

For information on the reunion or joining the Association, please contact: "Kenneth G Riley, 200 Georgetown Court, Hanover PA 17331 (717-632-7604) e-mail: Ichaban@aol.com

Again thanks for any help you can give me in this matter, and keep up the good work with the magazine.

Sincerely,
Kenneth G. Riley
200 Georgetown Ct.,
Hanover PA 17331

SGT Robert Toporek wants to contact anyone who served with 2-503 Civil Affairs program from May 66 - June 67, or anyone who served with the Battalion for this period who is suffering from health-related impacts, particularly Agent Orange.

Robert Toporek
251 W. Dekalb Pike, Apt. A-616
King Of Prussia, PA 19406-2420

Preston Foskey
RD 2, Box 246
Georgetown, Delaware 19947
(302) 854-6533

Served with B/2/503, February '68 to October '69 and would like to hear from anybody.

Dear Editor,

My name is Mrs. Wallene Roberts. I am trying to get some information regarding a ring my husband found back in the 70's in the Atlanta area. I tried to trace it a few times years ago but finally gave up. Now thanks to the Internet I hope I can finally find

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Hook Up

(Continued from page 9)

it's owner or at least his family that would probably love to have it back. Maybe you can help me..It looks like a class ring with the 173rd airborne insignia on it. It has the initials CAB, inscribed with the ssn but part of it is worn off. Here are the numbers I have: 459-80-290? Here is my E-mail address, hope you can help me: wallene@bellsouth.net

Thank You

Wallene Roberts

Dear Editor,

My name is Dennis M. Draper and I was with the 173rd Airborne back in 1969. I was assigned to the B/2/503 of the 173rd at Bong Song, Viet Nam. I was wounded in action March 28, 1969 and lost contact with my outfit. If you have information on how I could contact some of the old outfit I would really appreciate it. Col. Herbert was our Battalion Commander. Capt. Hill was the Co. commander.

Dennis M. Draper

625 S. 125 W.

Rupert, ID. 83350

Dear Editor,

Chuck Guy and I are trying to locate any members of the old 4.2's mortar platoon, from May 65 to May 66, HHC 2/503D, 173D ABN BDE (SEP). Contact me at jwssr9735@servcom.com or Charles Guy at CHARLEWS.GUY@gte.net. We are trying to get the old platoon together at the reunion in 1999 at Ft. Bragg, NC. Any help would greatly appreciated.

Thanks,

John W Searcy SR

1SG US Army Retired

Dear Editor,

I am wondering if you could help me find some information? Corporal Joseph Ernest Funston served in the Viet Nam War from April 1968 until his death on August 25, 1968. He died Aug. 25, 1968 of injuries received in action in the Bong Son area of Viet Nam. I am trying to locate any one who may have been in his unit and is still alive. After Joe's death, a young man called a couple of times and asked if he could put flowers on Joe's grave. It was a bitter time for his two surviving brothers, so they were not willing to talk to this young man. Over the years we have thought a lot and tried to find him, but we have

had no luck. It is important for us to try and make amends with him, if we can locate him.

I would appreciate any thing you can do for me.

Sincerely,

Richard Funston

435 Dewey Ave.

Galena, IL. 61036

Phone: (815) 777-2217

Dear Editor,

I am a volunteer with the Vietnam Helicopter Flight Crew Network (VHFCN), Family Contacts Committee. Recently we received the following request from Mikki Sharpe, who's father James W. Collins, was a door gunner with the Cowboys and was killed 7/27/66. James may have transferred to the Cowboys from the 173rd Abn Bde. Mikki is looking for men who knew her father. She was one year old when he was killed so she has no memory of him.

Hi, My name is Mikki Sharpe, and I am the daughter of James W. Collins, KIA 660727. He was a door gunner in the 173rd airborne, but I am not sure as to which unit he was assigned. His military marker is inscribed with the following info. PFC 82 ABN BN, 173 ABN BDE.

I am looking for men who knew him, and would be willing to correspond with me on this subject. Due to reasons too numerous to include right now, I have very little information on what he was like. His family is of no help, so I am looking to his buddies for help. If you could put me in touch, I would be extremely grateful.

Mikki

Originally, the 335th AHC (Cowboys) were A Co, 82 Avn Bn. This may explain the confusion on the marker. Also KIA in the incident were WO 1 Joseph C. Sampson, WO I Rutherford J. Welsh, and SP5 Harold W. Reinbott. Can Mikki's request be posted on the net and in the next news letter?

Thanks for the help!

James O. McLaughlin

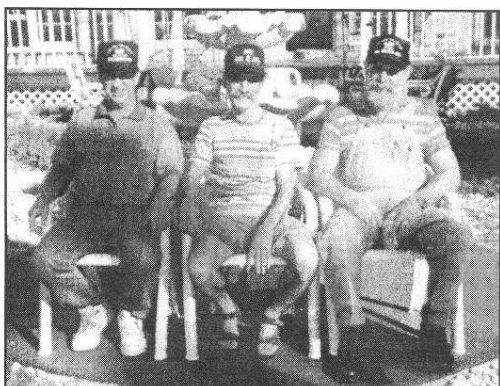
Falcon 82 335th AHC, 67-68

— Editors Note: If you have information of this request, please contact James McLaughlin on the Internet address of:

JOMcLaughlin@worldnet.att.net

Bravo Company 1/503rd Infantry 1963-66

By: Dutch Holland



Left to right: Jerry Langston; Bob Martin, II; and Dutch Holland.

Members of Bravo Company 1/503rd Infantry 1963-66 and their battalion commander Colonel John Tyler were invited to LTC Ray Marshall's home outside of Phenix City, Alabama for a reunion and barque. This reunion took place from the 24th till the 31st of October and was attended by eighteen members of the old company.

The enlisted members were not only honored by the appearance of their battalion commander but also by three other officers from their ranks. The host LTC Ray Marshall was Bravo's CO during 1964-65 and was replaced by LTC Lowell Bittrich when Ray was promoted and transferred to brigade head quarters. Also present was the weapons platoon leader 1ST Lt Wayne Downing who went on to become Commander in Chief of Special Operations and a four star general.

The reunion also had a surprise in store for three of its members who were the only survivors of an eighteen man reinforced squad from the Battle of

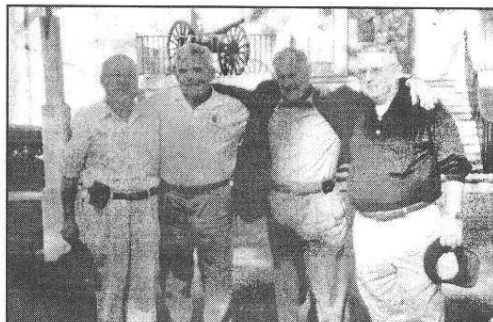


Members of Bravo Co 1/503 Inf 1963-66. Being hosted by the Phenix City, Alabama, VFW.

Hill #65 during Operation Hump. It was the first time since the 8th of November 1965 that Jerry Langston, Bob Martin, and Dutch Holland have been reunited and each was excited to say the least.

Bravo members attending plus Colonel Tyler were the host LTC Ray Marshall, LTC Lowell Bittrich, Henry Brown JR., SMG Harold Dale, William Delia, Al Eyster, Carlton Hess, Dutch Holland, Walter Lamont, Jerry Langston, Tom 'Doc' Marrinan, Robert Martin II, Jim Morse, Ross Redding, Robert Seidman, Jim Serna and, of course, General Downing.

While at the reunion the Sky Soldiers toured jump school and the DZ then pinned jump wings onto some graduating students. After that they traveled to the Infantry School and was escorted through it by their battalion commander followed by mess with the trainees. Topping it all off was being allowed into the 75th Rangers battalion area and having an operational team lay out and critique us on their



Left to right: Col. John Tyler, Co 1/503rd, 1965-66; LTC Ray Marshall, Co Bravo 1/503 1964-65; Gen. Wayne Downing, Bravo Weapons Plt. Ldr.; LTC Lowell Bittrich, Co Bravo 1/5603 1965-66.

combat gear. One thing that really impressed all of us was a field radio with a range of 5000 miles.

On Saturday the 30th of October we had a small tribute to one of our own who had planned on being there. Sam Scrimanger was a friend to many who remembered him as both a member of weapons platoon and a rifle platoon. His death in July was a shock to many but we will carry his memory in our hearts as we mourn his passing.

It wouldn't be fair to close without mentioning the fine food we dined on at separate occasions presented by the Phenix City VFW Post, Ft. Benning 173d Chapter III, and our gracious host LTC Ray Marshall.

Chapter News

Chapter I: Sigholtz Capitol Chapter, P.O. Box 15183, Arlington, VA 22215-0833. Chapter President: Ed Anthony. Chapter Internet Address:

ed.anthony@hqda.army.mil

Christmas Holiday Season dinner held at Ft. Meyer, Arlington, VA. Good food and fellowship was shared by all. Awards were given, recognitions made, and stories shared — all in fun! We are looking forward to a good year with new ideas and increased enthusiasm.

Recent elections produced two outstanding officers: Terry Modglin — Vice President, and Mike Montie — Secretary.

Our Maryland Chapter members now have their 173^d license plates: thanks to Jim Waeldner. Virginia members will have theirs soon we hope. Graham Collins is still fighting with the State of Virginia bureaucracy and he is a tenacious guy.

Chapter I, the Sigholtz-Capitol Chapter wishes the best to all Sky Soldiers in the New Year.

Chapter II: Lozada-Thurston-Watters Chapter, 450 West 148th Street, New York, NY 10031. Chapter President: Anthony Albarello. Chapter Internet address: None

Chapter III: Columbus/Ft. Benning Chapter, PO Box 51977, Ft. Benning, GA 31905-0577. Chapter President: Enrique Salas. Chapter Internet address: None.

Chapter V: Ft. Bragg Chapter, PO Box 71313, Ft. Bragg, NC 28307. Chapter President: Joe Adkinson. Chapter Internet address: None.

HOST OF THE 1999 REUNION, JULY 14TH - 17TH.

Chapter VI: Elite Forces Chapter, c/o DiNardo, 4694 N. Sapphire Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL 60195. Chapter President: Arlen Bertrand. Chapter Internet address: None.

Chapter VII: Florida Chapter, Route 1, Box 69-C, Hilliard, FL 32046. Chapter President: Stephen A. Turpen. Chapter Internet address: None.

Chapter IX: New England Chapter, P.O. Box 66173, Auburndale, MA 02166. Chapter President: John O'Day. Chapter Internet address: Dhill173@aol.com

Chapter X: Western States Chapter, 538 Phelan Avenue, San Jose, CA 95112. Chapter President: Frank Mantua. Chapter Internet address: damillr@aol.com

Chapter XI: Australian (Down Under) Chapter, Post Office Box 5-173A, Croydon Park, NSW 2133, Australia. Chapter President: Sid Cheeseman. Chapter Internet address: downunder173@bigpond.com

The Australian (Down Under) Chapter XI Annual General Meeting for 1998 was conducted on Saturday 28 November 1998 at The Pelican Flat RSL Club and was attended by 20 members. Correspondence (E-Mail) was read from The National President, Colonel Ken Smith,

announcing the appointment of John (Slim) O'Shea, BEM., as the Assistant Secretary Southern Hemisphere, and an E-Mail message to Slim, from Chapter XI was read and adopted congratulating Slim on his appointment. Miss Shelley Louise Woodward, was elected as an Associate Member of Chapter XI and received the accolade of the members present for her award of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Scholarship. The Election results of the new officers for 1999 are:

Chapter President — Sid Cheeseman
Senior Vice President — John McNamara.
Secretary/Editor — Carey McQuillan
Treasurer — Bill Elliott

Dates for 1 PM meetings in 1999: 1st Meeting, Saturday 27 March 1999, Chester Hill RSL Club. 2nd Meeting, Saturday 26 June 1999, Pelican Flat RSL Club. 3rd Meeting, Saturday 25 September 1999, Chester Hill RSL Club. 4th Meeting and AGM, Saturday 27 November 1999, Pelican Flat RSL Club.

Three functions for the year were planned:

- 1). ANZAC DAY. 25 April 1998. Attend the Sydney Parade then afterward at The Crown Hotel, Sydney.
- 2). A Fourth of July Dinner to be held at The Burwood RSL Club on Saturday 3 July, 1999, marking American Independence Day and the 8th Anniversary of the presentation of the United States Army Meritorious Unit Commendation to 1 RAR (Group).
- 3). Attendance at the Joint Chapter 23 and Chapter XI meeting/Reunion to be conducted by Chapter 23 at Grafton over the weekend of 13 -14 March 1999.

It is the wish of all members of Chapter XI to send greetings and best wishes to The Society for the coming Christmas Season and a Happy New Year to all.

Chapter XIII: Texas Chapter, 1709 White Avenue, Killeen, TX 76541. Chapter President: Marty Martinez. Chapter Internet address: marty@vvm.com

Chapter XIV: Southern California Chapter, PO Box 5482, El Monte, CA 91734. Chapter President: Raymond Ramirez. Chapter Internet address: None

Chapter XV: SSG John K. Weber Chapter, PO Box 583131, Minneapolis, MN 55458-3131. Chapter President: Thomas Eckhoff. Chapter Internet address: Bob-Jan Bev@msn.com

Chapter XVI: Pacific Northwest Chapter, 1512 116th Street, South, Tacoma, WA 98444-2522. Chapter President: John Berry. Chapter Internet address: Berryherd@aol.com

Chapter XVII: Western Pennsylvania Chapter, 5081 Plain Road, Murreysville, PA 15668. Chapter President: Dennis Dunegan. Chapter Internet address: None.

(Continued on page 13)

Chapter News

(Continued from page 12)

Chapter XVIII: Larry Pierce Chapter, 3017 NW 16th Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73107. Chapter President: Bill Sunday. Chapter Internet address: HerdMP@aol.com

Chapter XIX: New Zealand Chapter, 8 Hull Road, Waiuku, Franklin, New Zealand. Chapter President: John Deazley. Chapter Internet address: russell,fred.fj@bhp.com.au

Chapter XX: United Desert Chapter, PO Box 12271, Tucson, AZ 85732-2271. Chapter President: Russ Faulkner. Chapter Internet address: None.

1998 has been a busy year for the Chapter. We have sponsored two fishing tournaments with Arizona Game and Fish department and a golf tournament in Safford Arizona. These activities have allowed us to participate with the Safford Police Department in sponsoring ten underprivileged children for a Christmas Shopping Spree. We also helped out the 82nd Airborne Association put on a fun day at the V.A. Hospital where the Army/Navy football game was the highlight. There was a small, but enthusiastic, turn out for our 1st Annual Christmas Dinner held at Peppers' Cantina. I can't vouch for everyone but I sure had a good time.

1999 will be another busy year for the Chapter. We have committed with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to build a handicapped accessible fishing area at Roper Lake Arizona and plan on doing another fishing tournament or two. We have made plans to expand our Christmas help for under-privileged kids, which means more fund raising. Due to distances our members have to travel, we get limited participation. The guys that do show up have that tremendous Airborne spirit, so we make up for lack of numbers. We hope all 173d members had a wonderful Holiday season and hope to see all of you in Ft. Bragg.

Chapter XXI: Mountain States Chapter, 1199 Norwalk, UT 84123. Chapter President: Paul Salazar. Chapter Internet address: None.

Chapter XXII: San Diego Chapter, 320 Cadillac Circle, Oceanside, CA 92054-3442. Chapter President: Kenneth LePore. Chapter Internet address: None.

Chapter XXIII: Queensland Chapter, 104 Darlington Drive, Banora Point, NSW 2486, Australia. Chapter President: Vic Lagettie. Chapter Internet address: rpayne@alpher.net.au

Our annual General meeting & Christmas party was held December 12, 1998 at Enoggera Memorial Hall, Enoggera, Qld. The meeting opened with 55 members signing the attendance book. Our President, Vic Lagettie, welcomed the members, offering a special welcome to those who had traveled great distances. The following meeting venues have been planned for 1999. Members of all chapters are welcome to attend any of our meetings,

particularly our 'away' meetings. In March our chapter will be hosting a 'Joint Chapter Meeting' with Chapter 11 in Grafton on the beautiful Clarence River.

January, 9th Woodridge RSL Club
February 13th-14th Gold Coast
March 13th-15th Grafton Joint Meeting
April 10th Pine Rivers RSL
April 25th ANZAC Day Special Ladies Day
May 8th Geebung RSL
June 12th-14th Stanthorpe "Away"
July 10th Yeronga RSL Club
August 14th Gaythorne RSL (Dinner)
September 11th Bribe Island RSL
October 19th-22nd Hervey Bay "Away"
November 13th Kedron-Wavell RSL
December 11th AGM T.B.A.

Our support for the Logan Special School will continue throughout 1999. Last year we donated \$173 each quarter plus \$900.00 in special donations. These severely handicapped children really are benefitting from our assistance and hopefully we'll work with the school on some special projects through the year. Our Chapter needs to thank the Logan District RSL & Services Club, for their continuing support of our Chapter by allowing us to conduct a raffle every second Saturday. The money raised allows us to assist Veterans and the Logan Special School. Our ticket sellers, Bob Dickson and Darky Edwards need our thanks as well. 1999 is shaping up to be another great year of fun in Chapter 23. The members elected to 1999 Committee are:

President Vic Lagettie
Vice President John Rosen
Treasurer Tony Moynihan
Secretary Ray Payne

Regards and Merry Christmas to one and all from The Queensland Chapter. **Remembering our motto — "All we do, we do for a mate who can't."**

Chapter XXIV: Rochester, Minnesota Chapter, 656 Maple Pond Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-2025. Chapter President: Charles Shay. Chapter Internet address: Reis173abn@aol.com

HOME OF THE 2000 REUNION, JUNE 21-25, 2000.

Notice that we have dropped the NEW in the Rochester, Minnesota Chapter. We're not NEW anymore, and we're moving right along with planning the 2000 Reunion. The new millennium 173d Airborne Brigade Reunion will be in Rochester, Minnesota, the U.S. City that adopted the Brigade in 1966. Mark your calendar for the dates of June 21-25, in the year 2000. Of course, it will coincide with the Cities annual city celebration of Rochesterfest. If you didn't make it to Rochester in 1995 when the reunion was hosted by Chapter 15 but heard about it, then you don't want to miss this one. **THE CITY OF ROCHESTER WANTS THE 173d AIRBORNE BACK HOME — AGAIN!** Our next Chapter meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 1999 in Rochester, Minnesota.

What's Your Number?

Among the many numbers you are assigned, one that is important appears after your name on the mailing label of this newsletter. It tells a lot about you. If you are one of the 164 members of the Society who have 2000 or 2001 after your name, it means that you are probably punctual, an extreme "E" type personality, who wants to get things done and taken care of. You are current in your dues. If you are one of the 621 whose number is "99" your a pretty average guy — you know you will get around to paying your current year dues — and that is fine.

If you are one of the 592 whose number is "98," or one of the 526 whose number is "97," you may be the forgetful type or the procrastinator. You meant to send in your dues but just haven't gotten around to it. (Now would be a great time to do it.) If you are one of the 32 Society members who have GSM (Gold Star Mother) or GSR (Gold Star Relative) after your name, you are among the most wonderful people in the world, and we are proud to have you as members. Your dues were paid long ago.

We have 1,854 Society members with numbers after their names ranging from "87" to "96." 487 Sky Soldiers have "86" after their name; they have not contributed toward Society activities since records were kept. These numbers tell us and your associates a lot about you.

We recognize that some cannot afford their dues, and we understand. But we wonder about those who seemingly have no pride in their past service, in our organization, and its accomplishments. Perhaps they have no pride in themselves, and that is a sorry state.

Think about the Society and what it does, and how you view your service in Vietnam, and how you want to be remembered. We would like you to

NOTICE

Deadline for submitting articles for the Winter edition is March 1, 1999.

Deadline for the Spring edition is June 1, 1999.

be a part of our traditions. Regardless of your present number, a single check for \$20.00 will make you current. Life membership in the Society is \$173.00 and more than 1100 Society members enjoy that status. We would like you to share in our activities and our fellowship and help us with the growing and healing process. Now is the time to act.

Those of you who do not want to pull your own weight — don't worry. Your newsletter will not be terminated and you will not be cut off. Our proud Sky Soldier tradition is that we never left anyone behind. Regardless of how you act, we are not going to change that tradition now.



Air Support Down Under

Max Pederson lives at Casino in Northern Rivers area of New South Wales. He is never seen too far away from his Ultra-light plane. He, on each occasion that Chapter 23 has held a meeting in the northern rivers area has flown in and joined us. On the last occasion while members were playing golf, Max "buzzed" the golf course at a level of 50 feet. As we looked up it was great to see the 'Herd' patch painted on the side of his place.



*Left: Max Pederson I ALSC 65-66
Center: Kevin Ruff B/1 RAR 65-66
Right: Dave Vealey C/1 RAR 65-66.*

NEWS ABOUT SKY SOLDIERS

Michael J. Ignasiak (MP 69-71 & E/3 71) is Deputy Police Chief of Hollywood, FL, and lives in Hollywood, FL.

John M. Lauridsen (C/3 69-70) is Operations Manager, Waste Management, Inc., and lives in Savannah, GA.

ISG James T. Quick (B/2 65-66 & C/4 68-69) is Retired and lives in Oak Grove, KY.

Russell C. Faulkner (A/3 67-68) is Self-Employed in the Construction Industry and lives in Tucson, AZ.

Karl F. Ivey (H/Spt 71) is an Attorney, lives in Fulton, KY.

SGM Eugene A. Leadbetter (H/D/2 69-70) is a JROTC Instructor at West Forsyth High School in Clemmons, NC, and lives in Winston-Salem, NC.

Phillip E. Wilson (B/1 70-71) is President of Control management, Inc., and lives in Columbia, SC.

Aquila Miller (C/4 69-70) is an Electrical Mechanic, Westinghouse Savannah River Project, and lives in Denmark, SC.

Clarence Brown (C/2 65-66) is a Police officer for the NYC Police Department and lives in Roosevelt, NY.

Lee R. Kenner (H/Spt & H/Bde 64-66) is a Commercial Electrician and lives in Tenino, WA.

Teodoro R. Castillo (404 RRU 68) is a Technician for Seagate Technology and lives in West St. Paul, MN.

Thomas D. "Butch" Key (B/H 3-319 67-68) is Safety Manager, City of Houston Public Works Department, and lives in Houston, TX.

CSM James H. Strode (B/2 66-67) is retired and lives in Oak Grove, KY.

MSG Roger L. Shields (173 Eng 70-71) is a program manager for the US Army (and lives in Centreville, VA).

James V. Muscoreil (B/Spt 63-64) is retired and lives in Wilson, NY.

Kenneth M. Trautman (A/1 66-67) is a Senior Electrical Technician for Con Edison and lives in Bayside, NY.

Donald W. "Mac" MacPherson (C/3 & TF South 68-69) is a trial Attorney and Author at the MacPherson Group, and lives in Phoenix, AZ.

Andres Nicasio (H/3-319 68-69) lives in Albuquerque, NM.

R. Glenn Mason, Jr (H/Spt & H/2 69-71) is retired from Gen Corps and is now self-employed in the Construction field. Glenn lives in New Florence, MO.

John Kos (E/4 69-70) is a Nuclear technician and lives in Ware, MA.

Van Nguyen Quoi (Interpreter B/1 65-68 and H/4 68-71) is a VN Tour Operator /Guide in Viet Nam. His address is 163/6A X.V.N.T; Binh Thanh District; Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam. He conducts independent tours.

CSM William M. Smith (A/1 66-67) works for the USPS and lives in Jacksonville, FL.

John Y. Averella (E/1 & E/3 70-71) is Postmaster, Arnold, MD.

Note that John sent in a change of address with a 9 digit zip! Thanks, John.

SGM Samuel Richardson (A/3 69-70) is Security Supervisor at Methodist College and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

(Continued on page 16)

In Memoriam

It is my sad, but honored duty to announce the passing of Colonel William J. Verhey at Fountainview Retirement Village in Holland, Michigan on December 4, 1998. "Colonel Bill", as he was known, was 79 years old and a native of Grand Haven, Michigan. He served in the Holland National Guard and was in the Pacific Theater in World War II. He was recalled to duty in 1951 as a paratrooper. He served in Europe, Thailand, Korea, and Okinawa. He was with the 173d in Okinawa. He finished his 30 year career at Ft. Sheridan, Illinois. He also served as Past Post Commander of the Holland VFW.

He is survived by his loving wife Louise, and many family members. His wife asked that "Colonel Bill" be remembered for his service to his country and to the men and women who knew him and served with him.

"May God grant him peace and eternal rest."

Sgt. Robert Lookingbill
Co. "N" 75th Rangers
173d ABN, "68-70"

News About Sky Soldiers

(Continued from page 15)

John W. Horsey (B/1 65-66) works for the USPS and lives in Coatesville, PA.

Allen J. Russell (C/3 69-70) work for the USPS and lives in Langhorne, PA.

Paul C. Stike, Jr. (E/2 69-70) is a Salesman for Stike & Associates and lives in Newark, DE.

Ronald D. Regan (E/17 68-69) is Shipping & receiving Manager, Purvis Brothers Ford, and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

Walter L. Thompson (A/4 66-67) is an Industrial Engineer for the NC Department of Transportation, and lives in Cary, NC.

Percy W. Goode (C/Spt 68-69) is a Circulation Home Delivery Manager and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

Alphonse Welch (B/4 66-68) is a Mail Handler for the USPS and lives in Coraopolis, PA.

MSG Henry L. Jacobs (B/2 68-69 & A/Spt 69-70) is retired and lives in Clinton, MD.

SFC Herman Hardge (H/1 69-70) is Senior Enlisted Advisor to (?) and lives in Fort Sill, OK.

Thom E. Galvin (39th Inf Scout Dog 67-69) is a Student at Cape Fear Community College and lives in Carolina Beach, NC.

Kenneth P. Wixon (H/D/3 69-70) is retired and lives in Camarillo, CA. [*We spelled Ken's name wrong two editions ago — sorry, Ken.*]

COL (R) Milton B. Carr (51 Chem 66-67) is retired and lives in Austin, TX.

Henry Galindo (H/1 64-66) is retired and lives in Covina, CA.

Andres Herrera, Jr. (B/1 67-68) is an Electrical/Instrumentation Superintendent and lives in Deer Park, TX.

Henry C. "Dusty Jarnagin" (D/C/3 69-70) is a Service Advisor with Central VW/Audi lives in Lancaster, TX.

Harold W. Mash (H/Bde 67-68) is a federal Investigator and lives in Conroe, TX.

Richard A. Black (E/H/1 71-72) is a Doctor of Chiropractic/Attorney at Law, lives in High Point, NC

Allen S. Hodder (A/3 67-68) is a Pressman for West Publishing Co. and lives in Star Prairie, WI.

Larry C. Trevaskis (E/1 69-70) works for the U.S. Postal Service, and is a member of the Colorado National Guard, and lives in Boulder, CO.

COL John Moorman (A/1 68-69) is Inspector General, California National Guard, and lives in Fair Oaks, CA.

Charles D. Crawford (173 Eng 68-69) is Vice President North America for Seydel-Woolley & Company, Inc. And lives in Suwanee, GA.

ISG Elbert S. McGilton (A/2 66-67), Past Commander of VFW District 5 in Ohio, is Custodian, Union Local School District, and lives in Morristown, OH.

Victor A. Marciano (H/1 & D/1 67-68) is disabled and lives in Melbourne, FL.

James R. Mullen (D/3 67-68) is a Registered Nurse at the Brea Community Hospital and lives in Brea, CA.

Stephen E. Miller (D/2 68-69) is retired and lives in Columbus, OH.

Richard J. Cooley (D/4 67-68) lives in Tata Moa, New Zealand.

Harold J. May (E/1 69-70) is Medical Administrator, Veterans Administration, and lives in Burnsville, MN.

Phillip S. Kossa (D/1 & N/74 Inf 68-69) lives in Fayetteville, NC.

James A. Fogarty (D/4 65-67) is Owner F&F (Loss Prevention) Consulting Co., lives in Churchville, PA.

Harry T. Cleland (B/2 66-67) is Supervisor, Energy Center, Public Service Company of NC, Inc., and lives in Raleigh, NC.

At Arlington National Cemetery



From left to right: Chapter 1 Vice President, Mike Montie; Society National President, Ken Smith; Chapter 1 President, Ed Anthony; and Assistant Australian Army Attaché LTC Allen McClellan.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH

“They Were Our Fathers”

A Brief History

Sons and Daughters In Touch (SDIT) is a national, nonprofit, membership organization. Since 1990, SDIT has been uniting and providing support to those whose fathers were lost or remain missing in Southeast Asia. These sons and daughters are shining examples of America’s resilience and are actively perpetuating the healing inspired by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

For many years America has needed an organization to support the children of its fallen soldiers. The concept of SDIT began in 1989 when Tony Cordero, the son of an Air Force navigator lost in 1965, began to seek out others who lost their fathers in Vietnam. His quest led him to Wanda Ruffin, who eagerly put Tony in touch with another whose father was lost in Vietnam — her own daughter, Wende. As Tony and Wende talked, they experienced an instant camaraderie. They formed a bond which they knew would be beneficial to the healing of others.

Membership

Through local and national gatherings, newsletters, interaction with the veteran’s community and one another, these sons and daughters are helping to move the history of Vietnam into the future.

SDIT continually seeks contributions of skill, time, energy and financial support to achieve its goals. SDIT invites all for whom Vietnam holds significance, to join our effort.

Upon joining SDIT, a Vietnam veteran recently asked, “What more sacred duty do we have to our buddies than to honor their memory by warmly receiving their children?”

About the Organization

SDIT strives to educate its members and the general public. SDIT provides its members with a chance to share, learn, and grow beyond their pain. This is accomplished in four ways:

- **Public Awareness:** SDIT publishes a quarterly newsletter and hosts special events on Memorial Day and Fathers Day. Members are available to address schools, veteran’s organizations and community groups about the legacy of the Vietnam War.
- **Local Support Groups:** SDIT is forming chapters throughout the country. Please contact our national office for a chapter in your area.
- **Information:** SDIT acts as a clearing house for scholarships and benefits available to its members. Members also receive assistance in researching military records to obtain information about their fathers.
- **Cooperative Efforts:** With assistance from other organizations, SDIT can provide information on POW/MIA, Agent Orange and PTSD.

For more information, please phone:
(800) 984-9994.

You can write to us at:
**Sons and Daughters In Touch
PO Box 1596
Arlington, VA 22210**

Please visit our web site at:
www.SDIT.org

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE
Ft. Bragg Chapter V
P.O. Box 71313 Ft Bragg, NC 28307

REUNION "99", The Greatest of the Century

REUNION DATES: Wednesday, 14 July through Sunday, 18 July

REUNION HEADQUARTERS: Holiday Inn Bordeaux
1707 Owens Dr., Fayetteville, NC, 28302

Reservations: 1 (800) 325 - 0211

Identify Yourself as "A Sky Soldier of the 173D Abn. Bde"

ROOM INFORMATION: \$72.00 per night (plus tax) overflow hotel Comfort Inn (\$72.00)
Charlie Co. & November Co. will have their HQ in the Comfort Inn (800) 537-2268

Contact Tom Dosier at (910) 424-6797 Mon-Fri, 11 am to 6 pm for information
or check out our web site at <http://www.netquicksites.com/skysoldier>

Wednesday, 14 July

0900 Registration, Vendor Tables
1300-1800 *Shuttle service (Registration)
1900 Dinner (Pay as you go)

Thursday, 15 July

0900 Registration, Vendor Tables
???? Cash tours available
1000-1800 *Shuttle service
1900-2030 Unit Dinner (Pay as you go)
2000-2400 Hospitality suite (Registration)

Friday, 16 July

0500-2400 *Shuttle service
0630-0730 3/319th Bn. PT Run
0900 Registration, Vendor Tables
0900 Board of Directors Meeting
0900-1600 34 ft. Tower
0900-1600 Abn Operations/Static Display
1500-2000 NC Pig Pickin' McKellar's Lodge (Reg)
2000-2400 Hospitality suite (Registration)

Saturday, 17 July

0900-1200 Registration, Vendor Tables
???? Cash tours available
0900-1030 Ladies Breakfast (Registration)
0800-2400 *Shuttle service
1100 Executive Board Meeting
1300 General Membership Meeting
1800 Cash Bar
1900 Banquet, Band, (Registration)
2100 Dancing

Sunday, July 18

0600-1200 *Shuttle service
1000 Memorial Service
Chaplain Waters Religious Center

TOURS

USS North Carolina (Wilmington) *Check off tours you are interested in on the registration form and we will contact you with prices and details.*
Sandhill Pottery Factories
Golf Tournament
Freefall Parachute Jump

Abn Operations/Static Display

More details to follow

REGISTRATION FEES

\$100.00 for Society members
\$100.00 for Wife / Guest

ROOM / RATES

Holiday Inn (HQ Hotel) \$72.00 (up to 4 per room)
Comfort Inn (Overflow) \$72.00 (up to 4 per room)

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Shuttle will connect All hotels, Moving Wall, Vietnam Memorial, Main Post PX, 82d Museum, JFK Museum, & Cross Creek Mall.

VENDORS AREAS

Available for \$75.00 per area

The Moving Wall and the Vietnam Memorial will be at the Chaplain Waters Religious Center all week.

END OF 1999 REUNION

International Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep)
Registration Form
Reunion '99 — Chapter V — Ft. Bragg, North Carolina

Wednesday, 14 July thru Sunday, 18 July, 1999

Name _____ Telephone: (____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Unit with the Brigade _____

I will be accompanied by: number of _____ persons

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Indicate tours of interest to you, number in your party and we will send you more information

- | |
|---|
| 1. USS North Carolina (Wilmington) tour # _____ |
| 2. Sandhill Pottery Factories # _____ |
| 3. Golf Tournament # _____ |
| 4. Freefall Parachute Jump # _____ |

1999 REUNION SHIRT
173d: _____ Size: _____ Quantity: _____
Ranger: _____ Size: _____ Quantity: _____
Reunion Shirts are \$30.00 each and must be paid for with your registration.

Registration Fee:	<i>Make checks payable to:</i>
\$100.00 for Society Member	The 173d Reunion '99
\$100.00 for Wife or Guest	<i>and Mail to:</i>
Vendor Areas available for \$75.00 per area	173d Airborne Brigade Reunion '99 P.O. Box 71313 Ft. Bragg, NC 28307
	Total \$ _____

Make Hotel Reservations A.S.A.P. — Identify yourself as "A Sky Soldier of the 173d Abn. Bde"
\$72.00 Per Night (up to 4 per room)

Holiday Inn Bordeaux — Reunion Headquarters
 1707 Owens Dr., Fayetteville, NC 28302
1 (800) 325-0211

Comfort Inn — Overflow Hotel — also Charlie Co. & November Co. Headquarters
1 (800) 537-2268

For additional information: Contact Tom Dosier at (910) 424-6797 Mon-Fri. 11 am to 6 pm or on our website at <http://www.netquicksites.com/skysoldier>



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APPLICATION FORM

Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name	First Name	M.I.	Date
Street Address	City	State	Zip
Area Code/Home Telephone	Area Code/Office Telephone	Social Security Number	

CURRENT JOB TITLE OR MILITARY POSITION

Job Description/Occupation & Company		
Current/Highest Rank	Years Active Service	Chapter Affiliation

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



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