

# SKY SOLDIER

Newsletter of  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE



Winter, 1991

President — Robert Sigholtz  
Vice-President — Edward Proffitt  
Editor — COL Kenneth Smith

Secretary — COL Kenneth Smith  
Treasurer — Michael Schwartz

Vol. 5, No. 4



Left to right: 2LT Chris Raisig; LTC (Ret) Lou Garbers; John Burkhalter; CSM Bill Hicks.

## Veteran's Day In Washington, D.C.

On Sunday, November 11th, members of Chapter 1 conducted the annual memorial service and wreath laying on behalf of the Society at the Vietnam War Memorial. Society members from several states joined with local members to honor and remember our fallen comrades. Sky Soldiers CSM Bill Hicks (currently stationed at Ft. Lee, VA); LTC (Ret) Louis Garbers; and John Burkhalter carried the wreath in the procession to the "Wall". Leading the procession and proudly carrying the Brigade Color was 2LT Chris Raisig. Chris is the son of Paul Raisig, who commanded the 3/319th Artillery in 1967-68. (Chris is now serving with the 3/319th FAR, 82d Airborne Division, as part of "Desert Shield".) COL Ken Smith spoke to the gathering of Sky Soldiers and friends of the Brigade with stirring words and a prayer — remembering our fallen, and a prayer for those of our ranks who now stand ready for battle in the Middle East.

### INSIDE

From the President .....	2
From the Secretary .....	2
Letters From the Field .....	2
News About Sky Soldiers .....	3
New Chapters .....	4
Vietnam War Memorial — Kentucky Style .....	4
173d Monument Fund Update .....	5
In Memory of Charles Watters .....	6
Reunion 91 Registration Notes .....	7
Reunion 91 Registration Form (Australia) .....	9
Fort Benning Reunion .....	10
Scholarship Assistance .....	10
Reunion 91 Update .....	11
Reunion 91 Registration Form (Georgia) .....	12
Vietnam War Memorial — Australian Style .....	13
Membership Application .....	14
Dues Notice .....	back page

## Help For Veterans

As National Secretary, I get many letters asking for help to find or correct records. While I am happy to do what I can, I often have to turn to others for help. Is there a Sky Soldier in our Society who is connected with the Veterans Administration, with ties to "Mother" ARPERCEN, who can help? We would be glad to appoint someone as POC for this most important project. As an example, Robert J. Akin who believes he was assigned to the 2nd Plt, E/17 Cav (67-69), is looking for help in obtaining copies of awards, CIB orders, or any records which show where he served. Among the names he recalls are SFC Bennett, SGT Smith, Sp4 Bennfield, Martinez & Rios. Robert can be reached at PO Box 646, McNary, AZ 85930 (Tel: 602-334-2323). Any of you Sky Soldiers that know him, please contact him. Anyone who can take on the job of helping our Sky Soldiers, please contact me. (Ken Smith, Secretary).

## From the President

Presently it appears that most Americans are sympathetic and supportive of our government's policy in the Saudi Theatre. All of us who served in Vietnam understand problems concerning terrain and weather in Saudi Arabia, even though they are different. We were exposed to extreme humidity, they are exposed to dryness; we were exposed to jungles and swamps, they are exposed to mountains of sand; we normally were constantly on the move to search out the enemy; they are in defensive positions. Of course, in due time, they also could be involved in the combat phase. Unfortunately, the Republic of Vietnam war became most unpopular with many of our fellow Americans and was extremely discouraging to us upon our return to the States. We should all strive to project a positive attitude, especially with our fellow Americans, so that it will result in encouragement for the troops in Saudi.

Regardless of what happens, I believe the 173rd Vets should continue to do all within their capability to let those troops in Saudi know we are supportive of their effort. It would be helpful if chapters would organize a writing and gift giving program for all the troops there, especially for the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. It would be beneficial to the morale of the troops there if liaison could be effected with the various battalions in the airborne divisions to send our letters of encouragement and gifts. If chapters cannot unilaterally organize the writing or gift programs on your own, I encourage you to become more involved with the various American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War Posts who are also involved in the effort. Our objective is to ensure these troops in the Saudi Theatre are aware that we are behind their effort 100% and that they have not been forsaken as many of the troops felt in Nam. We do not know what the future brings and cannot predict how supportive our fellow citizens will be in the future if our troops become involved in combat for an extended period. But those brave troopers must be fully aware that the fighting airborne spirit is with them.

Best wishes for a healthy and successful New Year.  
Airborne - All the Way.  
Robert Sigholtz



## Lawrence Joel Auditorium

On 25 February 1991, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C., will dedicate its main auditorium to the memory of Congressional Medal of Honor winner Lawrence Joel. A combat medic, Joel earned the Nation's highest award while serving with the 173d Airborne Brigade in 1965.

The dedication ceremony will take place at 3:00 PM and will be followed by a reception and a Retreat Ceremony. The Brigade Colour will be present. It is hoped that many of our Society members will join us at Walter Reed Medical center for this ceremony.

We anticipate that, in the near future, the Brigade Society can donate a large statue of "The Sky Soldier", configured as a medic, to be placed in the Lawrence Joel auditorium.

## From the Secretary

As we begin the New Calendar Year, there are three or four thoughts that I would like to share with you:

— First, and most important. Remember our comrades deployed in Saudi Arabia, defending freedom every bit as much as we defended it in Vietnam and Europe. We accepted a diplomatic draw in Vietnam and won the Cold War in Europe through unstinting resolve. Our commitment, as a nation and as individuals, must be no less unswerving here. Naked aggression, as demonstrated by Iraq, cannot be tolerated in a world of free men. I would admonish you, as I did with my men in Vietnam, to "keep up the fire in your sector." Don't let people, from your neighbor to your congressman, forget our guys, where they're deployed, and why.

— Second, remember your fellow Sky Soldiers who are less fortunate than you. They are out there. Look for them, identify them, and help them or let us know that they need help. While the Society's resources are limited, we can often steer those in need of help in the right direction.

— Third, remember that those of us who work to keep the Society alive and active, in part as a tribute to our fallen comrades, need your support. There are many who will read this article that have not paid their "membership fees" in years. The amount in question is relatively small; the good that the Society does, both at the Headquarters level and in the Chapters, is tremendous. If you have not submitted your fees, please do so to enable us to carry on.

— Finally, as a Sky Soldier still on active duty, I would solicit your prayers for our forces in the Gulf area. Write to them, support them in every way you can. To them and to you, on behalf of the Society, our wishes for a blessed and joyous 1991.

KEN SMITH  
Secretary

## Letters from the Field

*Editor's note:* In the last newsletter, I chided Stu Malter because we had not received a report from his trip to New Zealand. The letter was in the mail and arrived between galley submission and printing. Thanks, Stu, for your report!

"I just arrived back in the States from the New Zealand Vietnam Veterans' Reunion, June 1-4, 1990. I was greatly impressed by the reception I received from all the KIWI's . . . the Herd is admired by all, especially the guys in the 161st Battery. I had the opportunity to meet with some of the finest and most proficient drinkers in all the world. There were many toasts being made and being the only member of the 173rd from the U.S. who attended the reunion, I did my best to keep up. Hopefully, the reunion that is planned for 1991 will have a few more of us attend. Many of the gunners in 161 talked about a certain duce and a half that they borrowed from the Brigade. I am trying to locate anyone who has more information on it. A great time was had by all, and I am looking forward to future trips down under."

Stu is opening a travel agency. He can be reached at 2133 Greenway Avenue, Charlotte, NC 28204.

## News About Sky Soldiers

**George Tabor** (B/1 68-69) works for Pinkertons, Inc., in Albuquerque, NM. He would enjoy hearing from anyone with whom he served, especially 81mm guys from B/1. Address: 7105 Derickson Avenue, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

**Steve F. Vargo** (C/2 67) is a State Probation Officer and lives in Highland Hills, OH.

**Raymond H. Carpenter** (C/4 69-71) is a Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician for the Lincoln Park, IL Fire Department.

**Nicholas Hun** (B/2) works in the Office of the Senior Army Advisor in Charleston, WV.

**BG Richard W. Tragemann** has been assigned as Commander, Training and Doctrine Analysis Command, Ft. Leavenworth, KS.

**Thomas E. Faley** (H & C/2 65-66) is Chief of Staff, HQ Cadet Command, Ft. Monroe, VA.

**Steven R. Woods** (66-68) is CEO, Medical Funding Corporation, Inc., in Washington, D.C.

**Owen McNamara** (B/4 69-70) is Town Manager of Winchendon, Massachusetts.

**Richard H. Graham** (D/Spt, H/2 & H/3 67-69) retired with the rank of Command Sergeant Major and is living in Pinebluff, NC.

**MG Herman C. Kammer** has been assigned as Commander, Mid-Atlantic District, Defense Logistic Agency, Philadelphia, PA.

**MG Thomas Carney** (C/2 67) has been assigned as Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation, the Army Staff, in the Pentagon. Welcome Home Sir!

**A Special Note:** New Society member **Anne C. Hoffman**, American Red Cross, served with the Brigade in July and August 69. She joins **Maggie Pierson** and **Gene Weeks** as ARC members in our Society. Anne marched with the brigade in the 50th Anniversary Parade in Washington (perhaps the only female marcher?). All three ARC members attended the 1990 Reunion — still serving with those they served!

**William L. Daniels** (D/3 67-68) is a full time student living in Brooklyn, studying broadcasting.

**Charles O. Carlen** (D/B/3-319 70-72) is an SFC and Fire Marker Controller at the combat Maneuver Training Center in Germany.

**Shane O'Neal** (A/1 67-68) is president of Sonco International Freight Forwarding in Tulsa, OK.

**Orencio O. Castro** (B/3 69-70) is a Verification Control Clerk at Randolph AFB, TX.

**Stanley Gaines** (C/2 67-68) is a Postal Clerk at the New Jersey International Bulk Mail Center, Jersey City, NJ.

**Robert F. Thornton** (A/4 70-71) is a Heavy Equipment Technician in Colorado Springs, CO.

**Earle Welker** (E/17 & H/Spt 70-71) is a Maintenance Technician with the City of Philadelphia.

**Mike Atwell** (B/4 67-68), who left the Army in 72 from Drill Sgt duty, is presently with the U.S. Public Health Service and is detailed to build 66 Housing Units on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Mike is a Civil Engineer.

**David G. Hathcox** (B/1 65-67) is Manager of R&D Financial Record Keeping Services ATT in Keystone Heights, FL.

**Charles D. Brown** (C/1 67-67) is a Marketing Executive for McDonnell Douglas Corporation in London, England.

**Roy Boatman** (Served with Bde on Okinawa; deployed to RVN with 2-503; served with original LRRP; H/Bde, 74th LRP and N/75th 68-69; and N/75th 70-71). As editor and Society Secretary, I wanted to commend Roy for his Service as Secretary of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, as well as for his support of our Society over the years. AIRBORNE!

**William A. Byrne** (C/2 68-69) is Vice President of Schwartz Lumber Company in Globe, AZ.

**Henry Capiz** (E/2-503 44-46 — Yes — 1944-1946) an Associate Member of Chapter XV (and formerly of Chapter VI), is a Pharmacist at the United Hospital, in St. Paul, MN.

**Rollin L. Goldsberry** (C/4 - 67; MP Plt 67-68) is a Police Officer in Columbia Heights, MN.

**Jerry Hyde** (2-503 67-68) works for the Highway Department and lives in Minneapolis, MN.

**Dennis L. Radnoti** retired after 22 years of active duty and is concentrating on two tax preparation offices he owns in the Tampa Bay area.

### Australian Bound?

Just a note. DO NOT SEND PERSONAL CHECKS to the Down Under Chapter. You must send a bank draft in Australian Dollars. U.S. Personal Checks are not honored in Australia!

## Sara Sigholtz Honored

We are a day late, but hopefully not a dollar short. This article relays a tribute to a gracious lady of the Society, and the wife of our President. She is a modern day hero in her own right. Her struggle takes place on a different battlefield from that we knew. We are indebted to the Knoxville News Sentinel (31 July 90) and Frank Vavrin (Chaplain 65-66) for the following article.

"Knoxville native Sara Butler O'Mera Sigholtz and actress Yvonne Federson, co-founders of Childhelp, USA, received the prestigious Presidential Award Monday night at the Washington Charity Awards ceremonies held at the Washington Hilton in the nation's capitol.

The award, the highest presented at the 'academy awards of charities' was for their 32 years of combatting child abuse across America and for the organization's work in helping to make the nation aware of child abuse.

Under their guidance, Childhelp, USA established a village to house and treat abused children and a center for research and prevention in Woodlawn Hills, California. Childhelp also operates an around-the-clock toll-free hotline with trained crises counselors to aid abused children.

More than 2.4 million cases of child abuse were reported in the last year. . . .

On hand for the event were former President Gerald Ford; former First Ladies Lady Bird Johnson, Rosalyn Carter and Nancy Regan; Bob Hope, Stacy Keach, Efrem Zimblist, Jr., all honorary chairpersons. . . ."

Our congratulations to a gracious lady and our thanks for a job well done in the spirit of the Airborne — Service to Country.





Chapter members from New York (Chapter II) and Philadelphia (Chapter IV) at the October 1990 Open House at Ft. Dix, NJ.

## Joint Activities Chapters II & IV

On 28 September, Ft. Dix hosted the Philadelphia and New York Chapters to an activities day. The first event was lunch with the soldiers of the 42nd AG Battalion (Reception). BG David E. K. Cooper (H/1-503 & H/2-503 68-69), Ft. Dix Deputy Commanding General, provided a briefing on Operation DESERT SHIELD. Next came a fire-power demonstration which included some "hands-on" participation with the M-60, the M16A2 and the M-203.

Following the range firing, the group attended "Evening Colors," Retreat, and a Review Ceremony hosted by BG Cooper. In his remarks to the soldiers and guests, BG Cooper characterized the Sky Soldiers' role in Vietnam as that of a fire-brigade that went to places where others could not go. Following the ceremonies, a number of Sky Soldiers and their families adjourned to the Club for dinner and drinks.

Congratulations to Chapters II and IV for a highly successful activity and thanks to General Cooper and the troops at Ft. Dix who made this visit possible.

## Coins and Medallions

Chapter XV is selling very handsome 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  inch diameter bronze 173d Airborne Brigade Challenge Coins, that were displayed at the 1990 reunion. The front has the Brigade patch, official name and dates of activation. The obverse has wings with combat jump star and key dates and Brigade locations.

They are also selling 50th Anniversary Airborne Aviation Hall of Fame Medallions with a symbol of a paratrooper on the front and the Hall of Fame logo on the back. Both coins sell for \$9.50 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling. Order from John Staads, 4426 Jefferson St., NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55421 (Tel 612-572-0449). 10% of the purchase price will be donated to the Brigade Scholarship Fund.

## NEW CHAPTERS?

The following letter was received from Jerry Sopko, who is trying to organize a chapter in the Pittsburgh area. "As a result of attending the 1990 Reunion in D.C. . . . I am interested in starting a PITTSBURGH/WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA Chapter. To date, we've located at least 10 members for the proposed chapter and I am asking your help in getting the word out to others in western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and northern West Virginia. If any current members of the Brigade Society have friends in the area, or know of men who 'hailed' from this area, I would like to hear from you.

Several of us have gotten in touch, and you can contact John Schults of Columbus, Ohio or Jerry Peconi of Pittsburgh, PA. I can be reached at the address and phone number listed below:

Jerry Sopko, 101 Center Street Extension, Jeannette, PA 15644 (Tel: 412-527-3623)."

John Staads has organized a Chapter in the Minnesota area. He can be reached at 4426 Jefferson Street NE, Columbia Heights, MN 55416.

## Vietnam War Memorial — Kentucky Style

In Frankfort, Kentucky, on a site overlooking the State Capitol, one may find what is perhaps the most innovative Vietnam War Memorial in the nation. I have not seen it, and have only read about it. But is on my list of places to visit during the next few years.

The Memorial was dedicated in 1988, and was the end product of a design competition won by Helm Roberts, a Kentucky architect. In essence, it is a sundial, but a very unique instrument.

The sundial sits in a plaza that is approximately 89 feet by 71 feet, made entirely of "Pyramid Blue" granite from a quarry in Elberton, GA. The plaza is made up of 327 pieces of granite; the largest is twelve feet long and the average weight of each slab is 1,144 pounds.

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Farthest North Chapter Strikes Again

Small but mighty, Chapter XII, in Alaska, is active. Truly our Farthest North Chapter, our Alaskan brethren are promoting the spirit of our Society, as is evidenced by the following proclamation.

*Office of the Mayor  
City of Fairbanks*

### *Proclamation*

WHEREAS, the glory and the promise of our great nation has been faithfully nurtured and strengthened by the outstanding acts of valor and courage which our committed veterans have honorably demonstrated over the years in protecting this country's cherished freedom — and one has to look no farther than the blue skies above, to the legacy of the distinguished Airborne forces of the United States, to realize the fruits of this valuable truth, and

WHEREAS, for their many impressive accomplishments during this past half a century, the brave men and women who have at one time worn the legendary silver wings, symbol of the Airborne with tremendous pride fought and died so that their fellow citizens may prosper, and

WHEREAS, Airborne personnel who have maintained a commitment to excellence while in flight and on land and at sea, including those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, are deserving of Alaska's high praise and recognition; and

WHEREAS, Alaska "The Last Frontier" representing the Farthest North Chapter of Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade, Chapter XII, is pleased to join with our entire

Airborne community nationwide in celebrating the Grand 50th Anniversary of the Airborne, and

WHEREAS, we wish proud and dedicated members of this group of outstanding Americans continued success and prosperity as they further build upon such a storied and vibrant military heritage.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, J. D. Nordale, Mayor of the City of Fairbanks, Juanita Helms, Mayor of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and Carleta Lewis, Mayor of the City of North Pole, by the authority vested in us, do hereby proclaim:

#### THE YEAR OF THE AIRBORNE - 1990

and do commend this observance to all of our citizens.  
SIGNED this 14th day of June, 1990.

JAMES D. NORDALE, Mayor  
City of Fairbanks

JUANITA HELMS, Mayor  
Fairbanks North Star Borough  
CARLETA LEWIS, Mayor  
City of North Pole

ATTEST: CARMA B. ROBERSON, CMC, City Clerk

## 173d MONUMENT FUND UPDATE

by Mike Ekman

The Monument Fund is now at \$5,122.00. We had a superb response at the convention but things have slowed down considerably since July. To all who have contributed, a hearty "Airborne Thanks"! For those who are thinking about doing so, there is no time like now to sit down and write out a check to the "173d Airborne Brigade Monument Fund" for whatever amount you can afford. The amount is not important — your participation is.

We still have about 70 of the special "173d Airborne Brigade Monument Fund" ties available for those who contribute \$173.00 or more. Larry Okendo has donated 100 copies of his book, *Sky Soldier: Battles of Dak To, Vietnam*, to the cause. A superb history of the 503d Inf RCT and the 173d Abn Bde, and an outstanding account of the battle of Dak To from a soldier's view, this book will

be sent to all those who contribute \$20.00 or more — until we run out.

Here's what you can do to help build our monument:

1. Contribute according to your means.
2. Check with your employer and see if he has a matching gift program for tax deductible programs. This effectively doubles your contribution.
3. Talk to other Sky Soldiers who may not know about our plans. We will give all new members an opportunity to join the Society and contribute toward the construction of our monument.

We have a long way to go before we can get serious about location and design. With your collective support, we can do it. Next issue, we will recognize contributors by name.

### Monument Contribution Form

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

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

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

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

Mail to: Mike Ekman  
6000 Huntington Avenue, Newport News, VA 23607 Telephone: 1-804-247-5310

## In Memory of Charles Watters

On Saturday, 17 November, at 1130 hours, Bergen County dedicated their Community Services Building in Paramus, New Jersey, in memory of Chaplain (Major) Charles J. Watters. Father Watters was killed on Hill 875 in November, 1967. He was subsequently awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Society owes a debt to a number of individuals, who shall remain nameless because we may omit some, who made this occasion possible. The salient point is that Father Watters' heroism, self-sacrifice and love for his fellow man were recognized, and we were all enriched by his presence and his memory.

One of our Society members was selected to deliver remarks at the ceremony. If you asked me to select a speaker, "Pappy" Patchin would not have been my first choice. But his insights about Father Watters, the airborne, and our brigade were so moving, that I have reproduced his remarks for you. As acting editor, this is my prerogative. As Father Watters's friend, this is my privilege and duty.

"... It is my most privileged honor to address you on the occasion of the dedication of the Major Charles Watters community building here in Paramus. You see me standing before you in the uniform of the United States Army. On my right shoulder is the combat patch of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) — the same unit to which Chaplain Watters was assigned. Yes, I was on Hill 875, DAK TO, when the Padre was killed. I know how he died but I will not dwell on that. What I will dwell on is how he lived, the Padre himself, and his life with 'The Herd'. Father Watters was a Catholic Chaplain, a combat paratrooper and he was loved and respected by all for his forthright manner and personal courage. The Padre, as Chaplains are referred to in the military (I have heard Rabbis called this since it seems to be a universal name), did not receive his medal of honor because he was killed. He received it because of his heroism prior to his death.

Those of you who were not on that horrible hill of death cannot imagine the blood, the wounded, the dying and the dead. The Padre exposed himself on numerous occasions to bring back casualties under heavy enemy fire. When the term, heavy fire is used, picture bushes and trees cut down by bullets, close to the ground — so close that just lying flat would get you shot. Small scrapes in the earth and trees felled by airstrikes, artillery and mortar fire offered the promise of life. These small covers were soon negated by well concealed positions manned by well trained North Vietnamese regulars with automatic weapons who brought those now exposed troops under effective fire. There was no place to hide. The only thing to do was to assault those heavily fortified mutually supporting pits spewing death. Many troopers were killed or wounded. Men were killed outright. Those who were wounded knew that their comrades would spare nothing to get them back for medical aid to save their lives. This was the unwritten law of the paratroopers. In doing this, many more were killed and wounded.

One of the paratroopers on that hill saving lives was Chaplain Watters. One does not normally think of a man of God as being dirty, exhausted, bloodstained, and as a target. But there he was, looking for all the world to see like

a Grunt, doing the job he dedicated his life to — saving lives. Priests are supposed to save lives, all clergymen are supposed to save immortal souls, give counsel, and be of help in difficult times. You, the uninitiated, cannot imagine this kind of difficulty. A military chaplain, in combat, does not have the luxury to check religions. Men die at the most inopportune moments. Catholics die like Jews, Baptists like Buddhists. None of them want to die. Many are fortunate that a word is said over them or with them at the time of their deaths. Chaplains know the words for many of the different religions. In combat they have to. Strange as it may seem to you, men in combat all worship the same God. That is the one who will get them out of the present predicament safely. Unfortunately, God may be doing what he does best, and calls the trooper to him. Chaplains do not know the game plan. Chaplain Watters did his level best to stop young men from dying. Failing that, he tried to keep them from dying alone, without last rites, or at the very least, a prayer to send them on to their God.

Chaplain Watters was always in the front, with the line troops. Now in heavy fire he went forward to assist the wounded, dress their wounds, give a moment of comfort or administer last rites to the dying and the dead. Troopers on the Hill tell of the Padre running forward of the friendly line to gather up a paratrooper who was wounded and in shock and very disoriented. The Padre carried him back 'Like John Wayne' with many shouting encouragement, others providing covering fire, and others still wondering if that crazy Padre would really make it with all the fire going on. The Padre picked this kid up on his shoulders and walked back in like it was a class in gym. The crazy man made it. Everybody was amazed, but then he continued to assist those in need, continuing to expose himself to heavy fire, gathering up two more fallen troopers before the unit was forced to withdraw to regroup.

When the unit was more or less consolidated, as best it could be, the Padre moved about giving encouragement to the living and tending to the casualties and the dead. Fire was still heavy, men were still dying, and Father Watters got word that there were still men out in front. Some tried to restrain him but he ignored all attempts to keep him in an area of relative safety and he rushed out to bring back the wounded three more times. After he was satisfied he had done his best he stayed at the Battalion Aid Station, which was a fallen tree, and gave succor to the wounded and last rites to the dying. It was at the fallen tree that the Padre died of wounds.

Word spread like wildfire that the Padre was one of the casualties at the tree. Most could not believe that so many died then, especially one so brave and so full of faith. That was on the 19th of November, 1967, a Sunday. We took Hill 875 on the following Thursday, the 23rd, Thanksgiving. We all had thanks to give because we were still alive and still pause today, as we have every year at Thanksgiving, to remember the fallen and particularly those brave men who fell on Hill 875.

Today, so near to that most American of holidays, it is so fitting and proper that we gather here to dedicate a building to the memory of Major (Chaplain) Charles J. Watters, United States Army, Medal of Honor, 173d Airborne Brigade. This community services building will serve all citizens, no matter what religion, and help to provide those most needed services to those most in need. We who

*(Continued on page 11)*

## THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE



REUNION 1991  
TOWNSVILLE, AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN (DOWN UNDER) CHAPTER XI  
POST OFFICE BOX 246  
FAIRFIELD NSW 2165

Telephone: (02) 727 6988  
Facsimile: (02) 314 1867

# REUNION 91 REGISTRATION NOTES.

### THESE NOTES MUST BE READ PRIOR TO COMPLETING THE REGISTRATION FORM:

It is most important that you BLOCK PRINT or TYPE all details entered on the registration form. Enter your Surname first, then enter your first name. If you prefer to be known by a Nickname or shortened first name, insert the name beside preferred name.

Your postal address: is the address that you require all information and updates forwarded. Ensure that you enter the correct Zip/Post Code.

Ensure when entering your Telephone number or Facsimile number that you include the Area Code.

Unit and Sub Unit is required to be completed. Period of service with the Brigade; if you did not serve with the Brigade insert your period of active service.

Number attending: this is to be broken into adult male, female and children. Those children over the age of 18 years are to be listed as adults.

Names of all guests are to be listed, include surname if different to yours. If you are listing children please insert their ages in brackets after their names.

Each person attending will receive a Reunion T-Shirt. Tick the box of the size shirt you require. When ordering for your guests please ensure that you tick the box that has the same number as that of their names listed above.

Accommodation: The committee has selected the Townsville International Hotel as the official hotel for members with families. It is your responsibility to contact the hotel and book your own accommodation. To obtain the special Reunion discount rate you must advise to hotel that you are attending the **173D AIRBORNE REUNION**. The Hotel offers two types of accommodation. Standard rooms and Mini Suites. The Mini Suites feature separate lounge room and kitchenette. This Hotel has a FOUR STAR International rating. The rates offered to our members is a 50% discount on their normal rates. Buses will be provided from the Hotel to all functions.

#### BOOKING:

**TOWNSVILLE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL**  
**FLINDERS MALL, TOWNSVILLE**  
**QUEENSLAND 4810 AUSTRALIA**

RESERVATIONS (within Australia) 008-07-9903  
RESERVATIONS (outside Australia) Intl + 6177-72-2477  
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED BY TELEPHONE

#### 173D AIRBORNE REUNION RATES:

STANDARD ROOM	— Single/Double/Twin	\$70.00
MINI-SUITE	— Single/Double/Twin	\$85.00
EXTRA PERSON	— Triple	\$15.00
CHILD	— Age 4-12	\$10.00
CHILD	— Under 4	FREE

Members may elect to be accommodated within Coral Lines at Lavarack Barracks. The Battalion is willing to accommodate members according to their rank at the time of the tour. That is, Officers accommodated in the Officers Mess, WOs and SNCOs in the Sgts Mess, the past "A" Company members with "A" Company, etc., etc. Once all Barrack accommodation has been filled, Tent accommodation will be available. The cost of this accommodation and breakfast each day, will be included in the LIVE IN REGISTRATION.

Members making other arrangements for accommodation with Friends/Relatives/Other Hotels, should keep in mind, that Buses will only be provided to and from the Townsville International Hotel.

Please ensure that you indicate on the registration form your accommodation requirement.

Registration Costs: If you intend to live in the Barracks, complete the LIVE IN BARRACK section. Be sure to answer each question. Two of the functions are restricted in numbers. For both of these functions Members of the Society of the 173D Airborne Brigade will be given first right of refusal. However, first registrations with full payment will be the requirement. Should your registration be received after these events have been filled you will be advised and a refund will be made.

The Regimental Dinner is a formal function. Dress will be, Dinner or Lounge Suit. This is the only event that children are NOT permitted to attend. The Dinner will be conducted under the traditional guidelines of a Regimental Dinner.

The Great Barrier Reef Cruise is an all day trip aboard the MV Magnetic Explorer, a luxury 21 metre Catamaran with full Bar facilities. The Cruise departs Townsville at 8:30 am and returns at 5:00 pm. On board morning and afternoon tea will be served and a delicious tropical buffet lunch, including some of the areas fabulous seafood. You will be able to relax as the vessel cruises through the coral

(Continued on page 8)

islands to Orpheus Island. You can view some of the finest corals and exotic marine life from the comfort of a glass bottom boat. Swim in the crystal clear waters or snorkel and explore the wonders of the reef with mask and snorkel. See a giant clam display. Scuba divers can use the services of an experienced dive master. The cost includes Morning and Afternoon tea/coffee, buffet luncheon, Snorkeling gear, giant clam display, reef viewing from glass bottom boat. This is a highly recommended event that is restricted to the first 145 persons.

A video of the Reunion will be produced and forwarded to your home address after the reunion. The video will be produced in VHS format only. Orders must be placed for this video at this time, as no further opportunity to place an order will be given. Overseas visitors should not order a video as our system in Australia is not compatible with that in the USA.

If you are LIVING OUT, complete the appropriate registration section. The same conditions apply in relation to the restricted functions. It should be noted that children are not permitted to attend the Regimental Dinner. Please take care when completing this section, ensure that all questions are answered and that the correct amount of money is calculated. If you have guests attending any of the restricted

functions, ensure that their names are listed in the area provided. Remembering that it is important to include their surname if it is different to yours.

Payment in full must be included with your registration. DO NOT SEND CASH. All payments are to be made in Australian Dollars. Payable to the "REUNION REGISTRATION COMMITTEE". International members are NOT to send personal cheques/checks.

Return your completed registration form and payment to:

**REUNION REGISTRATION COMMITTEE  
POST OFFICE BOX 37  
NELSON BAY NSW 2315 AUSTRALIA**

*PLEASE NOTE: If you have any difficulties in completing the registration form or you require further information you may contact the Chapter Secretary, RAY PAYNE, during business hours on 02-727-6988. Once you have completed and forwarded your registration, any amendments of any kind, that relates to your registration, must be in writing and addressed to the Reunion Registration Committee.*

**THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE 173D AIRBORNE REUNION.      JUNE 30 – JULY 5, 1991      MAJOR EVENT PROGRAM**

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	DRESS
30/6/91	0900 — 1630	Registration	Guardroom	Casual
30/6/91	1500 — 1630	Ladies Afternoon Tea	Soldiers Club	Casual
30/6/91	1700 — 2400	Welcoming Function (Aussie BBQ)	Soldiers Club	Casual
01/7/91	0900 — 1200	Registration	Guardroom	Casual
01/7/91	TBA —	Shooting Competition (1 RAR/Vets/173D/161 RNZA)	Range	
01/7/91	0900 — TBA	Action Military Displays	Bn Area	Casual
01/7/91	1000 — 1130	Ladies Morning Tea	TBA	Smart Casual
01/7/91	1400 — 1530	Late Luncheon	Soldiers Mess	Casual
01/7/91	1630 — 2400	Hospitality Suite/Cash Bar	Soldiers Club	Casual
01/7/91	TBA	Mayoral Reception/VIP Guests	TBA	Coat & Tie
02/7/91	TBA	Townsville Area Excursions	Townsville Area	Casual
02/7/91	TBA	Beat the Retreat/Memorial Service	Bn Parade Ground	Coat & Tie
02/7/91	TBA — 0100	Formal/Regimental Dinner (First 250 Persons)	Soldiers Mess	Formal
02/7/91	TBA — 1200	Hospitality Suite/Cash Bar (Members not attending Dinner.)	Soldiers Club	Casual
03/7/91	0800 — 1700	Barrier Reef Excursion (First 145 Persons)	Townsville Jetty	Casual
03/7/91	0800 — 1700	Other Local Excursions	Townsville Area	Casual
03/7/91	1630 — 2200	Hospitality Suite/Cash Bar	Soldiers Club	Casual
04/7/91	0930 — 1200	Parachute Display Team/Air Display	TBA	Smart Casual
04/7/91	1215 — 1330	Lunch	Soldiers Club	Smart Casual
04/7/91	TBA	Full on Surprise	Bn Area	Smart Casual
04/7/91	TBA	Trooping the Colours/MUC Presentation	Bn Parade Ground	Smart Casual
04/7/91	1830 — 0100	Farewell Function	Soldiers Club	Smart Casual
05/7/91	0830	Farewell Breakfast/Just Friends (Own arrangements)		Casual

**NOTE:** Only the major events of each day are listed, other events will occur during the Reunion. Each Registration Package will contain a fully detailed program of events. The committee reserves the right to alter the times and events if found necessary. All alcohol purchases will be at a reduced price cash basis. Buses/coaches will be provided to move members from the Townsville International Hotel to all events. The weather in Townsville at this time of year is warm during the day, nights could be cool. It is recommended that a hat be worn during daylight hours.



# REUNION 91 REGISTRATION FORM.

**PLEASE USE BLOCK LETTERS AND PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY:**

MEMBERS LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PREFERRED NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 POSTAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP/POST CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 TELEPHONE HOME: \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ SUB UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_ PERIOD SERVED WITH BRIGADE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NUMBER ATTENDING MALES: \_\_\_\_\_ FEMALES: \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN: \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME OF GUESTS: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) \_\_\_\_\_  
 T-SHIRT SIZE: Member 

M	L	XL
---	---	----

 Guest (1): 

S	M	L	XL
---	---	---	----

 Guest (2): 

S	M	L	XL
---	---	---	----

  
 Guest (3): 

S	M	L	XL
---	---	---	----

 Guest (4): 

S	M	L	XL
---	---	---	----

 Guest (5): 

S	M	L	XL
---	---	---	----

 Guest (6): 

S	M	L	XL
---	---	---	----

**ACCOMMODATION:**

I have booked accommodation at the TOWNSVILLE INTERNATIONAL HOTEL YES:  NO:   
 I require accommodation within the ARMY BARRACKS YES:  NO:   
 I have made other accommodation arrangements YES:  NO:

**REGISTRATION COST:** *To be completed by unaccompanied members LIVING IN BARRACKS:*

LIVE IN BARRACKS MEMBERS (Male Members Only) \$ 135.00 \$ 135.00  
 REGIMENTAL DINNER (First 250 Only) \$ 30.00 YES:  NO:  \$  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF TOUR (First 145 Only) \$ 75.00 YES:  NO:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 REUNION VIDEO (VHS Only) Not available US System \$ 40.00 YES:  NO:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION COST:** *To be completed by members LIVING OUT of BARRACKS:*

LIVING OUT MEMBERS \$ 65.00ea Number: \_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 REGIMENTAL DINNER (First 250 Only) \$ 30.00ea Number: \_\_\_\_ YES:  NO:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF TOUR (First 145 Only) \$ 75.00ea Number: \_\_\_\_ YES:  NO:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 GREAT BARRIER REEF CHILD (age 4 - 14 Only) \$ 40.00ea Number: \_\_\_\_ YES:  NO:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 REUNION VIDEO (VHS Only) Not US System \$ 40.00ea Number: \_\_\_\_ YES:  NO:  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**GUEST NAMES ATTENDING DINNER:**

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

**GUESTS ATTENDING REEF TOUR:**

(1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEE AND ALL EVENT FEES MUST BE RETURNED WITH THIS FORM.**

**ALL PAYMENTS TO BE IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS AND MADE PAYABLE TO:**

**REUNION REGISTRATION  
 COMMITTEE  
 POST OFFICE BOX 37  
 NELSON BAY NSW 2315 AUSTRALIA**

**DO NOT SEND CASH**

*R.S.V.P. APRIL 30, 1991*

## Chapter XV Off and Running

The North Central Chapter, centered in Minnesota, is off and running. Under the leadership of President Trudell H. Guerue, Vice President David Hahn, Secretary and Chapter Organizing Chairman John Staads and Treasurer Tim Stout, the Chapter has already achieved a number of significant milestones.

— While organizing, had 8 August proclaimed as "Skysoldier Day" by Governor Rudy Perpich. The Governor's also recognized the 50th Anniversary of the Airborne. On that same evening, the Chapter's Color Guard appeared at the Minnesota Twins game, where the current Miss America threw out the first baseball. September 16-23 was declared Minnesota POW/MIA week, during which the Minnesota Viet Nam Memorial Committee broke ground on the State Capitol Mall for a memorial. The Sky Soldiers of Chapter XV participated in that ceremony as well, carrying a replica of the Brigade Color.

Our congratulations to Chapter XV on its organization, and our compliments to them for an already impressive record of achievements. Hope that you can sustain this level of activity and success.



*Master of Ceremonies for the Chapter XII (Alaska Chapter) Fun Run, 6th Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major Michael Prichett, makes pre-race announcements.*

## POW/MIA Run

The Farthest North Chapter (Alaska) hosted its First Annual POW/MIA Fun Run. The 5K run started at the Fort Wainwright NCO Club and ended at the Fairbanks VFW Post 3629 where guest speaker Len Warren, a former POW, told a chilling story of how he survived and escaped in Korea.

The Run was a big hit. Funds were raised to help restore a 1966 Bus donated to the VFW by the Vietnam Vets of Alaska.

Farthest North Chapter T-Shirts are available in limited numbers and can be obtained for \$15.00 from PO Box 35158, Fort Wainwright, AK 99703.

## FORT BENNING REUNION 19 - 23 JUNE 1991

The Fort Benning Chapter's plans for a gala reunion are proceeding! The itinerary is complete, events are scheduled, and final arrangements are being locked in.

Registration is on-going, and there is an advantage to registering early! Fees are (per person):

By 31 January 1991 .....	\$ 90.00
28 February 1991 .....	\$ 95.00
31 March 1991 .....	\$100.00
30 April 1991 .....	\$105.00
15 May 1991 .....	\$110.00
W/O Registration .....	\$125.00

Here's what comes with your registration: hat and T-shirt, 2 lunches, the annual Membership Banquet, Pizza night, Buffalo-Wing night, Sponsor Appreciation Dance, entertainment, coffee and donuts, and a FREE hospitality room. For those pre-registering, there is a special Commemorative Preregistration T-Shirt. Full refunds are available up through 1 June 1990.

Itinerary is as follows:

Wednesday, 19 June:	Sign in; Pizza Night; Hospitality Room (0900-0100).
Thursday, 20 June:	Ft. Benning tours; Buffalo Wing Night; Hospitality Room (1800-0100).
Friday, 21 June:	Continuation of Ft. Benning tours; Optional (extra cost) tours of local areas and Calloway Gardens; Sponsor Appreciation Dance.
Saturday, 22 June:	173d Day! General Membership meeting. Tours and shopping trips. Membership Annual Banquet and entertainment; Hospitality Room.
Sunday, 23 June:	Free Continental Breakfast; Annual Memorial Service (Columbus Iron Works Convention Center); Farewell - 1000. BUT STAY AND SEE GEORGIA!

Under separate cover, tickets for the raffle of an SKS rifle with case have been distributed. Please mail them in. More will be available at the Reunion. You do not have to be present to win.

For more information, call our TOLL FREE NUMBER: 1-800-338-4373.

*See Registration Form — Page 12*

## Scholarship Assistance

Annually, the Society awards encouragement and scholarship awards to children of Sky Soldiers or to widows of our brothers who served in Vietnam. The fundamental requirement is that the applicant shall have graduated from high school and be embarked on a degree producing program in an institution of higher learning. Applications must be postmarked by 1 May 1991. Awards will be announced at the National Convention in Columbus, Georgia.

For more information and/or applications write to the National Secretary, Attention: Scholarship Committee, at the National Headquarters address.



Wayne Olds (Right) and friends (left to right) MG Williamson, MG Barnes, MG Cunningham and President Bob Sigholtz at the 1990 reunion.



## Wayne Olds and the Reunion Banner

Wayne Olds carried the Sky Soldier Banner with others in the 1990 Reunion parade in Washington, D.C. But that wasn't enough. Wayne and his son Scott (who is currently going through basic and AIT and will join the 82nd after Jump School) officially baptized the banner by making a tandem jump from 9,500 feet near their San Pierre, Indiana home. Our thanks to Wayne for the pictures and the news. A special thanks to Wayne and his lady who sent to our guys in Saudi, among other things, 3 lbs of powdered Egg Nog (didn't know it existed)! ALL THE WAY!



Wayne Olds and his Son, Scott, Jump the banner from 9,500 feet in tandem.

## "REUNION 91 UPDATE"

In response to an inquiry from a member in the USA, who wrote and asked the meaning behind our Reunion 91 Logo. While I answered his letter personally, others may be interested.

When our Chapter met to select a Committee to plan Reunion 91, our President asked each member to design a logo for our Reunion. At the following meeting a number of suggestions were put forward. The logo selected was that presented by John McNamara. His design included the stylized drawing of furma individually unique to Australia and New Zealand. Incorporating these two national symbols with the Brigade patch, we thought, showed the true international status of the Society and our Reunion 91.

While the 173D patch stands alone in recognition. So in fact does the Australian Kangaroo and New Zealand the Kiwi.

The Kangaroo is found only in Australia, it is our largest marsupial. There are over 45 different species, with 5 species being dominant; the Red, Eastern Grey, Western Grey, the Euro and Antelope Kangaroo. No species is in danger of extinction, in fact, their numbers have greatly increased over the past ten years, it is estimated that there are over 65 million. Since a protection order was placed on Kangaroos they have become a major pest to farmers.

The Kiwi is found only in New Zealand, it is a flightless bird, that stands 12 to 15 inches tall, has a shaggy coat, stumpy powerless wings and a long flexible bill with nostrils at the tip and sensitive whiskers at the base. There are only 3 species, the Common Brown, the Little Spotted and the rarer Great Spotted Kiwi. They eat worms, grubs, insects and berries. The Moari tribes people of New Zealand named the Kiwi after the male bird's shrill cry of KEE-WEE.

While two terms are commonly used to describe Australian Soldiers, either, Aussie or Digger, only one term is used for New Zealander's, that is Kiwi.

Both Aussies and Kiwis are proud to be associated with these two National symbols. Australian and New Zealand soldiers have fought side by side in two World Wars, Korea, Malaya, Borneo and Vietnam. We add the 173d Airborne Brigade patch as another unique symbol in which we have a great deal of pride.

TOGETHER THEN, TOGETHER AGAIN.

Ray Payne, Secretary-Chapter XI

### Charles Watters — From page 6

were on Hill 875 were awarded a Presidential Unit Citation for our valor. It is this small blue ribbon on my right breast. I am sure that if the Padre were alive today he would wish that your community effort could be recognized, not by medals or ribbons, but by the betterment of those the building and what it represents is used or can be used for. I am sure the Padre would be proud of your efforts. On behalf of the International Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade, I thank you for the honor you have given to one of our fallen brothers and wish you good fortune. AIRBORNE, ALL THE WAY!"

Thanks Pappy — beautifully said about a brave and good man.

# REUNION '91 REGISTRATION FORM

## REGISTER EARLY! SAVE MONEY! WIN PRIZES!

Mail to: SOCIETY OF THE 173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)  
P.O. BOX 2163  
COLUMBUS, GEORGIA 31902

**Yes!** I will attend the 173rd Airborne Brigade (SEP) REUNION at the Econo Lodge, Columbus, Georgia, June 19-23, 1991.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

I will be accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ (No.). Please list names:

NAME	NICKNAME	RELATIONSHIP	SHIRT SIZE	REUNION BOOK
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

(Get your plane tickets now, fuel prices are going up, up, and away)

REGISTRATION:	\$90.00 UNTIL 31 JANUARY	\$105.00 UNTIL 30 APRIL
	\$95.00 UNTIL 28 FEBRUARY	\$110.00 UNTIL 15 MAY
	\$100.00 UNTIL 31 MARCH	\$125.00 W/O PRIOR REGISTRATION

NO. OF ATTENDEES x REGISTRATION FEE = TOTAL AMOUNT

VISA Cards Accepted Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

(A 3% Charge will be added to amount if you use your VISA Card).

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO US THROUGH THE MAIL. **DO NO SEND CASH.**

DELTA AIR LINES has been selected for **REUNION '91** travel. Delta Air Lines, Inc. in cooperation with the Society of the 173rd Abn. Bde. (Sep), is offering special rates which afford a 5% bonus off Delta's published round trip fares within the United States, providing all rules and conditions of the airfare are met.

1. Call our travel Agent (COLUMBUS TRAVEL) at 1-800-727-6855.
2. Refer to FILE NUMBER: U0685.

ANY PROBLEMS PLEASE CALL WALT ROSSO AT 1-800-338-4373.

### On Father Watters

Mr. Ken Watters, brother of Medal of Honor winner Father Charles Watters, writes:

"I would like to thank . . . the members of the 173d for all you have done to honor the memory of my brother. . . . It was suggested that a statue be erected in his honor. I can hear him say now, "No! No! I don't want the birds to have something to aim at." There are enough buildings and plaques throughout the State of New Jersey to keep his memory alive. I am sure the thing he would want most is just to be remembered by his boys".

A friend is thinking of writing a book about my brother and is looking for little memories about him . . . things that happened during the regular times and during the special times. I would appreciate it if any of the 173d would like to send me their thoughts. . . ."

Letters should be addressed to Kenneth J. Watters, 2300 Washington Avenue, Wall, NJ 07719.

### Our Missing In Vietnam

At the end of our operations in Vietnam, the U.S. had 2,383 personnel listed either as POW/MIA or KIA/BNR (Body Not Recovered). As a result of improved contacts with the Vietnamese, the total has been reduced to 2,302 resulting from repatriation of remains. The Services, acting individually, have issued a presumptive finding of death for 2,301 of the missing, for legal and administrative reasons. The individual still listed as a prisoner is the symbolic gesture to indicate our nation's commitment to resolving this issue.

The burden of the missing is shared by the Nation. The Virgin Islands list one as missing, Puerto Rico and Alaska two each, and Vermont 4. On the other end of the scale, Pennsylvania lists 115, New York 144, Texas 146, and California 230.

These are cold statistics. Each number represents a comrade. In your prayers, in your thoughts, remember them. Until they are accounted for — we must not forget.



## Vietnam War Memorial — Australian Style

The main inscription on the proposed memorial will read: "FOR ALL THOSE WHO SERVED, SUFFERED AND DIED 1962-1973." It says it all.

The memorial is to be located on the Western Side of ANZAC Parade, Canberra, within the purpose designed and existing 'niche' which is directly opposite the RAAF Memorial on the Campbell side of the ANZAC Parade. The memorial design was selected by a panel of assessors, following a National competition.

The exterior of the memorial is constructed with three precast concrete forms, tapered and inclined to the centre. These forms are inspired by the ancient standing stones and by the Classic Greek Stelae. Such forms have always symbolised commemoration and contemplation, and remain amongst the most durable and potent of man's creation.

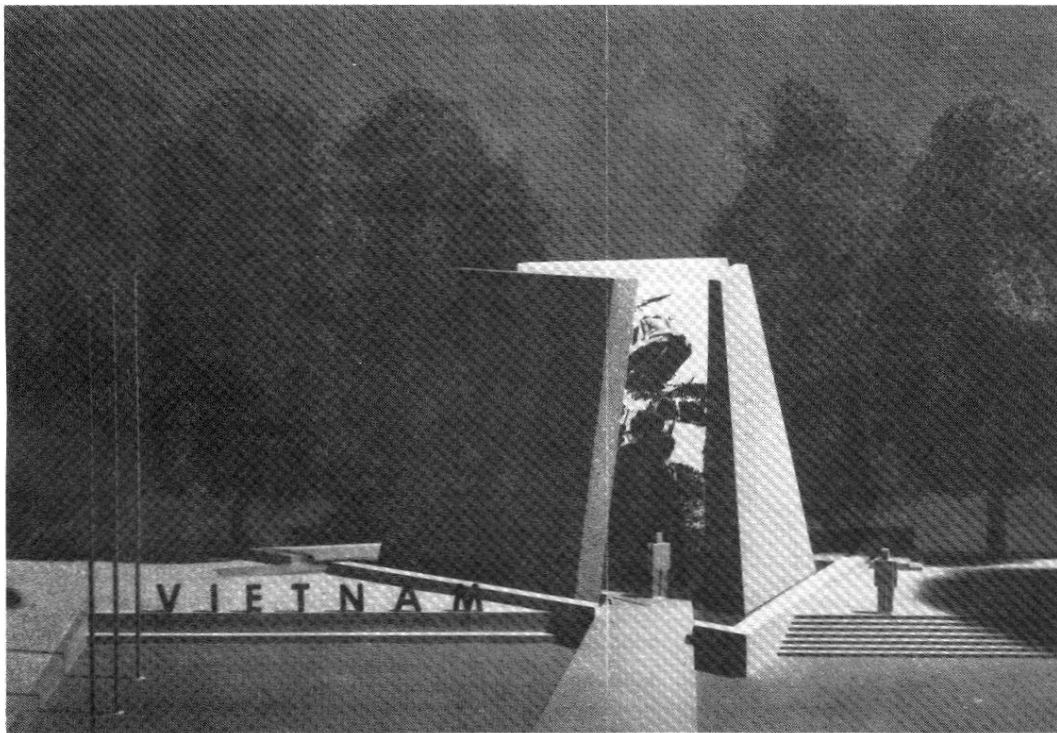
The corners of the Stelae are open, inviting and providing a passage to the interior. The Stelae forms have acutely pointed edges, producing a contrast of shape and scale and formalising the emotional response to the war. Those great 'stones' stand in a shallow pool forming a cordon against bustle of the outside world which is bridged by the entry ramp and the side stair.

Facing the entry to the monument, across the face of the Western side Stelae is the major representational icon . . . On the Second Stelae, on the right of the entry, is a series of quotations selected from the unique language

developed in Vietnam and from letters and writings of the veterans themselves. . . . At the center of the Stelae is a bronze altar, forming the chamber in which will be placed the scroll listing those who died in Vietnam. . . .

At 0900 on 3 October 1992, the surviving members of the Australian Forces in Vietnam will pay homage to their fallen comrades by staging a 'March of Remembrance' at the completion of the Unveiling/Dedication Ceremony of the memorial to all those who served and died in Vietnam . . . The format for the March of Remembrance will be similar to the (1987) Welcome Home Parade, with the key exception being its purpose. The Welcome Home Parade was a passage of right, the March of Remembrance is for the Fallen"

The above was extracted from a publication printed by the Australian Vietnam National Memorial Committee. The activity reminds me very much of what we went through for "Our Wall". As a symbol of our unity with our Australian Allies, the Executive Board has allocated a donation of \$1,000.00 for this project. It will be transmitted through our "Down Under" Chapter to the Australian Vietnam National Memorial committee. If you wish to add your contribution to this worthy cause, send your checks payable to our Society to the National Secretary at our headquarters, and we will forward a single check to Australia!



*Artist's concept of proposed Australian War Memorial.*



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
 SOCIETY OF THE  
 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE  
 P.O. BOX 27822  
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20038-0822

**APPLICATION FORM**

Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade  
 Annual Dues: \$20.00  
 Life Membership: \$273.00  
 Checks Payable to:  
 Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade

**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

**For Office Use Only**

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

## Please send me a "SKYSOLDIER" @ \$375.00

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ship to (if different):  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Engrave this on my FREE Brass Name Plaque

\_\_\_\_\_



Optional Beret



Optional Bush Hat



Unit patch and optional Rank

**Satisfaction  
 Guaranteed  
 Issued Numerically**



CIB jump wings tiny but clearly visible



Note tremendous detail of weapon and equipment

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

- Payment in full enclosed  
 Check or Money Order  
 VISA  MasterCard  American Express

CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. (MO/YR) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

- Easy Payment Plan (Credit card orders only)  
 (1/3 Down, 1/3 in 30 days, 1/3 in 60 days)  
 Be sure to complete credit information in above section .

( \$ GOES TO SCHOLARSHIP FUND )

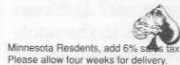
\*Sculpture comes with the following: @ \$375.00

- Choice of Headgear
  - Helmet  Beret  Bush Hat
- Combat Infantry Badge
- M-16
- Airborne Jump Wings
- Choice of Unit Patch (left arm)

Fill in Unit-Division

#### Check Each Additional Option

- Rank Insignia/ Stripe \$10.00  
Fill in Rank \_\_\_\_\_
- Unit Patch (right arm) \$10.00  
Unit Division \_\_\_\_\_
- Vietnam Wings \$5.00
- Optional Weapon (in place of M-16)
- M-14  Model 12 Shot Gun \$25.00
- M-60 Machine Gun (with 300 rounds) \$50.00

	Subtotal	\$	_____
	Shipping	\$	\$ 5.00
	Total	\$	_____

### R.M. Brodin Studios

3800 Girard Avenue North,  
 Minneapolis, Minnesota, 55412  
 (612) 588-5194

### Vietnam War Memorial (from page 4)

As with all sundials, there is a pointer or "gnomon". In this instrument, the pointer is approximately 14.5 feet tall and 25 feet long. Cut from a single piece of stainless steel and filled with concrete, it weighs over 5,000 pounds.

The unique feature of this memorial is the way that the 1,068 dead and missing in action are remembered. Their names are inscribed in the marble on the plaza. Each hour of the sundial represents a year of American service during the war. Each name on the memorial is located so that the tip of the pointer or gnomon shadow touches each name on the anniversary of death; in effect, each Kentuckian

killed in Vietnam is honored with a personal memorial day. The names of those missing in action or listed as prisoners of war are located behind the gnomon, where the shadow never falls.

My poor description of what I have read probably understates the magnificence of this memorial. I find it unique, and fitting; perhaps second only to our National Memorial which is magnificent in its stark simplicity and awesome in the human sacrifice which it represents. I would urge any of you traveling in Kentucky to pay a visit to the memorial in Frankfort. Look carefully; you may find me there.

Ken Smith - Editor

## Our Comrades Remembered

"Of the 641 names etched on the Philadelphia Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 26 of them belong to men who served with the 173d Airborne Brigade. Every May 5th The Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade, Philadelphia/English Chapter, holds their memorial ceremony at the Philadelphia landmark. Last year's keynote speaker was Command Sergeant Major Toney Salter (173d Abn - Vietnam 1967-1968), the post Sergeant Major of Fort Dix, New Jersey. At the conclusion of Salter's remarks, the Society laid a Brigade insignia wreath at the Wall, followed by the reading of the 26 names. Brigade members and families of the deceased placed roses at the base of the panels as the names were read.

The Philadelphia/English Chapter of the 173d Airborne Brigade is named after SSG Glenn H. English, Jr., a posthumous recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, who died on September 7, 1970. When his M-113 armored personnel carrier was ambushed, he returned to the carrier and was killed while pulling a wounded man to safety. English was a resident of Cornwell Heights, PA, and is listed on the Bucks County Vietnam Veterans Memorial."

This article was forwarded for publication without reference to the original source. Our thanks to our unknown contributor and continued support to Chapter IV for its sustained effort to support our Society's goals. ALL THE WAY!

## Aussie's to Dedicate Commemorative Flag

The Aussies that served with The Brigade during the first year of the Brigade's seven years in Vietnam are soon to receive The Meritorious Unit Citation in belated recognition of their service. They also are about to pay homage to their fallen and those of The 173rd Airborne Brigade.

An Australian National Flag that was carried during the Australian Welcome Home Parade of 1987 will soon be adorned with the names of Australian Soldiers who gave their lives in the service of their country.

The Flag, when dedicated, will then be carried by a young Australian girl named Kylie Watkins (whose family has donated the cost of the engravings to the Aussies), at the head of 1 RAR on ANZAC DAY, 1991.

Beneath the plates bearing the names of the Australians who died while serving as members of The First Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment through two tours of duty in Vietnam will be a plate that bears this inscription: —

IN MEMORY OF 1588 SKY SOLDIERS  
OF THE 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)  
UNITED STATES ARMY  
WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION  
1965 - 1971

## DUES NOTICE

The Society's dues are payable on an annual basis. Annual National dues are \$20.00 per year (Chapters may have additional annual fees). Are you current? Look at your address label. The number that appears to the right of your name indicates your dues status. If the number is "91", dues are payable. If you are among those who have accepted the Newsletter for 5-6 years without supporting the Society, consider becoming current for the

New Year and supporting the worthwhile programs that we have. The scholarship program alone is worthy of your support, as is the Chapter VI youth camp.

We will not leave you behind, even if you do not remain current. We didn't in Vietnam, and we won't now. Please consider your status. From General Officer to Private — we need your help to function effectively.



INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
SOCIETY OF THE  
173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE  
PO BOX 27822  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20038-0822

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