SIXY SOLDIER



Newsletter of INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE

Winter 1997

President — COL (Ret) Kenneth Smith Secretary — SFC (Ret) Timothy R. Stout
Vice-President — CSM (Ret) Stanley Kuzminski Treasurer — CSM (Ret) Loren L. Storjohann
Editor — Charles R. Shay

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General Henry H. "Hugh" Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and a 173d veteran, presents the Citation for the Distinguished Service Cross to Sky Soldier Roy Judkins.

Story on page 5.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

On February 2, Roy Judkins, Sky Soldier and Hero, received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Nation's second highest award for heroism. Roy was assigned to the 184th Ordnance Battalion and attached to the Brigade when he performed his heroic acts in 1968. Thanks go to General Shelton, Chairman of the JCS, and all the Sky Soldiers who turned out to honor Roy.

Chapter I efforts to establish a living monument to Sky Soldiers in Arlington National Cemetery are just about finalized. The ceremony is set for May 2, at 1030. Please see the article with details elsewhere in this newsletter.

As I read the annual activities reports submitted by each Chapter, I am amazed both at the range of activities which occur, and the efforts by individual Sky Soldiers to make things happen. Kudos go to Chapter II for their charitable programs and fraternal activities - at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and throughout the year. Without regard to unit served, the "Wild Bunch" gets out and helps homeless vets and hungry vets and sets an example for us all to emulate. Chapter XXIII (Queensland) has assisted the Logan Special School in Queensland after they suffered a severe setback., and is the only Chapter in the Society which has all members already current in their dues for 1998. Chapter XIX (New Zealand) is working on the national parade, and Chapter I is working on the Arlington program. Chapter IX reports a strong reunion program, and Chapter V is well along in its plans for the 1999 reunion. I can't mention all the Chapters, but most have good programs going, led by Sky Soldiers who devote time and effort.

On the headquarters staff, Ken Gaudet indicates that the yearbook, finally, is ready to be mailed out. Tim Stout reports that the Cowpie Raffle is well underway—get your tickets in. John Tyler, Museum Chair is working on ensuring that we are appropriately represented at the Airborne and Special Ops Museum. Bob Armstrong is gearing up for another successful scholarship program. Bob Sigholtz is working on the Distinguished Member of the Regiment Program.

Paul Dinardo is our Webmaster (and runs a great Webpage!). Society Chaplain Chuck Dean and his wife continue extensive ministry to those in need. The Legacy Committee (on opening membership to spouses and children) has submitted its report and it will be addressed at the Reunion. My thanks to each member of that Committee, and its chair, Jack Schimpf, for an outstanding effort.

None of these programs just happen. They require lots of planning and lots of work, and all the Chapter and National programs deserve your support. My personal thanks to all who contribute of their time and effort to make things work. Keep up the effort. Airborne!

Ken Smith, President







MEMBERSHIP DUES:

Again this year we remind you of the need for annual dues/contributions to support the Society. Dues go for Administration and the newsletter—special programs are supported by voluntary donations.

To once again clear up the question, the number after your name reflects that year you owe for, and not the year for which you are current. If it is "97", YOUR 97 DUES HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED. If it is "98", YOU NEED TO SEND IN A CHECK FOR THIS YEAR.

Please support the Society, its newsletter and its programs. We need everyone's help.

The Chaplain's crossfire Corner



I have always been proud of being associated with U.S. Army paratroopers. From that time in midsummer of 1963 when my wings were pinned on, I knew there was something distinctly special about the airborne brotherhood I had just joined. I also knew that in this element of camaraderie my airborne buddies would cover my backside if for no other reason than the simple fact that we both wore our wings proudly. It was an unspoken respect for each other because we all had done something only a few ever do in their life — jump from a perfectly good plane while in flight. It was a good feeling to have brothers who could relate to like-experiences.

Now that we are some thirty years from Vietnam, many of us try to hold things together not only in our own lives, but in the realm of maintaining our pride and self-respect as elite troopers who once did awesome things together. However, as the years go by it seems to get tougher to remember that we were some of America's best. I suppose this is one reason our reunions are so valuable to us.

Over the past year or so in my duties of National Chaplain I have observed the esprit de corps that made us proud young men once upon a time. It is good to know that some of us remember that brotherhood and do our best to support one another in our efforts. (I believe the worst tragedy for us would be to stop supporting and encouraging one another in our work, families, beliefs, and assigned tasks in this society.)

If you ever feel unsupported, unappreciated, and maybe a little unloved, as your chaplain I welcome your letters, e-mail and phone calls. I've never been one to just have a title and then do little with it. I volunteered to be the chaplain to help one and all have a better life, and maybe somehow make peace with your past. We had a common cause then - we can surely work to have a common cause now. If I can serve in my duties to help just one Sky Soldier make peace with himself, his past, and perhaps even God, then my time has been well spent. Consider this an open invitation.

> Airborne! Chuck Dean

Arlington Memorial Dedication

2 May 98

On 2 May 1998, the Society will dedicate a memorial to the memory of the soldiers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade who so valiantly served their country. The memorial consists of a granite marker placed in front of a sugar maple tree planted as a living memorial in remembrance of all Sky Soldiers. The tree was planted in early January and at 1030 hours, 2 May 1998 the granite marker will be unveiled by General Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a former member of the Brigade. Major General Ellis W. Williamson, the "Founding Father" of the Brigade will share this honor with the chairman.

This ceremony will take place at the corner of Grant Drive and McClellan Drive in Arlington National Ceremony, Washington, DC. All Sky Soldiers, friends and family are welcome and encouraged to attend.

A no-host luncheon is being planned following the ceremony for those who wish to continue to meet in Airborne fellowship. Arlington National Cemetery is adjacent to the Fort Myer military installation.

The ceremony site can be reached through the Memorial Chapel Gate on Ft. Myer or through the cemetery Visitors Center located on Memorial Drive. Arlington Cemetery can also be reached by METRO using the Blue

For further information feel free to contact Ed Anthony, (301) 870-6084 (home) or (703) 697-5924 (office).

NOTICE

Deadline for submitting articles for the Spring edition is April 15, 1998.

Deadline for the Summer edition is July 30, 1998.

Scholarship Winners Announced

The Society's Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following winners of the 1997 awards:

- \$1500 scholarship Gregory Hadsell of Freeport, ME. Gregory is an architecture student at Tulane University. His step-father, LTC (Ret.) Robert Antoniuc, served with HHC, 1st Bn in 1971.
- \$1200 scholarship Colin Mahle of Sacramento, CA. Colin is majoring in military history at the Virginia Military Institution. Colin's father, Emmett, served with E/2/503d in 1970 and later retired as a colonel from the Army Reserve.
- \$1000 scholarship (in memory of COL Walt Daniel)-Kathleen Jeffries of West Branch, IA. Kathleen is a college freshman and her father, Bruce Jeffries, served with the Brigade in 1970.
- **\$800** scholarship Charles E. Ramsey, III of Flourtown, PA. Charles is majoring in music at Pennsylvania State University. His father, Charles E. Ramsey, Jr., served with the Brigade from November '68 to November '69.
- \$500 scholarship (in memory of MG and Mrs. Cunningham) Charles A. Bowles, Jr., of Warrenton, MO. Charles is anticipating a college major in photography. His father, Charles A. Bowles, Sr., served with the Brigade in '67 -'68.
- \$500 scholarship John Healy of Sylvania, OH. John is majoring in secondary education and theater at Miami University. His father, Jim Healy, was with C/3/503d from May '69- June '70.

Congratulations to one and all!

/s/ Bob Armstrong, Scholarship Committee

As a Society, what could be more important and significant than helping to educate the next generation? The Scholarship Fund welcomes contributions to keep this tradition going.

Applications for the 1998 scholarships are now available through the International Headquarters. Send a postcard or letter requesting the application to:

Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade ATTN: Scholarship Committee PO Box 44173 Washington, DC 20026-4173

Thank You Letters

I would like to dearly thank you for awarding me the scholarship from the Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. I was very honored to win such a prize and hoped I made my father as well as the U.S. Military proud. I am sorry for the delay of the reply, but I have been focused in my studies and just recently finished designing a public housing scheme in the south side of Glasgow, Scotland. Your scholarship money has made it possible for me to study at the Mackintosh School of Architecture, part of the esteemed Glasgow School of Art in Scotland this year, and for that I will be forever grateful.

I have used the scholarship money specifically for the tuition fees for this year, and it has not gone to waste. I have enjoyed every second of my year abroad, and it has fulfilled my every expectation and desire. The Scottish country landscape is at times untamed and rugged, inspiring in its long kept traditions. While in comparison, the vibrant industrial city of Glasgow is layered with history and rejuvenation. It has served as a challenging architectural site from which I have learned a great deal, and also serves as a great counterpoint to the city of New Orleans, from where I originally studied at Tulane University. The year so far has been a learning experience both through academics as well as through life. The experience of living in a foreign country, is by far one of the most influential events of a student's life and I will cherish this time forever.

I would like to thank you again, as well as the entire committee, for the means to make this year happen. I also would like to wish you the best of luck in the new year and good luck on choosing future scholarship recipients. Happy holidays and merry Christmas.

Sincerely, Gregory A. Hadsell 36 Otago Street (3/2) Glasgow G12 8JH

Dear Members,

Thank you very much for presenting me with the scholarship in memory of Col. Walt Daniel. I feel very proud and honored to receive such a distinguished award. It is so encouraging to see a program like this, run completely on donations. Your dedication to education is revered.

Thank you again for the scholarship and for your encouragement.

Sincerely, Kathleen M. Jeffries

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS ROY E. JUDKINS

(THEN SPECIALIST 6, UNITED STATES ARMY)

Thirty years ago this coming December 4th, a gangly Specialist 6th from the 184th Ordnance Battalion, attached to the 173d Airborne Brigade at Bong Song, entered the Field Hospital there. He was not going for treatment, but instead was going in to save a life. Dr. Guy, from the New Zealand Medical Staff, had encountered a small problem — a live M-79 grenade round embedded in the leg of one of his patients.

To minimize potential casualties, the round was sandbagged. As Dr. Guy operated to expose the shell, Spec 6 Judkins worked to neutralize the warhead, and successfully evacuated the round from the operating room for detonation. With a different cast of characters (Roy didn't stop to get the Doctor's name) Sp6 Judkins repeated the same procedure 4 days later — armed M-79 round in patient's body, sandbagged, shell neutralized and disposed of. In between, Roy ventured out into a minefield to rescue a U.S. soldier under fire, and bring him back to safety.

Roy's presence in Herd territory was not accidental. Having heard of the 173d and its exploits before arriving in-country, Roy wrangled attachment to the 1-50th Mech and

to the Brigade headquarters. He worked with the line battalions both to disarm discovered ordnance and mines, and to manufacture booby traps. Like the 39th Infantry (Scout Dogs), Roy and his companions from the 184th Ordnance Detachment provided unheralded but vital support, and saved countless lives in the process.

The struggle to get Roy's heroic acts acknowledged, culminating in General Shelton's presentation of the award on February 2, 1998, started about four years ago. In his remarks at the Ceremony, Roy specifically thanked Congressman Charlie Norwood and Senator Max Cleland from Georgia — and their respective staffs — for their support. In addition to his section sergeant and others who witnessed his heroic acts, Roy specifically directed kudos to Air Commodore Manttan from the New Zealand Defense Staff and to Society President Ken Smith who had worked with Roy on the project for a number of years. Roy was joined at the ceremony by his wife and stepson, and numerous Sky Soldiers from the Washington, D.C. area including the Society President Ken Smith and Chapter I President Ed Anthony.

THE AWARD CITATION:

"For extraordinary heroism during the period 4 December 1968 through 8 December 1968, while serving as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team member in the Republic of Vietnam. Specialist 6 Judkins distinguished himself by sustained heroic actions by twice participating in surgical procedures involving armed and dangerous explosive ordnance. Specialist Judkins selflessly entered operating rooms to remove 40mm grenades from the extremities of wounded Republic of Vietnam personnel. He also exposed himself to enemy fire while extracting another soldier from a minefield. Specialist Judkins' action, personal bravery, and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of military service, and reflect great credit on himself and the United States Army."

MINUTES OF THE JULY 5, 1997 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF THE 173 RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE TUCSON, ARIZONA

Pledge of Allegiance led by Ken Smith. The meeting began at 1:05 p.m.

A special recognition was given by Society President Ken Smith for the late COL Walt Daniels, National Secretary. MG (Ret) John R. D. Cleland was acknowledged as being in the audience and as a special speaker to the members. Don Lassen Editor for Static Line newspaper was presented with a 173d tie by Ken Smith for his devotion to the airborne community.

1996 Minutes were approved as printed in the Sky Soldier newsletter.

Treasurer Loren Storjohann was not present and his report was presented by National President Ken Smith. There was an explanation as to the types of funds the Society has. The general fund is used to operate the Society business, this fund is maintained by due paying members. The monument and scholar-ship funds are dependent upon donations. No money from the general fund is used for these two funds. Chapter X moved to accept the report and approved by a voice vote.

Ken Smith raised the idea of having a National raffle to raise money to avoid increasing the annual dues. A recommendation to have a "Cow Pie Bingo" raffle was presented by Ken Smith with Walt Rosso from Chapter III to host the event in June 1998. Motion was approved by a majority voice vote. There were no descents or argument against motion. Dues will remain the same and will not be raised.

Membership report was given by Ken Smith. The Society now has 5,260 members. It was discussed that as many as 30,000 or more Sky Soldiers served with the Brigade.

Questions about a national roster were discussed. Due to the number of pages (113) and the time and cost to mail the roster, the Society has decided not to pursue making a roster available even at cost. Ken Gaudet volunteered to help with the membership roster and Ken Laporte volunteered to help as well. Frank Van Evers recommended to put the roster on the home page. It was decided to table the motion until further investigation can be made about privacy problems in publishing names and addresses.

A report was presented by John Tyler on the Airborne Museum at Fort Bragg. Ground breaking commenced on 1 November 1996, and the time schedule for completion is between two or three years. \$9,000,000 was raised and the goal is for 12,000,000. Fourteen business's in the Fayetteville area has pledged \$96,000. As for the artifact collection, the museum still needs more. John Tyler recommends that you send him a list of the items that you have or intend to donate to the museum. Once donated, the ownership of the property is vacated and items will not be returned. Ms. Mary Denny is the receiver and protector of artifacts received.

Ken Smith gave a report on the Pathfinders Club. The purpose was to raise \$50,000 by pledges from individuals and by chapters. So far, 120 persons have pledged \$500 each and a number of chapters have donated as well. The 173d Monument is still in action and two sites have been identified at Fort Bragg. Architectures and contractor's for cost are the next step of the process for the monument.

Chapter I has undertaken the task of having a bronze plaque presented at Arlington National Cemetery. Ed Anthony, President of Chapter I took on the task and was assisted by Russ Ward, on behalf of the Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade. The plaque will be dedicated on behalf of the 503d Airborne infantry.

Society Master of Arms, Hugh "Heavy Drop" Robinson was appointed to the Board of Directors, at the Pratt Museum, Fort Campbell, Kentucky. His report states that 30 acres are set aside for a new museum. The interest of the 173d is important because the Brigade

was retired from active duty while at Fort Campbell and the Brigade historical files are maintained there. Hugh recommended that \$200 be donated to the museum to keep the project going. Donation was approved by a unanimous voice vote by the general membership.

Ken Gaudet reported on the year book from Turner Publishing. Changes will be made with the KIA list.

OLD BUSINESS

Ric Taylor, President of the New England Chapter, gave a presentation on the 1998 reunion in Boston, MA. There will be a N. E. clam bake as part of the festivities. Hotel reservations are to be made at the Boston Sheraton for dates 2,3,4,5, July 1998. Room rates are at the lowest rate possible at \$115 per room. More information will be sent to the chapters.

Ken Smith reported on the progress of the new life membership cards. 2000 were ordered; 520 have been mailed out. For new life members the card is free. For those who are life members the cost for a new card is \$10. The proceeds (if any) will go to the general fund or scholarship fund. Arnold Simmons from the AZ chapter XX volunteered to run the membership card program.

Ken Smith also reported on the raffle. The member-ship voted and approved a plan for the Society to host an annual raffle to help raise funds to keep the Society financially solvent and to eliminate the possible need to raise membership dues.

Ken Smith also gave a report on the scholarship fund. Vote for approval of amount was approved by the membership.

NEW BUSINESS

Changes to bylaws under Article IX were approved by voice vote of members. Gold Star mothers present: Mrs. Dorothy Port. Chapter I under the leadership of Ed Anthony will be hosting a memorial on November 9th in Washington, DC, at the Fort Myers Officers Club. Ed Murphy, author of the book Dak To, will be the guest speaker.

New Zealand chapter reported on the Wellington parade in June 1998 and invited all members who can attend to visit N.Z. and attend the first ever welcome home parade for the Kiwi soldiers who fought in VN.

SGM Taybron gave a presentation on the 1999 reunion to be held in Fayetteville, NC. Dates are July 14-18. American Airlines will be the official airline. Howard Johnson hotel will be the main hotel. There are other hotels in same vicinity. Rate is \$65 per night. The banquet will be held at the Charlie Rose Center. By a voice vote, the general membership awarded Chapter V to host the 1999 reunion.

Three new chapter's were awarded charters: Chapter 22, 23, and 24 were voted on and approved. Ken Laporte represented 22; A.B. Garcia represented 23 (Queensland) Australia; and Floyd Riester, for 24.

Nominations for National Officers were made. VOTE RESULTS: President: Ken Smith (won by affirmation)

Treasurer: Loren Storjohann

MG (Ret) John R. D. Cleland gave a speech and was well received by the membership.

A special fund was collected to help Eric Hitchcock defray costs for medical bills incurred from an injury sustained after making a tandem free fall jump from 10,000 ft. Over \$ 800 was collected.

At 3:39 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by: Timothy R. Stout, National Secretary

- Richard G. Hahner (A/3 70-71) is a DEA Special Agent and Group Supervisor in the Nassau Country Office and lives in Pensacola, FL.
- **Gregory B. Barton** (A/1 64-65) is an Industrial mechanic and lives in Napoleon, OH.
- Michael H. Matthews (H/1 67-68) operates a Small-Business Medical Billing Service, lives in Dover, PA
- Brian D. Zamzow (C/3-319 70-71) is Owner of (and an Explosive Engineer at) Falcon Drilling and Blasting, and lives in Green Lake, WI.
- Dan R. Baker (C/2 68-69) is Vice President for Operations, Interwest Mining, and lives in Salt Lake City, UT.
- William C. Burg (H/2 68-70) is Director of Safety, Corporate Express, lives in Mendota Heights, MN.
- COL (R) John B. Rosamond (H/Bde & H/2 67-68) retired from a distinguished career as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs, and is now Director, Guard & Reserve Programs, Boeing, and still lives in Alexandria, VA.
- COL (R) Carl Rea has retired from Active Duty and is now working with Bentley, Adams, Hargett, Riley and Co., a Consulting and Government Relations Firm, and still lives in Fairfax, VA.
- Edward A. Flores (H/4 67-68) is a Bin Delivery Driver with Waste Management North County and lives in Carlsbad, CA.
- **Jack A. Leaird** (D/3 70-71) is a North Carolina DMV Enforcement Officer and lives in Statesville, NC.
- **Robert T. Taylor** (D/16 63-64 & E/17 64-65) is disabled and lives in Fayetteville, NC.
- Blair R. Imes (H/4 66-67) is a Firefighter for the City of Lowell, MA and lives in Lowell, MA.
- SGM Charles H. Shortsleeve, III (H/2 66-67 & H/Spt 67-68) is Command Career Counselor, US Army Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, and lives in Fayetteville, NC.
- **Joseph McDermott** (D/Spt 64-65) is Manager, UPS, Shirlington, VA and lives in Burke, VA.
- CSM (R) Jerry M. Babb (B/4 & H/2 67-68) is Project Engineer for Croft Metals, and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

- Mike Marthaller (H/Bde 63-64) retired USAFR in November 97 and is President of Skydive Rio Vista, Grandfield, OK.
- CSM Ted Arthurs (H/4 67-68) is retired and lives in Destin, FL.
- **David L. Smith** (A/2 68-69) is Manager of Policy Services for Workers Compensation Insurance, and lives in La Habra, CA.
- Warren W. Williams (D/16 66 & H/1 67) is Dean of Students, Ramona High School, lives in El Cajon, CA.
- **Thomas A. Houf** (B/2 & A/Spt 71-72) is a teacher at Boonville Correctional Center, Missouri Dept. of Corrections, and lives in Boonville, MO.
- 1SG (R) M. Niles Harris (C-1 64-65) is a Part Time Bartender at the Buffalo Saloon and lives in Deadwood, SD.
- Rodney A. Dobbins (A/3 67-68) is a Truck Driver and also works part time for the U.S. Postal Service, and lives in North Versailles, PA.
- **David W. Nordan** (A/Spt 66-67) is an Investigator for the Brooklyn Park (MN) Police Department, and lives in Brooklyn Park, MN.
- Kenneth R. Bee (46th P.O.71) is retired from the Rochester MN Fire Department, lives Rochester, MN.
- **John E. "Jack" Miller** (D/1 49-51) is retired and lives in Minneapolis, MN.
- **Thomas R. Eckhoff** (75 Inf 69-70) is a Medical Transport Driver for Better Care Lines and lives in Richfield, MN.
- Robert L. Bevins (534th Sig 68-70) is a Printer for Shuttle Print and lives in Shoreview, MN.
- James M. Mallen (A/4 66-67) is a Computer Program-er and lives in Chula Vista, CA.
- CSM Jack P. Hardwick (H/1 66-67) retired as CSM, Operations Group Joint Readiness Training, Fort Polk, LA in October 95 with more than 30 years service. Jack is currently Manager of Pioneer Military lending and lives in Leesville, LA.
- COL Dick Ginn (B/Spt 70-71) has been named President and CEO of Capital Health Services, Inc., in Fairfax, VA., Dick lives in Springfield, VA.

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- **Thomas J. Levins** (C/4 67-68) is a Retired Philadelphia Police Lieutenant and still lives in Philadelphia, PA.
- Col (R) William Olds (B/2 64-65) is now Director, Golf Services, Vegas Golfer Communications, Inc., and lives in Las Vegas, NV.
- Onald A. Lorack, Jr. (H/3-319 65-66) is President and CEO of Hillcrest Healthcare Servs, lives in Tulsa, OK.
- James F. Duro (H/2 65-66) is an Offset Printer, and lives in Oakley, CA.
- Thomas J. Wallace (173 Engineers 69-70) is a Dealer Support Manager for Credit Acceptance Corporation and lives in Madison Heights, MI. Tom is a LTC, USAR currently commanding the 783d MP Battalion, USAR.
- Chris Anderson (H/Bde 67-68) is a Maintenance Man at PMI and lives in Orlando, FL.
- **Jimmie R. Green** (H/2 69-70) is Operations Manager, Century Trade Show Services, lives in Las Vegas, NV.
- Edgar Johnson (H/B-4 68-69) is an Attorney and lives in San Juan Capistrano, CA.
- Aquila Miller (C/4 69-70) is an Electrical Instrumentation Mechanic and lives in Denmark, SC.
- Larry Feese (172 MI 65-66) is a Farm Owner/Operator and lives in Kincaid, KS.
- Floyd E. Mishoe (B/3 67-68) is a Dairy Products Processor for Tigilee Dairy, lives in Winter Park, FL.
- **Darwin J. Evans** (H/C-4 70-71) is a Steelworker and lives in Granite City, IL.
- Percy Goode (C/Spt 68-69) is District Manager, Fayetteville-Observer Times, lives in Fayetteville, NC.
- COL Paul Raisig (CO, 3-319 68) is an Attorney and lives in Sanford, NC.
- **Thomas Dosier** (B/1 68-69 & B/4 69/70) owns a Picture Framing Shop and lives in Fayetteville, NC.
- MG Fletcher C. Coker (E/17 65-66 and H/Bde 66) is Vice Director, Joint Training, USACOM, Norfolk, VA, and lives in Diamond Head, MS.
- William O. Wood (H/Bde, C/2 & D/16 65-66) is a Consultant and lives in San Diego, CA.
- Vincent P. Conti (B/2 67-68) is an Equipment Op-

- erator for the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and lives in Ringtown, PA.
- **Ken R. Eberman** (A/Spt 68-69) is a Claims Adjustor for Nationwide Insurance Company and lives in Lewistown, PA.
- **Thomas Sonnenberg** (B/1 69-70) is a retired Homeopathic Physician and lives in Boca Raton, FL.
- **John L. Cole** (A/3 68-69, and A/1 & H/4 70-71) is a Truck Driver for Best Way Express and lives in Fayetteville, NC.
- **Thomas V. Racho** (E/17 67-68) is a Millwright at Ford Motor Company and lives in East Pointe, MI.
- **George J. Mink** (D/1 66-68) is a Firefighter for and lives in Philadelphia, PA.
- **Thomas Galvin** (39th Inf 67-70) is a Carpenter and lives in Carolina Beach, NC.
- Richard S. Wells (B/4 & 75 Inf 69-70) is a Dentist and lives in Owingsville, KY.
- CSM Weldon G. Corney (B/H/1 63-66) is retired but is a Traditional Artist and handles Vacation Rentals, and lives in Ramrod Key, FL.
- Paul L. Rots (D/2 69-70) is CEO, PROMAG Industrial Sales, and lives in Mckees Rocks, PA.
- Michael M. Miller (C/3 69-70) is an Electrician for the Illinois Power Company at its Hennipen Station and lives in La Salle, IL.
- Walter R. Bowman (D/2 60-62 503d Infantry Combat Team) is a Retired GM Supervisor and lives in Saginaw, MI.
- Navy Commander (Retired) Charles L. Evans (D/ E/4 70-71) is a Naval Science Instructor, JROTC, and lives in Florence, SC.
- COL Timothy C. Cloonan, USAF (B/Spt 69) is Commander, Radiology Flight 81, MDTS, Keesler AFB, MS, and lives in nearby Biloxi.
- James L. Steele (H/1 66-67) is a locomotive Engineer for Norfolk Southern Railroad and lives in Lawrenceville, GA.
- **Joseph A. Thornton, Jr.** (B/Spt 63-64) is a Comptroller for an unspecified company and lives in Fortson, GA.
- **Kenneth P. Minear** (B/1 68-69 & A/B/2 70-71) is an Accountant for Bristol Myers Corp and lives in Evansville, IN.
- COL Harry J. Dolton (D/3-319 70-71) is Shape Liaison Officer at the Pentagon and lives in Alexandria, VA.

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- **John E. Billman** (C/1 67-68) works for the U.S. Postal Service and lives in Gahanna, OH.
- **Tommy G. Morgan** (A/2 65-66) is self-employed and lives in Howell, MI.
- Richard J. Flynn (C/1 & 173 MI 69-70) is an English and Latin Teacher at Bishop Stang High School, and lives in Acushnet, MA.
- **CSM (R) William M. Smith** (A/1 66-67) works for the U.S. Postal Service and lives in Jacksonville, FL.
- **HON Ronald R. Combest** (D/3 68-69) is a Municipal Court Judge and lives in Covelo, CA.
- Harry B. Allen (A/1 64-66) is a Real Estate Agent and lives in Cameron Park, CA.
- William A. Gile (C/3 & C/Spt 68-69) works for the U.S. Postal Service and lives in Soquel, CA.
- LTC (R) Lindsey B. Minturn (H/Bde 64-66) is retired and lives in Falls Church, VA.
- **David S. Weisman** (H/A/3 71-72) has been promoted to Major General, is Vice Director, J-5, the Joint Staff, and lives in Woodbridge, VA.
- **Darrell W. Merritt** (C/Spt 63-66) is a heavy Construction Specialist and lives in Van Couver, WA.
- Freddie Parks (A/2 65-66) is an inspector for PPG and lives in Huntsville, AL.
- Frank Conetta (C/3 70-71) is Kitchen Manager for the Twin Dolphin Marina Grill and lives in Sarasota, FL.
- **Jeffrey "Duck" Teel** (C/1 64-66) is a Self-Employed Artist and lives in Idyllwild, CA.
- Raymond H. Carpenter (D/4 & C/4 69-71) is Captain of the Lincoln Park Fire Department and lives in Lincoln Park, MI.
- Jack K. Tarr (C/4, H/Bde & Jungle School 66-67) is a Technical Recruiter and lives in Reston, VA.
- **Douglas P. Kinsman** (B/4 68-69) is an Automotive Engineer for General Motors, NAO, lives in Fenton, MI.
- **David G. Green** (B/3 69-70) is a Veneerwrap Technician for Anderson Windows and lives in New Richmond, WI.
- Ronald D. Regan (E/17 68-70) is a Shipping/Receiving Clerk for Patrick Ford and lives in Fayetteville, NC.

- **SGM Frank Gutierrez** (A/1 65-66) is retired and lives in Fayetteville, NC.
- **Jose X. Bercedoni** (E/2, D/Spt, A/1, C/3 68-71) is medically retired and lives in Fayetteville, NC.
- Robert H. Brill (C/2 70-71) is an Electronic Maintenance Technician for Georgia Pacific and lives in Hillsboro, GA.
- **Gary R. Vanschoiack** (H/Bde, B/3 and A/Spt 67-69) is retired and living in Cottonwood, AZ.
- **Detlev K. Steklis** (B/1 63-65) is an Avionics Technician and lives in San Leandro, CA.
- Michael M. Juell (A/3 67-68) is a Travel Agent and lives in Vallejo, CA.
- J. C. Terry (B/4 70) is retired, and lives in Sacramento,
- James D. Dresser (A/2 65-66) works at Tyson Mexican Original and lives in Lillington, NC.
- **Jerry D. Schwarz** (C/1 67-68) is a Truck Driver and lives in Smartsville, CA.
- Jimmy E. Montes (B/3-319 69-70) works for the District Electric Company, lives in Nacogdoches, TX.
- CW3 Lawrence L. Harrison (H/Bde 70-71) is Supply Technician (PBO), Dragon Brigade, S-4, Fort Bragg, lives in Fayetteville, NC.
- Bernie R. Hurtado (75 Inf & D/3 70-71) is an Electronic Technician and lives in Denver, CO.
- **Graeme Bolitho** (B/1RAR 65-66) is Owner/Operator of the Billabong Restaurant, Nassau, Bahamas, and lives in Fort Lauderdale, FL.
- Luis A. Thillet (H/1 67-68) retired (again) from the Postal Service and lives in Staten Island, NY.
- **Robert P. Canuel** (B/4 66-67) is retired, lives in Fayetteville, NC.
- Michael B. Ludas (B/2 66-69) is Sales Manager of Tony's Pizza Service and lives in Salem, WI.
- Charles L. Wilcher (H/B/3-319 64-66) is an Electrical and Instrument Technician for Georgia Pacific Corporation and lives in Bedford, VA.
- Clark A. Smith (A/1 66-67) is a Balancer, ATM Technician for Bantek West, Inc, lives in Aurora, CO.
- **Joseph Miller, Jr.** (C/4 & A/1 66-67) is a Draftsman at the Fort Peck (MT) Housing Authority and lives in Wolf Point, MT.
- **Joseph M. Cardenas** (E/17 67-68) is medically retired and lives in El Monte, CA.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

- Willis Freed Lowrey (B/E/3 68-69 & H/Bde 69) is Major Giving Officer, Association of Graduates, United States Military Academy and, in Cornwall, NY.
- Pedro L. Serna (H/1 & E/1 67-68) is Retired and lives in Las Cruces, NM.
- Mike E. Newton (173 Eng 66-67 & H/Bde [Jungle School] 67-68) is Sales Representative for the Document Management Group of Ikon Office Solutions and lives in Salina, KS.
- COL (R) Milton B. Carr (H/Bde 66-67) is retired and lives in Austin, TX.
- **Harold W. Mash** (H/Bde 67-68) is a Federal Investigator and lives in Conroe, TX.
- Manuel M. Mermea (H/l 69-70) works for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and lives in San Antonio, TX.
- **John L. Peoples** (A/1 65-66) is Park Supervisor, Squaw Creek Park (TX) and lives in Granbury, TX.
- Daniel Z. Ramirex (C/Spt 68-69) is a Customer Service Agent for Continental Airlines and lives in Spring, TX.
- Paul W. Richards (B/2 67) is a Senior Deputy U.S. Marshal and Court Security Coordinator, and lives in Houston, TX.
- **Thomas M. Deputy** (173 Eng 69-70) is Senior Associate, Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., and lives in Dumfries, VA.
- Walter S. Raessler (H/3-319 69-70) is a Purchasing Agent at Fort Bliss, TX, and lives in El Paso, TX.
- SSG (R) Edward Pfeifer (A/4 69-70) is Fire Communications Officer, Lyndon (WI) Fire District, lives in Lyndon Station, WI.
- Arden R. Vick (D/Spt 64) is a Carpenter for V.W. Madison Company and lives in Pardeeville, WI.
- Society Secretary Timothy R. Stout (MP 66-67 & 67-68) is a Senior Investigator for the Wisconsin State Public Defender's Office and lives in River Falls, WI.
- CSM Billy G. Duncan (C/4 67-68) is retired, lives in Athens, AL.
- James R. Marquette (B/3 69-70) is a Annealer-Steel Worker (Carpenter Technology) and lives in Mohnton, PA.

- Ed Colen (C/2 69-70) is a Service Technician for Sprint Telephone and lives in Alexandria, MN.
- Michael J.W. Sells (C/1 68-69) is District Supervisor of Law Enforcement, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and lives in Washington, IA.
- Arlen R. Johnson (B/3 -319 70-71) is Regional Sales Manager for Neu-Tec Systems and lives in Vadnias Heights, MN.
- **John S. Lesniak** (H/C/D/4 69-70) Purchasing Supervisor for Truth Hardware and lives in Owatonna, MN.
- **Dr. Samuel W. Oglesby** (B/3-319 67) is an Endodonist and lives in Garden Grove, CA.
- **Douglas E. Nunnally** (B/1 & 75 Inf 68-69) is an Insurance Agent and lives in Fayetteville, NC.
- Gilbert "Gary" Gallegos (A/1 69-70) is a Computer Operator for the City and County of Denver and lives in Denver, CO.
- Gaspar Otero (H/3 70-71) recently retired after 25 years as a Crew Chief Paramedic; he lives in Charlotte, NC.
- Edmond A. Coleman (A/2 65-66) is a Part-Time Teacher and Volunteer with Veterans organizations, lives in Santa Rosa, CA.



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.



Chapter II's Thanksgiving Day of Generosity & Human Compassion for the Less Fortunate

I'm overwhelmed! If I didn't see it for myself, I wouldn't have believed it. But then again I always have to remember that I'm dealing with the members of Chapter II and the members of Chapter II are the finest of the elite. We put an appeal to you for a contribution so that once again Chapter II could give back a little to humanity what life has given us. The responses were so staggering that it was beyond our wildest dreams. We were able, because of these contributions, to cook and distribute 110 turkey, corn, stuffing, cranberry sauce, and sweet potato dinners along with cookies and an apple. Your generosity also enabled Chapter II to give each of those 110 unfortunates a hand signed Christmas card from Chapter II along with a gift wrapped pair of gloves, socks and a hat. If you believe in God, then rest assured you are one step closer to Him because of your thoughtfulness. Every dollar we received was used solely for Thanksgiving Day.

The day was an emotional roller coaster for all of us: Victor Tejera, Lucien Vecchio, Charley Eaddy, Carrie Kirby, Bob Pickering, Cathy Pickering, Mike Pickering, Colleen Pickering, and myself. To actually go amongst the homeless, to see first hand the human suffering, to witness the sadness in the watery, runny eyes, to see the smile of appreciation and to hear the words of blessings from these people, was enough to first empty and then fill a heart with compassion and love. Colleen and I brought a meal and present to one unfortunate. He looked as if he was at death's portal as he lay amongst the garbage on the icy wind whipped sidewalk. Unable to speak he offered us what looked like his last tattered, worn, and shredded dollar bill. We refused. He refused to accept what might have been his last meal. We left the packages and sobbed our way back to the van. We watched. He drank and ate maybe to live another day. It was like that wherever we went. To approach the other side of life, as we did on a day we were to give thanks, is a difficult task. The people of Chapter II sincerely made November 26 a Thanksgiving Day. I'm sure the others who were on this mission, thank you: Ed Mastromonaco, Robert & Joan Schopper, Colonel Bob Sigholtz, Michael Coffas, Giles & Diane Crane, Bart Leegwater, Robert Yost, Tom & Merrie Kelly, Mrs. Ruth Iandoli Edwin Kehoe, Augie & Alice Scarino, James & Louise Langman, Mago Cortes, Tom Ferguson, Colonel Ken & Susan Smith, Ted Legones, Mark Graser, Diane Pasquale, Samantha & James Barry, James McSorley, Bob & Cathy Pickering, Tom Chittum Edgardo Velazquez & Diane Lopez, Benjamin Bielak, Jim & Sharon Chieco, John Slater, Robert Rhiel, Pasquale & Rita Casanova, David & Isabella Glick, Joe & Marilyn Logan, Mike & Florence Granata, Brentwood Market, Edwards at Easton Avenue, Beatrice Levy of John's Inc. for giving us that good fortune to rethink the values of our time in this universe. Thank you, Darlene and Lucien for your truly wonderful Thanksgiving dinner and hospitality.

/s/ Anthony P. Albarello, Chapter II President

= In Memoriam :

Richard "Scruffy" Fairfield

Another Sky Soldier has answered the last roll call, his name honorably removed from the duty roster on the 3rd day of August, 1997. Richard "Scruffy" Fairfield, who served with the Herd in 67-68, was assigned to the 3-319th Field Artillery as a RTO with the forward observer team attached to 2nd Battalion. A Red-Leg to the end, he served with the gallant grunts who pushed the green line over the top of Hill 875. He was and is "Airborne All the Way."

In attendance at the funeral were the Bicknell VFW Honor Guard, Family, Friends, Jim (Jungle Jim) Calaway who operates the AZ Firebase, J.W. "Doc" Lupton and his wife Lynn, and me.

Your fellow Sky Soldier Michael Lormand 3227 County Road W7 Reading, KS 66868

C/3 Reunion

Anyone serving with C/3 anytime from 1968 - 1971 is urged to contact Steve Piotrowski at his home address. Currently, Steve has only been able to contact a 1/2 dozen or so personnel, but they are looking to do something in 99. That would be 30 years. I hope to locate at least half of the guys by 99 Ft. Bragg Reunion. Thank You.

If you served with C/3, or know of someone who did, please contact:

Steve (Professor) Piotrowski 1621 Adams Street, Madison WI 53711 Phone: 608-255-3953.

Scholarship Fund Update

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

CSM Michael J. Syzdek IMO SFC Walter Syzdek, Jr.

MSG Frank Martinez IMO COL Walter Daniel

James F. O'Brien IMO Lou Banks

Stanley Baranski IMO COL Walter Daniel

Robert Waters

Rev. Harold Pickering

Harry E. "Ed" Colen

Friends of Walter Daniel

The Tuttles, IMO Sgt Braxton Plunkett (Died

Jan. 14, 1998)

The Tuttles, IMO Nan Blizzard, Wife of Ken Blizzard (Died Dec. 16, 1997)

Rick Bierman

Robert deFlesco

William Davis

G. W. Adkins

Mike Newton

Donald Palmer

Robert Armstrong

Charley Shay

Dave Holland

Steve Abdalla

Bruce Jeffries

Jack Tarr

HELP WANTED!

The Society needs a few good men (or women) to take on some challenging tasks. Two vacancies must be filled on the Executive Board this year—Vice President and Secretary. Get nominations in to the Society head-quarters! We need computer-oriented people to work on membership, the KIA roster, and unit organizations. We need a leader with vision and scope to pick up the Monument project which we began two years ago — and more and more and more. If you are interested and have the desire to

contribute, please contact our National Secretary.

Arlington Cemetery Marker Fund Update

The Society acknowledges the generous gifts of the following to the Arlington Cemetery Marker Fund.

Chapter IX
MG Paul F. Smith
Robert Waters
Jimmy M. Rogers
Spencer Alexander
Rick A. Azevedo
George E. Dexter
The "Bravo Bulls"
Chapter V
Michael Montie
Milan Saunders
Joe McDermott
John Tyler
Jack Tarr
Steve Skolochenko

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

Letters to the Editor

22, December 1997

Thank you for a swell newsletter, I must say, great, interesting and well laid out. I want to say Hi to all Sky Soldiers wherever you are. I am packing all the war books, after action, lessons learned, other reports, photos, and documents that were sent to me by the membership, I also have a whole bunch of Vietnamese junk collected over the years. Can someone tell me where to send these items? They were for our airborne museum. I read many good reports on the museum in *Static Line* and other airborne newsletters. Perhaps someone can tell me who or where I can get the right info. Or do we have a 173d committee?

To the DakTo Warriors; drop me a line, let me know how your doing, every time I get ready to step out, I get laid up. I'll say it like Westy said not to long ago, "darn I'm getting old; I'm getting pains in places I didn't know I had."

Airborne! And may the following year bring lots of joy and sunshine to all of you.

Lawrence D. Okendo, 4/503d 203 E. Pinecone Cir. Payson, AZ 85541-3931

Ph.: 520-474-1607. Fax: 520-472-7952

Dear Editor,

What a wonderful birthday present it was to receive the newsletter of the *Sky Solder* 173d summer edition. Right on the front page is a picture of a very dear friend of mine Sgt. Martin Sanches. I have known Sanches since we were with the Herd in 1963 and 1965 in Okinawa. I was with D Co. SPT 173d, then with HQ and HQ Co. 2/503 Entac platoon.

This picture was taken right after I left the Herd on Jan 9, 1965, and reassigned to 101st Airborne Division. I rejoined the Herd in country in May, 1967. I again met Sanches in Bien Hoa, departed in September for Tuy Hoa, and on 2 November departed to DakTo. I again met Sanches in DakTo around the end of November 67.

He showed me his Silver Star that was awarded to him in the field. We talked for a while, we hugged and I wished him well. That was the last time I saw him, till now. I stayed in the DakTo area till the 26th of December. The 29th I was sent to Thy Hoa, then L.Z. English, then USA, then for year back to L.Z. English for another tour. Would appreciate hearing from you SGT. Martin Sanches.

Yours truly,

SFC Robert Hernandez (Ret.) 3206 Sacramento El Paso, TX 79930 (915) 566-0620

I believe Martin spells his name: SANCHEZ.

— Editor

Dear Editor:

Yesterday I received the Fall 1997 edition of *Sky Soldier*. As always I read it from cover to cover. It is my only contact with the 173d. I hope many troopers are not like me but I sometimes feel there are many who, for one reason or another, are unable to participate in Society and Chapter activities.

The *Sky Soldier* is our only link to by gone days when we marched with heroes. Through it I have made contact with old friends in Hawaii, Kentucky, Virginia, Indiana, New Jersey and Florida. I would have never found them except for *Sky Soldier* and your personal dedication to all former troopers of the 173d.

Your efforts are appreciated. Perhaps much more than you can know. I hope you will not let the few who complain cause you to be discouraged. Because too many of us are silent it would be easy for you to forget us. PLEASE DON'T! We are thankful for all you have done for us in the past and will do for us in the future.

Tom Kelly

(C and HHC, 1st Bn, 503d Inf and 39th Inf Plt, Scout Dog, 173d Abn Bde. Sep 67-68, 70-71) 604 S. Grady Ave Lakeland FL 33813-4022

Dear Editor:

I am a veteran who served in Vietnam with the 444 transportation, arriving in-country back on Oct. 1965. My first contact was with a vet with knowledge on transportation in the Central highlands. I remember seeing men wearing the 173d brigade

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Letters (Continued from page 13)

patch back then in the Central highlands. I am new to the Internet. I was sharing my new found blessings with a friend at work. I learned that he is the brother of Russell Heath a former member of the 503. He was KIA on 10/5/65. I can't wait to get to work tomorrow to share this website with his brother. By the way, I am sitting at this computer because of young men from the 502 and the 101st airborne.

Please share at your reunions the fact that there are a countless number of men like myself out here who survived the Vietnam experience because of the bravery, guts and sacrifices of that special group of men who called themselves "Airborne".

God Bless You and Your families and may God stay with that special group of men.

Douglas Culbreth

e-mail add: cul9028@aol.com

Dear Editor:

I am the Historian of Team 162. We are the American Advisors who were in the field with the Vietnamese Airborne Division during the Vietnamese conflict. Many of our people also served in your unit at one time or the other.

We respectively request if you could put the below listed entry under "Reunions" of your units magazine or newsletter. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Reunion for Team 162, Red Markers and the Society of The Vietnamese Airborne Division, April 22-26, 1998. Holiday Inn NW, San Antonio, TX. (1-800-HOLIDAY). Contact Fred Brander 615-645-3082.

Yours for the veteran.

Michael George 6851 Roswell Road, Suite I-16 Atlanta, GA 30328 770-671-0278

Dear Editor:

Enclosed are my dues. It seems I somehow got behind a year, but the \$40.00 should bring me up to date. I always look forward to the Society's Newsletter and also have enjoyed the 2 reunions I have attended. In a lot of ways, the Society has helped me cope with unresolved issues, and has made my

experiences in Vietnam become something to take pride in, rather than something to be confused about.

THANKS.

Bill Borchard 301 S. River St., PO Box 304 Marble Rock, Iowa 50653-0304

Dear Editor,

Was very surprised to find "The Herd" had its own Homepage on the internet. I viewed the different subjects that are available. Wanted to know how one gets on your mailing list. I arrived incountry 17 Nov 69 and two days later I was assigned to the 173d Abn Bde, A Btry 3/319 Arty. I have been trying to locate a friend of mine who was also assigned back to Phu Tai, both of us were assigned to A Company, Support Bn. He later got assigned back to the 75th Rangers. Never saw him after that. Sgt. Sidney "Big Mac" McDaniels is his name. Heard he was MIA, never could confirm that. If you could, I would like to get put on your e-mail listing, if that is possible. Also saw there will be a reunion for the 173d. Have to go. Thanks for the Memories.

Charles E. "Chief" Fletcher

e-mail add: cfletche@navajo.ihs.gov

Chief, have you joined the 173d Society yet?

— Editor

Dear Editor:

CAN ANYBODY HELP? I have every copy of "Sky Soldier" from Spring 1991 to the present — I also have March and October 1986, February, April, July, and October 1987; Spring, Summer and Winter 1988; Spring and Fall 1989; and Spring, Fall and Winter 1990. Do you, or do you know someone that might have any of the issues I am missing? I am also searching for any issues of "Firebase 173". My goal is to acquire a complete collection of each publication. If you have access to any of these and would like to help, please contact me. All offers considered.

Donald Palmer (173 Abn. Bde.)

Home: 8518 Monte Cristo Dr., Everett, WA 98208 Office: 11014 19th Ave., SE (Suite #173), Everett, WA 98208

Telephone/Fax: (425) 316-3763 (leave your name and phone number any time)

Email: Oneseventythird@juno.com

Chapter I: Sigholtz Capitol Chapter, P.O. Box 453, Merrifield, VA 22116-0453

Chapter II: Please note new address: Lozada-Thurston- Watters Chapter, 80 Blackwells Mills Road, Somerset, NJ 08873. From the President: In our never-ending quest to seek out Chapter II's Gold Star Families, we are again asking all members to go through papers, orders, etc. to help us locate the families of our lost brothers. If anyone has a lead please let us know and we will contact that family. I encourage and implore every Skysoldier who reads this to try to find at least one of our deceased brothers family. I've taken many and directed many telephone calls and have helped some of you find their buddy's family. It's a healing process without comparison. Chapter II has a mailing list of over 400 people, so I would expect we could possibly find one family. We started this program six years ago and have had our families as Honorary Members for the same amount of time. I'm ecstatic and flattered to see that other Chapters are implementing this concept to honor these families and expanding it into a viable program. All Chapters know about Chapter II since every Chapter receives Silver Wings. The lines of communication are important so that others can amplify the good works that go on in our Society.

Chapter III: Columbus/Ft. Benning Chapter, PO Box 51977, Ft. Benning, GA 31905-1977

Chapter IV: 530 W. Ruscomb Street, Philadelphia, PA 19120- 3754

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

Chapter VI: Elite Forces Chapter, c/o Dawn DiNardo, 4694 N. Sapphire Drive, Hoffman Estates, IL 60195

Chapter VII: Florida Chapter, Stephen A. Turpen, 5580 Teakwood Road, Lakeworth, FL 33467 - (561) 966-1323

Chapter IX: New England Chapter, P.O. Box 632, Bellingham, MA 02019

BOSTON IN 1998

The 1998 reunion will be hosted by Chapter IX in July 1998. The dates are from 2-5 July at the Sheraton Boston Hotel & Towers. Fax number (617) 551-3370 installed and on line twenty-four hours a day for business.

Greeting from New England Chapter. Progress is slow, but the results are promising in regards to the reunion. The chapter is still working very hard to ensure that the reunion this year is a huge success.

The chapter has decided to hold the clambake at the Headquarters Hotel. The location of the hotel is strategic to Boston and all participants will have the ability and ease of traveling around Boston with very little problem.

At the chapters last meeting a new President was elected. John O'Dea was elected for the next two years. Our past President Rick Taylor has decided to take a break from all of the running around and enjoy some well deserved personal time with his family and friends. We want to thank Rick for all that he had done to start the reunion activities for the chapter.

Our new President John O'Dea has requested that his address be published and that it be noted that he is available to assist any society member that he can in any way. John's mailing address is: PO Box # 66173, Newton, Massachusetts 02166.

Our chapter is running an ad campaign to help defray the costs associated with the 1998 reunion. For a \$ 30.00 donation, anyone can place a business card size advertisement in this booklet that will be furnished to all reunion participants and companies that placed an ad. Anyone interested in placing an ad can contact the chapter secretary. Advertisements run from full page, half page, third page, quarter page to one twelfth page, and prices vary. For details please contact: Dennis P. Hill # 97 Earle Street, Norwood, Massachusetts 02062-1504.

All planning to attend the reunion, please send in your registration as soon as possible. The capitol that is received is needed to pay for all of the activities and a count of the participants is vital so that proper counts of items can be requested from our vendors. Please take a moment and forward your reunion registration. Thank you in advance.

John O'Dea, New England Chapter President (Continued on page 16)

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Chapter X: Please note new address: P.O. Box 576531, Modesto, CA 95357. Ray Van Wagner, President.

Chapter XI: Australian (Down Under) Chapter, "Duty First", PO Box 5-173A, Croydon Park, NSW 2133, Australia. At the Annual General Meeting of The Australian (Down Under) Chapter XI held on Saturday, 6 December, 1997, the following members were elected to hold office in the Chapter:

President: Maj. Sid Cheeseman

SnrV/Pres: Sqd. Ldr. John McNamara

JnrV/Pres: Tom Case

Secretary: Carey McQuillan

Asst Sec: Bill Jago Treasurer: Bill Elliott

Editor/Member: Brian Printer

Members: E.J. (Ned) Kelly, Graham Woodward, David White, Warren Murray, Tom Gosper, Eddy Tesler. 19 Members (Including 2 Associate Members) attended the meeting.

Chapter XIII: Southwest Chapter, 830 Oakbluff Drive., Lancaster, TX 75146

Chapter XIV: Southern California Chapter, PO Box 5482, El Monte, CA 91734

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

Chapter XVI: Pacific Northwest Chapter, 1512 116th Street South, Tacoma, WA 98444-25222. Chapter Internet Address: Redleg@prostarcom



Back Left to Right: Don Palmer; SGM Rich Childers; Phil Stafford & Mrs.; Frank Pearce & Kathy; Steve Konek Sr. & Mrs.; Phan Thai; and Gene Pool at the McChord Air Force Base, Tacoma, WA, on the occasion of funeral of former chapter president, Lew Banks. February, 1997.

Sunday, January 18, 1998: Pacific NW Chapter members Frank Pearce, Phil Stafford, Phan Thai, Steve Konek Sr., and SGM Rich Childers joined as guests of the Republic of Vietnam Special Forces Association of Washington State in the celebration of the Lunar New Year. A banquet of roast pig was enjoyed by all. Speeches, remembrance of fallen comrades, contributions for the surviving family of a high ranking Vietnamese officer who died in a "re-education" camp, and the sharing of experiences was in order.

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

Chapter XVIII: Oklahoma Chapter, Larry S. Pierce, MOH Chapter, 3017 NW 16th, Oklahoma City, OK 73107. E-mail:HERD MP@AOL.COM

Chapter XIX: New Zealand Chapter, P.O. Box 260, Papakura, South Auckland, New Zealand

Chapter XX: United Desert Chapter, PO Box 12271, Tucson, AZ 85732-2271. (602) 586-9180 Results of Chapter elections: President - Russell Faulkner,

Vice President - Bill Butler, Secretary - Mike Loudakis,

Treasurer - Woody Davis, Sergeant At Arms - Harold Leigh.

Chapter XXI: The Mountain States Chapter, 3021 Whitehall Drive, West Valley City, UT 84119, (801) 967-2137. Dave Epstein, President.

Chapter XXIII: The Queensland Chapter, 104 Darlington Drive, Banora Point, NSW 2486, Australia.

Phone + 7 5524 7742; Fax: + 7 5524 7083; E-mail Address: <rpayne@pronet.net.au>

G' day - The meeting was extremely well attended with forty two (42) members in attendance. Nearly all brought their wives. This meant some very quick arranging for more chairs and tables. Some members drove more than four hundred kilometers (400) to join with us. Our fund-raising committee was overjoyed. The extras boosted their raffle takings.

Darky informed me that he advised you of the sad death of one of our members Colin Mooney. Col is at peace now. He had been dealt some sad

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cards in his life, with the early death of his wife and severe PTSD. His involvement with the Chapter was beginning to turn things around, however, all a bit too late unfortunately. He was a good "front line" soldier and very proud to have served. We will remove his name from our roster, but not from our lips.

"For those who have fought for it, life has a special flavour to it, that the protected will never know."

On Friday, 7th November, Vic Lagettie, Darky Edwards and I represented the members of Chapter 23, when we presented a cheque for \$600.00 to the Deputy Principal of the Logan Special School. This school for severely disabled children lost everything in a recent fire. Our donation will be used to purchase some special equipment for use by the children.

Our visit to 1 RAR and our meeting in Townsville was a great success. A full report is printed in the latest Chapter 23 newsletter. Copies to all Chapters and Executive are on the way.

Our year ended with a fantastic turnout of sixty two members at our Annual General Meeting and very successful Christmas Dinner. The 1998 Committee was elected unopposed, with Vic Lagettie again at the helm. The members chose to maintain the same "Team" with the addition of Marv Williams as Quartermaster and Danny Hargans.

The Chapter's Annual Report presented members with a view of the accomplishment over the short ten months of the Chapters Existence. With ninety four members, the attendance at each monthly meeting set new records. Moving the location of our meeting each month and holding 'away' three day weekends, has allowed the opportunity for 96% of our members to attend a meeting in their area. Communication has been a major factor. The purchase of a photocopier and a flatbed scanner allows the editor the flexibility and autonomy required to produce a substantial newsletter every two months and special notices when required.

The membership is motivated and it is their commitment to the Chapter, and to having fun, that is driving us forward. The spirit of Society and the

reason for being a members is clear in their minds and actions. We can proudly boast that 100% of our membership roster is financial in 1998. A demonstration of commitment.

This year presents another full program with meetings as follows:

February 14 — Woodridge RSL.

Ladies Day — Valentines Luncheon.

March 14-15-16 — Grafton.

'Away' Meeting.

April 11 — Gaythorne RSL.

April 25 — ANZAC Day — Brisbane.

State Governor, Maj Gen Peter Arnison (ex I RAR Group) to take the salute.

May 9 — Geebung RSL.

Mother's Day Luncheon.

July 11-12-13 — Caloundra RSL.

'Away' Meeting.

August 8 — No Meeting.

Anniversary Dinner. (Formal)

September 12 — Ipswich RSL.

October 10-11-12 — Bundaberg RSL.

'Away Meeting'.

November 14-15 — Gold Coast

(not to be missed).

December 12 — Yeronga RSL.

AGM.

Attendance at any meeting is open to anyone. Those on vacation at the time of any meeting are more than welcome to attend. Additional information about any event or activity may be gained by contacting the Chapter Secretary.

We now move into a new year, remembering: All we do, we do for a mate who can't.

That's about the news from down here — except to tell you that the weather has been absolutely beautiful each day and perfect the next. Kindest regards from all Chapter 23 members.

Chapter XXIV: The New Rochester, Minnesota Chapter, (temp) c/o Charley Shay, 656 Maple Pond Court, Shoreview, MN 55126-2025.

The new Rochester Chapters first meeting of 1998 was held on Saturday, February 7, 1998 at the Amvets Club in Waverly, Iowa. We had a good turn out considering the distance everyone had to travel to get to the meeting. One couple drove over 8 hours one way. Just goes to show that AIRBORNE aren't quitters!!

(Continued on page 18)

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Floyd Riester gave an update on the Soldiers Field Memorial. The city is still planning on a year 2000 dedication and is on schedule as planned. There was much discussion about hosting the year 2000 Reunion. The city of Rochester wants the 173rd to come back in the year 2000. Rochester plans on dedicating the Soldiers Field Memorial in a ceremony during Rochesterfest. A motion was carried to present National, at the Boston Reunion, our formal bid to host the year 2000 Reunion in Rochester, Minnesota. It was the 1995 reunion that inspired the citizens of Rochester to build this memorial. There will be a special location within the memorial for the 173d Airborne Brigade (SEP).

After the meeting we stayed at the Amvets for a Steak supper grilled to perfection by the master chefs of the 173rd. The next scheduled Chapter meeting will be on April 18, 1998 at 2:00 PM at the VFW in Rochester. The VFW is at 16 - 6th Street SW., Rochester, MN.

"HOOK-UP"

Greetings:

I would appreciate it if you would print this in your National Newsletter.

I'd like to thank a few of you 173d guys who shared your hospitality suite with me this past Veterans Day (97) in Washington, DC, it was appreciated. I don't recall all the names, but Steve Welch (2/503) was nice enough to share his room since I didn't have one. I arrived the night before from the Chicago area. I couldn't seem to find anyone from my outfit getting together anywhere. My brother Bob was with the Herd, 2/503 68-69. Hey Bob, in case you read this.

Thanks again, AIRBORNE.

Rich Coon

(HHC 1/501st Inf 101st ABN Div. V.N. 67-68)

Dear Editor:

My brother was with the 173d. I think 1966 thru 1968. He would not talk about Vietnam at all. He died in 1994 from pancreatic cancer. His name

was Louis Pete Ruff. He went by Pete. I would like to find out as much about him and his unit as possible. I know he received 2 bronze starts, and a CIB. This is all I know. I would like to talk to anyone that may of served with him. I was with 3/4th Cav 25th Inf div. 1969-70. I would like to tell you I'm very PROUD of you 173d men. You served your country proud. YOU ARE THE BEST.

Thank you for your help.

Bill "Wishbone" Ruff, e-mail: wdruff@htcomp.net

WELCOME HOME!

Dear Editor:

In the next newsletter, would you please ask anyone who knew SSG Joe Hunt, to contact Thea. She especially would like to contact the platoon leader, Bob Read.

Her name and address:

Thea S. Hunt P.O. 2890

Brandon, FL 33509

(813) 689-2428

Keep up the good work.

Jack K. Tari, Life member

Dear Editor.

I was a member of the Herd from March 14, 1968 thru April 16, 1969. I was attached to Company D, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry — Airborne at LZ English. This is the first time I have ever attempted to gain knowledge of any information pertaining to my unit in Nam. I would very much appreciate any information concerning Company D, 2/503 during the time frame mentioned above. I remember names of a few (Combat brothers) and thought it was time to see if I could locate them. I can be reached through the following channels.

Telephone Number (608) 647-2672 E-mail address: Ginjalam@mhtc.net

Home address: Steve Rosson, P.O. Box 23,

Richland Center, WI 53581

Fax: 608-647-2672

Again, thank you for any consideration towards my goal.

Your Brother-in-Arms,

Steve Rosson

(Continued on page 19)

"HOOK-UP"

(Continued from page 18)

Society of the 173d ABN:

I served with B Co. of the 2nd Battalion from 6-67 to 6-68. Most of the time I was with the weapons squad carrying an 81 mm mortar or a 90 recoilless rifle. Charlie Marshall was my asst. gunner on the 90. When I was wounded in one of the early fire fights on Hill 875, Ron Meyer took my spot only to be wounded going up the hill. I heard Charlie Marshall was killed in a car wreck after he got home. The two officers I remember are Capt. Rogan and Lt. Gillanwater. I know what happened to Capt. Rogan but have no idea about Lt. Gillanwater. I also wonder about a guy named John Greene, a big blond kid, that was our recon squad leader. Another question I still have is what happened to Claude Decker? He was a medic at the MASH unit back at DakTo and was from Ojai, CA.

To help jog memories about who I was let me add this. I was the guy from California that used to get those small cans of Coors beer and copies of the Berkeley Barb newspaper in the goodie packages from home.

The most vivid memory I have of the year in Nam was the Air Force dropping a bomb on one of our M-60 positions while we were in a tight perimeter in a fire fight. We lost 3 or 4 people at lease one of which, Aldritch (?) we could not find. I remember the pilot coming around the Company area after we got back. As I remember he was told to leave ASAP.

If anyone has information or comments about the above please call me at (707) 822-8815 or write me at the address below.

Airborne,

Russ Harris 235 California Ave. Arcata, CA 95521

Dear Editor:

My husband and I recently returned from a trip to Vietnam. During our 10 day stay we were escorted by a Vietnamese guide who was attached to the 173d Airborne Brigade as an interpreter during the war. He was unable to maintain any contact with the soldiers he knew and asked if I could help in locating some of the men he worked with. The

following is the information he provided.

Interpreter for the 173d from July 65 to Dec. 70. Interpreter of the Advisory Team #44 (Saigon-Gia Dinh Sector) attached to the Night Hawk Air Combat Recon Platoon "The Razor Back" from Jan 71 to March 72/

Names he would like to contact:

Capt. Bistrick 1 Bat. B Company CO

Capt. Glascog 4th Bat. S3-S4 Officer

Major Meyer S2 Advisor (Advisory Team #44) Capt. Fletcheft: Night Hawk air recon platoon

leader "the Razor Back"

Our Guide's name is Nguyen Van Quoi, but the G.I.s called him "Willy". His address is 163/6A Xo Viet Nghe Tinh Street, Binh Thanh District, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

He made our trip through Vietnam very special and I would love to be able to return the favor by making these contacts. Please send me a letter to know the status of my request.

Thank you, Mrs. Carolyn Kaplan 355 Darrell Road Hillsborough, CA 94010.



173D AIRBORNE, 2ND EDITION HISTORY BOOK NOW IN PRODUCTION Paducah, KY

The 173D Airborne Brigade (SEP) 2nd Edition History Book is currently in the production stage and is scheduled for release during the first quarter (Jan-Feb-Mar) of 1998. This tribute to "The Herd" will be available in a deluxe 9 x 12 inch, hardbound version, with 240 pages. It's contents will include a history of the men and mission of the 173D Airborne Brigade, personal experience stories from 173D veterans, over 800 biographies from those who served in the Herd, powerful action photography, a Medal of Honor tribute section, Society Chapters listings, dedication to those who "Died While Serving", 173D Airborne Society Roster (if you're in the Society you're in this book), and index. To order your book call (502) 443-0121.

1st Annual COW (PIE) PASTURE BINGO



he Society will be hosting its first ever "cow pasture bingo" on or about 1 June 1998 (weather permitting) in central Georgia. The purpose of this new and 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 world to where ever there are cows and pastures. Here's how it works.

he 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.

Tow 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 insertion 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.

Robert Waters Donald Lorack IMO Carl Baldwin

		Gary Sinclair MG Paul Smith			
	><	Clip Here Monument Contribution			
NAME					
NAME	(Last)	(First)		(MI)	
ADDRESS_				(7)	
	(Street)	(City)	(State)	(Zip)	
номе РНО	ONE	WORK PH	ONE		
☐ Here's n	ny \$	Tax deductible contribution for the	ne monument!		
Please mail	to: Monument Society of	Fund, c/o Kenneth Smith the 173d Airborne Brigade, PO Box 441	173, Washington,	DC 20026-4173	

As a Skysoldier Recipient of this Newsletter, this page is important to you!

Reunions are great, but unfortunately they only come once a year. The best thing we have going to keep in tune and in touch with each other is this Newsletter. It comes to you four times a year and if you wish to continue receiving it, you really need to check and make sure that your mailing address is CASS certified. In the near future, when the U.S. Postal Service activates this CASS certification system, pieces of mail with mailing addresses that do not certify will literally be trashed — not returned to sender! We do not want to lose you or anyone from the mailing list because of an address that did not certify. Please take a few minutes to check your mailing label on this Newsletter. If it doesn't contain your full name, complete address, apt/suite, city, state, and especially a 9-DIGIT ZIP CODE, you are not CASS certified. You need to fill out the form below, AND don't worry about cutting a page out of your Newsletter. If you look at this page and the back side of this page, you will notice that you will not lose any part of your Newsletter contents. ----- CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE -----

All Skysoldiers — Please read and respond.

Review your mailing label now! As part of their effort to automate and increase the efficiency in mail delivery, the U.S. Postal Service implemented the Code Accuracy Support System, to be known as CASS Certification. A large number of our mailing addresses DO NOT CERTIFY and are considered invalid addresses by the Postal Service. Please help us by printing your complete address below, INCLUDING your 9-digit ZIP CODE. If you don't know your 9-digit ZIP, look at any piece of advertising (Junk mail) that you receive at your home address — most have your 9-digit Zip.

PLEASE PRINT NAME:

(First) (Middle) (Last)

_____ Apt/Suite ____ Address: ___ (Complete street name — Street/Avenue/Drive/Parkway, etc.)

CITY: ______ 9-DIGIT ZIP: ______ (ZIP + 4-digits)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RETURNING FORM: Cut along the dotted line, fold in half so that the Society address is outside, tape the loose edge, place a 32-cent stamp in the box, and mail to us — ASAP.

THANK YOU!



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

Your Return Address:	PLACE 32-CEN' STAMP HERE
	SOCIETY OF THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE P.O. BOX 44173

Reunion 98 Boston, Massachusetts New England Chapter IX July 2-5, 1998

Name		Telephone: ()	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Unit(.s) assigned to with the Brigade			
Shirt Size: 1) 2) Hats (On	e size fits all)	Accompanied by: number	r of persons
Name:	R	elationship:	
Name:	R	elationship:	
Name:			
	rent's room) Rates e cheapest room rates s will be available	are available till June 9th. ces available in Boston during to members and their g	only, so don't delay – g this time of the year
		s available to do in Boston	
	Adults \$10.50		\$ 5.00
	Adults \$10.00		\$ 6.00 \$18.00
	Adults \$20.00 Adults \$ 6.00		
		children (5-17)	
Freedom Trail		Trolley Tour is available	V 0.20
Duck Tours	Adults \$19.00		\$10.00
WOMENS EVENTS TO B	E ANNOUNCED	AS THEY BECOME AVA	ILABLE.
Number of persons attending clamb			e)
TOTAL AMOUNT PAID \$			
Parachute Jump \$	Presently working	g on a Parachute Jump for	members
Registration Fees: \$130.00 For Society Member \$ 75.00 For Wife or Guest \$95.00 with \$105.00 Each additional guest (includes		1998 173 rd # 97 Earle Str	ks Payable To: Airborne Reunion reet ssachusetts 02062-150

Early Registration: Register before May 9, 1998 and take off \$15.00 on a members registration fee

\$150.00 For Late Registration



APPLICATION FORM

Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade Annual Dues: \$20.00 Life Membership: \$173.00

Checks Payable to: Society of the 173d Airborne Brigade

PERSONAL INFORMATION

	First Name	M.I.	Date
	City	State	Zip
ephone	Area Code/Office Telephone	Social Security Number	
	ARY POSITION		
	Years Active Service	Chapter Affiliation	
TO (Date)	UNIT (Company & Bn)	RANK HELD	
TO (Date)	UNIT (Company & Bn)	RANK HELD	
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	THE BRIGADE TO (Date)	City Area Code/Office Telephone ITLE OR MILITARY POSITION pation & Company Years Active Service THE BRIGADE TO (Date) UNIT (Company & Bn)	City State Pephone Area Code/Office Telephone Social Securit ITLE OR MILITARY POSITION Poation & Company Years Active Service Chapter Affill THE BRIGADE TO (Date) UNIT (Company & Bn) RANK HELD TO (Date) UNIT (Company & Bn) RANK HELD



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