

Sky Soldier

Magazine



Gunline Makes it Rain Steel

- ▶ **Vicenza Reunion Date Change! July 4-8, 2017**
- ▶ **Bravo Bulls, Chapter VI Mark 50th Anniversary of Milton Olive's Death**
- ▶ **President, Treasurer Election Issue**
- ▶ **Oklahoma Reunion**

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Local Association Chapters

- 1 Sigholtz-Capital Chapter, Washington, D.C., Area
- 2 Lozada-Watters Chapter, New York
- 3 Columbus / Ft. Benning Chapter
- 4 Glenn H. English Chapter, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 5 Fort Bragg, North Carolina Chapter
- 6 Elite Forces, Chicago Chapter
- 7 Florida Chapter
- 8 Inland Northwest Chapter
- 9 New England Chapter
- 10 Western States Chapter, California
- 11 Down Under Chapter Australia NSW
- 13 Texas Chapter
- 14 Southern California Chapter
- 15 Weber/Kahler Chapter, Minneapolis, Minnesota
- 16 Col. Richard (Rawhide) Boland Chapter, Washington State
- 17 Mid-West-States, Ohio Chapter
- 18 Larry Pierce Chapter, Oklahoma
- 19 New Zealand Chapter
- 21 Missouri/Southern Illinois Chapter (being formed)
- 23 Queensland Chapter, Australia
- 24 Rochester, Minnesota Chapter
- 25 Thunderbird Chapter Phoenix, Arizona
- 27 Victoria Southern States Australia
- 28 San Diego Chapter, California
- 29 Lawrence (Larry) Joel Chapter, Nevada
- 30 South Carolina Chapter
- 173 Europe, (Italy & Germany) Chapter

Sky Soldier Publication Deadlines

Issue	Article Submission Deadline	Publication Date
SPRING	15 February	15 April
SUMMER	15 May	15 July
FALL	15 August	15 October
WINTER	15 November	15 January

E-mail all magazine submissions to Bill Reynolds at secretary@skysoldier.net. When submitting material for publication send information as a text file or in a Word document, **using complete sentences and paragraphs**. Indicate if it is an article or if it is "Chapter News." Please send photos as separate, **high resolution (300 DPI)** PDF, TIF, EPS, or JPEG files. Identify the people and the activity in the photo.

If submitting an article from another publication, please obtain permission to reprint it in *Sky Soldier Magazine*. Include the name of that publication, the original date of publication, original author, and if applicable the photographer's name.

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About the Cover



U.S. Army artillerymen assigned to Battery A, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, prepare to fire a M777 Howitzer as part of exercise Summer Tempest 16 at Capo Teulada in Sardinia, Italy, Dec. 2, 2016. Summer Tempest 16 is a multinational exercise designed to improve and build upon a shared understanding of live fire operations, using weapons systems and tactical procedures. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Opal Vaughn)



Scan the QR code or go to
www.skysoldier.net for more
information on the 173d
Airborne Brigade Association



Roy F. Scott

From the President

“Just by wearing my airborne pin it opened a conversation that became heartfelt.”



Airborne Sky Soldiers it is a Fine Airborne Morning and I am finally recovered from knee surgery. Wow, am I happy to be walking again. I will start with a story of what began as a simple meeting with my doctor.

After leaving the reunion on June 12th, I had a pre-admission meeting with the doctor’s office personnel on the 14th. I met with my doctor and he noticed my Airborne Pin. The doctor then began to tell me about his uncle, who was Airborne and was KIA in Viet Nam. He continued to talk about the great times he remembered with his uncle. The doctor stated he himself had military service in the National Guard. I told him that I am the president of the 173d Association and asked if he knew what unit his uncle had served with. However, he did not know at the time.

I had my surgery on June 21st and returned in late July for my follow up appointment. At this time, I gave the Doctor a 173d coin, thanked him for his service and told him I was saddened by his uncles death. To make a very long story short, his uncle’s name is Lloyd Fields jr. Records show that his uncle was KIA in April of 1966 while serving with E-Troop 17th Cavalry of the 173d Airborne Brigade (SEP).

What are the odds of the two of us meeting?

I now have a friend and I told him about

our Memorial at Fort Benning, Georgia that honors our fallen comrades.

Just by wearing my airborne pin it opened a conversation that became heartfelt.

Sky Soldiers, I am not running for re-election. I have been truly blessed to serve the association for nine (9) years. One (1) as your vice President and (8) eight as your President.

I must say, we have come a long way by working together as a great team and there is no I in team.

Several years ago I had a talk with a great friend and during the conversation was asked how long I was going to do this. To which I stated, I have a (5) year plan. We both laughed at that.

I will “Highly” recommend and will campaign for my vice President, Terry Aubrey, to be elected to the position of President.

The mid-winter conference is coming January 13th–15th, where we will be reviewing and updating our by-laws as well as beginning to clean up any and all administrative duties.

A Hearty Airborne to All!
Respectfully submitted,
Roy F. Scott Jr., President
173d Airborne Association
Ye’Iswa ★

PRESIDENTIAL ★★2017★★ CANDIDATES

Bid 1 - Terry Aubrey

My name is Terry E. Aubrey and I am requesting that you support my bid for election as President of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association. The past 5 ½ years serving as Vice President has been an invaluable experience to equip me for service as President. I have had the pleasure of meeting so many of you at reunions and other events as well as members of the active brigade. This has been a tremendous opportunity to see where we have been and the path we need to take as we head into the future. As an active member of the Executive Committee I have worked on several projects such as: the design and development of the Brigades Official 50th Anniversary coin and 50th Anniversary of our deployment to Vietnam. I have worked with our attorney to secure the copyright of the association's logo and obtain recorded trademarks for "Sky Soldier" and "Sky Soldiers". This will enable the Association to capture the market for goods bearing the trademarks or logo and generate income for the Association. I am presently working with the store in an ever increasing task of keeping it up and running. I might add that the store is rapidly developing into an additional source of revenue for the Association. One thing I have learned thus far is that the Association must have additional sources of income. It can not thrive if it depends on membership dues as its only source of income.

The time I have spent among the active brigade has been a means to address the needs of the active duty soldier and their



Terry Aubrey with Johnathan Hirst who made the jump in Iraq.

families. There are numerous resources available to them and it is important that we not spend time and expense duplicating services. Additionally, it provides us with an opportunity to watch for and recruit new people into active roles in the Association and Chapters. They are after all the future life blood of the Association.

Personally my wife Jenny and I own and operate White Horse Properties in Lexington, KY. We are involved in all areas real estate and licensed in Kentucky and South Carolina. I have served on numerous boards and committees both locally and at the national level. I served as a two term president of the Code Administrators Association of Kentucky.

I entered the US Army at Fort Knox and completed AIT at Fort Polk. There I was offered an opportunity to attend the newly formed NCO Academy at Fort

Benning. Upon completion of Phase 1, I attended Airborne School before leaving for Fort Jackson. There I was promoted to Staff Sergeant as a result of being the top candidate of my class during Phase 2 of the NCO Academy. I served with E/2/503 173ABN Brigade SEP from June 1969-70. I left active duty upon my return from Vietnam and served with the 100 Division, an Army Reserve Unit, for the next 8 years, the last 5 of those years as a 1st SGT with the rank of E-7.

Let me conclude by saying that there is still so much to accomplish and I need your voting support to do so. I feel as if I am just getting started. I enjoy being a part of the leadership team and am encouraged by what we as an Association are doing for our troopers and vets.

Thank you,
Terry Aubrey ★

Bid 2 - Wambi Cook

PRESIDENTIAL ★★2017★★ CANDIDATES

My name is Wambi Cook and for the past seven years I have been the President of Chapter 14 in Southern California. I want your support in my bid to become the 173rd Airborne Association's national president.

My Goals are:

1. If elected, I will immediately apply for an IRS Group Exemption Number to provide blanket IRS Tax Exempt status for all chapters. This will allow the individual chapters to solicit monies, goods and services, a business strategy that has been long overdue.

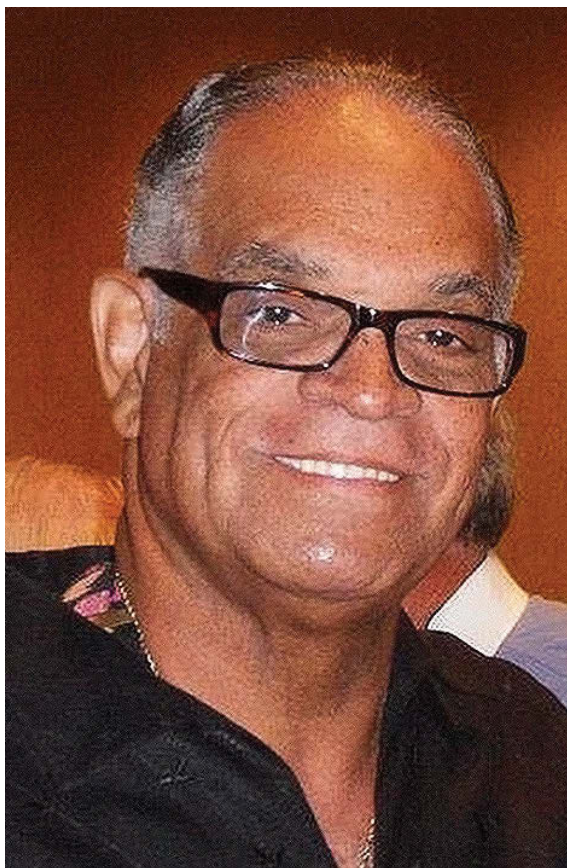
2. I will carry on the challenge to bring the association into the 21st century by making it more viable and relevant to the growing number of second generation Sky Soldiers without sacrificing the continued objectives of the Viet Nam era first generation.

3. I will vigorously strive to ease the way the new troopers are transitioned into civilian life thus opening a faster track for association recruitment.

4. I will encourage the second generation to take hold of the mantle of leadership within the association. This will ensure our rightful legacy of distinction among the elite warriors of the past 50+ years.

5. The Gold Star component of the association demands strong leadership. I will ensure competent persons assume this vital post.

6. I will give my full support to both



Wambi Cook

the Memorial and Foundation elements. I've discovered that a large percentage of our membership is not aware of how important a role these two entities play within our infrastructure.

7. There has been talk over the past few years of eliminating the "hard copy" Skysoldier Magazine. It's not going to happen on my watch. Research shows that the over 70 percent of the membership continue to rely on the Magazine as their primary source of information about the Herd.

8. Lastly, I promise to make the local and national executive officers more accountable

to the membership at large. We are nothing without your valued backing.

Background:

I am a proud native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I've resided in Southern California for more than 36 years. I hold graduate and postgraduate credentials. Over those years, I served within the post-secondary educational arena as a director of operations for schools offering a wide range of career vocations.

By far my most challenging and last assignment was that of high school principal for male youth offenders. I reluctantly retired in 2006 due to a variety of infirmities directly and indirectly related to my Viet Nam injuries.

Military Highlights:

Even though I had recently married, I volunteered for the draft in the summer of 1966. I completed basic at Ft Jackson and AIT at Fort Gordon. After a brief leave from Benning I reported to A/2/503, in Bien Hoa the afternoon of Feb. 21, 1967. That evening we were told that a historic "Blast" was scheduled the following dawn. When I finally figured out what a Blast was, I was overjoyed when I was told I wouldn't be jumping. Not knowing my ass from a hole in the wall, I was not the least bit disappointed. That following dawn the first and only combat jump during the Vietnam War was successfully executed. Soon after, however, I

realized the significance of this undertaking. I guess it just wasn't supposed to be.

Somehow or another, I was assigned as an RTO and there I remained for the greater portion of my tour. I suffered minor shrapnel wounds in March and April, but a grenade wound placed me in the 93rd Evacuation Hospital at Long Binh from Mothers' Day until I reported back to the line June 16, 1967. My infamous claim to Herd fame is I am one of only a handful to have survived both the June 22, 1967, Battle of the Slopes and five months later; Hill 875.

After Nam, I was stationed at Ft. Campbell where I was made a cook because they needed an E-5 in the slot. Without question, the best duty imaginable.

In 2008, along with two other Herd brothers returned to Viet Nam where my good friend, Les Fuller described, as "The in-country R&R they still owed us." In 2011, I made a second journey and three of us successfully summited both Hills 875 and 882, again a feat that was probably a first by actual combatants from the battles.

In April 2016, I was accompanied by a Gold Star sister, Brenda Underwood. Brenda's brother Lonnie Floyd, (4th Battalion) was KIA in January 1967. She'd promised herself that if the opportunity ever presented itself, she'd returned to Viet Nam and find the site where Lonnie was killed. Thanks to her unstinting determination, we found the Tay Ninh site. If you'd like to know the all-inclusive story, you'll have to check with Brenda. You can find videos of both 875 and the Slopes on my Facebook site or on YouTube.

I made it crystal clear upon my return home after this last foray that it was my last. My Viet Nam bucket list was completed. Or so I thought. I was recently invited to join a United States Department of Defense Recovery Agency team in its mission to identify three 173rd brothers whose remains have yet to be reconciled from Hill 875. I, along with two chopper pilots, Steve Greene, Casper Platoon, 173d Airborne Brigade and Jim McLaughlin, Cowboys, 335th Assault Helicopter Company, both of whom flew countless perilous missions throughout the siege that November, 49 years ago. We will join a crack team of anthropologists and MIA experts this February.

We are supremely proud to be a part of this duty. It should also be noted; this will be the first time a mission to Hill 875 will include actual combatants who had "boots on the ground and eyes in the sky."

I've often been asked, "Would you do it again?" My emphatic response is and always will be: Absolutely, not! However, the memories of those who weren't so fortunate to make it home and the brotherhood engendered by the men I call my brothers is unquantifiable.

"Sweet is War to those who've never experienced it"

If you're looking for unbridled honesty —I'm your man.

If you want someone to stand up for what is right for the organization —Look no further.

If you refuse to suffer foolish things —Join the club.

If you were to ask anyone who served with me in Viet Nam, I'd expect they'd say, I was a decent soldier. Someone they could always rely on in the best and worst of times. Since I reconnected with the Herd a dozen years or so ago, the relationships I've engendered with my fellow sky soldiers has done more for my mental well-being than any psychiatrist ever could. To represent this esteemed body would be an honor and a privilege.

Thank you,
Wambi Cook ★





Terry Aubrey

From the Vice President

“I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New year.”

I would like to begin by thanking all those who have taken advantage of the store items we’ve been posting online. Recently we introduced an OVERSTOCK section and it has been extremely popular. As you can only imagine these items will sell out and your order/payment may be returned to you. Cassie Chinn has done a outstanding job getting the orders out and updating our items for sale. The store continues to grow and hopefully our services are meeting your needs. Recently the executive committee moved the schedule for submitting articles ahead 30 days to allow for a timely publication and distribution date for Christmas sales.

Ok Sky Soldiers it’s time or a little pop quiz. I say little because it only has

one question. Ready? Where was the first functional “Backpack Parachute” invented. My old high school buddy, Ben Gill was my house quest recently during our 50th reunion. One of our football team mates who passed a year ago worked as the volunteer at the Aviation Museum in Lexington, KY. The last exhibit Max Hellmueller worked on was still on display so we decided to pay a visit. You know I’m beginning to like these small museums that are in most communities. As we wandered through I was amazed at some of the first attempts at flight and associated items. This is where we walked up to a case displaying the first backpack parachute. I could not believe it. The actual chute was made of white



Terry Aubrey and Ben Gill with the Van Meter chute.





Open chute showing shourds and silk chute.

silk and hanging several feet above us. Inside was the actual chute comprised of a canvas covered piece of plywood with shrouds laced in. It was waded on top and covered with an aluminum dome. The dome was released by pull cord attached to a cotter pin. Lexington native Solomon van Meter Jr., a WWI pilot, received a patent for the device in July 1916. It was his desire to save pilots by offering

a means to safely exit the airplane instead of dying in the crash. From 1919 to 1925 the US Government produced three thousand six hundred and ninety one backpack parachutes at a cost of \$350.24 per chute. Since Solomon was an officer in the Army Air Corps he was

technically an employee and no royalties or bonuses were paid by the government. After the war, Van Meter resigned his commission and sued for the royalties. He won the case and received \$12.50 for each parachute produced as a "reasonable" royalty.

Last month I reported on a bench project sponsored by Bill Terry and the Sky Soldiers of Chapter 17. Unfortunately the photos I submitted were not included and the photos to go with Bill Terry's report were used.



Desti Stimes, Terry Aubrey, and Dennis Roberson.

I have included the picture in this article to show the gratitude of 173rd Airborne Brigade Association to Desti Stimes, Public Affairs Director and Dennis Roberson, Maintenance Supervisor at the VA Hospital in Lexington, KY.

It appears that this issue may reach you before the Holidays. That being the case I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. As a favorite Pastor once told me "Prosperity is not always measured in material wealth."

Most Humbly Submitted,
Terry Aubrey ★



Bill Reynolds

From the Secretary

This is the last magazine of the year and it is a great time to be a Sky Soldier!

The Brigade is involved in training missions all over Europe. Sky Soldiers, both in and out of uniform, are making their mark both abroad and here at home. This issue will highlight just a few of the things that make this organization great.

This is the Election issue where Sky Soldiers can put their berets in the ring to run for the offices of President and Treasurer. Check out these brave soldiers and review their qualifications for the tough jobs ahead.

Department of Defense selected a Sky Soldier to return to Hill 875 in Vietnam. Wambi Cook will be returning to the scene of some of the most ferocious fighting to assist in the search for missing paratroopers.

The Brigade's Artillery is making it "Rain Steel," in this issue. There's an article about the 4th Battalion, 319th, doing what they do so well.

Chapter VI, along with the city of Chicago, honor the memory of their own Medal of Honor awardee, PFC Milton Olive III.

But it's not all guns and glory. Kaiser Sterbinsky, along with other Sky Soldiers noticed the empty shelves in a local food bank supported by Chapter 21. They did what paratroopers always do—they pitched in to stock those empty shelves — Check out the result in Chapter News.

Veterans Day came and went; with parades, flags, and two pretty ladies in South Carolina taking Wako Cotney to lunch. I got a chance to "Think outside the box," and helped a Marine to get a bite.

Chapters 18 and 173 are busy preparing for the reunion in Oklahoma City and the gathering in Vicenza next year.

We have added a "Letters" section to the magazine. There's a "Thank you" that may make a Sky Soldier blush but it makes one proud to wear the patch. There's even a long overdue letter to Ms. Aretha Franklin: A Sky Soldier tells her what she meant to him during the summer of 1967.

John Bathelemy, Chapter 13, demonstrates the best camera to have is the one you have in your pocket. Look at the photo he took with his cellphone of a chapter meeting in Texas. I say those Sky Soldiers

are getting with the program and joining the 21st century.

I said it is a great time to be a Sky Soldier. Next year, in Italy, we celebrate a century of service to the Nation.

Bill Reynolds
865-748-4065 ★



Marcelino Barrios, Santiago Krummel, and Manuel Mermea.

“This is the last magazine of the year and it is a great time to be a Sky Soldier!”





The Official **173rd Airborne Brigade Separate** **50th Anniversary Coin for Vietnam** **“First In Last Out”**

The first U.S. Army ground combat troops committed to the Vietnam War arrived at Ben Hoa Air Base May 2, 1965. Sky Soldiers spent over six years on the battlefield from Ben Hoa near Saigon, to a combat jump near the Cambodian Border, Dak To, and Bong Son. To honor the gallant effort of these Sky Soldiers, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association is pleased to offer this limited edition of 1000 numbered coins commemorating the 50th Anniversary of their deployment to Vietnam. The relief artwork captures the essence of the Brigade by depicting the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Battalions of the 503 Infantry Reg, the 319th Airborne Artillery, Co. D 16th Armor, Troop E, 17th Cav, and the 335th Aviation Company.

These special edition coins are only available through the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association. They are offered at \$25.00 per coin including shipping. Act quickly and order yours now by filling out the order form below.
PLEASE: ONLY FIVE COINS PER ORDER.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Number of Coins @ \$25.00 ea. _____ Total amount: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make checks payable to **173rd Airborne Brigade Association**

Charge to my (circle one) Visa Master Card American Express Discover Capitol One

Credit card Number _____

Expiration Date _____ Sec Code _____

Signature _____

MAIL ORDER FORM TO:

173rd Airborne Brigade Association • 353 Eureka Road • Versailles, KY 41139



David Williams

“Generation One and Generation Two need to start coming together to keep the Association strong.”

From the Treasurer

Greetings, Sky Soldiers! It is very appropriate that I am writing this article on Veteran’s Day, a day that is sacred for all present and past members of our military. I hope all Sky Soldiers enjoyed this special day that recognizes their service to our country. On October 30, I had the opportunity to run the Marine Corps Marathon in Washington D.C. for the second year in a row (normally, it is very difficult to get into the USMC marathon but active duty military members have a special window to register for the event). Participants and viewers went all out on patriotism and military pride. At the start of the race, one elderly race viewer in particular stood out to me because he wore a baseball cap that read “never retired, always a Marine.” That is definitely the kind of spirit that I witnessed among the 173rd Paratroopers at the annual convention this year. Another memorable event was the emotionally moving “wear blue” mile section of the course where fallen service members from recent conflicts are commemorated by having their photographs placed along the running course decorated with American flags. Running through our nation’s capital and seeing people cheering throughout the whole route helped drive me along whenever I felt tired. Words cannot describe the immense pride that I feel to be an American and a Paratrooper when I run the Marine Corps Marathon and it is definitely an experience that I will always treasure.

Terry Aubrey, the Association secretary, recently mailed me our new “the legacy continues” t-shirt that is offered in the Association store. The shirt features a logo of a Vietnam era Sky Soldier handing a baton off to an Iraq/Afghanistan era Sky Soldier. This image is so appropriate for the current context of the 173rd Association. Unlike other division veteran organizations that have existed continuously for the last 30 to 40 years or more, the 173rd Airborne Brigade was deactivated in 1972 and reactivated in 2000. This means that there is a 28 year gap that presents an added obstacle to the Association’s growth and continuity. Generation One (the nickname given to the Vietnam era of Sky Soldiers) and Generation Two (the nickname given to the post 2000 generation of Sky Soldiers) need to start coming together to keep the Association strong. It is also important for Generation Two paratroopers to become involved and spread the word of the Association to their fellow current and former Sky Soldiers.

I sincerely hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Christmas season!

Thank you,
Sky Soldiers!
David Williams ★



2017 Treasurer Candidate

Hello Sky Soldiers, my name is David Williams and I would like your support to continue to serve you as the 173rd Association treasurer. I work in the logistics field as a 92A and am currently a promotable Sergeant First Class. In 2011, I was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team in Bamberg, Germany. During this time, 173rd Association members came to the unit for the Running of the Herd event, which is where my connection to the 173rd Association began. The following year, the Bamberg base closed and reconsolidated in Vicenza, Italy, where I continued to see the 173rd Association officers every year at the Running of the Herd. In June 2015, I PCSed to Ft Bragg, where I currently serve with the 82nd Airborne Division, 3rd Brigade, Brigade Support Battalion.

As far as my academic background, I graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1999 with a bachelor of arts in political science and Spanish. I spent my junior year of college studying abroad in Toledo, Spain, which I can only describe as one of the most influential experiences of my life. I then attended the University of Southern California School of Law and passed the California state bar. At this point, I owed quite a bit of money



David Williams

for law school and a recruiter approached me with an offer I could not resist- the Army would pay \$65,000 of my loans and station me in Europe. Shortly thereafter, I enlisted in the Army and for a variety of reasons I have decided to stay.

Readers are probably most interested in my qualifications for the position of treasurer. Immediately upon arriving at Fort Bragg, I enrolled in a few business classes and enjoyed them immensely. Consequently, I continued taking business classes, including accounting. I am now just a few classes away from a Bachelor of Applied Science in Business Administration degree.

In June of 2016, I responded to the Association's request to fill the vacant treasurer position. Since then, I have learned that the treasurer's position requires a lot of work but I am willing to devote my time to ensure that the Association remains strong and viable now and in the future.

Thank you for your support!
Sky Soldiers!
David Williams ★



Jerry Cooper

“ I had many requests for the availability of ads smaller and more affordable than the quarter page ads.”



From the Webmaster

Sky Soldier Website Updates:

Below are the latest website updates as of Dec. 12, 2016.

FALL 2016 SKY SOLDIER MAGAZINES *Only Members who are current on their Annual Dues or hold a Lifetime Membership will be able to view them.*

A digital copy of the Fall 2016 issue of our Sky Soldier Magazine has been posted to our Sky Soldier website at <https://www.skysoldier.net/Digital-Sky-Soldier-Magazines>. (By the way, you can now view all Sky Soldier magazine issues going back to 1985. To view or download a particular issue, simply click on the cover of the issue. Once you open the magazine online, you can actually look for a particular name, Chapter News, Officer's Message, etc. by using the "Search" tool.)

For those members who have are not current on their annual dues, you may pay your membership dues at this time. Also, please update your Membership Profile so that we have your current information.

If you wish to convert to viewing your Sky Soldier magazine online instead of receiving it by U.S. mail, please send an email to membership@skysoldier.net and say: "Please convert my Sky Soldier

Magazine delivery to On-Line Viewing".

2017 REUNIONS

1. 2017 Oklahoma Reunion

- a. 2017 Oklahoma Reunion Information
- b. 2017 Oklahoma Reunion Registration
- c. 2017 Oklahoma Reunion Hotels
- d. 2017 Oklahoma Reunion Schedule of Activities
- e. 2017 Oklahoma Reunion Names of Registrants
- f. 2017 Oklahoma Reunion Local Attractions
- g. 2017 Fort Sill, Oklahoma Bus Tour ("Home of the Artillery")
- h. 2017 Vendor Room Fees and Information (NEW)
- i. 2017 REUNION SURVEY (please complete)

2. 2017 ITALY REUNION

- a. 2017 Italy Reunion Information
- b. 2017 Italy Reunion Registration
- c. 2017 Italy Reunion Hotel
- d. 2017 Italy Reunion Schedule of Activities
- e. 2017 Italy Reunion Names of Registrants
- f. 2017 Italy Reunion Local Attractions (to be published when details are available)

3. **PREVIOUS REUNIONS**

- a. A new webpage displaying previous reunions was added.
- b. Photos are available to be viewed by clicking on the locations highlighted in color.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR SKY SOLDIER MAGAZINE

I had many requests for the availability of ads smaller and more affordable than the quarter page ads. I have added the one-eighth page (slightly larger than a standard business card) and one-sixteenth page to accommodate advertisers with smaller budgets.

DONATIONS

I have created the capability of making recurring monthly donations to our Foundation Funds. To make a recurring monthly donation, go to the Sky Soldier website and click on one of the below Foundation Funds:

- a. Wounded Warrior Fund
- b. Bereavement Fund
- c. Gold Star Fund

- d. Scholarship Fund
- e. Support Fund
- f. In-Honor or In-Memory Fund
- g. General Activities Fund

ASSOCIATION STORE

- a. The 50- year anniversary T-shirts have been reduced from \$25 to \$7.50.
- b. A new “The Legacy Continues” t-shirt has been added.
- c. An engraved stemless glass has been added.
- d. An engraved water goblet has been added.
- e. Overstocked Items on Sale have been added. (NEW)

SURVEYS

A year ago, I personally purchased a one-year subscription to Survey Monkey. Two surveys have been conducted rendering valuable feedback and are posted on our Sky Soldier website.

If you haven't completed either survey, would you please do so at this time.

As a result, I recently renewed the

subscription charging the Association because of its value to survey our Membership on various topics for feedback.

We would welcome donations to help defray those costs by clicking on DONATE.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, please do the following: Visit our websites by going to <https://www.skysoldier.net/> and www.theherdfoundation.com/

To view and update your profile, go to <https://www.skysoldier.net/> and select “View Profile” in the upper right hand corner after you sign into the website.

To view our Association Store and buy something, go to <https://www.skysoldier.net/Store-Catalog>

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Jerry Cooper, Webmaster ★

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CSM Frank Velez

From the Command Sgt. Major

“We have
so many
**talented
NCO's**
in our
brigade.”



I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the upcoming 100th birthday of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. On behalf of myself and Bayonet six, we would like to invite all former Sky Soldiers to come rejoice with the brigade on 10 July, 2017 here in Vicenza, Italy for a celebration of the endurance of the legendary Sky Soldiers.

I'd like to highlight some of the accomplishments of our Noncommissioned Officers as they continue to exemplify professionalism, initiative, military bearing and enthusiasm. The boss and I are extremely proud of our NCO corps. We have so many talented NCO's in our brigade; I don't have as much time in the day as I would like to recognize them all, however each unit constantly has soldiers exemplifying and exceeding the standards we have set forth- by graduating top of their class from advanced schools and by demonstrating a continued commitment to furthering the reputation of our brigade.

As NCOs, decisiveness is a top trait which makes a successful leader. Making a good decision without delay

once all facts are gathered is key to sound judgment. An NCO teaches everything from making timely decisions to physical training to ethics and value. The NCO is the bearer of the important task of developing unit cohesion and fostering the values of loyalty and commitment.

In September of this year, the brigade embarked on its third rotation to the Baltic States to assume duties at Operation Atlantic Resolve as the United States commitment force to provide collective security to reassure our NATO allies and partners. As deterrence building remains our focus, the demonstration of our capabilities and confidence refines our basic skills as an airborne brigade and as the army contingency response force in Europe, we must always be a ready and fit fighting force.

As our paratroopers continue to participate in year-round exercises, we train in all conditions, and we are always ready.

SKY SOLDIERS! B7 ★



Sky Soldier Magazine

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Joe Marquez

From the Chaplain

In my distress I cried to the Lord, and He heard me. Deliver my soul from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.

Psalm 120:1,2

“ Let us receive the Good News that Christ died, was buried, and rose again triumphant over death.”

Greetings once again Sky Soldiers, It is a few days after Thanksgiving of 2016. I am thankful to be alive for these past sixty-six years, and more so to have been a Christian for the last forty-six. I came to faith in Christ at the age of twenty after having lived through a year and a half of service in the Airborne Infantry in Vietnam, '69-70.

But I am a youngster compared to men like Colonel Richard Boland who at the age of ninety five breathed his last a few months ago in California. Last October, myself and about 40 Skysoldiers gathered at his home for a brief memorial service. His wife Thyra had some pictures depicting the Colonel's service over three wars. This American warrior served with the 101st Airborne Division, jumping into Normandy and Holland on Operation Market Garden. He also fought at the defense of Bastogne as a machine gunner. Some of the thoughts that he penned were telling as he recollected the lives that he had taken in those bloody conflicts. He also fought in Korea as a Lieutenant who took a hill by night from the Chicoms with the loss of only six men. He was the First Battalion CO who trained troops for two years on Okinawa before their deployment to Vietnam in '65. He too was the man who played the song Rawhide by Frankie Valle after Reveille and gave us the moniker, 'The HERD'.

As I listened to some of the stories of those who had served with Col. Boland I was impressed with the man's love of country and his love for his troops. In the

midst of his personal struggles with the brutality of armed conflict and the part he played in destroying his nation's enemies he became a very hard man. And war does that to a man. Killing another human being in armed conflict is grim business but often necessary in order to avoid even greater tragedy. Those who form the tip of the spear in the fight against injustice in this world bear a heavy burden. They must be absolutely resolved to stop an enemy, and at the same time not relinquish their essential humanity.

I think that the Psalmist referred to this in the following verses:

Psalm 120:1,2 A Song of Degrees, "In my distress I cried to the Lord, and He heard me. Deliver my soul from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue."

Psalm 120:6,7 "My soul has dwelt too long with one who hates peace. I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war."

When I first read these words, having just returned from Vietnam and the madness of war, I felt that I needed to be delivered from the cold-heartedness that almost swallowed me up. I wanted peace, but there was the conflict within. War makes a man callous to normal human feelings. How can you kill or injure another without turning off your feelings of compassion and empathy for those who you are hurting. The problem is how to regain that compassion for your own loved ones. Only the Lord can heal a wounded soul. Only He can understand and make me whole again.



As I considered the life of Colonel Boland and heard his wife relate how he wondered what awaited him before God after his death, I would have liked to assure him that the God of David and other mighty warriors of old would be kind to those who sincerely sought peace with their Maker through faith in the only begotten Son of God. Trusting in the One who waged a successful war against the enemy of the souls of mankind, not with physical weapons but with the weapons of truth, integrity and implicit obedience to the will of God. Jesus gave us an example of a real man, a man in control of his own passions yet tender towards the needs and frailties of others. Jesus took on the responsibility of others just as patriots down through the centuries have taken on the defense of those too weak to defend themselves. He bore the brunt of a Holy God's anger

towards a world of men incited by Satan to rebel against their Creator, just as he had done. The many conflicts between nations reflect the conflict between good and evil that exists in the unseen. Yet in the midst of our internal struggles to reconcile what we are called to do as fighting men and our innate sense that killing one another is unnatural, we are called to exercise our abilities to discern between good and evil, to do the good and to refrain from the evil.

God has given us who serve in the Armed Forces, as did our fathers and as do our sons, a hard task. To do a work that most will never do, and to do it well. And to live with the inevitable regrets of having in points small and great failed to do what we knew we should have done. It is a matter of conscience. As life on this planet draws to its close may we not just hope for the best but rather receive the

Good News that Christ died, was buried, and rose again triumphant over death. The Scripture says that he that personally believes in Jesus as God's acceptable sacrifice for the redemption of the human race will never die. Our body may cease to function but the spirit is preserved in the presence of Him who gave His life that we might live. Those of us who have seen the wreckage of bodies torn by weapons of war, both friend and foe, can never forget those sights, sounds and smells. But we can have peace with God through faith in His Son and peace in our hearts while living a life worth the living here on earth. And the expectation of a joyful life to come when wars are no more.

"Our lives are but for a moment, while what we do or leave undone will echo down through eternity."

Joe Marquez, ★

Sky Soldier Thinks "Outside the Box"

This story is not about me. It's not about the 173d Airborne Association, or even a paratrooper. It's about a 94-year-old Marine, named Walter, his VA claim, his teeth and Veteran's Day.

I volunteer in my community as a veteran's service officer helping vets like me with their VA disability claims. My former nurse came to me with a problem affecting one of her patients. She asked if I'd help him get his disability rate increased to 100 percent so he could get dental care. I agreed to meet him and see what I could do.

Walter is a survivor of some of WWII's most famous battles in the South Pacific: Iwo Jima, Okinawa and "Bloody Peleliu." Recently, during a hospital stay, someone cleaning the Marine's home broke his dentures. Walter lives on a fixed income and could not replace those precious teeth. He went to the VA hospital here in Phoenix and was told that he couldn't be helped — unless he was rated 100

percent disabled.

I interviewed Walter and determined while there was a small chance to reopen his claim and, perhaps, maybe, after a minimum two-year wait get him his precious 100 percent. I kept chewing over the problem that night and realized Walter didn't need 100 percent disability from VA — he needed teeth — now!

Desert Dentistry, has a program where they provide free dental care to vets on Veteran's Day. I told my former nurse, she told Walter and on Nov. 11, 2016, we loaded Walter and his scooter into my van and took him to Desert Dentistry.

This story is not about me. It's not about the Herd. It's about one vet helping another vet think outside the box — and a new set of teeth. ★



Walter in the Chair

Sky Soldiers' Gun Line Makes it Rain Steel

Story and Photos by Staff Sgt. Opal Vaughn



CAPO TEULADA, Italy – “All right you know what to do gentlemen. Make it rain steel,” said Staff Sgt. Lyle Bennett, a Section Chief assigned to 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade. One-by-one, 155mm artillery rounds eject from concealed fighting positions.

From a distance, the barrel of the 9,300-pound M777 Lightweight Howitzer can only be seen by the remnants of smoke, forming the gun line.

Sky Soldiers assigned to 4-319 AFAR, brought their M777 and M119A3 Howitzers to Sardinia, Italy, to participate in exercise Summer Tempest 16. Participating

militaries also included artillery units from France, Italy and Slovenia.

The purpose of Summer Tempest is to integrate the Arty Fires Control System link between the Italians and French Fire Direction Centers with 4-319 AFAR digitally, said 1st Lt. Richard Rainey, 2nd Platoon Leader assigned to Battery C, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment.

“This system enables better communications so that gun teams on ground are more accurate with their howitzers and effectively increase payload output,” said Rainey. “[It] gives us the opportunity to exercise our ability to provide indirect fires to our NATO Allies and partners.”

The Arty Fires Control System is designed for field artillery fire control in accordance with the tasks of modern war management. The system is interoperable with the command information system of joint forces, found in the U.S. Army Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for Corps Artillery, Division Artillery, and Field Artillery Brigade Operations field manual.

But even with new technology in modern day warfare make no mistake; life on the gun line is no cakewalk. Gun teams must be efficient in conducting their fire missions to inflict the most damage during a short period of time before their location is identified and return fire.

The mission of field artillery is to provide firepower during combat operations, enabling joint and maneuver commanders to complete their missions. Field Artillery paratroopers are trained in tactics, techniques and procedures for the employment of fire support systems, found in U.S. Army Tactics, Techniques and Procedures for the Field Artillery field manual.

“[We] are the heart of the battery. [We’re] the part of the battery that actually controls the howitzers,” said Spc. Jacob Fisher, assistant gunner assigned to Battery C, known as Chaos. “At times life on the gun line can be tough, it’s hard work, and then there’s downtime which can be stale. But when it actually comes down to receiving a fire mission, it’s pretty exciting.”

Each gun team understands the lethality of their mission, approaching both dry and live fire training with dedication and grit. But firing the round and seeing the end result is worth it, said Fisher.

“Getting to pull the lanyard is the best thing about my job. I am the person who actually gets to fire the round,” said Fisher.



Continued on page 20 >>

Having previously trained with militaries from France, Germany, Italy and Poland, and ongoing [rotation in the Baltics], the brigade regularly trains with their NATO Allies and partners. The success of the battery relies on each individual because even the simplest mistake can take a gun out of the fight or even cost a life, said Sgt. Terry Riley, an ammunition team chief assigned to 4-319 AFAR.

“The gun line is very intense and we love showing our strength as the King of Battle. This job definitely develops camaraderie and when we’re on the gun line, the success of the battery relies on each individual on a team,” said Riley.

“We’ve trained with our NATO Allies and partners before and every time we do, it’s another opportunity to learn, and of course blow something up.”

As the night skies draw near, the team continues to move in a rhythmic dance. Everyone on the team echoes the verbal commands as each step in loading and reloading the gun is vital to the success of their mission.

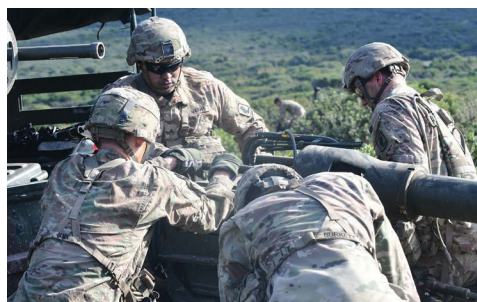
The radio crackles from the truck. “End of mission,” the artillery chief calls to his team.

They echo in return, “End of mission.” The volley of fires is complete. The team awaits marching orders to pack up their

gun and do it all over again upon receipt of a fires mission.

Summer Tempest is a multinational exercise designed to increase planning and communications systems, partnership building and develop common procedures for combined arms live fire, held Nov. 28 through December 6, 2016.

The 173rd Airborne Brigade, based in Vicenza, Italy, is the U.S. Army Contingency Response Force in Europe, capable of projecting forces to conduct the full range of military operations across the United States European, Central and Africa Commands areas of responsibility.



Letters.....

Older Brother

On the afternoon of June 11, 2016, my family and I were at the 173rd Airborne Brigade Memorial at Fort Benning, attending a scheduled presentation. Upon the speaker's completion, my son Gregory Moore and grandson Dakota Blankenship who served in the 101st Airborne Division, and I were walking toward our car on a large gravel pathway. We were having a hard time with my walker and I was losing my balance and footage. We were struggling due to my Parkinson's disease that greatly weakens my legs after a few minutes of walking. A person in civilian clothes approached us and stated to my son, "Please allow me to help my older brother to his car." I forgot the soldier's name but later discovered his name and picture in the 2016 summer issue. Vol. 32. No.3 of the "Sky Soldier" Magazine: SFC Michael Atchison.

I was and still am so proud of what you did for us and for your comment! My family and I want to thank you very much, SFC Michael Atchison, for your assistance in wrapping your left arm

around my waist, placing my right arm around your neck and lifting me upward and carrying me up the 200-foot gravel pathway hill to our car. I would serve with you anytime, anywhere and under the most extreme combat situations

Major Larry Moore

Retired United States Army. First Platoon Leader, Company B, 4th Battalion, 173rd Airborne Brigade. Survivor, Hill 823, Hill 875 and 1968 TET-Counter Offensive, Tuy Hoa North. ★



Larry Moore, USA ret, and SFC Atchison

Open Letter to the Queen of Soul

Ms. Aretha Franklin
c/o William Morris Endeavor Entertainment
9601 Wilshire Boulevard, 3rd Floor

Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Ms. Franklin,
Please accept my apology for this letter being 40 plus years overdue. In 1967, I was a 22-year-old combat medic with the 173d Airborne Brigade, the most decorated army brigade

in Vietnam. We were dug-in in a river valley next to the Dak Po river in Kontum Province, Republic of South Vietnam. The valley was named Dak To which was about 50 miles by dirt road from the closest mountain village, in the rain-forested jungles of the

Continued on page 22 >>

Sky Soldier magazine provides news and articles of interest as a service to our readers. Often this material come from sources outside of our Association. Where possible, the author and the source are documented within each article. The views and comments expressed are those of the writer and not necessarily those of the staff and management of the 173d Airborne Brigade Association, the 173rd IBCT, or the United States Army.

Central Highlands.

At any time during the day or night, from the surrounding hills and mountains, the North Vietnamese Army would rain down mortars and rockets on us killing and wounding scores of paratroopers and destroying critical supplies. Dak To was an extremely dangerous place in 1967, where over a four-month period we had hundreds of troopers killed and another thousand or so men wounded. We could never let our guard down in Dak To because the Cambodian border was just a few miles away where some 20,000 highly trained, battle-tested North Vietnamese soldiers were camped, poised to attack our position in the valley at any given moment. If we did come under a full attack and had to defend this valley, we would do so with a little better than 1,200 men. I don't mind admitting, and I'm not embarrassed to say that for this 22-year-old kid from Plainville, Connecticut it was a very stressful time and place to say the least.

Every day as dusk settled into night over the valley, you could hear the hum of generators being started that provided the only electricity for 50 miles around. The intermittent firing of our artillery into the surrounding hills and valleys kept the enemy off balance during the night and less likely to attack us. It's Saturday night in valley death, the enemy is taking a break from shelling us and the boredom is almost thick enough to cut with a knife, when through the crisp Dak To night air, as the moon rose above the dark peaks of the mountains, came the sweet sound of a familiar voice belting out the soulful words, "R-E-S-P-E-C-T find out what it means to me." Man, I say to myself, I'm missing home too much, could that be my girl way out here in this dusty hell-hole? I want to get closer to what I'm hearing so I follow the sound and it leads me to a rain poncho being used as a door to cover an under-ground bunker. In the bunker there

are a dozen grubby, tired and home-sick paratroopers and they were partying in this hole in the ground like there will be no tomorrow. On one side of the bunker, several paratroopers are harmonizing the background lyrics, and rocking to the beat of the music on the other side of the bunker are several other soldiers making up their own choreographed steps as they move to the rhythm of the music. It's a scene now etched into my heart and mind that will never be erased. This will be the start of a night in my life that I will never forget and it's not over yet.

About 2 a.m. in the morning I needed some fresh air so I stepped outside of that bunker. It wasn't long before my ears caught another familiar sound coming from the

night or giving us comfort on a bad day. Even today when I hear your music I smile, a warm feeling comes over me, and I get carried back to those spirit lifting parties in that infamous river valley of death in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, in 1967.

Ms. Franklin you may never know the depth of the love we old veterans have for you and your music, or the impact they had on us combat troops dug-in in the remote mountains and jungles of South Vietnam. When we were down and needed a double dose of love, you gave it to us in your music; through your music we were able to get through the hard times and terrifying moments that lay ahead of us.


Well Ms. Franklin, I'm 70 years old now and I don't think that I will ever get the

There may be a war going on outside of the bunker, but inside the safety of the bunker there is a party going on and performing for us is Ms. Aretha Franklin, no charge.

next bunker about 30 yards down the line of bunkers. "You make me feel like a natural woman," man, oh man, there is another party going on in the next underground bunker too. In this bunker there are another dozen or so paratroopers partying in the candle light, dancing by themselves while singing along at the top of their lungs with our "Queen of Soul,"

Ms. Aretha Franklin. There may be a war going on outside of the bunker, but inside the safety of the bunker there is a party going on and performing for us is Ms. Aretha Franklin, no charge. In 1967 we spent many nights in some of the world's most dangerous places on earth and you Ms. Franklin were always right there with us, helping us get through another tough

chance to hug you and thank you personally for all that you did for me and the tens of thousands of other soldiers 40 plus years ago, but please consider this, when you settle down to sleep and close your eyes please let your last thoughts for the night be about the tens of thousands of veterans who love you beyond words of expression and cherish those brief, precious times when you single-handedly stopped the war and took us home for a moment. God Bless you, and rest easy. I pray for your health and longevity.

Sincerely,
Earle "Doc." Jackson Sr.
B Medical Co 173d Airborne
1967-68 Elj/pj 

Veterans Forum on the Intrepid

I had the opportunity to attend the Forum on Veterans issues hosted by MSNBC on the Intrepid. The purpose of the forum was to interview Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on veteran issues. “Commander and Chief Forum”.

Security was very tight with the NYPD providing outstanding security outside the Intrepid and Homeland Security and the Secret Service inside the Carrier.

On the lines to get in to the Intrepid there were two check-in points, one for guests and veterans and one for the media! There was a good mixture of male and female attendees. What I was surprised at was about 90% were dressed in suit and ties—all business attire. The only group I observed was the Legion Riders with their vest on.

Let me share a few thoughts with you about this event. First of all, I was amazed that the average age of the attendees was about 40. So I felt like a dinosaur with only about forty Viet Nam Vets at the most in the entire crowd. There was one stage set up on hanger deck 1 where the main interview took place. Four other areas were set up with large TV’s to hold all the guests, two more on the main hanger deck and one more topside on the Carrier. I was lucky enough to work my way to the main area but did not get a seat! Airborne style!

I knew right away I had no shot at being asked any questions! Prior to the interviews both Hillary and Trump had reserved seating in the middle of the forum. This is where the questions came from which was set up prior to our arrival.

Although the first question did seem



to upset Hillary about the double standard on the thirteen e-mail servers. And her role with confidential e-mail and security!

Now that being stated: Matt Lauer did a horrible job with his questions the first 20 minutes on each candidates had nothing to do with veteran’s issues. The question that had some substance did however come from the floor from veterans! It would have been much better if all questions came from the floor and deal solely with veterans issues.

The bottom line on VA Hospital : Hillary will fix status Quo while Trump leans towards reform! Here in New York we have a VA in each borough which is

very different throughout our country. Trump stated he believes a waiting list to see a doctor is unacceptable and he will reform that by allowing veteran to go to their own doctor and the VA will pay!

I am trying hard not to show my personal feeling on the candidates! I would have like to have herd much more on the VA problems and veterans issues. On a positive note, I was very happily surprised to see our today’s veterans of Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan getting involved. I hope this leads to more membership from our modern day Sky Soldiers.

Airborne Brother! “All the Way”
And then some NY/NJ Style!!!!!! ★

UPDATE

VICENZA REUNION DATE CHANGE! NEW DATES: JULY 4-8, 2017

Due to Operational Mission Requirements, the 173rd IBCT (A) has moved their Bayonet Week celebration dates from 10-14 July 2017 to 04-07 July 2017.

The Commander of the 173rd, COL Greg Anderson, is very adamant that the 2017 173rd Italy Reunion coincide with this event in order to have all of our SKY SOLDIERS "Past, Present and Future" together for this historic event.

The dates for the Vincenza, Italy Reunion have been moved to 04-08 July 2017 to ensure all Association members can be present for the MOH dedication events and have time with today's Sky Soldiers. I have already coordinated with the Hotel Vergilius and informed them of the change of dates for our Reunion and it's registered guests. The Hotel staff or myself will be contacting each member via email to inform them of the change of dates.

* Please let me know if anyone has already purchased Non-refundable Airfare and I will see if we can influence the particular Company to assist in the change of dates.

** A number of our association members have been asking about flights; My opinion for your best Transatlantic options are to travel Direct from Atlanta to Venice (02JUL17-09JUL17) via: Delta, KLM or Alitalia (they provide the best rates for your time "9.5hrs" spent on the flight). Now you can get multiple connections/countries at a lower rate with a much longer time (15-22hrs) spent in transit.

Mr. Ralph C. Darland
Chapter 173 President
173rd Airborne Brigade Association
Vicenza, Italy 09630 ✪

**UPDATED REGISTRATION
FORM** 



173^d Airborne Brigade Association Reunion

Monday July 4, 2017 - Friday July 8, 2017

Vicenza, Italy

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit Served with the Brigade _____ Date Served _____

Guests

Full Name _____ Full Name _____

Full Name _____ Full Name _____

Registration & Activity Fees (enter number on respective line)

_____ \$99.00 per Member* (**includes** Banquet Meal **and** daily access to Hospitality Room)

_____ \$99.00 per Guest * (**includes** Banquet Meal **and** daily access to Hospitality Room)

_____ \$55.00 per Gold Star Family Member (**includes** Banquet Meal **and** daily access to Hospitality Room)

_____ \$55.00 for Active Duty Solider **not on orders** (**includes** Banquet Meal **and** daily access to Hospitality Room)

_____ **FREE** for Active Duty Soldiers **on Orders** (**includes** Banquet Meal **and** daily access to Hospitality Room)

_____ \$25.00 per person for Picnic

_____ **FREE** for Gold Star Family Members Luncheon

_____ \$50.00 per person for Banquet Meal **ONLY** (**CAUTION- included in the Registration Fees above**)

_____ \$25.00 per person for daily access to Hospitality Room **ONLY** (**CAUTION- included in the Registration Fees above**)

\$_____ TOTAL COST

Make checks payable to: **173d Airborne Brigade Association**

Mail checks to: **Jerry L Cooper CPA
2017 Oklahoma Assistant Reunion Chairman
4004 Sheffield
Muskogee, OK 74403-8557**

* Registration fee amount due on or before June 1, 2017; after this date, the cost will be \$135.00 per person.



Bravo Bulls and Chapter VI Mark 50th Anniversary in Honor of Milton L. Olive III

City of Chicago puts on waterfront show as it fetes Medal of Honor winner Milton L. Olive III for his sacrifice in Vietnam War.

The 50th anniversary reunion of the Milton Lee Olive, III, the first African-American to receive a Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War, and his 3rd Platoon was held in historic Olive Park in Chicago, Illinois on October 22, 2015.

The event marked the 50th anniversary of Olive's death. Olive, whom the family fondly called "Skipper," paid the ultimate price on October 22, 1965, during a search and destroy mission in Vietnam.

On that fateful day Olive, who, just 16-days before his 19th birthday, spotted a live grenade, placed the device on his stomach and allowed it to explode. His act of heroism saved the lives of four men, John "Hop" Foster, Lionel Hubbard, Sgt. Vince Yrinea and the only surviving soldier, retired Capt. Jimmy B. Stanford.

Milton Lee Olive, III, attended several Chicago public schools before leaving school to live with his paternal grandfather in Lexington, Mississippi. When his father, Milton B. Olive, II, found out where he was, he gave him three choices: get a job, go back to school or join the military.

Skipper joined the Army in 1964 and as a paratrooper serving in the 3rd Platoon Company B, 2nd Battalion (Airborne) 503rd Infantry 173 Airborne Brigade, had already been awarded a Purple Heart.

Upon his death, President Lyndon B. Johnson presented Olive's father, the late

Milton B. Olive, II and stepmother, Antoinette Mainor Olive, the Medal of Honor and a second Purple Heart during a White House ceremony.

In 1966, Mayor Richard J. Daley named Olive Park after young Milton erecting a plaque in his honor. Olive/Harvey College was also named in his honor. ★



National anthem sung by Rick Murray, 555th Parachute Infantry Regiment (The Triple Nickel).



Chicago Fire Department Fire Boat with Water Arch of Honor.



Milton Olive's family members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Photo Gallery.....



ADAZI, Latvia – Spc. Sephora Ngoma, cook, Hound Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, pulls a pan of stuffing from the oven in preparation for Thanksgiving dinner, Nov. 21, 2016 at Camp Adazi, Latvia. The culinary team of paratroopers assigned to 2nd Bn., 503rd Inf. Regt. and 16th Sustainment Brigade, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, prepared Thanksgiving dinner for over 600 hungry soldiers, including allies from the Latvian Land Forces Infantry Brigade. The “Sky Soldiers” of 2nd Bn., 503rd Inf. Regt., are on a training rotation in support of Operation Atlantic Resolve, a U.S. led effort in Eastern Europe that demonstrates U.S. commitment to the collective security of NATO and dedication to enduring peace and stability in the region. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Lauren Harrah/Released).



U.S. Army paratroopers assigned to 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, move through the woods of Pocek Range in Slovenia during a live-fire exercise as part of Exercise Mountain Shock, Dec. 5, 2016. Exercise Mountain Shock is a emergency response deployment exercise with the Slovenian Armed Forces focused on the rapid deployment and assembly of forces and team cohesion with weapon systems tactics and procedures. Exercises such as this build a foundation of teamwork and readiness between allied NATO countries. (U.S. Army photo by Visual Information Specialist Davide Dalla Massara/Released).



U.S. Army paratroopers assigned to 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, provide security during a defensive exercise at Pocek Range in Slovenia as part of Exercise Mountain Shock, Dec. 2, 2016. Mountain Shock is part of the Shock series of Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercises conducted within the U.S. European Command, testing a unit's ability to conduct operations with little or no warning. (U.S. Army photo by Visual Information Specialist Paolo Bovo).



PABRADE, Lithuania – Paratroopers from Able Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat (Airborne), enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 25 during Exercise Iron Sword 2016. Approximately 850 U.S. and NATO Soldiers who were participating in Exercise Iron Sword 2016, ate dinner. Iron Sword is an international training exercise featuring 11 NATO countries and about 4,000 troops. The exercise is designed to test promote regional stability and security, while strengthening partnership capacity, and fostering trust while improving joint training between Lithuania, the U.S., and NATO member nations.



Hundreds of paratroopers from the Hungarian army's 2nd Special Forces Regiment, Polish 6th Airborne Brigade, Romania's 6th Special Operations Brigade, and the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade, board a C17 Globemaster III Aircraft from Papa Air Base, Hungary at Aviano Air Base, Italy, Oct. 17, 2016, as a part of Peacemaster Unity training. Peacemaster Unity is Joint multinational readiness exercise including participation from 7 nations conducting missions across 3 countries, delivering over 2000 troops and 20 heavy drops. (U.S. Army Photos by Visual Information Specialist Paolo Bovo/Released).



U.S. Army paratrooper assigned to 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, provides security during a simulated ambush scenario at Pock Range in Slovenia as part of Exercise Mountain Shock, Dec. 2, 2016. Exercise Mountain Shock is a emergency response deployment exercise with the Slovenian Armed Forces focused on the rapid deployment and assembly of forces and team cohesion with weapon systems tactics and procedures. Exercises such as this build a foundation of teamwork and readiness between allied NATO countries. (U.S. Army photo by Visual Information Specialist Davide Dalla Massara/Released).



173d Airborne Brigade Association



May 17- 21, 2017 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Hosted by Oklahoma Chapter 18
Conference HQ: Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION:

The 2017 Annual Reunion for the 173d Airborne Brigade Association (173d ABA) will be held at the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel located at 1 North Broadway Avenue, which is the largest hotel in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Vendors area will be on the 2nd floor in the **Plaza Ballroom**.

Commercial firms, government agencies, 173d ABA Chapters and Members, military veterans organizations and others are invited to market and/or sell their products and services, or display materials and information, which could benefit 173d ABA Members.

Over 800 attendees are expected at our 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion. This event is a great opportunity to reach an exciting segment of the population with your information products and services.

Exhibitor set-up is Tuesday May 16, 2017 from 12:00- 7:00 PM. Tear down is Saturday May 21, 2017. Each exhibit consists of a 10' x 10' space, one table, 2 chairs and an identification sign. A table and 2 chairs are included or you may bring your own if you prefer. Additional tables and chairs are available. Electrical "drops" must be arranged in advance. For an additional charge the hotel can supply tablecloths, skirts, and drapes. For assistance with any questions, contact Jerry Cooper at jerrylcooper@suddenlink.net.

Special equipment can be arranged with the Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel. Exhibitors are responsible for any expense associated with any other needs. Set-up and teardown are the responsibility of the Exhibitor.

The Exhibitor Fee Schedule is designed to provide space to a variety of entities. The attached fee schedule covers exhibit space for the entire 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion. Space is available on a first come, first served basis. Early Registration is encouraged. Registrations after May 1, 2017 incur a \$100 late fee.

Each Exhibitor must complete and submit an application packet for space to be allocated. Exhibitors and their staff must be registered and wear their conference badge at all times.

Exhibitors May Contract For More Than One Space.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTION:

The Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel will store your packages prior to your arrival. Please observe the following instructions to ensure proper handling of your meeting materials. Each item should be clearly marked with the following:

1. Your organization name and/or name of the event
2. Hold for arrival 00/00/00
3. The name of your organization's on-site Contact
4. C/O Sheraton Oklahoma City Downtown Hotel
1 North Broadway,
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Packages will be accepted up to three days prior to your scheduled event. Please advise your hotel contact of any special arrangements or requirements concerning your materials. The Hotel is not responsible for perishable items. A labor charge will be assessed if the Hotel's assistance is required in unloading vehicles and/or moving items to storage areas.

**SHERATON OKLAHOMA CITY DOWNTOWN HOTEL PACKAGE
HANDLING FEES FOR INCOMING AND OUTGOING PACKAGES:**

Note: 173d ABA Chapter 18 is not responsible for errors. Prices may change without advance notice.

- Liner, package or envelope (next day) **FREE**
- Small Box (5 lbs. or less) \$8.00
- Medium Box (6-10 lbs.) \$12.00
- Large Box (11-50lbs.) \$30.00
- Display cases/hard cases w/wheel \$50.00.
- Pallets are \$150.00.
- If your needs exceed 5 boxes, a drayage company may be required.

Vendors Room Schedule

Day	Date	Open	Close	Comment
Tuesday	May 16, 2017	12:00 PM	6:00 PM	Set-up
Wednesday	May 17, 2017	9:00 AM	6:00 PM	
Thursday	May 18, 2017	9:00 AM	6:00 PM	
Friday	May 19, 2017	9:00 AM	6:00 PM	
Saturday	May 20, 2017	9:00 AM	1:00 PM	
Saturday	May 20, 2017	1:00 PM	6:00 PM	Teardown

CONTRACT FOR EXHIBIT SPACE

Firm/Organization:			Date:
Contact Name:		Email Address:	
Telephone No.:		Fax No:	
Address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Dates Requested : <input type="checkbox"/> Wed May 17 <input type="checkbox"/> Thur May 18 <input type="checkbox"/> Fri May 19 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat May 20			Number of Exhibit Spaces Requested:
Exhibitor Type (Check One): <input type="checkbox"/> Free: Veterans Groups (501c19) and Government & Non-Profit Entities (Non-Sales) <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 : 173d ABA Chapters/173d ABA Members and Charitable Organization (501c3) (Revenue Producing) <input type="checkbox"/> \$500: Commercial Vendors Marketing (Sales/Profit)			
Describe the nature of the products, services, and/or information you wish to exhibit. (At no time will products that 173d ABA Chapter 18 deems inappropriate be allowed to be displayed or sold.):			

Vendor Type	Number	Rental Fee	Total
Veterans Groups and Govt & Non-profit Entities		\$0	\$
173d ABA Chapters/Members & Charitable Organizations		\$200	\$
Commercial Vendors		\$500	\$
Additional Tables (First Table Included)		\$100	\$
Additional Chairs (First Two Chairs Included)		\$12	\$
Late Fee after May 1, 2017 (\$100 per Table)		\$100	\$
Total Rental Fees			\$

- Check enclosed (Payable to 173d Airborne Brigade Association)
- Money order enclosed (Payable to 173d Airborne Brigade Association)
- Online Payment: PayPal (MasterCard-Visa- Discover-American Express)

Online Payments can be made at: <http://skysoldier.net/Vendor-Room-Information>

Make all checks payable to 173d Airborne Brigade Association and mail to:

173d Airborne Brigade Association
 C/O Jerry L Cooper CPA, Assistant Treasurer
 4004 Sheffield Avenue
 Muskogee, OK 74403-8557

If the number of spaces you have requested cannot be confirmed, you will be notified by email or letter and the appropriate refund will be forwarded to you.

Please review the following terms and conditions and then sign the following agreement. These terms are printed on the next two pages, and are a formal part of this agreement.

EXHIBITOR AGREEMENT

1. Contract.

This application for exhibit space constitutes a valid and binding contract when (a) the applicant (Exhibitor) executes it and pays 173d Airborne Brigade Association (173d ABA), Oklahoma Chapter 18 (173d ABA Chapter 18) in advance for exhibit space as set forth in the attached rate schedule, and (b) 173d ABA Chapter 18 provides the Exhibitor with written acceptance of the application and notification that 173d ABA Chapter 18 has reserved space(s) for the Exhibitor at the 173d Airborne Brigade Association's 2017 Annual Reunion.

2. Exhibit Space Reserved.

173d ABA Chapter 18's reservation of space for the Exhibitor at the 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion shall constitute acceptance of Exhibitor's application for exhibit space. The Exhibitor shall not, absent written authorization from 173d ABA Chapter 18, (a) sublet, license, assign the exhibit space to another organization or individual, or (b) permit another organization or individual to use the exhibit space.

3. Product Restrictions.

- a. The Exhibitor agree not to display or sell any items that 173d ABA Chapter 18 deems inappropriate. 173d ABA Chapter 18 will ask an Exhibitor who violates this restriction to remove the inappropriate item(s). If further violations occur, 173d ABA Chapter 18 will not allow further sales by the Exhibitor and will tell the Exhibitor to remove the exhibit immediately. The fees will not be refunded.
- b. Exhibitors agree not to sell product with graphics, text, words or words to the effect 173d Airborne Brigade Association (or 173d ABA) 2017 Annual Reunion in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (OK) without authorization (licenses) from 173d ABA Chapter 18. Exhibitors who violate this restriction will be asked to remove the non-licensed products from the Sheraton Downtown Oklahoma City Hotel. All funds collected from sales of non-licensed products shall be forfeited and shall become the property of 173d ABA Chapter 18. If further violations occur, 173d ABA Chapter 18 will not allow further sales by the Exhibitor and will tell the Exhibitor to remove the exhibit immediately. The fees will not be refunded.

4. Nature of Exhibits.

Exhibits are limited to those detailed on the attached application form. The Exhibitor agrees not to display, sell, market and/or distribute items that 173d ABA Chapter 18 considers to be abusive, obscene, or otherwise offensive, or contradictory to the goals, principles, or official positions of the 173d Airborne Brigade Association, whether or not indicated on the application form.

5. Exhibits and Public Policy.

While participating as an Exhibitor at the 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion. The Exhibitor is accountable for knowledge of all local pertinent laws, ordinance and regulations pertaining to health, fire prevention, public safety, city/state business fees, and sales/use taxes. Compliance with such laws is the sole responsibility of the Exhibitor. 173d ABA Chapter 18 and service contractors are not responsible for compliance with legal requirements concerning an Exhibitor's space, materials, and operation. If the Exhibitor has questions regarding laws, ordinances, and regulations related to exhibiting and selling in the city of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the Exhibitor should contact the appropriate city, county, or state agencies.

6. Exhibits and Hotel Policy.

The Exhibitor agrees to protect, save and hold Sheraton Downtown Oklahoma City Hotel, 173d ABA Chapter 18, and all their agents and employees (hereafter collectively called Indemnities) forever harmless for any damages or charges imposed for violations of any law or ordinance, whether occasioned by the negligence of the Exhibitor or those holding under the Exhibitor. Exhibitor shall at all times protect, defend, indemnify, save and hold harmless the Indemnities against any losses, costs, damages, liability or expenses (including attorney's fees) arising from or by reason of any accident or bodily injury, or other occurrence, to any person(s), including Exhibitor, its agent, employees and business invites, which arise from or out of the exhibit premises, or hotel related.

7. Security and Insurance.

The Exhibitor understands and agrees that all the Exhibitor's property is under his/her custody and control, whether in transit to, within, or from the confines of the Sheraton Downtown Oklahoma City Hotel and is subject to the rules and regulations of the exhibit area, the 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion. The Exhibitor may wish to consider carrying appropriate insurance to cover the Exhibitor's property against damage and loss, and public liability insurance against injury to an individual and the property of others. The Exhibitor shall take all precautions to see that the Exhibitor's materials, products, and equipment are secured at all times.

7. Security and Insurance.

The Exhibitor understands and agrees that all the Exhibitor's property is under his/her custody and control, whether in transit to, within, or from the confines of the Sheraton Downtown Oklahoma City Hotel and is subject to the rules and regulations of the exhibit area, the 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion. The Exhibitor may wish to consider carrying appropriate insurance to cover the Exhibitor's property against damage and loss, and public liability insurance against injury to an individual and the property of others. The Exhibitor shall take all precautions to see that the Exhibitor's materials, products, and equipment are secured at all times.

8. Losses and Damage.

The Exhibitor agrees that 173d ABA Chapter 18 is not liable for any damage loss or liability of any kind, or for any damage or injury to person or property during the term of this agreement from any cause whatsoever by reason of use, occupation, and enjoyment of exhibit space by the Exhibitor or any other person. The Exhibitor will defend, indemnify, and hold harmless 173d ABA Chapter 18 from any liability on account of any such damage, or injury, whether or not caused by negligence of or breach of an obligation by an Exhibitor or its employees or representatives.

9. Demonstrations.

No demonstrations or solicitations shall be permitted outside of Exhibitor's assigned space. The Exhibitor may not place signs or placards anywhere, or on anyone, outside of Exhibitor's assigned exhibit space, without 173d ABA Chapter 18's written approval.

10. Management.

The Exhibitor agrees (a) that the rules, and regulations of 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion management are made a part of this contract; (b) that the Exhibitor is bound by the above rules and regulation; (c) that 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion management has full power to interpret, amend, and enforce the above rules and regulations; and (d) that, for purposes of this Agreement, 173d ABA Chapter 18 "authorization " or 173d ABA Chapter 18 "approval" means authorization or approval by the 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion management.

11. Acceptance.

As an Exhibitor at the 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion, I agree to abide by all rules and regulations governing the exhibit area and the 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion. Acceptance of this application by 173d ABA Chapter 18 and notification that 173d ABA Chapter 18 has reserved space(s) for the Exhibitor at the 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion constitutes a contract between the Exhibitor and SFA88 for exhibit space at the 173d ABA 2017 Annual Reunion.

Signature of Exhibitor: _____ Date: _____

Signature of 173d ABA Chapter 18: _____ Date: _____





173^d Airborne Brigade Association Reunion
Wednesday May 17, 2017 - Sunday May 21, 2017
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Name _____ Phone (____) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Unit Served with the Brigade _____ Date Served _____

Guests

Full Name _____ Full Name _____
 Full Name _____ Full Name _____

Registration & Activity Fees (enter number on respective line)

- _____ \$99.00 per Member* (**includes** Banquet Meal on Saturday night **and** daily access to Hospitality Room)
- _____ \$99.00 per Guest * (**includes** Banquet Meal on Saturday night **and** daily access to Hospitality Room)
- _____ \$55.00 per Gold Star Family Member (**includes** Banquet Meal **and** daily access to Hospitality Room)
- _____ \$55.00 for Active Duty Solider **not on orders** (**includes** Banquet Meal **and** daily access to Hospitality Room)
- _____ **FREE** for Active Duty Soldiers **on Orders** (**includes** Banquet Meal **and** daily access to Hospitality Room)
- _____ \$25.00 per person for Picnic on Wednesday (includes Hamburgers, Hotdogs, condiments, coleslaw, & baked beans)
- _____ \$30.00 per person for all day Thursday Bus Tour to Fort Sill, Oklahoma (lunch **not** included)
- _____ \$15.00 per person for Friday morning Bus Tour to National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum (admission **not** included)
- _____ \$25.00 per person for Ladies Luncheon at Friday noon
- _____ \$15.00 per person for Friday afternoon Bus Tour to 45th Infantry Division Museum (admission **not** included)
- _____ **FREE** for Gold Star Family Members Luncheon at Saturday noon (must register to attend)
- _____ \$20.00 Reunion Challenge Coin
- _____ \$50.00 per person for Banquet Meal **ONLY** (**CAUTION- included in the Registration Fees above**)
- _____ \$25.00 per person for daily access to Hospitality Room **ONLY** (**CAUTION- included in the Registration Fees above**)

\$_____ TOTAL COST

Make checks payable to: **173d Airborne Brigade Association**

Mail checks to: **Jerry L Cooper CPA**
2017 Oklahoma Assistant Reunion Chairman
4004 Sheffield
Muskogee, OK 74403-8557

* Registration fee amount due on or before April 16, 2017; after this date, the cost will be \$135.00 per person.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2017 Oklahoma Reunion Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Wednesday May 17, 2017

- 0900- 1700: Registration Room open
- 1300- 1900: Vendor's Room open
- 1300- 2200: Hospitality Room open (Cash Bar)
- 1800-1930: BBQ Picnic

Thursday May 18, 2017

- 0730- 1730: Bus Trip to Fort Sill (Assigned Seating & Pre-Approved Visitor's Pass required)
- 0900- 1700: Registration Room open
- 0900- 2200: Hospitality Room open (Cash Bar)
- 0900- 1900: Vendor's Room open

Friday May 19, 2017

- 0800- 1200: Bus Trip to National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
- 0900- 1700: Registration Room opens
- 0900- 2200: Hospitality Room open (Cash Bar)
- 0900- 1900: Vendor's Room open
- 1200- 1300: Ladies Luncheon
- 1300- 1500: Bus Trip to 45th Infantry Division Museum
- 1300- 1700: Board of Directors Meeting

Saturday May 20, 2017

- 0900- 1200: General Member Meeting (300 people theatre style)
- 0900- 1200: Registration Room opens (if needed)
- 1200- 1300: GOLD STAR Family Brunch (10 round tables- 10 people per table)
- 1300- 1600: Vendor's Room open
- 1300- 1700: Hospitality Room Open (Cash Bar)
- 1630- 1730: Banquet Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)
- 1730- 1800: Colors/National Anthem, Invocation
- 1815- 1930: Banquet Dinner (100 round tables- 10 people per table)
- 1930- 2030: Toasts, Presentations, Guest Speaker
- 2100- 2300: Hospitality Room open (Cash Bar)

Sunday May 21, 2017

- 0900- 1030: Memorial Service (150 people theatre style)
- 1045- 1115: 2017 Reunion Committees Debriefing
- 1115- 1145: Meeting with hotel staff to settle final bill

REQUEST FOR UNESCORTED INSTALLATION VISITOR ACCESS TO FORT SILL

DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974

AUTHORITY: TITLE 5, USC 3331, 552, 552a; 10 USC 10204; Executive Orders (EO) 10450, and 12333.

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: The information requested is for the purpose of granting access to the Fort Sill Installation.

ROUTINE USES: Basis for determination of qualifications and background information for eligibility for access to Fort Sill Installation. The Social Security Number (SSN), required for record accuracy, is requested pursuant to EO 9397.

DISCLOSURE: Providing requested information, to include your SSN, is voluntary. However, your access may not be granted if all requested information is not provided. Contents shall not be disclosed, discussed, or shared with individuals, unless they have a direct need-to-know in performance of their official duties. Deliver this document directly to the intended recipient. DO NOT drop off, send to a third-party or send via e-mail unencrypted. Sending Personally Identifiable Information (PII) via regular e-mail is highly discouraged. Regular e-mail is sent "in the clear" and therefore is subject to interception by hackers. There are many other options for sending private, sensitive information or PII securely through e-mail. Please research these options and use them accordingly. This document contains personal or privileged information and should be treated as "For Official Use Only (FOUO)".

PART I - APPLICANT INFORMATION

a. LAST NAME:	b. FIRST NAME:	c. MIDDLE INITIAL:
d. GRADE/RANK/STATUS:	e. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER:	f. DOB:
g. GENDER: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	h. DRIVER'S LICENSE #/STATE:	
i. EMPLOYER:	j. PHONE NUMBER:	
k. E-MAIL ADDRESS:	l. RACE:	

PART II - PURPOSE OF VISIT

a. REQUESTED DATE(S)/TIME OF VISIT: FROM Thursday May 18, 2017 TO Thursday May 18, 2017
b. PURPOSE OF YOUR VISIT: <input type="checkbox"/> GRADUATION <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM <input type="checkbox"/> VISIT FAMILY <input type="checkbox"/> GOLF/BOWLING <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL EVENT (Specify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify below): Group Tour of Fort Sill for 173rd Airborne Brigade Reunion attendees

PART III - FORT SILL INSTALLATION ACCESS CARD/PASS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

1. I understand that I must give the Fort Sill Visitor Control Center (VCC) consent to an initial criminal history and periodic background screenings prior to and after the issuance of an installation access card/pass by completing Fort Sill Form 118. Failure to do so will result in the termination of the application process. I further understand that these background screenings will determine my eligibility for access and continued access during the term of my visit.

- a. I understand that my access may be revoked at anytime without reason or notice.
- b. I understand that I must properly care for my card/pass to prevent damage, or unnecessary wear.
- c. I understand that it is prohibited to allow someone else to use my card/pass/
- d. I understand that my card/pass must be turned in to the VCC once it has expired or further use is not required.
- e. I understand that I must immediately report any lost, damaged or stolen card/pass to my sponsor and the military police.
- f. I understand that my card/pass must be controlled at all times. If you have and or know where your card/pass is, then it is considered secured! If your card/pass is lost or unrecoverable please notify your sponsor immediately.

2. I have read and understand the instructions listed above.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

PART V - ISSUING OFFICE

SECTION BELOW IS FOR USE BY INSTALLATION ACCESS CONTROL OFFICE ONLY

a. APPROVED **b.** DISAPPROVED **c.** ACTION TAKEN (Specify below)

APPROVING OFFICIAL PRINTED NAME	APPROVING OFFICIAL SIGNATURE	DATE
--	-------------------------------------	-------------

FS FORM 118a, DEC 2014
(DIRECTORATE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES)

PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE

Fort Sill, Oklahoma Bus Tour

FS Form 118a (Visitor Access Pass to Fort Sill, OK) must be completed and submitted 60 days in advance to be eligible for Fort Sill Tour. The completed FS Form 118a should be mailed to the 2017 Reunion Coordinator Tim Austin to the following address. **EMAILS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!** Tim Austin, 13148 Chinkapin Oak Pl. Choctaw, OK 73020

St. Michael's CORNER

JAMES (PAT) MURPHY

It is an oxidized silver badge 1 inch in height and 1 ½ inches in width, consisting of a stretcher crossed by a caduceus surmounted at top by a Greek cross, all on and over an elliptical oak wreath. It's

the Combat Medics Badge and it's tough to earn. You have to be a living example of "Grace under fire."

It's been said that the anyone with one could walk into any soldier's tavern, place a CMB on the bar and drink all night — for free. Anyone that earned a CMB could — but they wouldn't. They would be like James (Pat)

both D company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry and Headquarters Company of the same battalion from January 1970 until February 1971. That's where he earned the CMB, along with a Bronze Star, A Purple Heart and an Air Medal. Murphy served the Nation from 1968 until 1975. He was an Airborne medic with the 326th Medical Battalion, 101st Airborne after serving a tour in Vietnam with the 173d Airborne.



Pat and his wife, Anne.

Murphy, a quiet family man, married to the same woman for 33 years, living in a wide spot in the road in Lincoln County along North Carolina Highway 16.

Murphy served in



Pat with his two sons, Christopher and Timothy.



Pat displaying the medals he earned during his service.

After leaving the Army in 1975, Murphy continued to serve his small community as an emergency medical technician with a local ambulance service.

This battle-hardened paratrooper loved feeding the ducks at Lake Norman, and had a dog named, "Murphy Dawg."

James (Pat) Murphy died April 12, 2016. He left to mourn his passing his wife, Anne Stone Murphy, Two sons, Christopher Patrick Murphy (Sophia) of Pearland, Texas;

JAMES WILLIAM “JIM” LAKATOS

James William “Jim” Lakatos, 69, of Wellington, Florida, a Purple Heart recipient of the Viet Nam war, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family November 23, 2016.



Jim was born on August 7, 1947, in Hammond, Indiana to the late William and Eva Mae Lakatos. Jim is survived by his loving wife of 41 years, Cathy; three sons, Kyle (Nicole), Nathan and Aaron (Hannah); six grandchildren, Ava, Madison, Ashton, Alexander, Ari and Lindsey; two siblings, June (Steve) and Marty (Cathie); numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews. Jim served in the U. S. Army as a charter member of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, nicknamed “The Geronimo Battalion.” He enjoyed RVing, sitting around a campfire, listening to music, visiting with family and friends, watching the Chicago Bears and attending 173rd Airborne conventions. Jim’s funeral was held Wednesday, November 30 at St. Peters United Methodist Church in Wellington, Florida and was buried at South Florida National Cemetery.

Donations. The family requests that donations be made to Honor Flights in lieu of flowers per Jim’s wishes. The website is honorflight.org.



Pat holding up his 173d Airborne Chart

Timothy Patrick Murphy (April) of Benton, Kentucky, grandchildren: Myla, Michael and Matthew; sister, Karen Spainhour (Richard) Burgaw, North Carolina; brother, George Murphy (Susan) of Rougemont, North Carolina; nieces, Crystal Murphy and Laura Spainhour.

Murphy was “James,” to some, Patrick or Pat to others, “Doc” to his fellow Sky Soldiers, but the title he liked most was “Dad.”

“Grace under fire.”



Pat with his sons at Christmas.



Successor Jacket

Item #173014

\$64.99

This business-to-casual style has a modern look and a soft, quiet hand. Designed with a stowaway hood, this multitasking jacket is versatile enough for mild wind and rain protection.

All embroidered garments include one sewn location. Additional locations available for only \$8 each!

YOUR
CHOICE
HERE

Featherlite Long Sleeve Oxford

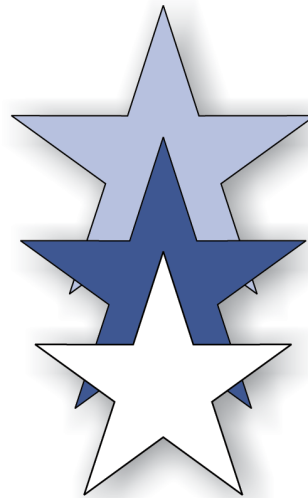
Item# 1733231

\$39

YOUR
CHOICE
HERE



All sizes S-4X available in Black, Navy, Royal, Red and Sand.



All sizes S-6X available in Light Blue, French Blue and White.

Commemorative Bayonet & Stand

Item #173004

\$164.99

Commemorate your service with a personalized bayonet in a handmade oak stand. Engraving location on the blade can feature your name or unit, and any of our sixteen embroidery options are available to laser engrave on the stand.



Order Online at www.skysoldier.net/store-catalog

"The Legacy Continues" Tee Shirt

Item #173023

\$24.99



**Available in Black
and Desert Sand!**



Customizable High Profile Cap - \$19.99

Item #1730800

Low Profile Twill Cap - \$19.99

Item #1730TTO



Available in Royal, Navy, Red & White



Available in Desert Sand

Shop Our Outlet Catalogue!
www.skysoldier.net/store-catalog

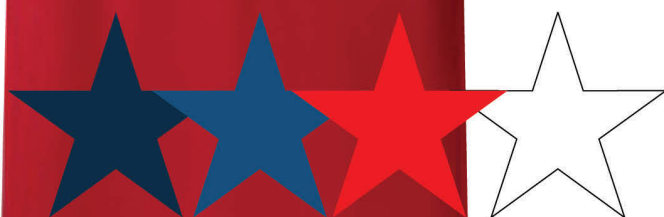
Moisture Wick Polo - \$35

Item #173ST650



Cotton Polo - \$35

Item #173K420



Polos Available in Navy, Royal, Red & White

Engraved Water Goblet - \$10

Item #173022



3" Sew On Patch - \$4

Item #173019

Engraved Stemless Glass - \$8

Item #173021



Double-Sided Engraved Shot Glass

Item #173011

\$5

3'x5' Embroidered Flag with Grommets

Item #173001

\$30



Aluminum License Plate Cover - \$20

Item #173013



Bottle Coolie - \$5
Item #173007

Can Coolie - \$4
Item #173008

Coffee Mug - \$10
Item #173010

Coolies Available in Royal Blue or Black.

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 TELEPHONE: _____
 EMAIL: _____

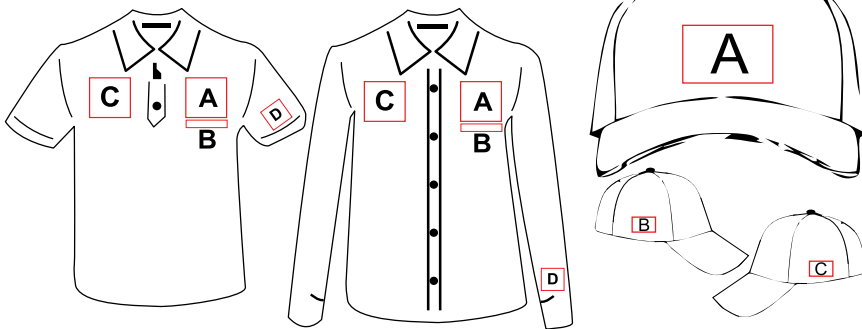
- Check
- Money Order
- Mastercard
- Discover
- American Express
- VISA

Mail Order & Payment to:
 173rd Airborne Brigade Association
 P.O. Box 1733 • Ashland, KY 41105
 M-F 9am - 5pm Eastern 800-325-1837

Credit Card Number (all digits) Exp. Date CVV

															M	M	Y	Y	

Signature (for credit card customers only): _____



\$6⁵⁰ Flat Rate Shipping!



Design Options



*For polos, oxfords & tees, please allow an extra \$4 for 2X, \$6 for 3X, \$8 for 4X, \$10 for 5X and \$12 for 6X.
 All customized pieces include one location in the price. Please include \$8 for each additional embroidered or engraved location.*

Product #	QTY	Color	Size	Location A	Location B	Location C	Location D	Price
Ex. 173K420	1	Royal	M	10	MSGT Daniel F. Day	3	9	\$59.00

Please allow 2-3 weeks for delivery. Any questions call 800-328-8005 anytime between 9am - 5pm EST.

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www.skysoldier.net/store-catalog

50th Anniversary Tour to Vietnam

Gene Cartier, an original Sky Soldier, is organizing a

Vietnam Tour

Commemorating

the 50th Anniversary

of the battles fought at Dak To, in November 1967

**The tour will include visits to Vung Tau, War Zone D,
Saigon, Dak To (Hill 875 & 823), Tuy Hoa,
and LZ English.**

Go to

<http://173dairbornechapter1.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/173rd-Abn-Tour-Nov-2017.pdf>

for an itinerary and details

For additional information and details

contact Gene Cartier

at cajungene@gmail.com

Chapter News

Chapter News Submission Guidelines

- Please send information as a text file such as a Microsoft Word document, **NO PDFs**.
- Please send pictures as separate **HIGH RESOLUTION** tif, eps, pdf, or jpeg files.
- Please identify the people in the photo.
- Please send current information.

Chapter 1

Sigholtz-Capital Chapter • Washington, DC

Joe Flesch, President • 173airbornechapter1.org

2016 Bravo Bulls Event at Arlington National Cemetery

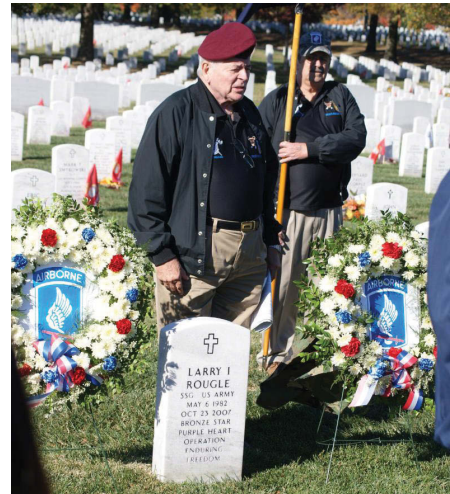
The Bravo Bulls are former original Sky Soldiers from Okinawa and RVN, serving together 1963 - 66. We number 101 veterans and widows. We meet annually in CONUS and visit BATTLE Company (B/2-503) in Vicenza annually as well. One of our proudest missions is to host three ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery on Nov. 10, leaving Veterans Day for larger unit ceremonies. Young Sky Soldier veterans are invited to participate at Arlington. Chapter 1 the local 173d Association Chapter also supports this event.



Wreath & Flags at 173d Airborne Brigade Marker.
duty Sky Soldiers.

Next we had our second ceremony at the grave of MG and Mrs. Ellis W. Williamson the first Brigade Commander, who trained and deployed the Sky Soldiers to RVN on May 5 1965. MG Williamson was a Regimental Commander in WWII and an Operations Officer in X Corps in Korea and the Chief Planner for the Inchon Landing.

The third ceremony is at the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial, where we are generally joined by even more Sky Soldiers and their families. Among the many guests was Les Brownlee, the fourth Company Commander of the Bravo



Wreath Ceremony at SSG Rougle's Grave.

Bulls (Dec 65 - Mar 66) and later Secretary of the Army. The names of the Bravo KIA's were read followed by the reading of BATTLE KIA's, read by MSG David Barbaret.

After renewing old friendships, young and old Sky Soldiers headed for a no-host luncheon at IL PORTO RISTORANTE in Alexandria, where

we dined on Italian cuisine and appropriate drinks.

Walk to the Wall – 173d ABN BDE Wreath – Veteran's Day

Early on the sunny, bright and crisp morning of Veteran's Day a smartly dressed group of Sky Soldiers assembled on the Brigade Colors flying proudly by the walkway to the National Vietnam Memorial. The Sky Soldiers, some accompanied by their families, had assembled to render solemn honors to the fallen members of the Brigade whose names are etched on that black marble wall. The assembled group numbered more than 20 stalwart Sky Soldiers. Most of the group was from our local area but were augmented by several others from New York, Florida, and Texas. We were very pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with all these airborne brothers in arms!

Attendees included locals Ed Anthony, Chuck Evans, Pat Linehan, Gene Cartier, Mack Brooks, Terry Walsh, Trudy Surut, George Farris, Don Haus and wife Vicki, Harold McGill, Daniel Goode and Jim Williams. Non local attendees include Patrick Sirmeyer from Florida; Bryan Kennedy & family, and Jason Slomiak from New York; the Ybarra family (Robert, wife Patricia, son Derek & daughter Caroline) from Texas. The Ybarra family attends each year from San Antonio.

After a short session of greetings and discussions, mainly airborne story swapping, the group was quickly briefed on wreath laying event and Chapter activities. A moving prayer of remembrance was reverently spoken by Mack Brooks and the group was formed in a military type formation. The Sky Soldiers then, led by the National and Brigade Colors, marched slowly to the apex of the Wall. There we placed a 173d Airborne wreath followed by formal salute in honor of all our fellow soldiers that paid the ultimate sacrifice in our behalf. We quietly dispersed knowing that



Veteran's Day Gathering to Honor Fallen Sky Soldiers at the Wall.

once again we kept faith with our departed heroes by fulfilling our lifelong commitment that the "Fallen Will Never Be Forgotten." Some then attended a no host lunch at a local restaurant.

Final Honors for LTC (Ret) James F. Anderson - March 29 2016

On March 29 2016 at Arlington National Cemetery, Chapter 1 members Mack Brooks, Joe Flesch, Terry Modglin, Frank Probst, Terry Walsh and Jim Yarrison were present as the Chapter 1 Honor Guard for the funeral of Chapter member LTC (Ret) James F. Anderson. A Chapter 1 Honor Set, a Chapter Certificate of Appreciation and a 173d Airborne Brigade flag, was presented to Mrs. Karen Anderson in appreciation for Jim's dedicated service to our Nation, the 173d Airborne Brigade Association and Chapter 1.

Final Honors for COL (Ret) Lawrence W. Jackley - April 24 2016

Sunday April 24 2016 was a sunny day as Chapter 1 members Mack Brooks, Gene Cartier, Bill Connolly, Bill Ethington, Joe Flesch and Terry Walsh met at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church in Alexandria, VA to honor Chapter member COL Lawrence W. Jackley. We joined the extended Jackley family and Friends, Church members, COL Jackley's USMA Classmates, and CSM

(Ret) Ted Arthurs for the service and remembrance of his life dedicated to our Nation and his church. A Chapter 1 Honor Set was presented to Mrs. Jackley.

Reading of the Names June 4, 2016

As the 173d



Airborne Brigade Association Chapter closest to Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), Chapter 1 accepted its role to represent the Association and the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team in ensuring our fallen comrades are never forgotten. The Chapter meets this solemn obligation by annually each May by reading the names of a portion of Sky Soldiers lost in Vietnam and all the Sky Soldiers lost during the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). This year, the Chapter's pilgrimage to the Brigade Marker in ANC was held on June 4 due to road resurfacing at the site of the Brigade Marker.

Chapter Member Ed Anthony, served as the point of contact and coordinated all the details: podium, microphone, chairs, Army bugler, and restricted access to the road in front of the Marker. The Chapter furnished the National Colors, the Brigade flag with Battle Streamers and the names of Sky Soldier KIAs from 1970-1971 and all Sky Soldiers KIAs from GWOT to be remembered. Everything was ready.

Upon arriving at the Marker, the procession of readers was joined by CPT Peter Arnold's family, Peter was a decorated Vietnam Sky Soldier, whose burial at ANC in February was supported by our Chapter Honor Guard. His family had traveled all the way from the Kansas City, KS area to visit CPT Arnold's grave site and to join us in the reading of the names. They were given a warm welcome.

Joe Flesch distributed the Names and one-by-one the readers reverently read each Sky Soldier's name. Alexandra and Petey Arnold joined the veteran readers in recognizing our fallen Sky Soldiers.

In about 40 minutes, all the Names were read and the readers promised to be there next year and left to pursue the lives that so many in ANC had died to preserve.

Gathering of the Herd in Fairfax, Virginia - July 16, 2016

Our Chapter conducts "Gathering of the Herd" meetings every 3 or 4 months to serve our membership throughout our large geographic area. On July 16, we met at P.J. Skidoos in Fairfax, Virginia. Present were Ed & Connie Anthony, Frank Boberek, Mack Brooks, Chuck Evans, Joe & Jeane Flesch, Roy Gilmore, Harvey Jester, Bill McQuail, Terry Modglin, Terry Walsh, John & Edwina Yakshe and Rick Young. We said the Pledge of Allegiance; had a moment of silence for our fallen Sky Soldiers; had a great brunch and a short Chapter meeting. The members voted to donate \$500 to the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation for construction of a 503d Infantry regimental marker within the foot-print of the 173d Memorial at the National Infantry Museum. Following the meeting there was great comradeship and many stories were told.

Celebrating the Life of Chapter Founding Mother Cis Sigholtz - July 30, 2016

Mrs. Roberta C. (Cis) Sigholtz passed away April 29, 2016, at the age of 91. She was the wife of COL Robert H. Sigholtz, when he was the commander of 2-503 in Vietnam and the Gold Star Mother of CPT Robert H. Sigholtz Jr. (D/2-503. KIA May 25, 1969). Our Chapter is named for her son and she is considered our Chapter's Founding Mother and was a Chapter Honorary Member. The family held a private burial. Chapter President, Joe Flesch and Chapter Secretary,

Continued on page 48 >>



SGT Felmley's Daughters at SGT Felmley's Grave site.

Mack Brooks, were invited to represent the Chapter at a family celebration of the life of Cis Sigholtz. The celebration was held in Ireland's Four Provinces Restaurant in Falls Church, Virginia.

Celebrants included the Sigholtz family members and close friends. Whitney Knoerlein a granddaughter of Cis orchestrated the moving event. A Chapter Honor set was presented to the family.

Honor Set Presented to Family of SGT Dennis P. Felmley

The daughters of SGT Dennis P. Felmley contacted Chapter Oct. 13 2016, because they had been informed that our chapter supports funerals of any Sky Soldier who is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. They had just buried their father that day and were made aware of our services. They asked our assistance to provide certification that SGT Felmley was a member in good standing with the 173d Airborne Brigade Association so that they could have the 173d Airborne Brigade patch engraved on his headstone. Joe Flesch, Chapter 1 president and Terry Walsh met with the



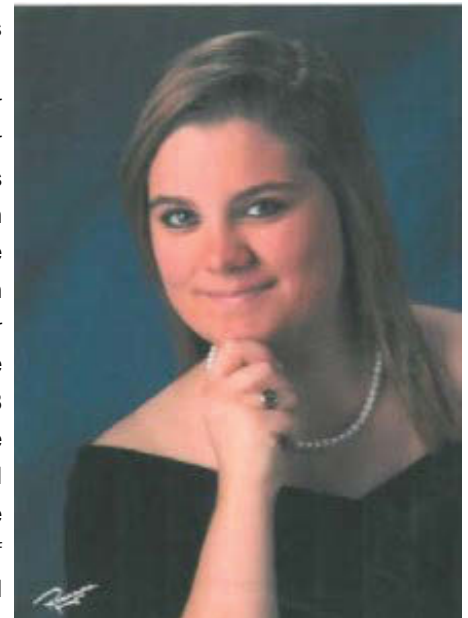
SGT Felmley's Daughters and Terry Walsh at the 173d Airborne Brigade Marker.

Joe Flesch, Chapter 1 president and Terry Walsh met with the daughters Shannon Felmley-Krist, Rene Hinojoa and Bridget Felmley-Gay Saturday, Oct. 15, and held a brief ceremony at the 173d Airborne Brigade Marker at Arlington National Cemetery. They were presented a Chapter 1 Honor Set consisting of a folded 3'x5' 173d Airborne Brigade flag, a Chapter 1 Certificate in honor of SGT Felmley and a letter certifying that he had been a member in good standing of the 173d Airborne Brigade Association and Chapter 14 in Southern California. We then proceeded to the burial site of SGT Felmley, for some photographs. Our Chapter sees it as our sacred duty to honor any of our Sky Soldiers who are buried at ANC if their families request our presence.

Our goal is to have our members continue their sponsorship of this additional scholarship on an annual basis. We were informed that Ms. Kristin Schof, the granddaughter of Sky Soldier Horace Counselman, a Chapter 3 member, was awarded the Chapter1 (Sigholtz Capital Chapter) scholarship. We have sent her a letter of congratulations and offered her our support.

Sigholtz Capital Chapter Scholarship Recipient

We are also pleased to note that Ms. Emma Holland granddaughter of Chapter 1 member Berry Holland also received a 173d scholarship this year.



We have sent her a letter of congratulations and offered her our support.

Chapter 2

Lozada-Watters Chapter • New York

Tommy McMahon, President • tom173sky@aol.com • 646-533-5935



Left to Right: Tom McMahon, Leroy Simpson, Dave Smith, Fr. Jim Tucker, Bob Jensen and Phil Oliveri. Chapter 2, set up by Phil Oliveri, celebrated a memorial mass for Fr. Watters on Sunday, November 6, at the Church of the Epiphany in Cliffside Park, New Jersey. We would like to thank Phil for treating all the chapter members who attended to dinner.



Tom McMahon and Bernie Warnock. Second picture rear of Vietnam Veteran Memorial New York City. On Veteran's day every year, Chapter 2 conducts a service at 55 Water Street in lower Manhattan at the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Wall. In October we had a meeting in an outdoor café underneath the Brooklyn Bridge on the Brooklyn side. We are overjoyed that we are getting new members from the War on Terror.



Chapter 3

Columbus/Ft. Benning Chapter • Columbus, GA

Ed Weatherman, President • yweatherman@gmail.com

Chapter 4

Glenn H. English Chapter • Philadelphia, PA

Flint Jackson, Jr. • Flintj85@gmail.com • 267-252-8819

Chapter 5

Ft Bragg Chapter • North Carolina

Jose V. Bercedoni, President • crazyican173rdabn@nc.rr.com • 910-822-3895

Chapter 6

Elite Forces, Chicago Chapter

Bob Getz • rgetz173@yahoo.com

PFC Milton Olive III from the third Platoon, B Company (Bravo Bulls), 2-503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade (SEP) was Killed in Action Oct. 22, 1965. The Citation for the resulting Medal

of Honor which was presented posthumously, in part, reads:

"Although the platoon was subjected to a heavy volume of enemy gunfire and pinned down temporarily, it retaliated by assaulting the Viet Cong positions, causing the enemy to flee. As the platoon pursued the insurgents, PFC Olive and four other soldiers were moving through the jungle together when a grenade was thrown in their midst. PFC Olive saw the grenade, and then saved the lives of his soldiers at the

Continued on page 50 >>

sacrifice of his own by grabbing the grenade in his hand and falling on it to absorb the blast with his body. Through his bravery, unhesitating actions, and complete disregard for his safety, he prevented additional loss of life or injury to the members of his platoon."

Robert Toporek, one of those who carried the body of PFC Olive out of the jungle, decided to have a reunion in Chicago of the remaining members of Olive's rifle squad on the 50th anniversary of his sacrifice. Wayne Short, Samuel Grimes, William Yates and Mark Mitchell showed up to mark the date when Olive sacrificed himself for them. PFC Olive was born and raised in Chicago where a Park, a community college and a portion of McCormick Place bear his name.

Elite Forces, Chapter VI, 173rd Airborne Brigade Association,



Presentation of the Colors - Jose Palacios, Oliver Brown, Takie Mandakas and Andy Brown (Honor Guard, Elite Forces, Chapter VI, 173rd Airborne Brigade Association).



Entrance to Milton Olive Park



Toporek and Balcer at the Podium.

the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago joined together in support of this reunion of PFC Olive's Weapons Squad and a 50th Commemorative Anniversary Ceremony for PFC Olive Oct. 22, 2015, at Olive Park on Chicago's Downtown Lake Front. The Ceremony consisted of the following:

- Presentation of the Colors - Elite Forces, Chapter VI, 173d Airborne Association
- Introduction - Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White - 101st Airborne Division
- Water Arch of Honor - Chicago Fire Department Fire Boat
- Singing of the national anthem - Rick Murray - 555th Parachute Infantry Regiment – (Triple Nickle)

Remarks and Presentations - Provided by Olive Family Representative Chinta Strausberg, Chicago Alderman Raymond A. Lopez, State Senator Jacquelyn Collins, State Representative Mary Flowers and Robert Toporek which included a letter from President Barack Obama, a proclamation from Chicago's Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Resolutions from the Illinois House and Senate.

- Playing of "Taps" - Bugles Across America - Sr. Sue Kilduski
- Flyover - Chicago Police Department Helicopter
- Singing of "America The Beautiful" - Lindsay Bentahm - DePaul University

The Paratroopers in attendance gave their fellow Sky Soldier Milton Olive a special Airborne Salute. It was a spectacular Airborne Celebration for a truly courageous Sky Soldier - AIRBORNE, ALL THE WAY!!

On Sunday, December 20, 2015, Elite Forces, Chapter VI, 173rd Airborne Brigade Association, held it's annual Christmas Party, in Huntley, Illinois. War stories were shared, there was a silent auction and there were displays of our fellow Sky Soldiers. It was a wonderful evening which included guests from the Illinois Secretary of State's Military Advisory Council, a doctor who offered to provide assistance on VA Claims and remarks from our Officers. The remarks from the Officers concluded with an Infantryman's Award to Bob Getz for his services during the year.



the Sky Soldiers with Bob at the presentation - From left to right: Terry Gannon, Dan Cosgrove, Frank Miceli, Bob Getz, Jose Palacios, Benito Garcia, Buzz Bizante, and Takie Mandakas.

Elite Forces, Chapter VI, is planning a special Ceremony on Sunday, August 13, 2017. It will be a combination 50th, 15th and 10th Commemorative. Sky Soldiers from Illinois who were Killed in Action during the years of 1967, 2002 and 2007, will have their names read and be honored at the Ceremony. The Ceremony will be held at the graveside of Medal of Honor recipient SP4 Michael Blanchfield in Des Plaines, Illinois, at the Queen of All Saints Cemetery. All Sky Soldiers are invited to attend. Contact to Bob Getz - rgetz173@yahoo.com – for further information.

Elite Forces, Chapter VI, meets at 2:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month. If you would like to obtain a copy of the minutes and future locations for the meetings, send your eMail address to Bob Getz - rgetz173@yahoo.com.

Elite Forces, Chapter VI, is currently meeting at a variety of locations in and around Chicago. The photo below is from the September Meeting at VFW Post at 400 E. Devon, Elk Grove Village, IL. Those members present are shown in the photo - from left to right - Takie Mandakas, David Serikaku, Benito Garcia, Bob Getz, Joe Parra and Terry Gannon's hand.

Chapter 7

Florida Chapter

James Bradley, President • webmaster@173rdairborne.com •
727-376-2576 • www.FloridaSkySoldiers.com

Chapter 8

Inland Northwest Chapter

Ron Dearing, President • rdskytrouper@yahoo.com •
509-370-3598

August

August was a busy month for Chapter 8. We visited the War Hawk Museum in Nampa, Idaho. The museum was 30 miles away, and the team spent a few enjoyable hours getting involved with the community. Chapter 8 also attended the Combat Vet Riders meeting in Spokane, Washington. This was a joint event to support the Memorial rides for Veterans and "Time of Remembrance" activities. In August, Chapter 8 donated \$500 to support Veteran home repairs in Gillette, Wyoming. Four volunteers gave their time spending 40 hours constructing walkways and a covered porch. We visited the Veterans Hospital VAMC in Spokane, Washington and the Veterans Community Clinic in Wenatchee.



Bob Warren with Pat Warren at the Combat Vet Club house in Spokane, Washington.



Eldon Meade and Tom Brake.



John Watson in front of Daughter Mindy's house in Spokane Valley.

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September

In September, Chapter 8 spoke to college history classes at Estrella Community College in Avondale, Arizona. There were 150 students in attendance. The question and answer time increased student awareness, student involvement, and provided citizenship/education information awareness. Chapter 8 supported Combat Vet Riders POW/MIA ride in

Spokane, Washington, CBT Vet Riders in Spokane Valley, Washington, and Vietnam Veterans Association in Spokane, Washington. Chapter 8 visited the Carl Haden Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona and the Veterans Hospital in Spokane, Washington VAMC. Chapter 8 Donated \$50 to support a Girl Scout fundraiser in Arizona. Finally, in September, Chapter 8 held a Memorial Service for the 15th Anniversary of 9/11.

Chapter 9

New England Chapter

Peter Klausner, President • logpc@comcast.net • 508-238-0289

Chapter 10

Western States Chapter • California

Bob Ortiz, President • azitro2011@gmail.com • 650-712-0980

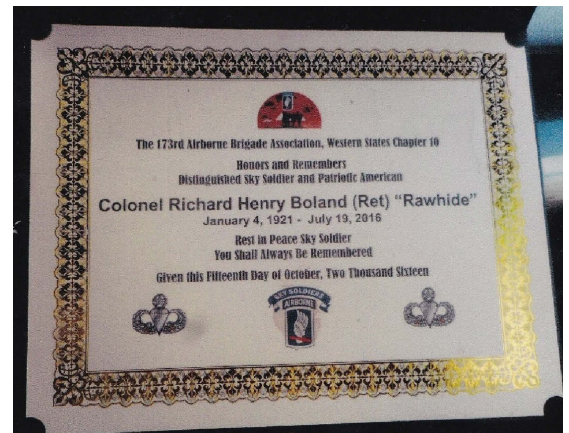
Chapter 10 members, together with Sky Soldiers from all over California, gathered in Lakeport, California on October 15, 2016 for a memorial service honoring Colonel Richard Henry (Rawhide) Boland. Rawhide Boland was a legendary figure in the United States Army Airborne and saw action with the 101st Airborne Division in WWII, the 187th RCT (Airborne) in Korea, and was Commander of the 1/503rd (1st Batt), 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam. Colonel Richard Boland passed away peacefully with his wife by his side, on July 19, 2016. He was a true legend and will be missed by Vietnam-era Sky Soldiers everywhere.



These are a few of the many awards and decorations that Col. Henry Boland received during a distinguished and storied career.



Sky Soldiers from Chapters 10, 14, and 28 with Mrs. Thyra Boland (center), widow of the late Colonel at the reception after the memorial ceremony. Henry Boland was loved by many.



Col. Boland's widow, Thyra was presented with this certificate from the Sky Soldiers of Chapter 10.

Chapter 11

Down Under Chapter • Australia NSW

Robert Cockerill, President • cockrill@bigpond.net.au • 02-96791138

Chapter 13

Texas Chapter

John Barthelemy, President • barthelemy47@comcast.net • 713-516-2989

We had our fourth Quarter meeting at Eric Hitchcock's ranch in Asherton, Texas. We planned our 2017 meeting dates and elected new chapter officers. Our officers are as follows: **President** – Reyes Rios; **Vice President** – John Barthelemy; **Secretary/Treasurer** – Manuel Mermea

After the business meeting ended we went on a tour of the ranch, on what was a hay ride. The high light of the hay ride was a stop at one of Eric's tanks (ponds) and terrorized some snakes and turtles with pistols for a while. I think we may have even hit a couple. The next morning the group that was left went to Eric's rifle range to again prove our marksmanship prowess. I don't think any of us missed hitting the ground once.



Sone Garcia, Marcellno Barrios, Manny Mermea, Robert Gonzalez, Santiago Krummel, John Barthelemy, Reyes Rios, Paul Nicks (Standing), John Garza (Associate Member), Eric Hitchcock.



Juan (works for Eric), Reyes Rios, Bov (Eric's friend), Santiago Krummel, Elma Garcia, Eric Hitchcock, Sone Garcia (Back to camera), John Garza, Robert Gonzalez, Paul Nicks, Marcellno Barrios.



Manny Mermea, Paul Nicks, Juan, Eric.

On November 14 2016, San Antonio area Chapter 13 Sky Soldiers, at the formal invitation of the Commander, 502d Force Support Group, Joint Base San Antonio - Fort Sam Houston, Texas, attended a ceremony honoring the 10th Anniversary of the dedication of the SP4 Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library on Fort Sam Houston.

Those in attendance were present to pay their respect to Sky Soldier Keith Campbell, a medic, who paid the ultimate sacrifice on February 8, 1967, while supporting elements of 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry (Abn). They were also present to honor a verbal invitation which had been extended by Gold Star Family members; Mother Esther (Campbell) Gates and Judy Campbell. Unfortunately, Mom Gates, due to her medical status, was unable to attend, but the entire event was filmed for her. Some of the Sky Soldiers present had also participated in the



Reyes Rios, John Barthelemy, Bob.



Continued on page 54 >>

initial dedication ceremony of the library, 10 years before.

The group, dressed in ceremonial attire, were welcomed and entertained by many of the guests in attendance, military and civilian alike. They had the distinct pleasure of meeting Mrs. Angenetta Lambert, whose husband is currently serving with the 173d Airborne Brigade in Germany. As part of the sequence of events, Mrs. Lambert sang our

national anthem; may we add a beautiful rendition. At the conclusion of the ceremonies, while enjoying treats, refreshments and conversations, many individual and group photos were completed.

Sky Soldiers in attendance were Leo Martinez, Manuel Mermea, Tom Murray, JR Garza, James Lazo, Marcelino Barrios, Russell (Wolfman) Walter and Frank Martinez.

Chapter 14

Southern California Chapter

Wambi Cook, President • wambicook@aol.com • 626-664-0219

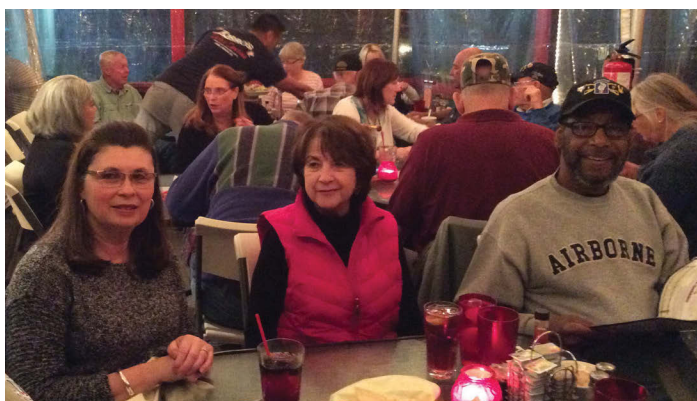
A great deal of thanks goes to our treasurer, Fred Ortiz and his wife, Mary, whose efforts in organizing our most recent bi-annual California Chapters' Joint Gathering can only be described as a roaring success. Without question, our most enjoyable venture by leaps and bounds. This casual event was attended by over 21 members and as many significant others. Meeting central was the Kon Tiki Inn located in the coastal resort getaway community of Pismo Beach. This venue was selected because it lies almost midway between all three chapters. Special thanks to Chapter 10 president, 'Big' Bob Ortiz and Jon Hutchens of Chapter 28. We are all looking for the next get-together in 2018.

Our holidays' party is still in the planning stages, and we are confident Fred and Mary's labors will shine once again.

Several of us attended a variety of Veterans Day events, that included a number local cities' ceremonies and two middle school's recognitions celebrations. A cash donation was made to Rio Hondo School to their student discretionary fund. Each veteran in attendance was presented with special gifts and a lunch followed. The highlight was walking a greeting line of first and second graders who presented each of us with "personal" hand written letter thanking us for our service.

Our new VP, Dannie Watkins, D16th, has been waging a strong battle against a variety of health issues recently, but guarantees he'll be rejoining us very soon.

Our next formal meeting is February. We are in contact with a couple second generation troopers that reached out to us regarding joining our ranks once their enlistment is up. Let's face it, if our legacy is to continue, we need to get new blood into the fold and fast.



Chapter 15

Weber/Kahler Chapter • Minneapolis, Minnesota

Trudell Guerue, President • elfguerue@msn.com • 651-455-3787

Chapter 16

Col. Richard (Rawhide) Boland Chapter • Washington State

Chris Clewell, President • chrisclewell@aol.com • 425-672-74860

Chapter 16 jointly represented the Brigade & VN SF in the city of Auburn, Washington for the Veteran's Day Parade on November 5th. Billed as the largest Veteran's Day parade west of the Mississippi, the event attracts over 100 separate military groups and high school bands. A Remembrance Ceremony at the Auburn Veteran's Memorial



The "Command Vehicle" is "Signed Out" and ready for parade duty.

the parade route. Static displays are also a part of the event. This has been the 10th year that the Chapter has represented. A convertible for those too hobbled to march is provided by the Chapter President. Join us next year and receive a great welcome home!

Chapter XVI member Sa Won Chang, retired Master Sergeant with 26 years of service with A/1/503d and the Special Forces, was able to fulfill a bucket list item when he returned to the base camp at Dak To, Vietnam. He also visited a orphanage while staying in Kontum and looks forward to a expanded tour in the future.



Parade participants representing Chapter XVI, 173d Airborne and the Vietnamese Special Forces are from right to left: Chris Clewell, Sa Won Chang, Chuyen Nguyen, and Steve Konek Sr.



A Memorial Service is held each year before the parade in the city of Auburn's Veteran's Memorial Park.

Park begins the festivities followed with a fly-over by the US Air Force of Joint Base Lewis-McChord and the King County Sheriffs Office to kick off the parade. Citizens of Auburn and surrounding King County line the side-walks to pay tribute to veteran representatives throughout



Looking west to the hills on which the "Battle of the Slopes" took place

Continued on page 56 >>



Mile marker of the old French style approaching the Town of Dak To.



MSgt Chang standing on the airstrip at base camp Dak To after 48 years.

Chapter 17

Mid-West-States, Ohio Chapter

William Terry, President • renownedtwo@wowway.com • 614-476-3060

Over the past year, Chapter 17 has been endeavoring to work with the Veterans Clinic across the Midwest areas, in hopes of gaining permission to place on the VA grounds a public bench with a Herd emblem plaque fixed upon it. Construction on the VA grounds were delaying the final permission.

In Lexington, Kentucky, new construction has been completed. Associate vice president, Terry Aubrey, has been working with the VA staff to get the Chapter's plan implemented.

On November 4, 2016, we conducted a ceremony with the placing



Terry Aubrey and Jonathan Hirst. Hirst is second generation Herd who made the combat jump into Iraq.



William Terry cuts the ribbon for the new bench. Left to right: Emma Metcalf, Ike Mellinger, Dean Logan and Terry Aubrey.



William Terry and Terry Aubrey listen as Emma Metcalf gives her speech.



Myself, Ike Mellinger and Terry Aubrey are standing behind the bench.



The Gentlemen



The Bench

of the bench and the cutting of the ribbon. The bench and the 173d emblem sits directly under the American flag at the center of the main thoroughfare for all to see. The VA Director, Emma Metcalf, was both gracious and enthusiastic about the whole project. Many of the VA staff stood in attendance as Terry and I gave a brief speech in appreciation. We both praised and saluted the 173d.

It has done the Chapter proud at succeeding with this endeavor in Lexington. We are hoping to do the same in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Pennsylvania. It is getting closer to being implemented in both Ohio and Indiana.

Chapter 18

Larry Pierce Chapter • Oklahoma

Ed Perkins • edperkins173rd@gmail.com • 405-229-1124

We here in Chapter 18 are working hard to provide a good reunion for each and every one of you. We have gotten the City of Oklahoma City behind us, as many of the restaurants and businesses are providing “incentives” for you to visit them while you are here. As you know, things are a bit different at this reunion. With the attendance fee of \$99.00, much of what you are used to getting will not be there. We have many things in Oklahoma that you can see, many historical, as there is much history for the state that is one of the last to be admitted into the nation. One of the options available is a trip to Fort Sill to watch all the howitzers and rockets that the Field Artillery will fire. Afterward you will be able to speak with the soldiers that did the firing. Fort Sill is a closed post. To keep from taking us several hours to get on post, you must complete the form that is on the website and mail it to us so we can all be pre-approved before the event. We have not received many of these at this time. The only

exceptions are if you have a valid US Military ID card. That is either Active duty or Retired. Your wife, or the person accompanying you must also have one. Please have these into us as soon as you can. We will not be accepting them 60 days prior to the reunion so we will have time to work with the security people at Fort Sill to keep everything moving smoothly. Thank y’all for your corporation in this.

Now for some serious stuff. Men, we are “AIRBORNE PARATROOPERS”! Meaning, we lead the way and the history of the “HERD” speaks just that. I receive the quarterly newsletter from the 11th ACR (Armored Cavalry Regiment). Their reunion this year was held in San Antonio and had 1100 of their Association members present. As y’all might know, this beats the best we have ever had by over 100. Making us look like we just follow and do not lead. So, get all your buddies together and be in Oklahoma City on May 17-21, 2017.

We are going to have a past Battalion Commander in the Brigade as the Key Note speaker at the banquet. Remember, all please bring a coat and tie. It gives your lady a chance to “dress up” and feel like the Lady she is, even if it is for one night a year.

See y’all in May.

Chapter 19

New Zealand Chapter

John Deazley • deazal173@gmail.com

Chapter 21

The Gateway Chapter • Missouri/Southern Illinois

Kaiser Sterbinsky • sgtski2503@att.net • 217-299-0755

The chapter started a coat drive for kids, but we found a Veterans Assistance comm. here in Springfield, Illinois that needed not only kid coats but adult coats for vets who needed a little help, along with personal items, such as toothpaste, mouthwash, toothbrushes, etc...



Bill DeArmond, Linda from the Jefferson Barracks Food Bank, and Dan Sartori handing her a check for \$1000.

We had a short time to get this out and only one meeting before the turn in time. I can't say enough about some chapter members. Bill DeArmond, Joe Brown, Norm Bowers, Dan Sartori, Dan Kent, Carl and Sharon Dodd, Robey Best, Dan Parker, my daughter Michelle Shaw, Scott Wooden, my barber for 25 years and supporter of chapter 21 on the food bank program since we started, came though like a true Patriot and donated bags of coats and sweaters. All together we had 35 coats, 35 hats and 35 gloves. Of course the chapter bought 15 coats but because of the smart shopping of my wife Pearl we saved lots of money. She also bought new gloves and hats. The chapter also bought over \$75.00 of personal items for the families. Again this is what being HERD is all about. The veteran's assistance comm. gave everything out on NOV. 10 at the VFW post 10302 in Springfield, Illinois to any veteran in need.

We, as a chapter, have been donating can foods to the Jefferson Barracks Food Bank since we started two years ago. It has become as important to us as the scholarship program is. So in October when we found out they were very low on food and having a hard time opening their doors, we stepped up and wrote a check for \$1000.00. Our chapter vice president, Dan Sartori, took the chapters

challenge to two other veteran groups he belongs to and came away with \$1,100. Dan went a step further and put a note about the food bank on his Facebook site. One of



Tony and Kim from the VA Assistance commission giving out the coats and hats we collected at VFW 10302.

his friends told a school teacher about it and she went to her co-workers and friend and donation has been rolling in, the teachers name is Karen Dingus-Forbes. Also the Coldwell Banker Gundaker office on telegraph road has started a food drive for JB food bank. People all over Oakland and beyond are bringing in

food items and diapers. It is so wonderful the outpouring of so many thoughtful people. All this because our chapter saw the need and started trying to solve the problem. Dan Sartori took it to another level got the entire community involved and solved the immediate problem. I can't say enough about Dan, he is a Herd man and he led the way.



My granddaughter, Addison, at her school for Vets day. They sang us songs and served us cookies. It doesn't get any better!

Chapter 21 will continue to support Veterans in our community and elsewhere. We wish all a Merry Christmas and an AIRBORNE New Year! 21 leading the way

Chapter 23

Queensland Chapter • Australia

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Chapter 24

Rochester, Minnesota Chapter

Floyd Riester • ries173abn@aol.com • 507-281-0926

Chapter 25

Thunderbird Chapter • Phoenix, Arizona

Bob Madden, President • bob5992@cox.net • 602-999-5992

Chapter 27

Southern States Chapter • Victoria, Australia

John Arnold • johnarnold@inet.net.au

Chapter 28

San Diego Chapter

John Hutchens, President • jon@htswest.com • 760-753-6093

Recently, Chapter 28 has welcomed three new members to our crew: Larry Howard, D, 2ABG, 503rd Inf and A, 2/503 173rd, Jim Alvillar, D, 2ABG, 503rd Inf and A, 1/503rd, 173rd and Fran Benosky, D, 2ABG, 503rd Inf and A, 1/503rd Inf, 173rd. If you know them please reach out and say "Hi." I believe they will be at the next reunion with us at Ft Sill. Welcome aboard gentlemen, we appreciate you hooking up with Chapter 28.

We invite all 173rd Association members, as well as active duty folks, to take a look at our website which is handled by Warren Williams of Chapter 28. Our website has some interesting places to visit: We have a "Trooper



Life" section where guys have submitted photos from back in the

day, to which we add as the guys come forward to share. Any Chapter 28 guys that want to get in on this all you have to do contact an officer and we will get on it. We also have a store where we have our Chapter cups and Polo shirts available. Airborne regards to all, Jon



Chapter 28 guys got together after the August General Meeting at the American Legion Post in Escondido, CA. L to R. Rusty Kulp, David Wilbur, Henry Steigler, Tim Hall, Gil Reynoso, Dan Sampson, and Mike Proctor.

Chapter 29

Lawrence (Larry) Joel Chapter, Nevada

Joe Carmody • jallen9819@aol.com • 719-839-1810

Chapter 30

South Carolina Chapter

Wako Cotney, President • domwakoc1@gmail.com • 803-924-2342

What an exciting Veterans Day parade in Columbia, South Carolina. We had planned for three vehicles to show for the parade but ended up with only two. Then after sitting for nearly two hours waiting for the start (while meeting many other Veterans) we were down to one. One would

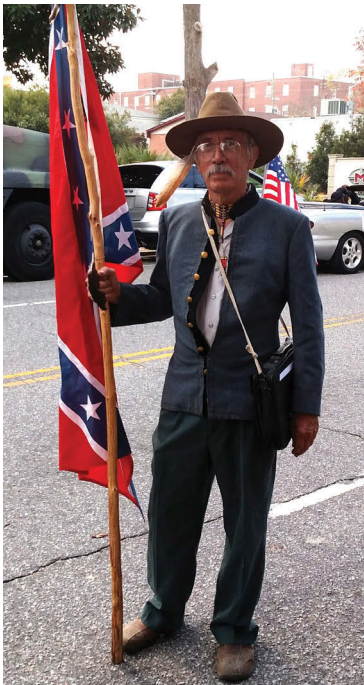
not start; it could not get fuel, but it had plenty in the tank. We were saved by the Aquila Miller's Hummer to represent Chapter 30.

I took Top Dresser close to the VA hospital to pick up his car. After that I decided to stop by a local restaurant to get a Veteran's Day free meal — for the first time. The parking lot was full and as I started to the door a lady said they are not doing the veterans meal until Monday from 5-9 p.m. I thanked them for what they were doing and replied "... I could not be there Monday."

A case of bladder urgency added to the little stress and frustration I was



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and another was sitting there in a booth. The second one said, "Are you really a Veteran?" Again, I said yes and explained to them about the combat medic badge, unit insignia, purple heart and Bronze Star patches on my vest. She then wanted to buy me lunch. Talk about

real humble pie. I replied I'm not used to young ladies buying me lunch. She said "but it would be a real honor sir." Reluctantly, I accepted. I've paid for other veterans' meals many times but this was one of the few times it happened to me.

Never belittle or steal the blessings of someone really wanting to give to you (pay it forward, a point of light). There were no names or numbers exchanged.

I took these photos and posted this on Facebook and I was asked to share. After I took photos one of the young ladies went back to their van to get their phone for photos. Then the stunner, "I can't wait to get home to tell my husband that I bought a meal for a wounded veteran today!" Now this ole Vet did swell up with pride and gratitude.

Blessings to all.



Chapter 173

Active Duty Chapter • Europe (Italy & Germany)

Frank Marcantonio • f_marcantonio@yahoo.com



173d Airborne Brigade Association Membership Application

173d Membership Application

Mail to:
Dennis Hill, 97 Earle St., Norwood, MA. 02602-1504
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