



**Serving Sky Soldiers Past, Present and Future**



# ***The Herd Word***

## **Chapter Loses Founding Mother**

Mrs. Roberta C. (Cis) Sigholtz passed away quietly on 29 April 2016, at the age of 91.



She was COL Robert H. Sigholtz wife, when he was Commander of 2-503 Parachute Infantry Battalion and at the time of the Battalion's Vietnam combat jump.

She was the Gold Star Mother of CPT Robert H. Sigholtz Jr. (D/2 -503, KIA 26 May 1969).

Our Chapter, Chapter 1 (Sigholtz Capital Chapter), is named after her son.

In accordance with Cis Sigholtz's wishes, there was no public ser-

vice and the family will conduct a private burial.

The Chapter has been in contact with the family and will provide an Honor Set recognizing her as our Chapter Founding Mother, at small private venue to be designated by the

family.

Cis Sigholtz was loyal to the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade and to our Chapter. She will be missed.

May she rest in peace.



## **Upcoming Event**

**P.J. Skidoos**



**See Chapter Calendar  
for  
Details**

## **Be There for Those Who Can't**

This year's Reading of the Names will take place on 4 June. We will meet in front of the Arlington National Cemetery Visitors Center at 1030 and move to the Brigade Marker.

This year's reading will include the names of Sky Soldiers lost in 1970-1971 and all Sky Soldiers lost during the GWOT. Chairs and cemetery driving passes will be available. We will request volunteer readers on site.

***AIRBORNE***  
***ALL THE WAY***

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# Message from the Chapter President



Our Chapter has continued to be active since our last newsletter. Your participation in Chapter events is appreciated.

**Funerals** - Chapter members participated in three Sky Soldier funerals and presented Chapter Honor Sets to the next of kin, this quarter. Those honored were LTC Claude L. Stults on 14 March, LTC James F. Anderson on 29 March, and COL Lawrence W. Jackley on 24 April. See articles in this newsletter.

**Iwo Jima Lithographs** – One of the Iwo Jima Lithographs that was given to the Chapter has been donated to the US Army Heritage and Education Center Foundation at Carlisle, PA, and is on display there. I am negotiating donating the second lithograph to the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico, VA.

**173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Reunion Committee** – Our 2018 Reunion Committee will become active following the 2016 Brigade Reunion, in Fort Benning, GA. We are required to make a detailed presentation of our Reunion plans at the 2017 Oklahoma City Brigade Reunion.

**Chapter Name Officially Changed** – On 6 May, the State of Virginia approved the revision of our Chapter name to Chapter 1 (Sigholtz Capital Chapter) of the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association. This name change brings us into conformity with the official name of the Brigade Association. Our next step is to petition the IRS to accept our name change.

**Chapter Fees** – On 31 October 2015, we sent out the annual Chapter Fees letter. Our annual fee of \$20 supports our various activities. To date, 90 members

have submitted their 2016 Chapter fee. If you missed our communication, contact me and I will provide you the information.

**Upcoming Events** – See attached Calendar of Events. Note that the Reading of the Names had to be changed from 7 May 2016 to 4 June 2016 due to road work in Arlington National Cemetery please join us for this event.

Again, I appreciate your support and participation in Chapter events. I hope to see many of you at the 7-11 June Fort Benning Reunion. I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Chapter Picnic at my house 13 August.

Airborne All The Way,

Joe



## LTC Claude L. Stults Funeral

On the 14th of March, our Chapter honored Sky Soldier LTC Claud L. Stults, Jr., U.S. Army (Ret), and his family, at Arlington National Cemetery. Claud was an Army Aviator who supported the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade (Separate) in Vietnam, as a member of the Cowboys and Casper Platoon. The Chapter was well represented by Ed Anthony, Chuck Evans, George Farris, Joe Flesch, Bill Harris, Terry Walsh, Len Wood and his wife, and Jim Yarrison.

The service was held in the Old Post Chapel at Fort Myer. Afterwards, the funeral party followed the Old Guard and the Caisson to the internment site, for the grave side service. Joe Flesch presented the Chapter Honor Set to Mrs. Mary Kay Stults following the service. Several Chapter representatives then proceeded to the Stults' home for a fine reception in honor of Claud's devotion to our Nation.

## Notes From



## The Webmaster

We're trying to improve our service to Members. So, I'm soliciting ideas to make our Chapter Web Site more responsive to our Members. Ideas welcomed.

You can contact me at  
[cajungene@aol.com](mailto:cajungene@aol.com)

**Gene Cartier**  
Chapter 1 Webmaster

# Chapter 1 Calendar Year 2016

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
Chapter Annual General Membership Meeting	6 Feb 2016	1100	Sat	Joe Flesch	The Irish Inn at Glen Echo 6119 Tulane Avenue Glen Echo, MD 20812
LTC Claude Stults Sky Soldier Funeral	14 Mar 2016	1300	Mon	Ed Anthony	Administration Building Arlington National Cemetery Arrive at 1230
St. Patrick's Day/ Gathering of the Herd (MD)	12 Mar 2016	1100	Sat	Joe Flesch	Flanagan's Harp and Fiddle 4844 Cordell Ave Bethesda, MD 20814
LTC James F. Anderson Sky Soldier Funeral	29 Mar 2016	1300	Tue	Ed Anthony	Administration Building Arlington National Cemetery Arrive at 1230
COL Lawrence W. Jackley Sky Soldier Funeral	24 Apr 2016	1300	Sun	Joe Flesch	Mount Vernon Unitarian Church 1909 Windmill Lane Alexandria, VA 22307
Reading of the Names Vietnam and GWOT	4 Jun 2016	1030	Sat	Ed Anthony	Brigade Marker Arlington National Cemetery
173 <sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Reunion	7 - 11 Jun 2016	N/A	Tue - Fri	N/A	Convention and Trade Center Columbus, GA
Gathering of the Herd (VA)	16 Jul 2016	1100	Sat	Joe Flesch	P.J. Skidoos 9908 Fairfax Blvd. (Route 50) Fairfax, VA 22030 Phone 703-591-4415  No Host Brunch
Chapter BBQ	13 Aug 2016	1100	Sat	Joe Flesch	Flesch Home 11730 Hawkes Road Clarksburg, MD
Bravo Bulls Ceremony	10 Nov 2016	1100	Thu	Roy Lombardo	Multiple Sites Arlington National Cemetery
Walk to the Wall	11 Nov 2016	1000	Wed	Joe Flesch	Vietnam Memorial No-Host Lunch
Wreaths Across America	? Dec 2016	0900	Sat	Bill Harris	Arlington National Cemetery
Wounded Warrior Visits	Periodic	N/A	N/A	TBD	DC and Richmond VA Area

## Association 2016 Reunion

Come to the Association Reunion in Columbus, Georgia. There will be trips to local historic sites and a day at Ft. Benning to revisit our airborne roots: The 250 and

### Herd Reunion

7 - 11 Jun 2016  
Convention and Trade Center  
Columbus, GA

### Register

<http://www.173dreunion2016.com/>

34 foot towers, eat at an Army dining facility, view a training jump and pinning on of wings, and visit our 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Monument.



# COL Lawrence W. Jackley Funeral



**March 27, 1928 - February 16, 2016**

There had been over two weeks of on-and-off drizzle and rain, before Sunday, 24 April. The weather for the ceremony at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, seemed almost an anomaly – a sunny day. So it was for long time Chapter 1 member COL Lawrence Jackley's memorial service.

COL Jackley's long service in the Army began with his graduation from West

Point and was highlighted by his assignment as Commander of 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 503 Parachute Infantry, in Vietnam.

Those who knew or knew of him from that era were well represented, including our Chapter President, Joe Flesch, and friends and family from near and far.

COL Jackley's granddaughter, Liana Jackley-Angulo began the ceremony with the lighting of a candle. This gesture seemed to be emblematic of the simplicity and solemnity of the occasion.

The Rev. Dr. Kate Walker presided over the service. She highlighted the role and contribution COL Jackley had played and made to his congregation. Rev. Dr. Walker waxed eloquently about COL Jackley's Chairmanship of the Church's Building Committee and Board of Trustees.

She was followed by COL Jackley's family members, each of whom had anecdotes that illustrated COL Jackley's courage, integrity, inclusiveness, core values, commitment, or service.

Perhaps most poignant speakers were the testimonials of CSM Ted Arthurs, LTC Joe Flesch, our Chapter President, and COL William Donnolly, who reflected on and related their experiences with COL Jackley, while in Vietnam.

One could not be but impressed with the scope, depth, and length of COL Jackley's life of service to others, including negotiations regarding the Panama Canal.

The ceremony concluded with the singing of America the Beautiful: a fitting tribute to one who life was characterized by an ethos of service to the nation.

Following the tribute, the assembly exited the largely white, modern minimalist church and congregated in the ante-room for refreshments. There the family greeted parishioners and friends alike with warmth and gracious hospitality.

COL Jackley leaves behind his wife of 65 years, Joanne Priest Jackley, four children, six grandchildren, and a great grandchild on the way.

## Chapter 1 Financial Report

as of 26 May 2016

<b>Balance as of 29 February 2015</b>	<b>\$10,858.63</b>
Receipts (Dues, fees, and donations)	\$ 530.72
Disbursements	(\$390.38)
<b>Balance as of 26 May 2016</b>	<b>\$10,998.97</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Dues       9 \$20.00 (Pay Pal fees \$5.28)	\$174.72
Dues       1 (paid 2 years)	\$40.00
Dues       1 Life Membership	\$173.00
Donations:	
Flesch for Scholarship Fund	\$123.00
Farris for next Scholarship Fund	\$20.00
<b>Disbursements included:</b>	
Brigade Foundation Scholarship Fund	\$123.00
Staples The Herd Word Production 5 copies)	\$12.38
Brigade Life Membership Gilmore	\$121.00
USPS Rental on PO Box (1 year)	\$134.00



## LTC Claude L. Stults Funeral 14 March 2016



Old Post Chapel  
Fort Myer, VA



Old Guard Placing the Casket  
on the Caisson



Chapter 1  
Honor Guard Detail

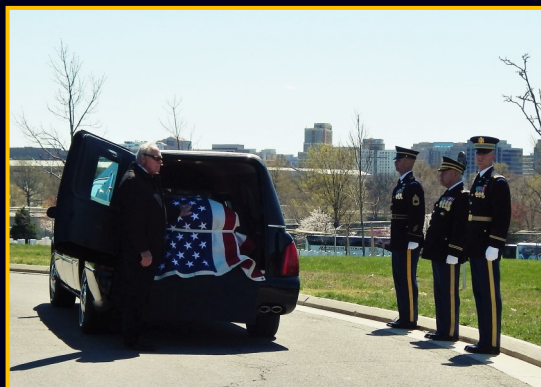


Presenting Honor Set  
to Mrs. Stults

## LTC James F. Anderson Funeral 29 March 2016



Joe Flesch, Jim Yarrison,  
Frank Probst &  
Terry Walsh



Old Guard at Transfer Point



Old Guard  
3<sup>d</sup> Infantry Regiment



A Mounted Salute

## COL Lawrence W. Jackley Funeral 24 April 2016



Gene Cartier, Bill Ethington, Terry Walsh, Joe  
Flesch & Bill Connolly



Liana Jackley-Angulo  
Lighting the Candle



Honor Set Presented to  
Mrs. Jackley



# Stanley DeRuggiero: Honor Delayed But Not Lost

On Thursday, 14 April, 2016, Congressman Christopher (Chris) Gibson (NY-19), a former Brigade Commander in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, presented former Sky Soldier, Specialist Four Stanley S. DeRuggiero (C/4-503, 67-68), with the Silver Star Medal for his actions during C Company's firefight near Bao Loc, on 17 June 1968.



Stan DeRuggiero receiving the Silver Star from Congressman Chris Gibson

While serving as a fire team leader, in the third squad, third platoon, Stan elected to collect, administer first-aid, personally guard, and evacuate three badly wounded paratroopers from the No Man's Land, between the lines of combat.

The ceremony, held in the Cannon House Office Building, marked the cul-

mination of a lifelong effort by Stan's squad leader, SGT Cliff Davids, to see Stan appropriately recognized. Cliff's initial submission for Stan's Silver Star disappeared. A later effort resulted in Stan's award being downgraded to the Bronze Star for Valor. Despite this, Cliff continued pursuit of his initial nomination.

Along the way, former C/4 Company Commanders, Bill Brewster and Chuck Briscoe, joined the effort. Bill Brewster enlisted the support of Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Congressman Gibson (R-NY). This persistence, supported by the strength of Stan's valorous actions, persuaded the Army to upgrade to the award in January 2016.

Stan DeRuggiero grew up in Yonkers, New York. After high school, he was drafted in February, 1967, and, following jump school, joined the Brigade in Vietnam, August, 1967. After Vietnam, Stan served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Army Honor Guard, Fort Totten, NY, until his release from active duty.

Stan's Squad Leader, Cliff Davids; his high school classmate, Steve Martin; his sister, Marie and her husband, Michael Magnello; four former C/503 Company Commanders, COL (Ret) Bill Connolly, COL (Ret) Charles Briscoe, former 1LT William Brewster; and LTC (Ret) Michael Montie were present for the ceremony. Chapter 1 members attending included

Ed Anthony, Bill Connolly, George Farris, Joe Flesch, Roy Gilmore, Ron Leonard, Terry Modglin, Michael Montie, Terry Walsh and Gene Weeks. Don Phillips, the son of Chapter 1 member, Don Phillips, was also present.

After the ceremony, the attendees adjourned to the Tortilla Coast, a Capitol Hill restaurant, for refreshments and comradeship worthy of Sky Soldiers who had come together to honor one of their own.

Michael Monty



Stan DeRuggiero standing tall

## LTC James F. Anderson Funeral

LTC (Ret.) James F. Anderson was born in Springfield, IL, on October 15, 1946.

He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy, at West Point. There, as his classmates would assert, he exemplified the Academy's motto of Duty, Honor, Country.

Upon graduation, he attended Ranger and Airborne School, before deploying to Vietnam, where he served in the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade's November Company Ranger, from 1969 to 1970.

His courage in combat earned him numerous commendations, including the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army Commendation Medal.

As he moved up the ranks, Jim trav-

eled the world, leading soldiers and serving in places as far-flung as Democratic Republic of Congo, South Korea, and Hawaii.

Jim retired in La Plata, MD and died at Walter Reed Military Medical Center, on November 22, 2015. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Karen; his children, Kristin (Jon), Clouse, and Erik (Catina) Anderson; and his grandchildren Chloe, Keira, Jack, Karennia, Dawson, and McKenna.

The Chapter was well represented at Jim's Arlington National Cemetery Funeral by Gene Cartier, Bill Ethington, Terry Walsh, Joe Flesch, Mack Brooks, and Bill Connolly. As is the Chapter custom, the Chapter President, Joe Flesch, presented Mrs. Anderson with the Chapter Honor Set for Jim's service in the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade.



Mrs. Karen Anderson receives thanks from a grateful nation



# 503<sup>d</sup> Infantry Regiment Memorial



The 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Memorial and other monuments recognizing the sacrifice of distinguished divisional and regimental units are located at The National Infantry Museum's Walk of Honor, just outside Fort Benning Georgia. Currently, one distinguished unit, the 503<sup>d</sup> Infantry Regiment, is not recognized at this hallowed site. That's about to change.

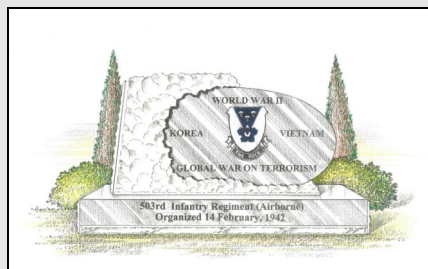
Honorary 503<sup>d</sup> Regiment Sergeant Major, Richard Weik, and Honorary 503<sup>d</sup> Infantry Regiment Colonel, Ken Smith, have initiated action to place a marker that recognizes the contribution this storied Regiment since its formation. They obtained approval from the National Infantry Museum leadership to erect a memorial within the footprint of the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Memorial and have opened a dialogue with Columbus Monument, the builders of the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Memorial, to undertake the project.

The memorial will be approximately 4 feet wide, 26 inches tall, and constructed of topaz-grey granite. The estimated cost will be \$12,000. Construction will commence when 75% of the funds are on hand. The 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation has agreed to collect donations for the cause. If two hundred Sky Soldiers and friends or Association Chapters contribute \$50.00 each, over the next six months, construction of the 503<sup>d</sup> Infantry Memorial can commence. Make checks payable to the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation – indicate on the bottom of the check "Regimental Memorial."

Donations should be mailed to Ken Smith, 124 Tugboat Lane, Summerville, SC 29486. You may also donate through the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation website (<http://www.173dairbornememorial.org>) and using the PayPal button on the "Funding" dropdown menu. Be sure to cite "Regimental Marker" in the special instructions bloc.

Construction of the 503<sup>d</sup> Infantry Regiment Memorial is long overdue. I propose that our Chapter donate \$500 to this effort from our general fund and encourage each of you make personal donations as you see fit. Please support this effort and make it happen.

Joe Flesch, President Chapter 1 (Sigholtz Capital Chapter)



## Chapter Bar-B-Que

**Coordination:** To help us plan for food. Email: Flesch11730@comcast.net or call 301-266-0216 with the number coming, **NLT 1 August 2016.**

**Directions:** Take exit #16 from I-270 (MD 27/Ridge Road) towards Damascus, MD. Turn left on Hawkes Road (about 4 miles from I-270). The house will be on your left about 0.7 miles

**11 AM to 4 PM  
Saturday, August 13, 2016**

**Joe Flesch  
Chapter President's Home  
11730 Hawkes Road  
Clarksburg, MD**

from MD Route 27. Name is on the mailbox.

**Warning:** GPS may take you to a brick house. We will be two houses further on the left (light gray siding).

**Cost:** \$5 per person. Kids five and under are free. Members may bring their own beer or wine. Bring pot luck dish and be entered into a \$25 prize drawing.