



Serving Sky Soldiers Past, Present and Future

The Herd Word



New Chapter Vice President



Terry Walsh today

At the 2018 Chapter General Membership Meeting, **Terry Walsh** was elected Chapter Vice President.

Terry is a long time member of the of the 173^d Brigade Association and the Chapter. He comes from a family with a long history of military service. His great-grandfather was a Spanish-American War veteran, his grandfather was a WWI and WWII veteran, his father was a WWII veteran, his mother worked for the War Department, via the Joint Chiefs of Staff, during WWII. He has two brothers who served. He seemed destined to join the military.

He joined the Army in 1968. Following Basic, AIT, and parachute training, Terry went to Fort Bragg, with 2nd Brigade, 325th PIR, 82nd Airborne Division. Afterwards, he PCSed to the 4/503^d PIR, 173^d Air-

borne Brigade, where he spend a year in Binh Dinh Province. He left Vietnam to go back to Fort Bragg. He was discharged in 1974.

After the military, Terry returned to school and obtained a degree in electronics through the GI Bill. He bounced around the electronics and electrical industry for over a decade.

In 1988, Terry went back to school and obtained a BS and Masters in Nursing from the UMBC/UMB.

He began working as a Registered Nurse in Maryland, where he spent 25 years working in emergency medicine, ICU medicine, and Intervention Radiology/Cardiac Cauterization medicine.

Terry, recently, has been very active in the Chapter activities. He plans to support the current Chapter President in all the Chapter's endeavors.



Terry Walsh in Vietnam

AIRBORNE
ALL THE WAY

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The Chapter President's Message



It's been a busy quarter for the Chapter. Monthly 2018 173^d Airborne Brigade Association (ABA) Reunion Committee meetings were held on, 9 DEC 2017, 20 JAN 2018, and 24 FEB 2018.

There are 25 Chapter members on the committee, three representatives from the 173^d ABA, the 173^d ABA Concierge, and a representative from Chapter 30 of the 2019 Reunion in Charleston, SC. If you want to participate in planning our Reunion, please contact me.

Chapter members honored America's hero's at Arlington National Cemetery, on Saturday 16 Dec 2017. See article in this issue.

I attended the 173^d ABA Mid-Winter Conference, at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel, as a member of the Association Board of Directors, on 11-14 JAN. Chapter members **Mack Brooks, Bill Connolly and Terry Modglin** participated selectively as visitors and added much to the discussions. The discussions were very productive, including progress on the five SOPs Association President, **Terry Aubrey**, initiated.

I updated the Mid-Winter conferees on preparations for the 2018 173^d ABA Reunion. I walked the Association Executive Board through key Reunion venues.

Our Annual General Membership Meeting was held on 27 JAN, in Alexandria, VA. Twenty people attended. I am pleased to announce that **Terry Walsh** was voted our new Vice President and Mack Brooks was elected to continue serving as the Chapter Secretary.

Seven Chapter members honored **SGT Daniel J. Tomczak** and his family by attending his Arlington National Cemetery. The Chapter presented SGT Tomczak's wife the Chapter Honor Set. See related article in this issue.

I visited **SGT Franz Walkup (Ret)**, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) on 13 FEB. I gave him two 173^d Airborne Brigade hats on behalf of Terry Aubrey, our Association President

Registration for the 2018 173^d Airborne Brigade Association Reunion is going well. As of 20 FEB, 515 Sky Soldiers and guests have registered. If you have not registered you can do so on the Association website or mail in the registration form with a check. The registration form can be downloaded from the Association website or in the Fall & Winter Sky Soldier issues.

There was error on the Reunion's Ladies Breakfast Program in the Fall Sky Soldier magazine. The Ladies Breakfast should be shown as occurring

on 25 May. The error has been corrected in the link for the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center.

If you have problems registering for your hotel room, contact the 173^d Airborne Brigade Association Concierge Kimberly Hubbard. She can be reached at 619-884-9571 or kimberly@sandiegoconcierge.com.

Upcoming Events

10 MAR

Gathering of The Herd, Flanagan's Harp & Fiddle, Bethesda, MD. Join us in having a great time.

8 MAY

Reading of the Names, at the Brigade Marker, Arlington National Cemetery.

23 - 27 MAY

173^d ABA Reunion, Hilton Alexandria Mark Center.

We need candidates for President and Treasurer, next year. My wife and I are stepping down as of JAN 2019.

To date, the Chapter has 63 members. Membership means having paid 2018 fees. If you haven't receive the 2018 Chapter Fee Letter, contact me. Your support is vital, especially since we are hosting the 2018 173^d ABA Reunion.

Thank you for your support.
Airborne All The Way,

Joe

Not So Fast, Ken Burns & Lynn Novick

In September the American public watched the most sweeping history of the Vietnam conflict in the 10-part, 17-and-a-quarter hour documentary, *The Vietnam War*. The series was directed by historian Ken Burns and his colleague Lynn Novick.

The series will have an outsize influence on future understanding of the Vietnam War. To make it an intimate portrait, the directors featured 79 participants – members of the U.S., South Vietnamese, and North Vietnamese Armed Forces – and a close-up of 25 bloody battles. The documentary is a tale on two levels: stories of the veterans who bear the visible and invisible scars of war and at the highest political level, the decisions and interplay that affected those individuals. The entire series places in perspective the decisions that led to the increasing U.S. intervention and its aftermath.

For what it says and does not say, a better title for this series would have been “The Diplomatic and Political History of the Vietnam War and the Stories of Those Who Served or Resisted.”

To its credit, the series, in places, highlights the bravery of U.S. troops, but the series focuses particular attention on the coverups, misdeeds, cruelty, and divi-



Two segments from the series illustrate the writer's underlying attitude. Burns commented that a war 'resister' “summoned up the nerve to go to Canada” to avoid fighting for our country. This comment implies that the deserter's decision to evade serv-

sions during the course of the war. The series emphasizes criticism of commanders, whose battlefield goals seemed self-glorifying, corrupt South Vietnamese officials, war crimes by U.S. soldiers, lies from Washington, massive protests, and the loss of faith in our country.

The North Vietnamese are characterized as brave soldiers, though misled by their government. While there are truths to support their perspective, the series is grossly imbalanced.

Only a slither of attention is paid to the systematic Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army (NVA) assassinations, extortions, and terrorism that led the U.S. to intervene, the substantial accomplishments of the U.S. military units, the wounds of veterans who faithfully served, the continual violations of international law by North Vietnam, and the continuing denial of human rights by the Communist Government.

ing is equivalent to the courage of those who honorably served.

The second instance is when a deserter crossed the border into Canada and, eventually, overdosed on drugs. He was described as “another casualty of the Vietnam War.” This assessment implies that circumstances related to the war caused the man to overdose.

This is the tragic flaw in the series – canonization of the cynicism, narcissism, and abdication of personal responsibility that still pervades our society and demeans the sacrifice so many of us made.

The bottom line is this: Vietnam was the reflection our societal ills, not the source of them. I take solace in the fact that we can debate the value and accuracy of the Burns/Novick TV series because we live in a nation where, unlike in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, cannot.

Terry Modglin



I WANT YOUR STORY

The Herd Word

Send Short Articles and Pix to Mack Brooks1@gmail.com

Chapter 2018 Calendar

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
173 ^d Brigade Association Mid-Winter Conference	11-14 Jan 2018	N/A	Thu - Sun	Joe Flesch	Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel Alexandria, VA
Chapter Annual General Membership Meeting	27 Jan 2018	1100	Sat	Mack Brooks Mark Ludlow	Marina Towers 501 Slaters Lane Alexandria, VA Refreshments will be served
St. Patrick's Day Gathering of the Herd	10 Mar 2018	1100	Sat	Mack Brooks	Flanagan's Harp and Fiddle 4844 Cordell Avenue Bethesda, MD 20814
Reading of the Names Vietnam and GWOT	5 May 2018	1030	Sat	Ed Anthony	Brigade Marker Arlington National Cemetery Reading the Names Sky Soldier KIAs 1967 & GWOT
173 ^d Airborne Brigade National Reunion	23-26 May 2018	N/A	Tue - Fri	N/A	Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel Alexandria, VA
Gathering of the Herd (PA)	21Jul 2018	1100	Sat	Bob Read	Troegs Brewery 200 E Hershey Park Drive Hershey, PA 17033
Chapter BBQ	11 Aug 2018	1100	Sat	Joe Flesch	11730 Hawkes Road Clarksburg, MD
Gathering of the Herd (VA)	15 Sep 2018	1200	Sat	Roger Dick & Mick Weisinger	Sunset Grill 1601 Hockett Road Manakin Sabot, VA 23103
Bravo Bulls Ceremony	9 Nov 2018	1100	Thu	Roy Lombardo	Start at SSG Larry Rougle's burial site (Section 60, Arlington National Cemetery) Veteran Day Celebrated 10 Nov 2017
Walk to the Wall	12 Nov 2018	1000	Wed	Ed Anthony	Vietnam Memorial No-Host Lunch
Wreaths Across America	15 Dec 2018	0900	Sat	Joe Flesch	Arlington National Cemetery
Wounded Warrior Visits	Periodic	N/A	N/A	TBD	DC and Richmond VA Area



saint patrick day

gathering of the herd

10 march 2018

Flanagan's Harp and Fiddle
4844 Cordell Avenue
Bethesda, MD 20814

1100h



Tell Your Story at the 2018 Reunion

Sky Soldiers,

Your story is vital for researchers to learn about the experiences of real Soldiers. You can tell your story at the 2018 173^d Airborne Brigade Association Reunion.

U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) will be at the Reunion to record your story in the Army and with the Brigade. Sign up for a one-hour oral interview for Thursday, 24 May or Friday, 25 May. There will be a sign up board in the reunion registration area.

To share your story, USAHEC asks you to download the US AHEC Veteran Military Service Survey and fill it out to the best of your ability. Return it to info@armyheritage.org, with email subject: 173d Airborne Brigade



Association Reunion. This will help the interviewers prepare for your interview. If you are not able to complete the form or return it, still sign up for an interview slot at the Reunion.

You can also download the survey by going to the 173^d ABA website www.skysoldier.net and selecting the 2018 Reunion tab. Page down and click on

“Veterans Military Service Form.”

For an interview information sheet click on the 2018 Reunion Schedule of Events tab and, then, click on one of the yellow highlighted U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center events (first entry under 24 and 25 May).

If you want to participate and are not able to access the survey form electronically, email your desire to be interviewed to sigholtz.capital.chapter@gmail.com.

The email subject; “Request for Oral Interview” or call 301-266-0216 and let me know. This will allow us to determine how many interviewers will be required.

Joe Flesch
Director
2018 173^d ABA Reunion

There'll Never Be a Better Time or Better Reason to Attend a Herd Reunion



2018

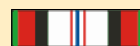
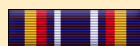


**173d Airborne Brigade
Reunion**



23-27 May 2018

Register Now, Chapter 1!



Wreaths Across America 2017



Bill Connolly, Joe Flesch, and Terry Walsh

It was an extremely cold day, Saturday, 16 December 2017. Chapter members **Bill Connolly, Joe Flesch, and Terry Walsh** layered their clothes and gritted their teeth

to take part in the annual wreath laying event, Wreaths Across America.

Wreaths Across America honors America's heroes and other patriotic citizens buried at Arlington National Cemetery and other national cemeteries.

The weather and huge traffic jams prevented several Chapter members and friends from joining the Chapter trio at Arlington. Nonetheless, the hearty three stalwarts were not deterred.

Terry Walsh laid a wreath on his grandfather's grave. Afterwards, they distributed wreaths on oth-



Bill Connolly, Joe Flesch, and Terry Walsh with Herd Veterans

er burial sites. The Chapter trio met two other 173^d Sky Soldier veterans near the Fort Myer Old Post Chapel. They exchanged a few stories before parting ways, fully satisfied that they had done a good deed.

SGT Dan Tomczak Funeral

SGT Daniel Tomczak was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on 8 Feb 2018. Seven Chapter 1 members were present to honor his service. Tomczak was assigned to the 2nd Platoon, A Company, 4/503^d, 173^d Airborne Brigade, part of 1969 and 1970. He was WIA on 4 January 1970, by a booby trap, that resulted in the loss of his right leg. He required almost a year to recover. Dan went on to lead a full and active life with his hometown girl friend, Denise, from Auburn Heights, MI. SGT



Dan Tomczak

extremely proud of being a paratrooper with the 173^d.

Tomczak wrote a book about his time in the military, his wounds, and his recovery, *Damn It, I'm Hit: A Graphic Memoir*. Chapter Member

Mark Ludlow was among those present at Tomczak's interment. Mark was Dan's closest friend during their state-side training and flew to Vietnam with him. Both were assigned to the 4th Battalion, 173^d Airborne Brigade. A large contingent of family and friends were present for Dan's military honors.



The Tomczak Family

Tomczak was



Joe Flesch presents \$500 check to Ms. Jessica Reddish of Fisher House

Chapter 1 President, **Joe Flesch**, presented a \$500 check to **Ms. Jessica Reddish** of Fisher House, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda, 29 December 2017. This was the Chapter's second \$500 donation to Fisher House in 2017.

The Fisher House gives outstanding service to active duty & retired service members, veterans, and their families.

Chapter Annual General Membership 2018

Saturday, January 27, 2018, was a special day for the 20 Chapter members and friends present at the Chapter's Annual General Meeting. **Mark Ludlow** was kind enough to offer his residence community center, at the Marina Towers, in Alexandria, Virginia, as a venue for the mandatory Chapter meeting. After the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer, and without much ado, the Chapter President, **Joe Flesch**, wasted no time getting down to business.



Mike Bergmann and **Terry Walsh** were contenders for the Chapter Vice President position. Terry was elected and roundly congratulated by the assembly. **Mack Brooks** was re-elected as Chapter Secretary. He advised the group that this would be his last term in the position.

Joe Flesch informed the group that he attended a very productive Mid-Winter Conference, at the Hilton Mark Center. The Association Executive Committee, led by **Terry Aubrey**, was taking long needed steps to give structure to Association business practices. Joe briefed the Association Executive Committee on progress on the 2018 Reunion.

Joe noted that there was over \$45,000 dollars in registration receipts, to date. He encouraged Chapter members to register early, especially for vendor tours. He encouraged members to pay their dues/fees and donate to scholarships and other Chapter charitable

options. Joe was planning to invite some of the Chapter scholarship winners to the Reunion.

Jeane Flesch's Treasurer's report was lauded by all present. Mack Brooks informed the members about the Challenge Coin design and other Reunion publicity matters. He reiterated his desire for Chapter members to submit articles for the Herd Word. **Bill Connolly** updated everyone on donation efforts for the Reunion. We have vendor and donor packets on the web and will be sending out personal donor letters soon. The Chapter President encouraged members who had contacts in firms with charitable donor funds to inform Bill Connolly.

Joe Flesch shared his frustration at not being able to get Gold Star Family contact information. He is aggressively addressing the issue. **Ed Anthony** reviewed the Chapter's many transactions with Arlington National Cemetery (ANC) and other events on behalf of deceased Sky Soldiers. He reminded the group about the Reading of the Names, at ANC, scheduled for 5 May 2018. This

year, we will be reading 1967 Vietnam-era Sky Soldier and all the Global War on Terrorism KIAs. Ed encourage members to come out and share reading the many names.

Rick Young Said that he was working the Maryland 173^d Airborne Brigade novelty plates and hopes to have a breakthrough soon. The Chapter President said that he is looking at options to sell the Iwo Jima

sketch given the Chapter. The Treasurer verified that the artwork is appraised at \$9600. George Farris volunteered to contact Marine Corps elements for avenues to sell the work. Another option being considered is raffling the picture off at the Reunion.

The General Membership approved continuing the pattern of charitable giving to the Fisher House, the Association scholarship, and the \$1173 Sigholtz Chapter scholarship that we've pursued in the past. In a sidebar conversation, **Rich Caporiccio** agreed to serve as the Chapter Chaplain.

The following attended **Ed & Connie Anthony; Mack Brooks; Rich Caporiccio; Garrett Clemons; Bill, Liam, and Aiden Connolly; Jim Crouch; George Farris; Joe & Jeane Flesch; Mark Ludlow; Alan Phillips; Trudy Surut; Terry Walsh; Charlie & Tricia White; Jim Yarri-son; and Rick Young.**

With Chapter business concluded, the well-informed group turned their attention to socializing and enjoying the venison barbeque and other edibles with gusto.

173^d Hats for Wounded Sky Soldier



SGT Franz Walkup (Ret) and Chapter President Joe Flesch

In September 2012, SGT Franz Walkup was severely wounded, in Afghanistan. He nearly lost his right leg. He spent several years in Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, in Bethesda, MD (WRNMMCB), recovering from his injury. He was medically retired from the Army.

Damage to his leg proved too severe and he lost feeling in the limb. Last October, his leg had to be amputated below the knee. Franz is again undergoing rehabilitation at WRNMMCB.

ously, he asked for a 173^d cap, with just the 173^d patch on the front. When 173^d ABA President, **Terry Aubrey**, heard of this Wounded Warrior's request, he sent Chapter 1 a blue and tan cap with the Brigade patch on the front.

On 13 February, while visiting Franz, Chapter President, Joe Flesch, presented SGT Walkup with two caps, with the 173^d insignia proudly displayed in front, in the name of the 173^d ABA and the Association President.

Chapter 1 has been supporting SGT Walkup, as needed. Previ-

Joe Flesch

Chapter 1 Financial Report

As of 20 February, 2018

Balance as of 20 November 2018	\$8,489.27
Receipts (Fees and Donations)	\$3218.50
Disbursements	(\$2449.64)
Balance as of 20 February, 2018	\$9,258.13

Receipts:

Chapter Fees:

49	\$980.00
11 (PayPal)	\$211.70

Brigade Dues

6	\$144.00
1 (PayPal)	\$22.60

Donations: 26\$1773.00

Brigade Rebate \$87.00

Disbursements included:

Brigade Dues 7 \$112.00

Memorial Foundation \$80.00

USPS Stamps \$49.00

Mid-Winter Conference:

Supplies \$103.03

Chapter President Hotel Bill \$377.43

Annual Meeting

Copies \$34.02

Food \$149.19

The Herd Word production (Staples) and seals \$16.77

Honor Set Mailing \$10.19

Donation Fisher House 500.00

Donation Miracle Quilts \$500.00

Brigade National Memorial Foundation \$500.00

Staples – Printer Paper \$18.01

Picture Gallery

SGT Tomczak Funeral



Denise Tomczak



Mark Ludlow, Ed Anthony & Jim Yarrison



Ed Anthony & George Farris



Roy Gilmore



Ed Anthony with Brigade Colors



Presentation of the Tomczak Flag



Mark Ludlow



Mark Ludlow, Joe Flesch & Denise Tomczak



Franz Walkup & Joe Flesch
Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

Chapter Annual General Meeting



Rich Caporicco



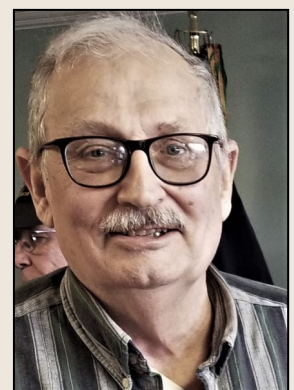
Trudy Surut



Bill Connolly



Connie Anthony & Terry Walsh



George Farris



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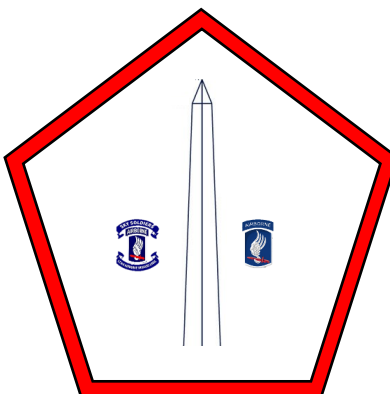
Stamp

173^d Airborne Brigade Association
Chapter 1 (Sigheitz Capital Chapter)
P.O. Box 173
McLean, VA 22101-0173



FOLD

Register Now!



2018
173^d Airborne Brigade Reunion
Alexandria, VA
23 - 27 May 2018

Hilton Alexandria Mark Center Hotel Alexandria, VA

