

173rd Airborne Brigade Association
General Membership Meeting
11 June 2016

The General Membership meeting started at 0915. It was started with the pledge of allegiance, followed by a prayer, led by the Chaplain, and then a moment of silence for those not with us.

Roy Scott, President, gave a “State of the Association” address. He thanked Chapter 30 for their excellent job on the reunion. He then thanked Chapter 21 for their hard work and contributions to the Association. He then thanked Ken Smith on the excellent work of the Memorial Foundation. He pointed out the Memorial Foundation web site is up and working very well and encouraged all to go to the site. He mentioned the Spartan Club that has raised \$250,000.00 of their \$300,000.00 goal to ensure the memorial is cleaned and maintained. He then talked about the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment and how they do not have a memorial of any type. So, the Memorial Foundation is going to put a memorial up for them in the area of our memorial. Any that wish to donate may do so by sending a check to the Memorial Foundation and writing on it for the 503rd Memorial. This memorial will cost about \$16,000.00 and they have raised \$6,500.00 thus far. It is hoped to be completed by 2017.

Terry Aubrey, Vice President, then told about the 50th coin and how great the sale was for them and how he has only gotten positive feedback. We have sold 700 and raised \$14,000.00 for the Association. He then told all that we, the Association, now have copy rights on both “Sky Soldier”, and “Sky Soldiers”. The store is going well and is generating sales almost daily. We have a company that is handling it for us, it is all on-line, and he encouraged all to go there for their items. There is a coalition of states that is trying to declare 29 March as the Vietnam Veterans Day. Others are saying it should be 30 March. He was asking the Association to draft and send a letter of support to congress. A motion was made by Stanley F. Crump and seconded by Ken Smith. This was passed.

Jerry Cooper, Treasurer, then introduced David Williams as the new Treasurer. David made an acceptance speech and told all about himself. Jerry then gave the financial report. (It is on-line if you wish to see it.)

Roy then encouraged all that if they were going to purchase items from Medals of America to access them through our web site. By accessing them through our web site the Association receives 10% of the sale. Many are calling Medals of America direct, or going to their web site and thus cutting the Association out. Also, it was pointed out that if you make any purchase from Amazon Smile, that a percentage of the sale goes to the Association if you designate them as the agency to receive it.

Eric Hitchcock, Association Foundation, then gave their report. He urged all to participate and help the CFC program in their area. If you are interested, contact Eric for more information. He has Doris Hovis, who is an Italian lady, a Gold Star wife. Also, Jack and Sara Rooney, she is a

Gold Star sister from the Vietnam era, will be working on trying to get the names of all the Gold Star people from the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Currently the Association Foundation has Eric as the President, the Vice President is vacant, Roy Scott is the Secretary (this will change so the Association Foundation is separated from the Association), and the Treasurer is Jerry Cooper who will also be doing the Secretary. Bill Voss is the Scholarship Chairman. The Scholarships will remain at \$1,173.00 per year, and all that meet the criteria may apply each year, even if they have already received a scholarship. The current sponsors for the scholarships are: C/1/503; Chapter 1; Chapter 21; 3/319th Association; 173rd Signal Company. He then gave this year's recipients of the scholarship. He then gave the recipients for this year. Jason Pritchard, Joel Paraan, Cody Snyder, Kierra Braskie, Jordan Bacon, Courtney Queen, Bradley Mora, Taylor Curry, Dillion Luedtke, and Hayden Maloney. Eric then pushed the Wounded Warriors Program. He reported we had 14 Gold Star families at this reunion and the Gold Star luncheon was a success this year. He told us several came to see their son's name on the memorial.

Wako Cotney, Chapter 30 President, then gave the results of the election. He first told us we had 895 pre-registered for the reunion, plus another 50 for the banquet only. The election for Vice President had Terry Aubrey as the winner. The election for Secretary was won by Bill Reynolds. Joe Marquez then swore them in.

Vernon Brewer then told of his book, "Frenchy's Whore". This book is about Vernon and his platoon in Vietnam. He told us he was not making any money from the book, but giving all his earnings to the Memorial Foundation. He had several books available. He was with A/4/503rd.

Then the 2017 reunions were "previewed". This is the first one for the year, and will be in Oklahoma City, OK. It will be from 17 – 21 May. They will have a trip planned to Fort Sill to see all the howitzers and the MLRS (Multi Launch Rocket System) firing and then will be allowed to mingle with the troops. Fort Sill is a "closed" fort, so all that wish to attend this will need to have their request in and the "get on Fort Sill" form filled out and turned in by at least 60 days out so the security stuff can occur.

Then, again in 2017, from 10 – 14 July we will be meeting in Vicenza, Italy. Chapter 173 is hosting this and they have many great things planned for us. They have done much work for this and the Brigade Commander, Colonel Greg Anderson, is anxious to have all of us over and to have all of us interact with his troops. Please all get your passports ready and start checking the airlines for your flights. The closest airport is Venice. This will be a great event.

Then Chapter 1 gave a briefing on the 2018 reunion. It will be in Alexandria, Virginia. They are busy working on this and it will be a great event.

J.C. Terry made a motion to adjourn that was seconded by Joe Flesch. All agreed and the General Membership meeting for 2016 was completed.