



THE STATIC LINE

WESTERN STATES CHAPTER 10

NEWSLETTER

173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

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Fall, 2018

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Bob Ortiz

A lot has been going on the last few months for and with Chapter 10. I would like to thank all those who participated, either singularly or in a group. As members, we are all so wide-spread and also busy with our own circle of friends and family activities that it's hard to make some of the events. There are so many good stories to share and be part of. So, a grateful thanks to those who can make any Chapter 10 activities.



The Chapter 10 brotherhood has four new members. They are Tony Legnon, James Chico, Charles Roberts, and Stephen Marino. Two 173rd vets and two Marine vets. James is a Gen 2 Sky Soldier and said he will try to bring some of his Gen 2 Sky Soldiers to our next function.

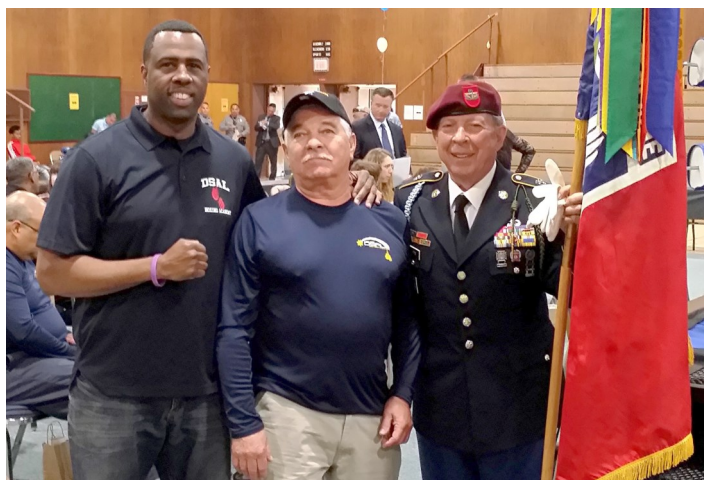
Michael Cunningham is our new Association Secretary. Bill Reynolds, for whatever reason, has resigned.



So Far This Year

By the Editor

To recap what we've been doing this year; the Chapter participated in the 101st Operation Eagle 50th Anniversary Homecoming Parade in San Mateo last March. In April, Chapter members posted the colors at the California State Golden Gloves finals in Oakland. The 173rd Airborne Brigade Association reunion in May in Alexandria, Virginia, was memorable for us first generation Herd guys. With the Vietnam Memorial right across the river, we were reminded of a time long ago and our friends and brothers who died in combat in Vietnam. Sky Soldiers also participated in the 4th of July Parade and lunch in Half Moon Bay.



Sergeant Terrence Montague, Alameda County Sheriff's Department; Robert Rodriguez, President, USA Boxing Northern California; and First Sergeant retired, Robert Ortiz, 173rd Airborne Brigade



WESTERN STATES CHAPTER 10 173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

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A Day in the Nam By Charles Earthman

Someone was tapping my foot as I awakened. It was Kirkland, the team leader; he whispered “get your shit together--we’re moving out”. I gathered my ammo and stuff and got ready to move. It was the rainy season in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam and we had been sneaking around this AO for a couple of days and nights. We had not seen the NVA and he had not seen us. Our recon team moved down from the hill we had bivouacked on the night before. Cochran was on point, Kirkland behind him carrying the radio, Chavez was next, and I brought up the rear. We moved with our usual stealth, but we were not looking for the enemy, we had a destination this day.

After moving for about an hour, Kirkland began talking on the radio to someone; we were about to make contact with friendlies. We could smell them first and then we could hear them as they approached. I saw the lead man first as he came over the hill. He was laden down with

Continued on page 3

Membership Reminder A Message from Rob Linscott, Chapter 10 Treasurer

Chapter 10 members should pay your membership dues through the Chapter and not to the Association. If people pay their membership dues through the Chapter, we keep \$10 for the Chapter and we send a Chapter membership card. I send the remainder to the Association to keep the member current. If they pay directly to the Association, the Chapter gets nothing and we are not informed of your payment. I am afraid that they prefer the latter. Pay your dues through the Chapter, it's the best way.

Pay membership dues at any general meeting or send them to: Western States Chapter 10
Attn: Robert Linscott
P.O. Box 151
Fairfax, CA 94978

Pay your dues to the Chapter or this guy may stare you down at the next meeting.



THE NEXT CHAPTER 10 MEETING

Joint Chapters 10-14-28

November 2 & 3

Kon Tiki Inn, Pismo Beach



Continued from page 2—A Day in the Nam

equipment, his ammo, 7.62 ammo for the machine gunner, claymore, and he had an OD towel around his neck. Beneath his steel pot was a boyish face, smeared with a snarl made permanent by humping the boonies for months; he was a “dog face,” a real grunt. Our team was not comfortable with such a large group in the bush. I felt like we made a large and noisy target as we moved towards our destination, wherever that was.

We moved for about two hours without incident. As we walked up this hill, I could see the sand-bagged bunkers of a perimeter; it was a fire support base. This was our destination: a forward artillery base located somewhere between Dak To and the Laotian border. As we walked into the perimeter a guy on the bunker shouted “Hey brother, we got hot chow coming’ today, I’m gonna eat till I shit”. Everyone on the bunker fell out laughing; I was slightly amused. We took a position further down the line and Kirkland, our team leader, went to pow wow with the people in charge. It had not rained all day and the sun was shining; I started to relax and feel at ease.

When Kirkland returned from his briefing, he told us we would be here for a couple of days until we got another mission. That was alright with me and I lay out in the sun to take a nap. This was a good day in Vietnam. Later that afternoon there was activity in the center of the compound; I heard the sound of an approaching chopper. A CH-47 Chinook was approaching and someone popped yellow smoke; this must be the hot chow I thought. The Chinook sat down in a flurry of dust and yellow smoke and dropped its tailgate. The crew chief came out in a flight helmet tethered by a long cord, followed by five or six guys carrying back packs and other gear. A bunch of guys ran aboard the chopper and started unloading the hot chow, mail, and other stuff. One guy was shaking hands and giving high fives and hugs before he got on the chopper; this was the first of his freedom birds that would take him to the world. What a day to go home on. We ate hot chow and settled down for the night—we would not have to stand watch—the grunts were on the wire that night. As I sat on a bunker watching a stream of red tracers from Puff firing on a target far away, I realized this was a good night in Vietnam.



Robert Rodriguez, President, USA Boxing Northern California, asked if our 173rd Colors could be there for their State Championship. I was proud to have our colors there for the opening. After all, Robert is an old Grunt and one of the starters of Chapter 10.



Linda Gomes from Post 172 in Tracy gave us these quilts and others that we have sold or raffled off to raise money for our Chapter 10. Great job, and thanks so much for your hard work.

Rabbit and Bob at the all-Airborne BBQ in support of Marina Post 694 American Legion on June 2



San Mateo Homecoming Parade



As shown on Channel 5 on March 25, the 173rd was shown in support of the 50th anniversary of the 101st Airborne homecoming from the Vietnam War. The City of San Mateo was one of the very few communities in the nation to give a thankful recognition to soldiers returning from Vietnam.

JULY 4 Half Moon Bay

The 4th of July Parade in Half Moon Bay turned out to be a lot of fun for those who came. Plus, Airborne Joe won 1st Place along with those that rode in the truck waving their flags of patriotism.



On June 8, 2018, we were very honored to help celebrate Linda and David Miller's 50th wedding anniversary. The very best is wished for 50 more. Attendees were Rob and Kate, Ken and Lorraine, and Bob and Alba.



Lunch at Cameron's Pub after the July 4 Parade

Those that came were Jim Olsen with Gale, Gary Cody, Steve Gonzales with Cathy, Don Luce with Melinda, and Bob and Alba Ortiz with grandson Michael. Thank you all for your support. Bob did pay for first round.



The Picnic and BBQ

There is not enough good to be said of this year's hosts of our annual meeting/BBQ. Hilda and Andy went beyond the call-of-duty effort in providing their home, time, equipment, and food. They really made it a successful event. Those of us who know Hilda and Andy know that this is the way they are with family and friends. On behalf of this brotherhood of Chapter 10, we all thank you both, and thanks in bringing three new members.



Hilda and Andy Martinez



Thanks to Don Penning, Master Chef, for doing his mass grilling of those specialty hot dogs and sausages; done to perfection.

A special thanks to Cathy and Roseann in making our raffle fun and honest.



Andy donated the great cut-out of our 173rd patch to be raffled. "Bubba" St. John bid \$100. Again, well done, Bubba, helping others in your Chapter.



Andy with one of the new Chapter members that he arm-twisted into joining the great brotherhood of vets.

New members
James Chico and
Jane. James is a
2nd generation
Sky Soldier who
saw action in
Afghanistan



Upcoming Chapter Events For 2018

Pismo Beach:

Nov. 2-3, joint Chapter 10-14-28 at Pismo Beach Kon Tiki Inn. Friday evening dinner, Saturday 11am meeting, lunch and dinner.



Veterans Day: 11 Nov. Veterans Day Parade will be at Elk Grove. Andy and Hilda will open their home for rest, snacks, and refreshments after the parade.



Christmas Party: 15th Dec. for our always great year end meeting – Xmas party. This year a very special prize for the best ugly Xmas Sweater contest. Party starts at 11am

Tracy American Legion Post 172.
Bring family & friends, and pets.



Charles was surprised by his wife, Nancy, with this beautiful cake for his 70th birthday. Chapter 10 members joined in to sing Happy Birthday.




June 4th. SFC Michael Collier, senior ROTC instructor at Mission High School in San Francisco, awarded the ROTC Award of Excellence Medal to Alexa Rae Factora.

New members, Tony Legnon and his wife Sarra, could not make our BBQ meeting, but they drove from Gilroy to Half Moon Bay to make sure we had 10 lbs. of his special marinated tri-tip. Now that's real Airborne pride. In the photo on the right, Tony is the trooper in the middle being carried after being wounded in 1965.

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and the Newsletter will advertise your business for one year (4 issues).
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Chapter 10 members and friends at our Spring meeting in Tracy.



Editor's Note: We continue to try to collect email addresses from our members in order to improve our networking and communication abilities, which will allow us to quickly and more efficiently exchange ideas and information. We also aspire to bring in more second generation Sky Soldiers into the Chapter. Any ideas or suggestions are welcome! Contact the editor at c.earthman173@gmail.com.