



Serving Sky Soldiers Past, Present and Future

# The Herd Word



## 2018 Chapter Bar-Que



Henry and Brenda Persons

It would be no exaggeration to say the Annual Chapter picnic has become a Chapter tradition. This year's 11 August fete, like the past four picnics, was hosted by **Joe and Jeane Flesch**, at their Clarksburg, MD, home. A record number 31 Chapter members and their guests attended. Only the ever-present humidity marred the near perfect weather.

The Flesch's large white tent provided protection against the sun. Their four citronella-laced tiki torches ward off mosquitoes looking for prey. The Flesch castle's expansive backyard allowed the attendees to separate into small and large discussion groups.

Joe Flesch manned the bar-b-que grill with the poise of a Wolfgang Puck. In almost no time, he whipped up a stockpile of hotdogs and ham-

burgers even a Nationals Stadium vender would envy.

Once stomachs were full, Joe Flesch conducted a short business meeting. The summary of that meeting is covered in other places in The Herd Word.

After business was concluded, to the pleasure of all, dessert followed. The highlight of the day celebrating Joe Flesch's birthday. All cheered and heartily ate his birthday cake.

All were feted to as much food as they could consume, regaled with as much camaraderie as they desired, and exposed to as many reminiscences as they could endure.

After all was said and done, this much could be said about the picnic: new introductions were made, old connections were reestablished, and recollections reinforced.



Silvia and Jack Kranchick

## **AIRBORNE** ALL THE WAY

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# The Chapter President's Message



**Joe Flesch**  
Chapter President

## State of the Chapter

Chapter 1 has not skipped a beat since the conclusion of the 2018 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association (ABA) Reunion, on 27 May. Our

financial status is positive, as indicated in the Treasurer's Report contained in this issue.

Our Chapter activities and participation remain at high levels. This quarter, we voted three outstanding women to be Honorary Members of the Chapter and worked with the Association Membership Committee to have them designated Associate Members of the Association. The three are Mrs. Carole Carroll, with Miracle Quilts, Mrs. Jeane Flesch, the long-term appointed Chapter Treasurer, and Mrs. Trudy Surut, widow of Chapter member MG Lee Surut, who faithfully attends Chapter events and participates in our Reading of the Names in weather fair and foul. We have initiated the Chapter's Veteran's Affairs Bench Project and have ordered three benches and plaques (See article below). We donated \$2000.00 to Chapter 30 for the 2019 173<sup>d</sup> ABA Reunion,

in Charleston, SC. The Chapter again donated \$1,673.00 to the Sky Soldier Foundation Scholarship Fund. We traditionally donate \$500.00 per year to the scholarship fund and an additional \$1,173.00 to support a Chapter 1 (Sigholtz Capital Chapter) scholarship. We made our annual donation of \$200.00 to the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Memorial Foundation.

## Chapter Activities Last Quarter

14 June – Honored SGT Thomas Thelen and his family, with a Chapter Honor Set, at his funeral in the Crownsville, MD, Veterans Cemetery.

14 July – We had a Gathering of the Herd at Troegs Brewery, in Hershey, PA.

11 August – The Annual Chapter Picnic was held at the Flesch's Home in Clarksburg, MD.

15 August – Attended COL John Bell Rosamond Arlington National Cemetery funeral. Presented the Chapter Honor Set to his family at their Army Navy Country Club re-

ception.

## Upcoming Events

15 September – Chapter Gathering of the Herd at the Sunset Grill, 1601 Hockett Road; Manakin Sabot, VA 23103 – see Chapter Calendar.

9 November – Bravo Bulls Ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery – See Chapter Calendar.

12 November – Chapter Walk to the Wall and wreath laying at Vietnam Veterans National Memorial – See Chapter Calendar.

15 December – Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery – See Chapter Calendar.

19 January 2019 – Annual General Membership Meeting – Location TBD.

Thank you for your support  
Airborne All The Way,

Joe

## Scholarship Awardee

We have a winner!

Captain Elizabeth Burnette was awarded the Chapter's Sigholtz Scholarship. Elizabeth is a graduate of the United States Military Academy, from which she was commissioned into Military Intelligence Branch.

She served with the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade from 2012-2016. She resides in Richmond, VA.

We are pleased to play a part in supporting Elizabeth's educational goal.



## Candidates Needed

for  
**Chapter President**  
&  
**Chapter Treasurer**

Both stepping down as of 19 JAN 2019

## Gathering of the Herd: Hersey, PA

On 14 July 2018, for a second time, the Chapter conducted a Gathering of the Herd (GOTH) at Troegs Brewery, in Hershey, PA.

The Chapter conducts three GOTHs a year, at various locations throughout the Chapter Area of Operation. The goal is to bring the Chapter leadership and engagement to our far-flung membership.

GOTHs usually include the Pledge of Allegiance, a prayer, and a moment of silence for fallen comrades, followed by an update on recent Chapter events, issues, and upcoming activities.

Chapter member, **Bob Read**, a part-time employee at Troegs Brewery, acquired a private room at Troegs for our meeting.

Chapter President, Joe



Front Row L-R: Henry & Brenda Persons, Patrice Snyder, Judie Read, Jeane Flesch: Back Row L-R: Joe Flesch, Terry Walsh, Jack Kranchick, Connie Anthony, Ed Anthony and Bob Read

Flesch, reported that **MG Fred Elam (Ret.)** donated money to purchase a steel bench and plaque to be placed at a Veterans Affairs (VA) facility in the Chapter area.

Chapter Vice President, **Terry Walsh**, stepped up to be the point of contact for the bench project.

The members unanimously voted to make a \$2,000 donation to Chapter 30 for the 2019 South Carolina 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association

(ABA) Reunion.

In recognition of her valuable contribution to Sky Soldiers, the group voted to make **Ms. Carole Carroll** an Honorary Chapter 1 member.

Carole supports Veterans through her Miracle Quilt Organization. Carole was also enrolled as an Associate Member of the 173<sup>d</sup> ABA.

After the business meeting, Bob Read, conducted an outstanding tour of the brewery.

Needless to say the food and beverages were fantastic. Chapter attendees included **Ed and Connie Anthony, Joe and Jeane Flesch, Jack Kranchick, Henry and Brenda Persons, Bob and Judie Read, Terry Walsh and Patrice Snyder.**



## MG "Iron Mike" Healy Funeral

**5 October 2018**

**Meet at Fort Myer Post Chapel 1030h**



# Chapter 2018 Calendar

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
Sky Soldier Funeral COL John Bell Rosamond	15 Aug 2018	1245h	Wed	Don Byrne	Mass Old Post Chapel, Ft Myer Arlington National Cemetery
Gathering of the Herd (VA)	15 Sep 2018	1200h	Sat	Roger Dick & Mick Weisinger	Sunset Grill 1601 Hockett Road Manakin Sabot, VA 23103
MG "Iron Mike" Healy	5 Oct 2018	1030h	Fri	Joe Flesch	Post Chapel (not the Old Post Chapel)
Bravo Bulls Ceremony	9 Nov 2018	1100h	Thu	Roy Lombardo	Start at SSG Larry Rougle Burial Site Section 60 Arlington National Cemetery Veteran Day Celebrated 10 Nov 2017
Walk to the Wall	12 Nov 2018	1000h	Mon	Ed Anthony	Vietnam Memorial No-Host Lunch
Wreaths Across America	15 Dec 2018	0900h	Sat	Joe Flesch	Arlington National Cemetery
Annual General Meeting	19 Jan 2019	TBD	TBD	Mark Ludlow	TBD
Wounded Warrior Visits	Periodic	N/A	N/A	TBD	DC and Richmond VA Area

## Walk to the Wall



**Be Among Those  
Who Honor Our Fallen  
Comrades**

**1000h, November 12, 2018  
Meet at the Three Soldier Monument  
No-host Lunch Afterward**

## Gathering of the Herd



**1200h, 15 September 2018**

**1601 Hockett Road  
Manakin Sabot, VA 23103**

**Y'all Come Now,  
Hear**

# COL John Bell Rosamond Funeral



COL John Rosamond, Ret.

"Full Military Honors." We Soldiers know well this phrase. It is the full array of honor due to those who faithfully served this great

nation... And so too it was, on August 15, 2018, at Arlington National Cemetery, for Col. John Bell Rosamond, (USA Ret.).

On January 28, 2018, former Sky Soldier and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, John Rosamond, of Alexandria, VA, passed away. He was born in West, Mississippi. His athletic ability afforded him an opportunity to attend Mississippi State, where he participated in ROTC. Upon graduation, he was commissioned as an infantry second lieutenant. His progressively challenging military assignments included service as S-3 for the 2/503d, 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade. He served as the Deputy Assistant

Secretary of Defense, Reserve Affairs, Facilities and Materiel, after retiring from the military.

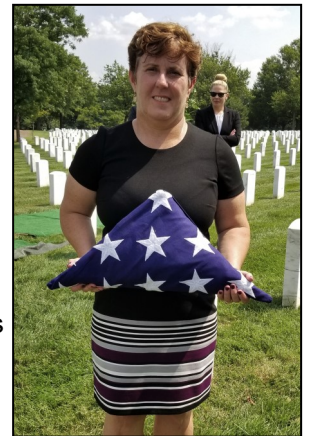
Following Mass at Fort Myer's Old Post Chapel, the cavalcade Soldiers, band members, horse-drawn caisson, walking family members, and motorcade of family and friends made the long trek to the grave site. There, the Chaplin reminded the assembly that burial at Arlington is earned and Colonel Rosamond had more than earned his spot in that hallowed ground by his service to the country. After reading the Colonel's obituary, one would have to agree. His military awards included the Bronze Star with "V" and two OLCs, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal with OLC, the Army Commendation, the Purple Heart, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Silver and Bronze Stars, the CIB and the Parachutist Badge.

Colonel Rosamond's beloved wife, **Clare Rosamond**, preceded him in death. He is survived by his daughter, **Ann Repczynski** and her husband **Thomas**; brother,

**William Rosamond**, and his wife **Susan**; sister-in-law, **Connie Tully**, and her husband, **Don Byrne**; niece, **Eileen Funderburke**; and his grandchildren, **TJ and Marie Repczynski**.

Following the funeral, **Joe Flesch** presented Ann Repczynski, Colonel Rosamond's daughter, with the Chapter Honor set, at the repast, at the Army-Navy Club, in Arlington, VA. Afterwards, **Don Byrne**, a member of Chapter 1, spoke of his relation with John in laudatory tones.

Chapter members **Ed Anthony, Mack Brooks, Don Byrne** Rosamond's brother-in-law), **Rich Caporiccio, Joe Flesch, Terry Walsh** and **Jim Yarrison** attended the funeral.



Ann Rosamond Repczynski

## Chapter Bench Project

During the 2018 Sky Soldier Reunion Executive Meeting, MG Fred Elam (Ret.) donated funds for a park bench with a 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne medallion, to any Veterans Affairs or military facility in Chapter 1's area.

The sturdy, black powder, coated steel bench is intended to be part of the Chapter continuing mission to serve Sky Soldiers past, present, and future.

Chapter Vice President, **Terry Walsh** is the bench project officer. He recommended a design similar to those used by the

Midwest Chapter. Once that decision was made, Terry contacted two organizations to see if they would be interested in receiving a donated park bench: McGuire VA



Prospective Herd Park Bench

Medical Center, in Richmond, VA, and Walter Reed's Fisher House.

Janell Giles, at the McGuire VA Medical Center and Mike Ybarra, at Walter Reed enthusiastically endorsed the idea.

The Chapter is in the process of obtaining three benches and three Chapter 1 plaques. The benches can be bolted to the ground.

The benches with medallion cost \$600 each. This is a small price to pay to ensure that the name and fame of the Brigade is well recognized in the area.



# Photo Gallery

## 2018 Chapter 1 Picnic



Patrice Snyder & Terry Walsh



Dick Wrona & Mary Wagshal



Not Necessarily in Order: Gene Cartier, George Farris, Brenda & Henry Persons, Bonnie Smith, Bruce Matthews, Mack Brooks, Ryan Shipley, Bob & Judie Read, Terry Modglin, Flo Cartier, Mary Wagshal & Dick Wrona, John Foley, Connie Anthony, Sylvia Kranchick, Mike & Anne Perry, Terry Walsh, Patrice Snyder, Ed Anthony, Trudy Surut, Lee Cesare, Jack Kranchick, Nikki & Gene Weeks, Rick & Patty Young, Joe Flesch, and Jeane Flesch (not shown)



Brenda Persons showing her Raffle Prize Miracle Quilt



Connie Anthony

## SGT Thomas Thelen Funeral



Joe Flesch



... from a Grateful Nation



Jim McDonough, Jeane & Joe Flesch



Joe Presenting the Honor Set



Jim McDonough, Mack Brooks, Roy Gilmore, George Farris, and Joe Flesch

## COL John Rosamond Funeral



Ed Anthony



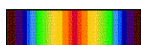
With Dignity Due



Memento of Service



Joe Flesch & Don Byrne





# Sky Soldier Extraordinaire: Thomas Thelen



**Thomas J. Thelen**

Former Sky Soldier SGT Thelen, on May 3, 2018, surrounded by his loving family and friends, passed away, at the age of 70.

By almost any measure, SGT Thelen was an exceptional Sky Soldier, citizen, and person. Born in Chicago, Ill, he was a longtime resident of Stevensville, Md. He left a long legacy of public service.

He served with the served with 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade, in Vietnam, during which time he earned the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with Valor, two Purple Hearts, the Air Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Ranger Tab, and the Parachutist Badge.

After being discharged, he entered public civil service through U.S. Customs and became one of the first air marshals.

He earned dual degrees from the University of Illinois in Criminal Justice and Psychology. He served as a special agent for the United States Secret Service and as program director for the Emergency Medical Program, Training Division.

Tom spent a lot of time volunteering in service to others. He was a volunteer with his local Fire Department. He was a paramedic; a dive rescue technician, and a volunteer for Howard County mounted Police Department.

Friends and associates from near and far and from all of these organizations, including a contingent from the Chapter (**Joe and Jeane**

**Flesch, George Farris, Mack Brooks, Jim McDonough, Roy Gilmore, and Terry Modglin**), participated in his June 14, 2018, funeral, at the Crownsville, MD, Veterans Cemetery.

Fire fighters, mounted troopers, secret service colleagues, and Sky Soldier stood in reverent respect of SGT Thelen's contribution to the nation and to the his community.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Marie Thelen and four sons, Thomas Thelen Jr., Timothy Thelen, Robert Thelen, and James Robert Thelen.



**SGT Thomas Thelen  
Shadow Box**

## Chapter 1 Financial Report

**As of 28 August 2018**

<b>Balance as of 13 June 2018</b>	<b>\$6,286.92</b>
<b>Receipts (fees and donations)</b> .....	<b>\$31,509.77</b>
<b>Disbursements</b> .....	<b>(\$2,777.06)</b>
<b>Balance as of 28 August 2018</b>	<b>\$35,019.63</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>	
<b>Chapter Fees:</b>	
3 .....	<b>\$180.00</b>
<b>Donations:</b>	
3 .....	<b>\$85.00</b>
<b>Reunion:</b>	
Refund Jostens for overpayment .....	<b>\$250.00</b>
Chapter Share Registrations, events, and donations .....	<b>\$23,809.77</b>
Hilton Hotel Room Rebate .....	<b>\$7,150.00</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Mack Brooks: Disk Conversion .....	<b>\$18.54</b>
Staples: Herd Word Production .....	<b>\$19.90</b>
Staples: Agenda for Herd Gathering at Troegs .....	<b>\$5.56</b>
USPS: Shirts to Klausner .....	<b>\$13.65</b>
Wayne Bowers: Replacement Shirts .....	<b>\$160.00</b>
Staples – New Binder .....	<b>\$14.83</b>
South Chapter 30 Donation for 2019 Reunion Fund: .....	<b>\$2,000.00</b>
173 <sup>d</sup> Association Store for Honor Flags .....	<b>\$255.60</b>
Staples: Copies of Picnic Agenda .....	<b>\$12.61</b>
Picnic: Food and Supplies .....	<b>\$181.37</b>
Picnic Raffle: .....	<b>\$25.00</b>
BB&T - Annual Box Rental Fee: .....	<b>\$70.00</b>



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**173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Association**  
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McLean, VA 22101-0173



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