

The banner features a blue background with a repeating pattern of small white paratroopers. On the left, there are two overlapping photographs: one of a soldier in a helmet looking through a rifle scope, and another of a landscape with a large structure. A white circle with the text "We try harder." is overlaid on the second photo. In the center is the "AIRBORNE" shield logo with a white flame and a red sword. To the right, the text "2/503d VIETNAM newsletter" is displayed in large, bold, blue and white letters. Below this, in smaller white text, it reads "FOR THE MEN, AND THEIR FAMILIES, OF THE 2ND BATTALION, 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)".

AIRBORNE

2/503d
VIETNAM
newsletter

FOR THE MEN, AND THEIR FAMILIES, OF THE
2ND BATTALION, 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)

We try harder.

October 2013, Issue 58
Contact: rto173d@cfl.rr.com

See all issues to date at 503rd Heritage Battalion website:
http://corregidor.org/VN2-503/newsletter/issue_index.htm

~ 2/503d Photo of the Month ~



The aftermath. 2/503d's Bravo Bulls are ambushed on 10 October 1965. (Photo by photojournalist Tim Page)



(Newspaper Archives)

August 6, 1971

Welcome Becomes Goodby

173rd Commander To Be Replaced

By Mike Herndon

NEW ERA Pennyrile Editor



HELLO, GOOD-BY --- Brig. Gen. Jack MacFarlane (center), commander of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, eats a piece of the cake baked to honor his return from Vietnam at Ft. Campbell this morning. Following the brief welcoming ceremony, he announced he would be replaced as brigade commander Sept. 15. At his side is Lt. Col. Edwin Passmore, the brigade's executive officer, as a mess sergeant hands him a generous slice of his welcoming cake.

(Staff Photo by Mike Herndon)

Brig. Gen. Jack MacFarlane, who arrived at Ft. Campbell with the 173rd Airborne Brigade colors just after midnight today, announced at a mid-morning news conference he would be replaced as brigade commander Sept. 15.

Speaking at a cake-cutting ceremony honoring his return from Vietnam, Gen. MacFarlane said he had been alerted for reassignment as deputy commanding general of the U.S. Army Training Center at Ft. Jackson, S.C.

He said his replacement would be Col. M.C. Ross, who is currently commander of the Third Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at Ft. Carson, Colo. Army officials added Ross would be promoted to brigadier general before his Sept. 15 arrival at Ft. Campbell.

The tall-sharp-featured McFarlane, who lists his height as "5-feet, 19 inches" (6-foot-7), indicated unhappiness at the Army's decision to replace him as the 173rd's commander.

"I guess they (Army) decided it was time to let someone else in on some of the glory," MacFarlane said in complimenting his outfit.

He added his job in the month or so he has remaining with the 173rd will be the redevelopment of the parachute jump school and the refinement of combat skills not deployed in the jungle environment of Southeast Asia.

He seemed pleased with the prospect of being around when the 173rd re-initiates its regular parachuting exercises later this month, adding that he might do a little jumping with his men.

"I'm an old skydiver myself," he informed reporters.

MacFarlane's replacement is a 44-year-old native of Moberly, Mo. A 1949 graduate of West Point, he also holds a master of science degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Col. Ross is married and has two sons, one of them currently a West Point cadet.

MacFarlane was confident the South Vietnamese soldiers that the 173rd left behind in and around Vinh Dinh province could "swing it" alone, providing they fight with "dedication and motivation."

Describing his outfit's abandoned combat area as the *"cradle of communism where it all began,"* MacFarlane was equally as pessimistic about the prospects for peace between the warring Viet countries in the near future.

(continued....)



173rd Gets New Chief

"When you talk about prospects for peace between the North and the South, you may be talking in terms of another generation, perhaps 30 or 40 years," he said.

He indicated the much-publicized laxity of the South Vietnamese army in taking a more aggressive role in the war may be due to battle fatigue.

"They have been in this war so damn long, they're just getting tired," MacFarlane said.

When the 173rd's deployment was announced in early July, brigade members were given the opportunity to remain behind in Vietnam. MacFarlane said approximately 200 of his men volunteered to stay.

Among other things, the general was presented an autographed copy of a book written by a former brigade member, Maj. John B. Porter, presently a chaplain with an Army reserve unit in Madison, Tenn., was on hand this morning to present his book, which he dedicated to the 173rd.

Entitled *"If I Made My Bed In Hell,"* the publication relives Porter's World War II experiences. Porter was decorated several times for heroism during the conflict.

The simultaneous arrival of MacFarlane and the brigade colors had prompted Ft. Campbell officials to schedule originally a welcoming ceremony at the airport.

However, when the plane's arrival time was moved back to 12:38 a.m. this morning, the original plan was canceled. The late morning ceremony today was held to honor only MacFarlane's return.

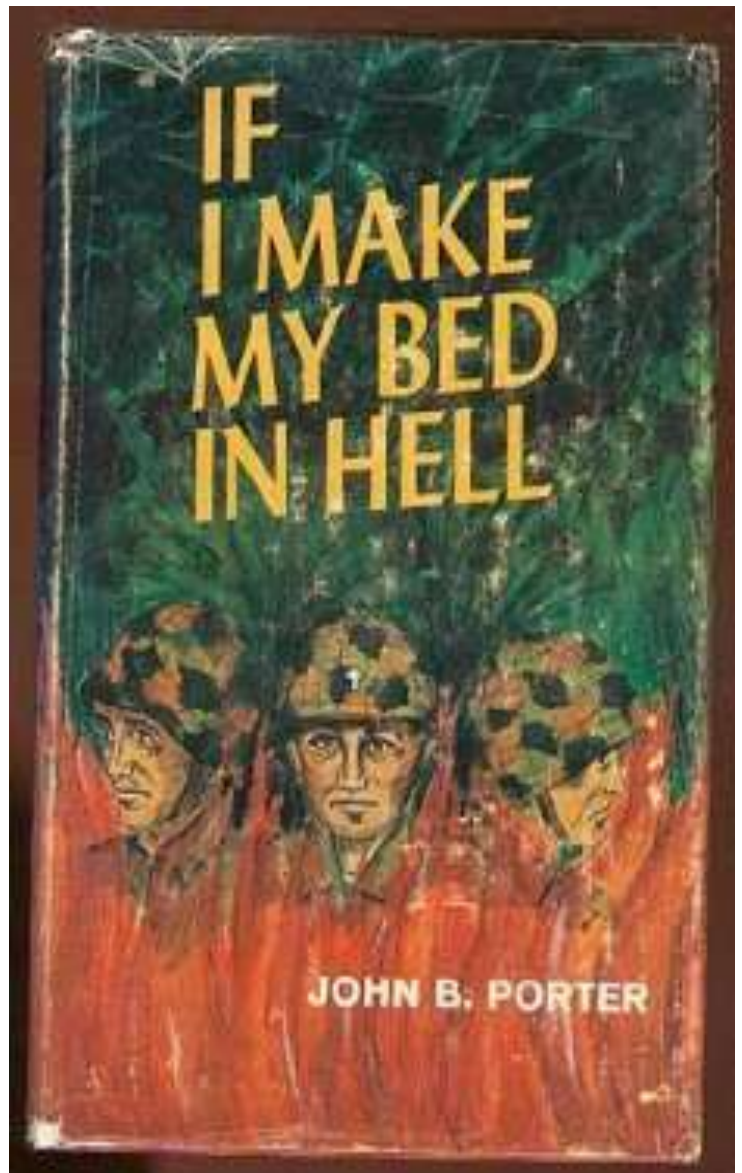
Post officials said the brigade colors would be encased and presented officially at a later date.

Normally, the commanding officer of the resident airborne brigade assumes command of the entire Ft. Campbell reservation. MacFarlane indicated today, however, the 173rd would assume a kind of segregation from the rest of the post personnel.

Ft. Campbell has been the home of the 3rd Army Training Center since the 101st Airborne Division left for Vietnam. The training center is currently in the process of reduction to approximately half of its maximum strength, with the switch from recruit to air combat training.

The Army has already announced that the 173rd would be integrated into the 101st when that brigade returns to Ft. Campbell from Vietnam in the near future.

[Sent in by Stanley Herzog, 4th ID/173d Bde, who worked for BG Jack MacFarlane when he was in Vietnam from July '69 to July '70]



Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

A Masterpiece



"When I met Dr. John B. Porter, I knew he was a great preacher but after reading his book, I saw a part of history that made him even greater. We are so privileged that God inspired him to write a book like this, that is a completely different look at the Vietnam war, from the perspective of an unarmed chaplain. I recommend this book highly, it truly is a diamond in the rough."

W. Chayasirisobhon
Yorba Linda, CA
August 7, 2006



Birthday Wishes to a Fallen Fellow Airborne Trooper



These birthday wishes to Sgt. Matthew “Matt” J. Sandri, Charlie Company, 82nd Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division, came in by email from his family. *Lest we forget.* Matt was *All-American* and *All The Way*. KIA 20 Mar 04.



For members of our military and their families, every day is Memorial Day. Ed

History of Memorial Day

Three years after the Civil War ended, on May 5, 1868, the head of an organization of Union veterans — the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) — established Decoration Day as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers. Maj. Gen. John A. Logan declared that Decoration Day should be observed on May 30. It is believed that date was chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country.

The first large observance was held that year at Arlington National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

The ceremonies centered around the mourning-draped veranda of the Arlington mansion, once the home of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Various Washington officials, including Gen. and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant, presided over the ceremonies. After speeches, children from the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Orphan Home and members of the GAR made their way through the cemetery, strewing flowers on both Union and Confederate graves, reciting prayers and singing hymns.



Gen. Lee’s former house at Arlington.

Local Observances Claim To Be First Local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Miss., April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves, as well.

(continued....)





Baltimore, MD

Today, cities in the North and the South claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day in 1866. Both Macon and Columbus, Ga., claim the title, as well as Richmond, Va. The village of Boalsburg, Pa., claims it began there two years earlier. A stone in a Carbondale, Il., cemetery carries the statement that the first Decoration Day ceremony took place there on April 29, 1866. Carbondale was the wartime home of Gen. Logan. Approximately 25 places have been named in connection with the origin of Memorial Day, many of them in the South where most of the war dead were buried.

Official Birthplace Declared in 1966. Congress and President Lyndon Johnson declared Waterloo, N.Y., the “birthplace” of Memorial Day. There, a ceremony on May 5, 1866, honored local veterans who had fought in the Civil War. Businesses closed and residents flew flags at half-staff. Supporters of Waterloo’s claim say earlier observances in other places were either informal, not community-wide or one-time events.

By the end of the 19th century, Memorial Day ceremonies were being held on May 30 throughout the nation. State legislatures passed proclamations designating the day, and the Army and Navy adopted regulations for proper observance at their facilities. It was not until after World War I, however, that the day was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971, Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress, though it is still often called Decoration Day. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, as were some other federal holidays.

Some states have Confederate Observances. Many southern states also have their own days for honoring the Confederate dead. Mississippi celebrates Confederate Memorial Day on the last Monday of April,

Alabama on the fourth Monday of April, and Georgia on April 26. North and South Carolina observe it on May 10, Louisiana on June 3 and Tennessee calls that date Confederate Decoration Day. Texas celebrates Confederate Heroes Day January 19 and Virginia calls the last Monday in May Confederate Memorial Day. Gen. Logan’s order for his posts to decorate graves in 1868 *“with the choicest flowers of springtime”* urged: *“We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic.”*

The crowd attending the first Memorial Day ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery was approximately the same size as those that attend today’s observance, about 5,000 people. Then, as now, small American flags were placed on each grave — a tradition followed at many national cemeteries today. In recent years, the custom has grown in many families to decorate the graves of all departed loved ones.

The origins of special services to honor those who die in war can be found in antiquity. The Athenian leader Pericles offered a tribute to the fallen heroes of the Peloponnesian War over 24 centuries ago that could be applied today to the 1.1 million Americans who have died in the nation’s wars: *“Not only are they commemorated by columns and inscriptions, but there dwells also an unwritten memorial of them, graven not on stone but in the hearts of men.”*

To ensure the sacrifices of America’s fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000, the U.S. Congress passed and the president signed into law “The National Moment of Remembrance Act,” P.L. 106-579, creating the White House Commission on the National Moment of Remembrance. The commission’s charter is to *“encourage the people of the United States to give something back to their country, which provides them so much freedom and opportunity”* by encouraging and coordinating commemorations in the United States of Memorial Day and the National Moment of Remembrance.

The National Moment of Remembrance encourages all Americans to pause wherever they are at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day for a minute of silence to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation. As Moment of Remembrance founder Carmella LaSpada states: *“It’s a way we can all help put the memorial back in Memorial Day.”* [va.org]



Charlie Company Passes A Test

XUAN LOC, Viet Nam (AP) – Eyes peered from faces grizzled with whiskers and crusted with dirt. Men stared vacantly into space or into the mud and leaves that oozed around their ankles.

Arms and faces were scratched. Trousers were torn. Uniforms were stained with sweat, mud and red clay.

Charlie Company of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, had come in from nine days and nights in the jungles near Xuan Loc.



Sergeant's face reflects tension

THE OFFICIAL report said they had killed 20 Viet Cong and suffered eight losses themselves in Operation Yorktown. The statistics were not impressive. There had been no major battles, no big finds of supplies or fortifications or documents. But Charlie Company had known death and fear and nine days and nights of grueling jungle warfare.

Every day there was a scorching sun that turned the jungle steamy and drained men's strength. Every day there were monsoon rains that drenched men, soaked their weapons and equipment.

THERE WERE exhausting searches into the depths of jungles thick with thorny brush and walls of bamboo. There were tense, frantic fights with the Viet Cong who hid and hit when least expected.

And every night there were probes by guerrillas that made sleep impossible and nerves raw.

The severest test came one day shortly after dawn. Thin light filtered through the jungle canopy. Charlie Company stirred through the mud to break camp. Suddenly, bursts of enemy fire seemed to slash from every direction.

A Claymore mine blasted through the trees. Snipers fired from concealed positions. Grenades ripped through the brush. Charlie Company dug in. Cries of wounded on both sides rose from the thicket.

Guerrillas tried to break through the American defenses but each time were thrust back. Medics sprawled in the mud to work over the injured.

Superior firepower finally forced the Viet Cong to break and retreat.

Four paratroopers died, all in the first onslaught of fire. The men watched wounded buddies lifted away in helicopters. The dead wrapped in ponchos followed.

TWO DAYS later a band of guerrillas struck from concealed positions. The paratroopers plunged to the ground and began pouring fire into the trees and brush.

The Viet Cong slipped away. They left one dead American.

The jungle was so thick no helicopter could come in. Four men carried the dead man, wrapped in his poncho.

Within an hour monsoon rains poured down. The ground turned slick. The men with the dead soldier struggled over slippery trails and waded through muck. They stumbled and slid and dropped to their knees.

THE RAIN pelted down for an hour, then thunder and lightning signaled heavier torrents. It came in sheets. At times the men could see only a few yards ahead. The company emerged into a clearing and headed for the high ground of a shallow valley. Machine-gunners above them opened up and pinned the company to the ground.

With crablike crawls and short dashes, small groups of paratroopers slowly worked toward the enemy guns. The Viet Cong fled into tree clusters and tunnels. Paratroopers charge over the abandoned positions.



Bearded paratrooper awaits command to move out.

(continued....)



C/2/503d Troopers KIA During Operation Yorktown

6/23/66 thru 7/9/66

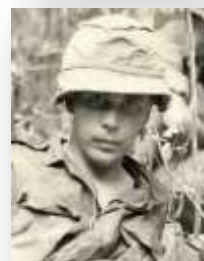
Julius Collins, Jr., PFC, 21

KIA 7/3/66
Blackville, SC



James Theodore Noss, 21, PFC

KIA 7/3/66,
Bruceton Mill, WV



Eric Ribitsch, PFC, 23

KIA 7/3/66
Ridgewood, NY

Elmer Wayne Scarborough, 21

KIA 7/4/66
Romulus, MI



Terry Kenneth Wilkins, 18

KIA 7/3/66
Las Vegas, NV



Theodore Williams, Jr., 19

KIA 7/4/66
Robbins, IL



The men with the dead soldier brought up the rear. They groped awkwardly up the muddy slope. Soon a helicopter clattered down and lifted the dead soldier away.

ON OTHER nights the rain didn't stop. Men huddled in their foxholes. As some kept watch, others wring streams of water from their clothing. Then they dressed again, wrapped themselves in a wet poncho and tried to rest.

On the next day the company was ordered to the base camp of the battalion artillery. The sun broiled down as the troops moved out of the jungle in two long columns. Nearing the camp the lead men speeded the pace. Rest was not far away.

A **SERGEANT** bawled at his men:

“Don't let me hear any man say he's tired. You get tired when I say you can get tired.

And I'm not saying it.

Pick it up . . . pick it up . . . we're almost there.”

A half hour later Charlie Company trudged past the troops guarding the base camp. Under the shade of trees in a rubber plantation, men flopped to the ground. They threw off their helmets and dropped their packs.

Charlie Company could relax . . . for a while.



'C' Company Leader Lt. Harold Maher of Concord, N.H., stands and shouts through the rain at a team of men bringing the body of a U.S. soldier slain by the Viet Cong during a nine-day jungle patrol. *“Where's my dead soldier?”* Maher bellowed. *“Get him up here; we've got to get him out tonight.”*

[Sent in by Eric Ribitsch, namesake and nephew of PFC Eric Ribitsch, C/2/503, KIA 7/3/66]

Combined Federal Campaign (CFC #86676)

THE 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE
ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL
CFC # 86676

www.theherdfoundation.com



The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)

On May 31, 2013 the Federal Office of Personnel and Management approved the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Foundation as an eligible charity authorized to participate in the 2013 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC).

CFC is a program allowing certain charitable organizations to solicit contributions from employees of the federal government of the United States. The mission of the CFC is to promote and support philanthropy through a program that is employee focused, cost-efficient, and effective in providing all federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all.

Give Promote Advocate

History

Established in 1961, the CFC is the largest workplace charity campaign in the United States and the only campaign authorized to solicit and collect contributions from federal employees in the workplace on behalf of charitable organizations. As the world's largest and most successful annual workplace giving campaign, each year, more than 350 CFC campaigns throughout the United States and internationally help to raise millions of dollars. Nearly four million federal employees and military personnel are able to contribute to the charities of their choice during the annual charity drive, which

runs from September 1 through December 15 of each year. Pledges made by Federal civilian, postal, and military donors during the campaign season support eligible non-profit organizations that provide health and human service benefits throughout the world. These contributions can be made either by cash or check, or can be automatically deducted from these employee's paychecks. Federal employees created the original CFC-One campaign. Established by a Presidential Executive Order signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1961, it continues to be the largest and most successful workplace fundraising model in the world.

2013 Campaign

The 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Foundation (the Herd Foundation) will be participating in the 2013 Campaign both overseas and throughout the United States. If you know a federal employee or service member please ask them to consider donating to the Herd Foundation. Our programs and services can be found at www.theherdfoundation.com

- See more at:

<http://www.theherdfoundation.com/combined-federal-campaign/#sthash.ji87dtLc.dpuf>

[Sent in by:
webmaster@theherdfoundation.com &
admin@theherdfoundation.com]

Looking for Bravo Company CO

I am in the process of submitting an overdue combat award for one of our troopers, and have almost all the documents needed including eye-witness accounts. With the death of Gen. Dean, I'm the only living member in the chain of command and the Awards and Decoration branch needs verifying information on the deaths of those who would've recommended approval of the award. The one I need more information on is (then) Capt. Willoughby, the company commander at the time. I understand his first name was Roger. If anyone can put me in touch with him I would appreciate it. Thank you.

Paul Gillenwater
B/2/503d
gillnh2o@earthlink.net



173rd paratroopers continue goodwill with Sammarinese community

173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs

Sgt. A.M. LaVey
Journalist

SAN MARINO: Paratroopers from the 173rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), seen here with American friend-of-the-brigade, Olimpio Guidi, were honored guests at the Republic of San Marino's Independence Day celebrations held at the mountain-top capital city of San Marino, Sept. 3.



Photo by Sgt. A.M. LaVey

The paratroopers, from the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, were invited by the Sammarinese Association for San Marino-American Brotherhood, in the second of many future events designed to strengthen the relationship between the two republics.

It is important to foster relationships when serving abroad – both militarily and culturally, said Capt. Elliot L. Solomon, the assistant operations officer, 1st Bn. These *“relationships are important because it provides a means of representing the United States and the Army to the local population [and to] key individuals within the community.”*

The Republic of San Marino obtained its independence from the Roman Empire in the year 301 and resisted joining the modern Italian state during the many phases of unification, and is considered the world's oldest republic.

By arrangement, like Vatican City - the other microstate within Italy - military defense of the republic is the responsibility of the Italian armed forces. Unlike

Vatican City, however, San Marino maintains its own army - one of the smallest in the world - for both domestic and ceremonial uses.



San Marino soldiers (Web photo)

“It was a great experience to see the traditions of San Marino,” said Spc. Leland Reich, a paratrooper with Company E, 1st Bn. *“Their history is engraved in their culture and [I was surprised] how far back their traditions run.”*

One of the central attractions of the Independence Day celebration is the military's crossbow competition. Originally a major part of the republic's defense force, the volunteer reservists of the crossbow corps now have a purely ceremonial role.

For the visiting paratroopers, it was much more than a show.

“I learned that the crossbow, more than anything else, is a very significant and culturally important item to the Sammarinese,” said Solomon. *“They used fixed crossbow positions much the way we might emplace a heavy machine gun on a tripod in today's military. These heavy duty crossbows were capable of firing about one kilometer and could pierce through two armored men.”*

The relationship between the brigade paratroopers and the people of San Marino will continue, as airborne artillerymen have been invited to join the republic's Fortress Guard Artillery Company, at the upcoming celebration in honor of Saint Barbara, the patron of the artillery, later this year.

Read more:

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/113184/173rd-paratroopers-continue-goodwill-with-sammarinese-community#.Uj26quTD-70#ixzz2fXcykH3U>



Paratrooper at PAFB?

Following a round of golf at Patrick Air Force Base near Satellite Beach, Florida with AF Viet Vet buddy and ex golf pro and member of *Rocky's Team Sky Soldiers* of Cocoa Beach, Bob Szymanski, we stopped in the tiki hut marina bar at the Base to 'settle-up' and have a cold one. Yes, PAFB has a golf course, plus a marina with real boats in it (an armada of them), a great BX and commissary, other fun places, and its very own ocean across the street where the AF people like to surf and lounge in the sun. Kinda makes my time at Polk seem wanting, not to mention Camp Zinn which had no golf course or ocean at all and the PX sucked! After collecting the 14 bucks I won from the pro (a 'spot' may have been involved) and while sipping those cold ones, we glanced up to see this paratrooper swinging from the rafters.



The spinning fan was moving it in rapid circles which could have led to a nasty PLF had it not been attached to the bamboo. We could tell right-away it wasn't a real paratrooper as it couldn't have been more than 14" tall. I distinctly recall upon arriving Benning for jump school in '65 we had to be at least 20" tall. Ed

A Vegas Reunion Pic by the Lovely Mrs. Joan Haber

Entitled: *"Three old farts at a table"*



L-R: Steve *"I'll loan you one for two"* Haber, C/2/503 '65/'66; the ever-handsomely-dressed and coiffured Jack *"Jackattack"* Ribera, A/2/503 '66; and Mike *"I used to ride a Harley"* Sturges, A/2/503 '66/'67. It's nice to see they let them out of the home for a while.

Vietnam Veterans of America



VVA CHAPTER 227

VVA Chapter 227 received its charter on October 11, 1985 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in the Commonwealth of Virginia in January, 1986. We welcome all Vietnam-era veterans to join us. Others, such as Red Cross workers or civilians who served In Vietnam, as well as friends and relatives are eligible to join the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA). Please visit our Chapter website vva227.org

**"2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010
Chapter of the Year in Virginia"**

2011 National Vietnam Veterans of America Member of the Year: **Leonard Ignatowski**

VVA'S Founding Principle:

***"Never again shall one generation of veterans
abandon another."***



2/503d **VIETNAM** Newsletter / October 2013 – Issue 58

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Chester (Chet) W. Nycum

“G” Company, 503rd PIR Paratrooper
Extraordinaire
1921 ~ 2013



Chester Nycum was born 24 May 1921 in North Braddock, PA and joined the Army QMC in May 1939, just shortly after he turned 18. Chet died on 2 Sept 2013, at the age of 92.

Army life was good to him, but lacked the challenge that an advertisement recruiting for parachute troops promised. Would he stay safe with the QMC or join the Paratroops?

He commenced training at Ft. Benning, GA in August 1941, before there was a system of class numbers. After a six week Pacific cruise to Australia in an old Dutch tub, his military and jungle training continued in Australia at Gordonvale, North Queensland. He enjoyed the “outback” and developed bushcraft skills in Australia which helped him survive as a platoon scout during the war in the Pacific.

Within a week of arriving in Port Moresby, New Guinea, he became personally acquainted with malaria, dysentery and ran a fever to 106 degrees. Three for the price of one! He thus missed the Markham Valley Operation. His first combat mission was on Hollandia, New Guinea followed by Noemfoor, Mindoro, Corregidor, and finally Negros Island. After 3 years in the jungle as a lead scout he was discharged on points just weeks prior to the war ending. Chet wrote about his war experiences which can be viewed at: http://corregidor.org/heritage_battalion/nycum/chx_alt.html

Chet took Engineering on the GI Bill, and worked a variety of engineering jobs from production line supervisor to engineer at WSID radio in Baltimore. His career changed when he was hired by Westinghouse Electric Corp., where he spent over 30 years working as the supervisor of ‘test and calibration of working standards’ and field troubleshooting airborne electronics. He retired at the age of 65 and remained active with the American Legion. He collected rare audio recordings, and considered that the Internet had given him a fresh lease on life.

Hi wife Margaret of 68 years, died in 2008. Chet was enjoying the single life at his home not far away from the front gates of Fort Belvoir, MD.



Chet, ready for qualifying jump at Fort Benning, GA.

*All The Way Chet, and thanks!
A job well done trooper!!*





Revised Service Dog / Guide Dog Benefits Rules

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to ensuring Veterans receive the benefits for which they qualify. The VA is implementing rules to codify the expansion of benefits for guide dogs passed into law in 2001.

For significantly disabled Veterans utilizing a service dog or guide dog to mitigate their hearing, vision and or mobility limitations, it is essential that benefits supporting their service dog/guide dog (SD/GD) are designed to maximize the life and utility of these specialized dogs and that the benefits are provided in an efficient and timely manner. The (SD/GD) benefits rules were revised to streamline administrative processes, to improve timeliness, assure quality and remove administrative burdens previously required of the Veteran. The benefits available for eligible Veterans and the administrative improvements incorporated into the revised procedures include:

Comprehensive SD/GD Veterinary care... Veterans will be able to access comprehensive veterinary services for their SDs/GDs including annual visits for preventive care and maintenance care (e.g.: immunizations, dental cleanings, screenings, etc.), as well as urgent/emergent care, prescription medications, and care for chronic illnesses and or disorders when treatment enables the service dog to perform its duties in service to the Veteran. With these new rules, Veterans will not be billed for covered services, thereby eliminating need for the Veteran to contact VA for pre-authorization or justify covered charges. Payment for covered services will be managed by the VA through an insurance policy. The intent of this administrative change is to encourage the Veterans to access preventive, routine and chronic care on a regular basis, thus optimizing the health and well-being of their service dogs/guide dogs.

Equipment... Service dogs/guide dogs may require specialized equipment that has not been supplied by the organization that provided the Veteran's dog. Wear and tear may also result in the need to replace necessary equipment such as harnesses; straps/ropes that the dog grips to open refrigerator, cupboard, household doors; packs for transporting medications; etc. VA's prosthetics service will administer this program, to include purchasing and dispensing necessary equipment.

Travel Expenses for Handler Training Support... To protect the integrity of the SD/GD program and ensure Veterans are receiving dogs of the highest level of quality, Veterans must receive a dog from an Assistance Dogs International (ADI) or International Guide Dog Federation (IGDF) accredited service dog organization in order to receive benefits. Additionally, through these organizations,

a Veteran is expected to spend time training with the service dog under the supervision of the service dog organization's qualified trainer to learn important skills prior to independently managing the SD/GD. The time required varies depending on the skill level and complexity of the tasks the dog and the handler must master. Location also varies, and may include time spent at the service dog training organization and time spent at the Veteran's home and community. With this new rule, VA will now provide financial support to enable the Veteran to travel to attend training at the ADI/IGDF site. Previously, the cost of travel to the service dog organization site for training may have been a limiting factor when Veterans searched for service dog organization that would best suit their needs and personal preferences. This benefit will expand the Veterans' options by removing travel costs as a limiting factor in locating and selecting an accredited/certified service dog organization tailored to their needs.

The requirement for a Veteran to present a training certificate from an ADI or IGDF accredited service dog organization does not apply for any guide dog for which a Veteran is already receiving benefits. ADI or IGDF training is also



not required for any SD/GD obtained before the date of publication of the final rule in the Federal Register, if a certificate is presented to VA that indicates completion of non-ADI or non-IGDF training, no later than one year after the publication date of the final rule. Veterans who do not present VA with the non-ADI or non-IGDF training certificate within this one year deadline will be required to meet the ADI or IGDF training requirement to receive the benefits described above.

Veterans who are currently approved to receive guide dog benefits will not be required to submit any additional justification, requests, or undergo any new clinical evaluations to receive benefits under the new rule. Guide dogs approved prior to implementation of the new rule will automatically become eligible for the benefits described above. Information will be disseminated to all Veterans currently receiving guide dog benefits detailing the benefits now available, as well as contact information should they have any questions.

Veterans may elect to obtain a SD/GD from an agency that is not a member of ADI or IGDF, however, if the Veteran does not meet the certification requirements noted above, he/she will not be eligible to receive VA SD/GD benefits.

[Sent in by Bob Allen, B/4/503d]



Fuzzy Pic of M60 Team, Charlie 2d Platoon



This photo was taken by Jerry Taylor of Charlie Company sometime in '65/'66, and he'd like to know if anyone recognizes the troopers in it? Thanks.

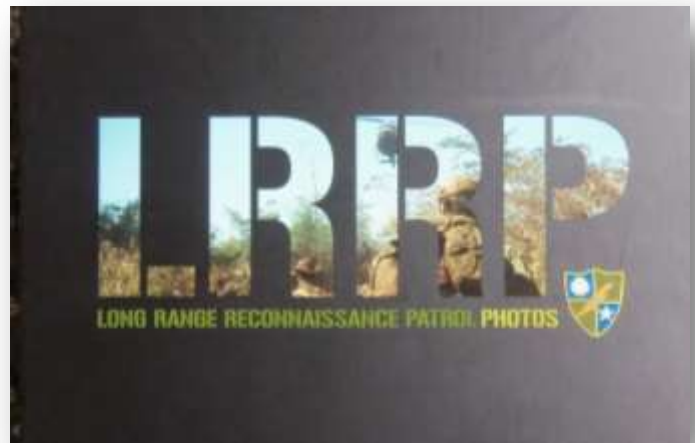


"This pic is a little better. The little guy got the M60, the tall black guy, the gunner, has a tiger tooth around his neck. I remember one day telling him it makes a nice bull's eye." Jerry Taylor

Editor's Note:

Jerry. I seem to recall more often than not, it was the smaller guys who always seemed to hump the machineguns and mortar base plates. Musta been an Airborne thang?

Book Review.....*The LRRP Book*



Jay Borman, author of the *LRRP Book*, isn't as old as us, but his many years of gathering material / items used by members / photos / history, is way beyond anything that I have come across in any book on a subject from Vietnam.

It's so well done and the 173rd LRRP/Ranger members and myself really got him the needed information on the Herd Special Ops. The Herd is well represented in this book.

Just to let you know, that I have talked to him and his father before my unit was going to contribute and I realized that Jay's devotion to us was more important than the money from the book. He spent a lot to get it published and he will just break even.

I liked the book so much that I brought it to the 173rd Airborne reunion in Vegas and showed it to all and they thought it was awesome and some even wanted to order the book.

The book weighs in at about 9 pounds and comes in a case, and at the 75th Ranger Regiment Reunion he brought 40 author proof copies and they were sold out in one day.

Only going to be 500 limited (not counting the 40 he brought) copies of this first edition.

I'm going to assist Jay with the second edition and he already has a lot of my company material, mission stories, photos, history on company, photos of items members used in Nam, poems members wrote, articles members wrote.

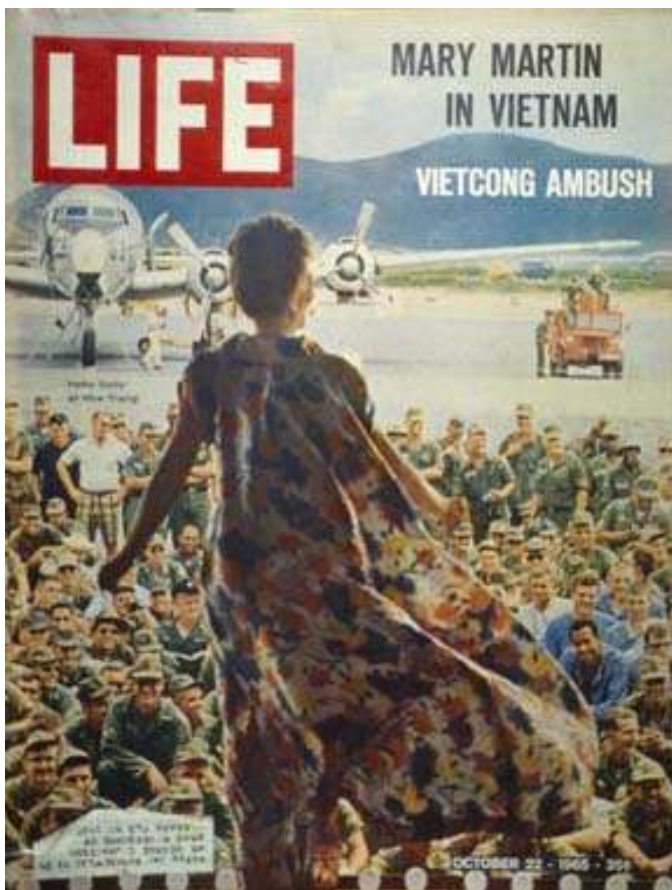
Jay is what is known as a true patriot and a younger generation individual who sees what our generation contributed to this country by serving.

RGR Robt "Twin" Henriksen
173rd Abn LRRP/Ranger Unit Director
novgrco@gmail.com



A Company Commander Remembers His Men

I am writing to provide personnel background for our forthcoming monthly publication. This incident (10 October 1965) was photographed and shown in *LIFE Magazine* in the 22 Oct 65 issue, in all its brutal, heartbreaking goriness. (See cover photo of this newsletter. Ed)



Company command had passed to my replacement but the Bravo Bulls lost were still my men and today their loss and their memory burdens me as heavily as it did when I first learned of it at Fort Benning in 1965. It is particularly troubling because security, the first priority in every operation, was lax and failed to locate the ambush before it was triggered. Ten Sky Soldiers were quickly KIA and several more WIA to include the Platoon Leader and Company Commander.

A few of my memories of the KIA from 10 October 1965:

PSG Eugene Rick was the longest-serving sergeant, having been with me since before the Brigade's deployment to Taiwan in November 1964. He was a tall, picture-perfect, replacement Platoon Sergeant (1st

Platoon), from the 506th Battle Group of the 101st. A giant native of the Great Lakes, who teamed with PSG "Mo" Hostak, the 3d Platoon Sergeant (WIA at Battle of the Slopes). PSG Rick oversaw the Airborne Training School that the Bulls put together on Okinawa to train the ANGLICO (Air-Naval Gun Fire Company) from Hawaii. He was an extremely generous soldier and contributed significantly to the construction of the 2d Battalion Chapel at Camp Zinn.

PFC Ronnie Schukar, a native of Vandalia, Illinois. A lanky, well-liked youngster with long, rosy muscles that frequently volunteered for pointman. Surprisingly, in later years, we met his Dad in Vandalia and later his family, who came to the Palm Springs gathering of the Bulls. Since then we have been to Vandalia, where we had a special Memorial Service for Ronnie, assisted by the local American Legion Post. Today we are still in close contact by visit and email with Mom Schukar and Ronnie's family.

Harry Himmelreich, a tough city boy from Union Beach, NJ, who was offered a choice by a judge regarding voluntary military enlistment or something worse. Harry approached everything head-on but continued to have a problem with discipline, UNLESS HE WAS IN THE FIELD. There he excelled at silent, jungle movement and charging hard. A soldier who could always be depended on to do what he understood.

I won't comment on the others KIA or WIA that day. These three, listed, were typical of all the Bulls: Super Sergeant, career soldier, Clean cut country boy Tough city guy.

As I write, I sense their presence in my memory. I hope they approve of my words, as we await our future rendezvous at the final DZ.

Fondest Airborne regards.
BDQ Roy

LTC Roy S. Lombardo, Jr.
CO, B/2/503d



~ Reunions of the Airborne Kind ~



~ 2013 ~



26th Annual Florida All Airborne Days,
October 3-5, 2013, Hilton Ft. Lauderdale-Airport
Hotel, Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Contact:
Bob Buffington
South Florida All Airborne Chapter
Contact:
Bob Buffington
Eml: abnbuff@gmail.com

NOTE

*If you are aware of any upcoming
'Airborne' or attached unit reunions,
please send complete details to:
rto173d@cfl.rr.com*



All Ohio Days, hosted by the Akron Chapter
of the 82nd Airborne Division, honoring all
paratroopers and glider trooper who have served or
are now serving in the Armed Forces of the United States,
October 4-5, 2013, Clarion Inn, Hudson, Ohio.

Contact:
Robert Winkler
Chairman/Secretary, 82nd Akron Chap.
Phn: 330-325-7574
Eml: akronchapabn82@yahoo.com



The National Pathfinder Association is
holding their "Pathfinder Legacy" reunion in
Williamsburg, VA, October 4-6, 2013. All
Pathfinders are invited.

Contact
Dean Nelson
Phn: 970-353-0146
Eml: nelent@aol.com



**42nd Annual Reunion 42nd Infantry
Platoon Scout Dog, 101st ABN Division**,
Vietnam 1966-71, October 4-6, 2013, Branson, Missouri.

Contact:
Jackie McIntyre
Phn: (612) 522-9377
Eml: 42ndmom@comcast.net



**Southern Hemisphere Chapters
Reunion, hosted by Chapter 27**, October
22-26, 2013, Melbourne, Australia.

Contact:
Ray Payne
Phn: 07-5524 7742
Eml: raypayne@veteranweb.asn.au

CORREGIDOR – THE ROAD BACK

Our video documentary CORREGIDOR - THE ROAD BACK will be premiered at the US Embassy in Manila on December 7, 2013. This event commemorates the start of WWII in Pearl Harbor 73 years ago.

Below are links to "teasers", should anyone find themselves inclined to be present in Manila at that time.

As the premiere is inside the US Embassy, it is the Embassy itself which will issue the formal invitations. Each invitation will contain a form which must be completed by the persons desiring to attend. I am one of the persons who is compiling the list to be given to the Embassy Security for those invitations to be issued. Because of this, anyone interested is urged to communicate with me soonest.

Meantime, please enjoy our teasers...go to these links!

Trailers # 1&2

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1eLfVafpsQ>

Trailer # 3

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyyIVsjsb0Y>

Paul Whitman

503rd Heritage Battalion Website Manager
paul@whitman.com.au

[See Page 16 for more details]





GALA PREMIERE

The Chick Parsons Ballroom
U.S. Embassy in Manila
December 7, 2013 Saturday at 4 pm

CORREGIDOR

THE ROAD BACK

*Retaking The Rock
was a defining moment
in the saga of World War II*

A SPYRON-AV MANILA PRESENTATION

Written & Direction **PETER PARSONS** Artistic Direction **LUCKY GUILLERMO**

Executive Producers **PAUL F. WHITMAN ANTONIA MORALES**

Photography **NORBERT MARCHADESCH PETER PARSONS MICHAEL R. WILLIAMS MORGAN CAVETT**

Production Design **JEMIMA CHRISTINE GUILLERMO** Graphic Design **JOJO S. LIMPO**

Script Supervision **MYLEEN ABRIGO** Technical Supervision **ERNEST MACALINO**

Senior Editor & Motion Graphics **REX VINCENT VILLADARES** Original Music Composition **NICHOLAS WING**

Running Time: 52:38 Mins

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173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)



Our KIA in October, '65-'70

"ONE BACKWARD GLANCE"

*173d Airborne Brigade Association and Vietnam Virtual Wall records report service in these units.

~ Fallen Warriors ~

What ghosts walk these hallowed hills,
Where once the cry of battle reigned?
Who are these smoky misty forms that
By their blood this ground was stained?

Their cry of pain floats on the wind,
Echoing from the ridge,
Calling for aid and comfort, but alas,
The spans too wide to bridge.

Only God can help these souls who have
Fallen at the line,
Build no monument to these men, this
Ground shall be their shrine.

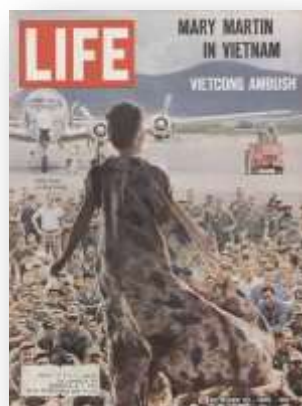
Let angels hover above the trees and
Guard these men of yore,
Kiss their cheeks and soothe their brow,
For death shall be no more.

By James W. Richardson

~ October 1965 ~

"October 1965 was not a good month for the Bravo Bulls, 2/503d. 10 October was especially bad. We lost nine men that day in an ambush on a road. I'm sure you have seen the picture of that scene that was in LIFE magazine (cover photo). We also lost two Bulls on 22 October, including Medal of Honor recipient, PFC Milton Olive, and SP4 George Luis."

Jack Schimpf
B/2/503d, '65/'66



James Grayson Berry, B/2/503, E/17th Cav*
FOR HE IS MY BROTHER

"There has never been a day that I have not thought of you. Some say I was young to have so many memories, but I thank God every day that you gave me those memories. Christmas has never been the same without you. After you died Christmas was never really the same. I have missed those walks you took me on while we were waiting for Santa Claus. I just wanted to let you know and the many veterans that are still alive how much I truly respect what you did for our country. You gave the ultimate sacrifice. I know a part of me wishes those years had never happened, but they did and it was your desire to make a difference in our world. I was going through your trunk at Mom's and found some pictures from your barracks and in that picture I could see a picture of me hanging in it, and it brought back so many great memories and sadness of not having you, but then I realized you are with me every day, looking out for me and guiding me. You are not only my 'big bro', you are truly my hero.

*Love always, your little Sis."
Cammie Berry Martin*

~ A Note From The Virtual Wall ~

"The 173rd Airborne Brigade was the U. S. Pacific Command's "Ready Reaction" Army force and was one of the first large formations to enter South Vietnam. The 173rd's maneuver battalions conducted many of the Army's initial operations in Vietnam, including OPERATION IRON TRIANGLE near Ben Cat 8-14 October 1965. On 10 October B Company, 2/503rd Airborne, was ambushed in the Iron Triangle by a VC company. Twelve men were killed in the action, three from the 173rd's recon troop and nine from Bravo 2/503rd Infantry."

(continued...)



Michael George Brancato, D/16th Armor
*"He's my father's brother, my uncle.
I was born on my uncle's birthday. I wish I could have
known him. I wonder if I look like him."*
Gino Brancato

Richard Burgans, A/1/503
*"Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not
absence of fear."*
Anonymous

Wilbert Claude Davis
B/1/503



*"Ronnie, like all the men of E troop 17th, ask for
nothing special. To me he was special. However, you
see he was my gunner. He was special because he was
a friend, a fellow trooper with whom I spent many
hours each day. We talked of our dreams, our homes
and yes our family. I have missed you Ronnie since
that awful day in my life and will think of you often
and always. Rest in peace my friend. Rest in peace my
fellow trooper."*
Marvin Runyon
Friend, Supervisor

Lon M. Fletcher
A/1/503



*"Rest in Peace. I remember that October day on Hill 55
as the saddest of my life. We lost you, Ken, Jesse and
several others. I was one of the lucky ones who
survived in 2nd Platoon that day but have thought
about it every day since. I miss you guys."*
Harry Allen

James Walter Floyd, B/2/503
*"KIA 10 October 1965. PFC James W Floyd---No
personal memories, but he was one of ours,
a Bravo Bull."*
Jack Schimpf
B/2/503d

Lawrence Andre Franklin
B/2/503

*"KIA 10 October 1965, SGT Larry Franklin---Franklin
was a Weapons Platoon FO assigned to the 3rd
Platoon. He and I were housed in the same tent when
we first moved out of the rubber trees. He was the
only Weapons Platoon KIA our first year in country.
A good, young NCO."*
Jack Schimpf
B/2/503d



Wilbert, 'on the horn'.

Ronnie Marshall Duncan, B/2/503/E Troop*
*"He was my big brother. He was loved a lot, and he is
also missed. Thanks to everyone that gave their life
for us. We think about him a lot. It's hard on my
mother, on family, reunion day. That's the day we
found that he died. Ronnie, we love and miss you.
Your big sister."*
Linda Brinkley

(continued...)





2/503 Bravo Bulls settle into the rubber trees in May 1965. The war begins for the 173d Airborne Brigade.
(Photo by Jim Robinson, B/2/503d)

Harry Edward Himmelreich, B/2/503

"KIA 10 October 1965. PVT Harry Himmelreich---A hard charger who seemed to have a knack for getting in trouble. A Bull, through and through."

Jack Schimpf
B/2/503d

Jesse Ray Hughes, Jr., A/1/503

"Rest in Peace. I remember 5 Oct 65 every day of the year. 2nd Platoon lost several that day and Jesse was among them. We had been good friends since Okinawa and that was the saddest day of my life. Visited your sisters Dee and Shirley when I got back to California. Miss you Jesse."

Harry Allen



Ronald Walter Gulley
A/2/503

"Uncle Ronnie... Thinking of you today... wish I had a chance to have met you, wish you had a chance to meet Alex. I think you would really love her! She is a spit fire. Keeps me on my toes. Everyone is well, we are all getting along. I know you are up there with Granny, Grandpa, Aunt Lynn, and all the babies...love to you and them. Becca."

Rebecca (Gulley) Kellerman



Kenneth Monroe Hyett
A/1/503

"We in the family called him 'Sonny'. I used to go to my Uncle's house for family reunions, and fished with him at the pot hole for pike, and played basketball with him. I was 13 when he gave his life for our country. I miss him to this day. Thank you Cousin."

Unsigned

Larry Vernon Lake, HHC/1/503

"Your dad Vern was my paper route manager in 1965 when I was 13. My first connection to the war was the day I came to your house to get my paycheck. Your dad was sitting in a chair in the driveway. His eyes were red from crying. He told me he received news that you had been killed in Vietnam. Thank you for your courage and for defending our country."

Bob

Larry Paladino, B/2/503, was right when he said, *"Their stories are our stories."* We all can envision our dads sitting in a chair in the driveway, just like Larry Lake's dad, and weeping.

(continued...)

Adherene Louis Haines, A/1/503

Russell M. Heath
A/1/503



"Mrs. B. Heath, Russell's mother, accepts Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medals presented posthumously to her son."





**George Gregorio Luis
B/2/503**

"KIA 22 October 1965. SP4 George Luis---A good soldier who could have worn black PJ's and passed for VC. George would be welcome in any squad or platoon."

**Jack Schimpf
B/2/503d**

Leroy Franklin Minnix, B/1/503

"To my FRIEND. LeRoy, so many years have passed since our time in school. I too served in Vietnam and cannot remember the times I have thought of you. Going from youth in school to dying at age 19 is such a long journey and a heavy load to bear. Getting to the Wall in 1997 was a very moving experience, making sure to touch your spirit, name and recognition for your presence in life, your contribution to all, you're truly missed."

My Love to you BROTHER."
Robert L. Duquette, Classmate

Abell Moses, A/1/503



**Duane Michael Nelson
B/2/503**

"KIA 10 October 1965. PFC Duane Nelson---No personal memories, but he was one of ours, a Bravo Bull."

Jack Schimpf, B/2/503d



**Milton Lee Olive, III
B/2/503**

"KIA 22 October 1965. PFC Milton Olive---Recipient of the Medal of Honor and posthumously promoted to SP4. One of the nicest young men I met in nine years of service. An intelligent and well-spoken kid. An excellent photographer and willing to share his expertise with others."

Jack Schimpf, B/2/503d

~ A Note From The Virtual Wall ~

"B Company, 2/503rd Infantry, lost two men on 22 Oct 1965, PFC Olive and SP4 George G. Luis of Pahoia, Hawaii. On 21 April 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson presented the Medal of Honor to Milton L. Olive Jr, saying in part "The Medal of Honor is awarded for acts of heroism above and beyond the call of duty. It is bestowed for courage demonstrated not in blindly overlooking danger, but in meeting it with eyes clearly open. That is what Private Olive did. When the enemy's grenade landed on that jungle trail, it was not merely duty which drove this young man to throw himself upon it, sacrificing his own life that his comrades might continue to live. He was compelled by something that is more than duty, by something greater than a blind reaction to forces that are beyond his control. He was compelled, instead, by an instinct of loyalty which the brave always carry into conflict. In that incredibly brief moment of decision in which he decided to die, he put others first and himself last."

PFC Olive was the second of the 173rd Airborne Brigade's ten posthumous Medal of Honor recipients and the first of twenty African-Americans who earned the Medal in Vietnam - 16 of them posthumously. His fellow Chicagoans have further commemorated his life and courage by naming a junior college, a park, and a portion of the McCormick Place Convention Center after him. Milton L. Olive III was born near Ebenezer, Holmes County, Mississippi, and is buried in the West Grove Baptist Church Cemetery, Lexington, Mississippi."



President Johnson presents the posthumous Medal of Honor citation to Milton's father, Milton Olive, Jr. during ceremony at the White House.



VIETNAM VETERANS RECALL AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERO

It has been almost 40 years since a scrawny, soft-spoken young private named MILTON LEE OLIVE III jumped on a grenade to save four men he hardly knew. But his comrades from the 173rd Airborne Regiment haven't forgotten. More than 150 Vietnam veterans from Olive's company quietly



gathered Sunday morning at the lakefront park that now bears his name to honor his heroism. They shared stories and a few tears before laying a row of American flags at the foot of Olive's memorial, saying it was the least they could do for a young man from the South Side who showed them what it meant to be a soldier. *"Not a day goes by when I don't think about what he did. It takes a special character to give up your life like that,"* said Ed Johnson, 58, a paratrooper who was friends with Olive in Vietnam. *"You'd like to think you'd do the exact same thing in the same situation. But he lived up to it. He was a true hero."* For his valor, Olive posthumously received the Medal of Honor in 1966. He became the eighth African-American, and the only African-American from Chicago, to receive the nation's highest military honor. Olive had been in Vietnam only four months when his platoon was ambushed in the jungles near Phu Cuong in October 1965. As five soldiers clung together for their lives, a grenade landed in their midst, and the 18-year-old Olive screamed, *"Look out!"* With no time to react, he quickly held it to his chest, absorbing the explosion with his body. Thanks to his courage, four others, including Olive's platoon leader, are alive today, but none was well enough to attend Sunday's event. The surviving members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and Olive's company, the "Bravo Bulls", met in Chicago this week to celebrate their 36th annual convention and reunion. They closed out the week with the solemn ceremony at Olive Park near Navy Pier. *"We gather together today as Sky Soldiers to remember a soldier with whom we marched,"* Lt. Col. Roy S. Lombardo, Olive's old commander, told the crowd. *"He was a soldier who loved his fellow soldiers so much he was willing to sacrifice his life to protect them. His deeds are recorded*

now in history." Philip Moulaison, a federal judge in Phoenix, Arizona, remembers Olive having a lively sense of humor. Lombardo saw him almost every day reading his Bible. But Johnson and Olive forged a special bond because both were from the South Side. *"When you're out there fighting on the other side of the world, you stick with the guys from back home,"* he said. Every Memorial Day for the last 17 years, Johnson arrives at the park at 8:00 a.m. to lay a wreath for his fallen friend. He was angry at himself on Sunday for forgetting a new wreath this time. *"I'm going to keep doing it until I can't do it anymore,"* said Johnson, an elementary school math teacher in Chicago. *"Until I'm buried myself, I'm going to make sure no one forgets this man."*

By Tom McCann

The Chicago Tribune - 8 July 2002



Ernest President, B/2/503

"KIA 10 October 1965. SP4 Ernest President---No personal memories, but he was one of ours, a Bravo Bull."

Jack Schimpf
B/2/503d



James Joseph Reilly, Jr.
B/2/503, E/17th Cav*

(continued...)



Eugene Merlyn Rick, B/2/503

"KIA 10 October 1965. PSG Eugene Rick --- In stature, a very large man. As far as I know, he was the only man that PSG 'Mo' Hostak would socialize with on Okinawa. Two 'old school' hard-drinking NCO's that really knew their stuff about running an Infantry platoon."

Jack Schimpf
B/2/503d



**David Lee Rizor
173d Eng.**

"I'll never forget the good times we spent together! Walking to school together, hunting, fishing, shooting pool, or taking a hike into the woods. We always enjoyed the companionship of one another. We were truly friends. I shall always remember and miss you! Dave Ingram, Classmates

Wilfred Roland Robillard, B/2/503

"KIA 10 October 1965. PFC Wilfred Robillard --- Robillard gave up what would have been his last pass to Saigon so that Jim Quick and I could go together. He was a nice kid and I will never forget his generosity. Quick and I had a blast and missed the return truck to Bien Hoa. Had to take a taxi the next day. That's another story."

Jack Schimpf
B/2/503d



**Thomas James Schindler
A/1/503**

"I miss you little bro. I love you. Your courageous deed will always be remembered. You'll always be in my heart and memory."

Joan Alfaro

Ronald Keith Schukar, B/2/503

"KIA 10 October 1965. PFC Ronald Schukar---Can't remember too much about Ron from those days, but have become well acquainted with his great family in Vandalia, Illinois. His Mom Katie considers all Bulls her sons."

Jack Schimpf
B/2/503d



**John Milton Starkes, Jr.
B/1/503**

Edward Larry Stewart, B/1/503

Curtis Ray Tarkington, HHC/1/503

"Curt... You are gone but not forgotten ... Our class of '64 was one of the best ... sadly that happy carefree era came to an end ... VietNam destroyed our world and took the best young men our country had to offer. My condolences to your family ... I also know what it is like to lose a son only I got to have 34 years before my son was taken from me. Thank you, Curt, for your guts and courage ... so very sad you were taken from this earth"

Unsigned

Van Williams, B/2/503

"KIA 10 October 1965. PVT Van Williams --- No personal memories, but he was one of ours, a Bravo Bull."

Jack Schimpf
B/2/503d

To his Bravo Bulls of '65:

"Rest in peace. The rest of us will be with you again in the not too distant future."

Jack Schimpf, SSG
B/2/503d
5/'64 - 5/'66

(continued...)



~ October 1966 ~

George Belanger, C/4/503

"On this your angel day I humbly give thanks for your service and sacrifice and with honor I leave you this poem . . .

*A butterfly lights beside us like a sunbeam
And for a brief moment its glory and beauty belong to our world
But then it flies again
And though we wish it could have stayed...
We feel lucky to have seen it."*

Author Unknown
A 60s Girl

David Wesley Branch, E/17th Cav



Nathaniel Brown
A/2/503



Leonard Wesley Burns, HHC/1/503, B/Spt*

"Honoring his sacrifice. Offering our gratitude and respect to a fallen Sky Soldier from fellow paratroopers of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association. May he rest in peace and dignity.

John Francis Dalola, III, 173d Eng

"Pfc. John F. Dalola 3d, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dalola, of 649 Neshaminy St., Pennel.

The parents of Pfc. Dalola received a letter from their son the same day he was reported killed while his 173d Airborne Division was engaged in cleaning out a mine field. Dalola was 19, October 1. He was sent to Vietnam three months ago. A graduate of Neshaminy High School in Pennel, he is survived by his parents."

The Philadelphia Enquirer
October 11, 1966

John Green Dickerson, III, C/1/503, C/2/503*



Michael James De Marsico
A/2/503



Randal Clyde Engram
C/1/503



"Ranger Randy...Randy started Inf OCS in Nov 1964 as Abn & Ranger qualified. Randy and I were good friends in 2nd Platoon. He often spoke of family and how he looked up to his father. After graduation, Randy went to the Airborne School. I was assigned to join the 82nd Abn Div in combat in the Dominican Republic. On my first jump, Randy made sure he was with me. He sat across from me and teased me. Years later, I realized he was watching out for me, smiling as he jumped first. In 1968, a 173rd NCO who knew him told me Randy's unit in the 173rd Abn Bde had been overrun. Certainly not easily."

Ronald Bunch

David H. Freeman, HHC/173d Bde, 173d Flt Plt*

"Found a picture from my brother's pictures while he served with the 173rd Airborne in 66-67. I wanted to share this with his family, friends and comrades.

Joe Plunkard



(continued...)



Crash Information on U.S. Army Helicopter OH-13S Tail Number 64-15416

Posted on 10/7/12 - by wkillian@smjuhsd.org

"Crew members included pilot 1LT Douglas L. Jones (KIA) and SGT David H. Freeman (KIA). There are two accounts of crash: First account - Aircraft was returning from operation area when it struck high tension power lines. Aircraft struck nose down. Fire consumed the aircraft after impact with total loss. Wires were approximately 50 feet above ground. Second account - SP5 Larry Snedden and I, SP4 Alex Horvath had the sad job of transporting said aircraft back to Bien Hoa soon after the crash. It was one of our aircraft. THE major cause of the accident was that the aircraft was flying directly into the sunset, flying west unable to see the power lines. The sad part is that this accident could have been prevented by flying just a few feet higher. The power lines were common knowledge to all aircrews in the area."

(Submitted by Alex Horvath)

[Taken from vhpa.org]

James Edwards Gardner, HHC/173d Bde

Exploding Mine Kills Local Man Lt. James Gardner Dies In Viet Nam

"Army First LT. James E. Gardner, 25, of Texas Township, was killed Thursday in Viet Nam when the vehicle he was riding in struck a land mine, the Army reported today. Gardner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester F. Gardner, 5181 Texas Drive, was a graduate of Portage Central High School and Western Michigan University. Gardner was attached to Company B which is part of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He had been in Viet Nam since February 25 and was scheduled to leave the country early next year. A 1959 Graduate of Portage Central High School, Gardner earned his bachelor's degree from Western Michigan University in 1963. He received his master's from WMU in 1965. Gardner was commissioned through the Army Reserved Officer Training Corps program at WMU. He had volunteered to go to Viet Nam after spending seven months in Korea, his parents said. Surviving in addition to his parents is a brother, Daniel, at home. Funeral arrangements will be announced later by the Truesdale South Chapel."

Posted on 9/27/11 - by Lisa Lark
Kalamazoo Gazette

Terry Eugene Hemmitt, A/3/319

Douglas Lee Jones, HHC/173d Bde, 173d Flt Plt*

*"Fatality of crash of U.S. Army helicopter OH-13S
Tail Number 64-15416."*



John Henry Jones
A/2/503

*"Miss you so much, love. You know I'll see you again.
Your sister,"*
Liz



Edward M. McIlvain, III, "Doc"
HHC/1/503

Wynnewood Soldier Killed by Reds During Vietnam Jeep Patrol

Acting Sgt. Edward Morton McIlvain Jr., 21, of 301 Cherry lane, Wynnewood, was killed in action in Vietnam on Tuesday. Sgt. McIlvain, who was with the 173d Airborne Division, was on patrol in a jeep when it was struck by enemy fire. His mother, Mrs. George M. Cheston, was notified of his death on Thursday. Sgt. McIlvain attended Episcopal Academy, and was a graduate of Darrow School. He enlisted in the Army in October, 1964, and volunteered for the Special Forces 18 months ago. He had been in Vietnam since March. Besides his mother and stepfather, he is survived by two brothers, John M., of Villanova; Lt. David D., serving with the U.S. Army; a stepbrother, Miguel de Braganca, and a stepsister, Sydney Cheston."
The Philadelphia Inquirer, October 21, 1966



Emery George Mikula
173d Eng

Josh Palm, Jr., C/1/503, C/2/503*



(continued....)



Eleftherios Pantel Pappas, B/4/503

"The first, you never forget. You know how they say that you will never forget your first, of anything. Well Sp/4 Pappas was the first soldier of our unit to give his life. I can remember that day like it was yesterday. I will never ever forget you, my comrade, my fellow paratrooper, but most of all my friend. God Bless You, and rest easy. As you are truly my hero.

1SG Joseph J. Oliverio, (retired)

Thomas Respress, B/4/503

"A lot has changed since my last visit on 09-24-2001. My 5 children are all now grown and independent. As of now Connie and I are married 43 years, I have 10 grandchildren so far, and still think of you often. My 3rd son, 4th child, Tim is active duty Army, Iraqi War veteran 2005 tour, a Captain now, and is stationed outside of Washington DC. So for the first time in my life I traveled there and was finally able to kneel at the actual Vietnam Memorial Wall and pray for you. Of all of the sights in Washington, the Wall and Arlington Cemetery touched me most. Once, before I was able to travel to Washington, I had the honor and privilege of being a guide for visitors to the traveling Wall that Heals when it came to the town I live in now. I purposely stationed myself near your panel so I could visit you often. I was never so profoundly touched as by the experience of those few days, talking with many veterans and watching their emotions and how they reacted. I am retiring this year, and I know it won't be that many more years before I will see you again. Thank you for being a part of my life Tommy. I want you to know you were an inspiration to me. I could never have been as courageous a soldier as you. I also want you to know my last son's name is Tommy. I think you know why. God bless you."

Robert F. Tomes
A long ago friend

Willie Junius Roundtree, A/2/503



Frank Michael Sokolowski
173d Eng

Robert Smith, Sr., A/3/319

William Leroy Stubbe, A/2/503

George Allen Waldron, C/1/503

"George was my favorite cousin. He was kind and loving to his little cousin. I'll never forget his warm smile and eyes that twinkled. He was the very best cousin. I'll always miss him." Leslie Gammelgaard

~ October 1967 ~



John Wayne Caver
E/17th Cav

"I miss you and think of you daily and the things you have missed. We were sorry you had to die this way and you will never be forgotten 'Little John', you will always be my big brother! Love you forever,"

Karen, Bill and Kay



Rodney Barrette Cline
C/4/503

"Rodney was a schoolmate of mine. He and I were artists. He was truly gifted as an artist; when we were given an assignment in class he was the first one done and he always got an A - he was unbelievable. He loved making models of cars, any kind of art work, and girls. We liked school so much we went all year ... summer school wasn't so hot but we got to meet girls from other communities. Rodney was the first person I knew with a brand new motorcycle, a 250cc Honda Scrambler ... he rides with me every time I fire up my Harley. We miss ya, brother. We could sure use your art work on our bikes. You are not forgotten."

Dyno Don Fraser



Larry Franklin Coggins
B/1/50



(continued....)





Walter Wayne Cunningham
E/17th Cav



**SPECIALIST FOURTH CLASS
WALTER WAYNE CUNNINGHAM
TROOP E, 17th CAVALRY REGIMENT
173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE
CITATION FOR POSTHUMOUS AWARD OF
THE SILVER STAR**

"The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Silver Star Medal (Posthumously) to Walter Wayne Cunningham, Specialist Fourth Class, United States Army, for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with Troop E, 17th Cavalry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, as a point man of his platoon. At approximately 1000 hours, Specialist Cunningham's platoon was moving through high elephant grass in Tuy Hoa Province when it came upon a wood line and fell under heavy automatic weapons fire from an estimated North Vietnamese squad. Specialist Cunningham unhesitatingly rushed the enemy force, firing his weapon and throwing grenades. He had almost reached the enemy position when he was shot and killed. By exposing himself to heavy fire and rushing the enemy, he displayed an aggressive and professional attitude and caused the enemy to withdraw without inflicting heavy casualties to the rest of his platoon. Specialist Cunningham's personal courage materially contributed to the success of the platoon in discovering and routing an enemy ambush. Specialist Cunningham's extraordinary heroism in close combat was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

Frank Bellew Dunford, III, C/1/503, C/4/503*

"Frank was a good person, a good soldier and a great friend. There has always been a hole in the heart of anyone who knew Frank. When I was an FNG Frank extended his friendship, support, skill and knowledge to teach me how to function and survive. He had a great personality and a smile that I can still see 40 years after his death. If anyone knows where Frank is buried please contact me. From a friend."

Lauren C. Dates

paradise@zlink.net

[Posted 9 March 2007]



Robert Lee Fleck
B/4/503

"Many people did not think that the United States should have gotten involved in the Vietnam War. I don't know how you thought about going to war but you answered your country's call when they needed you. I admire your honor and thank you for giving your life for the honor of your country."

Bethany Witzig

Willie Franklin, HHC/2/503

Nathaniel Harris, C/2/503

"Nate. You always talked about the girl back home and how you were going to get married, usually while we were sitting around filling sand bags or clearing jungle on Vung Ro Mountain. We were just getting to know each other and then you were gone... We had a nice service for you and I will never forget you! God Bless and I'm sure we will meet again."

John Schmidt



Vung Ro Mountain, Vung Ro Bay, RVN

Jimmy McDonald Malone, C/1/503

(Incident date May 4, 1966, deceased October 28, 1977)

Terry Lee Martin, A/1/503

Elec McCoy, B/2/503



(continued...)



Daniel R. Meador
HHC/4/503



Lavern Leo Salzman, C/D/2/503*

~ October 1968 ~

Donald Curtis Hamm
E/17th Cav



"You are a big part of who I am. My father Dalton O'Neil was a friend of yours. He has not let a day go by without thinking about you. We just talked about you last night. When I research your life, I see that not only did my father lose a friend, many people who loved you lost you. Thank you for being a part of who I am. You live through me."

Jennifer O'Neil Wylie



Timothy Michael Porter
B/3/503



"Met Tim at Ft. Bragg in 1968. When I saw his face as he was joining 'B' Company 3/503 Infantry in Vietnam in the fall of 1968, I was a happy soldier. I knew no one prior to his joining the company. Having a friend was very important in a bad place. And being a lone artilleryman in the company made me an outsider. I was the FO for 'Bravo' Company. The only FO in the Battalion!! Sadly, the day before we moved out for a new operation, I was transferred to 'D' Company as their FO. The Battalion was deployed by helicopter Combat Assault (CA) into the Mountains around Da Lat. We were moving out from our night position early in the morning with four understrength Infantry Companies when 'B' Company were attacked/ambushed. The fight was very close, they could not get the artillery fire for support due to communication interference by the Armed Forces Television Network Broadcast of 'The Dick Van Dyke Show'. I was relaying coordinates for his company

during the fight. It haunts me to this day when I hear Mary Tyler Moore hollering 'Rob .. Rob'. Television for the rear area troops prevented Artillery Fire being placed on their position in a timely fashion. It may have had a chance to save his company from casualties. And our company Commander didn't always put out listening posts or advance patrols to avoid ambush and surprise, to prevent that kind of close quarters ambush. I was told, Lt. Tim (known as the 'Kid' to his men!) was in the process of rescuing one of his men when he caught a burst of machine-gun fire in the back. Unfortunately the wounds were fatal. He died so others could live to fight another day. And I lost a good friend. He was a true hero!! Thanks to all who knew him for allowing me to share the memories. I would like to see others who served with Tim that day!!"

Neil J. Donnelly

Ronnie Len Russell
C/1/503



Gregory William Stewart, E/17th Cav



George A. Vanderhoff, Jr.
C/1/503

"My brother Butch was the light of my life and always a hero to me. He was a very special guy to all who knew him and a friend to all. Butch is one of the reasons my son has served in the military for 16 years. I am proud of my brother and my son. I send out a special prayer to all our boys young and old who uphold our country's freedoms. Thank you."

From his sister,
Susan George

"You are still with us and will never be forgotten. From your brothers of the Headhunter Platoon C/1/503, 68-69. Until we meet again ... Airborne!"
A memorial from a fellow Squad/Team member in Vietnam, who wishes to be anonymous.

John Robin West, D/1/503

(continued...)



~ October 1969 ~



Danny Elbert Appleton
C/3/503

"I met Danny at Ft. Dix, we were both on our way to Vietnam. We ended up in the same company but different platoons with the 173rd Abn. The day Danny was killed he was part of a patrol that was escorting some engineers who were conducting a mine sweep in the village of An Hoa. The patrol was hit by a claymore mine and there were several serious casualties as well as Danny who was killed. I helped load Danny and the other wounded on the Medevac chopper that took them out."

Gregg Corbin, C/3/503d



LOH Crew Chiefs who flew scout mission at Casper. (Left) Richard Canning, KIA 10-4-69 & (Right) Robert Gomez, KIA 8-18-69.



C/2/503 Dust Off of one of our KIA.
(Photo from Jack Leide, C Co. CO)

"Hi Danny. Well it's been 41 years now and I still remember sharing that can of 'C' ration peaches for breakfast with you on that morning of Oct. 21st 1969. You were telling me of your girl back home and we laughed a lot. I just want you to know that I remember you a lot. Your Friend,"

Lloyd "Burt" Burton, C/3/503d

William Buel Bishop, II, E/4/503

Richard B. Canning, HHC/173d Bde, 173d Flt Plt*

"39 years ago today you left this place called Earth. You Rick, were an ICON and the memories of you go on and on. Charlie knows a ton of Rick stories and he tells them always with a tear in his eye. Rest in Peace Rick..." Barbara Anne

"We have spent thirty plus years trying to forget what Vietnam had done to us, but it is very difficult when you return there each night. It is very difficult to forget when the memories are still clear and vivid in one's own mind and try to deal with the pain



alone. It has taken thirty years, but the Casper Platoon over the past two years has learned that we need to be together as a family and share the pain with others who understand what we hold inside. The healing, we have learned, comes from being together, remembering together, celebrating together and mourning together. Our brothers who died in combat are missed as any family member would be, and at each reunion those of you that were lost to us are remembered in a ceremony dedicated to the memories we all share. You were our brother, you are our brother, and our family is incomplete without you, but your memory lives on within us forever. You are greatly missed at each reunion, but we do feel your spirit among us. God bless America, God bless the Vietnam Combat Veteran."

Casper Aviation Platoon Organization

(continued...)



Ronald Lamar Cannon
A/1/503



"Thank You! Thanks for always being there. I wish that I could have been there for you. I wear your bracelet daily. I will never forget and I will never let them forget."

Phil

Henry Wayne Garrett
A/1/503



"Henry, who was called (Reb) was our pointman and Sergeant of the 3rd Platoon A-Co 1/503 Inf. 173rd ABN. Bdg. One of the nicest guys I met while in country and well-liked by everyone. Learned a lot from him. Always had a smile no matter how far we humped or how many mountains we climbed - was sadly missed by all who served with him."

Edward J. Scott
A/1/503d



Larry Ray Glover
D/4/503



"You are not forgotten. Larry was rather shy in school, but a kind and caring boy, always looking out for others, and I am very proud of his service to our country."

Janet Curry

James Henry Graham, E/1/503



Roger Joseph Kopke
D/3/503

"Photo furnished by the Kopke family in loving memory of a son never forgotten."

SSGT Roger J. Kopke
Company D, 3rd Battalion
503rd Infantry
173rd Airborne Brigade
Lima Platoon

"Roger. You weren't alone the evening you were wounded. Since then you have always been in my thoughts. I meet your folks every year at the reunion."

No one has forgotten."
David Kanters "Doc"
D/3/503d

Tony Lee O'Neal
E/1/503



"Tony Lee O'Neal was my uncle that was killed 3 months before I was born. My parents named me after him."

Tony Lee O'Neil
Nephew

"Tony will be remembered always for his joy of life and his kindness to others. He was a very handsome young man and with a winning personality. He came from a very small town where neighbors were interested in one another and their families. So, Tony's death touched many people who had watched this wonderful person grow to manhood. Tony was a person you enjoyed spending time with because of his positive attitude. He was just a kid who looked forward to life, love and family. What a great loss to us all. What a great loss for all the lives lost. To you Tony...you will always live in the hearts of those who knew you."

Loretta Bishop Lackey
High School friend

(continued...)





Keith Mason Parr
173d LRRP/C/75th



Harvey Claude Reynolds
E/4/503



"I was a machine-gunner with the 1st Platoon of Company 'C,' 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry in the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, when Sergeant Reynolds joined our platoon. He was the first Squad Leader and later became our Platoon Sergeant. I recall that he didn't like anything about the rear area or the state-side Army which is probably why they never promoted him. He was good in the field, hardcore and the most fearless man I've ever met. It's a shame that no one, other than his men, recognized his leadership abilities. He was a 'soldier's soldier' and spoke his mind when it came to welfare of his troops. On 18 May 67 our platoon went to the aid of an element of B Company who were ambushed on a water run. We were on hill 424 in Duc Pho province and they were in heavy contact taking casualties. Our platoon walked into a bunker complex and we immediately came under heavy fire. I was shot in the back of the head during the initial contact and someone took my machinegun, thinking I was dead. Sergeant Reynolds showed up at my side cursing the enemy and calling for an M-79 man and his grenade launcher. The individual who shot me was still firing on us and Sergeant Reynolds was determined to get him. What amazed and inspired me was that Sergeant Reynolds showed no fear. He wasn't hugging the ground like everyone else. He just knelt there beside me like he was bullet proof. When the M-79 man didn't show up, Sergeant Reynolds walked back through all that firing, grabbed the M-79 and came back to me still cursing the enemy. During his stay with me on hill 424, Sergeant Reynolds continued to engage that bunker even though he took one round through the bicep. He continually exposed himself to fire so much that his canteen and load bearing equipment were riddled with bullet holes. During the medevac, I heard Sergeant Reynolds arguing with the Lieutenant that he just had a flesh wound and did not want to leave the field. They took him out of there kicking and screaming...."

(continued....)

"E Company (Long Range Patrol) 20th Infantry (Airborne), First Field Force Vietnam (IFFV) was activated on September 25, 1967 in Pleiku, South Vietnam. The unit was organized with highly trained and motivated soldiers, most of whom had at least 6 months in combat and had undergone an intensive selection program before being assigned. The unit was organized to provide long range reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, and special type missions in a corps level basis and usually operated in 4-6 men teams. The company also had the capacity to operate as a platoon size force and conduct regular recon-in-force missions. At times, they were attached to Special Forces units and were trained by them at the MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang, South Vietnam. On February 1, 1969 E Company was inactivated and was redesignated as C Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry (Airborne), First Field Force Vietnam and continued its mission until it was deactivated on October 25, 1971 in An Khe, South Vietnam. 'RANGERS LEAD THE WAY'"
E20 LRP, C75th Ranger



Photo of the panel bearing Keith's name at the 173d Memorial at Fort Benning, GA.



....Later at the aid station, I heard him looking for a ride back out to hill 424. He was complaining about being stuck in the rear with a bunch of REMF'S when he should be out there fighting. I'm pretty sure he got his ride because he never appeared at the evac hospital like he was supposed to.

Sergeant Reynolds paid me a visit just before I left the aid station. He came to show me his arm and all the holes the enemy had shot through his fatigue shirt. I'll never forget Sergeant Harvey C. Reynolds, he's one of the rare ones you would follow to hell and back."

A memorial by Frank J. McCloskey

"Harvey C. Reynolds was a good old boy from Florida who was our Platoon Sergeant in 1967. He was a Regular. He had made one or both of the combat jumps with the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team in Korea. He had also been to demolitions school. Once, a man stepped on a 'bouncing betty' mine, which fires when you step off of it. He felt the plunger go down and froze. He told the rest of us that he was on a mine, and our Engineer came to the spot and dug around his boot, placed a big rock down on it as the troop took his foot out, and they moved away.

The Engineer blew it in place with C-4. While the replacement of the foot with a rock was going on Sergeant Reynolds stood three feet away. He didn't have to endanger himself, but it made the two men who were involved that much more steady. He didn't have a whole lot of education. He called the enemy bad names that were already out of date; it was like he was calling Germans 'Huns.' He would not have liked the idea of political correctness. He was just a good old Regular like Kipling was talking about when he wrote 'The backbone of the Army is the non-commissioned man.' He was always doing things like replacing the firing caps in fragmentation grenades with the ones from smoke grenades, so they would blow instantly, and setting them out with tripwires to make booby traps. I kept away from him when he was putting them out or getting them in. When I got wounded he was up on a little rise in the ground and he yelled at me 'Come up here, I can see them.' I said something rude to him because that meant they could see him, too. The other writer of this memorial says they shot off his bootlaces there, but he didn't get hurt. He went back to Vietnam to do another tour and was killed. A big salute for you, Sarge. I think he'd love it that we remembered him this long and wrote this up for him."

John Yeager, Jr.

"I would like to say that I'm very proud of Staff Sergeant Reynolds for his sacrifice and service to our

nation. He must have been a 'Soldier's Soldier'. My brother was Sergeant William B. Bishop, Knoxville, Tn, who was with SSG Reynolds when they were both killed in action. (I just found this out while searching for information on my brother's time in Vietnam). I don't know anything about what exactly happened to them that day, but would like to know more. I was only told he was lost to hostile fire. I'm glad to know my brother was serving with him. I always wondered if my brother had died alone, I know now he didn't.

In my heart forever now, both of them!"

Charles R. Bishop USAR

HQ Co, 844th Eng Bn, Knoxville, Tn '70-'76

Now in Port Saint Lucie, Florida

E-Mail will be forwarded by the

Webmaster@VirtualWall.org

[Posted 23 Mar 2007]

~ A Note From The Virtual Wall ~

187th Infantry, 8th Army

Korea



In Korea the 187th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), augmented by the Thai 21st Infantry Bn, 50th AAA Bn, 674th Fld Arty Bn, and the Philippine 10th BCT, became the 187th Regimental Combat Team. The 187th RCT made two combat jumps during the Korean War. The first was made on 20 October 1950 at Suncheon and Sukchon, North Korea. The mission of the 187th was to cut the road north going to China, preventing North Korean leaders from escaping from Pyongyang, and to rescue American prisoners of war. The second jump was made on Easter Sunday, 1951 at Munsan-ni, South Korea, in order to get behind Chinese forces and block their movement north. Unless SSG Reynolds had broken service he could not have arrived in Korea in time to make the first jump.



502nd Infantry, 101st Airborne Division

1967

(continued...)





503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade
22 March - 22 October 1969

"Someone" did recognize SSG Reynolds' abilities; when he returned to Vietnam in 1969 he was assigned as the Platoon Sergeant of the Recon Platoon in the newly-formed E Company, 4th Bn, 503rd Infantry. He held that position on 22 Oct 1969, when he and SGT William B. Bishop of Knoxville, Tennessee, were killed by fragmentation wounds.



Thomas Michael Shroba
D/4/503

~ Remembering An American Hero ~

"Dear SSGT Thomas Michael Shroba. Sir, as an American, I would like to thank you for your service and for your sacrifice made on behalf of our wonderful country. The youth of today could gain much by learning of heroes such as yourself, men and women whose courage and heart can never be questioned. May God allow you to read this, and may He allow me to someday shake your hand when I get to Heaven to personally thank you. May he also allow my father to find you and shake your hand now to say thank you; for America, and for those who love you. With respect, and the best salute a civilian can muster for you, Sir."

Curt Carter

Note:

Occasionally, but only occasionally, a civilian finds the right words to address and honor our fallen as well as our survivors, beyond the lethargic and too easily drawn on, "Thank you for your service," which often leaves many of us stunned and at a loss for words ourselves, yet sometimes appreciated. I think Mr.

Carter's words here are sincere, and can be appreciated. Ed

John Henry Taylor, C/1/503

"John is buried at Lane Chapel Cemetery, Huntersville, TN. His unit was Co C, 503 INF, 173 ABN BDE.

We Remember."

Robert Sage



Stanley Richard Tokarski
B/3/503

"Thinking of You. It is almost Christmas and you came to mind. There are so many memories I have of times we spent together. I just saw a picture of the Wall on TV and I want to say I always remember you. I came back, you didn't. It isn't fair. You were great, I miss, the City misses you. I know somewhere out there Joe misses you too. Rest well, I will never forget!"

Tom Zablocki



Edward Anthony Ulibarri
D/2/503

"Dear Edward, just wanted you to know I found your grave on Memorial Day, and you are next to your Vietnam comrade Lesley Henson. Remembering you this Memorial Day and never forgetting you."

Donna Teresa

Frank Norman Williams, A/4/503



Melvin Masaichi Yamashita
B/2/503



"Janna Hoehn collected photographs of the 42 men from Maui County, Hawaii who died in the Vietnam War, made this beautiful portable display, and sent the photographs to us (Virtual Wall)."

[Includes Melvin's photo. Ed]

(continued...)





A young Melvin 'taking five' some time, somewhere in Vietnam.

~ October 1970 ~

James Wheeler Dickey, C/1/503
Manuel De Leon Domine, A/2/503



David Gaddie, Jr.
E/3/503



James Thomas Germain, A/1/503
"To a dedicated soldier. Jim, you were one of the most dedicated soldiers and officer candidates I knew. I wish you could have come home with us, you had a lot to be proud of."
Monty Vogel

David Wayne Larson
E/3/503



Oscar Robert Layporte
534th Sig



"Bobby died at the end of his tour in Vietnam for which he volunteered after which he was hoping to get a 6 month early out so he could start college after his discharge. He could have stayed in the compound and waited for his orders to return to the U.S. but chose to be in the field with the men in his outfit. That's the way my cousin was." Daniel Pittson

Jimmy Eugene Marchesi, A/2/503

Harold Clifton Marsh, "Doc"
HHB/3/319



Ralph Peterson Miller, III
HHC/3/503



"Dad. There isn't a day that goes by that I don't think about you. I wish I had been old enough to remember but that was not the way it ended up. I love and miss you, Dad."
Scott

"Scott, I served with your dad at LZ Uplift in 1970, he was a fine man and someone you can be proud of. I was with B/3/503 and was in the field at the time the incident occurred so all my knowledge of it is second hand. I do know of one officer who was in the TOC at the time of the attack and if you can find him, he could possibly have some answers for you. I'm not sure of his first name but it was Lt. Lady, he was a good officer and respected by his men. I wish you only the best and offer my deepest condolences on the loss of your dad."
John J. O'Brien
B/3/503

(continued...)





Roberto Lerma Patino
173d LRRP/N75th*

"It's been 34 years since you left us and since my heart was broken. You are so very missed and Loved. You did what you thought was right and you believed in the cause. To me you were always my hero, but you didn't need to go and prove it. I love you my brother and will always cherish all that you did for me. My life was never the same since you died. I only wished I hadn't been so young when you died, because there was so much I would have wanted to share with you. I feel so cheated out of my relationship with you. Nevertheless, I am so very proud of you my brother. I stand tall every Memorial Day just knowing You died for me and all those people that live in the USA.

Your sister,"

Rebecca M. Carrizales

Paul Edward Reed, A/1/503, A/2/503*



Brian Dale Upright
E/3/503

"I would like to find someone that was in my brother's unit. I was 4 years old when he died and would like to know more about him.

Please contact me by email.

Thank you." Brenda M. Reddon

E-Mail will be forwarded by the

Webmaster@VirtualWall.org

[Posted 17 Feb 2001]



INCOMING!

~ Almost Poetic, Almost ~

I've been sitting here reading our roster of 173d KIAs in the month of September (Issue 57). Of course there are tears. Andy Anderson's account of *Operation Silver City* is fascinating and sooo well written.



Jim Bethea
HHC/2/503d, '65/'66

Jim

Reply: Hi Jimbo: Agree with your take, hooch buddy, on what Andy Anderson (A/2/503) wrote about Silver City (Issue 57 Pages 10-18). I had earlier told him what he wrote was almost poetic, almost...

"The chopper blades slapped the moist morning air lulling us to sleep, so sorely needed, since our early rise hours past and our future of physical trial. I eyed the emerald terrain beneath, knowing we'd go from bird to bug at the end of our joy ride into the bosom of this dark damsel named Vietnam.

It was the second week of March 1966."

If that ain't poetic, I don't know poetic. A fine piece of writing and shared sad history indeed. Best to you and Miss Gayle my brother. Ed

~ Looking for a Buddy ~

A friend served with one of our own from '69-'70 by the name of **Doug Cowgill**. In our next newsletter see if someone knows or remembers him. Thanks,

Steve Haber
C/2/503d, '65/'66



C/2/503d's Ed Murillo (L) and Steve Haber, '65/'66.



Sky Soldiers honoring our nation's military heroes....

~ Medal of Honor Recipient ~

Lewis Lee Millett, Sr.

(December 15, 1920 – November 14, 2009)

RANK AND ORGANIZATION: Captain, U.S. Army,
Company E, 27th Infantry Regiment.

BORN: 15 December 1920, Mechanic Falls, Maine.

ENTERED SERVICE AT: Mechanic Falls, Maine.

PLACE AND DATE: Vicinity of Soam-Ni, Korea,
7 February 1951



CITATION:

Capt. Millett, Company E, distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty in action. While personally leading his company in an attack against a strongly held position he noted that the 1st Platoon was pinned down by small-arms, automatic, and antitank fire. Capt. Millett ordered the 3d Platoon forward, placed himself at the head of the 2 platoons, and, with fixed bayonet, led the assault up the fire swept hill. In the fierce charge Capt. Millett bayoneted 2 enemy soldiers and boldly continued on, throwing grenades, clubbing and bayoneting the enemy, while urging his men forward by shouting encouragement. Despite vicious opposing fire, the whirlwind hand-to-hand assault carried to the crest of the hill. His dauntless leadership and personal courage so inspired his men that they stormed into the hostile position and used their bayonets with such lethal effect that the enemy fled in wild disorder. During this fierce onslaught Capt. Millett was wounded by grenade fragments but refused evacuation until the objective was taken and firmly secured. The superb leadership, conspicuous courage, and consummate devotion to duty demonstrated by Capt. Millett were directly responsible for the successful accomplishment of a hazardous mission and reflect the highest credit on himself and the heroic traditions of the military service.



Army Col. (ret.) Lewis Millett, Medal of Honor recipient for his exploits during the Korean Conflict, speaks at a Hill 180 remembrance ceremony.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Orly Tyrell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Feb. 12, 1998

Release No. 98021

Medal of Honor recipient returns to Osan for "Bayonet Hill" ceremony

by Staff Sgt. Chris Miller

51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea (PACAFNS)

From Veterans of Foreign Wars to Boy Scouts and high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets, people gathered Feb. 6 at the site known as Hill 180 in a ceremony to remember those who gave their lives in combat during the Korean Conflict.

This was a special ceremony as Army Col. (ret.) Lewis Millett, who led the charge up "Bayonet Hill" in 1951, and awarded the Medal of Honor, was the special guest.

After Lt. Gen. Randolph House, 8th Army chief of staff, gave his remarks, Millett took the podium. As he began to speak, the crowd grew silent, on the edge of their seats listening to his every word as he spoke about the assault, how his men faced heavy anti-tank and machine gun fire, and how they rushed the Chinese who had pinned down one of his platoons.

"You don't realize what an honor it is for me to be here today," said Millett. "This is an opportunity for me to thank you, not just the VFW who sponsored my trip here, or the Army and Air Force, but to all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country."

Nearly 47 years to the day it happened, Millett said his attack on the Chinese was ordered to unnerve the enemy. The Chinese thought Americans were afraid to use their bayonets.

(continued....)



He also talked about freedom and the price that was paid, not only in the Korean Conflict, but all wars, for the freedom we enjoy today.

"I have fought in three wars, in seven countries, visited kings and commoners, peasants and presidents, soldiers and strangers," said Millett. "And all they wanted was to be free and live in peace. But the price of freedom comes at a very high price."

Millett then read a soldier's prayer, which he wrote after his oldest son was killed coming back from a peacekeeping mission. The ending of the prayer was,

"So to you who've answered duty's siren call, may God bless you my son, may God bless you all."

When Millett was finished speaking, the overflow crowd gave him a standing ovation as he walked back to his seat. Many observers had tears in their eyes. Bagpipes then played Amazing Grace on the top of the hill overlooking the ceremony before representatives laid wreaths near the Hill 180 monument.

Col. Con Rodi, 51st Fighter Wing vice commander, had a sign called *Millett Road*, which renamed the road running from the Hill 180 gate down to the A-10 monument at Broadway. Although still pending official approval, Rodi declared the road should unofficially be referred to as Millet Road. Rodi then gave Millett the actual sign, saying the base would have other ones made.



Colonel Millett
Idyllwild, California
May 1999

Source:



<http://www.nasaa-home.org/millett.html>

The Wolfhounds



The 27th Infantry Regiment, nicknamed the Wolfhounds, is a unit of the United States Army established in 1901, which served in the Philippine-American War, in the Siberian Intervention after World War I, and as part of the 25th Infantry Division ("Tropic Lightning") during World War II, the Korean War, and later the Vietnam War. More recently the regiment was deployed to Afghanistan for the second time, following two deployments to Iraq. The regimental march is the Wolfhound March.

Stationed in Hawaii, they were some of first to fire back at attacking Japanese war planes during Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. The film and book by James Jones *From Here to Eternity* was based on some of the Wolfhound regimental life. After seeing extensive action in the Pacific theater during World War II, especially on the island of Guadalcanal during the Battle of Mount Austen, the Galloping Horse, and the Sea Horse, it fought in the last days of the New Georgia Campaign on the right flank on the advance on Munda, Solomon Islands, later during the Battle of Luzon and the ensuing occupation of Japan, the 27th Infantry Regiment earned the nickname "Gentle Wolfhounds" for their loving support of the Holy Family Orphanage.

Occupation duties were cut short in July, 1950, when the 27th Infantry Regiment departed for Pusan, Korea, to assist in holding the Pusan perimeter at the onset of the Korean War. The unit saw heavy action throughout the war, where they were considered the "fire brigade" for the 25th Infantry Division – in essence, making first combat contact with enemy forces. They saw significant fighting at Sandbag Castle. The commander of the 27th Infantry Regiment offered David Hackworth command of a new volunteer raider unit; Hackworth created the 27th Wolfhound Raiders and led them from August to November 1951. The 27th earned ten campaign streamers and three Presidential Unit Citations. Upon conclusion of hostilities in Korea, the unit returned to Schofield Barracks.



Pfc. Robert Smith of Springfield, CO, (L) and Pvt. Carl Fisher of Ponca, OK, 27th Inf. Regiment, dug in and firing at Communist-led North Korean positions, 4 September 1950. At this moment we have stabilized our positions in the Pusan Perimeter, and our amazing assault at Inchon is only 11 days away. (Web photo)



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Hero's blood spilled in Vietnam still heals today

Medal of Honor recipient's cousin writes about war and racial understanding

November 28, 2012

Dawn Turner Trice



“Chinta Strausberg with a photo commemorating her cousin Milton.”

Chinta Strausberg, with a poster commemorating her cousin Milton Lee Olive III at Olive-Harvey College, is writing a book about her heroic cousin.

Chinta Strausberg was visiting a relative's South Side business in January 1993 when — out of the blue — an elderly uncle telephoned her at the automotive parts shop. “First I was surprised that he knew I was there, but he kept saying, ‘Promise me you will never let the world forget what my son did,’” said Strausberg, a longtime Chicago journalist. “He was so determined.”

She didn't understand the urgency of the call until her uncle died of cancer two months later. Since then, Strausberg has been telling the story of her uncle's son Milton Lee Olive III, a Vietnam War hero who saved the lives of four men — two black and two white — in his platoon.

No one ever pleaded with Jim Stanford, one of the white men saved, to tell Olive's story. But he's been telling it, too, explaining how a young, selfless black man changed his views on race.

Chicago's Olive-Harvey College is named after Olive. So is Milton Olive Park at 500 North Lake Shore Drive, near Navy Pier.

First Strausberg's side: She said she never met “Skipper,” as the family called Olive, but she started hearing about him when she was just out of high school.

As the story goes, in 1962, he was 16 years old and bored with school so he decided to leave his home in the Englewood neighborhood and run away to live with his paternal grandparents in Mississippi.

“He joined the freedom movement and was registering blacks to vote,” Strausberg said. “Uncle Milton's mom said, ‘Your son is down here, but you'd better come get him.’ It was 10 years after Emmett Till was killed, and my uncle felt the Ku Klux Klan would make him another Emmett Till.”

(Emmett was the 14-year-old Chicago boy killed in 1955 after being accused of whistling at a white woman in Mississippi. His death helped spark the civil rights movement).

Strausberg said Olive's father gave his son three choices: Go to school. Get a job. Or, join the military. Olive returned to Chicago in 1964 and joined the Army. He was a paratrooper and got injured jumping out of a plane during combat. He earned a Purple Heart. “He came home for a while, but felt he had to go back to finish the job,” Strausberg said.

“The soldiers who knew him said he didn't curse. He didn't drink. He used to stay in the foxhole, and he had his Bible, and he was a very religious person who was madly in love with his country.”

He had a girlfriend, though, or someone he hoped to have as a girlfriend. One of the soldiers whom Olive saved later told Strausberg that he would help Olive compose love letters.

But this is where Stanford picks up the story: On Oct. 22, 1965, Olive, Stanford and three other men embarked on a search-and-destroy mission in Vietnam. Stanford was the platoon leader and had recently joined the unit from the Green Berets.

“We had been caught in an ambush three times that day,” said Stanford, 77, who now lives in Texas and in Mexico. “We were lying on the ground receiving and returning fire. The fire was coming in low, and every time somebody would move, it was a magnet attracting fire.”

Olive and Stanford were lying side by side when a grenade dropped in the 18-inch space between them. Stanford said he can still see the manufacturer's yellow markings on the grenade.

“Milton Olive pulled the grenade right into himself, like he was hugging it,” said Stanford. “Why he chose to absorb the blast, I don't know. He could have easily tossed it on the other side of me and let me absorb it. A lot of times I still wake up at night thinking about the why of it. People say, ‘When were you last in Vietnam?’ I sometimes say, ‘A couple of nights ago.’”

(continued...)



Olive died that day, just 16 days before his 19th birthday.

Stanford said he started re-evaluating his feelings about race.

"I was raised in the Deep South in the late 1930s and '40s, and there was a lot of racial tension," he said. "That's what I grew up with. That's what I knew. I learned that at home, and it was like learning how to put on your clothes. But when a man sacrifices his life for you, you rethink your learning."

Stanford and Strausberg, who's writing a book about Olive, have become good friends. They connect often via Facebook.

"I tell people all the time that the blood that Skipper spilled in Vietnam is still healing today," Strausberg said.

Stanford and another soldier are the only two of the four men Olive saved who still are alive.

Strausberg said that after Olive died, his father went to the White House and President Lyndon Johnson awarded Olive the Medal of Honor and a second Purple Heart posthumously. She said Olive was the first African-American who had served in Vietnam to receive the award. He is buried in Mississippi.

"My uncle used to spend hours talking about Skipper at our family reunions and during the holidays," Strausberg said. *"I think he remembered the three choices he gave his son — to either go to school, go to work or into the military. I think he grieved himself to death. The only peace he could find would be in making sure his son's story remains alive."*

Source:

dtrice@tribune.com



Remembering Skipper

Sorry to have used all the time allotted for the deadline. I'm still having problems from the poor PLF I did in Mexico last month. Under Doctor's care but still fell this a.m. But here goes.



Having only joined Company B a few short days prior to 22 October 1965, I didn't know Private First Class Olive. I had never spoken to him or him to me. The first and only four words he ever spoke to me were,

"Look out Lieutenant, grenade!"

He paid the ultimate price but saved the lives of me and the other members of the 3d platoon. I was lying next to Milton Olive and the other three were close to our rear but close enough to pick up shrapnel from the blast. His action that day caused a big change in my life.

Having been born and raised in Texas, the culture being what it was at the time, I was somewhat of a racist. This started a change in my way of thinking. No, not overnight, but it did change me, and for the better. Private First Class Milton Olive's actions that day gave me the opportunity to marry, to watch my children grow up, and have children of their own, and their children have children also.

Many people have asked why did he do this? What type of person does that sort of thing? He could have easily tossed it on the other side of me. Still today, forty-eight years later I have sleepless nights. I think about it almost every day.

I met Milton's father at the White House during the presentation ceremony, and stayed in contact with him until his death in 1992. Just a few short months before we had met in Mississippi to lay a wreath at Milton's gravesite. *Rest in Peace Skipper* (as his family called him).

Jimmy B. (Jim) Stanford
Captain (Ret), U. S. Army
173d Airborne Brigade, '65/'66 RVN



Al Capone's Armored 1928 Cadillac was Used by President Roosevelt After the Pearl Harbor Attack

Gangster Had Several Cars, at Least Two Identical Armored Cars. Government Got One, the Other Sold Privately.

By **Timothy B. Benford**

Yahoo Contributor Network, June 1, 2007

This interesting and historic fact did not become publicly known till many years after World War II ended. And even at that it is one of those little sidebars of history most people are not aware of today. I came across it, quite by accident, while researching material for one of my World War II books.

On Monday morning, December 8, 1942, the day after the surprise Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and other U.S. military installations in Hawaii, nearly every radio in America was tuned in waiting to hear the news that President Roosevelt would address the Congress and ask they declare that we were at war with Japan.

According to former Secret Service Agent Mike Reilly, the Secret Service had determined the previous night, that a bulletproof car was needed immediately to protect President Roosevelt from possible assassins sympathetic to Japan or Germany.

But federal law prohibited purchasing any automobile that cost more than \$750. An armored, bulletproof car would certainly cost more than that. Yet there was no time to wait for legislation authorizing such a vehicle, nor the time required to build one, and one was needed instantly. FDR would need it Monday morning.

However, Reilly, who was head of the 70-man White House detail, discovered that after Chicago gangster Al Capone, was convicted of income tax evasion in 1931 (he was sent to Alcatraz in August, 1934) the U.S. Treasury Department had seized the crime boss's bulletproof 1928 341A Cadillac Town Sedan. It had a whopping curb weight of 9,000 pounds.

Capone's Cadillac was green with black fenders, making it look identical to the 85 Cadillac's that were supplied to Chicago police and city officials. However, it had 3,000 pounds of bullet-proof armor beneath the standard body. Its windshield and windows were made of recently developed inch thick bullet proof glass. The car also had flashing red lights behind the grille and a real police siren. It is also believed to have been the first private car with a police band receiver.

A team of government employees and mechanics worked well into the night of December 7 cleaning and preparing the car, checking everything to make sure it would run and perform as intended to be ready for use by FDR the following day.

On December 8, 1941, when Roosevelt left the White House and went to the Capitol to ask Congress to declare a state of war existed with Japan, he made the trip in Capone's refurbished Cadillac.

Excellent information about the FDR-Capone car can be found in two books available online: Pearl Harbor Amazing Facts! (ISBN 0971056005) and Reilly of The White House (ISBN 978-0781286237).



One of Al Capone's bullet-proof 1928 Cadillac's sold at auction in 2000. Where is the other one?

FDR continued to use the car until the Ford Motor Co. could convert and deliver a 1939 Lincoln V12 armored convertible limousine (quickly dubbed the "Sunshine Special") for Presidential use. They got around the cost restriction by leasing it to the government for \$500 annually. This car was used by both FDR and President Harry Truman until 1950. It is now reposed in the Ford Museum in Michigan.

Capone and his criminal empire owned several automobiles, purchased from Cadillac dealerships in the name of a "Mr. Brown." The refitting, armor plating, and green and black paint schemes were done afterward. The 1928 Cadillac the Treasury Department confiscated is believed to have been one of two, perhaps three, such identical vehicles which were all used by Capone.

Shortly after Capone was convicted of Federal Income Tax evasion in October, 1931, the government seized as many of his assets as they could. One of the items confiscated was a bullet-proof 1928 Cadillac. A second, identical car escaped seizure and was privately sold.

(continued....)





The ‘Sunshine Special’ at Ford Museum

Documentation with the 1928 Capone Cadillac sold by RM Auctions, Inc., in 2006 notes that in 1932, that Capone car had been sold for display at a London, England, amusement park. The May 13, 1933 edition of the *New York Daily News* has a photo of this Capone car in a sling and prepared for loading on a ship bound for England.

An article in *Old Cars Weekly* on April 19, 1984, reported "*The Secret Service borrowed the car from the Treasury Department, which had confiscated it when Capone was arrested on income tax evasion laws (sic). ...*"

Al Capone's 1928 Cadillac that was sold and shipped to England was expected to sell, at the 2006 RM Auctions, Inc., for between \$750,000 and \$1-million, without a reserve. It sold, for \$621,500.

But what became of the Capone bullet-proof Cadillac the Treasury Department confiscated, and which President Roosevelt used? This writer is still searching for the eventual fate of that vehicle.

And was there a third Capone armored Cadillac? Perhaps during some urban renewal project in Chicago or its environs, a demolition team may come across a now weather-beaten green and black car in a hidden garage or basement. If it's like the ones the Chicago Police used in 1928, who knows?



Reported to be Roosevelt in Al Capone's car.

[This interesting bit of history was sent in by the ever-on-alert Jim Stanford, B/2/503d]



The Sound that Binds

By Keith Nightingale
Colonel

[173d Abn photos & inscriptions added. Ed]

Unique to all that served in Vietnam is the UH1H helicopter. It was both devil and angel and it served as both extremely well. Whether a LRRP, US or RVN soldier or civilian, whether NVA, VC, Allied or civilian, it provided a sound and sense that lives with us all today. It is the one sound that immediately clears



Col. Keith M. Nightingale

the clouds of time and freshens the forgotten images within our mind. It will be the sound track of our last moments on earth. It was a simple machine - a single engine, a single blade and four man crew - yet like the Model T, it transformed us all and performed tasks the engineers and designers never imagined. For soldiers, it was the worst and best of friends but it was the one binding material in a tapestry of a war of many pieces.

The smell was always hot, filled with diesel fumes, sharp drafts accentuated by gritty sand, laterite and anxious vibrations. It always held the spell of the unknown and the anxiety of learning what was next and what might be. It was an unavoidable magnet for the heavily laden soldier who donkey-trotted to its squat shaking shape through the haze and blast of dirt, stepped on the OD skid, turned and dropped his ruck on the cool aluminum deck. Reaching inside with his rifle or machine gun, a soldier would grasp a floor ring with a finger as an extra precaution of physics for those moments when the now airborne bird would break into a sharp turn revealing all ground or all sky to the helpless riders all very mindful of the impeding weight on their backs. The relentless weight of the ruck combined with the stress of varying motion caused fingers and floor rings to bind almost as one. Constant was the vibration, smell of hydraulic fluid, flashes of visionary images and the occasional burst of a ground-fed odor-rotting fish, dank swampy heat, cordite or simply the continuous sinuous currents of Vietnam's weather - cold and driven mist in the Northern monsoon or the wall of heated humidity in the southern dry season. Blotting it out and shading the effect was the constant sound of the single rotating blade as it ate

a piece of the air, struggling to overcome the momentary physics of the weather.

To divert anxiety, a soldier/piece of freight, might reflect on his home away from home. The door gunners were usually calm which was emotionally helpful. Each gun had a C ration fruit can at the ammo box clip entrance to the feed mechanism of the machine gun. The gun had a large circular aiming sight unlike the ground pounder version. That had the advantage of being able to fix on targets from the air considerably further than normal ground acquisition. Pears, Apricots, Apple Sauce or Fruit Cocktail, it all worked. Fruit cans had just the right width to smoothly feed the belt into the gun which was always a good thing. Some gunners carried a large oil can much like old locomotive engineers to squeeze on the barrel to keep it cool. Usually this was accompanied by a large OD towel or a khaki wound pack bandage to allow a rubdown without a burned hand. Under the gunners seat was usually a small dairy-box filled with extra ammo boxes, smoke grenades, water, flare pistol, C rats and a couple of well-worn paperbacks. The gun itself might be attached to the roof of the helicopter with a bungie cord and harness. This allowed the adventurous gunners to unattach the gun from the pintle and fire it manually while standing on the skid with only the thinnest of connectivity to the bird. These were people you wanted near you - particularly on extractions.

The pilots were more mysterious. You only saw parts of them as they labored behind the armored seats. An arm, a helmeted head and the occasional fingered hand as it moved across the dials and switches on the ceiling above. The armored side panels covered their outside legs - an advantage the passenger did not enjoy....



C/2/503 on-board, off on another mission. Huey's, one by one. [Photo from Jerry Patterson, C/2/503d]

(continued...)



....Sometimes, a face, shielded behind helmeted sunshades, would turn around to impart a question with a glance or display a sense of anxiety with large white-circled eyes - this was not a welcoming look as the sounds of external issues fought to override the sounds of mechanics in flight. Yet, as a whole, the pilots got you there, took you back and kept you maintained. You never remembered names, if at all you knew them, but you always remembered the ride and the sound.

Behind each pilot seat usually ran a stretch of wire or silk attaching belt. It would have arrayed a variety of handy items for immediate use. Smoke grenades were the bulk of the attachment inventory - most colors and a couple of white phosphorous if a dramatic marking was needed. Sometimes, trip flares or hand grenades would be included depending on the location and mission. Hand grenades were a rare exception as even pilots knew they exploded - not always where intended. It was just a short arm motion for a door gunner to pluck an inventory item off the string, pull the pin and pitch it which was the point of the arrangement. You didn't want to be in a helicopter when such an act occurred as that usually meant there was an issue. Soldiers don't like issues that involve them. It usually means a long day or a very short one - neither of which is a good thing.

The bird lifts off in a slow, struggling and shaking manner. Dust clouds obscure any view a soldier may have. Quickly, with a few subtle swings, the bird is above the dust and a cool encompassing wind blows through. Sweat is quickly dried, eyes clear and a thousand feet of altitude show the world below. Colors are muted but objects clear. The rows of wooden hootches, the airfield, local villages, an old B52 strike, the mottled trail left by a Ranchhand spray mission and the open reflective water of a river or lake are crisp in sight. The initial anxiety of the flight or mission recede as the constantly moving and soothing motion picture and soundtrack unfolds. In time, one is aware of the mass of UH1H's coalescing in a line in front of and behind you. Other strings of birds may be left or right of you - all surging toward some small speck in the front lost to your view. Each is a mirror image of the other - two to three laden soldiers sitting on the edge looking at you and your accompanying passengers all going to the same place with the same sense of anxiety and uncertainty but borne on a similar steed and sound.

In time, one senses the birds coalescing as they approach the objective. Perhaps a furtive glance or sweeping arc of flight reveals the landing zone. Smoke erupts in columns - initially visible as blue grey against the sky. The location is clearly discernible as a trembling spot surrounded by a vast green carpet of flat

jungle or a sharp point of a jutting ridge. As the bird gets closer, a soldier can now see the small FAC aircraft working well-below, the sudden sweeping curve of the bombing runs and the small puffs as artillery impacts. A sense of immense loneliness can begin to obscure one's mind as the world's greatest theatre raises its curtain. Even closer now, with anxious eyes and short breath, a soldier can make out his destination. The smoke is now the dirty grey black of munitions with only the slightest hint of orange upon ignition. No Hollywood effect is at work. Here, the physics of explosions are clearly evident as pressure and mass over light.

The pilot turns around to give a thumbs up or simply ignores his load as he struggles to maintain position with multiple birds dropping power through smoke swirls, uplifting newly created debris, sparks and flaming ash. The soldiers instinctively grasp their weapons tighter, look furtively between the upcoming ground and the pilot and mentally strain to find some anchor point for the next few seconds of life. If this is the first lift in, the door gunners will be firing rapidly in sweeping motions of the gun but this will be largely unknown and unfelt to the soldiers. They will now be focused on the quickly approaching ground and the point where they might safely exit. Getting out is now very important. Suddenly, the gunners may rapidly point to the ground and shout "GO" or there may just be the jolt of the skids hitting the ground and the soldiers instinctively lurch out of the bird, slam into the ground and focus on the very small part of the world they now can see. The empty birds, under full power, squeeze massive amounts of air and debris down on the exited soldiers blinding them to the smallest view. Very quickly, there is a sudden shroud of silence as the birds retreat into the distance and the soldiers begin their recovery into a cohesive organization losing that sound.



Come back! [Photo by Jerry Patterson, C/2/503d]

(continued....)



On various occasions and weather dependent, the birds return. Some to provide necessary logistics, some command visits and some medevacs. On the rarest and best of occasions, they arrive to take you home. Always they have the same sweet sound which resonates with every soldier who ever heard it. It is the sound of life, hope for life and what may be. It is a sound that never will be forgotten. It is your and our sound.

Logistics is always a trial. Pilots don't like it, field soldiers need it and weather is indiscriminate. Log flights also mean mail and a connection to home and where real people live and live real lives. Here is an aberrant aspect of life that only that sound can relieve. Often there is no landing zone or the area is so hot that a pilot's sense of purpose may become blurred. Ground commander's beg and plead on the radio for support that is met with equivocations or insoluble issues. Rations are stretched from four to six days, cigarettes become serious barter items and soldiers begin to turn inward. In some cases, perhaps only minutes after landing, fire fights break out. The machine guns begin their carnivorous song. Rifle ammunition and grenades are expended with gargantuan appetites. The air is filled with an all-encompassing sound that shuts each soldier into his own small world - shooting, loading, shooting, loading, shooting, loading until he has to quickly reach into the depth of his ruck, past the extra rations, past the extra rain poncho, past the spare paperback, to the eight M16 magazines forming the bottom of the load - never thought he would need them. A resupply is desperately needed. In some time, a sound is heard over the din of battle. A steady *whomp whomp whomp* that says; The World is here. Help is on the way. Hang in there. The soldier turns back to the business at hand with a renewed confidence. Wind parts the canopy and things begin to crash through the tree tops. Some cases have smoke grenades attached - these are the really important stuff - medical supplies, codes and maybe mail. The sound drifts off in the distance and things are better for the moment. The sound brings both a psychological and a material relief.

Wounds are hard to manage. The body is all soft flesh, integrated parts and an emotional burden for those that have to watch its deterioration. If the body is an engine, blood is the gasoline - when it runs out, so does life. It's important the parts get quickly fixed and the blood is restored to a useful level. If not, the soldier becomes another piece of battlefield detritus. A field medic has the ability to stop external blood flow - less internal. He can replace blood with fluid but it's not blood. He can treat for shock but he can't always stop it. He is at the mercy of his ability and the nature of the

wound. Bright red is surface bleeding he can manage but dark red, almost tar-colored, is deep, visceral and beyond his ability to manage. Dark is the essence of the casualty's interior. He needs the help that only that sound can bring. If an LZ exists, it's wonderful and easy. If not, difficult options remain. The bird weaves back and forth above the canopy as the pilot struggles to find the location of the casualty. He begins a steady hover as he lowers the litter on a cable. The gunner or helo medic looks down at the small figures below and tries to wiggle the litter and cable through the tall canopy to the small up-reaching figures below. In time, the litter is filled and the cable retreats - the helo crew still carefully managing the cable as it wends skyward. The cable hits its anchor, the litter is pulled in and the pilot pulls pitch and quickly disappears - but the retreating sound is heard by all and the silent universal thought - *There but for the Grace of God go I* - and it will be to that sound.



A Huey pilot works his bird into a small LZ cut into the bush by 2/503 troopers, delivering needed supplies. During less harrowing missions this same chopper escorted *Playboy* Playmate of the Year, Jo Collins, during her visit to Bravo Company. Note the *Playboy* bunny image painted on the right rear side of the craft.

[Photo by Jerry Patterson, C/2/503d]

Often, to hear the helicopter's song, the impossible becomes a requirement and miracles abound. Sweat-filled eyes, blood blistered hands, energy expended and with a breath of desperation and desire, soldiers attack a small space to carve out sufficient open air for the helicopter to land....

(continued...)



....Land to bring in what's needed, take out what's not and to remind them that someone out there cares. Perhaps some explosives are used - usually for the bigger trees but most often its soldiers and machetes or the side of an e-tool. Done under the pressure of an encroaching enemy, it's a combination of high adrenalin rush and simple dumb luck - small bullet, big space. In time, an opening is made and the sky revealed. A sound encroaches before a vision. Eyes turn toward the newly created void and the bird appears. The blade tips seem so much larger than the newly-columned sky. Volumes of dirt, grass, leaves and twigs sweep upward and are then driven fiercely downward through the blades as the pilot struggles to do a completely vertical descent through the narrow column he has been provided. Below, the soldiers both cower and revel in the free-flowing air. The trash is blinding but the moving air feels so great. Somehow, the pilot lands in a space that seems smaller than his blade radius. In reverse, the sound builds and then recedes into the distance - always that sound. Bringing and taking away.

Extraction is an emotional highlight of any soldier's journey. Regardless of the austerity and issues of the home base, for that moment, it is a highly desired location and the focus of thought. It will be provided by that familiar vehicle of sound. The Pickup Zone in the bush is relatively open or if on an established firebase or hilltop position, a marked fixed location. The soldiers awaiting extraction, close to the location undertake their assigned duties - security, formation alignment or LZ marking. Each is focused on the task at hand and tends to blot out other issues. As each soldier senses his moment of removal is about to arrive, his auditory sense becomes keen and his visceral instinct searches for that single sweet song that only one instrument can play. When registered, his eyes look up and he sees what his mind has imaged. He focuses on the sound and the sight and both become larger as they fill his body. He quickly steps unto the skid and up into the aluminum cocoon. Turning outward now, he grasps his weapon with one hand and with the other holds the cargo ring on the floor - as he did when he first arrived at this location. Reversing the flow of travel, he approaches what he temporarily calls home. Landing again in a swirl of dust, diesel and grinding sand, he offloads and trudges toward his assembly point. The sounds retreat in his ears but he knows he will hear them again. He always will.



Col. (Ret) Keith Nightingale, former commander of the 2nd Battalion, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, gives Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division a tour of the battlefields of the D-Day operation in Normandy France as part of the celebration of the 65th Anniversary of D-Day held this June. Nightingale took the group to Utah Beach and two sites surrounding the town of St. Mere Eglise, culminating with a detailed description of the fight for LaFiere Causeway. (Photo Credit: Lt. Col. Matt Shatzkin)

About the Author: Keith Nightingale

COL Nightingale is a retired Army Colonel who served two tours in Vietnam with Airborne and Ranger (American and Vietnamese) units. He commanded airborne battalions in both the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment and the 82nd Airborne Division. He later commanded both the 1/75th Rangers and the 1st Ranger Training Brigade.

[Article sent in by Pat Sirmeyer, E Troop/17th Cav]



Shout Out to Ed Carns

Received a note from trooper and hooch buddy Jerry Hassler, HHC/Recon/2/503, '66/'67, that Ed Carns, former Recon Platoon Leader and A/2/503 CO, is under the weather.

Jerry said, "Ed started having severe pain from an old grenade shrapnel wound and was told by his orthopedic doctor this past Wednesday, one bone in his leg was boring another hole in the other bone by rubbing directly into the bone. He was told to stop working and have knee replacement surgery. Ed was volunteering at a clinic the next day on crutches. Those of you who served with him and have attended our Recon reunions know he is quite something! Ed has 3 daughters, one stepson & 2 stepdaughters and 9 grandchildren."

Many of you know Ed is a doctor and has done a great deal of volunteer work helping the sick and infirmed.

We send our best wishes to you Cap!



Ed

Hook-Up For Travel To Vietnam

If you are planning a return trip to Vietnam and would like to hook-up with some buddies or family members to join on the trip, send in your name, unit with which you served and when (if applicable), or family/friend affiliation, preferred dates in Vietnam, and the general locations you plan to visit, along with your email address and (optional) phone number.

As of this date, we have one family member hoping to join others on a trip to Vietnam:

Eric Ribitsch, Spencerport, NY
Nephew of PFC Eric Ribitsch, C/2/503, '65/'66
KIA 3 Jul 66, Xuan Loc, RVN
Planning to visit Saigon, Bien Hoa, Cu Chi, Xuan Loc, date TBD. Interested in touring with Sky Soldiers who served with my uncle, or Sky Soldiers from those years, or any Sky Soldiers.
Email: eric.ribitsch@exelisinc.com
Cell: 585-576-8385

We'll continue to run these notices until instructed to remove them from our newsletter or until the travel date has passed.

So, send in details about your plans to return to the country of little people, rice paddies, jungles and mountain ranges, and we'll post it here, hoping you hook-up with one or more traveling partners.

Email details to: rto173d@cfl.rr.com with *Return to Vietnam* on the subject line. Ed



Capt. Ed Carns, center, at 2/503d base, Camp Zinn.



City of Bien Hoa, Vietnam, recent photo.



A Reunion Pic of Two Generations of Sky Soldier Warriors



173d ABCT Medal of Honor recipient Sal Giunta, center, with (L-R) Mike Sturges & Jim Gettel of A/2/503d.

VA Claims Inventory

VA's goal is to process all disability claims within 125 days, at a 98 percent accuracy level, and eliminate the claims backlog in 2015. We have made great strides, but we realize much work remains to be done; too many Veterans still wait too long. That's unacceptable, and that is why VA has begun implementing a paperless, digital disability claims system – a lasting solution that will transform how we operate and eliminate the claims backlog to more efficiently and better support the needs of Veterans, Servicemembers, their families and survivors.

Claims Transformation

Quick Facts

Every year since 2009, VA has completed a record breaking 1 million claims representing over \$59 billion in payments to Veterans and their families. VA is building a strong foundation for a paperless, digital disability claims system

By the end of 2012, this technology had already been deployed to 18 Regional Office locations. It will reach all 56 VA Regional Offices by the end of 2013. In pilot programs, the new system has cut the time to process claims nearly in half.

Commo Check from Commo Officer



The Cap

On May 31, 2012, Maj. Tom Goodwin was declared legally blind, which is very sad news. The good news is, Tom turned a young 78 years old this past June 2nd.

“Cap”, as we call him, was the 2/503d battalion’s commo officer in ‘65/’66, and boss of the editor of your newsletter. While I’ve never forgiven him for not giving me my third stripe, I suspect he had ample reason not to. ☺

Tom celebrated his 60th wedding anniversary on April 18 after 6 more weeks in West Haven rehab center for the blind, where he has learned how to use what he describes as the “blind man’s computer -- no braille”.

“I’m still trying to do everything I have done in the past. Including, volunteering at the Greenfield Outpatient Clinic of the VA where they installed some high-tech equipment for me to use. Love those vets!”

Cap always enjoys hearing from his commo guys and all 2/503 troopers, and can be reached at:

Thomas R. Goodwin
Greenfield, MA
ThomasRGoodwin22@gmail.com



Check Body Position and Count! *One-thousand-one...One-thousand-two...*



173 IBTC Brigade Paratroopers from Caserma Ederle Vicenza, Italy, conduct an Airborne operation with T-11 parachutes from a C17 Globemaster Aircraft on Juliet Drop Zone, Pordenone, Italy, June 12, 2013.

[Sent in by Cpt. Gary Prisk, CO, C/2/503d]

(Photo by Paolo Bovo)

2/503d Sky Soldier of the Year ~ 2013, Vietnam Era

It's that time of year when we invite all troopers of our battalion to submit your nomination for *2/503d Sky Soldier of the Year ~ 2013 (Vietnam Era)*. Past honored recipients of this award include Ken Smith A/D/2/503d, Roy Lombardo B/2/503d, and Olaf Hurd HHC/Recon/2/503d.

A selection committee of three officers and three enlisted men, representing different companies and years in combat with our battalion, will name the 2013 awardee on behalf of all men of the 2/503d. There is no specific criteria to make a nomination. The honored Sky Soldier will be named in the January 2014 issue of our newsletter.

Send your one-page, typed-written nomination to rto173d@cfl.rr.com by no later than **October 15th**. All previous nominees will be considered by the selection committee. Please enter "*Sky Soldier of the Year*" on the subject line of your email.



Roger Dick of C/2/503d, (L), presents award to Olaf.



Two Golf Tournaments Supporting Vets Planned in Florida



EVENT SCHEDULE

7:30 A.M.
Registration Opens
Player's Package

7:45 - 8:15 A.M.
Putting and Chipping Contests

7:45 A.M.
Driving Range

8:30 A.M.
Shotgun Start
Scramble Format

Awards Luncheon Following Golf

6th Annual AUSA SPACE COAST CHAPTER GOLF TOURNAMENT
Saturday, 2 November 2013
Show your support...

AUSA
SPACE COAST CHAPTER
P.O. Box 410099
Melbourne, FL 32941
(321) 720-5919
www.ausaspacecoast.org

DURAN
GOLF CLUB

AUSA contact: 321-720-5919



Hope4Heroes
"They defended us, now its our turn"

4th Annual Celebrity golf outing
Presented by Yuengling

TO BENEFIT HOPE4HEROES

A portion of proceeds will support Patrick AFB Holiday Meals and Children's gift and holiday party plus therapy rides for wounded heroes via Sanctuary Island.

SATURDAY, Nov 9th, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.
Manatee Cove Golf Course
Patrick Air Force Base

All golfers must register with us in advance to get a base access pass for the event.

Visit www.salutemilitary.com for more information.

Note: *Rocky's Team Sky Soldiers* from Cocoa Beach will be participating in the competition looking to defend their tournament championship title for the third consecutive time! **AAFW!!**



So, you wanna be a paratrooper?



2/503d in the "D" Zone Jungle, Vietnam, Republic of, on the hunt for bad guys, circa 1965/66.
We usually found them, or them us.

[Photo by Don Horger, A/2/503d]



173d Airborne Association Membership Application Form

PLEASE PRINT AND FILL-OUT THIS APPLICATION

Please **circle** the appropriate boxes below

Mail Application and Payments to;

Membership Secretary, Dennis Hill
97 Earle Street
Norwood, MA 02062-1504

New	Renewal	Change of Address, <i>Change of Chapter</i>	
Annual Membership			
Ends on 31 December of each year - \$ 24.00			
Regular *		Associate	
Sky Soldier	Veteran	Gold Star	Spouse of deceased Sky Soldier
Life Membership \$ 173.00			
Regular *		Gold Star (Parent or Spouse)	

Make checks payable to:
173d Airborne Brigade Assn

**Regular Membership open to those assigned or attached to the 173d Airborne Brigade*

Please print current or updated information below:

Service Number (B446349): _____

(Use first Letter of last name and last 6 of service number)

First Name: _____ **Initial:** _____ **Last Name:** _____

Home Phone: _____ **Cell:** _____ **Email:** _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____

State or AE: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Country:** _____

173d Service Dates (02/2003-02/2005): _____

Unit while with the 173d: (A-1-503rd or Co A/Support BN): _____

Chapter Affiliated to: (4, 18, At Large): _____ **Send Magazine:** []U.S Mail or []Via Email

Gold Star Relationship (Wife, Mother)(PFC Mike Smith 11-08-67): _____

My Email address: _____

After we receive your payment (\$ 24.00 or \$ 173.00), please allow two weeks for processing.



Please make check payable to:
173d Airborne Brigade Assn.

Mail Application & Check to:
Membership Secretary, Dennis Hill
97 Earle Street
Norwood, MA 02062-1504

