

# 2/503d

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



We try  
harder.

# VIETNAM

newsletter

April 2013, Issue 52  
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See all issues to date at the 503<sup>rd</sup> Heritage Battalion website:  
[http://corregidor.org/VN2-503/newsletter/issue\\_index.htm](http://corregidor.org/VN2-503/newsletter/issue_index.htm)

## ~ 2/503 Photo of the Month ~



2nd Platoon, A/2/503 troopers in 1971 at LZ Uplift, sharing a cold one. They were young once, and paratroopers.  
(Dan Fritzman, A/2/503, photo)



# Chaplain's Corner

## *"These Are My Credentials"*



Cap

This is the motto of the 8th Infantry Division and comes from the final days of the fight for the port of Brest (western part of France in World War II).

The German paratroop Lt. Gen. Ramcke had held out in the city until the Americans had shelled the city to ruins and pushed their way past the old city

walls. Ramcke evacuated his staff to the Crozon Peninsula just to the south and prepared for a long siege in those bunker systems. By holding the Crozon he still controlled the approaches to the bay and, the port of Brest itself.

After the main defensive line along the Crozon was broken on 15 September 1944, the German forces pulled back to Point Des Espaniels at the top of the Peninsula. They set up another defensive line based around a thick medieval wall that seemed impregnable. The 13th Infantry Regiment stormed the wall on the morning of 19 September with 14 battalions of artillery in direct support and blasted the German defenses. The Americans were across the open ground and over the wall before the German defenses had come back out of their shelters. Ramcke knew there was no longer any hope and sent a message from his command bunker (75 feet underground) to the Americans under a flag of truce to surrender.

At 1830 hours the 8th Division Assistant Division Commander, Brig. Gen. Charles Canham, was led down the stairs. According to the story, Lt. Gen. Ramcke asked Canham, *"I am to surrender to you. Let me see your credentials!"* Brig. Gen. Canham pointed to the infantrymen crowding the entrance and replied, *"These are my credentials."*\*

This blunt phrase put the Nazi in his place, and paid dramatic tribute to the real power behind America's Army — the G.I.

So...what are *our* credentials? God knows and from His word we read, *"I know your deeds, your hard work, your perseverance."* (Rev 2:2,NIV)

That leads me to question...what am I doing to serve Him? What are *my* credentials? Do you find me involved in the ministry and outreach of my church? Have others seen us participate in Christian service, and if so to what degree are we involved? Maybe it's weekly, quarterly and/or maybe just at Christmas, Easter or some other "holiday". What are *our* credentials? What if we were to hear the Lord say to us as He did to the Christians at Ephesus, *"I know your deeds, your hard work, your perseverance."* Do we think Jesus doesn't know all that we are doing for Him? Do we think He doesn't see our work behind the scenes, in the church, helping another brother, visiting the sick, visiting the VA Hospital, or in our home - where no one thanks us or encourages us because no one even notices what we do? While others get the attention, the acclaim, the awards, and the affirmation, Jesus says, *"I've noticed. I know. Thank you for all you are seeking to do."* Will you accept His encouragement?



*"These are my credentials."*

My favorite Scripture is Isaiah 6:8...and I heard the voice of the Lord say, *"Whom shall I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go?"* And I said...*"Lord, I'll go! Send me."* That statement is for me a key part of what I feel He is looking for in my credentials. Oh yes -- not just for me, but for....

***"We Few, We Happy Few, We Band Of Brothers"***

Rev. Jack Kelley, LTC (Ret)  
Former CO, A/2/503, RVN  
[JackTKelley@aol.com](mailto:JackTKelley@aol.com)







# Donald K. "Rocky" Rockholt, Jr.

1948 – 2013

A/2/503d, LRRP



Don was only 64 when he took his leave, his tortured body finally giving out, but he led a life unmatched by anyone I've ever known; oft times a life few of us would ever consider living, would ever be able to live. If tasked with describing Rocky in a single word, *resilient* comes to mind, but that's inadequate, although he was the most resilient man I've ever met. *Superman* would best describe my friend.

It seems Don's entire life was filled with a mixture of achievements and failures, of great joy and the deepest of sorrow, yet Don allowed neither the highs nor the lowest of lows in his life dictate to him. Don was steady, and yes, he could walk with paupers and Kings and treat those two imposters just the same.

I don't know if I'll be able to attend any services they might have planned for my friend. Instead, at least as of this moment, I prefer keeping the memory of Don in my own way. And over time the swirling stories of him will slow, and I will smile when I think of my buddy. He was Superman.

A friend of Don

Don. Cop, commercial pilot, business owner, Sky Soldier, LRRP, Silver Star/Bronze Star & four Purple Hearts war hero, sky diver, husband, father, grandfather, friend, Superman.

It was sometime in 1998, when out of curiosity I walked into the Cocoa Beach VFW Post, just across the street from Heidi's Jazz Club, my intended destination. The place was nearly empty, with only the bartender and two guys sitting at the bar, both wearing 173d Airborne caps; I was capless. The two troopers eyeballed me then went back to their conversation. This was the first time Don, Vic Marciano of D/1/503 and I laid eyes on one another.

Calling the bartender over, I asked him to serve the two paratroopers a drink. Upon receiving their drinks they both expressed their thanks and I said, "*I served with that unit.*" Rocky immediately jumped up, ran around the bar and greeted me. At that moment a friendship began which would last forever.

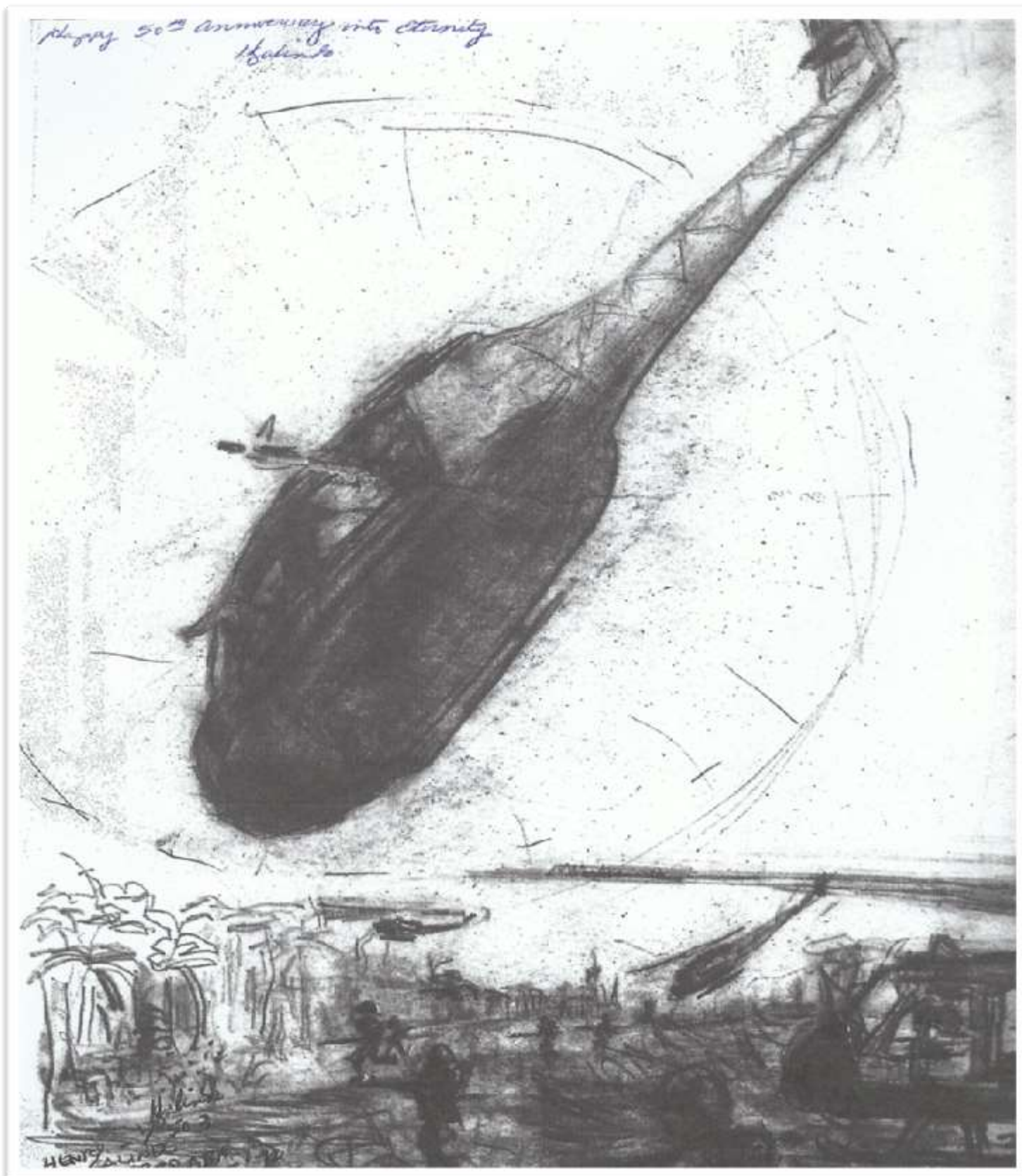
There are simply too many stories to tell about Don, hell, everyone who knew him has Don stories; most of them good. Don was the teller and maker of stories. But as of this moment, no particular story comes to mind, just brief flashes of Don which seem to swirl around in my head – I try to hear the sound of his voice and almost can. It's only been two days since he died and I would so like to hear his voice.



Rocky, with his little buddy in Vietnam.  
Survivor of The Battle of the Slopes and Hill 875,  
but not long enough in this life.



## *“Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Into Eternity”*

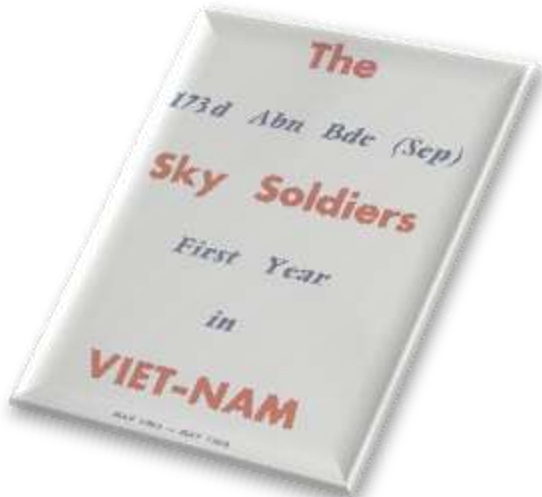


Copy of original artwork by and with compliments of  
Proud PFC Henry Galindo, 1/503d.





# **THE 173D ABN BDE (SEP) SKY SOLDIERS FIRST YEAR IN VIET-NAM MAY 1965 – MAY 1966**



**T**he 173d Airborne Brigade celebrated its first year in Vietnam by plunging again into an area near War Zone "D". The operation, called "DEXTER", began 4 May 1966, exactly one year after the arrival of the Brigade at Bien Hoa, and one year after the monsoon which, the Viet Cong idly boasted, was to mark the beginning of the final victorious offensive.



**Sky Soldiers, off to war.** (Photo by Jim Dresser, A/HHC/2/503d)

98 officers and 1,863 enlisted men with supporting equipment, supplies, and ammunition left from Okinawa on 5 May 1965, on heavily laden C-130's and C-124's to begin the long arduous task of ridding a struggling people trying to be free, from a scourge called the Viet Cong. The remainder of the 173d

Brigade sailed from Naha Port on 7 May. The Brigade, less the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 503d Infantry, established a defensive position at the Bien Hoa Air Base, an installation once controlled by the French and a vital target to the Viet Cong. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion established a perimeter at the airfield at Vung Tau, and on its first night in the war-torn country, the 173d Airborne Brigade began operations by sending out ambush patrols.

A history-making year began for the 173d that day in May. They developed a record of firsts unequalled in the annals of the Vietnam War. They were the first Army ground combat unit to arrive in Vietnam, the first to enter the supposedly impenetrable Iron Triangle, the first American ground unit to fight in the highlands. They added to the list the first trip into War Zone "D" by an American unit, the first trip into the Delta by an American ground combat unit. They became the first unit to conduct a joint American Vietnamese combat operation, and they were the first ground combat unit in War Zone "D". The list goes on, and includes the record of firsts is a schedule of some of the most fierce, and most successful, battles of the war.

Operation "HUMP" produced the heaviest single day's fighting for the 173d in Vietnam. It began on 5 November 1965, approximately 25 kilometers northeast of Bien Hoa. In one of the most hard fought battles of the war, the 173d Airborne Brigade virtually annihilated a Viet Cong battalion in War Zone, "D".



**Wounded C/1/503 trooper, Operation Hump.**  
(Photo by Craig Ford, C/1/503d)

(continued....)



The most successful operation for the Brigade was "SILVER CITY", in which the paratroopers killed 356 Viet Cong and had only minor losses themselves. Conducting the search and destroy operation near the village of Phouc Vinh, the Brigade captured 156 weapons, 140,000 rounds of ammunition, 1,000 assorted explosive devices, 11,000 documents, truckloads of miscellaneous equipment, and 165 tons of rice, salt, and cooking oil.



**2/503d arrives LZ Zulu Zulu during Operation Silver City.**

(Photo by Bob Sweeney, C/HHC/2/503d)

The list of successful Brigade operations is lengthy. There was "NEW LIFE", Operation "MARAUDER" in the Delta, Operation "CRIMP" in the Ho Bo Woods, Ben Cat I and the Iron Triangle, the road convoy to Kontum, spearheaded by the Brigade D-16<sup>th</sup> Armor, which relieved the beleaguered forces at Kontum, and which opened route 14 for travel. There was Pleiku and Operation "SMASH". The Brigade proved that the Iron Triangle was nothing more than red clay and green jungle, and the Viet Cong chose not to stand and prove otherwise.



**Then Cpt., LTC Tom Faley, CO C/2/503d, extreme right, with his men display captured enemy banner on 5 January 66 during Op Marauder.** (Photo provided by Tom Faley, C/2/503)

Not all of its first year was spent in battle and fighting, however. Highlighting the year was the visit to the Brigade by *Playboy Magazine's* Playmate of the Year, Jo Collins. Miss Collins arrived at the Brigade area in Bien Hoa on 14 January, and in one short week gave a remarkable boost to the morale of the Sky Soldiers.



**G.I. Joe being welcomed to Vietnam by Jack Price, B/2/503d, and buddies.**

The Brigade was adopted by the city of Rochester, Minnesota, and the city invited a sergeant from the Brigade to visit Rochester with his wife. 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant William E. Workman of A Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion was chosen as the man who would best represent the Brigade back home.

Realizing that in any guerrilla war there are always two fronts, referred to in the manual as the military and the political front, the 173d began conducting civic action upon its arrival in country. Its C-5 (Civic Action) section was not officially formed until September 1965. Currently the Brigade Civic Action section has a strength of three officers and seven enlisted men. The mission of the C-8 section was five-fold....

(continued....)





....First, they were to establish rapport with the civilian population. Second, they were to properly control refugees in the combat area to insure their safety. Third, they had to provide through civic action, tangible evidence that the Allied forces were here to assist the Vietnamese people. Fourth, they would engender the loyalty and respect of the populace for the government of Vietnam, and fifth, through civic action projects, they were to increase the Brigades sphere of influence and security for the surrounding community.



**173d Airborne Medics on a MedCap Mission near Bien Hoa, Vietnam 1966.** (Web photo)

During operations the Brigade Civic Action teams went into all the towns and villages visited by the Brigade. Since operations limit time, high-impact-short-term civic action projects were undertaken. The projects consisted of medical attention, clean-up, paint-up campaigns and public works repair projects. The Brigade engineers have many times provided heavy equipment and operators to improve roads and structures in the area.

The C-5 section has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments, which surpasses the civic action program of every other American unit in Vietnam. They have built and repaired schools, bridges, dispensaries and roads. Tons of captured food have been turned

over to GVN and hundreds of thousands of piasters have been donated for hospitals, orphanages, and scholarships for deserving students.

In February 1966, command of the 173d Airborne was assumed by Brigadier General Paul F. Smith, who replaced General Williamson. Under new leadership the brigade continued to add to their list of first and successful operations.



Plain of Reeds, Marauder, Cu Chi, Ben Cat, War Zone "D", Iron Triangle, Kontum, Vo Dat, Courtney, Denver, are all names of operations and villages. They are meaningless to many; to others they will serve as reference points for stories about a war, as Port Chop Hill and T-Bone Hill and Salerno served for other wars. They remain to the men of the 173d Airborne Brigade as solemn reminders of battles fought and lives lost and blood spilled in the war against an aggressor who would stop at nothing to achieve his aim. Those insignificant dots on a map mark the battles for men who slept in mud, bore the sweltering heat, shared their beds with jungle insects, remembered the men who died 10,000 miles from home in steaming jungle or stinking rice paddy, and could not say,

***"this ground is ours, we bought it with our lives."***

For this was a different kind of war where victories could not be measured in terrain won or lost, for a battle won meant Victor Charlie was running away to the mud flat where you found and beat him yesterday.

One year after its arrival in Vietnam, the 173d Airborne Brigade was again near War Zone "D" to seek out and destroy the running enemy. As the Brigade began its second year in Vietnam, it continued its missions to seek out, engage, and destroy the Viet Cong wherever he may be.

**(Brigade document from 1966. Sent in by Jim Robinson, B/2/503d. Photos added.)**



# Suicides exceed number of combat deaths

In a March 9<sup>th</sup> *USA Today* report which appeared in *Florida Today* newspaper, reporter Gene Johnson of *Associated Press* states, "An Army report released Friday (March 8<sup>th</sup>) finds the service still has trouble diagnosing and treating soldiers for post-traumatic stress disorder, despite more than doubling its number of military and civilian mental health workers over the past five years."

In his article, Johnson cited a report stating "confusing paperwork, inconsistent training and guidelines, and incompatible data systems have hindered the Army's response." He further states, "After a decade of war, soldier suicides outpace combat deaths."

The report relied on in the article found "since September 2001....4.1 percent of all soldiers deployed wound up with a diagnosis such as PTSD or traumatic brain injury..." and,

***"among the problems the report documented was that Army bases don't have a person on site dedicated to overseeing mental health issues."***

Some years ago I recall good buddy, Don "Rocky" Rockholt, A/2/503d and LRRP extraordinaire, who died just days ago fighting his own desperate battle with serious health problems, telling me of a phone call he received. One of his Sky Soldier buddies called and told Don, "Rocky, I just can't take it anymore." Don then heard a single gunshot. "I thought he was kidding," Don told me. He wasn't.

While we all know suicide has no redeeming value, we also know it can often be prevented. As LTC Charles "Pappy" Patchin, 3/319<sup>th</sup>, stated in a recent letter to the editor of our newsletter:

*"For all that we have done from WWII to today we must support each other and make sure we don't lose another brother to 'Friendly Fire'. If it doesn't feel right call somebody who understands."* Pappy added,

***"Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem."***

Anyone contemplating such a tragic end to their combat saga must pause, must recognize there are family, friends and veteran buddies who genuinely care for you, who love you, no matter what demons you are fighting. Pause, and call someone who cares for you, or call this assistance number. You've done harder things in your life, you can do this.

A banner for the Veterans Crisis Line. On the left is a logo featuring a blue speech bubble with a white star and a grid of red dots. To the right of the logo, the text "Veterans Crisis Line" is written in a bold, sans-serif font. Further right, the phone number "1-800-273-8255" is displayed in a large, bold font, followed by "PRESS 1" in a red circle. At the bottom, a line of text reads "Confidential chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net or text to 838255" with red dots on either side.

**Veterans Crisis Line**

**1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1**

..... Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) or text to 838255 .....

This interested viewer believes if our country is willing to send our youth off to war, then it damn well better be prepared to care for the injured and sick when they return home from war.

***The cost of war does not end when the war ends.***

If for no other reason, recognize each of us has an obligation to live our full lives. It is a debt we owe to those who did not and it is a debt each of us *must* pay to them. Pause, and make that call brother.

***Pause.....and call.***





# All American Still Fighting the Good Fight for Vets

Good buddy and friend to vets Dr. Scott Fairchild, LTC (Ret), 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, shared this letter he sent to Florida Senators Nelson and Posey. Doc Scott, who did much of the early research on PTSD for the army at Walter Reed, continues his good work helping vets from all wars as they battle their PTSD and TBI wounds. (Photos added) Ed



One vet, one folder

Dear Senators Nelson and Posey,

The VA currently has 810,000 disability claims in arrears. As a retired military psychologist who serves veterans, I find this number appalling. During the past four years, Congress has done their job in authorizing over 43.5% increases to the VA budget to service these claims and provide other much needed services to veterans who have put their lives on the line to protect our country and our way of life. What private business do you know that gets their budget increased by that much and yet fails to accomplish its' mission?

Right here in Brevard County, Veterans are committing suicide, while awaiting the outcome of their long-delayed claims, some taking as long as four years, prompting the veterans I serve to create a new logo for the VA –

***"Apply, deny and wait until you die."***

Recently, the VA began a new program to prioritize claims, taking their top tier claims adjudicators out of processing claims to spend time "prioritizing the claims." Is one veteran not as important as the next? This is tantamount to re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. Veterans in Brevard continue to wait up to 90 days for a mental health appointment and get denied for medications which actually work, because

they are "too expensive". Recently, you in Congress directed the VA to clean up this shameful backlog and the VA was forced to contract with Logistics Health International to contract out the work.

As a retired Army Psychologist with 21 years of service and years of experience in conducting veteran evaluations, I was actively recruited by Logistics Health International (LHI) along with a fellow provider, and asked to participate as local providers to assist the VA in conducting Compensation and Pension Evaluations. We completed considerable paperwork, orientations and on-line trainings (on how to talk to a veteran), in order to qualify to be credentialed for the program which LHI officials describe as working effectively across the United States. Aware of the insane backlog and wait times from my daily contact with veterans, my colleague and I have been fully credentialed for several months now and we have received no referrals. **Not one.**

Knowing that many of my veteran patients have waited over a year for their compensation and pension evaluations and knowing that some have attempted suicide during the unreasonable waiting period, I contacted LHI and I was informed that certain VA facilities, including the Viera Clinic were reporting that they were "caught up with the backlog" and did not need assistance. Please investigate why we have veterans who have waited so long for processing of disability claims and our local officials are not utilizing the programs in place to assist them with remedying this shameful backlog?

***Our valiant young warriors  
(an entire generation)  
were there for us,  
will we be there for them?***

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Doc Scott



# Vanguard arrives, assumes responsibility in eastern Afghanistan

4<sup>th</sup> Inf. Public Affairs

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SHANK**, Afghanistan – The 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, uncased their colors during a transfer of authority ceremony on Forward Operating Base Shank, Logar Province, March 13.

The ceremony began with the playing of the Afghanistan and U.S. national anthems and the casing of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team's colors by their command team, U.S. Army Col. Andrew Rohling and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel Coston.

After the 173rd's command team cased their colors, U.S. Army Col. Kimo C. Gallahue, commander of 4th IBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Alan K. Hummel, the 4th IBCT command sergeant major, uncased their unit's colors marking the transfer of responsibility for advising and assisting the Afghan National Security Forces in Logar and Wardak provinces from the 173rd, headquartered in Vicenza, Italy, to the 'Vanguard Brigade.' The 4th IBCT cased its colors at Fort Stewart, Ga., nearly a month ago as it prepared to deploy to Afghanistan.

Many distinguished guests were present including, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. William C. Mayville, commander of Combined Joint Task Force-1, and Afghan Maj. Gen. Mohammed Sharif Yaftali, commander of the Afghan National Army's 203rd Corps, who thanked the outgoing unit and welcomed the 4th IBCT.

Mayville highlighted the accomplishments of the ANA's 4th Brigade, 203rd Corps and the 173rd ABCT's many achievements and advancements in security, governance and development in Wardak and Logar provinces during the last nine months.

Mayville continued by addressing the Vanguard Brigade, known now as Task Force 4-3.

*"To Vanguard, Col. Kimo Gallahue and the mighty Task Force 4-3, you have an important advisory mission in front of you, and in the next nine months you must increase the focus on achieving Afghan National Army and Afghan National Security Force self-sufficiency," he said. "I know you'll continue to support our great Afghan partners as they take the lead for security of their communities, their province and their country."*

The ceremony concluded with the playing of "The Army Goes Rolling Along," followed by refreshments and the welcoming of the 4th IBCT by ANSF and International Security Assistance Force leaders.

This is the Vanguard Brigade's first deployment to Afghanistan. The brigade has three previous deployments to Iraq since their activation in 2004.



**Soldiers from 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and a soldier from the Afghan National Army, post the colors prior to the transfer of authority of Logar and Wardak provinces from the 173rd ABCT to the 4th IBCT, 3rd Inf. Div., March 13, 2013, at Forward Operating Base Shank in Logar province, Afghanistan.** (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Elvis N. Umanzor, 4th IBCT, 3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs)

Read more: <http://www.dvidshub.net/news/103525/vanguard-arrives-assumes-responsibility-eastern-afghanistan#ixzz2Nd8tRKEi>

[Sent in by Bill Vose, HHC/A/2/503d]







# INCOMING!



## ~ From the Friend of a Sky Soldier ~

Thank you for sharing this newsletter with me. I sat down this morning with my cup of Cappuccino and read half of it already. I love all the personal stories the guys remember and share. A lot of us over here in the states really didn't understand what was going on over there and these stories really help bring it into perspective. I'm going to share this with my brother if you don't mind. He was in the Army and they were just getting ready to send him over and they were doing training in the gas chamber when they almost killed him. They found out he had diabetes and they couldn't send him home fast enough after they got him back on his feet again. He was SO disappointed, he was one of those guys who wanted to go.

**Aleta Mottet**

**Classmate of Terry Wilkins, C/2/503, KIA**

**Note:** Terry Wilkins was a close friend of mine, we had served together at Campbell with the 101st before I joined the 2/503d in December '65; Terry came over in January '66, and was assigned to Charlie Company – he was only 17 and had used a forged birth certificate to join the army. In June '66, while a patient at 3rd Field Army Hospital, I read his name in the KIA list in *Stars & Stripes* -- it didn't include a unit name but I knew we had lost Terry. Upon return to Camp Zinn this was confirmed. The last time I saw Terry I was pulling radio duty in the commo bunker at Zinn when he walked in drunk. I told him to get the hell out! The last words I ever spoke to my friend, words I regret to this day. Ed

## ~ LEG 1<sup>st</sup> Class ~

I am a Life member of VVA Chapter #979, Kingsport, Tennessee. Your current newsletter was received and forwarded to our chapter members today. I read each of the 84 pages and I cannot begin to tell you my feelings as I saw all of the photos of the living and the dead, their stories, and their decorations. What a great eulogy to all of those young men who died defending their buddies and fellow troopers. You folks that put this together did an awesome job and have my total respect and admiration. The 173d has always had my total respect all of these years later.

I was with A/501st Aviation Battalion (Rattlers/Firebirds) and 151st Transportation Detachment (Snakedoctor) in Bien Hoa in 1965-1966. I was



a part-time crew chief/gunner/mechanic over in the "Snakepit." We had the honor to frequently provide taxi service to the 173d. I was an "office weenie" most of my tour, but was able to crew once or twice a week.

As I read your newsletter, I tried to find some familiar faces, but without success. I remember the "total focus" of everyone involved, air crew and paratrooper, and the discipline and commitment displayed on every face. The knowledge that some would probably die today made small talk irrelevant. The most common thought expressed to us was *"I hope that I can survive riding in this damned thing, and get back onto the ground safely. There ain't much cover up here."* It did not require any encouragement for them to "un-ass this flying coffin," even in a hot LZ.

The commitment to DUTY, HONOR, and COUNTRY displayed by every US Military member who served in Viet Nam, and who are serving today around this uncertain world, give me confidence that we can handle anyone who would dare (\_\_\_\_) with us. God Bless "The Herd" and God Bless America.

The Rattler's/Firebirds moved up to Chu Lai the end of 1966 and early 1967, and became the 71st Assault Helicopter Company, still the Rattler's/Firebirds. I came back to Fort Benning and graduated from OCS (50th Company) 2 May, 1967. I figured that I would come straight back to Viet Nam, but wound up at Fort Rucker, Alabama, and Fort Greely, Alaska. I retired with 28 years (Active duty/Guard/Reserves).

I have always worn a 173d Abn Bde pin on my cap in honor of your Brigade, past, present, and future. God's eternal peace be with you all.

**David R. Abel**

**LEG 1st Class**

**Reply:** Dave, on behalf of the men of our battalion and our brigade, thank you. Our troopers will very much appreciate your sincere comments. And, brother, thanks for *your* service in-country and over those many years. Unless you instruct otherwise, I've added you to the list to receive our newsletter. Be well, chopper dude, and *Welcome Home*. Ed

(continued.....)



More **INCOMING!**



### ~ A Proud Sky Soldier ~

I have started proudly wearing a ball cap that has the 173rd patch on it with my masterblaster wings and pfd torch on it. As I walk around Alaska w/cap on a lot of new generation 'Sky Soldiers' from Italy with tours of duty in Afganistan approach me, as we have a brigade of 25th Inf (Abn) stationed in Anchorage. It's such a joy to meet these young heroes. I hardly ever leave home w/o my 173 cap on.

I think we need to work hard at recruiting our younger 'Herdsman' to preserve the 'Association' and bring them into the fold. When I ask them if they know about the Association few of them do. Is there an application for joining the Association that I can download and printout to carry around w/me? Sincerely,

**Brian Ross Moulton**  
D/2/503d

**Note:** A web link to the Association membership form was sent to Brian.

### ~ Looking for a Dog Handler ~

Got a question for you. One of the guys from the 42<sup>nd</sup> we cannot find, we do not know his first name but what we have is Sgt. Woods and he was wounded in action. I tried the Purple Heart Group but he never registered with them. I heard he had come over to the 101st from the 173rd. Is there anyone who could check his name out on their records??? He might be deceased as I can't find anything out but did hear he came from IN.

**Jacike "Mom" McIntyre**  
42<sup>nd</sup> IPSD Scout Dog Platoon Assoc.  
[42ndMom@comcast.net](mailto:42ndMom@comcast.net)



**Reply:** Hi Mom. Will run your note and email address in our April newsletter, maybe someone who knew him will contact you. Checking the Virtual Wall, there were 52 "Woods" killed in action in Vietnam. Of those, there were seven paratroopers, one listed as having served with the 173d, and a dog handler with the 25<sup>th</sup> Inf. The troopers are:

**Albert Clarence Woods, Jr.**

Hathaway, MT

KIA 1/20/68, 101<sup>st</sup> Abn

**David Alexander Woods**

Kansas City, MO

KIA 11/1/67, 5<sup>th</sup> SFG

**Durell Stevens Woods**

New Orleans, LA

KIA 7/19/69, 101<sup>st</sup> Abn

**Gary Dorvin Woods**

Madison, IL

KIA 6/19/68. Dog Handler/25<sup>th</sup> Inf

**Gerald Ernest Woods**

Salem, OR

KIA 2/18/71, 101<sup>st</sup> Abn

**Lawrence Woods**

Clarksville, TN

KIA 10/24/64, 5<sup>th</sup> SFG

**Robert Earl Woods**

Kalamazoo, MI

KIA 9/3/71, 101<sup>st</sup> Abn

**William Stephen Woods**

Mauldin, SC

KIA 2/23/71, B/3/503d, 173d Abn

If anyone can be of help to Mom, please contact her at the email address shown. Thanks. Ed

### Pennsylvania War Dog Memorial (web photo)

*We loved them both then;  
and still do.*



### ~ Listing our KIA ~

I finally had time to read this newsletter (March issue), although it was tough to read through very watery eyes. Must be allergies or something. These guys are us, all of them. Their stories are ours. Thank you for keeping these memories and these names alive.

**Larry Paladino**  
B/2/503d

**Reply:** Just putting that section together causes fog in the eyes, especially when reading stuff by kids who never met their father. We're going to continue it until every one of our guys has been honored. You know, Larry, sometimes it's no fun being a Vietnam vet. Be well RTO. Ed





# “Red”

## Jerry D. Lewis

Oklahoma City, OK  
Born 12/1/41  
SP4, RTO  
HHC/1/503d  
KIA 3/16/66



Red

I am sitting here looking through the March issue. It's 12:45 am on Saturday night and for the second time in my life Jerry "Red" Lewis has taken the wind right out of me.

It was the day before we left for Silver City. I had left Camp Ray on foot and was walking the old dirt road into Bien Hoa when a jeep came careening up the road at the speed of light and skidded to a stop next to me. A very big red headed trooper asked me if I wanted a ride into town. I thanked him, jumped in and as we took off. I asked him how two PFC's rated a jeep to take to town. He looked at me with a big smile and said *"We don't. It was sitting back there by Command Headquarters and no one was around to use it, so...."*

At this very moment a jeep with two MP's was coming the other way towards base. As they passed, the one not driving locked eyes with me and started yelling for us to stop. Jerry got this kind of sick look and I got to tell him don't worry I went to High School with that MP. When they pulled up next to us I found out I went to school with *both* of them. What a reunion. We caught up for a few minutes, said our goodbyes and they had to go.

Jerry was relieved to be moving and happy they weren't looking for stolen jeeps! We got into Bien Hoa, left the jeep and headed for the Cherry Bar.

About two hours go by and the MP's are alerting all 173<sup>rd</sup> personnel to return to base. We caught a truck going our way and got right back. Never did see the jeep where we parked it. I jumped off at Camp Ray. We said see ya when we're in again, and he was gone.

We were soon saddled up and heading to chopper row soon after that. The next day after finding a major VC cache and tunnel complex we were told we were heading out immediately to support 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion. You all know the story of the rest of the day.

When it was over we were making our way to catch our birds back to our AO. A small group from my squad

was crossing a clearing on a small rise and at the time nine ponchos were covering those that didn't make it when a breeze caught the corner of the one closest to us and as it lifted I saw red hair. I went over knowing my new friend was gone. I said goodbye to him and left in tears feeling like I had lost a life-long friend.

I have never forgotten that day. Jerry was a larger than life presence and I came to realize how our short and funny acquaintance was a blessing in my life.

Now it's 1:30 am. You now know how slow I type, and I'm trying to catch my wind again. If you are in touch with Pat Smith tell him his friendship reached over to 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion too. He took a pretty neat picture too.

Be well,

**Rick "Doc" Tenny**  
**A/1/503d**



The Cherry Bar in beautiful downtown Bien Hoa



# 173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)

## Candidate for the Office of President of the Association

### Charles "Pappy" Patchin

I'm Charles "Pappy" Patchin, LTC (Ret), form PFC to SSG with the 3/319<sup>th</sup> FA from Aug 1965 to May 1968. I was on FO teams attached to the 1, 2 and 4/503d, 1RAR, D 16 AR, E 17 Cav and LRRP for my time in the Herd. I did the big and little ops and the mundane stuff, firefights to shit burning -- you know, the real war. I left the Herd to attend Infantry OCS. In my career I did 33 years under a canopy and mostly had a good time. I did the SF thing for 23 years and was a staff puke at 18<sup>th</sup> Corps for five years.



When I retired I had two college degrees, a Command and General Staff College Diploma, three divorces and a taste for good cigars and straight rye whiskey. Now I'm very happily married for 23 years and no longer smoke. Susan and I have four children, three boys and a girl -- two deputy sheriffs, a firefighter and a teacher. The youngest son was a paratrooper, like us.

I've been very active in veterans issues, have presented testimony before congressional committees, written and had published numerous articles about the problems of veterans, their survivors or dependents. I was a Veterans Service Officer for my County and had most of my work and claims against the VA approved. I've been involved in Veterans organizations: Legion, 40 and 8, VFW, VVA, holding effective or appointive leadership or committee positions from local to national levels.

In my community and state I'm a Mason, having been the top elected officer of all York Rite Bodies and a Knight of the York Cross of Honor; a Scottish Rite Mason; a Shriner and been elected to the leadership of Eastern Star, White Shrine and was Grand Royal Patron of the State of New York Order of the Amaranth and am now an international officer of it. I was an officer then later took the Secretary slot in one of my sportsman's clubs. I can attribute my success to those I worked with

and good luck. I am a Life member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> Associations, the 509<sup>th</sup> Association and a Decader and Life member of the SF Assn. As most of you know one does not become the leader without first taking most, if not all of the positions along the way. Being a leader or running committees in so many different kinds of groups gives me a broad range of experience.

I've been a life member of our Association since 1983 and the Sergeant at Arms and By Laws Chair since 2003. I watched the Society nearly tear itself apart because personalities couldn't put the organization ahead of their personal piques. I've also seen men pay a lot of money out of their own pockets to make sure we keep a viable Association alive or spend countless days on the road to see we have an appropriate Memorial to us and our dead, no matter from what war or what country. We have a Foundation to insure we have appropriate funding. We've a Chapter started for the Desert vets from Iraq and Afghanistan. We have come far. In our own ways we have never left the Herd. We still work to see we make things right, just like we'd give our lives for each other in combat. We're a bit different from a lot of other outfits and associations or groups. We have our shared Herd experiences -- no matter where or when we did our time. We must have something or else we wouldn't be members of the 173d Airborne Brigade Association.

I desire to be President of our Association. I believe my experience in the military, government, veterans organizations and community group, plus my many years in the Command Group of this august body, give me what we need to continue to expand and grow our Association. I would appreciate your support and vote. I look forward to seeing you at the Annual General Membership Meeting at our 2013 reunion in Las Vegas 26-29 August.

Airborne, All the Way.

C. "Pappy" Patchin

*(continued....)*





# 173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)

## Candidate for the Office of President of the Association

### Roy F. Scott

I am Roy F. Scott and I am requesting your Vote for the position of President.

I have served as Vice President of the Association and presently serve as a two-term President. I have put together an outstanding team of elected and appointed personnel. Together we have worked to strengthen our Administrative process, updated our computer system and upgraded *Sky Soldier Magazine*.

We will begin to update our membership roster. The Association has 14,000 members, 9,000 of that number are inactive members. This is our next obstacle to confront. We have worked well with the Memorial Foundation and the Association foundation. *"I have listened to our membership."*

I request your Vote, to continue to Build A Strong Administrative and financial base as the Association moves forward.

Respectfully, Ye Iswa,

**Roy F. Scott**



- Life member of the Association
- Member of Midwest Chapter 17
- Married to Jessica S. Scott
- Five children ages 25 to 36 years, Four Grandchildren
- Military service is 8 years 7 months
- Active Duty 1/1970 to 7/1978
- Vietnam served: 7/70 to 7/71 H/S 3/319<sup>th</sup> Afar
- U.S. Army Reserve 7 years served 447<sup>th</sup> MP Co. Desert Storm, Desert Shield 12/1980 – 5/1991
- VA Rating 4/2001

#### Education:

- Columbus North High School graduate 1969
- Monterey Peninsula Jr. College 120 hours Military/Civilian Law 1972-1975
- Columbus Division of Police Academy 5/1979 to 11/1979
- Retired 10/2/2002

#### Organizations Associated with:

- National Fraternal Order of Police
- State of Ohio Fraternal Order of Police
- Capital City Lodge #9
- Fraternal Order of Police
- Retired Police Officers Association Central Ohio Chapter 8
- Honorable Order of the Kentucky Colonel

Source: *Sky Soldier Magazine*



**2/503d practice jump, Vietnam, 1966**

(Photo by Pat Bowe, HHC/Recon/2/503d)



## More on Senator Jim Webb's "Heroes of the Vietnam Generation"

(See Webb's article in Issue 18, Pages 16-19. Ed)

This is a very good article by Jim Webb, currently U.S. Senator from Virginia. I haven't always agreed with Jim Webb, but he is right about the "Vietnam Generation".

The real heroes of this generation are those young patriots who volunteered to serve their country in uniform or received a draft notice, answered the call of their country and put their lives at risk to go to Vietnam and fight in a very brutal war. On the other hand, there were those who burned their draft cards and crossed the border into Canada to avoid the draft and the war.

And then, of course, there were those who sought educational deferments to go to school. Instead of marching to the "colors" and "the sound of the guns", they marched to the campus. And, for some of these students, when they couldn't justify why they were not in the war, they declared the war as "bad and unjust" to rationalize their own unwillingness to serve. Then they demonstrated against the war and even heaped insults on those who chose to fight for their country when they returned. It certainly appears that many of those who applied for draft deferments in order to pursue graduate degrees in those days may have been primarily interested in seeking shelter from the draft and the war.

Many of our Soldiers volunteered to serve their country because their country was at war. They emulated their fathers, brothers, uncles and others who had fought in WWII and Korea and had always been their heroes. Others served because they loved their country and when she called, they were not going to run from the fight. They answered the call of their country and did their duty. Unfortunately, too often, the picture portrayed of the Vietnam Veteran is one of a drafted dope-head who committed atrocities during the war. Nothing could be further from the truth. It's about time the real truth was told.

The Marines Webb describes are like the Soldiers I knew and was privileged to serve with and command. I certainly owe them my life and my eternal gratitude and total respect as well.

Warmest regards, Les Brownlee, COL (Ret)

-----  
Les is the former company commander of B/2/503d and Acting Secretary of the Army.



Les in Phu Loi, 1966

## VA PTSD Program Quick Facts



In Fiscal Year 2011, 476,515 Veterans with primary or secondary diagnosis of PTSD received treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers and clinics.

In 2010, Secretary Shinseki reduces the evidence needed by Veterans seeking health care and disability compensation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The simplified process allows for faster and more accurate decisions and faster access to medical care to Veterans.

All Veterans coming to VA for the first time are screened for the presence of symptoms of PTSD and depression.

Treatment is driven by a recovery orientation, which includes a focus on the Veteran's needs and preferences in order to help them fulfill their personal goals and live meaningful lives.

The PTSD Coach mobile app is available as a free download for iPhone or Android devices to help Veteran's manage PTSD symptoms. The app has been downloaded over 66,000 times in over 65 countries.

VA has launched Make the Connection, Strong at the Broken Places, and About Face—campaigns that aim to help Veteran's feel comfortable talking about PTSD and seeking help if need be.

## This Patch Not Only Flies And Jumps, It Motors



"The Herd on my Explorer"  
Tom Dimond, D/E/4/503d







**Brigade HQ & HQ Company, 173d Airborne, taken in 1964, with Gen. Williamson, officers, NCOs and troopers.**

(Photo provided by Lester Yeargin, Bde Commo Platoon, '64/'65)

## ~ Sky Dolly ~



### Anne Copeland Clark Hoffman

Anne Copeland Clark Hoffman, born May 18, 1947, Key West, FL, joined the American Red Cross in July 1969 for one year of service in Vietnam. She served in An Khe, Cam Ranh Bay and Qui Nhon. From both An Khe and Qui Nhon, she served the 173<sup>rd</sup> at LZ English, LZ Uplift and LZ North English. In August 1969 BG Cunningham made her an official "Sky Dolly".

Most memorable was the morning she and another Sky Dolly arrived for their 0800 visit of the LRP company to find no one around. Not the usual warm welcome; it was too quiet! Finally, a few soldiers came into the day room, looking very tired and not saying a word. After 20 minutes, one of the regular attendees offered that the company was suffering from an all-night wake for one of their favorite members who had fallen from a helicopter. After a very quiet start and a couple of hours of conversation, the whole company was showing

them how to repel down the 40 foot tower, offering to loan them fatigues, and cajoling them to try it. Then from nowhere their jeep appeared for their next stop. The men never knew that Anne was ready to take up their offer.

She took great pride in serving with the Herd and knowing that the Sky Dollies did make a difference in letting the men know that there were Americans who cared.

She is now a system engineer with the MITRE Corp. where she is supporting the USAF in developing the command and control for the Strategic Defense Initiative. She is married and lives in New Hampshire where she provides a home to four cats.

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**This dated report originally appeared in the *Second Edition of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade (Sep) Sky Soldiers* by Turner Publishing Company.**

*The closeness of the dollies and veterans remains, "The bond is tight, and often we refer to it as soul mates," said Gretchen Schaefer-Deichelbor of Bloomington, Ind. "There are so many things we share. You can walk the walk and talk the talk, you are one of us, a veteran, we are told. That is the highest compliment I can handle from a vet before I burst into tears."*



# Crossover: The Lady in Red

By Mark Carter  
173d LRRP, E 17<sup>th</sup> Cav  
February 24, 2013

I've known Jim Crossbuck for over fifty years. I consider him my brother. We grew up in the San Joaquin Valley, in California, during the fifties. Yeah, *that* Fifties. He and I struggled through post-puberty more or less on the same wavelength. We watched over each other's girlfriend, is what I mean, and commiserated with each other at the changing of the guard, as it were. As rowdy teens, we had such adventures as we could have and remain out of jail. We had fights, with each other, and with others; sometimes Jim and I took them on in clusters, standing literally back to back and knocking them down as they came within range. We were Frick and Frack, the bane of his parent's peace of mind, and one of the reasons my mother turned gray before her time. We took turns being Frack, when his mother selected Frack for some remedial whacks with her broom. Sometimes we misbehaved, and didn't get caught.

We joined the Army on the buddy plan, in September, 1963, and trained together all the way to jump school. The night we got our wings we went down to a diner just off post for a cheeseburger, and saw for the first time a sign saying "Whites Only" on the door of the restroom. I got a glimpse of something about him that I'd not ever considered: he wasn't white, and about myself that I hadn't really realized; I was white. Imagine that. That epiphany took a few years to sink into my hard head, but I got it.

So anyhow, after jump school, he went to the 101<sup>st</sup>, and I went to rigger school. He showed up at rigger school just before I graduated. I went to Okinawa, and he went back to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. A year later he was on the Special Forces levy, awaiting assignment to a school, and the 173d got sent to Vietnam. When he heard, he asked to be taken off the levy, and reassigned to the 101<sup>st</sup>, which was slated to follow us there. He told me that he had to go over there because he couldn't face my mother if something happened to me and he wasn't there. He took off from his outfit for a week, got a hop down to Bien Hoa to visit with me for a while, then he went back up north to do his job.



Mark and Jim at Infantry Museum

We were in touch after the service. I stayed in for four more years. He got out, and went to school to qualify to get posted with the Fresno County Sheriff's department, where he served as a deputy for thirteen years before getting into teaching and coaching at Fresno State, now UniCal at Fresno. He's worked there in several capacities ever since.

(continued....)







#### Lady in Red (continued)

My life's orbit brought me back to California in the late 1970's. He was part of my life the same way brothers are part of each other's lives—in and out of touch, a few smallish adventures in the mountains, but nothing like the old days, when we were kids, and invulnerable. We talk on the phone and I make arrangements to have dinner with him when I'm in town. He comes to my house for a week or so every now and then.

We spent the last three summers on trips together; to reunions of my old LRRP/Ranger outfit. We took a cross-country drive to Georgia for the semi-annual Ranger reunion two years ago. We drove back through Indian Territory—northern Oklahoma, Missouri, Colorado, a route I believe meant a lot to him. He had been active in searching out his identity as an Indian in the past few dozen years, and I think he found some solace in learning about the various ways of The People. He attended all the local Powwows, and sometimes acted as an Honor Guard for them.

His health was poor. His lungs were failing him in bits and pieces, and diabetes ate at him, unrelenting, and progressive.

**Jim Crossbuck (101<sup>st</sup>) & David "Frenchy" Chaisson '67/'68, first two troopers on left, second row, both have passed on.**  
(Photo sent in by Robert 'twin' Henriksen, 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers)

When he was a little guy he had Valley Fever, and during the height of his illness he had a dream; floated to a green meadow, and waiting for him was a lady dressed in red, who comforted him. She sent him back to this world, but told him she would be waiting for him when it was his time. He lay down on his couch after supper this evening and went to sleep for the last time. I hope there really is a lady in red, and that he's there with her now.

Rest in Peace.



# Stockades in Vietnam

***“Push Uncle Sam too far and you’d end up in the glass house...”***

Probably the best comment on the regime of stockades in Vietnam is the fact that I heard of no soldier who considered committing some crime so that he could avoid combat by going to jail. In fact, REMF’s – rear-echelon troops\* – tended to end up in the stockade more often than combat troops. They realized that aggressiveness was a plus for a combat

soldier and that wrecking a local bar was more likely to indicate a need to let off steam than a threat to the fabric of the US armed forces. Besides, the morality of life and death become somewhat distorted in combat – especially in a war like Vietnam.”

Leroy Thompson

Excerpt from *NAM The Vietnam Experience 1965-75*,  
by Tim Page and John Pimlott  
(web photos added)



LBJ – Long Binh Jail, Vietnam

Compared to Vietnamese jails with their ‘tiger cages’ – cells so small that their inhabitants, usually political prisoners, could not even stand up – the US military stockades in Vietnam were model penal institutions. But even compared to life on a remote fire-base under siege, they were bad new...

The US stockades in Vietnam were run on much the same lines as the old French Foreign Legion disciplinary units in Indochina. Hours were long and the physical exertion was arduous, though certain serious crimes might rate close confinement. But once a soldier was actually convicted he was normally returned to the USA to serve his sentence – if his offence was serious enough, it would land him in Leavenworth, the military’s maximum security prison in Kansas.

For certain infractions at divisional or lower levels, a soldier might be confined to barracks in Vietnam, then returned to duty without receiving a bad-conduct discharge. In these situations, confinement often resembled the less appealing aspects of basic training – lots of marching, physical training and KP duty. Most of the soldiers who had screwed up were glad of the chance to wipe the slate clean with sweat and return to their unit.



The less comfy Tiger Cage

\*To be exact, and for historical purposes only, the term is *Rear Echelon Motherfuckers*. Yet after many years of pursuing some degree of maturity, the very large majority of us have come to respect those *in the rear with the gear*, as they were the troops who keep us combat ready with arms and supplies while caring for our wounded and fallen – and we salute them. Ed





## Interesting Military Facts:

# With war comes major profits



*“The business of war is profitable. In 2011, the 100 largest contractors sold \$410 billion in arms and military services. Just 10 of those companies sold over \$208 billion,”* writes Samuel Welgley in a recent USA Today report.

Welgley further writes, *“Based on a list of the top 100 arms-producing and military services companies in 2011 compiled by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), 24/7 Wall St. reviewed the 10 companies with the most military sales world-wide.”* The companies *“benefited tremendously from the growth in military spending in the U.S., which by far has the largest military budget in the world.”* He added,

***“In 2000, the U.S. defense budget was approximately \$312 billion. By 2011, the figure has grown to \$712 billion.”***

The author of the report states between 2002 and 2011, arms sales among the top 100 companies grew by 51 percent, but due to concerns Federal budget cuts could trim military spending by more than \$500 billion over the coming decade *“unless policy-makers negotiate a pull-back on mandated cuts”...“many defense contractors are looking overseas to make up for slowing sales in the U.S. and Europe.”*

In his report, Welgley lists these 10 companies which *“profit the most from war”*:

**10. United Technologies:** Aircraft, electronics, engines. Arms sales: \$11.6 billion, total sales \$58.2 billion. Gross profit: \$5.3 billion

**9. L-3 Communications:** Electronics. Arms Sales: \$12.5 billion, total sales \$15.2 billion. Gross profit: \$950 million.

**8. Finmeccanica:** Aircraft, artillery, engines, electronics, vehicles and missiles. Arms sales: \$14.6 billion, total sales \$24.1 billion. Gross profit: \$-3.2 billion

**7. EADS:** Aircraft, electronics, missiles and space. Arms sales: \$16.4 billion, total sales \$68.3 billion. Gross profit: \$1.4 billion

**6. Northrop Grumman:** Aircraft, electronics, missiles, ships, space. Arms sales: \$21.4 billion, total sales \$26.4 billion. Gross profit: \$2.1 billion

**5. Raytheon:** Electronics, missiles. Arms sales: \$22.5 billion, total sales \$24.9 billion. Gross profit: \$1.9 billion



Raytheon missile (web photo)

**4. General Dynamics:** Artillery, electronics, vehicles, small arms, ships. Arms sales: \$23.8 billion, total sales \$32.7 billion. Gross profit: \$32.7 billion

**3. BAE Systems:** Aircraft, artillery, electronics, vehicles, missiles, ships. Arms sales: \$29.2 billion, total sales \$30.7 billion. Gross profit: \$2.3 billion

**2. Boeing:** Aircraft, electronics, missiles, space. Arms sales: \$31.8 billion, total sales \$68.7 billion. Gross profit: \$4 billion

**1. Lockheed Martin:** Aircraft, electronics, missiles, space. Arms sales: \$36.3 billion, total sales \$46.5 billion. Gross profit: \$2.7 billion



Lockheed Martin assembly area at Ft. Worth (web photo)



# ~ Reunions of the Airborne Kind ~



## ~ 2013 ~



### **36th Annual Airborne Awards Festival,**

hosted by the Donald D. Lassen Atlanta All Airborne Chapter & 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div Assoc., April 3-6, 2013, Atlanta Airport Marriott Hotel, Atlanta, GA.

**Contact:**

**Tommy Tillman**

**Phn: 404-255-1674**

**Web: [www.82nd-atl.com](http://www.82nd-atl.com)**



### **26th Annual Vietnam & All Veterans Reunion,**

hosted by Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard, Inc., April 21-28, 2013, Wickham Park, Melbourne, FL.

**Web: [www.floridaveteransreunion.com](http://www.floridaveteransreunion.com)**



### **The 503rd PIR Deep South Corridor Reunion,**

May 1-5, 2013, Port Richey, FL. See Pages 52-53 for details.

**Contact:**

**Chuck & Dee Breit**

**Phn: 352-447-3983**



### **The Edmonton Airborne Social Club** next

Airborne Regiment Re-Union at the Edmonton Aviation Museum June 7-9, 2013. The Theme Chosen by the Re-Union Committee is "REMEMBER THE FALLEN".

**Contact:**

**Bill Tremain**

**Committee Chairperson**

**Eml: [tremain.bill@gmail.com](mailto:tremain.bill@gmail.com)**



### **335<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Company, 11<sup>th</sup> Reunion,**

June 17-22, 2013, at the Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, NV.

**Contact:**

**Andy Hooker**

**Special Projects Coordinator**

**Cell: (941) 320-2463**

**Eml: [Andyhooker1@aol.com](mailto:Andyhooker1@aol.com)**



### **Special Forces Association National Convention 2013,**

June 26-30, 2013, Hyatt Regency Hotel, hosted by Chapter XV.

**Contact:**

**Fred Solis, 201-491-2783**

**Pat Connolly, 210-826-8023**



### **B-2/501<sup>st</sup>, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Div., Reunion**

**2013**, July 10-14, 2013, Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, ND.

**Contact:**

**Chuck & Sue German**

**Phn: 701-783-4386**

**Eml: [chucks@drtel.net](mailto:chucks@drtel.net)**



### **173d Airborne Brigade Association Annual Reunion,**

August 23-29, 2013, Las Vegas, NV. See Page 23 for details.

**Contact:**

**Jim Bradley**

**Phn: 727-376-2576 (after 4:30 p.m. EST)**

**Eml: [webmaster@173rdairborne.com](mailto:webmaster@173rdairborne.com)**

**Web: [www.2013Reunion.com](http://www.2013Reunion.com)**



### **101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division Vietnam**

**Veterans 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion,** September

5-8, 2013. Reunion HQ Best Western Ramokta Hotel, Rapid City, SD.

**Contact:**

**Rodney Green**

**Reunion Coordinator**

**Eml: [randhgreen@sio.midco.net](mailto:randhgreen@sio.midco.net)**



### **11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division Association**

**Reunion,** September 22-26, 2013, Fayetteville, NC.

**Contact:**

**Bert Kurland**

**President**

**Eml: [berwan@embarqmail.com](mailto:berwan@embarqmail.com)**

**Note: If you're aware of any upcoming Airborne or attached units reunions please send details to:**  
**[rto173d@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rto173d@cfl.rr.com)**

## *All The Way!*







# OPERATION SIN CITY



**26 - 29 August 2013**

**The 173d Airborne Brigade Association Annual Reunion**

**Hosted by:**

**Chicago and Florida Chapters**

## ~ REGISTRATION FORM ~

**Please print & copy form for additional names.**

(Indicate shirt size for each individual. S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_ Phn: \_\_\_\_\_ Eml: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit served with in the Brigade: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ Shirt Size: \_\_\_\_\_

## ~ Registration Fees ~

\_\_\_\_ \$150. Per Member or Guest before 25 July 2013,

\$165. Per Member or Guest after 25 July 2013.

\_\_\_\_ \$150. Gold Star Family Member

\_\_\_\_ \$100. Per Vendor Table (173d Vendors only)\*

\_\_\_\_ \$75. Per Active Duty Soldier (Not on Orders)

Free Active Duty Soldier (On Orders, i.e. Command, Color Guard)

Free Gold Star Luncheon (173d Gold Star Family Members)

\_\_\_\_ \$25. Sky Soldier Adoption Program\* "Have your meals on me".

\_\_\_\_ **Total of check enclosed in USD.**

*\*Sky Soldier Adoption Program: We have active duty Sky Soldiers fly in from Italy who must pay airfare, hotel, meals and reunion fees costing them thousands of dollars. We try and offset their cost by giving them a break on the registration cost. You can help out by purchasing a meal voucher so our active duty Sky Soldiers traveling in from Europe will have reduced cost. Please contribute to our Sky Soldier Adoption Program and let him/her have their meals donated and sponsored by you!*

**Please Make Checks Payable to:**

**173d ABA 2013 Reunion**

**and mail to:**

**2013 Reunion**

**5640 Wellfield Road**

**New Port Richey, FL 34655**

**Host Hotel**

**The Orleans**

**4500 W. Tropicana Ave.**

**Las Vegas, Nevada 89103**

**Phone: 702-365-7111 Toll Free: 800-675-3267**

**ID Code A3SSC08**

**Room Rate: \$29. per night + Tax and fees.**

**Rate good for 25 to 29 August 2013. Or register**

**on-line at [www.orleanscasino.com/groups](http://www.orleanscasino.com/groups)**

Refunds if notified by 25 July 2013, no refunds after 25 July 2013.

Only authorized 173d vendors may hold a raffle, one per table in the vendors' area only.

173d Gold Star Family Members of our KIA's: Spouse, Parent, Sibling, Children)

## Reunion Contact:

**Jim Bradley**

**727-376-2576 after 4:30 pm EST (Please)**

**[www.2013Reunion.com](http://www.2013Reunion.com)**





# 173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)



## KIA in April, '66-'71

### "One Backward Glance"

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

#### ~ April 1966 ~

**Lloyd Fields, Jr., E/17<sup>th</sup> Cav**

*"Sgt. Fields was a good man. I was there the day he died. I touch his name when I go to The Wall."*

Mark G. Carter

E/17th Cav (LRRP), 173d Airborne

{See Page 54 for Lloyd's DSC citation}

**Raymond Senter Cassidy, B/2/503**

*"I still remember you. Ray and I were friends in Junior High School. So many years have passed by, but I often think of Ray and the laughs we shared so long ago. May God bless you Ray and all the others who lost their lives much too early."*

Barbara Kross Arabio  
Friend

#### ~ April 1967 ~

**Kit Blackwelder, A/1/503**

*"Kit Blackwelder, tonight you're a grandfather!"*

Mary Bink  
11/21/98

**Final Mission of U.S. Army helicopter UH-1D  
tail number 65-09957.**

*"The aircraft was on an Admin 173rd lift when the engine failed due to fuel starvation. The instrumentation reported 100 lbs. of fuel when the fuel pressure started fluctuating. The aircraft crashed in a cemetery near highway 1 at Long Binh, hitting some tombstones and burning. The accident killed two crewmen, 1LT Paul L. Stimpson and gunner SP4 James R. Adams. Four passengers also lost their lives in the crash: SP4 Timothy C. Patterson, CPL Otto R. Ensslin, PFC Howard S. Dominiak, and PFC Kit Blackwelder. Two other crewmen and two passengers survived, all injured in the wreck."*

[Taken from [vhpa.org](http://vhpa.org)]



**Kenneth Arthur Cullen, A/2/503**

**James Elliott Dewey, 173d Eng, E/17th Cav\***

**Terrence Glade Dixon, HHC/1/503**

*"It's been thirty seven years since you died...I was with you on that ambush patrol on operation Junction City II, and I remember it like it happened just last night...I remember you every year on this date and will never forget you."*

Wayne G. Brassell



*"Recon 1/503d, March 1967. Picture taken at Camp Ray (our base camp near the Bien Hoa air base) just prior to moving out to War Zone 'C' on Operation Junction City II...we were a small and close knit unit."* Wayne Brassell

**Howard Stanley Dominiak, A/1/503**

**Neil Robert Ellsworth, HHC/1/503**

(continued....)





**Otto Robert Ensslin, A/1/503**

*"Otto, I remember the good times we had before the Army and Vietnam came along. We both had 57 Chevys and loved to drive them hard and fast but with respect. I remember corresponding with you while we were both in Nam in 1967. We both wanted to get together over there. Even though we were less than 30 miles apart we couldn't work it out. The Army kept us too busy and transportation was a major problem for low ranking soldiers. Where were those 57's when we needed them? I remember to this day the call I got from the Red Cross about your death. I wanted to return to the 'World' for the services with you but kept thinking about the mixed feeling that would have been there for our families. I decided not to return. Afterwards I learned that the news I received was late and the services had already been conducted. I finished my tour in November 1967 and returned safely but very sad knowing you were not as fortunate as I was. I have surely missed your presence over the last 3 1/2 decades and can't help but think of all the good times we would have had together if you had made it home safe. The Army was lucky to have you. I know you were the best soldier you could be. Your entire family is very proud of you."*

Your Cousin,  
Willy Ensslin

**Henry Hwey Gamble, B/4/503**

*"I remember today. I thank you and your family for your sacrifice to me, others and this country. Thank you American Hero."*

My father served with you

**Ross Allen Gaston, B/4/503**



**Arthur A. Gleason, "Doc", HHC/2/503**

*"Uncle Tony, Your courage will always be with me."*

Edward S. Angotti



**Richard H. Goheen, 173d Eng**

*"Thank you for your sacrifice. I wish I knew you. I wish we could have met." Nephew*



**Albert Marshall Guyer, C/2/503, C/4/503\***

*"I had the honor of serving with Marshall for 6 months, from June to December, 1965. The occasion of our service was that we were both attending Infantry Officers Candidate School, Fort Benning, Ga. The platoons were set up alphabetically. Since both of our last names began with the same letter we went thru the six months basically shoulder to shoulder.*

*There were a lot of things about him that made him unique but the two that stand out for me after all of these years were these. OCS was a physical grind, the likes of which I had never experienced before.*

*Marshall was in the best physical condition that I had ever seen of another soldier. At the end of the day I would have done a couple of hundred pushups and could hardly move my arms. Marshall was not fazed at all. It was no sweat to him.*

*The second thing about him that I remember was he never stopped smiling. We could be having the worst of days and when you looked at him he was smiling. It used to piss off the T.A.C. officers all of the time, especially in the evening when his smiling would get him a ton of extra pushups. Didn't faze him in the least.*

*I was proud to consider him my friend and would have followed him into any combat. He was truly a good soldier and a good man."*

From a fellow officer,  
John J. Glover

*"It was the early '60's in Independence Kansas. Marshall was dating a young lady that worked in my Mom's beauty shop. I was a sophomore in high school and Marshall attended junior college in Indy. I wanted to get bigger for football and Marshall took me on as his apprentice....*

(continued....)



*....He was a Golden Glove boxer and needed a place to hang his heavy bag. I worked out in an old wooden garage so we shared the space. He taught me to box and how to properly weight train. My favorite memory was when he asked me to hold onto the heavy bag while he hit it. I grabbed hold and he started punching it and I could not hold it against his strong hits and it tossed me to the floor. Another time we were sparring and I actually got a punch to his chin. He instinctively came back with a left that caught the right side of my face and sent me to the floor. I will never forget how much time he took with me and how much fun we had together in the garage. He was always in a cheerful mood with a big grin on his face. I think of him often as I work out, even these 45yrs later."*

Tom McCarty

He was like a big brother



**Douglas C. Holland, HHC/Bde**

*"AP Wirephoto appeared with same article that appeared in the Stars and Stripes on April 15, 1967. Caption: Spec. 4 Douglas Holland, 23, of Anita, Ia., combat photographer for the 173rd Airborne Brigade, shouldered machine gun and ammunition a few days before he was killed during battle in War Zone C. Holland who had only 21 days left to go in Vietnam, asked to go on one last combat assault."*

Jim McIlhenney

*"I write this today, March 24, 2007, your birthday. In 16 more days you will have been gone 40 years. It makes me very sad to think of all of the good things you did not get to accomplish in those 40 years. Your energy, spirit and determination would had taken you to the top of whatever mountain you chose to climb. Sadly, your story has been repeated a million times over in our county's history. You are in the best of company."*

Your friend,  
Joe Renner

**Felix F.F. Leyva-Parra-Frias, C/2/503, C/4/503\***

*"When I knew you Felix you were the little brother of two older sisters, Patricia and Carmen. I remember you playing basketball outside with your friends and you always had that ready smile that brightened everyone's day. Your Mom was a great cook and I remember all of us gathering in the kitchen to talk to her and to see what great culinary treats she was creating that day. I miss you Felix. I think of you and your family all of the time. I am proud of you. Your country is proud of you, but we all miss you so much. Please know that You won't be forgotten because you will live in the hearts of all of us who had the great pleasure of knowing and loving you. You live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved you."*

Lorlene (Olsen) Dickey



**Don Leslie Michael, C/4/503**

*"I remember Don as a high schooler who bought gas from my dad's service station; a quiet, determined athlete who would never quit, and an all-around likeable guy. I remember being shocked to hear that he had been killed, but not a bit surprised to hear he had won the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was that kind of fellow... Mike McGuire, Lexington, AL."*

Mike McGuire  
Friend

[See Page 44 for Don's MOH citation]



(continued....)

**Harold Benton King, HHC/2/503, A/2/503\***  
**Russell Alan Leffler, B/1/503**







**Jerry Robert Miller, B/4/503**

**MEMORIAL DAY 5/28/07**

*"I enjoy life and all its freedoms thanks to all veterans and their sacrifices.*

*My hero is my Papa, Jerry Robert Miller.*

*He served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.*

*He was K.I.A. 7 April 67 in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam.*

*It is the 40th anniversary of his death day this year.*

*I honor my Papa yesterday, today, and forever.*

*I think about your life that was too short,  
and what you would have done and the memories  
that we never had a chance to make. I know some  
day in Heaven we will have our time and get to play  
some baseball (our passion).*

*My American flags fly for you, Papa.*

*As the saying goes*

*Duty, Honor, Country.*

*Papa, you did all and gave all. You are my hero!"*

*A proud son,*

*Jerry Robert Miller, Jr.*



**Higinio Ovalle Oviedo, C/4/503**

*"I served in the same Platoon as Higinio Oviedo, but later. As I understand it, SP4 Oviedo died trying to reach SP4 Don Michael after Michael had been hit."*

*Wayne Walker*

*C/4/503d*



**Thomas Patterson, B/4/503**



**Timothy Patterson, A/1/503**

*"Sergeant Timothy Coleman Patterson was killed in the crash of a helicopter on which he was a passenger.*

*He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.*

*Sergeant Patterson's father, an Air Force officer, was stationed in Vietnam at the time of the son's death.*

*Sergeant Patterson was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery."*

*Michael Robert Patterson*



**John J. Rabideau, A/1/503**

*"John. I remember you every day. How could I forget you, the good times we shared and your sacrifice? It seems like only yesterday that a group of us walked the railroad tracks to and from school. I also recall the 'fun' we all had in the neighborhood doing 'whatever'. Who would have ever thought that The Moving Wall, with your name on it, would one day come to Easthampton and be placed on the soccer field that you played so many games on? (You were good!) I visited The Moving Wall 5 times, each time talking to you and recalling you playing on that soccer field. I smiled and yes, also shed tears. The times you spent playing on that field were some of the best days of your ever-too-short life. You are my hero, John. You were taken from us much too soon, much too soon.*

*With love, Pat."*

*Patricia (Walunas) Mielke*

*(continued....)*



Charles Ray, A/1/503

*"To a very special man and dad that I never had the pleasure of knowing. I've heard so many wonderful stories about him from family as well as friends. I know if he was still alive, I would cherish our father and daughter relationship. But in his place I found the perfect man who loves me unconditionally. I will also one day be able to dance with my father again. The only memories I have is of old pictures he took while on active duty. After all these years I sometimes find myself talking to him as if he was actually here. I would get caught in a particular situation and say 'Now daddy, what would you do/say about this?'. He has a few off-spring from his daughter of whom he would be proud."*

Tonya R. Ray  
His daughter

Robert Thompson, Jr., C/2/503, C/4/503\*  
John B. Woble, 173d Eng



~ April 1968 ~

Franklin Delano Audilet, HHC/Bde, 172d MI Det

*"Our family hero. Growing up on a farm in Texas, Franklin is #6 and I am #7 in a family of eight children. Hard times-lots of chores on the farm and in the fields. Good times - lots of food and community dances and feasts. In school my brother was my protector. His decision to join the Armed Services seemed natural as both of his brothers had already made that decision in years earlier. Losing him in the war was unimaginable. His wife had the responsibility of raising three children alone - so unfair! It is sad that Franklin could not be there to see his children grow up. And then not to know his grandchildren! Franklin would have been a wonderful grandfather! Our family misses our true hero. I will never forget you, Franklin."*

*Eternal Memory!"*  
Loretta Iris Buckho  
He is my brother

David Joe Berry, "Doc", HHC/3/503



John Clair Bonney, D/4/503  
(Incident date, March 28, 1968)

*"My mother went to school with John. There is a memorial in her high school yearbook dedicated to him. I had told her about the virtual wall and she told me about him and what a shame it was that he died so young. He was popular and well-liked in high school. I am 25 years old. I obviously wasn't around during the Vietnam War but the stories of men who lost their lives touches me deeply. I have much respect for the servicemen who gave their lives for our country and those who are continuing to serve. God bless all of you."* Michele Dieman



John R. D'Agostino, B/1/50<sup>th</sup>

*"John D'Agostino is fondly remembered by the soldiers with whom he served from 1st Platoon of Company D, 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry. Visit the Website of the Association formed by these 50th Infantry Vietnam Vets at: <http://www.ichiban1.org>. Post a note on our 'Message Board' and possibly some of our members who served with John will respond. Search our site for photos and other documentation and (or) contact me at [50thInfantryAssociation@gmail.com](mailto:50thInfantryAssociation@gmail.com) for details about our Memorial for our men lost in action at the current day 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry Headquarters at Fort Benning, Georgia. Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremonies are held every two years at the reunions of the 50th Inf. Assoc. "Jim Sheppard, 50<sup>th</sup> Inf. Historian*

(continued....)







**Wilbur Cornell Gaskins, E/17<sup>th</sup> Cav**



**Robert Wayne Glidden, D/1/503**

*"Bobby, I never knew you but i miss you. You are my uncle that I never knew. You took care of my father after all of you lost yours at such a young age. I feel as if I am closer to you than any of my other uncles, and I miss you so much. You will always be in my heart. You have given me the courage to never give up in my dreams. I wish that you were here right now.*

*I love you my dear uncle."*

Crystal (Glidden) Wilson



**Donald Maurice Gutrick, D/1/503**



**Dennis Fox Hughes, D/1/503**

*"My best friend, the one I admired the most. Denny was the one we all wanted to be like. The most responsible, the smoothest, the most mature.....43 years ago....Corn Cob Six's son and my best friend.....Still miss you both....you helped me be 'all I could be.' Thanks."*

Jim Lancaster, LTC USAF



**Richard Wade Joles, 173d Flt Plt**



*"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...."*

(continued....)



*....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**

**Ricky Lee Null, HHC/2/503, B/50th**



**Kim Randle Parliament, "Doc", HHC/1/503**

*"Uncle Randy I never met you because you died before I was born. My mother, your sister, has carried your memory on. My brother carries your name, Randle. You have not been forgotten. Thank you for your sacrifice and I love you."*

**Jason Ebarb**



**Lawrence Edward Philyaw, HHC/4/503**

**Claude Roberts, C/1/50<sup>th</sup>**

**Thomas Grady Stricklin, A/3/503**

*"Hey Tommy! 39 years and you are still remembered with fond memories. You are a grandfather of a beautiful baby girl. Love you so very much."*

**Cousin Carrie**



**Edward Delbert Ulman, HHC/2/503**

*"I remember Eddie from our dates while I was still in high school. I remember hearing from his sister that he had died and that he had saved all my letters. I will always remember Eddie."*

**Sue**



**Arnold S. White, "Doc", HHC/1/503, HHC/2/503\***

*"White left Germantown High School in September 1966 to enlist in the Army. He trained to be a medical corpsman and in November 1967 was sent to Vietnam, where he was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. White died on April 15, 1968, at the age of 18. He was survived by his parents, a brother and sister."*

**The Philadelphia Daily News**





~ April 1969 ~

**Jack Blaine Beers, B/3/503**

*"Daddy's body was accompanied home by his brother, Army Sgt William C. Beers, Sr. assigned to the 42nd Artillery in Vietnam. William still lives with his wife in Georgia and had one son (& two daughters) who joined the Army. SFC Beers was serving with Company B, 3rd Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Battalion, when his unit came under a night attack. 'He completely disregarded his own safety and though seriously wounded, he continued to deploy his men and firepower against the insurgents.' This is quoted from a newspaper clipping - probably the Clarksville Leaf-Chronicle. Daddy is buried in Fort Donelson National Cemetery, Dover, TN - it's located on the Tennessee side of the Land-Between-the-Lakes. It's a beautiful spot on a hill, not far from the Cherry Blossom trees - it's at a spot from which you can see forever."*

**Catherine Irene (Beers) Boudro**  
Daughter, first born

[See Jack's DSC citation on Page 56]

**Kenneth Robert Bird, B/3/503**

**Harold Gene Bottoms, D/4/503**

**Robert Richard Bradley, D/4/503**



**Walter Corbin Carter, D/Spt Bn**

**Robert McLain Cochran, Jr., B/3/503**



**Larry Houston Cooke, D/4/503**

*"Standing tall. Sergeant Cooke was a wiry E-5 when I got to the 'herd'. He would be the first one up and returning fire, always! I wasn't there when he gave all he had, I left for R & R at the end of 69'. I saw him a few times after that, then got malaria and never saw him again. I think they were up in Bong Son when I got the news that he was killed. I'll bet anything that he wasn't ducking in a foxhole or behind something when the time came.....anything at all.*

*'Airborne, Sergeant Cooke.'*"

**Dan Pomeroy**  
Fellow combatant



**Floyd Andrew Deal, "Doc", B/3/503**

*"I will never forget that morning, I had my baseball uniform on walking out the front door going to play a double header. Up the walk came the General and the Chaplain. They asked me to go back inside, I refused, I knew then that the one person who loved me unconditionally was no longer in my life. Floyd was KIA. You see, I had to play ball that day, that's where Floyd would want me.*

*When we were small and my dad would call and say he was coming to see us, I would wait all day but he would never show. I would cry and say dad doesn't love us. Floyd would take me by the hand and say, I love you. Let's go throw the ball around. Then there I was, in center field playing ball the way he taught me. The loneliest center fielder in the world, with tears in my eyes.*

*When Margie Kaizawa and I went to Drake Hospital to talk to some of his platoon that were wounded, they told us a story, how they got caught in an ambush, some of Floyd's fellow soldiers were wounded. Floyd, being the corpsman, couldn't leave them there so he went back in. He didn't make it out....*

(continued....)



*....Floyd was selfless that way. There are many stories where I would get into trouble and Floyd was always there, always taking care of his little brother. He taught me so much about life. About defending myself. Most of all he taught me about courage and strength.*

*For 30 years I carried with me a lot of anger, and resentment. I ended up in places where few would even read about. In those places I ran across many Viet Nam vets. They too had a void in them, an anger and fear they couldn't control. It was the dark side of life where we existed. The under belly. Those vets, like myself, had their innocence taken from them. Something we couldn't get back. The pain was very great. We shared that pain. Me talking about Floyd, them talking about their loved ones. Then something amazing happened on this journey. I was traveling down the East coast and I called my medicine woman and explained I had to go to the wall. She said 'yes, it's time'. She came picked me up, along with her husband who was a vet himself. You see, I had put off going to the wall for a long time. I used Floyd's death to act out in very selfish ways. It was time for me to ask for forgiveness. I will never forget that day. It was much like that day in center field. When I saw Floyd's name, the tears came, the pain came, and the healing came. While asking for forgiveness a calm came over me, like Floyd was smiling at me, like he touched me and said, "I love you, little brother". It's been a long hard journey. It's time to let it go. On the walk away from the Wall, I turned and looked back. I could see the whole Wall. All the names. In my selfishness I could now see that those names, too, had brothers, sisters, children, mothers and fathers. I wasn't alone anymore. Floyd was a true warrior. He received the Silver Star. While thinking back on all those years of darkness, I couldn't get myself to admit that I love Floyd, and I miss him. Yet there is another part of this journey. Today Floyd has a nephew named after him. He is my son. Another warrior. A peace warrior. I will raise him the same way Floyd taught me. To stand for something or fall for everything. When you see those vets out there, who are homeless, or addicted to drugs, remember that they are human too, need love also. Don't be too quick to turn away, for you see, one of them might have been Floyd. So because of Floyd, I am a better person today, this doesn't come from anger or hate, this tribute comes from sadness, and a place in my heart, called love. I love you Floyd, I miss you Floyd, thanks for being my big brother."*

Doug Deal '69

From his brother,  
Douglass Paige Deal

## **~ A Note from The Virtual Wall ~**

**On the night of 06/07 April 1969 "B" Company, 3/503rd Infantry lost eleven men when their night defensive position near Bao Loc, Lam Dong Province, was attacked by a reinforced VC company.**

**Timothy Elden Dye, B/3/503, E/3/503\***



**Peter Godoy, Jr., B/3/503**

*"My uncle died when he was only 20 years old. He was part of the 173 Airborne Brigade and served his country proudly."*

Richard Godoy



**John Terry Gray, B/3/503**

*"Your life was short, not yet lived, but hasn't been forgotten either. I look at the picture on this site and I cannot believe that it has been so long ago that you left us. You have and will always be remembered. Our Father and our youngest brother has passed away to be with you. I hope that each of you are looking down on us as we only can hold you in our hearts. Your loving sister, Sandra."*

Sandra K. Burnet







**Michael Daniel Griffis, B/3/503**

*"I love you BROTHER. I remember you with LOVE and THINK about you EVERY DAY..I not only lost my brother I lost my DEAREST FRIEND..You were my FAVORITE BROTHER."*

Donna Jean Griffis, Sister

**Richard Lamar Hannon, D/4/503**

*"I see your name upon the Wall and tears flow, for Hannon's have always showed up for our country, dating back to the Civil War, so rest among some of the best men this world has ever seen. I sign this with great respect for all to see."*

Carl Hannon



**Larry Milton Kelley, B/3/503**

*"My Uncle that I never got to meet. I wished I could have met you. My Dad loves you, and misses you very much. As do all his brothers and sisters throughout their lives. They carry on with thoughts and memories of Love with their spirits forever and always, as do I."*

Sandy Kelley  
My Uncle



**Rodger Magnus Koefod, B/2/503**

*"Roger, we remember. As a young man you had so much energy and enthusiasm for life. Your family loved you and remembers. Thank you for your service to our country. You made us proud and we will always remember your sacrifice for our country. A piece of our lives will always be connected."*

Dan O'Brien  
My first cousin

*"Rodger played in a band and he was hot! He did a mean 'Mustang Sally' and the best 'Gloria' ever. We tried to see his band play at WSU-Pullman when he was in town. He was a good looking guy and kind and nice to all. His family should be very proud of him. He and so many were taken from us at such a young age. When I visit Moscow (Idaho) I think of those fun times dancing to his music. He was such a fun loving guy. Rodger, you are not forgotten. His family must be very proud. God Bless."*

Becky Cash Savage  
We were high school classmates





**Joe Gilbert Longoria, D/4/503**

*"We will never forget you or stop loving you. Mom and Dad are with you now. Sister and I wait for that day. Till we meet again."*

Alice Longoria  
He is my brother

*"I found it an honor to serve with Joe. He was a good friend to me while we were in the 173rd together."*

Daniel Carmona

**Herbert Lee Malone, D/4/503**



**Thomas Victor Mitchell, B/3/503**

*"You are still missed to this day."*

From his brother,  
Chris Mitchell

*"Tom was my best friend in Vietnam. We trained together, entered country together and served in the same unit. We were to come home together. Why I made it and he didn't, I'll never know. He was one of the bravest guys I knew and I will always remember him. My thoughts go to his family."*

A Sky Soldier Buddy



**Roland John Panarese, D/3/503, D/4/503\***

*"I believed in you then and I believe in you now. I wish I could have known you in my lifetime. Your sister Virginia brought me here tonight. I feel her loss and I know how she feels."*

Barbara Anne

**Larry Gene Pyle, B/3/503**

*"I was part of the mop up on Easter Sunday morning that year. You guys fought hard and died with honor and bravery. We remember you each year at the reunion of the 173rd Airborne. You were not alone and are remembered. The ceremony of the 'Boots' was a moving one."*

David "Doc"



*Ceremony of the Boots,' posted by David "Doc".*





**Charles Ellis Thomas, C/1/50<sup>th</sup>**

*"Charles Ellis Thomas is fondly remembered by the soldiers with whom he served from "C" Company of the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry. Visit the Website of the Association formed by these 1st Bn, 50th Vietnam Vets at: <http://www.ichiban1>. Post a note on our "Message Board" and possibly some of our members who served with Charles will respond. Search our site for photos and other documentation and/or contact me (Jim Sheppard, Association Historian) at the e-mail address provided here for details about our Memorial (Pictured here) for our men lost in action at the current day 1st Bn, 50th Battalion Headquarters at Fort Benning, Georgia. Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremonies are held every two years at the reunions of the 1st Bn, 50th Association. The Association of the 1st Battalion, 50th Infantry would be thrilled to have a photo of Charles...to put a "Face with the name" of our brother. If you can supply any photo of Charles, please contact Jim Sheppard at the e-mail address given."*

Jim Sheppard, 50<sup>th</sup> Inf. Historian  
[kiss-ac@juno.com](mailto:kiss-ac@juno.com)



**Daniel Welsh, D/4/503**

*"To my Dad, I just want to tell you I love you and wish I could have known you just to spend one day together. We love you."*

Lisa Muller

~ April 1970 ~

**Ralph North Bright, B/2/503**

**Gerald Winston Byrns, Jr., D/4/503**

*"You were an inspiration to all of your fellow NCO's. RIP my brother."*

Sgt. Turner, 4/503d

**Michael Clickner, A/3/503**

*"Michael. Went to the Wall just say one last 'goodby. When I got here, I realized that I would be saying 'So Long' to the 58,000 others as well. Take care Mike. From a guy over in 'Charlie' Co."*

Mike Parker

C Co, 3rd Bn, 503rd Infantry  
173rd Airborne (69-70)



50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion Memorial



(continued....)



**Rafael Colon-Santos, A/3/503**

*"My Dearest Brother! 2004, I can't believe it's been 34 years ago that God decided to take you into his arms. The day we got that knock on the door still haunts me today. I'll never forget how dad actually cried out loud as he cursed the All Mighty for taking you away from us and being so close from you fulfilling your time in service. That scene will always stay with me, seeing Mom go straight to the picture that you had sent her for Mother's Day, and literally crack the glass against her chest as she hugged it so hard. We all miss you so much, you'll be happy that we actually got to meet Augie and his family. That was great as Mom and some others were able to get closure as was Augie and his family that now are part of ours. I love you and will do all in my power to make sure that no one will forget your sacrifice as well as the others that gave their lives for our freedom."*

Carlos Santos Lopez

**Marcus Raymond Davis, A/3/503**

*"I want to thank all the great people who knew my dad and have taken the time to put up a memorial in his honor. I only wish that I could have met him. I was not born until July and he was killed in April. That is a great misfortune. I salute you, Mark. You were a great man. Thanks.....I Love You, Laura Ann."*

From his daughter, Laura Morris

**Carter Wayne Dowd, C/3/503**

*"It is now 41 years Wayne and you are thought of often. Just want to let you know that we tried really hard to get there for you guys that night."*

Lloyd "Burt" Burton, C/3/503/173<sup>rd</sup> ABN



**John Frederick Downing, C/2/503**

*"Thank you John. I remember your face as if it were yesterday. We were seniors at Tempe High and after you graduated you went to war. We were so young. I'm sorry that you had to give your life. I'm proud to have known you. We just had our 30th high school reunion and you were there in spirit. Luv ya man,"*

Jim Schermann, Friend



**Robert Gene Floyd, C/3/503**

*"It's been 41 years now Robert and words are just not enough. I always remember the good times, laughter & smiles about it all. Want you to know that we tried really hard to get there for you guys that night & I did write your folks. Lord I lift my friend to you. You are now and always my friend."*

Lloyd "Burt" Burton, C/3/503rd/173rd ABN

We served together



[See Page 59 for Robert's DSC citation]



**John Roger Powers, 173d Eng**

*"Powers, you are not forgotten. All of us in the squad remember you."*

Gary E. Bowland  
Fellow Sky Soldier

(continued....)





**Armand Ervin Ristinen, C/1/503**

*"In your youth you gave your life. Armand Ristinen, we knew you for a short time but we want to remember what you did for our country because we were the same age, and we were friends with Betty. We dedicate this in remembrance of you."*

Sandi and Barb, from BHS class of 1967.

July 19, 1999

*"So many years and still remembered. I remember you from the Isaac Walton club where I watched you play pool in the throes of a secret crush. You were beautiful and mysterious. I don't know what brought the memory of you and Mike Barr up in my heart these many years later."*

Gen Kreie, nee Lawlor

We grew up together



**Danny Gilbert Ruybal, B/3/319**

*"Danny, I still think back when we met before going to Vietnam in Avondale. You didn't know about Vietnam but I told you to keep your head down and you'll come home. But, I didn't know you would be killed by a mishap. Yea, I remember when you said you and I were going to come home together and get drunk. But I never expected to bring your body home. Danny, I'll never forget you and your family for allowing me to escort you home so I could be with my family. Thanks Love Ernie 'The Herd.'"*



**Rafael Salas Santos, 46<sup>th</sup> PIO**



**Rosendo Flores Silbas, B/3/319**

*"I came home from Ft Bragg to bury my friend and present our flag to his newly wed wife. His father and mother are with him now and has lost a sister also. I grew up with this family and know first-hand the love this family shared with everyone. Ross and his family are always in our thoughts."* Roberto J. Sepulveda

**David Welch, D/3/503**

*"Hello David. 41 years ago today David, you gave it all man. Just wanted to let you know that we tried to get there for you guys that night."*

Lloyd "Burt" Burton, C/3/503rd/173rd ABN



**Clifton P. Wheelhouse, Jr., C/3/503**

*"WE Will allways remember the love and compassion you showed for the little children and why you went to NAM."*

Your Family, Clifton P. Wheelhouse, He is my son

*"Cliff was a wonderful friend and cherished classmate. I think of him frequently and the enjoyment we shared growing up in high school together."*

Bruce R. McHenry, Major USMC (Ret)

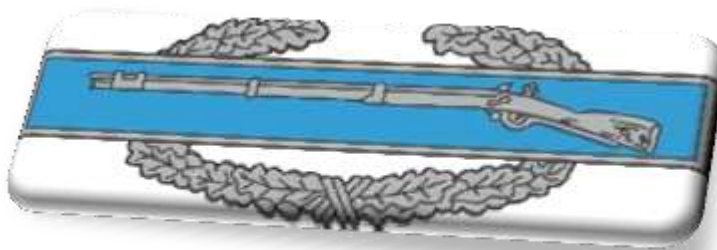


**Thomas Edward Wilson, C/3/503**

*"Hello Thomas. You are often thought of Thomas. Just want to let you know that we tried to get there for you that night."* Lloyd "Burt" Burton, C/3/503d

(continued....)





**John Edward Young, C/3/503**

Lloyd "Burt" Burton, C/3/503rd/173rd ABN

~ April 1971 ~



**Bernardo Rodriguez Alvarez, C/2/503**



**Arthur Best, D/4/503**

*"We do not forget. Thirty-four years. The memories still remain, both good and bad, some a little cloudy. You tried to instill the skills and abilities needed. In doing so, you gave the ultimate sacrifice. May you rest in peace. To those of the future who may read this: know that this man placed others above himself and in doing so gave the ultimate sacrifice."*

Mike Masters, D/4/503, 173rd Airborne  
We served together



**Bill Edward Blanton, C/2/503**

*"Remembrance. We served together."*

Capt. Craig Dupree (platoon leader)

*"Bill was raised by his grandparents, was my sisters age & lived on our street. He had no siblings that I know of. We had a big family – Bill spent a lot of time at our house & did family things with us. He was quiet, polite & we enjoyed having him. Since our family was 5 girls – my Dad took a special interest in Bill. I took him to the hospital when he broke a bone in gym class once. His Grandma didn't have a car. So tragic. He didn't get to live his life."*

Rosanne Jessee

He is a family friend

**Juan Santos Borja, 173d LRRP/N75**

*"To BJ. Think of you often, a great team leader and friend."*

Bobby

We served together

**Wayne Roy Borowski, D/4/503**

*"Ski, I honor you, and all the others that fell that day, with memory and tears. You will never be forgotten."*

*Those of us that served with you will always remember. Always. Forever and always Airborne,"*

Doc Turner, D/4/503



(continued....)







**Gary Butt, D/4/503**



*"Canadian Vietnam Veteran. Gary Butt was born in Chateaugay (near Montreal), Quebec. He enlisted at Plattsburgh in 1968. Gary was a rifleman with the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade." Hall N. Maddy Laffin*

**Paul Philip Cabe, D/2/503**

**Billy Gene Channel, B/3/503**

**"REMEMBERED ACROSS THE YEARS"**

**His Niece in-law**

*"Hi Billy (Pinky): This is your high school running partner, I've missed you, and I still remember the day that I almost sold you a muffler bearing for your Grandpa's car. I went to Vietnam after you, but I was lucky, I made it back home. God Bless you my Old Friend, I'll see you soon."*

**Ron Brewer**



**Lowell Vernon Ferguson, Jr., C/2/503**

*"Rest in peace with the warriors."*

**Richard Ferguson**

**His brother**

*"My friend. Lowell, we were friends long before the war and the last time that I saw you was at the reception center in Bien Hoa. You were taken away exactly a month after I was wounded, but never forgotten."*

**Ron Wright**

**We were close friends**

**Greg Neal Henderson, C/2/503**

*"Dad. There aren't many days even now some three and a half decades after your death that I don't wonder about you . . . wonder what you'd think of me, what advice you'd give - how you'd be with my boys. Even in your absence you have been a force in my life.*

*I've driven hard you've inspired me in some tough times, made me reflect in the good. I hope I've lived this life well, that I've earned what you've given me –*

*I miss you."*

**Greg Russell Henderson**

**He is my father**

**Jack Lloyd King, E/2/503**

*"Big Brother. I still remember your smile and miss you every day. I love you."*

**Nancy Stevens (King)**

**He is my brother**



**Robert Jesse Kiser, D/4/503**

*"Bob was one of six soldiers killed 4/3/71 by enemy fire and claymore mines. The battle occurred in Military Region II, approximately 30 miles NW of Qui Nhon in the Soui Ca Valley, ten miles inland from the South China Sea. He was in Company D, 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry.*

*He was my first true love. His mom sent me back all of the letters I had sent to Bob in Viet Nam, my last few came back unopened because he didn't live to read them. I have every letter he sent me.*

*Bob was a talented musician, a wonderful pianist, a gentle soul. He hated the war, but loved the Vietnamese people whom he wrote about.*

*Bob took me on a walk through the woods in New Canaan, Connecticut, before leaving for Viet Nam. He had me close my eyes. He led me by the hand with his thumb holding my thumb down as he always did when we held hands....*

*(continued....)*



*....As we continued, the path we were on began to 'crunch' more and more. When we reached our destination he had me open my eyes. We were in the middle of an abandoned quartz quarry which shone brilliantly in the sunlight. The crunching path had been the mica in the dirt leading to the quarry. Bob said that he would knock a piece of the beautiful quartz off for me to keep, but that the beauty was in the depth of the rock, not in any individual small piece. The beauty of Bob was his depth ... depth of gentleness, depth of affection, depth of loving concern for those he loved. I have missed him terribly. One never gets over the loss of their first true love or leaves the hopeful dreams of a life together easily behind.*

*I thank Jehovah God for his mercy and loving kindness. I know I will see Bob again in the resurrection when all the pain and sorrow that today's world brings will be forgotten. Rev 21:1-5. Mom Kiser will be back with her son Bob and his brother Phillip who also lost his life in Vietnam on a third tour, though civilian."*

Submitted lovingly and respectfully.

Pamela Lynn Yale Peterson

His girlfriend

*"I think of you often. We started that day together. The battle separated us. Did not know until the end of the day that you were gone. Your bravery kept others alive. I will never forget you or our friendship."*

Gary Bonaguidi

We were high school classmates



**Martin Terrance McDonald, "Doc", HHC/2/503**  
*"Doc McDonald was a Medic. It was in his heart, his head, and his hands. He was killed in action while performing life-saving first aid on a member of his Recon Team, earning the DSC posthumously."*

[See Page 59 for Doc's DSC citation]

**Lawrence Ray Peel, 173d LRRP/N75**

*"The Reason I Served. To The Uncle I never met. We never had a chance to meet. Your brother my Dad told me stories of you as far back as I can remember and we have visited your grave at Fort Leavenworth as far*

*back as I can remember. Your service and his influenced me to join and fight. We will never forget your sacrifice."*

Unsigned



**Edward Joseph Rog, Jr., "Doc", D/4/503**

*"Thank you to all that keep Doc Rog alive in our hearts, mind and spirit."*

Frank Rog

He is my brother

*"Rest easy my friend. No longer will the heat and rains trouble you. Through the exhaustion of slogging through rice paddies, and jungle mountains you always cared for us. Your memory remains as does the pain of losing a friend. Till we meet again my friend, rest easy."*

Mike Master

*"Friend, I never knew you. I was your replacement. The men in your platoon thought highly of you 'Doc'. They missed you. You could see it in their eyes and hear it in their voices when they talked of you."*

Dry rice paddies beneath a full moon.

Silence,

piercing shattered bone and marrow.

Reaching down,

I close your eyes.

We were very young.

Daryl "Doc" Berlie

**Larry Dean Suedmyer, III, A/1/503**

*"Country Boy. Larry and I went to school together in this small town. We both went to Nam, I came home - He didn't. He was a Good Guy. But for the Grace of God it could have been me. Rest in Peace Larry."*

Will Baley

We were high school classmates

(continued....)



**Donnie Carl Taylor, B/3/503**

*"Oh Donnie, you've missed so much! You would have been so fascinated with all of it.*

*You only lasted two weeks in-country. But you died doing one of the things you loved best: playing poker with that psych degree up your sleeve. We had only been at LZ Uplift two days, and naturally, you had found and gotten into the highest dollar on-going poker game at the base. Those guys would have never known what hit them. And that night, I guess, all four of you never knew what hit you. Four of you, around a Coleman lantern, alone in the middle of the helipad. A random B-40 rocket was anted up right next to the lantern. God cut the cards that night, and the local bad guys dealt em. The house won.*

*I was in the company area, packing my rucksack for the next day's mission. When the rockets and mortars started coming in, the other guys laughed at me as I embarrassed myself in my over-reaction. I heard them cry for a Medic, but my attention was focused on the jokes focused on me. Dan Grossman came running in and told me you had gotten it. We ran to the scene where I experienced both your death scene and the beginning of my personal cataclysm.*

*All those months we were all together at Ft. Benning, you (an older man at 23) was the mother-hen to us younger guys on those wild weekends in town. We could always find you at the motel, drinking gin in your underwear, hosting a marathon poker game and dealing help and assistance and advice to us lost drunken souls. I envied you, an only child of a well-to-do family. An undergrad degree completed, you had a sailboat and a sports car of your own. Things I held as life goals were represented in you. I looked forward to taking up your offer to sail Lake Michigan after our war was over. I looked forward also to reprising our drink-intensified late-nite debates of philosophy and physics and other higher things. The psychologist and the physicist - we were figuring it all out.*



*You would have been fascinated at how we all changed; at how you would have changed. The expected glory of war did not arrive. What came instead was a personal Iliad. Achilles' emotional, physical, and spiritual pain slowly implanted itself into our lives. Ha! We thought we were so smart. Homer wrote not of an hero of action, but of the deconstruction of a mortal man. You see, Donnie, an order of self-destruction becomes apparent in war. The mind goes first, because the un-reality of that too-real Wonderland challenges all that you thought you knew about the world and people and possibilities. The mind puts itself into sleep-mode to protect itself from the dangers of trying to figure it all out. I would love to have heard your take on it.*

*The body starts going next in this order. It first begins a slow degradation, like a fine machine that goes un-oiled, un-maintained, and over-used. We were fine examples of the recruitment poster type when we landed at Cam Rahn Bay. We had been honed into lean, hard, Airborne buck Sgts. We were at our primes - the best physical examples that we could ever be. You did not have the chance to see us wither away through sweat and terror and days-to-weeks-to months of unrelenting over-abundances or lack-of's. We had an abundant supply of hot and cold and rain and mud and bugs and leeches and malaria and diarrhea and bad guys. We lacked rest, sleep, adequate food, hygiene, clean water, most supplies that we really needed, a gun that worked, and a lack of individual worthiness. (We were cogs in a machine that callously abused itself as it was constantly replenished with new boys-as-parts. The machine goes on even now as the individual cogs are spent on maybe important, maybe trivial, maybe wasteful purposes. It became a war symbolic of our society of planned-obsolence: both war and obsolescence are wasteful.) But I'm probably not saying anything new to you, Donnie. The body may or may not last through this process. It may die suddenly amid this slow death. One does not know their own fate when they are going through this. You did not expect death at the time it came for you. I learned to expect it hourly and it wore me out. I learned a new subject matter: Human Body as Mere Matter, This is, I believe now, the ultimate pornography. We became too familiar with bodies....*

*(continued....)*





*....We destroyed them, repaired them, saved them, counted them, searched them, picked up pieces of them, packed the pieces up and shipped them, buried them, dug them up, cried over them, and saw our friends become them. But you would have found interesting the fact that, through this over-familiarization, we saw through mere bodies to the spark that animates them. A spark that is in each of us and common yet unique. We learned the most important part of a human. But maybe you already knew that.*

*This degrading process ends, if one makes it through, in either the destruction or the salvation of the soul. One learns many things, and that these things have intrinsic value. The value of the unlimited love of a man who risks his life to help another. The valued honor given to one who perseveres. The priceless value of being respected by those walking the path with you. The worthiness of those who counsel you in an eloquent silence of shared grief. The bright and clear spirit for potential good residing in all of us. One also learns the darker side of mankind. One learns, despairingly, of the darker potential within themselves.*

*This self-realization shakes the foundation of your spirit and shifts your perception in ways far removed from that of the 'folks back home.' An unbridgeable gulf is thus created that makes you forever apart from society. A naive and lilly-white view of mankind is replaced by one that we find hard to express, and that they refuse to hear. Perhaps you had an undergraduate's understanding of this and could have been the one to finally express it to them in a way they could understand.*

*All of this finally leads the warrior to really question authority. What good society would supply it's sons for such a Jacob's sacrifice? All of us sacrificial sons from all societies must ask this. Sacrifice me, but do not bind my hands and feet and limit my actions like I were a slave.*

*What good government would mine it's citizens as grist for the mill of ideological or national or personal ambition? We universal sons killed each other and stopped the universally miserable foot-soldiers existence; natural allies, we killed our own kindred spirits.*

*What good religious system would bless those sons for utilizing the darkest of human forces to destroy other sons? How can religion justify using the very darkness it claims to save us from?*

*And finally, Donnie, the big question: how can a good God allow such a state of affairs to exist in the world, and in each of us personally? Why does God let this darkness come into and flow outward from each of us,*

*even me? Where was God when I needed him? Maybe, Donnie, you know the answer to this also. At LZ Uplift, I thought it a simple truth that I was lucky, and you were unlucky. I have since become less sure of that judgment.*

*Other changes would have fascinated you also. Those who spat on your coffin now control the paycheck of they who mow the grass over your bones. Those limited-war traitors have become these nuke-war traitors, and are given the same 'pass' by much too permissive watchers. The Lake Michigan you loved to sail on, became horribly polluted yet is now recovered and beautiful. I can almost see you there now, a beer can rolling from gunwale-to-gunwale as you come about on a tack. Wherever you are, I hope the wind is a fair breeze blowing your hair. Sometimes I can imagine your parents turning gray and fading, as a once lively boat rots in its boathouse.*

*What you represent to me has changed. I guess you might find it interesting that I never achieved the degree, the sailboat, or the sports car. But maybe you would not be so surprised at any of this. And Donnie, you are missed.*

*Rest In Peace.*

*Love and Respect,"*

*From Sgt. (E-5) Jack Dunlap*



**Charles F. Thomas, IV, HHB/3/319**

*"Thanks, Buddy. Not a day goes by that I don't think about you. You were taken from us too early, as we still had plenty to do. All of our bravado and big talk in college about dying in combat slammed home on 8 April 1971. Reality hurts. The remaining six from the Magnificent Seven are keeping your memory alive at Western Kentucky University. You may be gone, but will never be forgotten. Thanks for your service and sacrifice for our country."*

*Greg Lowe, We were close friends.*

*(continued....)*



James Ronald Thomas, D/2/503



Howard Otto Warbington, D/4/503

*"Thanks, second cousin, Sonny! I never got to meet you but I've heard a lot from my dad. See ya one day."*

Unsigned

Joseph Michael Youngerman, B/2/503

*"Never forgotten. I will always remember the flag his parents so proudly displayed in their front yard. I was very young during Nam years, but felt the family's pain when this hero sacrificed his life for us!"*

Donna Higgins

Friend of a family member

Louis Arthur Yugel, B/2/503

**Note: We will continue to list our brigade's KIA until all men have been honored. Ed**



*Rest Easy Sky Soldiers*



**I**n 2005, Bill Vose and Gus Vendetti of A/2/503 and I returned to Vietnam and humped into the "D" Zone jungle to find LZ Zulu Zulu where on March 16, 1966, our battalion was surrounded by bad guys. From *The Battle at Bau San*, I recorded these reflections about our arrival there. Ed

## The Ghosts of Zulu-Zulu?

Hello Sky Soldiers, our brothers. We've been waiting for your return to Zulu Zulu, we knew you would come back one day. It's been many years since we were last here together, and much has changed since that early morning when we were all boys fighting these other boys. How senseless we all were then. Tell us man is no longer making war. Tell us we gave up our lives for something good. Our fear has been gone for such a long time now, and we've come to call this jungle our home. It's not so bad really, so don't feel sad for us. Our only regret is not having lived full lives; not having returned home to our parents, our brothers, sisters, wives and, for some of us, our children. Can you tell us about our wives and children? Did our children grow to be good people? Are they happy? In some ways we are better off than each of you today. Today we sense your remorse, we feel your sorrow and your pain, we share your heavy hearts while we rejoice in your lives, and your tears are understood. You may or may not remember our names or our faces, you remember us only as brothers, as we remember you. When you leave this place today we hope you leave behind that part of you which has troubled you for so long -- which has returned you to this place. It is time for you to close this period in your life, it is time for you to move on, to revel in living, the living, and not us, the dead.

Bill, Gus. Did you hear that?

###



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The President of the United States  
in the name of the Congress of the  
United States takes pride in presenting the



## ***MEDAL OF HONOR***

posthumously to

**Don Leslie Michael**

Specialist Four

Army of the United States

for service as set forth in the following citation:

**F**or conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. SP4 Michael, U.S. Army, distinguished himself while serving with Company C (4/503d). SP4 Michael was part of a platoon which was moving through an area of suspected enemy activity. While the rest of the platoon stopped to provide security, the squad to which SP4 Michael was assigned moved forward to investigate signs of recent enemy activity. After moving approximately 125 meters, the squad encountered a single Viet Cong soldier. When he was fired upon by the squad's machine gunner, other Viet Cong opened fire with automatic weapons from a well-concealed bunker to the squad's right front. The volume of enemy fire was so withering as to pin down the entire squad and halt all forward movement. Realizing the gravity of the situation, SP4 Michael exposed himself to throw 2 grenades, but failed to eliminate the enemy position. From his position on the left flank, SP4 Michael maneuvered forward with 2 more grenades until he was within 20 meters of the enemy bunkers, when he again exposed himself to throw 2 grenades, which failed to detonate. Undaunted, SP4 Michael made his way back to the friendly positions to obtain more grenades. With 2 grenades in hand, he again started his perilous move towards the enemy bunker, which by this time was under intense artillery fire from friendly positions. As he neared the bunker, an enemy soldier attacked him from a concealed position.



Senior in High School

SP4 Michael killed him with his rifle and, in spite of the enemy fire and the exploding artillery rounds, was successful in destroying the enemy positions. SP4 Michael took up pursuit of the remnants of the retreating enemy. When his comrades reached SP4 Michael, he had been mortally wounded. His inspiring display of determination and courage saved the lives of many of his comrades and successfully eliminated a destructive enemy force. SP4 Michael's actions were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect the utmost credit upon himself and the U.S. Army.



Soldier in Vietnam



Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Cemetery,  
Lexington, Alabama

Adapted from the photograph by Don Morfe





# Another of the Greatest Generation



We pause here for a moment in memory. Not of a lost Sky Soldier or even a paratrooper, altho it's likely he was jump qualified. We pause in honor of one of *them*.

## LTC William A. Hash, (Ret), age 92



A young Captain Hash

LTC William ("Bill") Hash, an American hero and member of the Greatest Generation, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, passed into eternal rest on March 7, 2013.

He was born in Allegheny County, North Carolina in 1921 in the Piney Creek Community, the first son of Carlie and Sadie Hash.

Bill earned a bachelor of sciences in agricultural education from North Carolina State University at the age of 19. He entered the U.S. Army as a second lieutenant in 1942. He served in WWII and the Korean Conflict, piloting both helicopters and fixed wing aircraft.

The Distinguished Flying Cross, awarded for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight, and the Silver Star, awarded for gallantry in combat, are but two of the military honors Bill earned. Some of Bill's memorable military experiences are reflected in the book, *Black Soldier, White Army. The 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment in Korea*. Bill remained friends with members of the 24th infantry throughout his life, attending monthly luncheons with unit members into his 90s.

While Bill took great pride in his 24 years of military service, the highlight of his personal life was his children; he frequently summed up his life by referencing "*two wars and five daughters*."

After retiring from the service he lived in University Place, WA with his wife Doris Ursich Hash, where they raised their youngest four daughters. Bill returned to college to obtain his teacher certification and taught school in Tacoma for 15 years.

He is survived by his wife Doris; his brother Hugh Hash; daughters Christina Hash Duffey and Billi Hash; stepdaughters Lavonne Ursich, Antoinette Ursich and Thomasina Ursich; grandchildren Tom Brittain, Kristi Edrington, Robert Gwin and Patrick Duffey; and great-grandchildren Landon, Reid and Mia Gwin.

Col. Hash was laid to rest in the Tahoma National Veterans Cemetery at Kent, WA. A memorial took place on Friday, March 29.

Family requests donations to *Operation Support Our Troops – America* (<http://www.osotamerica.org/>) in lieu of flowers.

[Sent in by Hugh "Hubie" Imhof, N75 Ranger, and son in-law of the Colonel]



LTC Bill Hash. Rest easy Fly Boy, you did well.





## PART V

### 503<sup>rd</sup> PIR WWII Journal

See Parts I thru IV of WWII 503d PIR trooper Jerry B. Riseley's 'official journal' in Issues 46, 48, 49 & 50 respectively, of our newsletter. Ed

#### 8 SEPTEMBER 1943



**0600:** Detail fr Hq Co lvs for strip.

**0600:** Patrol left out to Camp Diddy. Lt. Blum took rations out to Bossert,

and Powell. Gen: Transports are landing and taking off on the strip bringing in supplies and a few Aussies. Immediately they land small patrols, come wandering into the Bn CP at Gabsonkek, some 1500 yds from the strip.

**0630:** Regt Cmdr (Col. Kinsler) arrive in a jeep. The era of Jonny Eagerism the General is coming today, police, full dress and shave.

**0630:** Bossert to CO 2nd thru Halo. No contact with enemy heard. Heavy bombing about 3 mi E of our position (Bossert is 500 yds E of BF) will maintain strong point mentioned in No. 2.

**0800:** A Col. USA Engr. arrived in a jeep wondering why in hell they were still dropping food to us with resultant waste of rations, gasoline, and chutes.

**0929:** CO 2nd to Co E. Lt. Summers of Co "C", w/ approx 25 men will be coming thru your position approx 0945.

**0945:** CO 2nd to CO 3rd Bn. Plat Aust left here for your area 0945.

**1024:** Regtl Surg to Regtl. Am at Hall CP.

**1321:** CO Regt to CO Bn. Guinea Gold is not available.

**1400:** 67 planes reported to have landed yesterday. Jap is w/d to Lae. 7th Aust. will move down Markam Valley Rd and expect to contact enemy at Heaths. Lae was extensively bombed last night, 9th Div landed in area of Malahang wreck E of Lae and are attacking Lae

by proceeding N and E thence to Lae. Est. Jap strength Lae and Vic 10,000.

**1420:** CO Regt to CO 2nd. Submit status report as of 0700 hr Report to reach Regtl CP by...

**At first they wanted the mg report by runner by 0800.**

**Regt: 2 1/2 miles. I explained that wandering around early in the AM was not a healthy thing to do.**

**1430:** CO Regt to CO 2nd. Men who were with Col. Kinsler on 5th Sept 43 has returned. Sgt. McNight, Pvts Grady, Alred, Johnson, McCallan.

**On the third day Col. Kinsler returns his body guard.**

**1555:** Capt. Greco brought in the silk wrapped dog tag of Pvt. John M. Parker, 6399671, of Hattiesburg, Miss. Parker's chute did not open, MIA to KIA. S.D. Parker, Rt. 5, Hattiesburg, Miss.

#### *Letter of Condolence*

##### **HEADQUARTERS, 2nd BATTALION 503rd PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT OFFICE OF THE BATTALION COMMANDER**

Mrs. Balsoris Parker  
Bluff, North Carolina

Dear Mrs. Parker:

Your Husband, John Parker, was killed in action against the enemy in New Guinea, 5 September, 1943, during the performance of a combat mission.

I personally knew Pvt. Parker during his entire service with this battalion.

There is little I can say except that I share with you your deep sorrow. I share the intense pride in your husband's performance of duty which is rightfully yours and in the coming years will be felt by your children. Tell them for me that their father was a good soldier, respected and admired by his associates, that he never hesitated or faltered when duty called. Tell them he was a hero, for no man can give more than he gave for his country.

Most Sincerely yours,  
George M. Jones  
Lt. Col. 503rd Prcht Inf  
Commanding

(continued....)



**1420:** 1st Sgt. Co D to CO 2nd. Patrol fr Eras river has returned, went two miles north on river no enemy sighted, saw one native but he escaped. Did not fire at him. Native village west of river appears to be occupied was unable to cross river at this point.

**This 1st Sgt, Sgt Guy, knew enough to make a report, after being on patrol, without having to be chased down for it. Many an officer didn't do as well.**

**1610:** CO 2nd to CO Regt. Patrol fr Camp Diddy reports no evidence enemy activity.

**1708:** CO 2nd to Co E, Lamar rept Heat immediately.

**1710:** CO 2nd to CO Regt. Send Surgeon to Bn CP by jeep as soon as possible.

**1711:** Co D to CO Regt (control). We have a man w/ both arms blown off, is there anyway evac him tonight. Do so by order of Lamar.

**1715:** CO regt to CO 2nd. If next maneuver requires one Bn it will be Det by the unit losing least amount of equipment less ammo and chutes during this battle.

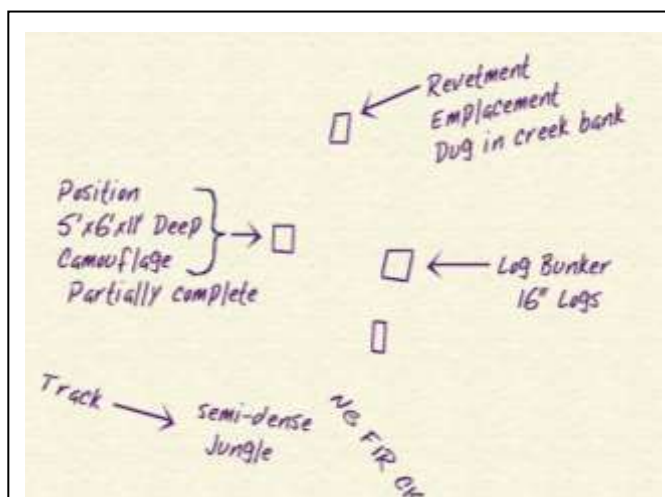
**This is what we call a Kinslerism**

**1718:** CO 2nd to CO Regt. Request info as to disposal of Pvt. Parker. Will do nothing until I get info from you.

**1720:** Lamar Bn Surg to control have jeep at the Bn CP. Hold plane immediate evac matter of life and death. Request no booby trapping until stretcher has passed.

**1725:** CO 2nd to CO Regt. AP mines 900 yds E of BF on trail

**1730:** Sketch of Bunker found by Co F.



This sketch by Capt. Padgett who estimates the bunker and position to have been prepared certainly not before 5 Sept 43, and possibly later. Location trails N of BC.

**1736:** Co F to CO 2nd our area has been booby trapped.

**1800:** Pvt. Elmore, Co D, evacuated, see explanation 9 Sept 43.

**1809:** CO 2nd to Co's D, E, F, booby trap to your front only. Notify when you have done so.

**1810:** CO Regt to CO 2nd. Do not booby trap area around jump field. Detail will be picking up chutes.

**1820:** CO 2nd Bn to CO Regt. Pvt. Elmore Co D, GSW, accidental, evac to Regt.

## 9 SEPTEMBER 1943



**0730:** Duchatel to 7th Aust Div thru Regt. Ref Nadzab 1 in five natives contacted. Sq 4159 Ashton patrol moves at 0800 north to foothills.

Natives report NIL enemy movement. Ashton returning to Henry 1700 hr 10 Sept 43.. 536 radio will accompany patrol advise Angau.

**0745:** Co D, to CO 2nd Bn. Maj. Duchatel is moving out to north foothills w/ patrol. Request Aust Brigade Hq notified is there code name for Aust Brigade, if so please notify Major Duchatel USE.

**0800:** Lts. Bailey and Kish passed through on way to Bossert's.

**0800:** CO Regt to CO 2nd. One Bn will go back tomorrow, but no bn will go back until its chutes are in.

**0830:** Lt. Abbott repts on patrol to CE and Bn FR AW. No enemy found Jap canteen, can of Jap canned heat, small tin of some sort of med supply, Jap MG cover.

**0915:** Capt. Atkins and Chaplain Powers passed in jeep enroute to jump field to pick up Parker's remains.

**0915:** CO 2nd to CO Regt. Request guide promised by Col. Kinsler to guide four man detail to lost equipment. Do you want this detail to report to your CP?

**The equipment referred to here is evidently equipment ordered to be left behind during the approach march by Col. Kinsler. The soldiers who jumped with it were very unhappy over the whole thing.**



(continued....)





**1230:** Col. Kinsler (Regtl Cmdr) arrived by jeep with info that the 25th Brigade will relieve all but left flank platoon of third Bn. 3rd Bn will probably leave by air sometime today. All morning transports have been landing and taking off from the strip. A few Aust patrols have been passing thru including a platoon or Co w/ a weapons cart which had missed the Markam Valley Road coming north from the mission: Activity during night 8-9 an aircraft was heard, sounded like a whiraway.\* A few of the usual shots and explosions but none in the vicinity.

*\*Wirraway - a licence built North American AT-6: the word was an Australian Aboriginal term meaning "challenger" used as a front line fighter (for which it was entirely inadequate) and for Reconnaissance, Artillery Spotting, Dive Bomber, Ground Attack and Supply (for which it was well suited).*

**1330:** Lt. Bradbury rept that 1030 8 Sept 43. Pvt McGinn, Co F, was on recon near bunkers and was surprised by a native. McGinn shot twice with M-1 rifle, native was buried at 1200 hr. 8 Sept 43. Under supervision of Lt. Schuder: Capt. Lamar returned from strip reporting that 3rd Bn also had a total parachute failure and that Parker was buried this AM in chute and full equipment. Parker's grave was dug w/ pickmattox. 1 ADZ, 1 shovel. All abandoned Jap equipment.

**This is a bit of information which was not reported but obtained as the result of the Adjutant's continually questioning everyone about everything. As an Australian jeep driver put it "what the bloody fuck are you, an inquiry reporter?"**

**1410:** Note on Pvt Elmore's accident: He was assisting his squad in preparing a field of fire in front of a LMG. The LMG was loaded. It was not safe. Someone pulled on a vine which pulled the trigger. Result probably loss of one arm, possible loss of both.

**1700:** The Airborne Engineers are bringing jeep size bulldozers, graders, tractors, and like equipment including at least one 2 1/2 ton truck up from the strip and bound for the jump field where another strip is being built. They are carrying blankets and full field. Some of their jeeps are being used to carry chutes back.

**1700:** Said an airborne Eng with visible pride "Those are our jeeps" and a parachutist dug his toe into the dirt "and this," he said "is our ground." The Infantry - she is still the Queen of Battle whether parachute, amphibian or hay foot, strawfoot.

**1835:** CO Regt to CO 2nd. Send four corporals to lv in AM by plane to supervise taking chutes back to Gordonvale.

**2200:** Jeep used to haul chutes from Gabsonkek. Lt. "Sol" Blum proved to be a pretty handy officer - he'd work day and night.

## 10 SEPTEMBER 1943



**0640:** Co E to Lamar (thru F) Lt. Milikin walked into a booby trap. Capt. Lamar left out for Co E.

**0740:** Lt. Fishburn reports to the Bn Cmdr. Details of booby trap accident. Lt. Milikin spent the night at Co F and was coming from that area into Co E, having to pass through Co F plat of Lt. Fishburn.

**"Thomas 'Ripcord' Roberts was a member of the 501st Parachute Battalion and then the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment. He drops a sad fact not heretofore reported. The mortally wounded Miliken begged his litter bearers to clean his fingernails. Strange as this may seem to us reading this account in the comfort and safety of our homes, what do we know? We have not been mortally wounded. Many of us feel as though we have stared death in the face, eyeball to eyeball, but we walked away to live another day. We cannot begin to presume the thoughts that pass through the mind on those who are being gathered into the arms of the grim reaper, from whence no explanations can come.**

**Another sad fact about the death of this young, well-liked lieutenant is that penicillin would have almost certainly saved his life. The grenade segment penetrated through the lining of the abdomen, the peritoneum. The results was the dreaded, but usual, peritonitis which almost always resulted in death. Penicillin cured peritonitis. Unfortunately penicillin was still a few weeks away from the Southwest Pacific Theater."**

**0800:** Lt. Fishburn reld of comd his platoon.

**0835:** Lt. Milikin evac to Regt (grenade wound).

*(Entries in the Journal incorrectly refer to Milikin as Milliken, and have been corrected accordingly).*



*(continued...)*





Lindsay B. Milikin, 1LT, 503d PRCHT INF REGT, Georgia,  
Sept, 14, 1943

**1200:** No transports came in during AM as a slight rain wet the strip.

**1330:** Co E to CO 2nd. 3rd Bn has been reld and Aust have moved in and are moving up artillery.

**1335:** First transport today left strip on jumpr field. (#2 strip)

**1820:** Cpl. Thomas, intel regt, repts that Sgt. Mitchell, Regtl S-2, repts discovery two jap bodies beyond Regtl area to west.

**1820:** Capt. Lamar Osborne evac to dy w/Co E.

**2000:** Lt. Blum repts that 25th Aust Brigade has encountered 12 MG's and mortar fire at Heaths and that 5 jeeps are being used to haul mortar ammo down Markam Road in that direction. (Lt Blum, the Bn Mess Officer assisted Capt. Padgett with S-2 work).

## 11 SEPTEMBER 1943



**0600:** Regt S-3, to CO 2nd. Two platoons papuan Inf Bn will pass thru on way to Camp Diddy.

**0700:** Lt. LaVanchure left out w/ patrol, Munum Rd.

**0830:** 2/4 field amb repts Lt. Milikin's condition surprisingly good.

**1055:** Hardy, WD, Co E, evac.

**1400:** Baker, Co F, evac, malaria.

**1600:** 3rd Bn observed in approach march toward Lae and was reported they would be held in res at Yalo.

**1800:** Capt. Mitchell (Regtl S-3) to Lt. Col. Jones - Two officers for patrol tomorrow. Received word by radio news broadcast that Gabsonkek had finally been taken, after fierce fighting. Said Lt. Col. Jones, that's where we are - We're having a hard time chlorinating our water.

## 12 SEPTEMBER 1943



*Images are courtesy of the Emmett Lee Wester Collection*



**0700:** Lts. McRoberts and Bradbury lv out for patrol of Munum Rd.

**0900:** Both chaplains conduct services

**0900:** I located Father Powers over in front of an old native church. It had a cross inlaid above the door with a queer inscription on it. The next day he repaid me by sending a detail over and cutting out the cross. John Cole, Mayor of Gabsonkek, would no doubt have gladly given it to him. Little things like that don't mean anything. But one likes to know what's going on.

*(continued....)*



**1200:** A composite heavy weapons company taking weapons fr 1st and 2nd Bn - 2 plats (1) 12- 60 MM's (2) 12- 81 MM's. Rumor has it that Major Woods cmdg., Lt. Cobb Ex Officer.

**1200:** CO 2nd tp CO D, move all but one platoon to positions along trail fr AL to CD.

**1210:** Tel conversation overheard on party line w/ 2/4 field amb indicates they are moving two battalions in on Heaths plantation, expect casualties.



**1439:** Pvt. Mulcahy, GSW, Pfc Bachus, malaria, evac Hq 2nd.

**1500:** McRoberts and Bradbury platoon return nothing to rept.

**1500:** Capt. Padgett and Lt. Riseley pay an unofficial social call to 7th Div Hq down by the strip. After practically stumbling over Gen. Vasey's bunk and him in it at that, Capt. Padgett located a Capt. McLay (Aust) and ass't G-2. Capt. McLay said he was very sorry he couldn't offer us a coconut but would we have some water. We would. Had we held out for it, I think he would have put the Billy can on. Capt. McLay's situation map was very simple in its indication of units. *"So it want be too cluttered up."* The friendly troops were indicated in red and the enemy in blue. 1st map was Nadzab 3550 showing areas to within 1/2 mile of Lae. 503 arrow in vic of Nadzab w/patrols to camp Diddy and Munum. The airborne CA (AA) show at vic new strip and Aust and 503 patrols up to and beyond the Erap. Movements toward Lae. The 25th Aust Brigade down Markam road to contact w/ about 200 enemy at Wittakers plantation.

On PM of 5 Sept 43, the enemy was observed to be moving troops from Heaths to Lae by MT, but on 6, 7 Sept 43, after no elements of 503 got to Heaths, the initial franticness of the enemy seems to have disappeared and he MT's them back to Heaths. A Bn of the 25th is cutting north and east of Yalu over the Atzera range with intentions of proceeding down Bumbu river toward Lae. Small Div. patrols are also crossing to the Busu River. The Engrs Bn which crossed the Markam w/natives on 5 Sept 43, has proceeded down the Markam from Markam point. The river is 600 yds here at this (Markam) point. There are about 60 enemy on the other side of river. The Engrs will cut a track from where they are to Wittakers plantation. Info of enemy in this area: A somewhat depleted 41st Div

most of whom are malarious and have been at Lae for some 18 months now. Captured enemy doc indicate that they feel they should be reld by garrison at Madang.

***(These "documents" are soldier bitching letters home)***

A div patrol reports finding 3 outboard engines in mouth of creek south of the Heaths. Landing of the 9th Div at Lae. The Div landed on coast beyond Lae on far side of Busu river. They unfortunately hit Busu in flood and have been having tough going getting across. As at yesterday one Bn had crossed the Busu, had arrived at New Yanga and Malalang mission plantation where they were reportedly meeting Jap resistance. In the air Div intel did not mention friendly air except that they were bombing hell out of Lae. About dusk every night and about dawn every morning the bombing can be heard here. The reason that the enemy has not bombed the position here at Nadzab will be discussed under the big picture.



The big picture:

G-2 "The enemy at Rabaul is too engrossed in activities against the Solomon Islands to be of much aid to Lae.

The enemy at Salamau is completely surrounded by two means of escape, water or to Lae along the track 60 miles along the coast. Taking the coastal track would mean loss of all heavy equipment. The strip at Madang seems to be used only for refueling and rebombing. (In other words it is not a base for maint of planes and pers). The Wewak strip is a little too far to bomb our air positions here or at Tsilli-Tsilli, just as we are a little too far to bomb Wewak. So the situation seems to have reached a stalemate. The garrison at Madang is estimated at a division. The possibility of their moving into the assistance of Lae are as follows:

1- By barge down the coast. Every day our aircraft sink supply barges up and down the coast between Lae and Madang. 2- By land on coast between Lae and Madang. Precluded because no heavy equipment and to many wide mouth streams. 3- Across the range to the E by MT to a small village there and thence by foot, to attack the Nadzab positions from the west. The area to the west is grassy (kunai) and our daily aerial patrols would quickly spot the movement of large bodies of troops in that area. The estimated total time necessary for that move is 18 days.

*(continued....)*





The look of the general situation: Jap at Salamau is lost. Jap at Lae is surrounded. (One possibility evidently not considered by anyone - A rear attack by enemy prcht troops west of Erap river to hold until relieved from Madang). Anyway you look at it the Jap is in a mean way.

**1800:** A repted 147 C-47's landed today - for 40 minutes, one each minute.



*Images are courtesy of the Emmett Lee Wester Collection*



*Riseley's Journal* appears here courtesy of Paul Whitman, 503<sup>rd</sup> Heritage Battalion.

Part VI of the Journal will appear in our May newsletter.



**On 16 February 1945, the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment jumps onto Corregidor.**

(Photo courtesy of the 503<sup>rd</sup> Heritage Bn website)





# 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment

## Deep South Corregidor Reunion

The Deep South Chapter of the 503rd PIR is having their reunion at Port Richey, FL, May 1-5, 2013. Activities will include a visit to historic Tarpon Springs for a boat ride and sightseeing. Also, gambling on a casino boat which embarks right there at Port Richey for a day (or more) for those who like gambling. Lots of good food and shopping as well. Very reasonable prices and everybody is invited!

The banquet room at the hotel will also serve as our hospitality room and we will have an Italian buffet dinner on Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. You may bring your own bottle and we'll provide mixers, soft drinks and snacks.

If you have questions, please call:

**Chuck or Dee Breit at 352-447-3983**

~ Host Hotel ~

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Hotel reservations **MUST BE MADE ONLY** with the **DIRECTOR OF SALES** - Gail J. Cushman between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 4:p.m. on Monday through Friday. Phone 888-279-9756. Some of the room choices are limited in number so make your choice early. There is no charge for a third person and we are tax exempt.

Registration is \$70.00 per person for hospitality room, Wednesday and Saturday night dinners and should be included with your hotel charges and mailed to the address below.

Cancellations made prior to May 1, 2013 will receive a full refund.

### 503<sup>rd</sup> Parachute Combat Team 2013

#### REUNION REGISTRATION

Wednesday, May 1, 2013 to Sunday, May 5, 2013

*Registration Deadline is April 22nd*

How many attending at \$70. per person? \_\_\_\_\_

Please print:

Unit:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

Other guests attending **ONLY** the catered meals with you at a cost of \$22.00 per person per meal:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Wed [ ] Sat

2. \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Wed [ ] Sat

3. \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Wed [ ] Sat

4. \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Wed [ ] Sat

Date you plan to check-in at hotel: \_\_\_\_\_

Date you plan to depart: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Enclosed in my check for reunion registration and hotel room(s) in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] Enclosed is my check for reunion registration only in the amount of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail check payable to:

**503<sup>rd</sup> PRCT Assoc. South**

c/o Chuck Breit

34 Garden Mall Court

Inglis, FL, 34449

(continued....)





## Lots of Activities for your selection!

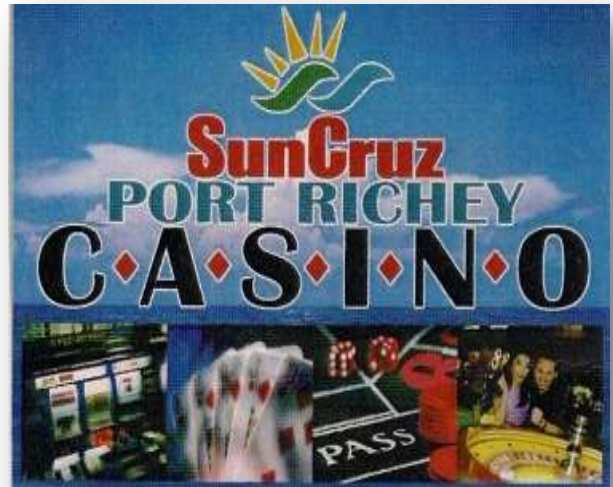
Casino Boat Gambling	S-2 miles
Cruise Boat Port Richey	S-3 miles
Tarpon Springs - Sponge Docks	S-14 miles
Mall - Shopping	S-1 mile
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<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>	<b>12:00 AM</b>

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**800 - 464 - DICE**

Note: Chuck & Dee Breit are inviting all Troopers of the 173d and attached units and their companions to register to attend their reunion, and spend time with our 503<sup>rd</sup> WWII brothers. Ed





# SSG LLOYD FIELDS, JR.

Troop E  
17th Cavalry Regiment  
173d Airborne Brigade (Separate)

was posthumously awarded the  
**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**  
**CITATION FOR AWARD OF THE**  
**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**

Date of Action: 13 April 1966



## Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Lloyd Fields, Jr., Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. On 13 April 1966, Sergeant Fields was serving as Lead Scout, Troop E, 17th Cavalry, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate), while on the assigned mission of clearing an important road ten miles northwest of Song Be. In the early part of the day, the platoon encountered hostile forces resulting in the destruction of several insurgent sniper nests and breaking up of one Viet Cong ambush. As he started up a small hill, Sergeant Fields spotted several Viet Cong in a position for a carefully planned ambush. He immediately fired on them and while his men were moving up to his position they were pinned down by heavy automatic and small arms fire. Realizing that his men could not move until the closest insurgent machine gun was put out of action, Sergeant Fields, without regard for his own personal safety, stood up and shouted for his comrades to cover him while he assaulted and destroyed the machine gun crew and suppressed much of the small arms fire which enabled his men to catch up with him. Again attempting to move up on the Viet Cong, Sergeant Fields was mortally wounded by a sniper. Sergeant Fields' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

HQ US Army, Pacific  
General Orders No. 219  
12 September 1966

# Fearless Soldiers

As usual, I enjoy reading the newsletter. This one (March, Issue 51) was kind of special. Never tired of reading about ZZ (LZ Zulu Zulu, Operation Silver City).

On page 56 Robert Toporek wrote about Charles Beauchamp; what a great write up. For those of us in the LRP Platoon and 2/503 we remember him well. That's not the whole story.

Beauchamp and Zionts came to the LRP Platoon together and left together -- two guys joined at the hip. Zionts got a letter that his wife had given birth. Charley told John that since the LRP had no TO&E he had to go back to the Battalion to get promoted. John said, "OK, lets go." This was sometime around the first of March -- you have the rest of the story.

I guess they were in the recon platoon on the morning of the attack. I ran a lot of LRP patrols with these two. They were great, fearless soldiers that did some scary stuff.

The picture is possibly the last one of Charley. See you in Las Vegas in August.

**Ron Thomas**  
**LRP '65/'66**



**Charley Zionts, B/2/503d, KIA 3/16/66,  
Operation Silver City.**



**Vietnam and All Veterans of Brevard Presents:**

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[roosterusso@cfl.rr.com](mailto:roosterusso@cfl.rr.com)

We normally have a 173d camp at the reunion organized by the late Don Rockholt, A/2/503 LRRP. We're unaware if the camp will be held this year. Ed





# **SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JACK BLAINE BEERS**

Served with Company B, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment, "THE ROCK", 173d Airborne Brigade "SKY SOLDIERS" and became a posthumous recipient of the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS, BRONZE STAR MEDAL with Oak Leaf Cluster, PURPLE HEART, GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL with Five Bronze Loops, NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL with Bronze Star, ARMED FORCES EXPEDITIONARY MEDAL, UNITED NATIONS SERVICE MEDAL, VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN SERVICE MEDAL, and was entitled to wear both the COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE and ARMY PARACHUTIST BADGE.



Citation for posthumous award of the

## **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Jack Blaine Beers, Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company B, 3d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade. Platoon Sergeant Beers distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on the evening of 7 April 1969 during an attack by an estimated reinforced Viet Cong company on his platoon's night location near the town of Bao Loc, Lam Dong Province. Sergeant Beers moved through the

initial barrage of rocket, automatic weapons and small arms fire to reach a section of the perimeter under heavy ground attack, and was painfully wounded by shrapnel from an incoming rocket when he arrived at a machine gun bunker. Despite his injury, he directed that position's fire against the aggressors and momentarily halted their assault. After hearing a rocket hit in the platoon's command post and a cry for help from his radio telephone operator, he started toward the stricken post, but was seriously wounded in the legs and stomach by shrapnel from enemy grenades and rockets as the communists began attacking from all sides. Disregarding his safety, he encouraged his men to hold their positions and crawled to a radio to call for artillery support. Although he was in an exposed location, he continued to adjust artillery strikes until he was mortally wounded by hostile small arms fire. Platoon Sergeant Beers' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

***"THE PROUD YOUNG  
VALOR THAT ROSE  
ABOVE THE MORTAL,  
AND THEN, AT LAST,  
WAS MORTAL  
AFTER ALL.  
YOU ARE NOT  
FORGOTTEN NOR  
SHALL YOU EVER BE."***

Posted by: CLAY MARSTON





# Airborne & Special Operations Museum Fayetteville, NC



The United States Army has notified the ASOM Foundation of a change of hours of operation for the Airborne & Special Operations Museum.

Due to fiscal constraints, beginning **April 1, 2013** the ASOM will only be open as follows:

**Monday-Thursday: CLOSED**

**Friday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Sunday: 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

We are sorry for any inconvenience this might cause. We are hoping this is only temporary. Please continue your support of this great institution. Our many events will still be held.

Check in with our website frequently for updates as we receive them: [www.asomf.org](http://www.asomf.org)

[Sent in by Ken Smith, A/D/2/503d]



## Richard Lock A Bravo Bull, 2/503



Richard Lock (72) of Sarasota left this world on January 20, 2013 to be with his Lord, with his loving family near him, ending his battle with cancer. Richard was born on July 11, 1940 to the late James and Ruth (Burton) Lock. Richard was a decorated Vietnam veteran and he was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Valor. He was a devoted patriot, whose love for his country was second only to God and his family.

He served with the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force National Guard. He was an active member in his church and never missed an opportunity to help his fellow man. His devotion and kindness to others was an example for all. A loving and devoted husband to his wife Peggy for 48 years and loving father to his three sons, Dwayne (Teresa), Bryan (Theresa) and Keith (Amy). He is also survived by his brother, Howard of Long Beach, MS, sister, Alice Sanders of Michigan City, IN, and his four grandchildren, Kendall, Cameron, Ashley and Jessica Lock. He will be greatly missed and has left an indelible impression on so many lives. The family received on Wed. Jan. 23, 2013 at Shannon Funeral Home Town Chapel in Bradenton, FL where a Masonic service and celebration of his life was held, followed at Sarasota National Cemetery with final military honors.

Condolences for the family may be made online at [www.shannonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.shannonfuneralhomes.com).

In a note received from his wife, Peggy:

***“Just wanted to tell the guys that Richard S. Lock passed away on January 20, 2013. AKA “Lowering Line Lock”.***



*Rest easy Sky Soldier*



## More Memories of the late Bravo Bull, Russ Howe

Russ was the second person I met in the 173d. I arrived at B/2/503 one evening in May, '64. John Sahm was a Sp/4 at that time and he drove me to the Company from either the repl company or BN HQ. Russ was waiting for me at the door of B Co. He was a Sgt E5 and was the acting Weapons Platoon Sgt. His greeting to me was: *"You're an E6 with a Weapons Platoon MOS. Thank God! You will be the new Platoon Sergeant and I won't have to do that f@#\$ing job anymore!"* Russ became a good friend and we remained so until his recent death. Russ was a medic in Korea during that war. His knowledge of medicine, especially hangover cures, probably saved my stripes on Okinawa. That's a story for another day. AATW!

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

## Happy Birthday this month to Reggie 'Reggie' Smith the editor's Bride, 29...again.

Reggie, seen here at her home on Merritt Island, Florida on the day before Easter 2013. She has opened her home, her refrigerator and her heart to countless vets over the years, mostly Sky Soldiers, as they sought help for their PTSD.



Happy Birthday Bride. For a Leg, you done well kiddo. LYL

## Is This B Med?



Peyton Ligon, B/4/503, sent in this photo wanting to know if this medical facility is B Med. Believe one of our medics once stated he was 99% sure it was. Can anyone confirm? Thanks. Ed

Which raises a question. In late '66 while on an operation I came down with a nasty case of malaria. They called in a dust off and took me to what I recall being a small Mash-type unit somewhere. Suppose it's possible it was B Med, but did we have smaller medical facilities scatters around the place? Was only there a couple days. Thanks. Ed



Sent in by Dan 'The Wild' Smith,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Leg Son of the Editor.





## MARTIN T. MCDONALD

Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company,  
2d Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment,  
173rd Airborne Brigade,  
Date of Action: April 10, 1971

### Citation:



The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Martin Terrance McDonald, Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army, for



extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade. Specialist Four McDonald distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 10 April 1971. On that date Specialist McDonald was serving as a medical aidman for a six man reconnaissance team on an offensive mission in Phu My District, when the team was taken under fire by an estimated platoon-sized enemy force. The enemy-initiated contact included rockets, machine-gun and automatic small arms fire. In the initial hail of fire, the team leader was severely wounded, and the remainder of the team was halted a short distance away, leaving him in an open, vulnerable position. Specialist McDonald, although wounded himself during the initial contact, realized the extreme danger his team leader was in and, with total disregard for his personal safety, exposed himself to the intense enemy fire and ran to the aid of his fallen team leader. He then placed himself between the team leader and the enemy and began returning fire. An incoming rocket landed nearby, wounding him for the second time as the force of the explosion knocked him to the ground. He immediately recovered and rolled over on his team leader to protect him from the enemy fire. Realizing that further movement was impossible, Specialist McDonald stood up between the enemy and the severely wounded man and began placing accurate semi-automatic fire upon the enemy positions, until he was mortally wounded by an enemy rocket. Specialist Four McDonald's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

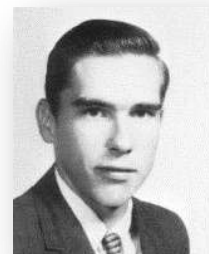
## SERGEANT ROBERT GENE FLOYD

Served with Company C, 3d Battalion,  
503rd Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne  
Brigade and was posthumously awarded the  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS  
Date of Action: 31 March - 1 April 1970

### Citation:



The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Robert Gene Floyd, Specialist Fourth Class, U.S. Army, for



extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Company C, 3d Battalion, 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade. Specialist Four Floyd distinguished himself while serving as a member of a night offensive position in Phu Yen Province. During the late evening hours of 31 March 1970, specialist Floyd and his squad were positioned outside a small Vietnamese village when they were attacked by a numerically superior force of enemy soldiers. During the initial attack, the friendly machine gun position was heavily damaged by the enemy fire. Specialist Floyd disregarded the devastating enemy fire to run to the aid of the disabled machine gun crew. After administering to the wounded crew, Specialist Floyd carried the machine gun to the heaviest point of enemy contact. From his exposed position, Specialist Floyd placed devastating fire on the enemy elements forcing them to retreat. The enemy regrouped and launched a second attack and advanced to within thirty meters of Specialist Floyd's position. However, the determined defensive fire of Specialist Floyd and his comrades again repulsed the enemy. The enemy regrouped and launched a third attack on the position from a different direction. Specialist Floyd moved through the intense enemy fire again to position his machine gun at the heaviest point of enemy contact. As his comrades fell wounded beside him, Specialist Floyd refused to withdraw. He continued placing devastating machine gun fire on the enemy until he was killed instantly by a barrage of enemy rocket fire. Specialist Floyd's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army





## 25 Disturbing Facts About Psych Drugs, Soldiers and Suicides

We are living in an age of upside-downs, where right is wrong, fiction is truth and war is peace. Those who fight the wars are subjected to their own house of mirrors via pharmaceutical "treatments." Instead of providing U.S. soldiers and veterans with actual health care, the government throws pills at them and calls it "therapy."

Stimulants, antidepressants, anti-psychotics, sedatives and pain meds are the new "fuel" for America's front-line forces. While the idea of sending medicated soldiers into battle was unthinkable just three decades ago, today it's the status quo. And the cost in human lives has never been more tragic.

Here are 25 disturbing facts about psych drugs, soldiers and suicides. They are disturbing because everybody seems to be pretending there is no link between psychiatric drugs and soldier suicides. So soldiers and veterans keep dying while the Pentagon (and the VA) keep pretending they don't know why.

- 1) 33% of the U.S. Army is on prescription medications, and nearly a quarter of those are on psychotropic drugs.
- 2) In 2010, the Pentagon spent \$280 million on psychiatric drugs. That number has since risen.
- 3) There are now over 8,000 suicides each year by U.S. soldiers and veterans; that's over 22 a day.
- 4) 33% of those suicides are attributed to medication side effects.
- 5) That means medications are killing more U.S. soldiers and veterans than Al-Qaeda.
- 6) 500% more soldiers abuse prescription drugs than illegal street drugs.
- 7) Under the Obama administration, the number of veterans waiting for VA care has risen from 11,000 in 2009 to 245,000 today. (**See note about claims. Ed**)
- 8) More active duty soldiers die from suicide than from combat: 349 dead last year.
- 9) The number of prescriptions for Ritalin and Adderall written for active-duty soldiers has increased 1,000% in the last five years.
- 10) For every active-duty service member who dies in battle, **25 veterans die by suicide.**
- 11) Only 1 percent of Americans have served in the Middle East, but veterans of combat there make up 20% of all suicides in the United States.
- 12) The suicide rate of active-duty soldiers in the Civil War was only 9 - 15 per 100,000 soldiers. The suicide rate of active-duty U.S. soldiers in the Middle East is 23 per 100,000. And casualty rates were far higher in the Civil War, meaning the Civil War was more psychologically traumatic.

13) In the Korean War, the suicide rate among active-duty military soldiers was only 11 per 100,000.

14) To date, the Pentagon has spent more than a billion dollars on psychiatric drugs, making it one of the largest customers of Big Pharma.

15) In 2010, over 213,000 active-duty military personnel were taking medications considered "high risk".

16) In the years since the Iraq War began, twice as many soldiers of the Texas Army National Guard have died of suicide than in combat.

17) Defense Secretary Leon Panetta calls military suicides an "epidemic".

18) Of all the branches of the military, the Army has the highest number of suicides each year, almost 400% more than the Marines.

19) Most active-duty soldiers who take psychiatric medications consume **a combination** of three to five prescriptions.

20) The use of prescription medications by active-duty soldiers is **largely unregulated**. Soldiers are given a bottle of meds and sent into combat. If they run out of meds, they are given a refill, no questions asked.

21) The mainstream media says the answer to lowering suicides of veterans is to **take away their guns** so that they cannot shoot themselves. This is the logical equivalent to trying to fix your car's engine by removing the "check engine" light.

22) The Pentagon is initiating new research (in 2013) to try to figure out why psychiatric medications cause soldiers to commit suicide. The research involves tracking brain activity by attaching electrodes to the skull.

23) One-third of military suicides are committed by soldiers **who have never seen combat**.

24) In the last year, the military wrote over 54,000 prescriptions for Seroquel to soldiers, and all those prescriptions were "off label," meaning the intended use has never been approved by the FDA as safe or effective.

25) Dr. Bart Billings, a retired Army Colonel and former military psychologist, refers to psychiatric drugs as a "**chemical lobotomy**" for soldiers.

(Source: NaturalNews, [naturalnews.com](http://naturalnews.com))

[Sent in by Tom Conley, HHC/C/2/503d]

**Note:** According to recent reports, at least 70 percent of the disability claims take 125 days to process. CNN host Candy Crowley noted "the number of backlogged claims was 164,000 in October of 2009; today it is 630,000." Other estimates put it at upwards of 900,000. Ed



## ROBERT McNAMARA The Statistics Man

Robert Strange McNamara always seemed destined for great things. A graduate of Berkeley and Harvard, President of the Ford Motor Company, and then Secretary of Defense under both Kennedy and Johnson, he was dynamic, persuasive, and energetic, as well as defiant and someone who did not suffer fools gladly. In Kennedy's words he was *"the most dangerous man in the Cabinet."*

Though one of the most influential advisers during the Vietnam War because of his organizational talents, his flaw was to subscribe to Vietnam as a numbers game. His calculation was, if we have X military capability and the enemy has Y, then if X is the greater force, we will win. This gained him the name *"the statistics man."*

During the early years of the Vietnam conflict, he was one of the most passionate advocates of escalation. As early as 1963 he was proclaiming the war won. But the war took its toll on many people's beliefs, not least McNamara.

By late 1967 he recommended to Johnson that the JCS (Joint Chiefs of Staff) plans for further expansion of the war be rejected. In its place, he sought negotiations and U.S. troops withdrawal. With these recommendations, he moved into the post of President of the World Bank. Later, McNamara accepted that he and his advisers had been blind to the realities of fighting the Vietnam War.

*NAM, A Photographic History*

By Leo J. Daugherty & Gregory Louis Mattson



McNamara & Westmoreland in Vietnam. (Web photo)

A politician blind to fighting the Vietnam War....  
who woulda thought.

## Airborne Awards Festival



I have been asked to make the following information available to our Chapter members.

The annual Airborne Awards Festival will be held April 3-6, 2013 in Atlanta, Ga. In years past this has been a big event with 400 to 500 attending managed by Don Lassen. Don has passed away and the Atlanta Chapter is attempting to keep the 'Awards' on going. Very few have registered so far due to many factors i.e. Troopers who can't travel anymore, cut in Military travel expenses, economic conditions, price of gas etc. If you want the itinerary on this event contact the following person:

**Edward Howard, Secretary of Atlanta Chapter**  
Phn: **706-577-3009**, Email: [EKHoward@knology.net](mailto:EKHoward@knology.net)

**Robert Winkler**  
**Akron Chairman**  
**82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Assoc.**

## Humpin'

If an infantryman wasn't on guard duty, and he wasn't busy with one of the countless tasks his superiors gave him, he was probably out on patrol -- across swamps, through jungles, up valleys, over mountains -- looking for enemy troops, setting ambushes, avoiding mines and trying to stay alive.

Brooding over maps back in headquarters, the operations planners spoke of allocating "combat missions," "reconnaissance sweeps," and "clearing actions."

The soldier spoke of himself as a "grunt" and called what he did "humpin'." For the man who had to walk the miles plotted on the planners' maps, patrols were always the same two things -- too long and too far.

Excerpt from *A Contagion of War* by Terrence Maitland,  
Peter McInerney and the editors of Boston Publishing Co.



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## **CAN YA HELP MY FRIEND ??**



**I'm reaching out on behalf of a friend of mine who needs some help WHO wishes to remain anonymous. His wife told him to go out and get some of those pills that would help him get an erection. When he came back, he handed her diet pills. ANYWAY, he's looking for a place to live. CAN YOU HELP HIM ?**

Thanks to Frank Dukes, A/2/503 for sending this in. We think Dukes is still living at home, but we're not completely sure. Most importantly, he still has his golf clubs.





# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Activation of the 173d Airborne Brigade Ft. Benning, GA, March 21-24, 2013



Fryar Field Drop Zone before the night jump. (Photo by Ann & Johnny Graham, C/2/503d, '65/'66)



Steve Haber, C/2/503d, '65/'66, with wife Joan at Memorial



4/503d Reception at National Infantry Museum





Night jump at Fryar DZ. Doing what they do best. (Photo by the Graham's)



Col. Ken Smith with friend at the 173d Memorial preparing for *The Reading of the Names*. (Photo by the Graham's)







The tears. Always the tears. (Photo by the Graham's)



*In memory.* (Photo by the Graham's)



Wreaths at the Memorial. (Photo by the Graham's)







Sky Soldiers, the young and the old, paying tribute to their fallen brothers, and All The Way. (Photo by the Graham's)



Kathy & Roger Dick, C/2/503d, following jump class graduation ceremonies near the Towers. (Photo by the Graham's)



*Who says we ain't gonna jump no more?!*  
(Photo by the Graham's)





*I'm not as good as I once was, but I'm once as good as I ever was. Geronimo!!! (Photo by the Graham's)*



*Feet & knees together trooper!  
(Photo by the Graham's)*



*Colors (Photo by the Graham's)*





# THE BRIGADE ORDER OF BATTLE

5 MAY 1965 - 25 AUGUST 1971

## 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

1ST BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503D INFANTRY  
2ND BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503D INFANTRY  
3RD BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503D INFANTRY  
4TH BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 503D INFANTRY  
3RD BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 39TH ARTILLERY  
173D SUPPORT BATTALION (AIRBORNE)  
HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY.  
173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE  
173D ENGINEER COMPANY (AIRBORNE)  
COMPANY D. (AIRBORNE), 16TH ARMOR  
TROOP E. (AIRBORNE), 17TH CAVALRY  
COMPANY N. 75TH INFANTRY (RANGER)  
534TH SIGNAL COMPANY (AIRBORNE)  
39TH INFANTRY SCOUT DOG PLATOON (AIRBORNE)  
173D MILITARY POLICE PLATOON (AIRBORNE)  
CASPER AVIATION PLATOON  
24TH MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT  
46TH ENGINEER DETACHMENT (UTILITY)  
46TH PUBLIC INFORMATION DETACHMENT  
51ST CHEMICAL DETACHMENT  
74TH INFANTRY DETACHMENT (LONG RANGE PATROL)  
75TH INFANTRY DETACHMENT COMBAT TRACKERS  
(SCOUT DOG)  
172ND MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT  
404TH RADIO RESEARCH UNIT DETACHMENT  
628TH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DETACHMENT  
(ORDER OF BATTLE)  
173D SIGNAL COMPANY (PROVISIONAL)  
E COMPANY SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION (PROVISIONAL)  
TUY HOA ARMOR COMPANY (PROVISIONAL)  
1ST ANGLICO  
18TH USAF TACTICAL CONTROL PARTY  
41ST ARTILLERY GROUP LN PARTY  
52ND ARTILLERY GROUP LN PARTY  
USAF TALO

## ATTACHED U.S. ARMY UNITS

1ST BATTALION (MECHANIZED), 50TH INFANTRY  
1ST BATTALION, 69TH ARMOR  
3RD BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY (AIRMOBILE)  
335TH ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY (COWBOYS)  
COMPANY A. 82ND AVIATION BATTALION  
COMPANY C. 75TH INFANTRY (RANGER)  
COMPANY E (LONG RANGE PATROL), 20TH INFANTRY  
(AIRBORNE)  
3RD RADIO RESEARCH UNIT, 1ST DETACHMENT  
4TH PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS DETACHMENT  
54TH GROUND SURVEILLANCE RADAR

## ATTACHED ALLIED UNITS

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT GROUP  
1ST BATTALION, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT  
1ST ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIER GROUP  
105TH FIELD ARTILLERY BATTERY  
3RD FIELD TROOP, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS  
161 INDEPENDENT RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHT  
1ST AUSTRALIAN LOGISTIC SUPPORT COMPANY  
161ST FIELD BATTERY, ROYAL NEW ZEALAND ARTILLERY  
INTERPRETERS DETACHMENT, ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

At the Memorial. (Photo by Kathy & Roger Dick, C/2/503, '67/'68)







Our MOH recipients. (Photo by Kathy & Roger Dick)





Entrance to the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA. We were once him. (Photo by Kathy & Roger Dick)

