

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

**WE TRY  
HARDER!**

**2/503d**  
**VIETNAM**  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *newsletter*



May 2013, Issue 53  
Contact: [rto173d@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rto173d@cfl.rr.com)

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)

## ~ 173d Image of the Month ~



Artwork from the web, artist not named but likely one of ours. If someone knows who the artist is please send in name.

Source: [www.173rdairborne.net/misc4.htm](http://www.173rdairborne.net/misc4.htm)



# Chaplain's Corner

## Camp Alpha -- Ham & Lima Beans and ETS

Just reading those words above brings back many memories of the 2/503. Camp Alpha was the start - the C-ration cans of "Ham & Lima Beans" were a fond memory of that adventure, and ETS - going back to Camp Alpha and then the "freedom bird" back to home.



Cap

It's been my privilege to share some of those memories and others with you for this past year in this Chaplain's Corner. Permit me to use this last column of mine and close out my stay with you with a few memories.

Not sure it's true, but I thought everyone who went to Vietnam started their adventure in Camp Alpha. Thankfully for me it was brief and short, and I was off to join Alpha 2/503.

Remember your first days with the "Herd"? Mine started with the realization that the previous company commander had restricted all the officers to their hooch and they were not allowed out except for operations, including Lt's Vendetti and Vose, and (the late) Capt Southard. My first 'command decision' was to release them from confinement -- and I still hear some folks at reunions say that it might have been a poor decision.

When I turned the company over to my replacement, Ed Carns 6 months later, I knew there were several groups that never received the recognition they deserved - the medics being one. Doc's Beaton and Berry (KIA) were uppermost in my mind. Today I'm a member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart and have the opportunity to speak at the graduation of the Special Forces Medic Course (MOS 18D's), and in my talk I mention our medics and their bravery and sacrifice.

Without communications nothing happens -- well nothing good anyway. My lesson learned was when my RTO, William Johnson, kept grabbing my arm during a firefight we were engaged in. I kept telling him I didn't have time to talk to Col Sigholtz, but would call him as soon as we had the fight under control. The next thing I knew Johnson took off his radio and gave it to me saying..."Col Sigholtz said that I am relieved and that you are to carry the radio and you are to speak to him every time he wants to speak to you. I'm to tell him that you understand." Lesson Learned? Yes, and Johnson became the RTO again that night -- *Praise the Lord!* And then there was Jim Gettel, an A+ guy - great commo.

Each of you probably have a specific memory of a day, a fight, an incident that still is clear in your memory even after these many years. For me it was June 29th, 1966 when we met up with the 308th Viet Cong Main Force Battalion. Tuff day - we lost 12 KIA's and 21 WIA's by the time the battle was over. Did you see our Chaplain, Connie Walker, and his actions under fire? He was awarded the Silver Star; and how about Doc Berry (KIA), also awarded the Silver Star; and (the late) Charlie Morris, recipient of the Medal of Honor. It was my honor to see Morris many times in the years to follow and note the manner in which he conducted himself and wore that medal. He was an exceptional American hero. He wore it not just for his actions, but in honor and memory of the rest of the 3rd Platoon - those who lived and those who were killed in action that day.



**SSG Charlie Morris, A/2/503d, presented with the Medal of Honor from President Johnson at White House ceremony.**

*(continued....)*



You might ask who was that one guy that made the difference in A/2/503? Looking back I think I'd describe him as being average, an everyday type of guy, hard-working and yes, a somewhat grubby and downtrodden airborne infantryman. He, as I recall, bore the brunt of every battle we were in and served as an example of what needed to be done, and got it done! His name was *Clem Green*. Yeah, I know that was just a mythical name that was used. But he was the guy we were to look up to, the guy that was the point of all our successes. *Clem was A Company!* A sign posted near the entrance to "A" Company at the 2/503d's Camp Zinn, proudly announced to all visitors: "*Welcome to Alpha Company - Home of Clem Green*". He was, is, and in my mind will always be...one heck of a soldier!



After turning over the company to Capt Ed Carns, I moved to Brigade and had the privilege and honor to serve as the Aide for our Brigade Commander, Brigadier General John R. Deane. Think of it -- Co A and Clem Green and then Gen Deane...my days with the 173d were "the best"!

Well...that's a brief reminder for me of my time with the 2/503 and...for this past year with you in the Chaplain's Corner. Yes, Camp Alpha, those C-ration Ham and Lima Beans and ETS are all gone. They were, thinking back, like being in a race. Running the race was, is and will be a part of each of our lives.

In Hebrews 12:1 the Bible says, "*Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.*" How should you and I run this race? Well...in Greece there's a place seldom visited where the Isthmian Games, a forerunner

to today's Olympics, were held. It was a place where the athletes trained. They would strap weights to their legs, but on the day of the race these were stripped off so they wouldn't hinder the runner. In the life of a Christian our preparation starts the day we accept Christ and it ends on that day when we will meet Him face to face. To reach the finish line as a winner we must eliminate or strip off anything that slows us down (hinders spiritual progress) and anything that might cause us to stumble and not finish our race. We need to check our level of commitment to the Lord, our life at home, relationships with others, our work ethic, and habits. For the Greek, victory meant a garland that unfortunately would wither...but you Sir will "*receive a crown of glory that will never fade.*" (1 Peter 5:4).

The questions for us are...#1. Is this crown of glory worth running the race? Oh yes! Then #2. Who are the runners? The answer is....

***We Few, We Happy Few, We Band of Brothers.***

It's been a privilege and honor to share with you this past year.

His blessings for each of you... you're the best!

Jack

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



*Dear Cap:*

*On behalf of the Sky Soldiers of our battalion and our brigade, their families, and friends of Sky Soldiers everywhere, we greatly appreciate the ongoing and consistent upbeat messages you shared with us in your Chaplain's Corner these past twelve months. You've done much to raise spirits while offering words of healing and wisdom and brotherhood. Thank you Sir, and All The Way!*

***Your few, your happy few, your band of brothers***



# THE BRIGADE'S 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

On March 26, 1963, an experiment began that would change the lives of generations of warriors, their loved ones and our Army. It was the birth of the first, and only, separate Airborne Brigade in the United States Army. It was led by a soldier who both understood and appreciated the strategic value of a parachute assault capable unit as well as the flexibility and mobility of a self-contained, self-supporting separate Brigade.

The exploits of the Sky Soldier Brigade, both in the Vietnam era and in the current struggle against terrorism are well known and need not be repeated here. Fighting with warriors attached to the Brigade from Australia and New Zealand in Vietnam, and alongside soldiers from NATO Allies and other members of the international community, Sky Soldiers have set a standard of excellence that other units only hope to equal.

An often overlooked benefit to the nation emanating from the Brigade's service in Vietnam and continuing through the present is its role as a leadership development laboratory. Superior leaders at all ranks recruited and honed the skills of promising warriors to produce generation after generation of the Army's leadership. By every standard imaginable, the experiment began 50 years ago was and continues to be a smashing success!

It was not surprising that more than 600 Sky Soldier warriors, active duty and veterans, and their friends and families, gathered at the 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial on the Campus of the National Infantry Museum to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the activation of the 173d Airborne Brigade.



Gold Star families joined veterans and families of currently serving soldiers to clean the Memorial. Following remarks by Memorial Foundation member BG (R) Jim Yarbrough, reminding us of the Brigade's heritage and accomplishments, veterans, Gold Star families and volunteers from all generations read the names of 1,678 Americans, Australians and New Zealanders who were taken from us in the Republic of Vietnam.



Ranger Training Regiment Commander Colonel Kyle Lear, a Sky Soldier, spoke movingly of the post 2000 Brigade's adherence to the standard of military excellence established by Sky Soldiers in the 1960's and 1970's, to include its parachute assault accomplishments, at the start of the evening candlelight service. Following the poignant and often gut-wrenching reading of the names of 92 warriors who were taken from us in Iraq and Afghanistan by Gold Star families and veterans of those conflicts, a Sky Soldier color guard and firing party rendered final honors.

Final goodbyes, that were preceded by those articulated at numerous mini-reunions and gatherings that occurred over the three day celebration and commemoration, were spoken following a prayer service at the Memorial on Sunday morning.

Military Excellence! Unparalleled heroism!  
Exceptional service and dedication to the nation! SKY SOLDIERS!

**Ken Smith, Col (Ret)**  
A/D/2/503d



# Remembering Febe

## William Francis Brice, Jr.

This was my first experience of losing a friend over there and one that affects me deeply. So I would like to tell you about my friend Febe.

They say one of the roads to therapy is to write out your experiences, so this is the first. There are so many stories out there that should be told, but this one is mine. It bothers me throughout the year, but come May 27, it is very well known that I can't help being alone and thinking about my friend, Febe.

The first time I met Febe was while I was getting ready to ship off to English in March 15, 1968. I was going to my new unit, E Co 2/503, who were sitting on a mountaintop overlooking the South China Sea.

He was on his way to R&R when our paths crossed in Cam Rahn Bay. I happened to ask him for a cigarette and he gave me three packs, all he had. I told him I couldn't accept all his cigarettes, but he laughed and said not to worry, he can get all he wants.

You could tell that he was a seasoned Veteran, with his wrinkled fatigues and deep tan; depicted by only those who have served any amount of time in the Boonies. I, on the other hand, could be spotted a mile away, as if I wore a sign on my forehead reading "CHERRY", with milk white skin and the unavoidable white skin head, from completing jump school.

As it was, he was the best friend of someone who I grew close to as a friend, Mike Bates. So I spent a lot of time with him before he started driving the jeep. He was affable, could play guitar, although none of us could carry a note, but a few Blackstone Beers and we thought we were harmonizing like the Commadores, lol.

The last time I saw Febe alive was on May 27, 1968. He had brought in an officer to North English for the day. It allowed us to catch up and have some needed laughs. Around 5:45, the officer wanted to get back to the luxuries of English, so they all mounted the jeep, plus one. I hated it, but the other individual just came in from the field and was catching a ride back. I knew of him, he was not in country long, maybe two months, not sure, but he left a wife and small baby.

Bates and I were concerned, as everyone knew the highway outside N. English that went to English was

generally known as off limits after 5. It was then taken back by Charlie. We tried to talk him and the OD out of not going back as it was later than when they should be on that road. But the officer wanted to get back as mentioned. We were disappointed, as we saw a night lost of drinking, harmonizing and laughing, but still had genuine concern about them being on the road that late.

We said our goodbyes, and they turned onto the dirt road leading out of the compound, to the highway. Someone could probably tell me the distance, but I am going to guess about a few hundred yards as he made his turn onto that highway. The VC detonated a road mine from a dilapidated half of a building and then shot them up. Everything happened so fast. We could clearly hear and see the billowing dirt from the detonation. I could not look at Febe when they brought him back -- I was told he was badly burned and I wanted to remember him as I knew him.

So every May 27, I find a spot of solitude and cry my eyes out. I think of him often, down on myself for not seeking out his parents and telling them about the Febe I knew; outgoing, dependable, would give his last cigarettes to a cherry he did not know. I will carry that cross.

Febe probably would laugh if he knew that I owe him a part of my PTSD rating...all they had to do in our initial meeting, "so tell me about your experience in Viet Nam." I couldn't get a word out for half an hour.

I miss you Febe and we will ride Motorcycles together in the not too distant future. In the meantime, keep them laughing.....

**Bob Lohr**  
E/2/503d  
[boblrohr88@aol.com](mailto:boblrohr88@aol.com)



## **William Francis Brice, Jr**

**Sergeant**

**E CO, 2ND BN, 503RD INFANTRY**

**173D ABN BDE, USARV**

**Army of the United States**

**Dover, New Jersey**

**May 03, 1945 to May 27, 1968**

**Panel W65, Line 5**





## **INCOMING!**

~ A Full Regiment ~

Just to notify you of an error in your 173d legacy article (Issue 52, Pages 5-6). During the battle of Hill 65 (Operation Hump) the 1/503d didn't encounter a VC *battalion* but instead as a battalion we encountered a *full regiment* of the elite VC 9th Division. Some days later the 1st ID overran two VC hospitals and their records indicated over 800 of the regiment were either killed in the battle or died later from wounds received during the battle. That piece of information was found by Al Conetto during his intensive research of the operation for a book he hopes to soon have in print which details the battle. That casualty figure is almost double the 403 that BG Williamson guessed and was the figure recorded on our Presidential Unit Citation. Good article, great legacy, great unit.

**Dutch Holland**  
**B/1/503d**

~ April Newsletter Cover Photo ~

Thank you for putting the picture on the front page of the April issue. I wish I could locate some of these guys.

**Dan Fritzman**  
**A/2/503d**



**April cover photo:**  
**"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)

**Note:** If you recognize any of the troopers shown in the above photo, please contact Dan at [cricker3@yahoo.com](mailto:cricker3@yahoo.com)

## **Breaking News!**

**Kim Jong-un and the North Korean Navy set off to invade the U.S.**



*U.S. defense forces are amassing along the west coast and in Austin, TX in anticipation of the attack they expect to occur sometime in the Spring of 2018, fair seas and following winds allowing. The U.S. Defense Secretary was quoted as saying, "Are you shitting me?"*

[Photo sent in by an alert Reed Cundiff, 173d LRRP]

## **WHODAT?**



**Who can identify this super-duper para-trooper, #677?**  
**Hint: One of Delta's best.**



## Gordy Erspamer: Champion of Veterans

Last week I met with two military brothers and expressed my condolences for the loss of their brother, Keith, a two-tour Vietnam infantryman riddled with PTSD to the degree that he never even married because he didn't want to subject another human being to his torment. Keith's brother called me for an emergency appointment after his brother collapsed and died in his arms on the way from the ambulance to the Emergency Room of congestive heart failure two weeks ago.

I had evaluated Keith for his PTSD over two years ago. **He was still waiting for adjudication of VA disability claim on the day he died.**

Although I had plans to attend the funeral of this fallen warrior, upon arriving at the office I was side-tracked by an Afghanistan veteran who had been involved in 18 IED explosions and was struggling with his VA claim and getting adequate services for himself and his wife and young son. I was also balancing another delicate veteran who has served in every conflict America has been involved in over the past 30 years to include the Muriel Boat Lift, the Iran Hostage Rescue Attempt, Reagan's attack on Gaddafi, Grenada, Operation Just Cause, Desert Shield/Storm, Kuwait, Iraq, Kosovo, Afghanistan, etc.

Several months ago, frustrated with the claims process delays, this veteran laid out his uniform and prepared to enter the local VA with explosives to make a statement and end his plight. Once stabilized we assisted him in applying for the VA Residential Treatment program for PTSD at Bay Pines, Florida. Fortunately his **letter of denial** was sent to me and not to the service member. It stated, *your "clinical history does not meet the criteria for PTSD and your medical records are absent of any evidence of combat service."* I have no doubt that had HE received this letter, we would have lost another veteran. And we wonder why the suicide rate now exceeds the number of service members lost in combat?

Over the years, I have worked with Gordy Erspamer of Morrison and Foerster and provided him with names of hundreds of local claimants who have waited years for their VA claims to be processed.

We designed an on-line form together for veterans around the country to complete which outlined the details of each of their claims and the unreasonable wait times. We designed an on-line form together for veterans around the country to complete which outlined the details of each of their claims and the unreasonable wait times. He presented hundreds of them in the amicus brief to the court. The suit was

acknowledged by the Federal District court, but without remedy. In 2011, an appeal to the Circuit Court overturned the decision and berated the VA. However in May of 2012, an Appeals Court ruled in favor of the VA. In September of 2012, the Supreme Court refused to hear the case, ending the legal battle. The suit was not for any monetary gain or damages, but just to get the VA to do its job (remedy). Listen to Gordy tell of this National Tragedy in his own words.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCN\\_5bFSpCA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCN_5bFSpCA)

The Social Security Administration now has an expedited process for Social Security disability for combat veterans! I conducted a conjoint phone interview with a veteran and Social Security Several weeks ago. The process which normally takes six months was completed in **five weeks** (two weeks at Social Security and three weeks waiting for the VA to validate his service). Not only did the claims representative accomplish the processing in record time, she also backdated the claim for the veteran over 15 months to the date of my evaluation, so the medically uninsured veteran we have been seeing pro bono would now be eligible for Medicare without the customary one year wait time. At 15 months, he continues to await a C and P evaluation with the VA. I'm flumoxed. **IF SOCIAL SECURITY CAN ADJUDICATE A DISABILITY CLAIM IN FIVE WEEKS, WHY CAN'T THE VA?**

As a nation we have promised, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, *"to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."*

But there is a vast chasm between this vow and the actual experience of most veterans. Just getting a claim for disability or medical care processed can be a major challenge - one that a sick, injured, traumatized or dying vet is ill-equipped to take on.

Semper Fi!

**Scott Fairchild, Psy.D., LTC, 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn (Ret)**

**Doctor of Psychology**

**1370 Bedford Drive, Melbourne, Florida 32940**

**Pnh: 321.253.8887, Fax: 321.253.8878**

<http://baytreebehavioralhealth.com/index.php>



For three decades Gordon Erspamer has been battling the VA to get disability benefits for veterans.

Gordon Erspamer holds a photograph of his late father, a Navy officer who served in the Pacific.





April 19, 2013

## VA to Expedite Claims Decisions for Veterans Who Have Waited a Year or More

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today it is implementing an initiative to expedite compensation claims decisions for Veterans who have waited one year or longer. **Effective today, VA claims raters will make provisional**



VA Secretary, Eric Shinseki

**decisions on the oldest claims in inventory, which will allow Veterans to begin collecting compensation benefits more quickly, if eligible.** Veterans will be able to submit additional evidence for consideration a full year after the provisional rating, before VA issues a final decision.

*“Too many Veterans wait too long for a decision, and this has never been acceptable,”* said VA Secretary Eric Shinseki. *“That is why we are implementing an aggressive plan to eliminate the backlog in 2015. This initiative is the right thing to do now for Veterans who have waited the longest.”*

Provisional decisions will be based on all evidence provided to date by the Veteran or obtained on their behalf by VA. If a VA medical examination is needed to decide the claim, it will be ordered and expedited.

*“Issuing provisional decisions not only provides Veterans with applicable benefits much more quickly, but also gives them an additional one-year safety net to submit further evidence should it become available. Our door will remain open and if a Veteran has additional evidence, their case will be fast tracked,”* said Allison Hickey, Undersecretary for Benefits.

If any increase is determined to be warranted based on the additional evidence received, benefits will be retroactive to the date the claim was initially filed. The initiative protects the Veteran’s right to appeal the decision. If no further evidence is received within that year, VBA will inform the Veteran that their rating is final and provide information on the standard appeals process, which can be found at <http://www.bva.va.gov/> Throughout this initiative, VA will continue to prioritize claims for homeless Veterans and those claiming financial hardship, the terminally ill, former Prisoners of War, Medal of Honor recipients, and Veterans filing Fully Developed Claims. More information about filing

Fully Developed Claims is available at:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/transformation/fastclaims/>

Claims for Wounded Warriors separating from the military for medical reasons will continue to be handled separately and on a priority basis with the Department of Defense through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES). Wounded Warriors separating through IDES currently receive VA compensation benefits in an average of 61 days following their separation from service.

As a result of this initiative, metrics used to track benefits claims will experience significant fluctuations. The focus on processing the oldest claims will cause the overall measure of the average length of time to complete a claim - currently 286 days - to skew, rising significantly in the near term because of the number of old claims that will be completed. Over time, as the backlog of oldest claims is cleared and more of the incoming claims are processed electronically through VA’s new paperless processing system, VA’s average time to complete claims will significantly improve. In addition, the average days pending metric - or the average age of a claim in the inventory - will decrease, since the oldest claims will no longer be part of the inventory.

While compensation claims are pending, eligible Veterans are able to receive healthcare and other benefits from VA. Veterans who have served in recent conflicts are eligible for 5 years of free healthcare from VA. Currently, over 55% of returning Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans are using VA health care, a rate of utilization greater than previous generations of Veterans.

Veterans can learn more about disability benefits on the joint Department of Defense—VA web portal eBenefits at: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>

[Sent in by Aaron Gary Newman, USN]

## ~ A Benevolent Pledge ~

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new fund raising slogan last Sunday:

***“I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours!”***



# New Automation Process Cuts Post-9/11 GI Bill Claims Processing Times by More Than Half

March 13, 2013

WASHINGTON – As part of its ongoing transformation from paper-based to electronic claims processing, the Department of Veterans Affairs has continued to improve the automated payment of benefits for Veterans participating in the Post-9/11 GI Bill education program. As a result, VA is now providing benefit payments to currently enrolled students in an average of six days – cutting by more than half the processing time experienced during the spring enrollment period last year.

This enhancement to VA's automated processing system, called the Long Term Solution (LTS), uses approximately 80 business rules to support end-to-end automation of Post-9/11 GI Bill claims, ensuring accurate payments without the need for manual handling.

During the month of February, 46 percent of incoming documents (over 115,000) for enrolled students were fully automated, and an additional 33 percent were partially automated. For enrolled students starting a new semester of classes, processing is taking an average of six days to complete. For new students using the benefit for the first time, the average time to establish their eligibility under the Post-9/11 GI Bill is around 24 days.

*"We are happy to report that our newest technology has substantially reduced the amount of time it takes to process Veterans' education claims,"* said Under Secretary for Benefits Allison A. Hickey. *"It's a good example of VBA's transformation that is delivering better service to the fast-growing number of Post 9/11 GI Bill participants."*

The rules-based processing approach LTS uses is also being built into VA's technology for VA's paperless disability claims processing—the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS).

Over the past three and 1/2 years, VA has provided \$27 billion in Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to approximately 938,000 Veterans, Servicemembers, and their families, and to the universities, colleges, and trade schools they attend.

For more information on VA education benefits go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.



## Invisible Disability

*"About 50 percent of veterans seen at the Washington, D.C., VA medical center suffer from some type of hearing loss; either due to age or military noise exposure"* said Clinical Audiologist Tara Parson-Grant. *"I see approximately seven patients a day, five days a week or about 30 to 40 patients a week,"* she said. *"Today, we are seeing more young veterans who suffer from hearing loss than ever before. It's a product of the improvised explosive devices (IEDs) used in Iraq and Afghanistan."*



*"VA has determined that hearing loss is a significant health care problem for veterans,"* said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Barry Jesinoski.

***"Unfortunately, veterans are more likely to suffer hearing loss than other population groups."***

The Hearing Loss Association of America reports the VA estimates that more than 59,000 veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have received disability ratings for hearing loss, and the trend is increasing. The association says that sudden, noise-induced hearing loss from gunfire and explosions is the number-one disability caused by combat in the current wars. There is no cure for the type of hearing loss that affects most veterans.

The VA's 2011 Veterans Annual Benefits Report estimates that nearly 702,000 veterans have hearing loss, with 841,000 cases of associated tinnitus, or ringing in the ears.

### **Living with Hearing Loss**

The first step in living with hearing loss is coping with it.

VA audiologists do amazing work helping veterans with hearing loss. *"We provide diagnostic testing and hearing aid assessments, then fittings,"* said Parson-Grant. *"Most veterans go through a period of denial regarding their hearing loss until they come here, and we diagnose it. It's more of a confirmation for them."* Veterans may go through a five- to seven-year period of hearing loss denial.

For the complete report visit [dava.org](http://dava.org)



# ~ Vietnam....The Second Year ~

(From Brigade pictorial covering much of 1966/67)

## Troopers of the 173d Airborne Brigade

**Y**our accomplishments in the Vietnam conflict cannot be told in a book many times the size of this one.

Your acts of heroism and selfless service to others are too numerous to recount in a single pictorial memento. There can be no doubt that you have earned for yourselves as individuals, and for the Brigade as a unit, the title "Professionals."



Commanding the 173d Airborne Brigade was the highpoint of my military career as well as being my most satisfying assignment. You made it such by your devotion to duty and to each other, by your demonstrated military skills, by your aggressive and tenacious pursuit of the enemy, and by your compassion for those who needed it. The US Army has never fielded a more dedicated or professionally capable unit!

My admiration and my best wishes for your continued success and safety go with you in future campaigns against the Viet Cong.

Major General Paul F. Smith



## Sky Soldiers

**D**uring the past year you have continued to distinguish yourselves and the Brigade.

Because of the timing of our big personnel turnover, this book represents for most of you – your year – the year in which you brought new honor and fame to the Brigade, the year in which your deeds were in headlines around the world, the year you climaxed with the first combat parachute assault of the war in Vietnam.



To those of you who have gone home or are about to leave, I offer my thanks and congratulations on the magnificent job you have done. I wish you continued success and good fortune. Where you are, you will still be a Sky Soldier which means the best.

**AIRBORNE—ALL THE WAY!**

Brigadier General John R. Deane, Jr.



## White House proposes another budget increase for VA in 2014

By Leo Shane III  
*Stars & Stripes*

Published: April 5, 2013



WASHINGTON -- The Department of Veterans Affairs would receive a 4 percent funding increase for its fiscal 2014 discretionary budget and a \$2.5 billion infusion to battle the growing claims backlog under White House budget plans to be announced next week.

The funding boost comes as most government departments face steep cuts as the president and lawmakers search for ways to rein in the national debt. It still must be approved by Congress before it becomes law.

But White House and VA officials said the extra money for veterans programs shows President Barack Obama's commitment to help servicemembers returning from combat with their transition to civilian life, and to make sure the lifelong war wounds aren't forgotten. White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough said the budget emphasizes *"the president's commitment to our veterans and their families"* but also acknowledged that more money doesn't promise immediate results for veterans impatient with the VA bureaucracy.

*"At the end of the day, it's not the inputs or investments, but the outputs: questions being answered, tax credits being utilized, jobs being created,"* he said. *"That's going to prove to people whether the system is working."*

The VA budget request for the fiscal year starting in October will ask for \$63.5 billion for department discretionary spending -- programs apart from the mandatory benefits and health care the agency provides. That's slightly lower than the \$64 billion in discretionary funds the White House requested for fiscal 2013, but about \$2.4 billion more than what the department received after lengthy congressional budget fights over the last six months. It's also 25 percent more than what the department spent annually on those programs before Obama took office in 2009.

Officials said the top priorities in the budget will be veterans employment initiatives, mental health care and reducing the veterans compensation claims backlog, a rapidly mounting problem for the department in recent years.

In a White House meeting with reporters Friday, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki said the department is still confident it will eliminate the backlog -- cases that take more than 125 days to process -- within two years.

*"Any veteran waiting for a claims decision is waiting too long,"* he said. *"There's no one more impatient than I am."*

Currently, the backlog hovers around 600,000 cases, up dramatically from around 80,000 just four years ago. The average wait for completion of a claim is almost nine months.

Veterans groups have questioned whether 2015 is a realistic goal, and Shinseki avoided questions on exactly when critics will see progress in bringing those numbers down.

McDonough acknowledged the skepticism. *"We're not asking anyone to take our word for it,"* he said. *"What we're trying to do is, by having a budget that reflects those increased investments (in veterans programs), lay down in the clearest way we can a statement of priorities."*

The 2014 budget proposal includes \$155 million for new paperless claims processing systems, which Shinseki has said will help clear the backlog, and another \$136 million to convert existing paper records into digital formats. The Veterans Benefits Administration, which handles the claims, will see its budget share grow almost 14 percent from this year's amount.

It also would make permanent tax credits for employers who hire veterans. Lawmakers approved those credits -- which range from \$5,600 for hiring unemployed veterans to \$9,600 for hiring jobless disabled veterans -- in late 2011.

And the budget plan provides \$7 billion for improving the department's mental health care, including efforts to lower wait times for treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and military sexual trauma counseling.

The department has scrambled in recent months to hire more mental health experts to reduce the 50-day average wait for care at VA facilities and the estimated 22 suicides each day among veterans.

Obama's full federal budget plan is scheduled to be unveiled on April 10.

[shane.leo@stripes.com](mailto:shane.leo@stripes.com)

Twitter: @LeoShane Source: <http://www.stripes.com/>

*"Used with permission from Stars and Stripes. © Stars and Stripes"*





# Tommy Wayne Foster

## 1948 ~ 2013

Mr. Tommy Wayne Foster, age 64, of Douglasville, Georgia passed away Easter Sunday, March 31, 2013 at Wellstar Cobb Hospital in the presence of his loving family. He was born May 28, 1948 in Atlanta, Georgia the son of the late Mr. Tony L. Foster,



Sr. and the late Mrs. Reba Wood Foster. He was a veteran of the United States Army, Co. C (Ranger) 75th Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade, serving in Vietnam in 1969-1970 and was awarded two Purple Hearts along with several other commendations. He was Baptist by Faith. Mr. Foster was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He will be greatly missed by those who love him. He coached the "Georgia Girls" softball team for several years winning several National Championships and making many memories and friends along the way. He loved watching the Atlanta Braves and the Georgia Bulldogs. He retired as the regional manager of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Corporation. He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years, Martha Worthan Foster; his daughters, Dr. Elizabeth Foster Clenney of Douglasville, and Lorrie and Billy Wilbanks of Hiram; sons, Toby Wayne and Melissa Foster of Douglasville, Joey and Renee Kilian of Douglasville and Michael and Lou Kilian of Gray, and an extended family. The family wishes to express their gratitude to Dr. Nishant Shroff, Dr. John Akiki, Dr. Mohammad Anjum, the staff of Wellstar Douglas Hospital, and the staff of Wellstar Cobb Hospital for their care and compassion during his time of illness. The family received friends at Jones-Wynn Funeral Home, Douglas Chapel, on April 2, 2013, with funeral services conducted on April 3, 2013 from the Chapel of Jones-Wynn Funeral Home in Douglasville with Rev. Ikey Watson and Rev. Terry Worthan officiating. Interment was followed at Douglasville City Cemetery with military honors. Memorial contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation, 2951 Flowers Road S., Suite 211, Atlanta, Georgia 30341. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [www.jones-wynn.com](http://www.jones-wynn.com)

RLTW

# The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment

The 75th Ranger Regiment is the premier light-infantry unit of the United States Army. Headquartered at Fort Benning, Ga., the 75th Ranger Regiment's mission is to plan and conduct special missions in support of U.S. policy and objectives.



The four Ranger battalions that comprise the 75th Ranger Regiment are geographically dispersed. Their locations are:

**1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Ga.**

**2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Lewis, Wash.**

**3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, Ga.**  
**Regimental Special Troops Battalion, Fort Benning, Ga.**

The Army maintains the Regiment at a high level of readiness. Each battalion can deploy anywhere in the world within 18 hours notice. Because of the importance the Army places on the 75th Ranger Regiment, it must possess a number of capabilities. These capabilities include:

- Infiltrating by land, sea and air**
- Conducting direct action operations**
- Conducting raids**
- Recovery of personnel and special equipment**
- Conducting conventional or special light-infantry operations**

## *Rangers Lead The Way*



(Photo from U.S. Army Ranger Association website)



## ~ From the Archives ~

### 173d Jungle School



Jungle School cadre with students preparing Op Order for upcoming mission.

One of the common ties for troopers who joined the “Herd” after February 1967 was the 173d Brigade Jungle School.

Brigade Commander, General John Deane, directed the start-up of a comprehensive in-country training program as the tours of the originally-deployed battalions were close to ending and casualties were thinning the ranks.

Replacements were arriving at a rate of 75-250 a week and General Deane didn’t want them put in combat until they’d had thorough training. Two officers and 12 NCO’s were selected from the line battalions to staff the new school. All had been in the country at least 8 months and the commandant and 2 NCO’s were on their second tour.

Beginning in mid-February, all new arrivals to the Brigade were required to complete Jungle School. Only field grade officers were exempt.

The Jungle School was set up with several tents and bleachers behind the 2d Battalion area. Each Monday, 100 to 250 new troopers reported for the ½ day course. They carried their assigned weapon,

full field gear, C’s and 2 full canteens. The cadre wore distinctive camouflage cowboy hats. Each class was broken down into squads and platoons with new officers and NCO’s filling all leadership positions. An experienced Jungle School officer or NCO was a “TAC” for each unit.

The first 4 days consisted of practical “hands on” training in key combat skills so graduates would be able to “hit the ground running” when they joined their unit in the field. Training included: map and compass reading, formations, day and night patrols, ambushes, counter-ambush, defense, communications, etc. The new troopers were familiarized with LAWS, M-60s, M-79s and Claymores. They zeroed their weapons, went thru a “quick reaction” course and a booby-trap lane. They learned about VC tactics and

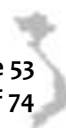
civic action.

They wore full gear all day. Moving between training areas was done “on the double.” By the time of the 24-hour combat operation on Friday and Saturday, each trooper was comfortable with his gear and was well on the way to being acclimated to the humid conditions.

Culmination of the training was a carefully-planned combat operation in the jungle surrounding the sprawling Bien Hoa Air Base. The day portion was a sweep of several kilometers, with defensive positions and ambushes set up at night.

The platoons moved separately thru the jungle calling in check points. Late in the afternoon, they linked up at the designated company base camp and secured a company perimeter. Choppers were called in to bring in hot chow and water.

*(continued...)*





*"We surprised a squad of VC getting ready to mortar Bien Hoa airbase. Above and below is some of the captured ordnance. Above is LT Jim Wood (later O-6) in the center. I think it is SSG Jack Boyd on the right." Jack Tarr*



Center in photo kneeling is Jack Tarr, with Jungle School troopers at the ready.

At dusk, clearing patrols swept the perimeter and ambushes slipped out. The next morning, clearing patrols again checked the perimeter and the ambush patrols returned. After foxholes were filled, the platoon returned to base camp to clean gear and be debriefed.

At least twice, the new troopers got into firefights with VC outside the airbase. The first time, a cadreman, SFC Rodriguez, was seriously wounded. The next week, the cadre devised an elaborate string of ambushes using several "drop off" ambushes on known VC movement routes. That night, 2 of the ambushes were tripped and 3 VC were killed with no US casualties.



Jack presenting captured AK-47 to SFC Rodriguez who had been wounded the week before. Their successful ambush during "Operation Revenge" resulted in 3 VC KIA and numerous weapons and munitions captured.

By early June almost 40% of the Brigade had rotated to the States. Several thousand new troopers who completed Jungle School fit right into their units in the field. Those who set up and served in the Jungle School prevented many casualties to 173d troopers.

**Jack K. Tarr**  
**CO, C/4/503d**  
**Cdt, 173d Jungle School**

**Note:** Jack's report originally appeared in the Winter 1992, Vol. 7, No. 1 Issue of the *Sky Soldier Newsletter*, photos added.

###



# BILL RASOOL ~ MY STORY

## BILL (Cook) RASOOL, Call Sign "Healthy Fungus 6 Bravo"



SFC Bill Rasool

**I**n July 1966 I was just a young lad of 17. I always enjoyed the idea of wearing a uniform. After all, I had been a Cub Scout, a Boy Scout and Explorer Scout. I knew the day would come when I could be a Jet Pilot. I always had a burning desire to fly jets. I was in love with the X-15 project and the Space Program of the early sixties and knew everything there was to know publicly about the program. What I didn't know was, I would end up in the most Elite Combat Fighting Unit known to modern man.

My desire to jump from an aircraft while in flight came just by pure accident. On a trip from Montgomery, Alabama, my hometown, my step dad "A World War II Vet" picked up a hitchhiker, something my dad had never never done before. That was the rule, "NEVER PICK UP A STRANGER". But this hitchhiker was different, he was wearing the uniform of a US Paratrooper.

His Garrison cap (Overseas Cap) was broke down in the center with peaks at the front and back, proudly displaying that glider patch; his belt buckle was gleaming, his boots highly spit shined -- I swear I could

see my face in the toe of his boots. His Khaki uniform was so heavily starched you could hear that swishing sound as he ran toward the old 1959 Star Chief Pontiac my Dad was driving. Dad "of course" gave him the third degree, asking him all of the right questions about his unit before allowing him to get in and the Soldier gave all the right answers. I had no clue what they were talking about. My Mom opened her door and the soldier jumped in the back seat with me. It looked as if you would cut your finger if you touched the crease of his pants.

Needless to say I was hooked. The paratrooper was on his way home for some holiday leave time. He was a member of the 101st Airborne Division stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. I remember asking him question after question about jumping out of airplanes. I was totally in amazement hearing about his adventures. I did finally join the military.

No, not the Air Force, I became what we so proudly called a triple volunteer in the US Army. First you must volunteer to join the service, then you volunteer for Airborne School, and finally you must volunteer to go to combat. I went to Basic Training on the 5th of July 1966 at Fort Lost In The Woods, Missouri. I did my Airborne Infantry Training (AIT) at Fort Gordon, Georgia and then on to Jump School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

My very first duty assignment was with Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina in November of 1966. I was an 11 Bravo Infantryman; a Lean Mean Fighting Machine, and Light Weapons Specialist. I had originally signed up for Communications Specialist at the recruiter's office. But while I was in Basic Training this Airborne Sergeant First Class Borne was recruiting Paratroopers. So I signed up, not knowing I had violated my contract with the Army. I ended up being *Airborne unassigned*, so they put me in the Infantry.

One day about six months later I remember my platoon sergeant coming through the barracks asking for volunteers to go to this little country called Vietnam. I volunteered -- I didn't know I had just joined C Company, 3rd Battalion 503rd, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate).

(continued....)



The unit trained for over 6 months in the middle of summer wearing long underwear to prepare us for the tropical heat in the South Vietnam jungle. The 3rd Herd, as we were so proudly called, finally deployed. We flew from Pope Air Force Base to the West Coast and took a US Navy troop carrier, the USNS General William Weigel AP-119 from San Francisco, California to South Vietnam. It was a great adventure for me as we passed under the Golden Gate Bridge and on out passed "The Rock", Alcatraz Island. I actually didn't know what I was in store for. I had only heard a little about Vietnam before coming in the Army. We arrived about 28 days later on the 23rd of October 1967 just in time for the Lunar New Year "Tet Offensive".

I remember arriving in country, most of all is when the ship was docking I looked down from the deck of the ship and saw Command Sergeant Major Bobby Teague and Colonel Cleland. They were standing there like two proud old warriors waiting for their troops to arrive safely. There was a band playing the Army song and lots of soldiers on the dock. It was a proud moment! We unloaded the ship and had a formation to formally welcome us to the country. Then we got issued live ammo right there on the dock and loaded onto the backs of deuce and half trucks. The convoy through the dusty Ho Chi Minh trail north to the Central Highlands was something you just don't forget.

There were little children on the side of the road begging for anything we would throw to them. The truck beds were lined with full sandbags in case we ran over a land mine. It was so dusty you could hear the dust bellowing under the tires of the truck. We finally arrived in Camp Radcliffe, An Khe, South Vietnam. There we went through the Brigades' Jungle School and finally on to join the rest of the Brigade as Sky Soldiers.

One day while still in An Khe one of my Basic Training buddies showed up, his name is Michael B. Ludas. He had done his tour in Nam and was on his way home. It was a great reunion because we got separated right after Jump School. We yelled at each other in the standard military way "*Ludas, Michael B.*" "*Cook, William E.*" and stood in the middle of the road hugging. A short time later, maybe two or three months, I ran into two of my hometown friends, Reginald Terry and Henry Rattery. They told me at my going away party to Vietnam that they would find me. "MAN WAS I SURPRISED" when I ran into them together at the holding area across the road from the Jungle School in An Khe. They came in the army on the

buddy system. We had time to have a few beers and for me to ask about home and my Mom.

I was one of the lucky ones, I survived Vietnam and was stationed at Fort Benning with the 197th Infantry Brigade as an aggressor for soldiers going to Vietnam. I got my discharge from the Army in 1972. I went through a religious period, changed my name, and after a 10-year break from the active Army I came back in! It was November 1982 I went right back to the 82nd Airborne Division as a 63 Bravo, Light Wheel Vehicle Mechanic and have been serving proudly ever since. I have two adult sons, Billy Cook, Jr., a computer programmer, and Michael Fredrick Cook, a pro-fessional Drummer -- "I love you fellows". I retired from the 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne) at Fort Bragg where I was the (S-4) Senior Maintenance Supervisor for the Group.

Some of my assignments while I was on active duty were the 313th Military Intelligence Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, the 5th of the 9th Manchu, 6th Infantry Division, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, Delta 1-61, 4th Basic Combat Training Brigade Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Bravo Company 702nd Main Support Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division Camp Nimble, Korea and finally HHC 7th Special Forces Group (Airborne). It has been a very rewarding 24 years of service. "*I'm no hero, but I've served with some!*" You can contact me at 910-273-5686 or fax me at my International E-fax 781-846-4685, e-mail address is [ankhe173@aol.com](mailto:ankhe173@aol.com)

**GOD BLESS OUR SKY SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES. GOD BLESS OUR ARMY AND GOD BLESS AMERICA. (ROLL TIDE)**

-----



Sent in by VN Vet, Bob Clark, 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> SF.





# ALL AMERICAN WEEK



## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - 2013

Registration packets can be picked up at Holiday Inn Fayetteville-Bordeaux lobby (9 a.m. to 5 p.m. May 22-24, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. May 25) 1707 Owen Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28304 (910) 323-0111, (800) Holiday, [www.holidayinn.com/fayettevillenc](http://www.holidayinn.com/fayettevillenc) or [www.hibordeaux.com](http://www.hibordeaux.com).

**NOTE SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN RED BELOW EFFECTIVE MARCH 28, 2013**

### May 20 & 21 - Monday and Tuesday

Beginning with the Division's Four-Mile Run at 0630 hours Monday, the Paratroopers' Competitive/Combative Events are scheduled throughout both days. The Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse will be open Monday and Tuesday from 6 p.m. to midnight. Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, etc. will be available on Tuesday night. Transportation will be provided (all week) beginning at 0530 hours Monday for those that Register and pay the \$25 transportation fee from the Holiday Inn-Fayetteville to Ft Bragg, to the Chapter Clubhouse and return to the hotel.

### May 22 – Wednesday

10:30am & 12pm	Depart Holiday Inn to 82 <sup>nd</sup> Museum & <b>Div HQs Dedication time TBD</b> -Ft Bragg
3:30pm/5:30/7:30pm	Depart Holiday Inn to McKellar's Lodge Picnic
4:30pm –8:30pm	McKellar's Lodge Picnic

### May 23 – Thursday

7:30am & 8:30am	Depart Holiday Inn to Pike Field & <b>DIV Static Display at 82<sup>nd</sup> Museum</b> -Ft Bragg
9–9:30am	Veterans (Old Timers) Gathering, Pike Field
10am– 12pm	Division Review – Pike Field
11:30am & 12pm	Transportation from Pike Field to 82 <sup>nd</sup> Museum/ <b>DIV Static Display</b> , Holiday Inn
12:30pm –1:30pm	Memorial Ceremony, 82 <sup>nd</sup> Museum
2pm –3pm	Transportation from 82 <sup>nd</sup> Museum/ <b>DIV Static Display</b> to Holiday Inn
5pm–8pm	Association/Division Social - Cocktails & Dinner, Holiday Inn # *
5:30pm/6:30/8:30/10:30pm	Depart Holiday Inn for Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse
6pm – 12pm	No-Host get-together at Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse

### May 24 – Friday

**NOTE: THERE IS NO JUMP THIS YEAR**

8:30am/9:30am	Depart Holiday Inn for Stryker Golf Course & <b>82<sup>nd</sup> Museum</b> -Ft Bragg
<b>9:30am/12pm</b>	<b>Depart Holiday Inn for Abn &amp; Special Ops Museum-Hay St Fayetteville</b>
9am to completion	21 <sup>th</sup> All American Golf Tournament at Stryker Golf Course-Ft Bragg
11:30am /12:30pm/1:30pm	Depart to Holiday Inn for Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse
2pm – 5pm	Picnic, Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse #
3:30p/5 /6:30/8 /9:30/11pm	Depart Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse for Holiday Inn & return
5pm –12pm	No-Host get-together at Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse

### May 25 – Saturday

8am– 9am	Association Delegates Meeting, Holiday Inn-Room TBD
9am–10:30am	Association Directors Meeting, Holiday Inn-Room TBD
2pm/4 /6 /8 /10pm	Depart Holiday Inn for Fayetteville Clubhouse, Ft Bragg (2-6pm) & return
6:30pm–12pm	Fayetteville Chapter Social, Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse #

### May 26 – Sunday

7:30am/9am	Depart Holiday Inn for Fayetteville Chap Clubhouse & return Holiday Inn
8am–10am	Farewell Breakfast, Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse #

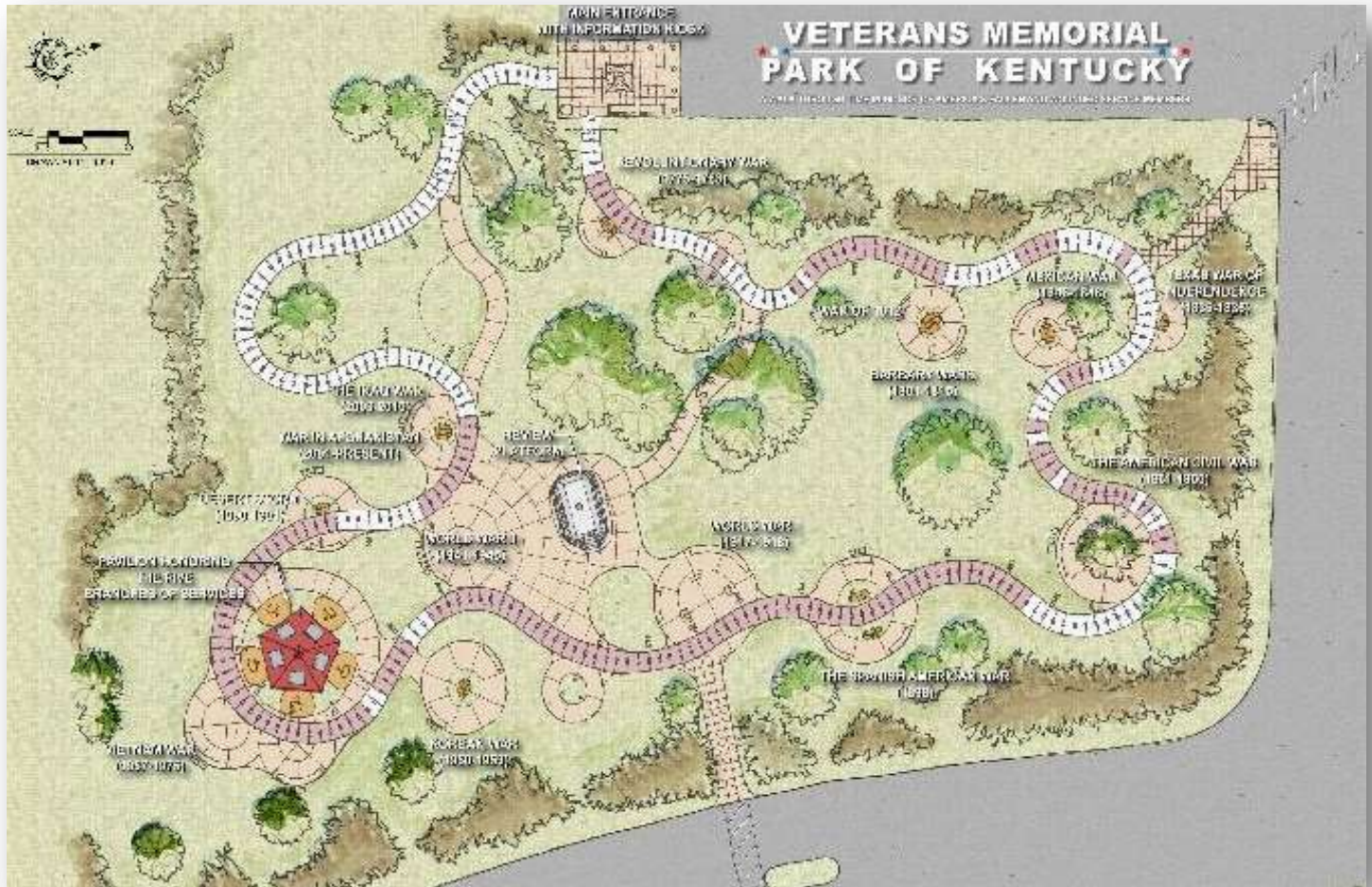
# Ticket required. \* Formal, Men-Coat & Tie, Ladies-Proper Dress; Military-appropriate Uniform attire.

**NOTE:** Transportation will be provided daily (see events and locations noted above), departing the Holiday Inn enroute to Ft Bragg, then the Fayetteville Chapter Clubhouse, and return to the Holiday Inn. [This schedule is subject to change.](#)

[Must have Nametag to board Bus/Van at the Holiday Inn, Ft. Bragg, Fay-Chapter Clubhouse, Airborne & Special Opns Museum.](#)



# Veterans Memorial Park of Kentucky Groundbreaking Set for May 23 in Oldham County



Each section of the sidewalk represents one year in a walk through "300 Years of Military History" and will have a year-insert. The colored sections of the sidewalk signify that there was a military conflict during that year. Markers with information about American military actions will be placed in chronological order along the walking path.

The board of directors of the Veterans Memorial Park of Kentucky, Inc. invites all Kentuckians to the groundbreaking ceremony for the Veterans Memorial Park of Kentucky, Thursday, May 23, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. at South Oldham High School, 5901 Veterans Memorial Parkway, Crestwood, Kentucky.

The Veterans Memorial Park of Kentucky, Inc. ([www.VeteransMemorialParkKy.org](http://www.VeteransMemorialParkKy.org)), a 501c3 organization, is creating the park to recognize those who served in our military, especially those who paid the ultimate price, and to educate park visitors on our nation's military history.

The education aspect is what makes this project one of the most unique in America, honoring American military sacrifices, according to Don Helton, a Pewee Valley resident and Vietnam War veteran who is leading the park development project. The park's goal of youth

education is extremely important because history education today focuses more than ever on social history rather than military history, a critical foundation of our freedom, he notes.

The 33,000-plus square foot park will be located on school property, in the area of South Oldham High School and Camden Station and Kenwood Station elementary schools. Youth will directly be involved in the project.

There will also be an area designated the "LZ" where military units and veterans' organizations can have markers representing their units/organizations. Bronze dioramas showing military figures throughout history are planned later in the park's development.

For more information on the Veterans Memorial Park of Kentucky, please visit the website and email [chair@veteransmemorialparkky.org](mailto:chair@veteransmemorialparkky.org).

[Sent in by: Jerry Cecil, C/1/503/173d, 1967-68, Dak To]



# ~ Reunions of the Airborne Kind ~



~ 2013 ~



## **The 503rd PIR Deep South Corregidor Reunion**, May 1-5, 2013, Port Richey, FL.

Contact:  
Chuck & Dee Breit  
Phn: 352-447-3983



## **All American Week**, May 20-26, 2013, Holiday Inn Fayetteville-Bordeaux, Fayetteville, NC.

Contact:  
Web: [www.82ndairborneassociation.org/](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/)  
(See Page 17 for details)



## **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)



## **335th Assault Helicopter Company, 11th 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**, hosted by Chapter XV June 26-30, 2013, Hyatt Regency Hotel, San Antonio, TX.

Contact:  
Fred Solis, 201-491-2783  
Pat Connolly, 210-826-8023



## **B-2/501st, 101st 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)



## **Vietnam Veterans of America 2013 National Convention**, August 13-17, 2013, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Jacksonville, FL.

Contact:  
Web: [vva.org](http://vva.org)  
(See Page 70 for Registration Form)



## **173d Airborne Brigade Association Annual Reunion**, August 23-29, 2013, Las Vegas, NV.

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)  
(See Page 20 for Registration Form)



## **101st Airborne Division Vietnam Veterans 19th 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)



## **11th Airborne Division Association Reunion**, September 22-26, 2013, Fayetteville, NC.

Contact:  
Bert Kurland  
President  
Eml: [berwan@embarqmail.com](mailto:berwan@embarqmail.com)



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

Contact:  
Bob Buffington  
South Florida All Airborne Chapter  
Eml: [abnbuff@gmail.com](mailto:abnbuff@gmail.com)  
(See Page 67 for Registration Form)

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)



# The Wall

A little history most people will never know.



Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall:

- There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.
- The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 36 years since the last casualties.
- The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.

**Richard Bernard Fitzgibbon, Jr.**  
Technical Sergeant  
1173rd Foreign MSN SQDN, MAAGV  
United States Air Force  
North Weymouth, Massachusetts  
June 21, 1920 to June 08, 1956



- There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
- 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.
- 8,283 were just 19 years old.

- The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old. 12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.
- 5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.
- One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.



Dan Bullock, USMC, 12/21/53 – 6/7/69, New York, NY

- 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam.
- 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam.
- 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.
- Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.
- 54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia. I wonder why so many from one school.
- 8 Women are on the Wall. Nursing the wounded.
- 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.

*(continued...)*



- Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.



- West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall. The Marines of Morenci -- They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest. And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.
- The Buddies of Midvale -- LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam. In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 -- 245 deaths.

- The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 -- 2,415 casualties were incurred.



For most Americans who read this they will only see the numbers that the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters.

***“There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.”***

[Sent in by Les Brownlee, CO B/2/503d, photos added]



# Operation: *We Remember Them...*

On the Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend, we visit some of the cemeteries here in Southern California, where some of our Sky Soldiers have their final resting place. PFC Richard W. Peterson, West Covina, CA, C/2/503rd, KIA 18 Dec. 65. Years ago we met his mother and his sister and his mother is now buried next to her husband and her son. CPL Joel M. Sabel, West Covina, CA, HHC 4/503d, DSC, KIA 10 July 67, and we did get to meet his sister a few years ago and we are still in contact with her and she was at *"The Reading of the Names"* in Columbus, GA, on 23 March 2013, and read her brothers' name. These two Sky Soldiers are buried at Queen of Heaven Catholic Cemetery in Rowland Heights, CA.

PFC Alexander D. Rodarte, Whittier, CA, A/1/503d, KIA 19 March 66, buried at Rose Hills Cemetery, Whittier, and in 1996, we got to meet his mother and invite her to the 173d reunion in Anaheim, CA. PFC Terrance W. Achor, Whittier, CA, D/16th Armor, KIA 4 March 68, buried at Rose Hills Cemetery, and his mother got to meet with us and she has passed away. SP4 David J. Berry, Bellflower, CA, B/3/503d, KIA 6 May 68, buried at Rose Hills Cemetery, and we did make contact with his sister. SGT Darrel W. Heeren, Maywood, CA, A/3/503d, KIA 7 Jan. 68, buried at Rose Hills Cemetery.

SGT John R. Stalter, Pico-Rivera, CA, C/2/503d, KIA 3 March 67, buried at Resurrection Catholic Cemetery, Montebello, CA, and we did meet his brother a few years ago and invited him to a meeting of Chapter 14. PFC David J. Johnson, Los Angeles, CA, C/4/503d, buried at Resurrection Catholic Cemetery and I got to meet his mother in Whittier, CA, where she was residing.

SP4 George Vincent, Los Angeles, CA, C/1/503d, KIA 8 Nov. 65, and Javier Curiel a member of Chapter 14, who served in D/16th & Spt Bn, grew up with SP4 Vincent and they knew each other in Okinawa and in RVN. PFC Rudolph Aguilar, LA, CA, C/1/503d, KIA 8 Nov. 65, is buried at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, East Los Angeles, CA, and just a few feet away from SP4 Vincent. These two "fallen Sky Soldiers" are buried next to their fathers who served in World War II. We did meet a cousin of PFC Aguilar who served in RVN with the 1st Cavalry and we played him the song *"8th of November"*. PFC Peter Godoy, Jr., LA, CA, KIA 7 Apr. 69, buried at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, East LA, CA.

For more than 10 years we have been conducting *"Operation We Remember Them"* on a Saturday of the Memorial Day weekend, and we clean up the gravesites, put flowers and flags, say some prayers, and leave an OP Order with the hope of finding some Gold Star Family members who may visit a day or two after we have visited. There have been times when some Gold Star Family members attended. I have been trying to locate family members of PFC Peter Godoy, Jr., because last year we noticed some beautiful flowers at his gravesite and they must have been left a day or two before we arrived at that site. It would be nice to meet his family members or get in contact with them.

SSG Joaquin P. Cabrera, Glendale, CA, B/4/503dd, KIA 6 Nov. 67, is buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles, CA. We did meet his son a few years ago at the cemetery.

It would also be good to meet a family member of PFC Felix F.F. Leyva-Parra-Frias, of Norwalk, CA, who was in C/2/503d, and was KIA on 8 April 67. We had many of our fallen from Southern California, and we are still trying to locate their Gold Star Family members and their friends.

As a Board Member of the 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation, I try and send information about the 173d National Memorial to Gold Star Family members and friends here in Southern California.

**Ray Ramirez**  
**HHC/D/4/503d**



**Cleaning the Memorial in March 2013, and, remembering.**  
(Photo provided by Ken Smith, A/D/2/503d)





# 173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)



## Our KIA in May, '65-'71

### "One Backward Glance"

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

***"These guys are us, all of them. Their stories are ours."*** Larry Paladino, B/2/503d

~ May 1965 ~

Randolph Truman Hicks, HHC/Spt

~ May 1966 ~

Hosea Dennis Adam, B/1/503

*"a.k.a Zeke. What a special, joy-filled brother you were! Whenever, I needed a smile or even a shoulder to cry on, whenever, I needed a friend, there you were with some foolishness that would dissolve my woes into giggles. It was impossible to be with you and not have fun. I'll never forget that wild night Alice and I met you at Stillwell, or hanging out on the beach, dining at Oyama, all those nights you saw me safely home, goofing on the base bus, that time we "ghosted" at the Hilltop in Fatema, the night you and the fellas made me an honorary member of E/17 Cav, all the Akadama wine we drank, all the movies we saw, all the games we attended, all the house parties, all the laughs! The war didn't become real to me until I read your name on the Stars & Stripes casualty list. Loosing you changed my entire prospective of the war and life in general. That was the day the Captain's little All-American girl went from gung-ho to "Stop the war now!" Who'd have thought someone so young, so vital could be gone in an instant? Thought I'd never smile **again**, but I do. When I remember the sweet, funny, protective big brother I never had, I do. I smile whenever I remember those golden days on The Rock when we were young and invincible. And I'm still consumed with laughter at the sight of a Brazil nut recalling our private joke. Thank you, Zeke, for enriching my life! Thank you for your ultimate sacrifice! I love you! Airborne!"*

Posted by: Lona Maney Harris

*"On 17 May, Company B, 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade, airlifted into a new Area of Operations by helicopter, then air assaulted further north. Then we patrolled north toward a goose egg slightly north of Hill 72, planning to set up a perimeter defense, and the next day do some clover-leafing. When we were approaching the northernmost limit of our 105 coverage and would soon be stopping for the night, we engaged VC Main Force soldiers. First platoon deployed on line engaging with rifles, M-60, and hand grenades, and second platoon maneuvered west to engage the enemy and develop the situation. Vegetation was very thick and it was not clear initially that the enemy were in trenches or bunkers. The enemy line was so wide, however, that both platoons became fully committed. To engage the enemy with indirect fire, the forward platoons were pulled back to establish a hasty perimeter, and artillery and tactical air strikes were called in. The VC disengaged and withdrew, leaving some bodies, but no weapons behind. We kept firing air and artillery on the area they had occupied and along their probable withdrawal routes. Since it was late afternoon we consolidated and reorganized, and did not search the enemy camp area until the next morning when we found 16 enemy bodies; we heard later that the Brigade Radio Research Unit made communication intercepts indicating that the enemy had some 30 or more killed. The VC use of automatic weapons, mortars and heavy MGs indicated at least a reinforced Main Force company if not a battalion.*

*We were honored to have served with him."*

Larry Dacunto, Company Commander

Note: Larry's message was posted in connection with all B/1/503 men who were KIA with Hosea Adam.



(continued...)



Artis Wesley Anderson, B/1/503  
Kenny Wayne Bullard, A/1/503  
Richard William Bullock, B/1/503  
Walter L. Burroughs, B/1/503

*"I remember you and that day. I also remember how  
in the evenings on stand down you'd sing and you  
didn't stutter. I'm glad I could have been your friend.  
RIP."*

Randy Cesani

Tony Dedman, B/1/503



Kenneth Eugene Duncan, B/1/503



Felix Esparza, Jr., B/1/503

*"I am Felix's Esparza brother and I would like to hear  
from any and all who served with him in Nam. To the  
brothers in arms I thank you all for your service. To my  
brother Felix we miss you, we love you. We will be  
forever proud of you Love. The Esparza family."*

Rafael Esparza

[rafa966@yahoo.com](mailto:rafa966@yahoo.com)

(posted May 17, 2012)

*"Felix was a close cousin and a real stand up guy. He  
was three years older and a role model for me. At my  
aunt's house, I opened the package of his personal  
belongings the army had sent. There was a card sized  
yearly calendar with a picture of Jesus on one side. He  
had marked off each passing day with an X. He had a  
short time left on his tour of duty and of course  
returning home. I kept that card for 42 years when I  
gave it to his brother Ralph. I would look at it every  
Memorial Day remember him and another cousin also  
killed in Nam and several friends who never came  
back. I take 'that backward glance' in their memory.*

*So when we count the days of our lives, let us not  
forget those who made their lives count for us."*

Dr. J. Martinez, we grew up together



Jack Elroy Gardner, A/1/503

*"This song is a tribute to my older brother  
Jack Elroy Gardner from Vacaville, California who was  
KIA in 1966 in Vietnam, Panel 07E - - Line 89"*

Trent Gardner

He is my brother

**THE GREAT GOODNIGHT**

*I was only four*

*I don't remember you*

*I have seen your pictures my whole life*

*Brother... in this great goodnight.*

*A black frame still protects those two*

*letters from the President*

*They start out: On this day in May 1966*

*for wounds received in action.*

*Still hanging here after all of this time*

*right next to your purple heart*

*in this great goodnight.*

*I do have this one hazy memory*

*I think you had me up on your shoulders*

*playing on top of the world for a moment*

*that couldn't last (it never does)*

*I love this black and white of you*

*playing the harmonica like a giant at our old house*

*sitting on that green sofa*

*You were only 19 but to this kid*

*you were probably more like 43.*

Note: For complete lyrics to the song by Jack's brother, visit  
this website: <http://www.vvmf.org/thewall/anClip=130529>

Allen Morgan Garrett, B/1/503

*"Thanks for lighting the way for Mamma.*

*Sleep sweet, Curtain Climber."*

Pat



(continued....)



**Robert Louis Guerin, A/1/503**

*"Operation Hardihood, May 1966. My name is Henry J. Garcia. I knew Robert in Viet-Nam, he was my trainer and I was his replacement for our unit, A CO 1-503 Infantry, 3rd platoon, 3rd squad, 173 Airborne. He was shot the same day I was wounded, his body was discovered the next day. On the 20th of May 1966 I tried to rescue Guerin and bring him back to safety but I was spotted by an enemy machine gunner and could not reach Guerin. I think of him often and live everyday with survivor guilt."*

Henry J. Garcia  
We served together



**Edward Hamilton, HHB/3/319**



*"Hi my name is Cindy, My brother, Sgt. Edward Hamilton was KIA in Vietnam May 17, 1966. If there's anyone that knew my brother or served with him, please get in contact with me. My New E-mail is [cindyrsdu@yahoo.com](mailto:cindyrsdu@yahoo.com) I had to write again to put in my new email address, because I'm no longer with AOL. Thank you for your time. Also thanks to all that served their Country for our Freedom. You're all very special. Love."*

Cindy Underwood, He is my brother

(See Edward's Bronze Star Citation on Page 59)

**~ The Bronze Star Medal ~**

An individual military award of the United States Armed Forces. It may be awarded for acts of heroism, acts of merit, or meritorious service in a combat zone. When awarded for acts of heroism, the medal is awarded with the "V" device. The medal is sometimes referred to as the Bronze Star and is the fifth-highest combat decoration and the tenth highest U.S. military award in order of precedence. Foreign soldiers, as well as officers from the other federal uniformed services are also eligible to receive the decoration when serving with or alongside a service branch of the United States Armed Forces.

**Johnny Harrison, A/1/503, B/1/503\***



**Michael Raymond Kiehl, A/1/503**

*"My brother Mike was such a kind and happy person, loving and loved by all who knew him. He believed in his country and he believed in God. He knew the evils of war, but he believed in his country enough to make this the ultimate sacrifice so that we could have continued freedom. May God bless all who read and remember my brother not so much as a hero, which he was, but as a loving and kind and genuine human being. Mike was my brother and also my friend. In his last year of high school, Mike played taps during a halftime performance with the marching band at an El Capitan High School football game, which became sadly prophetic a few short years later. To this day, my heart stops whenever I hear taps played. I miss you Mike, and I know you are with Jesus now, no longer in pain or want. Someday I am coming too. Say hi to dad for us."*

Ellen Thompson  
He is my brother

**Darrell Wayne Martinson, A/2/503**

*"Too short a life. The last picture I have of my nephew he is holding my newborn daughter of three weeks. Little did I know that it would represent the beginning and ending of life. He was a fine young man and served his country as his father did."*

Birdie Bagley Westerdahl

***As Long As We Live  
You Will Live  
As Long As We Live  
You Will Be Remembered  
As Long As We Live  
You Will Be Loved***

~ M.A.C.V., July 2, 1995 ~

(continued....)





**John Edward McMahan, B/1/503**

*"Not forgotten. 'Mac' was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade. He was killed on Operation Dexter about 20 minutes flying time from our Base at Bien Hoa. We were operating in a remote jungle area, away from any VN settlements; I think it was within 'D Zone.' We were honored to have served with him."*

Larry Dacunto  
Company Commander



**Gilliam Moore, A/1/503**

*"The photo of you makes me happy. My dear brother, Gilliam, it's great to see a picture of you. I think of you every day and I know that Mother is with you now. I love you both. Thank you George Paskings for bringing some happiness into my family's life and allowing others to catch a glimpse of him."*

Margaretta Delgado, He is my brother



**Richard Michael Patrick, B/1/503**

*"My Grandfather (Richard "Dick" Patrick) has passed Mike's medals on to me. I'm in the process of collecting and creating a shadow box memorial for our family. It's taken the family many years, but there is a renewed interest in Uncle Mike and his life and tragic death (now that we can more freely talk about it without tearful hearts. We remember him and wish he were here, but Providence didn't grant us that time."*

*For all that remember Mike we hope the photos will bring back good memories of a truly courageous young man."*

Kirk Coppinger  
Nephew

**Walter William Phelps, A/1/503**



**Carter Redmond, A/1/503**

*"All gave some. Some gave all. Redmond. You were a very quiet soldier when I knew you. I think of you and Moore daily and keep both of you constantly in my heart. Rest now my brothers in the presence of our lord Jesus Christ."*

Jesus Peralta, A/1/503, 173d Abn



**William E. Walters, B/1/503**

*"We were honored to have served with him."*

Larry Dacunto, Company Commander

**Jimmy Laverne Williams, B/1/503**

~ May 1967 ~



**Winfred Alderman, C/4/503**

*(continued....)*





**Harold A. Beaverson, Jr., HHC/4/503**

*"Harold was born October 21, 1933. His parents were Harold and Sara and he had three brothers and two sisters. His wife was Patsye Horn and he had three children. He attended York High and served with the Marines in the Korean War. He joined the Army in March, 1957 and had served one tour in Vietnam and was just days from finishing his second tour when he was killed. He had already signed up for his third tour. He was stationed with HHC, 4th BN, 503rd INF, 173rd ABN BDE at Bien Hoa. He was killed on May 31, 1967 and was 33 years old. He was awarded the Good Conduct, Korean Service, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign, United Nations Service, Combat Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, and is remembered on*

*Panel 21E, line 20"*

Posted by

Jim McIlhenney

Pennsylvania Viet Vet

*to Captain Ray Boyd, The Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Metal and The Air Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster. Bobby is buried in the Coleman Cemetery east of Murfreesboro, TN beside of the family farm that belonged to his father (Mose Boyd, Jr.), his grandparents (Mose and Martha Jamison Boyd, Sr.) and our common great grandfather William Robert Jamison. Bobby's grave is marked: Tenn. Capt. Btry A. 3BN., 319 Arty. 173 Airborne DDE Vietnam BSM-AM-PH, Apr. 21, 1941-May 17, 1967.*

Posted by his cousin, Joe A. Jamison

**Harry Gibson Carter, HHC/2/503**



**James Virgil Chronister, C/2/503**

**Edward Oran Claeys, C/2/503, C/4/503\***

**Marvin Eugene Cutrer, B/2/503, C/2/503\***

**Joseph Duckett, Jr., B/2/503**

**Robert Ray Boyd, A/3/319**

*"Bobby graduated from Central High School in Murfreesboro in 1959 with honors. In 1964, he received his BS degree in chemistry from Middle Tennessee State University and Second Lieutenant rank from the ROTC. He was assigned to the 101st Airborne Artillery at Fort Campbell. He graduated from the Field Artillery Officers Basic Course and was sent to Viet Nam in July of 1965. On October 24, 1965, he was awarded the 'Certificate of Merit in Recognition of Outstanding Performance of Duty'. On March 16, 1966, he was awarded the 'Bronze Star Metal for Heroism' for moving under heavy enemy fire to the platoon which was receiving the brunt of the new attack. He directed artillery fire upon the Viet Cong while exposing himself to fire for five hours. Bobby was promoted to Captain in January of 1967 and was stationed at Bein Hoa Air Base near Saigon as the Communications Officer for the 173rd Airborne Division. He signed up for a second tour of duty and came home for a short stay. On May 17 Captain Boyd was preparing for a convoy when a shell from a hostile mortar round hit him. He was killed instantly by a very small fragment which hit his heart. On July 15, 1967, the United States Army presented posthumous awards*



**George Ray Fayfie Edwards, C/2/503**

*"SP5 Edwards was my driver (M113 Armored Personnel Carrier). He was a fine man. We were moving back into base camp around 10-11AM on May 17, 1967 when SP5 Edwards was taken from the field of battle. I lost other platoon members this day and will always mourn their passing. In 1967, I had the fortunate occasion to meet with SP5 Edwards Wife who was in Bad Nauheim, Germany. I made it a point to contact her and try to comfort her in any way that I could. May he rest in peace."*  
Former PSG Thomas R. Presley  
Fellow soldier and Platoon Sgt.

(continued....)



**David Lee Fennessey, D/4/503**

*"Hello Dave. Bet you thought you would never see me again!! We were buddies at Ft. Dix in basic training - and in jump school at Ft. Benning way back in 1963. I will always remember the last time I saw you...you were waiting to leave for the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Okinawa. I had been assigned to the 82nd at Ft. Bragg. All these years, I always wondered what happened to you. After visiting the Vietnam Memorial, now I know. Perhaps I will be able to visit you sometime. But, no matter what, you have not been forgotten!"*

**Wayne Hudson  
We served together**



**Johnnie Chester Fuller, D/16 Armor**

*"I was the Platoon SGT of SSG Johnnie C. Fuller. We were in D Co, 16th Armor, 173rd Airborne Bde (Sep). SSG Fuller was an outstanding NCO and a close associate of mine. He was seriously wounded during the early morning hours of May 17, 1967 while operating in the area of Xuan Loc, RVN. I lost Johnnie and several other good soldiers on this day. May he rest in peace and I pray that his contributions were not in vain. Johnnie, like many other Soldiers before him, gave his life so that others may live in Freedom. When you read this, say a small prayer for his loved ones, and tell Johnnie 'thank you' we all live a better life because of his sacrifice. May he rest in peace."*

**Timothy R. Presley, Former SSG  
Fellow Soldier**

**Waddel Evans, C/2/503**

*"Semper Fi, Trooper."*

**A Marine from your hometown  
USMC Vietnam, 1969**

**Joseph O. Frigault, 173 Eng**

*"Daddy, I miss you. It has been 33 years since you gave your all for this country. I was only 15 then, the oldest of us 4 kids. Momma was completely bed ridden and you could have been excused from going to the war for that reason. But no, you didn't look for a way out. You said you couldn't train all those young boys and*



*then not go over there yourself. I remember thinking, 'Why do all the men want to act like a John Wayne the actor and go for the glory of battle?' You were so proud to be a Green Beret! I remember how you loved to jump out of those airplanes. I swore I would never marry an Army man! Well Daddy I did. He got out of the Army and then joined the National Guard. They called him to go to Saudi Arabia during the war. He came home safe after 7 months. Daddy I have 3 sons. Of course the first was named after you. Two of them have served their time in the Army. I have to say they are better sons for it. Daddy I just want to say thank you. Thank you for teaching me how to whistle even though I'm a girl. Thank you for teaching me how to ride a bike. Thank you for teaching me how to swim. Thank you for teaching me how to act like a lady, by not spitting like you did as we walked to church together. Thank you for making me feel beautiful by telling me how 'sharp' I looked. Thank you for being a good Daddy that never had a hard hand for spanking. I remember several times you came into our room and spanked the bed and told us to scream and cry so Mamma would think we were getting a spanking. You did have a way of settling arguments though! I remember one time us girls were fighting over a jump rope. You told us, 'Enough is enough! I am settling this once and for all!' We just knew we were about to get our bottoms warmed up when you came storming out of the house. You took our jump rope from us, pulled out your pocket knife, cut the rope in two, and gave it back to us! We could barely contain our giggles till you went back in the house! We just tied the cut ends together and then played together without fighting. Thank you Daddy, for giving your life for our country so that other children can continue to have*

*precious times with  
their Daddies. I love you."*

**Marie Ann Frigault Collier**

*"I won't forget. I served with Sgt Frigault and I was still there when he was killed. He was like the dad I never had. He took care of his platoon. He even went out on a listening post with us. Nothing an E-6 had to do. The mosquitoes were bad that night and Sarge let me and the other trooper sleep while he swatted away mosquitoes all night. That's the kind of man he was. I will never forget him. Rest well Sarge."*

**Vic Martinez  
173d Airborne**

*(continued....)*





**Wilson Truman Gerald, D/16 Armor**

*"I was only just a child when my cousin Truman left for Vietnam, and he is only a vague memory in my mind's remembrances. But he is the first member of my family that I knew who died for his country and his family. And strangely enough, this is why I will always remember Truman."*

M'Laryl Gaynor, Second Cousin

**Gerald Charles Hague, B/4/503**

*"01 Jun 1999. I was with Gerry when he died and I would be glad to answer any questions if any family member or friend would like to e-mail me."*

A buddy,  
John Daly

[skosichdaly@uswest.net](mailto:skosichdaly@uswest.net)



**Steven Michael Haniotes, "Doc", C/4/503**

*"Steve, I miss you so very much. I think of you EVERY day." Love, Mom*

*"Stevie ... only 19 years old when you were killed in Vietnam. No surprise to me you 'volunteered'. That's the way you were ... unleashed. I miss your laugh and sense of humor. Daily, I would help you deliver newspapers. As your little sister, I was always 'tagging along'. You never seemed to mind.*

*I remember you performing on the 'trampolines' during half-time of the high school basketball games. I remember your great diving flips at the 'creek' off the rocks. You were GREAT! You were always there for me! You were always so kind and generous to others.*

*Memories of you are in my heart, I miss you EVERY DAY! In Vietnam, you were a Hero. At home you were always my Hero! Only the good die young."*

Love, Harriet

**Norman Perry Howie, Jr., C/4/503**



**David Joseph Johnson, C/4/503**



**Charlie Gray Lewis, D/16 Armor**

*"Charlie Gray Lewis was my father in law. I never had the chance to get to know him, but I am married to his son. I like to hear stories about my father in law. He was a great man, and very handsome too. His date of death is recorded incorrectly, he died May 17, 1967. I only wish that my children had the opportunity to get to know their Grandfather. May he rest in peace."*

Daughter-in-law



**Carl Fredrick Louvring, HHC/173, E/17 Cav\*  
HIGH FLIGHT**

*Oh, I have slipped the surly bonds of earth  
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;  
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth  
Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things  
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and  
swung*

*High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,  
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung  
My eager craft through footless halls of air....*

(continued....)



*...Up, up the long, delirious, burning blue  
I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace  
Where never lark or even eagle flew.  
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod  
The high untresspassed sanctity of space,  
Put out my hand,  
and touched the face of God.*

John Gillespie Magee, Jr.  
Pilot Officer, Royal Air Force  
Killed in flight 11 Dec 1941, aged 19

From his brother (and eldest of 7 children),  
Capt. Frederick S. Louvring  
(semi-retired; Commercial Airlines; ATP B-737 Pilot)

(See newspaper article about Carl on Page 72)

~ May 1968 ~



Lawrence Lee Aldrich, B/2/503

*"The best never rest. My brother, what can you say, although I was young at the time and really didn't understand what was happening, time has led me to realize the sacrifice Larry and all like him gave. My*

*children never met him but they know him, we are all so proud to call him our hero, gone but not forgotten, a wonderful phrase, and so true.....not just Larry, but all who have given the ultimate sacrifice for 'Freedom'. It's true, freedom isn't free, but oh what a wonderful feeling it is. The best never rest and I am sure that they are all watching and defending us even today."*

Tim Aldrich

He is my brother

(See reports about Larry on Page 73)



Ceremony of the boots.

Samuel Proctor, Jr., B/4/503

John Roy Tighe, B/2/503  
Recipient of the Bronze Star



William Coy Turner, C/4/503



Robert Samuel Allen, B/2/503, A/1/50\*

*"Bob, I will never forget the good times we had playing high school baseball, you were always a competitor and a good friend. Next year will be 35 years since we graduated high school and probably the last time I saw you but I have never forgotten you."*

Charley Severino

High School classmate

(continued....)

~ A Note from The Virtual Wall ~  
"C Company, 4/503rd Infantry, lost four men on  
17 May 1967."





**Bruce Richard Backes, C/1/50**



Left to Right (standing): Ron Heinecke, Norm Poage and Matt Morrison...in front: Bruce Backes and Tim Voncina

*"If you knew Bruce and would like to be in touch with members of his Platoon and Charlie Company, 1/50th Infantry, please visit the website for the 1/50th Association at: [www.ichiban1.org](http://www.ichiban1.org). We have reunions every two years at Fort Benning, current home of the 50th Infantry, and Bruce is always fondly remembered."*

Jim Sheppard, We served together  
Posted October 28, 2005

**Sam Henry Boyd, A/2/503, B/2/503\***



**Eckhard Gerhard Brenker, C/1/503**



*"Born in Germany. Raised in York, Pennsylvania. Died in Vietnam serving his adopted country. A boyhood friend and classmate. He is gone but he will not be forgotten by his friends and classmates at William Penn High School, York, Pennsylvania, Class of 1965.*

Gregg Doll, USMC Retired  
We grew up together



**William Francis Brice, Jr., HHC/2/503, E/2/503\***

*"Thank you so much for posting your remembrances in Billy's memory... it meant a great deal to me to read your heartfelt words. To Courtney and Stacy, If your Mom is agreeable, I would very much like for her to contact me. Fondly."*

Ed Brice  
Billy's brother

*"Bill was a great guy. He used to work in the gas station on the highway near my grandparent's home. I can still see that great smile. It seems like only yesterday - and yet it is so many, many, years. You are missed along with all the other great guys from the Dover Area who gave all."*

Linda Latona

**Larry Briscoe, B/2/503**

*"I think of you every day. I was 2 1/2 years old when you died. There's not a day that goes by that I don't think of you. I think of the advice that you would have given me, the time we possibly would have spent together. I thank you for what you have given me. I thank you and your comrades. You are my hero always. I miss you dad we all do. Happy birthday. Your son." Larry Briscoe, Jr.*



**Lawrence Joseph Bronczyk, D/2/503**

*"Dear Lawrence, to honor your memory and the sacrifice you made for your country I want to make sure your photo will be displayed on your birthday each and every year when the Education Center is completed, so it is with great pride and humility that I post this remembrance and picture of you..."*

(continued....)



*...You are not forgotten and remain in the hearts of many all these years later. You have been designated to be one of God's special angels, along with the love of my life, who also sacrificed his life during this war 45 years ago. God Bless You, Lawrence, for being who you were and for all you did--we live in freedom to this day thanks to heroes like you."*

Carol (Cipriani) Haberchak



**James Scott Brown, B/1/503, B/3/503\***

*"Too young. Scott, I think of you often and miss your great sense of humor dearly. You were too young to die. I would love to hear from your family or any of the men you served with. You need some memorials and by gosh I will do that for you!"*

Bev Cauthen Girl  
He was my boyfriend

*"I was there when he died. Good man."*

Stephen Callahan  
We served together

**Karl Lee Bullard, B/2/503**



(See Karl's DSC citation on Page 69)



**Gary Edward Canapp, C/1/503**

*"Gary I never forgot and I found your folks, though it took a lot longer than I ever imagined. Rest in peace brother. Airborne! The Herd will never forget!!!!"*

Unsigned  
We served together



**Joseph Allan Clingerman, E/17 Cav**

*"You are survived by your niece and great-niece. Even though we never met, you will always be in our hearts and we will love you always. Tina and Kayla."*

From his niece,  
Tina L. Clingerman VanMatre

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

*"The 173rd Airborne Brigade's ground recon unit, E Troop, 17th Cavalry, lost three men on 6 May 1968, while the Brigade as a whole lost 12 men."*

**Rodney Allen Crandall, B/2/503, B/1/50\***



**Freddie Isiah Crockett, B/2/503**



**Paul L. Darden, Jr., B/1/503, C/1/503\***

*"My dear friend. Gone but not forgotten"*

Nancy Suggs  
We were high school classmates



(continued....)





**Cortland Ellis Dennison, C/1/50**

*“Ellis and I served together in C Company, mortar platoon. On that day of May 5, 1968, we entered the battle dropping mortar rounds close-in on enemy positions surrounding us. I did not learn of Ellis' injury until I returned to the unit a couple weeks later. Everyone liked Ellis. Congratulations to his parents for instilling good values in this man.”*

**Bill Bontemps**  
We served together

*understood war or why you had to go there. But as I grow older I am very proud of your commitment to your country. I just find it sad that the world today does not honor what a service our soldiers provide to the country. I did have a good step-father who served in the Army in Vietnam too. He just died on October 2, 2006. He was a good man, so dad if you meet him up there shake his hand. He did right by your little girl. And tell my brother and my children I love them. I love you always. Denise.”*

**From his daughter**  
**Denise Dulac-Stark**

*“1SG Malcolm Cyril Dulac was born Friday, Dec 25th 1931, {Christmas day} in Dexter, Maine. He was one of ten born to Maurice & Minnie Dulac. Malcolm was ten years older than me, so I can only give you what I have been told. Malcolm lived mostly with his grandparents because there was not much room at home. His schooling was through eighth grade. He would rather go rabbit hunting than school, so his dad recommended the army. He was almost seventeen at the time, so he and two other best friends were enlisted at age seventeen. (His two friends were killed in Korea). I believed he trained at Fort Dix, N.J. and was sent to Korea. He came home from his first tour of duty but civilian life was not for him, so he re-enlisted. He spent over 19 years serving the United States of America in two wars. Before going to VietNam he called his dad to let him know he did not have to go, but he was going anyway. Malcolm's father and mother were saddened to hear of his hostile death in Binh Dinh Province in May of 1968. His tour in VietNam started Saturday, Sept. 30, 1967. Tour ended May 5, 1968, age 36. Malcolm was a professional soldier who deserves to be honored by all free Americans.”*

**Stanford Dulac, He is my brother**

**John Melvin Durham, B/1/503**

*“John and I both arrived in Bien Hoa at the same time and were assigned to the same company. We were together from around June 2, 1967 to his last day in May 68. We had great plans for each other once we were done. I received orders to come home two weeks later. His loss was one of my biggest of the year. I still think of him and smile.”*

**Larry Egan**  
We served together



**James W. Dial, D/1/69 Armor**

*“James Dial is in the center of this photo. It is the only photo I have of my friend.*

*Rest in peace with the warriors.”*

**Bruce Kirdahy**



**Malcolm Cyril Dulac, A/1/50**

*“Dear Dad. I remember your love. I missed you all my life. There are scars where love should be. I never*

*(continued....)*





**James Donahue Ferguson, A/1/50**

*“Under Way on The Troop Ship USNS General John Pope. Left to right: Wayne Wright, James D. Ferguson 55E-011, and Bill Black, all from 'A' Company.*

*Rest in peace with the warriors.”*

Photo credit and comment by  
Mick Hawkins

**Julian Thomas Fields, C/3/503**

*“There’s not a day goes by that I don t think about this day – I am sorry it had to be you and not me - I miss the good times we could have had - keep the beer cold and some fish for me - your friend.”*

Douglas Anderson, 173 Airborne  
We served together



**Gary Duane Fox, E/17 Cav**

**Thomas Amiss Fox, B/2/503**



**Thomas Walter Foy, HHC/2/503**

*“Remembrances for Capt. Thomas Walter Foy, USA...who made the ultimate sacrifice.”*

Unsigned

**Sanford R. Gaboriault, B/1/69 Armor**  
**Michael Anthony Gerome, 74/LRRP**

*“We trained together (A strong man, that Mike), we flew together, we left together, I came home. He didn't. It broke his parent’s hearts. These many years later, I wonder what if 'he did'? So sad, still.”*

Jeff K., We served together

*“Mike was my good friend. We spent our last evenings together stateside, in California, cruising and at 'going away', parties. My most vivid memories of Mike are of our flight from Atlanta to L.A., on our last leave prior to Vietnam, singing 'The Letter'. Mike was going to Nam as an MP with 18th Corp, while I was going as a grunt with the 101st. Later on he volunteered for the field: A fatal mistake. I made it. Why?”* Unsigned



**Calvin Lionel Gooch, “Doc”, B/1/50**

*“Miss you. Your smile and your sense of humor help your memory to live on in my heart and mind.”*

Candy (Duncan) Grant, We were close friends



**Linwood Gough, A/1/503**

*“S. Phila. Corporal, 24, Is Killed in Vietnam*  
*A South Philadelphia Army corporal was killed May 25 while on guard duty in South Vietnam, the Department of Defense announced Friday. He had been in the war zone only two months. He was identified as Cpl. Linwood Gough, 24, the son of Mrs. Carrie B. Williams, of 1129 S. Sydenham St. Mrs. Williams said she received a telegram saying her son died of wounds suffered when his area came under mortar attack. Cpl. Gough was drafted, August 10, 1967, and left for...*

(continued...)



...Vietnam on March 12. In his last letter dated May 5, he said he had seen a great deal of action and that many men in his outfit were being killed. Besides his mother he is survived by two sisters, Willia Gough and Marian Williams, and a brother, Jimmy Williams."  
*Philadelphia Inquirer*, June 1, 1968

"I was assistant gunner on Cpl. Gough's M60 crew. I joined the gun crew in March 68 when he was the assistant gunner for Jimmy (Mule) Moore. Cpl. Gough was a good man, a professional soldier, and his only want was to get home to his family. If anyone knows or can get my information to his family please do, and if anyone in the family would like to meet with me, I will travel to wherever you are. Cpl. Gough was my friend, fellow soldier, and brother forever!"

George H. Purnia  
We served together  
[geopool02@aol.com](mailto:geopool02@aol.com)  
Posted June 8, 2006

**Warren Gray, B/2/503, B/3/503\***

"Dear Grandpa: I really wish I could see you. My mom and dad named me after you and my dad still has your jacket. I am very proud to have you in my family as a Vietnam soldier. Thank you for serving your country."

Warren Sheppard, Age 9  
Posted by  
Everett Sheppard  
He is my father

**Richard Al Green, A/1/503, B/2/503\***

"40 years later you came to mind. Richard I still remember growing up going to the army never thought you would go to the corp. I was not in country when you came home it still bothers me sometimes. Well I still miss you. P.S. Sorry I never got to talk to your mom or family."

Johnnie H. Washington  
We grew up together

**Sherron Everett Harbison, A/1/50**



**Wayne Lynn Harland, 74/LRRP**



**Arthur Robert Henning, C/3/503**



**Frank G. Herrera, C/2/503**



**Ronald Arwed Hillman, A/1/503, B/2/503\***



**Dennis Edward Hinton, B/2/503 A/1/50\***

"It was important for me to post this memorial for a special person who died when I was only 3 years old. I have a vivid memory of a picture of my uncle who was holding my baby sister and me by his side. It is the last and sadly the only memory I have of a great man whose life ended too early. I was told that he was a very special brother and son and I know he would have been an awesome uncle."

Carrie Kirkutis

"Lt. Sir: I was the medic for you on the 5th. I was WIA and sent back where you and our other friends died. It was a honor Sir to have served with you. Relatives of Lt. Hinton go to [www.ichiban1.org](http://www.ichiban1.org) to be with His Friends."

Doc Fitzgerald  
We served together  
Posted February 18, 2007

(continued....)



## ~ A Note from The Virtual Wall ~

The After Action Report for the fight at An Bao gives this sequence of events:

*"In early May 1968 intelligence reports indicated that an enemy Regimental headquarters and an artillery unit had taken up residence in the Southwestern Crescent foothills in Binh Dinh Province. Continuing US search efforts had failed to locate enemy units, and the only significant contact was an unsuccessful night probe against LZ OLLIE on the night of 04 May. On 05 May the bulk of 1LT Dennis Hinton's "A" Company 1/50 Infantry was directed to conduct a reconnaissance-in-force toward BR895783, northwest of LZ UPLIFT. The force, 50 men mounted in 9 armored personnel carriers, departed LZ UPLIFT at 0800, moved north along Highway 1 to LZ ICHIBAN, and turned westward toward their target area. There was no direct contact during the morning hours, although an enemy element of some 15 men was sighted and taken under fire. Shortly before noon 1LT Hinton put "A" Company into a defensive perimeter for the noon break. One observation post was established for security. At 1144 the enemy initiated action with a volley of 75mm recoilless rifle fire which immediately disabled 5 of the 9 APCs. The RR fire was followed by a ground assault coming from an area of high ground southwest of the "A" Company perimeter. Supporting enemy fires were received from the northwest, northeast, and southeast. 1LT Hinton's last order before he was shot was "Get the hell out of here", an order which led to the operational APCs withdrawing to the east with what men they could collect amidst the confusion. Approximately 15 men had been left behind in the "A" Company perimeter. The senior person present, 1LT Frank W. Webb, reorganized these men and established a fighting position behind rice paddy dikes and oriented toward the enemy's ground assault force. Unfortunately their rear was unprotected and enemy fire from the northeast took a toll, including 1LT Webb. Shortly after noon two relief forces were dispatched from LZ UPLIFT. The first to move out, "C" Company 1/50, was followed by two tank platoons from "B" Company 1/69 Armor. Charlie 1/50 took the same route as had Alpha 1/50 earlier, while the tanks moved further north on Highway 1 before turning toward the contact area. Charlie 1/50 arrived first, just in time to protect the remaining men of Alpha 1/50 from the enemy assault. Charlie loaded the Alpha survivors and moved out of the kill zone toward the west. Bravo 1/69 joined and the two companies established a perimeter west of the original contact area where resupply, medevac, and reorganization for a counter-attack could be*

*completed. At the same time, Bravo 1/50, reinforced with a tank platoon from Bravo 1/69, moved from LZ UPLIFT to LZ ICHIBAN and turned toward the contact area, approaching from the east. At 1700 Charlie 1/50 and the supporting Bravo 1/69 tanks began a counter-attack from their position to the west. As nightfall approached, the Charlie 1/50 force was directed to halt more or less in place and to establish a night defensive position, which they did. At midnight, or shortly thereafter, Charlie 1/50 and the tankers received a badly needed munitions resupply - just in time, as it turned out, because they were taken under heavy ground attack at about 0330. Although this attack resulted in three American dead and 18 wounded, the night laager held out. At daybreak the two US forces resumed their move to contact ... but the enemy had withdrawn. Sweeps of the battle area on 06 and 07 May found 117 enemy bodies; in addition, one enemy soldier surrendered on 07 May. When interrogated the POW said there had been three battalions established in a U-shaped ambush with the intention of catching and wiping out the American recon unit (Alpha 1/50). Although the enemy was unable to achieve his objective, eighteen American soldiers were killed in the fighting."*

Donald Eugene Honeycutt, C/1/503, B/1/50\*  
Danny Hoskins, C/1/50

*"I still see the pain on my grandmother's sweet face when she talks about you...and how you had just started your life...you were a very admired brother...and you and her son, my father, were the same age..and very close...I wish I could have met you and I know I would've loved you just as much...you would have been a great great uncle...I'll meet you someday...your nephew."*

Patrick Palmer

Victor James Humphrey, E/17 Cav

*"I have never forgotten the friendship we had growing up together. The times we shared and the special moments you shared with me are treasured in my heart, soul mind and body. I will always remember you till my dying day."*

Jeff Coursey, We were close friends

Larry Lee Kelly, E/17 Cav



(continued....)





**Gregory Stanley Kowaleski, A/2/503**

*"The father of a young soldier killed in Vietnam, denounced the conflict as a 'political war' Friday and said it should have been over two years ago. Stanley Kowaleski, father of Army Sgt. Gregory S. Kowaleski, 21, of Mount Laurel Rd., Mount Laurel, N.J., said America should do everything possible to get out of Vietnam. 'I despise Communists,' Kowaleski said. 'We should use every possible means to end this war, including pullout. Not one of those Communists are worth one American life.' Kowaleski and his wife, Janet, learned Thursday their son had been killed by sniper fire Tuesday. A 1965 graduate of Lenape Regional High School in Medford, he joined the Army in February, 1966, and went to Vietnam last August. Sgt. Kowaleski, a Bronze Star holder, was a platoon leader. He had come home on emergency leave in January for his grandfather's funeral, but the malaria he contracted in Southeast Asia prevented him from attending the services."*

*The Philadelphia Inquirer, April 25, 1968*



**Holland Irwin Langham, B/2/503**

*"Holly and I were high school classmates. His mom was one of my English Teachers. Holly was one year younger than me and we were only acquaintances not close friends. I remember Holly as bright and clever, and cheerful. He was a good person with a great sense of humor. He was talented and full of hope and promise for the future. He had friends and a family who loved him. Holly was killed in Viet Nam nearly a year before I went over. I do not know the details of his death. but I think of him often. Thank you Holly, you won't be forgotten." Unsigned*

**Robert John Leska, A/1/50**



**James M. Levings, C/3/503**




**Donald Everett Lowe, A/1/50**

*"He was my younger brother by one year. We grew up together. We hunted together, we fished together, we dated girls together. We loved one another, but we were brothers, we didn't always agree. I went with the Air Force and he chose the Army. He served well, but he never came home. He will always live in my heart, as I miss him every day. My first-born son was named for him. One day when the Lord chooses to take me home, I will see him again. I look forward to that day. DON, you are my friend, and you are my brother. The way you were, there could never be another. You're not in this life, but near to my heart; and there you'll remain, as an everlasting part. Our yesterday's once here, have now gone their way; but our tomorrows get closer with each passing day. Because of the price that the Lord once paid; and because of the path which before me He laid, I have the promise He gave, to hold close to me; next to the memories of you, for all eternity. I love you brother, and I miss you, you see; but I'll see you tomorrow, whenever that will be." From his brother and friend, William Douglas Lowe*

*"To my best friend and a true hero. I was with Donald for 3 months, 24 hours a day and night of true horror and terror. We'd seen so much death and shared the pain of the loss of our friends. Donald was a true hero, he could of drove away to safety like many others did on 5-5-68 but instead he drove forward attacking the NVA and gave his life with Robert Allen from N.J. His actions gave time for many others to escape and live. No one knew of his bravery but me laying in the rice paddy dikes wounded watching him attack to his death. God bless you Donald and Allen and the rest of the soldiers who gave their life for their country and the 1/50th, 173<sup>rd</sup>. 5-5-68."*

James E. Fitzgerald (Doc)

We served together

*"Don was first assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav  and then later to the 173d Airborne."*

*(continued....)*



**Patrick Leroy Mansfield, D/2/503**



*soldier who personally carried 600 rounds of ammo along with the 200 round belt he had on the gun. He faithfully cleaned his M-60 every other day and expected only the utmost effort from every member of his team. He also made sure we all carried at least 500 rounds of machinegun ammo as well. Suffice it to say that he was a competent field trooper and ran a tight gun team. I know this will sound bizarre in light of the circumstances, but I always felt halfway safe with him around. As for the way Jimmy met his death, all men at war can only hope that they pass on in such a manner. Mule died in the arms of a woman. It happened while he was on bridge guard just outside of old An Khe, in Binh Dinh province. A NVA sapper stepped into the bunker unannounced and discharged his AK-47. Jimmy and the woman died instantly from wounds sustained to the heart. The midnight firefight that raged afterward, a firefight that also would mean letters of condolences to other waiting mothers, would be fought without the deftly accurate and deadly wailing of Jimmy's machinegun.*

*May God grant him eternal peace!"*

**Scott H. Smith**

**"A" Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Bn, 503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry  
173d Airborne Brigade (Sep)**



**John William Moran, B/1/503, A/2/503\***

**Robert Hal Mundy, "Doc", HHC/173 Bde**



**Anibal Ortega, Jr., D/2/503**

*"Junior. I never knew you, but my Mom was your best friend. She misses you very much, and has your picture next to her bed when she sleeps. I know you watch over us. You died so young and I wish I would have been able to have met you. Chinky loves you Junior. We wish you were here."*

**Unsigned**

*(continued....)*

**Lawrence Michael McGinty, B/2/503**

*"I will always remember our younger days. The fun we shared. How you watched over me. (And I know you still do). The love you had for everyone. You are my greatest hero. You are my brother. You will never ever be forgotten. Prayers and love for you, always. Your sister."*

**Roseanne M. Jones and David Jones  
He is my brother**

**Larry Leon Mitchell, E/17 Cav**



**Sutton Mobley, Jr., B/1/503, A/2/503\***



**Jimmy Ray Moore, A/1/503**

*"Jimmy Ray 'Mule' Moore was an amateur golden glove boxer from San Francisco. He was well over six feet tall, dark skinned with huge hands, chest and arms. This man could have lifted a water buffalo without straining but he was never threatening. Just a quiet guy with an easy-going attitude and a quick smile who humped an M-60 machine gun for November (third) platoon. I vividly remember 'Mule' because after my platoon got wiped out in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre I was assigned to his gun team as one of his ammo bearers. He was one hell of a*



Robert Lee Owens, B/1/503, B/3/503\*



Ivan Kimokeo Pascal, C/3/503

*"My brother Kimo was a very special person. He was loved and missed by all his family and friends. I will always love and miss him for he was more than a brother to me. He was like a father that I never had. I miss you Kimo, life for me has never been the same since you've been gone. I know things would have been much different if you were here.*

*God Bless you and I love you."*

Your Sister Kathy

Elbert Darrell Poff, D/2/503



*"Darrell was my friend. Darrell and I met at the REPODEPO of the 173rd at An Khe, we became good friends. He loved his big Bowie knife that he carried and he talked often of an Edsel he had at home in West Virginia. We stayed together until his death. In the 1st Platoon of Delta Co, 2nd/503rd ABN INF, 173rd ABN BDE (SEP). Darrell was quiet and dedicated. He was also a hero in the truest sense of the word. On 5 May 68 in the Tiger Mountains, north of Phu My, he was killed. While on a squad patrol, humping down a dry streambed, looking for water to fill up a lot of canteens and fatrats we were carrying, we were ambushed by an NVA force of unknown size with small arms and automatic weapons. Darrell and another man (a new guy named Sch-ni-er or Sch-ri-ner) had gone down a steep embankment when the firing began. This new guy was hit at least twice in the lower leg, and Darrell carried him in a fireman's carry, under intense fire back up the embankment and placed him in some boulders. I was the 60 gunner and laying down covering fire and reconning by fire when my AG Roger Metzler said Darrell said he was hit but OK. I turned my head to look and he had been hit again. The second was instantly fatal. His death was quick and painless and his heroism was far and away above the Silver Star he was awarded (posthumously). This*

*firefight began about 11AM and we were pinned down taking more casualties until after dark. Darrell was truly one of the best soldiers I ever saw in the Nam. But the most important thing about Darrell was that he was a good friend."*

*Robert Waters (M60 Gunner)*

*1st Plt., 2nd/503rd, 173rd Abn Bde (The Herd)*

*"My thanks to Robert Waters for his remembrance of Darrell Poff. My name is Roy Arrington and Darrell was one of my closest friends as we grew up in the mountains of West Virginia. I remember when Darrell fashioned his favorite Bowie knife and his pride in his Edsel. Our fishing and hunting trips and all the other adventures of growing up in a great place. It does not surprise me that Darrell was seen as a good friend or that he laid his life on the line to help another. This is just the way he was. Darrell was quite an artist and the world lost much that day in May 1968. Most of all we lost a close and dear friend. Once again my thanks to Robert for the account of Darrell's last actions. It added much to the citation that accompanied the Silver Star. Our thanks to all that served... never forget." Roy L. Arrington, Friend*



Stephen Wayne Quinn, D/1/503

*"This is my memory of my buddy Steve, when as 18 year old soldiers we were in the same squad. He was a fine soldier and very polite to all. Steve was fearless in battle and carried his weight as well as anyone in the bush. He wanted to be a machine gunner and got his wish when our gunner Benny Thompson left for home. Benny would always say things were OK when we three were together. I got wounded March 3, 1968 and when I returned to the field after weeks of rehab I was told that Benny and Quinn had left, with Steve getting killed. I felt somewhat alone as we were a team but lived to tell a story. His family should be very proud of this soldier.*

*I will always keep him in my heart."*

*John Rodriguez, South California*

*(continued....)*





**Michael Davis Reeves, E/17 Cav**

*"Same state, same platoon, yet you passed and I carry on. You gave all and for that I thank you and your loved ones. God Bless and keep each in His protection. Airborne All The Way."*

Michael Lormand, We served together

**Francis Joseph Robinson, A/1/503, B/2/503\***



**Craig Allen Rood, B/1/50**



**James Sidney Rylee, B/1/50**

*"I wish I had the chance to know my uncle, but sadly I did not. He was killed before I was born. Any information or pictures that anyone can provide about him would be greatly appreciated. A big thank you to my uncle and all of those who have served, you have done our country proud."*

Deb

[nikon6@rogers.com](mailto:nikon6@rogers.com)

Posted May 28, 2007



1/50<sup>th</sup> Infantry

**William C. Sproule, Jr., B/3/503**



*"The last time that I saw Bill Sproule was as he was rousted from his bunk at 0-Dark-30 one night, told that his time in AIT Infantry, Ft. Dix was being curtailed, and that he was immediately being reassigned to Inf. OCS, Ft. Benning. Bill Sproule was a super soldier, who I knew would do great things. That he died saving others, is to describe this great, funny, sensitive warrior. RIP, buddy."*

Larry Farrell



L-R: Sgt Jacobs - Lt Bill Sproule KIA - Steve Kelly

[See Bill's DSC citation on Page 54]



**Patrick Matthew Steele, HHC/2/503, E/2/503\***



**Donald Ray Stephenson, A/1/50**

(continued....)



**Lonny Lawrence Stewart, B/2/503**



**Bruce Wayne Tabor, "Doc", HHC/1/50**

*"I remember most your humor, your vulnerability, your niceness. I wish I'd known enough to be afraid when you went to war, enough to realize how afraid you must have been, though you volunteered to go."*

Robin Rodriguez  
He is my cousin and friend



**Donald Giles Waide, 74/LRRP**

*"Don and I served together in the 173rd Airborne Brigade's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Platoon from the summer of 1967 to April of 1968. Don and I had been assigned to the Military Police Platoon of the 173rd Airborne Brigade prior to volunteering for the LRRP's. I was accepted into the LRRP Platoon in late June of 1967 and Don followed shortly thereafter. A total of five of us from the Military Police Platoon went to the LRRP's and three were subsequently killed in action. Don was an extremely close friend of mine; I served as his Assistant Team Leader for his team from December 1967 until I returned home in April of 1968. Don was an excellent Team Leader who possessed all the necessary skills to conduct the extremely dangerous long range reconnaissance patrols and return his team safely. He was aggressive in his patrols, yet he had the leadership qualities that instilled confidence in the patrol members. Don appeared totally at ease in the jungle environment, and always maintained a calming presence in tough situations. I never questioned his decisions or abilities. I left the LRRP Platoon in early April of 1968, returning home after a 3 year tour of duty with the Army. Don was looking forward to returning home within a few months after that, and the last letter I received from him before his death reflected his desires to return*

*home. I was devastated to receive word from fellow platoon members that Don was killed in action on May 7, 1968. I still have guilt feelings that if I had still been with him this would not have happened. I think about him and the other members of the platoon who gave their lives often, and whenever I am in Washington, D.C., I visit the memorial with their names. Don and I had planned to keep in touch after Vietnam, and I know that would have happened. He was a friend and fellow warrior I cannot forget. I have numerous photographs of Don from our days together, and I still enjoy the memories, good and bad. I was never able to contact Don's family and express my sorrow, nor attend his funeral, but Don will always be in my memories."*

Irvin W. Moran, Midlothian, Virginia



**Frank Wright Webb, B/2/503, A/1/50\***

*"I had the honor of meeting Frank at Officer Candidate School, Ft Benning, GA. Platoon members were determined by alphabetical order and with the first initial of our last names, T & W, we were lumped together into the 6th Platoon. I remember Frank as being a very easy person to be friends with. After six months of OCS we were both transferred to Ft. Hood, TX in our time of readiness prior to going to Vietnam. We spent another four months hanging out at the Officer's Club pool and looking for trouble every party night. After we shipped off to Vietnam I didn't see Frank again. I remember the day that I heard about Frank's death. I was in the 198th Brigade Command Center and a friend radioed and relayed the terrible news. It is my understanding that he was killed by a sniper, after a very long hard 3 day battle. My best wishes to his family and all those whose life he touched. He was 'One Great Guy' and is missed by all that knew him."*

Chris Taylor, We served together

**Richard Foy Wells, B/2/503, A/1/50\***



(continued....)





**Donald Charles Wood, E/17 Cav**

*"To Don, my best friend in Troop E, 17<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, 173 Airborne Brigade. You are always in my prayers and dreams. I was with you during that ambush. You had my M60 machine gun. Love always."*

David (The Kid) Ellison  
We served together



**Thomas Fredrick Barth, A/1/50**

*"Tom was a very nice young man, a friend whom I worked with and knew in school. We were both from Lakewood, CA only a few miles apart. I remember him wanting us to go in the Army on the buddy system together, but I had to finish my last year in school. I wish now I would have been there for him 5-20-69."*

Daniel W. Shane  
Friend

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

*"E Troop, 17th Cavalry, was the 173rd Airborne Brigade's ground recon unit.  
On 20 May 1968 E Troop lost three men."*

Roger Zimmerman, C/2/503, B/3/503\*

**~ May 1969 ~**



**William Lee Alexander, B/1/503**

*"William and I fought in this war side by side. We laughed, ate, and talked...side by side. Even though its been over 40 years that I have seen him, William still lives in my heart. We had a special relationship. When he gave his life for his country, I was personally asked to escort him back to Flint, Michigan. If any of his family members read this and would like to contact me, my emails are: [charles.miles@va.gov](mailto:charles.miles@va.gov), or [jilmiles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jilmiles@sbcglobal.net)."*

Charles Miles  
We served together  
Posted June 17, 2012

**James Francis Becker, D/4/503**

*"James was as I a member of D Co., 4/503, 173rd Airborne Brigade. I was within arms-length when Jim was killed on a nite ambush (HAWK TEAM), that ended in our becoming the ambushed. I, along with Henry (Aussie) Steigler, carried Jim back to the CP, over 2 kilometers, while it became a running fight with the NVA chasing us in the dark, but with the advantage of knowing where we were headed. WE had an unwritten RULE in the 173rd - NONE was ever left behind. That five man team did as they knew would be done for them, and Jim came back with us. I have tried to find a next of kin for years because I have some photos, etc. And to you JIM one day I will get to the WALL, and remember, you will never be forgotten- because Aussie, Caddick and myself talk of you each time we do. Rest in peace my friend forever young."*

Richard Bruce, Orlando, Florida  
Brothers In Arms

**Arthur Frederick Bell, N75/LRRP**

*"I remember the last time that I saw Arthur on my front porch in Greenville. I was home on leave from Vietnam after being wounded myself and we talked about the long study hours at Mississippi State, the Army, who we were dating and the regular 'Guy Stuff'. Arthur was a good friend and I think of him often. He is missed and like so many others, He gave his all and I would have expected no less from Arthur.  
In remembrance--your friend in Arms,"*

John Fisher  
We were close friends

(continued...)



**Jerry Charles Bock, C/4/503**

*"Mr. Bock. My father and you were on the same basketball team in high school, and although I never had the privilege of meeting you, I have heard many frivolous stories of the age old 'good old days'. I know it hurts somewhere deep inside my father to recall upon those memories knowing that you are no longer among us (physically), but all the same I'm grateful that after all these years you can still bring laughter and pride to this old man's heart."*

Casey Lash, An old friend's daughter

**Jerome Liston Collins, HHC/1/50**

*"Jerome was my Uncle. One of his greatest passions was playing the guitar which is where I learned to play country music. He was an excellent guitarist. He was also very athletic, mostly water skiing, hunting and fishing as he grew up on the Magnolia Springs River in South Alabama. He was a true champion and hero and has been missed by so many. I have written a song to his tribute:*

*Fort Ben is where they trained him,  
Vietnam he was so brave,  
now a hero up in heaven,  
but his memories they still lay,  
in his loved ones as we gather,  
his memories linger on,  
so we'll pray for our hero in heaven,  
for our loved one Jerome.*

*Written by Phillip LaCoste*

*You are missed, Uncle Jerome. God Bless."*

SGT Phillip LaCoste, Retired

10 years Active Duty, United States Army

16 years active in the Alabama Army National Guard

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

*"Headquarters Company, 1/50th Infantry, lost two men to a booby trap on 30 May 1969."*

**Calvin Edward Cooke, HHB/3/319**

**William Clint Dickerson, B/1/503**

**James Marion Ellis, C/3/503**



**Steve Freeman Grubb, B/1/50**

*"God Bless you. We miss you."*

A memorial from his niece by marriage. Unsigned



**Virgil Vern Hamilton, HHC/1/50, A/1/50\***

*"You were a beloved son, brother, grandson, nephew, cousin and friend and you are always in our hearts. God bless you."*

Mary Malas Wolfe  
Cousin



**Keith Brian Janke, E/1/503, A/50\***



L-R: David Payne, Ron Davison, Clarence Taylor (23W-011)...KIA, with Keith Janke on 28 May, 1969

*"Rest in peace with the warriors."*

David Payne

**Paul Jones, D/4/503**



(continued...)





**Edward Matthew Klaniecki, B/2/503**

*"To Ed. It's been many years and many tears since our days on LZ English. You will never be forgotten. Rest well Brother Skysoldier. One day we will all regroup in Heaven's mess hall and share the comradery of a bond that was and is to this day unique with the Herd. Till then, you will always be a part of my life. All the way!"*

John (The Professor). We served together

**Johnny Lisbon, B/4/503**

*"Daddy I never knew you but I followed in your footsteps. I am proud of you for what you did and so sorry that you had to pay the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. Love always, your son."*

1SG Patrick J. Lisbon (Ret)



**John Arthur Love, C/1/50**

*"I know only your name and a part of your story, but my Dad remembers your face. Thank you for being his friend, and his brother-in-arms.*

*You are not forgotten."*

Samantha Hale

He served with my Daddy



**Enrique Martinez, B/3/503**

*"In loving memory, from your brother Alfonso Martinez."*

Monica Martinez, He is my brother

**R.C. Myers, C/1/50**



**Steven Craig Owen, A/1/50, HHC/1/50\***

*"My name is Lee Brown and I lived at 3843 Carfax Ave. across the street from Steve. Although Steve was a year ahead of me, I can remember getting up in the morning, going over to Steve's, and waiting for him to get ready so we could walk to school together. I settled in Schenectady, New York after my discharge in 1969. I think of Steve often, and I visit the traveling wall when it comes to my area so that I can look his name up.*

*I'm proud to have known Steve."*

Lee Brown

We grew up together



**Timothy Francis Robson, A/1/50**

*"Hello, my name is Kelsey Robson. My grandfather on my father's side was your brother. I guess that would make us relatives. Because I wasn't able to see you in person, I just thought that I would give my respects to you. I am proud that the way that you held up the name of Robson. I am proud to say that you are in my family. I am sorry that I was not able to meet you in person."*

Your Grandson,

Kelsey Robson



(continued....)





**Donald Robert Sanders, Jr., B/1/503**

*"Don, I still remember May 10, 1969 as if it was yesterday. You were one of the good guys. Life was so full for you, your future was planned. Why it had to end so soon, I'll never know. Please rest in peace, and know you will never be forgotten."*

**Bob Bennett, We served together**



**Robert H. Sigholtz, Jr., D/2/503**

Robert was the son of the late Col. Robert H. Sigholtz.



L-R: The late Don "Rocky" Rockholt, A/2/503/LRRP, with the former 2/503 Battalion Commander, the late Bob Sigholtz at Rochester, MN reunion in 2000.

**About the father of Capt. Robert Sigholtz:**

*"COLONEL ROBERT HARRIS SIGHOLTZ who had a most distinguished military career as a combat infantryman in three wars died at the age of 84 on 2 September 2005. He had been injured in a fall at his home in Paradise Valley, Arizona and died at a hospice in Scottsdale, Arizona. Upon joining the United States Army he rose from platoon sergeant to infantry officer fighting in the China-Burma-India Theater. At the age of just 15 he joined the United States*

*Army and later seeing combat action in the Pacific in World War II. From 1946 to 1948 he played professional basketball with the Baltimore Bullets before being recalled by the Army. He was a reconnaissance officer during the Korean War and later served in Special Forces units and with the famed 82nd Airborne Division.*

*During his long and distinguished military career he rose to the rank of Colonel and commanded the 2nd Battalion of the 503rd Infantry Regiment of the 173rd Airborne Brigade in Vietnam in 1966-1967.*

*On 22 February 1967 his battalion made the only successful Combat Parachute Jump of the Vietnam War when they landed at the northeast perimeter of the semicircle encompassing the Thanh Dien Forest with Alpha Company of the 3rd Battalion of the 319th Artillery along with other support elements of the 173rd Airborne Brigade."*

*He was a recipient of the following military decorations:*

*Silver Star with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters*

*Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster*

*Distinguished Flying Cross with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters*

*Bronze Star Medal with 'V' for VALOR device*

*Bronze Star Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters*

*Air Medal with 12 Oak Leaf Clusters*

*"He was an outstanding battalion commander. He was very courageous and self-effacing. His soldiers worshipped him," said retired Army Gen. John R. Dean, the Colonel's commanding General in the VN war.*



**Douglas Gaylord Swanstrom, B/3/503**

*"The coconut cream bar. Someday you will tell me how you did it."*

**Mike Krueger, We served together**

***"When you go home,  
tell them of us and say;  
We gave our tomorrow,  
for your today."***

**Unsigned**

*(continued....)*





Clarence Taylor, A/1/503  
See photo under Keith Janke, 1969.



Amado Acosta Valencia, E/2/503



Sammie Wayne Waddle, D/1/503

William John Winters, C/1/50  
Gary Wayne Wright, B/2/503



Dan Yazzie, A/3/503

*In beauty may I walk  
all day long may I walk  
through the returning  
seasons may I walk.  
Beautifully will I possess again.  
Beautifully birds...  
Beautifully joyful birds...  
On the trail  
marked with pollen may I walk.  
With dew about my feet may I walk.  
With beauty may I walk.*

*With beauty before me may I walk.  
With beauty behind me may I walk.  
With beauty above me may I walk.  
With beauty all around me may I walk.  
In old age wandering on the trail of beauty.  
Living again, may I walk.  
If it is finished in beauty,  
it is finished in beauty.*

*"Prayer, Night Way" – Navajo Ceremonial  
Posted by: Patrick L. McMullen*

~ May 1970 ~



Carl Taylor Barnett, C/1/503, E/17 Cav\*  
*"How do you share a remembrance of someone, with  
no memories to share? I'd often thought of what we  
would of had. What we would of done.  
Where would we be today."  
Sean K. Barnett, He is my father*

Charles Edward Batchelor, B/1/503



George Alfred Birdwell, C/3/503  
*"This is a picture of George taken on Firebase Beaver in  
the An Lao Valley, sometime in January of 1970. I  
served with him in the 3rd platoon of Charlie Co. 3rd  
Batt. 503 Inf. 173rd Abn."*

Cregg Corbin

*"Miss you 'little brother'. I think of you often. Wish  
you were here. What a loss for this world that you  
couldn't grow up to be all you could have."*

Ed Birdwell, Brother

(continued....)





**Allen Lewis Boney, C/1/503**

*"Today, May 14th 2003, marks 33 years of your untimely death at the age of 22 in Viet Nam. No words can ever say how much you are missed every day, and not a day goes by that I do not think of you. I hope someday to meet someone who knew you, mom and dad did, but I live in New Jersey with my husband and three children. Every time I go back to North Carolina I visit your grave, I say a prayer for you every night. You were a dear dear brother, I will always remember your face and taking you to the airport for your third tour of duty in Viet Nam. God Bless your soul, Dear Sweet Brother, you are my guardian angel always. My son - your nephew and name sake, Allen - reminds me so much of you. Love eternally,"*

**Victoria Boney Merlino**



**Peter Norbert Bruyere, B/1/503**

*"When you died for our country, I was on my way to Vietnam. Although I did not get to serve and fight with you, I always had you on my mind while I did my time. God was on my side and he allowed me to return home safely. I think of you often and I wonder about the stories that we would have shared about Vietnam. Rest in Peace my Brother, you will never be far from my thoughts and prayers."*

**Frank Bruyere**  
He is my brother



Canadian Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The North Wall) in Windsor, Ontario, CANADA.



**John Allan Capasso, D/2/503**

*"Your brother and sisters love and miss you."*

**Ellen Ingram**  
He is my brother

**Tommy Makin Clayton, B/1/503, A/3/503\***



**James Edwin Dolan, B/1/503**



*I do not fear an army of lions,  
if they are led by a lamb.  
I do fear an army of sheep,  
if they are led by a lion.  
-- Alexander the Great --*

*"James Edwin Dolan was a lion.  
James E. Dolan,  
Specialist 4, United States Army,  
is remembered and honored by his comrades in the  
503rd Infantry - the Sky Soldiers."  
From a close friend, Jack Ford*

*"I came back from Vietnam in June of 1969 and was sent to Fort Bragg, NC. A lot of the guys just out of jump school thought we were crazy, we didn't listen to orders very well, we never shined our boots or marched in step, and we walked around most of the time wondering why we had to 'play soldier' after being soldiers. One of the 'cherries' who looked up to us and our medals and our combat experience (I think they called it 'VietNam Syndrome') was James Dolan. Redheaded as all getout and from North Scituate, Massachusetts..."*

*(continued....)*



*...We became friends in Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry, 82nd Airborne Division. He began asking me to try to get him orders to go to VietNam. I told him he was crazy. He finally talked me into writing a letter to the Sergeant Major of the Army (of the whole army!) to explain why he didn't feel he was serving his country stateside and all of that. Well, one day orders for VietNam came down and he went home and got married in his jump boots, I remember him showing us the picture. What a Trooper! I got out about six or seven months later and just before I got out someone rotated back from VietNam and told us that Dolan had been killed in action. While wounded assaulting an enemy machine bunker he dove between an enemy grenade and his two comrades. He was posthumously awarded the DSC (Distinguished Service Cross) for his heroism. There is only one medal higher and that is the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was right, he did indeed serve his country just like the letter I wrote saying how much he wanted to. I will miss his red hair, his thick Boston accent and his humor and I will also feel uneasy and proud at the same time that I helped him become one of our highest regarded heroes. Rest well, soldier, Airborne all the way... and then some!"*

Dan Pomeroy, We served together

(See James' DSC citation on Page 58)



**Billy Ferrell, B/1/503, HHC/3/503\***

*"Specialist 4 Billy Ferrell was born on February 27, 1951 in Prestonburg, Kentucky to Mr. and Mrs. Hobert Ferrell of Ypsilanti, Michigan. Billy attended Ypsilanti High School prior to enlisting in the Army on January 27, 1969. Specialist 4 Ferrell completed his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky, and then attended Parachutist School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Billy began his tour of duty in Binh Dinh Province, South Vietnam on November 24, 1969 serving as a rifleman with B Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was killed as a result of a severe gunshot wound to his chest on May 29, 1970. Billy Ferrell is survived by his parents, three brothers and eight sisters. He lived 19 years, 3 months and 2 days.*

*He is resting in Highland Cemetery in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Rest in peace with the warriors."*

Unsigned

**Ramon Flores, Jr., B/1/503**

*"You were in our thoughts when we gathered for our 31st class reunion. We will always remember you as the young man you were when you sacrificed your life for our country. Someone lost too soon to history."*

We were high school classmates



**Steen Bruce Foster, C/75/LRRP**

*"Steen Foster was Ranger all the way. You stepped up into a position of leadership and led Team 4-4 with courage and bravery. A lot of years have passed but your LT will never forget that fateful day when you, Loisel, and Hoa gave your lives for America's freedom."*

John Eder, We served together

**Floyd Edward Fuller, Jr., A/1/503**

*"I remember Eddie and his family as I grew up in Lexington. He and my brother Randy were the same age. When I ran across this page, I thought of him and just wanted anyone who may read this to know that his memory is not forgotten. He rests now in the cemetery in Lexington near his father, mother and sister." Cindi Truitt. Sister of old classmate*

**Harvey Gene Graham, E/17 Cav**

*Do not stand at my grave and weep.  
I am not there; I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am the diamond glints on snow,  
I am the sun on ripened grain,  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there; I did not die..*

Mary Frye – 1932

(continued....)





**Edward Jackson, Jr., D/4/503**

*"My Father will never be forgotten. Over the years it has gotten a little better. One of his grandsons looks just like him. We see a little of him in all his grandkids. My father would be proud. His third grandson is following in his footsteps. My son knows that his grandfather is watching over him. We are so proud of him too."*

His daughter, Beatrix R. Jackson Owens

**Michael Robert Kernan, A/3/503, C/3/503\***



**John Richard Knaus, N75/ LRRP**



*"This is a picture of my brother with some of his fellow soldiers. Johnny is the one on the right."*

Mark Knaus

*"John. We trained together and went to Nam with the 75th Rangers together. You and I were the best of friends. We were to go home together. You were killed with just over two weeks to go. I was wounded shortly after. Do you remember Ramos? He was killed or died the day after you were hit...John I miss you...Most everyone you and I know lost their lives*

*over there...I can't understand why I made it back. I should have gone with my team. As you recall 3 were killed instantly / two others seriously wounded by a 155mm artillery shell (booby-trapped)...John, you are in my thoughts nearly EVERY DAY...I wouldn't have it any other way...I still have not been able to locate your family but I will keep trying...Goodbye my friend from Brazil, South America and New Jersey."*

Sgt. Ron Combs  
We served together

**Billy Everett Lawrence, B/1/503**

*"You made the ultimate sacrifice for all and will NEVER be forgotten. As of today, for forty years you have had flowers on your grave and as long as I live you always will. Loving you always...Wanda."*

Wanda Lawrence-Jones  
He is my husband

**Grady Rudolph Lester, Jr., A/1/503**

*"I was engaged to Rudy when he was killed in Viet Nam. It was a horrible time in my life. I was 19 and he had turned 21 the previous February. My Dad had to hold me up during his burial. He was intelligent, witty, funny, loving, a wonderful man. I still miss him and think about him almost every day especially when I hear a song he liked. He made me laugh and feel loved and secure. I still miss him."* Beth Carlton



**James Lee Loisel, C/75/LRRP**

*"James and his team were inserted to help my team while with C. Co 75th Rangers. We were under intense fire and the team jumped from the helicopter pretty high up. Thanks James, without you we may have lost a whole team. I am sorry I couldn't get to you during your time of need. Forgive us, please!"*

Jerry, Served together in C Co.

*"Loisel, when I needed another man for Team 4-4, you stepped up and volunteered. You were a fine young man whom I could always count on..."*

(continued...)



*...You knew that Steen Foster was new as TL and went with him into a hostile Cambodian AO on only a moment's notice. Now you, Foster, and Hoa are where only the brave can go. I'll never forget your sacrifice, Loisel. Rangers Lead The Way."*

Your LT, John Eder

**Charles Richard McNulty, D/2/503**

*"You were a good soldier. I remember how quiet you were when you first joined my squad. You were steady and dependable. We lost so many to booby traps and you were one as well. I held you in my arms as you died and I remember how helpless I felt not being able to save you. Your sacrifice was great but your contribution was equally as great."*

Gary Ross

We served together

**David Ernest Meade, D/2/503**

*"I can't begin to tell you in words how much your physical presence is missed. We think of you all the time and speak of you warmly. We remember how hard you worked getting the things you wanted. Your wife, Sally, was kind to share some of your letters from Vietnam with me. It made me feel closer to you. I could feel the deep concern you had for the safety of your men under your command. I often try to imagine how close we and our families would have been had your life not ended so suddenly. I hope you feel my love and respect for you. I miss you brother! Sleep well until we reunite! Your brother, Leon ('Squeak')."*

Leon Meade

He is my brother



**Lester Neal Moulton, B/1/503**

*"I would love to get in touch with anyone and everyone who knew my Uncle Neal. I was born ten years after he sacrificed himself for his men and his country. I served in the U.S. Marine Corps and he was my inspiration. I would love to get to know him and the men that served with him. Please feel free to contact me. Thank You!"*

Cory

[newcory04@yahoo.com](mailto:newcory04@yahoo.com)

Posted March 12, 2013

*"I went through OCS with Neal. He was the smallest guy in the company, but nobody had a bigger heart or more grit. I remember the punji stick competition, where he looked like a Tasmanian devil. He took on all comers and won, knocking guys twice his size out of the ring. I don't know how he died, but I'm sure that if he had any chance at all, he went down fighting."*

Rusty Moran. We served together

**Donald Wayne Myers, B/1/503, B/4/503\***

**Rafael Olivo, B/1/503**

*~ A Note from The Virtual Wall ~*

*"Bravo Company, 1/503rd Infantry, lost eight men on 25 May 1970."*



**Charles Donald Plumb, Jr., B/4/503**

*"Dear Charlie. My Brother Johnny died in Nam on the same day and province that you did. Maybe you were together. I'm deeply sorry but I want all of you to know that you have not been forgotten and that we all miss you very much and that you will always be in our thoughts and prayers. You are still part of our lives.*

*Take care, my friend."* Mark Knaus

(See photo under his brother, John Knaus, 1970)

**Richard Rodrigues, B/1/503, 173 Eng\***



**John Calvin Sherman, E/1/503**

*"I was assigned to Alpha team when I joined E Co 1st Bn in Oct 1970, in which John was a team member. The first night on my first mission with Alpha team I wrapped up in a poncho liner and went to sleep in our lager site. A poncho liner is slippery on grass and I slide down the hill we were sleeping on..."*

*(continued....)*



## ~ May 1971 ~

*...and ended up 50 feet below the team. When John awoke the next morning, he sees this movement (my poncho liner was camouflage) in the grass below him and alerts the team to enemy activity. When I came out from under my poncho I was looking at John with this intense look on his face with his M-16 pointed at me. He realized that it's me and he says; 'FNG' and goes to have breakfast. Also, one of the times that we got to see a movie at the mess hall, John, Ralph Barocas (Alpha team member) and I were sitting next to each other watching this movie at night when we were hit by a mortar attack. The three of us proceeded to jump out one of the screened windows to get to the bunker. When we got there we realized what we had done and laughed our you know what's off. I really liked (so did all the other company members) and admired John for his military knowledge and ability to get along well with everyone. I went to Australia and John went on 30 day extension leave at the same time. I was on that mission May 2, when John was pulling point. He didn't have to, but that was the way John was, the best way. I will always remember John."*

Larry Trevaskis

We served together

Curtis Smith, HHC/3/503, C/3/503\*



Michael Wayne Ray, C/Spt

*"I went to high school with Ike. He was a year ahead of me but I'm proud to call him friend. He was the kind of person that would do anything for you. After graduation I joined the USMC and served a tour in Nam. I never pass a memorial or observe Veterans Day without thinking of my friend 'IKE RAY'. I know he is now safely guarding the gates of Heaven.*

*We miss you Ike."*

Scarob

We were high school classmates

James Christopher Wheeler, D/2/503

*"Forever in my heart and memory with deepest love. Someday we'll be together again."*

Linda

He is my brother

Mitchell Odell Barnes, N75/LRRP

*"I helped Mitch turn a pool cue stick on the wood lathe in shop at Central High and we became friends in the process. He was a great guy who loved to joke and have fun, but he had a sense of duty and believed that he was doing the right thing. I still miss him."*

Mike Rieves

We were high school classmates



Thomas Paul Cadieux, B/3/503

David Dana Campbell, HHC/173 Bde

*"All I know of you is from my grandmother. Over 30 years after your loss and she still spoke of you like you were just in the next room. It is amazing how in a short 19 years of life you were able to touch those around you."* From his cousin's son.



Harvey Edward Humphrey, D/4/503

*"He was a happy, always smiling young boy who liked sliding and snowmobiling in the winter, fishing and biking in the summer. He was well liked by teachers and friends. He has two sisters younger than him, but close in age. He is always in our hearts. We love you, Mom, sisters Marie and Judy."*

Ruby Humphrey, He is my son

(continued...)





Gary Allen Kirchner, B/2/503

*"Not a single day goes by when I don't think of you and miss you so."*

Carolyn DeFiore  
He is my brother

*"My fellow RTO. When I heard the explosion I called and called - with no answer. It could have been me on that patrol - but we took turns. Not a day goes by that I don't think of you."*

Joe Reistroffer  
We served together

Martin Roger Lloyd, E/17 Cav

*"Time has not healed the pain of your loss for your family. You are missed by more people than you will ever know. Rest peacefully knowing that you made a difference."*

Thomas G. Changelon, Sr.  
We served together

Steven Larry Martin, HHB/3/319



Job Navarrete, Jr., A/4/503

*"I remember Job as a kind, quiet and very polite person. I went to Pine Forest High school with him and he lived close by my family's house in College Lakes outside of Fayetteville. He, my sister and I used to ride to Catechism classes together. I went in the army in 1968 and was stationed at Fort Bragg when I got back from Vietnam in 1971. I remember seeing the obituary for him in the Fayetteville Observer newspaper. I didn't even know he had gone into the army. The world lost a really good person when they lost you Job."*

John Kieffer  
We were high school classmates



Joseph Edward Sweeney, N75/LRRP

*"Joseph Sweeney 'Philly' as we called him, was someone never to be forgotten. On his Killed-In-Action day of May 29th, 1971 I get phone calls every year from Members of his Company the 75th Inf. Ranger - N Company with 173rd Airborne Brigade. We as team members will never forget 'Philly'. I was on the mission when Sweeney was killed by enemy fire as we were leaving the LZ (landing zone). I was supposed to be in his position (rear-security) on the 6 man Long Range Recon Patrol but was assigned to the position of radio-operator as the regular RTO was to Deros (go-home). Sweeney took my position as rear security. Myself and 189 current active members from the company 1965 thru 1971, are trying to locate his family members. So if you have information on how I can contact them, please get back to me. I have a marble stone with his name engraved on it and would like to present it to a family member."*

Ranger Robt

[mcpgr@gmail.com](mailto:mcpgr@gmail.com) Posted: November 4, 2011



Charles Thomas Wilcox, "Doc", HHC/2/503

*"Things that I will always remember... Even though I have gone on with my life when yours was cut so short, I've never been able to let go of the guilty feelings when I think of you. Charlie O or Roh De Do, you shared so much with me. I'll always remember your music, your smile, the fun games we played, and how much you loved the Doors. I will look up at the sky and smile and be thankful that I was fortunate enough to spend a very special time of my life with you." (excerpt)*

From a Milwaukee school friend, Jeanne

###





## From 3/503

### 173d Reunion in Las Vegas is coming soon, August 26-30.

See details at [Skysoldier.com](http://Skysoldier.com)

As of this morning about 100 have pre-registered, and about a dozen from the 3rd Bat, which is planning a group luncheon at the host Orleans Hotel for 11:30 am, Tuesday, 8/27. An all-day bus tour to the Grand Canyon seat can be reserved in advance for Wednesday, 8/28.

The schedule is light and the best part is re-uniting with buds in the Hospitality Room or around town. Bring photos/memorabilia/stories...and C/3/503 guys need to remember this is the *Asian Year of the Snake*. We specifically need eye-witnesses to the great snake encounter in Spring of 1969 described by Dennis Stanerson. A photo would be priceless, but even a beer-fueled narrative would be good. And if anyone has written any fiction, semi-fiction or factual recollection of our time there, please share them via email and at the reunion. If you have not seen them, Dennis Stanerson, "Prof" Steve Piotrowski and I have written such accounts, and CPT Mac has published a couple of books. So let us share the wealth. Ask if you want to see anything available by email.

Best to book soon to get best travel deals and show critical mass of those coming.

Check [www.skysoldier.com](http://www.skysoldier.com)

We are not getting younger, and we need to take advantage of these opportunities while we are able to travel. And for any Sky Soldier vets who are now unable to travel or under the weather, let us hear from you so we can stay in touch and maybe light a candle and offer a prayer for your recovery.

**Michael Switzer, C/3/503d**  
[mswiper2@verizon.net](mailto:mswiper2@verizon.net)

[See Page 20 for details and registration form]



## 1LT WILLIAM C. SPROULE, JR.

who served with Company B  
3d Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry Regiment  
173d Airborne Brigade

### was posthumously awarded the **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**

Date of Action: 10 May 1968

#### Citation:

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to William C. Sproule, Jr., First Lieutenant (Infantry), 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. First Lieutenant Sproule distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 10 May 1968 as a platoon leader of an airborne infantry company conducting a combat operation. His platoon made heavy contact with a large North Vietnamese force. During the assault on the enemy, Lieutenant Sproule moved out ahead of his men to fire more accurately on the insurgents and to adjust supporting artillery fire. As he advanced, he was hit in the chest by a burst of enemy automatic rifle fire. Ignoring his wounds, he moved to his point man who had been pinned down during the initial exchange of fire. Lieutenant Sproule provided covering fire for the man as he crawled back to join the rest of the platoon. He then adjusted artillery fire on the North Vietnamese positions, bringing it so close to his own location that he was wounded several times by the shrapnel. An enemy machine gun to his front began placing deadly fire on his platoon, and he attempted to direct the artillery on the emplacement to destroy it. This couldn't be accomplished without moving his platoon back. Rather than risk more casualties to his troops in a withdrawal, Lieutenant Sproule assaulted the position alone. He charged to within five meters of the gun, firing on the enemy the entire way, before he was mortally wounded by a burst of heavy fire from the weapon. First Lieutenant Sproule'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.



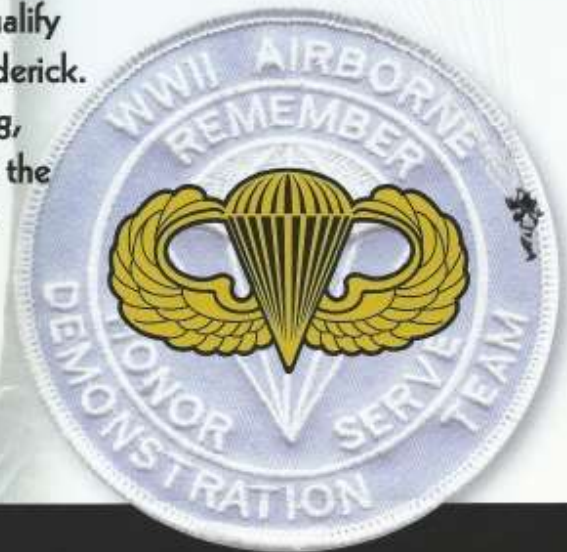
**COME JOIN THE**

# **WORLD WAR II AIRBORNE DEMONSTRATION TEAM**

**173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade**

**50th Anniversary Commemorative JUMP**

The WWII Airborne Demonstration Team and the 173rd Airborne Brigade are working together to plan a 173rd 50th Anniversary Commemorative JUMP at the WWIIADT headquarters in Frederick, Oklahoma, August 2013, just prior to the 173rd's 50th anniversary reunion in Las Vegas. Those prior airborne qualified jumpers wishing to jump from our C-47 must re-qualify by attending a 4 day refresher jump school at Frederick. The cost will be \$450, which covers room, training, aircraft time and two jumps. To learn more about the WWII Airborne Demonstration Team please visit [www.wwiadt.org](http://www.wwiadt.org), and download an Application Form for this exciting opportunity.



For more information please contact recruiters [www.wwiadt.org](http://www.wwiadt.org)  
Dan Cutting at 248-755-5766 or SGM Herrington at 931-801-3251.

The WWII Airborne Demonstration Team Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization



# Edward Lamont Kelley

## C/1/503d

In the event you haven't gotten the word, one of our most beloved Charlie Company paratroopers, Ed 'Lima 6' Kelley, passed away Sunday evening, 14 April 2013. He was having dinner with a friend at a local steakhouse near his home in Fernandina Beach, FL when he was called home.



*Lima 6*

Appears Ed wanted to be cremated and laid to rest at the new Veterans Cemetery in Jacksonville, FL, so that's what his wife, Mary Jo will most likely do. She was with a sick mom in Ohio when this happened, and has just recently arrived on the scene in Fernandina Beach.

Airborne

Charlie Brown  
1LT, C/1/503, 173d Abn Bde (SEP)  
1967-68

Mr. Edward Lamont Kelley, age 72, of Fernandina Beach, FL passed away on Sunday evening, April 14, 2013 at Baptist Medical Center - Nassau. Born in Dothan, AL, he was the oldest of two children born to the late, Dorman Edward and Annie Doris Howard Kelley. Mr. Kelley was raised in Dothan and was a graduate of Auburn University, Class of 1966, where he majored in Political Science. He enlisted in the U.S. Army, serving during the Vietnam Conflict from where he became a highly decorated military veteran. He served as a Combat Infantryman and Platoon Leader in the 173d Airborne Brigade and flew many missions as a Helicopter Pilot serving two tours in Vietnam. For his service in Vietnam, he was awarded four Purple Hearts, Silver Stars, Bronze Stars, Presidential Citations and various weapons expert Commendations. Upon being honorably discharged, he and his family settled in Hilliard, FL before moving to Fernandina Beach in 1984. He later worked for a short time at White Oak Plantation and for the Department of Agriculture and as a substitute teacher in local elementary schools. Mr. Kelley was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post No. 4351 in Fernandina Beach where he held many leadership positions, to include, Chaplain, Secretary, member of the Executive Board and former District Commander. He was a member of Amelia Lodge No. 47 and the Scottish Rite Bodies. After fully retiring, Mr. Kelley, pursued his love of military history, international travel to South America, European

countries, attending military reunions in Australia and scuba diving off the Great Barrier Reef. For the past ten years he has been completely content to stay on the island, making his regular visits with his companions to O'Kanes, Sandy Bottoms, The Palace and Baxters. He leaves behind, his wife, Mary Jo Wright Kelley, Fernandina Beach, FL, his son, Jesse Matthew and wife (Brehan) from Clarion, PA, daughters, Lisa Kelley, Port St. Joe, FL, Amy Kelley, Dothan, AL, Leigh Laney, Dothan, AL his granddaughter Lauren Laney Smith and her husband Travis Smith and their daughter, his great granddaughter Mia Alexander Smith. Mr. Kelley was laid to rest at Jacksonville National Cemetery with full military honors. A guestbook may be signed at [www.dothaneagle.com](http://www.dothaneagle.com)



*~ Rest in Peace Sky Soldier ~*

## OPERATION DAYTON

**May 5-17, 1967**

The 173d Airborne Brigade sent the 1/503 and 2/503 on this 12 day mission to search for the VC 274th and 275th Main Force Regiments in the May Tao Secret Zone of Phuoc Tuy Province. The Sky Soldiers maintained sporadic contact with the enemy. No major engagements occurred but they did find a large number of abandoned base camps and scattered bunkers throughout the AO.



**Operation Dayton** (Web photo)



# The Passing of Sky Soldiers

## ~ Robert Gosselin ~

Sadly we report that we have lost a member, Robert Gosselin, B/C/2/503d, ('68-'70), 7 Jan 2013.

*Rest in Peace Sky Soldier,*

Webmaster  
Chapter 9

## ~ Ken McCullough ~

Dan Cramer first informed us that Ken (Smokey) McCullough died. He had fought cancer for several years. Ken joined Charlie Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Batt, in July 1966 and was in the Battle of Dak To in June 1967.

Jack Tarr  
CO C/4/503d



American Eagle graphic created down under by our Aussie friend Paul Whitman, webmaster of the 503<sup>rd</sup> Heritage Battalion website.

## ~ This Month in History ~

**May 1, 1896** - World War II General Mark Clark was born in Madison Barracks, New York. He commanded the U.S. Fifth Army which invaded Italy in September of 1943, fighting a long and brutal campaign against stubborn German opposition. He died in 1984.

**May 1, 1960** - An American U-2 spy plane flying at 60,000 feet was shot down over Sverdlovsk in central Russia on the eve of a summit meeting between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Soviet Russia's Premier Nikita Khrushchev. The sensational incident caused a cancellation of the meeting and heightened existing Cold War tensions. The pilot, CIA agent Francis Gary Powers, survived the crash, and was tried, convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Russian court. Two years later he was released to America in exchange for an imprisoned Soviet spy. On his return to America, Powers encountered a hostile public which apparently believed he should not have allowed himself to be captured alive. He died in a helicopter crash in 1977.

**May 2, 2011** - U.S. Special Operations Forces killed Osama bin Laden during a raid on his secret compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. The raid marked the culmination of a decade-long manhunt for the elusive leader of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization based in the Middle East. Bin Laden had ordered the coordinated aerial attacks of September 11, 2001, in which four American passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons. Two jets had struck and subsequently collapsed the 110-story Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York, while another struck the Pentagon building in Washington, D.C. A fourth jet also headed toward Washington had crashed into a field in Pennsylvania as passengers attempted to overpower the hijackers on board.

**May 4, 1970** - At Kent State University, four students - Allison Krause, 19; Sandra Lee Scheuer, 20; Jeffrey Glenn Miller, 20; and William K. Schroeder, 19 - were killed by National Guardsmen who opened fire on a crowd of 1,000 students protesting President Richard Nixon's decision to invade Cambodia. Eleven others were wounded. The shootings set off tumultuous campus demonstrations across America resulting in the temporary closing of over 450 colleges and universities.

###



# Welcome Home Sky Soldiers ~ The Rock

2/503d troopers return home from their latest deployment to Afghanistan. The young and brave.



Photos from 173d ABCT website.



## DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam  
APO San Francisco 96375

22 September 1970

### AWARD OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS



TC 439. The following AWARD is announced posthumously.

**DOLAN, JAMES E. 014-36-8793**

**SPECIALIST FOUR**

United States Army, Company B, 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade, APO 96250

**Awarded:** Distinguished Service Cross

**Date of Action:** 25 May 1970

**Theater:** Republic of Vietnam

**Authority:** By direction of the President, under the provisions of the Act of Congress, approved 25 July 1963.

**Reason:** For extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam:

Specialist Four Dolan distinguished himself while serving as lead man of a combat patrol in the Crescent Mountains. When his patrol encountered an enemy bunker complex, Specialist Dolan and his team leader assaulted the position. The enemy immediately countered with a barrage of fire which forced the two aggressors to withdraw. During the withdrawal, Specialist Dolan was seriously wounded by the enemy but continued to place suppressive fire on the enemy to cover his comrades. Suddenly, an enemy grenade landed between Specialist Dolan and two other team members. Shouting a warning to his companions, he threw himself toward the grenade and shielded them from the blast. Although quickly evacuated to nearby medical facilities, Specialist Dolan expired a short time later. Specialist Dolan'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.

GENERAL ORDERS NUMBER 4594

FOR THE COMMANDER:

CHARLES M. GETTYS

Major General, USA, Chief of Staff

OFFICIAL:

Paul T. Smith, Colonel, AGC  
Adjutant General



## VFW Statement on Distinguished Warfare Medal Hagel makes decision on new medal issue

April 15, 2013

The Pentagon announced today that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has cancelled the creation of the Distinguished Warfare Medal, and instead will create a new device to affix to existing medals to properly recognize drone operators, cyber warriors and others who are making a tremendous real-time impact on battlefields far away.



Secretary Hagel, *The Sarge*

John E. Hamilton, national commander of the 2 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and its Auxiliaries, said the right decision was made.

***“The VFW is appreciative of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for their review, and commends Secretary Hagel for taking this issue on so early in his tenure. This decision will clearly keep medals that can only be earned in combat in their high order of precedence, while providing proper recognition to all who support our warfighters regardless of their distance from the fight.”***

The shape of the new device, the medals it can be affixed to, plus award eligibility, are expected to be determined within the next 90 days. ###



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE  
APO SAN FRANCISCO CA 96250  
27 November 1966

**AWARD OF THE  
BRONZE STAR MEDAL FOR HEROISM**  
(POSTHUMOUSLY)

To

**Sergeant Edward Hamilton**  
**HHB/3/319<sup>th</sup> Artillery**



Date Action: 17 May 1966

Theater: Republic of Vietnam

**For heroism in connection with military operations  
against a hostile force:**

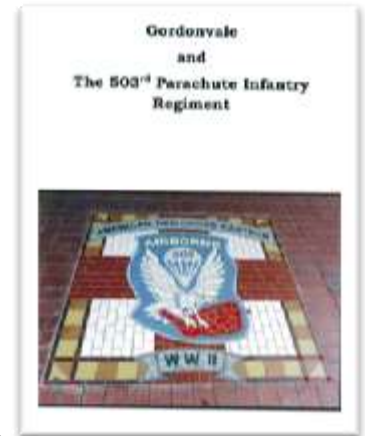
Sgt. Hamilton distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 17 May 1966 while serving as the Artillery Reconnaissance Sergeant accompanying the reconnaissance elements of Company B, 1st Battalion, 503d Infantry when contact was made with a Viet Cong sniper consisting of small arms and mortar fire. The company proceeded to sweep up Hill 72. Half way up the hill the company came under intense automatic weapons fire from three sides. The Artillery Forward Observer attached to the company immediately initiated a fire mission and Sergeant Hamilton remained with the observer under intense enemy fire to adjust artillery fire on the enemy machine gun emplacements and while in this exposed position Sergeant Hamilton was fatally wounded. Sergeant Hamilton's outstanding display of aggressiveness, devotion to duty, and personal bravery were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

**Authority:**

By direction of the President under the provisions of Executive order 11046, 24 August 1962 and USARV I6695, AVA-S, 1 July 1966

## Gordonvale and The 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment

The Mulgrave Shire Historical Society, with the financial assistance of the Cairns Returned Services League Club Ltd, has published a book about the only United States Parachute Infantry Regiment to train in Australia.



*Gordonvale and the 503rd  
Parachute Infantry Regiment*

details the progress of the 503rd, their establishment of a camp outside Gordonvale, and their interaction with the Gordonvale Community.

Practice jumps were made in the Mulgrave Valley and demonstration jumps were performed for visiting Top Brass, including Generals MacArthur and Blamey.

Many paratroopers kept in touch with the people of Gordonvale and District during and after the war, and several of them married local girls.

*Gordonvale and the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment* gives detailed insights to all the above history and is profusely illustrated with contemporary photos and illustrations of paratrooper insignia.

This book may be purchased from the Mulgrave Shire Historical Society.

**Enquiries:**

[settlersmuseum@bigpond.com](mailto:settlersmuseum@bigpond.com)



Generals Blamey and MacArthur (web photo)





## PART VI

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

See Parts I thru V of WWII 503d PIR trooper Jerry B. Riseley's 'official journal' in Issues 46, 48, 49, 50 & 52 respectively, of our newsletter. Photos added. Ed

**13 September 1943**



**0530:** Capt. Greco and 1st Sgt. Hostinsky left on a hitchhiking patrol down Markam Rd. There are very definitely Japanese down Markam Rd.

Lt. Turinsky also left w/patrol of 9 men destination Munus and the gardens above there.

**0630:** Major Woods received a telephone call which struck disbandment of the provisional mortar company which was just as well.

**0640:** Lt. Parks is to report to regt relative to instr on moving Co F, forward to a defensive position at Ngasawampum. Co D is moving to CD except for plat at Mac's camp.

**1020:** Lt. Luscomb returns from Erap patrol describes interview with natives who evidently were working for a couple of Japs. *"When airplanes came over (5 Sept 43) and boom boom Jap he run we kill im one Jap."*

**1030:** Received note from Mr. Crawford, Regtl S-1, directing that two men injured on the jump should be carried as sk in qrs that day. The only hitch was that he hadn't checked with the medics on it - a high crime. How anyone could be so stupid as to assume that a man with a broken leg could march with his company three miles, go on sick call and be marked qtrs., is unbelievable particularly when one considers the dilemma of a combat 1st Sgt on receiving such instructions.

From an administrative standpoint the operation has been poorly handled. The fault lies in too many lazy man's short cuts and ground rules being habitually used with the result that by the time the 1st Sgt gets to combat he has either forgotten the right way or is afraid to go by regulations knowing he will have to change it to please the ground rule boys. Solution for lower

units: The Co Cmdr to call his shots according to regulations and stand on his responsibility as company cmdr. If ordered to ignore it - get a certificate fr cmdr so ordering for presentation to the I.G

**1300:** Lt. Ross attached to Aust FA and living at CD (Charlie Dog) came over and loafed for a couple of hours.

**1400:** Capt. Lamar was by with the info that if Lt. Millikin runs a high temperature this PM Lt. Millikin will die. The second bit of info is that he will move out day after tomorrow. Forty-eight hours ahead is a long time to predict in this war. It is also rumored that a resupply on soap and cigarettes, oil and patches is coming. The soap will be nice but the men can't wash their clothes now because of a Regtl order that all men must be in complete uniform at all times. They are allowed to take off their belts and equipment, and while there has been no authority granted from higher headquarters it is said that men may lower their trousers while in a squatting position, providing they are actually transacting business. As for shaving they didn't bring any blades and those that did didn't bring soap. The meanest hitch is that men are out of cigarettes. However they are sent out in small groups which no doubt find a good creek or try to go up the Markam Valley Rd., where there are damn sure Japs, this keeps them busy and happy.



Emmett Lee Wester collection

(continued....)



**1500:** The transports are and have been all day raising a bloody racket. If 147 came in and landed yesterday, it will run into a good figure today.

**1520:** Lt. Turinsky returns from all day patrol to Munum and reports he got as far as the 3rd Bn. This will qualify him for a patrol merit badge. (BS) (Boy Scout).

**1600:** Foley and Topar Co D, evac w/ FUO (Fever of Unknown Origin. Ed)

Repts fr Co D, indicate that a few natives are returning to CD village (now Co D, CP). The leading question this brings up is who will occupy the only two beds in the village. In as much as Capt. Bates has the edge on Louisiana maneuver fire power points (which didn't however consider native spears) he will probably have them. Besides the natives at Charlie Dog had been consorting with the Japs, and at least one of them frightened Pvt. McGinn. (Pvt. McGinn, bloody soul, dug the grave, found it too small, wanted to cut his victim in two to make him fit).

**1800:** Return of natives only a rumor.

## 14 September 1943



**0805:** Capt. Lamar called 2/4 field ambu and reports that Lt. Millikin died of wounds. (According to Army tradition Lt. Fishburn will probably be tried for manslaughter).

**1045:** Lt. Millikin buried

**1050:** Word over telephone: (Telephone to Lt. Powell near BK). Pvt. Salmon of Lt. Bossert's platoon reports that a patrol of 27 and Lt. Bossert hit an enemy patrol about a (6 hours) days march above Camp Diddy and a Sgt. was killed and an Aust on way to evac. This on a trail to Boana, ambushed by Jap patrol, the Aust w/ patrol was wounded and died later. Bossert dug in and is holding his position and requests reinforcements. He has a route of w/d. Est enemy: 24, well dug in and have auto weapons. Bossert is armed only w/ TSMG's, carbines, M-1, no auto weapons. Pvt. Salmon left there at 0630 this AM.

**1130:** Pvt. Salmon arrived to be interviewed by Capt. Padgett, S-3.

**1155:** Capt. McLay of G-2, arrived at Gabsonkek, is told of Bossert's patrol and talks to Pvt. Salmon.

CO 2nd to CO Regt. Sgt. Wodjewdzic, Co B, killed in action about 1700 hr. 13 Sept 43; on patrol above Camp Diddy 5 hrs reported by Pvt. Salmon, Co B.

(This platoon of Bossert's was attached to 2nd Bn at last moment. Sgt. Wodjewdzic was the 1st man of the 2nd Bn to be killed by the enemy. Lt. Bossert buried him in the jungles that night with a few words to the disposition of his soul. His is a lonely grave, but it is on allied soil).

**1200:** Last units of 1st Bn enplane for Port Morseby.

**1230:** Patrol is being organized by Capt. Padgett to take to relieve Bossert.

**1300:** Sgt. Eubanks, Pvt. McDonald Co D, evac to Regt. Pvt. Kelly Co F, member of original test platoon, evac to 2/4 field amb (meningitis) presumably contracted from a native carrier.

**1430:** Capt. Padgett lvs out w/8 men and rations to go to Lt. Bossert - it has taken three hours to get permission from 7th Division for the patrol to leave. (Let the reader decide from the information at hand whether or not the CO 2nd Bn should have taken independent action. Both Lt. Col. Jones and Capt. Greco were gone when info received).



"On the road from Nadzab to Lae." Emmett Lee Wester collection.

(continued...)



**1630:** Sgt. Creveling and one intel. man Regtl. and five Boongs move out to go pick up the remains of Sgt. Wodjewdzic. (They returned next day empty handed).

**1900:** Capt. Lamar showed up with a story that two Jap Divisions were moving down from Madang on a forced march. This was regarded as very interesting in as much as our intelligence tells us that less than a division is garrisoned at Madang, that it would take them 18 days, that our aircorps could spot them at least 14 days ahead. Capt. Lamar seems to have a better than aerial photo on the 12th it is rumored went out to bury an armo).

**2000:** Intercepted a telephone message from G-3 to some Major. *"The main effort has reached Edwards."* *"What about Bumbu?"* *"Forget about the Bumbu, we've got some interesting captured documents and among them a field order."*

**2030:** Capt. Greco and 1st Sgt. Hostinsky return from self-appointed 36 hr mission to the front. The mission: To kill some Japs. Mission was accomplished. Near Heaths they went to HHQ 25th Bn 25 Brigade and said they were just looking around. They were assigned to Co A, commanded by a Major Robertson (13 September 43). On the 13th the entire Bn was only able to advance two or three hundred yards. (From Jenyn's down to Whitakers Creek) Co A, was astraddle of the Markam Valley Rd. The Company CP w/Major Robertson proceeded down the trail - the company front was sometimes 50 yards sometimes 25 moving through Whitakers Coffee Plantation - the coffee bushes are twenty to twenty five feet high. Contact between platoons was by 536 radio with perfect control. Remarkable also was control between men. The Australians move with full field pack and billikins just a rattling. Artillery liaison was maintained by liaison officer - a scared Lt. whom had to be placed in position by the Major. On night of 13-14, the artillery gave the Japs at Whitaker Creek and Heaths hell. The Jap did not reply with artillery. Early in the morning of 14 Sept 43, Co A, moved across Whitakers Creek and proceeded forward to Heaths. (Late in the PM of 13th Co A patrol had moved to contact the 2/2 Engineers who had moved NW from the Markam River. At the moment the Co A patrol entered the clearing around the crater that was Heaths house before our aircraft dropped a bomb smack down the chimney, a patrol from the 2/2 emerged on the other side. Each sighted the other and both fired. No one was shot). Beating the bush, encountering machine gun fire over their heads, stopping to fill their pipes, *"It's getting bloody F----g hot mate"*, and sustaining a few

wounds, Co A, moved forward to Lane's bridge. Here an Aust Lt. walked within 15 yards of a Jap machine gun. One burst blew his head off and left a helmet full of brains on the ground. Major Robertson to a young soldier who had stopped to hug the ground...

***"Get up lad, it's only a couple of bloody Japs."***

To four soldiers and Capt. Greco and 1st Sgt Hostinsky, *"Go around on the left."* They went around on the left crossed the creek mounting some high ground overlooking the creek. Finally they saw movement under a tree down below on the creek bank, they opened fire. One Jap got out of his hole to run, kneeled on the parapet. He was tumbled back by Capt. Greco's carbine. Covered by the four Aussies, the two Yanks, went forward to see what was in the hole. Four Japs-sons-of-heaven went home, a mass of dirty rags and blood. Co A, crossed Lanes Bridge, the Japs fell back to the next creek (at Edwards) and Co A, stopped for tea. About 1400 hr the wandering children started for home. Co A's casualties: 18 wounded 2 killed. Capt. Greco and Hostinsky picked up a few trophies off their dead Japs. A large silk flag with red circle and covered with Jap writing. A watch each and numerous trinkets. Lt. Col Jones was very unhappy but relieved at their return. Capt. Greco knew that his last 36 hrs. had taught him more than his last 36 months.

Capt. Greco, always interested in people, had a little human interest story: I call it "The Coward." This one private in Co A (he said) was in action in the near east. Just a year ago yesterday he was sentenced to a year and a day and a dishonorable discharge by a courts martial for cowardice in the face of the enemy. Yesterday we held up near Lanes by a machine gun nest. This soldier went wild. He walked straight into the machine gun nest firing an Owens gun from the hip. Every Jap in the nest was killed. The private was wounded twice but refused to be evacuated. He is being recommended for the Military Cross.

## 15 September 1943



**1550:** Capt. Mitchell to Capt. Padgett. G-1 says 2nd Bn may move to Morsby (sic) tomorrow, may move tonight to #2 strip.

*(continued....)*





Port Moresby during WWII. (Web photo)



Port Moresby today. (Web photo)

**1700:** The Bn starts moving the outward Co's into Gabsonkek prior to moving out to #2 strip early in the morning. Co F, is out at NGASAWAPUM and it will take some time to move them back. So far they have contacted no enemy out there. The 3rd Bn is position around Munum gardens (after having once been pulled out of position, sent to the strip to enplane and late in the afternoon of that day, see previous remarks), they received instructions to move forward.

**2100:** The companies are moving in now and are sitting around drinking tea and what little coffee they have preparatory to bedding down.



Photo by Bud Josey

## 16 September 1943



**0400:** A few excited Sgts. are talking to Lt. Col. Jones insisting that there are some Japs around and with some story about how someone shot at a noise and they heard it groan. Sgt. Tannehill wants to go right out

there and get them. But it seems that Col. Jones realized the chances in Hades of a patrol finding infiltrating Japs is a lot less than an infiltrating Jap's hand grenade finding the patrol.

**0530:** Preparing to move out, camp fires and chasing equipment down.

**0600:** Start to move out. Men are carrying their gear, fish spears, what the natives probably call spears, anti-personnel M-1, "native" head dresses, and, from somewhere about four Jap rifles sprung up in the Bn which is unusual since we didn't kill any Japs. But we sure scared hell out of some.

**0945:** 1st units, parts of Co F and E, take off from strip headed for Port Moresby.

**1030:** By now all the last elements of the Bn have arrived at the strip including Lt. Howard LMG section which had been attached to Co E and forgotten and had to be sent back after. Lt. Cole ran around an hour wringing his hands and crying to the heavens about this.

**1400:** All of Co F, all of Co E, parts of Co D, parts of Hq 2nd arrived in base camp out of Port Moresby. Showers, beards cut off, men move into tents, redrawing their bunks and bedding and were fed about 1600 hr. The cooks who didn't go on the operation, not being jumpers, were found to be in fine fettle and to have well survived the battle of Nadzab. Most of them (the cooks) for one more time, went to their tents to polish their jump boots and burnish the Post-Exchange-bought jump badges and write home about how many Japs had almost killed them and all the Japs they had killed for sure.

The remainder of the battalion that was in the movement flat didn't care what the world thought. They went to bed.

**1500:** A few of Hq Co and the Ex. O, S-3 and Adjutant, hiked a ride with couple Regtl Hq and Serv planes, saw Capt. Snavely, Regtl S-2, and he told me that the Jap had evidently retreated from Lae up the Bumbu (Ref: Nadzab 3550 - see also 2000 hr 14 Sept 43) come out on the trail about 2000 yards north of Yalu and continued north westward toward Munum-Munum Garden. Now 3rd Bn was at Yalu and Munum. The reports were that 3rd Bn was having quite a field day, had killed many Japs and lost four killed while doing it.


(continued....)



## 17 September 1943

**1550:** Stopped to refuel at Tsilli Tsilli which was the forward supply base for the operation. Capt. Snavelly gave me a bit of light on the S-2 preparation for the operation. For three weeks before the big day he had had almost no sleep, had flown six times over the jump areas. On the Friday before, in cold daylight a B-24 pilot told him they were going down to take a look at Labu, which is across the Huon Gulf from Lae. They looked at Labu all right and then the pilot swung East right across the Gulf over the Lae airstrip. Capt. Snavelly, as do all of us, loves life. He could see Japs working to repair the strip which had been bombed to hell by our air force, he could see Malahang wreck and the Busu where the Ninth Div was to make a crossing under fire later. They passed the field and exchanged shots with Jap ack ack. In reminiscing about it he is very bitter. He always wanted to be an old man.

**1700:** Landed at Ward Strip and found that the Australian Comforts Fund had hot tea and fruit cake for the two plane loads. The tea ran out just before the Adjutant who was on the tail of the line got there.

 **1900:** Co D, and the rest of Hq Co and a few spare parts had been down on the strip in the kunai all day. The sun beating down and no shade, only a little water brought early in the day by aircorps jeep. Now dirty and worn and tired they prepared to spend the night.

**2100:** Detrucked in the forward base area. No food. Noticed that someone had taken all the mess kits out and spread them on the ground under a tree beside this mess hall. This is not good because Hq and D aren't in yet.

3rd Platoon emplaned and returned to Port Moresby, New Guinea.



**1030:** Hq and D Co after spending one eventless night on the strip enplane for Port Moresby.

**1600:** Hq Co and Co D arrive in company areas.

Co. flew from Markam Valley to Port Moresby, New Guinea. 6 Officers and 96 EM were present.



New Guinea (Emmett Lee Wester collection)

(continued....)



18 September 1943

**ADVANCED ECHELON  
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS**

CS prr: Office

(Date): 18 September 1943

BY COURIER

COLONEL KINSLER

**NOW THAT THE FALL OF LAE IS AN ACCOMPLISHED  
FACT I WISH TO MAKE OF RECORD THE SPLENDID AND  
IMPORTANT PART TAKEN BY FIVE NOUGHT THREE  
PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT STOP UNDER YOUR  
ABLE LEADERSHIP ALL OFFICERS AND MEN EXHIBITED  
THE HIGHEST ORDER OF COMBAT EFFICIENCY STOP  
PLEASE EXPRESS TO ALL RANKS MY APPRECIATION  
AND DEEP PRIDE**

MACARTHUR

OFFICIAL:

/s/

H.M. ALLEN

Lt. Col., AGD

Asst. Adjutant General

But Lt. Gen Krueger had other ideas about the "*able leadership.*" See 17 Oct - 22 Oct. (In future edition of our newsletter. Ed)



L-R: Lt. Gen. Krueger, Gen. MacArthur and Gen. Marshall at field headquarters late 1943. (Web photo)



**0700:** Lt. Cole is screaming to all the gods in the heavens that his company doesn't have any mess kits. Co D, traditionally hungry, isn't complaining very much. They got to the chow line first.

Lt. Millikin (DOW) will be awarded the Purple Heart as of the day he was wounded. Certain key NCO's are being recommended for commissions on basis of having been in combat, more because of general worth than performance on the operation. 1st Sgt. Hostinsky Co F, 1st Sgt. Gagon, Co E, S/Sgt. Vaughn Co F also Warrant Officer Bitala, Hq 2nd Bn Communication Officer.

**1600:** Received orders decorating the following for wounds received in action near Nadzab strip, Lae NG 5 Sept 43: Pfc. Synkowski, Co F, Pfc. Randolph A. Carter Co D, Paul J. Baltivik Co F, Cpl. Albert W. Westberry Hq Co 2nd Bn, Pfc. Herbert G. Elmore Co D, Clp martin Seal Co D, Pvt. John M. Parker Hq Co 2nd Bn killed in action, will be awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.

**1640:** W/O Bitala walked up to the CP in battle gear, but with his face washed, just returned from Nadzab. (Mr. Bitala had been left behind to wind up the communications). "*I was in Lae last night*" he said "*the place is in shambles. It is demolished. There are dead Japs smoking in the ruins of bomb shelters. The famous flag which flew over the General Headquarters*" (Note: There is an Australian Reward of £600 for this flag) *was taken by the Ninth Australian Division.*"

**Later newspaper reports say it was taken by the 7th.**

Bn returned from Markam Valley Operation. Gen. Krueger said to be in Port Moresby - all men put on coveralls. Men in hospital today: 32 Mostly malaria.



Emmett Lee Wester collection

**Note:** *Jerry Riseley's Journal* appears here courtesy of Paul Whitman, 503<sup>rd</sup> Heritage Battalion website, and will continue in our June newsletter. Ed





*The South Florida All Airborne Chapter will host*

**The**

# **2013 FLORIDA ALL AIRBORNE DAYS**

**October 3-5 2013**

**At the Hilton Fort Lauderdale Airport Hotel**

**Registration is \$82.00 per person:** Includes Hospitality Room Thursday thru Saturday & Saturday Night Banquet.

Hotel is located within ten miles of the following: Seminole Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, Mardi Gras Gaming & Casino, Gulfstream Park & Gaming Casino, The Galleria Mall, Fishing Hall of Fame, Bass Pro Shop & Outdoor World, Sawgrass Mills Outlet Mall, Drift boat fishing, Snorkeling boats, numerous Golf Courses and too many restaurants to list.

### **Registration form**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME of spouse/guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Abn Units: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # or email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending Ladies Breakfast \_\_\_\_\_  
(Benefits Seminar during ladies breakfast)

Please indicate if interested in following:

Site seeing tour of Miami \_\_\_\_\_

Water taxi tour of Ft Lauderdale \_\_\_\_\_

Jungle Queen River cruise \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to SFAAC, 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div Assn

Mail to: SFAAC 2765 Garden Drive, Cooper City, Florida 33026-3605

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: No refunds after Sept 20, 2013**

### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**THURSDAY:**

Early bird registration	1300-1700
Hospitality Room	1500 – closing

**FRIDAY:**

Registration	1200-1700
	1900-2100
Sales:	1200-1800
Hospitality Room (wake-up Coffee)	0800-1200
Hospitality Room	1200-closing

**SATURDAY:**

Registration:	0900-1200
Hospitality Room (wake-up Coffee)	0800-1200
Fl Chapters Business meeting	0900-1000
Ladies breakfast	0900-1030
Sales:	1200-1800
Hospitality Room	1100-1600
Cocktail hour	1800-1900
Dinner	1900-2100
Hospitality	30 minutes after dinner - closing

**NOTE: Dinner only is \$45.00 pp**

**CALL 954-920-3300 or 1-800-445-86679**  
**Mention "AIRBOR" for guaranteed room rate of \$79.00 + tax per night**



# Commander Clark and B Co. 4/503 Honor Noah McBride



Paul C. Clark, Jr  
Commander, B Co., 4/503 PIR, 1965-1966

March 23, 2013

## Sky Soldiers:

As Commander Clark and the Men of B Co. 4/503 PIR gathered at Fort Benning GA, to Remember and Honor their fallen: Commander Clark and his Soldiers Honored Noah McBride, by presenting him with a Citation for his Bravery and Valor he displayed 47 years ago.

**With Pride and Honor  
The Men of  
B Co., 4/503 PIR**

### CITATION

*In war, while accounts of extremely dangerous actions may differ, soldiers who live through them do not forget. This is clearly the case with how your fellow soldiers, including myself, remember your actions - your personal bravery, your exceptional strength, and your dedication to your comrades-in-arms during an incident in Vietnam in August of 1966.*

*Our unit, B Company, 4th battalion, 503rd Parachute infantry, newly arrived in country, was on operation against the Vietcong in difficult triple-canopy jungle in the III Corps zone. Operating in a known VC area, the company was moving through monsoon-soaked terrain when suddenly confronted with a swift, dangerously swollen river. The river was wide, deep, uncharted and had to be crossed. Even the bravest man would have thought twice before risking his life by being the first to jump into the raging current. Since the company had to cross, however, someone had to be the first to get in and take a hand-line across.*

*Noah McBride, you did that. Forty-seven years after that day, your comrades have not forgotten. You took the rope across. B Company followed. As we got started, one man at a time, one of our troopers, Rayfon Lofton, heavily loaded with his gear as well as another's equipment, lost his grip on the rope and went under. At this time, you were back at the near side helping others to cross. Seeing Lofton fall, and without any hesitation, you dove into the torrent to save our comrade.*

*Dangerous, life-threatening? That doesn't begin to describe your action. Your first dive produced nothing. You went back down, found Lofton, and with credible effort, brought him to the surface. Lofton struggled against you and the river took him down again. You dove again, grabbed Lofton a second time. Several troopers reached out for him, but once again, the torrent took him back down. You and others did everything possible to save him.*

*Lofton's body was found after more strenuous diving in that perilous current the next morning. Several B Company soldiers were in that extreme life-saving effort - and every one of them acted heroically, beyond the call of duty. Among those were Charles Smith, Pete Williams, Bob Jones, Ed Sullivan, and Stanley Raider. But there is one reason these men and your fellow troopers want to commend you, especially, for your actions that night forty-seven years ago: your bravery singularly stood out and they have never forgotten. They remember real soldiers.*

*In the name of your comrades from the Vietnam War, I am respectfully yours.*

Paul C. Clark, Jr.  
Commander, B Co., 4/503  
1965 and 1966

Presented 23 March 2013

[Source: 173d Airborne Association web site]

***“You have to accept  
whatever comes  
and the only important  
thing is that you meet it  
with courage  
and with the best that  
you have to give.”***

- Eleanor Roosevelt

**Airborne, and All The Way, to 4/503d Sky Soldier Noah McBride and to his equally brave buddies from your brothers of the 2/503d.**



**1st LIEUTENANT KARL LEE BULLARD**  
**who served with**  
**Company B**  
**2nd Battalion (Airborne)**  
**503rd Infantry Regiment**  
**173d Airborne Brigade**  
**was posthumously awarded the**  
**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**  
**CITATION FOR AWARD OF THE**  
**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS**

Date of Action: 5 May 1968



**Citation:**

The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Karl Lee Bullard, First Lieutenant (Infantry), 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, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry Regiment, 173d Airborne Brigade. First Lieutenant Bullard distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 5 May 1968 as an infantry platoon leader. A reinforced Viet Cong company launched a violent attack on his company's position near Bong Son. Throughout the attack, Lieutenant Bullard moved from one position to another along the perimeter, directing the fire of his men. When the attack had been repulsed, he called for volunteers to move outside the perimeter with him to recover a friendly squad which was isolated, surrounded and under attack. Lieutenant Bullard was wounded in the leg during the maneuver but refused to stop for medical treatment. When his troops reached the squad, he directed them in laying down a base of fire to cover the **withdrawal**. After insuring that all the beleaguered element's members had returned to safety, he moved out again to rescue a second isolated squad. Lieutenant Bullard advanced across two hundred meters of enemy

controlled terrain before he contacted the surrounded element. When he arrived, he found that all the men in the squad had been wounded and the position was still receiving intense fire. The enemy then mounted a massive ground assault. Several of the Viet Cong fell at Lieutenant Bullard's feet as he directed the fire of his men which succeeded in repulsing the attack. While returning to the company perimeter, he personally killed two more insurgents. When the second squad had been brought to safety, Lieutenant Bullard left the perimeter a third time to recover a radio and machine gun which his men had been forced to leave behind. Lieutenant Bullard was personally responsible for inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and for saving the lives of twelve American soldiers. First Lieutenant Bullard'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.

HQ US Army, Vietnam  
 General Orders No. 3765 (2 August 1968)

He was also a posthumous recipient of the

- PURPLE HEART
- NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL
- VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL
- REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM CAMPAIGN SERVICE MEDAL

and was entitled to wear the

- COMBAT INFANTRYMAN BADGE and
- ARMY PARACHUTE WINGS



***“YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN  
 NOR SHALL YOU EVER BE”***

Posted by:

Clay Marston  
 BIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCHER-DSC







This warning was sent in by Jack Schimpf, B/2/503. Jack visited the home of this newsletter editor and his wife for a couple days recently but, unfortunately, he sent this notice after his visit. Had we only known.....

## Sky Soldiers Get Choice of Rations

*Fire Base 173, Vol. II, No. 5, 1 March 1969*

**BONG SON** – The American foot soldier in Vietnam undoubtedly has a much more diversified diet than any of his predecessors in other wars.

There are two basic types of rations now offered to Infantry in the field, the C Ration, or standard canned meal, and the relatively new dehydrated Long Range Patrol (LRP) ration fondly called “lurp” and when mixed with water almost tastes like the real thing.

A trooper who enjoys apricots usually gets his fill. SP James Gavin of Wilkes Barre, PA, says, “I’m sure glad my Mom brought me up liking those things.”

As far as favorite meals go spaghetti seems to be the most popular dehydrated meal with beef and rice running a close second. Beans and franks ranks high among the canned meals.

Since the C-Rations have been changed (unpopular meals have been phased out of production), and lurps added, the food complaints have sharply declined among the Infantrymen. Together the C’s and lurps make for a total of 20 different meals. Hot sauce is often added as seasoning.



As one Paratrooper succinctly summed up his diet,  
***“It ain’t too good, but it ain’t too bad either.”***

###



# NW Woman Mourns Son Lost To Friendly Fire

The telegram was brief, but explicit: "We regret to inform you that your son, Army Pfc. Carl F. Louvring, died while on duty in Vietnam, 13 May 1967."

-stop.

"He was on an ambush patrol, walking through dense brush, and was fired on by other members of the patrol who mistakenly took him for the enemy"

-stop.



Carl, E 17<sup>th</sup> Cav

The contents of the message were explained to Louvring's mother, Mrs. Elva G. McCain of Lowell, by an Army major from Eugene. She was told again that her son, a twice decorated soldier for heroic action in Vietnam, was killed by "friendly fire". "That's a helluva way to die" she said, holding back her deeper emotions.

Young Louvring would have been 20 years old in October. He was born and reared in Eugene, attended Roosevelt Junior High School and Pleasant Hill High School at Pleasant Hill.

## Youth liked outdoors

He loved the outdoors, liked to fish and hunt, and showed an interest in ranching. He worked on a ranch in Klamath Falls before enlisting in the Army, 7 Feb 1966. He tried to enlist in the Army's Special Forces, the Green Berets, but was too young, so he chose the paratroopers instead, training at Ft. Ord, CA, Ft. Rucker AL, and Ft. Benning GA.

He was sent to Vietnam in October, 1966, attached to the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Mrs. McCain was informed later that her son had won two air medals for heroism in action as a gunner aboard a helicopter over hostile territory. He won the Oak Leaf Cluster for one memorable aerial flight 15 Jan 1967, when he killed at least one Viet Cong and held down enemy fire when the helicopter was on a low and vulnerable mission, carrying the deputy brigade commander.

He received another citation for valor for making 25 hazardous aerial missions in the helicopter between Dec 1966 and Feb 1966 and Feb 1967.

## Enemy Held Off

The citation indicated his helicopter engaged the enemy on several occasions, once taking a direct hit. But Army Pfc. Louvring, the dispatch said, successfully held the enemy at bay, pinning them with fire of his own until they were out of range.

Mrs. McCall received a letter from her son dated two days before the fateful ambush mission. His spirits were high and he made no complaints about his duty. "That's a terrible way to die, she repeated. "After all those risks against enemy fire, to get shot down by your own."

(Oregonian, Portland OR, Wednesday, 17 May 1967)



## E Troop

Troop E, 17th Cavalry was assigned to the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) in March 1963 and followed the 173d to Vietnam earning a Presidential Unit Citation, a Meritorious Unit Commendation with the brigade as well as a separate Valorous Unit Award for Troop E's actions at Ben Cat.

## Ralph Clinton Southard LTC (Ret)

LTC (Ret) Ralph Clinton Southard, 75, of Linn Creek, died Sunday, July 24, 2011, at his home.



Survivors include his wife, Margaret, of the home; five children, Pamela June Curry and Steven, of Yukon, Okla.; Jerry C. Southard and Wendy, of Crocker; Melissa Wilson and Sean, of Crocker; Timothy Southard and Nikki, of Lebanon, and Lauralee Southard, of Crocker; a sister, Betty Romine and Orvil, of McAlester, Okla.; two brothers, Kenneth Southard and Cheri, of Wilburton, Okla, and Jerry Southard and Theresa, of Edmund, Okla.; 15 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and other relatives.

Funeral services for Ralph were held on July 29, 2011, in the Memorial Chapel of Richland. Burial with military honors followed in the Freedom Cemetery near Linn Creek.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Ralph Southard to the Salvation Army.



# SOLDIER MISSING IN ACTION FROM VIETNAM WAR IDENTIFIED AND RETURNED HOME FOR BURIAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
NO. 080-10  
29 January 2010

The Department of Defense POW / Missing Personnel Office ( DPMO ) announced today that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing in action from the Vietnam War, have been identified and returned to his family for burial.

Army Specialist LAWRENCE LEE ALDRICH will be buried in his home town of Fort Worth, Texas tomorrow.

On 6 May 1968, Aldrich was a member of a search-and-clear mission in Binh Dinh Province in what was then South Vietnam. He was last seen with two other Americans engaged in a battle with enemy forces while manning a M-60 machine gun position.

An air strike was called in, but one of the bombs inadvertently landed on Aldrich's position, killing the three soldiers. Members of his unit later recovered the remains of the two other men, but Aldrich could not be found.

In July 1992, a joint U.S.-Socialist Republic of Vietnam team traveled to the province to investigate the loss. They interviewed a local citizen who remembered a large ground battle in the area in May or June 1968. He took the team to a location where he indicated the remains were buried, but an excavation in 1994 found no evidence of a grave or remains.

Vietnamese officials unilaterally investigated the case in 2006 and interviewed two villagers who recalled finding a body of an American after the battle and burying it where it lay. The excavation in March 2009 unearthed human remains and other non-biological evidence.

The identification of the remains was confirmed by matching the remains with Aldrich's dental records. A second joint investigation in 2007, led by the Joint POW / MIA Accounting Command, recommended another excavation based on the information provided by the Vietnamese



Larry, B/2/503d

# AFTER 42 YEARS, VIETNAM SOLDIER FINALLY COMES HOME

By Jim Douglas, WFAA TV, January 27, 2010

Hours before dawn, a jet lands at DFW International Airport, a cargo door opens, and the U.S. Army returns Sgt. Larry Aldrich to the family he left 42 years ago.



Soldiers from Fort Hood solemnly carry out their duty as honor guard. A brother and sister finally weep at the sight of a flag-covered casket they'd given up hope of seeing.

"I actually never thought we would ever see any of his remains," says Janine Peck, Aldrich's little sister. "It wasn't in my dreams at all that he would come home."

Sgt Aldrich didn't come home from Vietnam sooner because his remains were only recently found. He was blown up by an American bomb that fell short during a battle in May of 1968.

"I don't know if I ever gave up," says Larry's brother, Tim Aldrich. "I used to have dreams he would show up some day. **Now he has.**" The Army first listed Sgt. Aldrich as "missing in action," then changed it to "killed in action."

In 1996, his fellow soldiers memorialized him in Fort Worth, and his father, Darwin Aldrich, recalled the day in 1968 he drove his son to the airport, just five months before Aldrich was killed.

"That was the hardest thing I had to do," the elder Aldrich said at that 1996 ceremony. "He had a feeling he was not coming back. I tried to tell him, 'No, Larry, that's not right. You'll be back.' I guess he had a premonition."

Darwin Aldrich died in 2005, still wondering and waiting. "I know even up until his last couple of weeks he would still talk about how he wished he could come home before he died," said Janine Peck. "We knew he was killed, but because we never got anything at all, we would always say, I think maybe someday he might come up to the door and knock on it and say, 'I'm home.'"

On Saturday, father and son will finally be reunited. Larry Aldrich will be interred in his father's site at Greenwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.

Motorcycles of the Patriot Guard roared ahead of the hearse, escorting the fallen soldier from the airport. It didn't matter that other drivers couldn't see their flags in the darkness, or know their mission...

"He sent me some letters from Vietnam," said his little sister. "Talked about how it was horrible over there. And he would be happy to come home. And he was going to be 21. He died in May, and he would have been 21 in July. He wanted to come home."

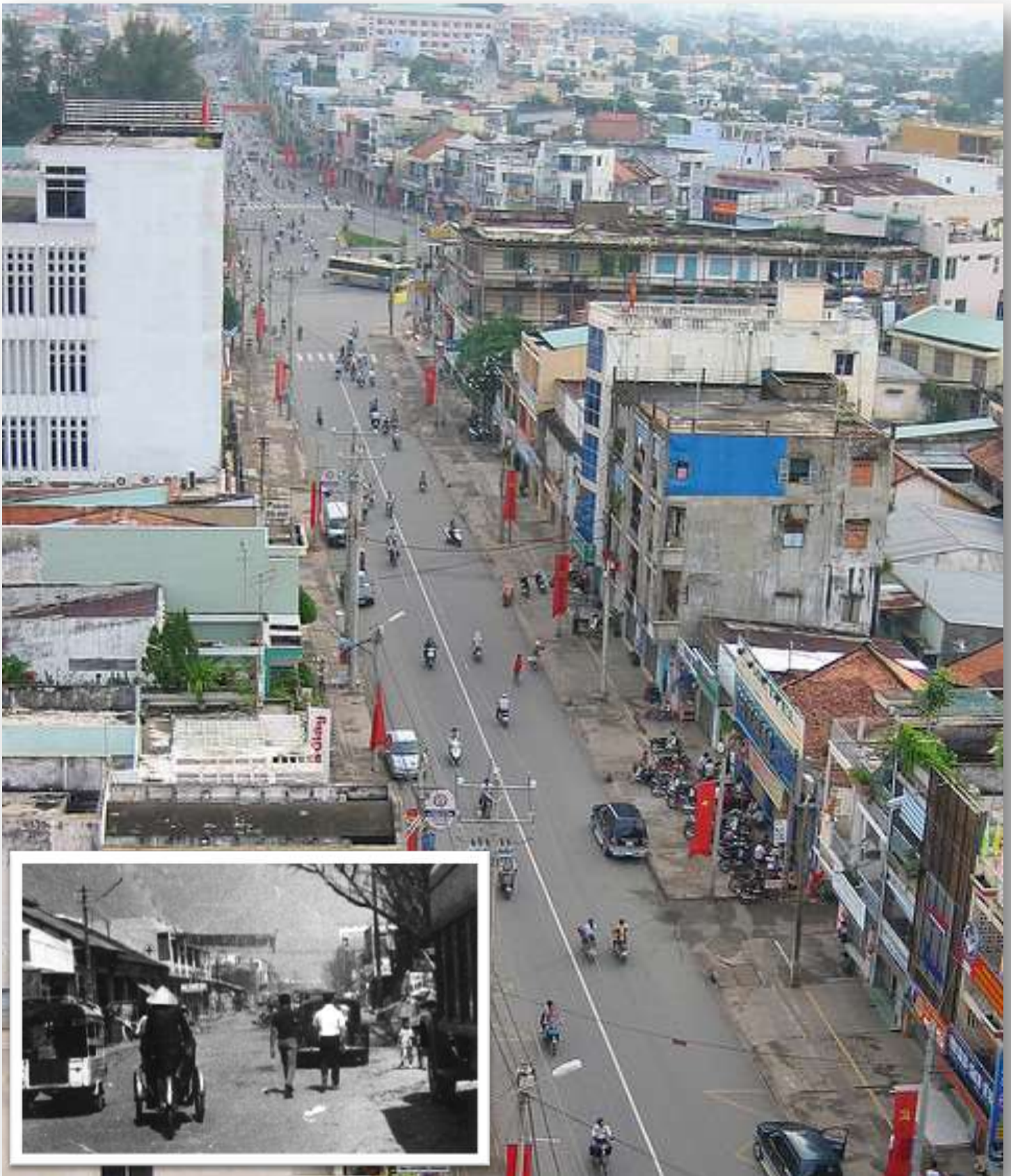
###

Posted by:

Clay Marston  
BIOGRAPHICAL RESEARCHER - ARMY



# ~ Downtown Bien Hoa, Vietnam, Then & Now ~



(Web photos)

