



**Serving Sky Soldiers Past, Present and Future**

# *The Herd Word*



## **Chapter 1 Walk to the Wall**



Early on the sunny, crisp Veterans Day morning, the jauntily dressed group of Sky Soldiers assembled on the Brigade Colors, at the National Vietnam Memorial.

Sky Soldiers and friends of Sky Soldiers gathered to render solemn honors to the Brigade KIAs whose names were etched on those black marble walls.

Local Sky Soldiers were joined by Sky Soldiers and their families and friends from New York, Florida, and Texas. All were pleased to meet with their Airborne brothers-in-arms!

Among the local participants were **Ed Anthony, Chuck Evans, Pat Linehan, Gene Cartier, Mack Brooks, Terry Walsh, Trudy Surut, George Farris, Don Haus and wife Vicki, Harold McGill, Daniel Goode, and Jim Williams.**

The out-of-towners included **Patrick Sirmeyer** from Florida;

**Bryan Kennedy & family**, and **Jason Slomiak** from New York; the **Ybarra family** (Robert, wife Patricia, son Derek & daughter Caroline) from Texas. The **Ybarra family**, from San Antonio, attend every year.

After greetings and story swapping, the group was quickly briefed on the wreath laying procedure. Following Mack Brooks' moving prayer of remembrance, the group formed up in two files for their trek to the Wall.

The Sky Soldiers, led by the National and Brigade Colors, slowly marched to the apex of the Wall. There, we placed a 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade wreath. Shortly afterwards, the group made a formal salute to honor of our fellow Soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf.

The cohort, like Old Soldiers, quietly faded away, fully aware that once again we had kept faith with our departed heroes that the fallen will never be forgotten.

**AIRBORNE**  
/ALL THE WAY

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# Message from the Chapter President



This last quarter has been a busy for our Chapter.

On 8 October, our Chapter 2018 Reunion Committee held a coordination meeting. The next meeting will be on 10 December.

Other Chapter activities are identified below and addressed in this newsletter.

- Presentation of a Chapter Honor Set to **SGT (R) Dennis Felmley family**, at Arlington National Cemetery on 15 October.
- **Roy Lombardo** led the Bravo Bulls wreath laying at Arlington National Cemetery, on 10 November.

- **Ed Anthony** led the Chapter in its Walk to the Wall and wreath laying, on 11 November.
- The Chapter donated \$600 and 22 Miracle Quilts to Fisher House, at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda, on 15 November.

Our 2017 Chapter Fee letter was sent out on 31 October. The annual fee is due by 1 Jan 2017. To date, 45 members have submitted their 2017 fee. Some made donations for special causes or to the general fund.

If you did not receive the 2017 Chapter Fee letter, please contact me. Your support is vital to

sustaining Chapter activities.

Our Chapter by-Laws dictate that the President and Treasurer positions be elected at the Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM), in odd numbered years. **Our AGMM will be held 7 January 2017.**

**Candidates for Chapter President or Treasurer should be declared in this newsletter. So far we have no candidates.**

I appreciate your participation and support – you are the Chapter.

Airborne All The Way,

Joe

## Fisher House Donation

On November 15, 2016, Chapter 1 Members, **Joe Flesch**, **Gene Cartier**, **Terry Walsh** and **Mack Brooks** carried out the donation Chapter Members authorized, at the Annual Picnic, to give \$500 to the Bethesda Fisher House. Two Chapter Members, **Jack Tarr** and **Terry Walsh**, each contributed an additional \$50 to the donation.

The \$600 check was presented to **Ms. Jessica Reddish** and **Mr. Michael Ynarra**, at the Fisher House.

The Fisher House organization provides free lodging and support to service personnel (active duty and retirees) and their families who are undergo-

ing active inpatient treatment at the medical facility. More information on the Fisher House can be found at website <http://www.fisherhouse.org>.

The Chapter also presented 22 Miracle Quilts to the Fisher House. The quilts were provided to the Chapter by **Mrs. Carole Carroll** of the Miracle Quilts organization. Miracle Quilts organization was established to honor the service and sacrifice of Sky Soldier **PFC Joseph A. Miracle**, who was killed in action, July 5, 2007.

The organization provides services to active duty and veteran families. They are a 501 (c) 3 organization.

To learn more about Miracle Quilts or to donate to this worthy cause,

check out their website at <http://www.thedesertangel.org/quilts/>.



Chapter President Joe Flesch presenting Miracle Quilts to Ms. Jessica Reddish of Fisher House.

# Chapter 2017 Calendar

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
Chapter Annual General Membership Meeting	7 Jan 2017	1100	Sat	Mack Brooks Mark Ludlow	Marina Towers 501 Slaters Lane Alexandria, VA  Refreshments will be served
Sky Soldier Funeral LTC (R) David Milton	17 Jan 2017	0900	Mon	Joe Flesch	Administration Building Arlington National Cemetery  Arrive at 0830
St. Patrick's Day Gathering of the Herd (VA)	11 Mar 2017	1000	Sat	Joe Flesch	Ireland's Four Provinces Restaurant 105 W. Broad St, Falls Church, VA 22046  No host Brunch/Lunch
Reading of the Names Vietnam and GWOT	6 May 2017	1030	Sat	Ed Anthony	Brigade Marker Arlington National Cemetery  Reading the Names Sky Soldier KIAs 1965 - 1966 & GWOT
173 <sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Reunion	7 - 11 Jun 2016	N/A	Tue - Fri	N/A	Convention and Trade Center Columbus, GA
Gathering of the Herd (VA)	Jul 2017	1100	Sat	TBD	Venue TBD
Chapter BBQ	12 Aug 2017	1100	Sat	Joe Flesch	Flesch Home 11730 Hawkes Road Clarksburg, MD
Bravo Bulls Ceremony	9 Nov 2017	1000	Thu	Roy Lombardo	Start at SSG Larry Rougle's burial site (Section 60, Arlington National Cemetery)  Veteran Day Celebrated 10 Nov 2017
Walk to the Wall	10 Nov 2017	1000	Wed	Ed Anthony	Vietnam Memorial No-Host Lunch  Veteran Day Celebrated 10 Nov 2017
Wreaths Across America	16 Dec 2017	0900	Sat	Joe Flesch	Arlington National Cemetery
Wounded Warrior Visits	Periodic	N/A	N/A	TBD	DC and Richmond VA Area

## Chapter Annual Meeting 7 January 2017



Yup!

It's Annual Meeting time.

Man-up!

Don't be shy or scared.

Mark Ludlow has graciously offered to hold the Annual Chapter meeting at his residence's hospitality facility.

Who:

**All Chapter Members**

Where:

**Marina Towers  
501 Slaters Lane  
Alexandria, VA**

When: **1100h, 7 January 2017**

Coordinating Instructions:

- **Refreshments to be served**
- **RSVP NLT 28 DEC**

[mack.brooks1@cox.net](mailto:mack.brooks1@cox.net)

# Honor Set to SGT Dennis P. Felmley Family

**SGT Dennis Felmley's** daughters contacted Chapter 1 as soon as they learned that our Chapter supports the funeral of any Sky Soldier buried in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC).

They buried their father, on Oct 13, 2016, only afterwards discovering our services. They asked for the Chapter's assistance to certify SGT Felmley was a member in good standing with the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association, so they could have the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade unit patch engraved on his headstone.

Chapter 1 President, **Joe Flesch**, and Chapter member, **Terry**

**Walsh**, met with the daughters. **Shannon Felmley-Krist, Rene Hinojoa** and **Bridget Felmley-Gay**, on Saturday, the 15<sup>th</sup> October. After a brief ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery's 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Marker, Joe Flesch gave the trio a Chapter 1 Honor Set, a folded 3'x5' 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade flag, a Chapter 1 Certificate for honorable service and a letter certifying that SGT Felmley had been a member in good standing of the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association and Chapter 14, in Southern California. The group proceeded to SGT Felmley's burial site.

Our Chapter sees it as our sacred

duty to honor Sky Soldiers who are buried at ANC, if the families request our presence.



SGT Felmley's daughters and Terry Walsh  
173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Marker

## Chapter 1 Financial Report

As of 28 November 2016

<b>Balance as of 26 May 2016</b>	\$10,307.94
Receipts (Dues, fees, and donations)	\$1,560.20
Disbursements	(\$1,783.23)
<b>Balance as of 28 November, 2016</b>	\$10,084.91
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Chapter Dues (4) @ \$19.12 and 1 Brigade at \$23.20 (PayPal)	\$142.20
Chapter Dues (21) @ \$20.00 1 for 2 years @ \$40.00	\$460.00
Brigade Dues (2) @ \$24.00	\$48.00
Donations:	
Terrance Modglin for Chinese Art	\$150.00
Barry Holland donation to Scholarship Fund	\$250.00
General Fund Donations (7)	\$410.00
Fisher House donations (2) -	\$100.00
Jack Tarr \$50.00	
Terry Walsh \$50.00	
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
The Herd Word Printing (25 copies)	\$23.32
Bravo Bulls Wreaths	\$240.00
173 <sup>d</sup> Walk to the Wall Wreath	\$185.06
GoDaddy reinstatement and 5-year website service	\$389.39
VA Attorneys (RRBMDK) fees and trust balance	\$200.00
Annual Commonwealth Registration	\$25.00
Brigade Annual Fees (3)	\$48.00
Non-e-mail dues letter production	\$18.70
Fax IRS name change forms (Staples)	\$6.76
USPS stamps (100)	\$47.00
Donation to Fisher House	\$600.00

## Bravo Bulls Arlington National Cemetery

The Bravo Bulls are Sky Soldiers from B Company, 2<sup>d</sup> Battalion, 503<sup>d</sup> Infantry Battalion, who deployed from Okinawa, together and served in Vietnam 1965 - 1966. There are 101 Bravo Bull veterans and widows.

They meet in the United States and visit B (Battle) Company (B/2-503) in Vicenza, annually. The ceremonial head of the Bravo Bulls is long serving Chapter Member, LTC (Ret.) Roy Lombardo.

One of the cohort's most critical missions is hosting three ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, each 10<sup>th</sup> of November.

This year, the first ceremony was at **SSG Rougle's** (60-8721) grave site. His grave is among nine other Sky Soldiers killed in action

during the Global War on Terrorism.

There, the Bravo Bulls were joined by 15 current/veteran Sky Soldiers, one of whom was **CSM Beeson**, a veteran of C (Chosen) Company, 2-503<sup>d</sup>. CSM Beeson is the serving Command Sergeant Major of the 3<sup>d</sup> Infantry Regiment, The Old Guard.

The second ceremony was at the grave of **MG and Mrs. Ellis W. Williamson**, the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade's first Commander.

The third ceremony was at the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Memorial Marker. There more Sky Soldiers and their families joined the assembly.

Among the many guests was **Les Brownlee**, the Bravo Bulls forth Company Commander and later Secretary of the Army. The names of

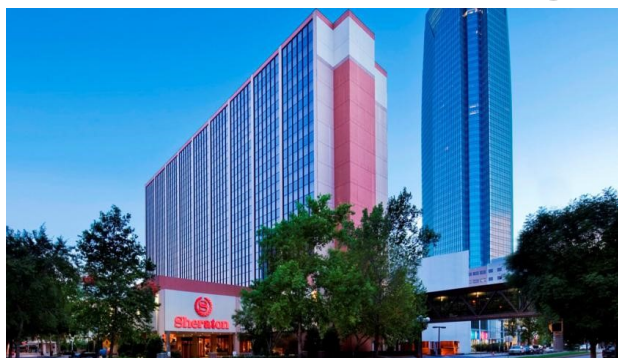
each Bravo Bull KIA was read. This was followed by the reading of Battle Company's GWOT losses, read by **MSG David Barbaret**.

After renewing friendships, Sky Soldiers young and old headed for a no-host luncheon at Il Porto Ristorante, in Alexandria, where we dined on Italian cuisine.



**Roy Lombardo**  
Honoring the Bravo Bulls

## 2017 Airborne Brigade Reunion



**Sheraton Oklahoma City**



**Renaissance Oklahoma City**

**Oklahoma City, OK**  
**17-21 May 2018**  
**Register Today!!!!**

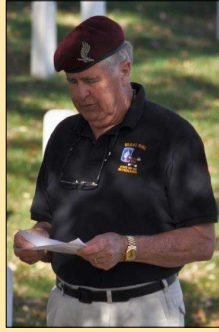
<https://www.skySoldier.net/event-2280895>



# Photo Gallery



Shannon Felmley-Krist  
Rene Hinojoa  
Bridget Felmley-Gay



LTC (ret.) Roy Lombardo  
Bravo Bull  
173d Airborne Brigade Marker



Joe Flesch, Ms. Jessica Reddish,  
Terry Walsh & Gene Cartier



Pat Linehan &  
George Farris



Those there so others would not be forgotten



Gene Cartier &  
Pat Linehan



## From the Webmaster



Who knows what information lurks on the Chapter website? The Webmaster knows.

**Herd Word.** Looking for a back copy of the Herd Word? You can always find back copies on the website. The Chapter website has Herd Word copies back to 1987. They are in PDF format. So, they can be easily viewed or downloaded. Back Herd Word issues are in the News section of the website. The direct link is <http://173dairbornechapter1.org/news/>

**2018 Reunion Working Page.** To keep members informed of Chapter activity and progress on the 2018 Reunion, we have created a Reunion working page on the Chapter website. All reunion information, reports, and working group activity will be posted on that site. The Reunion Working Page is in the Events section of the Chapter website. The direct link is <http://173dairbornechapter1.org/events/chapter-1-reunion-working-page/>

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dak To Tour

**Gene Cartier** is helping to organize a Vietnam tour commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battles fought at Dak To, in November 1967.

The tour will include visits to Vung Tao, War Zone D, Saigon, Dak To (Hill 875 & 823), Tuy Hoa, and LZ English. An itinerary is included in News section of the link (hypertext) below.

<http://173dairbornechapter1.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/173rd-Abn-Tour-Nov-2017.pdf>

For additional information and details contact Gene at hypertext or e-mail [cajungene@gmail.com](mailto:cajungene@gmail.com)

# A Star in the East

Do you remember where you were, what you were doing, and with whom you were with, on Christmas Eve 1970?



1LT Chuck Evans  
RVN 1970

Christmas 1970 is forever stamped on my mind. I know exactly where, what, and with whom I was with, from October until Christmas Eve 1970.

I was stationed in Tam Quan District, South Vietnam, just north of Bong Song, at Fire Support Base Causeway. The fire base was on the South China Sea, near a bridge blown out by the Viet Cong, making the base an island.

Just after dark on Christmas Eve, we set up a perimeter and waited for Santa Claus.

Looking into the clear South China Sea sky, it occurred to me we were facing east, but there was no Christmas Star. I was the E Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion/503<sup>d</sup> Infantry, 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Heavy Weap-

ons Platoon Leader. Maybe we could provide one!

I called a fire mission of a single illumination round, over the ocean, a Christmas Star in the East for the wise and not so wise to see.

At 2130h, we hung the round and fired a "star in the east" for Christmas!

As the round went down range, into the darkness, the meaning of Christmas to was illustrated for all who saw it: the connection to family and friends, feelings of home, and the celebration of the Christmas season.

That "star" went high, far, and burned for a very long time. I have often considered the possibility that it's still out there. In fact, In many respects, it still is. For many who saw it, the meaning of Christmas hasn't changed one bit! It is still about family and friends, home, and the Christ child born over 2000 years ago!

I hope any and all who might have seen that "star in the east" were given some peace in their heart for those troubled and dangerous times. For some it, was their last Christmas.

Current Herd Soldiers have continued to have Christmas-es far from home, engaged in war, far from the family, friends, and those they love.

God bless all our military heroes who defend us so far

from our shores! May the meaning of Christmas provide them comfort and assurance, just as it did 44 years ago for me and my fellow Soldiers at the Fire Support Base Causeway, on 24 December 1970, South Vietnam.

Provided by **Chuck Evans**, who was a 1LT, Infantry, in 1970.



Heavy Weapons Platoon  
E Company, 4<sup>th</sup> Bn 503<sup>d</sup> Inf, 173<sup>d</sup> Abn Bde  
Fire Support Base Causeway, RVN 1970

## Ireland's Four Provinces Restaurant



### Gathering of the Herd

Tis a bit of the Irish in all of us, Laddie.

So be there on 11 March 2017, at 1000h,  
for the no-host Brunch/Lunch

I can say with a lilt in my voice

"Y'all come now, hear"





Address Label

Stamp

**173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Association**  
Chapter 1 (Sigholtz Capital Chapter)  
P.O. Box 173  
McLean, VA 22101-0173



FOLD



**Merry  
Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
Wherever you are**



**AS WE CELEBRATE, LET US NOT FORGET THOSE WHO  
NOW SERVE AND THOSE WHO SACRIFICED ALL**

