



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

# *The Herd Word*



## **173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Reunion Oklahoma City OK**



The End of the Trail  
National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum  
Oklahoma City, OK

Chapter 18, The Larry Pierce Chapter of the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association hosted an outstanding 2017 Brigade Association Reunion in Oklahoma City, OK, May 17 – May 21.

Over 600 Sky Soldiers and guests and at least 13 Chapter 1 members attended.

I am happy to report that there were over 100 Global War on Terrorism Sky Soldiers there. These young Sky Soldiers are a credit to our nation for continuing the tradition and spirit of the Airborne. They are the future of our Association.

Jack Kranchick and I arrived on

May 16th so we could observe and help set up the registration and vendor areas.

This experience will be invaluable to our Chapter in planning and executing the 2018 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Reunion, in Alexandria, VA.

We appreciated Chapter 18's staff for allow-

ing us to participate in their operations meetings. We gained valuable insights for our reunion from them.

Among highlights of the Oklahoma City Reunion were trips to Fort Sill, the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, the 45<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Museum, and the well-attended Ladies Luncheon.

I attended the Board of Directors (BOD) Meeting. The General Membership Meeting was conducted on Saturday morning, May 20. It was announced that Terry Aubrey the serving Associ-

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## ***AIRBORNE*** ***ALL THE WAY***

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# Message from the Chapter President



This past quarter, the Chapter has actively fulfilled our vow to remember our fallen Sky Soldiers and to support Sky Soldiers and U.S. Veterans. Our

activities included:

- A Gathering of The Herd in Falls Church, VA on 11 March.
- The 2018 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Reunion Committee meetings on 25 March, 29 April, and 27 May.
- Donation of \$500 to the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC) Foundation on 4 April.
- Donation of \$500 to the Fisher House at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Bethesda on 25

April.

- The Reading of the Names of Vietnam-Era Sky Soldier KIAs (1965-1966) and all Global War on Terrorism, at the Airborne Brigade Marker, Arlington National Cemetery, on 6 May
- Chapter members attended the 2017 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Reunion, in Oklahoma City, OK, 17-21 May.

I appreciate the support of Chapter members, family members, and guest who supported the above events.

Upcoming Events:

- Our Chapter is the Host Chapter for the 2018 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Reunion.

The next Reunion Committee meeting is 24 June. We have also scheduled meetings for 29 July and 26 August.

- There will be a Gathering of Herd in Williamsburg, VA, 15 July. Please join us. (See information in this issue).
- Our annual Chapter BBQ will again be at my house, 12 August. – See information in this issue. A flyer will be sent out. Save the date and please attend.

To date, we have 79 active Chapter members, who have paid the annual fee. If you did not receive the 2017 Chapter Fee letter please contact me. Your support is vital us.

Airborne All The Way,

Joe

## Chapter Donation to Fisher House

It's been some time since wounded Sky Soldiers have been hospitalized at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC). This respite has allowed the Chapter to reorient its charitable giving to Association-affiliated scholarships and The Fisher House Foundation, at WRNMMC, in Bethesda, MD.

So it was on April 4, 2017, when a contingent of seven Sky Soldiers met with Ms. Jessica Reddish, an assistant to the Bethesda Fisher House Manager. This was the third time Chapter Members have visited and donated money to this worthy charity.

Ms. Reddish took the Band of Brothers through the facility while she explained how the Fisher

Houses came to be and what services it provides.

The Fisher House program was established by Zachary Fisher and his wife Elizabeth. The Fisher Houses provide residence for military and veteran family members while the Service Member/Veteran is being treated.



L. to R.: Garrett Clemons, Jim Yarrison, Ms. Reddish, Joe Flesch, Ed Anthony, Henry Persons, Bill Connolly, and Mack Brooks (not pictured)

There are 71 Fisher Houses located on 24 military installations and 29 Veteran Affairs medical centers. To date, the program has offered more than six million days of lodging to more than 305,000 service families.

Everyone was impressed with the quality the facility and dedication of the staff to serving the families of those being treated at WRNMMC.

After the tour, Mack Brooks, Garrett Clemons, Bill Connolly, Joe Flesch, Henry Persons, and Jim Yarrison watched as Ed Anthony presented Ms. Reddish with the Chapter's \$500.00 donation. Ms. Reddish accepted the Chapter's gift and the Sky Soldiers left knowing that they have met their obligation to serve. We look forward to the next opportunity to support the Fisher House Foundation.

# Chapter 2017 Calendar

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
173 <sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Reunion Vincenza, Italy	4 - 8 Jul 2017	N/A	Tue - Sat	N/A	Vergilius Business Resort and Spa Caserma Del Din
Gathering of the Herd (VA)	15 Jul 2017	1130	Sat	Barry Holland	Center Street Grill 5101 Center Street Williamsburg, VA 23188 757-220-4600
Chapter BBQ	12 Aug 2017	1100	Sat	Joe Flesch	Flesch Home 11730 Hawkes Road Clarksburg, MD 20871
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

## Continued from Page 3, 2017 Reunion

ation Vice President had been elected President of the Association and David Williams was elected Treasurer.

The Gold Star Family Brunch followed the General Membership Meeting. Later that afternoon, a special Board of Directors (BOD) meeting was called by the new President to endorse his appointment of Thomas McMahon (President Chapter 2) as the Vice President to fill the remainder of the Vice President's term. The BOD unanimously approved the appointment.

The Hospitality Room and the Vendors Area were well-attended each day.

There were opportunities for specific unit events, in the evening of May18 & 19.

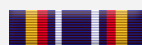
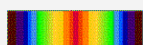
The Association Banquet was held on May 20th. COL William L. Ostlund gave an outstanding speech. On Sunday, May 21, the Association Chaplin con-



ducted a solemn Memorial Service to departed Sky Soldiers. Following the memorial service, the attendees departed to their homes.

Our Chapter intends to continue the tradition of hosting an outstanding 2018 Sky Soldier Reunion. As our Reunion planning progresses, I intend to ask more of our members to step forward to make our Reunion the best Reunion ever.

Joe Flesch,  
President Chapter 1  
(Sigholtz Capital Chapter)





# Gathering of the Herd: Saint Patrick's Day

Some would say it was a wee bit brisk, but never you mind the weather. March 11 t'was a bonnie day indeed, as the band of brothers and their spouses gathered to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day. Celebrating the patron saint of Ireland's day has been a long-standing tradition in the Chapter and appropriately this Gathering of the Herd was celebrated at Ireland's Four Provinces Restaurant in Falls Church, VA. Our gathering included Ed & Connie Anthony, Mack Brooks, Garrett & Susan Clemons, Chuck Evans, Joe & Jeane Flesch, Roy Gilmore, Harvey Jester, Henry & Brenda Persons, Alan Phillips, Trudy Surut and Jim Yarrison.

The fifteen Sky Soldiers and kin sat amongst the pictures of heroes from the Emerald Isle, Irish tartan patterns, Irish sport team memorabilia, and other artifacts associated with

Hibernia. One could be excused if one thought, for the moment, he had been transported to that magical isle. One could even hear a bit of the bogue from a nearby table.

It was the top of the morning and many ordered breakfast. Some of the more adventurous boldly selected from the lunch menu. Some even ordered Irish stout to quench the thirst and recognize the occasion. Ere long, the or-



Ireland's Four Provinces Falls Church, VA

dering was done, the grace was said, the Pledge of Allegiance made, and the blend of Chapter meeting and the socializing began.

The Chapter President updated the group on the 2017 and 2018 Reunions. He encouraged Members to volunteer to help and some did so. He listed several upcoming Chapter activities and encouraged participation. In short order, Chapter business was set aside for casual conversation. All too soon, the meal was over and all but the camaraderie remained. As we left the Four Irish Provinces, I dare say some of the Irish stayed with us. I could have sworn that I saw many a Sky Soldier leaving with a jig in his step and a lilt in his voice.



## Chapter 1 Financial Report

As of 31 May 2017

<b>Balance as of 27 February 2017</b>	\$11,331.73
Receipts (Dues, fees, and donations)	\$649.00
Disbursements	(\$2,864.60)
<b>Balance as of 31 May 2017</b>	\$9,116.13
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Chapter Dues (1) @ \$20.00	\$20.00
Brigade Dues (1) @ \$24.00	\$24.00
Donations:	
Scholarship Fund (6)	\$280.00
General Fund Donations (1)	\$25.00
General Fund Donations (1)	\$300.00
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Staples (Herd Word Production) (20 Copies)	\$22.10
Staples (March & Annual Meeting Packets) (25)	\$19.50
Donation: Walter Reed Fisher House	\$500.00
Donation: Army Heritage Center Foundation	\$500.00
Donation to 173 <sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Foundation	
Annual Commitment	\$500.00
Sigholtz Scholarship	\$1173.00
Brigade Annual Fees (1)	\$16.00
USPS Rental Box Annual Fee	\$134.00

# Chapter Donation to the US Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC) Foundation

It was unseasonably cool, windy, and yes, rainy, for late April, but the Chapter had approved donating \$500.00 to Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC) Foundation and the ten-man Chapter contingent was there to honor that commitment.

Chapter participants included Mack Brooks, Joe Flesch, Roy Gilmore, Jack Kranchick, John Kingeter, Henry & Brenda Persons, Bob Read, and Terry & Patrice Walsh.

April 25, 2017, was not the first time the Chapter had donated to AHEC. On September 14, 2015, the Chapter approved donating one of two signed Iwo Jima Monument lithographs and \$550.00 to the AHEC Foundation.

Believe it or not, there is 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade history that connects it to the Marine Corps. The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade Separate, was attached to the Marine Corps 3<sup>rd</sup> Division and conducted joint operations with them in Da Nang, South Vietnam, in late 1966. The 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 503<sup>rd</sup> received the Presidential Citation (Navy) for excellent service during the attachment.

The lithograph was signed by Felix de Weldon, the designer and sculptor of the Iwo Jima



Chapter Joe Flesch presenting \$500 donation to Mike Perry of US AHEC

monument. The Chapter's donated copy of the Iwo Jima lithograph still hangs at AHEC.

Few in the Chapter 1 group had been to the facility before. So, the visit began with the Center staff explaining AHEC's mission. They explained that AHEC, in Carlisle, PA, is affiliated with the Army War College and is supported by the Army Heritage Center Foundation. AHEC is dedicated to telling the Army story - one Soldier at a time. Its facilities and activities include a museum, archives, a library, and educational services for visitors and researchers.

After the orientation, the group proceeded to the newly installed AHEC World War I exhibition, where Chapter President, Joe Flesch, presented the \$500.00 donation to Mike Perry, the Foundation Director, on behalf of Chapter 1. The presentation was followed by a group photo, framed by other artifacts from The Great War.

With the official business over, despite intermittent showers, some elected to take advantage of one of AHEC's most appealing attractions, the Army Heritage Trail.

The Heritage Trail is USAHEC's outdoor museum. It covers about one mile of replicated structures and artifacts from nearly every era of Army history, including fourteen full scale exhibits from the French and Indian War to the War on Terrorism. It was a memorable experience for all.



World War I Exhibit US Army Heritage and Education Center (AHEC)  
L to R: Bob Read, John Kingeter, Roy Gilmore, Jack Kranchick, Patrice & Terry Walsh, Joe Flesch, Henry Persons, Mack Brooks, Brenda Persons and Mike Perry





# From the Webmaster



Who knows what information lurks in the heart of the Chapter website?  
The Webmaster knows.

As we get ready for the 2018 Reunion, our web site will be a repository the meetings and documents the 2018 Reunion Committee generates, including Meeting Minutes, project plans, and other key items.

I've just uploaded a copy of the briefing our Chapter President gave to the Brigade Association Leadership on our plans and strategy for the Reunion.

We also plan to capitalizing on information available on the Brigade web site, so you will have a local source of information.

As the Web Master, I'm always looking for ways to make the site more useful to members and the general public.

When asked about our Chapter, one of the things I give them is the web address and tell them to go to <http://173dairbornechapter1.org>

I've gotten lots of positive feedback, especially from folks wanting to browse back issues of "The Herd Word."

You can always contact me at [cajungene@gmail.com](mailto:cajungene@gmail.com) with ideas or suggestions on how to make the site better.

Gene Cartier

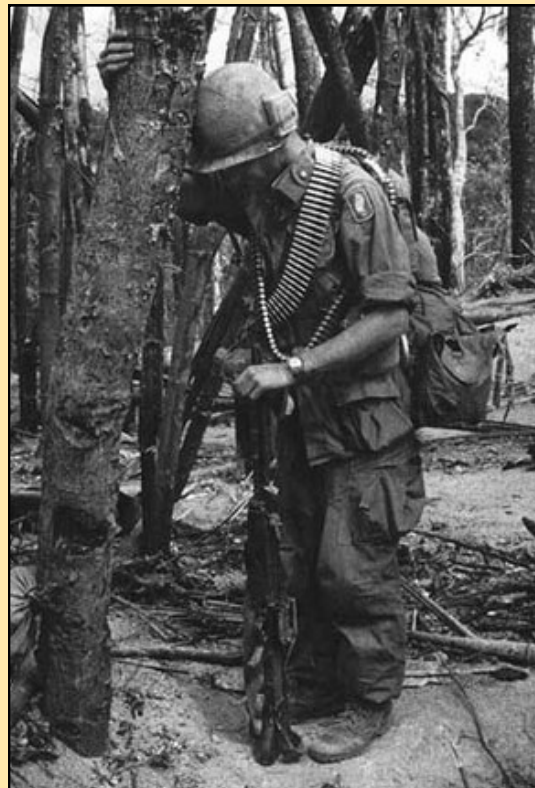
## SAVE THE DATE

15 JULY 2017  
1130H

**WILLIAMSBURG  
GATHERING  
OF THE HERD**



**CENTER STREET GRILL**  
"Where traditional tastes are fused with new world flavors" Established 2005



**After Dak To**



**I  
WANT  
YOUR STORY**

**for the  
The Herd Word**

**Send Short Articles and Pix  
To [Mack Brooks1@cox.net](mailto:Mack Brooks1@cox.net)**

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Back to Dak To

Gene Cartier and B Company 1/503 have organized a back to RVN tour to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Dak To. Highlights of the tour include visits to Vung Tau, Saigon, Dak To (Hills 823 & 875), and LZ English.



## Sunday, 5 Nov 2017

Check in at San Francisco International Airport.

## Monday, 6 Nov

Depart San Francisco via Eva Airlines.

## Tuesday, 7 Nov

Arrive in Saigon; transfer to Vung Tau. Overnight at the Imperial Vung Tau Hotel

## Wednesday, 8 Nov

Tour Vung Tau: The Worldwide Arms Museum, Linh Son Pagoda, fishing village. Drive to Saigon. Visit War Museum. Overnight Rex Hotel.

## Thursday, 9 Nov

Drive to Cu Chi tunnels. Fly to Buon Me Thuot. Dinner and overnight at Saigon Ban Me hotel.

## Friday, 10 Nov

Fly to Pleiku; drive to Kontum. Overnight Indochine Hotel, Kontum.

## Saturday, 11 Nov

Drive to Hills 823 & 875. Night Folk Gong Show performed by the Bana Ethnic Montagnarde. Overnight Indochine hotel, Kontum.

## Sunday, 12 Nov

Drive to Mang Den. Tour former airport during the war and nearby **Montagnarde** hamlets of Mo Nam. Overnight Indochine Hotel, Kontum

## Monday 13 Nov

Drive thru An Khe to Qui Nhon. Overnight Avani Resort and Spa, Qui Nhon.

## Tuesday 14 Nov

Drive to An Khe. Visit local area, then drive back to Qui Nhon. Overnight Avani Resort and Spa, Qui Nhon

## Wednesday 15 Nov

Visit Cham Towers en route to Tuy Hoa. Overnight Avani Resort and Spa, Qui Nhon

## Thursday, 16 Nov

Drive to Bong Son, then Hoi An. Stop en route to hamlet, specializing in making tapioca powder and rice papers. Arrive Quang Ngai; brief visit to My Lai. Then onto Chu Lai airport and the Americal Division base. Overnight Lantana Hoian Boutique Hotel.

## Friday 17 Nov

Visit Da Nang and fly to Saigon. Farewell Dinner Saigon. Overnight Rex Hotel, Saigon

## Saturday 18 Nov

Check out of the hotel, transfer to airport, by way of Mall for souvenir shopping. Fly back to San Francisco

Tour cost is \$3960 per person, including R/T air, all transportation, most meals and lodging, and most in-country costs.

Adult children and spouses are welcome. Hotel accommodations are upscale.

Gene is going with his daughter, a retired 82<sup>d</sup> Airborne First Sergeant.

To find out more e-mail Gene [cjungene@gmail.com](mailto:cjungene@gmail.com) or contact Valor Tours at [valortours@yahoo.com](mailto:valortours@yahoo.com) or at 800-842-4504.

Gene considers this trip to be a way to share his experiences with his daughter to honor the Sky Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice. It is also a way to see how Vietnam has changed since we were there.





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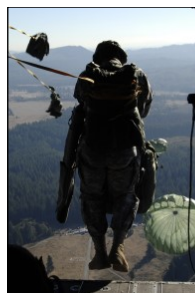
**173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Association**

Chapter 1 (Sigholtz Capital Chapter)  
P.O. Box 173  
McLean, VA 22101-0173



FOLD

**YOU VOLUNTEERED ONCE**



**VOLUNTEER AGAIN!**



**HELP THE CHAPTER HOST A SUCCESSFUL 2018 REUNION**

**CONTACT JOE FLESCH**

**SIGHOLTZ.CAPITAL.CHAPTER@GMAIL.COM**