



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

# *The Herd Word*



## **Gathering of the Herd Historic Williamsburg, VA**



In alphabetical order: Ed & Connie Anthony, Jim Blount, Mack Brooks, Gene & Flo Cartier, Mercer & Mary Beth Collier, Joe & Jeane Flesch, Bill Harris, Doug Hetler, Barry & Cindy Holland, Ken & Bunny Kaplan, Roy & Carol Lombardo, Charlie Montgomery, Jack Nicholson, David Pistoresse, Don & Mopsy Phillips, Terry Walsh, Gene Weeks, Mick Weisinger, Keith & Irene Wolff, and John & Edwina Yaksh

It was a warm Saturday, 15 July, when Joe Flesch, Gene Weeks and Mack Brooks traveled to Williamsburg, VA, to bring the Chapter gavel to the Peninsula.

Since becoming Chapter President, Joe has traveled throughout the Chapter AO to allow Members in the far reaches of the area to participate in Chapter business. Brunch at Williamsburg's Center Street Grill was the latest venue in that effort. Thirty-one Tidewater Chapter members and their families responded positively to the visitors by giving these Chapter leaders a warm Williamsburg welcome.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance

and grace, the attendees took full advantage of the Barry Holland arranged fixed-price menu. The food was delicious and the casual conversation, during and after the meal, equally enjoyable.

Even while the attendees were still adjusting their belts, Joe updated the assembly on Chapter affairs. He began by reminding everyone that our Chapter hosted Brigade Reunion will be held at the Alexandria Hilton Mark Center, just off Route I-395. There will be special room and parking rates and other perks for Reunion attendees. Registration and Reunion event details

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

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# Message from the Chapter President



Your Chapter has again been busy this past quarter. Our activities included:

Meetings with the 2018 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne

Brigade Association Reunion Committee, on 24 June, 22 July & 26 August. There are 24 Chapter members on the Committee, three representatives from the Association, the Association Concierge and a representative from Chapter 15, who represents the 2019 South Dakota Reunion. If you want to participate, please contact me.

Several Chapter members attended the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Reunion in Vicenza, Italy, 4-8 July.

On 1 August, the registration form for the 2018 Reunion went live on the Association website. Register as soon as you can to help us plan the way ahead.

The reservations link for the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, VA, has been active since mid-June.

**If you have problems registering for the hotel, contact our Brigade Association Hotel Concierge, Kimberly Hubbard. She can be reached at 619-884-9571 or you can email her at [kim-bely@sandiegoconcierge.com](mailto:kimbely@sandiegoconcierge.com)**

Our Chapter Picnic on 12 August was well attended and we voted to donate \$500 to Miracle Quilts. Miracle Quilts provides great support to active duty military personnel and veterans. I truly appreciate the support Chapter members, family members, and guests have given to our activities and events.

I encourage you to attend our

upcoming events:

- Our next 2018 173d Airborne Brigade Reunion Committee meeting will be on 30 September. Meeting are also scheduled for 28 October and 18 November.
- The perennial Bravo Bulls Ceremony, at Arlington National Cemetery, will be on 9 November.
- The annual Chapter Walk to the Wall and Wreath Laying will be held on 10 November.
- The Chapter will participate in annual Wreaths Across America ceremony, at Arlington National Cemetery, on 16 December.
- To date, the Chapter has 83 active members who have paid their 2017 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

## AAFES On-Line to be Open to Veterans

Ever alert, Terry Walsh informed the Chapter about a recent change in who can use the Army and Air Force Exchange Services (AFEES).

Beginning on November 11, 2017, honorably discharged veterans will have the same discounts they enjoyed while in the military through AFEES. At that time, veterans will be authorized to shop on AFEES' online catalogue tax free.

AFEES will be gaining more than 20 million potential new customers. That will give the Exchange System more ammunition in its



fight against Amazon and other retailers for veterans' online shopping dollars. This is the latest way the organization is trying to keep its customers as the armed forces shrink and Soldiers and Airmen buy more goods online.

Extending online shopping privileges to honorably discharged Veterans will directly improve family and support programs for Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guard members and their families.

See <http://www.military.com/daily-news/2016/08/16/pentagon-to-open-online-exchange-shopping-to-vets-in-2017.html> for additional details.

To become qualified, go to the Veterans Verification site: [www.vetverify.com](http://www.vetverify.com)

# Chapter 2017 Calendar

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
173 <sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade National Reunion Vicenza, 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

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can be found on the Brigade Association website.

Joe empathized the need for volunteers to help with Reunion planning and execution. Volunteers can help by contacting Joe at (301-253-2512, flesch11730@comcast.net). Your time and talent would be much appreciated.

Joe informed the group that the USA Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC), in Carlisle, PA, would be conducting up to 32 oral history interviews at the reunion. Those who wished to participate should sign up at the USAHEC web site well before the

event, so USAHEC could do research before the interview. Joe reminded the members to pay their Chapter fees (\$20/year). There are over 490 Chapter members. To date, only 83 have paid this year's fees.

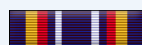
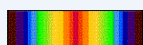
Donations to the Chapter scholarship fund are tax deductible. Last year, Chapter 1's contribution to the Association's scholarship fund resulted in some very generous scholarships to college students.

The Chapter's annual chapter picnic will be held at Joe's house, in Clarksville, MD, on 12 Aug. Additional details can be found in the Herd Word. Everyone was invited. Bill Harris gave the Vietnam veterans present a lapel pin commem-

orating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War.

As a capstone, BG (Retired) Jack Nicholson briefed the group on his son's, General John W. Nicholson's, assignment as the senior Commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan. His talk was informative and inspirational. Two door prizes were awarded, a commemorative medal for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War and a "173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Brick" paperweight. Afterwards, the Tidewater Sky Soldiers and the Chapter leaders, from up North, went their separate ways, glad for the time spent together.

Barry Holland





# 2017 173<sup>d</sup> ABCT Brigade Reunion Redux

On 4-8 July 2017, the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade (Airborne Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) hosted a Sky Soldier reunion, at its base, in Vincenza, Italy. The event also celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Brigade's formation in Arkansas. Nearly 200 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association members attended the momentous event, including Chapter 1's Henry Persons, his wife, Brenda, and George Ferris. Others came from as far away as Australia.

Optional activities included day-trips to Venice, for a cruise along the Grand Canal and a visit to the Murano islands, for a glass blowing demonstration. One could also go to Burano, Italy, to see and buy some of their famed lace products. Not surprisingly, the capstone of the optional activities was visiting Venice's famous San Marco Plaza.

The actual Reunion started with the dedication of the Brigade Headquarters building at Caserma Del Din to Major General Ellis W. Williamson, the Airborne Brigade's first commander. Dur-



**Former SSG Salvatore A. Guinta donates his MOH to the 173<sup>d</sup> ABCT**

ing the dedication, in a solemn ceremony, COL Gregory Anderson, then Brigade commander, and former SSG and Medal of Honor (MOH) recipient, Salvatore A. Guinta, dedicated the MOH Walkway, in front of the Brigade Headquarters. The walkway honors the Brigade's 18 MOHs recipients since World War II. Mr. Guinta donated his MOH to the Brigade.

Other reunion activities included an ice

breaker at the Hotel Vergilius, where most of the attendees stayed, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities at Caserma Ederle. One of the most fascinating reunion activities was the opportunity to participate in M-4 weapons training, at the Gun Fighter Gym, where attendees could shoot at targets using the Brigade's sophisticated electronic target training system. It was fun and impressive.

On Friday, the attendees watched the change of command ceremony, in which the Brigade's leadership passed from COL Gregory K. Anderson to COL James Bartholomees III. One could not help but be confident that the Brigade was being kept in good hands. That evening, the banquet dinner at the Hotel Vergilius Conference Room closed out the reunion's festivities. In the end, it was a lifetime of memories for those smart or lucky enough to attend this once in a lifetime occasion.

Many thanks to Brenda Persons for providing the photo accompanying this article.

Henry Persons

## Vietnam Tour Update

Sunday, 5 Nov 2017: Meet San Francisco Int'l Airport. Check in

**Monday, 6 Nov 2017: Depart SFO via EVA Airlines #27 at 12:20 AM**

**Tuesday, 7 Nov 2017: Arrive Saigon, Transfer to Vung Tau. Welcome dinner. Imperial Vung Tau Hotel**

**Wednesday, 8 Nov 2017: Tour of Vung Tau. Drive back to Saigon and visit War Museum. Overnight Rex Hotel**

**Thursday, 9 Nov 2017: Tour Cu Chi tunnels. Flight to Buon Me Thuot. Overnight Saigon Ban Me hotel**

**Friday, 10 Nov 2017: Visit Museum of Central Highlands. Drive to Kontum. Overnight Indochine Hotel Kontum**

**Saturday, 11 Nov 2017: Drive to Hills 823 & 875. Overnight at Indochine Hotel in Kontum**

**Sunday, 12 Nov 2017: Church Service. Drive Mang Den Township, Central Highlands. See Montagnarde hamlets of Mo Nam. Overnight Indochine Hotel, Kontum.**

**Monday, 13 Nov 2017: Drive Qui Nhon. Stop Dak Po Memorial, Mang Yang Pass. Overnight Avani Resort and Spa, in Qui Nhon for the next three nights.**

**Tuesday, 14 Nov 2017: Drive An Khe. Foot tour of area. Overnight at Avani Resort and Spa, Qui Nhon**

**Wednesday, 15 Nov 2017: Visit Cham Towers. Drive to Qui Nhon. Overnight Aviani Resort and Spa, Qui Nhon.**

**Thursday, 16 Nov 2017: LZ English en route Bong Son. Stop, Hoi An. Arrive Quang Ngai and visit to My Lai. Chu Lai Airport and the Americal Division Base. Overnight Lantana Hoi An Boutique Hotel**

**Friday, 17 Nov 2017: Visit Da Nang. Fly to Saigon. Farewell Dinner Saigon. Overnight Rex Hotel, Saigon**

**Saturday, 18 Nov 2017: Depart Saigon via EVA Airlines #392. Tour ends.**

**Optional extensions to Thailand (River Kwai or Chiang Mai), Laos, Cambodia and stopovers in Taipei. More information: [Valortours@Ehoo.com](mailto:Valortours@Ehoo.com) ; 800-842-4504.**

**Gene Cartier , [cajungene@speakeasy.net](mailto:cajungene@speakeasy.net), 703-569-8450**



**2018**

## 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Reunion

<b>Wednesday</b> <b>23 May 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tour Arlington National Cemetery</b></li> <li>• <b>Evening Tour DC Monuments and Memorials</b></li> </ul>	<b>Thursday</b> <b>24 May 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tour Bull Run Battlefield</b></li> <li>• <b>One hour Oral History with USAHEC</b></li> <li>• <b>Veterans Affairs Seminar</b></li> <li>• <b>Welcome BBQ</b></li> </ul>
<b>Friday</b> <b>25 May 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wreath Laying Vietnam Veterans Memorial</b></li> <li>• <b>Ladies Breakfast Program</b></li> <li>• <b>Tanger Outlet Mall Shopping Tour</b></li> <li>• <b>One hour Oral History with USAHEC</b></li> <li>• <b>Veterans Affairs Seminar</b></li> <li>• <b>Battalion/Sub-Unit Group Option</b></li> </ul>	<b>Saturday</b> <b>26 May 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Board of Directors Meeting</b></li> <li>• <b>General Membership Meeting</b></li> <li>• <b>Gold Star Luncheon</b></li> <li>• <b>Veterans Affairs Seminar</b></li> <li>• <b>173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Banquet</b></li> </ul>
<b>Sunday</b> <b>27 May 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Memorial Service at the Hilton Mark Center Hotel</b></li> </ul>	<b>Daily</b> <b>23-26 May 2018</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Hospitality Room Open</b></li> <li>• <b>Vendor Sales</b></li> <li>• <b>Time for Old and New Friends</b></li> </ul>

## Chapter 1 Financial Report

As of 31 May 2017

<b>Balance as of 31 May 2017</b>	\$9,116.13
Receipts (fees, and donations)	\$844.12
Disbursements	(\$650.96)
<b>Balance as of 30 August 2017</b>	\$9,309.29
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Chapter Fees (5) @ \$20.00 and (1) Chapter PayPal at \$9.12	\$119.12
Picnic Attendees (30) at \$5.00	\$150.00
Donations:	
Scholarship Fund (2) at \$250.00 and (1) at \$20.00	\$520.00
General Fund Donations (1) at \$20.00 and (1) at \$35.00	\$55.00
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Staples (Herd Word Production) (20 Copies)	\$24.42
Annual commitment to the 173 <sup>d</sup> Memorial Foundation	\$200.00
UPS Stamps	\$9.80
Staples July Meeting handouts	\$28.49
BB&T Safety Deposit Box Annual Rental	\$70.00
RRBMDK Attorney Annual Retainer	\$100.00
Staples August Meeting Handouts \$32.60	\$32.60
Door Prize Raffle for Food Donation Attendees	\$25.00
Picnic, Food & Supplies by the Chapter	\$160.65

# Picture Gallery

## Chapter Picnic



Jack and Sylvia Kranchick



Brenda Persons

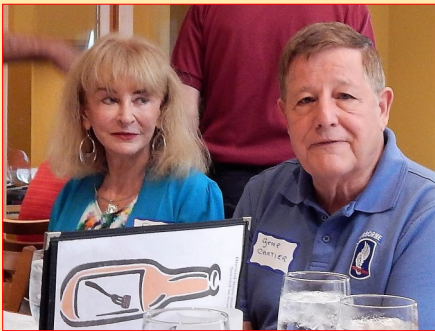


Bill Connolly



Judie Read, Carol Lombardo, Nikki Weeks

## Gathering of the Herd: Williamsburg



Flo and Gene Cartier



Sophie Correll & Mick Weisinger



Gene Weeks & BG (R) Jack Nicholson



Mopsy Phillips



## Tell Your Story



### The Veterans Oral History Program

The United States Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC), is seeking Soldiers to tell their story. You will have that opportunity during the 2018 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Reunion, in Alexandria, VA.

Representatives will be available to conduct oral interviews 24-25 May 2018.

If you wish to participate, the link to the form can be found at the bottom of the 2018 Reunion webpage on the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association website: <https://www.skysoldier.net/2018-Reunion/>

Fill it out as much as you can. Scan the form and email it to [info@armyheritage.org](mailto:info@armyheritage.org) and cc [sigholtz.capital.chapter@gmail.com](mailto:sigholtz.capital.chapter@gmail.com) Subject line should read "173d Airborne Brigade Association Reunion".



**I  
WANT  
YOUR STORY**

**for the  
The Herd Word**

**Send Short Articles and Pix  
To [Mack Brooks1@cox.net](mailto:MackBrooks1@cox.net)**



# Chapter Bar-B-Que

On 12 August, 31 Chapter Members and their friends and family gathered at the Flesch homestead for what has become the traditional end of summer activity for the Chapter, the Annual Picnic. It had been a week punctuated with frequent downpours and the threatening clouds seemed to portend more of the same just before the picnic was about to start. But seemingly, as if the answer to a pray, at 11:00, the grey clouds parted and it was blue skies from then on.

There was a record number of attendees, but there was room and food enough for all. As always, there were those who frequently attended Chapter functions and those for whom this was their first Chapter activity. All mingled seamlessly into the family of Sky Soldiers.

With seemingly military precision, the Flesches had everything organized by the time most of the guests arrived. Always the gracious host, Jeane Flesch told everyone were the sodas, beers, hamburgers, etc. could be found. Stan Catherman, the Flesch's nephew and griller extraordinaire, had already stockpiled a batch of hot dogs and burgers, so they were piping hot and ready



Ed Anthony, Mack Brooks, Stan Catherman, Bill Connolly, Erin Connolly, Courtney Connolly, Bill Connolly, Jr., Liam Connolly, Aidan Connolly, Gregory Darling, Emma Darling, George Farris, Joe Flesch, Jeane Flesch, John Foley, Jack Kranchick, Sylvia Kranchick, Carol Lombardo, Roy Lombardo, Bruce Matthews, Trudy Surut, Brenda Persons, Henry Persons, Bob Read, Judie Read, Patrice and Terry Walsh, Gene Weeks, Nikki Weeks, Wesley Yost

from the start. Those who provided pot luck items, supplemented and provided variety to the store-bought entrees. Everyone helped out and dug in, not necessarily in that order.

The Bill Connolly family was of



One of many desserts at the Annual Chapter Picnic

note, in that their kids took full advantage of the Flesch's outdoor, above ground pool. Many an adult envied these kids for their youth and adventurous spirit.

After most had finished their second helping of food, Joe Flesch conducted a short Chapter meeting. He emphasized the Chapter's role in 2018 Reunion and the need for additional volunteers. He also discussed where the Chapter had made charitable donations. Jeane Flesch updated the Members on Chapter finances. Mack Brooks requested more personal experience articles for the Herd Word.

After the meeting, a surprised and embarrassed Mack Brooks was given a rousing, happy birthday. The size of the chocolate cake more than match his appetite. There followed a wide selection of desserts. They all looked delicious. Most prominent among them was a cake with the Brigade's insignia. It wasn't long after the desserts were consumed that many began to collect their belongs and return to their normal lives. As they left, they were ever so grateful the to Fleschs for their hospitality and service to others. Well done, Jeane and Joe.

## Chapter 1 Scholarship Winners

This year, the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association awarded 11 Scholarships to Sky Soldiers and their family members.

Our Chapter again donated an additional \$1,173.00 to sponsor a Chapter 1 scholarship. The winner of the Chap-



**Jordan Bacon**  
Huntsville, AL  
Chapter 1 Scholarship  
Award Winner  
Daughter of  
Dennis Lee Bacon



**Sarah Read**  
West Point, New York  
Granddaughter of  
Chapter Member  
Robert Read

ter scholarship was Miss Jordan Bacon.

One of the 11 Brigade Association scholarship winners was Ms. Sarah Read. Sarah is the granddaughter of Chapter Member, Bob Read.

Congratulations to both these fine students.



Address Label

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

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