



THE STATIC LINE

WESTERN STATES CHAPTER 10

NEWSLETTER

173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

Volume 3, Issue 3

Summer, 2016

SKY SOLDIERS REUNION 2016

FORT BENNING and COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

By Charles Earthman

Sky Soldiers had their 2016 Reunion at Ft. Benning and Columbus, Georgia. For many of us this is where it all began. Many of the old Sky Soldiers at this Reunion served in Vietnam and were engaged in combat within months of their training at Ft. Benning; many would never return to Benning or home ever again. So we came, like pilgrims returning to a distant homeland, back to Benning.

Like other reunions, this was a gathering of old friends and comrades. Stories are told and retold that change with time; some things added and probably embellished as time goes by. These are stories of adventures in our youth a long time ago in a land far away. We also mourn our brothers who are passing away in greater numbers as we age.

This Reunion featured two exhibits in the convention center that I was familiar with: a Huey Cobra Gunship, the kind that helped a lot of us out in some very tough spots; and a M113 personal carrier, like the vehicles D Company 16th Armor used to raise hell with the VC and NVA. D/16 was the only Airborne Tank Company ever. We were also treated to a day at Ft. Benning that started with a Jump School graduation ceremony and a chance to jump the 34-foot tower again. Some were eager to go--I wasn't.

We had chow in the mess hall and a guided tour of the base that ended at the National Infantry Museum. All in all, it was a great day and brought back lots of memories; it was truly something an old paratrooper could really appreciate. Though few in number, there are Airborne and other special operation troops in strategic locations around the globe and they all started at Fort Benning.



Members of Chapter 10 travelled more than three thousand miles to be there. The next reunion is planned for Oklahoma City, more than two thousand miles away from members out west. The following year it will be in Alexandria, Virginia, another eastern location. It is time the Association considers coming back west again.



WESTERN STATES CHAPTER 10 173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

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Above and Beyond The Sky Soldier's Legacy

The 173rd Airborne Brigade is a combat unit, born in the crucible of war. Throughout most of its history it has served in combat in far off lands. Referred to as "America's Foreign Legion", it has never been stationed in the United States. It has always been a first strike, rapid deployment brigade for the US Military. In every branch of the US military you must be parachute-qualified to move on and excel to the most difficult and challenging jobs, otherwise known as "Special Operations". That's what it means to be Airborne. Performing above and beyond is the tradition of the Airborne and Sky Soldiers have always been true to that creed.

Those who've served in the 173rd Airborne Brigade know that they have upheld these traditions and leave a proud legacy.



Airborne All The Way

Charles Earthman
173rd Airborne Brigade
Vietnam



Membership Reminder A message from Rob Linscott, Chapter 10 Treasurer

Chapter 10 members should pay your membership dues through the Chapter and not to the Association. If people pay their membership dues through the Chapter, we keep \$10 for the Chapter and we send a Chapter membership card. I send the remainder to the Association to keep the member current. If they pay directly to the Association, the Chapter gets nothing and we are not informed of your payment. I am afraid that they prefer the latter. Pay your dues through the Chapter, it's the best way.

Pay membership dues at any general meeting or send them to: Western States Chapter 10
Attn: Robert Linscott
P.O. Box 151
Fairfax, CA 94978

Pay your dues to the Chapter or this guy may stare you down at the next meeting.



THE NEXT CHAPTER 10 MEETING JULY 16, 2016, 11AM

**American Legion Coastside Post 474
470 Capistrano Road
Princeton-by-the-Sea, CA**



Chapter News

Lending a hand

The Chapter helped send four Scouts from Boy Scout Troop 51 of Atascadero, California to summer camp this year. We are proud to have helped these young men fulfill their summer wishes and perhaps achieve a merit badge or two. We received a thank you from Sky Soldier Don Luce and also a thank you card from Troop 51.



Sky Soldier Medal And Award of Excellence

The Chapter awarded 15 deserving Junior ROTC Cadets the Sky Soldier Medal and the Award of Excellence Certificate for outstanding achievements in their training units.



Chapter 10 President Bob Ortiz (right) with SFC Michael Collier and JROTC Certificate of Excellence recipient Waymon Ng of Mission High School in San Francisco, California.



Isaiah Carrothers

The recipients are as follows: **David Arnell, Isaiah Carrothers, Elizabeth Chiribel, Cody Cox, Elsa Lilianna Esparza, Jared Gumbert, Carolina Guzman, Corbin Holdcroff, Carol McCrory, Brennon Moore, Waymon Ng, Isaac D. Ramos-Raybon, Anthony Shaneyfelt, Derek Stallworth, and Samuel Vasquez.**

Congratulations to these deserving cadets who display the leadership and skills to succeed.



AWARD RECIPIENTS



Chapter 10 Vice President J.C. Terry (left) with JROTC Cadet Brennon Moore and Chapter President Bob Ortiz at John F. Kennedy High School in Sacramento, California.



Samuel Vasquez
CMSGT Dominic A. Caldera,



Carol McCrory



Corbin Holdcroff



MSGT DeVenere & Cody Cox



Sky Solder SSGT Holden, Cadet and Jared Gumbert





CHAPTER 10

SUMMER PICNIC & BBQ

"YOU HAVE TO BE HERE"



AMERICAN LEGION COASTSIDE POST #474

470 Capistrano Road
Princeton-by-the-Sea, CA

July 16, 2016

11am to 4pm

FOOD, GAMES, and DJ ANDY

Great Raffle Prizes!!

A Lot of Fun for All

Special Appearance by "G.I. Joe"

"Pot Luck--

Bring your Favorite Dish"

Take Hwy 92 West to Hwy 1,
Go north 3 miles to 2nd light (Capistrano)
Turn left and go to 470 Capistrano Rd.



It's all about our great past to share
with the special brotherhood
of friends and family.

"Let us not be forgotten!"

Don't miss this great day of fun
and memories.

There will be a special tribute to those
Chapter 10 members who are no
longer with us, but not forgotten

For more information contact:
Bob Ortiz - 650.712.0980

Veterans Day



ELK GROVE, CA

Chapter 10 members, family, and friends: join us as we march, walk, or ride in the Elk Grove Veterans Day Parade. This is a Chapter tradition that is always patriotic and fun. "Airborne Joe" will be there. This is a special day to show who we are and acknowledge those who are no longer with us; that they will never be forgotten..

After the Parade, enjoy a potluck lunch hosted by Andy and Hilda at their home,
8730 Crucero Drive, Elk Grove
916.205.6540

Bring a dish to share.



California Chapters Biennial Joint Meeting Kon Tiki Inn Pismo Beach November 19, 2016

Every other year, California chapters meet in a central coast location for a joint meeting and social that is always fun and informative. This year Chapters 10, 14, and 28 will meet in Pismo Beach on November 19 at the Kon Tiki Inn. The hotel has direct access to the beach and is located near shops and restaurants. Look for more information on this event in the next newsletter.

Make your reservation now call: 888.566.8454



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and the Newsletter will advertise your business for one year (4 issues).
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The secret of the Paratrooper's success can be summed up in three words; comradeship, esprit de corps & efficiency. -- Major Rudolf Böhmler, German paratrooper in WW2, Cassino.

The Chapter Newsletter is published by
Western States Chapter 10, 173rd Airborne Brigade Association

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Volume3,, Issue 3 Summer, 2016

A Publication of

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The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center