



Serving Sky Soldiers Past, Present and Future

The Herd Word



Sitting Pretty



Chapter 1 donates bench to the Fisher House, on the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. First Row, Left to Right: Judy Elam, MG Fred Elam; Second Row, Left to Right: John Foley, Terry Walsh, Trudy Surut, Jeane Flesch, Joe Flesch, and Mike Ybarra

During the 2018 reunion, **MG (Ret.) Fred Elam** donated funds for a park bench, with 173^d Airborne Brigade medallion, to a Veterans Affairs or military facility, in Chapter 1's area. His generous gesture started a tidal wave of giving to the Chapter for additional benches.

On Monday, 22 October, 1100h, the Chapter presented its first bench 173^d bench to the Fisher House, on the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center campus. MG Elam made the presentation to **Mike Ybarra**, who was happy to accept a park bench on behalf of Fisher House. The Chapter contingent is listed in the picture above.

Friday, 2 November, the Chapter presented a 173d Airborne Brigade bench to Hunter Homes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical

Center, Richmond, VA. Chapter members were greeted by **Mr. Frank Novitzki**, of the Engineering Department and **Ms. Janell Giles**, from the Center's Volunteer Department. Mr. Novitzki gave Chapter members a tour of the Polytrauma Rehabilitation Unit. Chapter members present included **Joe Flesch, Mack Brooks, Terry Walsh, Mick Weisinger, Roger Dick, Keith and Irene Wolff**. The memorial bench was placed under a tree next to the Center's new putting green.

The Chapter is obtaining three additional benches, with the 173^d medallion and Chapter 1 logo. The benches are black powder, coated steel, and can be ground mounted. The benches cost about \$600, including the medallion.

AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY

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The Chapter President's Message



Joe Flesch
Chapter President

State of the Chapter

The Chapter is in good shape. Our 2019 fees letter was sent on 8 October. To date, 50 members have submitted their \$20 Chapter fee. Several made donations to Chapter projects for Sky Soldiers, their families, and veterans. Please send your fees by 1 January 2019.

Chapter activities this past quarter

15 September – We had to cancel a Gathering of the Herd for the Richmond area due to Hurricane Florence.

21 September – The Chapter donated \$2000 to the 173^d Airborne Brigade Association for disaster relief for needy Sky Soldiers and their families, because of Hurricane Florence.

5 October – The Chapter participated in **MG Michael "Iron Mike" Healy's** funeral, in Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). MG Healy's widow, **Jackie**, received the Chapter Honor Set.

9 October – The Chapter partici-

pated in **MG John R.D. Cleland's** funeral, in ANC. Mrs. Clara Cleland received the Chapter Honor Set.

12 October – The Chapter participated in **LTC Richard (Dick) Childs, Jr.'s** interment, in the Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA. LTC Childs's widow, **Evelyn**, received the Chapter Honor set.

22 October – The Chapter donated its first steel slat park bench, with Chapter plaque, to the Fisher House, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda. **MG Fred Elam**, who provided funds for the bench, made the presentation to the Fisher House.

2 November – The Chapter's second Park Bench was donated to the Hunter Holmes McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center, in Richmond, VA. Chapter **Vice President Terry Walsh**, our project officer for the Bench Project, made the presentation.

9 November – Chapter members supported the Annual Bravo Bulls Ceremony, at ANC.

12 November – The Chapter conducted its annual Walk to The Wall wreath laying ceremony, honoring Sky Soldiers killed in action, in Vietnam. Afterwards, the group had lunch at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel.

Upcoming Events:

5 December – The Chapter will donate a third Park Bench to the Old Soldiers Home, in Washington, DC. The presentation will be made by Chapter Member **Tom Deputy**, who purchased the bench.

8 December - Tour of Old Guard Caisson Stable. See announcement page 5.

15 December, 0900 hours – The Chapter will participate in Wreaths Across America, at ANC.

19 January – We will have our Annual General Membership Meeting. See article below.

We need candidates to run for President and Treasurer next year. My wife, Jeane and I are stepping down, as of 19 January 2019.

Thanks for your support, Airborne All The Way,

Joe

Chapter Annual General Membership Meeting

Voting for Chapter President & Chapter Treasurer
Good Food & Good Camaraderie

19 January 2018
1100-1400h



Marina Towers
501 Slaters Lane
Alexandria, VA 22314-1118



Honoring an Original 4th Battalion Sky Soldier

On October 12, 1966, I was Charlie Company commander, 4/503, 173^d Airborne Brigade, at a strong point outside Da Nang, South Vietnam. There were three rifle platoon leaders on site **Dick Childs**, **Bob Read**, and **Larry Wisneski**. On October 12, 2018, I joined the three, at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, but on a different mission. We were paying our last respects to Dick Childs, who died earlier in the month. It was a bittersweet reunion for us. Dick passed away Tuesday October 2, 2018, after a long battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

It was my first visit to Indiantown Gap. The 660-acre grounds were beautiful. It was unfortunate that it was on such a sad occasion. The memorial service was beautiful in its simplicity. Afterwards, **Joe Flesch**, Chapter 1 President, presented the 173^d Honor Set to the family. **Mack Brooks**, a later member of the 4th Battalion, assisted. It was my first opportunity



Geoffrey Childs receiving his father's flag.

to see how our chapter honors our deceased Soldiers outside Arlington National Cemetery. Joe, his wife, **Jeane**, and Mack are an amazing team. Mack carried the 173^d flag, during the ceremony. Afterward, they folded and stored it like professionals. Clearly they had done this so often and, sadly, they will be continuing to do it in the future.

Dick was born April 29, 1943, in Steelton, Pennsylvania. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant following his graduation

from Dickinson College, in Carlisle, PA, and served in the Army for 20 years. He retired with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His awards included the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Cluster, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross (twice), the Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Air Medal, the Senior Parachute Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge and the Purple Heart. After retiring from the Army, he worked for the Veterans Affairs Department, prior to finally retiring in 1997.

Dick is survived by his wife, **Evelyn (Kirkwood) Childs**; children, **Geoffrey**, **Valerie**, and step daughter, **Nicole**. He is also survived by six grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Jack Tarr

Bravo Bulls Annual Veterans Day Ceremonies

On November 9, 2018, veterans from the 1960's B Company, 2-503, (Bravo Bulls) Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) teamed up with recent veterans of Battle Company, 2-503 PIR, for early morning ceremonies, at Arlington National Ceremonies.

Restrictions, at Arlington National Cemetery abound and limit how memorial ceremonies are conducted. We were able to conduct the ceremony by liaising with the Reuben Tucker Chapter of the 82^d Airborne Division Association. Three 173^d sites were selected:

- **SSG Rougles** gravesite, amidst fifteen other Afghanistan KIAs.

- **MG Ellis Williamson's and his wife's** grave site (section 60 383), the 173^d Airborne Brigade's first commander.
- 173^d Airborne Brigade Memorial site, where B/2-503d KIAs and deceased are remembered.

After the ceremonies, most of the participants assembled at the Sequoia Restaurant, in Washington DC, where as guests of **Walter Raush**, they were feted to a grand banquet before heading home, in the driving rain.

Chapter members included **Roy Lombardo**, **Ed Anthony**,



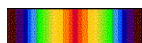
Second from left; Jackie Lofton, Second from right; LTC Ryan Shipley; Far right, SFC Christopher Taffoya

Jackie Lofton, **Ryan Shipley**, **SFC Taffoya**, and **Joe Flesch**

Roy Lombardo

Chapter 2018 Calendar

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
173d Airborne Brigade Bench Donation	5 Dec 2018	1330h	Wed	Joe Flesch	The Old Soldiers Home 3700 North Capital Street, NW Washington, DC 20011– 8400
Tour Old Guard Horse Barn	8 Dec 2018	1200h	Sat	Joe Flesch	201 Jackson Ave, Ft. Myer, VA Next to the Post Office.
Wreaths Across America	15 Dec 2018	0900h	Sat	Joe Flesch	Arlington National Cemetery
Annual General Meeting	19 Jan 2019	1100h	Sat	Mark Ludlow	Marina Towers 501 Slaters Lane Alexandria, VA 22314-1118
Wounded Warrior Visits	Periodic	N/A	N/A	TBD	DC and Richmond VA Area



Full Military Honors

After thirty-seven years of service to the nation, on 9 October 2018, **MG John R. D. Cleland** was laid to rest in hallowed ground, in Arlington National Cemetery. A larger than life person, He enlisted into the Army at seventeen and later commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry from the Infantry OCS. He fought in WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. He retired as a major general.

He made the historic jump with the 503rd on Corregidor, in World War II.

His many awards speak volumes about his distinguished career: Master Parachutist and Combat Infantry Badge in three wars. Additionally he received the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Silver Star, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, and the Purple Heart Medal with oak leaf cluster.

General Cleland earned his Bachelors from Omaha University and a MS from George Wash-



MG Cleland's caisson

ington University. He also graduated from the US Army War College and completed the Harvard University Program for Senior Managers in Government. Upon retiring from the Army, General Cleland worked as a Defense Analyst and a consultant to pri-



A final salute to MG Cleland

vate industry for twenty years.

General Cleland met the love of his life, nee Clara Webster Kehoe, while recuperating from wounds in at the 1st Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (M.A.S.H.) in Chechon, Korea, where she was an Army nurse.

Because of his rank and exemplary service, General Cleland was afforded full military honors: a horse-drawn caisson, a 21-gun salute, a lone bugler playing Taps, a folded flag for the next of kin, an escort platoon, and a military band.

After the funeral, **Joe Flesch, George Farris, Terry Modglin, and Mack Brooks** joined the family at the National Women's Memorial for a reception where **George Farris** presented David Cleland with the Chapter Honor Set.



Farewell to "Iron Mike"

On October 5, 2018, family, friends, and comrades gathered, at Fort Myer and Arlington National Cemetery, to pay their last respects to dearly loved and much respected **Major General Michael D. Healy**. General Healy was widely known in the military, especially to the "Herd," as "Iron Mike."

Our Chapter and family members joined the large Special Forces contingent for a Catholic Mass, at the Old Post Chapel. Afterwards, the assembly proceeded in a solemn procession to the grave site. Especially evident were former Geronimo troopers, who trained under Iron Mike in the 1/501st or later joined him in Vietnam with

the 4/503^d Airborne Infantry. Former Sky Soldiers present included **Jesse Beacham, Steve Brignoli, Mack Brooks, Gene Cartier, Lacy Chesney, Bruce Cobb, Bill Connolly, Dennis Elwell, George Farris, Joe Fleisch, Barry Holland, Chuck Huller, Henry Persons, Dan Severson, Jack Tarr, Jim Wood, Dick Wrona, and John Yakshe.**

The "Old Guard" did Iron Mike" proud! A stately march, with his two-star flag bellowing before a rider less horse and caisson, with drums beating their sad tattoo, and 13 cannon singly booming a last salute, and a farewell

rifle volley, recognized the General's contribution to the nation. The attendees, subsequently, retired to the Fort Myer Officers Club, where we met with the Healy family, especially **Mrs. Healy**, who some remember as a foster mother to newly commissioned Fort Campbell lieutenants. We also reminisced, shared life stories with seldom-seen comrades, and joined Special Forces troopers, who also proudly call "Iron Mike" one of their own.

5 October 2018 – a sad but memorable day, the day we said farewell to "Iron Mike."

Dick Wrona



Jeane Fleisch, Brenda & Henry Persons, and Dick Wrona



Mrs. Healy



Full Military Honors



Joe Fleisch & Gene Cartier

Tour the Old Guard Horse Barn

Chapter Members and families are invited to tour the Caisson Stables (the horse barn), at Ft. Myer, on Saturday, December 8, 2018, at 1200 hours.

Chapter member **Sergeant First Class Christopher Taffoya**, the leader of the Old Guard Caisson Platoon, will be our guide. This is an unique opportunity that you shouldn't miss.



The Caisson Stables are located at 201 Jackson Ave, Ft. Myer, VA 22211 and is next to the Post Office.

There is parking in front of the stables. Following the tour we can go to the PX cafeteria area for lunch/snacks.

If you plan to attend please let me know how many will accompany you.

AATW,

Joe

The Third Bench

The Chapter will donate our third Sky Soldier Park Bench to the Armed Forces Retirement Home Washington (Old Soldiers Home), on Wednesday, 5 December 2018 at 1330h.

The Old Soldiers Home is the site of President Lincoln's summer cottage and is worth a visit.

Chapter member, Thomas Deputy, who provided funds for the bench, will make the presentation.

See you there 3700 North Capital Street, NW; Washington, DC 20011-8400.

Photo Gallery

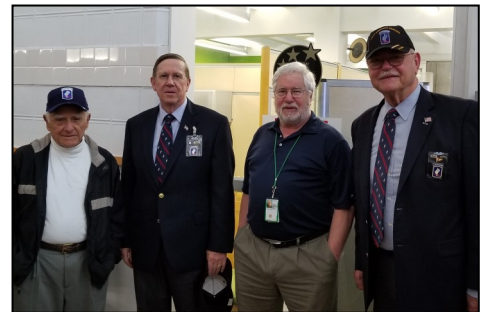
Benches for Veterans



Judy Elam, Mike Ybarra, & Fred Elam



Mack Brooks, Joe Flesch, Terry Walsh, Janell Giles, Roger Dick, Mick Weisinger, and Keith Wolff



Mick Weisinger, Terry Walsh, Frank Novitzi, and Joe Flesch

"Iron Mike" Healy Funeral



MG Healy Caisson



Final Honors

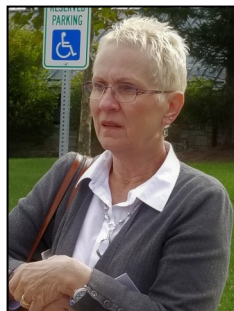


Joe Flesch

Dick Childs, Jr. Funeral



Jack Tarr, Bob Read, Larry Wisneski, Joe Flesch



Evelyn Childs



Joe Flesch presenting the Honor Set



Donna Wisneski, Jeane Flesch and Judie Read

MG Cleland Funeral



Old Guard Folding of the National Colors



From a Grateful Nation



Mrs. Clara Cleland & George Farris



Mack Brooks, Joe Flesch, Gary Cleland, Terry Modglin, & George Farris

Walk to the Wall 2018

It was a typical, brisk Washington Autumn day, when the contingent of Sky Soldiers and friends assembled at the three Soldiers statue, by the National Vietnam Memorial. It was not an ordinary day for them. It was Veterans Day, the day the Chapter honors Sky Soldiers whose names appear on "The Wall" and beyond.

Jim Knotts, from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, guided us to The Wall, a role Bill Harris has played in the past.

Mack Brooks began the event with a prayer that connected this Veterans Day with events a century ago. Then, two-by-two, American and Brigade flags to the front, the motley crew trod across the rain-soaked grounds to the apex of The Wall. There, two Chapter



Dennis Hustead, Patrice Snyder, Jeane Flesch, Gene Cartier, Ed Anthony, Mark Ludlow, Terry Walsh, Joe Flesch, George Farris, Bill Connolly & Terry Modglin.

members placed the wreath against The Wall.

Chapter President, **Joe Flesch** led the group in a prayer from the Reformed Jewish Prayer Book, "We Remember Them." There followed a hand salute. The solemnity of the was recognized by the participants and on-watchers alike.

With that, the official ceremonies

concluded. Most of the Chapter members proceeded to the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel, for lunch and reminiscing.

Participants included **Ed Anthony, Mack Brooks, Gene Cartier, Bill Connolly, Fred Elam, George Farris, Joe & Jeane Flesch, Dennis Hustead, Mark Ludlow, and Terry Modglin, Patrice Synder, Carlos Saladino, and Terry Walsh.**



The Chapter Contingent at The Wall Veterans Day 2018

Chapter 1 Financial Report

As of 6 November 2018

Balance as of 28 August	\$35,019.63
Receipts (fees and donations)	\$2,841.00
Disbursements	(\$4,490.45)

Balance as of 28 August 2018	\$33,370.18
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Receipts:

Chapter Fees:

Chapter Fees:	\$660.00
Brigade Dues (4):	\$96.00
Donations (18):	\$2085.00

Disbursements:

Staples Herd Word Production	\$18.85
Brigade Foundation Disaster Relief	\$2,000.00
Treetop Products (3 benches)	\$986.74
CenTee Cast Metal Products (3 plaques)	\$859.06
USPS – Stamps.....	\$50.00
Staples – Printing Fee Letter.....	\$2.80
Bravo Bulls Stipend for Wreath.....	\$300.00
Brigade Dues (3)	\$48.00
RRBMD&K legal retainer	\$200.00
Virginia State Corporate Commission.....	\$25.00

Respectfully submitted by Jeane L. H. Flesch, Associate Member, Acting Treasurer



Address Label

Stamp

173rd Airborne Brigade Association
Chapter 1 (Sigheoltz Capital Chapter)
P.O. Box 173
McLean, VA 22101-0173



FOLD

