



THE STATIC LINE

WESTERN STATES CHAPTER 10

NEWSLETTER

173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

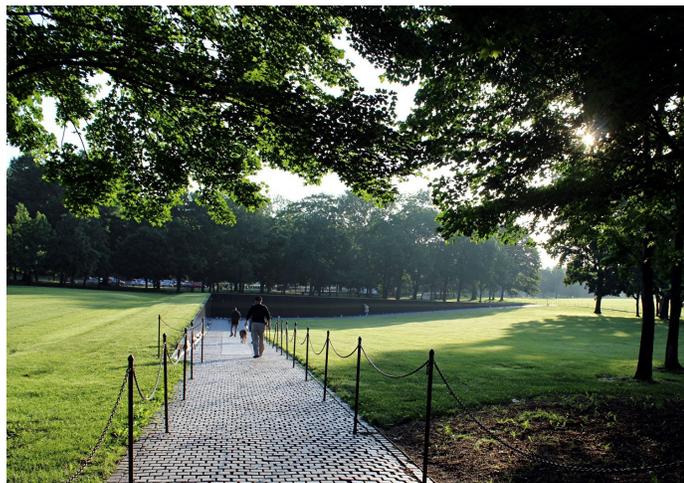
Volume 5, Issue 2

Summer 2018

50 Years Later

By Charles Earthman

Troopers, both young and old, gathered in Alexandria, Virginia, for the annual Brigade reunion held May 23 through May 27. We visited the Vietnam Memorial to pay solemn tribute to the 1,647 Sky Soldiers killed in combat in Vietnam. During more than six years of continuous combat in Vietnam, the Brigade was the most decorated unit of any size, earning 14 campaign streamers and 4 unit citations. Sky Soldiers were awarded 13 Medals of Honor, 46 Distinguished Service Crosses, 1,736 Silver Stars, and over 6,000 Purple Hearts.



Early Morning at the Vietnam Memorial

A half century ago the 173rd Airborne Brigade was recovering from a staggering year of combat in the central highlands and the coastal low lands of Vietnam. The old Sky Soldiers at this reunion who survived those days remembered their brothers who did not live to see this day. Their names are now forever

enshrined on the Vietnam Memorial just across the Potomac. I speak of those lost souls because their memory was so near to us at this reunion. It was as if their ghosts were present and asking if they could join us and catch up on all they had missed in the last fifty years.

Today some of us walk with limps, we walk with canes and walkers--those of us who can still walk. Still breathing, but no longer the



A wreath laid by Sky Soldiers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during a ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery

strong and agile paratroopers of our youth. Our hearts and spirits are still those of a lion. Thoughts of our fallen brothers, killed so long ago, remain forever frozen in a snapshot in our minds, young and strong and Airborne.





**WESTERN STATES CHAPTER 10
173rdAIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION**

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PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

By Bob Ortiz



A great time was had by most that came to the 2018 173rd reunion in Virginia and Washington, D.C. One of the best parts of the reunion was to see and talk to fellow troopers that we had not seen for a very long time. The Wall was also heartfelt to make a contact with our fallen brothers. The best is seeing small kids doing the rubbing of the names. Seeing that being done by the real young told me we shared the feeling that they would not be forgotten.

June 23rd: There will be a Chapter 10 meeting in Tracy at the American Legion Post 172. We really need to start at 11am, so please make time for any traffic, so we can start early and leave early. Lots of info to pass on to the Chapter members from the Association and also our upcoming events and locations.

Continued on Page 3

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

JUNE 23, 2018 - 11 AM

American Legion Post 172

1960 N Tracy Blvd, Tracy, CA 95376



President's Update from page 2

4th of July: Parade and lunch in Half Moon Bay. G.I. Joe will be featured for the day of fun. The gathering will be on Purissima St. at 10 am. After the parade we will meet at Cameron's Pub, that is just a ½ mile away on Hwy 1 South, 1410 Cabrillo Hwy S., Phone 650.726.5705 – first round on “Bob”.

August 11: Chapter 10 BBQ will be at Andy and Hilda's home located at 8730 Crucero Dr., Elk Grove. Phone 916.205.6540. They have a great home for gathering that includes a large back area with cover and a great pool to enjoy with great ‘D.J. Andy’-world known with his fine, fine music that you can't sit still. You name it, Andy's got it. It will start at 11 am to get our Chapter's business taken care of. There will also, hopefully, be a special guest. Andy and Hilda may be opening their home to the Chapter, but don't forget to bring that favorite dish to share with all. Sodas and water will be provided; anything else bring your own. As always, there will be great raffle prizes that help us get things or do things for others in need. So bring your loose change to help us put it to good use for others. Join us in this Chapter 10 tradition that is always patriotic and lots of fun with great music, food, and a lot of laughs with the brotherhood we have that makes it special.

Nov. 2 & 3: a joint Chapters 10, 14, and 28) meeting at Pismo Beach Kon Tiki Inn. Friday evening dinner, Saturday morning 11 am meeting, lunch and dinner times and locations will be in our next newsletter. This will be our 6th every-other-year gathering and Chapter 10 is hosting it. I will need some help from a few, but I know it will be lots of fun for all. So at least make your reservation as soon as you can at the Kon Tiki Inn. All rooms face the ocean. The view itself makes you not want to leave the room. Call now; 888.566.8454. Please let me know if you're planning to be there so I will have a count for lunch and dinner. 560.712.0880

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BITS AND PIECES

Frank Mantua Receives Silver Star By Dave Curtin

On May 25, 2018, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, former 1LT Frank Mantua was awarded the Silver Star by Congressman Steve Pearce at the Las Cruces Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

On this Memorial Day, I will highlight what Frank himself said at the ceremony as captured in the article. In typical Frank fashion, he chose to remember our dead from the 4 March battle rather than dwell on himself.



Frank Mantua receives the Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster from U.S. Representative Steve Pearce

From the Article:

"Mantua, of Company D, 16th Armor, 173rd Airborne Brigade, served as a platoon leader during the battle of Tuy Hoa and received his honors at the Vietnam War Memorial.

On March 4, 1968, he helped the Company defeat two enemy battalions in an all-day affair that saved several key American and South Vietnamese installations from being overrun. He was wounded but led his platoon in three separate assaults and provided cover fire. Mantua also led a few volunteers in a daring attack with small arms and hand grenades.

He continued to lead his platoon until the

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Nov. 11: Veterans Day Parade will be at Elk Grove, 10 am gathering; location map will be in the next newsletter. Once again, Andy and Hilda will open their home for rest, snacks, and refreshments after the parade. It's a great break before we head home. If you want to bring something to munch on, please do.

Keep **Dec. 15** for our always great year-end meeting and Christmas Party. This year a very special prize for the best Ugly-Christmas-Sweater contest. This great time will be held in Tracy at the American Legion Post 172. Bring family, friends, and pets.



Silver Star from page 3

company commander ordered him to evacuate because of his wounds.



Frank Mantua with Dave Curtin in 2016. Dave served with Frank in D/16 Armor at the Battle of Tuy Hoa North March 4, 1968.

On Friday, Mantua, accompanied by family, accepted his medals and thanked members of his platoon who lost their lives in combat.

"I wouldn't be standing here if it wasn't for them," he said. "They sleep forever young, but they do not dream. So it is up to us, in our lifetimes, to memorialize them by living out their dreams, to be the best sons and brothers we can be, to be the best husbands and fathers you can be, and best citizens you can possibly be. This is what we owe them."

Congressman Pearce read Frank's Silver Star citation .



Upcoming Chapter events For 2018

Here are some events coming in 2018: look for dates, times, and locations to be posted later this year as they become available.

June 23rd: There will be a Chapter 10 meeting in Tracy

August 11—Summer Picnic and BBQ at Andy and Hilda's - 8730 Crucero Drive, Elk Grove Phone 916.205.6540.

Nov. 2 & 3 Pismo Beach - Chapters 10,14 and 28 joint meeting

Nov. 11, Veterans Day Parade Elk Grove

Dec. 15, Christmas Party and Chapter meeting



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