Farewell to Two Brave Warriors

Two brave Sky soldiers recently departed for that big LZ in the sky: John Chapla and Mike Belenky. Each in his own way made a substantial contribution to the Army, the nation, and to the Chapter.


After retiring from the Army as a Lieutenant Colonel, John served as a House Armed Services Committee staff member, where he was an expert on military personnel and benefits. On Jan 5, 2014, he succumbed, after a long bout with cancer.

**"Mike" Belenky** served as the Brigade Dental Officer with Company B (Medical), 173d Support Battalion, from May 1965 to June 1966, in Vietnam. His quiet, pensive demeanor disguised his extensive, distinguished academic and military accomplishments.

He graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1955 and was commissioned as an artillery officer. He continued his formal education by receiving a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Michigan and a Masters from Johns Hopkins University.

"Army" was in Mike’s blood. He also graduated from the JFK Center for Special Warfare and the Army Command and General Staff College. In addition to serving with the Herd, Mike served in the 82nd Airborne Division, the 10th Special Forces Group, and Office of the Army Surgeon General, HQ, US Army Forces Command, and Office of the Surgeon, USAREUR. He retired as a Colonel and, in 1980, joined the University of Maryland Dental School faculty, from which he retired in 2010. Mike’s service to the Brigade did not end when he left the Army. In addition to his many military and civilian accomplishments, Mike served as Chapter Vice President for two years.

Mike will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery, on 15 July, at 1400 hours. BG (retired) Chaplin Jim Hutchens (1-503, 65-66) will serve as the presiding Chaplain. Well done good and faithful servants.
In late March 2014, Chapter President Mike Montie selected me to be the Chapter Vice President to replace the late Mike Belenky. The leadership team accepted my appointment. While at the Brigade Reunion, in Fayetteville, NC, I received word that Mark Ludlow (C/4/503 -1969 - 70) resigned on June 21 as Chapter 1 Treasurer. Mark cited the demands of his retail business, his family, and other obligations, including his City Council a position on the Alexandria Archaeological Commission (City of Alexandria, Virginia). The following morning I received the news that our Chapter President Mike Montie resigned for personal reasons.

We owe these outstanding Sky Soldiers our sincere thanks and appreciation for their exemplary service to our Chapter, the Association, the Association Foundation, and the Memorial Foundation. They have given freely of their time, treasure, and excellent talents supporting Sky Soldiers. We look forward to their continued participation in our Chapter.

A short Bio - I served with the Brigade in Vietnam June 1966 – June 1967. I was charter member of the 4th Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry; I deployed with them by troop ship. I served as Platoon Leader, Executive Officer and Company Commander in Dog Company 4/503. I am long-time member of the Chapter and a life-time member of the Association. I retired from active duty in 1986 as a Lieutenant Colonel, following assignments as an instructor in the Ranger Department, a combat tour in Vietnam with the 1st CAV DIV, ROTC Instructor at Washington University in St. Louis, a tour with the 25th INF DIV in Hawaii, HQ Forces Command IG Team, G-3 Advisor to the Saudi Arabian Land Forces, and Director of the MTOE Branch of Documents Division at HQ Forces Command. I have a BA from Gettysburg College and a MA from St. Louis University. I am a graduate of the Royal New Zealand Army Grade II Staff and Tactics Course and the Armed Forces Staff College. Following active service I worked 19 ½ years as a full time government contractor supporting Army and Air Force programs. I current work part-time as a government contractor.

As I assume the duties as your President, I intend to continue our Chapter’s great programs supporting Sky Soldiers and their families. I am working with our Leadership Team to fill vacant positions until we can have an election under our by-laws.

I assure you that your Chapter Leadership Team has served you well and together we will continue enhancing our service to you. I solicit your continued support to our Chapter, the Association, the Association Foundation and the Memorial Foundation. We are Airborne All The Way!

Joe

On Saturday, 14 June, the 173rd Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation formally installed the names of thirteen Sky Soldiers lost to the Airborne Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) during their OEF XIII deployment. The solemn ceremony, at the Brigade Memorial National Memorial on the grounds of the Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, GA, was witnessed by family members, family friends and Sky Soldiers.

Following the National Anthem, former ABCT Chaplain, LTC (P) Brian McDonald, and former Brigade Commander, COL Andrew Rohling, shared giving the invocation and offered heartfelt remarks to the families. BG (Retired) James Yarbrough, first commander of the new Brigade, and CSM (R) Richard Weik presented the wreath.

The OEF XIII losses were: Stephen C. Prasnicki, Justin L. Horsely, Brenden L. Salazar, Adam C. Ross, Theodore M. Glende, Andrew J. Keller, James A. Justi, Shane W. Cantu, Kyle B. Osborn, Jonathan A. Gollnitz, Orion N. Sparks, Daniel T. Metcalfe, and Enrique Mondragon.

See picture on page 7.

A large Chapter 1 delegation joined hundreds of mourners as 1LT Stephen C. Prasnicki (4-319) of Lexington, VA, from our area of interest, was laid to rest in Lexington, during the summer of 2012. Rest in peace, Sky Soldiers.
## Chapter 1 Calendar Year 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter Event</th>
<th>Meetings</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Project Officer</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Officers and Project Leaders Monthly Planning Meeting</td>
<td>★</td>
<td>8 Jan 2014</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Chapter Secretary</td>
<td>Fort Myer Officers Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers and Project Leaders Monthly Planning Meeting</td>
<td>★</td>
<td>11 Feb 2014</td>
<td>1030</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Chapter Secretary</td>
<td>Fort Myer Officers Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presidents and Sky Soldier of the Year Awards Brunch</td>
<td></td>
<td>23 Feb 2014</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Michael Montie</td>
<td>Fort Myer Officers Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers and Project Leaders Monthly Planning Meeting</td>
<td>★</td>
<td>11 Mar 2014</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Chapter Secretary</td>
<td>Fort Myer Officers Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Cis” Sigholtz Chapter Visit</td>
<td></td>
<td>14 Mar 2014</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>Michael Montie</td>
<td>“Cis” Sigholtz Residence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers and Project Leaders Monthly Planning Meeting</td>
<td>★</td>
<td>8 Apr 2014</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Chapter Secretary</td>
<td>Fort Myer Officers Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading of the Names Vietnam and GWOT</td>
<td></td>
<td>3 May 2014</td>
<td>1030</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Ed Anthony Mack Brooks</td>
<td>Brigade Marker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers and Project Leaders Monthly Planning Meeting</td>
<td>★</td>
<td>13 May 2014</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Chapter Secretary</td>
<td>Fort Myer Officers Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers and Project Leaders Monthly Planning Meeting</td>
<td>★</td>
<td>5 Jun 2014</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Chapter Secretary</td>
<td>Fort Myer Officers Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dedication of OER XIII Names on the Brigade Memorial</td>
<td></td>
<td>14 Jun 2014</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Chapter President</td>
<td>Fort Benning GA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>173rd Airborne Brigade National Reunion</td>
<td></td>
<td>18–22 Jun 2014</td>
<td>24/7</td>
<td>Wed-Sun</td>
<td>Individual Sign Up</td>
<td>Fayetteville, NC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Officers and Project Leaders Monthly Planning Meeting</td>
<td>★</td>
<td>8 Jul 2014</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Chapter Secretary</td>
<td>Hershey, PA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sigholtz Center Dedication</td>
<td></td>
<td>28 Jul - 1 Aug</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Whitney Knoerlein</td>
<td>173rd ABCT Bayonet Week Vincenza, Italy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sigholtz Granddaughter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sigholtz Granddaughter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 1 Brigade Picnic</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 Aug 2014</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Joe Flesch</td>
<td>11730 Hawkes Road, Clarksburg, MD.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richmond Gathering of the Herd</td>
<td></td>
<td>TBD Oct 2014</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bravo Bulls Ceremony</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 Nov 2013</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Roy Lombardo Jr.</td>
<td>Multiple Sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March to the Wall</td>
<td></td>
<td>11 Nov 2014</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Joe Flesch</td>
<td>Vietnam Veterans Memorial No Host Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wreathes Across America</td>
<td></td>
<td>13 Dec 2013</td>
<td>0800</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Joe Flesch</td>
<td>Arlington National Cemetery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wounded Warrior Visits</td>
<td></td>
<td>Periodic</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Sherman Weisinger</td>
<td>DC and Richmond Area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Flags for Our Fallen

Chapter 1 supports three annual events to honor our fallen comrades: The Reading of the Names on the first Saturday in May; 10 November visit to Arlington National Cemetery's Section 60 and Columbarium, resting place of Airborne Brigade Combat Team's Global War on Terrorism losses; and Veterans Day, 11 November, Walk to the Vietnam Memorial Wall.

This year, the Chapter Leadership Team voted to change the annual 10 November visitation event to the Saturday closest to the Army birthday/Flag Day (14 June), include both Vietnam-era and GWOT-era graves, and leave a Brigade flag at each grave. Holding an event on a Saturday will give ABCT veterans a more feasible opportunity to visit the graves of their fallen buddies as part of a Chapter event to honor the ABCT.

The new event will begin in 2015, since Saturday, 14 June, this year was the date the names of the ABCT’s OEF XIII fallen were added to the National Memorial at Fort Benning. Chapter 1 was represented at the ceremony, and brought the Chapter colors.

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place for the Brigade’s charter commander (General Williamson), the Chapter founder (COL Sigholtz), the Chapter namesake (CPT Sigholtz), and three Brigade Medal of Honor recipients (Lawrence Joel, Laszlo Rabel, and Chaplain Watters). Chapter 1 veterans of both wars, please plan to join us next year to visit the resting places of all of our Arlington war dead.

Chapter Financial Report

Summary as of 31 May 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance as of 31 May 2013</td>
<td>$13,390.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts (Dues, fees, and donations)</td>
<td>$504.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disbursements</td>
<td>($5,383.19)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance as of 31 May 2014</td>
<td>$8,511.69*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major disbursements included: $768.31 for flags, finials, flag poles, flag bases, flag cases; $564.41 for the Annual Picnic; $400.00 for an IRS 501(c)19 tax exemption application fee; $421.21 for repair and update of the MOH book; $281.10 for other assorted ceremonial flag covers, flag rain cases, lettering, and the like; $270.00 for an outdoor Brigade Flag; $264.41 for mailing costs associated with the revision and adoption of new Chapter By Laws; $230.72 for newsletter mailing costs; $200.00 in support of the ceremonial activities of the Bravo Bulls under the leadership of Lt. Col. Roy Lombardo (Retired); $199.99 for an official Chapter camera; $195.00 for three GWOT awarded Brigade streamers for the Chapter Brigade flag; $148.00 for a US Army Flag with fringe; $129.99 for a portable PA system; $116.90 for an 18 pound flag base; $100.00 for the annual legal/statutory agent fee; $88.00 for a corporate seal; $68.90 for an indoor US Flag; and $50.50 for a complete set of proper Army finials for all Chapter flags. *Dues have not yet been requested or collected for 2014

Chapter Visits Cis Sigholtz

On 14 March, Chapter President, Michael Montie, visited Gold Star Mother and Chapter 1 Founding Mother Roberta “Cis” Sigholtz. Despite receiving some hard knocks in life, Cis remains one of the most positive ladies one could ever meet. She always likes to hear that Chapter Sky Soldiers and the Brigade are behaving themselves and taking good care of the unit she loves. Luckily, we always are :-)

During the visit, she was informed that the 173d ABCT would be dedicating their new multi-purpose building to her late husband and son. They asked if she’d liked to attended the 1 August dedication in Vicenza, Italy. Not surprisingly, Cis yielded to the admonitions of the retirement home staff that it would be better to send her granddaughter, Whitney Knorlein.

Chapter members are on notice: be on good behavior and stay healthy and straight! We owe a lot to this lady who has spent the greater part of her life thinking about and bringing honor to our Brigade.
Membership Report

The Chapter Membership Chair is preparing for the annual Association dues and Chapter fee collection.

This 100% mailing is the annual Chapter census and updates us on changes in your life. Secondly, it gives us an opportunity to compare our records with the Association Membership records and ensure that both databases are current. Thirdly, the annual dues/Chapter fees collection is the Chapter’s primary source of income to support the range of Chapter 1 services. Lastly, it provides members with a way to make a deductible, targeted donation toward charitable programs and services. Thanks to the efforts of ex-Chapter Treasurer, Mark Ludlow, the Chapter is now a 501(c)(19) organization.

Chapter 1 Sky Soldiers have an exemplary record of supporting other Sky Soldiers, the Chapter, the Association, the Association Foundation and Memorial Foundation, and the Airborne Brigade Combat Team. In return, the Chapter has husbanded Chapter resources, creating and executing important programs in a cost-effective manner, and avoiding frivolous spending. Chapter leaders do what they do for our unit and a desire to serve you.

Please respond promptly when you get your letter. In that way, you will be doing your part to help us serve you. Airborne!

173d ABCT Honors Sigholtz Soldiers

The Sigholtz family is an integral part of our Chapter. COL Robert (Bob) Sigholtz (2/503) was the Chapter founder, CPT Robert (Bobby) Sigholtz, Jr. (D/2-503, KIA 26 May 1969) is the Chapter namesake and, in 2013, we honored Gold Star Mother Roberta “Cis” Sigholtz as the Chapter’s Founding Mother.

This year, the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team elected to designate a multipurpose building in Del Din, Italy as the Sigholtz Center, in honor of both Sigholtz men. Whitney Knorlein, granddaughter to COL Bob and Cis and niece to Bobby Jr., will travel to Italy for the 1 August dedication. We join the Sigholtz family in thanking the 173d ABCT for honoring these two great Sky Soldiers.

Chapter Farewell Honor Set

As the years pass, we increasingly say farewell to our Sky Soldier brothers. It has long been a Chapter goal to honor, in a tangible way, the passing of our Sky Soldier veterans.

This year, the Leadership Team approved a farewell Honor Set of a framed Chapter Certificate and a folded Brigade flag to be given to the next of kin of deceased Sky Soldiers. On 10 June, 1LT Christopher Holbrook’s family gratefully received the first such Honor Set. See sample, page 12.

The Chapter will give an Honor Set to the family of any Chapter 1 Sky Soldier who has passed since the formation of the Chapter. If you know of a family that would appreciate an Honor Set, please let Joe Flesch (flesch11730@comcast.net) know.

General Deane Honored

On 13 June, A tree was dedicated to General John H. (Jack) Deane, Jr. on the grounds of the Infantry Museum, adjacent to the Brigade National Memorial, at Fort Benning, Georgia. General Deane, commander of the Brigade during the Junction City combat jump, passed away last year and rests in the United States Military Academy Cemetery, at West Point.

LTG (Retired) Carmon Cavezza, Director of the Infantry Museum, served as Master of Ceremonies. GEN (R) William Richardson, former Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) commander, gave the principal presentation and unveiled the plaque at the base of the tree.

General Deane’s family was present for the ceremony. During a reception in the Infantry Museum, following the ceremony, Mrs. Deane graciously met and thanked everyone who attended.
Association Reunion and Unit Events

National reunions give Sky Soldiers all over the world an opportunity to come together, catch up with comrades, learn about the state of the Association, and recall the unity of purpose among those who have been in life and death situations. This year’s reunion at Fort Bragg was no exception. We thank Chapter V for making it happen.

Some Sky Soldiers attend every national reunion, while others have never been. To those of you who have yet to attend an Association reunion, we encourage you to attend at least one while you still can. You will be pleased with how rewarding it is.

Many who have been to national reunions, chapter events, and unit-related events, know that the best attended and most emotionally satisfying events tend are those that focus on the buddies with whom you were in combat. Jack Tarr and Peyton Ligon have helped their respective 4th battalion Vietnam year groups stay together. At the company level, Roy Lombardo holds the gathering of the B/2-503 Bravo Bulls each 10 November and John Scheller has organized C/4-503 get-togethers for many years. These and the many others not cited are exemplary traditions that maintain Sky Soldier unity.

This year your Chapter Leadership Team voted to encourage Chapter members to hold unit get-togethers, either as a standalone event or with a Chapter event. If a Chapter member in good standing desires to coordinate a unit-specific event in the Chapter area, the Chapter will help in two ways. We will publicize the event by including it in the newsletter and in the Chapter President’s communications to the membership. Secondly, beginning this year, the Chapter will provide a $100 stipend for event-related expenses, for three unit-specific events. Sponsors may request one stipend in a given year, events for non-173rd units aren’t eligible.

The stipend is available to Brigade units that served in Vietnam, ABCT units that served during the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), or Chapter Sky Soldier Vietnam-GWOT unit-specific events. So if you have been thinking it is about time to get together with some of your war buddies, feel free to send a request to the Chapter leadership at <sigholtz.capital.chapter@gmail.com>

New Chapter Flags

One of our Chapter’s mission is to ensure that no Sky Soldier in our area is laid to rest without being recognized by the Brigade in which he/she served. For those missions, the presence of military colors is essential.

In the past we’ve used an incomplete flag set that were designed only for indoor use. Thanks to the generosity of its members, Chapter 1 has been able to purchase a complete set of colors for outdoor use.

The newly purchased flags include an American flag; a Brigade flag, with campaign streamers; the Army flag; and a Gold Star flag. Each is equipped with matching poles, heavy bases, rain covers, ceremonial covers, and the appropriate finials.

Chapter 1’s Army color does not have the authorized campaign streamers. If any Chapter member would like to contribute toward the cost for campaign streamers (approx. $3,400), please contact Chapter President, Joe Flesch, at flesch11730@comcast.net

Chapter Barbecue

The entire 173rd Chapter 1 family, Chapter members and their families, Gold Star Mothers and their family members, and guests are invited to a day of food, fun and camaraderie. The Chapter’s biggest social event of the year. There will be an above ground pool - adults and kids may want to bring bathing suits. Their will be games and other entertainment available.

11 AM to 4 PM
Saturday, August 9, 2014
Joe Flesch
Chapter President's Home
11730 Hawkes Road; Clarksburg, MD

Directions: Take exit #16 from I-270 (MD 27/Ridge Road) towards Damascus, MD. Turn left on Hawkes Road (about 4 miles from I-270). The house will be on your left about 0.7 miles from MD Route 27. Name is on the mailbox. Warning – If you use GPS it may take you to a brick house. We will be two houses further on the left (light gray siding).

Cost: $5 per person. Kids five and under are free. All you can eat and soft drinks. Members may bring their own beer or wine. Bring pot luck dish and be entered into a $25 prize drawing.

Coordination: To help us plan for food, email: Chapter President, Joe Flesch, at flesch11730@comcast.net or call 301-266-0216 with the number coming, NLT 1 August 2014, Y’all come now. Hear!!!
Photo Gallery

1LT Christopher Holbrook Burial

BG (R) H. Glenn Watson Burial

Reading of the Names 2014

Miscellany
In 2013, the Chapter undertook an effort to update the Chapter's web site. The goal was to bring the web site up to date and keep it current. The Chapter 1 web site is designed to serve four principal purposes: (1) to publicize the Chapter and its activities; (2) to serve as a general communication means and an archival resource for Chapter business; (3) to maintain a record of the Chapter’s history and past editions of *The Herd Word*; and (4) to provide an electronic means for Chapter and Association membership registration and renewal.

*Ed Anthony* reviewed the Chapter history and ensured that it was current. *Colonel (Retired) Gene Cartier* stepped forward to input updated Chapter data into the site. Updating will be a continuing process. Over time, the site will become a useful day-to-day reference for Chapter information and upcoming events.

The site can be the repository for many of the event pictures than can’t be included in *The Herd Word*. *Mack Brooks* and *Jean O’Neal* will work with Gene to see that event pictures are posted online as the events are completed. We plan to set up a *Sky Soldiers Then and Now* gallery. So dig through your old Vietnam pictures, scan one to create an e-picture, and send it to us with a current e-picture of yourself. We will place them side-by-side in the gallery with your name, so be sure to include your name! The new web site address is http://173dairbornechapter1.org.

## Chapter 1 Supports CFC

The 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Foundation Combined Federal Campaign (CFC # 86676), The Herd Foundation, is an approved 2014 CFC international charity. The 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Foundation champions the Gold Star and Bereavement Program, the Wounded Warrior Program, and a scholarship program that supports active duty Sky Soldiers, their families, and their dependents. All proceeds benefit these core programs that serve active duty and veteran Sky Soldiers.

Chapter 1 President, Joe Flesch, is our Chapter CFC coordinator and our Foundation Representative for CFC. We have contacted Local Federal Coordinating Committees (LFCC), in our membership area (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington DC), and offered to speak to local CFC organizations and to provide tables at their events to encourage donations to our Foundation.

When we get positive responses from the LFCCs we may contact individual members in that area to assist us with scheduled events. We encourage all Chapter members and their family and friends, who are Federal employees, to make a donation to the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Foundation CFC # 86676.
Farewell Brave Sky Soldiers

Brigadier H. Glenn General Watson

Sky Soldier BG (retired) H. Glenn Watson, of Belington, West Virginia, passed away on 13 February, 2014. He was laid to rest with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery, on 14 May. He was among the proud Brigade veterans, who made the Operation Junction City combat jump, on 22 February 1967. Eight Sky Soldiers, including BG (R) Jack Nicholson, honored General Watson by attending his burial, including Ed Anthony, Mack Brooks, Greg Darling, Joe Flesch, Chapter President, Michael Montie, former President, Terry Modglin, and Association President Emeritus, Ken Smith.

BG Watson’s burial site is remarkable in that during his first of two tours of duty with The Old Guard, General Watson was OIC for General of the Army George C. Marshall’s interment. General Watson was laid to rest next to General Marshall. Additionally, twenty-five feet away rests the renowned paratrooper, General Matthew Ridgway. It was a fitting ceremony for a fine airborne soldier.

1LT Christopher Holbrook

On 10 June 2014, 1LT Holbrook was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, after a full-military service at Fort Myer’s Old Post Chapel and at the grave site. The contingent of the Chapter met Lieutenant’s Holbrook’s remains when it arrived at Reagan National Airport, on 22 March, and provided a color guard at the burial site. Chris died on 13 March 2014, as a result of an unfortunate vehicle accident in Hawaii.

In a touching tribute to Chris, the family released white doves at the end of the ceremony. Michael Montie presented Chris’ father, CW3 (retired) John Holbrook, with the Chapter’s first Sky Soldier Farewell remembrance certificate and a Brigade flag. The grateful Holbrook family said that our members presence had a powerful and moving affect on those grieving their loss.

Patricia Hutchens

On Wednesday, 21 May 2014, Chapter 1 participated in Patricia Hutchens’ interment on Chaplains Hill, Arlington National Cemetery. Patricia is the beloved spouse of Chaplain Brigadier General (retired) Jim Hutchens (1-503, 65-66). General Hutchens was a past Chapter President and one of the Chapter’s most loyal, longtime members.

Patricia was an internationally recognized artist and taught at the Corcoran School of Art for fifteen years. She also taught professional art classes in her Great Falls home studio. Her last exhibition took place in the Ukraine and will become part of Liberty University’s permanent collection. General Hutchens thanked the Sky Soldier delegation and informed family and guests that Patricia’s Chaplains Hill gravesite overlooks the Brigade Memorial Marker. Ed Anthony, Mack Brooks, and Chapter President Michael Montie attended the service.
On Tuesday, 13 May, President Obama presented the Medal of Honor (MOH) to former Airborne Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) Sky Soldier Sergeant Kyle J. White, of Charlotte, North Carolina, for his actions during a four-hour firefight at the Ranch House in Aranas (Nuristan Province), Afghanistan, while a member of 1st Platoon, Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, on 8-9 November 2007.

Kyle is the second ABCT Sky Soldier to receive the MOH during the Global War on Terrorism. Both Sky Soldiers survived their engagements. Salvatore (Sal) A. Giunta received the award on 16 November 2010 for his actions in the Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, while a member of Battle Company, 2nd-503, on 25 October 2007.

Chapter Historical Projects Leader Ed Anthony completed a project last year to create an ABCT Medal of Honor book to parallel the Chapter’s Vietnam MOH book. He is updating the ABCT book to include Kyle and is standing by, in case other ABCT veterans receive the Medal of Honor.

Thirteen members of the Brigade received the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War. COL (Ret) Alfred V. Rascon, the Brigade’s only remaining living Vietnam recipient and a member of Chapter 1, received the medal for his actions during a firefight, while a medic with HHC, 1-503, on 16 March 1966. All thirteen are now enshrined on Chapter 1’s Medal of Honor plaque and Chapter Medal of Honor book.

Two 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment members received the MOH for actions in the Pacific during the Second World War.

### The Reading of the Names 2014

On Saturday, 3 May, Chapter 1 gathered at the Brigade Memorial Marker in Arlington National Cemetery for its most solemn event: to remember Sky Soldiers lost in Vietnam and in the Global War on Terrorism.

The Reading of the Names takes place on the first Saturday in May to commemorate the Brigade’s arrival in Vietnam. This year, the names of Sky Soldiers lost in Vietnam in 1968 and all Brigade losses during the Global War on Terrorism were read. MG (Retired) Lee Surut (3-319, 65-66), a perennial attendee, is an inspiration to the rest of us. Ed Anthony, Mack Brooks, Mark Ludlow, Terry Modglin, Michael Montie, Jean O’Neal, and Michael Montie were among those present.

The 173rd Airborne Brigade Memorial Marker sits astride Arlington National Cemetery’s Grant Drive. From there, one has a magnificent view of Section 33, which gently slopes toward the McClellan Gate, Eisenhower Drive, and the Potomac River. The 503rd Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team Marker is just east of the Brigade Marker.

Upon completing the reading, members reminisced about specific lost Sky Soldiers. A short requiem completed the event and we adjourned just before noon. Afterwards, those able had lunch at Fort Myer.

Next year we hope to see you there. Sky Soldiers -- now and always.

### SGT Kyle White Receives Medal of Honor

On Tuesday, 13 May, President Obama presented the Medal of Honor (MOH) to former Airborne Brigade Combat Team (ABCT) Sky Soldier Sergeant Kyle J. White, of Charlotte, North Carolina, for his actions during a four-hour firefight at the Ranch House in Aranas (Nuristan Province), Afghanistan, while a member of 1st Platoon, Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 503rd Infantry, on 8-9 November 2007.

Kyle is the second ABCT Sky Soldier to receive the MOH during the Global War on Terrorism. Both Sky Soldiers survived their engagements. Salvatore (Sal) A. Giunta received the award on 16 November 2010 for his actions in the Korengal Valley, Afghanistan, while a member of Battle Company, 2-503, on 25 October 2007.

Chapter Historical Projects Leader Ed Anthony completed a project last year to create an ABCT Medal of Honor book to parallel the Chapter’s Vietnam MOH book. He is updating the ABCT book to include Kyle and is standing by, in case other ABCT veterans receive the Medal of Honor.

Thirteen members of the Brigade received the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War. COL (Ret) Alfred V. Rascon, the Brigade’s only remaining living Vietnam recipient and a member of Chapter 1, received the medal for his actions during a firefight, while a medic with HHC, 1-503, on 16 March 1966. All thirteen are now enshrined on Chapter 1’s Medal of Honor plaque and Chapter Medal of Honor book.

Two 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment members received the MOH for actions in the Pacific during the Second World War.
Join the Leadership Team

The Chapter Wants YOU!!!

We Airborne Soldiers pride ourselves in, when and where there is a need, everyone pitches in. There is a need to fill some of the positions in our Chapter leadership team and we ask, in that same airborne spirit, for members to volunteer to help out.

Below is a list of Chapter leadership positions, incumbents and prospective occupants. If you have the time and talent to fill one of the vacancies, please contact Joe Flesch to discuss the role that you can play.

### Chapter & Support Leadership Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Incumbent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Joe Flesch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Jeane Flesch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mack Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership Chairman</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chaplin</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judge Advocate</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master-at-Arms</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### Regular and Associate Staffs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Incumbent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABCT Veterans Recruiter</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herd Word Editor</td>
<td>Mack Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Website Editor</td>
<td>Gene Cartier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historical Projects Leader</td>
<td>Ed Anthony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Liaison</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veteran Affairs Advisor</td>
<td>Mike Bargmann</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wounded Warrior Support</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFC Coordinator</td>
<td>Joe Flesch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Need Help Dealing with the Veterans Administration?

You can see it in the headlines: the Veterans Administration is under pressure to better serve our nation’s Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines.

Many of our Chapter members are of an age when the effects of their service are of concern because of the toll that it has taken on their bodies. Our Chapter is especially lucky to have a Sky Soldier-member who is also works for the Veterans Administration.

Mike Bargmann (michael.bargmann@va.gov) has graciously volunteered to serve as the Chapter’s VA Advisor. He expressed the desire and willingness to assist any Sky Soldier who needs information, advice, or assistance regarding the VA.

If you need help to deal with the VA, Contact Mike.
AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY!!!

Address Label

173d Airborne Brigade Association
Sigholtz Capital Chapter 1
P.O. Box 173
McLean, VA 22101-0173

FOLD

Happy 4th of July