

The group of five or so I was with all saw him about the same time, although he was about ten meters away. I quickly stood up and shouted "*Attention!*" We all snapped to attention. I had shouted so loud, Westmoreland shifted his direction and quickly headed our way. He was about 10-15 feet in front of his entourage. For some inexplicable reason, perhaps too much burnt turkey loaf, I had gone back to a relaxed or at ease position, no longer standing at attention. As Westmoreland came up to me, he whispered so only I could hear, "*Come to attention,*" gestering slightly with his right hand. I, of course, immediately snapped to attention. No telling what my superiors would have done to me had I remained at ease. At the time, Walsh and I didn't get along too well as I had hit him with branches as we traveled through the jungle, me in front of him. Here was a four-star general allowing me a little latitude and to this day, as well as his never capitalizing on his time in Nam, good or bad, I've never forgot it and think it speaks highly to the decency of the man. He did ask me how the M-16 was. Even though I had never fired it, even to zero it, I did have enough sense to say it was a fine weapon.

Jerry Hassler
HHC/Recon/2/503d, '66/'67

You Can Leave The Military, But It Never Really Leaves You

By Ken Burger
The Charlestown Post and Courier

Occasionally, I venture back out to the air base where I'm greeted by an imposing security guard who looks carefully at my identification card, hands it back and says, "*Have a good day, tech sergeant.*"

Every time I go back onto Charleston Air Force Base it feels good to be called by my previous rank, but odd to be in civilian clothes, walking among the servicemen and servicewomen going about their duties as I once did, years ago.

The military, for all its flaws, is a comfort zone for anyone who has ever worn the uniform. It's a place where you know the rules and know they are enforced. A place where everybody is busy but not too busy to take care of business.

Because there exists behind the gates of every military facility an institutional understanding of respect, order, uniformity, accountability and dedication that becomes part of your marrow and never, ever leaves you.

Personally, I miss the fact that you always knew where you stood in the military, and who you were dealing with. That's because you could read somebody's uniform from 20 feet away and know the score.

Service personnel wear their careers on their sleeves, so to speak. When you approach each other, you can read their nametag, examine their rank and, if they are in dress uniform, read their ribbons and know where they've served.

I miss all those little things you take for granted when you're in the ranks, like breaking starch on a set of fatigues fresh from the laundry and standing in a perfectly straight line that looks like a mirror as it stretches to the endless horizon.

I miss the sight of troops marching in the early morning mist, the sound of boot heels thumping in unison on the sidewalks, the bark of sergeants and the sing-song answers from the squads as they pass by in review.

To romanticize military service is to be far removed from its reality, because it's very serious business, especially in times of war. But I miss the salutes I'd throw at officers and the crisp returns as we crisscrossed on the flight line.

I miss the smell of jet fuel hanging heavily on the night air and the sound of engines roaring down runways and disappearing into the clouds.

I even miss the hurry-up-and-wait mentality that men gripe about constantly, a masterful invention that bonded people more than they'll ever know or admit.

I miss people taking off their hats when they enter a building, speaking directly and clearly to others and never showing disrespect for rank, race, religion or gender.

Mostly I miss being a small cog in a machine so complex it constantly circumnavigates the Earth and so simple it feeds everyone on time, three times a day, on the ground, in the air or at sea.

Mostly, I don't know anyone who has served who regrets it, and doesn't feel a sense of pride when they pass through those gates and re-enter the world they left behind with their youth.

(Above sent in by Maj. Ed Privette, HHC/2/503d, '66/'67)

***"An army of asses led by a lion is
better than an army of lions
led by an ass."***

George Washington



SOME 2/503D MEMORIES

Got a couple short stories about the Herd.

Like the night before deployment (May 3-4), I was new in the unit and had been there about 2 days. We grabbed a couple cases of beer and started walking up the hill to the Village we called home. Guess the Jarheads knew we were leaving as they tried to claim our town.

We all ended up in the stockade that night; the CO came and bailed us out. At the formation the next morning the Old Man said, *"I know when you're dismissed you're going back up that hill. Dont get caught this time!"*



August 1965, Secretary of Defense Robert MacNamara and General Westmoreland in Vietnam.

When **McNamara** came to visit I ended up in S1 with an old Pappason who was trying to find me to deliver a Jump knife he had repaired for me. I came out of the Jungle just when McNamara's chopper hit the ground!

Butch Clark
HHC/2/503d, '65



by **Jerry Hassler**
HHC/Recon/2/503d, '66/'67

STORY BEHIND THIS ZIPPO

Was near Swan Loc. We were pulling out of a FSB going back to Zinn. There were only a few of us left. They were pulling out the last 105 and a pallet of ammo with a Chinook, he was hovering just above us when they hit us. In all the dust and noise we didn't even know we'd been hit....guys just started falling and then it felt like someone hit me with a fucking 2x4 and down I went.

We lost the 319th battery commander and most of my guys from Hqs Co were wounded. Was mortars and small arms. Several of the 319th guys at Myrtle Beach were there. **Paul Dinardo** was standing right on top of the pallet of ammo reaching for the Chinook hook and didn't get a scratch, go figure.

Ed Privette, Maj.
CO, HHC/2/503d, '66/'67



ANOTHER 2/503d BOOK WORTH READING

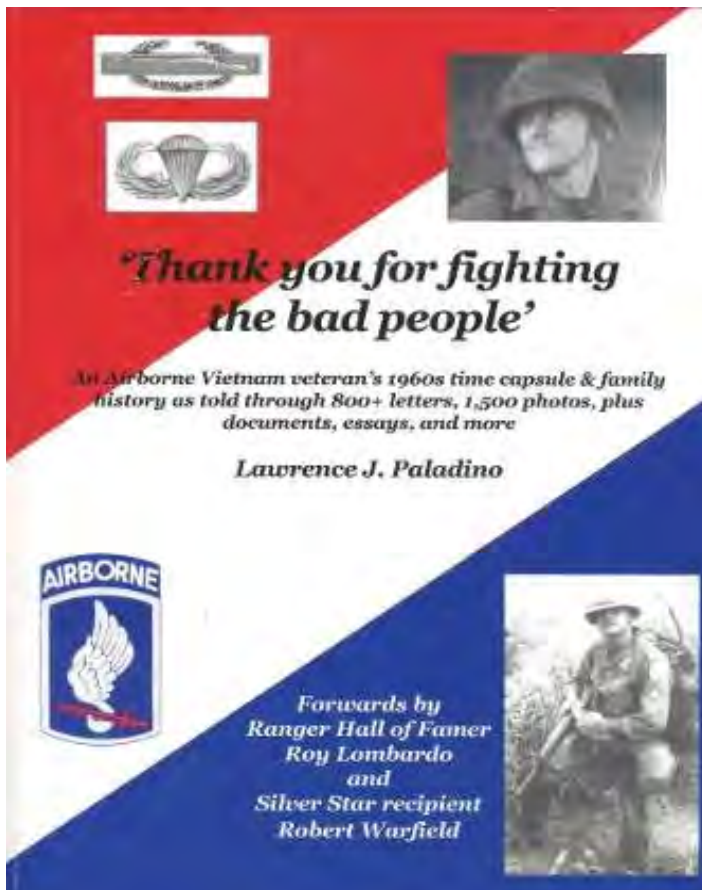
From the *Forward*

The essence of this book is the military journey of a paratrooper in the mountains and jungles of Okinawa, Taiwan, and finally Vietnam. He, the author, typified all that was good and courageous about the Bravo Bulls....

Larry Paladino, the author, was a standout by any measure among the young Bravo Bulls....Larry was strong as only an athlete is strong and carried the PRC 10 radio (later the PRC 25) for me and subsequent commanders in company headquarters. He was selected for this duty because he had the intellect to easily understand the military jargon of the radio transmissions and advise me of what was important. He was the first Bravo Bull to enter an underground tunnel, armed only with a pistol, searching for the enemy and hidden equipment.

Writing has always been his “thing” and this book will be ample proof of his craft. We, veterans of the Bravo Bulls, are proud to have our story told through the eyes and memories of one of our finest, most erudite paratroopers.

LTC Roy Lombardo, Jr.
Infantry, Retired
Baltimore, MD



EXCERPTS

“Bravo Company suffered probably the most casualties in the brigade because we always just happened to be where the action began. Newspaper Enterprise Association correspondent Tom Tiede began joining us and chronicling our events. We had been the first in the Mekong Delta (Plain of Reeds), the first in the Central Highlands (Pleiku), the first in the ‘Iron Triangle.’ Out of 165 Bravo Bulls who arrived on 5 May 1965, only me and 27 others hadn’t been wounded in one way or another, or killed.”

“Tomorrow, Tuesday, July 27, President Johnson will determine how many more men will be sent to Vietnam. There is talk that the force will be at least 200,000. All units in Michigan are ready, as well as in other parts of the country. They say that bombing will be increased and I predict that the missile sites are going to be destroyed sooner or later. I hope they add more men to your area and I think they will. Bien Hoa is an important area because it is close to Saigon.”

From Larry’s dad.

“Christmas was coming up and so packages were arriving like crazy and everyone was sending cards and letters wishing Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I got eight packages in one day alone and it seemed as if everyone was baking and sending cookies. With the wishes came lots of thanks to all of us for our sacrifices. People back home sounded guilty for having things so good. Several more “Mail Call Vietnam” cards arrived from people we didn’t know. It was a month in which we had our share of sebacks, including my friend, Romiro Rodriguez, being killed by a bullet through the head.”

This is the photo taken when I ‘officially’ greeted Jo Collins on behalf of Co. B. I originally thought it was a wire photo or perhaps one of Playboy’s own, but apparently it was an Army photo. I can barely read the I.D. on the back and it appears to say it was taken Jan. 15, 1966, by PFC Bernie Zamecki.



We understand a limited supply of Larry’s book remains available. To order a personalized copy of “Thank you for fighting the bad people,” email Larry at:

rto173rd@wowway.com

Served with the 2/503d in Vietnam? Wrote a book about the Vietnam War? Send us details and we’ll include them in the newsletter. Ed



2/503d **VIETNAM** Newsletter / May 2010 - Issue 15

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Dear Sky Soldiers:

On behalf of all members of South Carolina Chapter 30 and the 2010 Reunion Committee, I cordially invite you to make every effort to attend this years reunion at Avista Resort in North Myrtle Beach SC. We have worked countless hours to provide you an unforgettable experience.



LTC Hal Nobles, 3/503d

The centerpiece of this years reunion includes an interactive presentation by five enlisted men and one officer from the 503rd PRCT who fought in the Pacific during WWII. We are in contact with the History Channel in hopes of having their presentations filmed for historical purposes and possible later airing. Time has been set-aside for Q&A and an opportunity to compare their war experiences to ours. We will be honoring these incredible men the night of our banquet.

We have decided to waive late fees in order to encourage each of you to join us for this extraordinary event as well as other planned activities. A parachute jump by the Army's Golden Knights and a block party featuring the 82nd Airborne Choir in concert is scheduled. Also available is the option to visit historic Charleston SC and an aircraft carrier from WWII, the USS Yorktown.

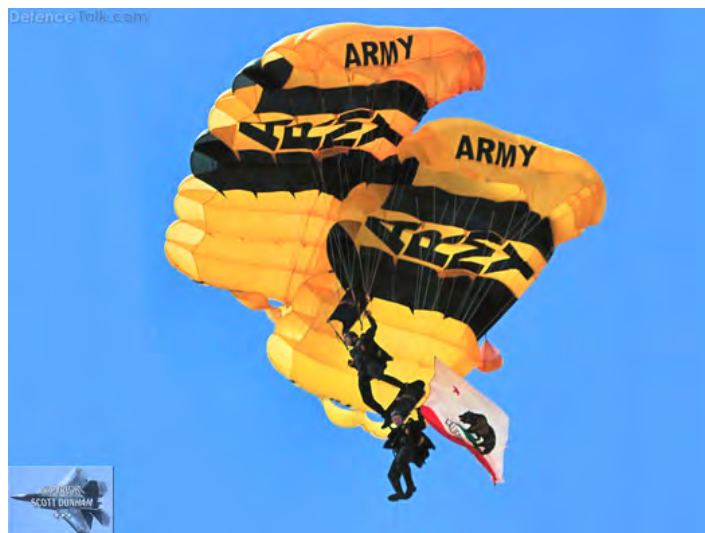
For our golfers, we still have room in the golf tournament. PTSD seminars will be provided by two renowned experts on the illness as well. This year's banquet will feature a Southern-style buffet in a unique and casual atmosphere.

Please visit our website www.173rd2010reunion.com for complete details and registering information, or use the registration form provided in this newsletter.

In closing, allow me to thank those who have registered and remind others it's not too late to make plans to join the fun and this once in a life time gathering of three generations of 503rd paratroopers.

Airborne, All the way!

**Hal Nobles
Chairman
2010 Reunion Committee**



Army Golden Knights



SKY SOLDIERS TO DROP IN ON THE **GRAND STRAND**

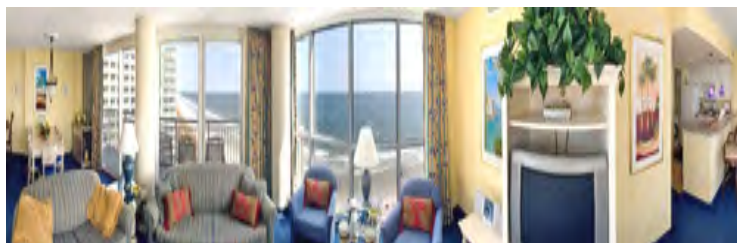
Elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade Association will conduct special operations in and around the province of North Myrtle Beach, SC. The operations are to kick off **2 June 2010**. The Paratroopers are expected to accomplish their mission by 6 June 2010 (D-day anniversary). A recon company (SC Chapter 30, led by retired **LTC Hal Nobles**), has moved in, secured high ground and set up base camp at **Avista Resort** located at coordinates 300 North Ocean Boulevard, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29852. R&R casualties are expected to be heavy, so pack your rucksack, fill your canteens and prepare to move forward.

AS A TOKEN OF OUR APPRECIATION, SC CHAPTER 30 WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT THE FOLLOWING GIFTS TO ALL PAID REGISTRANTS:

Men: Please enjoy a leather duffel bag and patriotic polo shirt, both with embroidered logos. The duffel bag measures 21" x 12" x 12" with two zippered side pockets and a large front pocket and holds up to 100 lbs.

Ladies: It's our pleasure to present you with a quality canvas zippered tote bag, which measures 18"w x 15"h. Also included are a matching patriotic polo shirt and visor. All items feature embroidered logos.

Activities: Registration fee includes admission to a banquet with a guest speaker, buffet-style dinner and live entertainment. These activities will take place at the *House of Blues*, located along the White Pointe Swash stretch of ocean thought to have been a favorite hiding spot for famous pirates. House of Blues Myrtle Beach opened in 1997 and is built to resemble a Southern farmhouse with adjoining tobacco warehouse. The music hall is covered in authentic tin from an old tobacco barn from Jackson, Mississippi. In keeping with North Myrtle Beach atmosphere, dress for this event will be very casual.



Adoption Program: We also encourage you to participate in our *Sky Soldier Adoption Program*. At

each reunion we have active duty Sky Soldiers fly in from overseas. They personally must pay airfare, hotel, meal and reunion fees, which can cost thousands of dollars. We try to offset their cost by giving them a discount on these fees. You can help by purchasing a meal voucher for our active duty Sky Soldiers. Please consider contributing to this program! These young Sky Soldiers will appreciate this tremendously, and you will reap the reward by giving! See the registration form on our web site www.173rdreunion2010.com to donate.



Avista Resort, North Myrtle Beach, SC

Vendors: Also included in the registration fee is access to the vendors' area, hospitality room, PTSD seminar, and cookout with a parachute jump on the beach by the *Army's Golden Knights*. Buses will be provided to take attendees from Avista Resort to nearby shopping and attractions.

Accommodations: **Avista Resort** in North Myrtle Beach will serve as headquarters for the reunion. The oceanfront resort features 1, 2 and 3-bedroom condos, indoor and outdoor pools, fitness center, and more. Hotel accommodations are **not** included in the reunion registration fee; however, all attendees will be given a special group rate. To make reservations, call **1-800-968-8986** and use reservation code **1317183**.

(continued.....)





Oceanside Pool Area at the Avista



USS Yorktown, Charleston, South Carolina

Day trip: Don't miss our day trip to **Historic Charleston**, South Carolina! Cost includes transportation to/from Charleston, a visit to Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, home of the USS Yorktown, a horse-drawn carriage ride through Charleston's historic district and a drink and box snack for the ride home. There will also be a stop at the historic city market for lunch and shopping on your own. See the registration form to sign up. For complete details, including online registration, online hotel reservations, itinerary, and who's attending, please visit our website at: www.173rdreunion2010.com

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at the number below.

Wayne Bowers, C&D 2/503d '67-'68
173d Airborne Brigade Association
SC Chapter 30, 803-237-3169

SKY SOLDIERS.....FALL IN!!

173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE **ASSOCIATION**

TENTATIVE 2010 REUNION SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2010

- 09:00 - 17:00 - Registration - Ballroom C
- 09:00 - Until? - Vendor Tables - Ballroom A
- 09:00 - 24:00 - Hospitality Room - Ballroom B
- 18:00 - 20:00 - Welcome Reception - Pool Plaza Area
- 18:00 - 19:00 - Active Duty Briefing - Loc. TBD
- 18:00 - 20:00 - Association President's Reception
Ballroom C
- 19:00 - Until? - Mini-Reunions (Each unit to organize
their own gathering)

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 2010

- 07:00 - 08:00 - Eagles Nest Golf Tournament
Transportation
- 08:00 - 17:00 - Charleston Bus Trip
- 09:00 - Until? - Eagles Nest Golf Tournament
- 09:00 - 17:00 - Registration - Ballroom C
- 09:00 - Until? - Vendor Tables - Ballroom A
- 09:00 - 24:00 - Hospitality Room - Ballroom B
- 17:30 - Until? - Golden Knights Jump on LZ North
Myrtle Beach; Concert to follow

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2010

- 07:00 - 09:00 - Gold Star Family Reception and
Breakfast - Tree Top Lounge
- 09:00 - 12:00 - Board of Directors Meeting - Tree Top
Lounge
- 09:00 - 17:00 - Registration - Ballroom C
- 09:00 - Until? - Vendor Tables - Ballroom A
- 09:00 - 11:00 - Hospitality Room - Ballroom B
- 12:00 - 15:30 - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
Seminars - Tree Top Lounge
- 16:00 - 17:30 - Interactive Presentation by WWII
503rd vets - Ballroom B
- 18:00 - 24:00 - Hospitality Room - Ballroom B

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010

- 08:30 - 12:00 - General Membership Meeting -
Ballrooms A/B/C Theater Style
- 08:30 - 10:00 - Ladies' Event - Tree Top Lounge
- 09:00 - 12:00 - Registration - Mezzanine Area -
Second Level
- 12:30 - Until? - Vendor Tables - Ballroom A
- 12:30 - 24:00 - Hospitality Room - Ballroom B
- 16:00 - 17:00 - Transportation from Avista Hotel to
House Of Blues
- 16:30 - 17:30 - Cocktail Hour
- 17:30 - 19:00 - Color Guard/National Anthem/
Speakers
- 19:00 - 20:30 - Dinner
- 20:30 - 23:00 - Dancing
- 20:30 - 23:30 - Transportation to Avista Hotel

SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2010

- 08:00 - 09:00 - Memorial Service - Pool Plaza Area
at North Lawn
(In case of rain - Ballroom C)
- 09:00 - LZ North Myrtle Beach Closes -
Mission Complete



House of Blues, Myrtle Beach



The Herd moves to the Grand Strand



02 June - 06 June 2010 • North Myrtle Beach, SC
Hosted by South Carolina Chapter 30



Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Unit served with in the Brigade _____ Dates served _____

Polo Shirt Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL Male/Female _____

Guests

Name _____	Male/Female _____	Shirt Size S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL _____
Name _____	Male/Female _____	Shirt Size S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL _____
Name _____	Male/Female _____	Shirt Size S M L XL 2XL 3XL 4XL _____

Registration/Activity Fees

_____ \$173 per Association member*

_____ \$173 per guest*

_____ \$125 per Gold Star Family member

_____ \$85 per Active Duty Soldier (NOT on orders)

_____ **FREE** - Active Duty Soldiers on orders (i.e., Command, Color Guard)

_____ \$50 - Non-registered guest, banquet only

_____ \$75 per vendor table

_____ **FREE** - Gold Star Luncheon - 173d Gold Star Families

_____ \$50 - Golf Tournament entry fee

_____ \$100 each - Charleston trip (Includes transportation to/from Charleston, SC, visits to USS Yorktown, Historic City Market, and carriage ride tour of Charleston Historic District. Must have minimum of 50 registered.)

_____ \$15 - Sky Soldier Adoption Program** - "Have a meal on me" for active duty soldiers

_____ **Total Cost**

Make Checks payable to: 2010 Reunion 173d Airborne Brigade

Mail to: Tom Hanson, 173d Airborne Brigade, 4482 Ft. Jackson Blvd., Columbia, SC 29209

For hotel reservations (Avista Resort), call: 1-800-968-8986 Reservation code 1317183

For additional information, contact: Hal Nobles 803-422-3613 or nobles_h@bellsouth.net

To have Vietnam-era photos included in our slide show, e-mail them to: skysoldierphotos@jshoo.com

To register online, visit www.173dreunion2010.com

* Registration fee amount before 15 April 2010. After 15 April 2010, the cost is \$200. Walk-ins welcome at \$200.

** Sky Soldier Adoption Program: At each reunion, we have active duty Sky Soldiers fly in from Italy/Germany. They personally must pay airfare, hotel, meal, and reunion fees when coming to a Herd Reunion. This costs thousands of dollars. We try to offset their cost by giving them a discount on the registration fees. You can help by purchasing a meal voucher for our active Sky Soldiers as they travel from Europe. Please consider contributing to our Sky Soldier Adoption Program. These young Sky Soldiers will appreciate this tremendously!!! You will reap the reward by giving!!!

You must be registered to participate in the 173d Airborne Brigade Activities listed above.



PTSD Fact Sheet

What is Posttraumatic Stress Disorder?

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, is a psychiatric disorder that can occur following the experience or witnessing of life-threatening events such as military combat, natural disasters, terrorist incidents, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults like rape. People who suffer from PTSD often relive the experience through nightmares and flashbacks, have difficulty sleeping, and feel detached or estranged, and these symptoms can be severe enough and last long enough to significantly impair the person's daily life.

PTSD is marked by clear biological changes as well as psychological symptoms. PTSD is complicated by the fact that it frequently occurs in conjunction with related disorders such as depression, substance abuse, problems of memory and cognition, and other problems of physical and mental health. The disorder is also associated with impairment of the person's ability to function in social or family life, including occupational instability, marital problems and divorces, family discord, and difficulties in parenting.

Understanding PTSD

PTSD is not a new disorder. There are written accounts of similar symptoms that go back to ancient times, and there is clear documentation in the historical medical literature starting with the Civil War, when a PTSD-like disorder was known as "Da Costa's Syndrome." There are particularly good descriptions of posttraumatic stress symptoms in the medical literature on combat veterans of World War II and on Holocaust survivors.

Careful research and documentation of PTSD began in earnest after the Vietnam War. The National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study estimated in 1988 that the prevalence of PTSD in that group was 15.2% at that time and that 30% had experienced the disorder at some point since returning from Vietnam.

PTSD has subsequently been observed in all veteran populations that have been studied, including World War II, Korean conflict, and Persian Gulf populations, and in United Nations peacekeeping forces deployed to other war zones around the world. There are remarkably similar findings of PTSD in military veterans in other countries. For example, Australian Vietnam veterans experience many of the same symptoms that American Vietnam veterans experience.

PTSD is not only a problem for veterans, however. Although there are unique cultural and gender-based aspects of the disorder, it occurs in men and women, adults and children, Western and non-Western cultural groups, and all socioeconomic strata. A national study of American civilians conducted in 1995 estimated that the lifetime prevalence of PTSD was 5% in men and 10% in women.

Hey Trooper. You think you are alone? You're not. Help is available brother. You earned it, you deserve it, and you're entitled to it. Help is there for the asking.

FREE PTSD AWARENESS SESSIONS TO BE HELD AT THE 173d REUNION IN NORTH MYRTLE BEACH THIS JUNE

The difficult thing about confronting this illness is, it demands you look at yourself and your life. It requires you to uncover your demons; it necessitates you admitting you have some problems; and the hardest damn thing of all is, it forces you to ask for help....the one thing most of us have never been good at doing.

While there is no magic cure or pill you can take for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, there is treatment available which will better help you, and your bride or companion, and your kids, live with it.

A unique opportunity will be made available to us all, including our partners, at the reunion this coming June. Dr. Scott Fairchild (ex LTC 82nd Airborne), and Col. Judy Mathewson (active Air Force), are recognized and renown experts on the illness and in treating vets and their spouses.

Sessions will be held on Friday, June 4, from noon to 3:30 p.m. in the Tree Top Lounge, and include:

PTSD BASICS VA DISABILITY PROCESS RELATIONSHIP ISSUES - COUPLES RELATIONSHIP ISSUES - VETS RELATIONSHIP ISSUES - SPOUSES/PARTNERS

Doc Scott and Col. Judy will walk us through what PTSD is, the countless ways it manifests itself in our daily lives, ways many of us are unaware. They'll explain treatment options available through the VA and in the private sector, and will provide answers to our questions, even those questions we don't know to ask.

Also addressed will be the many issues facing spouses and partners of combat vets who knowingly or unknowingly have been impacted by their vet's time at war, and how these relationships can be improved and even saved. Learn about the VA claim process available to us as we seek treatment and compensation for this disability.

Please do yourself, your wife, your kids and your grandkids a favor, attend these sessions.



PTSD SESSION LEADERS

AT 173d REUNION IN NORTH MYRTLE BEACH, SC THIS COMING JUNE



“Colonel Judy”

Judith.mathewson@patrick.af.mil

LTC Judith J. Mathewson began her military career as an enlisted member in 1986 in the Alaska Air National Guard, Anchorage, AK. She earned her commission at the Academy of Military Science, Knoxville, TN in 1987 and served as the Social Actions Officer from 1987 through 1992. Next, she became the State Social Actions Officer, Information Management Officer, and was chosen as Executive Officer for the Commander, Air National Guard. She served as the State Plans Officer, crafting the AK Air National Guard Strategic Plan. She was chosen to attend the Air War College in-residence at Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL and earned her Master's in Strategic Military Studies. She was the recipient of the Air War College Activities Award and earned the Air Force Community Service medal for volunteering in the local Montgomery schools and community. LTC Mathewson taught special needs students in the Anchorage School District and created a peer mediation/conflict resolution program to help students resolve disagreements at the lowest level. She taught “English as a Second Language” for two summers in Poland, and taught diversity skills to students in rural Alaskan communities. She was instrumental in starting the AK Troops Teachers Program to meet the needs of the rural Alaskan communities' teacher shortfalls. LTC Mathewson retired from the public education system in 2001. She served in the Elmendorf AFB Public Affairs Office, and later planned a high visibility conference with Secretary of Defense Cohen for the United States Air Force Counter-Proliferation Center. LTC Mathewson was a Topical Research Intern for the Department of Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) with emphasis on Asian American culture. She holds a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling, Special Education, and is completing her dissertation for her Ph.D. in Marital and Family Therapy. She serves as Program Manager for the Equal Opportunity Reserve Components Program and Air National Guard Liaison at DEOMI, Patrick AFB, FL. Colonel Judy has lead numerous PTSD treatment programs for our 173d troopers and their spouses.



“Doc Scott”

info@baytreebehavioral.com

Dr. Scott Fairchild is a licensed psychologist who operates Baytree Behavioral Health in Melbourne, Florida, and was the Founder and Co-Director of the Stress, Trauma and Acute Response (STAR) Team for Kennedy Space Center. Additionally, he has founded Welcome Home Vets, Inc., a not-for-profit organization operating in Brevard County, FL to support returning Florida veterans with their transition and reintegration into the community.

Dr. Fairchild served 21 years on active duty with the Army Medical Department from 1975 to 1996, and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel. While on active duty, he worked in combat health care administration for half of his career, before completing his Doctorate of Psychology at the University of Denver and his internship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1989 and entering clinical practice.

Dr. Fairchild completed his doctoral work on Human Interaction in Space Travel and Space Operations and also later trained in Aviation Psychology serving with Aviation and Airborne units. He was selected for the first congressionally mandated Psychopharmacology Demonstration Project, which trained active duty psychologists to prescribe medications.

Dr. Fairchild specializes in working with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder primarily in Veterans who come from across the country for evaluations and treatment. He has worked with PTSD, mood disorders, ADHD, dementia and Alzheimer's disease, as well as other brain-based disorders. He has been a strong supporter of technology to identify and treat emotional disorders. He has most recently teamed with Synaptic Connections to bring advanced neuro-assessment and treatment tools to the Brevard County area to serve the needs of patients throughout the entire Southeast.

Doc Scott has treated 173d troopers from throughout the country. The Doc was a paratrooper with the 82nd Abn.



ABOUT PTSD YOU'RE NOT ALONE

"Some days, I just don't know if I can make it to the next day.... I've been suckin' it up for so long."

Remember when you got back from 'Nam and a lot of people were sayin' "You're different"? Remember how you thought something was wrong with THEM or that you were just born to be an asshole?

"I went to Vietnam a young boy and I came back an old man."

"My body came home, but my mind it still there."

Remember the hard drinking you did just to keep the damn lid on the nightmares and keep the flashbacks away or get at least a couple hours of sleep?

"Sleep, what's that?"

"The only way I can get to sleep is with my best friend, Jack Daniels."

"The other day someone asked me when I was in Vietnam. I told them last night and every night."

Remember how you worked three jobs and kept busy as hell, just to not think about the stuff?

"Hell, I was never home. If I had time on my hands, I'd just end up either drinking or thinking, or drinking to stop thinking."

Remember how you saw shit no young man, or old man for that matter, should ever see?

"Those assigned under me in Iraq.....They were kids. Twelve weeks ago they were at Publix asking if you wanted paper or plastic, now I'm sending them back in body bags."

"I woke up choking her and I didn't even know where I was. I was sweating like a horse after a race."

"Some days I'm just numb. Most days I just don't give a shit."

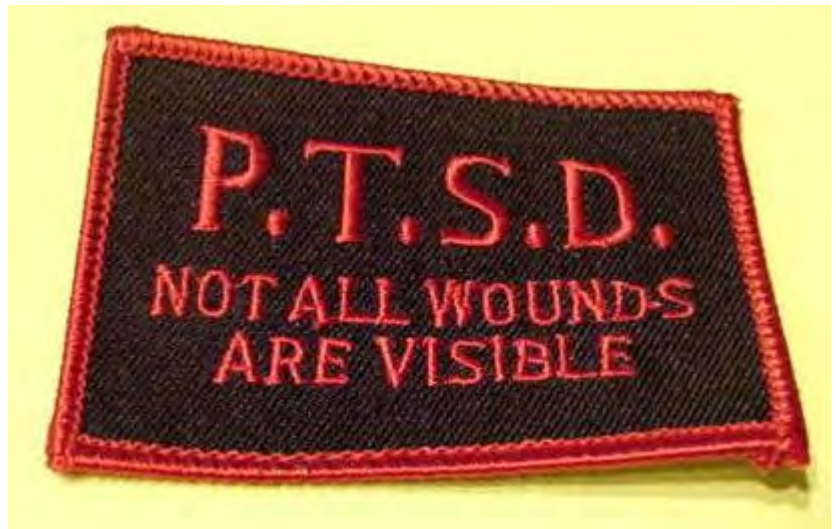
"I guess it all started when I sailed to England on the Queen Mary chased by German U-boats. Then is was the beach landings in Sicily and Africa and the Battle of the Bulge and Normandy."

Remember when you thought you had this stuff in check and then you retired and it came up and hit you like a Tsunami wave?

"I get so pissed for no good reason. I can go from zero to a hundred and ten in a heartbeat."

"Since I stopped working, it has hit me like a brick. I just can't get it outta my head."

"I stay at home, so I don't end up in jail. I don't want to be around anybody."



Remember the days when you wished you just couldn't remember any more?

"I go out in the woods for days just to get it out of my head."

The Vietnam veteran has an average of 3.8 wives. Relationships following repeated deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan are falling apart in 90 days.

"I don't want to be around anyone anymore."

"Why can't she just learn to leave me alone?"

What are some of my brothers sayin' about the help they got?

"It took at least six brothers to tell me before I went and got some help."

"Finally, I had a name for it."

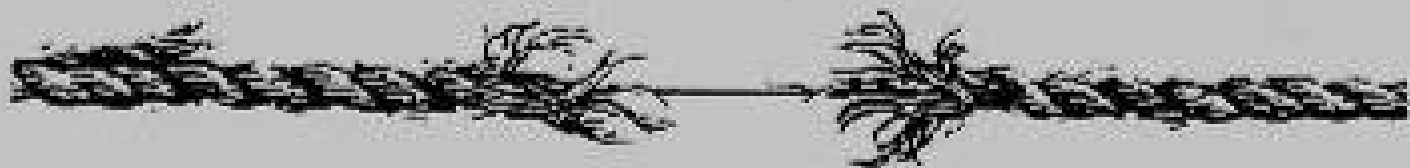
"It (treatment) saved my marriage."

"I'm still an asshole, but at least I know how to handle with it."

(continued....)



Don't wait until you break...



P.T.S.D.

LEARNING TO COPE

"It never goes away completely, but at least I can live with myself now and others can be around me. I've got some control over it."

"For the longest time, I thought I was alone....the only one who was screwed up."

Why should I get paid for something that happened so long ago?

"When I got my back pay from the VA, I felt good for about 15 minutes, then I realized it didn't take away the PTSD."

"It [compensation] is a small token for the price I paid, a small Welcome Home for the Welcome Home I didn't get."

"It's not about the money, it's about somebody recognizing my sacrifice and how it messed up my life."

PTSD has existed since the beginning of time. It wasn't until about 20 years ago, we began to identify the constellation of symptoms that include re-experiencing (reliving), avoidance and emotional numbing, and persistent arousal (always on edge) and have a name for it.

Over 75% of the individuals who come to see us don't believe they have PTSD. When they leave they have a name for the wildness of all of these years and also they have some directions for how to get help.

If you have plans to attend the reunion at North Myrtle Beach, we encourage you (and your spouse/partner) to join us on Friday June 4th, to hear some genuine testimonies from your fellow paratroopers and their partners and to learn some effective ways to wrestle with some of those PTSD demons.

[Airborne Psychologist Scott Fairchild, LTC, US Army (ret) and LTC Judith Mathewson (active US Air Force Guard) will conduct PTSD awareness and VA Claim Process sessions from 12:00 – 15:30]

We will also have a brief PTSD questionnaire which can be scored on site and confidentially tell you whether you have PTSD or not and how severe it might be.

So....stand-up, hook-up, shuffle to the door and make an important decision to drop by and see us.

Keep your feet n' knees together,

Airborne brother,

**Doc Scott Fairchild
LTC, 82nd Airborne (Ret)
Dr. of Psychology
Baytree Behavioral Health
1370 Bedford Drive, Suite 106
Melbourne, FL 32940
Phn: 321-253-8887, Eml: BaytreeBehHlth@aol.com**





OUR WWII 503rd PRCT GUESTS

We're pleased and honored to announce we have named the five guest paratroopers and their companions, and the widow of a paratrooper, Mrs. Margee Linton, wife of the late Maurice "Sleepy" Linton, of the WWII 503rd PRCT who fought in the Pacific, and who will be attending the 173d Airborne Brigade reunion in North Myrtle Beach, SC in June. We're including brief bios on each man, and invite everyone attending to meet with and welcome these paratroopers to our reunion.

Special recognition is due many for helping cause to happen what will surely be an historical event; paratroopers of the 503rd coming together from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and wars in the Middle East, for what we believe may well be the first time ever, yet hopefully not the last.

Particular thanks goes to troopers **Wayne Bowers** (2/503), **Eddie Hair** (1/503), **Hal Nobles** (3/503) and **Tom Hanson** (3/503) and their fellow reunion organizing committee members of SC Chapter 30 for their tireless work in preparation for this year's reunion and their special efforts in connection with welcoming our WWII brothers to the reunion.

Yet, these able men and their associates did not do this alone. **Paul Whitman**, an Aussie living in Manila who manages the 503rd P.R.C.T. Heritage Battalion web site, and **Nancy Young**, secretary of the 503rd association, played instrumental roles in helping coordinate this worthy endeavor.

But, none of this could have happened without the direct financial support of the following 173d troopers and friends of the 173d & 503rd. Singularly and together, these good people have demonstrated the

"AIRBORNE SPIRIT" IS WELL AND ALIVE!

Kevin Austin (173d)
Tim Austin (3/503)
Jim Bailey (2/503)
Gordon Baker (173d)
Jesse Beachman (4/503)
Dave Beal (2/503)
Bob Beemer (2/503)
Bill Berry (173d Eng.)
Gayle Bethea (2/503 spouse)
Jim Bethea (2/503)
Jerry Bethke (2/503)

Walter Bills (2/503)
LTC Blanken (173d)
Don Bliss (Caspers)
Pat Bowe (2/503)
Wayne Bowers (2/503)
Mike Broderick (2/503)
Bob Bruce (1/503)
Dave Canady (2/503)
Abel Candia (2/503)
Bob Carmichael (2/503)
Ed Carns (2/503)
Mike Carver (2/503)
Jimmy Castillo (2/503)
Chuck Cean (3/503)
John Chester (E/58 LRP)
Jim Chieco (2/503)
John Civitts (2/503)
Bob Clark (5th SF)
Butch Clark (2/503)
Harry Cleland (2/503)
Tim Cloonan (173d Med)
Bob Cockerill (173d)
Dave Colbert (2/503)
George Colson (2/503)
Wambi Cook (2/503)
Virgil Cooley (2/503)
Gene Councelman (1/503)
Buzz Cox (2/503)
Ken Cox (173d)
Larry Cox (2/503)
Reed Cundiff
Woody Davis (2/503)
Gary Davidson (2/503)
Gary Cucinitti (1/503)
Reed Cundiff (173d LRRP)
Gary Davidson (2/503)
Woody Davis (2/503)
George Dexter (2/503)
Matt DeZee (N75 Rangers)
Roger Dick (2/503)
Tom Dooley (2/503)
Jim Dresser (2/503)
Frank Dukes (2/503)
Mark Dunlap (2/503)
Ken Eastman (2/503)
Paul Epley (Bde PIO)
Tony Esposito (2/503)
Scott Fairchild (82nd Abn)
Paul Fisher (3/503)
FL Chapter (173d)
Bob Fleming (2/503)
Craig Ford (1/503)
Rick Fred (2/503)



Les Fuller (2/503)
 A.B. Garcia (2/503)
 Tony Geishauser (Cowboys)
 Jim Gettel (2/503)
 Steve Goodman (2/503)
 Jim Gore (2/503)
 Johnny Graham (2/503)
 Gary Granade (E-Troop)
 Joe Gray (2/503)
 Jim Green (2/503)
 B.F. Griffard (2/503)
 Dave Griffin (2/503)
 Mike Guthrie (2/503)
 Steve Haber (2/503)
 Eddie Hair (1/503)
 Larry Hampton (1/503)
 Tom Hanson (3/503)
 Mike Hargadon (2/503)
 Mike Harris (2/503)
 Barry "Bear" Hart (2/503)
 Jerry Hassler (2/503)
 Jim Healy (2/503)
 Robt. 'twin' Henriksen
 (N/CO Rangers)
 Dennis Hill (1/503 & 3/503)
 Wayne Hoitt (2/503)
 Ken Kaplan (2/503)
 Ed Kearney (2/503)
 Bill Knapp (2/503)
 Skip Kniley (3/319)
 Gary Kozdron (1/503)
 Joe Lamb (2/503)
 Virgil Lamb (2/503)
 John Leppelman (173d)
 Dave Linkenhoker (2/503)
 Joe Logan (2/503)
 Roy Lombardo (2/503)
 Bob "Luke" Lucas (2/503)
 Art Martinez (2/503)

Frank Martinez (173d)
 Mike McMillan (4/503)
 Bill Metheny (4/503)
 Dave Milton (2/503)
 James Montague (2/503)
 James Mullaney (503rd)
 Rick Navarrete (2/503)
 Butch Nery (173d)
 Bill Nicholls (2/503)
 Jerry Nissley (2/503)
 Hal Nobles (3/503)
 Dave Norman (2/503)
 Ben Oakley (2/503)
 Dale Olson (2/503)
 Larry Paladino (2/503)
 Ed Perkins (173d)
 Marcus Powell (2/503)
 Anonymous (2/503)
 Ed Privette (2/503)
 Court Prisk (3/319)
 Gary Prisk (2/503)
 Ed Privette (2/503)
 Jim & Julie Quick (2/503)
 Ken Redding (2/503)
 Dan Reed (2/503)
 Paul Reed (173d)
 Bill Reynolds (2/503)
 Jack Ribera (2/503)
 Don Rice (2/503)
 Floyd Riester (Bde HQ)
 Jim Robinson (2/503)
 Lee Robinson (2/503)
 Don Rockholt (2/503)
 Andy Russell (2/503)
 Walter Russo (173d)
 Nick Sabree (5th SF)
 San Diego 173d Abn. Assoc.
 Jack Schimpf (2/503)
 Roy Scott (3/319)

John Searcy (2/503)
 Tom Siopes (2/503)
 Mike Sirmeyer (Cav)
 Pat Sirmeyer (E-Troop)
 Arvil Sirvula (2/503)
 Steve Skolochenko (173 Spt)
 Ken Smith (2/503)
 Lew Smith (2/503)
 Ron Smith (2/503)
 Ralph Southard (2/503)
 Larry Speed (1/503)
 Dennis Stanerson (3/503)
 Jimmy Stanford (2/503)
 George Stapleton (173d)
 Jim Stephens (3/319)
 Sam Stewart (2/503)
 Mike Sturges (2/503)
 Ed Swauger (2/503)
 Pat "Tad" Tadina (173d)
 Gus Thomas (1/503)
 Ted Thompson (2/503)
 Wes Thompson (173d Eng.)
 Thunderbird Chapter (173d)
 Joel Trenkle (2/503)
 Alton Turner (2/503)
 Steve Vargo (2/503)
 Terrel Vickery (2/503, 75th)
 Bill Vose (2/503)
 Dave Walker (Rngr/LRRP)
 William Wallace (173d)
 Bob Warfield (2/503)
 Russ Webb (2/503)
 Bill White (2/503)
 Jerry Wiles (2/503)
 R.R. Will (173d)
 Ron Woodley (173d)
 Pat Wright (2/503 & 4/503)
 Ray "Zac" Zaconne (2/503)
 Dwight Zimmerman (173d)



http://corregidor.org/heritage_battalion/nycum/chx_alt
 For its successful capture of Corregidor, the 503rd was awarded a
Presidential Unit Citation (US) and received its nickname,
"THE ROCK REGIMENT".

AIRBORNE! ALL THE WAY!!



While at the 173d reunion in North Myrtle Beach don't miss this opportunity to meet with paratroopers of the 503rd PRCT who fought throughout the Pacific and made the historical jump in to Corregidor.

OPERATION CORREGIDOR

Please join us for an interactive presentation by our honored guests,

**CHUCK BREIT
TONY CICCHINO
JOHN CLELAND
PAUL HINDS
CHARLEY HYLTON
AND
CHET NYCUM**

WWII vets from the 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Moderator:

TONY GEISHAUSER

**Ballroom B
Friday, 4 June 16:00-17:30**





THE 503rd P.R.C.T. HERITAGE BATTALION



~ HONORED WWII 503rd PRCT GUEST ~

Charles (Chuck) E. Breit

Charles E. Breit (Chuck), was born December 25, 1925, in Philadelphia, PA. At age 17 he enlisted in the Army in May, 1943. He took his basic training at Camp Croft, SC, during which time he volunteered for the paratroops. Chuck started jump school at Ft. Benning, GA in early 1944, and upon completion volunteered for demolition training (at age 16 he had prior experience in demolitions working for the Cleveland Wrecking Company in Philadelphia and Camden, NJ).



Chuck Breit

stunt driver prior to the war so that was added to their repertoire. They then joined "Kochman's World Champion Hell Drivers" performing head-on collisions, ice crashes and numerous other stunts. Chuck also doubled for Clark Gable in one of his movies.

The show wintered in Miami, FL, and in 1952 Chuck met another ex-paratrooper from the European theatre who was working as a painter of radio and t.v. towers. Now ready to leave the road and wanting a warm climate, they joined forces and in 1952 he founded "Breit's Tower Service." BTS remains the oldest tower company in the southeast today under the direction of his son.



Chuck retired in 1996, and he and Dee were finally able to leave the Miami life in the fast lane to a place in west central Florida on a beautiful river. He stays very busy with home renovation projects and restoration of their 1940 45' ELCO yacht upon which they lived for 25 years in Coconut Grove, FL.

Chuck, driving the girls crazy!

Chuck has stayed active and involved in the 503rd PRCT Association WWII, serving as national president from 1991-1993, and again from 2006-2008, and is a current board member. He is also the Deep South Chapter president and has been for 6 years. Chuck and Dee have a contented life and enjoy travel and visits from old friends.

Interesting anecdote regarding Chuck:

My wife was standing next to me when I opened the envelope with Chuck's brief bio and photos. Before reading his bio, she picked up his photos and looked at the picture of him in his chute and said, "He looks like Clark Gable!" Ed



In October 1944, he shipped overseas to New Guinea where he joined the 503rd PRCT. He then went to Mindoro, Philippines, where he was assigned to Regt. Hdq. Co., demolition platoon. Then Corregidor. Chuck's job there was demolition and he was a flame-thrower man. He landed in a shell hole right in front of the long barracks which was his mission to secure. Upon landing the demolition groups gathered together and did just that. After two weeks of bitter fighting the island was secured by the Rock Force. Chuck was proud to serve as one of General MacArthur's honor guards along with his assistant flame-thrower, Johnnie Banks. He was there to watch (then) Col. Jones say to General MacArthur, "*Sir, I present you the fortress Corregidor.*"

After Chuck landed he marked the spot and later was able to retrieve his chute and sent it home with a wounded comrade, Cpl. Vincent A. Minkler. It now stands in the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA, where it is a memorial to all the members of the 503 who jumped on Corregidor Island. Returning to Corregidor 50 years later with his wife Dee, he found the shell hole still there. "*Cold chills and deja vu indeed,*" he thought.

After his discharge on February 10, 1946, Chuck joined with a 17th airborne vet and formed an air show, "Bobby Ward's Sky Devils," which lasted about three years. Utilizing his paratrooper training he performed delayed drops, wing walking and other stunts at fairs and carnivals all across the country. His partner had been an automobile



THE 503rd P.R.C.T. HERITAGE BATTALION



~ HONORED WWII 503rd PRCT GUEST ~

Tony Cicchino

Regrettably, we were unable to obtain Tony's bio and photos in time to make the newsletter. Instead, included is this interesting report about the Bob Hope Show on Noemfoor, Island. Many of us were fortunate to attend his show in Vietnam.



For what it is worth, I remember Bob Hope's visit to Noemfoor very well. The 462nd was with the 503 RCT on the opposite end of the island from where his show was to be held. Fighting was over and we were only bothered by Piss Call Charlie during the night. The Island was pretty secure by this time. Most of the CT went up to see the show.

This was a march of about 7 - 9 miles on this little muddy road running thru the jungle.

The show was held on a stage in front of a cleared hill. About 6 to 7000 soldiers. Some Navy personnel. Hope had Jerry Colona, Frances Langford, and a girl named Patsy (Thompson?) a dancer wearing a black one piece costume with pink trim at the bottom and around the top. Wow, what a sight for a bunch of filthy soldiers. It was a great show and I believe every man who saw it carried away wonderful thanks for Bob Hope's efforts on our part. Sure was worth the walk.

Arlis Kline, Major
CO of 462nd P.F.A.B.



The USO show was set up near the runway. "G" Co. was bivouacked just to the rear. All of us appreciated Frances Langford more than we did Bob Hope or Gerry Colona. We hadn't seen fair women for several months. There were a lot of loaded guns, and nothing to shoot at.

Hope got us laughing easily, but he had to tell us jokes first to do it. All the gals had to do for a round of cheers, Langford especially, was just *be there*."

Chet Nycum
"G" Company



I had a very good seat about 50 rows or so from stage. I could clearly see the faces and Jerry's mustache. I'm amazed that we had so many troops there. Far more than I remember. As I recall there were reported snipers still around. Fills a gap in my memory. Thanks....great shot.

Paul Turley
"F" Company



Panorama by Charles Morford





THE 503rd P.R.C.T. HERITAGE BATTALION



~ HONORED WWII 503rd PRCT GUEST ~

John Cleland

Second Lieutenant Cleland, along with 12 other replacement lieutenants, joined the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regimental Combat Team on Negros Island, the Philippines in June 1945. He was assigned to the regimental Headquarters Company as Assistant Demolitions Platoon Leader and later became the Demolitions Platoon Leader. After the Japanese surrender in August 1945,



MG John Cleland

2nd Lt. Cleland was placed in charge of the POW compound at Bacolod, the Capitol of Negros Province, with responsibility for securing, billeting, feeding and then transporting some 2,500 Japanese POWs to the port of Dumaguette for shipment to Leyte. When the Regiment was deactivated in October, 2nd Lt. Cleland was assigned to the 11th Airborne Division in Japan.

Major General John Cleland retired from the United States Army in 1980 after 37 years of active service. He enlisted at the age of 17 and, after service as an enlisted man, was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Infantry from the Infantry Officer Candidate School.

John is a Master Parachutist and has been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge in three wars. His decorations include the distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, the Silver Star Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart Medal with oak leaf cluster. MG Cleland is a member of the US Army Infantry Hall of Fame and is a Distinguished Member of his WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War Regiments.

MG Cleland holds a Bachelor of General Education degree from Omaha University, a Master of Science degree in Foreign Relations from George Washington University and is a graduate of the US Army War College. He has completed the Harvard University Program for Senior Managers in Government and is a member of PHI Alpha Theta, the National Honor Society in History.

After retiring from the US Army John worked for 20 years as a Defense Analyst and Independent Consultant to private Industry. He is a resident of Melbourne, Florida. He has also been active in the civilian community, serving on the boards of a number of national and local institutions. He has served as Commodore of the Eau Gallie Yacht Club and as Senior Warden of Holy Apostles Episcopal Church. MG Cleland has devoted an immense amount of time and energy to the Cape Canaveral Chapter of the MOAA. He was the chapter president for 1984 and also for 1985. He served on the national MOAA Board of Directors from 1990 to 1996.

He was the chapter's Legislative Committee chair for four years and the Awards Program chair for four years. He initiated the annual Past-Presidents Dinner/Dance that recognizes the service of the chapter's past presidents. He began the MOAACC Gold Bar program for graduating FIT ROTC students. He is an invaluable part of the Speakers Program and is the guest speaker at numerous civic, community and fraternal organizations.

John is married to the former Clara Webster Kehoe of Bealeton, Virginia. They first met in Korea where 1st LT Kehoe was an Army Nurse serving with the 1st Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH), and he was a patient prior to being medically evacuated to Walter Reed Army Hospital. After completing her tour of duty in Korea, 1st LT Kehoe was assigned to Walter Reed Army Hospital where they met again and were married. They have five children. Three sons have served as officers in the United States Army.





THE 503rd P.R.C.T. HERITAGE BATTALION



~ HONORED WWII 503rd PRCT GUEST ~

Paul L. Hinds



Paul Hinds

Paul L. Hinds joined the 503rd in early 1942 at Ft. Benning, GA and was transferred to Ft. Bragg, NC for training during the summer prior to deployment to the Pacific Theater of Operations. He sailed from the west coast on Oct. 20, 1942 and landed in Australia on Dec. 2, after 42 days aboard the aging Poelau Laut. The unusually long time at sea was a result of the captain's adamant refusal to sail with a convoy. In Paul's words.....

"The 503rd PRCT was one lean, mean fighting machine. Anyone doubting that statement should contact the Gatekeeper of Hell to request an interview with one of the hundreds of enemy that our paratroopers sent there."

They zip-zagged across the Pacific to evade the Japanese submarines which infested the waters like sharks. Paul was with 2000 troopers sleeping in the ship's hold, packed in like sardines. They had only 2 meals per day, but on Thanksgiving they were served a feast which filled both sides of their mess kits. By that time their stomachs had shrunk to such a degree the excessive quantity of food, partnered with the pitch and roll of the small ship, caused many troopers to become sick.

Paul's only combat jump occurred on July 4, 1944, one national holiday he will never forget! Upon exiting the aircraft his M-1 rifle became entangled in the parachute's risers and created pain in his left shoulder.

Then, to make matters worse, he landed in a mud hole on the gravelled airport runway. When he stood up, he was cussin' up a blue streak. Paul turned around and who should be standing beside him? None other than the regimental chaplain, whose wry smile indicated that all was forgiven.

On the morning after the initial jump on Corregidor in Feb. 1945, he flew over the island on a resupply mission. After having pushed the supplies out of the Gooney Bird (C-47), Paul took several pictures of the topside by standing in the door with no parachute, steadied only by the lieutenant grasping his belt with one hand while holding onto the static line with the other. "Fortunately, he had a good, strong grip!!!"

After surviving 33 months, many of which were spent in the hot, mosquito-ridden, snake-infested jungles of New Guinea and several of the islands of the Philippines, he returned to the United States in August of 1945. "I was aboard the first troop ship to arrive in San Francisco after the Japanese surrender. What a Glorious Day!!



Paul, after 503rd captured the airstrip on Noemfoor Island.





THE 503rd P.R.C.T. HERITAGE BATTALION



~ HONORED WWII 503rd PRCT GUEST ~

Charley W. Hylton



Charley Hylton

Charley W. Hylton was born January 9, 1922, in Swords Creek, Virginia. He was the 2nd of sixteen children. His father was a coal miner. Charley enlisted in the Army on January 18, 1940, just nine days after his 18th birthday. Even though his father had provided well for the family while working in the mines, Charley decided at an early age that coal mining was not for him so he joined the Army seeking better opportunities.

His first assignment was the 12th Infantry in Washington, DC with the Special Services at Arlington Cemetery. Later he was assigned to Fort Jackson, SC with the 8th Division. (While there, he met and later married his first wife, Willye Grey Meetze. They had two children). He was reassigned from the 8th to the 77th Division. Charley volunteered for paratroop training. After qualifying as a paratrooper at Fort Benning, GA, he was sent overseas as a replacement in the 503rd. The 503rd was in Brisbane, Australia when he joined them. He sailed aboard the Monticello, a converted Italian liner, for 31 days to get to Brisbane. The ship had in excess of 4,500 personnel on board. Charley stayed with the 503rd in all their operations until August of 1945. He was in "E" Company.

They went first to Noemfoor, then to Mindoro, and then jumped on Corregidor. After that, they went back to Mindoro and then Negros, where he served as a Scout for his Platoon. He was a Tech Sergeant when released in August of 1945 after rotating home on the point system. He was aboard ship on the way home (three days out of San Francisco), when the bomb ending the war was dropped on Hiroshima.

After returning home, he worked maintenance in a cotton mill for a while and then started his own business doing plumbing and electrical work. He retired from that business when he was 64. He and Edith, his wife of seven years, live in West Columbia, SC.



One sharp lookin' Sarge.





THE 503rd P.R.C.T. HERITAGE BATTALION



~ HONORED WWII 503rd PRCT TROOPER ~

In Memory of Maurice (Sleepy) Linton



Maurice Linton

Margee Linton

Maurice Linton was born March 21, 1919 in Jacksonville, Florida. He moved to Orlando, Florida in 1924. He went through Orlando schools and graduated in 1939. He received a full football scholarship to Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. He joined the Florida National Guard and was assigned to Co. K 124 Infantry. Much to his surprise, the National Guard activated!

When Maurice heard paratroopers were drawing \$50.00 per month in extra pay, he signed-up and graduated from jump school at Fort Benning, GA. He was transferred to Fort Bragg, NC. The 503rd was formed and he was assigned to Company G.

The unit was sent to Australia via Panama to pick-up the 501st Bn. In Gordonvale, Australia the unit trained for many months. His first combat jump was in New Guinea. He often talked about the times he spent in the jungle for days without food and shelter. He contracted malaria, along with many other tropical diseases. After the second jump in New Guinea, they went on to the Philippine Islands.

On February 16, 1945, he was transported by landing craft to the Island of Corregidor and immediately in to combat. One of his memories was helping evacuate the wounded men from company A after the explosion on Monkey Point. Maurice loved to fight but was known to catch a minute of sleep at every opportunity, thus he acquired the nickname "Sleepy." He was scheduled to leave from Negros Island when the war ended. He finally arrived back at Camp Blanding, Florida on November 25, 1945.

Maurice loved Florida and wanted to settle down. He married Margee Bowden on June 9, 1946, and started a family. In June of 1948 he decided to return to the military. He was assigned to Co. H 505th Bn, 82nd Airborne Division, at Fort Bragg, NC.

He served a tour of duty in Korea. Upon returning in 1956, he was assigned to Fort Campbell, KY. When the 101st Airborne Division reactivated, he served three years in the 325th Engineer Bn. After a tour in Germany, he returned to Fort Bragg, NC. He retired September 1, 1963, and returned to Orlando.

Maurice was active in the 503rd Association as Secretary/Treasurer for many years. On December 6, 2005 he was invited to represent the 503rd at Fort Carson, CO for the Change of Command of the 1st Battalion (air assault), 503rd Infantry Regiment after the unit returned from Iraq.

Maurice "Sleepy" Linton passed away December 8, 2007. He is survived by his wife and five children, 10 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Representing Sleepy at the 173d Airborne reunion this year will be his loving wife Margee Linton.

~ ONE HELLOFA PARATROOPER ~



Maurice (Sleepy) Linton, G Company 503rd, WWII.
We were told he probably would have fought us
had we called him Maurice. I believe it! Ed





THE 503rd P.R.C.T. HERITAGE BATTALION



~ HONORED WWII 503rd PRCT GUEST ~

Chester (Chet) W. Nycum



Chet took Engineering on the GI Bill, and worked a variety of engineering jobs from production line supervisor to engineer at WSID Radio in Baltimore. His career changed when he was hired by Westinghouse Electric Corp., where he spent over 30 years working as the supervisor of 'test and calibration of working standards' and field troubleshooting airborne electronics. He retired at the age of 65 and remains active with the American Legion. He collects rare audio recordings, and considers that the Internet has given him a fresh lease on life. Margaret, his wife of 68 years, died in 2008. Chet now enjoys the single life. He lives not far away from the front gates of Fort Belvoir, MD.



Chester (Chet) Nycum was born 24 May 1921 in North Braddock, PA and joined the Army QMC in May 1939, just shortly after he turned 18. Army life was good to him, but lacked the challenge that an advertisement recruiting for parachute troops promised. Would he stay safe with the QMC or join the Paratroops? He commenced training at Ft. Benning, GA in August 1941, before there was a system of class numbers. After a six week Pacific cruise to Australia in an old Dutch tub, his military and jungle training continued in Australia at Gordonvale, North Queensland. He enjoyed the "outback" and developed bushcraft skills in Australia which helped him survive as a platoon scout.

Within a week of arriving in Port Moresby, New Guinea, he became personally acquainted with malaria, dysentery and ran a fever to 106 degrees. Three for the price of one! He thus missed the Markham Valley Operation.

Chet's first combat mission was on Hollandia, New Guinea followed by Noemfoor, Mindoro, Corregidor, and finally Negros Island. After 3 years in the jungle as a lead scout he was discharged on points just weeks prior to the war ending. He's written of his war experiences at http://corregidor.org/heritage_battalion/nycum/chx_alt.html

Chet ready for qualifying jump at Fort Benning, GA.



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