

FOR THE MEN, AND THEIR  
FAMILIES, OF THE 2ND BATTALION,  
173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)

**WE TRY  
HARDER!**

**2/503d**  
**VIETNAM**  
\*\*\*\*\**newsletter*



Contact: [rto173d@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rto173d@cfl.rr.com)

November 2010, Issue 21

## 2/503d PHOTO OF THE MONTH ~ DAK TO 1967



See all issues to date at: [www.firebase319.org/2bat/news.php](http://www.firebase319.org/2bat/news.php) or [http://corregidor.org/VN2-503/newsletter/issue\\_index.htm](http://corregidor.org/VN2-503/newsletter/issue_index.htm)



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## ACRES OF DIAMONDS

**Dr. Ronald Reese Smith**  
1LT, FO, B/2/503d, 3/319<sup>th</sup>  
[ronaldreesesmith@gmail.com](mailto:ronaldreesesmith@gmail.com)

**LT Ron** Russell Herman Conwell was an American Baptist minister, orator, philanthropist, lawyer and writer. Born in Massachusetts on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 1843, Russell is remembered as the founder and first president of Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and for his inspirational lecture, "Acres of Diamonds."

The son of Massachusetts farmers, he attended Wilbraham Wesleyan Academy and later Yale University. Before graduating from Yale, he enlisted in the Union Army for the War Between the States. From 1862-1864 Conwell served as a captain of a volunteer regiment.

After the Civil War, he studied law at Albany Law School, worked as a lawyer, journalist and lecturer in Minneapolis and later, Boston. He published about ten books including campaign biographies on three U.S. Presidents: Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes and James Garfield. In 1880 he was ordained as a Baptist minister and took over a congregation in Lexington, Massachusetts. Two years later he answered a call to pastor The Grace Baptist Church of Philadelphia.

In 1888 Conwell founded Temple University. He raised \$7 million by traveling all over America, telling a true story, "Acres of Diamonds", more than six thousand times.

"An ancient Persian by the name of Ali Hafed owned a very large farm; it had orchards, grain fields, and gardens; he had money and interest and was a wealthy and contented man. One day there visited that old, Persian farmer, an ancient Buddhist priest, a wise man from the east. He sat down by the fire and told the farmer how this old world of ours was made.

He said the world was once a mere bank of fog, and that the Almighty thrust his finger into the bank of fog, and began to slowly move his finger, increasing the speed until at last he whirled this bank of fog into a solid ball of fire. It went rolling through the universe, burning its way through other banks of fog, and condensed the moisture without, until it fell in floods of rain upon its hot surface, and cooled the outward crust. Then the eternal fires came bursting outward through the crust, up the mountains and the hills, the valleys, the plains and prairies of this wonderful world of ours. If this internal molten mass came bursting out and cooled very quickly, it became granite; less quickly, copper; less quickly, silver; less quickly, gold, and after gold, diamonds were made. The old priest said, 'A diamond is a congealed drop of sunlight.'" Now that is literally, scientifically, true; that a diamond is a deposit of carbon from the sun.



"The old priest told Ali Hafed that if he had

one diamond the size of his thumb he could purchase the county, if he had a mine of diamonds he could place his children upon thrones through the influence of his great wealth. Ali Hafed heard all about diamonds, their great value, and went to his bed that night a poorer man. He was poorer because he was discontent, and discontent because he thought he was poor. He said, 'I want a mine of diamonds,' and he lay awake all night."

As the old tale goes, Ali Hafed sold his farm, collected his money, left his family in charge of a neighbor, and away he went, in search of diamonds. He spent years wandering over the land, eventually into Palestine and then on into Europe. At last, when his money was spent and he was in rags, wretchedness and poverty, he stood upon the shore of the Bay of Barcelona, in Spain, when a great tidal wave came rolling in between the pillars of Hercules. The poor, afflicted, suffering, dying man could not resist the awful temptation to cast himself into the incoming tide. He sank beneath its foaming crest, never to rise in this life again.

Meanwhile, the man who had bought the farm found a large and unusual stone in one of the springs. The stone turned out to be a diamond of enormous value. He soon discovered other diamonds on the farm. It became one of the world's richest diamond mines.

Every tale has a moral. And the moral is this: You and I are standing in acres of diamonds. You do not need to look elsewhere for opportunity, achievement, or fortune. The sources to achieve all the important things in life are already available for you. The most awesome power in the universe is available to every one of us—the power that spoke the cosmos into being, created the miracle of life, and rules over all that is. This power is as close to you as the air you breathe. True wealth comes from the spirit of contentment that rules in one's heart when you have yielded your life to God through Jesus Christ. 🙏

**This photo sent in by MG Jack Leide, former CO of C/2/503d.**



**"Me (arms folded) and one of my platoon leaders, Lt Moose Mozden with Chaplain (Father) John McCullogh after we just went through some bad shit and lost a few guys. I believe this was taken in Song Be in June or July 1966. We look pretty beat up don't we? I have this picture in my office. When I think I'm having problems I look at this picture and say 'this is nothing compared to that picture.' Take care brother. Jack"**



# WELCOME HOME VETS

By **Dr. Scott Fairchild**  
Psychologist  
LTC, 82nd Airborne (Ret)



## Welcome Home

**Vets** is needed now more than ever (see Chairman Admiral Mullen's words below). We anticipated the need. We responded by expanding our mission to stretch every penny of our current resources.

Welcome Home Vets continues to expand its Florida mission to support the 5,000 troops and additional 5,000 family members of the 7th Special Forces Group who will descend upon the Panhandle beginning in December, fresh from the combat zone.

*"Communities and community resources aren't going to know what hit them." The VA has said, "We aren't ready for this."*

Welcome Home Vets now helps host the new military/retiree/contractor Welcome Center at the new Beaches International Airport outside of Panama City and is partnering with Goodwill Industries and local businesses to provide needed groups and clinical support services.

Welcome Home Vets has coordinated with Congress affirming the need for legislated resources for not-for-profit organizations and with the DoD Suicide Task Force to share valuable information about Neurofeedback assessment and interventions in consultations and a White Paper which has been provided to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Welcome Home Vets has extended clinical resources as far as our budget permits.

Welcome Home Vets is currently preparing for a massive empowering "Force Multiplier" Restoration Retreat called *Loosen Your Grip* in Orlando, Florida to be held in the Spring for 65 providers who work with Veterans and their families. More information is available at:

<http://whvets.org/WHVets/Welcome.html>

We thank each of you for your support, your dedication and your determination in supporting the warriors who have so valiantly served us, and their families who so selflessly support them.

**Doc Scott**

From Admiral Mullen's Desk.....

## What's Behind the Rise in Military Suicides?

**Katie Drummond** Contributor  
*News Surge Desk*



(Sept. 30) -- After four apparent suicides in a single weekend, troops and their families are reeling -- but they need to be braced for more.

That was the warning from Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at a conference this morning.

*"The emergency issue right now is suicides," Mullen told reporters. "I think we are going to see a growth in that before we see a decline."*



### What's Behind the Increase?

In part, it's the fact so many troops have been fighting for so long. The risk of developing mental health problems, most notably post-traumatic stress disorder, increases with repeated deployments.

A 2007 Army-funded survey warned that rates of PTSD and depression soared to 27 percent among troops deployed three or more times. [Shazam.... *I think we said that eighteen months ago, long before the \$50 million study. Doc Scott*].

*(continued....)*



Of the 2 million troops deployed since 2002, an estimated two-thirds suffer from PTSD. Far fewer -- around 14,000 since 2008 -- have actually been diagnosed.

And as thousands of troops start coming home from Iraq -- the largest numbers since 2003 are expected to flood bases across the country -- the military needs to be prepared for the myriad challenges of their reintegration into civilian life. But by all accounts, they aren't.

### What's Being Done to Help the Troops?

Pentagon-backed efforts to aggressively tackle PTSD and suicides are ongoing and ambitious in scope, but they won't be making any major strides as troops return in the mere weeks and months ahead.

A three-year, \$50 million collaborative research project by the Army and the National Institutes of Mental Health anticipates making dozens of recommendations on changes to the military's management of mental health. *"It's a comprehensive examination of the Army's programs, policies, procedures,"* Col. Chris Philbrick, director of the Army Suicide Prevention Task Force, said in a *YouTube* video. *"Do we have the right resources? Are there gaps in our policies, for example?"*

### What Are the Challenges?

But a dearth of resources, combined with policy gaps and mismanagement, have already affected today's troops. And while many are going undiagnosed, others are relying on cocktails of psychiatric medications -- still the Pentagon's go-to treatment of choice.

More effective treatment approaches, from comprehensive monitoring and counseling to out-there ideas like ecstasy therapy, are showing promise.

But the implementation of any revolutionary innovation could be years off. Which makes Mullen's prediction for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan seem more like a statement of the grim, obvious and altogether predictable truth. 

## MORE FROM DOC SCOTT *Welcome Home G.I.*

My Friday calendar alone included the following:

A Gulf War officer Vet who had lost his home, his family and his job. He was staying at a local flea-bag hotel. He was extremely suicidal. I referred him directly to the VA for admission to the VA facility, either Tampa or West Palm Beach for immediate inpatient psychiatric care. Because he had TRICARE,

he was told he would have to be Baker-acted and sent to a local civilian hospital for psychiatric care. Suicidal.... he agreed to the Baker Act.

He was admitted to a local facility and released after a couple of days,

returning to my office **Doc Scott. Always helping vets.** yesterday and reporting that he got some medication, but no therapy. He described that a female patient had urinated and defecated on the floor at the facility and it was three hours before it was cleaned up. He indicates that he didn't shower for the entire time he was there because the shower had hair and bloody bandages in it. He reports that he was in the bathroom when there was a fire drill on the ward and he came out to find himself locked in his room with everyone gone.

In his session yesterday, our veteran reported, *"Suicide would be painless, next to what I experienced this weekend."* He was steered to the Veterans Transition Facility. *Welcome Home G.I.*

Another veteran, a three-time wounded Vietnam Marine vet came in for the first time in years to seek help. Suck it up and drive-on for 40 years. He had worked three jobs all of his life to avoid thinking about it. His wife finally left after 22 years of hell. As he sobbed telling the story he had repressed for all that time, he didn't notice he was digging into his arm with his thumb and forefinger. By the time I noticed it, his arm was dug down to the flesh in a patch about the size of a Post-It note and his arm was dripping blood. He was scheduled for a full veteran's evaluation work up. *Welcome Home G.I.*

My third veteran on Friday was sexually abused in the Navy by her seniors, and then referred by the Navy to a civilian physician who continued to sexually abuse her. The session addressed and processed some horrid aspects of the abuse. She will be treated with EMDR a rapid trauma resolution therapy. *Welcome Home G.I.*

*(continued....)*



My last veteran of the day suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury while on a mission in Baghdad. He has been back about two years fighting for care and just had his first appointment at the Brain Injury Clinic in Tampa. After a three-hour drive, (accompanied by his mother, because he couldn't drive alone), he was told it was a get-acquainted meeting which lasted 10 minutes. In order to get care there, he would need a primary care physician and that process would take about three months. He will be provided with a Neurofeedback QEEG and follow up brain retraining. *Welcome Home G.I.*

Unfortunately the need for Welcome Home Vets is radically affirmed.

*Some wounds don't end with the war. The severity and extent to which veterans suffer with Posttraumatic Stress Disorder is a direct response to our culture's willingness to Welcome Home and care for its Warriors.*

*We are Welcome Home Vets,  
Veterans Caring for Veterans.*

**Scott Fairchild, PsyD**  
**Welcome Home Vets, Inc. (WHV)**  
**1370 Bedford Drive, Suite 106**  
**Melbourne, FL 32941**  
**Phn: 321 253-8887, Fax: 321 253-8878**

**Note:** Dr. Fairchild performed much of the early research on PTSD for the U.S. Army at Walter Reed Army Hospital. He has provided PTSD treatment to countless Sky Soldiers and veterans from WWII thru the Middle East, from privates to colonels and their spouses and partners from throughout the country, as well as evaluations to support VA claims. Photos were added to the above releases. Ed 

Don't wait until you break...



**P.T.S.D.**

Learn to cope through counseling.

*"If we get involved in that bitch of a war my Great Society will be dead."*

-- Lyndon Johnson --



## LANCE H. VOGELER

### *A Ranger, Ever More*

A U.S. Army Ranger was killed in action on Oct. 1 during combat operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Sgt. 1st Class Lance H. Vogeler was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, in the battalion mortar platoon of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, at Hunter Army Airfield, GA.

Vogeler was killed by enemy indirect fire during a heavy firefight while conducting combat operations in Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

A native of Fredrick, Md., he enlisted in the U.S. Army in May 2001. For nearly nine years he served as a mortar man in 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. The battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment have been continuously deployed to Afghanistan since October 2001.

*"I wish the American people could truly understand the dedication and sacrifice that Lance Vogeler made for his country,"* said Col. Michael E. Kurilla, commander, 75th Ranger Regiment. *"Since December 2001, Lance has either been in combat or training for combat. This was his 12th combat deployment. Lance was the quintessential Ranger; he is a hero to our Nation, the Army, and his family."*

Vogeler previously served on seven deployments to Afghanistan and four to Iraq.

*"In an organization full of great men, Lance Vogeler stood out for his leadership, dedication and all of his talents,"* said Lt. Col. Michael Foster, commander of 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. *"He has done so much for his Nation over the past nine years of combat action it is hard to put it into words. His loss will be felt across the whole Battalion and our thoughts and prayers go out to his family."*

Vogeler is survived by his wife, Melissa Lee Vogeler of Savannah, Ga.; his son, Kyle Vogeler, and his daughter, Madison Eyler, both of Frederick, Md.; and his parents, Timothy and Donna Vogeler, also of Frederick, Md.

~ Sua Sponte ~



## *"Papa, do you always think about them?"*

One can suspect most combat soldiers carry some form of survivors' guilt. We wonder why we survived when better men died next to us so long ago. While there will never be an answer to this question, we can only conclude that we were selected to carry on to reproduce and to always remember those who did not make it.

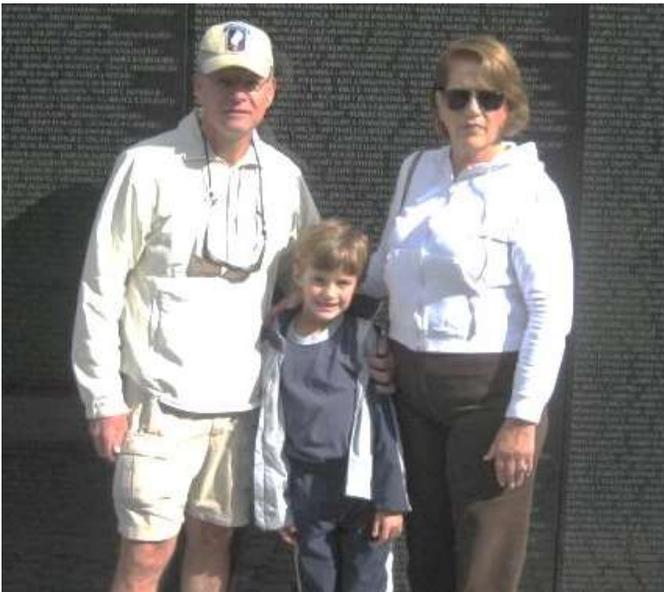
My wife, Kathy, and I recently visited the Vietnam Memorial for only the second time in spite of the fact I live within 125 miles from Washington, DC. This was our first visit with our 6 year old grandson, Tanner. As we stood before panel 30E reading all the names of so many friends, Tanner asked his 'Papa' if I knew all of the names on the Wall. I told him I served with about 350 men who lost their lives in a place called Dak To, but no, I did not know all the men.

He then asked, "Will your name be there when you die, Papa?" I told him, "No son, this wall is reserved for the real heroes who died so long ago and our job is to never forget them." He then asked me, "Papa, do you always think about them?" I told him, every single day.

Tanner then asked his grandmother, who he calls Lulu, "Did you know these men?" My wife said, "No, but Papa has finally reached a point in his life where he will talk to me about them."

I carried a photo of Kathy with me during my time in-country and we were married 12 months after my return home from Vietnam. Like us, she also carries the scars and memories of this place in Southeast Asia where we served so long ago.

**Roger Dick, C/2/503d, '67-'68**



**Papa, Tanner & Lulu at The Wall**

## **CRACKS IN THE WALL**

Washington, DC: The *Associated Press* reports small cracks have been appearing in the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall since the 1980's. Officials have been unable to determine their cause.

Hager-Richter Geoscience was hired in 1986 to document the cracks. An unusual vertical crack was identified, and they're inspecting it again.

Every panel is being checked for new cracks, and most are invisible to the naked eye, says Dorothy Richter, president of Hager-Richter. A fund is available to replace damaged panels if and when needed. She further stated the *Wall* should be able to stand for several more decades.



**As long as a Vietnam veteran, or a family member of a Vietnam Veteran, or a friend of a Vietnam Veteran walks this earth.....they will never be forgotten.**



## 2/503d Sky Soldiers.....

### *FALL IN!*

Following is a call-to-arms by Mike Montie, C/4/503d, inviting Sky Soldiers and friends of the 173d everywhere to support the worthy causes described below.

Personally, I've decided to forego one round of golf and one evening of multiple rums and cokes at the Cocoa Beach, FL VFW and instead, will send \$100. to the **173d Airborne Brigade Foundation** in support of these good programs.

Over the years paratroopers of the 2/503d, other 173d units and friends of our battalion have stepped up to the plate with their P's when called on. Whether to support 2/503d reunions in Florida, our battalion receptions at 173d reunions, to defray the cost of bringing Gold Star family members to the brigade reunion, or inviting our WWII 503rd PRCT brothers to attend our reunion as our guests this past June in North Myrtle Beach, SC; every time you've been asked, the 2/503d has come through.

And now, again, I'm asking my brothers and friends of the 173d who are able, to join me and your fellow Sky Soldiers, and make a donation to this common cause. If our "*We Try Harder*" history holds true, the 2/503d alone will easily help achieve the initial objective.

I'm asking all our 2/503d officers and senior NCO's to match this poor E-4 RTO's \$100. donation, and all our enlisted men to send \$50. or what you can. Please read the following note from Mike, and send in your donation by November 15th.

Remember. "*Money ain't no good unless you spread it around.*"

*Airborne Brothers, All The Way!*

Smitty Out

**Note:** If you are having financial difficulty, please make no donation. 

### **To: Association and Chapter Officers Sky Soldiers & Friends of the 173d**

I am sending this correspondence in my capacity as a board member of the 173d Airborne Brigade Foundation.

Below is the donation-request form which kicks off a one-year fundraising effort to support the mission and programs of the **173d Airborne Brigade Foundation**. As you know, the Brigade Foundation maintains

programs in three areas -- **Bereavement, Scholarship, and Sky Soldier Support**. A description of the Foundation's programs can be found on the Association web site ([www.skysoldiers.com](http://www.skysoldiers.com)).

To get the drive off to a running start, we're inviting Chapters, members and friends of the 173d Airborne to contribute to this first month initial effort to raise a minimum of **\$2500** needed primarily to provide support to Gold Star families of our Sky Soldiers killed in action (KIA). The target date of this initial effort is **15 November**.

Chapters are requested to publicize this initial drive, assist in bundling donations, and assist in forwarding donations to Gary Granade, the Foundation Treasurer. Donations may also be made through the Association PayPal system, and should specify the donation is for the *Foundation*.

Individuals who contribute \$100. or more will be recognized with a certificate. Individuals who wish to make a large donation (e.g., \$500. or more) are invited to contact Foundation President, Eric Hitchcock ([eric@blastincorporated.com](mailto:eric@blastincorporated.com)) directly.

Chapters contributing \$200. or more, either as a Chapter donation or as bundled checks from Chapter members, will receive a recognition certificate. The Chapter contributing the largest amount by 15 November will receive a plaque. The cost for the plaque is being donated separately by an anonymous donor, and will not come out of funds contributed in response to the solicitation letter.

For fund drives to have a good chance of being successful, publicity and follow-through are key ingredients. Chapter officers, you are asked to see that your members are advised of this effort and follow-up action is taken. Something as simple as forwarding this notice on with your endorsement explaining how the Chapter would like to collect donations is a good start.

Most, if not all of you will hold events in support of Veterans Day. That would be a good time to run your collections. And please get the donations in to Gary Granade with postmarks not later than 15 November.

Thank you for your efforts,  
AATW,

**Michael E. Montie**  
173d Airborne Brigade Association  
C/4/503d, '68-'69  
[memontie@aol.com](mailto:memontie@aol.com)



~ Donation Form ~

Please print this page, complete the form, and attach your check with your tax deductible donation payable to the 173d Airborne Brigade Foundation and mail to:

**173d Airborne Brigade Foundation**  
Attn: Treasurer, Gary Granade  
18117 Kuykendahl Road  
Spring, TX 77391

Thanks for mailing your donation before  
November 15, 2010.

- Please Print -

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

173d Unit or Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
for the 173d Airborne **Bereavement, Scholarship**  
and **Sky Soldier Support Programs**.



**AIRBORNE.....ALL THE WAY!**



~ Note ~

If you're a 173d officer, E-7 or above, you're not allowed to read beyond this page until you've sent in your donation. E-6's and below and all former RTO's of any rank and from any battalion may continue to read and donate once done. *We're watching you.* ☺ Ed



Coast-to-Coast Runner  
Honors Fallen Troops



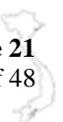
**Veteran Mike Ehredt**

**Associated Press:** An Army veteran who pounded the pavement from coast-to-coast to honor the nation's fallen troops has finished his grueling journey in rain and high winds in Maine.

Mike Ehredt of Hope, Idaho, placed a U.S. flag in the ground every mile to honor military personnel killed in Iraq. He placed six flags on Friday including the final flag to honor Marine Maj. Jay Aubin, a pilot from Waterville who died when his helicopter went down near the Iraq border.

The 49-year-old extreme runner kicked off his journey in May in Astoria, Oregon, averaged about 29 miles a day and took only four days off. He ran 4,425 miles.

Wind and rain howled at the finish. Supporters wore yellow T-shirts emblazoned with "Thanks Mike!" 



## SAIGON, 1968



## HO CHI MINH CITY, TODAY

(It still stinks)



### Bùng Binh Chợ Sài Gòn

~ Excerpt From *The Battle at Bau San* ~

In 2005, 2/503d troopers Gus Vendetti, Bill Vose and Lew Smith returned to Vietnam to find LZ Zulu-Zulu (Operation Silver City), site of the 16 Mar 66 battle in the "D" Zone jungle.

*"Saigon has undergone noticeable development since our last visit here. Many of the streets are cleaner, more modern buildings are being erected, but the population has grown from 7 to 9 million people. There are many more automobiles on the streets, and one day this will over-burden the roadways here. According to Viet Nam News, the daily English language commie rag, 30,000 American tourists visited Vietnam in June, and this number is expected to continually increase. Finally, I understand the purpose of and the great investment and sacrifices made for that war; we were securing a tourist destination."* 

## SYDNEY WITHOUT BEER IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

"Returned to Sydney, bridge still there, Opera House completed, went to two performances. Went back to Taronga Park Zoo, looked different after all these years. Didn't get blind, knee walking, pole hugging, toilet puking drunk this time...what a nice change. Doc"



Col. 'Doc' Tim Cloonan Down Under.  
173d Airborne Brigade Surgeon from LZ English.



### ~ 173d MEMBERSHIP NEWS ~

Fellow Sky Soldiers:

Recently our new membership secretary had to resign due to family issues and I have taken back the membership secretary position. I will be reviewing ALL memberships done since 1 June and processing any outstanding applications. I ask for your patience, as it will take me 2-4 weeks to catch up.



If you mailed in a check or used PAYPAL in the last 6 months and have NOT received your membership, please allow me to catch up (wait 2-4 weeks). If by then you have not received your memberships please email me at [Membership@SkySoldier.org](mailto:Membership@SkySoldier.org)

If your chapter (or unit) has sent in a packet of memberships please let me know ASAP. I apologize for any delays and will make things right ASAP.

**Jim Bradley**  
Membership Secretary [membership@SkySoldier.org](mailto:membership@SkySoldier.org)



# Army Bids Goodbye to Last Draftee

September 30, 2010  
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

He was a kid who didn't want to be a Soldier. There was a war in Vietnam and a peace movement in America.

But then he got the government's letter and soon found himself on a cold December morning in 1970 in front of a post office in Sumter, SC, listening to a Soldier read names until he heard his: "*Clyde Green!*" With that, the 20-year-old kid climbed on the bus headed to a U.S. Army base.

*"I didn't want to join the Army,"* Green said last week. *"The Army came and got me."*

When he retired as a chief warrant officer in a ceremony this morning at Fort McPherson, GA --- after 39 years, 9 months and 15 days of continuous active duty -- he became, by the best accounting, the last U.S. Army draftee who fought in Vietnam.

*"It's hard for us to speak in absolutes,"* said Richard Stewart, chief historian for the U.S. Army Center of Military History. *"We're not good at keeping records like that. As soon as we say he's the last, another four will pop up. But he's certainly one of the last."*

## Finding a purpose

It is hard to imagine now the days when soldiering wasn't always by choice, when supporting the troops could involve a great deal more than car decals and applauding troops in uniform in airports. Often, it meant you might be one of them. It also meant you might go to war and it meant you might not come back.

Green, 60, is perhaps the last human link to those days.

The Army ended the draft in 1973 and at least one other draftee is still on active duty. But he was drafted later than Green and didn't serve in Vietnam. Green couldn't imagine serving in Vietnam either. At the time, his brother Willie was already in the Army, serving in the Signal Corps and stationed at Fort Gordon in Augusta. But Green wanted no part of this man's Army.

*"When I got that letter, I thought my whole world was ending,"* he said.



**Clyde Green with his wife Veria**

The bus ride, induction and boot camp in Fort Knox, KY, in January confirmed there was, indeed, a new world order and Green was at the bottom of it -- freezing his fanny.

*"It was cold and really tough at first,"* he said. *"But then I kind of got where I enjoyed it, once I figured out who was in charge."*

The discipline of military life he had feared became a comfort.

*"I liked the order,"* he said. And his uncertainty about what to study in college was suddenly a riddle solved: *"I really liked the idea of military intelligence."*

For the next four decades the kid who grew up on a farm in South Carolina, whose dreams had once stretched no farther than Orangeburg and South Carolina State University, traveled the world and lived a Soldier's life. Over time, the reluctant draftee became the career Soldier.

## Attitudes change

He rose from enlisted man to chief warrant officer in military intelligence and served extended tours in Italy and South Korea. He visited 41 countries and posted in places -- the Middle East, Asia and East Africa -- he barely knew of, along with two stretches in the place he can least forget: Vietnam.

Green served his first stint there from June 1971 to May 1972 as an "intelligence Soldier," deciphering information gathered in the field. He examined captured equipment to determine, for instance, how many rounds an enemy anti-aircraft gun could fire. He interrogated captured enemy Soldiers in a war that a growing number of Americans opposed back home.

*(continued....)*



That experience, as a Soldier serving his country without any choice and risking his life, without much appreciation, still stings.

*"At the time, we weren't really loved by the American people," Green said. "I never personally experienced it, but there was hostility. It was a different time. People weren't as supportive of the military."*

It would be 23 years before Green returned to Vietnam. By then he had fought in his second war, the Persian Gulf in 1990. And he found America a different place for a returning Soldier, even an old draftee, by then a bit grizzled, who had served in Vietnam.

*"If you were in uniform in public, people would come up and start talking to you," he said, "and tell you what a good job you're doing."*

His second trip to Vietnam came with the Vietnam Joint Task Force-Full Accounting (MIA/POW), to seek any prisoners of war still in captivity and determine what happened to more than 1,700 Americans still missing in action in Southeast Asia. From 1995 to 2001, he and his team searched, scoured for remains and interviewed scores of witnesses.

They found no POWs but determined the fate of three MIAs, one of them an Army captain who served in Green's unit when he was in Vietnam the first time. They didn't find Capt. Frederick Krupa's remains, but they determined he was killed.

*"He was shot in a helicopter and fell out during an extraction, so we were able to list him as KIA [killed in action]," Green said.*

### 'Served ... with distinction'

At today's ceremony, Lt. Gen. Richard P. Zahner will praise the man believed to be the Army's longest serving draftee as a Soldier who *"has served his country with distinction and has touched the lives of countless men and women in uniform,"* and who has contributed immeasurably to the Army's Military Intelligence in his 30 years as a warrant officer.

Green's family from all over the country will be there: his sons Brian, 29, and Stephen, 27, and wife of 34 years, Veria. He'll live at Fort McPherson for two more months -- *"I have to pay rent now"* -- in what, fittingly, is the oldest house on base, built in 1887.

After that, he has a farm in North Carolina where he might settle, unless Veria wins that argument and they move to Arizona.

*"I hope I can talk her into it,"* he said.

And if he doesn't, it won't be the first time Clyde Green's plans for the rest of his life changed.

[Sent in by Bill Nicholls, A/2/503d]



## ~ 2010 Outstanding Veteran Award ~

Olaf Guldmar Hurd, Jr. (Sp4 - U.S. Army retired, Recon 2/503d, 173d Airborne Brigade) is the recipient of the *2010 Outstanding Veteran Award* for Martinsville-Henry County, Virginia and the presentation will be Saturday, November 13th, 2010 at 1500 hours, in the Bassett High School Auditorium, Bassett, Virginia.



*"I bet the damn Tommy gun doesn't work either!"*



## YOU CAN TAKE 'EM OFF THE FARM, BUT....

Dear Ma and Pa,

I am well. Hope you are. Tell Brother Walt and Brother Elmer the Army beats working for old man Minch by a mile. Tell them to join up quick before all of the places are filled.

I was restless at first because you get to stay in bed till nearly 6 a.m. But I am getting so I like to sleep late. Tell Walt and Elmer all you do before breakfast is smooth your cot, and shine some things. No hogs to slop, feed to pitch, mash to mix, wood to split, fire to lay. Practically nothing.

Men got to shave but it is not so bad, there's warm water. Breakfast is strong on trimmings like fruit juice, cereal, eggs, bacon, etc., but kind of weak on chops, potatoes, ham, steak, fried eggplant, pie and other regular food, but tell Walt and Elmer you can always sit by the two city boys that live on coffee. Their food, plus yours, holds you until noon when you get fed again. It's no wonder these city boys can't walk much.

We go on 'route marches,' which the platoon sergeant says are long walks to harden us. If he thinks so, it's not my place to tell him different. A 'route march' is about as far as to our mailbox at home. Then the city guys get sore feet and we all ride back in trucks.

The sergeant is like a school teacher. He nags a lot. The Captain is like the school board. Majors and colonels just ride around and frown. They don't bother you none.

This next will kill Walt and Elmer with laughing. I keep getting medals for shooting. I don't know why. The bulls-eye is near as big as a chipmunk head and don't move none, and it ain't shootin' at you like the Higgett boys at home. All you got to do is lie there all comfortable and hit it. You don't even load your own cartridges, they come in boxes.

Then we have what they call hand-to-hand combat training. You get to wrestle with them city boys. I have to be real careful though, they break real easy. It ain't like fighting with that ole bull at home. I'm about the best they got in this except for that Tug Jordan from over in Silver Lake. I only beat him once. He joined up the same time as me, but I'm only 5'6" and 130 pounds and he's 6'8" and near 300 pounds dry.

Be sure to tell Walt and Elmer to hurry and join before other fellers get onto this setup and come stampeding in.

Your loving daughter, Alice

[Sent in my Rev. Ron Smith, B/2/503d]

## He Ain't No Umpire



In last month's issue of our newsletter we asked if anyone could identify this 2/503d trooper. He is George Scott Colson, II, retired SFC and who, in 1965/66 with HHC 2/503d, was known as



“Scotty”, but mysteriously became “George” on his second tour with our battalion in '67, when he served in Bravo Company during the battles at Dak To. George-Scotty made the army his career and after retiring from the military has worked for the State of Florida as a Regional Emergency Response Advisor with the Office of Emergency Operations, Region 7 Domestic Security Task Force. We were hootch buddies and boys from California in '65/'66, and for over 40 years I searched for my old friend to no avail, only to find him living not far from me in South Florida with his special lady friend, Dee. What a thrill it was to find him after all those years. Ed





# 173d REUNION ITINERARY

(Tentative, subject to change)



## June 22 -- Wednesday

- 1200 - 2000 Registration
- 1300 - 0100 Hospitality Room
- 1300 - 2200 Vendors
- 1800 - 2000 President's Reception



## June 23 -- Thursday

- 0900 - 1200 Board of Director's Meeting
- 1000 - 1700 Registration
- 1000 - 2200 Vendors
- 1300 - 2400 Hospitality Room



## June 27 -- Friday

- 0730 - 0900 Gold Star Reception & Breakfast
- 0900 - 1500 Registration
- 1000 - 2400 Hospitality Room
- 1000 - 2200 Vendors
- 1000 - Board buses for trip to Fort Sam Houston
- 1030 - 1500 Tour Fort Sam Houston
- 1700 - 2300 BBQ, Mariachis, Dance at Maverick Plaza

## June 25 -- Saturday

- 0900 - 1100 Registration
- 0900 - 1200 General Membership Meeting
- 1000 - 1200 Ladies' Brunch
- 1000 - 2200 Vendors
- 1000 - 1200 Hospitality Room

### BANQUET DINNER

- 1815 - 1850 Cocktails
- 1900 - 1910 Post Colors
- 1930 - 2035 Dinner
- 2035 - 2130 Speakers & Awards
- 2130 Retire Colors
- 2135 - ??? Entertainment & Dancing

Maverick Plaza

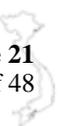


The Alamo

## June 26 -- Sunday

- 0830 - 1000 Continental Breakfast
- 1030 - 1130 Memorial Service, Arneson River Theater
- 1130 - Reunion closing. Depart or stay and see more of San Antonio.

Reunion web site: <http://www.skysoldiers.com>





# 173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

## ~ REUNION 2011 ~

22 June – 26 June 2011, San Antonio, TX

Hosted by Texas Chapter 13



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Unit served with in the Brigade \_\_\_\_\_ Dates served \_\_\_\_\_

Circle Shirt Size: S M L XL 2XL 3XL Male/Female \_\_\_\_\_

Exact hat size \_\_\_\_\_ (Note: A cowboy hat will be given to the 173d member above if Registration Form and hat size are received by March 1, 2011.)

### Guests:

Circle Male or Female and Shirt Size for each guest

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ M / F size S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ M / F size S M L XL 2XL 3XL

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ M / F size S M L XL 2XL 3XL

### Registration/ Event Fees

- \_\_\_ \$173.00 per Association Member
- \_\_\_ \$125.00 per Guest
- \_\_\_ \$125.00 per Gold Star Family Member
- \_\_\_ \$ 75.00 per Active Duty Soldier (Not on Orders)
- \_\_\_ FREE Active Duty Soldiers on Orders (i.e., Command, Color Guard)
- \_\_\_ \$ 75.00 per Vendor Table
- \_\_\_ FREE Gold Star Brunch – 173d Gold Star Families
- \_\_\_ Brunch Ladies Brunch (Included with registration)
- \_\_\_ Please check if planning to attend.
- \_\_\_ \$ 15.00 Trip to Fort Sam Houston per person
- \_\_\_ \$ 15.00 Sky Soldier Adoption Program "Have a meal on me" for active duty soldiers



Hilton Palacio del Rio, San Antonio, Texas

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed

Make Checks Payable to: [Texas Reunion 2011 – 173d Airborne Brigade](http://Texas Reunion 2011 – 173d Airborne Brigade)

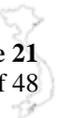
Mail Checks to: John Rolfe, 100 Oleander Road, Comfort, TX 78013



**For Hotel Reservations:** Hilton Palacio del Rio, \$119 + tax per night. Call 1-800-HILTONS and request the group rate for The 173d Airborne Brigade Association, Inc., or use the unique group code ABA.

**Overflow Hotel:** Menger Hotel, \$119 + tax per night, Call:1-800-345-9285 and request the group rate for the 173d Airborne Brigade Association.

To Register Online, visit [www.texasskysoldier.org/reunion2011](http://www.texasskysoldier.org/reunion2011)





tested here in 1939-41. Aeromedical evacuation of casualties was first developed here as early as 1917.

At the end of the Second World War, the Army decided to make Fort Sam Houston the principal medical training facility. In conjunction with this decision, came the determination to develop Brooke General Hospital into one of the Army's premier medical centers.

### **Current Status**

Fort Sam Houston is an active U.S. Army base and is the largest and most important military medical training facility in the world. 

Source: [http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort\\_Sam\\_Houston](http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Sam_Houston)

## **Fort Sam Houston History**

The U.S. Army has maintained a presence in the Alamo City since 1845. During that time, the installation has performed five distinct and important roles: that of a headquarters, logistical base, mobilization and training site, garrison and provider of medical support.

At first, the Army leased facilities in the City of San Antonio, including the Alamo. In fact, the Army repaired the Alamo structure and added a roof so it could be used as a headquarters.

In 1876, the Army began to move its facilities to the present site of Fort Sam Houston upon completion of the Quadrangle. The post has since increased in size from the original 92 acres donated to the Army by the city, to approximately 3,000 acres today.

As it expanded, additional facilities were built to meet the Army's needs. The headquarters and garrison always have constituted one of the Army's most important commands. Prior to the Civil War, the headquarters controlled 25 percent of the Army's forces. From 1910 until World War II, Fort Sam Houston was the largest Army post in the continental United States. Many of the most distinguished American soldiers have served here, including no less than 13 Army Chiefs of Staff and two United States presidents. The post's prominence led to significant tactical and organizational innovations. Military aviation was born here in 1910 and revitalized during the 1940's and 1950's. Large-scale troop maneuvers have been conducted, including the first effective use of the Command Post Exercise in 1911. Field exercises in the 1930's developed the Triangular Division. This streamlined, mobile organization was the foundation of the Army combat power in World War II. The delivery of troops to the battlefield by air also was



Originally named Misión San Antonio de Valero, the Alamo served as home to missionaries and their Indian converts for nearly seventy years. Construction began on the present site in 1724. In 1793, Spanish officials secularized San Antonio's five missions and distributed their lands to the remaining Indian residents. These men and women continued to farm the fields, once the mission's but now their own, and participated in the growing community of San Antonio.

*(continued....)*





In the early 1800's, the Spanish military stationed a cavalry unit at the former mission. The soldiers referred to the old mission as the Alamo (the Spanish word for "cottonwood") in honor of their hometown Alamo de Parras, Coahuila. The post's commander established the first recorded hospital in Texas in the Long Barrack. The Alamo was home to both Revolutionaries and Royalists during Mexico's ten-year struggle for independence. The military — Spanish, Rebel, and then Mexican — continued to occupy the Alamo until the Texas Revolution.

San Antonio and the Alamo played a critical role in the Texas Revolution. In December 1835, Ben Milam led Texian and Tejano volunteers against Mexican troops quartered in the city.

After five days of house-to-house fighting, they forced General Martín Perfecto de Cós and his soldiers to surrender. The victorious volunteers then occupied the Alamo — already fortified prior to the battle by Cós' men — and strengthened its defenses.

On February 23, 1836, the arrival of General Antonio López de Santa Anna's army outside San Antonio nearly caught them by surprise. Undaunted, the Texians and Tejanos prepared to defend the Alamo together. The defenders held out for 13 days against Santa Anna's army. William B. Travis, the commander of the Alamo sent forth couriers carrying pleas for help to communities in Texas. On the eighth day of the siege, a band of 32 volunteers from Gonzales arrived, bringing the number of defenders to nearly two hundred. Legend holds that with the possibility of additional help fading, Colonel Travis drew a line on the ground and asked any man willing to stay and fight to step over — all except one did. As the defenders saw it, the Alamo was the key to the defense of Texas, and they were ready to give their lives rather than surrender their position to General Santa Anna. Among the Alamo's garrison were Jim

Bowie, renowned knife fighter, and David Crockett, famed frontiersman and former congressman from Tennessee.

The final assault came before daybreak on the morning of March 6, 1836, as columns of Mexican soldiers emerged from the predawn darkness and headed for the Alamo's walls. Cannon and small arms fire from inside the Alamo beat back several attacks. Regrouping, the Mexicans scaled the walls and rushed into the compound. Once inside, they turned a captured cannon on the Long Barrack and church, blasting open the barricaded doors. The desperate struggle continued until the defenders were overwhelmed. By sunrise, the battle had ended and Santa Anna entered the Alamo compound to survey the scene of his victory.



While the facts surrounding the siege of the Alamo continue to be debated, there is no doubt about what the battle has come to symbolize. People worldwide continue to remember the Alamo as a heroic struggle against impossible odds — a place where men made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom. For this reason, the Alamo remains hallowed ground and the Shrine of Texas Liberty. 🇺🇸

Source:

<http://www.samhouston.army.mil/sites/about/default.asp>

*“You can't teach an old dog  
new tricks,  
but you sure can make him think  
like hell.”*

*Father of Ed Kearney  
B/2/503d*

