

25th: Gateway Arch in St. Louis dedicated.

27th: Thailand announces it is to dispatch a further 5,000 troops to Vietnam.

27th: In United States v. David Paul O'Brien, the U.S.

Supreme Court rules that the criminal prohibition of draft card burning does not violate the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech.



May 1969

May: The number of U.S. troops in Vietnam peaks at 543,000. President Richard Nixon announces his plan for "Vietnamization" of the war—that is, training and transitioning South Vietnamese troops to assume the roles that have been fulfilled by American troops—and promises to withdraw 25,000 American soldiers.

10th Mar. – 24th May: The 173d Airborne Brigade conducted its 50th operation, Operation Darby Punch II, in and around the city of An Khe. Combat Reports from 1st Battalion, 503rd Spring Operation Darby Punch II.



15th Apr. '69 – 1st Jan. '71: In Binh Dinh Province On April 1, 1970, 3rd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment (-) continued operations in Area of Operations Rock with negative contact. At 3:35 a.m. LZ Uplift received one incoming 82mm mortar round. At 4:45 a.m. Company A (-) was placed on 30 minute standby by 173d. Between 4:35 a.m. and 5:05 a.m. LZ Uplift took 14 incoming 82mm rounds. A Flaeship and Gunship were called in and expended all ordinance with unknown results. Total U.S. casualties were 29 WIA. Company B's 3rd Platoon found one .50 caliber ammunition can at BR 839796 with bandages and methiolate belonging to one male. Also found were unknown-type batteries (C type), U.S.-type stationary and assorted documents. LZ Uplift went on red alert status later in morning due to enemy activity. LZ English and LZ Bits were mortared.



May 1969: The *New York Times* breaks the news of the secret bombing of Cambodia. As a result, Nixon orders FBI wiretaps on the telephones of four journalists, along with 13 government officials to determine the source of news leak.

5th: Ben Alexander, actor (Frank Smith-Dragnet), dies at 57.

7th: Lt General Robert E. Cushman, Jr., USMC, becomes deputy director of CIA.

10th-20th: "Forty-six men of the 101st Airborne die during a fierce ten-day battle at 'Hamburger Hill' in the A Shau Valley near Hue. 400 others are wounded. After the hill is taken, the troops are then ordered to abandon it by their commander. NVA then move in and take back the hill unopposed. The costly assault and its confused aftermath provokes a political outcry back in the U.S. that American lives are being wasted in Vietnam. One Senator labels the assault "*senseless and irresponsible*." It is the beginning of the end for America in Vietnam as Washington now orders MACV Commander Gen. Creighton Abrams to avoid such encounters in the future. 'Hamburger Hill' is the last major search and destroy mission by U.S. troops during the war. Small unit actions will now be used instead. A long period of decline in morale and discipline begins among American draftees serving in Vietnam involuntarily. Drug usage becomes rampant as nearly 50 percent experiment with marijuana, opium, or heroin which are easy to obtain on the streets of Saigon. U.S. military hospitals later become deluged with drug related cases as drug abuse casualties far outnumber casualties of war."

10th: Apollo 10 transmits 1st color pictures of Earth from space.



Apollo 10 photo of our home

(continued....)



11th: Monty Python comedy troupe forms.

14th: President Nixon, during a policy address on Vietnam, proposes an "8-point peace plan" that would include mutual withdrawal of all non-Vietnamese forces to designated bases over a 12-month period, after which remaining troops would be totally withdrawn from S. Vietnam. The offer is rejected by Hanoi.

15th: Emmitt Smith, running back (Dallas Cowboys, 3-time NFL rushing leader) is born.

16th: US nuclear sub Guitarro sinks off SF.

16th: Tucker Carlson, American television commentator is born.

20th: US troops capture Hill 937, Hamburger Hill, Vietnam.



Screaming Eagles capture Hamburger Hill, only to give it back....SOP.



22nd: US Astronauts Stafford & Cernan pilot Apollo 10 LEM 9.4 mi (15km) above lunar surface.

31st: "Gitarzan" by Ray Stevens peaks at #8.

31st: Stevie Wonder releases "My Cherie Amore".

May 1970

1st: May Day, the traditional Communist holiday. A combined force of 15,000 U.S. and South Vietnamese soldiers attack NVA supply bases inside Cambodia. However, throughout this offensive NVA and Viet Cong carefully avoid large-scale battles and instead withdraw westward, further into Cambodia, leaving behind their base camps containing huge stores of weapons and ammunition.

1st: Students at Kent State University in Ohio organize a massive public demonstration against the American invasion of Cambodia.

1st: President Nixon calls anti-war students *"bums blowing up campuses."*

2nd: Senators McGovern, Hughes, Cranston, Goodell and Hatfield announced they planned to introduce an "end the war" amendment which would work by suspending funds for military operations in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

2nd: American college campuses erupt in protest over the invasion of Cambodia. On the second day of anti-war demonstrations at Kent State University, students torch the R.O.T.C. building on campus. In response, the mayor of Kent, Ohio asks the governor to call in the National Guard.

2nd: 1st woman jockey at Kentucky Derby (Diane Crump).

4th: At Kent State University in Ohio, National Guardsmen shoot and kill four student protesters and wound nine. In response to the killings, over 400 colleges and universities across America shut down. In Washington, nearly 100,000 protesters surround various government buildings including the White House and historical monuments. On an impulse, President Nixon exits the White House and pays a late night surprise visit to the Lincoln Memorial and chats with young protesters.

"Mary Ann Vecchio gestures and screams as she kneels by the body of a student lying face down on the campus of Kent State University, Kent, Ohio on May 4, 1970.

National Guardsmen had fired into a crowd of demonstrators, killing four." (AP Photo)



(continued....)



6th: In Saigon over the past week, 450 civilians were killed during Viet Cong terrorist raids throughout the city, the highest weekly death toll to date.

9th: 100,000s demonstrate against Vietnam War.

9th: A peaceful anti-war rally held at the Ellipse in Washington, DC was attended by about 80,000 people including about 10 members of Congress.

12th: Construction workers in New York City march in support of Vietnam War policy.



“American flag-bearing construction workers, angered by Major John Lindsay’s apparent anti-war sympathies, lead hundreds of New York City workers supporting U.S. war policy in Vietnam in a demonstration inside a barricaded area near Wall Street in lower Manhattan, May 12, 1970. More than 1,000 police were on the scene to prevent possible clashes with anti-war student demonstrators, who were among office workers along the barricades.”
(AP photo)

14th: Police shoot and kill two students during anti-war protests at the historically black Jackson State College in Mississippi. Though the incident is similar to the shootings at Kent State, it receives far less attention from the press.

14th: Billie Burke, comedienne/actress (Glinda the good witch-Wizard of Oz), dies at 84.



15th: France performs nuclear test at Mururoa Island.

15th: Immediately after seeing the photos of the Kent State tragedy, published in *Life* magazine, musician Neil Young takes a walk in the woods and then sits down to compose the song "Ohio," with the chorus line: "Four dead in Ohio" (lyrics below). It is performed by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young, and becomes the protest anthem of a generation. David Crosby cries when the group finishes recording the song in the studio.

*Tin soldiers and Nixon coming,
We're finally on our own.
This summer I hear the drumming,
Four dead in Ohio.
Gotta get down to it
Soldiers are cutting us down
Should have been done long ago.
What if you knew her
And found her dead on the ground
How can you run when you know?*

18th: Tina Fey, American writer/actress is born.

20th: 100,000 march in NY supporting US policies in Vietnam.

22nd: Arab terrorists kill 9 children & 3 adults on a school bus.

22nd: Mel Stottlemire sets record by walking 11, but wins 2-0. (**Note:** The editor of this newsletter once singled off Mel Stottlemire in an off-season game...no shit. His claim to fame).

(continued)



May 1971

1st: Amtrak Railroad begins operation.

3rd-5th: Nixon administration arrests 13,000 anti-war protesters in 3 days in Washington.

5th: Race riot in Brownsville section of Brooklyn, New York.

8th: Joe Frazier beats Muhammad Ali at Madison Square Garden.

10th: US special delivery rates go from 45 cents to 60 cents.

16th: 1st class postage now costs 8 cents (was 6 cents).

18th: President Nixon rejects 60 demands of Congressional Black Caucus.

19th: USSR launches Mars 2, 1st spacecraft to crash land on Mars.

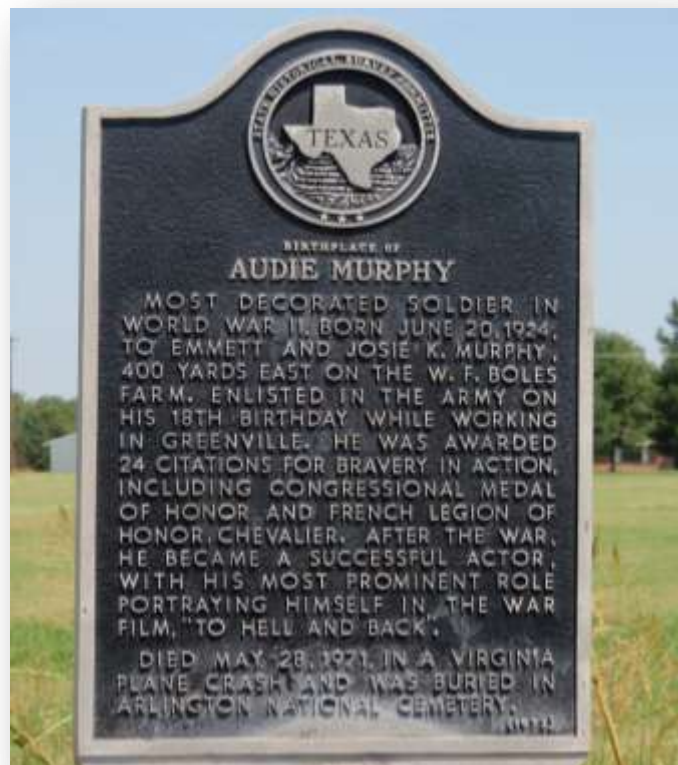
20th: Tony Stewart, American race car driver is born.

20th: Pentagon reports blacks constitute 11% of US soldiers in SE Asia.

21st: National Guard mobilizes to quell riot in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

26th: Soviet Union's Concorde, TU-144, makes its 1st appearance.

28th: Audie Murphy, most decorated WWII veteran, actor (Whispering Smith), dies at 46.



30th: US Mariner 9 1st satellite to orbit Mars launched.

May: The House and the Senate vote to withdraw all U.S. troops in Vietnam by year's end.

May 1972

1st: South Vietnamese abandon Quang Tri City to the NVA.

2nd: J. Edgar Hoover, first Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (1924-72), dies at 77.

4th: The U.S. and South Vietnam suspend participation in the Paris peace talks indefinitely. 125 additional U.S. warplanes are ordered to Vietnam.

4th: Viet Cong forms revolutionary government in Quang Tri South Vietnam.

8th: In response to the ongoing NVA Eastertide Offensive, President Nixon announces Operation Linebacker I, the mining of North Vietnam's harbors along with intensified bombing of roads, bridges, and oil facilities. The announcement brings international condemnation of the U.S. and ignites more anti-war protests in America. During an air strike conducted by South Vietnamese pilots, Napalm bombs are accidentally dropped on South Vietnamese civilians, including children. Filmed footage and a still photo of a badly burned nude girl fleeing the destruction of her hamlet becomes yet another enduring image of the war.

9th: Operation Linebacker I commences with U.S. laying mines in Haiphong harbor.



On 17 May 1972, Haiphong, North Vietnam, a US jet bombs warehouses and shipping areas in Haiphong, Vietnam.

(continued.....)



15th: The headquarters for the U.S. Army in Vietnam is decommissioned.

15th: George Wallace shot & left paralyzed by Arthur Bremer in Laurel, MD.

15th: The island of Okinawa, under U.S. military governance since its conquest in 1945, reverts to Japanese control.

16th: Dan Blocker, American actor (Hoss-Bonanza), dies at 43.



17th: According to U.S. reports, Operation Linebacker I is damaging North Vietnam's ability to supply NVA troops engaged in the Easter Offensive.

20th: Walter Winchell, columnist/narrator (Untouchables), dies at 75.

22nd-30th: President Nixon visits the Soviet Union and meets with Leonid Brezhnev to forge new diplomatic relations with the Communist nation. Nixon's visit causes great concern in Hanoi that their Soviet ally might be inclined to agree to an unfavorable settlement of the war to improve Soviet relations with the U.S.

26th: Nixon & Brezhnev sign SALT accord.

28th: White House "plumbers" break into Democratic National HQ at Watergate.

30th: NVA attack on Kontum is thwarted by South Vietnamese troops, aided by massive U.S. air strikes.

May 1973

10th: Due to continued bombing of Laos and Cambodia, the House voted (219-188) for the first time to cut-off Indochina funds.

13th: Bobby Riggs beat Margaret Smith Court in Mother's Day tennis match in California.

14th: Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In, last airs on NBC-TV.

14th: Skylab launched, 1st Space Station.

14th: US Supreme Court approves equal rights to females in military.

17th: Senate Watergate Committee begins its hearings.

22nd: President Nixon confesses his role in Watergate cover-up.

31st: The Senate took strong action prohibiting the use of any funds appropriated by Congress to be used for combat activities in Laos or Cambodia.

May 1974

9th: Congress begins impeachment proceedings against President Nixon stemming from the Watergate scandal.

18th: India becomes 6th nation to explode an atomic bomb.

24th: Dean Martin Show, last airs on NBC-TV.

24th: Duke Ellington, blues singer, dies of cancer at 75

28th: 26th Emmy Awards: MASH, Alan Alda & Mary Tyler Moore win.

May 1975



On 1 May 1975, in Hong Kong, US Ambassador to South Vietnam shows grim face as he is surrounded by press men on the USS Blue Ridge in the South China Sea, 4/30. He abandoned the US embassy in Saigon just before the Saigon government surrendered to the Viet Cong and evacuated to the ship with other embassy staffers.

4th: Moe Howard, [Moses Horowitz], comedian (The Three Stooges), dies at 77.



Larry, Mo and Curley

(continued....)



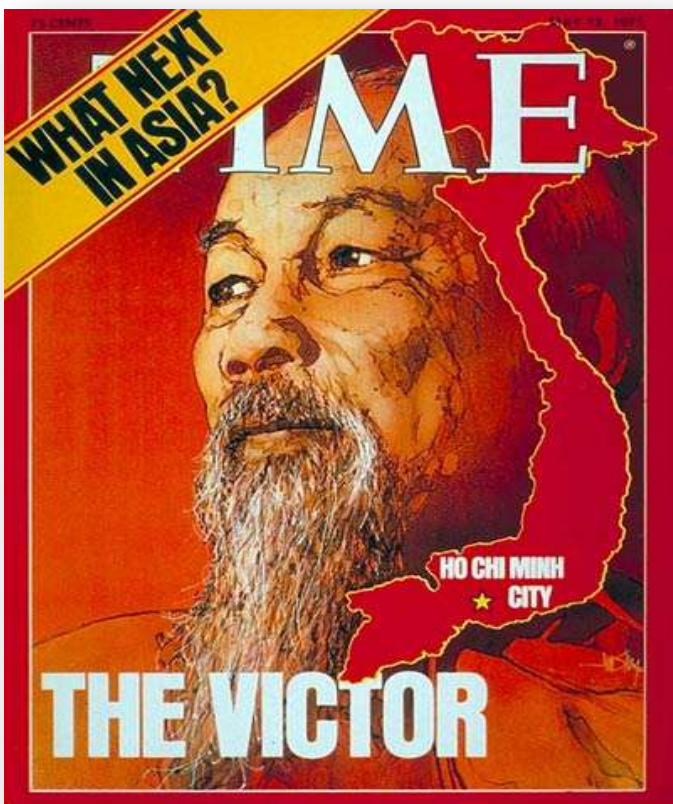


On 6 May 1975, in El Toro Mas, California, former South Vietnam Vice President Nguyen Cao Ky talks with newsmen after his arrival on the U.S. mainland with a group of other refugees aboard a military transport plane from Guam and Honolulu. Asked if he wanted to become a U.S. citizen Ky replied that it was too soon to decide, *"I just want 48 hours of sleep."*

7th: President Ford declares an end to "Vietnam Era".

12th: US merchant ship Mayaguez seized by Cambodian forces.

12th: Just days after the government of South Vietnam surrendered to the VC and North Vietnamese armies, Ho Chi Minh appears on the cover of *Time* magazine, this time with the heading, "The Victor."



14th: French press reports massive deportation from Cambodia.

14th: US forces raid Cambodian island of Koh Tang to free Mayaguez ship.



"On 15 May 1975, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, the victorious North Vietnamese forces parade through the streets of Saigon."

16th: Muhammad Ali TKOs Ron Lyle in 11 for heavyweight boxing title.

22nd: Lefty Grove, American Baseball Player dies (b. 1900).

22nd: Jackie "Moms" Mabley, comedienne (Amazing Grace), dies at 81.

27th: Ezzard Charles, heavyweight boxing champion (1949-51), dies at 53.

Under Communist leadership, Vietnam has failed to make its mark on the world. The new Vietnam needs to focus on the future.

April 30, 1975, holds great significance for the Vietnamese. For some, it is the day when their country was lost. For others it is the day when their country, once divided between North and South, was finally reunited.

For them, April 30 is a date to be celebrated. Ultimately, however, it is the day when Saigon fell to the Communists, and Vietnam and her citizens were forever changed. In wars there are winners and losers; and for those loyal to the government of South Vietnam or opposed the Communist regime, they were the defeated, forced to flee and settle abroad.

Yet, in an ironic twist of fate, these refugees have by and large succeeded in integrating into their new community and rebuilt their lives.

Conversely, those who remained behind, willingly or unwillingly, were subject to poverty and poor leadership of a single-party state. (*Asian Sentinel*)



----- 'I STILL GOT ONE ARM, SO COME ON AND FIGHT' -----

Heroic Army Sergeant Defies Death

By Richard Growald
United Press International
July 31, 1966

SAIGON July 30 –The Viet Cong machine gunner fingered his trigger and waited.

Twenty feet away a United States Army paratroop sergeant came crawling toward him.

The Communist fired his bullets laying open the ribs and chest of Sgt. Charles B. Morris. It should have been the end for the sergeant but it was only the beginning.



FOR FIVE HOURS the Galx, **Charlie** Va. soldier fought although wounded again and again. He led his men, cheered them, nursed them, saved their lives and turned his ordeal into triumph.

The special kind of glorious madness that was Sgt. Alvin York's in the First World War and Sgt. Audie Murphy in the Second World War belonged to Morris that dark morning on June 29 on a jungle plain 33 miles southeast of Saigon.

He led a squad, and the squad led the 3rd Platoon, Company A of the 173rd Airborne's 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion. The platoon was out alone and Morris had sighted something odd.

TO THE 34-YEAR-OLD veteran of Korea and the Dominican crisis, some broken twigs and some large, freshly dug holes, meant guerrillas were near. Morris spread his squad out in firing positions and crawled forward.

He did not know how close trouble was until the Viet-Cong machine gunner snapped off the eight rounds that opened his chest. Bleeding heavily Morris fired back and killed the gunner.

He kept crawling. A few feet from the gun, Morris pitched a grenade. The blast killed the rest of the gun crew and smashed the gun.

The sergeant then crawled as fast as he could to scout other gun positions.

Then he sneaked back to his platoon leader, and reported two 50-caliber machine guns, two 30-caliber mortar positions and trenches filled with guerrillas.

He refused first aid and a medic's attempt to inject morphine to ease his pain. He broke away to lead his squad to better firing positions. *Closer, he said, closer.* He placed his men only 20 yards from the Communists. The 3rd Platoon was doing none too well.

THE MORTARS AND machine guns began cutting into the platoon. Morris, feeling woozy, crawled to a medic, but a Viet-Cong recoilless rifle killed the medic.

The sergeant treated himself, leaped up and began running back to his platoon. A Communist grenade blast knocked him down.

Morris rolled over and reached his men, doing the medic's work. Pfc William Marshall of Detroit yelled: *"Sarge, I think I just lost my arm."*

Morris found that Marshall was correct. The young soldier also lost a foot. Pfc Thomas S. Shasteen of Pomeroy, Ohio, later reported: *"Marshall told me he owed his life to Sergeant Morris. He told me that after he was hit, the Sergeant crawled to his side, giving encouragement and all possible aid...He found some morphine and injected it into Marshall"...*The Sergeant saved at least five wounded men from dying, his commanders said. The youngsters knew. *"Did you see how Sergeant Morris performed?"* asked Edward Balls Rye, N.Y.



What was left of the 3rd Platoon, A/2/503d. Operation Yorktown, 6/23/66 -7/8/66, Xuan Loc Province, RVN.
(Photo from Bob "Doc" Beaton A/2/503 collection)

BALLS WATCHED MORRIS get a tourniquet on a wounded medic's leg just before another mortar round killed the medic. Sixty feet in front, the Communists tried psychological warfare. *"Die, Americans! Die, Americans!"* they shouted in English.

(continued....)



Morris answered:

"Come on, come on out and fight comrades!"

Pfc Edward C. Anderson of Germfask, Mich., remembered later that his wounded sergeant hollered: "I still got one arm and one leg so come on and fight!"

Morris had been wounded again. His wounds were telling and he passed out.

When he came to Morris returned to his men and his rifle. He was treating another wounded paratrooper when a grenade blast ripped his right hand, slicing off a finger.

WITH HIS RIGHT HAND almost useless, Morris grasped grenades in his left hand and pulled the pins with the thumb of his right hand. He halted a Viet-Cong. The he passed out again.

When he came to his sight was blurred, but the battle raged.

Morris noticed his men were taking machine gun fire from the rear. All of his men nearby were wounded. So Morris and another wounded man inched back to silence the machine gun.

The machine gun killed Morris' companion. A grenade peppered Morris' body with more fragments. Slowly, painfully, the sergeant crawled behind the body of the dead American. Using it to support his rifle, he began firing. He silenced the machine gun.

When Morris returned to the platoon he found only nine men in fighting condition. Exposing himself again and again, he dragged the wounded to an area where, with the least amount of shifting, they could make a last stand.

The chances of survival did not appear too good.

MORRIS THOUGHT of his wife, Mary, and his son Douglas Charles, 9.

When a relief force finally arrived, Morris still was dragging himself from man to man, praising his fighters and telling the wounded to "hang on...hang on boy."

He handed the fresh troops documents he plucked from Communists bodies. The documents showed how two Viet-Cong regiments were waiting to ambush another paratrooper unit.

The new troops offered to carry Morris to a helicopter. Morris, who was later hospitalized, refused.

"I've been crawling for five hours on this battlefield. Just show me where the choppers will land and I will crawl there also," he said.

Morris was still being treated for his wounds at the hospital at Vung Tau this week.

His commanding officer said he is recommending Morris for a high award for valor.

Medal of Honor Presentation at White House

SSGT Charles B. Morris

December 24, 1931 – August 22, 1996

(Photos from his buddy Jim Healy A/2/503d)



National Veterans Golden Age Games

May 31 – June 5, 2012 - St. Louis, Missouri



Athletes at the Arch

Registration for the 26th National Veterans Golden Age Games in St. Louis is now open! The Games will be held May 31 – June 5 offering exciting competition for Veterans age 55 and

older who receive care at the VA. NVGAG 2012 is also a qualifying event for the 2013 *National Senior Games*. See you in St. Louis!

About the National Veterans Golden Age Games

Life begins at 55, at least it does for more than 700 Veterans competing in this national event, the premier senior adaptive rehabilitation program in the United States. It is the only national multi-event sports and recreational seniors' competition program designed to improve the quality of life for all older Veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities. It is one of the most progressive and adaptive rehabilitative senior sports programs in the world, offering 14 different sports and recreational activities.



www.va.gov/adaptivesports

Contacts

Event Director

Dewayne Vaughan
(202) 632-7138

Local Host Coordinator

Maura Campbell
(314) 894-6113

Media Contact

Anthony Hardman
(734) 845-5059

Sponsors & Hosts

Presented by VA, Help Hospitalized Veterans and Veterans Canteen Service (VCS), with financial assistance from corporate sponsors and individual donors.



~ Reunions of the Airborne Kind ~



2012 Currahee Reunion, 3rd Battalion 506th Infantry Regiment (Airborne), May 2 - 5, 2012. Hilton Garden Inn, Columbus, GA

Contact:
Hoyt Bruce Moore, III
Web: www.506infantry.org/reunion.htm



173d Airborne Brigade Association Annual Reunion, June 6 - 10, 2012, Lexington, Kentucky hosted by Chapter 17. See early notice on Pages 28-41.

Contact:
Dave Carmon
Eml: dcarmon@roadrunner.com
Web: www.skysoldier17.com



Recon, HHC, 2/503 '66-'67 is having a reunion in Lexington, Kentucky the same days as the 173d Association annual reunion next month.

Contact:
Jerry Hassler
Eml: hassler173@juno.com



4/503d Reunion, Friday, June 8, 2012. We're going to do it during the annual 173d Association reunion in Lexington, KY. Jerry Downard, Donnie Farmer and Joe Flesch are taking the lead. More later, but mark your Calendar.

ACTUNG!

LOOK FOR DETAILS IN FUTURE ISSUES OF OUR NEWSLETTER FOR THE THIRD 2/503d VIETNAM-ERA REUNION TO BE HELD IN COCOA BEACH, FLORIDA.
START SAVING YOUR P's FOR...

"2ND BAT ON THE BEACH"



Casper Platoon Reunion 2012, June 28 - July 1, 2012, Hilton San Francisco Financial District, San Francisco, CA

Contact:
Steve Greene, Reunion Chairman
Web: greenaire@mac.com



101st Airborne Division Association 67th Annual Reunion, August 14-17, 2012. Marriott Nashville Airport, Nashville, TN.

Contact:
Phn: **931-431-0199**



56th Annual Reunion of the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team, September 23 - 26, 2012. Holiday Inn, Richmond Intl. Airport, Sandston, VA.

Contact:
Nancy Young, Secretary
Eml: youngncy@comcast.net

~ Other Reunions ~

Battle of the Bulge Veterans, September 26-30, 2012. New Orleans, LA.

Contact:
Doris Davis
Phn: 650-654-0101
Eml: doris@battleofthebulge.org
Web: <http://www.battleofthebulge.org/>



2012 Combat Infantryman's Reunion, October 18-21, 2012. Nashville, TN.

Contact:
Web: <http://cibassoc.com/>

Note: If you're aware of any upcoming Airborne reunions please send details to: rto173d@cfl.rr.com



Sky Soldiers.....Fall In!

Dear Sky Soldiers & Friends of Sky Soldiers:



On behalf of all members of Chapter 17 and our 2012 Reunion Committee, I hope you'll make plans now to attend this year's 173d Airborne Brigade Association Reunion in beautiful Lexington, KY next month. A registration form is

included on Page 30 of this newsletter along with complete details about our reunion.

Reunion Central will be the Hyatt Regency Hotel, where old friends, comrades and their families will be gathering.

The centerpiece of this year's reunion includes *Operation Corregidor II*, an interactive presentation by paratroopers of the 503rd PRCT who fought in the Pacific during WWII. The unique venue selected for this historic event will be the Kentucky Theatre, a short walk from the hotel. Following their remarks and a brief video presentation of the 503rd from WWII, we'll open the floor for some Q&A. We hope you will be sure to attend this once-in-a-lifetime event and personally meet these men of the *Greatest Generation* during the reunion. The 173d will further honor these troopers at the closing banquet.



The Hyatt....Reunion Central

We look forward to welcoming you to Lexington, Kentucky for some *History, Horses & Hooch*; but most of all, in *Airborne Brotherhood*!

All the Way!

Roy Scott
President
173d Airborne Brigade Association

Please visit our reunion website at:
<http://www.skysoldier17.com/Reunion.htm>



The Kentucky Theatre, site for *Operation Corregidor II*

We're still looking for Sky Soldiers to sign-up for our golf outing, so be sure to register early for that.



(continued....)



The 2012 173d Reunion

Lexington, KY

June 6 -10, 2012

Hosted By Chapter 17

Room rate 115.00 plus tax per night with Free Parking

New Registration fees:

Sky Soldiers 99.00

Spouses & Guests 75.00

Gold Star 75.00

Children free - unless attending Reunion dinner

The Hyatt is taking reservations now.

Call 800.233.1234

Ask for the 173 Airborne guestroom block or code G-173A.

Also use this code when making reservations on-line
at the Lexington-Hyatt website - www.lexington.hyatt.com

Information and Forms will be posted soon at www.skysoldier.org and www.Skysoldier17.com



~ REUNION PROGRAM ~

Hosted by Midwest Chapter 17



June 6 - Wednesday

0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby
0900 – 2230 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room
1800 – 2000 President's Reception @ Jasmine-Franklin

June 7 - Thursday

0700 – 1230 Golf Outing TBA GC
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room
0900 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar
1300 – 1600 Operation Corregidor II, Kentucky Theatre

June 8 - Friday

0830 – 1030 Gold Star Reception & Breakfast @ Regency 1
0900 – 1100 Board of Directors Meeting @ Regency 3
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Lobby
0900 – 2200 Vendors @ Kentucky Room
1000 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar
1100 – 1500 Kentucky Veterans Memorial – Frankfort – VFW Lunch

June 9 - Saturday

0830 – 1000 Ladies Brunch @ Bluegrass Pre-function Area
0900 – 1130 General Membership Meeting @ Regency 1&2
0900 – 1700 Registration @ Regency 1 Foyer
0900 – 2330 Hospitality @ Hyttops Sports Bar
0900 – 2300 Vendors @ Kentucky Room

Banquet

1800 – 1845 Cocktail Hour @ Bluegrass Ballroom
1845 – 1900 Post Colors/Convocation @ Bluegrass Ballroom
1900 – 2035 Dinner @ Bluegrass Ballroom
2035 – 2115 Speakers & Awards @ Bluegrass Ballroom
2115 Retire the Colors

June 10 Sunday

0800 – 0900 Memorial Service @ Regency 1
1130 Reunion Closing

BE SURE TO ATTEND OPERATION CORREGIDOR II

173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE ASSOCIATION 2012 REUNION



JUNE 6-10, 2012, LEXINGTON, KY

~ Registration Form ~

Please print. Copy form for additional guest(s)

My Name: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Guest: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Brigade Unit Served With: _____

Dates served: _____

Registration/Event Fees (Check boxes)

Per Sky Soldier Association Member ☒ \$99.
Per Each Guest. (Number of Guest(s) _____) ☐ \$75.
Children free - unless attending Reunion dinner
Per Child or all other extra dinner only guests ☐ \$40.
Per Gold Star Family Member ☐ \$75.
Per Active duty Soldier (Not on Orders) ☐ \$75.
Per Active Duty Soldier on Orders ☐ Free
(i.e. Command, Color Guard)
Per Vendor Table ☐ \$75.
Ladies Brunch (Number attending _____) ☐ Incl
Per player in Golf Tournament (No: _____) ☐ \$45

Enclosed is my check for this Total Amount: \$ _____

Please make Check Payable and Mail to:

Midwest Chapter 17
P.O. Box 09640
Columbus, OH 43209

Hotel Reservations:

Hyatt Regency – Lexington, \$115.00 + tax per night.
Reservations: 1-800-233-1234
Request group rate for 173d Airborne Assn. guestroom block or code G-173A. This is also the code to use if making reservations on-line at - www.lexington.hyatt.com

Overflow Hotel:
To be announced

"HISTORY, HORSES & HOOCH"



2/503d **VIETNAM** Newsletter / May 2012 – Issue 40

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OPERATION CORREGIDOR II

Midwest Chapter 17 is proud to announce we have invited five paratroopers of the 503rd PRCT who fought throughout the Pacific during WWII along with their companions to attend next month's 173d Association reunion in Lexington, KY as guests of the officers and men of the 173d Airborne Brigade and friends of the 173d and 503rd. This is *troopers honoring troopers* and is not sanctioned by either the 173d or 503rd Associations. *It's a paratrooper thang.*

In 2010, at the annual reunion in N. Myrtle Beach, SC hosted by South Carolina Chapter 30, five (5) troopers of the 503rd attended as guests of troopers of our Brigade and friends of the 173d and 503rd. As honest Abe said,

***“Any nation that does not
honor its heroes will not
long endure,”***

and that's just what we'll be doing in Lexington, honoring these men.

Of the over 3000 paratroopers who served with the 503rd during WWII, sadly, less than 100 men are still with us. We hope you'll join in not only helping out with the funding (until sufficient funds have been raised), but also attending our reunion next month and meeting these troopers personally and attending the WWII interactive presentations.

To date we've raised over 2/3 of the funds needed to cover the cost associated with inviting these troopers of the 503rd and their spouses or a family member to the reunion. For information about donating to this worthy effort, please contact rto173d@cfl.rr.com for details, or use the form on the following page to send in your donation -- please don't contribute if you're having financial difficulties.

As of now these Sky Soldiers and friends of the 173d and 503rd have made contributions. Our thanks to each of you for keeping alive *The Airborne Spirit!!*

Steve Abdalla, 2/503, 3/503 Ron Amyot, 2/503
Ed Anthony, 172d Mid John Arnold, 1RAR
Jim Baskin, 4/503 Bob Beemer, 2/503
Kane Benson, 1/503 Jerry Berry, 4/503
Don Bliss, Caspers Pat Bowe, 2/503
Wayne Bowers, 2/503 Bravo Bulls, 2/503
Jim Brookmiller, 4/503 Bob Bruce, 1/503
Bob Carmichael, 2/503 Leta Carruth, 2/503 Friend
Mark Carter, 173d LRRP Chapter 27, Australia
Chapter 30, 173d Bob Clark, 1st, 5th, 7th SF

Honoring Our WWII 503rd Troopers

Harry Cleland, 2/503 John Cleland, 3/503, 173d Bde
Dave Colbert, 2/503 Jim Cole, 2/503, 3/319th
Art Coogler, 1/503 Reed Cundiff, 173d LRRP
Gary Davidson, 2/503 Terry Davis, 2/503
Mike de Gyurky 2/503 Bruce Demboski, 2/503
George Dexter, 2/503 Roger Dick, 2/503
Tom Dooley, 2/503 Joe Drabin, 2/503
Jim Dresser, 2/503 Frank Dukes, 2/503
Tony Esposito, 2/503 Scott Fairchild, 82nd Abn
Pat Feely, 2/503, B Med Paul Fisher, 3/503
Craig Ford, 1/503 Joe Franklin, 173d Bde
Jim Frelak, Cowboys A.B. Garcia, 2/503
Tony Geishauser, Cowboys Jim Gettel, 2/503
Larry Goff, 173d Johnny Graham, 2/503
Jim Green, 2/503 Bernie Griffard, 2/503
Frank Guerrero, 4/503 Steve Haber, 2/503
Eddie Hair, 1/503 Larry Hampton, 1/503
Tom Hanson, 3/503 Bill Harlan, 2/503
Mike Harris, 2/503 Matt Harrison, 2/503
Jerry Hassler, 2/503 Hank Hatch, 2/503 Eng.
Dennis Hill, 1/503, 3/503 Vince Hoang, SVA
Dick Holt, 2/503 Nick Hun, 2/503
Johnny Jones, 2/503 Peter Kacerguls, 3/503
Ken Kaplan, 2/503 Ed Kearney, 2/503
Jack Kelley, 2/503, 3/503 Dave Kies, 2/503
Bill Knapp, 2/503 Bobby Kohaya, 2/503
Gary Kozdron, 1/503 John Kyne, 2/503
Joe Lamb, 2/503 David Leung, 1/503
Dave Linkenhoker, 2/503 Joe Logan, 2/503
Roy Lombardo, 2/503 Bob Lucas, 2/503
Richard Martinez, 2/503 Tom McGall, 101st
Jackie "Mom" McIntyre, 42d IPSD Friend
Tom McIntyre, WWII Navy Pat McShane, 173d
Bill Metheny, 4/503 Mark Mitchell, 2/503
Jim Montague, 2/503 Butch Nery, 4/503, N75
Bill Nicholls, 2/503 Joe Nigro, 101st
Hal Nobles, 3/503 Bill Ostlund, 173d
Jack Owens, 2/503 Larry Paladino, 2/503
Jerry Patterson, 2/503 Alfred Paul, 2/503
Ed Perkins, 2/503 Lou Pincock, 2/503
Jack Price, 2/503 Gary Prisk, 2/503
Dick Prosser, 2/503 Dan Reed, 2/503
Bill Reynolds, 2/503 Jack Ribera, 2/503
Jim Robinson, 2/503 Lee Robinson, 2/503
Graham Rollings, 2/503 Marjorie Royer, 173d Friend
Andy Russell, 2/503 Jack Schimpf, 2/503
Roy Scott, 3/319 Bill Shippey, 2/503, N75
Steve Skolochenko, D Maint Ken Smith, 2/503
Lew Smith, 2/503 Tim Smith, 173d Friend
Jerry Sopko, 4/503 Larry Speed, 1/503
Jim Stanford, 2/503 George Stapleton, 3/503
Kaiser Sterbinsky, 2/503 Mike Sturges, 2/503
Bob Sweeney, 2/503 Marc Thurston, 2/503
Alt Turner, 2/503 Steve Vargo, 2/503
Jerry Wiles, B/2/503 Ron Woodley, 2/503
Bill Wyatt, 2/503





~ OPERATION CORREGIDOR II ~



Honoring our WWII 503rd Paratroopers at 173d Reunion in Lexington

Yes! I am honored to support bringing to the 173d Airborne Brigade Association's annual reunion in Lexington, KY as guests of our Brigade, paratroopers of the 503rd PRCT who fought in the Pacific during WWII.

My name: _____ Unit: _____

To help offset the cost for this, enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____.

Please add to note line "503rd Guest Donation" and mail check payable to:

Midwest Chapter 17, 173d Abn Bde

P.O. Box 09640

Columbus, OH 43209

Note: Your donation, not to exceed \$100., will be used to help defray the cost of hotel rooms, reunion registrations and special gifts to our 503rd PRCT guests on behalf of the officers and men of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep).



L-R: WWII 503rd PRCT troopers who attended the Myrtle Beach Reunion in 2010 as guests of our Brigade: Chet Nycum, Chuck Breit, Charlie Hylton, the late Paul Hinds and John Cleland.



Chuck teaching lyrics to *Blood on the Risers* to 1st Bat's Craig Ford in SC.



Charlie ready to burst out in song before doing a mean Texas 2 Step.



You could hear a pin drop as Chet told of his PLF on *The Rock*.



Honoring those 503rd super troopers at 173d reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC, 2010.



"Any nation that does not honor its heroes will not long endure"

~ President Abraham Lincoln





~ Operation Corregidor II ~

During our 173d reunion next month in Lexington, KY, the Chapter 17 reunion steering committee has secured the *Kentucky Theatre* just a couple blocks from reunion central at the Hyatt Hotel, to serve as site for *Operation Corregidor II*, the interactive meeting with WWII 503rd troopers; *Operation Corregidor I* having been held in N. Myrtle Beach at our 2010 reunion, and *Operation Corregidor* having been held on Corregidor in 1945. This historic building will be ideal for this gathering of paratrooper warriors and their families. Chapter 17 is even providing popcorn and cold drinks!

More than just a movie house...

The Kentucky Theatre is a familiar Landmark to generations of Lexingtonians. It's richly ornamented walls and glowing stained glass fixtures have hosted gala events and entertained overflowing crowds. They have also endured hard times and disasters, both natural and manmade. And so it stands today, a true palace of memories, a hall full of comedy, tragedy, drama, adventure, and just plain fun.

We hope you enjoy this brief look at her history and join us soon to continue the tradition by making some memories of your own.



Publicity stunt for an early "talkie" featuring The Marx Brothers. (Courtesy, University of Kentucky Photo Archives)

1965

The Sound of Music. Thousands lined up daily to see this summer's timeless hit.



The present Kentucky Theatre auditorium

(by Lee P. Thomas)



Operation Corregidor II coming next month to the Kentucky



The concession area (by Raymond Adams)



October, 1921

Construction plans announced. The Builder, Lafayette Amusement Company offered \$20 in gold to name Lexington's "palatial new photoplay house".

The winner, of course, was the "Kentucky."

April 24, 1927

Enter the "talkies". In a major marketing coup, the Kentucky was the first to introduce Warner Brothers' vitaphone sound films to Lexington.



OPERATION CORREGIDOR II

*an interactive meeting with
WWII paratroopers from the
503rd Parachute Infantry
Regiment*

DICK ADAMS
RAY BASHAM
CHUCK BREIT
TONY CICCHINO
JIM MULLANEY
TONY SIERRA

Hosted by: Sky Soldiers of the 173d Airborne Brigade & Their Friends

*Tony Geishauser,
Moderator*

*Seating opens at 1300
Program begins at 1330*



KENTUCKY THEATRE

214 E. Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky

THURSDAY, 7 JUNE 2012

Graphics by Ashley Bowers, daughter of Wayne Bowers C/2/503d

