

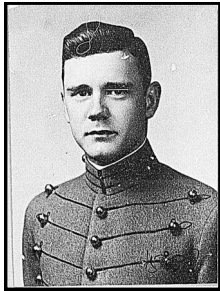


Serving Sky Soldiers Past, Present and Future

# The Herd Word



## Former 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Commander Ray Ochs Dies



Cadet Elmer "Ray" Ochs



Major Ochs



BG Ochs in Vietnam

**O**n 24 July 2009, **MG Elmer "Ray" Ochs**, who commanded the 173d Airborne Brigade in Vietnam from Aug 1970 – Jan 1971, died. General Ochs' tour as the CG was characterized by a continuation of the Herd's Pacification mission in Binh Dinh Province.

General Ochs was born on 11 April 1925 and raised on a farm in Jasper County near Sainte Marie, Illinois. He was schooled in one room schools before graduating from Newton Community High School (NCHS) in 1942. After graduating from West Point in 1946, he was deployed to Korea. He retired after a 37-year military career. His many decorations included two awards of the Distinguished Service Medal and the Legion of Merit, as well as his most cherished award - The Purple Heart for wounds received in the Korean War.

In 2000, in coordination with the NCHS Academic Foundation, the General and his wife, **Inez**, founded and funded the Christine Ablinger Teachers Scholarship. Inez preceded the General in death, expiring after a long illness on 30 May 2009.

In his many eulogies to fallen comrades-in-arms, General Ochs often used the passage from his West Point alma mater: "and when our work is done, our course on Earth is run. May it be said WELL DONE."

This phrase seems appropriate on his passing.

**AIRBORNE**  
ALL THE WAY

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### Mark Your Calendar Chapter 1 Celebrates Veterans Day

**10 November 2009**  
&  
**11 November 2009**

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# **Chapter 1 Needs Your Help!**

## **The President's Corner**

**O**ur Chapter of the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association has all the missions of the other Chapters: promoting camaraderie among members, providing information to members and interested parties, supporting the active duty Brigade and specific Brigade units, caring for Sky Soldiers and their families, and participating in Association-wide events.

However, because of Chapter 1's location in the nation's capital, we have additional critical responsibilities. We host and lead national ceremonies at memorials; we support and participate in burials and other ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery; and we support wounded Sky Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The Chapter's regular and special missions and our demographic of aging and illness among our members, present a compelling case for volunteers to provide these services.

Despite the efforts of our Chapter Officers and some highly motivated Chapter members who take the lead when the chips are down, we need much more help to meet our service commitments. With this in mind, I ask that you seriously consider volunteering for one of the positions below. The number in parenthesis indicates the number of volunteers needed.

- Support Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. (4)
- Write *Sky Soldier Updates* to keep Chapter members current on other Sky Soldier activities. Michael Montie's work on this project in 2008 was praised by Chapter members. (2)
- Chapter Honor Guard service for burials or other occasions. (4)
- Chapter liaison to Sky Soldier Gold Star Families. The Chapter supports events honoring these families and there is a need to develop a year-round program with them. (2)
- Outreach Liaison to members who have medical conditions that do not allow them to be present at Chapter event or who otherwise need assistance. (3)
- Lead effort to support specific Brigade units the Chapter pledges to support while deployed: HHC, 2-503<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Infantry Regiment, and HHC, Support Battalion. (2)
- Website administrators for the new Chapter website [www.173dabnchap1.com](http://www.173dabnchap1.com). (2)
- Plan and execute the annual Reading of the Names of Brigade KIAs on the first Saturday in May. (1)
- Plan and organize Veterans Day activities, including the Walk to the Wall. (1)
- Plan and lead Chapter social and other special events. (2)
- Administer and manage Chapter membership (2)

Please feel free to call or e-mail any of the Chapter Officers regarding your interest in these activities. Don't hesitate to call me on my cell phone, 202-270-3083, if you can help. Even if you have been willing to handle one of these responsibilities in the past, please reiterate your interests now so we can update our volunteer roster.

If we fill the 25 volunteer functions above, our Chapter will thrive from the focus and participation by and for our Chapter Members. Our Chapter has an incredible pool of talent far greater than the 21 volunteers we need. As a Chapter, our service to members will be based on the contribution of our dedicated, talented members. We need your help now. Please email [terry.modglin@gmail.com](mailto:terry.modglin@gmail.com) or call 202-270-3083. Airborne!

Terry Modglin  
Chapter President

# National Memorial Dedication 1 June 2010

**T**he 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial will be dedicated on Tuesday, June 1, 2010, at Patriots Park near the new National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, Georgia. The ceremony will begin at 10AM and is expected to last less than an hour. The June 1 date was chosen for the dedication in part because the 2010 National Reunion begins a day after, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The timing accommodates those traveling long distances to attend both events.

The memorial centerpiece features a stainless steel replica of the Brigade's wing and bayonet symbol mounted on a globe illustrating locations where the Brigade served. These are mounted on a column that is attached to a bench seat. Five granite panels, each consisting of three panes, contain the names of the Brigade's KIAs. The exterior of the panels explains the Brigade's history and role and its unique status. These elements rest on a concrete surface that, from above, is in the shape of a Vietnam-era parachute. Five walkways with benches designed to invite rest and reflection radiate from five points of the outer perimeter of the surface. The memorial will rest on a very visible perch on a knoll near the graduation field for Fort Benning schools.

The dedication provides an opportunity for Sky Soldiers and their families to visit the new \$82 million National Infantry museum. The project was dedicated by **General Colin Powell** last Spring. More information on this and other attractions in the Fort Benning-Columbus, Georgia area can be found at [www.visitcolumbusga.com](http://www.visitcolumbusga.com).

There are 42 hotels in the Columbus area to accommodate visitors. Efforts are underway to develop transportation packages for those who prefer not to drive.

Chapter 1 members have been prominent in the memorial project. The memorial was conceived in the 1980s by longtime Chapter 1 leader, Ken Smith, revived by the Board of Directors through the efforts of **Terry Modglin**, the then President of Chapter 1. **Don Dali** was responsible for the design and construction of the memorial and **Jeannie O'Neil** was the writer for much of the 2004 – 2006 memorial concept stage.

If you plan to come to the reunion, let Chapter 1 President Terry Modglin know. He can be reached at [terry.modglin@gmail.com](mailto:terry.modglin@gmail.com) or (Cell) 202-270-3083.

**Terry Modglin**



## Belated Award of the Silver Star



**F**orty-six years after the fact, Chapter member **BG John "Jack" Nicholson (Ret.)**, is finally getting another star - a Silver Star, that is. On October 28, 2009, Jack will be awarded the Silver Star for heroic actions that occurred in December 1963. At the time, Jack was assigned to the Military Assistance Command—Vietnam (MACV) as an advisor to the Vietnamese Army.

The ceremony will take place at the **Ft. Myer, VA, Parade Ground at 10:00AM, October 28, 2009**. There will be a reception following the parade at the Fort Myer Officers Club, to which 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Sigholtz-Capital Chapter 1 members are invited.

Jack graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1956. He served as Battalion Commander of the 2-503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade, in 1968-1969. Jack has been a Chapter 1 member and supporter for 23 years and served as National President of the 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association from 1987 to 1988.

Jack's life can be characterized as a lifetime of service to the nation. Since retiring after 30 years of service with the Army, he has served as Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs in the Department of Veterans Affairs and as Secretary and Chief Executive Officer of American Battle Monuments Commission. Congratulations, Jack, on getting this long delayed and well deserved recognition!



## Chapter Website Nears Completion

**A**bout a year ago, the Chapter leadership initiated action to develop a website to facilitate communications with our members. The Chapter insisted that the website be cost-effective, user friendly, low maintenance, artistically appealing, functionally capable, and take advantage of state of the art techniques and technology. The Chapter also wanted to have an organization that had a military affiliation do the work. To achieve this objective, Chapter Presi-

dent, **Terry Modglin** appointed the team of **Ed Anthony**, **Jennifer Finch**, and **Mack Brooks** to address the issue. The team looked at the work of many designers and decided upon the team of Dawn Hurto and Scott Bricker, both of whom have military connections. The Chapter is pleased to announce that their work is nearly finished and the results to date have been posted at

[www.173dAbnChap1.org](http://www.173dAbnChap1.org)

The website is still a work in progress, but eventually the site will address the Chapter mission, the Chapter history, the Brigade history, Chapter services, Brigade-related monuments in the area, links to other Herd units/sites/ Chapters, current events/ activities, the Chapter leadership, and back issues of Chapter newsletters.

We encourage you to log on to the website and let us know what you think and how we can improve the site.

# Sigholtz-Capital Chapter 1 Annual Calendar

Chapter Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
Newsletter	Jan 2009	N/A	Saturday	Mack Brooks	
Chapter Annual Meeting	11 Jan 2009	1300	Sunday	Terry Modglin	Holiday Inn Eisenhower Ave. Alexandria, VA 22314
Gold Star Memorial Event	21 Feb 2009	1400	Saturday	Michael Montie	Fort Belvoir Officers Club
Newsletter	Apr 2009	N/A	Saturday	Mack Brooks	
Reading of the Names	2 May 2009	1100	Saturday	Terry Modglin	Brigade Marker Arlington Cemetery
Newsletter	Jul 2009	N/A	Saturday	Mack Brooks	
173 <sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Reunion	29 Jul 2009 - 2 Aug 2009	N/A	Wed - Sunday	-	Daytona Beach, FL
Newsletter	Oct 2009	N/A	Saturday	Mack Brooks	
Veterans Ceremony	10 Nov 2009	1100	Monday	Roy Lombardo	Brigade Marker & Gen Williamson Gravesite
Walk to the Wall	11 Nov 2009	1100	Tuesday	Terry Modglin	Vietnam Memorial
Chapter Dinner at Ft Myer	5 Dec 2009	1830	Saturday	Mack Brooks	Special Guests: Gold Star Mothers Spates Hall, Skylight Room
Chapter Annual Meeting	10 Jan 2010	TBD	TBD	Terry Modglin	TBD
Visit Walter Reed Army Medical Center	Monthly	TBD	TBD	Gene Weeks	TBD
Dedication 173 <sup>d</sup> Memorial	1 Jun 2010	TBD	Tuesday	Ken Smith	"Walk of Honor" at National Infantry Museum, Adjacent to Fort Benning
Chapter Event TBD	TBD	TB	TB	TBD	Date and Venue TBD
Chapter Event TBD	TBD	TB	TB	TBD	Date and Venue TBD
Chapter Event TBD	TBD	TB	TB	TBD	Date and Venue TBD
Chapter Event TBD	TBD	TB	TB	TBD	Date and Venue TBD

# Reunion Brings Old Soldiers Together

The sandy beaches and hot sun reminded many of Vietnam, but this was the 2009 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association Reunion in Daytona Beach, Florida. More than 500 Sky Soldiers and their families, including more than 25 Chapter 1 members, were present. Also attending were the wife and daughter of Chapter member **Larry Goodman**. Before his recent death, Larry asked his wife, Virginia, to join his three buddies, who attend the reunion every year.

Among the most significant by-law changes was one that would allow any family member of a Sky Soldier KIA to apply for Associate Member status. Previously, Associate membership in the Gold Star category was restricted to the Department of the Army definition of spouse.

**Roy Scott** of the Midwest Chapter was elected President. He appointed Chapter 1's own **Michael Montie** to be National Vice-President. **Tim Austin** is the National Secretary and **Gary Granade** the National Treasurer.

During the General Membership Meeting, Brigade **CSM Rollins** briefed on the Brigade's preparation for Afghanistan. Brigade training has been focusing on discipline, physical fitness, leadership, marksmanship,

combat trauma skills (every Soldier must be capable of stabilizing a casualty), battle drills, and airborne proficiency. Airborne preparation has been difficult because the paratroopers need more jumps. In a few years, the three battalions in Germany will be moving to Italy.

**Terry Modglin**, representing the President of the Memorial Foundation, Ken Smith, briefed the membership on the status of the Memorial and the dedication planned for June 1, 2010.

The Association has over 8,000 Members and, as a result of actions by National Treasurer, Gary Granade, is in excellent financial condition. The Association has \$215,000 in assets and a net income of \$36,668, last year.

The Chapter did not approve revising the Brigade Marker at Arlington National Cemetery. The current Marker does not recognize the Brigade heritage after Vietnam. Former Chapter President Ed Anthony researched and made the changes necessary to update the Marker. The Board of Directors decided to invest decisions for changes to the Marker in the Association's Foundation (not the Memorial Foundation).

On a positive note, the Brigade Com-

mand Sergeant Major changed the Sigholtz [Noncommissioned Officer] Award competition to one in which entrants in each battalion competed with one another in hands-on exercises, like the Best Ranger competition you may have seen on TV. Battalion candidates would compete with one another for the Sigholtz Award. **SSG Robert Greenjack** is this year's Sigholtz Award winner.

In his keynote address, **MG (Ret.) Wayne Cleland**, a Chapter 1 member, spoke about the all-too-often forgotten deeds of our men and women warriors. He added that "the American military is at war. America is at the mall." Cleland recommended that we support the active duty Brigade; support our Soldiers; and demonstrate our thanks to our troops. What should the perception of our military be? Cleland quoted General George Marshall, "We [the military] should be known for full generosity on the one hand and overwhelming force on the other."

The 2010 Reunion is scheduled for Myrtle Beach, South Carolina June 2 – 6, just after the dedication of the Memorial at Fort Benning. The membership chose San Antonio to be the site for the 2011 Reunion.

**Terry Modglin**

## Sigholtz-Capital 1 Chapter Officers



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## Captain Robert Sigholtz, Jr.

Our members know that our Chapter is named after **CPT Robert H. Sigholtz, Jr.** Nonetheless, it is worthwhile to remind ourselves who Captain Sigholtz was and of his contribution to the Herd.

Bobby Sigholtz, an "Army brat," was born on 19 December 1945. His father was **Colonel Robert H. Sigholtz, Sr.**, an Army Colonel, who served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Bobby graduated from Annandale High School, in Virginia, where he played football and basketball on championship teams. After starting college, Bobby became bored and decided take a leave of absence. During that leave, he was drafted.

As a Private, Bobby Sigholtz excelled on guard mount and was selected as supernumerary so often that he attracted the attention of his leadership. His Company Commander recommended to Bobby that he apply for Officer Candidate School (OCS). After graduating from OCS, he successfully completed Ranger and Airborne Schools.



Robert Sigholtz Jr., 23  
Army, Capt.  
Annandale, Va.

While LT Sigholtz was in Jump School, his father came to Fort Benning to parachute with his son on his fifth jump. When Colonel Sigholtz asked Bobby if he would like to have help rolling up his chute, Bobby simply smiled and replied, "No Sir! All the way, Sir!" Bobby only asked for preferential treatment to be assigned to the Second Battalion, 503<sup>d</sup> Infantry, which his father had recently commanded.

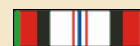
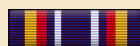
Lieutenant Sigholtz was quickly deployed to Vietnam and assigned to

a platoon. First Lieutenant Sigholtz was Killed in Action on 26 May 1969, in Binh Dinh Province, while attempting to save or retrieve the body of one of his Soldiers. He was awarded the Silver Star and promoted to Captain posthumously. Bobby Sigholtz's untimely and premature death was a devastating blow to his family and friends.

In recognition of the sacrifice his son had made and the example he had set, in the mid-to late-70's, Colonel Robert H. Sigholtz, Sr. created The Sigholtz Award to honor his son. Initially, company grade officers and NCOs competed for this coveted prize, but under the Colonel's guidance the criteria was changed to limit the competition to enlisted Soldiers below the rank of E-7, since CPT Sigholtz was "*sursum ex ordo*," or "up from the ranks." The award recognizes and encourages Sky Soldiers to develop their leadership abilities.

Our Chapter is duly proud to be named after this brave and selfless Soldier who gave the ultimate sacrifice for his Soldiers, his unit, and his nation.

[http://vvmf.org/index.cfm?SectionID=110&Wall\\_Id\\_No=47429](http://vvmf.org/index.cfm?SectionID=110&Wall_Id_No=47429)  
The memories archives of **CPT George Farris (ret.)** and **Cis Sigholtz**



# No Wounded Sky Soldiers at WRAMC

**T**he Chapter and the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team is in the enviable position of having no wounded Sky Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

This fortunate circumstance is a result of the fact that the Brigade is not deployed and, as a consequence, is likely to be transitory. Since the Brigade is scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan in November, between now and November, the Chapter's services to Wounded Warriors programs are in abeyance. No doubt, when duty calls, **Gene Weeks**, **John Smith**, and the other Chapter members who support our hospitalized Soldiers will rush into action.



## Chapter Dinner with Gold Star Families

### Mark your Calendar!!!

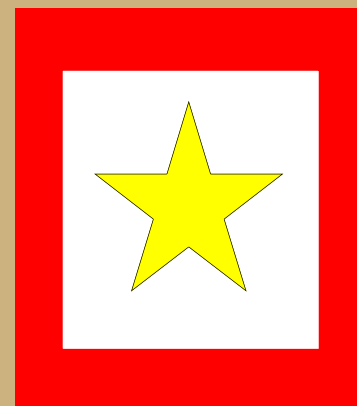
On Saturday, 5 December, at 6:30 PM (1830h), the Chapter will have a Holiday Dinner for Chapter members and their guests in Fort Myers' Spates Hall (The Skylight Room). The Chapter honors and welcomes our Gold Star Family Members, who will also be invited.

The dinner is part of the Chapter's continued effort to provide social events for our members and to ensure that the sacrifices that our comrades-in-arms made on behalf of the Herd and of the nation will never be forgotten.

The dinner will cost \$35 per person. Checks may be made out to "Sigholtz-Chapter 1" and sent to 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association; P.O. Box 15133; Arlington, VA 22215-0133.

In your remittance for the dinner please let us now how many seats you'd like for your party and how much you'd like to donate to sponsor dinner for a Gold Star Family member.

Come join us for a wonderful evening of fun and camaraderie.



# Chapter Veterans Day Activities

Sky Soldiers —

Join us at two traditional Chapter 1 ceremonies celebrating our veterans — past and present.

On **November 10, at 11:00 AM**, at **Brigade Marker** (Grant Avenue just north of McClellan Drive) , Arlington National Cemetery; **LTC Roy Lombardo (Ret.)** and the Bravo Bulls will conduct a remembrance ceremony and later at **MG “Butch” Williamson’s** burial site. Participants should meet at the Cemetery’s Visitors Center at 10:45. The ceremony will begin sometime between that time and Noon, depending upon when the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Color Guard is available.

On **November 11, at 10:30 AM**, Sky Soldiers will assemble on the Brigade Colors, in the vicinity of the **Three Soldiers Statue**, at the Vietnam Memorial (**The Wall**), and march to The Wall with our wreath.

A no-host luncheon will follow at a venue to be determined. For those coming from out of town, they should consider using **The Virginian Suites** because of its large rooms and kitchen facilities. Chapter President Terry Modglin will have a room there the evening of November 10 and early morning November 11. If you have questions, e-mail [terry.modglin@gmail.com](mailto:terry.modglin@gmail.com) or call 202-270-3083.



# Help Make History

**C**PT Kevin Ward, Commander of A Company, 1-503<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment, 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Combat Team is looking for input to develop an in-depth history of A Company 1-503<sup>rd</sup>. Consequently, CPT Ward asked the Chapter to canvass our members for former A Company 1-503<sup>rd</sup> Sky Soldiers who would be willing to talk to or e-mail him to tell him

their stories of A Company during their service. He hopes to get their firsthand accounts of the Company's rich and heroic history. By relating these oral histories to Soldiers in his company, CPT Ward hopes to impart a sense of connection and pride with these veteran Soldiers from the past as his men, by their deeds, begin to write the company's next chapter in history.

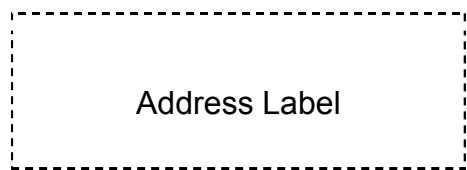
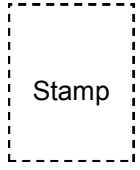
If you are a veteran of A Company, 1-503<sup>rd</sup> and would be receptive to communicating with CPT Ward via e-mail or over the phone to help him to develop an oral history of his unit, your effort would be much appreciated.

Interested persons can contact CPT Kevin Ward on his cell phone (Cell: 011-39-335-703-5351) or **Tim Austin** via e-mail (tim.austin@us.army.mil).

## 173<sup>d</sup> Airborne Brigade Association



*Sigholtz Capital Chapter 1*  
*P.O. Box 15133*  
*Arlington, VA 22215-0133*



**AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY!!!**

# Brunch with Archbishop O'Brien Canceled

**O**n 19 September, the Chapter planned to host a brunch, at the Fort Myer Officers Club, at which former Sky Soldier and Archbishop of Baltimore, **His Excellency Archbishop Edwin O'Brien**, would have been the guest speaker.

the Chapter that the Archbishop would not be able to be present for the brunch.

The Chapter hopes to have the Archbishop address our membership in the future and will continue to pursue interesting activities and programs.

Due to unforeseen events on the Archbishop's schedule, His Excellency's staff informed

In view of this unexpected turn of events, the Chapter leadership elected to cancel the brunch and return any monies submitted.

If you have any ideas, for events that would be of interest to our members that you'd like the Chapter conduct, please let the Chapter leadership know.

