



Serving Sky Soldiers Past, Present and Future



The Herd Word

The Annual Chapter Meeting

The Association bylaws require the Chapters to have a General Membership meeting annually. That requirement was met for Chapter 1, on 25 January 2020, the Chapter met at **Mark Ludlow's** apartment complex, at Marina Towers; 501 Slaters Lane; Alexandria.



Newly Elected Chapter VP Bill Connolly

It wasn't a chore at all. The 17 Sky Soldiers and friends of Sky Soldiers arrived in good spirits, ready to socialize, chow down, and be updated on the latest Chapter happens.

After Pledge of Allegiance and prayer, Chapter President, **Steve Brignoli**, conducted the meeting. The minutes from the last year were approved without comment since last year.

Steve reviewed Chapter activities:

- Four funerals
- Six 173rd benches to military and veteran affiliated organizations.
- Four weapons raffles. The Chapter earned \$840 for scholarships and Gold Star Family support.
- Three Range Days, at Range 82, in Midland, VA. Fifty-three people participated. The Chapter made \$840.
- Steve solicited interest in other activities.
- Members requested longer notice of Chapter activities.
- Steve proposed a month notice before Chapter activities.
- Steve thanked **Joe and Jeane**

Flesch for hosting the Chapter picnic.

- Steve explained the Chapter Auxiliary a non-profit. The Auxiliary is affiliated with the Chapter but its membership is wide open. Steve is forming the Board for the Auxiliary. There are currently 45 folks in the Auxiliary. Many Auxiliary members has pledged a recurring sum \$5 to the organization. So far the Chapter has raised over \$4000. Half of the funds are dedicated to the Gold Star Families and half to the Chapter activities, scholarships, etc.
- Steve requested volunteers to assist with the Auxiliary.
- The Association is exploring changing the scholarship award date to January/February, so that scholarships can be presented at the awardee's graduation.
- Steve said he would provide a link on the Chapter site with information on the Auxiliary.
- Steve is working with the Association on a plan to allow the Association to piggy-back off our Chapter website. The Association would pay the Chapter for the service. The tentative target date for the renting is in March.
- The Chapter has \$14,755.60

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AIRBORNE
ALL THE WAY

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The Chapter President's Message



Steve Brignoli
Chapter President

State of the Chapter

Maintain Patrol Base activities until relieved.

The enemy COVID 19, coronavirus, is particularly effective at targeting "The Greatest

Generation."

Per the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association contingency plan for the DC Area, we are to hold the terrain and fortify in place for siege operations against the enemy.

Members are asked to maintain a seven-plus DOS (Daily Operating Supply) of fresh water, protein, non-perishables, vitamin B12, and gear, such as gloves that separate you from leave-behinds or proverbial "booby traps" from COVID 19.

Please reach out to Joe Flesch to update your Comms Plan (land line, cell number, email), so we can en-

sure you are "GREEN" on men, weapons, and equipment (family, safety and health). Please do so on our command net: <http://www.sigholtzchapter.org/>

Mid-Winter Conference

On 11-14 January 2020, Joe Flesch and I attended the mid-winter conference, in Dayton, OH. We gave our annual report and remain in healthy standing in the Association. We congratulated **Eric Hitchcock**, as the new Gold Star Committee Chair. This is important because 50% of our Sigholtz Canopy Funds are designated for Gold Stars Families. Should you feel compelled to assist the Gold Star mission and other community services our Chapter does, the link to do so is www.tiny.cc/173rdAuxFund

Gathering of the Herd Range Day

On Saturday, 14 March 2020, 30 Chapter members, family members, and friends gathered to fire weapons, at Range 82, in Midland, VA, at our quarterly Range Day. Most im-

portantly, we recognized the years of dedicated service from recent Chapter leaders. **Joe Flesch**, **Terry Walsh**, and **Mack Brooks** were recognized with plaques for their combined 20-plus years of service (and continued service) to Sigholtz Chapter. Newly elected Chapter Vice President, **Bill Connolly**, was also present, as were his son, and his grandsons! After expenses, the event raised over \$300 for the Chapter



Plaques recognizing Joe Flesch, Terry Walsh and Mack Brooks

Airborne All the Way.

Steve Brignoli

President

Chapter 1, 173rd Brigade Association



Leaders Needed: Volunteer to Serve



I WANT YOU
TO
Become a
Chapter Officer

When **Terry Walsh**, **Mack Brooks**, and **Dana Savage** left their positions in the Chapter hierarchy, the Chapter Vice President, the Chapter Treasurer, and the Chapter Secretary positions became vacant.

At the Annual Chapter Meeting, **Bill Connolly** was unanimously elected to the Vice President position. No candidates stood for the other vacant Chapter officer positions.

Newly Elected Chapter

Every Sky Soldier has been, at least one time in their life, a volunteer. Volunteer again! Take up the baton and contribute your time, your energy, and your ideas to improve the Chapter as it moves upward and onward with new ideas and new initiatives.

Choose your metaphor: throw your hat into the ring; pick up the baton; be all you can be; don't sit on the sidelines. Whatever... just choose to serve. You have options - Chapter Treasurer, or Chapter Secretary. As they said in the *Kung Fu* television series, "Choose wisely, Grasshopper."

Others have served you well, in the past. Give back, Sky Soldier.



Former Chapter Officers Honored



Mack Brooks, Terry Walsh, Joe Flesch, and Steve Brignoli



Mack Brooks Vietnam and Now



Terry Walsh Vietnam and Now



Joe Flesch Vietnam and Now

The Annual Chapter Meeting (Cont.)

in the bank. The PayPal account is at \$4060.26, of which \$3,800 is the Canopy Fund. It is required by law that they be separate funds.

- **Joe Flesch** helped developed an Association SOP for conducting Reunions. The goal was to standardize Reunion responsibilities, processes and protocols. The SOP was approved by the Association Board of Directors.
- Steve Brignoli introduced new Chapter Member **MAJ Jonathan Neal** to the group.
- This was **Terry Walsh** last official act as Chapter Vice President. He summarized the distribution of Chapter benches. A member said they are building a serenity garden out in Haymarket, VA.
- Terry Walsh said he would continue to be the project officer for Chapter benches.
- The Chapter unanimously ap-

proved the acquisition of three (3) benches and 173rd Airborne Brigade plaque for \$637 each.

- Terry asked if anyone knew an organization who wanted a bench to let him know.
- Steve Brignoli suggested have a QR Code on the benches. Those, with cell phones, would be able to scan the code and learn about the Brigade.
- Joe Flesch said the Chapter has over 700 people on the roster but only 88 who have paid their Chapter fee.
- Joe noted that we need to acquire more flags for the honor sets. Joe praised **Ed Anthony** for his role in the Chapter being allowed to carry the Brigade flag into Arlington National Cemetery.
- **Bill Connolly** was nominated and approved, unanimously, as the new Chapter Vice

President.

- **Mack Brooks**, expressed how honored he was to have served as the Chapter Secretary. He will continue to be the Herd Word editor. He hoped that someone would pick up the duties of Secretary.
- Joe Flesch informed the group that **Terry Aubrey** resigned as President of the Association because of health reasons. Vice President **Tommy McMann** became the President. Tommy appointed Joe Flesch and **Wambi Cook** to find a second-generation Sky Soldier to become the Vice President.
- Mack Brooks volunteered to be part of any process to revise the bylaws so they address changes resulting from initiatives over the last year.



Chapter Calendar

Event	Date	Time	Day	Project Officer	Remarks
173 rd Brigade Association Mid-Winter Conference	11 - 14 Jan 2020	N/A	Thu - Sun	Steve Brignoli Joe Flesch	Crown Plaza Dayton 33 E 5th Street Dayton, OH 45402
Chapter Annual General Membership Meeting	25 Jan 2020	1100	Sat	Mark Ludlow	Marina Towers 501 Slaters Lane Alexandria, VA 22314
Gathering of the Herd Range 82	14 Mar 2020	1100	Sat	Steve Brignoli	Range 82 4818 Midland Road Midland, VA 22718
Reading of the Names of Vietnam and GWOT KIA's	2 May 2020	1030	Sat	Ed Anthony	Brigade Marker Arlington National Cemetery May be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions
173 rd Airborne Brigade Association Reunion	3 - 7 Jun 2020 Tentative	N/A	Wed - Sun	N/A	Crown Plaza Dayton, OH May be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions
Gathering of the Herd	13 Jun 2020	1100	Sat	Steve Brignoli	Range 82 4818 Midland Road Midland, VA 22718
Chapter BBQ	8 Aug 2019	1100	Sat	Joe Flesch	11730 Hawkes Road Clarksburg, MD
Gathering of the Herd	10 Oct 2020	1100	Sat	Steve Brignoli	Range 82 4818 Midland Road Midland, VA 22718
Bravo Bulls Ceremony	10 Nov 2020	1000	Tue	Roy Lombardo	Start at SSG Larry Rougle's Burial Site (Section 60, Arlington National Cemetery)
Walk to the Wall	11 Nov 2020	1000	Mon	Joe Flesch	Vietnam Memorial No-Host Lunch
Wreaths Across America	19 Dec 2020	0900	Sat	TBD	Arlington National Cemetery
Wounded Warrior Visits	Periodic	N/A	N/A	TBD	DC and Richmond VA Area



The Connolly Family

Alden, Bill, Bill Jr. and Liam Connolly

Prove the Adage

**A FAMILY WHO SHOOTS
TOGETHER
STAYS
TOGETHER**



Association Board of Directors Meeting

Chapter President Steve Brignoli and Joe Flesch attended the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association (ABA) Board of Directors (BOD) meeting, in Dayton, Ohio, 17-19 January 2020. Steve represented the Chapter at the BOD and participated in the Sky Soldiers Foundation meeting. A key event, during the BOD, was Association President Terry Aubrey's resignation, due to health issues. As prescribed by Association bylaws, Association Vice President, Thomas McMahon, be-

came the President. McMahon announced he would continue to run for election as the Association Vice President, against Eldon Meade for another two-year term. If elected his new term would begin at the next general membership meeting, in June 2020. McMahon said, if he wins the Vice President position, he will continue as President and appoint a Vice President, as provided by the bylaws. This prospect, though unusual, is allowed by the bylaws and was unanimously approved by the BOD.

Joe Flesch and Wayne Bowers (Chapter 30) prepared a draft 173rd ABA Reunion SOP and presented it to the BOD. The SOP is designed to assist host Chapters plan and execute reunions, with the 173rd ABA Executive Board. The only mandatory requirements in the SOP are those specified in the bylaws. This will allow the host Chapter great leeway in the planning and executing reunion details. The BOD unanimously approved the SOP.



Wreaths Across America 2019



Arlington National Cemetery

Early, on Saturday, December 14, 2019, the annual tradition of laying Christmas wreaths on Arlington National Cemetery graves began anew. Terry Walsh and Joe Flesch joined the reverent crowd that formed near The Old Post Chapel, Fort Myer, VA, to wait for the Cemetery to open.

They and the other attendees lined up to pay homage to those buried there. While they waited, they conversed with the other patriotic Americans there to honor the warriors and patriots resting in that hallowed

place. When the gate opened, they joined the throng in getting their allotment of wreaths from trucks throughout the cemetery. After obtaining wreaths, they placed the wreaths, with a salute and a prayer of gratitude to those whose graves they adorned. Following the wreath laying, the duo adjourned to the PX coffee shop for a warm cup of coffee and equally warm conversation with other wreath layers.



Attention to Orders



Okay. Let's face it. Even though we were once lean and mean and ready and willing to jump out of perfectly good airplanes, at a moment's notice, many of us are - let me be polite - of a certain age when we are particularly vulnerable to the smallest of foes. You guessed it: the coronavirus.

Yeah, yeah. I know what you're thinking. You used to be able to dodge shrapnel, eat raw game, and kick Charlie's butt with impunity. But guess what gang. This bug's one bad Momba Jamba. You've survive this far by knowing your enemy and reacting accordingly. In this case, that means taking reasonable protective measures.

You know the drill to protect yourself and others:

- Clean your hands often
- Avoid close contact
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Stay at home if you're sick
- Wear a facemask if you're sick
- Clean and disinfect surfaces

We want ya to be around a long time. Take this bug seriously and take care.

Photo Gallery

Chapter Annual Meeting 2020



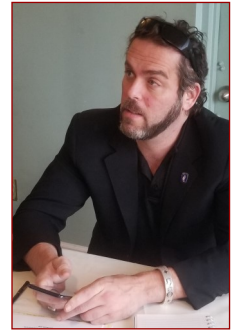
Frank Boberek & Trudi Surut



Frank Boberek



Brenda Persons



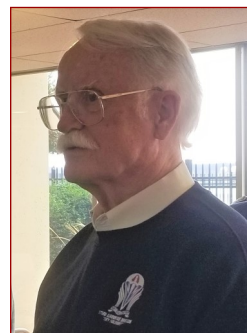
Steve Brignoli
Chapter President



Sue Boberek



Henry Persons & Jeane Flesch



Ed Anthony



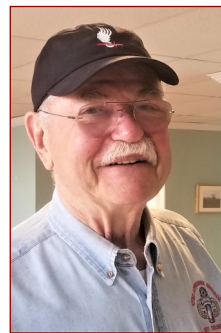
Jonathan Neal



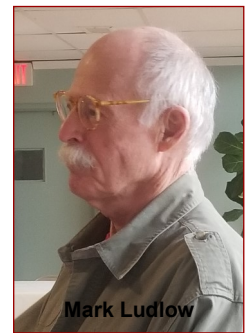
Patrice Snyder



Garrett Clemons



Joe Flesch



Mark Ludlow
Mark Ludlow



Henry Persons

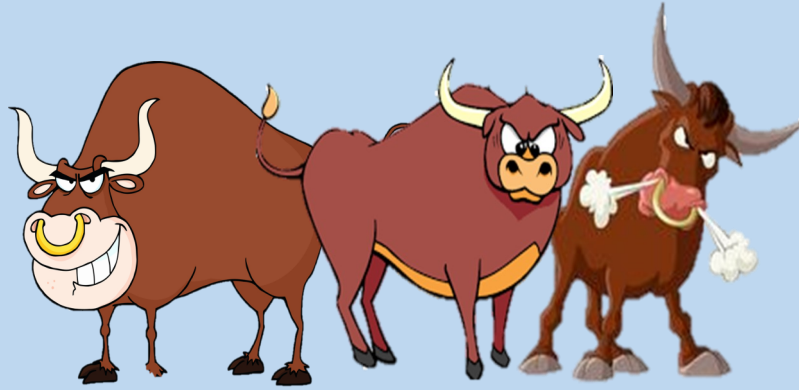


Susan & Garrett Clemons; Jeane & Joe Flesch



Steve Brignoli & Mack Brooks

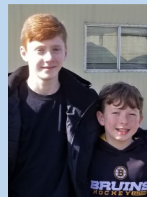
Gathering of the Herd



Visitor



Joe Flesch



Liam & Alden
Connolly



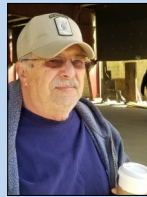
Visitor



Jonathan Neal



Lynzy Stevens



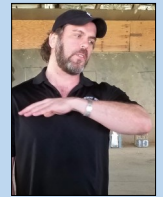
Visitor



Lee
The Range Manager



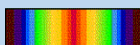
Bill Connolly, Jr.



Steve Brignoll




In no order: Joe Flesch, Bill Connolly, Aldan Connolly, Liam Connolly, Bill Connolly, Jr., Jeni Hansen, Paul Stearman, Terry Walsh, Mack Brooks, Steve Brignoll, Deborah Delfavero, and Jon Neal





Address Label

Stamp

173rd Airborne Brigade Association

 Chapter 1 (Sigholtz Capital Chapter)
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 McLean, VA 22101-0173

FOLD



Tis a Bit of the Irish in All of Us, Laddie

