



# RIPCORD REPORT



For Friends and Survivors of the battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord  
Republic of Vietnam 12 March - 23 July, 1970

Number 95

Fall 2013

## 2013 Ripcord Reunion Myrtle Beach, SC Oct 9 - 12, 2013

## The Ghosts of Ripcord Documentary

### Update

In 1986, the Ripcord Association had its first reunion. There were only a dozen Ripcord veterans there. The second reunion was held in 1986 and then a few years later in 1995 the third reunion was held. Since then, there has been a Ripcord reunion every year and every year, we are getting more and more Ripcord veterans attending. This year is going to be great in Myrtle Beach with a lot of new faces showing up.

So, do not delay any longer, make your hotel reservation now. Remember, you have until **September 9th** to reserve a room at the Ripcord rate. Do not hesitate!! Do not forget to send Lee Widjeskog your registration form (included in this issue). We need to know how many are coming to make preparations for the banquet and hospitality room.

Our reunions are like a family reunion. We bring our wives, children, and friends to share a bond as we meet and greet with the guys we experienced Ripcord with 43 years ago.

We hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. The filmmakers of *The Ghosts of Ripcord* have spent the summer putting final touches on the documentary since our premiere last April. We are getting professional work done on the graphics and sound through the 85 minute film, and anticipate on pursuing distribution of the completed film this fall.

We are also hoping that there will be a second screening of the documentary this October at the Ripcord Reunion in Myrtle Beach. We are currently trying to secure a venue, more details will be provided as we get closer to October. There will be additional screenings in the future, but we hope as many of the Ripcord veterans as possible will be present at the Reunion so that they can see the documentary together.

Thank you for your continued support!  
Sincerely, the filmmakers

## Future Ripcord Reunions

2013 Ripcord Reunion  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Oct 9 - 12, 2013

2014 Ripcord Reunion  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Oct 8 - 11, 2014

2015 Ripcord Reunion  
Springfield, MO  
Oct 7 - 10, 2015

# FROM THE EDITOR

Is time really flying past us much quicker as we get a little older? Seems that way. That is why you have to make this reunion in Myrtle Beach in October. Don't put it off any longer.



I am in the process of gathering every piece of information about Ripcord from March 12th thru July 23rd. Please send me any involvement you had during this time. Journals, logs, reports, and what your activities were. Send them to:

ripcordtheseries@ripcordassociation.com or to my home address below.

## Membership

Anyone can join our Ripcord Association for free. If you are a Ripcord veteran, or an Associate member. Go to our website and update your membership to change your e-mail, postal address, etc. so that we can continue to update you.

## E-mail address

I need your e-mail address. If you are not receiving updates and information about the Ripcord Association via e-mail, you may be missing out on a lot of news. Please go to our website and update your information.

Contact me at mail@ripcordassociation or at my address below.

**Frank Marshall**

5 Taconia Ct

Mt Laurel, NJ 08054

## The Battle of Ripcord Movie

We have no updates or information about this project by Dark Ronin Films since Oct 2012. The Ripcord Association will not support this project if Dark Ronin films does not give us any information or updates on their plans to proceed. There have been some complaints to us that the product sales of movie items by Dark Ronin films were never fulfilled but it seems this situation has been resolved and the money refunded.

The Ripcord Association does not endorse or support any solicitation for funds or donations for this movie.

## Donations, the life blood of our Association

The following have given donations to the Ripcord Association since the last newsletter. These donations help keep the website and newsletters published to keep all our Ripcord members up to date.

|                          |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Bill Williams            | Jack Flaherty  |
| James McCoy              | Jim McCall     |
| Wilburn Wall             | Terry Smith    |
| Ken Hamilton             | Mike Griffin   |
| Audrey Wrightsell        | Charlie Tipton |
| Darryl Reina             | Bill Hand      |
| Jewish Veterans Post 697 |                |

Checks payable to "Ripcord Association".

Mail to:

Lee Widjeskog,  
493 Stillman Ave.  
Bridgeton, NJ 08302

Opinions expressed in submitted material are not necessarily those of the editorial staff. We reserve the right to reject any material deemed to be inappropriate. We also reserve the right to edit all submissions, but we will make every effort to maintain the writer's concept and meaning. Please be brief and concise.

## RIPCORD REPORT

**Ripcord Report** is a publication of the **Ripcord Association**, and is the authoritative voice of history for the Battle of Fire Support Base Ripcord.

### Ripcord Report

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# JERSEY RAMBLING

by Lee Widjeskog

A/2-506



It's been a very interesting summer no matter where you live. In some areas they have suffered draughts and fires while other parts of the country normally dry have had floods. The weather has been hot and humid in normally dry places and wet and cold in areas that have nice weather in the summer. A few people had weather as expected but it does not seem that many did!

In May, Kathy and I took off on an 8,900 mile tour of some of the country. We managed to visit friends and relatives along the way and even managed to miss a few people we had hoped to see. It was a good trip and much of the country I had seen previously 45 years before while in school or after. The one thing that stood out in my mind is the vast amount of development that has taken place in 40 years. Those who live in southern California and even in the Sacramento Valley have seen this increase. Having gone to school at Colorado State University I am amazed at how houses and businesses have filled up the front range of the Rockies from Ft. Collins all the way down to Pueblo.

I am certain that many of the readers can attest to similar conditions in the area they first lived. I am sure that is not news to our parents as they saw similar changes but generally at a slower rate. This faster rate of change has happened due to the easy access provided by the automobile, the generally good road system we have today and the great number of "baby boomers". It became easy to live away from others and still get to work. The only problem with that is others had the same idea and while you were once away by yourself, now you have more and more neighbors. You can still move and I am certain some of you have. Over time, that move will also be infringed by new neighbors moving into your area since you are not the only one who appreciates the area.

So what is the point of this comment? As we continue to move and build, more and more land will become covered with man's creations. Suddenly, things like national parks, state parks, wildlife areas and wilderness areas will become more and more desirable. It can be a relief to be able to go to one of these places and actually see the land as it was before man had a lot of influence. For the majority of us who cannot afford to own a lot a land, this may be the only place we can

take grandchildren and show them examples of what you remember! For those brought up in the cities, these areas are almost like a fantasy because they never knew such areas as children. Preservation of undeveloped areas in your state today will be important to your grandchildren and their kids. Plan for the future even if you will not be around to enjoy it!

Myrtle Beach is coming quickly upon us! As of this writing I have 147 people who have sent in their registrations to me. Compared to last year, we are about 60 people ahead. At this rate we could have over 200 people attending!! Remember, you have only till **9 September** to reserve a room at the Ripcord rate. Do not hesitate!!

See you in South Carolina!!

Lee Widjeskog

## Anna Britt Nolan Trust Fund

by George and Mary Murphy



Dear Fellow Members of the Ripcord Association,

It's that time of the year again—time to think about the upcoming Ripcord Reunion and the raffle for the Anna Britt Nolan trust. Anna will be 14 in November and will be starting high school this year. That means it will be just a few more years and she will be choosing a college. We are hopeful there will be sufficient funds in her trust to pay for a four-year college education when the time comes. If you would like to bring an item for this year's Anna Britt Nolan Trust raffle at our reunion in Myrtle Beach, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

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The address where donations may be sent for the trust fund is:

**Anna Britt Nolan Trust  
c/o First Bank  
6211 Mid Rivers Mall Drive  
Saint Charles, MO 63304-1102**

**In Memory of**  
**Sidney B. Berry, Lieutenant General**  
**Then Brigadier General and Acting Commander,**  
**101<sup>st</sup> Airmobile Division, July 1970, RVN**

“My Anne,  
22 July 1970, 0515,  
Camp Eagle, RVN...

Today we must decide on a course of action that is different from what we are now doing. Now we are taking constant casualties on RIPCORD from incoming mortar rounds, particularly among our artillerymen ... And ... among the rifle companies ... operating in the mountains around RIPCORD....

So now what? That’s what I’m paid for to decide....

...I’ll be glad when I have decided what to do ... Dear God, help me to make the right decision.”

Then Brigadier General Sidney B. Berry, Jr. agonized thus over anything that would cost American Soldier’s lives, and in this war, the lives of ARVN Soldiers as well. Members of the RIPCORD Association know what his decision was.

Born in Mississippi, and coming through the US Military Academy at West Point almost by accident, Lieutenant Sid Berry messed up his early career by trying to date at too great a distance, suffered an automobile accident returning from one of those long-distance dates, missed a critical examination, lost his class standing, and instead of receiving his desired posting to Europe, was sent to Japan instead. His dating was similarly constrained to the Atlanta area where he met, wooed and married the love of his life, Anne Hayes. He was almost immediately ordered to Japan. His unit, Able Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> Division was ordered to South Korea in July 1950 to help stem the North Korean invasion. Here Lieutenant Sid Berry served from July 15 1950 to August 1951 as Platoon Leader, S-3, Company Commander and Battalion S-3. He left Korea a Major, with two Silver Stars and a Purple Heart. Not bad for having missed an Exam.

He and Anne would eventually serve twice in Europe, once with the 54<sup>th</sup> Armored Infantry and again

as V Corps Commander. With the eruption of the War in Vietnam, he first served as Advisor to a Vietnamese unit, where he was wounded again. His actions earned Major General William DePuy’s respect resulting in a request that Berry extend his service in Vietnam for another six months in order to serve in the Big Red One – “BRO” as he referred to it in his correspondence. Schools and the Pentagon followed, but then he returned to Vietnam and was assigned as Assistant Division Commander, 101<sup>st</sup> Airmobile Division. He would later

Command that Division and convert it into an Air Assault Division. During his service in Vietnam, he earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses, backed up by 42 awards of the Air Medal as well as two more Silver Stars. He was most proud, however, of his two Combat Infantry Badges, fully earned and certifying his commitment to soldiers. His final assignment was Command of V U.S. Army Corps astride the Fulda Gap in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Upon retiring, he became the Commissioner of Public Safety for the State of Mississippi. He and Anne eventually retired to Arlington, Virginia.

During their residence there he wrote the first drafts of *Able Company is My Home*, his narrative of those long, hard days in Korea that shaped his life as a professional Soldier. Throughout his life he read good literature, reading Tolstoy’s *War and Peace* at least once a year, and then, as his friendship with Anton Myrer grew during his assignment as Superintendent at West Point, he dug deeply into Myrer’s *Once An Eagle*, which, thanks largely to his efforts, has just been republished in hardcover in time for another generation of Soldiers.

Sidney Berry was a direct man, intolerant of any shade of dishonesty, quibbling, or posturing. Outwardly severe, he had a fine sense of humor and a deep compassion for those who would have to bear the burdens of combat. As a consequence, he demanded very high standards of leadership from all his officers.

Even so, upon retirement, he moved easily to become a

(continued on page 5)



*(Gen Berry con't)*

and falling victim to Parkinson's Disease, he became increasingly dependent on the assistance of the nursing staff. As he described his situation in a letter to a friend, "I am now in the care of 24 women who are strangers to me. I shall spend the remainder of my time witnessing to and befriending them." They all wept at his passing.

In the closing lines from Anton Myrer's book, Sam Damon, the good and professional Soldier's dying words, often quoted by Sid Berry to his professional associates, are these, "...the only thing I've learned in sixty-five years, only one: the romantic, spendthrift moral act is ultimately the practical one – the practical, expedient cozy-dog move is the one that comes to grief. Yes. Remember that...*if it comes to a choice between being a good soldier and a good human being – try to be a good human being....*" Sid Berry tried, and did very well.

Enter into your eternal rest, Thou good and Faithful Servant.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lt. Col. (RET) Doug Johnson

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## INCOMING MAIL

I am looking forward to my first Ripcord Reunion. Not only will I be an FNG but I really don't know anyone except by name and Facebook communications. My wife Linda who married me on R&R after dating in high school is coming with me, so I hope there will be one of the ladies that might make some introductions for her.

I truly do look forward to meeting the people that I fired artillery for and who I listened to on our AR46 radios in FDC. You all have my utmost admiration.

*Ron Hudson*  
*A Btry 1st/39th FA*  
*rlh7415@comcast.net*

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I have watched everything possible on TV about Ripcord. I thought possibly Oliver North's report on Ripcord might include it but nothing about it was ever mentioned.

As I'm sure you're aware we had the top of the

mountain and the infantry had the bottom but the enemy always seemed to be between us making it difficult to shoot (if you ever saw anything) there is a very good reason for this.

While I was posting the air data with S-2 (intelligence) I happened to be present when the report came in (several months after we had pulled everyone off) it was reported that a 7 story enemy hospital was inside the mountain. This is why they seemed to always be between the top and the infantry below. They just popped up from a spider hole took a couple shots and moved to another spider hole.

It has always been my belief that the wording was part of American propaganda of sorts. I'm sure there were 7 levels and I'm equally sure their wounded were no doubt treated there but to call it 7 stories or a hospital would most likely be a stretch.

My time actually at Ripcord was short however I still have nightmares I'm sure it will never leave me. I would like to thank you for the opportunity to get this off my chest. I have wanted to tell someone/anyone about this for all these years.

*Al Hamlett*  
*HQB 2/11 Arty*  
*VFW Post Service Officer*  
*vfwpso6333@yahoo.com*

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Trying to find information about my father, Charles Lee Boyes (Charlie). I know he was a Screaming Eagle in Vietnam, but not sure of deployment. He said he was an engineer.

*C. Morgan Boyes*  
*cmboyes@gmail.com*  
*Associate Member*

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Colonel Harrison asked for volunteers from my unit, 3rd Platoon 101st Military Police Camp Evans, and I volunteered with MP Sgt.C. Michael Gayron before Ripcord was evacuated because it was thought that the NVA would overrun Ripcord.

*Michael W. McCarrin Esquire*  
*mwmccarrin@verizon.net*  
*101st Military Police Company 3rd Platoon*

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## INCOMING MAIL

My best friend was PFC Patrick Bohan of Peoria, Illinois. The day before he died he sent me a letter saying that the enemy clearly had superiority in that area.

Is there anyone who know him? He was a pathfinder and I believe he was one of the last to die there.

*Mike Nash*

*michaelallennash@msn.com*

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I just got an e-mail from Tom Sewell and the 101st Airborne Division Snowbird reunion, is the first weekend in February, the 5-8th. So, it'll be time to saddle up for a great time. for those who have never been, this is a great laid back time. More info to come, I was not informed as to what city or hotel, so keep an eye on the events on the 101st website: <http://www.screamingeagle.org/>

A reminder, the we will have many ceremonies in DC this weekend, I will be at the 101st Abn. Monument at Arlington National Cemetery Sunday, the ceremony begins at 1100 hrs. After that we will repair to the Sheraton National for lunch. All are invited

*CW-2 Frederic A. Von Behrens*

*U.S. Army (Retired)*

*B/101 Avn Bn Kingsmen*

*Redbaron13@verizon.net*

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I am writing in regards to my father who was with A 2/319th artillery.

My father was on Granite when it got hit. I'll be damned if I can find a book on it though, just keep finding ripcord (which was supported by Granite arty I am aware). However, that is not why I am writing. I was wondering if you remember my father, James Anthony McColley, went by Jim or "Slick". He was in A 2/319th 101st Airborne from 69-71. However, he said he spent more time on patrol with the infantry than he did on the howitzers. Matter of fact, he said he spent part of that July that Ripcord was being hit so hard on patrol. I don't think it was near, or an direct assistance to, Ripcord but he was out "looking for the enemy" as he says. I am going to visit him in about a week and I finally remembered to get his permission to research

him. I wanted to ask about him on websites and/or email but had never asked if it was okay. It didn't seem right requesting his records, asking about his history, without his approval. Anyway, tonight I finally asked if it was okay. He said yes but expect to hear "he was a crazy SOB!"

Thanks in advance!

Bill McColley

(a very soon to be retired Navy vet)

*mccolleyw@yahoo.com*

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It's been 43yrs. and I just happened to research the Ripcord name on the web by a friend that knows my passion, I have read the book twice taking copious notes the 2nd time so I knew who was who. I was on the first bird into the saddle the LZ to recover the 9 KIA's. I was the one who found Capt. Don Workman's remains. Too, while in Madigan General Hospital in the summer of 1971 I met the E-6 who had been shot in the face while on a trip to watch dragsters somewhere in WA state.

Craig Willcutts

B 2/501st

*craigwillcutts@gmail.com*

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My father is a member of the Association and was with C co. 158 AVN during the battle. My brother Joshua is an Associate member, a 101st Veteran (A co. 9-101st, 97-99). I am a C co. 1-502nd Veteran, Infantry, and Iraq Veteran (OIF 3).

Joseph de la Torre

*jd\_strike@comcast.net*

Associate Member

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I was officially with Operation Texas Star - took over AO for Our Sister Battalion 2nd/506th. Operated around Ripcord after B-52s blew it apart.

Thomas Miller

A Co. 3/506th 101st Abn.

*easyville22@msn.com*

Associate Member

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**Progress Report and Call for Volunteers  
Ripcord Oral History Interviews Conducted By  
The Grand Valley State University Veterans  
History Project**

Dr. James Smither, Director

Over the past couple of years, Mike McGregor and I have recorded nearly forty oral history interviews with members of the Ripcord Association, both at the Indianapolis reunions in 2011 and 2012, and locally in Michigan, where we are based. Most of these interviews have been digitized and posted on our website ([www.gvsu.edu/vethistory](http://www.gvsu.edu/vethistory)). Each video is accompanied by a detailed outline linked to the timings in the videos, which help researchers to locate specific aspects of each veteran's story. The handful that are not posted yet are in process, and should be up by the Myrtle Beach reunion in October.

While the collection is already rich and diverse (ranging from brigade commander to battalion cook), there are a lot of stories yet to record, so we are planning to attend the Myrtle Beach reunion this year to conduct new interviews, and would like to get some set up ahead of time if possible. If you are planning to attend the reunion and are willing to share your story with us, please contact me, either by email at [smitherj@gvsu.edu](mailto:smitherj@gvsu.edu), or telephone at 616-331-3422 (I'm not in a lot during the summer, so please leave a voice mail message if I'm not in when you call). If you are not planning to attend the reunion but live in lower Michigan, northern Indiana or the Chicago area, I also make house calls, so I can come to you to record your story.

In our larger project, we conduct interviews with veterans from any era from World War II to the present, as well as with civilian witnesses and foreign nationals with stories to tell that relate to the American experience in wartime. We work in partnership with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, and copies of our interviews will ultimately be archived there as well as at our university.

We conduct our interviews biographically, starting with some family background and what you were doing before you entered the service, and then follow you from induction and training through active duty and out the other end. The interviews thus include a lot of material that does not make it into books or documentaries about Ripcord, and serves as a complement to them, so even if you were interviewed

by Keith Nolan or by the filmmakers from Temple University, it is still important for you to share your story with us as well. Our job is to help you tell your story as you want to tell it, and do not push political agendas or try to twist your story in odd directions. The interview videos are posted in their entirety on the website. Once the interview is complete, we will send you a DVD copy of it free of charge.

*Anyone interested in scheduling an interview at the reunion can contact me by email ([smitherj@gvsu.edu](mailto:smitherj@gvsu.edu)) or phone (616-331-3422). For those not going to the reunion, I can also make house calls to interview people in lower Michigan, northern Indiana or the Chicago area.*

Ripcord Association interview videos posted on Grand Valley State University Veterans History Project Website as of 6/25/13:

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Avgerinos, Steve        | Martin, Alfred     |
| Brady, Bruce            | Meyer, Uwe         |
| Campbell, William (Tex) | Mihalko, John      |
| Cooper, Leonard (Dale)  | Moore, Leonard     |
| Cox, Tony               | Murphy, George     |
| Critchlow, Tony         | Renner, Mike       |
| David, Ken              | Roach, Jim         |
| Doyle, Dick             | Snyder, Dave       |
| Drury, Dick             | Spaulding, Fred    |
| Faine, Steven           | Spruill, Wayne     |
| Glennon, Martin         | Van Hout, Craig    |
| Harris, Jim             | Vazquez, Isabelino |
| Harrison, Ben           | Wallace, Bob       |
| Kiekintveld, Greg       | Whipple, Bruce     |
| Leibecke, Bob           | Wilcox, Jeff       |
| Manthei, Steve          | Zahn, Ron          |

Interviews currently being processed:

Alioto, Michael  
Connelly, Joe  
Newman, Tim  
Reilly, John  
Tarbuck, Bob

## Ripcord on Facebook

by Anthony Chritchlow



### Our Face book page keeps growing.

As the summer winds down I hope everyone had a great one. Our family went to the Oregon coast. My son and son-in-law and I went sturgeon fishing on the Columbia River. We caught a few but none were keepers. It was a great time anyway. The grandkids had fun on the beach.

Our Face book continues to grow. There are 367 members now. Thanks to everyone who has posted new pictures to the page. This year's discussions on the final days of Ripcord were outstanding. This is what our page is about. We need to talk about what we went through. I hope this continues. As a reminder keep the post to your experiences to Ripcord, your patrols around Ripcord, Camp Evans. I leave all post up to the members. If they say something to me about a post I'll check it out. Please keep up the posts about the passings of our Ripcord members and families.

Have you signed up for this year's reunion? Go to our main web page you will find all the information there. Sorry to say my wife and I will not be there this year. We had a great time last year. Maybe next year we can make it. For sure 3 years for now we will be there.

While I'm rambling on here I want to thank Frank for being our web master and to tell him to keep up the great work he does for us on the web page. Please give me suggestions on what you would like to see on our

Visit the  
Ripcord Association Facebook page at:

[http://www.facebook.com/groups/  
ripcordassociation/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ripcordassociation/)

Visit the Ripcord Association website  
at:  
[www.ripcordassociation.com](http://www.ripcordassociation.com)

## Ripcord Association Membership

### New Members

| Last Name   | First Name | Unit             |
|-------------|------------|------------------|
| Bishop      | Marty      | 6th QM Plt       |
| Boyes       | C. Morgan  | Associate Member |
| Brecht      | Gary       | D/2-506 Bn HQ S1 |
| Bryce       | Ron        | 101 AVN S3       |
| De La Torre | Joseph     | Associate Member |
| Fowler      | John       | C/2-506          |
| Hamlett     | Allen      | HHB 2/11 Arty    |
| Hanson      | Joe        | Associate Member |
| McCarrin,   | Michael    | 101st MP 3rd Plt |
| McColley    | Billy      | Associate Member |
| Miller      | Thomas     | A/3-506          |
| Potts       | George     | B/319 Arty       |
| Ray         | John       | E/2-506          |
| Stanley     | Grover     | C/159th ASHB     |
| Strickler   | Howard     | C/158 Aviation   |
| Struzan     | Stephen    | 327th Comp C     |
| Willcutts   | Craig      | 2/501            |

We have:

- 858 members in our Ripcord Association.
- 650 are Ripcord Veterans
- 208 are Associate Members
- 276 receive newsletter via Postal Mail
- 582 receive the newsletter via e-mail
- 367 Facebook "Ripcord Association Group"

### Important Membership Update

Our membership has grown to 858 members. It has been a long time since we verified everyone's information. I will be sending everyone a form to fill out and return to us. You can save us postage and time by going to our website now and filling out the membership application and we can verify your information. Please help us as there will be a lot of important information to update you on future projects. Anyone that does not give us an update on their information will be removed from our list and will not receive the updates and information.

## Ripcord Vetetran inducted into Ranger Hall of Fame

**LTC Frederick L. Spaulding (ret)** entered the service in June 1958, spending 9 years as an enlisted man before being commissioned. He retired from service in June 1987. He served as an Abn Ranger, Pathfinder, master Parachutist, Raider/recondo NCO and Special Forces Officer during his career. His superiors consistently called upon him for the toughest of jobs. He served in 3 combat areas; Dominican Republic, Korea, and Vietnam: commanded 5 rifle companies, 2 HQ's companies and 3 Special Forces "A" teams. He was selected for United Nations Honor Guard duty at Eighth Army Headquarters, Seoul, Korea; NCO of the year (1963), for 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Div. and runner up for Eighth Army NCO of the year.

LTC Spaulding has been awarded The Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, 2 Bronze Stars w/V, Air Medals w/V, Presidential Unit Citations, Valorous Unit awards, CIB, master Parachutist Wings and Ranger Tab. While serving as an instructor at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Div., Raider/Recondo and Abn schools in 1965, then SSG Spaulding was selected among 4 other Rangers in the Bn to be point man across the Duarte Bridge into Santo Domingo leading the 3<sup>rd</sup> platoon, C company, 2/325<sup>th</sup> and the 82<sup>nd</sup> into its first battle since WWII. As an officer in Vietnam,

Cpt Spaulding showed his extraordinary willingness to "lead the way" when he was trusted to take charge of the chaotic Firebase Henderson. His outpost was attacked through the night by an NVA sapper company causing multiple KIA and WIA. Firebase Henderson remained under constant mortar and heavy arms fire



while Cpt Spaulding called in effective air strikes from the ground and evacuated the wounded. He later returned under fire and recovered all of the KIA. In 1970, Cpt Spaulding was selected to plan and coordinate the battle of Firebase Ripcord in the A Shau Valley, Vietnam. He was responsible for all aircraft in the AO and fire support during the battle with emphasis on the siege (1-23 July 70), as well as the withdrawal of the firebase and 2 rifle companies in the vicinity, all while under heavy fire. During the withdrawal (23 July), three LOH helicopters (OH<sup>A</sup>) from which he operated were damaged so badly by enemy fire, that they were each rendered inoperable. The 4<sup>th</sup> OH6A he used that day was also heavily damaged, but it was flyable to complete his mission of getting all troops out of the AO, opening the way for a massive B52 strike. Spaulding's disregard for his personal safety while under intense fire is the highest definition of RLTW!

### Read other biographies of Ripcord Veterans on our website

Aanonsen, James A/2-506 Alexander, Floyd FO's RTO A/2-506 Blythe, Rick 2/506 HHC, A and E co.  
Boles, Michael B/2-506 Collins, Chip B/2-506 Counts, Tommy D/2-506  
Chritchlow, Anthony HHC 2/506 Glennon, Martin A/2-506 Hammons, Layne C/2-506  
Harrison, Benjamin HHC 3rd BDE Hawkins, Charles F A & C & HHC/2/506  
House, Randy C/158 Phoenix 16 Joliet, Tim A/2-506 Judd, Bob B/2-506 Kalsu, Bob C/2-11 Arty  
Kays, Kenneth D/1-506 Kenyon, David 326th Engineers Kohr, Bill Pathfinder  
Marshall, Frank A/2-506 Manbeck, Tom C/2-506 Mishler Barry B & E /2-506  
McCoy, Jim D/Co 1/506th Miller, Erick W. B-Co 1/327th Inf Radford, Gary D/2-506  
Reina, Darryl A2/506th Rich, David B/2-319th Field Artillery Spaulding, Fred 3rd BDE S3 AIR  
Thompson, Daniel HHC/2-506 Widjeskog, Lee A/2-506

# Firestore Ripcord Association October 9 – 13, 2013

## Hotel Reservation form for

Sands Ocean Club Resort

9550 Shore Drive

Myrtle Beach, SC 29572

**Phone: (888) 265-8846**

Group code: **RIPCORD ASSOCIATION**

Group Room Rate: Sunday thru Sunday \$75 per day + \$2.14 access charge per day + tax.  
(Breakfast included)

A deposit for the first night's room and tax or a Credit Card Number is required to  
guarantee this reservation.\*

Room rate is available three days before and after the group-blocked dates.

**Tell them you are with the RIPCORD ASSOCIATION when you register.**

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Rooms \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Room needs: \_\_\_\_\_

- Although we cannot guarantee special requests, every effort will be made to meet your request.

Deposit Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature Authorizing Hotel's Use of Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

\*PLEASE NOTE: Those guests sending a cash deposit should be aware that a credit card imprint and valid , state-issued ID will be necessary upon check in. Should you wish to pay for your stay with cash, a credit card imprint and valid ID will still be required upon arrival to secure your accommodations.

All cash payments are accepted upon departure.

Check-in time: 3:00 PM

Check-out Time: 11:00 AM

**To confirm reservations, return form to the hotel or call by September 9, 2013.**

**We look forward to seeing you in October!**

## Myrtle Beach Reunion Sign Ups

Jim & Michelle McCoy D 1/506  
Uwe & Diane Meyer B 2/506  
George & Mary Murphy B 2/320 FA  
Jim & Irene Aanonsen A 2/506  
Al & Sondra Martin 2/11 FA  
Dave & Lisa Snyder 2/11 FA  
Frank Delfino & Cathy Jobes HHC 1/506  
Polly Atkins Guest  
Murphy & Phyllis Majoria Guest  
Ben & Carolyn Harrison HHC 3<sup>rd</sup> BDE  
Lee & Kathy Widjeskog A 2/506  
Bob & Red Judd B 2/506  
Steve & Cindy Gunn HHC 2/506  
David & Sophia Kenyon 326 Eng  
Jack Flaherty D 2/506  
Mike & Liz Womack C 2/506  
Doug & Iris Puffer D 2/506  
Joseph Pojedinec Assoc. Member  
Bob & Jackie Wallace C 2/506  
Pete & Chris Meloro C 2/506  
Steve & Susan Wallace B2/506  
Tex Campbell D 2/506  
Bob Leibeck C 2/506  
Bruce Brady & Karolyn Kruger A 2/506  
Greg & Kristi Kiekintveld 326 Eng.  
Bill & Sheila Williams B 2/506  
Vincent & Charlotte Priola B 2/506  
Ken & Maryann David D 1/506  
Dan & Lydia Esposito 2/11 FA  
Craig & Sandy Van Hout B 2/506  
Dale & Sue Cooper C 2/506  
Audrey Wrightsell 2/11 FA  
Bill & Lynn Hand B & E 2/506  
John & Mike Richards B 2/506  
Bill Boles D 2/506  
Mike & Cathy Chiarelli B 2/506  
Ben & Lillian Peters B 2/506  
John Fowler C 2/506  
Mike & Patricia Dipinto B 2/501  
Chuck & Carol Shannon D 2/506  
Paul & Laura Hansmann B 2/506  
Ron & Linda McCrory E 2/506  
Bob & Janice Counts A 2/506  
Paul Buhr A 2/506  
Dick & Debbie Cable E 2/506  
Fred Spaulding HHC 3<sup>rd</sup> BDE

Robert Biedenharn 101<sup>st</sup> WWII  
Earlston Andrews D 2/506  
Rudy & Linda Forsman D 2/506  
Bruce & Ramona Nelson 2/319 FA  
Frank Marshall & Debbi Montgomery A 2/506  
Chuck & Jean Holman A 169 AVN  
Donald & Linda Holthausen C 2/506  
Jerry Hill, Donna Collard & Jodi Smith A 2/506  
Larry & Annabelle Sena A 2/506  
Charlie Tipton C 2/506  
Mike & Lura Renner 2/11 FA  
Leonard & Carol Moore Mini Cav  
Kent Rowland C 2/506  
Merle, Ruth, Joe & Joshua DeLagrange D 1/506  
James Smither Grand Valley State U.  
Janet Coryell Western Michigan U.  
Bill Mulvey & Sean Ramage A 2/506  
James & Peggy Roach 2/506  
Robert & Gloria Pressley B 2/506  
Bob Tarbuck & Paige Corkhill C 2/506  
Floyd & Diane Alexander 2/319 FA & A 2/506  
Leonard Larson & Kathy Shen 2/320 FA  
Ron & Linda Hudson 1/39<sup>th</sup> XXIV Corps  
Dale "Buzz" Ireland 159<sup>th</sup> ASHB  
Dale Lane & Dianne Grote A 2/506  
Floyd & Diane Alexander A 2/506 & 2/319FA  
Tommy & Judy Counts D2/506  
John Beadle & Noreen Labadie A 2/11 FA  
Bill & Pam Baldwin A 2/506  
Bob Layton B 2/501  
Ruel & Toni Tyer D 2/506  
Michael Hennessy D 1/506  
Wayne Spruill D&E 2/506  
John Reilly 2/11 FA  
Tom & Barbara Peacock D2/506 & A 2/501  
Bob Pagano B 2/506  
Richard Dare B 2/506  
Fred Connor HHC 2/506  
Lora Gassett (Ft Campbell Library)  
Larissa Dogherty (Ft Campbell Library)  
George & Sheila Potts 101<sup>st</sup>  
Mike Goff B 2/17 Cav  
Steve Pullen B 2/17 Cav

**Go to our website for an  
updated list of members  
signed up for this year's reunion  
[www.ripcordassociation.com](http://www.ripcordassociation.com)**

RIPCORD REUNION 2013  
MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA

Yes, I'll be there!

I have not attended a Reunion since 1997 and have not received a Ripcord Coin.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT IN 'NAM \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Will a family member(s) or guest be sharing your accommodations  yes  no? How many including you? . If yes what are their names? (For name tag purposes only).

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Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

**TRANSPORTATION FROM THE AIRPORT IS PROVIDED BY COMPLEMENTARY AIRPORT SHUTTLE. MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR PICK UP AT LEAST 48 HOURS BEFORE ARRIVAL! (1-888-265-8864)**

Registration fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for # \_\_\_\_\_ Adults and # \_\_\_\_\_ children under 18.  
\$40 for children under 18. For adults see discounts below !

**DISCOUNTS FOR EARLY REGISTRATION:**

**Before June 30, 2013, \$75 per adult**  
**July 1 through 31, 2013 \$80 per adult,**  
**August 1 through 31, 2013 \$85 per adult.**  
**After September 1, 2013 \$90 per adult.**

Your registration fee covers the cost of the hospitality room, snacks and beverages, and dinner on Saturday.

**Registration fee due no later than October 4, 2013.**

Make your check payable to "RIPCORD ASSOCIATION"

Mail your check with this form to:

Lee Widjeskog, 493 Stillman Ave., Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

If you have questions call Lee at 856-451-1108 before 5 October 2013

**AGENDA**

**Wednesday, October 9:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Self guided tours and shopping)

**Thursday, October 10:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Golf in the AM) (Self guided tours)

**Friday, October 11:** Hospitality 1200 Hours. Ladies raffle 1900 hours (7PM)

**Saturday, October 12:** Business meeting for association business in Hospitality room.

Dinner with cash bar starting at 1730 hours done by 2200 hours.

**Sunday, October 13:** Homeward bound

**Thursday golf outing (not included in the registration fee). Check here if you will play .**

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEPERATELY AND**

**BY September 9, 2013**

**CALL 1-888-265-8846**

**ASK FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND REFER TO THE GROUP**

**CODE: RIPCORD**