



RIPCORN REPORT



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

Issue # 131

Sept 2022

Ripcord Association Update *by Pete Meloro*

Here we are in the month of September, several weeks away from our reunion in Springfield, Missouri. After three years, we will finally be able to get together to enjoy each other's company and share our experiences. The registration process continues, though the number of registrations received by me has slowed dramatically. As of August 31st, there are 185 people registered to attend our reunion. Given that I will continue to receive registrations for the next several weeks, our number of attendees is likely to come close to or exceed 200. There is still time to register, so if you have been thinking about coming and haven't sent in your registration form, please do so as soon as possible.

Just a reminder, we will not be conducting our raffles this year so it will not be necessary to bring items for said raffle. Although we will not conduct raffles on Tuesday, October 18th, we will get together at 1700 hours and hot hors d'oeuvres will be served. So please, plan to attend prior to setting out for dinner.

Our Business Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 19th at 11 o'clock. There is much to discuss and it is important that you attend. One thing I have learned in the last several months, is the significant amount of time that Lee and Kathy devoted to our Association in planning for the reunion. Thankfully, members of our Board, Frank Marshall, Bill Boles, Jim McCoy and John Fowler, have rolled up their sleeves and have assisted me in the planning process. To this end, we will be requesting volunteers to assist us during our event. Some of the areas of need will be as follows; sign in table, selling our inventory of clothes, books etc., setting up and taking down our flags before and after our dinner and the 50/50 we will sell at the dinner. We will have a sign in sheet for those willing and able to volunteer.

Since this will be the last Newsletter prior to the reunion, let me say that it has been an honor to have worked with Lee over the last several years and I hope our efforts going forward live up to the high standards he established.

See you in October!!

We have been informed by the hotel that the Shuttle service will not be available to and from the airport due to staffing issues.

2022 Ripcord Reunion

**Sunday, October 16th through Wednesday, October 19th
with departure on Thursday, October 20th**

University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, MO.

Call Hotel 417-864-7333 for hotel reservations

Group Code: **RIPCORN**

Deadline for Hotel Reservation with Group Pricing ends Sept 14th

Ripcord Book Project and Interviews

Jim Smither

GVSU Veterans History Project

Jim Smither has interviewed about 100 Ripcord Veterans already, and would like to interview any others who are willing to share their stories. He will be at the Ripcord Reunion this year and will be doing interviews there.

If you are interested in being interviewed and will be at the reunion this year, please feel free to contact me in advance to set up a session. I'll be available all day Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I may have some time late in the day on Saturday or early Thursday as well.

The best way to contact me will be by email at: smitherj@gvsu.edu. You can also leave me a voice mail message on my office phone, (616) 331-3422.

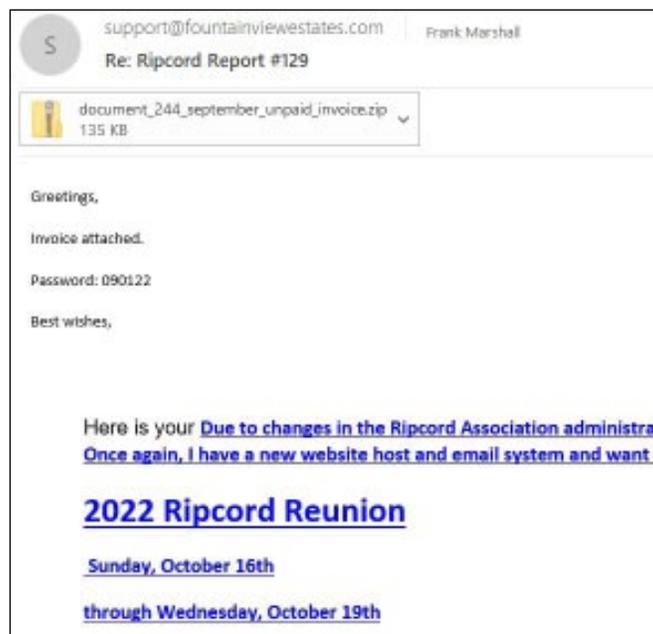
E-mail Scam

Do not respond if you receive this email.

It looks like it came from Ripcord Association and says, Greetings, your invoice is attached.

Do not open invoice or attachment.

The Ripcord Association does not send invoices out to members!



Everyone is **WELCOME**
to join our Association:
www.ripcordassociation.com

MEMBERSHIP IS FREE !

For our membership request form,
download at:

www.ripcordassociation.com/membership-form

692 members in our Ripcord Association
583 are Ripcord Veterans
109 are Associate Members
151 receive newsletter via Postal Mail
542 receive the newsletter via e-mail
1,171 on Facebook "Ripcord Association Group"

New Members

Robert Jones	HHC/ 2-506
Joshua Sheehan	Associate Member
Michael Stephan	C/159 ASHB



TO ALL MEMBERS

Please continue to send your letters, comments and articles to:

newsletter@ripcordassociation.com or
postal mail to:

Frank Marshall
567 Circle Drive
Surfside Beach, SC 29575

Everyone would love to hear from you.

Doc Draper A/2-506



William (Baldy) Baldwin and Bob Wright pay respect to Doc Draper A/2-506 who was killed July 22nd, 1970 at his gravesite in Indiana.



ATTENTION GOLFERS



I am working with the Convention & Visitor's Bureau of Springfield to schedule the Golf outing on Monday, October 17th at 10:00 AM. The outing will take place at Payne Stewart Golf Course in Springfield. The tee time cannot be scheduled until we are within two weeks of October 17th.

My contact at the Convention & Visitor's Center will follow up and confirm our tee times. The cost for 18 holes with cart is \$41 or \$38 for seniors. Thus far, 10 people have signed up to play golf.

Peter Meloro

Attention Golfers:

We have been informed by the hotel that the Shuttle service will not be available to and from the Golf course due to staffing issues.

Ripcord on Facebook

by Anthony Critchlow



The summer is almost over. I hope everyone survived the hot days. My wife and I are looking forward to October and the reunion. We will arrive in Springfield on the 15th.

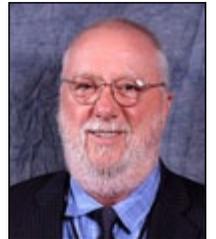
Our Facebook site continues to grow. We now have 1,171 members. I thought the new system that Facebook started would be a pain in the ass. It has not. I have not had to ban very many people for trying to sell things on our page. I still have a zero tolerance on sales of any kind. Things I do want, are pictures of your time in Vietnam (not just Ripcord). Articles about Ripcord or our members are good also. Please just not birthday wishes.

I hope to see all of you at this year's reunion. Be safe out there.



I hope everyone is excited for the upcoming Ripcord Reunion. I know it will be a great time!

*Bill Boles
President*



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

www.ripcordassociation.com

Editor: Bill Heath

email: editor@ripcordassociation.com

Design & Layout

Frank Marshall

email: newsletter@ripcordassociation.com

INCOMING MAIL

My name is Joshua Sheehan and I am a Master's student attending American Military University. I am working towards a Master's Degree in American Military History.

I am currently working on writing my final Thesis Paper and my topic will focus on how Vietnam War helicopters were an invaluable asset throughout the conflict, specifically as it pertains to the critical medical support they provided. I will highlight or focus mainly on the Battles of Ia Drang Valley, Hamburger Hill, and Firebase Ripcord during my research.

Thank you in advance for your time in considering my membership application.
joshuadsheehan@gmail.com



Remembering the wounded

Delta Company 1/506th, woke up to the sound of incoming mortars after losing 5 men who walked into an ambush the day before. I didn't have time to dig in and after someone yelled "In coming!" (I hadn't ever heard mortars before this) I pulled my ruck on and layed on my side as they hit the ground around me. After the first rounds landed, the man next to me started screaming he was hit and I noticed a hole in his arm with blood coming out. I grabbed my 4x4 issued bandage and wrapped it around his wound, telling him he would be ok. With that, he complained that his foot was also hit and I saw a trickle of blood coming out of a hole in his boot. I assured him that it was not a fatal wound and he again would be ok, as the next volley of mortars came in on top of us wounding and killing many more of Delta Company.



I always wondered who that soldier was that was wounded laying next to me and thought if writing about it in this newsletter would generate any interest. I'd like to know what happened to him?

Hope more will come forward and give a brief story of their experience during that battle.

Looking forward to seeing you at the reunion FINALLY!!!

Jim & Michelle McCoy

The Moving Wall

On July 10th, I visited Randolph, New Jersey where the Moving Wall was on display. It is a half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. Although I have visited the Wall in Washington D.C., on several occasions, this is the first time I visited the Moving Wall. To my surprise, the Moving Wall has been in existence for over 30 years.

As you approach the Moving Wall, you will see many staff and volunteers to assist in locating a name on the Wall or just to speak with visitors and talk to them about the Wall. There is a cadre of counselors available if a veteran would like to talk to a professional about what they are experiencing.

On a very hot day in New Jersey, cold water was distributed by a local Boy Scout Troop. As is always the case when visiting the Wall in D.C., or the Moving Wall, it brings back memories and emotions. I hope the photos attached give you some perspective about the size and beauty of the Wall.

Peter Meloro



John Reilly and Peter Meloro



Ripcord Ring

At a previous Ripcord reunion, a couple of people asked about getting a ring for Ripcord. Tony Little of D 2/506, talked to a jeweler and they designed a ring. After a few reviews and minor changes, they produced the ring you see in the photos.

New Prices...

Standard size 10 or smaller

Sterling Silver \$289.00 (size 10)

14k Yellow Gold - \$1659.00 (size 10)

10k Yellow Gold - \$989.00 (size 10)

If size 11 or larger

Sterling Silver \$309.00

14k Yellow Gold - \$1709.00

10k Yellow Gold - \$1019.00

The attached pictures are Silver and Yellow Gold.

This was a labor of love for Tony, I know he wears his proudly.

To Order :

Call: 931-359-8199

Text: 931-909-2505

or Email: tillisjewelry@gmail.com

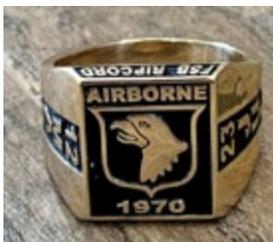
Ring Size :

Metal: Yellow Gold 14kt or 10kt

Silver

Black Enameled - Yes or No

Tillis Jewelry is offering these rings at a discounted price about 30% off. The ring can be created with or without black enameling.



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, and all our Ripcord members up to date.

- Joseph and Darlene Bozec
- Chris Straub
- Kenneth Hammilton
- Fred Shuttleworth
- Leigh Freeman
- Mike & Liz Womack
- Art Schmidt
- Audrey Wrightsell

Checks payable to:
"Ripcord Association".

Mail to:
Pete Meloro
107 Maple Drive
Spring Lake Hts, NJ 07762

If your contact information has changed, please go to our website and update your membership to keep getting important information about our Ripcord Association

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.

Previous Ripcord Reunion Group Photos



1986 Whippany, NJ



1998 Atlantic City, NJ



1999 Savannah, GA



2003 Charleston, SC



2005 Indianapolis, IN



2015 Springfield, MO

Registered to attend the Springfield Reunion as of Sept 12, 2022

- Bob Leibecke
- Troy & Barbara Porter
- Bill Boles
- Kenneth & Saralyn Gainer
- Michael & Christine Dicken
- Rex & Carol Flansburg
- Jerry & Donna Manemann
- Ronald & Patricia Virgilio
- Tony & Koleen Little
- Everett Slaughter Jr
- Merle & Ruth Delagrang
- Joe & Diane McCarville
- Marc Aronson
- Alfred & Sondra Martin
- Greg & Kristi Kiekintveld
- Trisha & JD Rodger - Guest
- George Pourchot
- Lin & Pinky Bashford
- Tommy & Judy Counts
- Kurt & Kaleb Bashford - Guest
- Lisa Hill - Guest
- William & Linda Heath
- Mary Meagher & John Hoek
- Jerone Buffington
- Bill & Lynn Hand
- Dan Brockmiller
- Robin Graham & Ann Halligan
- James & Michelle McCoy
- Ronald & June Cochran
- David & Ingrid Hietzke Lockwood
- William Tex Campbell
- Lyle Kohmetscher & Pam Stone
- Dale & Janet Tauer
- Brian Pautz
- John & Debbie Fowler
- Janet Hahn (Ricky Jahn)
- Ron & Linda McCrory
- Janice Allard
- David & Sophia Kenyon
- Peter & Chris Meloro
- Paul & Laura Hansmann
- Frank Marshall
- Ronald Zahn
- Paul Buhr & Christine Courtney
- David & Lisa Synder
- Bob & Maura Gustafson
- Douglas & Iris Puffer
- Raymond Hines
- Lawrence & Debbie Fieser
- Billy and Maggie Helvey
- Bob and Betty Worrall
- Raymond Hines
- Dale & Sue Cooper
- Chuck & Jean Holman
- Rudy & Linda Forsman
- John & Annette Kuennen
- Bob & Red Judd
- David & Linda Yonts
- Martin & Lea Glennon
- Wendy, Joe, Amber & Madison Yonts
- Marc Skinner
- Dennis & Jane Stortz
- Joe Smith
- Dale Ireland
- Don & Linda Holthausen
- Charlie & Janet Lieb
- Clem Neiderer
- Gary & Patty Radford
- Uwe & Diane Meyer
- Robert Layton
- Vincent & Charlotte Priola
- Gene & Star Marshall
- David & Connie Cote
- J P Meyer
- Chris & Mary Straub
- Travis Morrison - Guest of Chris Straub
- Terry Stanger & Carol Keilman
- Kathy Morrison - Guest of Chris Straub
- George & Cheryl Scott
- Chris Morrison - Guest of Chris Straub
- John & Barbara Hedrick
- Aimee Morrison - Guest of Chris Straub
- Fred Suttleworth & Victoria Rayle
- David Hilleran & Marlene Smith
- Leon & Brian Wright
- Robert Tarbuck & Paige Corkhill
- Robert C Tarbuck - Guest
- Jim Smither
- Wayne & Carla Skaggs
- Albert Burckard
- Leland and Debra Tremblay
- William and Pamela Baldwin
- Benny & Teresa Mulkey
- Charles Tipton
- Jim & Mary Campbell
- Walter & Kathie Lyssy
- Mike & Lee Foreman
- Anthony & Dennise Critchlow
- Arthur & Eileen Schmidt
- John & Cathy Williams -Guest
- Audrey Wrightsell
- Floyd & Diane Alexander
- Dale Lane & Diane Grote
- Alex Denton -Guest
- Susan Koste -Guest
- Gene Haltenhof
- Jeff & Sarah Watkins - Guest
- Wayne Spruill
- Mike Mackey
- John Mason
- Thomas DeWulf
- Tom & Lori Wenman

If you have not made your hotel reservation!

September 14th room reservation deadline.

Contact John Fowler with hotel questions or problems.

Jmfowler47@gmail.com

614-893-3418

RIPCORN REUNION **2022** SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

[] I have not received a Ripcord Coin.

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ UNIT IN 'NAM _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Will a family member(s) be attending? If yes what are their names? (For name tag purposes only).

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Do not send a check if you paid for the 2020 reunion and did not request a refund!

Registration fee of \$ _____ is enclosed for # _____ Adults and # _____ children under 18.
\$35 for children under 18. For adults see discounts below !

**Your registration fee covers the cost of the
snacks, beverages, hot hors d'oeuvres
on Tuesday night and dinner on Wednesday.**

Registration fee is now due!

Make your check payable to "RIPCORN ASSOCIATION" Mail your check with this form to:

Peter Meloro, 107 Maple Drive, Spring Lake Hts, NJ 07762.

Questions? Call Pete at 732-947-1664 or Frank Marshall 609-472-0970

AGENDA

- Sunday, October 16:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Self guided tours and shopping)
Monday, October 17: Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Golf in the AM) (Self guided tours)
Tuesday, October 18: Hospitality 1200 Hours. Hot hors doers 1730 hours
Wednesday October 19: Business meeting for association business in Hospitality room (1100 hrs)
Dinner with cash bar starting at 1700 hours done by 2200 hours.
Thursday, October 20: Homeward bound
Monday golf outing (a separate fee). Check if you will play [].

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEPARATELY
BY Sept. 14, 2022**

CALL 417-864-7333 for Univ. Plaza Hotel

Ask for HOTEL RESERVATIONS and mention the
GROUP CODE: **RIPCORN**
(Price is \$94 per night plus tax: breakfast is included.)