



# Ripcord Association

## 2016

### Springfield, MO

### Reunion



# The Reunion

The purpose then and now is to enable survivors of the Ripcord battle the opportunity to meet and talk to others who went through the same hard times. The FSB Ripcord Association held its first reunion in 1986 in Whippany, NJ directed by Chip Collins and John Mihalko. In 1987 Chuck Hawkins put together one on the edge of Washington, DC. Then none were held until 1995 when John Mihalko put one on in Golden Colorado. Since then the annual reunions have been set up by Fred Spaulding with the exception of the 2000 reunion in Shreveport, LA which was honchoed by Jim Campbell. We have been in Fredericksburg, VA, Mobile, AL, Atlantic City, NJ, Savannah, GA, Shreve Port, LA, Charleston, SC, Carlisle, PA, Colorado Springs, CO, Des Moines, IA, Laughlin, NV, Springfield, MO, Indianapolis, IN, Fort Worth, TX, and Myrtle, Beach, SC. Some places twice or more. Fred Spaulding has continued for years to find appropriate locations that can accommodate our group needs and budget with assistance from Bob and Red Judd and Lee and Kathy Widjeskog.



**Lee and Kathy Widjeskog** have handled the registrations and treasury since 2006. They continue to be the face of the reunion when people sign in each year.



**Bob and Red Judd** are the dependable handlers of the shirt and hat sales at the reunion. They carefully store the clothing and guidons and ensured their proper placement. No small job!



**Paul Buhr** In the past few years, Paul Buhr (A 2/506) has kindly taken his time to shoot the photos for the yearbook. It takes a lot of one's time to do this work and gives him less time to chat with the guys. Thanks for all your efforts Paul!



**Fred Spaulding** Since 1995 Fred has been the stead fast arranger of our reunions. Fred has traveled around the country looking for good quality, reasonable locations for the reunions. His efforts make the work of the others a bit easier. His hard work is shown in the quality place we are using as in Springfield.

## Ripcord Association Board of Directors



**Peter Meloro**  
C/2-506  
President



**Frank Marshall**  
A/2-506  
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**Lee Widjeskog**  
A/2-506  
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D/2-506



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**A 2/506 & B 2/319 FA**



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**D 2/506**



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**GUESTS A 2/506**



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**D 2/506**



**KAROLYN KRUGER & BRUCE**  
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**JEROME BUFFINGTON**  
**C 2/506**



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**A 2/506**



**MARY & JIM CAMPBELL**  
**C 2/506**



**TEX CAMPBELL**  
**D 2/506**



**CATHY & MIKE CHIARELLI  
B 2/506**



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D Trp 1st Air Cav**



**MERLE & RUTH  
DELAGRANGE D 1/506**



**MARYANN & RUSS DIXON  
B 2/319 FA**



**REX FLANSBURG  
B 2/319 FA**



**RUDY & LINDA FORSMAN  
D 2/506**



**DEBBIE & JOHN FOWLER  
C 2/506**



**LEIGH & VICKI FREEMAN  
C 2/506**



**CINDY & STEVE GUNN  
D 2/506**



**JANET & RICKIE HAHN  
E 2/506**



**ELWOOD HALL & JOHNNIE  
PATERSON D 2/506**



**BILL & LYNN HAND  
B 2/506**



**LAURA & PAUL HANSMANN  
B 2/506**



**DAVID & RENA HARRIS  
GUEST**



**JIM HARRIS  
HHC 2/506**



**LINDA & BILL HEATH  
A 2/506**



**BILLY & MARGARET HELVEY  
A 2/506**



**JEAN & CHUCK HOLMAN  
A 159 AVN**



**LINDA & DON HOLTHAUSEN  
C 2/506**



**RON AND LINDA HUDSON  
A 1/39 FA**



**ALAN CARMACK & JIM JOICE  
E 1/506**



**RED & BOB JUDD  
B 2/506**



**RICH & DONALD KIEFER  
A 2/506**



**JOHN KUENNEN  
C 2/506**



**DIANE GROTE & DALE LANE  
A 2/506**



**CHARLIE & JANET LIEB  
C 2/506**



**PHYLLIS & MURPHY MAJORIA  
Assoc. Mem.**



**STEVE MANTHEI  
C 2/506**



**STAR & GENE MARSHALL  
B 2/319 FA**



**SONDRA & AL MARTIN  
A 2/11 FA**



**JIM & MICHELE McCOY  
D 1/506**



**LINDA & RON MCCRORY  
E 2/506**



**CHRIS & PETER MELORO  
C 2/506**



**UWE & DIANE MEYER  
B 2/506**



**BOB & DOREEN MISENER  
B 2/506**



**CAROLE & LEONARD MOORE  
3RD BDE AIR**



**JERRY MOYER  
C 2/506**



**CLEM NEIDERER  
HHC 2/501**



**BRUCE & RAMONA NELSON  
B 2/319 FA**



**ULLA NOLAN  
Assoc. Mem.**



**THOMAS & JAN PACK  
B 2/319 FA**



**RACHEL SPRINGER & BOB  
PAGANO B 2/506**



**KRYSTAL & GREG PHILLIPS  
D 1/506**



**TROY AND BARB PORTER  
3RD BDE AIR & C 2/506**



**RAY & SHEILA POTTS  
B 2/319 FA**



**DOUGLAS & IRIS PUFFER  
D 2/506**



**GARY & PATTY RADFORD  
D 2/506**



**JOHN RICH  
GUEST B 2/319 FA**



**FRED SHUTTLEWORTH  
E 2/506**



**CARLA & WAYNE SKAGGS  
E 2/506**



**MARC SKINNER  
D 2/506**



**EVERETI SLAUGHTER, JR.  
B 2/506**



**JANIE & JODY & JULIE SMITH  
A 2/506**



**JIM SMITHER GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY**



**MICKI & FRED SPAULDING  
HHC 3RD BDE**



**DENISE & JEFF STAM  
HHC 1/501**



**BOB TARBUCK, PAIGE CORKHILL  
C 2/506**





**DALE AND JANET TAUER  
D 1/506**



**LEE & DEBRA TREMBLAY  
3RD BDE AIR**



**SANDY & CRAIG VAN HOUT  
B 2/506**



**BOB & JACKIE WALLACE  
C 2/506**



**STEVE & SUSAN WALLACE  
B 2/506**



**LEE & KATHY WIDJESKOG  
A 2/506**



**JEFF WILCOX  
A & C 2/506**



**TOM WILCOX  
D 2/506**



**LINDA & DAVID YONTS  
A 2/506**



**DAVID & WENDY YONTS  
GUESTS A 2/506**



**RONALD ZAHN  
A 2/11 FA**



**BARB ZOLLER  
GUEST C 2/506**



# Coin Presentation



After attending a few reunions, General Harrison decided the survivors of Ripcord deserved a little more recognition. He came up with a design and had an artist draw his thoughts for the two sides. This coin shows the firebase with Hills 1000, 805 and 902 around it on one side while the obverse has sentiments and the 101<sup>st</sup> shield. Each year, since 1997, he presents a coin to those who survived the battle and make their first reunion. In cases where family members of those killed in action attend, they are presented the coin in memory of the departed. The recipient is called to the stage and cheered by his battle peers as the General presents him with a coin. The pictures that follow show the most recent recipients.



**JEFF STAM HHC 1/501**



**ROBERT MISENER B 2/320th FA**



**JIM JOICE RECON 1/506th**



**EVERETT SLAUGHTER B 2/506**



**JEROME BUFFINGTON C 2/506**



**BARBARA ZOLLER C 2/506**



**RICK HAHN E 2/506**



**ELWOOD HALL D 2/506**



**WAYNE SKAGGS D 2/506**



**TOMMY WILCOX D 2/506**



**JODY SMITH A 2/506**



**EVELYN BIXBY & LINDA BIXBY KRUG A 2/506**



**JOHN RICH B 2/319 FA**



**JIM CAMPBELL SPEECH**



**GIFT OF APPRECIATION TO MIKE CHIARELLI**



**RIPCORD FLAG**

# Group Photos



**HEADQUARTERS, 3rd BRIGADE,  
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**



**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 2/506**



**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 2/501**



**HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 1/501**



**ALPHA COMPANY 2/506**



**BRAVO COMPANY 2/506**



**CHARLIE COMPANY 2/506**



**DELTA COMPANY 2/506**



**ECHO COMPANY 2/506**



**DELTA COMPANY 1/506**



**BRAVO BATTERY 2/319 FIELD ARTILLERY**



**BRAVO BATTERY 1/39 FIELD ARTILLERY**



**DELTA TROOP 2/17 AIR CAVALRY**



**PATHFINDERS**



**3RD BRIGADE AIR**



**159TH AVIATION**



**DAVID YONTS JR & DAVID YONTS**  
A 2/506



**RED JUDD & KATHY WIDJESKOG**

# ANNA BRITT NOLAN FOUNDATION

In 2007 The FSB Ripcord Association was informed that author, Keith Nolan had been diagnosed with terminal cancer. The members of the association were moved to see if they could help him. After discussions with Keith, George and Mary Murphy and others felt what Keith wanted most was a college fund for his ten year old daughter. The Murphy's with the support of the association set up a trust fund for Anna Nolan. Over the years this fund has grown and each year we provide additional funds for the account during our annual reunion. Keith's book, "Ripcord" has helped us get together and has aided in the healing process of getting over the losses of our buddies and friends.

## The winners make selections!



## 2016 Golf Outing

These guys are real good at riding the course and holding clubs!!







Welcome



Then Fred said....



We are glad to see you... Now put down the phone!



Hope the food comes soon!



"Then I told the LT...."



Save a little for the dinner , Honey!!



The Moores and the Meloros meet again.



Elwood made it back!!!



Before I left for HQ I was..



Mike's last time cutting Ripcord hair!



An evening of snacks and chat.



Soo Lee, what are you doing there?



## Springfield 2016 Reunion Attendees

Floyd & Diane Alexander B 2/319 & A 2/506  
 Bill, Pam & Adam Baldwin A 2/506  
 Lin, Pinkey & Kurt Bashford D 2/506  
 Evelyn Bixby & Linda Krug A 2/506  
 Dan & Carol Bohan Pathfinder Fam.  
 Tim & Elaine Bohan Pathfinder Fam.  
 Bill Boles D 2/506  
 Bruce Brady & Karolyn Kruger A 2/506  
 Jerone Buffington C 2/506  
 Paul Buhr A 2/506  
 Dick & Debbie Cable E 2/506  
 Jim & Mary Campbell C 2/506  
 Tex Campbell D 2/506  
 Allen Carmack E 1/506 (Recon)  
 Mike & Cathy Chiarelli B 2/506  
 Howard & Diana Colbert C 2/506  
 Dale & Sue Cooper C 2/506  
 Tommy & Judy Counts D 2/506  
 Harold Day D Troop 2/17  
 Merle & Ruth DeLagrange D 1/506  
 Russ & Maryann Dixon B 2/319 FA  
 Rex Flansburg D 2/506  
 Rudy & Linda Forsman D 2/506  
 John & Debbie Fowler C 2/506  
 Leigh & Vicki Freeman C 2/506  
 Steve & Cindy Gunn D 2/501  
 Rick & Janet Hahn E 2/506  
 Elwood Hall & Johnnie Patterson D 2/506  
 Bill & Lynn Hand B 2/506  
 Paul & Laura Hansmann B 2/506  
 Jim Harris HHC 2/506  
 Bill & Linda Heath A & HHC 2/506  
 John & Barbara Hedrick E 2/506  
 Billy & Margaret Helvey A & HHC 2/506  
 John Hewitt C 2/506 Guest  
 Lisa Hill Guest D 2/506  
 Charles & Jean Holmen A 159 AVN  
 Don & Linda Holthausen C 2/506  
 Ronald & Linda Hudson A 1/39 FA  
 Jim Joice E 1/506 (Recon)  
 Bob & Red Judd B 2/506  
 Don Kiefer A 2/506  
 John Kuennen C 2/506  
 Dale Lane & Dianne Grote A & HHC 2/506  
 Bob Leibecke C 2/506  
 Charles & Janet Lieb C 2/506  
 Murphy & Phyllis Majoria Guests  
 Steve Manthei C 2/506  
 Gene & Star Marshall B 2/319 FA  
 Fred & Sondra Martin A 2/11 FA  
 Jim & Michelle McCoy D 1/506  
 Ron & Linda McCrory E 2/506  
 Peter & Chris Meloro C 2/506  
 Uwe & Diane Meyer B 2/506  
 Robert & Doreen Misener B 2/320 FA  
 Leonard & Carol Moore Mini Cav  
 Jerry & Mariella Moyer C 2/506  
 Clem Neiderer HHC 2/501  
 Bruce & Ramona Nelson B 2/319 FA  
 Ulla Nolan Guest  
 Tom & Jan Pack B 2/319 FA  
 Robert Pagano & Rachel Springer B 2/506  
 Greg & Krystal Phillips D 1/506  
 Troy & Barbara Porter C 2/506  
 George & Sheila Potts B 2/319 FA  
 Doug & Iris Puffer D 2/506  
 Gary & Patty Radford D 2/506  
 John Rich 2/319 FA guest  
 Steve, Karen & Carmen Ruby D 1/506  
 Fred Shuttleworth E 2/506  
 Wayne & Carla Skaggs D 2/506  
 Mark Skinner D 2/506  
 Everett Slaughter, Jr. B 2/506  
 Jody, Julie, & Jamie Smith A 2/506  
 Jim Smither, Grand Valley State Univ.  
 Dave & Lisa Snyder A 2/11 FA  
 Fred & Micki Spaulding 3 BDE  
 Jeff & Denise Stam HHC 1/501  
 Terry Stanger & Carol Keilmen A 159 AVN  
 Dale & Janet Tauer D 1/506  
 Bob Tarbuck & Paige Corkhill C 2/506  
 Lee & Debra Tremblay 3rd Bde Air  
 Craig & Sandy VanHout B 2/506  
 Bob & Jackie Wallace C 2/506  
 Steve & Susan Wallace B 2/506  
 Lee & Kathy Widjeskog A 2/506  
 Jeff Wilcox A&C 2/506  
 Tommy Wilcox, D 2/506  
 David, Linda, Wendy & David Jr. Yonts A 2/506  
 Ron Zahn A 2/11  
 Barbara Zoller C 2/506

# The Women of Ripcord

Each year we try to get a good picture of all the women who come with the men of Ripcord. They have provided a strong foundation for the association and for the men. Many of these women have lived through the year in Viet Nam supporting and worrying about their loved ones. All the women were the ones who helped the men re-adjust to civilian life and surmount their memories. Since 2002, they have supported the association by bringing items for the Chinese Auction each year for the benefit of the association. The proceeds have allowed us to keep the registration fees stable since 2003. Thank you ladies!



Red Judd ...the best!



Jean and Ruth compare notes.