



Ripcord Association 2019 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 the next reunion on the edge of Washington, DC. Then none were held until 1995 when John Mihalka hosted one 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 hosted by Jim Campbell. We have been in Fredericksburg, VA; Mobile, AL; Atlantic City, NJ; Savannah, GA; Shreveport, 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 steadfast 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 hardwork is shown in the quality places we are using.

2019 Ripcord Association Board of Directors



Peter Meloro
C/2-506
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A/2-506
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LOGAN CLINE D 2/506



TIMOTHY BOHAN
GUEST PATHFINDER



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D 2/506



**JEROME BUFFINGTON
C 2/506**



**PAUL & KARL (KORKY) BUHR
A 2/506**



**PATTY TAYLOR & LINDA BYLES
GUESTS B 326 ENG**



**TEX CAMPBELL
D 2/506**



**HOWARD, DIANE, BOBBI COLBERT & JASE HORTON
C 2/506**



**FRED CONNER
HHC 2/506**



**DALE & SUE COOPER
C 2/506**



**DAVE COTE
B & E 2/506**



**JUDY & TOMMY COUNTS & LISA HILL
D 2/506**



**HAROLD DAY & GUEST
D 2/17 AIR CAV**



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



**JOSH DELAGRANGE
GUEST D 1/506**



**RUSS DIXON
B 2/319 FA**



**LARRY & DEBBIE FEISER
HHC 1/506**



**REX FLANSBURG & TOM WENMAN
D 2/506**



**NICHOLAS & ANDREW FOTIAS
PATHFINDER**



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



**DAVID & ARLENE GRUBB + GRANDSONS
D 158 ASHB**



RICK & JANET HAHN
E 2/506



BILL & LYNN HAND
B 2/506



PAUL & LAURA HANSMANN
B 2/506



DAVID HIMES, RENA HAYNES, & DR. JAMES HARRIS
HHC 2/506



CHUCK HAWKINS & DIANE WILSON
C & A 2/506



BILL HEATH
A & HHC 2/506



**JOHN & BARBARA HEDRICK
E 2/506**



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



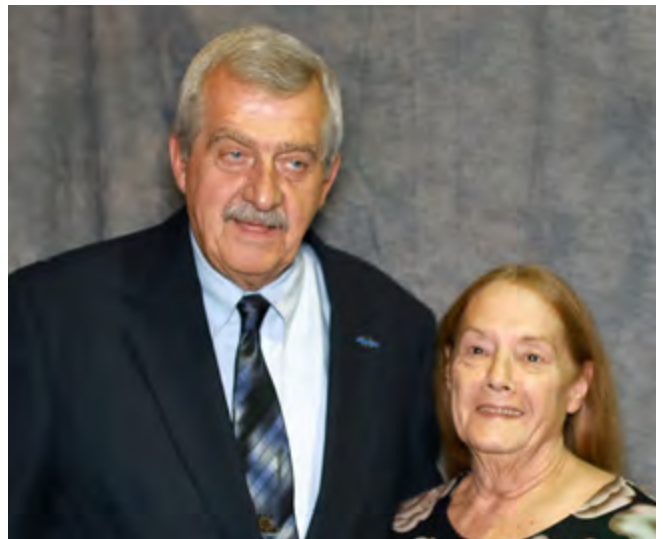
**RAYMOND HINES
2/319 FA**



**TERRY HODGES
D 1/506**



**CHUCK & JEAN HOLMEN
A 159 ASHB**



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



**ADAM, JACKIE & JASE HORTON
GUESTS**



**JIM JOYCE
PATHFINDER**



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



**RICK & BETTY KELLOGG
B 2/506**



**ROBERT LAYTON
B 2/501**



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



**KEN LILLEY
A 2/506**



**KEN LILLEY & BILL HEATH
A 2/506**



**TONY & KOLEEN LITTLE
D 2/506**



**MURPHY & PHYLLIS MAJORIA
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**



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



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



JAMES & MICHELLE McCOY
D 1/506



RON & LINDA McCRORY
E 2/506



JOHNNY McGINNIS
A 2/506



PETER & CHRIS MELORO
C 2/506



UWE & DIANE MEYER
B 2/506



THOMAS & ANNETTE MILITELLO
A 2/11 FA



**JERRY MOYER & MARIELLA
C 2/506**



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



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



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



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



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



**DOUGLAS PUFFER
D 2/506**



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



**BILL ROSE
A 2/506**



**CHARLES SCHILERO & JOANN SCHMIDT
D 2/506**



**GEORGE & CHERYL SCOTT
A 2/11 FA**



**FRED SHUTTLEWORTH & GUEST
E 2/506**



**BOB & JEANIE SIMPSON
GUESTS**



**MARC SKINNER
D 2/506**



**JOE SMITH
D 2/506 & B 326 ENG**



**JIM SMITHER
Grand Valley St U Veterans History**



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



**DAVID & LISA SNYDER
A 2/11 FA**



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



**LELAND & DEBRA TREMBLAY
3rd BDE AIR CAV**



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



**LARRY & KATHY WALLACE
GUEST**



**JEFF, SARAH, VIVI & MAX WATKINS
GUESTS**



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



**MIKE & LIZ WOMACK
C 2/506**



**AUDREY WRIGHTSELL
GUEST A 2/11 FA**



**RONALD ZAHN
A 2/11 FA**



The artillery clan plans a raid.



Somebody is cold or sneaky.



Paul, where is our food?



Coin Presentation



After attending the 1995 reunion, General Harrison decided the survivors of the Ripcord Battle deserved a little more recognition for surviving the battle and finding the courage to meet with others who suffered during and after the battle. He developed a design and had a two sided coin created. The coin shows the firebase and surrounding hills 805, 902 and 1000 which were pivotal to the outcome of the battle. The reverse side has the 101st shield and sentiments. Each year since 1997, a coin has been presented to survivors who are attending their first reunion. In cases where family members of those killed in the battle attend, coins are presented to the family in memory of the departed. The recipient is called upon the stage and cheered by his battle peers as the coin is presented. The pictures that follow show the most recent recipients.

Presented by Fred Spaulding



JIM JOYCE PATHFINDER



LARRY FIESER C 1/506



KEN LILLY A 2/506



JOHNNY MCGINNIS A 2/506



DAVE COTE B & E 2/506



JOE SMITH D 2/506 & B 326 ENG



PATTY TAYLOR & LINDA BYLES
GUESTS B 326 ENG



I just need to find a place for this.

Unit Group Photos



2/501



2/17 CAV



3rd BRIGADE HHC



HHC 2/506



A 2/506



B 2/506



C 2/506



D 2/506



E 2/506



PATHFINDERS



B 326 ENGINEERS



D 1/506



158th ASHB



159th ASHB



A 2/11 FIELD ARTILLERY



B 2/319 FIELD ARTILLERY

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, they 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!



Made with Alaska gold.



Beautiful handwork.



A sketch by Dicken.



Time check, please.



Claymore mine replica.



Ripcord afghan.



The Maine winner.



Even the Redlegs win.



Something for Iowa.

2019 Golf Outing



HOSPITALITY ACTIVITY



Ruth and Michelle plotting.



Johnny finally made it!



All quiet in the mortar pits.



What do you mean this is my bill.



Plenty of tickets, but no winners!



The Millitellos on break.



Uwe Meyer & Doug Puffer



Did we catch them at something.



Plenty of tickets, but no winners!



A sack, fly swatter and two women on a Snipe hunt.



Ripcord fishing technique.



I can't believe I won!

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!



The Men of Ripcord



Ruth Delagrange presents a 'Thank you' to the organizers of the reunions."

Paul Buhr (Photos).

Fred Spaulding (Hotels & Golf).

Bob and Red Judd (Store sales and maintenance).

Kathy and Lee Widjeskog (Registration and food, etc).

Baseball Outing

Springfield, Missouri is the home of the Springfield Cardinals a minor league team for the St. Louis Cardinals. Members of the Association attended the game, down the street from our hotel, and were honored on the field at the start of the game. It was a somber and fun event to be so honored and the men remembered. The game was good as well.



