



Ripcord Association

2023 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 hosted by Chip Collins and John Mihalko. In 1987, Chuck Hawkins put together another reunion on the edge of Washington, DC. Then none were held until 1995, when John Mihalko organized one in Golden, Colorado. Since then, the annual reunions were set up by Fred Spaulding with the exception of the 2000 reunion in Shreveport, LA which was honchoed by Jim Campbell. Lee and Kathy Widjeskog started taking charge of planning and organizing the reunions in 2010. 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. At this time, Peter Meloro and John Fowler have continued to find appropriate locations that can accommodate our group needs and budget.



Bill Boles greeted everyone upon their arrival at the Reunion.



Frank Marshall manages our website. He coordinates input from Board Members to prepare and distribute our Newsletters. He has been the primary contact person for members seeking information or updates on our Association or Reunion.



Peter and Christine Meloro handles the finances, registration and treasury throughout the year.



Bill Heath the Editor of our publications throughout the year, works to make our newsletters and other printed materials accurate and informative.



John Fowler did all the preparations and contact with the hotel to make sure all went well.

2023 Ripcord Association Board of Directors



Paul Buhr in the past few years, 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.

Bill Boles	D/2-506	President
Frank Marshall	A/2-506	Vice President
Peter Meloro	C/2-506	Secretary/ Treasurer
John Fowler	C/2-506	Board Director
Paul Buhr	A/2-506	Board Director



Chris Courtney, Paul Buhr's Assistant, helped Paul with all the photos taken at this year's reunion.

A special thanks to all those who volunteered their time to assist the Board during the Reunion. Your help was truly needed and appreciated.



RANDY AND PAM BALDWIN A 2/506



KURT, PINKEY & LIN BASHFORD D 2/506



TIMOTHY BOHAN GUEST PATHFINDER



BILL BOLES D 2/506



PAUL BUHR & CHRIS COURTNEY A 2/506



TEX CAMPBELL D 2/506



HOWARD & DIANA COLBERT C 2/506



SUE & DALE COOPER C 2/506



CONNIE & DAVID COTE B 2/506 & E 2/506



**DENNISE & ANTHONY CRITCHLOW
HHC 2/506**



REX FLANSBURG D 2/506



JOHN FOWLER C 2/506



LELAND GAGNEBIN 3rd BDE AIR CAV



KEN & SARALYN GAINER A 2/506



MARTIN & LEA GLENNON A & HHC 2/506



MAURA & BOB GUSTAFSON GUESTS



JANET HAHN GUEST (E 2/506)



ELWOOD & JOHNNIE HALL D 2/506



BILL & LYNN HAND B 2/506



LAURA & PAUL HANSMANN B 2/506



WILLIAM & LINDA HEATH A & HHC 2/506



JOHN HEDRICK E 2/506



DAVE & MARLENE HILLEREN B/159 ASHB



JEAN & CHUCK HOLMEN A/159 ASHB



DON & LINDA HOLTHAUSEN C 2/506



BOB JONES HHC 2/506



JIM JOYCE PATHFINDER



BOB & RED JUDD B 2/506



LYLE KOHMETSCHER & PAM STONE B 2/501



ANNETTE & JOHN KUENNEN C 2/506



INGRID & DAVID LOCKWOOD A 2/11 FA



FRANK MARSHALL A 2/506



JOE & DIANE (HEWITT) MCCARVILLE C 2/506



RON & LINDA McCRORY E 2/506



CHRIS & PETER MELORO C 2/506



UWE & DIANE MEYER B 2/506



RICK & RACQUEL MONTGOMERY B 2/506



TERESA & BENNY MULKEY PATHFINDERS



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



DOUGLAS PUFFER D 2/506



GARY & PATTY RADFORD D 2/506



FRED SHUTTLEWORTH E 2/506



MARC SKINNER D 2/506



JIM SMITHER GVSU Veterans History



WAYNE SPRUILL D 2/506 & E 2/506



**TERRY STANGER & CAROL KEILMAN
A/159 ASHB**



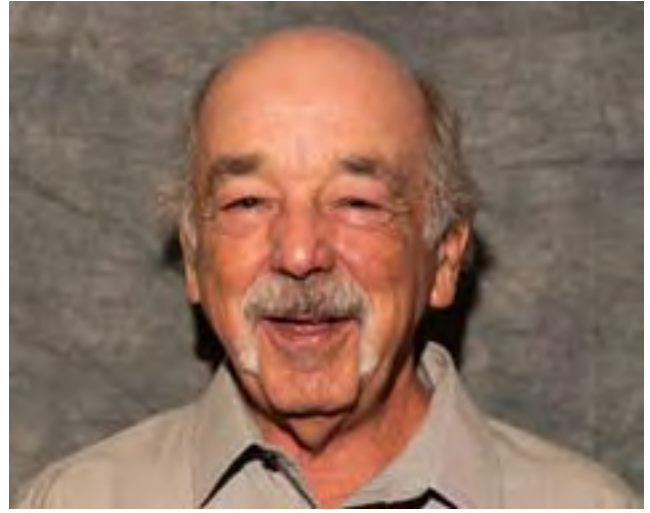
PAIGE CORKHILL & ROB TARBUCK GUESTS



LACY & CHARLIE TIPTON C 2/506



DEBRA & LELAND TREMBLAY
3rd BDE AIR CAV



RONALD ZAHN A 2/11 FA



Peter Meloro



Bill Boles



Frank Marshall



Bill Boles, Bill Hand



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.

Senior Officer Bill Hand presents the Coin



Rick Montgomery B 2/506



Leland Gagnebin 3rd Bde Air Cav



Robert Tarbuck son of Bob Tarbuck C 2/506



Frank Marshall presents Anthony Chritchlow his Award for monitoring our Facebook page for 10 years

Unit Group Photos



A 2/506



B 2/506



C 2/506



D 2/506



E 2/506



HHC 2/506



1/506



2/501



3rd BRIGADE HHC



159th ASHB



A 2/11 FIELD ARTILLERY



PATHFINDERS

LADIES AUCTION AND RAFFLE



HOSPITALITY ACTIVITY









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 Vietnam 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 Ladies Auction and Raffle each year, benefiting the association. The proceeds have allowed us to keep the registration fees stable since 2003. **Thank you ladies!**

