



# RIPCORN REPORT



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

Issue # 138

September 2024

## 2024 RIPCORN REUNION LAST CALL

### THE HILTON DOUBLETREE RESORT

Sunday, October 27 - Wednesday, October 30, 2024

This year's reunion looks to be very special with over 170 attendees, a special Monday golf event at *The Aero Club Short Course*, a night at *Legends* with at least 120 of us going and our wonderful *Ladies Raffle* and *Banquet*. When you register and get your new name tag and lanyard, we will collect the fee for the tickets to the *Legends* show. As a Bonus, the Association as arranged for bus transportation to and from the show at no additional cost to you! We have also printed a multi page handout for everyone to have that gives names, addresses, and distance to for your Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner choices, plus places to visit and enjoy. For more details, please review last *Ripcord Report* issue number #137 for hotel information, prices and other details.

## LADIES AUCTION

Just a reminder on Tuesday, October 29th at 5:30 PM or 1730 hours, we will conduct our Ladies Auction. This event is always a highlight of our reunions. So PLEASE remember to bring your items for the auction. Thank you!

## THE AERO CLUB MYRTLE BEACH'S MOST FUN GOLF EXPERIENCE

Welcome to The Aero Club Short Course. They are not your normal golf course. Yes, they have great conditions and challenging greens, but they also offer much more than your traditional course.



- 18 different par 3 holes featuring Sunday Bermuda grass greens.
- LED lights illuminate the course offering a unique night perspective.
- 27 speakers pumping out your favorite music promoting a fun atmosphere.
- Each tee box has a table top for four beers or other drinks.
- Your favorite beverages on ice (which is the coldest way to be served).
- Perfect for groups or those who want to sharpen their short game.
- Shorter holes mean less time searching for lost balls and a quicker round.
- Bring you own irons and putter or rent (7-9-W-P clubs for Only \$6.00).
- If you want golf balls with above rental clubs, add \$3.00 for four balls.
- No dress code, wear what you want. Golf shoes are allowed.
- Open 8:30 am to 10:00 pm. Play 9 holes or 18 holes in about two hours.
- COST: 9 holes \$14 and 18 holes \$24 (plus they offer senior/military discount).

**3101 S KINGS HWY, MYRTLE BEACH, SC 29577**  
**(843) 444-5442**

## Ripcord Association Update

by Peter Meloro



Greetings and I hope everyone has and is enjoying the summer. Thus far we have 172 people registered to attend our reunion in Myrtle Beach. This number far exceeds our attendance for the last two reunions. When we contract with a hotel we must make an educated guess as to the number of rooms to reserve. Due to the number of people registered, John Fowler has had to make a number of calls to the Hilton Hotel in order to increase our compliment of rooms.

Thankfully they have worked with us and thus far everyone wishing to stay at the hotel had been accomodated.

Additionally, Frank Marshall has informed me that the request to attend the Monday night show at Legends has continued to grow and as of this writing, 120 people will be attending the show. Frank did a RECON of Legends and recently attended one of their performances. While the artist will not be the same, Frank said the entertainment was excellent and he believes that we will all enjoy the evening. I recall that the last time we held a reunion in Myrtle Beach, a number of our Ripcord veterans engaged in a songfest. If I remember correctly the bar was called Ocean Annie’s Beach Bar. I am hopeful that the performers at Legends can live up to our performance at Ocean Annie’s. The bar is high.

This will be our final Newsletter prior to our October Reunion. If you plan to attend and have not sent your registration form to me, please do so since it facilitates our preparation. I look forward to seeing everyone and the camaraderie that we all experience at each reunion.

Be well and see you soon.

### BY THE NUMBERS

- 714 members in our Ripcord Association
- 592 are Ripcord Veterans
- 122 are Associate Members
- 145 receive newsletter via Postal Mail
- 564 receive the newsletter via e-mail
- 1,370 Facebook “Ripcord Association Group”

## From the President

by Bill Boles



Hello everyone! It is time again for our Ripcord Reunion. Only two months away. I want to extend and invite all members to come join us in Myrtle Beach for a great time. I believe this will be one of the best reunions. Currahee.



## Ripcord on Facebook

by Anthony Critchlow



Happy Fall everyone! LOL. Our Facebook page is up to 1370 head count.

There has been an uptick of the scammers posting to our page. Let me know if I miss one. Thanks. Dennise and I are getting ready for this years reunion. We can’t wait. I hope to see all of you there. As I always say, keep posting your pictures and thoughts on our Facebook page. You are what makes our page great.

Here in Idaho, we are still suffering with the forest fire smoke. It seems like 20% of the state is on fire right now. It appears to be worse this year than in the past. We’ll see you soon.



**Join our Facebook group:  
Ripcord Association  
Hosted by Anthony Critchlow  
1,370 current members**

## 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 & Bill Heath

email: newsletter@ripcordassociation.com

# INTERVIEWS AT REUNION

## Madyson Meyer—Uwe Meyer’s granddaughter

I was wondering if I would be able to journalistically cover the reunion this October.

I attended once before when I was a little girl—my sister and I passed out the raffle prizes. Now that I’m older, I’ve developed a passion for telling stories, and hope to work as an International Correspondent when I’m older.

Growing up in my grandfather’s family, I’ve always harbored a respect for the people in our nation’s military, and I would be honored for the opportunity to document some of their stories.

You can find some of my journalistic work under Around Kennesaw Magazine and Vox ATL’s publications. Additionally, I am a Governors Honors Program Alumni in the area of literature, and maintain a 4.0 GPA in high school, where I am currently a junior, and run multiple literary-based clubs.

All of this to say that I would do my due diligence to ensure that the stories I hear are documented accurately and respectfully, with the express intention of recording the lives of these soldiers so that they are not lost to history.

Through my work, I have access to professional cameras and microphones which I could use—with the permission of the Ripcord Association, of course—which I would use to record interviews that I would later turn into a broadcast segment and an article.

The pieces I produce as a result of attending the reunion would be given to the Ripcord Association of course, and likely published with VoxATL, AroundAboutMagazines, and my high school’s News Website.

I’ve copied my Broadcast teacher, Mr. Phelps, on this email in order to ensure that I am able to miss a few days of school in order to attend the reunion.

### UPDATE

*Unfortunately, AroundAbout Magazines is no longer in circulation, but my school news (hhshoyavision.com) is still interested in publication and VoxATL is in the process of approving my pitch.*

*Thank you,  
Madyson Meyer*

## Jim Smither GSVU

I will be available during the reunion to conduct interviews with Ripcord veterans who have not been interviewed yet. I have now completed a draft of my book on Ripcord.

As part of the revision process, I’m also interested in recording conversations with people who have been interviewed already... if they want to give me more or clearer information on their experiences.

People who do not want to do a full interview or have it put on the website but have specific stories to share are also welcome. That way I can revise the book. Anyone interested in meeting with me is welcome to contact me by email at [smitherj.@gysu.edu/](mailto:smitherj.@gysu.edu/). They can also message me on my office phone at 616-331-3422.



### NEW THIS YEAR

The Association is providing donuts and pastries for the mornings of Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday in the Hospitality room. The hotel will provide plenty of coffee between hours of 7am until 10am.

This will give the attending members morning time to sit and mingle with each other over their coffee and pastries.

Many breakfast places are located nearby. A list will be provided upon registering in the hospitality room.

*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.*

## Donations

### *The life blood of our Association*

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

#### Donations 2024 as of March

- James Fitzgerald
- Alfred & Sondra Martin
- Terry Singleton
- Bill Hand

#### Donations from March thru May 20th

- Chris Brady
- Jim & Michelle McCoy
- Paul Buhr
- John & Debbie Fowler
- Family of Larry Christman
- Robert Wright
- Gary & Patty Radford
- Peter & Chris Meloro
- Andy Hegedus
- Joe Repya

#### Donations from May 20th to August 27th

- Randy House
- Larry Blevins
- Frank Selinsky
- Arthur Schmidt
- Audrey Wrightsell
- Fred Shuttleworth

Checks payable to: "**Ripcord Association**".

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

## INCOMING MAIL



### ATTENTION ECHO COMPANY MEMBERS

I am trying to find anyone that may have known or have pictures of my father-in-law **Ronald Hoskins** (He went by **Wayne**). He passed away in April of this year and his wife, at the time of his death, was not interested in giving his son's or brother any of his personal items or anything from his time in the military. I'm honestly not sure that he kept any of it. Being a veteran myself, we had gotten pretty close in the last few years, once he found us. I know he was with E Company, 2nd Bn, 506th with the 101st Airborne Division. I also know he was at Fire Base Ripcord and was awarded a Purple Heart on 23 July 1970 and a Bronze Star on 07 Nov 1970. I searched and saw on this site, the name John Mihalko, that is also listed on the page of Bronze Star Awards that I have. I feel like I might be close to finding someone that may have known Wayne.

This is personal because I know I am from a very supported and spoiled generation of veterans. My father-in-law was not and he suffered from PTSD and alcoholism. With no resources or support to lean on, he made a decision to leave his sons so he would not expose them to his demons. This I know all too well, but my husband was never able to get over the abandonment. I spoke with Wayne about his service time and maybe it was a common interest in the military (me giving him a hard time because I was in the Marines and he the Army) but also I think the history is always interesting. So I have been on a personal voyage to track stuff down and figure out the stories he might not have told me and maybe find pictures of him while he was over there. I would like to honor him because I believe he deserves it regardless of the personal demons he might have had.

Any help would be truly amazing!

*Heather Hoskins.*

*[Hiannone23@gmail.com](mailto:Hiannone23@gmail.com)*

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

# This is the official Quartermaster's description of C-Rations used in Vietnam. (1969 - 1970).

“The Meal, Combat, Individual, is designed for issue as the tactical situation dictates, either in individual units as a meal or in multiples of three as a complete ration. It's characteristics emphasize utility, flexibility of use, and more variety of food components than were included in the Ration, Combat, and Individual (C-Ration) which it replaces. Twelve different menus are included in the specifications.

Each menu contains one canned meat item; one canned fruit, bread or dessert item, one B unit, an accessory packet, and a spoon. Four can openers are provided in each case of 12 meals. Although the meat item can be eaten cold, it is more palatable when heated. Each complete meal contains approximately 1200 calories. The daily ration of 3 meals provides approximately 3600 calories.

There were four choices of meat in each B group. Because there were several “vintages” of C's issued to the military in Vietnam, more than four may be listed in the B groups as well as the brands of cigarettes included in the accessories pack.



## B-1 Unit

- MEAT Choices( small cans)
  - Beef Steak
  - Ham and Eggs, Chopped
  - Ham Slices
  - Turkey Loaf
- FRUIT
  - Applesauce
  - Fruit Cocktail
  - Peaches
  - Pears
- CRACKERS (7)
- PEANUT BUTTER
- CANDY Disc. Chocolate
  - Solid Chocolate
  - Cream Coconut
- ACCESSORY PACK \*

## B-2 Unit

- MEAT Choices (in larger cans)
  - Beans and Wieners
  - Spaghetti and Meatballs
  - Beefsteak, Potatoes and Gravy
  - Ham and Lima Beans
  - Meatballs and Beans
- CRACKERS (4)
- CHEESE SPREAD, Processed
  - Caraway
  - Pimento
- FRUIT CAKE
- PECAN ROLL
- POUND CAKE
- ACCESSORY PACK \*

## B-3 Unit

- Meat Choices (in small cans)
  - Boned Chicken
  - Chicken and Noodles
  - Meat Loaf
  - Spiced Beef
- BREAD, White
- COOKIES (4)
- COCOA BEVERAGE Powder
- JAM
  - Apple
  - Berry
  - Grape
  - Mixed Fruit
  - Strawberry
- ACCESSORY PACK \*

\* **ACCESSORY PACK:** Plastic Spoon, Salt, Pepper, Instant Coffee, Sugar, Non-dairy Creamer, two Chiclets Gum, 4 Smokes/Pack Cigarettes: *Winston, Marlboro, Salem, Pall Mall, Camel, Chesterfield, Kent, Lucky Strike and Kool*. Moisture Resistant Matches and Toilet Paper.

# Signed up for 2024

## Ripcord Reunion

as of August 27, 2024

(\*Asterisk - have signed up for the Legends show)

*Jim & Irene Aanonsen	A 2/506	Martin & Lea Glennon	A 2/506
*Randy & Pam Baldwin	A 2/506	Steve & Cindy Gunn	HHC&D 2/506
*Lin & Pinkey Bashford	D 2/506	*Bob & Maura Gustafson	Guest
*John Beadle & Lisa Ohaire	A 2/11 Arty	Elwood & Johnnie Hall	D 2/506
*Wayne Beheler	B Co 159th	*Bill & Lynn Hand	B 2/506
*Richard & Michele Blythe	E & HHC 2/506	*Paul & Laura Hansmann	B 2/506
*Timothy & Elaine Lanier-Bohan	Guests Family	*Bill & Linda Heath	A 2/506
*Bill Boles	D 2/506	*Dave Hilleran & Guest	B 159 AVNB
*Frank Bort	C 2/506	Raymond Hines	2/319 Arty
*Bruce & Karolyn Brady	A 2/506	*Terry Hodges	D 1/506
Chris Brady	Guest	Chuck & Jean Holmen	A 159 AVNB
Dan Brockmiller	A Co 159th	Buzz & Charlene Ireland	C 159 AVNB
Jerone Buffington	C 2/506	*Robert & Cindy Jones	HHC 2/506
Paul Buhr	A 2/506	*Bob & Red Judd	B 2/506
*Albert & Claudia Burekard	A 2/506	*David & Sophia Kenyon	326 Eng
*Jim & Mary Campbell	C 2/506	*Greg & Kristi Kiekintveld	B 326 Eng
Tex Campbell	D 2/506	Susan & Tara Koste	Guest
Howard & Diana Colbert	C 2/506	*John & Annette Kuennen	C 2/506
Ronald & June Cochran	A 2/11 Arty	Dale Lane & Dianne Grote	A 2/506
Fred Conner	HHC 2/506	Bob Layton	B 2/501
*Dale & Sue Cooper	C 2/506	Bob Leibecke	C 2/506
*Paige Corkhill (Tarbuck)	C 2/506	*Charlie & Janet Lieb	C 2/506
*David & Connie Cote	B&E 2/506	*Tony Little	D 2/506
*Anthony & Dennise Critchlow	HHC 2/506	*David Lockwood & Ingrid Hietzke	A 2/11 Arty
*Merle & Ruth DeLagrange	D 1/506	*Walter & Kathie Lyssy	HHC 2/506
*Michael & Christine Dicken	2/506	*BW & Dollie Marshall	A 2/11 Arty
*Russ & Maryann Dixon	B 2/319 Arty	*Frank & Dee Marshall	A 2/506
Carnell, Kim & Chad Evans	B 2/319 Arty	*Alfred & Sondra Martin	2/11 Arty
Niki & Ken Hook	Guest of Carnell	Diane & Joe McCarville	C/2506
Rex & Carol Flansburg	D 2/506	*James & Michelle McCoy	D 1/506
*John & Debbie Fowler	C 2/506	*Ron & Linda McCrory	E 2/506
*Ken & Saralyn Gainer	A 2/506	*Peter & Chris Meloro	C 2/506
*Fred & Carol Gilbert	D 2/506	*Uwe & Diane Meyer	B 2/506
		Clem Neiderer & Sherri Myers	HHC 2/501
		Brian Pautz	A Co 159th
		*Tom & Barbara Peacock	D 2/506
		*Troy & Barbara Porter	C 2/506
		Ray & Sheila Potts + 2 Guest	B 2/319 Arty

(continued on page 7)

## Signed up for 2024 Ripcord Reunion (continued)

Steve Pullen	B 2/17 Air Cav
*Gary & Patty Radford	D 2/506
Buddy & Alisa Ralley	3rd Bde Air Cav
Bill, Amanda, Allen & Aspen Rich	B 2/319th
*Art Schmidt	A Co 159th
George & Cheryl Scott	A 2/11 Arty
*Marc & Denise Skinner	D 2/506
Fred Shuttleworth & Victoria Rayle	E 2/506
Everette Slaughter	B 2/506
Joe Smith	D 2/506
Jim Smither	Guest
*Bob & Jeanne Smoker	C 2/506
*David & Lisa Snyder	A 2/11 Arty
*Dennis & Jane Stortz	D 2/506
*Chris & Mary Straub	D 2/501
John & Judy Stumbo	Guest
Charlie & Tracy Tipton	C 2/506
*Craig & Sandra Van Hout	B 2/506
*Ronald & Patricia Virgilio	D 2/506
Steve & Susan Wallace	B 2/506
Bill & Pat Watrous	B 2/506
Tom & Lori Wenman	Associate Member
*Kathy Widjeskog	A 2/506
*Denise Powers (Kathy's Daughter)	A 2/506
*Brett Widjeskog (Kathy's son)	A 2/506
Bob Worrall	B 2/501
Leon & Karen Wright	B 326 Eng
Audrey Wrightsell & Alex Denton	Guests Family

### IMPORTANT

If you are planning to attend the Monday night show at *Legends*, you must let me know now! **Frank Marshall** at 609-472-0970 or Email: FBripcord@gmail.com. We have to make reservations for seats and transportation buses.

**NEWSLETTER PRINTING COSTS.** *The printing and mailing costs continue to increase. We are asking all members to download, if possible, instead of receiving by mail. The computer version is in color and saves the Association many dollars and valuable time. We currently have 145 mailings. PLEASE let us know if we can reduce this number. Thank you for your support! CURRAHEE.*

# SERTS

## Screaming Eagle Replacement Training Center



This was a one week, 80 hour In Country training, including an actual combat assault "outside the wire."

The sign at SERTS:



### HISTORICAL FOOTNOTE

More than 20,000 troopers of the 101st were casualties—dead, wounded and missing—in the Vietnam War. Just over 9,000 men in the 101st were casualties in World War II. Seventeen Screaming Eagles became casualties in Operation Desert Storm—from the 101st Memorial by the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery.

Roughly 40 percent of all U.S. casualties in the Vietnam War occurred in the northern four provinces of the Republic of Vietnam, where the 101st operated from TET 1968 until the withdrawal in 1973.

# RIPCORD REUNION 2024 Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

I have not received a Ripcord Coin.  I require a Reunion Name Tag and Lanyard

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

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

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

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Registration fee of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed for # \_\_\_\_\_ Adults and # \_\_\_\_\_ children under 18.  
\$35 for children under 18.

**Your registration fee of \$75 per Adult covers the cost of the snacks, beverages, (includes beer and wine) hot Hors D'oeuvres on Tuesday night and dinner on Wednesday.**

## Registration fee is now due!

Make your check payable to "RIPCORD 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 27:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Self guided tours and shopping)
- Monday, October 28:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Golf in the AM) (Self guided tours)  
**6:30pm show at Legends Theatre \$27 per ticket**
- Tuesday, October 29:** Hospitality 1200 Hours. Hot Hors D'oeuvres 1730 hours
- Wednesday October 30:** Business meeting for association business in Hospitality room (1100 hrs)  
Dinner with cash bar starting at 1700 hours done by 2200 hours.
- Thursday, October 31:** Homeward bound

**Monday golf outing (a separate fee). Check if you will play [  ].**

## **HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEPARATELY**

**BY September 11, 2024 CALL 843-315-7100 for DoubleTree Resort by Hilton**

**and ask for HOTEL RESERVATIONS and mention the**

**GROUP CODE: **Firestore Ripcord****

(on line reservation link is on our website [www.ripcordassociation.com](http://www.ripcordassociation.com))

Price is \$107 + Daily Resort Charge per night plus tax: (\$137.64 total)