



# RIPCORD REPORT



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

Issue # 141

June 2025

## 2025 RIPCORD REUNION

### The Hilton Ellie Beach Resort

3200 S Ocean Blvd. Myrtle Beach, SC

Sunday, October 26 through Wednesday, October 29, 2025



### Monday night show at Legends Theatre (Reserve your seats Now!)

These shows are known for their elaborate theatrical sets, magnificent costumes and full array of incredible special effects, including three dimensional multimedia and multimillion dollar, state-of-the-art lighting and sound systems.

The Ripcord Association has booked 94 Adult tickets for this event to be held on Monday, October 27, 2025. Each ticket is \$27 and they start seating at 6:45pm for the 7:30pm showing. Dress is casual, we are on vacation. The show lasts approximately two hours with a fifteen minute intermission.

The celebrity impersonators featured for this night so far are Elvis, Michael Jackson, Tina Turner, Brooks & Dunn and one more to be announced next newsletter.

This is not a dinner show, so you might want to eat before you go.

Those wishing to attend, MUST contact Frank Marshall in advance to secure a seat in our group. This promises to be a wonderfully entertaining evening. Hope to see you there.

**Contact Frank Marshall 609-472-0970 or email FBripcord@gmail.com as soon as you can. We will reserve your seats and you will pay when you register at the reunion reception room. But I must know if you are coming to the show.**

The 2025 Reunion will be at The Ellie Beach Resort located at the south end of Myrtle Beach. It is just three miles (10 minutes) from the Myrtle Beach Airport. The Hotel is also located two miles from the Market Common Shopping and Restaurant District, formally the old Air Force Base.

Murrells Inlet, known as “Seafood Capital of South Carolina” offers from fine-dining restaurants with white tablecloths to burger joints where you can discard peanut shells on the floor. Murrells Inlet also has a wonderful selection of restaurants for any taste. Of course, the area is famous for fresh seafood that is caught daily, including crabs, oysters, clams, and seasonal fish. Enjoy all of your favorite seafood dishes, as well as any other type of cuisine in Murrells Inlet. They are located 10 miles from hotel.

**Room rate this year is \$110. The resort fee is \$15. (\$110 + \$15 \* 12% tax + \$1 destination fee = \$141 total per night . The hotel reservation link is on the registration form page 5 and on our website. [Ripcordassociation.com](http://Ripcordassociation.com)**

Also, 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.

Ripcord Association Update

by Peter Meloro

Hello from rainy New Jersey. It sure seems like we are having our version of a Monsoon Season lately with all the rain that we have experienced. Hopefully, we will see the sun soon and for an extended period of time.



We continue to receive registration forms for our Myrtle Beach Reunion and now have Ninety One (91) attendees registered. We have rooms available at the Ellie so if you have not reserved a room at the Hotel or sent in your registration form to me, please do so since it does enable us to effectively plan for our event. As always, this newsletter includes a copy of the Form to facilitate your registration process.

Our attendance for the 2024 Reunion was approximately 180 so it will be interesting to see if we come close to that number.

If you are planning to attend the Legends Concert make sure that you check the box on the registration form. This will enable us to plan appropriately for the buses necessary for transport. You can send the check when you submit your registration form to me or you can pay when you arrive for the reunion. The cost of the Legends Concert remains at \$27 per person.

It is the 250th Anniversary of the United States Army and I know each of us has played our part in upholding the tradition, standards, professionalism and dedication of the Army and to our allegiance to the United States Constitution.

Once again, please send those registration forms as soon as you can and I would be remiss if I did not remind everyone that donations are always accepted and since we are a not for profit entity, they are tax deductible. I hope this finds everyone, happy, healthy and in good spirits.  
CURRAHEE my friends.

DMOR Report  
(Distinguished Member of the Regiment)

by Frank Marshall



I visited Fort Campbell, Kentucky during the Week of the Eagles. The purpose of my trip was to attend the Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR) Ceremony that was held on Thursday, June 12th. I attended the event this year because one of the individuals receiving this prestigious award and recognition was Peter Meloro C/2-506. The other member of our association also receiving the award was Richard Drury D/1-506.

As you all know Peter assumed a leadership role with the Ripcord Association when we lost Lee Widjeskog to a tragic accident. Having been involved with the Association since its inception and having worked closely with Lee for many years, I know the extent of the work that goes into planning and conducting our annual reunion. Peter is active throughout the year dealing with our tax filing, insurance issues and many other items important to our Association since we incorporated as a 501c organization since 2014 .

I know each of you know how important Peter is to our Association and, with me, extend our congratulations to Peter for a well deserved honor.

History of the DMOR

The Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR) program recognizes individuals for their distinguished service to a specific regiment. For the 101st Airborne Division, the DMOR program acknowledges those who have significantly contributed to the unit's history, traditions, and legacy. This program enhances unit morale and esprit by connecting current soldiers with the unit's past.

Since 2007, there have been 394 veterans from the 506th infantry regiment of the 101st Airborne that have received this award, and of that, there are 60 members of the Ripcord Association that have received this award.

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*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.*

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

## SPICE UP YOUR CUISINE

by BILL HEATH A2/506 INF

*Taken from The Screaming Eagle newspaper*

*Vol III. No. 20 Sept 14, 1970*

CAMP EVANS - After an infantryman has been in the field for a long period of time, the limited selection of C-rations meals ceases to be tasty.

Rations designed for long range patrols add a little variety to his meal, but during a year spent in the field, that makes a steady diet of only 18 different meals.

So after a short time in the field, many soldiers become culinary experts. Instead of the basic meals that are offered, an ingenious infantryman can come up with a unique meal.

"Currahees" of Co. B, 1st Bn. (Airmobile) 506th Inf. have become Master Chefs in their own right. The resupply personnel in the rear also help them by sending out accessories, such as Worcestershire sauce, onions, ketchup, and other ingredients to help boost a meals flavor.

So, with spices in hand, the Screaming Eagles are ready to prepare their meals.

Cheese is used to flavor anything from ham and turkey to chili and spaghetti. It is also used to spread over beef with spice sauce on a cracker to make pizza.

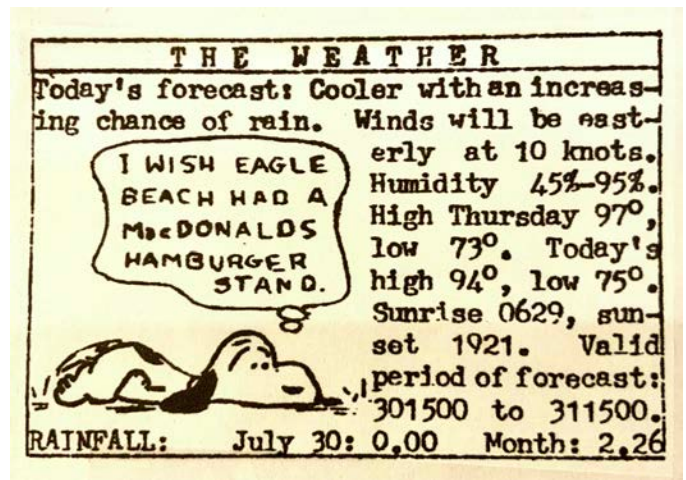
Also, the "Currahees" mix a chili long range patrol ration with a can of spaghetti, with the result being quite a tasty dish.

Beef slices with potatoes, beef with spiced sauce, beans and meatballs, and beans and franks are commonly combined with beef, hash, beef with rice, or beef stew, with flavorful results.

"With a little bit of imagination, you can eat like a king," stated Sergeant Adolph Heinz, Blackburn, Mo. "There isn't any reason to eat plain meals, if you use your head, even little things add variety. I even put hot sauce in my peanut butter, that gives it kind of a tangy taste."

### TROOP LEVELS

1969	475,000	Troops
1970	334,600	<-140,400>
1971	156,800	<-177,800>
1972	24,200	<-132,600>
1973	50	<-24,150>
1975	April 25th	THE END



## SPORADIC MONSOON RAINS

by BILL HEATH A 2/506th INF

Many of my Ripcord brothers came in country in late 1969 and many more arrived in mid 1970. If you arrived, like I did in October 1969, you were treated to extreme rain. Now I came from Riverside, California and the rainfall for October had been a total of ONE inch, and the entire of 1969 was 10.5 inches.

The Army announced that the record rainfall was restricting allied operations in the canopy jungle. No BS there trooper. They said the minimum monthly rain record was 8.9 inches. The maximum monthly rain record was 27.2 inches. SO, what did this actual October 1969 rainfall total...an incredible 62.47 inches. It continued. The 24-hour maximum rainfall record was broken with 17.21 inches recorded in one 24-hour period. The old record was 11.1 inches.



Peter Meloro receiving the DMOR Award (Distinguished Member of the Regiment)



## Signed up for 2025 Ripcord Reunion

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

* Lin & Pinkey Bashford	D Co 2/506
Wayne Beheler	B Co 159th
* Richard & Michele Blythe	A/E/HHC 2/506
* Bill Boles	D Co 2/506
Paul Buhr	A Co 2/506
* Mike & Vivian Carper	1 327 Inf
* Kari & Kurt Cline	Guest
* Ronald & June Cochran	A 2/11 Arty
* David & Connie Cote	B/E Co 2506
* Anthony & Dennise Critchlow	HHC C0 2/506
* Merle & Ruth Delagrang	D Co 1/506
* Michael & Christine Dicken	B Co 2/506
* Russ & Maryann Dixon	B 2/319 Arty
Mike & Lee Foreman	B Co 2/506
* John & Debbie Fowler	C Co 2/506
Leigh & Vicki Freeman	C Co 2/506
* Ken & Saralyn Gainer	A Co 2/506
Martin & Lea Glennon	A Co 2/506
* Bill & Lynn Hand	B Co 2/506
Paul & Laura Hansmann	B Co 2/506
* Bill & Linda Heath	A /HHC Co 2/506
* Dave & Marlene Hilleren	B 159th Avn
Terry Hodges	D Co 1/506
Donald & Linda Holthausen	C Co 2/506
* David & Sophia Kenyon	B Co 326 Eng
* Greg & Kristi Kiekintveld	B Co 326 Eng
Bob Leibecke	C Co 2/506
* David Lockwood & Ingrid Hietzke	A 2/11 Arty
* Phyllis Majoria	Guest
* Frank & Dee Marshall	A Co 2/506
* Alfred & Sondra Martin	A 2/11 Arty
* James & Michelle McCoy	D Co 1/506
* Ron & Linda McCrory	E Co 2/506
* Peter & Chris Meloro	C Co 2/506
* Bob & Maura Gustafson	Guest
* Uwe & Diane Meyer	B Co 2/506
* Eric & Serena Meyer	Guest
* Troy Porter	C/E Co 2/506
* Douglas Puffer	D Co 2/506

Mike & Lura Renner	A 2/11 Arty
* Norman & Joshua Simmons	A 2/11 Arty
Joe Smith	D Co 2/506
Jim Smither	Guest
* David & Lisa Snyder	A 2/11 Arty
* Terry Stanger & Carol Keilman	A Co 159th
Christopher & Mary Straub	D Co 2/501
* Dale & Janet Tauer	D Co 1/506
* Greg & Juliann Krayak	Guest
* Charles & Tracy Tipton	C Co 2/506
Leon & Karen Wright	B Co 326 Eng

## 2024 REUNION YEARBOOKS

Beautiful **full color** Books are ready for purchase.

We are offering these Yearbooks NOW for your enjoyment and a keepsake of last year's incredible Myrtle Beach Reunion. This 28 page book has 13 pages of individual attendees, photos of coin presentations, special awards, eight pages of Unit group photos, hospitality activities and our "Beautiful Woman of Ripcord" page.

Thanks again go out to the talents of photographer Paul Buhr and Vice President Frank Marshall for his design and layout.

For your copy, please contact FRANK MARSHALL @ 1-609-472-0970 or email FBripcord@gmail.com The price includes shipping at only \$10.00. Get your's today! Or, order now and pick it up at the Reunion.  
*Thanks, Bill Heath Editor.*

## Donations

Checks payable to: "Ripcord Association".

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

*This month donations from:*

Richard Blythe	David Lockwood
Michael Hedding	Gary Watrous
Dennis Bloomindale	Joseph Jungles
George Scott	John Fowler
Peter Meloro	Mike Foreman
Randy House	Bill Hand
Alfred Martin	Kathleen Roby
James King	

## RIPCORDEREUNION 2025 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 \$100 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 "RIPCORDEREUNION 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**

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

**Monday night Legends Theatre show (a separate fee \$27). Check if you going [ ].**

#### AGENDA

**Sunday, October 26:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Self guided tours and shopping)  
**Monday, October 27:** Hospitality suite opens at 1200 hours. (Golf in the AM) (Self guided tours)  
**Buses boarding outside lobby at 6:15pm show at Legends Theatre**  
**Tuesday, October 28:** Hospitality 1200 Hours. Hot Hors D'oeuvres 1730 hours  
**Wednesday October 29:** Business meeting for association business in Hospitality room (1100 hrs)  
Dinner with cash bar starting at 1700 hours done by 2200 hours.  
**Thursday, October 30:** Homeward bound

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE SEPARATELY

**BY September 11, 2025 CALL 843-315-7100 for Ellie Resort by Hilton**

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

**GROUP CODE: Firebase Ripcord**

on line reservation link is <https://group.tapestrycollection.com/37vdk7>

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

**Price is \$110 + \$15 \* 12% tax + \$1 destination fee = \$141 total per night**