



# RIPCORN REPORT



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

Issue # 136

March 2024

## 2024 RIPCORN REUNION UPDATE

### The Hilton Doubletree Resort

3200 S Ocean Blvd. Myrtle Beach, SC

Sunday, October 27 through Wednesday, October 30, 2024



The 2024 Reunion will be at The Hilton Doubletree Oceanfront 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.

### 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.

## Ripcord on Facebook

by Anthony Critchlow

Winter is almost over, I hope! Our membership continues to grow. We are at 1325. I think most of the new ones are just people that find us on Facebook. The people who put the spam ads on our page, seem to have slowed down. I'm still asking you to send in your pictures of your time in Vietnam. Please keep us informed on the deaths or severe illnesses of our Ripcords Vets.



Well, I finally got my butt in gear and registered for next years reunion. Our plane tickets are bought and room reservations are made. We are arriving three days early to see the sights. We have never been to Myrtle Beach. I hope to see all of you there. Have a great and safe spring - summer.



**Join our Facebook group:  
Ripcord Association  
Hosted by Anthony Critchlow  
1,325 current members**



## YEARBOOKS ARE NOW AVAILABLE!

The Association has now made available all the past Reunion Yearbooks on our website. They can be downloaded from the PDF on your home computer printer or just viewed for your enjoyment.

If you would rather purchase one or more from the association, they will have copies reprinted and mailed to you. The issues will be professionally made and pricing will be \$10.00 per issue. The latest issue for 2023 is now on the website.

**Requests must be made before June 30th.**

Send your requests to:

FrankM@ripcordassociation.com

or call 843-668-5080

## FSB Ripcord Association 2024 Reunion

by John Fowler

When: October 27 – 30, 2024

Where: Double Tree Resort by Hilton  
Myrtle Beach Oceanfront  
3200 S. Ocean Boulevard  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
843-315-7100



We are returning to Myrtle Beach for the 2024 and 2025 Reunions. Due to the deteriorated condition of the Sands Ocean Club Resort, the Board of Directors searched for a better hotel that would provide high quality accommodations and amenities at a fair price. The Double Tree Oceanfront Resort was the result of the search. The Double Tree Resort is located in the heart of the Myrtle Beach commercial district with many dining and entertainment options nearby.

**The negotiated room rate is \$107/night plus resort fees and tax. The total daily expense for room, tax and fees is \$137.64. The following is included:**

### In Room Amenities:

- Basic guest internet access (up to 2 devices).
- Unlimited local & 800 phone access.
- In room bottled water.

### Resort Amenities:

- Walking access to Pier.
- 10% off onsite Gift Shop purchases.
- Use of Beach towels during stay.
- AM Coffee in hotel lobby.

### Recreation Amenities:

- Mini golf.
- Lifesized games & board games.

### Onsite parking

- Free.

Reservations can be made by calling 843-315-7100. Make sure to mention that you are with the Firebase Ripcord Group. A link will soon be posted on the Ripcord Association website to allow on line registration with the Double Tree Resort.

## Ripcord Association Update

by Peter Meloro



Greetings from New Jersey. As of my writing this, it is still winter here in New Jersey. However, you will not hear a complaint from me since it is once again a very mild winter with little to no snow.

It has been an eventful time for me over the last several weeks. Along with Charlie Lieb, Gary Watrous, spouses and family members, we spent two weeks in Vietnam. Charlie researched touring agencies and found one that would accommodate locations we wanted to include during a two week period. The result was a combination of military sites, visits to major cities as well as trips to rural parts of Vietnam. We visited Camp Evans and Eagle Beach. We toured several sites of major battles including Hamburger Hill, Khe Sanh, Hue, Saigon and the Mekong Delta. The trip included in-country flights from Hanoi to Phu Bai and Phu Bai to Saigon. We enjoyed a cruise in Halong Bay which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We visited the DMZ as well as the A Shau Valley. Along the way we interacted with many Vietnamese and every interaction was very positive. Some of our excursions included climbing Hamburger Hill, visiting rural villages, eating native food and on two occasions drinking Rice Wine. One of the Rice Wines was actually called Snake Rice Wine. You can see me at the reunion for a self explanatory photo of this drink.

We enjoyed touring Halong Bay by kayak and a Pub Crawl aboard vintage Vespa Scooters in Saigon. I fully understand that many veterans of the war have no interest in visiting Vietnam but for those who have thought about going, my recommendation would be to seriously consider the trip.

Now, until our next reunion in October, Frank Marshall is working with a local entertainment venue in Myrtle Beach. Frank has a piece in this Newsletter to further discuss this opportunity. The event will take place on Monday, October 28th. John Fowler, along with other Board Members, are arranging for a Continental Breakfast to be available in our hospitality room during the reunion. Further information will be forthcoming in future Newsletters.

I have begun to receive registrations and checks for the reunion. Thus far, 60 people have registered for the reunion. It is important to send in the registrations and register at the hotel as early as possible. This facilitates

our planning for the reunion as well as our interaction and feedback to the hotel management and staff.

I hope everyone is looking forward to springtime and the arrival of summer. Be well and stay safe.

### Donations

#### *The life blood of our Association*

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

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

Checks payable to: "Ripcord Association".

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

### NEW MEMBERS

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Owen, Kenneth      | 1-39 Arty        |
| McFarland, William | 158th Avn        |
| Quartarone, Mel    | Associate Member |
| Kircher, Leon      | 502nd            |
| Marshall, B.W.     | A /2-11 Arty     |

### BY THE NUMBERS

712 members in our Ripcord Association  
591 are Ripcord Veterans  
121 are Associate Members  
148 receive newsletter via Postal Mail  
559 receive the newsletter via e-mail  
1,325 Facebook "Ripcord Association Group"

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

## *Wounded Eagles grateful* **Medevac ships work fast**

By Spec. 5 Joel Bean  
**SCREAMING EAGLE Newspaper**

**April 27, 1970**

CAMP EAGLE - "This is Dustoff niner-six. Log us at this time."

"Dustoff niner-six, this is Eagle Dustoff. You are cleared to depart at this time."

At the end of this brief conversation, the whirring blades of a Huey lift the ship into the air and another medical evacuation ship is off to pick up a wounded or injured Screaming Eagle and whisk him away to a medical facility.

Called Eagle Dustoff (the air ambulance platoon of the 326th Med. Bn.) provides 24 hours a day, seven days a week, medevac service for the entire 101st area of operation.

Located at the Gia Le area of Camp Eagle, Eagle Dustoff has a fleet of 12 Hueys. Four of these are ready for immediate take off on a given mission. Two are located at Camp Evans, where they are ready for immediate take off at all times.

Requests for all medevacs follow a carefully prescribed procedure. The ground unit operating in a tactical situation radios in the request to the battalion tactical operations center. The TOC then contacts the respective brigade medical

company which in turn relays the request to Eagle Dustoff's operation room.

"From the time the call comes in, until the Medevac helicopter is in the air, takes about three to five minutes," said Spec. 4 David Reed of Rensselaer, N.Y.

Each request is classified by the medic with the tactical unit, according to seriousness of the injury. An *urgent* classification means there is an immediate danger of the loss of limb, sight, hearing or life. The next classification is *tactical urgent* in which the injury may be minor, but disability of the patient is hampering the operations of the unit. A less serious request is *priority*, which means the six hour delay is permissible. However, if possible an immediate pick up is made.

Eagle Dustoff prefers to pick up patients from accessible landing zones, but when pickups are requested from units operating in canopy jungle, a hoist device is employed. A jungle penetrator can safely extract two ambulatory patients with each hoisting. Should the patient's condition necessitate his remaining on a litter, a stokes litter which resembles a large basket is lowered. Two seriously wounded patients can be lifted at one time using this method. The crew chief operates the electrical motor powered hoist. Anytime the hoist is used, two Cobras fly as armed escorts.

Vietnamese who are medevaced within the 101st AO are normally taken to the Hue Citadel Hospital. If the injury or illness is extremely serious, they are flown to the 85th Evacuation Hospital at Phu Bai. U.S. patients are taken either to the Medical company supporting their unit or the Phu Bai facility.



## A CHARLIE COMPANY WARRIOR CROSSES OVER



*Bob Wallace*

It is with great sadness that I received the news that former 1st Lt. Bob Wallace passed away after a recent illness on February 16, 2024. Bob was 81 years of age when he crossed over and was a New York native having been born and raised in Plattsburg, New York. Bob attended and graduated from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Michigan. After graduation from the University of Michigan, Bob joined the Peace Corp. After serving in the Peace Corp for a couple of years, he chose to enter the Army on the College Op program, which provided that after he completed Basic and AIT training, he could attend Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Upon graduating from Infantry OCS as a second lieutenant, Bob pulled a short tour in the States before receiving orders for Vietnam. He was then assigned, in early September of 1969, to the 2nd Battalion of the 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam as an infantry platoon leader, of the first platoon of Charlie Company. Bob served as an infantry platoon leader first under Captain Glynn Hale for about 4 months and then under Captain Isabellino Vazquez for about 4 months, before leaving the field to serve in the Third Brigade TOC for the remainder of his tour. Bob returned to the States to serve as a training officer at Fort Polk, Louisiana until his separation from the Army in early 1971.

After Bob separated from the Army, he returned to live in Plattsburg, New York. He went to work for the US Customs Service where he worked for many years. While working for the US Custom Service, he met his future wife and soulmate Jacqueline “Jackie”. After a 5 year courtship, Bob and Jackie married in 1991 and enjoyed 33 years of marital bliss before his death. At some point after his marriage, Bob moved to Mulmur, Ontario, Canada, where he and Jackie lived for the

remainder of his life. Bob was devoted to Jackie, and she to him. They both enjoyed traveling over their years together. Bob and Jackie both looked forward to attending Ripcord reunions and visiting with his first platoon soldiers. Bob had a great sense of humor, but at the same time was an excellent rifle platoon leader. He was a special leader who was devoted to caring for his soldiers. He was well versed in infantry operations as, like myself, we were both mentored by the same two great company commanders. He performed the missions given to him and was greatly admired and respected by the many soldiers that he commanded and served with during his tour.

Bob was still with the Company during the taking and building of Firebase Ripcord. Bob, myself and Chuck Hawkins divided the Ripcord hill into three platoon sectors after taking the hill. We began constructing the fighting positions on Ripcord, and when Captain Vazquez returned from R & R, we all worked like dogs to get the wire laid properly and the fields of fire broadened to meet the standards required by Captain Vazquez. This was backbreaking work that went on from daylight to dark each day. Bob would tell me that it was a good thing that I was a lieutenant with him on Ripcord, as it was I who received most of the ass chewings from Captain Vazquez instead of him.

Bob was always a pleasure to be around. He and I spent a good deal of our free time in Vietnam harassing Lt. Charlie Lieb, the other Charlie Company Lieutenant, who is best described as the “Lost Warrior”. I have always respected and admired Bob Wallace for his unique leadership skills in commanding his platoon. It was a special honor for me to serve with such a great soldier and magnificent human being.

*1st Lt. Jim Campbell*

### **MEMBERSHIP IS FREE!**

Everyone is welcome to join our Association

[www.ripcordassociation.com](http://www.ripcordassociation.com)

For our membership form,

[www.ripcordassociation.com/membership-form/](http://www.ripcordassociation.com/membership-form/)

### **TO ALL MEMBERS**

Please continue to send your letters, comments and articles to: [newsletter@ripcordassociation.com](mailto:newsletter@ripcordassociation.com) or postal mail to: Frank Marshall

567 Circle Drive Surfside Beach, SC 29575

## Monday Night Special Event

# Legends In Concert



This is a fun spot where live impersonators revive both the living and dead artists. There is no auto-tune, no lip-synching, and no pantomime fakes, these performers hit every note of their respective superstar's hits and even impeccably emulate their moves and facial expressions. Some celebrities include Michael Jackson, Frank Sinatra, Diana Ross, Cher, Buddy Holly, Dolly Parton, Madonna, The Blues Brothers, Alan Jackson and many others. After you see this show, you will leave incredulous (albeit temporarily) with the idea that you really saw Elvis perform in Myrtle Beach. (Taken from the Website: legendsinconcert.com ).

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 70 Adult tickets for this event to be held on Monday, October 28, 2024. Each ticket is \$27 and they start seating at 6:30pm for the 7:30pm showing. Dress is casual, we are on vacation. The show lasts approximately two hours with a fifteen minute intermission. The celebrities featured in October will be announced later in the season.

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 843-668-5080** or 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.**



# Signed up for 2024 Ripcord Reunion

*as of March 1, 2024*

## What is *In Memory*?

Since the Vietnam War ended, thousands of Vietnam veterans have suffered due to Agent Orange exposure, PTSD and other illnesses as a result of their service. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) believes all those who served in Vietnam should be honored and remembered for their service. The *In Memorial* program enables the families and friends of those who came home and later died the opportunity to have them be forever memorialized.

The plaque on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in Washington, D.C. that honors these veterans was dedicated in 2004 and reads: In Memory of the men and woman who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service. We honor and remember their sacrifice.

*In Memory* was created in 1993 by the group - Friends of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. VVMF began managing the program and hosting the ceremony in 1999. More than 6,000 veterans have been added to the *In Memory* Honor Roll since the program began. To see all the honorees, please visit the *In Memory* Honor Roll website. To have a veteran considered for the 2024 *In Memory* ceremony, you must submit your application to VVMF by **March 29, 2024**. Go to: [www.vvmf.org](http://www.vvmf.org) Applications submitted after this date will be considered for the 2025 ceremony.

Application Forms and more details are available on their website.

*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.*

- Richard & Michelle Blythe            E & HHC 2/506
- Bill Boles                                    D 2/506
- Ronald & June Cochran                A 2/11 Arty
- Anthony & Dennise Critchlow        HHC 2/506
- Michael & Christine Dicken         2/506
- Russ & Maryann Dixon                B 2/319 Arty
- Fred & Carol Gilbert                    D 2/506
- Bob & Maura Gustafson                Guest
- Bill & Lynn Hand                        B 2/506
- Bill & Linda Heath                      A 2/506
- Chuck & Jean Holmen                 A 159 ASHB
- Bob & Red Judd                         B 2/506
- David & Sophia Kenyon                326 Eng
- Greg & Kristi Kiekintveld            B 326 Eng
- David Lockwood & Ingrid Hietzke    A 2/11 Arty
- Alfred & Sondra Martin                2/11 Arty
- Diane & Joe McCarville                C/2506
- James & Michelle McCoy             D 1/506
- Ron & Linda McCrory                 E 2/506
- Peter & Chris Meloro                  C 2/506
- Frank & Dee Marshall                 A 2/506
- Uwe & Diane Meyer                    B 2/506
- Tom & Barbara Peacock               D 2/506
- Ray & Sheila Potts + 2 Guest        B 2/319 Arty
- Marc Skinner                             D 2/506
- Joe Smith                                 B/326 Engineers
- David & Lisa Snyder                    A 2/11 Arty
- Dennis & Jane Stortz                 D 2/506
- Chris & Mary Straub                  D 2/501
- Charlie & Tracy Tipton                C 2/506
- Leon & Karen Wright                 B 326 Eng

# 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)  
**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: Firebase 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)

While Breakfast will not be included as it has in the past, we are evaluating alternatives and will have further information in future Newsletters.