

Ripcord Association



2015 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 one on the edge of Washington, DC. Then none were held until 1995 when John Mihalko arranged a reunion 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 honchoed by Jim Campbell. 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. Fred Spaulding continues to find appropriate locations that can accommodate our group needs and budget with assistance from Bob and Red Judd and Lee and Kathy Widjeskog.



Fred Spaulding Since 1995 Fred has been the steady fast 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 hard work is shown in the quality place we are using as in Springfield.



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 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!

Ripcord Association Board of Directors



Peter Meloro
C 2/506
President



Frank Marshall
A 2/506
Vice President



Lee Widjeskog
A 2/506
Secretary/Treasurer



Bill Boles
D 2/506



Jim McCoy
D 1/506

University Plaza Hotel Springfield MO



University Plaza Hotel



Annual Golf Outing



Reunion folks at the Springfield Bass Pro Shop



Hospitality room discussions, yarns, reminisces, jokes and lies.



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!



Winning ticket holders in the Chinese Auction



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



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



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



**PAUL BUHR
A 2/506**



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



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



**JOHN & BARB HEDRICK
E 2/506 MORTARS**



**DAN & TIM BOHAN
PATHFINDER BROTHERS**



**DIANNE & FLOYD ALEXANDER
A 2/506 & B 2/319 FA**



**JIM SMITHER GRAND VALLEY
STATE UNIVERSITY**



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



**JOHN & CATHY WILLIAMS
GUESTS**



**JOHN & NICKI MILLER
GUESTS**



**JIM & MICHELE McCOY
D 1/506**



**DOUGLAS & IRIS PUFFER
D 2/506**



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



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



**RUSS & MARYANN DIXON
B 2/319 FA**



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



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



**JOHN FOWLER
C 2/506**



**BEN & CAROLYN HARRISON
HHC 3RD BDE**



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



**BILL & LYNN HAND
B 2/506**



BILL ROSE
A 2/506



TEX CAMPBELL
D 2/506



GARY & PATTY RADFORD
D 2/506



WAYNE SPRUILL
D 2/506



BOB ROMIG
D & E 2/506



LEONARD & CAROLE MOORE
3RD BDE AIR



RONALD ZAHN
A 2/11 FA



UWE & DIANE MEYER
B 2/506



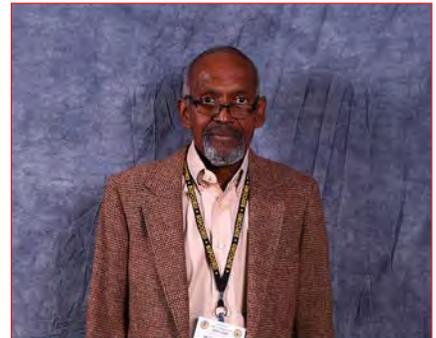
FRED & MICKI SPAULDING
HHC 3RD BDE



LARRY & JANET GROSS
A 1/39 FA



GENE & STAR MARSHALL
B 2/319 FA



WILLIE D. ALLEN
B 2/319 FA



DAVE & CHERYL CORRADETTI
C 2/506



MARC & DENISE SKINNER
D 2/506



PHIL & SHARI TOLSON
B 2/506



LAURA & PAUL HANSMANN
B 2/506



KURT, PINKY & LIN BASHFORD
D 2/506



LISA & DAVE SNYDER
A 2/11 FA



LOTT JOHNSON & AUDREY
WRIGHTSELL A 2/11 FA FAMILY



RICK & BETTY KELLOGG
B 2/506



LINDA & RON MCCRORY
E 2/506



MARYANN & KEN DAVID
D 1/506



RICH & DONALD KIEFER
A 2/506



JAN & THOMAS PACK
B 2/319 FA



**BILL & SHEILA WILLIAMS
B 2/506**



**REX & CAROL FLANSBURG
D 2/506**



**MARION & JOSEPH MINIAS
C 2/506**



**SOPHIA & DAVID KENYON
B 326 ENG**



**KRISTI & GREG KIEKINVELD
B 326 ENG**



**JIM & DAVID HARRIS
HHC 2/506**



**LEE & DEBRA TREMBLAY
3RD BDE AIR**



**LINDA & DAVID YONTS
A 2/506**



**DAVID, NATE & WENDY YONTS
GUESTS**



**ANDY HEGEDUS & PETER
MELORO C 2/506**



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



**JEFF & KATHERINE WILCOX
A & C 2/506**



**JOHN & ANNETIE KUENNEN
C 2/506**



**LILLIAN & BEN PETERS
B 2/506**



**JEAN & CHUCK HOLMAN
A 159 AVN**



**TERRY STANGER
A 159 AVN**



**CATHY & MIKE CHIARELLI
B 2/506**



**PHYLLIS & MURPHY MAJORIA
GUESTS**



**TERESA & BENNY MULKEY
PATHFINDER**



**RON AND LINDA HUDSON
A 1/39 FA**



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



**ADAM, WILLIAM, AND PAMELA
BALDWIN A 2/506**



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



**JENNIFER & BRUCE WHIPPLE
E 2/506 MORTARS**



**DALE AND JANET TAUER
D 1/506**



**FRED SHUTTLEWORTH
E 2/506**



**BOB AND JANICE COUNTS
A 2/506**



**ANNABELLE & LARRY SENA
A 2/506**



**ULLA NOLAN
SPECIAL GUEST**



**BILL BOLES
D 2/506**



**BILLY HELVEY
A 2/506**



**KENT ROWLAND
C 2/506**



What's happening, Bill?



Then I told Lt. Noll to duck.....



Here I am in Missouri and not one of my coon hounds are with me!

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 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.



Keith Nolan



Gift for Anna Britt Nolan presented to Ulla Nolan by Ron Hudson



Anna Britt Nolan

Winners of Auction



Pinky Bashford



Patty Radford



Dave Coradetti



Lee & Debra Tremblay



Tom Pack



John & Nicki Miller



Paige Corkhill



Jean Holman



Diane Meyer



Maryann David



Peter Meloro



Al Martin



Troy Porter



Diane Alexander



Bill Baldwin



Gene Marshall



Dave Snyder



Phyllis & Murphy Majoria

Saturday Night Banquet



At the Butterfly House



Coin Presentation



After attending a few reunions, General Harrison decided the survivors of Ripcord deserved a little more recognition. He came up with a design and had an artist draw his thoughts for the two sides. This coin shows the firebase with Hills 1000, 805 and 902 around it on one side while the obverse has sentiments and the 101st shield. Each year, since 1997, he presents a coin to those who survived the battle and make their first reunion. In cases where family members of those killed in action attend, they are presented the coin in memory of the departed. The recipient is called to the stage and cheered by his battle peers as the General presents him with a coin. The pictures that follow show the most recent recipients.



ANDY HEGEDUS
C 2/506



BRUCE WHIPPLE
E 2/506 MORTARS



WILLIE (BEAR) ALLEN
B 2/319 FA



TOM PACK
B 2/319 FA



**LARRY GROSS
A 1/39 FA**



**DANIEL BOHAN
(BROTHER OF PATRICK BOHAN PATHFINDER)**



**LOTT JOHNSON
(BROTHER OF DAVID JOHNSON)**



**TIM BOHAN
(COIN TO CARRIED TO ARVN INTERPRETOR)**



**LEIGH FREEMAN
C 2/506**



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield



**HEADQUARTERS, 3rd BRIGADE,
101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION**



HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 2/506



ALPHA COMPANY 2/506



BRAVO COMPANY 2/506



CHARLIE COMPANY 2/506



DELTA COMPANY 2/506



ECHO COMPANY 2/506



DELTA COMPANY 1/506



BRAVO BATTERY 2/319 FIELD ARTILLERY



ALPHA BATTERY 2/11 FIELD ARTILLERY



ALPHA BATTERY 1/39 FIELD ARTILLERY



PATHFINDERS



2/17 AIR CAVALRY



159TH AVIATION



BRAVO COMPANY 326 ENGINEERS



3RD BRIGADE AIR



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield