



Ripcord Association

2025

Myrtle Beach, SC

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 for members seeking information or updates on our Association or Reunion.



Peter 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.



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.

Ripcord Association Board of Directors

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

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



Jim Aanonsen & Lori Aanonsen
A 2/506



Jonathon & Carol Christman Baethge
Associate Members



Kurt, Lin & Pinkey Bashford & Kari Cline
D 2/506



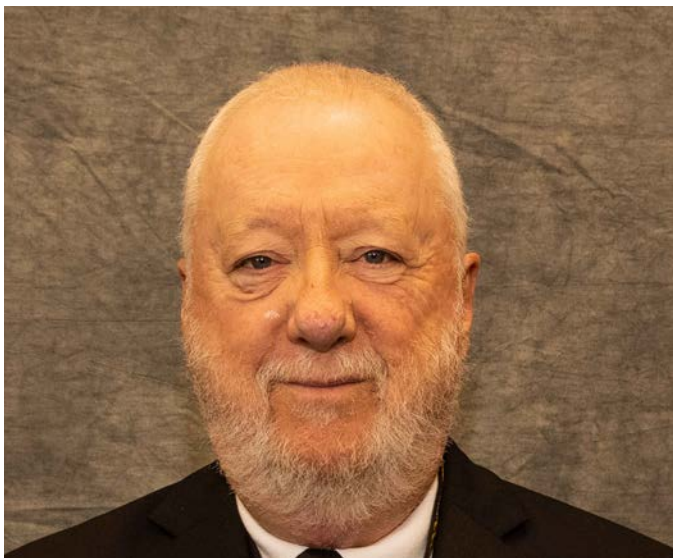
John Beadle & Lisa Ohare
A 2/11 ARTY



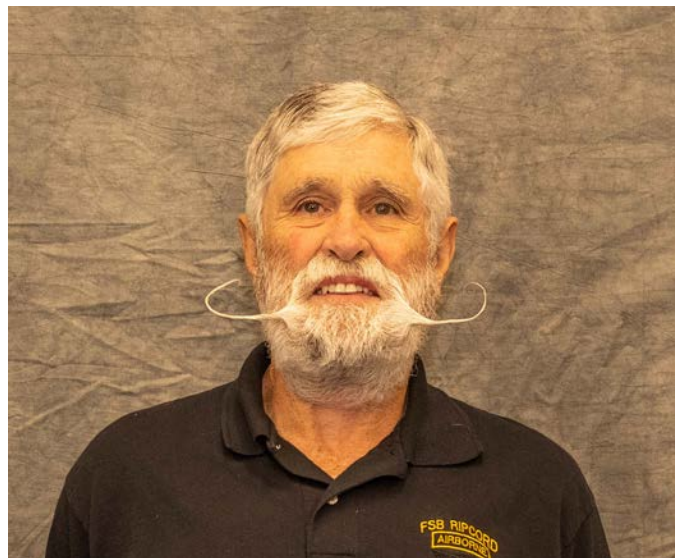
Rick & Michele Blythe
A & HHC 2/506



Timothy Bohan
Associate Member



Bill Boles D 2/506



Jerome Buffington C 2/506



Paul Buhr A 2/506



**David & Kathryn Campbell
326 Med Dustoff**



Mike & Vivian Carper 1/327



Ron & June Cochran A 2/11 ARTY



Howard & Diana Colbert C 2/506



Dale & Sue Cooper C 2/506



Rob Tarbuck & Paige Corkhill
Associate Members



David & Connie Cote B 2/506 & E 2/506



Anthony & Dennise Critchlow
HHC 2/506



Merle & Ruth Delagrange D 1/506



Michael & Christine Dicken **B 2/506**



Russ & Maryann Dixon **B 2/319**



Ray & Debbie Dwyer **Guests**



Rex & Carol Flansburg **D 2/506**



John & Debbie Fowler **C 2/506**



James Fowler **D 1/506**



Leigh & Vicki Freeman **C 2/506**



Ken & Saralyn Gainer **A 2/506**



Martin & Lea Glennon
A & HHC 2/506



Bill & Lynn Hand **B 2/506**



Paul & Laura Hansmann **B 2/506**



Linda & William Heath
A & HHC 2/506



David & Maureen Hilleren **B/159 AVN**



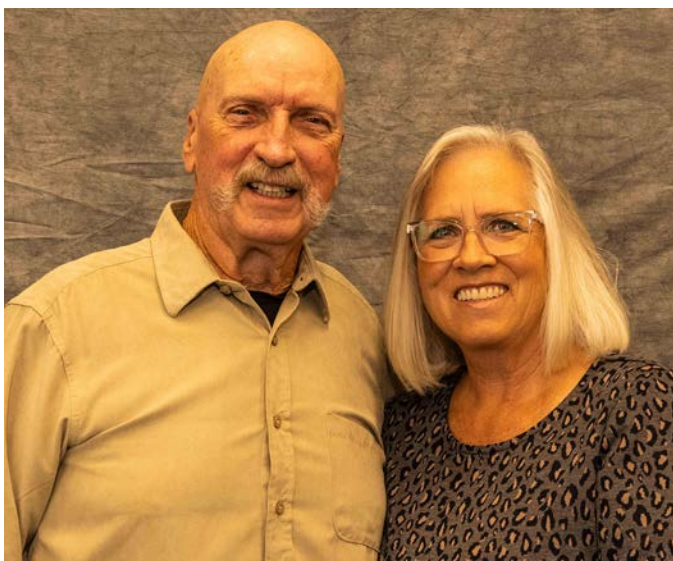
Terry Hodges **D 1/506**



Chuck & Jean Holmen **A/159 ASHB**



Erin Dalby, Chuck & Jean Holman



Jim & Kathy Howton **Pathfinder**



Buzz & Charlene Ireland **C/159 ASHB**



Bob & Cindy Jones **HHC 2/506**



Dave & Sophia Kenyon **326 Engineers**



Greg & Kristi Kiekintveld
326 Engineers



Greg Krayac & Juleiann Knott **D 1/506**



Michael Letica **B 2/17 AIR CAV**



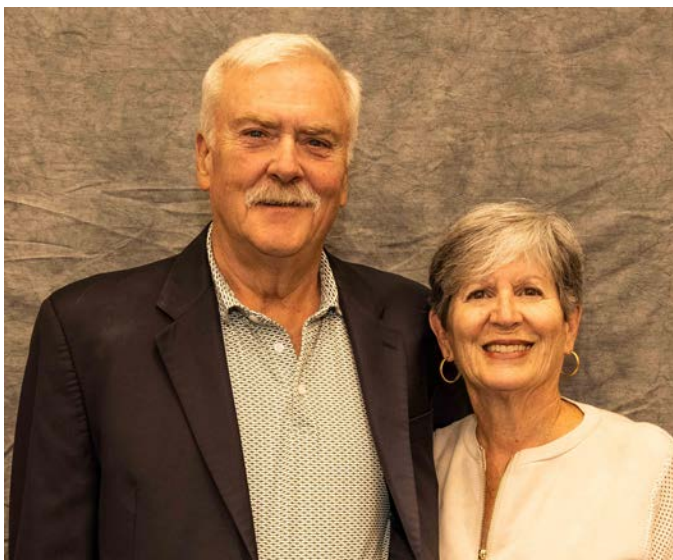
Charlie & Janet Lieb **C 2/506**



Tony Little **D 2/506**



David & Ingrid Lockwood **A 2/11 FA**



Mark & Andrea Lynch **Guest**



BW & Dollie Marshall **A 2/11 ARTY**



Frank & Dee Marshall **A 2/506**



Alfred & Sondra Martin **A 2/11 ARTY**



Jim & Michele McCoy **D 1/506**



Ron & Linda McCrory **E 2/506**



Joe McCarville & Diane (Hewitt)
Associate Members



Peter & Chris Meloro **C 2/506**



Mark & Andrea Lynch, Chris & Pete Meloro
Ripcord Association Yearbook 2025



Uwe & Diane Meyer **B 2/506**



Phyllis Majoria, Bob Pagano &
Marlaine St. Cyr **B 2/506**



Troy & Barb Porter
C 2/506 3rd Bde AIR CAV



Ray & Sheila Potts **B 2/319 ARTY**



Doug Puffer **D 2/506**



Mike & Lura Renner **A 2/11 ARTY**



Bill, Amanda, Allen, & Aspen Rich **Guests**



George & Carol Scott **A 2/11 ARTY**



Norman & Joshua Simmons
A 2/11 ARTY



Everett Slaughter **B 2/506**



Dr. Jim Smither **GVSU Vet History**



Dave & Lisa Snyder **A 2/11 ARTY**
Ripcord Association Yearbook 2025



Terry Stanger & Carol Keilman **159 AVN**



Chris & Mary Straub D 2/501



Dale & Janet Tauer D 1/506



Juleiann Knott, Dale & Janet Tauer,
Greg Krayac D 1/506



Charlie & Lacy Tipton C 2/506



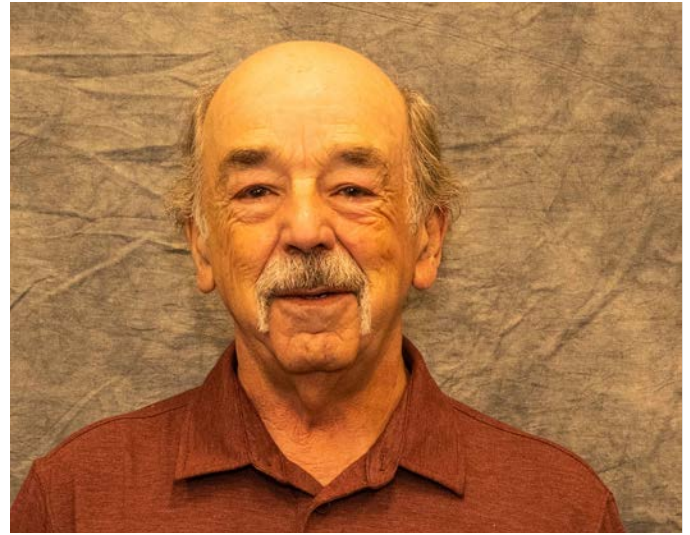
Steve & Susan Wallace B 2/506



Bill & Pat Watrous B 2/506



Tom & Lori Wenman **Guests**



Ronald Zahn **A 2/11 ARTY**

Special Award



Special recognition to Peter Meloro for his efforts as treasurer and his work in setting up the reunions.



The Pier at The ELLIE Beach Resort by Hilton

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



David Campbell 326 Med Dustoff



Norman Simmons A/2-11 ARTY



Mike Carper 1/327



Carol Christman (Sister of
Larry Christman C 2/506)



Michael Lettica B/2-17 AIR CAV



Ripcord Challenge Coin

Unit Group Photos



HHC 2/506



HHC 3rd Brigade



A 2/506



B 2/506



C 2/506



D 2/506



E 2/506



D 1/506



1/506



D 2/501



A/158th ASHB



159th ASHB



B 2/17th AIR CAV



326 Med Dustoff



326th Engineers



Pathfinders

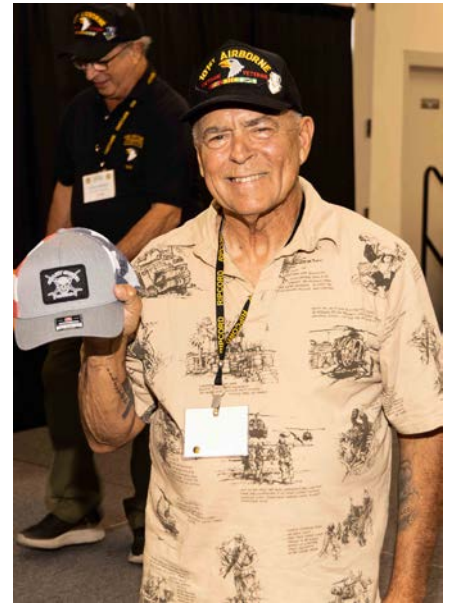
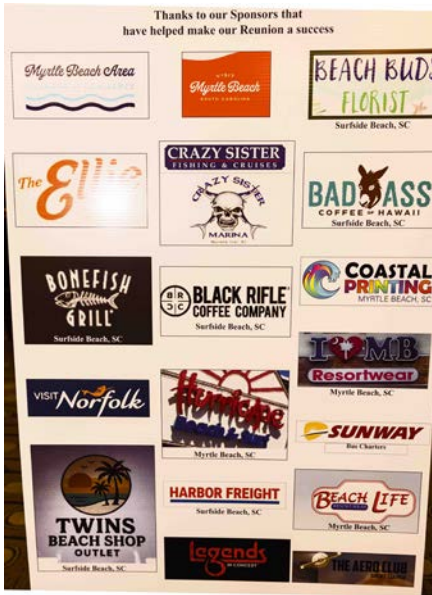


A 2/11 Field Artillery



B 2/319 Field Artillery

LADIES AUCTION



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!

