



Second Annual Report  
173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation, Inc.  
31 December 2007

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# The Time is Now... We Shall Not Fail!

**"If Not Us, Who?...If Not Now, When?"** In 2005, these were the words with which Memorial Committee President Terry Modglin challenged the 173d Airborne Brigade Association leadership.

For more than 40 years, some of us have lived with a promise made to our fallen comrades — "You will not be forgotten."

Our Gold Star families — those from the Vietnam era as well as Gold Star families from the Iraq and Afghanistan generation of Sky Soldiers — have echoed those words countless times.

Terry's challenge articulated in concrete terms the urgent need for a 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial on U.S. soil that would capture for the present generation and those to come the heritage, comradeship, accomplishments, and pain of those who proudly served in the most unique unit in the U.S. Army — the 173d Airborne Brigade.

In response to Terry's challenge, and with the support of the 173d Airborne Brigade association membership, a small group of "Sky Soldiers" incorporated the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation in July 2006.

Eighteen months after incorporation, The 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation Board of Directors proudly responds to Terry's challenge with the words, **"The Time is Now! We Shall not fail!"**

During the Foundation's 2007 fiscal year (1 October 2006—30 September 2007), the Foundation's Board of Directors and its committees have been engaged in the multiple tasks associated with designing and building a memorial.

Thanks to hundreds of veterans and friends of the 173d Airborne Brigade, the 40 year old dream is about to be realized! We are not yet there, much remains to be done, but we shall not fail!

Our initial cost estimate for the Memorial was \$650,000.00. By effecting cost savings in some areas, and allowing for inflation in others, we are confident that we can erect this wonderful memorial within the original budget.

The good news is we are on track. The bad news is that we have more than \$100,000 left to raise, and corporate donations — where we had anticipated help — are hard to obtain. Our corporate sponsors (see page 3) and others have provided substantial assistance. But the objective — although in sight — is not yet obtained.

As with our experience on the battlefield in Vietnam, and Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan, the final victory comes inch by inch, and donation by donation. My thanks to all of you for your support. Look deep within your heart to see if there is not room for more. If not now... when? If not us....Who?

## Those Who Died in Service

Over the past four months, the list of Sky Soldiers who Died in Service with the Brigade, as posted on the Memorial Foundation website, has been updated and currently includes all KIA's from the current deployment.

This update was accomplished by cross-referencing three sources pertaining to the Vietnam Era:

The chronological listing at [www.173rdairborne.com/menuhx.htm](http://www.173rdairborne.com/menuhx.htm)

The alphabetical listing at [www.173d.com/wall](http://www.173d.com/wall)

The Casualty Database (CACCF, SE Asia), extracted from the National Archives and posted at [www.no-quarter.org](http://www.no-quarter.org)

The committee edited and corrected the data, added missing information, and eliminated duplications.

The current Vietnam Era list of Those Who Died in Service is 1638.

Heraldry Committee members researched the "Order of Battle" for the Vietnam era at the Military History Institute and the Center for Military History, and cross-checked the data with the National Archives records.

Our Heraldry Committee needs your help. There is one chance to do this right. It is important that the list of Those Who Died in Service be accurate. (continued on page 3...)

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### Special points of interest:

- Your Foundation is "on Target" to achieve its financial goal!
- It has 501 (c) (3) status. Donations are tax deductible.
- The National Infantry Foundation has approved the Memorial design!
- Planning for the "ground breaking" is under way
- Check the List of Those Who Died in Service on Our Web Page!
- We need your continued support!

# Designing A Memorial — A Perspective

The Memorial is circular in form to represent the continuing and eternal presence. It is approximately 70 feet in diameter including the perimeter pathway.

The central platform will rise approximately 18 to 24 inches above the ground and will be composed of textured and colored concrete.

The 5 two-sided panels that surround the Memorial centerpiece will be used to record the names of Those Who Died in Service, as well as lineage, honors, and the Brigade's History.

Recognition will be made of those units that were attached to the Brigade during its deployments.

Some panels will be devoted to artwork. Provisions have been made to allow insertion of additional data as the service and the sacrifices of the Brigade continue.

The Brigade's icon, the Wing with Sword, will sit atop a globe and column rising some 18 feet above the platform to reminding viewers that this Brigade rises above others.

The Wing with Sword will be crafted from stainless steel and will rise six feet above the globe.

The 24inch diameter globe, representing the Brigade's ability to deploy world wide, will show where the Brigade has been deployed.



## The Foundation Financial Report, FY 2007

173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation Financial Report  
FY 2007(1 October 2006 through 30 September 2007)

### Income:

Donations:	\$ 87,456.30
Concert Revenue:	\$352,509.79
Memorabilia Sale:	\$ 6,361.00
Interest	\$ <u>13,561.35</u>
<b>FY 07 TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$459,888.44</b>
<b>FY 06 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ <u>72,505.07</u></b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT INCOME</b>	<b>\$532,393.51</b>

### Expenses:

Legal and Business Fees:	\$15,565.23
Administration:	\$ 3,180.74
Fundraising:	\$22,492.90
Design & Construction	\$ 2,196.88
Concert Expenses	\$ <u>10,870.07</u>
<b>FY 07 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$54,305.82</b>
<b>FY 06 TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ <u>40,031.61</u></b>
<b>TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$94,337.43</b>

## We're Ready to Break Ground!

The Board of Directors of the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation proudly announces TENTATIVE plans to break ground for the Memorial!

The Ground Breaking is tentatively planned for Tuesday, 18 March 2008, at a time yet to be determined. The Ceremony will take place at the site where the Memorial is to be constructed on the Campus of the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center located between

Fort Benning and the City of Columbus, Georgia.

This ceremony will be relatively simple but is of great symbolic importance. We embarked on our task to build a memorial eighteen months ago. To date, our efforts have focused on planning, preparation and fundraising. This ceremony marks the crossover from preparation to actuality. There is no turning back!

Participants at the ground

breaking ceremony will include members of the Foundation Board of Directors, the 173d Airborne Association leaders, and the National Infantry Foundation leadership.

Invitations will be sent to all our Gold Star families and we expect a number of veterans from all eras to attend. Additional, our corporate sponsors, local civil leaders, and Fort Benning representatives are expected to attend.

Because our ground breaking schedule must be coordinated with the National Infantry Foundation, the date and time are subject to change.

**Please check our website at [www.173dairbornememorial.org](http://www.173dairbornememorial.org) for information and updates regarding this important ceremony!**



## Those Who Died in Service (Continued from page 1)

Each of our 173d family members (veterans, Gold Star families, and friends of the brigade) is asked to go to our Web Page at [www.173dairbornememorial.org](http://www.173dairbornememorial.org) and review the list of names that will appear on the Memorial.

If you find that names are incorrectly entered, or names are missing, please contact us. Send your information with as much documentation as possible to our Heraldry Committee Chair at [jrw173d@aol.com](mailto:jrw173d@aol.com).

Bob Wolfgang and his team will investigate each submission in order to make this project a success.

## Corporate Sponsors

Corporate Sponsors — organizations that donate to projects such as the 173d Airborne Memorial Foundation, do so because they believe in a cause. We are deeply indebted to our sponsors who are helping to make this project possible.

The Country-Western singing community collectively gave us a big boost. Inspired by Kenny Alphin ("Big") and John "Rich," performers including Leonard Skynyrd, John Anderson, Cowboy Troy, and the Lost Trailers, generated revenues from the October 06 concert.

Carl Black Automotive designed a memorial truck and contributed substantially to our cause; KICKS and EAGLE Country Radio in Atlanta lent their

support. Chick-fil-A donated food for our motor cycle fund raising events and Atlanta area law officers contributed their time to make our fundraising week a smashing success.

Avis Corporation, a long-time partner of the 2-503d Infantry, made a generous contribution and continues to support Foundation activities. Delta Airlines contributed tickets for raffle. Ram Tec, Inc. and Hooters made substantial donations.

The Foundation acknowledges the "corporate" sponsorship of the City of Rochester, MN, with whom the 173d has been associated for four decades.

To our other corporate sponsors, not mentioned here, our thanks. You will all be acknowledged at our Dedication!

## Our Thanks to the 173d Airborne Brigade Association

The Foundation Board of Directors gratefully acknowledges the assistance of our sister organization, the 173d Airborne Brigade Association.

In particular, the publicity for our project in the Winter Edition of the Association Newsletter is projected to substantially assist our fund raising efforts.

The multifaceted support provided by Association President Eric Hitchcock and his staff, as well as the contributions made by individual chapters, makes our task easier.

## Who to Honor .... Some Hard Choices...

There are many choices that have to be made when one is designing a memorial. Among them are listing the names of Those Who Died in Service. Clearly, the Memorial should list the names of those assigned to the Brigade Who Died.

The Foundation decided to list the names of Those Who Died in Service from attached units that were organic to the Brigade during Okinawa and the duration of the time that the Brigade served in Vietnam. The same general rule will be applied to units attached to the Brigade since its reactivation.

The memorial will bear the names of Those Who Died in

Service from the following Vietnam era units:

HHC, 173<sup>d</sup> Abn. Bde. (Sep)

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> BN's (ABN) 503<sup>d</sup> INF

CO D (ABN), 16<sup>th</sup> Armor

Troop E (ABN), 17<sup>th</sup> CAV

173<sup>d</sup> LRRP/74<sup>th</sup> INF (LRP)/CO N, 75<sup>th</sup> RGR

3<sup>rd</sup> BN (ABN) 319<sup>th</sup> ARTY

\*\*173<sup>d</sup> Support BN (ABN)

A CO (Admin)

C CO (S&S)

D CO (Maint)

173<sup>d</sup> Engineer CO (ABN)

534<sup>th</sup> Signal CO (ABN)

404<sup>th</sup> RR Det. (ABN)

39<sup>th</sup> Infantry Platoon (Scout Dogs) (ABN)

Casper Aviation Platoon

1 RAR Group/161 Gun Battery

A Co 82nd/335<sup>th</sup> Aviation

(\*\* Support elements not listed did not have any KIA's)

The following attached units, most of whom have their own Associations and memorials, will be recognized as serving with the Brigade but the names of Those Who Died in Service will not be listed individually.

E/20<sup>th</sup> LRP/ C/75<sup>th</sup> RGR

1<sup>st</sup> BN (Mech) 50<sup>th</sup> INF

1<sup>st</sup> BN, 69<sup>th</sup> ARMOR

A/82<sup>nd</sup>, 335<sup>th</sup> Aviation CO

3<sup>rd</sup> BN (Airmobile), 506<sup>th</sup> INF

The decision to limit the number of names on the memorial panels was gut wrenching and is still under review. The death of every soldier, regardless of unit, is sacred and sacrifices must be recognized.

The data provided here is subject to change upon final publication of the Vietnam Brigade Order of Battle by the National Archives Research Department. Data for the 173d ABCT is still being collected.

## Topping Off Ceremony for New Infantry Museum (Extract from the NIA Newsletter)

The National Infantry Museum is taking shape. In the Winter Edition of their newsletter, the National Infantry Association reported that the Rotunda Dome for the museum, under which the "Follow Me" statue

will stand, was hoisted into place by a 220 ton crane. The dome, which is 70 feet in diameter, stands 40 feet above the Museum's entrance and weighs 43,000 pounds. Approximately 200 people attended the event.

Workers, architects engineers and VIP's had the opportunity to sign their names to the last piece of steel erected.

The new museum is expected to open in November, 2008

**This publication is the product of the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation, Inc., a non-profit Corporation chartered by the State of Georgia. The Foundation is solely responsible for its content.**



**173d Airborne Brigade  
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**The Time is Now...  
We Shall not Fail!**

**Send Donations to :**

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[www.173dairborne  
memorial.org](http://www.173dairborne<br/>memorial.org)

**The 173d Airborne Brigade National  
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**Floyd Riester**

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**Association Liaison\***

**Michael Jones**

\* Non-Voting Member

## Our Gold Star Program

The Gold Star families of the 173d Airborne Brigade (including both the Vietnam era generation and the families of those who suffered losses in Iraq and Afghanistan) are among our most important constituents.

The 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation Board of Directors has established a special Gold Star program under the supervision of Foundation Vice President Larry Sanchez to ensure that our Gold Star families are informed of the status of our progress in constructing this memorial.

On October 3, 2007, the Foundation mailed out an initial letter to all Gold Star families for whom contact data was available. In this letter, the Foundation introduced itself and notified the Gold Star families about the purpose of the Memorial, and plans for construction. Approximately 40 Gold Star families were contacted, most of

whom were associated with the Vietnam era.

Along with providing these families information about the memorial and our fund raising status, the letter also laid out broad planning concepts for ground breaking and the dedication of the memorial.

In order to ensure the widest possible distribution of information to Gold Star families, the Foundation is actively coordinating with 173d Airborne Brigade Association Gold Star representatives to update mailing lists and our Gold Star data base.

The Foundation will send a second letter to Gold Star families in the mid- to late-January 2008 time frame with more specific information regarding plans for ground breaking as well as an update on our Memorial planning and progress.

The success of this outreach program is evident by the re-

sponses the Foundation has received from its initial letter. Family members were appreciative of Foundation efforts and many stated that they were looking forward to the completion of the Memorial and its dedication.

### The Gold Star

During the early days of World War I, a Blue Star was used to represent each person serving in the U. S. military. As the war progressed and men were killed in battle or died of their wounds or disease, there came about the accepted usage of the Gold Star.

This Gold Star was substituted and superimposed upon the Blue Star. The idea of the Gold Star was that this honor and glory accorded the person for the supreme sacrifice for his country, and the pride of the family in this sacrifice, was more appropriate than the sense of personal loss that would be represented by traditional mourning symbols.

## A Heartfelt Thanks...

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the 173d Airborne Memorial Foundation, I would like to express our appreciation to two of our founding members no longer on the Board for their dedication and service.

Terry Modglin, currently President of Chapter I of the Association, was the driving force behind resurrecting and breathing life into the memorial program. Without his untiring efforts over a three year span, there would be no Foundation and no memorial program.

Jan O'Neil, an Honorary Member of the 173d Airborne Brigade Association, served as Foundation Secretary and Director of Communications and gave generously of her time and talent. Both are missed! — Ken Smith, Foundation President.