



Fourth Annual Report

173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation, Inc.

31 December 2009

DEDICATION SET!

The Board of Directors of the 173d Airborne Memorial Foundation has selected **1000 hours, on June 1, 2010**, as the date for the dedication of the Memorial.

Foundation President Ken Smith, in announcing the date, noted the proximity of the dedication to the three-day Memorial Day holiday (29 May-31 May 2010) and to the Annual Sky Soldiers Reunion (scheduled to take place starting 3 June in nearby Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.)

The Memorial Foundation Board of Directors believes that the 1 June dedication date will facilitate Sky Soldier travel over the holiday weekend. It will also allow those Sky Soldiers who are traveling some distance — and especially those who are coming from the Down Under Chapters — the opportunity to take advantage of two significant events.

The 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial overlooks the parade field and grandstands of the National Infantry Museum and Soldiers Center at Patriots Park, located between Fort Benning and

Columbus, Georgia. The spacious National Infantry Museum parking lot can be accessed from either Lumpkin Road or Fort Benning Road. Handicap parking is available; access to the grandstands from the parking lot has been designed to accommodate wheelchairs.

While the grandstands can accommodate more than 2,000 occupants, Sky Soldiers and their guests who plan to attend the dedication would be well advised to arrive a little early to ensure that adequate seating is available.

Based on emails and other communications received by the Foundation to date, it looks like there might be a “standing room only” crowd.

The dedication program will last approximately 90 minutes. Those attending should consider spending a portion of the rest of their day, and perhaps subsequent days, viewing the spectacular exhibits in the Infantry Museum.

The 190,000 square foot Infantry Museum has a gallery describing the Fort Benning mission and training objectives and a number of spectacular galleries devoted to the

Infantry’s role in the formation of our nation. The “Last 100 Yards” display depicts the eight most significant Infantry battles in the U.S. Army’s 234 year history.

The Museum contains a 300 seat IMAX Theatre, a 175 seat “closing” theater, a 200 seat restaurant, the Ranger Hall of Honor, and the OCS Hall of Honor. The Museum gift shop provides visitors the opportunity to purchase souvenirs of their visit.

Personnel from the Columbus-Fort Benning Chapter of the 173d Airborne Brigade Association will be assisting the Memorial Foundation Board of Directors with the logistics of the dedication program. Additional logistical support will come from the Fort Benning garrison and the National Infantry Museum staff.

This dedication marks the end of an effort that began almost a quarter of a century ago, and is the beginning of an era where the history and heritage of the Brigade is appropriately recognized. We hope to see many of you there!

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The Foundation’s Financial Status

The Foundation’s FY 2008 Financial Report is located on Page 2. Note that this is for the period 1 October 2008 through 30 September 2009.

The Foundation Board of Directors remains firm in its estimate that it has enough cash on hand to build the Memorial. Between the end of the fiscal year and the date of this publication, the Foundation’s has continued a sustained fund raising effort, but our work is not done.

After the Memorial is completed, the National Infantry Foundation will maintain the Memorial grounds. However, the Foundation must provide a “Perpetual Care Fund” to pay for major repairs (if needed) as well as to cover the cost for the addition of new data to the Granite Tables.

Based on current administrative costs and the Foundation’s construction expenditure rate, the Foundation’s Perpetual Care Fund will not be fully capitalized by 1 June 2010.

If you have not yet contributed to the Foundation, and want to participate in this important project, please consider making a donation today!

OUR BUILDING PARTNERS

How do you construct a Memorial like the one we are building? You engage the best available talent to help you in the task!

The 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation is pleased to announce that Georgia Development Partners has been awarded the contract to build the basic Memorial structure including the site preparation. GDP is an Atlanta based developer and

general contractor whose slogan is “developing meaningful places.”

Columbus Monument Company of Columbus Georgia, was awarded the contract to acquire and engrave the black granite on which the Brigade’s history and heritage will be written. Columbus Monument Company has built or participated in the construction of many memorials in the Columbus-Fort Benning area.

Ed Summey of Columbus,

Georgia is the Construction Manager, representing the Foundation. French and Associates of Columbus, Georgia is providing Site Engineering and Landscape Architectural Services.

Sculpture Mike Elliot fabricated the stainless steel globe, wing and bayonet that will be positioned on the pinnacle of the central column.

These major players, and many other participants, are making our dream a reality!



DESIGNED FOR THE FUTURE

One of the biggest challenges faced by the 173d Memorial Foundation's Board of Directors was how to design a Memorial that would be relevant for generations to come. Many organization memorials are event oriented with a start and a finish date. Because the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team is writing its history and creating its heritage on a daily basis, this memorial HAD TO BE DIFFERENT — and it is!

Surrounding the central column that supports the Brigade's famous "Wing and Bayonet" are five sets of granite data panels. Each set of panels consists of six individual panels set in frames, with three panels on each side of each set.

On these panels are engraved the names of the fallen from all conflicts since the Brigade was formed in 1963. Almost ten panels are required to list the names of the fallen American warriors from the Vietnam era (1640) and another panel contains the names of 32 fallen brothers from "Down Under."

A single panel lists the names of 69 Sky Soldiers — warriors who fell during Operation

Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom VI, and Operation Enduring Freedom VIII. Two adjacent panels have been left blank to permit the addition of additional names of the fallen as the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team continues to be deployed on the cutting edge of our nation's military forces.

Three panels depict our famous "Patch" and relate the history of the Brigade. One of these three panels is almost blank, to permit inscription of future historical deployments as they occur.

Another set of three panels contains the Order of Battle, the Brigade Crest, and a listing of the Combat Operations and Campaigns from the Vietnam era deployment. A parallel set of three panels lists the Order of Battle for the major deployments of the reactivated brigade, with one panel reserved for future history.

A single panel contains an etching of the Medal of Honor, and the names of Sky Soldiers who received this award. This panel contains room for more names when events require their addition.

Two of the 30 panels are devoted to artwork; two to individual awards and one to unit decorations awarded during the Vietnam conflict. Clearly, there is flexibility in the panels that are displayed.

HOWEVER, the true versatility of this Memorial is recognized only when one realizes that each of the 30 panels has two sides. Should future events require, each of the panels can be removed from its display case, turned around and polished, and new data inscribed.

Should it become necessary, the panels on which pictures and patches are inscribed can be reversed and new data entered, providing a versatility that should endure for generations.

In addition, the Foundation has ordered three additional panels that will be stored within the Memorial structure. This provides a replacement capability should one of the primary panels be broken or damaged beyond repair.

The Foundation Board of Directors believes it has created a Memorial that will last for generations to come!

The Foundation Financial Report, FY 2008 (1 October 2008 through 30 September 2009)

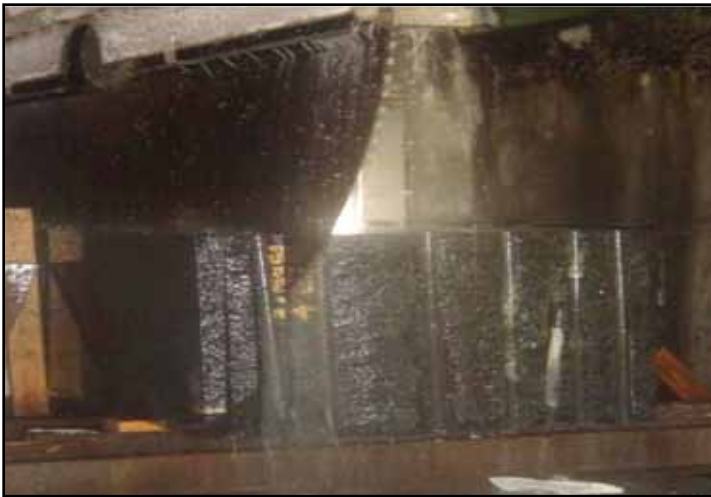
Income:

Donations:	\$ 71,977.83
Memorabilia Sale:	\$ 2,708.50
Interest	\$ <u>11,307.88</u>
FY 08 TOTAL:	\$ 85,994.21
FY 07 TOTAL:	\$ 179,819.21
FY 06 TOTAL	\$ 459,888.44
FY 05 TOTAL	\$ <u>72,505.07</u>
TOTAL PROJECT INCOME	\$ 798,206.93

Expenses:

Administration:	\$ 8,723.40
Pinnacle Sculpture:	\$ 43,800.00
Pinnacle Storage/Insurance	\$ 1,277.50
FY 08 TOTAL	\$ 45,077.50
FY 07 TOTAL	\$ 83,555.87
FY 06 TOTAL	\$ 54,305.82
FY 05 TOTAL	\$ <u>40,031.61</u>
TOTAL PROJECT EXPENSES	\$ 231,694.50

The 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation website (www.173dairbornememorial.org) is the definitive site for all news about the Memorial Foundation, progress on memorial construction, fund raising information, and the Memorial Dedication. It also contains the list of names of our fallen brothers that will be inscribed on the Memorial, as well as information on how to donate to the Memorial construction effort.



Cutting the Granite Panels



Moving A Panel

The Granite Panels

The panels are fabricated from Absolute Black granite quarried in South Africa. Each panel is 2'9" wide, 5'1-1/2" tall and 2" thick, and weighs approximately 500 lbs. Each panel will be polished to a high sheen finish on the front, with smooth sawn sides and back. The panels will be lettered by placing a pre-cut stencil on the panel and sandblasting it to the desired depth. The letters are a 5/8" government style font with a light highlight added to increase readability. The patches, ribbons, medals, badges, etc. are sandblasted on some of the panels, while other art is laser-etched on the granite.



Mike Elliott Sculpting the Globe



Step #1, Site Preparation by Georgia Development Partners



The 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Board of Directors, 2008—2009

President Vice President Secretary Treasurer	Kenneth Smith Robert Wolfgang Don Dali Craig Ford	Directors: Sharon Goens Raymond Ramirez Floyd Riester
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**173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

% COL (R) Kenneth Smith
1160 Lake Royale
Louisburg, NC 27549-7089

INFORMATION AND CONTACT DATA

**FOR INFORMATION
REGARDING THE MEMORIAL DEDICATION
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.173dairbornememorial.org**

**CONTACT US BY MAIL AT:
The 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation
1160 Lake Royale
Louisburg, NC 27549**

Donations are being accepted to establish a Memorial Perpetual Care Fund. This fund will be utilized to add to the Granite Tables information resulting from current and future deployments, and to repair/maintain the Memorial as required over the coming decades.

Make Checks payable to the “173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation” and mail them to the address above. Donations may also be made electronically—please visit our Website for more information.

The 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation, Incorporated, is a Georgia Corporation. It has been designated a 501(C)3 entity by the Internal Revenue Service. Donations may be tax deductible. Please consult your accountant.