

A “FALLEN” VIETNAM SKY SOLDIER IS FOUND, ALIVE AND WELL!

In January 2008, the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation received information regarding a Vietnam KIA who was not listed on the rolls of the fallen, nor The Wall in Washington, DC. Sky Soldier Ron Jordan sent a copy of the C/4/503 Morning Report, dated 11/22/67, listing his M-60 machine gun mate, Charles W. Webb, as KIA on 11/21/67. Jordan was also listed as WIA on that date.

Bob Wolfgang, Director of Heraldry for the 173d Airborne Memorial Foundation, established contact with the Department of the Army’s Mortuary and Casualty Affairs Office, to determine why Webb was not listed in the National Archives. No progress was made during 2008, so in 2009, the Foundation enlisted the services of some of its “heavy weapons” -- Ted Arthurs, Les Brownlee, Bill Connolly and Jack Tarr -- to assist in the search.

The turning point came in Spring of 2010, when Bill found through a DA contact that Webb’s Home of Record was Glasgow, KY. Bill, in turn, recruited Sky Soldier, Jerry Cecil, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) in KY to turn loose his many contacts and assets in that state. USMC MAJ (Ret) Robert Travis interviewed several of Webb’s relatives in Glasgow, learning he was in fact alive and had moved to Ohio some years before.

Jerry and Robert went to their KY network (Walt Divers at the Lexington Veterans Administration Medical Center, Melissa Hall, KY Veterans Affairs, and Dan Kessinger of the Department of the Army’s Mortuary and Casualty Affairs Office) and in early December 2010 they found Webb’s contact information in Columbus, Ohio. Jerry called, confirmed his service number, and by the end of 2010 Webb and Jordan have reunited after 43 years.

The Foundation is indebted to all who assisted in this search over the past three years, but we must single out COL (Ret) Jerry Cecil who was the catalyst for the last leg of the journey, bringing closure for all .