



173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation

For Immediate Release

% COL (R) Kenneth Smith



50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND "READING OF THE NAMES"

The 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation is now seeking former members of the 2nd Airborne Battle Group, 503rd Infantry that served in Okinawa in the early 1960's and former members of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep) activated on 26 March 1963 in Okinawa. We would like to *"spread the word about the Herd"!*

We would like to inform the *"Sky Soldiers"* who served in Okinawa, the Republic of South Viet Nam, Italy, Germany, Iraq, and Afghanistan that we are planning a 50th Anniversary for the 173d Airborne Brigade from 21 March-24 March 2013, in Columbus/Ft. Benning, GA. We will also celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the combat parachute jump into Iraq by the members of the *"new"* 173d Airborne Brigade.

There will be visits on Friday, 22 March 2013, to the new National Infantry Museum, tours of Ft. Benning, GA, the *"home of the Airborne"* and visit the *"Jump School"*. Mini-Reunions by our Battalions and other Units are being planned for Columbus, GA.

On Saturday, 23 March 2013, we will conduct a Memorial Cleaning Ceremony, then view a jump by the Silver Wings, commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Activation of the 173d Airborne Brigade and then we will commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the 173d Airborne Brigade combat parachute assault into Iraq.

A reading of the Names of *"our fallen"* from Viet Nam will be conducted on that Saturday, and a Candlelight Ceremony and Reading of the Names of *"our fallen"* in Iraq and Afghanistan will also occur on Saturday, 23 March 2013. *"Our Fallen are not Forgotten"*.

A Prayer Service at the 173d National Memorial will be on Sunday, 24 March, 2013. Go to www.173dairbor nememorial.org for more information, contact 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Board Member Raymond C. Ramirez at his home phone number of [REDACTED] or via his email: [REDACTED]