



Fifth Annual Report

173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation, Inc.

31 December 2010

Dedicated — 1 June 2010!

On 1 June 2010, at the Soldiers Center and Patriots Park near Fort Benning, GA, the long awaited 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial was dedicated. An estimated 2,200 spectators attended the hour long ceremony.

The sky was clear, temperatures warm, and the Fort Benning Garrison band was playing as the crowd observed a combined US-Australian-New Zealand Color Guard rise from below the horizon and advance the colors to the stadium where the crowd was seated. The colors were presented to Brigadier General James Yarbrough, the first Commander of the reactivated Brigade.

Following appropriate honors, General Yarbrough addressed the crowd and was followed at the podium by CSM Nicholas Rolling (representing current 173d ABCT Commander COL James Johnson), Australian Major General John Caligari, New Zealand Brigadier A. D. Gawn, and 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation President Ken Smith.

Following the moving and often emotional remarks, the ceremony then moved from the stadium adjacent to the National Infantry Museum parade field to the high ground overlooking the stadium and museum where the memorial is located. Four wreaths were presented.

The first wreath honored the Vietnam era veterans and their fallen comrades, and was presented by veterans and Gold Star family members from the Vietnam era generation.

The second and third wreaths, presented by the Australian and New Zealand delegations, honored their veterans and fallen.

The fourth wreath, honoring Sky Soldiers of the reactivated brigade and their fallen, was presented by veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan campaigns and Gold Star family members who lost warriors during these deployments.

The ceremony concluded with a rifle salute, a haunting rendition of Taps that left few dry eyes in the

crowd, and a Piper who walked the inner perimeter of the granite tables while playing a simple but solemn rendition of Amazing Grace. A helicopter flyover completed the formal events.

The Memorial Foundation was pleased to have as its guests the Commanding General of Fort Benning, and many members of the Fort Benning garrison (including a large number of veterans who wore the "Herd" patch on their shoulders), official delegations from the Australian and New Zealand Armies, our friends and supporters from "Avis," as well as representatives from the many organizations and companies who helped make the Memorial a reality.

Special thanks goes to MG (Ret) Jerry White, who was responsible for the construction of the wonderful National Infantry Museum and to his deputy, Col (Ret) Dick Hagan. Without the help and cooperation of these two warriors, the task of building our Memorial would have been much more difficult.

But Work Remains....

On 2 June 2010, the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation members took the day off. On 3 June 2010, work that had begun well before the Memorial dedication continued.

The ceremony at the memorial was not the culmination of a major effort, but only the beginning of a long term commitment.

The Memorial will require constant care to maintain its appearance. The landscaping requires water and grooming and

lights that define the Memorial at night must be maintained and electricity bills paid.

Occasional infrastructure repairs will be required, and a qualified cleaning company will be needed to properly care for the granite panels and stainless steel frames.

In addition to periodic maintenance, provisions need to be made to add new data to the granite panels as the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team continues to add to our collective heritage.

Memorial construction costs are paid and the Foundation has no major outstanding liabilities.

The Memorial Foundation intends to create an endowment fund that will support the memorial for generations to come. We still need your sustained financial support.

In the coming months, you will receive more information on this important endowment project. In the interim, donations to help support our work are always welcome!

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Honors Ceremony Set for 11 June At the Memorial

The 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation is pleased to announce that a formal "Honors Ceremony" will be held at the Memorial on Saturday, 11 June, at 1000 hours.

This Ceremony will honor the nine warriors who fell during Operation Enduring Freedom X in Afghanistan, and to unveil their names on the panels commemorating our fallen. The Memorial Foundation will add the name of a fallen Vietnam warrior to the list of our brothers who died so long ago.

The name of SSG Salvatore Giunta will be added to the roster of those who have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor while serving in the 173d Airborne Brigade. This brings to fourteen the names of those so honored.

Data related to the Brigade's deployment for OEF X, if available, will also be unveiled as part of the ceremony.

All Sky Soldiers, families, and friends are invited to attend this brief but meaningful ceremony. When plans for the event are finalized, information will be placed on our website (www.173dairbornememorial.org).



**The 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation, Inc.
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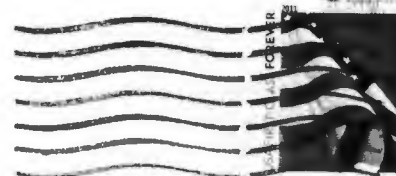
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**173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE
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INFORMATION AND CONTACT DATA

**FOR INFORMATION
REGARDING THE MEMORIAL
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 panels 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.