

July 2007



# *The Currahee!*

The Newsletter of  
The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association  
Airmobile - Air Assault

*Our Motto: We Stand Together - Then, Now, and Always*

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## **Recapping the Week of the Eagles**

The Week of the Eagles at Fort Campbell from May 15 thru the 20th and our associated Gathering at the Holiday Inn was a great success for the Association. While the sign-in sheets are not 100% accurate, they showed we had 64 veteran Currahees and 149 active duty soldiers from the Regimental Combat Team (RCT) in our hospitality room at one time or another. As A/1-506 was meeting separately in Hopkinsville and there was also a 'recon' reunion at another local hotel, from both of which we had some visitors, it is safe to say we had a good crowd with us most of the time. Last year in Colorado the membership wanted an off-year get together with the WOE being mentioned. Thanks to the efforts and support received from Joe Bossi, Tom Duckett, Gene Overton, Bruce Moore, Ron Helwig, Don Thies, Emory King, Colonel Tom Vail and his command, I think this report can be stamped, 'Mission Accomplished.' The efforts of Fred May, Ken Parr and Bruce Moore regarding the A Company project set a standard for future 'unit level' projects that will be hard to match and brought further credit to our Association. Not to be overlooked in this is the help and support we receive from Task Force 3rd Battalion 506th Infantry Association and the 101st Airborne Division. We have good friends there.

Among the highlights for us CURRAHEES were the Division Review, dedication ceremonies in the RCT area of memorials to the Iraq dead from both First and Second Battalion, the dedication of a monument to their Viet Nam dead by veterans of A/1-506 well attended by both veterans and the active duty soldiers of today and ceremonies at the Division Monument located at the old division headquarters. We were also more than welcomed at open houses in the RCT area and their mess hall as were some of our current day soldiers, NCOs and officers in our Hospitality Room. I received many compliments on our welcoming the active duty troops to our functions from other veterans at the reunion as well as RCT personnel. I also had good comments and witnessed the obvious joy our folks had interacting with today's soldiers and their joy in being with us. For those of us who remember how much of our country simply turned their back on us when we came home (and swore this would not happen to another generation) all I can say is that it was 'GREAT' to be home at Campbell with the Division and the 506th.

The air show was the usual fine show with the weather being a lot better than in a couple of previous years. There were more reenactors around than I remember from prior years, and the guys in robes carrying AKs and RPGs were a real first. Those guys had a real sense of humor. I was 'wearing down' Saturday, so left early for a nap, before a last evening of conversation.

On another subject, we had a real problem with membership renewals last year. I recently eliminated from the roster those members who had not renewed, and also removed them from my e-mail list from the same reason. Should any of your friends mention to you they do not receive the various mailings and electronic messages any more, please mention to them that at some point in time if they do not renew their memberships we stop sending them things. If we have made an error, let us know immediately and we will correct it. In the current case, the cut-off for e-mails was June 1 and will also be in effect for this 'snail mail' issue of the newsletter. Information on renewal is in the newsletter everyone should have received in January and is also available on our web site.

CURRAHEE

Brise Bickerton 1/506 INF APR 67 – APR 69  
<brise5804@comcast.net>

**Visit the Currahee website - [www.506infantry.org](http://www.506infantry.org)**

## Currahee Hero honored

By Greg Phillips (Company D/1-506)

*In February of this year, the 506th Airborne Infantry Association (Airmobile-Air Assault) made a contribution to a committee in Fairfield, Illinois that was erecting a monument to a former resident of their town, Kenneth Kays. Kenny was a medic attached to D/1-506 and several of our members have memories of the day he was wounded and what he did. Greg Phillips was one of those and provided us with write-ups on the battle and the ceremony which he and several members of the company attended and participated in. Thanks to Greg, we have the following article.*

On May 5th, I journeyed to Fairfield, Illinois for dedication of a monument to honor the late Kenneth Kays, a holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions almost 37 years before in Vietnam.. Along with me were several other members of D/1-506th Infantry plus representatives from the 506th Infantry Association.

Fairfield Fire Chief Mike Pottorff coordinated and directed the event and those assisting him did a remarkable job of organizing the celebration. Although many Fairfield residents didn't recognize Kays' sacrifice during his lifetime, they and former Vietnam-era soldiers dedicated a black granite monument in his memory. It is located in a place of honor on the front lawn of the Hannah House Museum just south of Fairfield's downtown district. The main program began with the Pledge of Allegiance the National Anthem, and Presentation of the Colors by local members of the VFW and a color guard of the 101st Airborne Division soldiers from nearby Fort Campbell. Several members of the Second Platoon ,Company D/1st of the 506th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division who served with Kenny Kays in Vietnam unveiled the memorial in his honor. Following lunch, the members of the 506th Infantry Association visited the grave of Kenneth Kays.

On that day in 1970, we faced an NVA Sapper (Special Forces) battalion of approximately 320 men and a North Vietnamese Army Brigade of 1200 men. We arrived May 5th and hit one of the hottest LZs ever, with enemy positions surrounding the base. We were greeted by 51-caliber machine guns, mortars, gas and small arms fire from the north, west and south. During this landing, my Platoon lost our medic to a chest wound. The entire Company spent the first night atop Maureen and we never realized what was in store for us over the next two days.

On the morning of May 6th, just before my Platoon did a recon off of Maureen to the South, a new Medic joined our platoon— Kenneth Kays. The citation describes the action. Afterwards, Kenneth Kays was awarded The Congressional Medal of Honor. PFC Kenneth David, the platoon leader's RTO received the Distinguished Service Cross, platoon sergeant Stephen Avgerinos the Bronze Star with "V" Device, and Sp4 Greg Phillips the Silver Star.

In later years we learned that Kenny had a rough ad-

justment to life after Viet Nam and in some ways withdrew into himself. Kenny died November 29, 1991 and is buried at Maple Hill Cemetery in Fairfield. His military issue tombstone reads "Kenneth M. Kays: Medal of Honor: PFC US Army – Vietnam; Purple Heart." He was awarded the Medal by President Richard M. Nixon. The citation reads in part:

" Pfc. (then Pvt) Kenneth Kays distinguished himself while serving as a medical aidman with Company D, 1st Battalion, 101st Airborne Division near Fire Support Base Maureen. A heavily armed force of enemy sappers and infantrymen assaulted Company D's night defensive position, wounding and killing a number of its members. Disregarding the intense enemy fire and ground assault, Pfc. Kays began moving toward the perimeter to assist his fallen comrades. In doing so he became the target of concentrated enemy fire and explosive charges, 1 of which severed the lower portion of his left leg.

"After applying a tourniquet to his leg, Pfc. Kays moved to the fire-swept perimeter, administered medical aid to 1 of the wounded, and helped move him to an area of relative safety. Despite his severe wound and excruciating pain, Pfc. Kays returned to the perimeter in search of other wounded men. He treated another wounded comrade, and, using his own body as a shield against enemy bullets and fragments, moved him to safety. Although weakened from a great loss of blood, Pfc. Kays resumed his heroic lifesaving efforts by moving beyond the company's perimeter into enemy held territory to treat a wounded American lying there. Only after his fellow wounded soldiers had been treated and evacuated did Pfc. Kays allow his own wounds to be treated. ... Pfc. Kays' heroism at the risk of his life are in keeping with the highest traditions of the service and reflect great credit on him, his unit, and the U.S. Army."

*D/1-506th 1970 Currahee Veterans at Kenny Kays grave at Maple Hill Cemetery. (Standing L-R): Roger Crabb, Hoyt Bruce Moore III (A Co, 1st BN, 1970-1971), Kenny David, Tony Cox, Greg Phillips, Don Shaughnessy, Merle Delagrance, Steve "Greek" Avgerinos, John "Ernie" Banks. (Kneeling): Randy Mills, author of Troubled Hero: A Medal of Honor, Vietnam, and the War at Home*





## 3/506 Report

Jerry Gomes. 3/506 Reporter

The Oregon Cascade Chapter 101st Airborne Div Assn. 15th Annual D-Day BBQ took place Saturday, July 14th in Sandy, Oregon, with 150 Airborne Veterans and families expected. Whole Hog, MicroBrew and desserts provided by the Donut Dollies! Money raised from the silent auction is used for scholarship donations, ROTC awards and Eagle Family Support Fund.

Over 11 members of our Chapter were in the 506th in WWII and Vietnam. Curtis "Tex" Hardin, Mike Fujinaga, Jerry Gomes and Duane "CW" Potter arrived as advance team for the BBQ. They were all together in the same team at one time or another in 67-68-69 as E Co. LRRPS. Other 3/506th Oregon vets are Bill Collins, HHQ Co. and George May, B Co., Roosevelt Mitchell, Medic B Co. WWII Veterans Bill Wingett, Don Bond and Don Marlarkey all of Easy Company 506th. Bill just celebrated his

85th Birthday and recently returned from Europe from a tour of Normandy, Holland and Belgium. He presented Gomes with a piece of shrapnel from the Foxholes at Foy.

Week of the Eagles at Ft Campbell was great! 3/506 Veterans included Joe Alexander, Kip Rolland, Larry Collins, Tim Howard, Mike Krawczyk, Jerry Gomes, Roosevelt Mitchell, Dee Dallas, Mike Fujinaga, David Glenn, John Reid, Jerry Wilson. We are proud of our active duty soldiers! Thanks for your hospitality!

The next 3/506 Banquet will take place in Omaha, Nebraska during the 101st Airborne Division Association Reunion. Thursday night, August 9th. Silent auction will raise money for the 3/506 Flower Fund in honor of our KIA's. More information about the 3/506 is available at [www.currahee3-506.org](http://www.currahee3-506.org). Thanks to the 506 Association for the First Class Website and communications.



*Oregon Chapter Vets at the 60th Anniversary of WWII Event in Vancouver, Washington 2004*



*3/506 LRRPS L to R -- Jerry Gomes, Curtis Hardin, Richard Ohama, John Reid, Roosevelt Mitchell Medic B Co, Kip Rolland, Mike Fujinaga*

## President's Message – July 2007

Brise Bickerton 1/506 INF APR 67 – APR 69  
Association President

It falls to me to comment on where I think the Association is at this time and other matters. I think the 'where we are' is probably most important. Right now we are at about 90% of the membership level attained last year and that has had some effects on our finances. The five-year renewals have been very gratifying, but as far as the balance sheet and income statement goes that revenue is apportioned to the years it will be earned over, so roughly 80% of that income is recognized as a form of a liability account. That is a very proper and appropriate way to handle the income, but it does have effects on what we report.

At the same time our operating costs relating to membership and tracking the list of former Currahees who are non-members continues to be maintained along with three newsletters. Part of the newsletter cost has been eliminated by e-mailing them and the advantages of that as well as the generally better communications it makes available to us should only grow in the future.

There are times in the life of small companies as they grow when the pressures of growth can place a lot of strain on the organization. I suspect our 'sticking point' comes up when we get into the 400 to 600 active member area. When I was in the advertising - public relations world, on occasion I listened in on discussions about small companies that had a good product and had had good

*Continued on Page 7*

## Stand Down 2007 After Action Report

A Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry  
101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)

By Beth Krohe

“Ass-Kicking Alpha” - A Company, 1-506th to the uninitiated - got together in Hopkinsville, Kentucky over the weekend of May 18-20 for the fourth reunion of the unit. Attendees were from the Vietnam-era of 1967-1971.

Even though the “Reunion” officially didn’t start until Friday - on Thursday evening the “Hospitality Room” (in the motel) was opened early - for those who arrived early and an impromptu “pizza party” was held (including refreshments). There were pictures to look through and stories being told. The ones that arrived early really seemed to enjoy themselves.

On Friday morning many of the “Currahees” went to Fort Campbell, KY to participate in “The Week of The Eagle - Pass and Review” on the parade field. The Veterans marched in front of the Active-Duty Soldiers. This was enjoyed by all that marched, watched and took pictures.

Friday evening more than 40 Screaming Eagles and their wives and family members answered the roll call at Ryan’s Grill & Buffet, for a nice buffet dinner. After everyone ate until they were stuffed . Beth Krohe said a few words about this years Reunion and some of the happenings taking place during the Reunion. Beth also told about finding more “Alpha Company Currahees” and how she has been doing this. Ken Parr then spoke a few words and handed out “Beautiful wooden miniature Monuments” to Fred May, Bruce Moore, Ray Sowinski and Gary George for their help and dedication to see the plan from start to the finish line. After dinner we all returned to the motel for visiting, taking and looking at pictures, telling stories and of course some refreshments.

On Saturday some gathered to watch movies and look at pictures and others went to Fort Campbell to see the sites. Then in the evening we all gathered together again for the “Alpha Company Dinner” at a local restaurant for a Chinese/American Buffet (another chance to get overly stuffed). We were honored to have join us for the evening, some “Active-Duty Soldiers” from Fort Campbell, KY. After dinner John Brown conducted a very moving and emotional “Fallen Currahee Ceremony” remembering the Fallen Alpha Company Comrades. Following the ceremony Mike Oakley read a poem written by Father Charles R. Fink, “BURY ME WITH SOLDIERS”.

Following the reading Mike Oakley presented Beth Krohe with a “Challenge Coin - For A Job Well Done”, from the `67-`68 reunited Currahees. Fred May followed and he also handed out some “Challenge Coins” to the men attending their first reunion, then he said, “that Bruce

Moore and himself designed a new coin”, they were handed out to all Alpha Company Veterans attending the reunion. After these were received, Fred explained everything that is on the new coin.

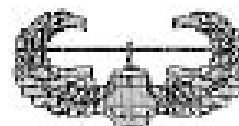
Bruce Moore and Peggy Pearson followed and they handed out the “Currahee Crest Awards” to numerous people. Ron Rami followed by presenting CPT Justin Michel with a 506th Currahee Flag that was signed by all attending Vietnam Currahees!! And he also handed out “You Were There!” certificates to all fellow Currahees. Then Ed And Beth Krohe handed out specially made 6”x9” 506th Currahee Flags to Ed’s fellow Currahees attending the reunion.

Following all this excitement we discussed where and when to have the next Reunion and the decision was for Nashville, TN in 2009. Then it was time for the big event of the evening “The Raffle”. There were numerous prizes to be had and was enjoyed by everyone. (The proceeds form the raffle were donated to “Operation Ensuring Christmas” to help the children of Fallen Soldiers.) This was followed by group pictures and then it was time to return back to the motel for more visiting, looking at those pictures of memories, more stories and, of course, some refreshments!

As Sunday morning came, it was time for “Breakfast with The Troops” in one of the dining facilities at Fort Campbell. (which Ron Rami pulled off some how. He must have had the right connections!!) This was followed by the “A Company 1-506th Vietnam Memorial Dedication” This monument is a reconstruction of one that was made and placed in Vietnam and didn’t make it back home. The ceremony was very emotional for everyone whom attended. The monument, benches and landscaping are just so beautiful that words can not describe them. The gentlemen that were involved with the reconstruction of this Monument put their hearts, soul and so much love into it and we are all very grateful for the great jobs they did. If you are ever in the area, please take a few moments to stop by and see it. It is worth the trip!!

Many thanks to all who attended the “2007 Stand Down Reunion”; without you it wouldn’t have been such a big success. We hope to see you at the 2009 Stand Down Reunion in Nashville, TN and hope that more will be able to attend and join us in reuniting with other Alpha Company Currahees. If you haven’t attended one of the reunions, please try to make the next one - it is definitely worth it.

Currahee!!!



## Alpha Company Recreates Vietnam Monument honoring KIAs

From the Mansfield (OH) News-Journal (Used by permission)

By Lou Whitmire

CRESTLINE --

Ken Parr built a monument in his garage to stand for 75 men who fell in Vietnam.

The Crestline man will be one of four U.S. Army veterans traveling to Fort Campbell, Ky., to unveil the A/1-506th Company Monument at 11 a.m. May 20. "Three of the four of us were at a reunion last year in Colorado Springs and decided to do this," he said. Parr, 57, an infantry sergeant in Alpha Company, 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment, served from 1969-71. He was in Vietnam in 1970-71. "We're just honoring our heroes," he said.



*Currahee Ken Parr with the new monument*

in Crestline on Saturday to pick up the six-foot monument and transport it to the base in Kentucky for the dedication ceremony. Army veteran Ray Sowinski of Berwyn, Ill., also will attend the dedication.

In April 1971, Sgt. Parr and Sgt. Sowinski erected a small monument in front of the A Company, 1-506th Orderly Room at Camp Evans in South Vietnam to honor the men from Alpha Company who were listed in the "Morning Reports" as having died during the previous 14 months. The 7-by-14-inch piece of brass was engraved with a dedication. Eighteen 1-by-3-inch brass pieces were engraved with the rank, name and date of death for each soldier.

According Lt. May, in information posted at [www.506Infantry.org](http://www.506Infantry.org): "A hole was dug in front of the Orderly Room, and a wall of 105mm ammo crates painted olive drab was built behind this hole. We placed the monument into the hole and ringed it with a single row of sandbags. Inside this row of sandbags, we covered the ground with pure white beach sand."

May wrote that the monument was still there when he left Vietnam. Parr returned to Vietnam in 1996. The trip was sponsored by the 101st Airborne Association.

### From Fred May:

Now that you know the Monument is completed and is "standing tall and looking good," it is time to thank those who actually performed the work on the installation. Although there were three veterans and their wives working on the project, it would not have been completed without assistance from the active duty Currahees. Diane George, Gary George, Peggy Pearson, Bruce Moore, Sabina May and Fred May would like to thank the following soldiers for their help.

The Monument, which weighs about 500 pounds, was lifted from the bed of a pickup truck by 10 volunteers from A/1-506 Infantry who were under the supervision of CPT Justin Michel.

The two Monument holes were dug by SPC Billy Ray Wheelan with assistance from SPC John Hutson and PFC Michael Prewitt.

CSM Michael Catterton provided a detail of men to assist with landscaping the area. His words to us were that he did not want to see the veterans fall behind schedule due to a lack of manpower on our part. The landscaping crew consisted of PVT Virgil Johnson, SPC Daniel Bray, PFC Joe Rhodes and SSG Jason Pinckney.

All of this work was performed in temperatures approaching 90 degrees with high humidity.





## The Veterans Initiative program

By Bob von Almen, C 2/506 1970-1971

The Veterans Initiative program began in 1993. A congressional delegation and representatives from three veterans service organizations traveled to Vietnam to check on the POW/MIA issue. They were told during this meeting that Vietnamese also needed help in accounting for their 300,000 MIA's ( other estimates say it's much closer to 500,000 ). So the VVA went back home and began asking American veterans to submit information on Vietnamese war casualties.

These are the points that the program hope to gain from the initiative: the fullest possible accounting of American POW/MIA's, with the highest priority being those Americans last-known alive; getting answers for American and Vietnamese families and veterans about the fate and location of those who died or remain missing; the knowledge that veterans CAN HELP bring their brothers home; veterans of the war demonstrating a sincere desire to bring closure to this issue by working TOGETHER; and peace of mind by letting go of the past. Maybe a little piece of a veterans mind may give them peace of mind. It certainly did this "grunt" in 2000 when I mailed my information and maps! If I helped just one family in any way, I feel honored!

## HOW DOES IT WORK ?

You determine the information you want to share. So do the veterans in Vietnam. The VVA presents the information you send to Vietnamese veterans organizations as a humanitarian gesture of good faith in hope that they will respond with information about our missing.

## MATERIALS THAT HELP

- Identity papers, film, and documents taken from dead Vietnamese soldiers or captives.
- Original or sketch maps of gravesites and dates or action.
- Descriptions of incidents that could provide information about Vietnamese losses and American missing.

When I sketched my maps or gave locations, I tried to use as a pivot point a FSB, river, LZ, if in a valley a physical description of the ridgelines on my left and right, if on a ridgeline approx direction from nearest FSB and distance (in meters), etc. You can go to websites to get topographic maps which really help. Some of these are;

[www.mapmart.com](http://www.mapmart.com), [www.avalon-download-maps.com](http://www.avalon-download-maps.com), and [www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/ams](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/ams).

Any honest effort will only help the Veterans Initiative to bring families back together.

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## Mailbag

Morning Brise,

A little on the subject of supporting our own. A little update first. I was at WRAMC last Monday and the 101st has 12 patients, all in rehab doing well. None in the hospital. The 82nd on the other hand has approx. 17 in the hospital, two I know were in the ICU where I also visited. Very humbling to go there and makes our small aches miniscule in comparison to the traumatic injuries I see in the ICU and Ward 57 especially.

I met the new 101st Liaison ( SSggt Alvarado) as well as the new 82nd Liaison (SFC Mackey). I was meeting Sgt Alvarado to arrange a concert trip to my area on July 15th like was done last year. They will be seeing "Hootie and the Blowfish", with the troops being the evenings VIP's and being treated with a VIP pass to the supporters tent for a pre-show dinner and drinks ( opened all through the concert as well). My local ford dealer is again donating a 15 passenger van. Hope to get 12 or so guys from WRAMC rehab house to attend (Liaisons as well as wife's/GF of Liaisons, troopers). The Liaisons are under lots of stress at times from dealing not so much with the patients but the patients anxiety filled parents/family. The 101st and 82nd Liaisons are combat experienced medics by the way.

I asked SFC Mackey if I could visit some of the 82nd guys since a lot of our guys also served in the 82nd prior to joining the 101st/506th. Talking to him, he was impressed by what our 506th Association (through Bob Seitz here at WRAMC) does/did for the 101st guys ( T-Shirts, shorts, parachute pants, 506th gym bag, hat, 506th crest for mom's, telephone cards etc). SFC Mackey is going to try and see if he can't get the 82nd Assoc. guys to "follow our lead" and do something on the same style. We do take care of our own like Col Vail says ! SFC Mackey was very impressed !

Most important to mention is how much the patients, all of them, appreciate us. I like to maintain a low profile and give the troops all the highlight ! I tried to catch up to Sgt Villalobos at the Malouge(sp) House, a proud 1/506 trooper who I met there last Fall. He should be the poster trooper for the new 506th spirit ! Spc Max Ramsey as well who I really admire for his courage and drive. Enough of my rambling but the bottom line is the 506th Assoc/members do take care of their own and it is seen by others ! Currahee and Airborne!,

Larry Bowman

[C 1/506 -1967 / 1968 & C 3/506 -1968]

## Trying to Locate:

*From Roxie Goetz Tracy:*

Hello, I am the daughter of a 506th PIR, killed in the Battle of the Bulge, December 23, 1944. My father's name was PVT George L. Goetz, A Co, 1st BN. I would appreciate hearing from anyone who remember the circumstances of his death, or for that matter anything else about him, or any websites that might list information concerning him. I was 2-1/2 when he was killed. Most of the information my mother had has been destroyed. Thank you so much for any help you might give me. My eMail is roxy1942@earthlink.net

*From Richard Arnall in Baxter Springs, KS:*

If anyone out there can remember serving with my brother Robert D. Arnall, D Co, 3rd BN, 506th, KIA December 28, 1970, I would like to hear from you. My eMail is cooter7777@hotmail.com .

*From Francesco Saverio Matarazzo in Italy:*

Dear Sirs, I greatly appreciate your effort in maintaining and remembering the sacrifice of the people who provided the humanity of the current world. I would submit a question concerning a soldier who died during the Normandy operation; his name is Cosmo Ciano, G Co, 3rd BN, 506th PIR, KIA 06/06/44. He was my uncle (my mother's brother). I never knew him, because I am quite younger than him (and thanks to him and all other people); I would like to know if there are some people who knew him, where he was prepared for the operation, where he exactly died, and definitely information on his career. The only information that I have has been found on the web, and I would like to know something deeper. Thank you again for your support. My eMail is francesco.saverio.matarazzo@telespazio.com

*From Perry Schroeder in Saint James, MN:*

I am looking for the following persons who served with my brother, SGT Lyle W. Schroeder, 1st Platoon, C Company, 1st Battalion, 506th, Vietnam 1968-69. Lyle was KIA 01/26/1969: SGT Walter Clute, Oklahoma; FC Marshall, Chicago; LT Tom McCullough, Iowa; George (Pat) Smith, Oklahoma; Grenivicky (spelled phonetically); Eddie DeLeon; and Robert Stamp. Would appreciate any information. I have pictures of the above and other photos during that time. Am looking for pictures of Lyle or anyone who knew him. Thanks. My eMail is perryjs@rconnect.com .

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## President's Message (continued)

growth but their marketing, PR, product distribution or other issues were in the way of their growth. We are in our 12th year following on four years of organization and six years under the founders who did a great job of building the organization. I probably would argue that some things began to fall off in 2006 but were not fully recognized. It may well be that there is no need to worry about that. I think the base for a 400 to 500 member association is well in place. We have not yet decided on what we want to be in the future, that is a good bunch of friends that gets together now and again and does some good works or the preeminent Currahee organization that wants a bigger voice. I am confident we will get that decision made. Some things take time.

I should comment on reunions. I consider the Gathering at Campbell an absolute success overall. The interaction with the troops was the highlight of the trip and I hope we can do that again. In some ways, these guys gave us our parade just as we gave them our thanks. Next year we will be meeting jointly and concurrently with the 101st Airborne Division Association in Reno. I know there are past hurts that some of you have regarding that Association but it has changed. There are many advan-

tages to us in on occasion walking side-by-side with them. I think we all will have a good time with the exception of that percentage every organization has that will simply not have a good time regardless of what is being done. We will have a separate hospitality room, Association dinner and meetings. After that we need to decide whether we want to change our official meeting pattern from every two years to a smaller meeting in a fun location in the off-year and the regular meeting in election years.

I consider that my e-mail notes to the membership on e-mail have been a success. I must admit that I am sending far more out than I expected to, but some of that is demand driven. As it is only my time to send them out and you on e-mail have delete buttons I think I will follow the practice of sending items of merit or interest to you as members and certain others request.

CURRAHEE!

Brise Bickerton

1/506 INF—APR 67 – APR 69

# Soldier to Soldier-Bringing our MIAs Home

By Bob von Almen

C 2/506 1970-1971

I want to inform my fellow Currahees of a program called the Veterans Initiative. It is sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans of America ( of which I am not a member). In a nutshell, the program puts Vietnamese Veterans Organizations ( former NVA or VC) or individual ex-Vietnamese soldiers in personal contact with American Vietnam Veterans.

Maps of body or grave locations of NVA or VC soldiers KIA are prepared by us vets and hand delivered to our former enemy in Vietnam. They in turn have turned over body or grave locations information to our fellow Vietnam vets of our KIA/MIA's. Some of them have even taken a vet or group to show them an approximate grave or body location of an American soldier. This also involves information on downed aircraft sites.

This program IS NOT funded by the U.S. government or the government of Vietnam and a majority of the travel expenses are paid by the Vietnam vets themselves. It is strictly soldier to soldier! The information that the American vets receive from their counterparts is turned over to the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command ( JPAC ) for further investigation and/or exhumation of our MIA's.

I do have information brochures on the Veterans Initiative Program. I would be happy to send these out or answer any questions. This program HAS brought home some of our fellow soldiers and finally provided closure for their dear families.

CURRAHEE !

Bob von Almen

bobvon101@hotmail.com

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## Treasurer's Report:

As of June 30, 2007, year-to-date operating expenses of \$19,482.60 exceeded operating income of \$17,569.57 for a net operating LOSS of \$1,913.03. Total funds in Association cash accounts included the following:

Fidelity Business Account	\$ 10,531.24
Business Shares, Financial 21 Credit Union, San Diego:	125.04
Checking Account: Unrestricted Funds	15,116.33
Temporarily Restricted Funds:	15,481.50
Non-Association Jump Fund	**
Currahee Packages Fund	783.59
Widows & Orphans Fund	6,920.15
Scholarship Fund	7,777.76
TOTAL CASH 06/30/07	\$41,254.11

\*\* The Non-Association Jump Fund was advanced \$254.18 from Unrestricted Funds.

The new 5-year Membership Dues plan has been successful, with about 40% of those who paid 2007 dues taking advantage of the new plan. As of June 30, 2007, the amount of Pre-Paid Dues was as follows:

Year 2008	\$3,181.00
Year 2009	3,026.00
Year 2010	3,026.00
Year 2011	3,026.00
Year 2012	32.00
TOTAL DEFERRED INCOME	\$12,291.00

Thanks to all of you who responded to the 2007 membership drive and to those who have made additional donations for Association expenses, the Scholarship Fund, and the Widows, Orphans, & Wounded Soldiers Fund.



## **Last Roll Call:**

**Jack E. Miller**, D Company, 2nd BN, 506th PIR WWII, died August 13, 2006

**Sgt. Daniel M. Quaine** was killed May 7, 2006 during training operations at Fort Carson, Colo. He was a member of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team and the 1/506th.

**LRC(R) Ronald Speirs**, D/E Company, 2nd BN, 506th PIR WWII, died April 11, 2007

**James G. McCann**, H Company, 3rd BN, 506th PIR WWII, died May 27, 2007

**Frank L. Davis**, A Company, 1st BN, 506th PIR WWII, died June 3, 2007

**John N. Sigalos**, G Co, 3rd BN, 506th PIR WWII, died July 2007

**Lt. Colonel John E. (Jack) Mathis**, died April 27, 2007. 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment parachuted into Normandy on June 6 and into Holland on September 17, 1944. He was one of the few men to win the Combat Infantry Badge Third Award for WWII, Korea and Vietnam

## **Former Currahees Killed in Action in Iraq:**

**SGT Robert M. Carr**, who served in the Republic of Korea and in Ramadi, Iraq with C Company 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, died March 13, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. SGT Carr was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO.

**SGT Joe Polo**, who served in the Republic of Korea and in Ramadi, Iraq with A Company 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, died March 29, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds suffered when his unit was attacked by enemy forces using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire. SGT Polo was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Carson, CO.

**SGT Michael J. Martinez**, who previously served in Ramadi, Iraq with 3rd Platoon, B Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, died June 28, 2007, in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained when his unit was attacked by insurgents using improvised explosive devices.

## **Mailbag:**

### **Currahee Flags Make an Impression in Iraq**

Mike,

Thanks for the letter (*below*) and the feedback. As chairmen of the package project I am proud to say that we sent about 5 tons of "stuff" covering two deployments, to the troops in Iraq. The most asked for item by the troops was the Currahee Flag. They flew it everywhere and were proud of it.

While installing the reproduction our A Company Vietnam Monument at Fort Campbell this spring I was present in the 506th area for two weeks and again noticed the flag flying at Regiment HQ and at other areas and events in Currahee Country. I asked some of the active duty soldiers about the flag and it was evident that they were proud of it. This flag was not viewed as an ornament to be hidden away where few could see it, but as an object of pride to be displayed so that all who saw it knew that Currahees had boots on the ground under it. Alpha Company Veterans even used a Currahee Flag as the covering drape for our Monument at its dedication.

Ron Helwig designed this flag and I must say he did a damn fine job. I do not know how much money we will be able to collect for the next deployment of the Currahees to Afghanistan, but I assure you they will have a new supply of flags. I, too, am proud to be affiliated with an Association that supports a College Scholarship, a Widows Orphans & Wounded Soldiers Fund, along with a Hospital Visitation Team that takes time to attend to soldiers WIA.

Currahee,

Fred May

*In a message dated 6/23/2007 3:11:27 P.M. Eastern Daylight Time, mbookser@earthlink.net wrote:*

Gentlemen:

Last night I attended a function that was also attended by a currently serving Col. in the U.S. Army. Naturally I introduced myself. He asked if I had served in the military and I told him who I served with. His immediate response

*Continued on Page 10*

## Membership Director's Report

By Eugene L. Overton, Jr. [Gene] – Membership Director  
C Co., 1st Bn, 506th – 1967 / 1968

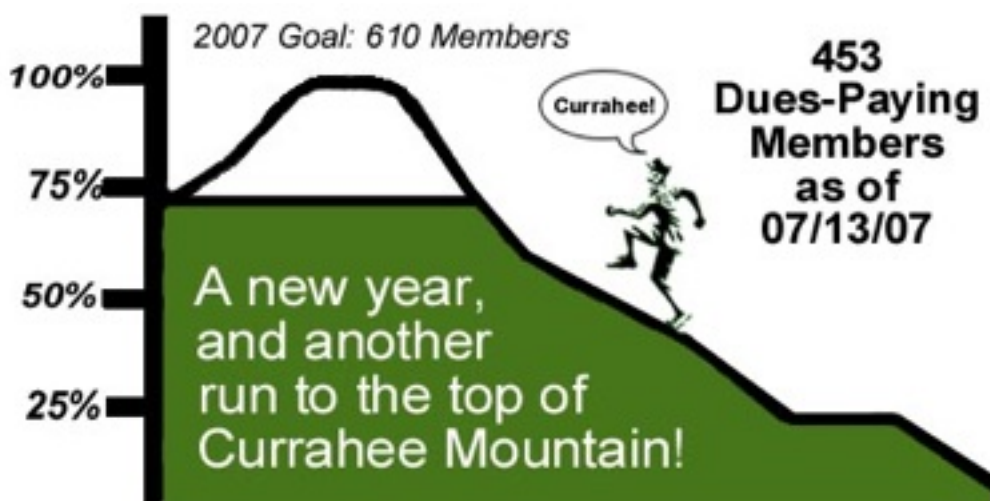
As of July 13th the total number of Members have paid their 2007 Dues is 453 or 74% of our goal for this year of 610. This is down from last year, July 2006, when our membership was at 504. We have some catching up to do and all of you can help by just getting one additional Currahee to join the Association. For the entire year of 2006, we had a total of 555 Members but so far this year 249 [45%] of such Currahees have not renewed their membership. If these Members were to renew their membership this year we will "Accomplish the Mission" of not just meeting but exceeding our membership goal for 2007.

Good news is that it appears that our new "Five Year Membership Program" is off to an excellent start with 183 of our current members [40%] choosing to join for five years at the discounted rate as opposed to annually.

The 506th Association had 555 dues-paying members in 2006. Help us meet our goal of 610 dues-paying members in 2007!

One goal that was not met was to distribute your 2007 Membership Packet [Membership Cards and Currahee Rosters] by May 15th. I ran into some unforeseen programs / glitches which pushed back the distribution until mid-June; you should have received your 2007 Membership Packet by now. For those of you with computers, I'm sure that you will be more than happy with the expanded information received this year. So, let me know what you think of the new additional information you received on the CD sent to you.

My eMail – Charlie35@si.rr.com  
and my phone is 646 232-6265



### Currahee Flags Make an Impression (Continued)

was "are you a member of the 506th Association?" I proudly said I was. His voice raised and he started to tell everyone around us that when he was in Iraq he saw 506th flags everywhere. He asked a commander where they got the flags and Col Vail responded "from the 506th Association, they take care of our guys." He told everyone in ear shot that he wished he was a member of the 506th.

He asked about our organization and I explained what we do. I told him there was life after service and explained to him how my company commander supports the children of 506th veteran's through the scholarship fund. He was amazed at the level of our commitment to the 506th and clearly articulated it to the growing crowd.

I gave him my card and told him that if he ran into a Currahee to pass the word about our Association.

We parted company and he mumbled he was going to start a coup of his association to change things. Needless to say I was beaming pride.

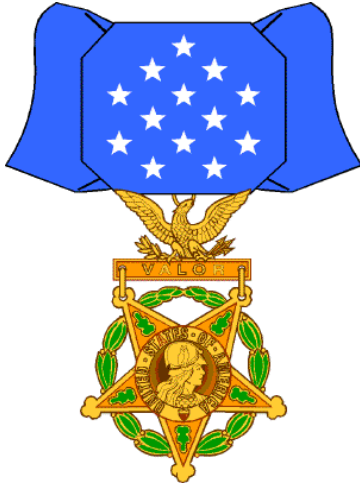
Thank you Captain Sullivan, and thank you Board of Directors.

Mike Bookser E/B Co., 1.506th, 1969-70



## Currahee Congressional Medal of Honor Nominees:

- **QM2 Michael A. Monsoor**, Seal Team 3, attached to 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, KIA 09/29/06 for his actions in Ramadi, Iraq, on September 29, 2006. Recommendation currently under review by the Pentagon.



- **SP4 Leslie H. Sabo, Jr.**, B Company, 3rd Battalion, 506th Infantry, KIA 05/10/70, for his actions on the battlefield in eastern Cambodia on May 10, 1970.

110TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H. R. 1585 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

Subtitle F—Decorations and Awards

SEC. 551. AUTHORIZATION AND REQUEST FOR AWARD OF MEDAL OF HONOR TO LESLIE H. SABO, JR., FOR ACTS OF VALOR DURING THE VIETNAM

WAR.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding the time limitations specified in section 3744 of title 10, United States Code, or any other time limitation with respect to the awarding of certain medals to persons who served in the Armed Forces, the President is authorized and requested to award the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to Leslie H. Sabo, Jr., for the acts of valor during the Vietnam War described in subsection (b).

(b) ACTS OF VALOR DESCRIBED.—The acts of valor referred to in subsection (a) are the actions of Leslie H. Sabo, Jr., on May 10, 1970, as a member of the United States Army serving in the grade of Specialist Four in the Republic of Vietnam with Company B of the 3d Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

## College Scholarship Winner Announced: Callie Richardson

The 506th Association Scholarship Committee has selected Callie Richardson as the winner of our \$500 College Scholarship for 2007. Callie recently graduated from Lafayette Jefferson High School in Lafayette, Indiana and will be a freshman at Purdue University this fall. Callie's Father, Dale Richardson, served with C/1-506 Infantry in Vietnam.

The Association would like to congratulate Callie, as the 2007 scholarship applicant pool provided very stiff competition.

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## From 2nd Infantry Division Currahees:



Mr. Moore,

Thank You so much for the update. SPC Roodhouse was a very special individual who I liked very much. I miss him.

As a tribute to SPC Roodhouse, SSG Trost, SPC Messmer and SSG Ingraham, I wrote their names on the back of my 2ID combat patch that I wear in Tikrit now. The funny thing is that I was chastised by most of the senior NCO's for wearing a "leg" patch, for which I responded "There are men buried all over the United States who I lived, breathed, ate with who cannot wear it. I wear it in remembrance of them and their sacrifice."

SSG John L. Miller

3d BDE 82nd ABN DIV

(served in B Co, 1st BN, 506th, 2BCT, 2ID, 2004-2005)

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## Mailbag

Hello this is Tony Gomes the 506th Scholarship recipient. I just wanted to say hello to you all and let you know how things are going down here at OSU!

This term I am taking five classes, I have never taken so many at one time but I enjoy them! I have German 512 (standard German class), German 342- Literature, German 332 Culture, Math 95, and Spanish 101. So much translating! I am working my way up to calculus so I can get on with my other Construction Engineering classes! (I am in the Library right now thought I would take a break!).

But everything is going good, making a little money on the side every now and then working for Public Safety on Campus, there are also lots of pretty girls down here- enough to drive a guy crazy! I just wanted to say hello to you all and thank you again so much for the scholarship!!!

Tony Gomes

## *Fund Donation Form*

**Please include the following information:**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(AREA CODE) NUMBER

Make your check or money order (no credit cards) payable to:

The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association (Airmobile - Air Assault)

Mail this form and your donation to:

Hoyt Bruce Moore, III -- Treasurer

Phone: (858) 274-4317 4126 Cole Way

eMail: TheMOE\_A1506@msn.com San Diego, CA 92117-1123

## *Scholarship Fund Donation*

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## *Widows & Orphans Fund Donation*

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

The IRS has recognized the 506th Association as a War Veterans Organization under section 501(c)(19), so donors making contributions to the Association can deduct such donations on their personal or corporate tax filings, as provided for by IRS rules and regulations. The Association is listed in IRS Publication 78, *Cumulative List of Organizations described in Section 170(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986*, the list of organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. For exemption/deduction purposes, the Association Employer Identification Number (EIN) is 91-2088108.



# The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association (Airmobile-Air Assault)

## *Quartermaster Order Form*

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **HOME PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

## a "member" is someone who has paid their 506th Association 2007 Membership Dues.				
Quantity	Item	Each (non-members)	Each (members)##	TOTAL COST
	Association Gym/Duffel Bag (23.75"x 13"x 11.5")	\$36.00**	\$32.00**	\$
	FSB Map, I Corps, Vietnam (26.5"x 18")	\$20.00	\$15.00	
	Currahee Flag (3' x 5')	\$40.00	\$35.00	
	Book: <i>The Story of a Soldier</i>	\$12.00	\$9.00	
	Hat: 506th Association: White w/Blue Letters	\$14.00	\$12.00	
	Hat: 506th Association: Black w/Gold Letters	\$14.00	\$12.00	
	Hat: Currahee w/Airborne Wings Insignia	\$10.00	\$8.00	
	Hat: Currahee w/Air Assault Wings Insignia	\$10.00	\$8.00	
	Polo: Original (NO Personalization): X-Large	\$32.00	\$29.00	
	Polo: Personalized Currahee: Medium	\$32.00	\$29.00	
	Polo: Personalized Currahee: Large	\$32.00	\$29.00	
	Polo: Personalized Currahee: X-Large	\$32.00	\$29.00	
	Polo: Personalized Currahee: XX-Large	\$33.00	\$30.00	
	Optional Personalization Information (\$3.00 per Currahee Polo Shirt)			\$
	Name:			
	506th Unit:			
	Service Dates with 506th:			
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				\$
Shipping (\$4.60 for the 1st item + \$2.25 shipping per additional item)				
**ADD \$4.25 additional shipping for each GYM/DUFFEL BAG				
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>				\$

Photos of all of these items can be found in the Quartermaster section of [www.506infantry.org](http://www.506infantry.org)

**Make your check or money order (no credit cards) payable to:**

*The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association (Airmobile-Air Assault)*

**Mail this Order Form and your check or money order to:**

Phone: 858-274-4317 eMail: [TheMOE\\_A1506@msn.com](mailto:TheMOE_A1506@msn.com)

*Please allow 4 weeks for delivery*

**Hoyt B. Moore, III, Treasurer**  
**4126 Cole Way**  
**San Diego, CA 92117-1123**

# The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association (Airmobile-Air Assault)

## Quartermaster Order Form

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**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

## a "member" is someone who has paid their 506th Association 2007 Membership Dues.				
Quantity	Item	Each (non-members)	Each (members)##	TOTAL COST
	506th Association Challenge Coin (1-1/2" diameter)	\$10.00*	\$8.00*	\$
	506th Infantry Knife (2-3/8")	\$7.00*	\$5.00*	
	506th Infantry Bracelet	\$12.00*	\$10.00*	
	Pin: Currahee Shield Full-Size (1"x 1-1/4")	\$6.00	\$5.00	
	Pin: Currahee Shield Lapel (3/8"x 1/2")	\$4.00	\$3.00	
	Decal: Currahee Shield (2.75"x 3.5" Adhesive)	\$6.00	\$5.00	
	Decal: Para-Dice (3" diameter)	\$6.00	\$5.00	
	Decal: 506th Association (8"x 5" Static Cling)	\$3.00	\$2.00	
	Neck Cooler (44")	\$4.00	\$2.50	
	Patch: Currahee Shield (3"x 3.5")	\$6.00	\$5.00	
	Patch: Para-Dice (3" diameter)	\$6.00	\$5.00	
	Patch: Shield with Airborne Wings (4.25"x 2.25")	\$6.00	\$5.00	
	Patch: Shield with Air Assault Wings (4.25"x 2.25")	\$6.00	\$5.00	
	CD: <i>Wait on the Bridge</i>	\$12.00**	\$10.00**	
	CD: <i>Call Me Crazy</i>	\$12.00**	\$10.00**	
	CD: <i>Lover's Midnight Concerto</i>	\$12.00**	\$10.00**	
	CD: <i>Piano, Spirit In My Hands</i>	\$12.00**	\$10.00**	
	Currahee License Plate	\$12.00**	\$10.00**	
	License Plate Frame: White w/Blue Letters	\$7.00*	\$5.00*	
	License Plate Frame: Black w/Gold Letters	\$7.00*	\$5.00*	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				<b>\$</b>
Shipping @ \$0.45 per item				
*ADD \$0.75 additional shipping for each COIN, KNIFE, BRACELET, or LICENSE PLATE FRAME				
**ADD \$1.50 additional shipping for each CD or LICENSE PLATE				
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>				<b>\$</b>

*Photos of all of these items can be found in the Quartermaster section of [www.506infantry.org](http://www.506infantry.org)*

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**Hoyt B. Moore, III, Treasurer**  
**4126 Cole Way**  
**San Diego, CA 92117-1123**

The 506th Airborne Infantry Regiment Association (Airmobile-Air Assault)

## T-Shirt Order Form

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTES:** these items will NOT be backordered, so availability is limited to what is in stock. If you participated in the Memorial Jump activities in either 2004 or 2006, contact Quartermaster Ron Helwig at [rlhelwig@verizon.net](mailto:rlhelwig@verizon.net) about the availability of special T-Shirts for jump participants.

## a "member" is someone who has paid their 506th Association 2007 Membership Dues.				
Quantity	Item	Each (non-members)	Each (members)##	TOTAL COST
BLACK	<b>Currahee World Tour T-Shirt</b>			
	X-Large	\$15.00	\$12.50	
**SPECIAL: purchase a 2 T-Shirt package (World Tour T-Shirt and Memorial Jump T-Shirt) in any combination of sizes/colors at a cost of \$25 for members or \$30 for non-members.				
BLACK	GRAY	<b>2006 Memorial Jump T-Shirt</b>		
		Small	\$18.00**	\$14.00**
		Medium	\$18.00**	\$14.00**
	SOLD OUT	Large	\$18.00**	\$14.00**
	SOLD OUT	X-Large	\$18.00**	\$14.00**
		XX-Large	\$18.00**	\$14.00**
SUBTOTAL				\$
Shipping (\$4.60 for the 1st item)				\$4.60
Add \$2.25 Shipping per additional item				
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED				\$

*Photos of all of these items can be found in the Quartermaster section of [www.506infantry.org](http://www.506infantry.org)*

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**THE 506TH AIRBORNE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
(Airborne - Air Assault)**

**ASSOCIATION MOTTO: WE STAND TOGETHER - THEN, NOW and ALWAYS**

**Web Site URL/Address: [www.506infantry.org](http://www.506infantry.org)**

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**Secretary** - Michael J. Metzger - [mmetzger@capitalbuildersinc.com](mailto:mmetzger@capitalbuildersinc.com)

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John Lally - [johnlally@comcast.net](mailto:johnlally@comcast.net)

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