

MEMORANDUM FOR: Sky Soldiers and Our Supporters

**FROM: 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation
Board of Directors**

DATE: 15 November 2011

On behalf of the 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation, it is my pleasure to tell you about coming events for your information and planning. The Celebration and associated Ceremony, described below, are a “work in progress” but a few comments are in order.

The 173d Airborne Brigade (SEP) was activated by the Department of the Army on 26 March 1963 on the Island of Okinawa. 26 March 2013 is the 10th Anniversary of the 173d Airborne Brigade’s parachute assault into Iraq. It is fitting to recognize these seminal events that later impacted and defined who Sky Soldiers are and what they have accomplished.

Periodically, members of Platoons, Companies and Battalions gather to remember and reflect on the life altering events that defined their service with the 173d Airborne Brigade in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation believes this Anniversary Celebration is an excellent venue for these gatherings and urges any group of veterans to take advantage of this opportunity to plan and conduct their own unit “mini-reunions.”

Fort Benning is one common thread that unites Airborne soldiers of all generations. The 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial Foundation is working with the Columbus / Fort Benning Chapter to hold a Golf Tournament and to plan and conduct Post tours including a visit to the Airborne School. Specific details will appear on the Memorial Foundation website (www.173dairbornememorial.org) in 2012.

The “Memorial Cleaning Ceremony” is both a practical and a symbolic event. The granite panels periodically require cleaning but only under the supervision of an expert. The Foundation is pleased to announce that Ms. Lynn Evans of the Columbus Monument Company and a member of our Foundation Advisory Board will supervise this effort.

The “Reading of the Names” Ceremony is a tradition that spans all generations. In 2012, the 173d Airborne Brigade Memorial Foundation will post on its website opportunities for Spartan Club Members, Sky Soldiers and their families, and our Gold Star “families” to participate in this sacred ceremony.

Periodically, please check our website for more updates regarding this event

Ken Smith
Memorial Foundation President

**173d Airborne Brigade 50th Anniversary
Celebration
And “Reading of the Names” Ceremony**

**Hosted by
The 173d Airborne Brigade National Memorial
Foundation**

**Thursday, 21 March – Sunday, 24 March 2013
Fort Benning / Columbus Georgia Area**

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Thursday 21 March

Arrival and Golf Tournament (Tentative)

Friday 22 March

National Infantry Museum Visits
Tours of Fort Benning (including Jump School)
Mini-Reunions conducted by Unit Organizations.

Saturday 23 March

Memorial Cleaning Ceremony
Silver Wings Jump
10th Anniversary - Iraq Parachute Assault Commemoration
Reading of the Names (Vietnam Era)
Candlelight Ceremony with Honors and Reading of the Names
(Iraq/Afghanistan)

Sunday 24 March

Prayer Service at Memorial
Departure