

TOWN OF BRANDON, VERMONT

RESOLUTION

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS that on the occasion of the meeting of the Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep), New England Chapter IX held in Brandon, VT on February 20, 2010 and on behalf of the Select Board and all of its citizens that:

WHEREAS the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep) was activated on Okinawa 26 March 1963; and

WHEREAS the 173rd can trace its proud heritage to the First World War in August, 1917; and

WHEREAS the unit trained tirelessly in parachute jumps and were known as the "Sky Soldiers" and as the "Herd"; and

WHEREAS the brigade deployed to Vietnam in May 1965 as the first major ground unit of the United States Army; and

WHEREAS during more than six years of continuous combat the Brigade earned 14 campaign streamers and four unit citations; and

WHEREAS Sky Soldiers serving in Vietnam received 13 Medals of Honor, 46 Distinguished Service Crosses, 1,736 Silver Stars and over 6,000 Purple Hearts; and

WHEREAS the names of over 1,790 Sky Soldiers are inscribed on the Vietnam Memorial; and

WHEREAS the 173rd Brigade continues to distinguish itself in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

WHEREAS the sons and daughters of the Town of Brandon have proudly served the armed forces of the United States in all times of need; and

WHEREAS the Town of Brandon, Vermont is the home of three Sky Soldiers from the Vietnam era: Tom Whittaker, Gary Stanley and Anthony Albarello; and

WHEREAS the Town of Brandon gratefully acknowledges the service and sacrifice of all of the Sky Soldiers present and those comrades absent from us, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Town of Brandon extends to you its gratitude and appreciation and declares February 20, 2010 to be **SKY SOLDIER DAY. Airborne!**



Keith O. Arlund
Town Manager
LTC (Ret), FA
U.S. Army

