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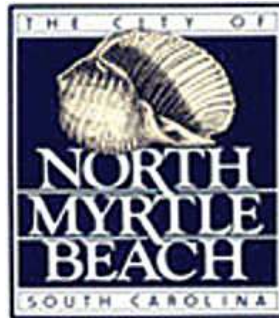
### NMB lands major convention

#### North Myrtle Beach Times

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By Judy Corley

The City of North Myrtle Beach will welcome the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association reunion in June and city officials say this will be a major occasion for the city. The 173rd Airborne Brigade Association will arrive in North Myrtle Beach beginning June 2 and the convention will last eight days. Thousands of paratroopers along with their families and friends will fill hotels and other accommodations throughout the city days before the major tourist season begins. Business owners say this will fill accommodations, restaurants and shops during a traditionally slow tourism time.

In addition to the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association, Australian and New Zealand Paratroopers, and 173rd Airborne Veterans from around the world will also attend.

The 173rd Airborne Brigade, which is currently stationed in Milan, Italy, will fly in their Honor Guard and Colors for the opening ceremonies. A number of paratroopers currently serving in combat in Afghanistan will also fly in for the reunion.

Organizers say "The Herd," as the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association is known, will also be bringing many of their wounded warrior brothers and sisters, along with their families, to the reunion.

Sponsors are needed to help offset some of the costs of flying in the wounded paratroopers and a fund has been set up for donations. The Avista Resort Hotel was the first local business to make a \$1,000 donation and other personal or business donations can be made by calling Skipper Hough at 843-272-6600.

Hough, a veteran and member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, served with the Brigade during the Vietnam War. He is instrumental in bringing the event to the city, working with the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association and the City of North Myrtle Beach for over a year.

On June 3, Hough's company, Water Dog Promotions, will produce a Salute to Veterans event on Main Street for the association and the public is also invited to attend.

The day will be filled with a variety of public events including The World Champion Sky Diving Team, The U.S. Army Golden Knights (Black Team), who will make a jump onto the beach directly behind the stage which will be located in the horseshoe at the end of Main Street.

The 82nd Airborne Division's All America Chorus will also perform at 7:15 p.m.

After 3 p.m. Main Street will be filled with a display of Howitzers, tanks, mock aircraft, Humvees, special weapons, combat dressed troops and cobra helicopters. Organizers also promise an aerial surprise to be announced at a later time.

Local veterans groups will be part of the special event including VFW groups, Rolling Thunder, DAV and the American Legion.

Parts of Main Street will close at 3 p.m. on June 3 and be open to pedestrians only.

At 6 p.m., the U.S. Army Golden Knights will parachute onto the beach and at 6:30 p.m. local dignitaries, elected officials and others will be introduced. A special presentation will also be made honoring WW II veterans.

At 8:30 p.m., 173rd Airborne Brigade Association members and their families will join local residents and visitors to the city when country-western, international recording stars Cimmaron performs in concert on Main Street.

Mayor Marilyn Hatley says the event will likely be the largest one ever held in the city.

Sen. Dick Elliott, who will host a golf tournament for the association at his Eagle Nest Golf Course, introduced a resolution on March 2 in the S.C. Senate, with the S.C. House of Representative concurring, proclaiming June 3-7, 2010, 173rd Airborne Brigade Association Days in South Carolina.

The proclamation spoke of the long history of the brigade, called the Sky Soldiers, and their sacrifices made since being formed in 1917.

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