



82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSN. INC.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER

PARATROOPER

www.82airborne-assoc.com



Chartered by the
United States Congress

The
"All Airborne" Fraternity

December 2022

Chris Mirowski, Editor

Army football reveals WWII-themed uniform for Navy matchup



Image via Old Ironsides
West Point debuted its uniform for the December Army-Navy game.

Sarah Sicard
Military Times

Hot on the tails of the Navy revealing its space-themed uniform for the annual academy rivalry football matchup, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point decided to look to its past for sartorial inspiration.

**Airborne Dinner and
Annual Business Meeting
December 10th, 2022
See page 8 for information and a map**

See
"West Point" on
page 3





From the Chairman

Happy Holiday Season, Rocky Mountain Chapter!

I hope all of you were able to enjoy Thanksgiving with families and loved ones. Our next dinner is December 10th and will again happen at the American Legion in Firestone. We will also have our Annual Business Meeting and elect the officers for 2023. There are no by-law changes to vote on, only officer elections. See the sample ballot and information on page 9 for more information.

Adorning the cover for this edition of the Paratrooper is the US Military Academy uniform for the 2022 Army-Navy game. Yes, that game is being played on the same day as our dinner. The good news is the dinner occurs before the game. The even better news is that the Firestone American Legion will air the game live in their bar, so you can watch with fellow service members and talk all the smack you want to any Midshipman fan, including our dear friend and RMC member, Jim Dean.

Regarding Thanksgiving, Mike Marsh called me the day after this year. We had RMC business to talk about, but the conversation took a turn. Mike mentioned that fifty-five years ago to the day, that he was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Regiment, the day after the battle of Hill 875. My stomach dropped. I was made keenly aware of the 173rd's accomplishments in Vietnam and that battle in particular when I was stationed at Fort Bragg. Years ago, I asked Mike about his involvement with 875 and he told me that he was assigned as a replacement the very day after the three-day bloody battle that rendered the 173rd combat ineffective for a time. One hundred and fifteen lives were lost and 253 were injured from the brigade. Normally on such a commemoration, I put a story about the event in this newsletter. This time, I've chosen to do something unprecedented. I've included a poem called *Hill 875 that begins on page 4*.

As usual, I do have an observation to share with you. I love Thanksgiving. It is a time where I reflect on a word that is becoming very popular in servant leadership circles; GRATITUDE.

When I was stationed at Fort Bragg in 1991, a squadmate of mine from California and I were the only ones who weren't going home for Thanksgiving. We both lived too far to go home. A friend of ours from our platoon invited us into his home. Michael Cockrell at the time was an enlisted rank just like us, but he had a wife and two daughters. No one is going to become rich from enlisted pay and Michael and his wife Jackie struggled to make ends meet. But, they shared their home with us. It was the most memorable Thanksgiving experience of my life. I got to taste soul food for the first time and discovered that I liked collard greens. With us breaking bread, I immediately felt like we were family. An act of kindness made a life-long impact on me.

If you read this section of the newsletter, I tend to be a broken record regarding the unity, fellowship, and airborne fraternal bonds that occur from breaking bread together. It's universal throughout all cultures. I spoke with Michael on the phone yesterday to let him know how much that moment in 1991 meant to me. My squadmate, who was with me, isn't here to do the same. A few years ago he succumbed to the pressures of life that he couldn't cope with. I'm glad we were able to share that Thanksgiving together.

So, my broken record part here is; I would love to see you at the December dinner. Who knows what life is going to bring? The next dinner may just be your most memorable one and you don't want to miss out on that experience.

Chris Mirowski
Chairman, RMC

**“West Point”
continued from
Page 1**

Its uniform is dedicated to the soldiers of the 1st Armored Division, specifically those that kicked off Operation Torch, bringing the United States into the fold during World War II.



**Army 1st Armored Division WWII
Tribute Uniform**



**Navy Salute to Naval NASA Sailors
Uniform**

“Operation Torch marked the 1st Armored Division’s entry into the crucible of combat,” according to the Army release. “The resilience, grit, and commitment demonstrated by the soldiers ultimately resulted in the defeat of Axis forces in North Africa. In the harsh desert against a determined enemy, the members of the 1st Armored Division were forged into ‘Iron Soldiers’ and learned the lessons that would guide them to success in subsequent operations in Italy and Western Europe.”

Though it’s dubbed the academy’s “Old Ironsides” uniform, it is not to be confused with the Navy’s U.S.S. Constitution, the legendary frigate that went by the same moniker.

The uniform, provided by Nike, is deep Army green with gold insignia and taupe pants. Around the waist, it features a prominent “mud splatter” design, which is meant to signify the dirt and grit that would have plagued the 1st Armored Division’s equipment and tanks as they battled Axis forces in Europe and North Africa.

Officers of the Rocky Mountain Chapter

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<p><u>Trustees</u></p>				
<p>Art Gallegos</p>	<p>Tom Lopez</p>	<p>Pat Kleckner</p>	<p>Tom Lopez</p>	<p>Mike Marsh</p>
<p>Ron Mitchell</p>				

Editor's Note: The following is a poem by Gary Jacobsen entitled Hill 875 which details the 173rd Airborne Brigade's 1967 battle that occurred November 19th – 23rd. The 23rd was Thanksgiving Day.



Hill 875



***During the fierce battle for a hill called 875
Elite Airborne Infantry struggled just to stay alive.
These leather tough men,
These hard fighting men,
Were the best of men,
And they were the worst of men,
But they were men...
They were our brothers.
They were our fathers.
They were our favored sons.
They were the handsome "Boy Next Door,"
That all young girls adore.
Winged Airborne heart***

***Fighting soldiers from the sky,
Fearless men who jump knowing they might die,
The flowers of American youth,
Defending freedoms from tyrants uncouth,
Inspired by honor distilled from heavens above,
More than self their country love.
Winged Airborne heart***

***Airborne sky troopers patrolling an unnamed hill
Came under intense recoilless rifle fire.
A withering blanket of VC rifle grenades
made the situation dire.
Fearing their lives might soon expire,
The 173rd Airborne
Fighting all bloody morn,
Withstood wave after wave of attacks,
Displaying bravery in a hundred single,
Gallant acts,
Struggling in close quarters hand-to-hand,
Determined at all costs to make a stand.
Winged Airborne heart***

***173rd Airborne elite, pressed to evict
The North Vietnamese Army by combat edict,
To give Charley the boot,
From his dug-in fortress route,
From hilltop enclave entrenched,
Like a honeycombed beehive
On a hill with no name, just numbered 875.
Winged Airborne heart***

***Airborne infantry assaulted the ridgeline,
Facing NVA regulars, top of the line,
Dug in Heavily mid 875 hilltop mists,***



*Fighting mad like hornets around a nest pissed,
Repelling Airborne infantry attacks
Launched on their lofty summit sublime,
Time after time after time.
Winged Airborne heart*



*Up the bloody hill
Filled with faith and hope still,
The "Boys next door" advance
Gambling heavily on chance,
Inch-by-bloody-inch,
To the NVA's perimeter trench.
They crawled within 25 yards
Of bunkers a lofty summit guards,
Through withering fire of artillery barrage,
Encircling them in smoking camouflage.
Winged Airborne heart*

*Mid ear shattering din thundering
Mid devastating fire blistering,
Mid air support close in
Exploding the hill in smoke again,
And yet again,
Feeling heat of Charley's mortars Incoming,
Mid annihilations deadly ring of fire raging,
Astride a burning, exploding, funeral pyre.
Winged Airborne heart*

*With coming dawn,
Charley unleashed a blistering attack,
To prove of fighting will they had no lack,
Bent on driving Yankee usurpers back.
Charley would not soon give or flinch,
Quite comfy in elaborate tunnels and trench.
Charley had not dee dee'd and fled
Bunkers with thick dirt roofs overhead.
In fact,
Charley would be fortified there still,
If not for American will.
Winged Airborne heart*

*Sky troopers encircled the Cong's position,
In the face of intense demolition.
Moving through an inferno still burning,
A hill still smoldering,
With American blood and ash blackened.
Up the hill by grim battle charred,
Airborne infantry relentlessly charged,
Through a gauntlet threatening destruction,
Through shadow of death's imminent obliteration.
Brave men could not this battle undone leave,
Though NVA loomed so close,
You could hear them breathe.
Winged Airborne heart*

*Airborne talked prideful talk,
Now it was time to walk the walk.
Through the very pits of hell,*



*hearing Charley's cursing yell,
Amid carnage dark'ning dim,
Brimstone raining down on them,
Pungent fear in throats lumping,
Foul hatreds around them smelling,
Men from the land of the brave
All around them crying,
Men from the home of the free
All around them dying,
Machine guns pumping
God awful fearing,
Gut-shot brothers around them groaning,
Hearts and beings churning,
In primal screaming,
Nostrils pure hate breathing,
Dreams of death souls torturing,
Breathlessly through acrid smoke running
Lungs burning,
Countless dramas unfolding,
Of heroic soldiers rescuing,
Being rescued,
Shooting,
Being shot at,
Grenades throwing,
Ducking grenades down on them rolling,
Hoping, praying, cursing the Vietcong,
Hiding from the Vietcong,
Hiding from themselves.
Winged Airborne heart*

*With fixed bayonets on rifles M-16,
Cascading rivulets of sweat down foreheads careen,
On charred infantrymen faces sheen,
Hot swelter on brows shining,
Down camouflaged faces coursing,
Down faces caked with chalk and mud,
Unsure the rivers weren't life blood.
Winged Airborne heart*

*Soldiers from both sides,
See eye-to-eye the surging tides,
See faces of others fearing death,
See the last vestiges of humanity bereft,
See face-to-face incarnate foes,
Brother shadows,
All their beings absorbed with hating,
Each consumed with Killing,
Each preoccupied with the others dying.
Winged Airborne heart*

*Tremendous fears flutter in their head,
These soldiers fighting and dying,
In the abode of the dead.
War is an unholy estate,
A malingering Devil's hate,
Where condemned soldier's time
After time after time after time,
In horrible combat rhyme,*



*Deliver pure souls
To war's most Satanic roles.
Forced to kill or be killed,
War causes a strained separation from God...
Tumbling from the precepts of the iron Rod.
Yet strangely, in war,
Soldiers are never nearer to God!
Winged Airborne heart*



*Who will this fray win,
By the rockets red glare,
In horrors deep'ning pit of despair,
Mid bombs bursting in air?
Each man wagers a meager immortality
That he will not be a fatality,
In battles basic futility.
The summit of Hill 875
Goes to he standing last, still alive.
Winged Airborne heart*

*These leather tough men,
These hard fighting men,
Were the best of men,
And they were the worst of men,
But they were men...
They were our brothers.
They were our fathers.
They were our favored sons.
They were the handsome "Boy Next Door,"*



ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER DINNER and ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:

December 10, 2021

3:00 – 5:00pm

Firestone American Legion Post 1985
870 1st Street
Firestone, CO 80520

**Membership meeting including elections for the 2022 officers
will follow the meal.**

MENU: Burritos and enchiladas

PRICE: \$15.00 all inclusive ...per meal

**The price is amazingly right and the company is OUTSTANDING! Don't miss this
opportunity to fellowship with your fellow paratroopers.**

**Make your reservations with Chris Cummings at 720-418-0022 by
Tuesday, December 6th.**

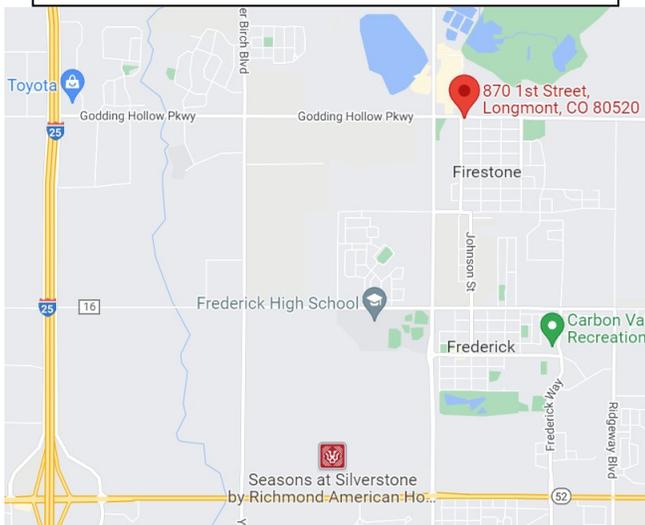
Firestone is just east of Longmont in Northern Colorado.

Directions

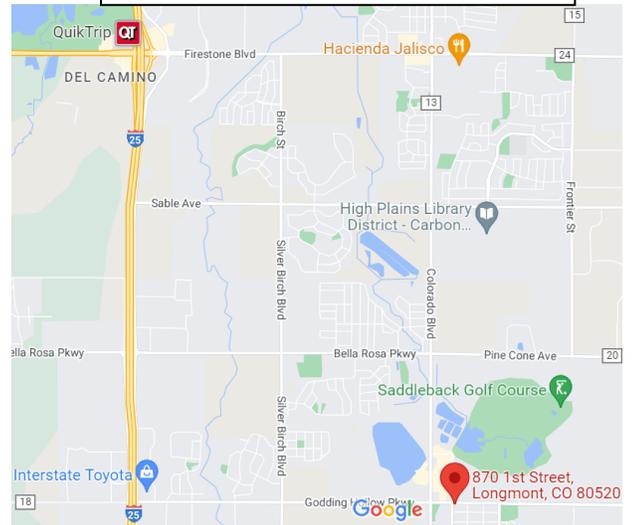
(South of Firestone) Take 1-25 north to Highway 52 (exit 235). Travel eastbound to Colorado Blvd and turn left. Continue northbound to Grant Ave and take an immediate right on 1st Ave and you're there.

(North of Firestone) Take I-25 south to Highway 119 (exit 240 - Firestone Blvd). Travel eastbound to Colorado Blvd and turn right. Continue southbound to Grant Ave and take an immediate right on 1st Ave and you're there.

Metro/Southern Colorado map directions



Northern Colorado map directions





82nd Airborne Division Assn. Inc.
1600 Iron Horse Dr
A105
Longmont, CO 80501

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The “All Airborne” Fraternity

Notice of Annual Business Meeting Elections

Rocky Mountain Chapter Officer Election

Per the National Association's and the Rocky Mountain Chapter's (RMC's) bylaws, notice is hereby given of the officer elections to be held at the annual business meeting that will occur at the American Legion Post #1985, 870 1st Street in Firestone, Colorado, on December 10, 2022. The meeting will begin shortly after the conclusion of the Airborne Dinner that starts at 3:00 p.m. No other bylaw business is scheduled other than elections. The Judge-Advocate will facilitate the election process with the Secretary, recording the results per the RMC bylaws.

Election Ballot

Below is the election ballot and list of appointees for the annual business meeting. Motions for any additional nominee(s) may be made by any member in good standing during the meeting, prior to the election. Appointees are selected by the Chairman per the RMC bylaws and serve at his leisure. The Chairman is authorized to appoint positions as he deems necessary to ensure the proper function of the Rocky Mountain Chapter.

Officers (By-law offices)	
Office	Member
Chairman	Chris Mirowski
Vice Chairman	John McGuire
Secretary	Chris Cummings
Treasurer	Alan Jenkins
Judge-Advocate <i>(by virtue of past Chairmanship)</i>	Jose Aguayo
Sgt-at-Arms	Jack Phillips
Trustee	Art Gallegos
Trustee	Tom Lopez
Trustee	Mike Marsh
Trustee	Ron Mitchell
Trustee	Pat Kleckner
Trustee	OPEN

Appointees (appointed by Chairman)	
Position	Member
Entertainment	Art Gallegos
Newsletter Editor	Chris Mirowski
Quartermaster	Tom Lopez
Parade Coordinator	OPEN
Paraglidge Contributor	Chris Cummings
Social Media	John McGuire