



# Company I Poopsheet



Company I, 502 PIR, 101st Airborne

December 2006 - January 2007

**Deadline for Item Company and Snowbird Reunion registration approaches.** We hope to see you in Florida February 2 and 3, Friday and Saturday. Many people will arrive on Wednesday and Thursday because of airline schedules although official events of the reunion are scheduled for Friday and Saturday.. We will gather in an area of the hotel lobby for our chats as usual, and on Friday evening a local restaurant meal for those of us who can and a group picture of Item Company on Saturday.

Send in the registration form by January 10. If that isn't possible, don't hesitate to make later plans. Last minute reservations may not include the Saturday night dinner if the 400 limit is taken, but all other activities would be available.

A reservation for the reunion isn't really needed if you can just join us for our informal get-togethers in the lobby. The hotel is large, rooms at this time of year should be easily reserved. Official Registration forms were in the last Poopsheet issue, and also are available from the website: [www.screamingeagle.org](http://www.screamingeagle.org) (reunions). Due to limited space only the reunion registration form is in this issue. Hotel information is below and can be reserved by phone. Check for Rates under the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Reunion as they may be lower than individual rates at this time.

## **Ramada Gateway Plaza Hotel & Inn**

7470 Highway 192 West

Kissimmee, FL 34747

Toll Free: 1-800-327-9170 Local: 407-396-4400

Fax: 407-396-4320

If possible, let me know you'll be attending, we surely don't want to miss seeing you there. I will arrive on Wednesday afternoon, don't want to miss anyone! Do contact me if I can answer any questions or help in any way.

Betty's home phone number: 281-277-3787 and  
Cell phone 832-274-6520 Email: [bjth23@yahoo.com](mailto:bjth23@yahoo.com)

**Marvin and Charlotte Cartwright**, PO Box 212m Elk Mound, WI 54739 Ph. 715 879 5241

Marv shared thoughts with me this morning, Dec. 16, about what was going on on this date 62 years ago.

"They told us to fall out and get our gear together (what we had), that the Germans had made a big breakthrough in Belgium. We didn't know where we were going at the time. They issued us some k-rations and ammunition and told us to get in the trucks-like open cattle trucks. And then we were on our way."

We hope you all enjoy the warm and peaceful Christmas nestled in the love of Jesus. Have a great 2007! Enclosing a little something for Poopsheet postage. Our love, Marv and Charlotte

**Dorothy M. Boyd**, 3434 Victoria Ave, Santa Clara, CA 95051, October 23, 2006, Dear Betty, My husband was **Thomas J. Boyd**. I'm sending a donation for the Poopsheet. Sorry to be so long in doing so. I really enjoy reading it. Thank you for all you do. Say hello to Bob and best wishes to everyone, Yours truly, Dorothy Boyd

**Returned mail:** (No forwarding address)

Mrs. Walter G. Presley, Odessa, TX

Mrs. John Sanders, Jr. Cedarville, CA

**New Address:** Mrs. Howard Rogge, 302 W. Barbee Chapel Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27517

**Barbara and Cecil Slover**, (daughter of **Edward Mobley**) December 9, 2006, Dad and Clara are getting along just great. They can't wait to see everyone in 2007. We will be at the Reunion on Thursday. See you there. Cecil & Barbara

**Fawn Jones and family, Scott and Jesse**, Frisco, Texas, daughter of **Edward Smith**, I/502, December 9, 2006, Thank you so much for your time & dedication to the members and family of the 101<sup>st</sup>. I know that your emails and Poopsheet mean so much. Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year, All our best, Fawn, Scott & Jesse Jones

**Joe and June Hennessey**, 914C Heritage Village, Southbury, CT 06488 Ph. 203 264 2790

December 10, 2006, Thank you so much for visiting Joe's tree and taking pictures. He really appreciated it. We've had a terrible couple of months. Our oldest

son was badly injured in a motorcycle accident & his wife is undergoing radiation for cancer of tongue & lymph nodes. We are leaving for Florida later because I'm having an operation on Dec 12<sup>th</sup>. Pray all goes well. Thanks again for all you do to keep I Company together. Hope to make Florida Reunion. If I can't go, Joe will take a trip town. Enclosed is a small donation for the Poopsheet. Take care, June & Joe

**Follow-up:** December 16, June is recovering quite well and with rest and absolutely no lifting....she hopes to be at the reunion.

**Patrick and Teresa Callery**, 629 Park Ave. W. Hempstead, NY 11552 Ph. 516 486 7439, December 14, 2006, We sold our house...moving to Connecticut, will be 20 minutes from the Hennessey's. Love, Teresa and Pat

**Hank and Trudy Vanzelderren**, 5301 Riverview Dr., St. Augustine, FL 32080 Holiday Greetings and best wishes to you and the very best in 2007, we hope to see you in Kissimmee. Love, Hank & Trudy

**Josephine M. Kocol**, 4112 S. 40<sup>th</sup> Ave., Omaha, NE 68107, sister of **Louis J. Morong**, December 16, 2006, Greetings from Omaha! Enclosed is a donation to the Poopsheet. Thanks for keeping this tradition alive. Also, here is some info on an Airborne Memorial being built in downtown Omaha. I am buying a brick in my brother Lou's memory. Also, my grandson, Nicholas Kocol, has donated time to work on this memorial. God bless you, Jo

**Work begins on memorial honoring airborne units:** by *Tim Elfrink, World Herald Staff Writer.* Mayor Mike Fahey joined a group of local veterans at Heartland of America Park on Friday to break ground on a new World War II monument. A sculpture honoring airborne units from all branches of the military will be installed across from a 1995 monument to soldiers returning home from World War II. Although organizers still are trying to raise \$70,000 for the \$190,000 project, donations of labor and materials have permitted work on the sculptures granite base this fall. "The sculpture that will stand here joins another powerful sculpture to complete a moving tribute to the heroes of World War II" Fajeu said. Local artist Matt Placzek will sculpt the 6-foot bronze statue. It will show a paratrooper preparing to leap from an aircraft. The sculpture will rest on an inscribed granite base surrounded by a pathway of

personalized bricks. Organizers hope to complete the project by spring. This monument will become a major historic attraction for our city and this region" said Bill Ramsey, spokesman for the Heartland Airborne Memorial Association.

Jo also included a contribution form that is included in this issue. Thanks Jo. This monument should be a highlight of the 2007 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne National reunion to be held in Omaha next summer. Detailed reunion information is available on the Screaming Eagle website [www.screamingeagle.org](http://www.screamingeagle.org)

### Expense Report

Balance before last issue  
\$434  
Cost of last issue  
\$187  
Contributions since last issue  
\$ 90  
Balance before cost of this  
issue \$337



**Odwin and Agnes van Rula**, Best Holland, [a.meijer480@chello.nl](mailto:a.meijer480@chello.nl) Here are the pics from the memorial. There were a lot of people even while it was raining Merry Christmas from Odwin and Agnes to you all.

Odwin is one of the men responsible for the monument at the old Son Cemetery location in Holland. Our deepest appreciation to Odwin, Christian and Mark for this beautiful monument.

**Christian Dijkhuizen**, Best Holland, [cdijkhuizen@home.nl](mailto:cdijkhuizen@home.nl) another of the men responsible for the monument at the Son Cemetery with a note regarding plans in Holland for a monument honoring LTC Robert G. Cole, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 502, Medal of Honor recipient. As information comes available about this monument we will print it in the Poopsheet.

Christian wrote: "Recently, there was an article in the local newspaper (Eindhovens Dagblad) about the Bob Cole monument. It's the plan to unveil it in 2009. I think during the 65 years memorials in 2009."

Included you find two pictures (taken during memorial day 2006) of the graves of two item company 502nd men who gave their lives near our town.

Christian

**Harry & Joan Nivens**, 1130 Monroe Ave., St. Cloud, FL 34769, Ph. 407 957 0098. December 18, 2006, Sending you warm wishes for a wonderful holiday. We hope you and yours have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We are looking forward to the Snowbird Reunion in Feb. 2007, Love, Harry & Joanie

**Robert J. (Bob) Hartzell**, 313 Wentz Street, Tiffin, OH 44883, Ph 419 447 0448, December 18, 2006, Sharing with you the glory, the joy and the miracle of this holy season. Enclosing this picture of Harry Nivens and me taken a year ago when Harry and Joanie visited me. Bob & Family



Above right: Memorial Day, 2006, The Margarten gravesite of **William E. Baker**, Item Company 502, KIA September 19, 1944 (Photo by C. Dijkhuizen)

Right: Memorial Day 2006, The Margarten gravesite of **Everett D. Dye**, Item Company, 502, KIA September 18, 1944. (Photo by C. Dijkhuizen)



From Airplane Repair Logs -- mechanic's repair logs of repairs done on airplanes:

Discrepancy: "Left inside main tire almost needs replacement."

Corrective Action: "*Almost replaced left inside main tire.*"

Discrepancy: "Test flight OK, except auto land very rough."

Corrective action: "*Autoland not installed on this aircraft.*"

Discrepancy: "Something loose in cockpit."

Corrective action: "*Something tightened in cockpit.*"

Discrepancy: "Friction locks cause throttle levers to stick."

Corrective action: "*That's what they're there for.*"

**Lisa van Berkel**, Son, Holland, wrote recently, "Last Friday Mien and Harriet were at the unveiling of the memorial in Son. Quite a lot of people attended, except me, unfortunately I was sick. .

In 2009 when Best is liberated 65 years ago, the American Airborne Association Netherlands (AAAN) will take care of it. Better late than never for that monument, and that memorial to be for Lt. Col. R.G. Cole. Love, Lisa

**Gerard van der Heijden**, Brussels, Belgium, formerly of Holland, [gerardvanderheijden@gmail.com](mailto:gerardvanderheijden@gmail.com)

December 17, 2006, I promised to send some pictures of the walk in Bastogne, but unfortunately we couldn't go because Cláudia caught a bad flu. I did find a article in the *Stars and Stripes* called Hundreds of Americans turn out for annual Battle of the Bulge walk. As you see there were a lot of people participating of which about 800 Americans. Hope you enjoy the article, next year I will send you a live report. Gerard

The following excerpt taken from *Star & Strips website*

### **Hundreds of Americans turn out for annual Battle of the Bulge walk European edition, Sunday, December 17, 2006**

BASTOGNE, Belgium — A week ago, Maj. John Lorenzen was in Baghdad. But on Saturday, the Army officer joined about 2,300 people in the annual perimeter walk marking the 62nd anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne, Belgium. "I've been looking forward to this for three, four months," Lorenzen said. "When you're sitting in Iraq, this place seems a long way away."

While Lorenzen's journey from Baghdad to Bastogne probably represents the greatest distance covered by any walker this past week — certainly by any U.S. servicemember — other Americans traveled near and far to get here, too.

Despite the wind, and the cold, and the muck, one-third of the people who participated in the walk were Americans. Many of them are stationed in the Benelux or at nearby military bases in Germany, such as Geilenkirchen or Spangdahlem Air Base. But there were also considerable numbers from places such as Giessen, Stuttgart and Heidelberg.

"I wanted to walk and see the grounds," said Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua T. Savusa, the U.S. Army Europe command sergeant major. "I'm just

honored to be a part of it."

Many soldiers and airmen who took part used words and phrases such as "honored" and "hallowed ground" to describe Bastogne and the Ardennes Forest. And those sentiments were accentuated by the hundreds of World War II re-enactors who are drawn to this Belgian city every December.

"It was great to take a step back in time and honor those men," said Army Sgt. 1st Class David Cardona, who came up from Kaiserslautern, Germany, with his family.

Cardona's father-in-law served in Bastogne with the 101st Airborne Division, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He fought north of town. Other servicemembers have similar ties. One of them was Spc. Rebecca Jones of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux in Chievres.

"To me, it means a lot," Jones said while taking a break on a muddy farm road south of the village of Foy. "My grandpa (Pvt. Eugene Heugel) was here. By here, I mean right here." "I wish my brother could be here," she added, "but he is deploying soon."

Some said they believe the walk and the other activities of the day have taken on greater significance now that the nation is at war. "It's really hallowed ground, isn't it?" said Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Ron Leininger of Chievres. "And the boys of today are not unlike the boys of Bastogne, just doing their duty." Remarkably, the commemorative events draw many more non-Americans than Americans. Around the Bastogne sports hall, where the walk is organized, the participants ranged from young Polish soldiers to British retirees. And just about everywhere on the streets of Bastogne one could see U.S. flags flapping in the wind while hearing French being spoken.

The memorial walk covers a different section of the Allied perimeter around Bastogne each year. North of town this time, the walk ended in the early afternoon at the monument to the 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Cub Scout Pack 1 from Heidelberg was given the honor of laying a wreath at the foot of the monument. Several other packs and troops from Germany were on hand as well. "It's really cool," said 11-year-old Patrick Gelbach, a Cub Scout from Stuttgart. "Most people don't get a chance to do this. I liked it a lot."



# HEARTLAND AIRBORNE MEMORIAL INC.

4705 PRIMROSE LANE, OMAHA, NE. 68157

ARMY

NAVY

MARINES

AIR FORCE



PARATROOPERS-GLIDERMEN-AIR ASSAULT-RANGERS-NAVY SEALS  
SPECIAL OPERATIONS-SPECIAL FORCES

We are in the process of building a Memorial for all Airborne Service people in the Heartland of America Park.

We would like to have our Community help fund this project by sending donations in any amount and/or purchase name bricks.

Name bricks have 3 lines with 16 characters each, for your name and outfit or one of your loved ones. They are \$50.00 per brick.

Other tax deductible donations may be mailed to Heartland Airborne Memorial Inc.,  
4705 Primrose Lane, Omaha, NE 68157 OR

Below is an order form:


OTHER TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

Print name .....

Honor of.....

Signature .....

Address .....

My check for \$.....payable to the HEARTLAND AIRBORNE MEMORIAL INC.

Left: 1944-1949- Original sign on Hell's Highway designating the U.S. Military Cemetery at Son. Locally known as Wolfswinkel.



Our Dutch friend, Steph Leenhouders sent this note: On Saturday, December 9, 2006, I went to Wolfswinkel on my bike to see the new monument at the temporary cemetery near Son.

I spoke to the farmer who also lived there at the Waterhoef with his parents when the men were dropped on Sunday 17 September 1944. His age was 12 back then and he told me that he was in the middle of it all. The road leading from Hell's Highway to the temporary cemetery was used by the Germans when they invaded our country in may 1940. So he has seen the enemy and the liberator at a very young age. Now at age 74 he was very talkative to me. His name is Jan Swinkels and that is a typical name for that area. The family who makes Bavaria beer is named Swinkels too and that is only one village away from Son in Lieshout.

He told me the cemetery was 2 hectare big (one hectare is 100 meter by 100 meter). The land was claimed without asking for it. In 1949 the land was cleared and given back without any formality either. There were 417 Americans buried. Also some (about 20) Canadians and some English

(about 20 too) and about 200 Germans. Very soon after the landings within days American soldiers escorted German POW's over the path leading to the field where they wanted the cemetery. Trucks brought the stacked bodies to the field. The Germans had to dig the graves for the Americans and for their people KIA. Then the Americans took away the belongings and dogtags from the killed and wrapped them in parachutes before burying them at 1.80 meter deep. The Germans where put in coffins of wood and some of zinc. Later when these men where reburied he told me that they had to stay away from the German corpses because of the danger of getting contaminated by these corpses. The American bodies where almost intact when they were dug up as they

were wrapped in these nylon chutes and no oxygen could harm the bodies. During the period of the cemetery from September 1944 until 1949 lots of people visited the cemetery even with buses.

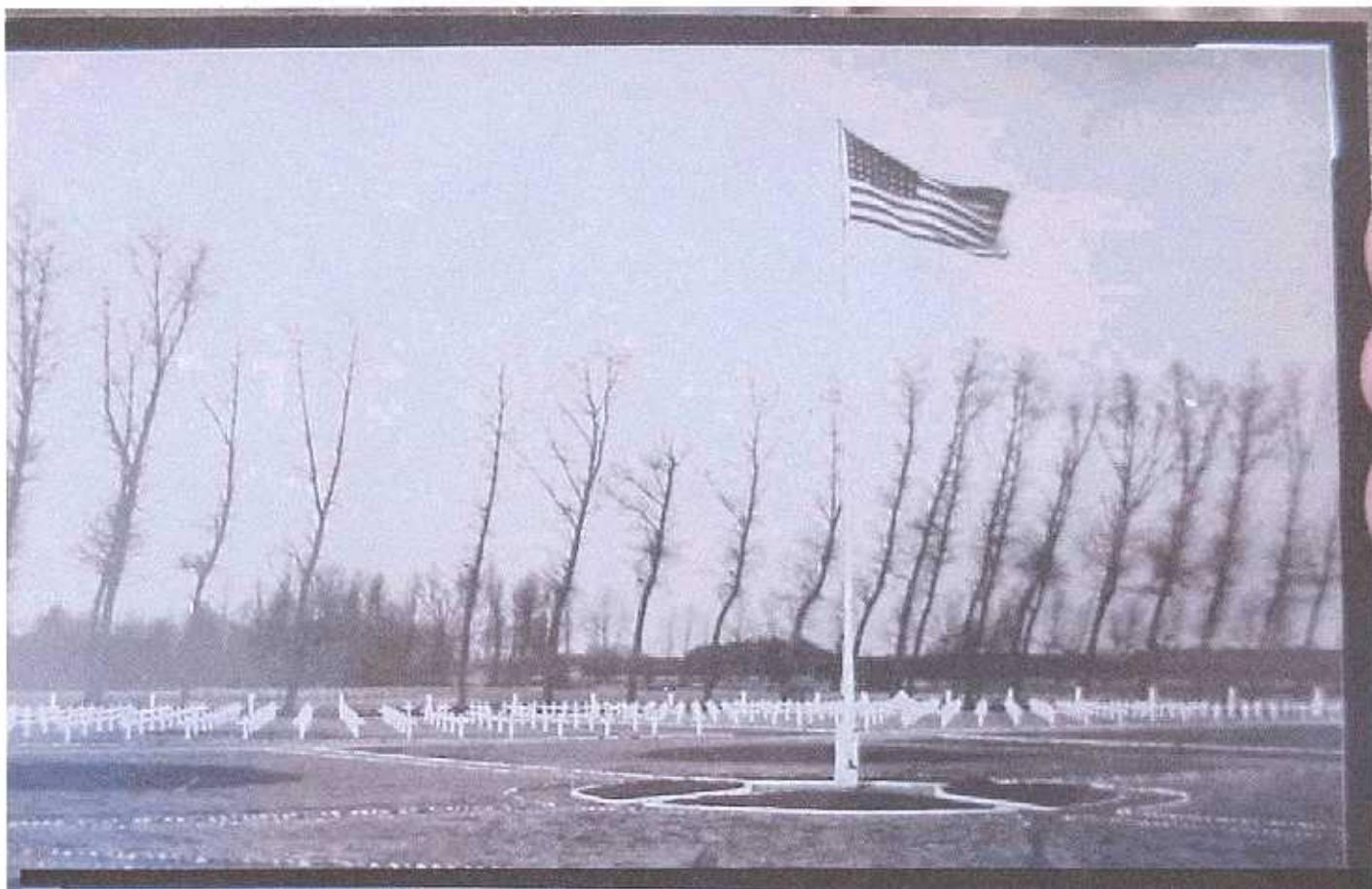
Just a few months ago he sold his farm and he will leave after he has owned it for 48 years. Before it was owned by his parents. He loved the sight of the droppings on that Sunday and will never forget it. Now when leaving his territory after such a long time there is now a monument. It must feel strange to end this era of living at a quiet farm. He will move to Son. He was glad to pass on some information because as he said, within 10-15 years there won't be any more people there who witnessed this dark period in our history.

Steph Leenhouders, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

(Left) Steph, September 2006)

[de.waterkers@planet.nl](mailto:de.waterkers@planet.nl)





1944: General Maxwell Taylor and dignitaries at the dedication of the U.S. Cemetery at Son Holland, 1944. A flag that flew over this ceremony was given by Gen. Taylor to the widow of LTC. Robert G. Cole and today remains with their son, Bruce Cole.



Part of the crowd at the dedication of the monument Friday, December 8, 2006, Son, The Netherlands



On Friday, December 8, 2006, a permanent monument was dedicated at the entrance to the temporary cemetery location. L-R, Odwin van Rula, Mark Thunnissen, and Christian Dijkhuizen (Shown above) were responsible for led the effort in constructing the monument. A crowd of local citizens, city officials, and military personnel braved some extremely stormy weather on Friday afternoon for the dedication.





2006: Monument site at the intersection of roadway to Wolfswinkel and Hell's Highway 2 miles North of Son. . Cemetery location is to the left.

Left Below: The cemetery location is beyond the Waterhoef farm and house in the background.



The following remarks are taken from another local gentleman who visited the monument the day after the dedication.

This Friday, December 8th at about 4 PM a new monument was unveiled in Son, Holland. The monument, which was a private initiative, reminds of the fact that from September 19th 1944 until 1949 a temporary war cemetery was located at about half a mile behind the black marble marker. The marker is located next to the stretch of road that has become known as Hell's Highway, about 2 miles North of Son and next to a rural road leading to the Waterhoef Farm.

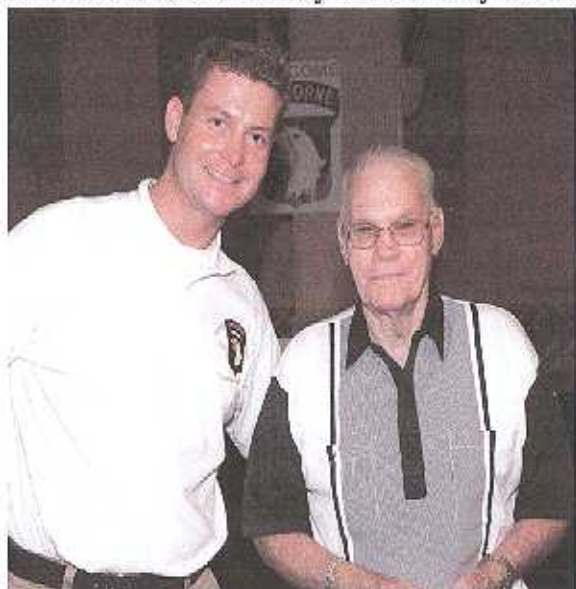
The text on the monument reads:

"U.S. Military Cemetery Son This road led to the fields where from 1944 to 1949 the American and Allied temporary cemetery was located behind the 'Waterhoef' Farm. This is where the soldiers rested who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. Remember them all!"

I was at the site of the monument today (9<sup>th</sup>) and behind the Waterhoef Farm met Mr. Swinkels; until recently the owner of the Farm. He told us that he had just sold the farm since he had no ancestors to take it over. Mr. Swinkels told us that he was 8 years old in May 1940 when the German armies invaded Holland. Whole columns of Nazi troops traveled across the dirt road next to the Waterhoef Farm on their way West. That was because Waterhoef happened to be on German Wehrmacht maps.

Swinkels was 12 years old in 1944 and remembered the drop of the 101st Airborne on the Drop Zones on the 17th of September. Until Tuesday the 19th, there wasn't much fighting to be heard on the farm, but on that day German Panzer units from the East attacked Son. This was also the day that American jeeps and trucks transported German POW's to a pasture with turnips behind the farm. The Germans were ordered to dig graves for bodies that were trucked in by dozens. After the bodies were unloaded, Grave Registration personnel took off the personal effects from the bodies, wrapped them into parachute canopies and buried them 6 feet deep. After the war, the dirt road was paved with military temporary steel runway plates. The cemetery attracted lots of visitors and tents were erected for the maintenance staff and hostesses who looked after the guest book.

Until Friday, only the steel runway plates serving as walls on one of the Waterhoef Farm barns, reminded of the existence of the cemetery where many of our liberators were laid to rest.



Tom Timmermans      [tomtimmermans@tiscali.nl](mailto:tomtimmermans@tiscali.nl)  
Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Left: Tom Timmermans and Bob Jones, II/502, September 2004

# 2007 SNOWBIRD REUNION

## February 2nd & 3rd - Kissimmee, Florida

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MI MUST INCLUDE

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY! SPACE IS LIMITED TO 400 PEOPLE - NO EXCEPTIONS!  
THERE WILL BE NO PAY THE DOOR FOR THE BANQUET DINNER!**

Registration Fee is \$50 per person. Payment due no later than January 10, 2007.  
Registration includes hospitality room, daily buffet, and banquet dinner.

Please indicate the number of people in your group: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate your meat choice and how many of each. If no selection is made, you will receive chicken.

Filet \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact Jim Patton at (256) 837-7544 or E-mail him at [WWII501@aol.com](mailto:WWII501@aol.com).

Mail payment to: **Florida Sunshine State Chapter  
101st Airborne Division Association  
P.O. Box 214723  
South Daytona, FL 32121**

Hotel Reservation may be made by calling toll free (800) 327-9170, daily 8:00 am to 6:00 pm (EST) or online 24 hours a day at [www.ramadagateway.com](http://www.ramadagateway.com). Please mention the 101st Airborne Division for special room rates.