



PLEASE HELP US BUILD 173d PEACE CHAPEL, A MILITARY RESORT/RETREAT FOR MILITARY COMING HOME WITH PTSD AND TBI—FOR ALL LEVELS OF STRESS REDUCTION AND HEALTH SEE www.173dpeacechapel.com. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW YOU CAN DONATE OR SPONSOR OR HELP SUPPORT OUR EFFORTS TO BUILD THIS PROJECT PLEASE CALL:

(855)270-7573.

John we ask all of your friends and supporters to donate to the building of our project. This is a chance to have a facility built for our heroes by the American people, just as 173d Peace Chapel was built by the men themselves on the frontlines. By being a part of this groundbreaking opportunity, you will be making it possible for our military to get the help they need.

One in 5 of our soldiers returning from active duty is suffering from PTSD. Less than half of these soldiers with problems actually seek help. This is mostly out of the fear of being stigmatized or hurting their careers. The most important thing for service members who have been in combat, is that the earlier they get help when they need it, the better off they'll be. This is coming directly from an Army study in the mental health of troops who fought in Iraq. Traumatic Brain injury (TBI) aka."blast trauma" is the signature wound for this war. This leads to many other problems, all needing decompression and time. So much is still not understood about the long term effects of TBI. Also new problems like "Burn Pits" and exposure to inhaled toxins and musculoskeletal problems in troops due to repetitive heavy load bearing. These are some of the health concerns facing our injured service members which we will focus on dealing with at Peace Chapel - Otany. As mentioned below, Peace Chapel will be built as a horse guest ranch. It will offer a feeling of a holiday rather than a medical facility. Because of this, our goal is that our service members will want to come and be a part of the Peace Chapel-Otany program. Most importantly it will offer the help, programs, and treatments that our military so urgently needs. They will have the opportunity for treatment's, all-encompassing choice of programs which aren't just designed for PTSD and TBI but also involvement in programs for all levels of stress reduction, physical therapy, health, detoxification, nutrition, counseling, and fitness

See our video on our Home Page, read about us, and please click on the donate button. We are a 501(c) 3 non-profit; please send us your tax deductible donation. **We appreciate your help!!!**

For more information on the Peace Chapel Military Retreat:
[Don't miss our video on You Tube!](#)

We appreciate you taking time to review our information; please read more below about the 173d Peace Chapel project. We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you!

info@173dpeacechapel.com



My husband, Chaplain Major John Porter and the men of the 173d Airborne Brigade built a Chapel in the middle of the war and started the vision for our project 173d Peace Chapel. We are planning to rebuild the original chapel which was built in Vietnam, we'll rebuild in Sky Valley Ca on property that we own just 10 minutes from Palm Springs. John was a combat Chaplain in Vietnam in 1965. He and his men put their money together and built the chapel themselves which seated 150 men. It stood at the edge of the war zone. They paid for all the materials that were smuggled through enemy lines. It towered there as a symbol of hope and for their hope for peace. Many days they constructed the chapel; afterwards the paratroopers went out into combat. Some came back but sadly, many did not. Those who did continued to build. You will see the article below, Peace Chapel Reborn which appeared in the Sky Soldier magazine.

We are planning to rebuild the chapel and surround it with a retreat- resort built as a horse guest ranch on a private location on the hot mineral springs, with hiking trails, lodging for overnight and weekly, monthly stays and day programs. We will have treatment areas, exercise, physical therapy, for our military who desperately need help with stress reduction, PTS, Brain Trauma, detoxification and wellness. We will have a vacation and resort atmosphere and will give privacy and time away from everything stressful. Our location is advantages since it is between so many of the military bases.

My husband recently passed away. Peace Chapel was his vision. He had seen firsthand the need for treatment programs for our troops. In the major battle in 1965 he was one of the few survivors. He told me after this battle had ended, he had climbed up out of the trench he had been in throughout the night; helicopters were coming in for recue. So many John had cared about had been killed. He was moved to draw a circle around himself in the ground. He said he stood in the middle of the circle and asked God for protection so that he could do something that might make a difference for his fellow soldiers. He knew firsthand what they had experienced. He had seen and heard their stories which were to be found only in the hearts and souls of the soldiers themselves and must be seen through their eyes to truly understand. In John's book he wrote, " I knew these young soldiers personally, walked with them shoulder to shoulder , He said he knew what they thought, how they laughed, what they feared, how deeply they believed in their country, the great faith they had in God, how much of themselves they gave". He knew what made them cry, about the letters from home that literally tore them apart, about the absolute inconsistencies that frustrated them to their core. He saw their gentleness, their compassion, their love, he saw the bad that war can bring out in some, he saw the nobility it brings out in others. He was speaking of America's true sons and

daughters, the back bone of our country. He made a promise that day after the battle, standing inside the circle, a commitment to his dream and the 173d Peace Chapel was born.

In the dedication of John's book, IF I MAKE MY BED IN HELL, he wrote "In a base camp just outside Beinh Hoa Vietnam, is a dusty road called Bowen Street. It was named in honor of 'Specialist Fourth Class Ray Bowen from Hannibal New York. Ray served as my enlisted assistant; he was a good soldier and a good friend. He was the kind of boy I would like for my daughter to marry. Ray begged to go with me into combat and he pleaded for us to stay where the action was so that we might be of help to the men in case of trouble. Trouble came, and side by side we lay in the midst of it. I looked into his eyes and saw faith and courage, when I looked back, his eyes were closed, not to open again. He died in my arms. I am now back home again. Two years have passed but I still remember Ray Bowen. I would like to dedicate this book in honor of him and the men like him in the 173d Airborne Brigade with whom I had the privilege of serving. In them I saw the American ideal and in the process, I became a better American. They gave the words duty, honor and courage a new meaning. I salute there, heroism, their courage and their faith".

In this spirit, we move forward with the 173d Peace Chapel project. After John died there has been a strong movement. A stellar team has come together of professionals with a heart to carry out his mission. We have committed our lives to building a ranch style facility for our troops to come for treatment with a vacation feeling rather than a sterile medical facility. We're on the best hot mineral water in the country, we'll have horses, hiking, biking, our own gardens for food and the 173 D Peace Chapel will stand as a monument to those who gave everything, it be surrounded with the resort - retreat for every type of support.

We give the rest of our lives to fulfill what this mission is meant to do. We are ready to do our part in the creation process as each military guest at the 173d Peace Chapel finds their individual means to take charge of their lives and create the highest vision possible for themselves.

www.173dpeacechapel.com

Contact Peace Chapel- 855-270-7573

info@173dpeacechapel.com

Thank you!
Trish Porter

PEACE CHAPEL REBORN - article from the Sky Soldier magazine



PEACE CHAPEL REBORN - article from the Sky Soldier magazine

DATELINE: Vietnam 1965.

With his Bible resting on the hood of his jeep, Chaplain John Porter, fought the broiling sun and humidity as he conducted open-air services for the paratroopers of the 173d Airborne Brigade. The men of the 173d were accustomed to the heat but the sudden heavy rains usually sent them scurrying for cover, as chaplain Porter continued seemingly unaffected. In the not to distances, the sound of artillery fire could be heard as if thunder from the clouds. At the end of the service the paratroopers asked why they couldn't have a real chapel. Chaplain Porter explained that the Army was busy fighting a war and if they (the sky soldiers) wanted a chapel, they would just have to make one for themselves. Major Porter didn't think much at the time but later after a Sunday service one paratrooper handed him a wad of wrinkled bills (\$100) *"...for the chapel."* He told the trooper, *"Wait a few days and if you still feel you want to give this much, okay"* Within a week the word had spread and Chaplain Porter had \$3,500. With the help of a local Catholic Vietnamese architect, he drew up plans. Materials that were not scrounged were purchased construction took shape. The men of the 173d wrote home about the chapel and soon others offered support. An Episcopal congregation in Atlanta sent a silver chalice with the letters "PAX" inscribed (Latin for PEACE). People in Texas sent a bell and a local Vietnamese Christian donated a large wooden cross. All that was needed was a name for the chapel. One paratrooper, tired of all the death he had seen, told the chaplain, "This chapel symbolizes our hope for peace" ... so it got the name the "Peace Chapel." The opening service was joy tinged with sadness as many of the men that worked on the chapel were killed in action, including the chaplain's assistant, specialist Raymond Bowen. Bowen, who was from New York, Also Specialist Robert Gibson of Georgia, who on his last Sunday service sang a solo, "My country tis of thee" was killed as he rushed ammo to his buddies. In that world of war, the chapel stood as place for peace, love and healing, under one roof. Now move forward 40 plus years and the Peace Chapel is set to be born again on a location 15 minutes from Palm Springs just 2 hours from L.A... On 22 Acres of beautiful Sky Valley California, sits two hot springs mineral wells that come up at 142 and 150 degrees, with the most beautiful mountain views. The mission is to build a replica of the 173d Peace Chapel that the Sky Soldiers of the 173d Airborne Brigade built in Vietnam and to have a place where our veterans and military can come for treatment, stress reduction and a much needed getaway. To make this happen they need help from their Sky Soldiers again - help in building a retreat for those (and their families) that has sacrificed and continue to fight for freedom.



FLORIDA CHAPTER

173d Airborne Brigade Assn.
5640 Wellfield Road New Port Richey, FL 34655



Subject: Troop Support, Peace Chapel Military Retreat

I am an officer in the 173d Airborne Brigade Association. In this capacity, I hold many duties. All duties center around support of our membership and the troops downrange. I have been busy with several other programs from Operation Christmas Stocking to Operation Showtime to Operation Transition Home through our local chapter of the Association here in Florida. We shipped more than 3,000 pounds down range on the last deployment. But recently while researching an article for our national magazine (Sky Soldier) I met Chaplain Major John Porter and his family. They are on a quest to also support the troops coming back from this war and other vets needing help to defuse, decompress, learn and come to peace during these stressful time .As a combat veteran myself (Vietnam) and a health clinician with the Veterans Health Administration, I whole heartedly offered them my support. You see, I also have a son and daughter who served in the current War on Terror. I know the hardships, fears and worry of families separated, especially when received the call my son had been wounded in Afghanistan. Enough about me... Let me introduce you to one of the most exciting projects that have come to my attention. Chaplain Porter and his men of the 173d Airborne Brigade constructed a chapel at their base in Bien Hoa, Vietnam during the early days of the Vietnam War. It was funded by the men and built in the middle of combat to stand as a symbol for hope and peace. Today many members of our military force are coming back from war with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) and other health problems. As a VA primary care provider, I see this regularly. Our service members deserve the best care that can be provided. The Porters plan to reconstruct Peace Chapel on their current property as a memorial for the brave soldiers who fought and died in that conflict and those still fighting for our freedom alongside, Peace Chapel Military Retreat It is to be located on 22 acres with hot mineral springs near Palm Springs California in a quiet area away from everything and surrounded with a beautiful mountain view. It will be perfect for the relaxing therapy needed to recuperate from the stress of the war. Upon visiting a similar program at Ft. Bliss Texas for PTSD, the Army Chief Of Staff, General George Casey said, "the Army needs to replicate this program". Peace Chapel should be even more effective because it will actually be an off-base resort with horseback riding, biking, hiking, healthy food and away from everything stressful.

James R. Bradley, CW3, USA (Ret)
President, 173d Airborne Bde Assn, Florida Chapter
