



# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

## MailCall No. 2227

August 14, 2014

*517th Parachute Infantry Regiment  
460th Parachute Field Artillery Battalion  
596th Parachute Combat Engineer Company*

Website  
Send MailCall news to  
MailCall Archives  
2013 Roster (updated!)  
Thunderbolt (Winter 2014)

[www.517prct.org](http://www.517prct.org)  
[MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)  
[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)  
[www.517prct.org/roster.pdf](http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf)  
[www.517prct.org/archives](http://www.517prct.org/archives)

## Col. Gene M. Frice, F Company

August 9, 2014

With a heavy heart I must tell you that **Gene Frice** has joined his comrades in heaven. He fought a battle like no other. He was our hero, our support, our teacher, our role model. He was loved and admired by all that met him. He will be greatly missed.

### Karen Wallace and the Frice Family

Services will be:

Saturday 16 August 5:30 PM, At our ranch  
66295 Hwy 20  
Bend, OR

Call 541-948-2486 for info



Today we salute F Co, 517th PRCT Trooper Gene Frice. We just learned of Mr. Frice's passing. Trooper Frice started as a rifleman and scout in F Company in the 517th PRCT at the rank of Private and retired from the Army as Colonel. Several members have had the honor of meeting Mr. Frice multiple times over the years. He was a great man and will truly be missed.

American Military Historical Company <https://www.facebook.com/WW2ABHistoricalCo?fref=nf>



## *517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team*

### **Colonel Gene “Sir” Frice**

**September 9, 1925 – August 9, 2014**



Colonel Gene “Sir” Frice was born in Long Beach, California in 1925 to Arthur Frice and Ethel Craig. Spending most of his childhood in and out of boys homes, Gene was introduced to discipline and military life by way of the NOTC (Naval Officer Training in High School). This made the transition from civilian to soldier an easy one for Gene as he enlisted in the U.S. Army at the ripe age of 16 just after the Pearl Harbor attacks. In 1943, Gene volunteered for parachute duty and was sent to Camp Toccoa in Georgia where he eventually became a member of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team who would later drop into the Battle of the Bulge and Operation Dragoon (airborne and amphibious operation) in Southern France, the 2nd largest airborne operation in WWII. Gene also served with the 82nd Airborne in Berlin dispersing Polish and German refugees evicted from their homes by the Soviets.

After his honorable discharge from the Army in 1945 he worked 5 years serving as a lifeguard while attending college eventually receiving a Masters of Science in Public Administration and Police Science. In 1949, Gene

entered the U.S. Army Reserve. In 1956 he began the first of 10 years as a Criminal Investigator with the County of Los Angeles in one of the first Public Defender offices in the U.S.; additionally he worked 10 years as a Special Agent with the California Department of Justice conducting criminal investigations of organized crime and terrorist activities. By 1970 Gene took a leave of absence from the DOJ to ultimately serve as Chief of Law Enforcement Training and Terrorism Programs at the California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI). Following this in 1986 he organized the first U.S. Army Reserve Special Forces unit which eventually covered the Western US as a Special Forces Battalion. Gene organized the first U.S. Army Reserve Special Forces unit which over the years became a large unit covering the western U.S. as a Special Forces Battalion and in 1986 Gene attained the rank of Colonel. From 1986 to 1990 he served with the Department of Energy, Transportation and Safeguards with the responsibility of training DOE Couriers in transporting sensitive assets for the U.S. Government. Finally from 1980 to 2008, Gene was employed by a contract agency and was in charge of the security of the Internal Revenue Service in Fresno, CA as well as 11 years as Security Site Manager for the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley, CA.

Gene received many awards over his lifetime including a Lifetime Teaching Certificate from the State of California, an Army Good Conduct Medal, European Theatre of Operations with Five Campaign Stars, American Campaign, Meritorious Service Medal with Cluster, Purple Heart, Bronze Star with Cluster, Master Parachutist (300 plus including 1 combat jump), French and Belgium Fourgierres, Combat Infantry Badge, Pathfinder Badge and finally while in France he was awarded the National Order of the Legion of Honor, which is the highest decoration in France.

Gene volunteered for the National Ski Patrol for nearly 50 years with National Number 2028. He also



## 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team

volunteered with many different county search and rescue teams and enjoyed hiking, skiing, biking, was an avid pilot and had many “offices” in Bend including Deschutes Brewery, McMenamins Old St Francis School, Anthony’s, and Chow. Gene known by many as “Sir” could often be found drinking scotch in front of a nice bonfire.

Gene is predeceased by his parents and his wife Margaret Cole Frice. He is survived by his 5 children, Laurie Gibson, Karen Wallace, Robin Homedew, Gene Frice Jr. and Mark Frice, their spouses, 14 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren. In summary, Sir was a true hero and will be missed all over the world. A celebration of life will be held this Saturday the 16th at 5:30pm, please call Cassidy at 541-761-5282 or Natalie at 805-471-6066 for more information.

From <http://www.policemag.com/channel/patrol/news/2014/08/12/trexpo-advisor-and-california-doj-agent-gene-frice-dies.aspx>

### TREXPO Advisor and California DOJ Agent Gene Frice Dies

#### VIDEO: TREXPO Advisor and California DOJ Agent Gene Frice Dies

Retired California Department of Justice agent and TREXPO advisor Gene Frice died Sunday in Bend, Ore. He was 88.

Frice served 36 years of active and reserve duty with the U.S. Army. During World War II, he was a member of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat and saw combat in Italy and in Belgium at the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, Frice served as commanding officer of a reserve Special Forces unit and retired at the rank of Colonel.



In civilian life Frice was an investigator and agent for the California Department of Justice and later the County of Los Angeles. He also served as chief of California's Office of Emergency Services (California Specialized Training Institute), supervising the law enforcement programs, including terrorism, officer survival, and other law enforcement programs. Later he worked as a consultant, instructor, and visiting staff member for numerous state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies.

Frice is survived by daughters Laurie Gibson, Karen Wallace, and Robin Homedew; sons Gene Frice Jr. and Mark Frice; 14 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Services are scheduled for Saturday Aug. 16 at 5:30pm at 66295 Highway 20 in Bend, Ore. If attending, contact Natalie Frice at (805) 471-6066 for directions and reservations.

The family has asked that in lieu of flowers donations be sent to the Band of Brothers or the VFW Bend, Ore.



# 517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team





## *517<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regimental Combat Team*

### *Administrivia*

- If you miss any MailCalls, they are all available online at <http://www.517prct.org/mailcall/>
- At any time, if you want to be added or removed from the MailCall list, just let me know, or just click on the unsubscribe link on the email.
- Send any news, stories, or feedback to: [MailCall@517prct.org](mailto:MailCall@517prct.org)
- If you send me email that you do not want included in MailCall, just label it as FYEO.
- I now understand how Ben could get confused about what he already posted and what he didn't. If I miss something, please just send it again.
- Donations for any programs involving the 517th should be sent to our new Association Treasurer: Identify the purpose of any donation (Annual Donations, In Memory of... etc.) and make all checks payable to:

**517 PRCT Association, Inc.**  
c/o Miriam Boyle Kelly  
19 Oriole Court  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

### *Operation Dragoon Anniversary – August 15, 1944*

This week was the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Operation Dragoon. It is a good time of year to remember to pay your annual membership donation (only if you can afford it).  
Suggested donation: \$30

---

Enclosed is my annual donation contribution towards the 517 PRCT Association.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
**517 PRCT Association, Inc.**  
c/o Miriam Boyle Kelly  
19 Oriole Court  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866