



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



PARACHUTE REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM

**MailCall No. 2340**

Nov 27, 2016

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

## *MailCall News*

I have to apologize for missing the last two (make that three) weeks of MailCalls. Normally I try to send out a MailCall every weekend, with occasional gaps when I don't have much news.\* These past weeks have been very busy at work, including a couple of weekend projects, plus all my spare time rebuilding our kitchen (After 32 years in the same house, why is this a on a deadline now?) I feel bad about not posting during Veteran's Day, but we certainly remember it in our house, as Ben and Fran Barrett got married on Veteran's Day in 1950.

So here's the new MailCall. But I do ask that you all send in some more news about your favorite trooper and his family.

Bob Barrett

A very special salute to the men, past and present, of the 517th on this Veteran's Day. You will forever be the best of the best. Because of your heroics, freedom rings in the greatest country on earth. It is with deep gratitude that I thank you for the blessings you have made possible for my family.

Tim Curtis  
Son of **Harland "Bud" Curtis**  
Hdq. 1st

Greetings 517th and Family, keeping all of you in our thoughts on this Veteran's Day. To all the Vets young and forever young..

Thank you. - **Paul Abbene**

photo: Fort Benning, GA.  
Jump School Graduation.  
Atlanta Reunion.





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RE: J Sutcliffe

My dad [**Mike Sura**] serviced with your dad in H company. While I don't remember him mention **Sutcliffe**, I do remember **Sweet** and **Seeberger** as dad was Sura. Everything was alphabetical in H company back then.

My dad Mike fought all the way to Bergstein, Germany before we was badly wounded in the biggest mine field every discovered. This was Feb. of 1945 and they we under machine gun and mortar fire fighting German paratroopers.

Dennis Sura  
Chicagoland Area

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I'm sending two photos of **Thomas Blymire** 517th prct, Co A. Listed in Christmas booklet. Anyone recognize him or have any info on him. Or have other photos with him in it.

Thank you.  
**Alan Bonsell** , son in law.





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I learned a few days ago the passing of a 517 trooper **James Rhea Dodd**. The Chattanooga Funeral Home, East Chapel at 404 S. Moore Rd. was the facility that handled the service. Mr Dodd passed Aug. 30 2016. He was in 1st BN. [B Company] if you would see if that is still on their web site, and put this on mail call I would appreciate that. His Daughter may want to be added to mail call, if so I will send her address.

Thanks  
**Morris McDowell**

Pvt. James R. Dodd was in B Company.

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**James Rhea Dodd**, 90, passed away on August 30, 2016. A native of Chattanooga, James was born November 29, 1925, to the late Roy Raymond Dodd and Cleo Guthrie Dodd Hoback, He was a paratrooper during WWII, serving with the 517th Parachute Regiment Combat Team in Europe earning a Purple Heart and Bronze Star during the Battle of the Bulge and the US Army's advance into Germany. He was on a troop ship returning home to prepare for the invasion of Japan when the war ended.

In 1947 James joined the Chattanooga Fire Department rising to the rank of Captain and serving at fire stations throughout the city during his career. He was first and foremost a family man, not only working to provide for their physical needs and education, but showing them by example how to be responsible citizens in their communities and to care for others. A long time resident of East Lake, he was involved in school and community activities and was known by all as a good neighbor. Over the years, he was active in Woodland Park, East Lake, East Ridge and Highland Park Baptist Churches.

James was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Dorothy Finnell; and brothers, Bobby Dodd and Carl Hoback.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Frances E. Dodd; his children, Roy R. Dodd (Judy) of Chattanooga, and Sylvia G. Eaves (Arnold) of Woodstock, Georgia; his brother, Ed Hoback (Cheryl) of Marietta, Georgia; and numerous nieces and nephews.

The funeral service will be Friday, September 2, 2016 at 10:30 AM in the chapel of the Chattanooga Funeral Home, East Chapel, 404 S. Moore Road, with Rev. Matthew Vandegriff officiating. Interment will follow the funeral at Chattanooga National Cemetery with full military honors. The family will receive friends on Thursday from 4 to 7 PM at the funeral home.

The family wishes to thank Vivian Sorrell, Jean Lewis, Ronda Sparks, Sara Lahti; the Resident Assistants of Morning Pointe Assisted Living at Shallowford and Hospice of Chattanooga for their loving care of James.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Salvation Army (822 McCallie Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37403) or Hospice of Chattanooga (4411 Oakwood Drive, Chattanooga, TN 37416).



An Excerpt from the **Springfield News-Sun, Springfield, OH**, Printed last Memorial Day:  
Posted: 12:00 p.m. Sunday, May 29, 2016

## **Researchers track down 4 WWII Springfield vets family members**

By Tom Stafford  
Staff Writer



Flossie Hulsizer, a volunteer at the Clark County Historical Society, looks up information on one of the soldiers Wednesday. Bill Lackey/Staff

In many American cities Memorial Day parades will wend their way through streets lined with lawn chairs, gathered families and the fresh colors of a regenerating spring, bound for cemeteries like Ferncliff and ceremonies as powerful for the heavy sound of flags flapping in the silence as for anything said.

Since last year's ceremonies here, four of Springfield's honored dead, buried for decades now in two European military cemeteries as orderly and manicured as the World War II battlefields there were not, have emerged from the past into the minds of their townsfolk.

Their past is the frozen December that befell Europe in 1944, when all four were killed.

The time portal through which they've arrived is the Fisher Family Library in the Heritage Center of Clark

County, a modest-sized room that houses the offices of the Clark County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

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That same newsletter brought forth a second soldier from the past, the uncle Clark County chapter member **Kent Immerfall** never knew.

**First Lt. Floyd A. Stott**, "is also resting in the same cemetery ... along with 11 of his platoon," killed Dec. 27, 1944, by friendly fire near the Battle of the Manhay Crossroads in Belgium, one of the fights in the Battle of the Bulge.

With other members of the 517th Parachute Regimental Combat Team who "jumped into Southern France 15 August 1944," Immerfall said the uncle he never knew perished when "a wayward shell" fell on to their advance position.

"As an aside," Immerfall added, "Henri-Chapelle is a beautiful location," and the Belgian man who keeps the cross clean and places occasional flowers on Stott's grave "is one of many who do the same for our servicemen who perished overseas."



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### **Paratroopers Static Line Jump From C-17**



Published on May 27, 2016

Paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne Division perform static line jumps from C-17 Globemaster III aircraft over Sicily Drop Zone at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R-2puqqmycM>

Dear Bob and Joanne:

Was just checking in to make sure all is well with the two of you as I haven't seen any Mail Calls recently. You are very important to us like our extended family.

As we prepare for our national day of thanksgiving tomorrow we think of our Dads and all that they did for us, their kids as well as for the nation we love. What amazing men.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Love,  
**Pat Seitz and Alan G**



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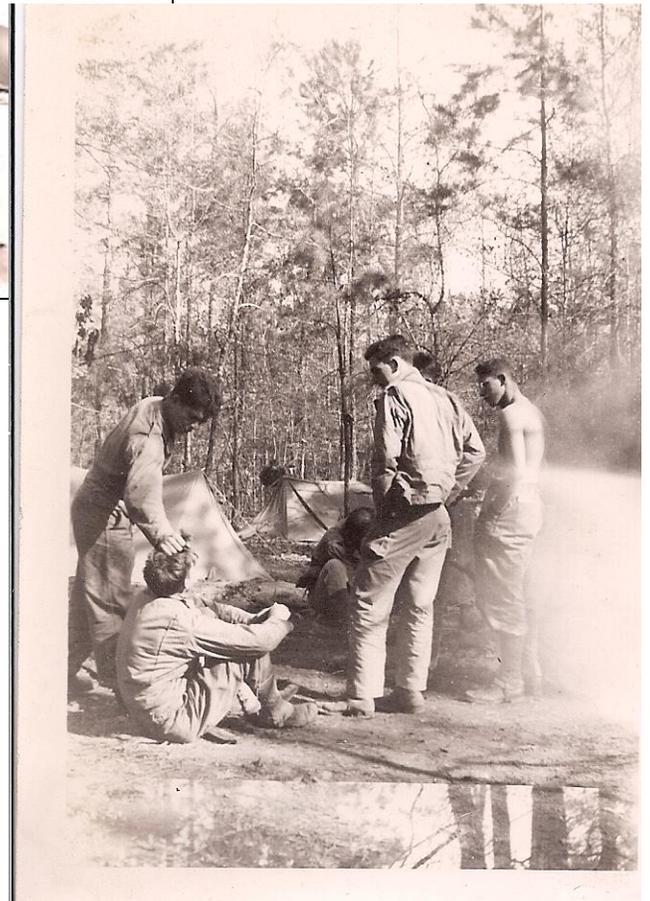
Dad was a Buzzard

I was privileged to hear your stories. Thank you.

Hope these might put a smile on someones face:

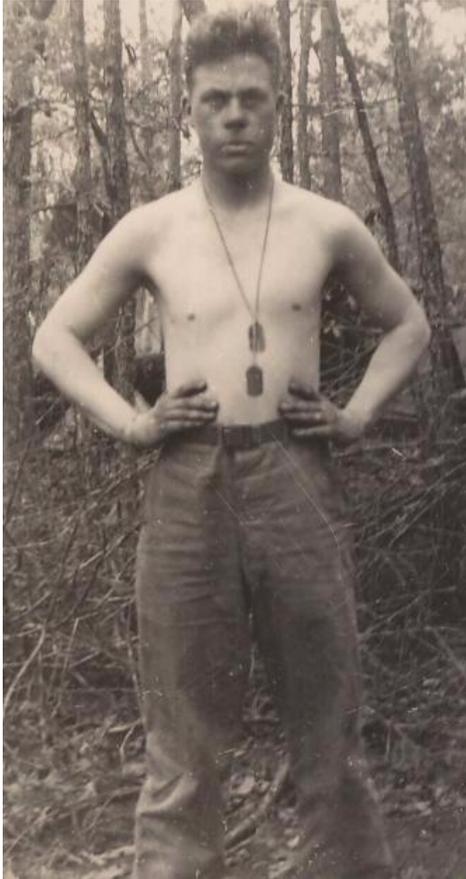
Paul Lindahl

Son of **PFC Burton J. Lindahl**, F Company





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*I'll get more of Lindahl's photos posted on the website soon. -- BB*



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5 CENTS  
PAY NO MORE

**SUNDAY NEWS**  
NEW YORK'S PICTURE NEWSPAPER  
Trade Mark Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

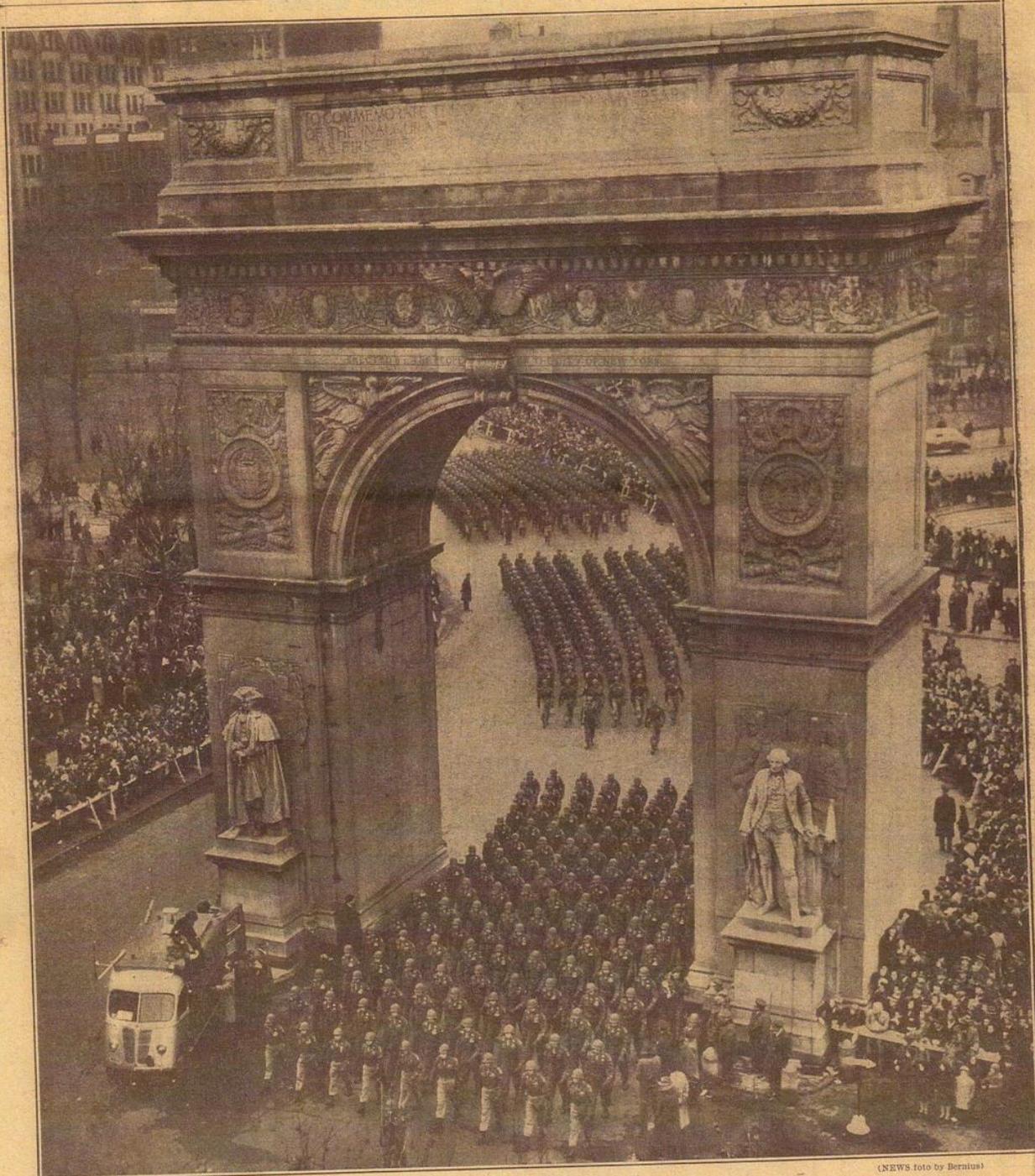
FINAL

84

New York, Sunday, January 13, 1946

# FOUR MILLION CHEER 82<sup>D</sup>

Story on Page 3



(NEWS photo by Bernius)

**Washington Arch Becomes an Arch of Triumph** as soldiers of the 82d Airborne Division step off on the first lap of a four-mile hike up Fifth Ave. in the greatest parade of might America has ever seen.  
—Story p. 3; other pics. p. 1 and center fold.



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From **Nila Gott**:

This is a very special message for those of us who have served. Karen

Hallelujah! God bless this man!!! You want to talk about "freedom of speech" ? These photos are worth all the words you can think of to proclaim honor for our flag and the nation it represents! Hooray for this guy --- I pray this flies around the WEB and others with a public voice will follow his lead! Made my day!



Colin Kaepernick may have started the kneeling in protest of America's national anthem, but **Stephen Martin, owner of Prime Time Sports in Colorado Springs**, Colorado, has started a patriotic rising unlike anything that's ever been done before.

Martin first took a stand when NFL player Brandon Marshall refused to stand for the anthem. Immediately, Martin cancelled Marshall's scheduled autograph signing event in his store. But he wasn't done. He replaced the star's event with something entirely different in his store, and in one week, it has grown to epic proportions that he can hardly even keep up with now.

He put out a post on Facebook, respectfully disagreeing with the disrespect of the nation's flag and anthem, then proceeded to explain just what the flag means to him, and the sacrifice of all the men and women who have fought for it. Martin invited people to send photos of their loved ones who are veterans, in active service, or who have been injured or given their lives in the line of duty.

The photos started pouring in from all across the country, and as fast as they were emailed, Martin printed them off and taped them to his store front window. Americans are sharing their photos and stories on his Facebook page, as well as sending to him through email, and each day he has posted photos of the progress.





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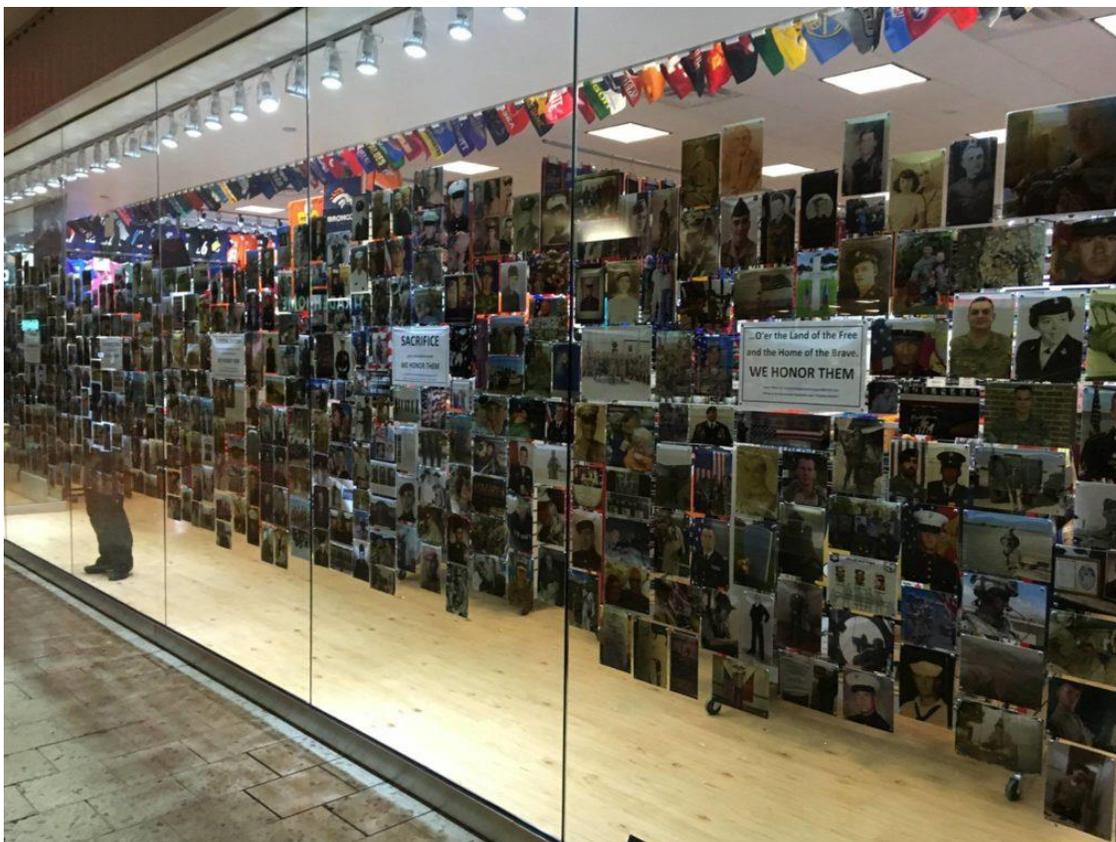
Day #3 “Honor The Flag”. 77 photos went up today. Our flag has been soaked in blood and sweat represented by these pictures, but it is the “words with tears” that come with them, that keep it wet.

Day #4 “Honor The Flag”. 128 photos went up today and I am still moved by the stories with each photo.”

“Day 7 “Honor The Flag” memorial wall. 190 photos just went up. It has been difficult keeping up with personal responses to each photo. At 62 I still need my afternoon naps. Please do not see my lack of correspondence to each photo as anything disrespectful.”

Thursday morning, he said, “Woke up to 190 emails this morning. They are coming in faster than I can read, get downloaded and over to Walgreens to get printed.”

America has truly answered Martin’s call to “hear the voice of the American flag.”





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Below is his original Facebook statement that started Martin's "Honor The Flag" memorial wall.

*My name is Stephen Martin and I own Prime Time Sports in the Chapel Hills Mall. A month before the NFL season began I made an agreement with Brandon Marshall of the Denver Broncos to have a public autograph signing.*

*After Thursday night's opening game I decided to cancel this event and soon after my store phones and social media pages were lit up with the kind of words that no business owner ever wants to here. I respect Brandon Marshall's freedom of expression, but I question his method of delivery. I agree that his concerns need to be addressed, but not at the expense of our flag and what it represents. There have been times in the last week where I have gone AWOL to my heart by my silence, but now I have been awakened by the memory of my wife's father Kenneth J Porwoll who survived the Bataan Death March.*

*He was thrown into the hull of a cargo ship called the Taga Maru where he was sandwiched with hundreds of other soldiers without room to even lie down while being hauled to Japan where he was a POW for 3 1/2 years. He was saturated in human sweat, urine and fecal matter for weeks in plus 100 degree heat without food, water or medical care and to this store owner that story is a better use of the word "deplorable".*

*I was at this man's funeral. I saw the American Flag draped over his coffin. I was there when that folded American Flag was handed to his wife, Mary Ellen Porwoll. I heard that 21 gun salute. This store owner believes that the simple act of standing during our national anthem is a noble and responsible gesture that salutes our nation and the military that protects it. Now I want to stand up and hear the voice of the American Flag and I need your help.*

*I am asking for photos of your loved ones that are veterans, in active service, who have been injured in the line of duty or who have paid the ultimate price. I will post these photos on my store front windows under the banner, "These people have sacrificed for the ideas represented by our flag. We honor them". I got this powerful vision that we can cover these windows top to bottom and side to side and proclaim our support for these United States of America. Will you help me build this wall of honor? Photos can be brought in or mailed to Prime Time Sports, 1710 Briargate Blvd, Colorado Springs, CO 80920 or emailed to [honortheflagprimetimesports@gmail.com](mailto:honortheflagprimetimesports@gmail.com).*



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## 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

Website	<a href="http://www.517prct.org">www.517prct.org</a>
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2016 Roster (updated!)	<a href="http://www.517prct.org/roster.pdf">www.517prct.org/roster.pdf</a>
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