

# LTC (Ret) Robert E. Chisolm

Application for Induction into the 82nd Airborne Division Hall of Fame



# **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

## **Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Robert E. Chisolm**

An original World War II Paratrooper, Bob Chisolm made combat jumps into Normandy on D-Day and into Holland during Operation Market Garden, then fought courageously in the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded in all three actions and evacuated from both France and Belgium. As a Corporal, he was awarded the Legion of Merit for inspiring performance of duty in Holland. In a 29-year distinguished Army career, he led in combat in both Korea and Vietnam, becoming one of 324 soldiers to earn three Combat Infantry Badges. Later, Bob pursued a successful business career and then dedicated himself to veterans' organizations including his beloved Benavidez-Patterson Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, cementing his legacy through scholarship programs at the Chapter and also at the University of Texas El Paso.

## Executive Summary

LTC (Ret) Robert E. Chisolm has made exceptional contributions to the 82nd Airborne Division, to American society, and to the greater World.

- Fought valiantly with the 82nd Airborne Division, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, in Normandy, Eastern Holland and the Ardennes.
- Suffered serious head and shoulder injury in Normandy, flak injury to his eye and forehead when jumping into Holland, and severe injury to his neck and left thigh in the Battle of the Bulge.
- As a Corporal, took charge of 80+ men in Holland and earned a Legion of Merit Award.
- As a 2nd Lieutenant, commanded L Company, 31st Infantry, 7th Infantry Division in one of the last major combat actions in Korea. Earned battlefield promotion to 1st Lieutenant. Suffered ruptured ear drum due to direct artillery fire.
- Completed classified assignments in Vietnam during 1963 including six months as advisor to the 45th Vietnamese Infantry Regiment, where he earned his third Combat Infantry Badge.
- One of only 324 Soldiers to have been awarded three (3) Combat Infantry Badges.
- Completed additional classified assignments in Thailand during 1966-1968.
- Medically-retired in 1971 after serving as Chief, War Games Branch, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
- Earned a myriad of Awards and Decorations during his 29-year Army Career, including: Combat Infantry Badge with 2 Stars; Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; and Bronze Star.
- Upon retiring from the U.S. Army, pursued successful business careers in cattle ranching, clothing resale, industrial wiping cloths and real estate. Successfully transitioned businesses to new local ownership upon retirement.
- Long-time contributor of substantial time, energy, executive leadership and financial support to several Veterans Organizations, including being a Charter Member of El Paso's *Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association* and a Sustaining Member of the *Family and Friends of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association*.
- Major legacies include the well-funded Benavidez-Patterson Chapter's Scholarship Program and the Dawn Chisolm-Doyle Memorial Music Scholarship Fund at the University of Texas El Paso.

## **Executive Summary (continued)**

LTC (Ret) Robert E. Chisolm has throughout his life exhibited the best qualities and characteristics of the 82nd Airborne Division.

- Selfless service to the Nation and the greater World as evidenced by a distinguished 29-year Army career despite several serious combat injuries.
- Perseverance in combat against daunting environmental factors and enemy forces.
- Leadership on the battlefield beyond one's rank.
- Unwavering dedication towards and love of family
- Volunteerism and charity surrounding time, energy and financial commitments to Veterans Organizations and Scholarship Programs.
- Listener-type Leadership as a Coach/Advisor to Non-Profit Boards of Directors.
- Humility as a soldier and as a person.
- Dedication to "Airborne All the Way" and "Preserving the Legacy".

# **DETAILED SUMMARY**

LTC (Ret) Robert E. Chisolm has made exceptional contributions to the 82nd Airborne Division, to American society, and to the greater World.

## **WORLD WAR II**

### **Normandy**

Robert “Bob” Chisolm entered military service in August 1942 and attended basic training at Fort Walters, Texas. He graduated from Parachute School in December 1942, having completed communication and demolition coursework. He joined the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment in March 1943.

He parachuted into Normandy overnight on June 6, 1944 with I Company of the 508th’s Third Battalion. Their mission involved seizing and destroying crossings over the Douve River in the areas of Entienville and Beuzeville-la-Bastille. Given the cloud cover and inclement weather, Bob, like so many other paratroopers, ended up hitting the ground separated from his unit. He landed just outside Sainte Mere Eglise and recalls seeing John Steele dangling from the church steeple when he entered the town’s center. For several days, Bob fought with G Company 505th PIR until finally rendezvousing with enough I Company 508th comrades.

On order of the Division, PFC Chisolm and the 508th’s 3rd Battalion advanced west and made a night crossing over the Douve River. They finally achieved one of their first objectives when they took the town of Saint-Sauveur-le-Vicomte.

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Bob’s 19<sup>th</sup> Birthday, he volunteered for a two-man combat patrol, insisting that one of his comrades not be awakened after having been on patrol the night before. While determining the extent of the enemy on high ground, a German armored vehicle unleashed machine gun fire on Bob and his comrade Bill Hughes. Bob was struck in the right shoulder and the back of his head. The two were able to rejoin their unit after knocking out the machine gun, Hughes opening up with his Thompson submachine gun, Chisolm firing a BAR. In his book on the 508th “Put Us Down in Hell”, Phil Nordyke wrote, “Chisolm was incredibly fortunate to survive the head wound and to do so without impairment. Perhaps what was just as amazing was that he could even lift a BAR and fire it with his badly wounded right shoulder.” Bob received local medical treatment prior to being evacuated to a hospital in England, where he spent 31 days under care. A plate was later inserted into the back of PFC Chisolm’s head to cover the hole in his skull.

### **Eastern Holland**

Prior to parachuting from his C-47 aircraft in Operation Market Garden, Bob was struck by anti-aircraft flak. He nonetheless successfully jumped and was treated on the ground with stitches over his left eye, on his forehead and on his side under his left arm. He joined his I Company comrades in accomplishing their first objective to take high ground outside Berg en Dal. As part of a four-man patrol, Bob went into Nijmegen close to the traffic circle near the Waal Bridge where a German 88mm tank stood guard.

I Company set up a key roadblock in Beek where Germans were knocked out twice including two armored cars hit by Bob and comrade Joe Petry. Over the ensuing few days, I Company experienced intense fighting in that vicinity as Germans fought to retake territory along the Dutch-German border near Wyler.

On September 20<sup>th</sup>, I Company was holding Beek with roadblocks but came under heavy attack by German armor and infantry. The situation became critical when one lieutenant was killed after another had left before the battle began. CPL Chisolm, then an assistant squad leader, took charge of the defenders. Having seen comrades wounded or killed, assessing that I Company was facing a superior force while being short on ammunition, Bob made the decision to pull back to higher ground, going out to the first line of defense and organizing a one-by-one pull-back to the higher ground. All were pulled back without any casualties.

Phil Nordyke wrote, “Through his extraordinary courage and cool leadership under an extremely critical situation, Corporal Chisolm conducted an orderly retreat to the forested high ground at Berg-en-Dal. He was later awarded the Legion of Merit, the only such award the regiment made to an enlisted man or noncommissioned officer during the war.” In his book “History of the 508th Parachute Infantry”, William G. Lord wrote, “After combat jump into Holland—unit Officers, and most Non-Coms, had become casualties—Corporal Robert Chisolm takes charge of approximately 83 men and, demonstrating exemplary leadership in action that ensued, is awarded the Legion of Merit.”

The 508th spent some 62 days in Eastern Holland fighting back and forth across the battle line until being pulled back to Sissone, France in late November.

## **Battle of the Bulge**

At Sissone, Bob Chisolm was initially assigned to be a police prison sergeant but asked that he be released back into I Company prior to combat in the Ardennes. The 508th moved out on December 16<sup>th</sup> and I Company first contacted the Germans at the village of Salmchateau. The days leading up Christmas 1944 saw Chisolm and his comrades in constant combat. St. Vith defenders withdrew through the 508th line at the Thier-du-Mont ridge starting on December 21<sup>st</sup> and by Christmas Eve, the entire Division had orders to pull back into defensive positions. Attacks and counter-attacks ensued near the village of Erria.

The 508th was ordered to re-take Thier-du-Mont on January 7, 1945. Third battalion, including Chisolm’s I Company, took the lead with G Company launching the attack. During that intense combat, CPL Chisolm was severely wounded by a tree burst to his left thigh and neck amid freezing temperatures and heavy ground snow. While he received a morphine shot and patch to his neck, it was the freezing temperatures in the Ardennes that caused the blood to coagulate in his leg wound and kept him from bleeding to death.

Bob was evacuated first to a hospital near Paris, then back to England, and then was sent back to William Beaumont Army Hospital in El Paso, Texas where he underwent extensive reconstructive surgery for his combat wounds.

## **Recovery and Rejoining the 508th PIR in Frankfurt**

After spending nearly two months at the hospital in El Paso, Bob transferred to Brook Army Hospital for physical therapy on his leg. He was recuperating back at his home in Dallas when he realized that pig stands and getting drunk were not for him. Hearing that the 508th PIR had been chosen as General Eisenhower's honor guard in Frankfurt, Bob wrote LTC Louis G. Mendez offering to re-enlist if he could be back with his cherished 508th unit.

Bob married Margaret Browning on February 14, 1946, and they both moved to Germany. He was with the 508th and then took a role as a Criminal Investigation Division agent. His only child, Cheryl Dawn Chisolm, was born in Frankfurt on July 18, 1947. Bob recalls being one of four volunteers from the 508th ready to parachute in on a rescue and recovery mission after a civilian plane crashed in Switzerland. In the end, the paratroopers' services were not required, but such selfless volunteerism was the hallmark of 82nd Airborne Division Paratroopers. Bob's rank at the end of this European stint was Technical Sergeant.

## **KOREA AND VIETNAM ERAS**

After assignments with the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood and the Reserves at the Presidio in San Francisco, Bob was encouraged to attend OCS. He was appointed Second Lieutenant in November 1951. He commanded L Company, 31st Infantry, 7th Infantry Division during the last major combat action of the Korean War. For his exemplary service as Company Commander, Bob earned a battlefield promotion to 1st Lieutenant. He later sustained a ruptured ear drum from direct artillery fire, which would subsequently become infected, leading to his transfer to a U.S. hospital in Japan.

Bob then took assignments in Okinawa where his family was able to join him. One unique assignment was as a Special Services Entertainment Officer, where Bob oversaw the first off-Broadway production of "Teahouse of the August Moon". Later he was selected for the Army Language School (German) prior to spending 1956-1959 with the 522nd Military Intelligence Battalion on classified assignments in Germany. Once again, Bob's family relocated to Germany.

From 1959-1961, Bob was stationed at Fort Jackson, SC. Later in 1963, he attended the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. By July 1963, he was assigned to the Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) and spent one year on the ground in Vietnam, including six months as advisor to the 45th Vietnamese Infantry Regiment where Bob earned his third Combat Infantry Badge, only one of approximately 324 soldiers who have earned this distinction. Bob was also advisor to the 23rd Vietnamese Infantry Regiment.

In the mid-1960s Bob was unit advisor to the Texas National Guard in Dallas. He then accomplished another MAAG assignment, spending 1966-1968 in Thailand. LTC Chisolm's final assignment was as Chief, War Games Branch, Fort Leavenworth, KS. In 1971, he was medically-retired from the U.S. Army given the cumulative toll of his many combat injuries, and having made 78 training and combat jumps during his Army career.

## **MILITARY AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Combat Infantry Badge with 2 Stars  
Legion of Merit with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters  
Purple Heart with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters  
Bronze Star  
Good Conduct Medal  
National Defense Service Medal with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster  
Six Overseas Bars  
Vietnam Service Medal  
Vietnam Campaign Medal  
Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star  
United Nations Service Medal  
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal  
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal  
World War II Victory Medal  
Korean Service Medal  
American Campaign Medal  
Armed Forces Reserve Medal  
Netherlands Order of William Medal  
Belgium Fourragere  
French Fourragere  
Distinguished Unit Emblem  
Presidential Unit Citation (Navy)  
Presidential Unit Citation (ROK)  
U.S. Senior Parachute Badge with 2 Combat Jump Stars and Arrowhead  
Thai Parachute Badge  
French Legion of Honor Award (1<sup>st</sup> Degree – “Chevalier” – Knighthood)

# SAMPLE OF EFFICIENCY REPORTS

A Consistent Track History of Outstanding Performance and Leadership

<p><b>OFFICER EFFICIENCY REPORT</b></p> <p>SECTION I</p> <p>1. SERVICE NO. 02 102 975</p> <p>2. GRADE 1st Lt</p> <p>3. BRANCH Inf</p> <p>4. COMPONENT USAR</p> <p>5. PERIOD OF REPORT</p> <p>FROM (Da, mo, yr) 22 Jul 53 TO (Da, mo, yr) 2 Sep 54</p> <p>DUTY DAYS 66 OTHER DAYS 0</p> <p>6. BASIS FOR RATING OFFICER'S ENTRIES</p>	<p>COMMENTS BY INDORSING OFFICER <input type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT KNOW THE RATED OFFICER BUT I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE RATER'S JUDGMENT</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I DO NOT KNOW THE RATED OFFICER VERY WELL BUT I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE RATER'S JUDGMENT</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Subject officer is by far the best officer of his grade on duty in this organization, he accepts responsibility, utilizing tact and initiative in the performance of all his duties, accepting nothing short of perfection in all aspects. His mental, physical and moral qualities are above reproach.</p>
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<p><b>OFFICER EFFICIENCY REPORT</b></p> <p>SECTION I</p> <p>2. SERVICE NO. 02 102 975</p> <p>3. GRADE 1st Lt</p> <p>4. BRANCH Inf</p> <p>5. COMPONENT USAR</p> <p>7. PERIOD OF REPORT</p> <p>FROM (Da, mo, yr) 22 Jul 53 TO (Da, mo, yr) 2 Sep 54</p> <p>DUTY DAYS 66 OTHER DAYS 0</p> <p>9. BASIS FOR RATING OFFICER'S ENTRIES</p>	<p>14. ENTRIES ARE BASED ON PD 2 Feb 53 - 24 Jul 53 NR</p> <p>OBSERVATION OF 30-60 DUTY DAYS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OBSERVATION OF 60 DUTY DAYS OR MORE <input type="checkbox"/> OFFICIAL REPORTS <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>15. DESCRIPTION OF OFFICER RATED AND COMMENTS (These paragraphs should cover physical, mental, moral qualities of rated officer, and any special strengths or weaknesses affecting his ability to do certain assignments not covered elsewhere in the report)</p> <p>A. COMMENTS BY RATING OFFICER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">An energetic, enthusiastic officer with an exceptionally fine military background. He is highly competitive without arousing antagonism. He performed extremely well in combat with a cool confidence that was reflected throughout his entire company. He is equally as competent in garrison as in the field.</p>
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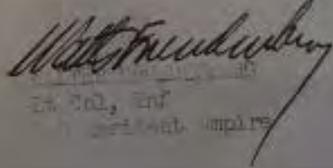
<p><b>EFFICIENCY REPORT</b></p> <p>182 and SR 600-185-1</p> <p>SECTION I</p> <p>2. SERVICE NO. 02 102 975</p> <p>3. GRADE 1st Lt</p> <p>4. BRANCH Inf</p> <p>5. COMPONENT USAR</p> <p>7. PERIOD OF REPORT</p> <p>FROM (Da, mo, yr) 8 Dec 53 TO (Da, mo, yr) 31 Dec 54</p> <p>DUTY DAYS 389 OTHER DAYS 0</p> <p>9. BASIS FOR RATING OFFICER'S ENTRIES</p>	<p>15. DESCRIPTION OF RATED OFFICER AND COMMENTS: Remarks should cover any special strengths or weaknesses affecting performance of duty or ability to perform other types of assignments. If officer served in combat during period, state number of days. U. Detail and other strengths and weaknesses exhibited in combat.</p> <p>B. Comments of rating officer</p> <p>This officer is very efficient, loyal and conscientious. He is outstanding, compared to other officers of his grade and experienced in the performance of his duties. He presents a pleasing appearance and has a pleasant personality. He is physically active, energetic and morally above reproach. His deep sense of responsibility shows his a valued member of this organization. Lt. Unisols is also an active participant in the college level Troop Education Program.</p>
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ABJZZ - UNISOLS, Robert E. 1st Lt  
 02 102 975 (20Aug62)  
 SUBJECT: Letter of evaluation

HEADQUARTERS, XVIII AIRBORNE CORPS AND 10TH AFV G, Fort Bragg, N. C.

TO: Commanding Officer, Hq USMC Inf (3171), Fort Jackson, S. C.

I concur in the comments of the rating officer. It has been a distinct pleasure to have been associated with Captain Unisols. He quickly and efficiently adjusted himself to the many changing situations of this exercise in a calm effective manner.

  
 Lt Col, Inf  
 10th Airborne Corps

IMPORTANT: THE PREPARATION OF AN EFFICIENCY REPORT IS A SERIOUS RESPONSIBILITY. EACH INDIVIDUAL WILL TAKE THE SAME FAIRLY TAKING CARE IN THE PREPARATION OF THE EFFICIENCY REPORT FOR HIS SUBORDINATES THAT HE WOULD EXPECT HIS RATING OFFICER TO TAKE IN THE PREPARATION OF HIS OWN EFFICIENCY REPORT. ALL ENTRIES WILL BE TRUE AND IMPARTIAL AND MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AR 623-102.

SECTION I - PERSONAL DATA OF OFFICER BEING RATED

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE INITIAL CHISOLM, Robert E.	2. SERVICE NUMBER O 2 102 975	3. DATE OF BIRTH 10 Apr 58	4. GRADE Captain	5. BRANCH INF	
6. UNIT, ORGANIZATION, AND STATION USA Strategic Survey Group, Europe APO 757, US Forces		7. PERIOD OF REPORT	8. DUTY ASSIGNMENT FOR RATED PERIOD		
		FROM	TO		
		DAY MONTH YEAR	DAY MONTH YEAR	9. DUTY ASSIGNMENT DAYS	
		1 Jul 58	14 Nov 58	137 0	

10. AUTHORIZED GRADE FOR DUTY ASSIGNMENT: \_\_\_\_\_ 11. MAKE ADDITIONAL COPIES (Describe): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments will reflect your appraisal of this officer and will emphasize strengths, weaknesses, behavior, personality, character or other qualities which distinguish this officer. Comment will be made as to officer's present physical ability to perform in time of war the duties required by his grade and branch.

12. RATING OFFICER

Captain Chisolm is an officer of outstanding ability who has been extremely successful in his present assignment. His ability to organize coupled with his tenacity of purpose, common sense and strong moral character serve as a constant inspiration to his subordinates and superiors. He not only accepts assigned tasks readily, but actively seeks additional work, which he completes in the same cheerful, loyal and efficient manner. His highly professional approach to his assigned duties have materially added toward the accomplishment of this unit's difficult mission. He maintains his ability to perform in time of war and has proven himself to be an extremely valuable asset to this unit and the Army in general.

13. INCLOSING OFFICER  DO NOT KNOW THE RATED OFFICER WELL ENOUGH TO COMPLETE THIS REPORT.

HEADQUARTERS FORT JACKSON  
Fort Jackson, South Carolina

C-I-T-A-T-I-O-N

this

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

is awarded to

Captain ROBERT E. CHISOLM, 02102975, Infantry, United States Army, for superior performance of duty during the period 7 June 1961 to 3 December 1962, while serving as Assistant G2, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff, G2, Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Throughout this period his devotion to duty, mature judgment, and professional competence contributed significantly to the effectiveness of the Fort Jackson Security Program. His initiative, high personal example, and ability to resolve numerous and complex problems render him an officer of the highest caliber. Captain Chisolm's awareness of responsibility and superior service earned for him the respect and admiration of his associates and reflect great credit upon himself, Fort Jackson, and the United States Army.

SECTION IN AN AIR OR BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO FILE - ANY ITEM

DA FORM 67-5 (Rev. 1-64)

1. SERVICE NUMBER	2. GRADE	3. DATE OF RANK	4. BRANCH	5. UNIT OR AGENT
02102975	Major	8 Mar 63	Inf	

1st Lt, Saigon Vietnam, Pacific Command

PERIOD AND DUTY DATA (Read Sections IV and V, DA FORM 67-5)

6. DATE OF PROMOTION	7. REPORT DATED ON (Y/M/D)	8. RATER	9. SUPERVISOR

10. PROMOTE  ( ) UNABLE TO EVALUATE THIS OFFICER FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

The continued improvement of the 23d Division's combat effectiveness can be attributed in large measure to the outstanding performance of Major Chisolm as G-3 Advisor. His professional competence was recognized by the Division Commander who frequently sought his suggestions and advice on operational matters pertaining to the counterinsurgency effort of the division. Most of the major plans developed by the division G-3 were influenced to a large degree by Major Chisolm's persuasion and advice. The entire G-3 Section and the Division Tactical Operation Center improved consistently in organization and operational ability under his guidance. He frequently accompanied the Senior Advisor and the Division Commander during the conduct of active combat operations to personally observe the combat effectiveness of the divisional units. He was quick to recognize deficiencies of command and execution and promptly recommended corrective measures. He consistently encouraged forceful execution of the orders issued and had little patience with incompetent and ineffective leadership. For these (CONTINUED)

DA FORM 67-5 (Rev. 1-64) REPLACES DA FORM 67-5, 1 FEB 64, WHICH IS OBSOLETE EFFECTIVE 30 SEP 64

US ARMY OFFICER EFFICIENCY REPORT (AR 67-5)

26 AUG 1964

Item 15 (Continued)

recommended for Major Chisolm's performance as outstanding and retained as he selected for early retirement on the Army Reserve Staff, Kansas.

*Werner A. Hoemann*  
 Major, USA, Colonel, Army, USA, Chief, Plans & Operations Div, 1st Lt, Saigon

DATE: 3 June 1963

ATTENDING SERVICE SCHOOLS

FROM: Commandant  
 U. S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

THIS ACADEMIC REPORT IS SUBMITTED

1. NAME	2. SERVICE NUMBER	3. GRADE OR RANK	4. COMMENTS
602	02102975	Inf	ASIS

b. The USACGSC student is evaluated in comparison with the other students of his class, a group of selected officers.

c. In comparison with the average of his class, this officer's ability to express himself in writing is excellent

d. In comparison with the average of his class, this officer's ability to express himself orally is excellent

CHISOLM, ROBERT E. 02 102 975 LTC 9 Sep 66 to 19 May 67

Item 15. (Continued)

an era of generally inflated ratings, this officer is truly outstanding and should be retained for 30 years with promotion in advance of his contemporaries.

*Werner A. Hoemann*  
 WERNER A. HOEMANN, LTC, 01688818  
 Deputy Chief JUSMAG  
 Chief Plans & Operations Div

# APPOINTMENTS, FOREIGN SERVICE AND SCHOOLING SUMMARY

12. APPOINTMENTS		DATE OF			USA
GRADE	TYPE	APPOINTMENT	ELIGIBILITY	RANK	USA
2d Lt	USAR	23Nov51		29Apr52	USA
1st Lt	AUS	12Jul53		12Jul53	USA
1st Lt	USAR	4May55	23Nov54		USA
Capt	AUS	10Apr58		10Apr58	USA
Capt	USAR	10Apr58	10Apr58		USA
Maj	AUS	8Mar63		8Mar63	USA
Maj	USAR	22Jun64	22Jun64		USA
LTC	AUS	20 Dec 65		20 Dec 65	USA

17. FOREIGN SERVICE		MONTHS			
FROM	THROUGH	OVERSEA COMMAND	PCS	TOTY	TOTAL
24Dec43	15Mar45	ETO	15		15
26Apr46	14Mar50	EUCOM	47		47
12Apr53		AFPE-Japan			
27Apr53		AFPE-Korea			
10Oct53		AFPE-Japan			
19Oct53	27May55	AFPE-RYCOM (NTC)	26		26
28Jan56	12Jan59	USAREUR (NTC)(GER)	37		37
24Jul63	23Jul64	VICTNAM (NTC) USARPAC	13		13
2Nov66	10Sep68	USARPAC-Thailand	22		22
		NTC			

OFFICER QUALIFICATION RECORD

16. CIVILIAN EDUCATION AND MILITARY SCHOOLING					
SCHOOL	MAJOR OR COURSE	DURAT.	COMP.	YEAR	
Dallas, Tex (HS)	Academic	3yrs	No	41	
Inf Comm Sch	Radio Opr	4mos	Yes	43	
Inf Sch	Parachute	4wks	Yes	43	
Inf Sch	AICOC	15wks	Yes	52	
HS Battery (GED)	HS Equiv			49	
Col Battery (GED)	1 yr Col Equiv			54	
Univ of Calif	History, Am(ext)		3SH	54	
Univ of Calif	Spanish I (ext)		3SH	55	
Army Lang Sch	German	6mos	Yes	55	
USAREUR I MP & SW	Intel Orient	6wks	Yes	56	
USA Inf Sch	AADV #2	18½wks	Yes	59	
DA Evaluation	2 yr Col Equiv			60	
USACGSC	ACGSC (Cinagcy)	18wks	Yes	63	
USASWS	MATA 7-63Cinagcy	6wks	Yes	63	
MAI, Arlington, Va	Prog Crs	4wks	Yes	66	
USAMS, FT. Belvoir, Virginia	OR-SA	1Mo	Yes	69	

## **CIVILIAN LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

### **Business Career Post-1971**

Following his retirement from the Army in January 1971, Bob returned to East Texas where he had family roots, having spent many summers there with grandparents. He bought a 135-acre ranch upon which he lived. Soon thereafter, Bob and his brother bought the grandparents' 287-acre ranch, and then bought another 900-acre piece of ranch land. In the end, Bob's brother, two other families and Bob were successful beef cattle ranchers.

In 1974, having leased his home ranch to a good friend's son, Bob relocated to El Paso to provide management assistance to his cousin who was having business difficulties with a clothing business called Johnson International Materials. As Chief Operating Officer, Bob ran seven clothing stores in El Paso and also exported products to Europe and the Middle East. He employed approximately 100 persons, most of them Mexican-Americans.

Later Bob incorporated J-Text, Inc, an industrial wiping cloths manufacturer. J-Text customers included government entities in the Southwest and oil and mining industrial companies. Upon retirement, Bob sold the clothing business to two cousins and sold the J-Text business to a local El Paso company while continuing to manage some local real estate investments.

In short, post his Army career, Bob Chisolm pursued successful business careers in ranching and then in privately-held El Paso companies, employing hundreds and contributing to local economic growth and progress.

### **Veteran Organizations – Participation, Leadership & Legacy**

LTC (Ret) Bob Chisolm has participated and contributed time, energy and money to several local Veterans organizations including Disabled American Veterans, Vietnam Veterans of America, Special Forces Chapter and Military Order of the Purple Heart. But he maintains a reverent allegiance to the fraternity of military paratroopers he helped found, the Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association.

Bob is a Charter Member in the Benavidez-Patterson Chapter that was launched on August 10, 1985, after Bob spearheaded early efforts to organize and grow the Chapter. His early organizing efforts involved notices to the El Paso Times and other local publications, follow-up and recruiting efforts through an initial seven-person team. Early on the Chapter used a room in one of Bob's downtown El Paso buildings, then a World War II building at Fort Bliss, then a hospital building, and then an American Legion building. Eventually, Bob and others were instrumental in the Chapter acquiring its own building at 2608 Fort Boulevard in El Paso.

The Benavidez-Patterson “All Airborne” Chapter house contains a kitchen area, a private bar, a military library, a photo library of living and deceased Members, a museum-like display of Airborne uniforms and equipment, and ample seating areas for speaker and dining events and for socializing. Thanks to the early and sustained efforts of Bob and other Chapter leaders, the organization is well-positioned to engage with the greater El Paso community for in-house “Open House” activities commemorating Armed Forces Day, National Airborne Day, Veterans Day, etc, never mind being able to travel out into the city to engage with schools on educational events such as elementary reading programs, science fairs, history symposiums and the like. Over the years, Bob and his fellow Members have committed countless hours to such initiatives at schools that include Zavala, Rusk, Alta Vista and Indian Ridge Elementary Schools and Basset Middle School.

Perhaps the “crown jewel” of the Benavidez-Patterson Chapter initiatives is the Scholarship Fund that Bob Chisolm was instrumental in establishing and over the years helping to fund. Unique among all 82nd Airborne Division Association Chapters across the country, the Benavidez-Patterson Chapter program allows for scholarship grants to grandchildren in addition to children of current and former paratroopers. The El Paso Chapter Scholarship Fund currently exceeds \$100,000 and given interest and annual donations, between 4 and 6 scholarships of \$1000 each are awarded annually. In fact, an impressive 30 such scholarships have been given over the years 2013-2018, for an average of 5 per year.

More importantly, Bob’s commitment to the Benavidez-Patterson Chapter was matched by the efforts of his wife, Margaret, and daughter, Dawn. Both supported Bob selflessly over the years, relocating overseas several times. Margaret was the first president of the 508th Wives’ Association in Frankfurt. She studied and spoke German, and later became quite fluent in the Thai language and became good friends with the Queen of Thailand. Margaret was also active in the American Red Cross and was designated a “Yellow Rose of Texas” by the Governor. But Margaret poured tremendous time and energy into the Benavidez-Patterson Chapter. Following her death in August 2009, the Chapter established the “Margaret Chisolm Airborne Service Award” given annually to a non-airborne female for meritorious and exemplary service to the Chapter.

Following the untimely death of his beloved daughter Dawn in 2013, Bob teamed up with his son-in-law Richard Doyle to establish the Dawn Chisolm-Doyle Memorial Scholarship Fund at the University of Texas El Paso. The scholarship program is patterned after the successful Benavidez-Patterson Scholarship Fund. Dawn was a professional singer in San Francisco, New York City, Florida and Georgia. To date, there have been 14 recipients of a total of \$15,000 and the original two recipients have gone on to earn a Masters Degree and PhD, respectively, in Music.

# **DETAILED SUMMARY**

LTC (Ret) Robert E. Chisolm has throughout his life exhibited the best qualities and characteristics of the 82nd Airborne Division.

The previous section detailing LTC (Ret) Robert E. Chisolm's exploits, accomplishments and successes in both his Army and Civilian careers highlight the qualities and characteristics of the 82nd Airborne Division that Bob has demonstrated throughout his nearly 94-year-old life.

Again, listed below are some of those stand-out personal qualities which include:

- Selfless service to the Nation and the greater World as evidenced by a distinguished 29-year Army career despite several serious combat injuries.
- Perseverance in combat against daunting environmental factors and enemy forces.
- Leadership on the battlefield beyond one's rank.
- Unwavering dedication towards and love of family
- Volunteerism and charity surrounding time, energy and financial commitments to Veterans Organizations and Scholarship Programs.
- Listener-type Leadership as a Coach/Advisor to Non-Profit Boards of Directors.
- Humility as a soldier and as a person.
- Dedication to "Airborne All the Way" and "Preserving the Legacy".

What follows are some key Army citations, the obituary of his beloved wife, Margaret, and some testimonial letters—all combining to reinforce Bob's outstanding character and remarkable life of service and contribution to community, country and the world.

27 May 1948

SUBJECT: Letter of Recommendation

TO : Whom It May Concern

1. I have known T/Sgt Robert E. Chisola for a period of approximately five years. In February, 1943, I was commanding the 2nd Platoon, Co I, 508th Frecht Inf, and Sgt Chisola was my radio operator. At that time, his qualities of leadership, soldierly bearing, intelligence and devotion to duty were noted, and over a period of one year he was promoted to Platoon Communications Sgt and squad leader. Chisola served under me in that capacity from D-Day until late September 1944 in combat, and at all times his outstanding leadership and aggressiveness were an inspiration to the men under him. He was being considered for a battlefield commission during the Normandy Campaign but was hospitalized for wounds and evacuated. Sgt Chisola again served under me for a period of six months as a platoon sergeant of Co I, 508th Frecht Inf while doing occupation duty in Frankfurt in 1945. His platoon was repeatedly chosen as honor guards for visiting dignitaries and parades because of their outstanding appearance and military bearing, which was but a reflection of Sgt Chisola's qualities of leadership and devotion to duty. Among all the enlisted men that have served under me I would rate him as number one.

2. I would highly recommend him for any position requiring leadership ability, intelligence and trustworthiness.

*Francis L. Mahan*  
FRANCIS L. MAHAN  
1st Lt          Inf

HEADQUARTERS  
U.S. FORCES, EUROPEAN THEATER

GO 197

20 Aug 1945

LEGION OF MERIT

By direction of the President, under the provisions of AR 600-45, 22 September 1943, as amended, the Legion of Merit is awarded, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services during the respective periods indicated, to:

\*\*

\*\*

\*\*

Corporal Robert E. Chisolm (Army Serial No 18126484), Infantry, United States Army -- 18 September 1944 to 20 September 1944.

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\*\*

\*\*

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER:

OFFICIAL:

W. B. SMITH,  
Lieutenant General, USA, Chief of Staff.

s/ H H Newman  
H. H. NEWMAN,  
Colonel, AGD, Acting Adjutant General.

CITATION FOR LEGION OF MERIT

Corporal Robert E. Chisolm (Army Serial No 18126484), Infantry, United States Army, for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services, as Assistant Squad Leader, Company "I", 508th Parachute Infantry, from 18 to 20 September 1944. With all officers and non-commissioned officers casualties, Corporal Chisolm assumed command of his platoon and other nearby units. He then attacked, seized, and prepared a defense of the town of Beek, Holland. He disengaged his men, withdrawing all equipment and wounded, to a commanding position overlooking the town. His actions prevented the enemy from seizing Berg en Dal and the high ground which was a key terrain feature of the Regimental and Divisional objective. Corporal Chisolm's inspiring performance of duty reflects highest credit upon himself and the armed forces of the United States. Entered military service from Texas.

(SEAL)

A TRUE COPY

*Floyd L. Patterson*  
FLOYD L. PATTERSON  
Captain, AGC



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20315

IN REPLY REFER TO  
AGPB-2C

22 SEP 1966

SUBJECT: **Vietnamese Awards**

401  
Major Robert D. OHLSON  
N&S, Texas Section  
230 Exchange Bank Building  
Dallas, Texas 75222

1. In accordance with recently enacted legislation, you are authorized to accept and wear the decoration(s) awarded you by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.
2. In this connection, pertinent material is inclosed.
3. The provisions of paragraph 15 and Chapter 5, AR 672-5-1 are applicable.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Walter R. ...*  
Adjutant General

- 2 Incls  
1: Gallantry Cross  
w/Gold Star  
2: Miscellaneous papers



ĐƠN ĐỀ NGHỊ

TUYỂN DƯƠNG CÔNG TRẠNG TRƯỚC "QUAN-ĐOÀN"

VIỆT-NAM-CỘNG-HÒA  
QUÂN-ĐỘI VIỆT-NAM CUNG-ĐỘI  
VÙNG II CHIẾN-THUẬT

KHU 23 CHIẾN-THUẬT  
BỘ THAM-MƯU  
PHÒNG TỔNG-QUẢN-TRỊ

3623 CRENSHAW L.A., CA. 90008

20TH CENTURY PLASTICS, INC.

Tên : CHISOLM	LÝ DO ĐỀ NGHỊ
Họ : ROBERT EUGENE	Thiếu-Tá ROBERT EUGENE CHISOLM, số-quân 0-2102975 thuộc Lục-Quân Hoa-Kỳ Cố-Vấn Phòng 3/Sư-Đoàn 23 Bộ-Binh và Khu 23 đến Việt-Nam ngày 25.7.1963, được bổ nhiệm về Sư-Đoàn 23 Bộ-Binh - Khu 23 Chiến-Thuật ngày 28.7.1963 và dự trù hồi hương ngày 27.1964.
Cấp bậc : Thiếu-Tá Lục-Quân	Trong thời gian phục-vụ tại Sư-Đoàn 23 Bộ-Binh + Khu 23 Chiết-Thuật, Thiếu-Tá CHISOLM luôn-luôn cộng-tác chặt-chẽ với Bộ-Tư-Lệnh SĐ23BB + K23CT. trong nhiệm-vụ Cố-Vấn về hành-quân, tận-tụy và đặc-lực trong mọi trường hợp cần thiết khiến cho Sư-Đoàn 23 Bộ-Binh + Khu 23 Chiến-Thuật gặt hái được nhiều kết-qua mong muốn trong giai-đoạn bình-dịnh lãnh-thổ hiện nay.
Số-quân : 0-2102975	Đặc-biệt xuất-sắc trong các cuộc hành-quân lớn do Sư-Đoàn 23 Bộ-Binh + Khu 23 CT tổ chức từ đầu năm 1964 đến nay, Thiếu-Tá tích-cực nghiên-cứu, soạn thảo kế-hoạch hành-quân, theo dõi các cuộc hành-quân đang tiến-diễn, và tận tâm giúp đỡ Bộ-Tư-Lệnh Sư-Đoàn 23 + Khu 23 Chiến-Thuật về mọi phương diện rất hữu-hiệu, thuộc phạm-vi hành-quân, gây c Việt-Cộng nhiều tổn thất đáng kể về nhân-vu-khí và quân-dụng. /-
Đơn-vị : Lục-Quân Hoa-Kỳ (Cố-Vấn Phòng 3/SĐ23BB)	KBC.4.074, ngày 29 tháng 6 năm 1964
Thành-tích chiến-tranh :	Đại-Tá HOANG-XUAN-LAM Tư-Lệnh Sư-Đoàn 23 Bộ-Binh kiêm Tư-Lệnh Khu 23 Chiến-Thuật ký tên HOANG-XUAN-LAM
Những loại huy-chương đã có :	PHỒ BẢN ĐẠI-TÁ LƯU-VĂN-THANH Trưởng Phòng Tổng Quản Trị
Dành-sự đã được ân thưởng B.Q.H.C hay Q.C.B.T. chưa ?	

PROPOSED COMMENDATION SHEET  
for  
PRESENTATION OF AWARD  
at  
ARMY CORPS  
--\*

REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM  
VIETNAMESE ARMED FORCES  
2ND TACTICAL AREA  
23RD TACTICAL ZONE  
G-3 COMMAND  
----

No 1243/K23CT/TM/P3/HQ

(GALLANTRY CROSS WITH SILVER STAR)

Major ROBERT EUGENE CHISOLM, SN 0-2102975, U.S Army, arrived in Vietnam 25 July 1963 and 28 July 1963, assigned to the 23rd Infantry Division/23rd Tactical Zone as G-3 Advisor, will leave for States 23 July 1964.

While performing his duty at the 23rd Infantry Division Command/23rd Tactical Zone, Major CHISOLM has always cooperated closely with the 23rd Infantry Division Command/23rd Tactical Zone in the operational missions. His exceptional devotion to duty, coupled with an intense desire to help the 23rd Infantry Division Command/23rd Tactical Zone in the critical requirements, has given best results in the pacification of the territory. Regardless of the time, Major CHISOLM has participated in the major operations issued by the 23rd Infantry Division/23rd Tactical Zone from the beginning of the year until today, distinguished himself in making important contributions to the planning of large-scale operations, followed up the operations in progress and at the same time helped with accuracy the 23rd Infantry Division Command/23rd Tactical Zone in all fields, particularly in the operations causing heavy casualties to Viet Cong as well as loss of weapons, equipment and men.

APO. 4074, 25 June 1964  
for Major HOANG-VAN-THUA  
Deputy Chief of Staff - G-3  
Captain DIEU-NGOC-CHANH  
Assistant G-3

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## OBITUARIES

**Margaret Francis Chisolm**  
 (February 13, 1926 - August 15, 2009)

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Margaret Francis Chisolm nee Browning, loving wife and mother passed away Friday, August 15, 2009 in El Paso, TX. Margaret was born in Mertens, TX February 13, 1926 the youngest of four children of the union of Lloyd Lee Browning and Ola Wollard. She attended elementary and High School in Dallas TX and graduated with honors from Forest Avenue High School in 1943. She married her childhood sweetheart and love of her life Robert E. Chisolm on February 14, 1946 thus becoming his perpetual valentine. Of this union a daughter, her pride and joy, Cheryl Dawn was born. As a military wife Margaret became a world traveler visiting and



living in many of the countries in Europe and in Okinawa, Japan and Thailand. She captured the hearts of many of those with whom she had contact by immersing herself in the culture and traditions of the host country and learning their language. She was the first President of the 508th PIR, NCOs' Wives club in Frankfort, Germany in 1946. She served as Chairwoman of the American Red Cross Volunteers Blood Bank at Ft. Jackson, SC; Chairwoman of Red Cross Volunteers at the VA Hospital in Dallas, TX; Co-Chair of Red Cross Volunteers in Bangkok, Thailand and Chairwoman of Red Cross Volunteers at Ft. Leavenworth, KS. She received many honors from the American Red Cross for her many years as a volunteer. During the Vietnam conflict, she spent time in country in Da Nang one of the few military dependents to do so. While stationed at Ft. Leavenworth Margaret was co-owner and publisher of the Shop Talk, which was an on post publication of general information for the military. In her more than twenty-four years as an Army Wife and mother she epitomized, in all respects, what one would expect of a military wife. During the many

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absences of Robert, she carried on as head of the family, raising her daughter, and taking care of all other family business in an outstanding manner. As those in the military are aware, one of the greatest assets our country has is the military wife and Margaret was certainly such a treasure. After military retirement, Margaret & Robert owned and operated several ranch properties in East Texas and New Mexico. Once again, she showed her ability to quickly adjust to a new life style and became an outstanding ranchers' wife. In 1974, she accompanied Robert on their final move and settled in El Paso, TX. Margaret quickly immersed herself in the newly formed business, J-TEX Inc. and served as a Director and Secretary/Treasurer of the corporation. On October 3, 1984 in a Proclamation by Mark White, Governor of Texas she was commissioned a Yellow Rose of Texas. Until her illnesses precluded her from doing so Margaret remained very active in veterans organizations' with most of her time devoted to the Benavidez-Patterson All Airborne Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association. The Chapter's Scholarship Fund was a major recipient of her generosity. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Robert & Wallace Browning and her sister Allene Hunt nee Browning. She is survived by her husband of sixty three years, LTC Robert E. Chisolm (Ret), Anthony, NM, her daughter Dawn Doyle (Richard), Santa Teresa, NM, her niece Sandra Douglas, Dallas, TX, nephew Don Hunt (Vivian) Midlothian, TX and her brother-in-law Tom Chisolm (Emily), Texas City, TX. She will always be remembered for her beautiful, captivating smile, her dimples, flashing green eyes and bubbling personality and most of all her care and concern for those less fortunate than she. In lieu of flowers memorial contribution may be made to the B-P Chapter Scholarship Fund, 2608 Ft. Blvd., El Paso, TX 79930-2116. Visitation will be held from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Monday, August 24, 2009 at Sunset Funeral Homes-West. Graveside services will be held at 9:00 am, Tuesday, August 25, 2009 at Fort Bliss National Cemetery. Inurnment will follow at Fort Bliss National Cemetery. Services entrusted to Sunset Funeral Homes-West. Please visit on-line register book at [www.sunsetfuneralhomes.net](http://www.sunsetfuneralhomes.net)

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**Roy Benavidez-Robert Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter  
82nd Airborne Division Association, Incorporated  
2608 Fort Boulevard El Paso, Texas 79930-2116**

**Tel: (915) 562-9969**

**E-mail: JohCeb@msn.com**

**Website: www.bp82eptx.org**



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March 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

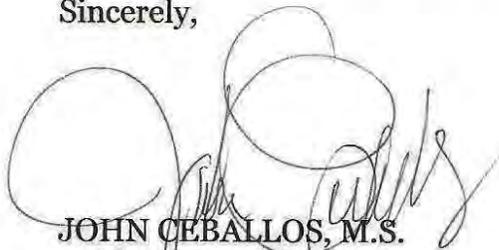
I am currently the Public Information Officer for the Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association. I have had the pleasure of knowing LTC (Ret.) Robert "Bob" E. Chisolm for over twenty years, and can attest to his many contributions to the Association, our Chapter and to the El Paso community.

Bob is not only a charter member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, but also of the Roy Benavidez-Robert Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter which he was instrumental in establishing in August 1985. Since then he has worked tirelessly to create and sustain one of the most successful community-engaged veteran service organizations ever to operate in El Paso, having served as Chapter Chairman, Treasurer, Staff Judge Advocate, Historian, and other positions on the Executive Board of Officers. The El Paso Chapter now ranks as the largest subordinate unit of the 82nd Airborne Division Association in the state of Texas and is ranked approximately, seventh largest within the entire national organization. Bob's leadership and efforts also resulted in the Chapter being the only subordinate unit to own its chapter property which enables the Benavidez-Patterson Chapter to organize frequent events that bring together airborne veterans, their families and the greater El Paso community.

Bob championed the establishment of the Chapter's Scholarship Fund and made numerous financial contributions to the Fund over the years. College-age children and, unique within the 82nd Airborne Division Association, grandchildren of current and former paratroopers may apply for scholarships. Bob's outreach efforts to all ages of school children, has been unwavering. He is a proud supporter of area high school R.O.T.C. programs and has addressed cadets during various graduation ceremonies. He has participated in reading programs at local elementary schools. And as a highly respected veteran of three separate conflicts, Bob has been guest speaker at many schools and local establishments, including the University of Texas at El Paso, where in November 2012 he was guest speaker for an important symposium on World War II history.

On November 11, 2014, the City of El Paso honored LTC (Ret) Robert E. Chisolm by renaming a local park in his honor in recognition of his meritorious and exemplary service to the El Paso community and to the country. Following his most distinguished twenty-nine-year Army career, Bob has remained steadfast in his commitment to his fellow man, community and country. I know I speak for all Chapter Members in expressing gratitude for Bob's outstanding leadership and contributions spanning nearly four decades.

Sincerely,



JOHN CEBALLOS, M.S.  
Public Information Officer  
Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter  
82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, Inc.

***"America's Guard of Honor"***

**AFRICA SICILY ITALY FRANCE THE NETHERLANDS BELGIUM GERMANY  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC VIETNAM GRENADA PANAMA PERSIAN GULF  
AFGHANISTAN IRAQ**

From the Desk of...

**CSM (Ret) Kenneth "Rock" Merritt**  
1516 Atwick Drive, Fayetteville NC 28304  
(910) 425-5818 · rock508pir@nc.rr.com



March 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I wanted to share my thoughts about Bob Chisolm's commitment to the original *508th PIR Association* and later to the *Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Association*. I also want to tell you what I think about Bob as a person and leader.

Bob Chisolm, his wife and his daughter supported the *508th PIR Association* 190%. I think he attended all 30 Reunions because I attended 28 out of 30 and he was there all 28 of those times. He never missed attending, even after the passing of his wife and of his daughter. Then he kept attending the Reunions of the *Family and Friends of the 508th Association* through 2014 when I think his doctor restricted him from travel. When I think about Bob, his wife and that young daughter—all I can say is "Airborne All the Way."

Bob was Trustee for probably 10 years with the original *508th PIR Association*. He was chair of the committee that drafted the Association's *Constitution & Bylaws* in 1995. An then in 2005, he served on my *Constitution & Bylaws Committee* with the *Family & Friends Association*. I remember him being Chair of the *Nominating Committee* for the *Family & Friends Association* up through 2012. Bob was a "true asset" to both these organizations for decades.

I knew all the WWII Veterans in that original *508th PIR Association*. To me, Bob was the best guy in the group. I have nothing bad to say about Bob Chisolm. He's a great leader and I am 100% with him forever. From what I know, he had a great Army career, then went on to be successful in business, but always took time to support our Associations and attend reunions. This guy is forever a 508th and 82nd Airborne guy!

Airborne All The Way!

*Kenneth J. Merritt*  
WWII 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION  
508th PIR.

## Chris Harris

Treasurer – *Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Association*

13 Eastern Ave, So Deerfield MA 01373

+1 310 729 2745 · harris.chris.j@att.net

[www.508PIR.org](http://www.508PIR.org)

01 March 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

The *Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Association* is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to honoring, preserving and communicating the history of all eras of 508th Paratroopers. The Association's website is the largest repository of 508th history in the world.

I first met LTC (Ret) Robert E. Chisolm at Fort Bragg, NC in October 2013 when attending an annual reunion of the Association. I have served on the Association's Board of Directors since 2015, many times turning to Bob for his wise counsel. Bob's distinguished Army career is well-documented, starting with his exploits in World War II with the 82nd Airborne Division's 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, I Company. He has clearly remained a life-time champion of the 508th PIR and the 82nd Airborne Division as evidenced by his support for both our Association and the Benavidez-Patterson Chapter in El Paso.

More specifically, Bob has encouraged collaboration between our Association and the Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter. I personally have been a more effective Board Member by benefiting from Bob's years of experience helping lead the El Paso Chapter. The *Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Association* has achieved significant progress in recent years, including successfully petitioning the IRS for 501(c)(3) status in 2016, launching a successful Lifetime Membership Program in 2016 and, starting in 2017, organizing annual Reunions that turn a small profit. These successes were enabled by leaders like Bob Chisolm who provided counsel, shared best practices and contributed financially.

Bob is a genuine leader and a perfect resource for a volunteer organization like our Association. He demonstrates humility, is soft-spoken and mild-mannered, and is a good-humored gentleman. He is an excellent listener who contributes wise advice and consistent encouragement. I can only offer sincere gratitude for Bob's contributions over the years helping our Association "Preserve the Legacy."

Respectfully,



Chris Harris

