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The Link for All 508th Veterans & Active Duty and Family & Friends
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Bob Chisolm Passes (1925-2022)





Legion of Merit – Operation Market Garden

Only such award the 508th PIR made to an enlisted man or noncommissioned officer during WWII

Triple Combat Infantry Badge Recipient

One of only 324 Soldiers in American History

82nd Airborne Division All American Hall of Fame – Class of 2019

One of only 57 Members elected from the hundreds of thousands who have served in the famed 82nd Airborne Division

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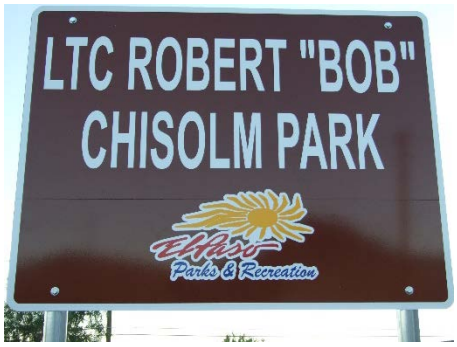
LTC (Ret) Robert E. Chisolm

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".

Roy Benavidez-Robert Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter
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Chartered by the United States Congress

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

March 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

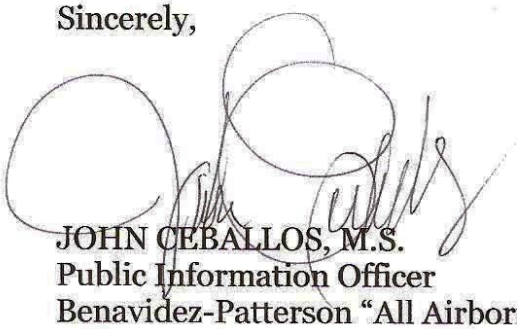
I am currently the Public Information Officer for the Benavidez-Patterson "All Airborne" Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association. I have had the pleasure of knowing LTC (Ret.) Robert "Bob" E. Chisolm for over twenty years, and can attest to his many contributions to the Association, our Chapter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

From the Desk of...

CSM (Ret) Kenneth "Rock" Merritt
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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. "Rock" Merritt
WWII 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION
508TH PIR

Chris Harris
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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

In Lieu of Flowers, Please Consider Donating to Bob Chisolm's Most-Prized Charity:

DAWN CHISOLM-DOYLE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

A 501(c)(3) Tax-Exempt Non-Profit Educational Fund

Mail Checks to: **Richard Doyle, Chairperson**
Dawn Chisolm-Doyle Memorial Scholarship Fund
PO Box 1151
Santa Teresa NM 88008-1151

OR

Pay by VENMO at RICHARD-DOYLE-5



Anthony, New Mexico – October 2021