



February 20, 2017

Welcome to the Membership of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Association!

It is a distinct pleasure for Oklahoma City to serve as your host community for this annual reunion. I can assure you that you will be warmly welcomed here for this event.

Oklahoma has a long and rich history of serving our military men and women. Today we are proud to be the home of six military installations with four branches of our Armed Forces represented – Army, Air Force, Coast Guard and Navy – at these installations. From Ft. Sill to Tinker Air Force Base, Altus and Vance, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant and the Coast Guard Institute, Oklahoma and Oklahoma City continue to play a significant role in the defense of our country.

In fact there are civilian employees working in these various facilities from almost all of the 77 counties in Oklahoma. And the pride exhibited in this state for our military and civilian staff's at the installations is truly heartfelt. We appreciate not only your service to the Nation but your presence here in Oklahoma City.

This City has a unique place in America's history. From the 1889 land run to the growth and history of this state, Oklahoma is a unique place. I encourage you to visit the many great attractions such as the Oklahoma City Zoo, Science Museum Oklahoma, 45th Infantry Division Museum, The Oklahoma History Center, The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and more. Take a rafting trip at Riversports Rapids in the Boathouse District and eat a steak at any of our numerous restaurants throughout the 621 square miles of the city. And most of all, spend some time at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum reflecting on the bombing of the Murrah Federal Building and the remarkable resilience this city showed in our recovery and rebuilding.

We are proud of our history and thankful that our military has played such an important role in our city. Most of all we appreciate you and wish you a productive, safe and enjoyable annual reunion.

All the best.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Carrier'.

Michael J. Carrier
President