

ACADIANA CHAPTER DISPATCH



ACADIANA CHAPTER 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION
ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER MEETS AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH, 415 ROBLEY DR. LAF, LA
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
(337) 684-6175 or Cell (337) 288-2730
2424 Pierre Matte Road, Branch, LA 70516

THE APRIL MEETING WILL BE HELD SATURDAY APRIL 14TH. IT WILL BE OUR SPRING BAR-B-QUE. THE LOCATION IS THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BUILDING AT THE HOLY CROSS CHURCH

SPRING BAR-B-QUE WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY APRIL 14TH (2ND SATURDAY AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BUILDING

If you have not sent in your meal form to attend our Spring Chapter Bar-B-Que PLEASE do so now. This has always been one of our biggest meetings and events. This is **NOT A FUND RAISER**, it is a **SOCIAL EVENT!** This is also a **FAMILY** event. Children are invited. We are not making any money on this, simply trying to break even. You have a choice of either chicken or hamburgers. We will also have baked beans, potato salad, Cole slaw and soft drinks. We ask anyone who wishes to bring a dessert. In the past, we have had plenty

of deserts. We ask you to arrive at 10:00 AM and we plan to serve the food around 11:30-12:00. The primary thrust is to VISIT and get to know each other better. **COME and JOIN WITH FELLOW AIRBORNE SOLDIERS AND THEIR FAMILIES!**

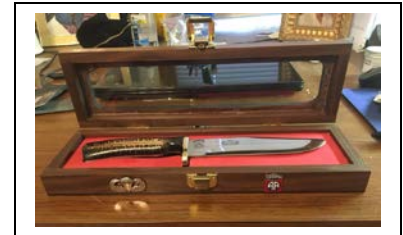
FILL OUT THE FORM AND SEND IT IN NOW!

Again, this is not a TAKE OUT function, this is a come, and visit sit down and eat function. We have had very good success over the years. The form will be attached to this newsletter or e-mailed to you. The cost is \$5.00 a person up to \$20.00 for a family of four. If you have more than four, it is still \$20.00. We are doing this to benefit our Chapter members and to give them something of value. Please plan to arrive at 1000 hours and gather to visit.

CUSTOM KNIFE TO BE RAFFLED FOR BENEFIT OF THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Chapter member Jim Kober has produced a phenomenal custom knife that he is donating to be raffled off to

raise money for the National 82nd Airborne Division Association.



The knife is hand crafted by Jim Kober member of the 82nd Abn Div Assn Acadiana Chapter, Lafayette, Louisiana

The Blade material is 1095 improved plow steel. The Handle material is Resin Pine Cone. Handle pins are Mosaic (Full House)

The Chapter is going to produce raffle tickets which will be sold from now until the 82nd Association Convention at Orlando, FL. They will be \$1.00 a piece or 6 for \$5.00. We ask our Chapter members to help in selling these in order to raise the most for the Association.

MEETING IN THE FT. POLK AREA FOR DECEMBER.

Our Chapter members at our December 2017 meeting (Saturday December 2, 2017) decided to hold a

meeting in the Ft. Polk, LA. We will meet at the American Legion Post 387 (Retired Military) in New Llano, LA. The address is: 426 Vernon St, New Llano, LA 71461. After the meeting, we will assemble at a restaurant for lunch. We will send out a strip map and more information as we draw closer to the date. Please plan to attend this meeting. Call me if you have questions regarding this (337) 288-2730.

HISTORY OF THE LOUISIANA AIRBORNE MEMORIAL BRIDGE AND MONUMENT

The Louisiana Airborne Memorial Bridge and Monument is a result of efforts by the members of the Acadiana Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association. In 1988 the National 82nd Airborne Division Association challenged its member Chapters to pursue having a bridge in their State designated an "Airborne Memorial Bridge."

The Acadiana (Louisiana) Chapter accepted this challenge by pursuing this by petitioning the Louisiana State Legislature requesting that they designate the 18 ½ mile elevated expressway bridge across the Atchafalaya basin as the "**Louisiana Airborne Memorial Bridge.**" After much work by a number of the Chapter members, including then State Representative Don Bacque

(a Chapter member) the Louisiana Legislature in 1989 passed Act 793 naming the Atchafalaya elevated bridge as the "Louisiana Airborne Memorial Bridge."

Chapter members raised the money paying for the monument and concrete benches you see in front of the Welcome Center. The purpose of the Monument is to raise the public's awareness of the contributions to American History made by the US Army (and other branches) Airborne Forces. The term Airborne forces refers to US Army paratroopers and glider borne troops. The US Army's Airborne units contributed greatly in winning WW II. The monument is located at Mile Marker 121 on I-10 East of Lafayette, LA.

ALL AMERICAN WEEK MAY 21-24TH FT. BRAGG N.C.

This year's "All American Week" will be May 21-24, 2018. For registration information, please go to the 82nd website and print up the forms. They are at: <http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html> If you cannot access the Internet PLEASE call me and I will send you hard copies. Plan on attending. As things stand the following are planning on going to All American Week. (1) Al Spinks, (2) Jim Kober, (3) Marcus "Mark" Melancon, (4) Matthew Lane, (5) Randy

Vidrine, (6) Roosevelt Solomon, and a number of other possible's. If you are coming, make room reservations as soon as possible. If you have never attended, you cannot imagine how much fun and enjoyment you will experience. On the Thursday, there will be a JRTX Joint Readiness Training Exercise including a large-scale jump at Sicily DZ. You will be thrilled to watch the Division run on Monday morning and then to rub shoulders with and eat breakfast with you present day troopers.

82ND 72ND ANNUAL CONVENTION ORLANDO, FL. 8-11 AUG 2018

The registration fee per person is \$110.00, which includes the Hospitality Room and banquets. The Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL. Deluxe Rms \$85.00. Call 800-204-7234 (refer to 82nd Abn Division Association. If you want a hard copy mailed for the registration, please let me know. I am e-mailing a copy with this newsletter.

NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS:

Juan Cruz – Lives at Forrest Hill, LA. Juan served at Ft. Polk with the 2nd ACR with the FA; with 25th ID in Hawaii FA, then with C Bury 319 FA 82nd 97-99; and then with 18th Abn Corps FA. Left Army as a SGT E-5.

mail, you an application form
please contact me.

**RENEWING CHAPTER
MEMBERS:**

Please check your membership card to see when it expires. If you are close, please renew.

We thank you for joining our Chapter or for renewing and staying "hooked up" in our Chapter and staying in the commo loop!

**ACADIANA CHAPTER
WEBSITE:**

Our website is located at:
www.acadianairborne.org/
Please bookmark this site on your computer for quick reference.

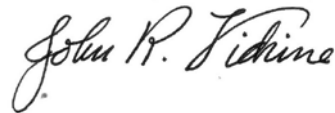
**ACADIANA CHAPTER
FACEBOOK PAGE:**

Please bookmark on your computer to check on it.
www.facebook.com/pages/Acadiana-Chapter-82nd-Airborne-Division-Association/174739489213482?fref=ts
Please copy and paste on your browser. We have announcements and pictures frequently on the site.

**RECRUITING NEW
MEMBERS.**

First, wear an Airborne Cap and you will smoke people out. We ask you to keep a copy of the application form and recruit new members! If you want, application forms call me. If you need me to

Thanks and "Airborne All
The Way!"



John R. "Randy" Vidrine
HHC 2/325th Dom Rep 1965
Chapter Chairman Acadiana
Chapter 82nd Abn Div Association
2424 Pierre Matte Road
Branch, LA 70516-3631
Home Ph (337) 684-6175
Cell Ph (337) 288-2730
E-mail: jrvidrine@aol.com

