



ACADIANA CHAPTER DISPATCH

ACADIANA CHAPTER 82<sup>ND</sup> 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 DEC MEETING WILL BE HELD SATURDAY DEC 1<sup>ST</sup>. THE MEETING WILL BE AT THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 387 (RETIRED MILITARY) IN NEW LLANO, LA. THE TIME WILL BE 1000 HRS.**

**DECEMBER MEETING IN FT. POLK AREA**

The December meeting will be held on Saturday Dec 1, 2018. 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. We will begin the meeting at 1000hrs. After the meeting, we will assemble at Kim's restaurant for lunch. Kim's is nearby at 3010 Colony Blvd. New Llano, LA 71461. I am sending out a strip map on the location, by mail or by e-mail. Please plan to attend this meeting. Call me if you have questions regarding this (337) 288-2730. For those in the Ft. Polk, LA area please spread the word with veterans and active duty soldiers who are 82<sup>nd</sup> Division veterans or Airborne veterans of any unit.

**ACADIANA CHAPTER'S 38<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANQUET WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019 AT CHEF ROY'S.**

I am attaching (or enclosing, if you get this by USPS) a copy of the form for the meal. This is our largest event of the year and all who come get to meet and visit with members you may not see at the regular meetings. Please fill the form out and send in your funds as soon as possible.

Our guest speaker is Colonel COL Jarrett A. Thomas II who is the Ft. Polk, and JRTC Garrison Commander. He is a Master Parachutist and has served in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division as a Brigade S1 and as Deputy Chief of Staff of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Please come, welcome Colonel Thomas, and enjoy a great "Airborne" evening with fellow paratroopers. You have this newsletter and one more before the banquet. **Please send in the meal form with your funds as soon as possible.**

Our Anniversary Banquet is the best attended event of the year. I ask that you

come and enjoy the fellowship and "Airborne" Camaraderie we share at this event. This is an event with a military orientation where we celebrate the United States military Airborne forces (all branches) and our own "Airborne" service. Remember no matter which unit or era we served in, we all put our knees in the breeze.

**CHAPTER VISIT TO JENNINGS LA WAR VETERANS HOME**

On Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> our Chapter again visited the Louisiana War Veterans Home at Jennings, LA. This event has always been organized by Roosevelt Solomon, (former Chapter Chairman and current Trustee). Walmart donates donuts and we purchase Orange Juice to serve to the veterans who are residents at the home. Chapter members Marcus "Mark" Melancon, Terry O'Connor, Captain Stepfan Cormier (Apache helicopter pilot with 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Aviation BDE) who is attending college for a graduate degree (courtesy of the US Army), Jack

Jaubert, Col. (Ret.) Hector Ponton, his wife Bernadette, Roosevelt Solomon and wife Octavia, Odile Thibodeaux, Randy Vidrine and his two grandson's Christian and Charlie Champagne assembled at 0930 to serve donuts and orange juice and most importantly visiting with the veterans.

### **PROPOSED TRIP TO JUMP SCHOOL AT FT. BENNING GA.**

Another reminder about our proposed trip to Ft. Benning, GA. a proposed two-day visit is "tentatively" March 14-15, 2019. This will be a Thursday and Friday. We will travel there on Wednesday and come back on the Saturday.

If you have an interest in this, please contact me.

### **DONATIONS TO THE "HOLIDAY TROOP SUPPORT"**

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Association is once again gearing up for our "Holiday Troop Support" program which will provide Holiday meals to 500 82nd Airborne Division Families for the Thanksgiving Holiday and 500 meals for the Christmas Holiday. We will work with the Division Chaplain's office to provide these meals to deserving Families of our Active Duty 82nd Airborne Division Troops. This project was a huge success over the last two years and we accomplished our goal of

providing 1000 meals over the Holiday season. Let's make this year as big of a success and provide the Troopers and their Families with another 1000 meals donated by the Association. Please send donations so that we can provide these meals over the Holiday Season. For those who have already donated, we thank you for your kind support of the Troops. For those who would like to donate, please send a check with "Holiday Troop Support" marked at the bottom made out to the **82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association P.O. Box 87482, Fayetteville, N.C. 28304-7482**, or you can use the donate button on the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association website and annotate "Holiday Troop Support" in the "Put my donation towards" line. The website address is: <http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/> This program will have a direct impact on the lives of our Troopers. Thank you for your support.

### **CHAPTER DONATIONS TO SUPPORT SOLDIERS AFTER HURRICANE FLORENCE**

The Chapter voted to and made a donation of \$1,000.00 to assist the association in helping soldiers negatively affected by hurricane Florence. Besides the Chapters donation a number of Chapter members sent in individual donations.

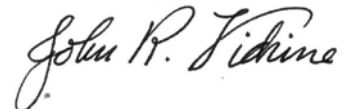
### **NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS:**

**Capt. Stefan J. Cormier** – lives in Lafayette, LA. He served in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Aviation Brigade as an Apache pilot. He has served three combat tours in Afghanistan. Currently he is pursuing a graduate degree at UL in Lafayette, LA. We are pleased is renewing his membership in our Chapter.

### **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! Applications can be downloaded from our Chapter Website.

Thanks and "Airborne All The Way!"



John R. "Randy" Vidrine  
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