



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**

**ACADIANA CHAPTER'S
NEXT MEETING IS
SCHEDULED FOR
SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6,
2016, AT HOLY CROSS
CATHOLIC CHURCH AT
415 ROBLEY DRIVE IN
LAFAYETTE, LA, AT 1100
HRS (11:00 A.M). WE WILL
EAT AT A NEARBY
RESTAURANT
AFTERWARDS**

**THE 36th ANNIVERSARY
BANQUET WAS HELD
SATURDAY JANUARY 16,
2016**

The Acadiana Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association celebrated its 36th Anniversary with a Banquet at Chef Roy's restaurant in Rayne, LA. Our guest speaker was Brigadier General Timothy P. McGuire. CSM Jeremiah Inman accompanied him along with his aide and his driver. We had 125 people in attendance. General McGuire spoke about the mission of Ft. Polk and the JRTC and pointed out that it is one of the three premier US Army training sites. The JRTC conducts realistic training for light infantry units

units who spend 14 days of extremely realistic training. The 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion stationed at Ft. Polk is the full time Opposition Force (OPFOR) who acts as the opponents to the US Army Infantry units who come for the intense 14-day training rotations. This training pays off big in giving the units a true understanding of what they will face on the battlefield. As the old saying goes, "the sweat you expend in training prevents the expending of blood on the battlefield.

The CG mentioned a "Box Tour" of the JRTC soon and invited us to attend. Our Chapter attended one of these a number of years ago and we look forward to information on the next one.

If you missed this Banquet, you missed a very nice evening. We were pleased to have a number of WWII veterans. Former SSG Jack Rogillio of the 506th PIR, 101st, Mr. Dwight "Bo" Ramsay 11th Airborne Division, and SGM (R.) Cyprien Bourque WWII 8th Infantry Div and Korean War Regimental SGM of the 5th Regimental Combat Team.

We had three combat jump veterans present. They

was Jack Rogillio who jumped into Normandy and Holland with the 101st in WWII. John Schooff who made the second combat jump in the Korean War of the 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. In addition, our Chapter Secretary Treasurer Mark Melancon who made the combat jump into Panama on 20 December 1989.

**FEBRUARY MEETING
WILL BE DISCUSSING
SPRING BAR-B-Q AND FT.
POLK JRTC BOX TOUR**

Plan to make the meeting and help in discussing our upcoming events!

AIRBORNE HISTORY!

Why are the 34' towers set at 34 feet? I am sure you may have heard (I did) that the Army did studies to find the height that would instill the greatest fear in the trainee undergoing Jump School.

Of course, the real story is a lot simpler. When the Test Platoon was inventing Jump School, (and that is what they did), they did not have 34' towers. It was decided that the training on "exiting

an aircraft" was necessary, and that a platform from a height would, prepare the trainees for the sensation of doing so. It was determined that a harness would allow them to fall so far and then that they would travel below a wheeled trolley down a steel cable to a mound. They would then be released from the trolley and run back to report to an NCO who graded their technique. This was normally never up to par and you would be told to jump again (and again and again).

I read an article written by an NCO (First Sergeant I think) in the original test platoon who was given the job of building the first jump tower. He stated that he bought four 34' telephone poles and had them buried 6' in the ground. That folks is the true story of how the 34' tower came to be and was built to that height.

CHAPTER SICK CALL

I found out yesterday evening, (Monday the 1st) that our good friend and Chapter stalwart SGM (R.) Joe Mitchell suffered a slight heart attack and is in the St. Francis Cabrini hospital in Alexandria. I talked to him this morning and he told me they would keep him perhaps a couple of more days. Keep Joe in your prayers for a quick and complete recovery. Also, please continue to keep me in your prayers as I recuperate from the two surgeries I have undergone.

ACADIANA CHAPTER WEBSITE:

Again, thanks go to our Chapter Member Matthew Lane for setting up our new website. It is located at: www.acadianaairborne.org/ Please bookmark this site on your computer for quick reference. Matthew has placed our Chapter Newsletters there along with a Chapter application form for the 82nd Association and Chapter membership. A copy of the application form can be printed from the website. If you would, please go there to print out copies to keep available to help recruit new members. If you run up on a "qualified" veteran, that is a person who has earned the parachutist badge, please get their information and get it to me for follow up.

ACADIANA CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE:

The Chapter has and has had a Facebook page, which was set up by Chapter member John Hurth's daughter. The link is long, but worth bookmarking 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.

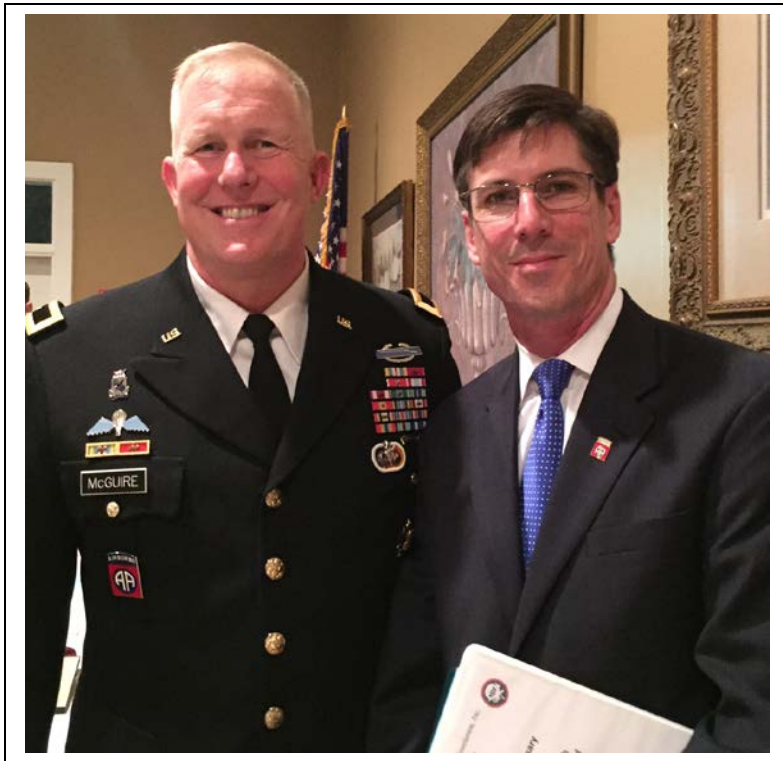
RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.

We ask you to keep a copy of the application form and recruit new members! If you want, application forms call me. I will have some at the meeting on Saturday July 11th 2015. Be sure to ask me about this if you want to have a copy handy. I keep some in my vehicles. If you need me to mail, you an application form please contact me.

Thanks and "Airborne All The Way!"



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BG Timothy P. McGuire and Vice Chairman Matthew D. Lane Jr. Master of Ceremonies for our 36th Anniversary Banquet.

SGM (R.) Paul Cador and his lovely wife Barbara.



CSM Darrell Minix; SGM (R.) Joe Mitchell, CSM (R.) Grady Thomas; SGM Cyprien Bourque (WWII & Korea), SGM (R.) Paul Cador; CSM (R.) David Bynog.