

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 NOVEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5TH, 2016 AT THE HOLY CROSS CHURCH AT 415 ROBLEY DRIVE IN LAFAYETTE, MEETING TO START AT 1030 HRS IN BLD D. WE WILL EAT AT A RESTAURANT AFTERWARDS.

TRIP TO SW LA WAR VETERANS HOME, OCT 15, 2016, JENNINGS, LA.

Former Chapter Chairman and current Chapter Trustee, Roosevelt Solomon again organized a Chapter visit to the Louisiana War Veterans Home in Jennings, LA. Members Tim Valair, Tom Grote, Roosevelt Solomon and Randy Vidrine began handing out donuts, orange juice and coffee to the veterans starting at 1300 in the afternoon. A band was there for the veterans listening pleasure playing Cajun and Country music. We met a friend of Roosevelt Solomon Harvey Gillam who joined the US Army in 1950 with Roosevelt Solomon. We also met SGM (R.) Wm. Compton

who had served at Ft. Polk, LA when he retired. He was very happy to have us there to visit him.

36TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET FOR THE CHAPTER. JAN 21, 2017

Please plan on attending our Anniversary Banquet on Saturday September 21, 2017. Our guest speaker will be the JRTC and Fort Polk Command Sergeant Major, Jeremiah Inman. A meal form is going out with this newsletter. The prices are the same as last year

CSM JEREMIAH INMAN



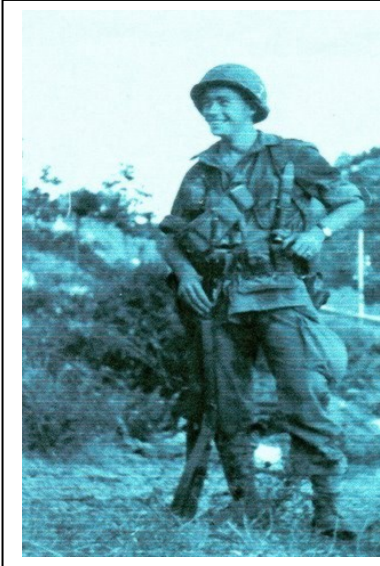
Feel free to invite family or friends to gather with us in

this celebration of our Acadiana Chapter of the 82nd Abn Div. Assn. I encourage every member who has never come, to **make an effort to attend.** You will enjoy yourself in the company of fellow "Airborne" veterans. The form to attend and for your meal choice is included or attached to the e-mail. **Please fill this out as soon as possible and send it in with your funds. January 16th 2017 is the cutoff date.**

OCT MEETING AT LA AIRBORNE MEMORIAL BRIDGE MONUMENT.

The Chapter members meet on October 22nd at the Monument at Mile Marker 121 to commemorate the dedication of the Bridge and Monument which occurred 20 October 1990. This was after the LA State Legislature passed a resolution (Act 793) naming the 18 ½ mile elevated bridge over the Atchafalaya spillway on I-10. We had 20 members who came and then went to Buck and Johnny's restaurant in Breaux Bridge, LA for a very good lunch and time together.

**PASSING OF JAMES P.
"JIM" WELSH WWII VET.**



We were saddened to hear from Chapter member Shane Stewart that WWII 551st PIB veteran James P. "Jim" Welsh passed away on April 20th in Baton Rouge, LA. We weren't aware of it at the time. Jim made the combat jump into Southern France on 15 August 1944 as part of the 1st Airborne Task Force. They fought in the Battle of the Bulge and were part of the attacking force at Rochelival, Belgium. They took 85% casualties. Jim stayed in the Army for a period and served in Germany as part of the occupation force. He moved to Louisiana and worked for the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development until he retired. Jim served in the Chapter as Chapter Chairman in the early 1990's and worked hard to achieve the Legislative vote naming the bridge over the Atchafalaya

as the LA Airborne Memorial Bridge. Our condolences go to the family.

**82ND ABN DIV ASSN'S
ALUMNI BOOK**

We received information from Fayetteville that the 82nd Alumni Book that you may have paid for (I did) is being held up, but that it will be produced and shipped. For information from them you can check their website: customerservice@publishingconcepts.com or you can call: 1-800-782-1590.

**VISIT THE 82ND AIRBORNE
DIVISION ASSOCIATION'S
WEB PAGE**

This can be found at: <http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/> Once you are there you can view the quarterly "Paraglide" magazine, which is only available on the Internet.

We hope that at some time in the future it can again be available in a hard copy.

An article for the Fall issue has been sent to them. Look for it.

**ACADIANA CHAPTER
WEBSITE:**

Check out our website at: www.acadianairborne.org/

**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. If you need me to mail, you an application form please contact me.

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: jvidrine@aol.com



Jennings, LA War Veterans Home: L. to R. Tom Grote; Tim Valair; seated Harvey Gillam; Roosevelt Solomon, behind Mr. Gillam, Randy Vidrine and SGM (R.) Wm. Compton. We distributed donuts, coffee and orange juice to the veterans there. Roosevelt Solomon organized this visit.



Chapter members seated on the benches after the commemoration of the Dedication of the Louisiana Airborne Memorial Bridge which occurred on October 20th 1990. After the picture was taken we proceeded to Buck and Johnny's restaurant In Breaux Bridge, LA where we enjoyed a great lunch and visiting with each other.

