

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 ACADIANA CHAPTER'S APRIL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY APRIL 15th, 2017 AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH IN LAFAYETTE, LA. THIS WILL BE AT THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BUILDING ON THE CHURCH GROUNDS. THIS WILL BE OUR APRIL MEETING!

The Spring Bar-B-Que will be held on **Saturday April 15, 2017** at the Holy Cross Catholic Church Knights of Columbus building on the Church grounds.

The cost (again) will be \$5.00 per person. For families coming with more than four, it will still be \$20.00. We are not trying to do anything but have a good time and break even. A form will go out with this newsletter (either by e-mail) or a hard copy for those receiving the Newsletter by USPS.

The menu is the same as in the past: Chicken or Hamburgers + Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Potato Salad and Soft Drinks.

This is a social event and the intent is for everyone to come together to visit and socialize with fellow paratroopers and veterans.

We will serve the food at 1200 hrs. We can stay and visit after eating and that is what usually happens.

If you haven't sent in the form with payment (which is \$5.00 per person please do so now. If there are four people in your party or more it will be \$20.00), I am again attaching the meal form to this newsletter. Please come and make this a successful event.

2017 SOUTHWEST MEMORIAL AIRBORNE DAYS:

Our Acadiana Chapter is hosting the 2017 Southwest Airborne Days activities in Lafayette, LA on June 9 – 11, 2017. The host hotel is the Ramada Inn in Lafayette, LA at 2032 SW Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, LA 70501.

This is a gathering of our Louisiana Chapter (Acadiana Chapter) of the 82nd Airborne Division and the five (5) Texas Chapter's plus the Mississippi Chapter and the 81st and 30th Chapters of the Special Forces Association. Association will be hosting the multi state (5 Texas Chapter's plus the Louisiana Chapter and the Mississippi Chapter "Southwest Airborne Memorial Days"

Airborne reunion June 9-11, 2017 in Lafayette, LA.

I am attaching a copy of the registration form to this e-mail and to the hard copy USPS newsletters we send out. I hope that you can all come on down to Lafayette to enjoy a great get "Airborne" together. One of the things you can opt for is the "swamp" tour on Saturday (or you can go to the tour of Vermillionville (the original name for Lafayette). This is an authentic gathering of old Acadian houses, a school house and a Catholic Church that date back, to the 1800's some to the late 1700's.

We will have a lunch as part of your registration on Friday and Saturday and a Banquet on Saturday evening and a great breakfast after a field style Chapel service (short) conducted by an Airborne Chaplain from Ft. Polk, LA.

There will be a hospitality room open on Friday and Saturday with munchies and drinks (water, soda and beer). We will have my friend retired CSM Cravis Tabron here with his fine embroidered Airborne shirts and perhaps a couple of

other vendors in attendance.

If you haven't been to Southwest Louisiana, you will be in for a treat. The charge for this outstanding event is \$82.00 per person.

Please invite your friends to come to so you can have your own reunion within this three day event. The registration and Ad purchase forms are located at the back of this newsletter. The Chapter is soliciting ads for the Program book which each person who registers will receive. I hope you plan to attend this event because it is a great way to meet other paratroopers of our Association and have a great time. Les le bon temps roule or Let the good times roll.

AIRBORNE HISTORY!

If any of you have something that you would like me to run – including your jump school or Airborne experiences, please send it to me as a Microsoft Word document, which I can use in the Newsletter. Please make it 500 words or less. JRV

RENEWING CHAPTER MEMBERS

Vernon J. Blanchard – Lives in Breaux Bridge, LA. Vernon served with 11th Airborne Div 511th PIR 11th Abn Div 505th ABG 1956-1958. He also served in the 20th Special Forces Group in the detachment at Breaux Bridge, LA.

Ronald Stratton Lives in West Monroe, LA. He served with HQ Special Troops 82nd Div Hqs Special Troops 1954-57.

We thank both for renewing and staying in our Chapter and remaining in the "Airborne commo loop!"

ACADIANA CHAPTER WEBSITE:

Check out our new website. It is located 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. You must tell them we need a DD214 or other document showing the issuance of the parachutist badge (Jump Wings). Make sure the DD214 indicates "Separation under Honorable Conditions" or a copy of their Honorable Discharge. This is a REQUIREMENT of the Association.

ASSOCIATION EVENTS OF IMPORTANCE

ALL AMERICAN WEEK 2017 (100TH Anniversary of the 82nd Division): Planning continues for the AAW and registration is now open.

All American Week will be held at Ft. Bragg, N.C. May 22-25th 2017. The registration and flyer is published in the Fall Paraglide and is available at

the 82nd website under Events. Please be sure to use the POC when making hotel reservations. With this being the 100th Anniversary of the 82nd Division, the Division is working to make this year's AAW a very special occasion for everyone, and will be adding special events. If you have never been back for AAW, then this is the time to come and see the amazing display of the greatest Division in the world. There will be a Veteran portion to the Division review again this year and we hope to have hundreds participate again when the Division honors its Veterans as we conduct a pass in review alongside our active duty Brothers on Sicily Drop Zone. It is a great event to be a part of and no 82nd Airborne Division Veteran should miss it. The Fayetteville Chapter will again be again being whipping up a fantastic BBQ for the attendees at Moon Hall and promises to outdo themselves again this year. The Association is excited about this year's AAW, and it hopes to see all the old faces and some new ones for this year's event. Do not be that guy again who says I wish I had gone.

Again, registration for AAW is online and can be paid for on-line or can be done by completing the application and enclosing a check and mailing it to the Association. The cost is \$100 and you are sure to find the money well spent. There is also a 2017 AAW Challenge Coin this year that

can be purchased with your registration or at AAW. They will also be available for purchase on-line and you can have them shipped to you or pay with your registration and pick them up when you arrive to register at AAW, thereby saving on postage. The Challenge Coin is available for viewing on the Association's website and on the registration form, so check it out.

will be held at Ft. Bragg, N.C. May 22-25th 2017. I sent out forms to attend this earlier. IF YOU NEED ONE CONTACT ME.

2017 NATIONAL

CONVENTION: Planning continues for the 71st National Convention August 9-13, 2017 in Orlando, FL as well as for celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the 82nd Division. Registration is \$100 per person, which includes 2 formal dinners and food and drink in the hospitality rooms. The host hotel will again be the Rosen Centre, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL, just minutes from many of the Orlando vacations attractions. The rooms are \$85 per standard room. Bring your family and take advantage of the great rates at a world class hotel in one of our Nation's premier vacation spots. Please go to the following link for more information and to register today!

<http://www.paratrooperdz.com/2017-national-convention/>

Check out the 2017 82nd Airborne Division

Association 71st Annual Convention –ORLANDO Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/479575888817905/?ref=ts>

I sent out forms to attend earlier. IF YOU NEED ONE CONTACT ME.

Thanks and "Airborne All The Way!"



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