



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 FEB MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 2ND 2019. WE MEET IN BUILDING D AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH IN LAFAYETTE, LA. 415 ROBLEY DR. LAFAYETTE, LA. 1030 HRS.

OUR 38TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2019 AT CHEF ROYS WAS A HUGE SUCCESS

We had 92 in attendance for our Anniversary Banquet. Our guest speaker Colonel Jarrett A. Thomas II and his wife Telisha were well received. I had more than a few remark that his address to our members was the best they heard.

The king cakes given out were: Oldest veteran, Mr. Bo Ramsay (WWII 11th Airborne Division). Traveled furthest was to Jerry Meador who came from Gulfport Mississippi. The drawing winner for a king cake was: SGM (R.) Paul Cadour.

The 50/50 drawing winner was Ralland Boone (101st veteran).

Colonel Thomas told the gathering that when he went

through Jump School, he was 36 years old and the oldest in his class (he was a Major). He also stated that he was afraid of height. Well, I will admit that I too am afraid of height, but not afraid to jump from an aircraft with a parachute. There is a difference. I just had ultimate confidence in my equipment and training. Colonel Thomas is a Master Parachutist, so he is not afraid of jumping.

FEBRUARY MEETING IS SATURDAY FEB 2, 2019 AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH BUILDING "D"

We will have our first regular meeting on Saturday February 2nd at 1030 hrs. Please make plans to attend. We will make plans and finalize who does what for our April Chapter Bar-B-Que.

CHAPTER SPRING BAR-B-QUE APRIL 13, 2019

The date for this is Saturday April 13th which is the Saturday before Easter weekend. We plan to hold

this at the Knights of Columbus building which is at the eastern edge of the Holy Cross Church property. I am putting a meal form for you to fill out and send in. Please do so as soon as possible. This is a family affair and children are welcome. This is **NOT A TAKEOUT event** and we do not make money on this. We would like to break even. **The purpose is to visit and enjoy each others company.** The Anniversary Banquet and our Spring Bar-B-Que are our best-attended events. **PLEASE** put it on your calendar. You are receiving a meal form with a cutoff date of Monday 8 April 2019.

PASSING OF WWII 11TH ABN VETERAN – AL DUNN

We are sad to report that Mr. Albert "Al" J. Dunn passed away on the 27th of January. He was a veteran of the 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific theater. After the war he was sent to Korea as part of an American occupation force. Upon return to the United States, he earned a civil engineering degree at NSU and worked for the Louisiana Department to

Transportation and Development. Al had been a long time (and life member) of the Acadiana Chapter. A contingent of our Chapter members and other veterans were at his wake including myself, CSM (R.) Grady Thomas, SGM (R.) Joseph Mitchell and others. Farewell old friend.

PROPOSED TRIP TO FT. BENNING, GA.

We have to start over again on this. Tentatively our itinerary will be travel (by POV) to Ft. Benning, GA on Wednesday, observe jump school training on Thursday and attend the class graduation on Friday. We will visit the US Army Infantry Museum on Friday and probably the Ranger Museum. Travel home on Saturday. If you are interested in going, please let us know.

ALL AMERICAN WEEK 2019

All American Week for 2019 will be May 20-23rd. If you have never attended, you don't know what you have missed. I can assure you, that you will have a GREAT time.

It is an amazing deal, especially if you served at Ft. Bragg. If you did not and are a paratrooper, you will enjoy being with so many paratroopers. The young soldiers who are following in our footsteps are amazing

and you will be proud to meet them.

You need to call NOW to get registered to be in either Moon Hall or Hardy Hall. I already have my reservation. **Call 910-853-7624 for Ms. Monica Wells. The group code for the special price there is AAW.** Like I said, do not hesitate or you will not be able to get into Moon Hall. Moon Hall is where the 82nd Association Hospitality suite is located. It is the main gathering place.

You need to register with the 82nd Association. The registration fee this year is \$110.00. Make your check to "82nd Airborne Division Association" and mail it to: 82nd Airborne Division Association; P.O. Box 87482; Fayetteville, N.C. 28304-7482. This covers the cost of the hospitality suite, the meal with the Fayetteville Chapter at their clubhouse and the closing banquet on Thursday. I am attaching the PDF Registration form with this newsletter. If you receive your newsletter by USPS and want a form call, I and I will send it.

If you have any questions, please call me.

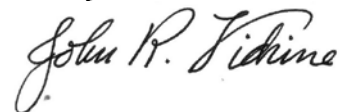
RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.

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.

Membership is now \$35.00 per year for annual members and is \$350.00 for a life membership – no matter what age you are.

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

