



ACADIANA CHAPTER DISPATCH

ACADIANA CHAPTER 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER MEETS AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH 415 ROBLEY DR., LAF, LA

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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**The December Meeting
will be held on Saturday
Dec 2nd (the 1st Sat.) at
Holy Cross Church at
415 Robley, Drive,
Lafayette, LA at 1030 hrs
In Building D**

**The Chapter's visit to
the Jennings War
Memorial Home was a
success.**

We had eight who traveled to the LA War Veterans Home in Jennings, LA arriving at 1000 hrs. They were: LTC (R.) Ken Lanzalaco; Matthew Lane Jr. and his father Matthew Lane Sr.; Roosevelt and Octavia Solomon; Tim Valair; Terry O'Connor and Randy Vidrine. A friend of the Chapter and 101st Vietnam Veteran Odile Thibodeaux was also there. We handed out donuts and orange juice or coffee to the veteran residents. The best part was visiting with them, which they really appreciate.

Thanks go to Roosevelt for organizing this and in getting the donuts and orange juice from Walmart in Crowley, LA. Roosevelt has had a

relationship with the management there over the years and we appreciate their assistance in this.

Again, the biggest benefit was that we visited with the veterans.

**DECEMBER MEETING
SAT. DEC 2ND AT HOLY
CROSS CHURCH AT 1030
HRS.**

We ask all members to come to our monthly meeting in order to conduct Chapter business. We begin at 1030 Hrs. and finish at 1130 hrs. We will then travel to a restaurant that we decide upon for lunch. This is a great time for "Airborne" Camaraderie and fellowship, which is the best feature of our organization. I belong to a number of Veterans Organizations, the American Legion, and the VFW and attend their meetings. They are great groups, but I find myself more at ease and in my right place in our "Airborne" organization. We have more in common than with other veterans and can relate to each other. What better people to be around. Come and join in with fellow paratroopers as we meet

and work together to strengthen our Chapter and community.

**37TH ANNIVERSARY
BANQUET TO BE HELD
ON SATURDAY JANUARY
20, 2018 IN RAYNE, LA.**

Our guest speaker will be the JRTC and Ft Polk Chief of Staff Colonel Chris Moretti. He had been the 82nd Division Artillery Commander, so we look forward to hearing from a long serving paratrooper as our guest speaker. Please sign up for this, as I will have the meal forms for this event with this Chapter newsletter. Again, the date is Saturday January 20th, 2018 in Rayne, LA at Chef Roy's restaurant. The address is: 1131 Church Point Hwy, Rayne, LA 70578. The social hour will be 1800 hrs and the Banquet will begin at 1900 hours. Let's welcome Colonel Moretti to South Louisiana.

Meal forms attached or sent with the e-mail.

**ALL AMERICAN WEEK
2018 AT FT. BRAGG, N.C.**

The dates for this GREAT Airborne reunion are May

21-24, 2018. I recommend arriving the weekend before, at least the Sunday. This will allow you to be at the intersection of Ardennes and Longstreet for the 0630 kickoff of the run of the entire Division led by the CG and the Division Staff.

I always like to go to the mess hall (whichever one is serving) to enjoy a great Army breakfast with the troops. It is a great pleasure as a veteran of the Division to meet and visit with these great young American men and women serving in our great 82nd Airborne Division.

I will attach (or mail) information on registering for "All American Week." This includes a JRTX at Sicily DZ on Thursday with a mass tactical jump (wind allowing). There are many other things to enjoy and everyone needs to go to the 82nd Museum and the "Airborne and Special Operations" Museum" in Fayetteville on Hayes street near the Train Station.

AIRBORNE HISTORY!

Douglas DC 3 or C47

The military career of the Douglas DC series began in 1936. The Army Air Corps had been transformed into the Army Air Forces in 1941, and it selected a modified version of the DC-3 — the C-47 Skytrain — to become its standard transport aircraft. A reinforced fuselage floor and the addition of a large cargo door were the only major

modifications. Other changes included the fitting of cargo hooks beneath the center wing section and the removal of the tail cone to mount a hook for towing gliders.

As a supply plane, the C-47 could carry up to 6,000 pounds of cargo. It could also hold a fully assembled jeep or a 37 mm cannon. As a troop transport, it carried 28 soldiers in full combat gear. As a medical airlift plane, it could accommodate 14 stretcher patients and three nurses.

The British and the Australians designated it the Dakota (a clever acronym composed of the letters DACoTA for Douglas Aircraft Company Transport Aircraft). The aircraft operated from every continent in the world and participated in every major battle. By the end of World War II, more than 10,000 had been built. For all of its official and unofficial names, it came to be known universally as the "Gooney Bird"; General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in Europe, termed it one of the most vital pieces of military equipment used in winning the war.

C-47s remained in active military service long after the end of World War II. They played a critical role in the 1948 Berlin Airlift and saw action in the Korean and Vietnam wars. Some of our Chapter members made

jumps from the C-47 in their military careers.

RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.

Keep your antennae tuned for "Airborne" veterans. Keep a copy of the Chapter's application form handy to give to anyone you meet who tells you they are a paratrooper. Be sure to tell them that we **must have a copy of their DD 214** showing the award of the Parachutist Badge **or a copy of their Jump School Certificate**, or any other official document showing issuance of jump wings. **We also must have proof of Honorable Discharge**, which will be on the DD214 or by copy of an Honorable Discharge. Wear your Airborne cap or shirt.

Thanks and "Airborne All The Way!"



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