

ACADIANA CHAPTER
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

CHARTERED BY THE US. CONGRESS
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The Acadiana Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division invites qualified veterans to join our Chapter.

Eligibility Requirements are: Any person who has been assigned or attached, by competent order to the 82nd Airborne Division is eligible for membership in this Association whether or not they are parachute or glider qualified. An example of this is men who were replacements to the 3rd Brigade in Vietnam who were not jump qualified. Any person who has served in parachute or glider status with any other recognized Airborne unit is also eligible for membership in this Association as are all who have completed jump school and were awarded the Parachutist Badge. **Persons who served in any Airborne unit other than the 82nd Airborne Division must be authorized to wear parachute or glider qualification badges.** All members of this Association, except honorary, may have a voice, vote, and hold office.

Meetings are announced in the newsletter and are held at the Lafayette, Louisiana at the Holy Cross Catholic Church at 415 Robley Dr. A monthly newsletter is published and all members receive the Quarterly publication "Paraglide" from the National Association.

This Fraternal organization was organized immediately after WW II by the veterans of the 82nd Airborne Division to help foster and perpetuate the ideals of the Airborne Soldier exemplified by their astounding performance in all combat operations. The 82nd Airborne Division was able to end all communiqués during the war with the comment that "No ground gained was ever relinquished."

The Acadiana Chapter membership includes members from Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, and Arkansas. Members include US Army, US Marine Corps and US Air Force veterans who are jump qualified. All are welcome! Members service includes the 82nd Airborne Division; 101st Airborne Division; 17th Airborne Division, 11th Airborne Division; 551st Parachute Infantry Battalion; 508th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, 173rd Airborne Brigade (Vietnam); USMC Force Recon ; USAF Para Rescue; and numerous Special Forces Groups. Their service spans WW II, Korea, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War, and Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Acadiana Chapter has raised funds for and built two impressive monuments. The first is the monument to Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient, Captain Stephen Logan Bennett, USAF. He was from Lafayette, LA and was commissioned into the USAF through the Air Force ROTC at the University of Southwestern Louisiana (now University of Louisiana, Lafayette). This granite monument with bronze likeness and MOH citation stand at the Cajundome in Lafayette by the flagpole near the entrance. The other is a monument recognizing the "Louisiana Airborne Memorial Bridge." It is located at mile marker 121 on Interstate 10 in Louisiana. This is about 15 miles east of Lafayette, Louisiana. The Louisiana State Legislature at the request of the Acadiana Chapter passed Legislative Act 793 on July 10 1989 naming the 18.5 mile elevated bridge on I-10 over the Atchafalaya Swamp as the "Louisiana Airborne Memorial Bridge." The Acadiana Chapter members bought and paid for the monument and the benches surrounding it. We invite all Airborne veterans to stop if you are traveling on I-10 to see the monument. The dedication of the monument occurred on October 20, 1990.

Our meetings normally occur on the first Saturday of the month at the Holy Cross Catholic Church at 415 Robley Dr. in Lafayette, LA. We have a ladies auxiliary for the wives, daughters girlfriends and other female family members. They meet concurrently with the men. We normally have a covered dish lunch at each meeting, or occasionally go to a local restaurant to eat lunch.

The Chapter Newsletter will give you the dates, times and other details of the meetings prior to the meetings.

Please join us in "Airborne" Camaraderie.