



## ACADIANA CHAPTER DISPATCH

### ACADIANA CHAPTER 82<sup>ND</sup> 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 MARCH MEETING  
WILL BE HELD  
SATURDAY MARCH 3<sup>RD</sup>  
AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH  
IN BUILDING D. THE  
ADDRESS IS 415 ROBLEY  
DRIVE IN LAF. LA. THE  
TIME IS 1030 HRS.**

**MARCH 2018 MEETING  
TO BE HELD ON  
MARCH 3, 2018 AT  
HOLY CROSS CHURCH,  
BUILDING D AT 1030  
HRS.**

Please make every effort to attend our March meeting on Saturday March 3, 2018 at 1030 hrs at BUILDING D at Holy Cross Church at 415 Robley Drive, Lafayette, LA.

We have a lot of business to address. Our agenda includes (1) The April 14, 2018 Spring Bar-B-Que to be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall at Holy Cross Church; (2) S.W. Memorial Airborne Days – Houston TX 8-10 June 2018. We hosted this in June 2017 and Houston agreed to host it this year. Please make an effort to attend. (3) Meal with ROTC Cadets at Prejeans restaurant on Sunday March 18, 2018 at 1700 hrs

(4) How to gain the most profit for the knife Chapter member Jim Kober made which he is donating to be auctioned off. The money raised will be donated to the National 82<sup>nd</sup> Association. (5) All American Week and 82<sup>nd</sup> Convention in August. (6) December 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter meeting in Ft. Polk, LA area.

#### **WHY MEN WHO HAVE GONE TO WAR YEARN TO REUNITE**

I received this from Chapter member Gordon "Chet" Johnson, who served with Co. E 1/506th ABG Jan 61 to Nov 63 and Company Commander A Co. 2/501st Viet Nam Dec 68- Dec 69

Why Men who have gone to war yearn to reunite:

"I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate, God and the military. But I know them

in a way, I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was a part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades... Such good men.

" George J. Marrett, from his book Cheating Death: Combat Air Rescues In Vietnam and Laos"

#### **Spring Chapter Bar-B-Que will be held Saturday April 14, 2018.**

This will be at the Holy Cross Church's Knights of Columbus building, which is where we have held it for the last number of years. This is a function for **CHAPTER MEMBERS TO COME AND ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY.** This IS NOT a money raiser as we are only charging for the costs. Again, this is not a TAKE

OUT function, this is a come, and visit sit down and eat function. We have had very good success over the years. The form will be attached to this newsletter or e-mailed to you. The cost is \$5.00 a person up to \$20.00 for a family of four. If you have more than four, it is still \$20.00. We are doing this to benefit our Chapter members and to give them something of value. Please plan to arrive at 1000 hours and gather to visit. We will serve the food around 1130 or so. We Last year we broke even and that is all we want to do. PLEASE PLAN ON COMING and enjoying the company of fellow paratroopers and their families.

#### **MEETING IN THE FT. POLK AREA FOR DECEMBER.**

Our Chapter members at our December 2017 meeting (Saturday December 2, 2017) decided to hold a meeting in the Ft. Polk, LA area. We will send out a strip map and more information as we draw closer to the date. Please plan to attend this meeting. Call me if you have questions regarding this (337) 288-2730.

#### **AIRBORNE HISTORY!**

Death of General Thomas H. Tackaberry April 3, 2017 at age 93. Our Chapter member James Hoying made me aware that he has

served under General Tackaberry when he was with XVIII Airborne Corps.

General Tackaberry Commanded the 82<sup>nd</sup> from Oct 1974 to Oct 1976. He served in the Korean War and in Vietnam. Tackaberry enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II on October 23, 1942, but did not see overseas service. Remaining in the Army after the war, he was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant on August 30, 1945.

He saw service in Korea during the Korean War and was promoted to captain on July 31, 1951. In 1952, while serving as a company commander, he earned the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism near Chorwon, Korea when he voluntarily went to relieve a patrol, which had lost its commander. Tackaberry directed the soldiers back toward their own lines and personally covered their retreat at the risk of his own life. He also received two Silver Stars for his service in Korea.

In 1966, Tackaberry was serving in Vietnam as a lieutenant colonel in command of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, and earned another Distinguished Service Cross. In 1969, he had been promoted to colonel and was the deputy brigade commander of the 196th Infantry Brigade when he earned a

third Distinguished Service Cross, making him one of the few individuals who had earned three or more Distinguished Service Crosses. Tackaberry also received three more Silver Stars for his service in Vietnam.

From 1974 to 1976, Tackaberry was a major general in command of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. This was followed by promotion to lieutenant general and command of the XVIII Airborne Corps from July 1979 until his retirement from the Army on September 30, 1981. Tackaberry died on April 3, 2017.

#### **ALL AMERICAN WEEK MAY 21-24<sup>TH</sup> FT. BRAGG N.C.**

This year's "All American Week" will be May 21-24, 2018. For registration information, please go to the 82<sup>nd</sup> website and print up the forms. They are at: <http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html> If you cannot access the Internet PLEASE call me and I will send you hard copies. Plan on attending. As things stand the following are planning on going to All American Week. (1) Al Spinks, (2) Jim Kober, (3) Marcus "Mark" Melancon, (4) Matthew Lane, (5) Randy Vidrine, (6) Roosevelt Solomon, and a number of other possible's. If you are coming, make room reservations as soon as

possible. If you have never attended, you cannot imagine how much fun and enjoyment you will experience. On the Thursday, there will be a JRTX Joint Readiness Training Exercise including a large-scale jump at Sicily DZ. You will be thrilled to watch the Division run on Monday morning and then to rub shoulders with and eat breakfast with you present day troopers.

**82<sup>ND</sup> 72<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION ORLANDO, FL. 8-11 AUG 2018**

The registration fee per person is \$110.00, which includes the Hospitality Room and banquets. The Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL. Deluxe Rms \$85.00. call 800-204-7234 (refer to 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Division Association. If you want a hard copy mailed for the registration, please let me know. I am e-mailing a copy with this newsletter.

**NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS:**

**Michael Joseph Meagher** – Lives in Iowa, LA. He served in Vietnam with the 1/5<sup>th</sup> Cav 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division 10/69 to 3/70 and with the 232<sup>nd</sup> AHC 1<sup>st</sup> Avn BDE RVN from 3/70 to 3/71. He also served with 1 Bn. 75<sup>th</sup> Inf (Rng) 6/72 to 9/72. He was with 1 Bn. 505 PIR 82<sup>nd</sup> Abn Div from 11/78 to 6/84 with service in Grenada. He retired as an SFC.

**RENEWING CHAPTER MEMBERS:**

**Vernon J. Blanchard** – lives in Breaux Bridge, LA. He served in the 11th Airborne Div 511th PIR and the 505th ABG 1956-1958. He also served with the 20 Special Forces unit in Breaux Bridge, LA retiring as a Major.

We thank you for joining our Chapter or for renewing and staying "hooked up" in our Chapter and staying in the commo loop!

**ACADIANA CHAPTER WEBSITE:**

Our website is located at: [www.acadianairborne.org/](http://www.acadianairborne.org/) Please bookmark this site on your computer for quick reference.

**ACADIANA CHAPTER FACEBOOK PAGE:**

Please bookmark on your computer to check on it. [www.facebook.com/pages/Acadiana-Chapter-82nd-Airborne-Division-Association/174739489213482?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Acadiana-Chapter-82nd-Airborne-Division-Association/174739489213482?fref=ts)

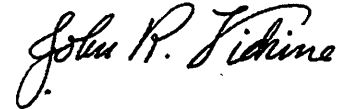
Please copy and paste on your browser. We have announcements and pictures frequently on the site.

**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! 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!"



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