



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 MAY MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY MAY 4TH 2019. WE WILL MEET AT BUILDING D AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH IN LAFAYETTE, LA. 415 ROBLEY DR. LAFAYETTE, LA. 1030 HRS.

OUR APRIL BAR-B-QUE IS HISTORY AND WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

Our Spring Bar-B-Que was attended by forty two (42) members, family and friends. The food included a choice of hamburgers, B-B-Qued chicken and potato salad, Cole slaw, baked beans along with cold drinks and plenty of desserts. We were pleased to have Wilson Ledet, who I met at the Lafayette VA Clinic who came. Wilson served in the 2/508th of the 1st Brigade in the Dominican Republic in 1965, and with 1st Air Cav in Vietnam. We hope he decides to join. Chapter member John Niquiporo donated a great looking 82nd Airborne Quilt / Afghan on which tickets were sold. We sold tickets that brought in \$235.00 for the Chapter. Vice Chairman Matthew D. Lane's son Robert drew the

winning ticket. Chapter member Shane Stewart's girl friend Marla Resto was the winner. We congratulate her in winning this great looking piece of art. We thank all who purchased raffle tickets, which helped the Chapter.

**TRIP TO JUMP SCHOOL
APRIL 23-27**

By the time you receive this, the trip to Ft. Benning, GA will be history. This trip replicates trips the Chapter made in 2013 and 2014 to Ft. Benning, GA. It was suggested months ago that we should make another trip and the Chapter voted to do so. We traveled there on Apr. 23rd and came back on the 26th after the graduation. Those who went were me and my wife Delores, Mark Melancon; Chapter member Gerald "Jerry" Meador and his wife Bonny and my friend former CPT Carroll Sylvester from Texas. Carroll was the Assistant Adjutant to the 2nd Airborne Battle Group of the 504th in the early 60's up to the time the Division reorganized into Brigades. They then became the 1st Brigade of the 82nd Div. We visited the National Infantry

Museum, the Ranger Museum and the Jump School on Thursday. SSG Rob Nicoson brought us to the different training areas and to the Mess Hall for lunch. We were there for the graduation on Friday morning and left for home afterwards. It was quite a nostalgic visit.

**ALL AMERICAN WEEK
2019**

All American Week for 2019 will be May 20-23rd. If you have never attended, you do not 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 our example are amazing and you will be proud to meet them. You need to call NOW to be 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. At this time, you may not be able to get into Moon or Hardy halls, but there are other on post housing facilities. If you haven't planned on coming and can work it in – **COME** – you won't regret it.

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.

2019 NATIONAL CONVENTION: the Washington D.C. Chapter will host the 73rd Annual Convention of the 82nd Airborne Division Association. The dates are **August 7 – 10, 2019**. As you know, 2019 marks the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and Operation Market Garden. In honor of these Anniversaries, the Association will be tailoring our events to

recognize our WW II Veterans and their contribution to our Nation and our Association. We will begin our 73rd Annual Convention at the WWII Memorial in Washington D.C., and events at Arlington National Cemetery. The week will also include several tours of the D.C. area, as well as our Memorial and banquet dinners with special guest of the Association. To accommodate all the planned events, transportation, and location, the Convention fee will be \$150 per person, but will be worth every penny. This registration covers food, snacks, and drinks, in a beautiful hospitality room overlooking our Nation's Capitol, and includes bus transportation for the majority of the external events, along with 2 formal dinners.

Our D.C. Chapter has already gone to great efforts to ensure the Convention is an outstanding event and that it will be like no other Convention the Association has ever had. Let's go to Washington D.C. for this once in a lifetime event. The D.C. Chapter is hosting their Convention at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel, 900 S Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204. The hotel is located in walking distance from Arlington National Cemetery, Ft Myer, Pentagon and the US Air Force Monument. For reservation call directly to the hotel at 1-800-325-3535 or (703)521-1900 and please reference our Group Name "82nd Airborne Division Association" or the Group ID: 16958.

There will be a web link set up soon, but for now only calling is available. The room rates are \$119 + tax and fees, for registered Convention

Members. We will have the flier and hotel reservation information available soon. The Association does have rooms reserved, but book early because rooms will go fast and we don't want you to miss out on this event.

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!"



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Chapter Members: L to R. Sect / Treas. Marcus "Mark" Melancon; Bradford "Brad" Ashby; Trustee Ralph Gaudet, Chairman Randy Vidrine; Shane Stewart, LTC (R.) Glenn Labbe.



Chapter member Shane Stewart and winner (his girlfriend) Marla Resto



Chairman R. Vidrine by Davy Crockett nuclear weapon he crewed on.



WWII barracks at National Infantry Museum



At the Infantry statue in front of museum.



Lunch in the Jump School "Mess Hall,"



Inside the 507th Headquarters. The 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment is the unit that runs the Jump School. Randy Vidrine, Carroll Sylvester, SSG Rob Nicoson, Mark Melancon and Jerry Meador

