



ACADIANA CHAPTER DISPATCH

ACADIANA CHAPTER 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION
ASSOCIATION

CHAPTER MEETS AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH, 415 ROBLEY DR., LAF.
FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
(337) 684-6175 or Cell (337) 288-2730
2424 Pierre Matte Road, Branch, LA 70516

There will not be a regular meeting in June. We are hosting the Southwest Memorial Airborne Days, June 9-10 and 11th in Lafayette, LA at the Ramada Hotel at 2032 NE Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, LA 70501.

IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YET , DO SO NOW!

Registration for our Southwest Memorial Airborne Days will begin at 0800 (8:00 a.m.) on Friday the 9th by the hospitality suite in the hotel. The hospitality suite will be to your left after you leave the hotel registration desk all the way to the end.

If you are traveling in, I hope you come in Thursday so you will be rested Friday morning in order to better enjoy your stay with us.

If you checked our agenda, we have plenty of great things and attractions laid on for your weekend. There will be the opportunity to tour the Bayou Teche Brewery in Arnaudville, LA on Friday. You will have directions and

a strip map to guide you there. we have registrations from as far away as Ohio, and we have a good number from Texas and Mississippi. We ask that you send in yours now. We want to thank our members and OTHERS outside the Chapter who have paid for advertisements in our event program. **Our intention is to put on the BEST REGIONAL Airborne reunion ever.**

I would like to especially thank our Chapter Trustee (and former Chairman) Roosevelt Solomon for acquiring a good number of Advertisements. Thanks Roosevelt!

In addition, to gain honorable mention is Chapter member Marcus "Mark" Melancon who has solicited a number of advertisements but has also worked up a very nice flyer that he has been putting up at business places. I am attaching a copy of the registration form to this e-mail and to the hard copy USPS newsletter's we send out. I hope that you can all come on down to Lafayette to enjoy a great "Airborne" get together. You can

choose a "swamp" tour on Saturday (or you can go to the tour of Vermillionville (the original name for Lafayette). This is an authentic gathering of old Acadian houses, a schoolhouse and a Catholic Church that date back, to the 1800's some to the late 1700's.

There will be a hospitality room open on Friday and Saturday with munchies and drinks (water, soda and beer).

We will have a lunch as part of your registration on **Friday and Saturday** and a **Banquet** on Saturday evening and a great breakfast after a field style Chapel service (short) conducted by Chaplain Carl O. Brown, an Airborne Chaplain from Ft. Polk, LA.

Call the ph # **(337) 233-6815** on the Registration Form to book your room with the Ramada Inn at the stated rate. I'm checking in on Thursday evening June 8, 2017. Don't worry about he cut off date on the form. If you have any questions, please call me at (337) 288-2730 (my cell number).

**ALL AMERICAN WEEK
2017**

"All-American Week (AAW) at Ft. Bragg, NC is now history and those of us who attended, had a great time. Acadiana Chapter members who attended were: Marcus "Mark" Melancon who served with and made the combat jump into Panama with 4/325th Airborne Infantry on Dec 20, 1989. Al Spinks and Jim Kober both served with the 1/504th Airborne Battlegroup in Mainz, Germany in the early to mid 1960's. They also served with the 509th after the 1/504 was deactivated. All of us enjoyed the atmosphere at Bragg especially seeing the young troopers. We all met the current Commanding General MG Erik Kurilla and the Division CSM Greene. We also attended a very nice prayer breakfast.

2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION: Planning continues for the 71st National Convention August 9-13, 2017 in Orlando, FL as well as for celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the formation of the 82nd Division. Registration is \$100 per person, which includes 2 formal dinners and food and drink in the hospitality rooms. The host hotel will again be the Rosen Centre, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL, just minutes from many of the Orlando vacations attractions. The rooms are \$85 per standard room. Bring your family and take advantage of the great rates at a world-class hotel in one of our Nation's premier

vacation spots. Please go to the following link for more information and to register today!

<http://www.paratrooperdz.com/2017-national-convention/>
Check out the 2017 82nd Airborne Division Association 71st Annual Convention –ORLANDO Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/groups/479575888817905/?ref=ts>

I sent out forms to attend earlier. IF YOU NEED ONE, CONTACT ME.

A PARATROOPERS PRAYER:

Almighty God, Our Heavenly Father; Who art above us and beneath us, within and around us; Drive from the minds of our paratroops any fear of the space in which Thou art ever present. Give them confidence in the strength of Thine Everlasting arms to uphold them. Endue them with clear minds and pure hearts that they may participate worthily in the victory which this nation must achieve in Thy name through Thy will. Make them hardy soldiers of our country as well as of Thy Son, Our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen. Chaplain George B. Wood. Chaplain Wood was the WWII 505th Protestant Chaplain and made all 4 of the 505's combat jumps. He was the 82nd Associations Chaplain for many years until his death.

AIRBORNE AIRCRAFT – C-124 GLOBE MASTER

The C-124 Globemaster was built by Douglas Aircraft Company of Long Beach California. It was introduced into service in 1950 and was used in the Korean War to transport troops and equipment. It was retired from service in 1974. A total of 448 were built of which there are 9 surviving. One is at the Pima Air Museum near Tucson, Arizona.



Four Pratt Whitney Piston engines rated at 3,800 hp each powered the C-124. The C-124 was capable of carrying 68,500 lb of cargo, and the 77 ft cargo bay featured two overhead hoists, each capable of lifting 8,000 lb. As a cargo hauler, it could carry tanks, guns, trucks and other heavy equipment, while in its passenger-carrying role it could carry 200 fully equipped troops on its double decks or 127 litter patients and their attendants. It was the only aircraft of its time capable of transporting heavy equipment such as tanks and bulldozers without disassembly. As I recall you could jump 110 paratroopers

using both decks. In my opinion, it was the worse plane to jump from. If you were on the upper deck, you had to stand up and then when the jumpers began jumping from the lower deck you had to move forward (towards the cockpit) climb down some steep stairs, turn 180° and then hook your static line snap link onto the anchor cable while you were on the run – not a good method. I made my first (cherry) jump with the 82nd from a C-124 and it was terrible. I was third man in the stick, and was ordered to jump with a GP bag full of PRC-10 batteries (about 80 pounds) attached to the D rings on my harness. As I attempted to waddle to the door, I fell forward. I couldn't get up (but if curses could have levitated me – the Jumpmaster would have had me on my feet). I felt someone lifting me and looked over my right shoulder to see my **FRIEND** Bill Evans pulling me to my feet. He had his right hand on the anchor cable and was pulling on my main chute pack with his left. I finished waddling to the door, and fell out of the aircraft when I got to the door. My other three jumps from the C-124 weren't as bad, but they weren't fun. Two were from the upper deck. One of the missions of the C-124's was to transport nuclear weapons for the U.S. Air Force as needed. A large number of overseas deployments were facilitated

by using the C-124 Globemaster.

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 to identify yourself as an aid in recruiting members. Remember, without some identification, no one knows you were "Airborne."

Thanks and "Airborne All The Way!"



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ANNUAL SOUTHWEST MEMORIAL AIRBORNE DAYS REUNION

June 9th 10th and 11th , 2017

Ramada Inn US 167, Lafayette, LA

Hosted by the Acadiana (Louisiana) Chapter



Reunion Registration

Individual: \$82.00 Couple: \$164.00 Guest: \$82.00

The registration fee covers food and beverage in the Hospitality Room; A choice of (a) Swamp tour on Saturday or (b) Tour of Vermilionville Authentic Cajun Village and Jean Lafitte Museum and Cultural Center. Banquet and Breakfast on Sunday.

Name: _____ Address: _____

Chapter: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Mark Choice of Activities: [] Swamp Tour on Saturday morning; [] Vermilionville Cajun Village and Jean Lafitte Museum also on Saturday morning. **You can go to one or the other.** If you like horse racing and the casino, that will be available on Friday [] Friday night at Evangeline Downs and Casino, 1700 hrs. *Mark your choices with a **check mark in box [] or boxes***

Make Checks Payable to:
Acadiana Chapter

Mail to: Acadiana Chapter
2424 Pierre Matte Road
Branch. LA 70516-3631

For further information call: Randy Vidrine
Phone (337) 684-6175 Cell (337) 288-2730

Hotel Registration

Ramada Inn Lafayette, LA.
2032 NE Evangeline Thruway
Lafayette, LA 70501
(337) 233-6815

Group Code
South West Memorial Airborne Days

Rates: \$75.00 per night Check In: 4:00 PM
Double, Queen or King Check out: 12:00 noon
Handicap rooms available

Please make your Hotel reservations directly with the hotel by calling: **(337) 233-6815** to get the rates above. You will be required to guarantee your reservation by credit card or advance deposit. Deadline for registration with these rates is: May 8, 2013.

Cancellation policy is: Day of arrival by 6:00 PM with no penalty. Call **(337) 233-6815**. The room rates are good for three days prior to the Reunion and three days after.

Agenda

Friday June 9, 2017

Registration 0900 until-
Hospitality Suite 0900 until
Tour of Bayou Teche, Brewery
at Arnaudville, LA is available.
Members will be given strip map to
Brewery.

Saturday June 10, 2017

Hospitality Suite Opens 0800 hrs
Leave for Swamp Tour 0900 hrs
Swamp Tour 1000 – 1200 hrs
Tour of Vermilion Ville 1000- 1200 hrs
Business Meeting 1500 hrs
Social Hour 1800 hrs
Banquet 1900 hrs

Sunday June 11, 2017

0830 – 0900 Abn Chapel Service
0900 – Breakfast Buffet