

**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**

**ACADIANA CHAPTER'S  
OCTOBER MEETING WILL  
BE HELD SATURDAY  
OCTOBER 22<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 AT  
THE CHAPTERS  
AIRBORNE MONUMENT  
AT MILE MARKER 121 ON  
1-10 EAST OF  
LAFAYETTE, LA. THIS  
WILL BE AT 1000 HOURS.  
WE WILL EAT LUNCH AT  
BUCK AND JOHNNY'S IN  
BREAUX BRIDGE, LA.**

**OCTOBER MEETING WILL  
BE THE 22<sup>ND</sup> OF  
OCTOBER WHICH IS THE  
SATURDAY CLOSEST TO  
THE DATE THE  
MONUMENT WAS  
DEDICATED IN 1990  
WHICH WAS OCT 20<sup>TH</sup>  
1990.**

To get to the Louisiana Airborne Bridge monument, exit at Mile Marker 121 (Butte La Rose) exit. This is where the Louisiana DOTD Welcome center is located. We will gather there to start a remembrance ceremony at 1000 hours (10:00 AM). Afterwards we will drive to Breaux Bridge to eat lunch at Buck and Johnny's restaurant, which is located at 100 Berard St. Breaux Bridge, LA 70517 (for use

with your GPS). We will have space together for lunch. The Louisiana Airborne Memorial Bridge was designated as such by Louisiana Legislature, act 793 of July 10, 1989. We were given permission to place a suitable monument on the site. This monument was moved a couple of years ago when the Visitors Welcome Center parking lot was refurbished. This enhanced our monument as it has been moved by the flagpoles and is lit at night on both sides.

**SOUTHWEST MEMORIAL  
AIRBORNE DAYS WILL BE  
HELD IN LAFAYETTE, LA  
JUNE 9-11 2017.**

The Acadiana Chapter hosted this multiple Chapter gathering in 2013 in Lafayette. We will be doing this again on June 9, 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> of June 2017. This is primarily a gathering of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Chapters from Texas, the Louisiana Chapter and the Mississippi Chapter.

We invited and invite the Special Forces Association members to come along with all paratroopers no matter which unit they served with.

We have not chosen a hotel yet, but are close on this. It will be a very agreeable deal for all of those who come price wise. We had many people from all over the country (and from Canada) the last time.

We ask that you plan on inviting your Airborne buddy's to come. Make it a personal reunion along with a great gathering of "Airborne" veterans from WWII on down and from many units. The last time we had paratroopers who had served in the 82<sup>nd</sup>, 101<sup>st</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 187<sup>th</sup> (Korea), 173<sup>rd</sup> (Vietnam), 508<sup>th</sup> ARCT, 509<sup>th</sup> Airborne, and numerous Special Forces veterans from every era and a number of Groups. I had friends who came from Massachusetts and Chicago Illinois. We also had Airborne veterans from Kansas, North Carolina and New York state.

A number of our members have been working very hard in securing items for "door prizes" which we will give out and for our "Silent Auction."

My wife Delores is making a "Quillo" (a quilt that folds into a pillow) and some needle work framed items for the Silent Auction. She

asks that anyone of our members or their spouses who do craft work to please let us know if you will be donating anything for the Silent Auction.

### **36<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY BANQUET FOR THE CHAPTER. JAN 21, 2017**

We have invited the JRTC and Fort Polk Command Sergeant Major Jeremiah Inman to be our guest speaker. We will be sending out a meal form in our next newsletter (and before that to those with e-mail) as soon as we get the prices from the restaurant.

CSM Inman has served in numerous units throughout his career. His previous assignments include 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Savannah, Georgia; 5th Battalion, 502nd Berlin Brigade, Berlin, Germany; United States Military Academy at West Point; 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team, Vicenza, Italy; 2d Cavalry Regiment, Rose Barracks, Germany; Infantry and Armor Schools, Fort Benning, Georgia; and most recently at the Airborne and Special Operations Test Directorate, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His combat tours include Panama, Desert Shield, Operation Iraqi Freedom I, and Operation Enduring Freedom VI, VIII, and X-XI.

### **CSM JEREMIAH INMAN**



We again will be conducting our 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet at Chef Roy's restaurant in Rayne, LA. They have always provided excellent food and service. I would like to encourage every member who has never come, to make an effort to attend. You will enjoy yourself in the company of fellow "Airborne" veterans. The form to attend and for your meal choice is attached or included in your mail. The meal prices have NOT gone up. Please fill this out as soon as possible and send them in with your funds. January 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 is the cutoff date.

**SATURDAY OCTOBER 15<sup>TH</sup> WE WILL GATHER AT THE LOUISIANA WAR VETERANS HOME IN JENNINGS, LA TO VISIT THE VETERANS AND BRING THEM DONUTS, COFFEE AND ORANGE JUICE. THE TIME WILL BE 1330. PLEASE BE THERE BEFORE THEN.**

For the last number of years Chapter Trustee and former Chapter Chairman Roosevelt Solomon has headed up this effort. He secures the donuts and orange juice from Walmart.

If you can, please come to help with this (handing out donuts, coffee and orange juice) and visit the veteran residents who live there. The best thing we do for them is visiting and talking to them. Many don't have families who come, so your presence will be a big morale booster for them. If you can come, please do so. You will be appreciated by them.

### **VISIT THE 82<sup>ND</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION'S WEB PAGE**

This can be found at: <http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/> Once **you are there you can view the quarterly "Paraglide" magazine, which is only available on the Internet.** We hope that at some time in the future it can again be available in a hard copy.

An article for the Fall issue has been sent to them. Look for it.

### **ACADIANA CHAPTER WEBSITE:**

Check out our website at: [www.acadianairborne.org/](http://www.acadianairborne.org/)

### **NEW MEMBERS**

We thank the following member for joining with us.

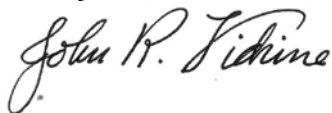
**Col. Dean Whitford** Is assigned to Ft. Polk, LA as the Staff Judge Advocate for the JRTC and Ft. Polk, LA. We welcome him and his wife Brenda to Louisiana and to our Acadiana Chapter.

**Joel R. Adkins** (former SSG) and WWII Paratrooper with the 513<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division; lives in Opelousas at the Senior Village Nursing and Rehab Center. Our SGT at Arms Richard Schales met him and we got him hooked up. He fought in the Ardennes in December 1944 and made the combat jump over the Rhine River at Wesel, Germany on 24 March 1945.

**RECRUITING            NEW MEMBERS.**

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!"



John R. "Randy" Vidrine  
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