

# 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION

CHARTERED BY THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

WINTER 2024

# PARAGLIDE



LAWRENCE J. SLAVICEK  
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

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## PARAGLIDE



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**ROSEN HOTELS & RESORTS**

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



LAWRENCE J. SLAVICEK

Greetings and Happy New Year my fellow Airborne Troopers!

I first of all want to express how pleased and honored I am to be elected to serve our Association as the President beginning this month. Serving with me is a Board of Directors whose capabilities and strengths will serve our membership well.

I see my role as one responsible for the growth of the 82nd Airborne Division Association from the present state, identifying new communities to support, more recent heroes to honor and more services provided to our Veterans. All while retraining those relevant current activities and services and our never wavering respect for our legacy.

We are just beginning our efforts and will keep you informed as to our progress. I welcome any and all input on how to make our Association stronger and better.

Airborne All The Way!

Lawrence J Slavicek

National President



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Dear 82nd Airborne Division Association Members,

Happy New Year! I hope this message finds you in good health and high spirits as we begin the winter season. The past few months have been both exciting and impactful, and I'm pleased to share some highlights from our recent activities as well as plans for the upcoming year.

On Veterans Day, we made the trip to Washington, D.C., where we laid wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery and the National Mall in honor of the sacrifices of our fallen brothers and sisters. Additionally, the Association provided 1,000 meals to Paratroopers and their families during Thanksgiving and the December Holidays, further strengthening the bond within our community during this special time. To close out the year, we formed a partnership with J. Mattingly 1845 to create a special 82nd Airborne Division bottle of bourbon. A portion of the proceeds from each bottle sold will benefit the Association. Looking ahead, we will host two Airborne Night Out events with the Fayetteville Marksmen and the Fayetteville Woodpeckers.



JAMES "JIMMY" GRIMES

We hope to see many of you at this year's All American Week. The event is shaping up to be an exciting one, and we are confident our members will thoroughly enjoy it. Registration is easy—simply follow the link provided.

<https://82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html>

We are also preparing for our 79th Annual Convention in Knoxville, TN. We are finalizing various events and opportunities, and will post the schedule as soon as details are confirmed. We're excited about some of the offerings we have in store, and once all the information is secured, we will share it promptly via our website, social media, and email updates.

The National office remains dedicated to supporting our Members and Active Duty Troopers. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Chapters for their outstanding work in serving local Veterans and communities. Feel free to reach out with any suggestions on how we can better support you or further enhance our Association.

As we move forward into 2025, I want to express my sincere thanks to each of you for your ongoing dedication to our Association. Your support and commitment to the Airborne spirit are what make this community so special. I encourage everyone to continue supporting one another and to engage in the many opportunities we'll have throughout the year. Whether you're helping our Paratroopers, getting involved in our initiatives, or simply enjoying the camaraderie of fellow Airborne veterans, there's always a way to contribute to our mission.

Thank you for all that you do. I look forward to another year filled with shared accomplishments, memories, and of course Airborne pride.

**Airborne! All the Way!**

ISG (R) James Grimes

Executive Director

82nd Airborne Division Association

# 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION CALENDAR

Kentucky Airborne Reunion.....Page 88  
Lexington, KY - March 6-8, 2025

All American Week .....Page 85  
Fort Liberty, NC - May 19-22, 2025

79th Annual National Convention.....Page 83  
Knoxville, TN - August 5-9, 2025

Future Association Regional Chapter Events, 2-days or longer, need to be coordinated with the Association Headquarters, and an Event REGISTRATION page is required, prior to being entered and announced on the ASSOCIATION CALENDAR.



## Heroes of Massac Endeavors

PVT. John Marvin Steele Statue  
WWII Memorial Metropolis, IL.



"The Longest Day" June 6, 1944

Be a part of a Historical Project  
Commemorative  
Engraved Bricks  
NOW AVAILABLE



82nd Airborne Division Company F  
505th Parachute Infantry Regiment

<https://heroesofmassacendeavors.org>

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# SPRING DEADLINE

The Deadline for the Paraglide is:

**MARCH 30, 2025**

Please send news, letters and emails to:

Holmesteads

18865 Edwards Grove Drive, Noblesville, IN 46062

[paraglide@holmesteads.com](mailto:paraglide@holmesteads.com)

(317) 674-3717

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Ask me how to share your event on Facebook. You can add the Association as the co-host for chapter events to capture a larger Airborne audience! Send us photos and videos from your chapter activities.

Message Us on Facebook: <http://m.me/82ndAssociation>



# 2025 OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

## ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

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### JUDGE ADVOCATE EMERITUS

Morton N. Katz

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# VETERANS DAY 2024

## ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY

For another consecutive year, the 82nd Airborne Division Association, in partnership with the Washington, D.C. Chapter, proudly sponsored the 2024 Veterans Day activities. Association members, their families, and active-duty 82nd Airborne Division Troopers gathered in Arlington, VA, from November 8th to the 11th to participate in a series of wreath-laying ceremonies honoring our Division's Regiments. In addition to wreaths placed at Arlington National Cemetery, wreaths were also laid at the WWI, WWII, Korean War, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Vietnam War Memorials on the National Mall.

During the visit to Washington, Association member Walter Rauscher graciously hosted a luncheon and dinner for our group at the [Sequoia Restaurant](#). As always, the food was exceptional, and the camaraderie even better. We extend our sincere gratitude to Walter for his ongoing support of the Association.

At the dinner, the Association held a raffle for a SIG SaSAUER M17X pistol and a SIG SAUER MCX-Spear rifle. Congratulations



to the lucky winners, and thank you to everyone who participated in the raffle. A special thank you to [SIG SAUER Firearms, Ammunition, Optics & Suppressors](#) for generously donating the firearms.

When it was time to unwind, members gathered in the Hospitality Suite located at [Pentagon City Hotels | Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel](#) to relax and enjoy each other's company.

Our heartfelt thanks to Bear Chase Brewing Company [[Craft Brewery Loudoun County](#) | [Craft Beer NOVA](#) | [Bear Chase Brewery](#)] for hosting our group, along with other Veterans and their families, for a memorable night out.

We would also like to thank Kevin Headtke and Brittany Primavera for capturing these special Veterans Day Photos.



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY



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# VETERANS DAY 2024

## ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETARY



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**NATHAN  
LEE EUGENE  
GOODMAN**  
MSG  
US ARMY  
AFGHANISTAN  
IRAQ  
MAY 10 1983  
JAN 14 2020  
BRONZE STAR

+

**BOBBY  
CARL  
KING**  
SGM US ARMY  
AFGHANISTAN

+

**JAMES A  
SPERAW**

# VETERANS DAY 2024

## WASHINGTON D.C. NATIONAL MALL MEMORIALS



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## WASHINGTON D.C. NATIONAL MALL MEMORIALS





# VETERANS DAY 2024

## WASHINGTON D.C. NATIONAL MALL MEMORIALS



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## WASHINGTON D.C. NATIONAL MALL MEMORIALS



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## WASHINGTON D.C. NATIONAL MALL MEMORIALS



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## WASHINGTON D.C. NATIONAL MALL MEMORIALS



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## WASHINGTON D.C. NATIONAL MALL MEMORIALS



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## SEQUOIA RESTAURANT



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## SEQUOIA RESTAURANT



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## SEQUOIA RESTAURANT





# VETERANS DAY 2024

## SEQUOIA RESTAURANT



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## HOSPITALITY SUITE



# VETERANS DAY 2024

## BEAR CHASE BREWING COMPANY



## HOLIDAY TROOP SUPPORT 2024

Our 9th Annual Holiday Troop Support Project has come to a successful close! On Thursday, November 21st, and Thursday, December 12th, we were once again able to fulfill our mission, thanks to the incredible generosity of our corporate sponsors, members, Chapters, individual supporters, and the assistance of the Division Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants. With their help, we distributed 500 meals to our Troopers and their families for Thanksgiving, and 500 meals for the December holiday season.

As always, preparing for these events is no small feat. Months of planning go into organizing the meals, beginning with gathering canned goods, cookie and brownie mixes, stuffing, gravy, rolls, bread, and donuts well in advance. On the day of the event, the refrigerated items—such as the chickens—are picked up. It's a busy time, but every moment of effort is absolutely worthwhile! This year, we were proud to hand out a total of 1,000 meals. It's a small but meaningful way to show our appreciation for the service and sacrifices made by our Troopers and their families, and none of it would have been possible without the incredible support from all involved.

The best part of the event was seeing the smiles on the faces of the families as they came to pick up their meals. Many of them weren't able to go home for the holidays, so making this season a little brighter for them was especially meaningful. We even had a special visit from the Fayetteville Marksmen Hockey Team's Mascot, Marky!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our donors and sponsors—you have our deepest gratitude. Your unwavering support and generosity made this event possible. We would also like to recognize and thank the following for their inspiring contributions: Perdue Farms, Chloe Beatty, Harry Harpold, Tampa Bay All American Chapter, Niagara Frontier All Airborne Chapter, and St. Michael's All American Chapter. Thanks to your generosity, each year we are able to accomplish more.

As with all holiday events, there are weeks of preparation, and before you know it, the day has passed and everyone heads home. But the memories live on. We look forward to seeing you all again next year for our 10th event. Thank you once again!



# HOLIDAY TROOP SUPPORT 2024



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# HOLIDAY TROOP SUPPORT 2024



# HOLIDAY TROOP SUPPORT 2024



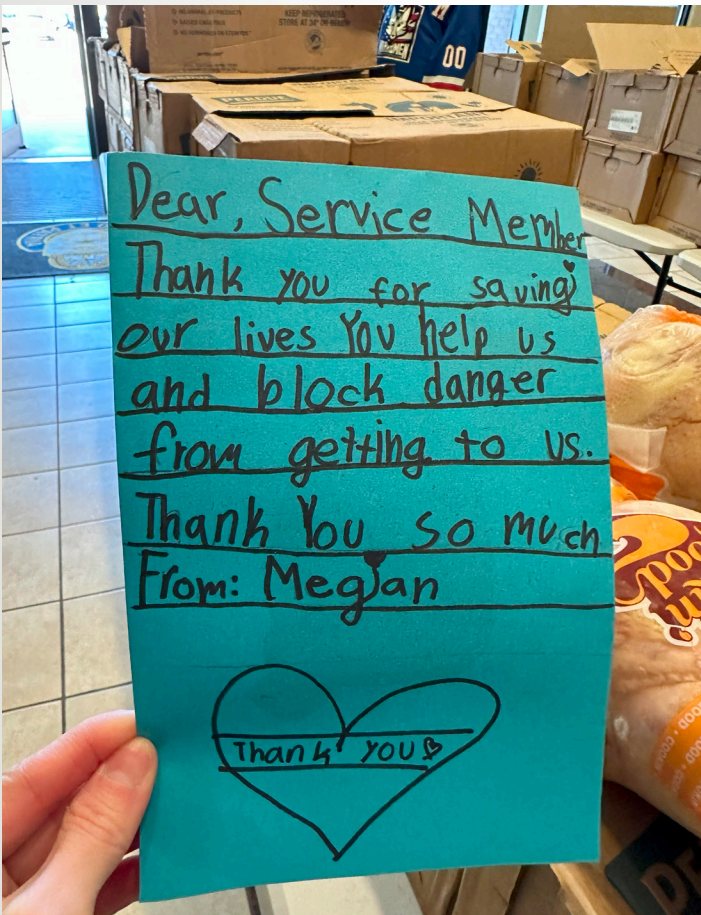
# HOLIDAY TROOP SUPPORT 2024



# HOLIDAY TROOP SUPPORT 2024



# HOLIDAY TROOP SUPPORT 2024



# HOLIDAY TROOP SUPPORT 2024



# HOLIDAY TROOP SUPPORT 2024





**The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial**  
Washington D.C.  
[www.ndswm.org](http://www.ndswm.org)

### **The Liberation of Kuwait**

In 1990, Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. Within 24 hours, Iraq's military occupied its southern neighbor and controlled nearly 30% of the world's oil supply. Iraq's brutal dictator then set his eyes on Saudi Arabia.

On January 17, 1991, the United States led coalition forces in the liberation of Kuwait, a campaign known as Operation Desert Storm. Roughly 600,000 American troops were deployed in support both Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm; nearly 400 died.

### **The Memorial**

Today, the United States lacks a national memorial dedicated to the courage and sacrifice of its Armed Forces who honorably fought in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The National Desert Storm War Memorial Association's goal is for completion of the Memorial to coincide with the 30th Anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, in 2021.

### **Memorial Timeline**

In 2014, the United States House of Representatives unanimously authorized construction of a Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial by a vote of 370-0.

In 2014, President Obama signed the law authorizing a National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in Washington D.C.

In 2017, President Trump signed a bill into law authorizing a memorial to be built near the National Mall in Washington, D.C at an Area-I location.

In 2018, a site for the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial was approved.

### **Location**

The Memorial will fall within the shadow of both the Lincoln and Vietnam Veterans Memorials, abutting the National Mall. The Memorial's site is at the southwest corner of Constitution Avenue and 23rd Street Northwest, Washington, D.C.

### **Financial Position**

The Memorial's estimated cost is \$40 million. Current law stipulates that before groundbreaking can commence 110% of the projected budget must be raised. All efforts are backed exclusively by private sources. The law authorizing construction of the memorial prohibits the use of any federal funds to establish this commemorative work.

As of 31 Dec 2019, the NDSWM has raised \$9.0 million of the \$40 million-dollar goal: \$5.85 million relates to the memorial site award and \$3.15 million has been donated by individuals, businesses, foreign governments, and Veteran Service Organizations.

**NATIONAL  
DESERT STORM  
AND  
DESERT SHIELD  
MEMORIAL**







# VETERAN CHAPTER NEWS

This section reflects the backbone of the Association - the Chapters and what you are doing month in and month out to enhance the Airborne spirit across America. When writing for this section, we ask that you keep in mind the following tips.

**Issue date:** The dates are the 30th of January, April, July and October. Please write as if the event is taking place before those dates.

**Captions:** Include information for every photo so everyone will know who's who.

**Send to Executive Director:** Please send all TAPS, changes of address and new Chapter Officers so that the Association's records may be accurately maintained.

**Space:** The general rule for space is that each Chapter is allotted 1 page and we use everyone's submissions. However, cuts must sometimes be made in the interest of space and overall page count.

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## CENTRAL OHIO ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

Airborne! from Central Ohio. We hope everybody had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Several Chapter members were in Cleveland in October attending the renewal of All Ohio Airborne Days. It was nice to have this event back on the schedule. The new Cleveland/Akron Chapter put together a really nice event. Everybody had a great time, in spite of Gary Rezabek. Just kidding, Gary! You and your team put on a terrific event. It was a fantastic Airborne weekend.

In November we held our meeting at Motts Military Museum in Groveport, Ohio. This is a great historical venue and we had an excellent turnout. Members and their families enjoyed the camaraderie and the museum. We had City BBQ brought in for lunch and everybody enjoyed the food and camaraderie. Until next time, soft landings.



Central Ohio All Airborne Chapter members Andrew Ritter, Steve Holcomb and Ed Powell at the banquet during All Ohio Airborne Days

# CENTRAL OHIO ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER



Chapter members and family at Motts Military Museum in November.



A view in the Hospitality Suite at All Ohio Airborne Days in Cleveland.  
Paraglide, Winter 2024 Number 1

# GEN. DENNIS L. VIA ALL-AIRBORNE SIGNAL CHAPTER

Chapter historian Ben Powers spent the early part of December 2024 walking in the footsteps of 82d Airborne Division troopers, commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Ardennes Campaign, popularly known as the Battle of the Bulge.

The 82d Airborne Division were in rest camps in Holland, after the grueling conditions of Operation Market Garden and its aftermath. The men were relaxing, refitting, and preparing for perhaps a spring campaign in 1945 when they received word on the night of 17 December 1944 that they were alerted for a mission. The Germans were attacking westward into Belgium.

I was able to tour several places where the men of the 82d fought in response to that German attack. The Division, initially ordered to assemble near Bastogne, ultimately took up positions near the village of Werbomont, Belgium, to the north. Their mission was to defend against advancing German armor. Today, a small memorial to the division stands near where it established its command post.



Memorial to the 82d Airborne Division, Werbomont, Belgium



Memorial to the 80th Airborne Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion, Trois Ponts, Belgium



Memorial to the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Trois Ponts, Belgium

# GEN. DENNIS L. VIA ALL-AIRBORNE SIGNAL CHAPTER

Another series of memorials are found in the town of Trois Ponts, where the 2-505th Parachute Infantry Regiment made a gallant stand defending crossings over the Salm river. E Company of the 2-505th PIR saw heavy fighting along the Aisomont Road, which led to the heart of the village.

Additional monuments to the 504th PIR are in the village of Cheneux, and in the museum at La Gleize, all attesting to the role the men of the 82d played in defending Belgium in the winter of 1944.

Our Chapter wishes all members of the 82nd Airborne Association a healthy and safe new year. We are looking forward to hitting the ground running in 2025 with our scholarship program, Health and Welfare calls to our membership and maximum participation in All American Week and the annual convention. AATW!

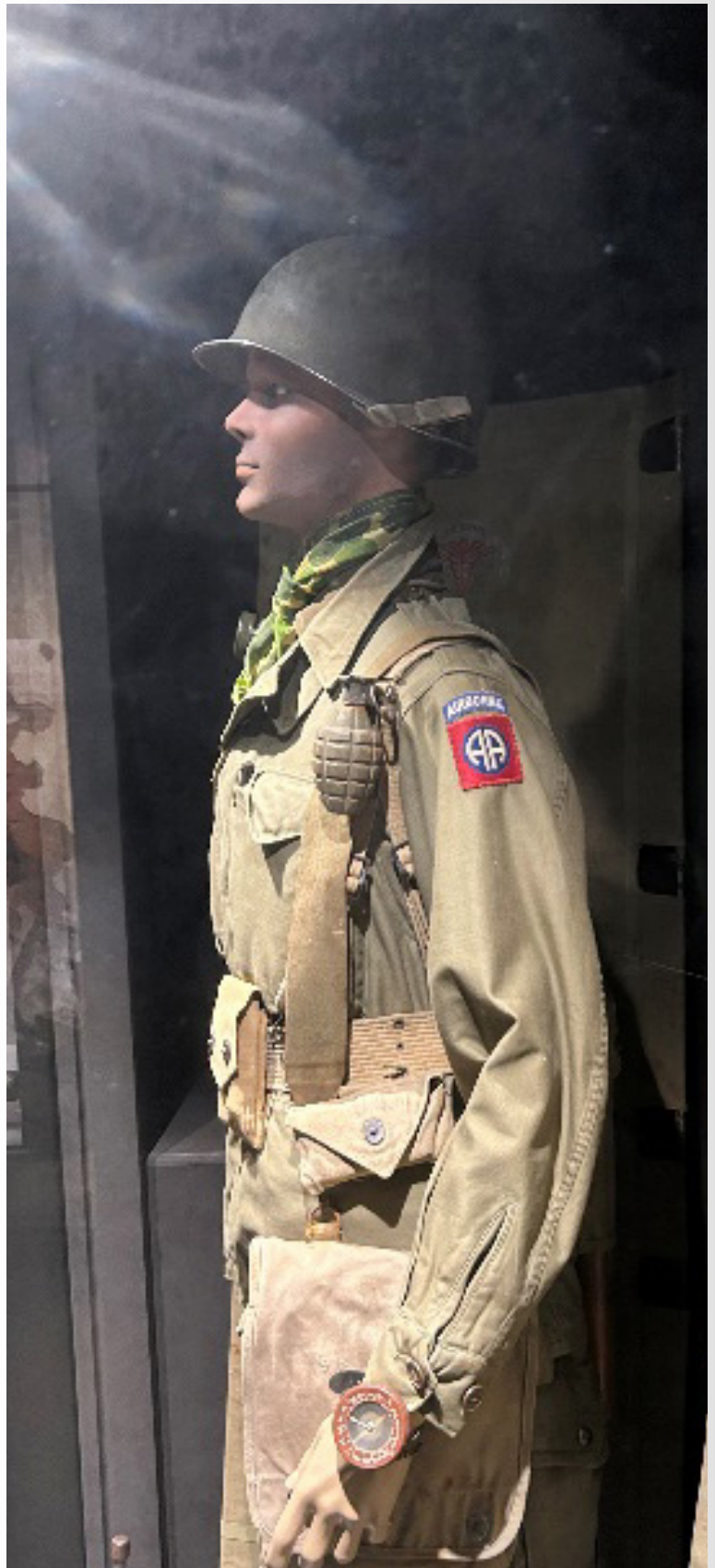


Chapter Member Ben Powers on the Aisomont Road, scene of heavy fighting on 21 December 1944.



The 504th PIR fought against German armor in the village of Cheneux in December 1944.

# GEN. DENNIS L. VIA ALL-AIRBORNE SIGNAL CHAPTER



The high regard in which the Division is held is apparent by the plaque honoring the paratroopers found in the WW2 Museum in La Gleize Belgium, site of the destruction of the German forces comprising Kampf Gruppe Peiper, December 1944.

# GENERAL M.B. RIDGWAY ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

We at the Ridgway Chapter are excited to see what 2025 will bring our way. We are looking forward to our Monthly meetings, as well as our annual Dinner in April when We Toast Our Namesake General Ridgway. We also intend to hold a Meeting at the Germantown Veteran Memorial Museum. This Museum is just Southwest of Dayton Ohio and is Ran by a Lifetime member of the Chapter. The Chapter Picnic will be held in July and is always a very good time. We also plan to have multiple rifle range shoots as well as Great Lakes Fishing trips. We are always looking for Ideas for extracurricular activities, things and activities that our members want to participate in.

We urge all our members to join us at our meetings or other get-togethers when they can join us. AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY



# GENERAL M.B. RIDGWAY ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER



# NORTH TEXAS “ALL AIRBORNE” CHAPTER

The North Texas Chapter held our first annual Pistol Pete's BBQ competition & tailgate. We had a very good turnout and plan to continue this tradition in the future. The chapter participated in the Tarrant County Veteran's Day parade once again. The members got to meet the Tarrant County sheriff and passed out paratrooper toys to children along the parade route. The chapter held its Christmas party and officer installation on 13 December. An excellent time was had by all.



Pistol Pete's BBQ Competition



# NORTH TEXAS "ALL AIRBORNE" CHAPTER



Pistol Pete's BBQ Competition



Tarrant County Veteran's Day Parade

# NORTH TEXAS "ALL AIRBORNE" CHAPTER



Christmas Party & Officer Installation

## NORTH TEXAS “ALL AIRBORNE” CHAPTER

We are proud to announce Chris Bisocci as our Trooper of the Quarter. Chris attended Ohio University in Athens, Ohio earning both a bachelor's degree in political anthropology and a master's degree in political science. Chris enlisted in November 2007 and graduated Airborne school in March 2008. SPC Bisocci served with HHC 2-503rd Infantry, 173rd ABCT in Vicenza Italy, deploying to Afghanistan in 2010, serving in Wardak and Logar Provinces. Post-military, SPC Bisocci spent time working as a Service Officer for Paralyzed Veterans of America, then returned to public service, where he continues with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



Chris Bisocci Trooper of the Quarter

# BADGER STATE ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

May; Meeting held at FWD Museum in Clintonville WI. Had a tour which included the history of FWD and Seagrave fire apparatus. Included, was a four-wheel drive car that raced at Indy.



# BADGER STATE ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

June; Participated with "The Northwoods Honor Guard" in final Honors for Chapter Member James Gardner, in Eagle River WI.



# BADGER STATE ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

June; Major fund raiser, 11th Annual golf outing at Tribute Golf Course, Wausau, WI.



# BADGER STATE ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

**July:** Memorial Service at 82<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Bridge in Stevens Point, WI. 82<sup>nd</sup> Veteran and county deputy was a walk-on speaker, awesome. Meeting held at Point City Library after ceremony.



# BADGER STATE ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

July; Presenting donation to "PatriotK-9s" of Wisconsin in Wausau, WI





# BADGER STATE ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

Sept; Toured "Military Veterans Museum" in Oshkosh WI, just south of EAA grounds. Conducted Chapter meeting at Oshkosh city library.

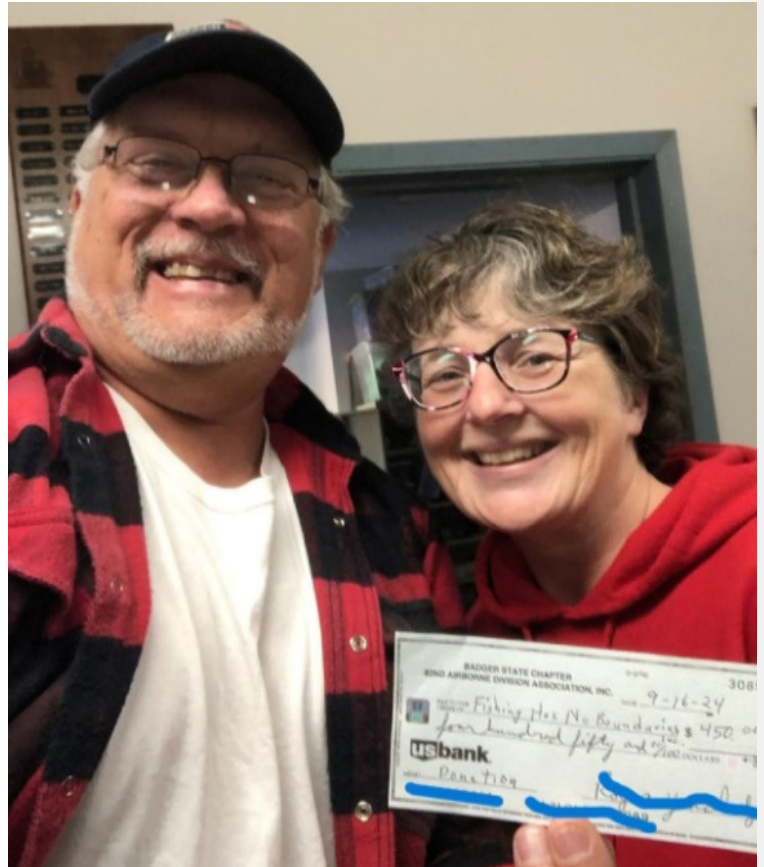


# BADGER STATE ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

Oct; BSC Chaplain presenting donation to “Fishing Has No Boundaries” in Hayward WI. They provide recreational fishing opportunities for all anglers with disabilities, Veterans and non- veterans alike.

Nov; Certificate received from Army Historical Foundation for donation to the National Museum of the U.S. Army.

Dec; Donation to 11th ABN “Family Assist” program by BSC Chairman’s son in Fairbanks AK.

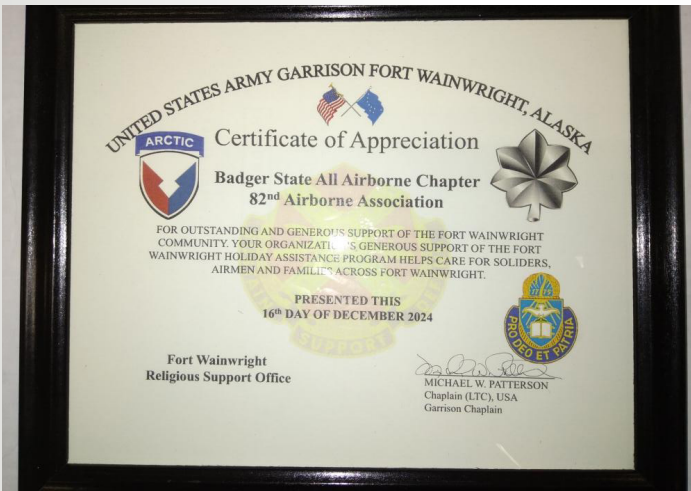


# BADGER STATE ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

Dec; Donation to 11th ABN "Family Assist" program by BSC Chairman's son in Fairbanks AK.

Dec; "Battle of the Bulge service in Wausau, WI. Family of KIA in the battle attended and a short service with speeches was held. Lunch was provided by BSC for all attendees. Monument is located on Marathon County Courthouse lawn. Erected by Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge in 2003.

Prepared by; Jim Yenchesky (CSM ret), Past Chairman



## SOUTHERN WISCONSIN ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

While the Chapter didn't have a whole lot going on after the Car Show, it was time for the leadership to kick it into high gear looking for the severely wounded that Dan Boring missed while on his many trips visiting Walter Reed. Luckily we had some help from other wounded warriors that we have helped in the past.

As you can imagine, the severely wounded have their own support groups and recognizing what we do are only too happy to help link us up regardless of branch of service. Special thanks goes out to JD Lang, his wife Crystal and Mike Schiltz both who have been guest to several of the Chapter's events. Dan Boring is always looking on his travels around the States for warriors that we haven't sent a check to yet.

While I post photos to our Face Book Page of the troopers we have helped, I know that not everyone is on FB or wants to jump on to check it out, so I'm going to post our most recent recipients here for the purpose of transparency. I'll leave it with just the photos as I don't want to take up too much space in the issue.

We had a record fund raising season and as such we also went back to our roots by sending a check off to a family that still sends "care packages" to the troops stationed overseas and won't be home for Christmas. As always we sent a check off to support "Doc" Dentice who organized a clothing drive for homeless veterans who are trying to get back on their feet. He also organizes a Christmas party for the veterans at the Milwaukee VA hospital who can't make it home for Christmas. "Doc" is an exceptional Vietnam Veteran who has been doing this for years.

We had our annual Christmas Party and as always some people came dressed for the occasion. Steve Brunnel always steps it up for the party and some of the gals who work the raffle tables at our fund raisers wanted a photo with him. Chaplin Gary was just commenting that he doesn't win anything, when Steve pulls his ticket for a door prize (Divine intervention?!).

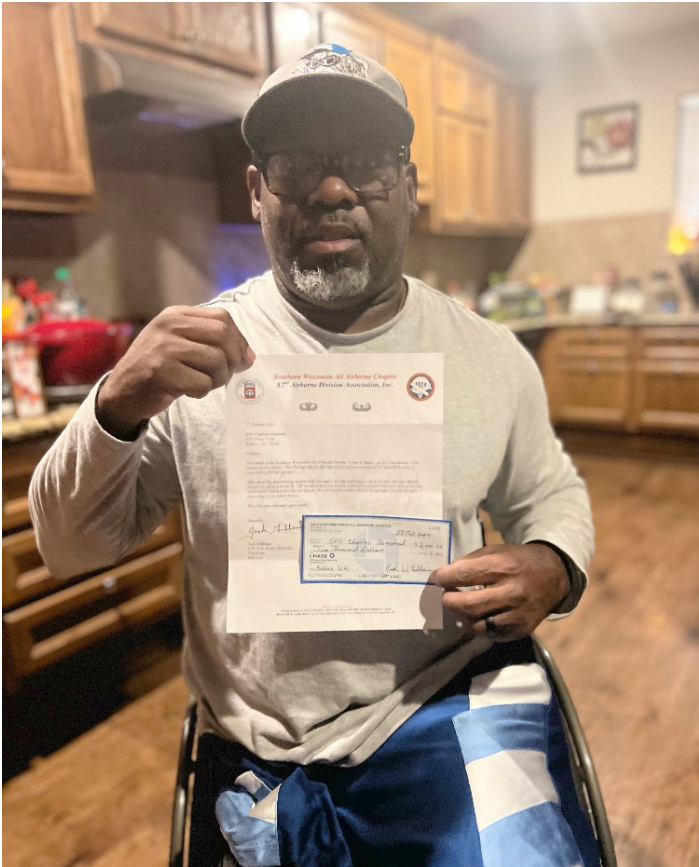
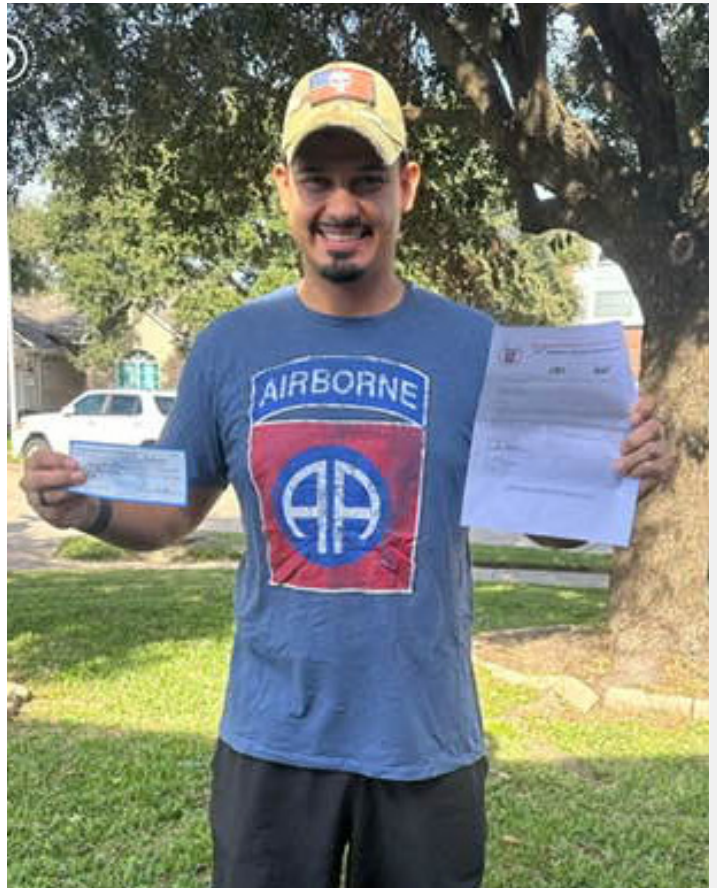
While we have been getting the checks out, we have also been busy planning for this year's fund raisers. We are starting off with our St. Patrick's Dance on 15 March and will follow that up with a return to a golf outing on 20 June. This was always a lot of work to organize and we have been fortunate that some non-veterans approached us at the car show to offer to set this up on our behalf! We are looking forward to bringing this one back as it was always a lot of fun for everyone! The annual Pig Roast is on again as well as our Car Show on 30 August. Feel free to come join us. If not, then visit us on FB at 82ndSWAAC. Again, if you know of a severely wounded veteran that we haven't reached yet, please contact us.



# SOUTHERN WISCONSIN ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER



# SOUTHERN WISCONSIN ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER



# GREATER DAYTONA ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

It's hard to believe – another year is now history, and we bid farewell to several significant events of 2024. Here on the east coast of Florida, we've put away the hurricane shutters; we've seen our military engaged in hostilities in foreign lands; and we've dealt with a national election just to name a few of the significant events of 2024. Now we can look forward to a new year of prosperity, positive events, and continued camaraderie with fellow 82nd Airborne Paratroopers.

For our Veteran's Day meeting, our Chapter welcomed Daytona Beach Mayor Derrick Henry who expressed recognition and thanks for our chapter and our country's military for the contributions of all Veterans. He noted that America is grateful for the dedication and sacrifices that our military epitomizes each day both on American soil and on the soil of foreign nations. Pictured here is Mayor Henry holding the Daytona Chapter's Charter which is dated 28 May 1988. (Mayor Henry picture here) Mayor Henry thanked the members of the Daytona Chapter for their 36 years of being an integral part of Daytona's history. (Mayor Henry picture here)

At our December meeting, Chairman Randy Johnson thanked Chapter members for their generosity, and for help making Christmas a joyous occasion for local children who's Christmas might not have been memorable. Each year, Chapter members support the USMC Reserve's Toys for Tots program with their donation of toys. Thanks to Chapter members Jody and Sissie Thomas for delivering the toys to the turn-in location in DeLand, Florida. Pictured here are Chapter members and their donated toys. (Toys with members picture here)

Also at Christmas time, the Daytona Chapter hosts a Christmas party for Veterans who are residents of the Emory L. Bennett VA Nursing Home in Daytona. This is always a joyous event for the Veterans and their families. Several local restaurants like Giuseppe's Pizza contribute the lunch meal. Other Veteran organizations such as Viet Nam Veterans of America (VVA), Nam Knights Motorcycle Association, Combat Motorcycle Association, and Team RWB Organization join with the Daytona Chapter in this annual event. Pictured here is Chapter Chaplain Shelby Mills with Santa; Jackie Johnson serving beverages, and Beverly Shook chatting with an Emory L. Bennett resident. (Photos here – order 1,2,3,) The Chapter Christmas party at the VA Nursing Home is a highpoint for the Residents' Christmas holiday and the Daytona Chapter members.

The Daytona All-Airborne Chapter wishes all Paratroopers and members of all Services a wonderful New Year filled with happiness and good health.



# GREATER DAYTONA ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER





# NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

It's been a very busy time for the NCFAA Chapter in November. Some of our members watched a local group of paratroopers make a water jump in Lake Dora, FL. Thurston Helms (center) is cheering them on with Donnie Eierman sitting and a potential member to our chapter standing behind them. It was a nice day at the lake. We also had our annual Charity Drive at Belks Department store.



# NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER

We had 10 troopers from the chapter show up and support this event. Chris Adams is pictured selling a ticket to a local customer. Below left to right are some of us at a VIP Brunch at Mission BBQ. Pictured in the middle is Dale Noble one of our chapter's WWII members. Dale was 501st PIR at Bastogne.



Surrounding him are Thurston Helms, Galen Mitchell and Tony Alger. Pictured right is Robert Hedberg enjoying a plate of prime rib. Our annual Christmas Party was well attended in December. Our JROTC Color Guard from West Port High School in Ocala, FL did an outstanding job presenting the colors and are awarded a Certificate of Appreciation. Richard Troop, our outgoing Secretary was awarded the Chapter Trooper of the Year. Airborne All The Way!



# NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA ALL AIRBORNE CHAPTER





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This is a true story set in the late 1960s at the height of the Vietnam War. twenty-year-old Tom Becker is drafted into the army and applies for extra schooling including Sergeant school and Airborne school in order to put off the inevitable of going to Vietnam. After a year of training, he arrives in Vietnam as a sergeant near the end of the 1968 Tet Offensive and becomes part of the infamous 82nd Airborne Division.

This first-person account is packed with action and suspense plus the relentless moving through the jungles and rice paddies looking for “Charlie”. A young 21-year-old Sergeant Becker is transformed and worn down by the rigors of war which almost ends his sanity much less his life. A five-year-old French-Vietnamese orphan girl greatly helps him regain his sanity. The final battle in Cambodia against overwhelming odds seriously tests his abilities and luck.

82ND. AIRBORNE DIV.  
ALL THE WAY!



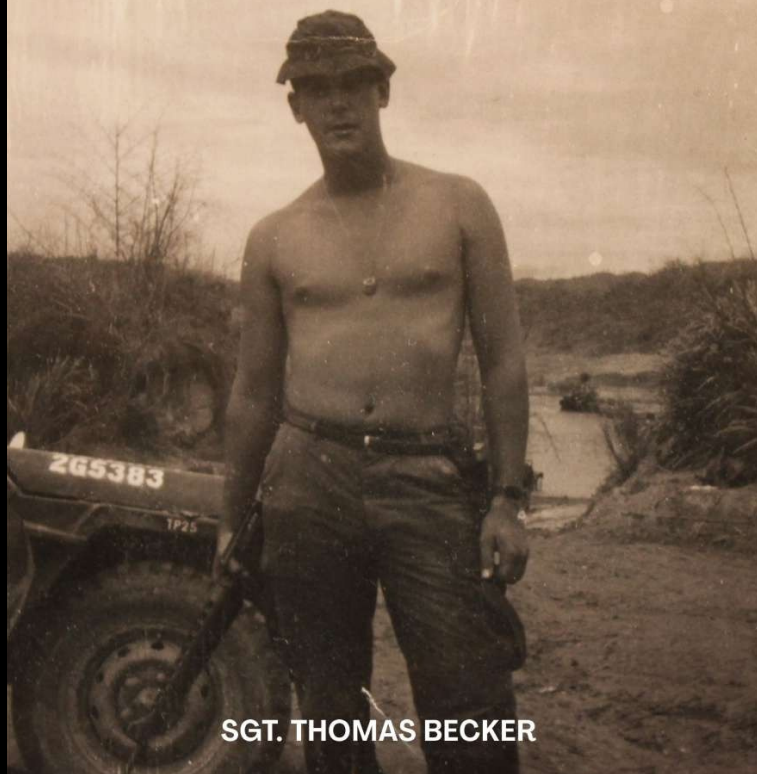
SERGEANT BECKER

THOMAS BECKER

## SERGEANT BECKER

A VIETNAM STORY

82ND. AIRBORNE DIV.



SGT. THOMAS BECKER



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**For 100 years and counting.**



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# DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations that have donated to the Association during the last quarter. Your generosity allows us to continue our Mission and fund Programs that benefit our Active Duty Troopers and to continue to find new programs. We could not do this without your generosity and support. Thank you. Airborne!

DONOR		AMOUNT
Allen McNealy		\$100.00
Mitchell Walker		\$50.00
Crystal Sutton		\$101.65
Brian White		\$100.00
Thomas Eden		\$50.00
Michael Barnes		\$100.00
Frederick Dumas		\$10.00
Dennis Collins		\$8.93
Harry Harpold		\$100.00
Robert Mortenson		\$100.00
Shane Colitzas		\$50.00
Hector Martinez		\$100.00
Clay Roberts		\$100.00
Christopher Profiro		\$100.00
Gary Walker		\$50.00
Kenton Falerios		\$100.00
Russ Rote		\$20.00
Adam Boriak		\$1,000.00
Anthony Verdugo		\$10.00
Larry Ogg		\$150.00
Donald Strazer		\$5,000.00
Marc Reynolds		\$100.00
Michael Hartmere		\$100.00
West Virginia All Airborne Chapter		\$200.00
M. Mullet		\$5.00

# DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION

John Cox		\$30.00
Robert Sotero		\$25.00
Richard Sandri	In Memory of SGT Matt Sandri KIA 20 March 2004	\$100.00
Richard Sandri	In Honor of Joseph Bobber, Lifetime member of the Central PA Chapter who passed on 7 December 2024	\$50.00
Daniel Leen		\$20.00
Andrew Davis		\$10.00
Tampa Bay All Airborne Chapter		\$7,172.00
St. Michael's All Airborne Chapter		\$1,200.00
Shelley Stockton		\$500.00
Steven Holcomb		\$500.00
Chloe Beatty		\$5,000.00
Andrew Citarella		\$100.00
Robert and Leann Hoidahl		\$150.00
Patrick Donahue		\$330.00
The Rivera Family		\$1,000.00
Andrew Solo		\$100.00
Christopher Law	In Memory of SGM retired Larry Law	\$582.00
Daniel Gould		\$100.00
Thomas McMEnamin		\$25.00
Eugene Henwood		\$100.00
Hal Wright		\$10.00
Donald Scott		\$20.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*



# ALL AMERICAN MEMBERS

VETERANS	CHAPTER
Martin Adams	At Large
Hubert Bahr	Andrews Bostick Grimes Central Texas
Christopher Bak	Fayetteville
Bruce Ballard	Texas Lone Star
Timothy Betz	Fayetteville
Christopher Bisbocci	North Texas
Gregory Blackwell	North Texas
Horace Boner	Andrews Bostick Grimes Central Texas
Patrick Braun	Golden Brigade
Christopher Brayman	Wolverine All Airborne
Isaac Campos	Donald Lassen/Atlanta All Airborne
JP Cervantes	At Large
Robert Chappelle	Fayetteville
Charles Hodges	Virginia State
Tremayle Clements	Alvin C. York
Thomas Coyle	West Virginia All Airborne
Patrick Crum	Kentucky Airborne
Rodney Davenport	Andrews Bostick Grimes Central Texas
William Dolan	Gen Dennis L. Via All Airborne Signal
Eric Duncan	West Virginia All Airborne
David Eden	Fayetteville
Jonathan Evans	LTG James M Gavin
Darrin Fentress	ISG Leonard A Funk MOH
Laura Gentry	Andrews Bostick Grimes Central Texas
William Germelman	Washington DC
Eduardo Granado	South Texas
Rocel Grande	Fayetteville
Thomas Grimaldi	Greater Hartford
Joshua Hubble	Fayetteville
Amy Huffman	Gen Dennis L. Via All Airborne Signal
Christopher Israel	Texas Lone Star
Jeffrey James	Northern Michigan All Airborne
Eric Jaworski	Ben Vandervoort/Savannah/HHI
Johnny Danford	Fayetteville
Kenneth Johnson	Benavidez-Patterson

Kenneth Rohbraugh	West Virginia All Airborne
Allen Kempf	Jacksonville All Airborne
John Kirby	Benavidez-Patterson
Dustin Kitzman	Badger State
Timothy Knox	Fayetteville
Randy Lawson	Fayetteville
Velton Locklear	Benavidez-Patterson
Thomas Lopez	Lew Millett MOH Memorial
John Lugo	Benavidez-Patterson
Juan Marulanda-Velasquez	Andrews Bostick Grimes Central Texas
Kelly Michael	Tampa Bay All Airborne
William Miller	Donald Lassen/Atlanta All Airborne
Melvin Montilla	ISG Leonard A Funk MOH
Daniel Moreland	North Texas
David Morrison	Northern Michigan All Airborne
Mario Nunez-Reyes	Chicago
Clarence Potter	Fayetteville
Rolando Prado	South Texas
Jessica Ramirez	South Texas
Walter Roberts	Washington DC
Craig Robertson	CPL Steven Koch All Airborne
Roberto Robles	Benavidez-Patterson
Russell Scott	Evergreen State
Keith Sennick	Greater Hartford
Joseph Shaw Jr.	At Large
James Slemph	West Virginia All Airborne
Stephen Brown	West Virginia All Airborne
Thomas Mather	Akron
Dennie Turner	North Texas
Blake Watts	St. Michael's All Airborne
Chadwick Wilson	Fayetteville
Joseph Wrzosek	Badger State
Thomas Yando	Fayetteville
<b>ACTIVE DUTY</b>	
Kyle Abruzzese	Fayetteville
Creesy Antoine	Gen Dennis L. Via All Airborne



# ALL AMERICAN MEMBERS



Michael Arcenau	Benavidez-Patterson
Alexander Cramer	Fayetteville
Andrew Davis	325 AIR
Mark Edmonds	Fayetteville
Edwin Figueroa	325 AIR
Bryce Finocchio	NCO of the Year
Timothy Flynn	Fayetteville
Dennis Hudson	325 AIR
Ryan Knight	Fayetteville
Dan Maramonte	Fayetteville
Joshua Snyder	Trooper of the Year
Todd Travas	Low Country All Airborne
Michael Weber	Evergreen State
Johannes Weidmann	Jumpmaster of the Year
Robert Whan	325 AIR
Ethan Wilson	504 PIR
Brody Vandervoort	Ben Vandervoort Savannah/Hilton Head Island Chapter



Invite another comrade to join.  
 Visit our website at  
[www.82ndairborneassociation.org](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org)  
 for more information.

## PARAGLIDE ADVERTISEMENT IS OPEN TO CHAPTERS & MEMBERS

The Advertisement cost for publishing in the Association Paraglide magazine are noted below:

**\$500 - Full Page / Color / 4 Issues**

**\$250 - Half Page / Color / 4 Issues**

**\$150 - Quarter Page / Color / 4 Issues**

**\$50 - Business Card / Color / 4 Issues**

**\$150 - Facebook & Website Advertising / Monthly**

Ads & Artwork must be camera ready.

For more information please contact the National Headquarters at (910) 223-1182, or via email at

[execdir@82ndairborneassociation.org](mailto:execdir@82ndairborneassociation.org). An invoice will be issued once the ad is approved. ATW!



I (WE) \_\_\_\_\_, WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR THE 82ND ASSOCIATION GENERAL FUND.

\_\_\_ PLEASE RECORD MY NAME IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PARAGLIDE.

\_\_\_ PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ I WISH FOR MY DONATION TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC. AND MAIL TO:

82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.  
ATTN: JAMES GRIMES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
P.O. BOX 87482  
FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28304-7482

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC. ARE NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE AT THIS TIME. FUNDS WILL BE USED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO DEFRAY THE COSTS OF ASSOCIATION OPERATIONS AND THE PUBLISHING OF THE PARAGLIDE.

We are happy to report that the 82nd Airborne Division Association has received our 501(c)3 Non-Profit Status approval letter. We are currently working to secure the 501(c)3 status for each of our Chartered Chapters and will announce when we have resolution on our request. A copy of our 501(c)3 letter is located on our website at: [http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/assets/1-501\(c\)3-tax-exempt-letter-23jul2019.pdf](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/assets/1-501(c)3-tax-exempt-letter-23jul2019.pdf)

## PARAGLIDE ADVERTISEMENT IS NOW OPEN TO NON-MEMBERS

The Advertisement cost for publishing in the Association Paraglide magazine are noted below:

\$2000 - Full Page / Color / 4 Issues

\$1000 - Half Page / Color / 4 Issues

\$500 - Quarter Page / Color / 4 Issues

\$250-BusinessCard/Color/4Issues

\$150 - Facebook & Website Advertising/Monthly

Ads & Artwork must be camera ready.

For more information please contact the National Headquarters at (910) 223-1182, or via email at

[execdir@82ndairborneassociation.org](mailto:execdir@82ndairborneassociation.org). An invoice will be issued once the ad is approved. ATW!

# AAW 2025

The dates for All American Week 2025 will be 19 May - 22 May.

Online registration is open and printable forms are available.

Visit:

<https://82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html>

Please watch our social media channels for more information.

# 79TH CONVENTION

The dates for the 79th Convention will be 5 August - 9 August.

We will have the online registration open and printable forms available on the website shortly.

Please watch our social media channels for more information.

# J. Mattingly

1845



[jmattingly1845.com](http://jmattingly1845.com)



# ALL AMERICAN WEEK 2025 REGISTRATION May 19-22, 2025



## \$155 Per Person Registration Fee, includes:

The Association Dinner Social (Coat and Tie Event) will be held on Thursday, 22 May at the Iron Mike Conference Center.

Beer, soda, water and snacks will be included in the hospitality room nightly.

Upon arrival, please be sure to check in and pick up your registration packet at the Association Registration Desk at Moon Hall.

*(There will be **no** transportation provided from the airports. Taxi service and Uber/Lyft is available).*

**\$155 per person REGISTRATION must be received by 5 May 2025!**

**After 5 May 2025 a late registration fee of \$180 per person will be charged.**

**Transportation to All American Week Events will be available from Moon Hall.**

Please complete the following information (***Please print legibly***):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title/Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Last Held Include Area Code

Address (Street, City, Zip Code): \_\_\_\_\_

Membership #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Email (please include): \_\_\_\_\_

Guest 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Last First

Guest 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Guest 4: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Last First

**\$155 (or \$180 after May 5, 2025) (per person Registration) X # \_\_\_\_\_ person(s) = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**  
Challenge Coins \_\_\_\_\_ x \$17.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

ARRIVAL DATE	DEPARTURE DATE	ASSOCIATION CHAPTER

Did you serve in the 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV in (please circle):  
WWII Dom Rep Vietnam Grenada Panama Persian Gulf GWOT  
HOTEL RESERVATIONS MADE AT (Please circle): Airborne Inn / Landmark Inn / Other  
Please specify any Handicap needs, to include food allergies:

**2025 AAW Challenge Coin**  
**\$17 each**

**Image to come**

Make check/money order payable to:  
82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, P.O. Box 87482, Fayetteville NC 28304-7482 or scan  
the QR code above.

Any questions, please call (910) 223-1182.

*Cancellations and/or requests for refunds must be submitted no later than 5 May 2025.  
Refunds will not be issued after this date unless it is a verifiable emergency. Funds will  
be considered a donation to the Association. AIRBORNE, ALL THE WAY!*



## ALL AMERICAN WEEK 2025 May 19-22, 2025



The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association President and Board of Directors cordially invite all Association Members to join us as we celebrate All American Week with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.

---

Hotel reservations have been arranged, *for registered Association members*, at IHG Army Hotel (Airborne Inn - Moon Hall).

IHG Army Hotel (Airborne Inn – Moon Hall) - The Registered Member room rates are \$89.00/night for a standard queen (up to 2 people per room) + tax and includes buffet breakfast.

Rooms for individuals with disabilities are available upon request. Members should contact the hotel directly for reservations and questions regarding rooms:

**IHG Army Hotel (Airborne Inn-Moon Hall)**

**Bldg. D-3601 Darby Loop, Fort Liberty, NC 28310 (910) 853-7624 (POC Ms. Monica Wells) [ihgarmyhotels.com](http://ihgarmyhotels.com)  
Group code: AAW**

*If you have not paid your separate registration fee with the Association, you will not be eligible for the discounted hotel group rates, nor be able to use our block of rooms!*

There will be no transportation provided to or from the airport. Taxi service and Uber/Lyft is available.

**Registration is \$155.** REGISTRATIONS MUST be received by 5 May 2025.

After 5 May 2025, late registration increases to \$180 per person.

Registration can be mailed in, scan the QR code above or you can register online at

<http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html>

The Association Dinner Social will be on Thursday, 22 May, at the Iron Mike Conference Center.

The meals for these events, and drinks and snacks in the hospitality room, are included in the registration fee.

Check in and registration packets will be available at the Association Registration Desk located in Moon Hall.

More information will be put out shortly.

**Thank you to each and every donor  
that made the 82nd Airborne Division  
Association's Giving Tuesday  
Campaign a success!**



We would also like to thank Cumberland Community Foundation, Fayetteville New Car Dealers Association, Elizabeth "Beth" Keeney, Carol and Sammy Short, Daphne and Ray Manning, Will Gillis, CCF Board, and three anonymous donors for making this match possible.



Chartered by  
The United States Congress

## KENTUCKY AIRBORNE CHAPTER 2025 KENTUCKY AIRBORNE REUNION Lexington, KY 06-08 Mar 2025



A Brotherhood Formed in Sweat  
and Blood

**Cost:** Registration \$90 per person prior to 15 Feb 2025, \$105 after.

### SCHEDULE:

**THURSDAY:** Hospitality Room 1300 till Closing.

**FRIDAY:** Hospitality Room 0800 till Closing.

### SATURDAY:

- Hospitality Room 0800 – 1700
- Cocktails 1700 – 1800
- Banquet, Guest Speaker 1800 – 2000
- Hospitality Room 2000 - till Closing

Here are a couple of things we have found to be interesting Lexington:

1. See over 50 breeds of horses at the Kentucky Horse Park.
2. Celebrate the living history of Kentucky Bourbon at four historic distilleries: The Woodford Reserve Distillery, Buffalo Trace, Four Roses and Wild Turkey. These aren't just "visitor experiences!" These are real working distilleries.

### MAKE ROOM RESERVATIONS:

**Clarion Hotel Conference Center North  
1950 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY, 40511**

Special “Kentucky Airborne Reunion” Rates of **\$89.00** + 16.07% tax per night. This includes breakfast.

This rate is good; 1 day prior and 1 day after the event. Just use this link to make your reservations:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/OX15U7>

therefore, please complete the required fields to secure your overnight accommodations. Furthermore, reservations can be secure by telephone by calling the property directly at (859) 233-0512 **Cut-off date to reserve under the group discount is February 15, 2025.**

Event hosted and arranged by Kentucky Airborne Chapter. Call or email if you have questions: Bill Waller (502) 396-4770 or [kentucky@82ndairborneassociation.org](mailto:kentucky@82ndairborneassociation.org)

### REGISTRATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email (print): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ attending X \$90/person= \_\_\_\_\_ Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Bill Waller, 7010 Hadley Ct, Louisville, KY 40241

**Please make check payable to: Kentucky Airborne Chapter**      **Fee covers banquet and hospitality room**

*"America's Guard of Honor"*

AFRICA SICILY ITALY FRANCE THE NETHERLANDS BELGIUM GERMANY  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC VIETNAM GRENADA PANAMA PERSIAN GULF

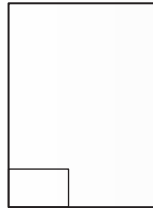
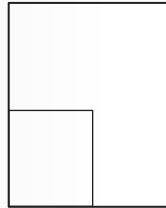




**82<sup>ND</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
PARAGLIDE ADVERTISEMENT  
For Chapters & Members 50% off  
Ad Specifications and Rates effective 01 AUG 2024**



*The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, Inc. is an IRS 501(c)3, a non-profit organization.*



**Full Page**

8.5"w x 11"h

Live Area:

7.5"w x 10"h

**Half Page**

8.5"w x 5.5"h

Live Area:

7.5"w x 4.5"h

**¼ Page**

4.25"w x 11"h

Live Area:

3.75"w x 5"h

**Business Card**

3.5"h x 2"h

Live Area:

2" x 3"

**ACCEPTABLE FORMATS:**

**Printed Copy**

**Adobe PDF:**

- High JPG compression. Down sampled to 300dpi

**Photoshop:**

- Layered and flattened version

- 100% or greater, no files smaller than 150 dpi size

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

- Black and white/color, no bleeds

- ½" margin on all sides (except business cards)

**Please check the space desired for your ad:**

- Full Page** - \$500.00 includes full-color AD & published in the following four Issues
- Half Page** - \$250.00 includes full-color AD & published in the following four Issues
- Quarter page** - \$150.00 includes full-color AD & published in the following four Issues
- Business Card** - \$50.00 includes full-color AD & published in the following four Issues
- Social Media & Website Advertising** - \$75.00 (reg \$150.00)/Monthly

I (we) hereby authorize the insertion of our advertisement, per the attached copy, in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association's Paraglide, for which I (we) agree to pay in advance the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

(All Ads are subject to approval)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks or money orders payable to 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association and mail to:

82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association  
PO Box 87482  
Fayetteville, NC 28304  
910-223-1182  
admin@82ndAirborneAssociation.org

**Ads may be sent electronically or by mail and must be copy-ready.  
When submitting payments, checks or money orders can be mailed, or contact the office to make  
electronic payment arrangements.**

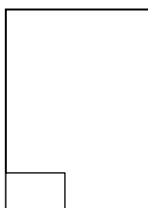
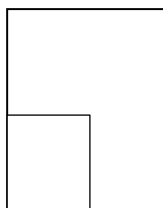
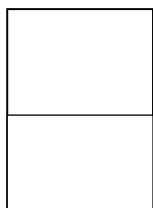
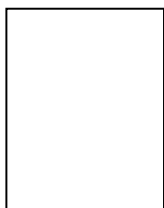


**82<sup>ND</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION  
PARAGLIDE ADVERTISEMENT  
For NON-MEMBERS**



**Ad Specifications and Rates effective 01 AUG 2024**

*The 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, Inc. is an IRS 501(c)3, a non-profit organization.*



**ACCEPTABLE FORMATS:**

**Printed Copy**  
**Adobe PDF:**

- High JPG compression. Down sampled to 300dpi

**Photoshop:**

- Layered and flattened version
- 100% or greater, no files smaller than 150 dpi size

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

- Black and white/color, no bleeds
- 1/2" margin on all sides (except business cards)

**Full Page**  
8.5"w x 11"h  
Live Area:  
7.5"w x 10"h

**Half Page**  
8.5"w x 5.5"h  
Live Area:  
7.5"w x 4.5"h

**1/4 Page**  
4.25"w x 11"h  
Live Area:  
3.75"w x 5"h

**Business Card**  
3.5"h x 2"h  
Live Area:  
2" x 3"

**Please check the space desired for your ad:**

- Full Page** - \$2,000.00 includes full-color AD and published in the following four Issues
- Half Page** - \$1,000.00 includes full-color AD and published in the following four Issues
- Quarter page** - \$500 includes full-color AD and published in the following four Issues
- Business Card** - \$250 includes full-color AD and published in the following four Issues

I (we) hereby authorize the insertion of our advertisement, per the attached copy, in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association's Paraglide, for which I (we) agree to pay in advance the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_. (All Ads are subject to approval)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

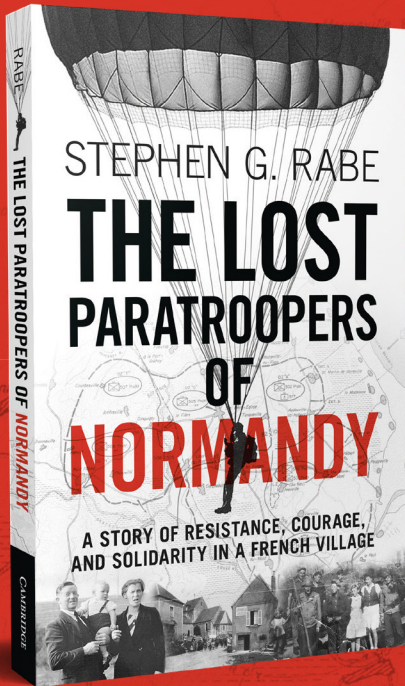
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make all checks or money orders payable to 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association and mail to:

82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association  
PO Box 87482  
Fayetteville, NC 28304  
910-223-1182  
admin@82ndAirborneAssociation.org

**Ads may be sent electronically or by mail and must be copy-ready.  
When submitting payments, checks or money orders can be mailed, or contact the office to  
make electronic payment arrangements.**



# THE LOST PARATROOPERS OF NORMANDY

STEPHEN G. RABE

A STORY OF RESISTANCE, COURAGE, AND SOLIDARITY IN A FRENCH VILLAGE

On D-Day, transport planes dropped paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions hopelessly off-target, the 900 villagers of Graignes welcomed and supported them to overcome the SS. Historian Stephen G. Rabe, son of one of the paratroopers, meticulously documents the forgotten lives of those who participated in this integral part of D-Day history.

9781009206402 | \$16.95  
Paperback | May 2024

Save 20% with discount code **PARA20** at  
[cambridge.org/LostParatroopersPB](https://www.cambridge.org/LostParatroopersPB)



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UNIVERSITY PRESS



**Main Street**  
FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS  
*Registered Investment Advisor*

I'm **John P. Hammack**, a **CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™** with over 30 years of experience and I can guide you through whatever life throws your way. From investment management and estate planning to retirement distribution strategies and small business planning.

I'll be by your side every step of the way so you'll never be without your "battle buddy". Because in personal wealth management, like the military, relationships matter.

Please call my office at 848-844-1017 to schedule your free consultation today.



Proudly served in A Co,  
4/325 (ABCT) 1983-1985

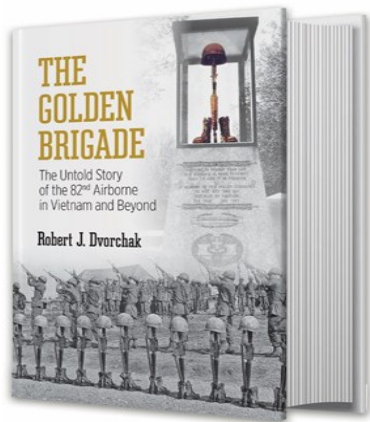
Secretary/Treasurer,

**COHORT Chapter**

**82nd ABN DIV Association**



Investment advisory services offered through Main Street Financial Solutions LLC., an SEC registered investment advisor.



***52 Years of Waiting  
2 1/2 Years of Interviews, Research  
and Writing***

***Available Now!!!!***

***Sponsored by the Golden Brigade Chapter,  
82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, Inc.***

Eminent author, military historian, radio commentator, national and international reporter Robert J. Dvorchak, has produced the definitive history of the ***Golden Brigade in Vietnam***. The young troopers of the Brigade really wrote this history over 50 years ago with their blood, sweat and tears. The author has masterfully interwoven the history of the war, the turmoil of the 1960's with the individual stories of the young men who fought and served. Those who died, were wounded and the lucky ones; whether on the line or in the rear, who came back with the memories, both good and bad, of an experience which has profoundly impacted their lives will be forever remembered in this masterpiece.

This beautiful hardbound **528 page** book is crammed with over **64 pages** of color and black and white pictures, key maps and interviews of "those who have been there and done that". It has been written in American blood, authored by an American, and printed in America by Americans.

Now is your opportunity to get books from this first run. An ideal gift for children, grandchildren, friends and family. Anyone interested in 82<sup>nd</sup> history won't be disappointed.

## **Special 1st Run Offer**

This book will list in bookstores for \$35.00 + tax. You can now purchase yours **including shipping and handling delivered** to your doorstep.

In addition, Bob will **autograph and date** each copy with a **personal message**. Should you want a special message to a loved one or even yourself, please clearly specify that on a separate sheet of paper. Please be patient as this will take time to be done right.

Send you checks and desired personal messages to:

**Robert J. Dvorchak, 178 Jade Drive, Verona, PA 15147    412-793-5068**  
**Bdvorchak@msn.com.    (call over 5 books)**

**Questions: Golden Brigade Chapter 804-338-8222**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ #copies x \$35 \_\_\_\_\_

## Educational Fund Contributions

The following contributions have been made to the 82nd Airborne Division Association Educational Fund since last publication of the Paraglide. These gifts are greatly appreciated.

**It's CFC Season!**



Look for the Educational Fund in your CFC Brochure,  
the Fund is listed with the:  
*Military, Veterans and Patriotic Public Service  
Organizations of America.*  
**CODE NUMBER: 11449**  
82nd Airborne Division Educational Fund

**DONOR**

**AMOUNT**

A special thank you to all of those who contributed to the Educational Fund through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), and other work place campaigns by direct donation or payroll deduction. Your contributions have enabled the Fund to increase the number of scholarship grants awarded. Federal statute prohibits CFC's from providing the dollar amount of individual's donations. The only information the Fund receives is a list of names and addresses, in order that acknowledgments may be sent. Thanks again—You have made a difference!

Scholarship Application for the School Year 2024-2025 Deadline:

***OCTOBER 15, 2025***

Applications and criteria for the 82nd Airborne Division Association Educational Fund are available from your chapter. All dependent children of paid for life 82nd Association members and former troopers who received an honorable discharge within the last two years and are paid for life All American Members are eligible to apply. Former troopers may now receive the grant for four years. Completed applications **MUST** be sent to the address below and postmarked no later than ***October 15, 2025***. Applications may not be sent by UPS or FedEx. Be sure to complete all parts of the application. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Students must be enrolled in twelve hours and working towards a degree; awarded grant money is mailed to the college before the spring semester.

82nd Airborne Division Association, Educational Fund

PO Box 87482, Fayetteville

NC 28304-7482

For more information, contact your Chapter Chairman or Secretary.

Donations may be sent to the address above or online at

[www.82ndairborneassociation.org/education-fund.html](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/education-fund.html)

# Top 1% of Roofers

## SERVICES

- *Installation and Repair*
- *Single Ply Systems*
- *Built-up Roof Systems*
- *Modified Roof Systems*
- *Metal Roof Systems*
- *Commercial*
- *Shingles*
- *Solar Detach and Reset*
- *Insurance Acceptance*



Active members, honorably discharged veterans, and retirees of the U.S. military get a \$250 rebate when you install a qualifying GAF roofing system<sup>2</sup> on your home and purchase an Enhanced Warranty



FREE QUOTE: [NOTORIOUSROOFING.COM](http://NOTORIOUSROOFING.COM)



ARIZONA, CALIFORNIA, COLORADO,  
ILLINOIS, FLORIDA, GEORGIA, NORTH &  
SOUTH CAROLINA

Please return completed application and payment to:

82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association  
PO Box 87482  
Fayetteville, NC 28304



All applications must include verification of eligibility paperwork. Must show honorable discharge, airborne qualification or proof of assignment or attachment to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Please see information sheet for acceptable documentation.

Membership Application, payment and update can also be processed online at [www.82ndairborneassociation.org](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org) under the Membership link or use the QR Code



## 82<sup>nd</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION VETERAN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All fields must be filled in and please print legibly!

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:**

Name (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (M.I.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ (No email address will restrict your access to information.)

Chapter Preference \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (cell) \_\_\_\_\_

SSN (last four only)/ASN \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

**Please check one:**  Annual Membership (\$35.00) or  All American Member \$350.

Transfer Chapter  Update Information

Current Member Replacement Card (\$5.00)  Replacement Certificate for Current All American Members (\$10.00)

**I would like to donate:**  \$10.00  \$25.00  \$50.00  \$100  other amount - to the General Fund to benefit the Association's Programs

**SERVICE INFORMATION:**

Current Status:  Retired Military/Veteran  Active Duty/Reserve/National Guard  Rank \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*Time in Service: Entered Service (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_ ETS Date (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_\*\*\*\***

List AIRBORNE Unit(s) and Combat tours (Most recent first.) Please use the back if more space is needed.

Unit 1 \_\_\_\_\_ from month/yr \_\_\_\_\_ to month/yr \_\_\_\_\_

Unit 2 \_\_\_\_\_ from month/yr \_\_\_\_\_ to month/yr \_\_\_\_\_

Combat Tour/Conflict: \_\_\_\_\_ from month/yr \_\_\_\_\_ to month/yr \_\_\_\_\_

Combat Tour/Conflict: \_\_\_\_\_ from month/yr \_\_\_\_\_ to month/yr \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Effective April 2023



**MILITARY MEMBERSHIP  
APPLICATION/UPDATE  
82<sup>nd</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.**

*Please print legibly!*

**Membership/Updates can also be processed online  
with the QR Code or online at  
[www.82ndairborneassociation.org](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org) under the  
Membership link.**



FORMAL NAME (No Nicknames): \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS (HOME OF RECORD):

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ SSN (LAST 4 Only): \_\_\_\_\_

MARITAL STATUS: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ CELL #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

CIVILIAN EMAIL ONLY: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS FOR THOSE <i>CURRENTLY</i> SERVING IN OR ATTACHED TO THE 82 <sup>nd</sup> AIRBORNE DIVISION	
____ <b>FIRST YEAR NEW ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS FREE</b>	____ ANNUAL RENEWAL MEMBERSHIP (except for First Year) - \$8.20
____ ALL AMERICAN MEMBERSHIP E-1 to E-4 - \$82.00	____ ALL AMERICAN MEMBERSHIP E-5 to E-7 / W-1, W-2 / O-1 to O-3 - \$150.00
____ ALL AMERICAN MEMBERSHIP E-8 and E-9, W-3 and O-4 and up \$350.00	

**LIST AIRBORNE UNIT(S)**

CURRENT UNIT : \_\_\_\_\_ FROM MO/YR: \_\_\_\_\_

Combat Tour Location: \_\_\_\_\_ FROM MO/YR \_\_\_\_\_ TO MO/YR: \_\_\_\_\_

*Upon ETS, please specify an affiliate Chapter you would like to transfer your membership to:* \_\_\_\_\_

Veteran Chapters can be found at the following link: <https://82ndairborneassociation.org/chapter-locator.html> or use the above QR Code. Affiliate Chapter may contact you only to inform you of local events.

**BENEFITS:** You have joined a Fraternity of Airborne Troopers (Paratroopers and Glidermen) that became the Charter members during WWII. Their legacy has proudly continued through the years by Paratroopers that now exceed 34,000 members in the largest and only Charter Airborne Association in the world. Additional benefits can be found on our website.

**LIFE MEMBERS:** Receive a membership card and Certificate, are eligible to attend the August National Convention for life and are eligible for dependent children to receive College Scholarship Grants for up to 4 years.

**ANNUAL MEMBERS:** Receive a card that will expire one year from date of issue and are eligible to attend the August National Convention.

(Military Member Application - 4/2023)





# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Effective 1 July 2023)

1st Brigade Combat Team, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association Incorporated



1st BCT/504th PIR Association Membership Dues	Annual	Lifetime
Veteran Member (Lifetime Member)	\$15.00	\$90.00
Active Duty - 1st BCT/504th PIR	\$5.04	\$50.40
Annual Associate Membership (Not Assigned or Attached to 504 PIR, but Airborne)	\$15.00	
Prop Blast Subscription (Mailed copy is not included with membership)	\$8.50	
82nd Airborne Division Association	Annual	All American
Veteran or Active Duty (Not Assigned/Attached to 82nd) Membership	\$35.00	\$350.00
Active Duty - First Year New Annual Membership	FREE	
Active Duty E-1 to E4	\$35.00	\$82.00
Active Duty E-5 to E-7, W-1, W-2 and O-1 to O-3	\$35.00	\$150.00
Active Duty E-8 and E-9, W-3 and O-4 and up	\$35.00	\$350.00

Current 82nd Airborne Division Association Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 82nd Association Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Assigned/Attached to the 1st BCT/504th PIR  
 From (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_ To (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Rank \_\_\_\_\_ SSN \_\_\_\_\_  
 (last 4 only)

Current Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Single  Spouse's First Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Widowed   
 Married  Children \_\_\_\_\_  
 Male   
 Female

Payment Enclosed 504 PIR Assn. Annual Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Dues: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment Enclosed 82nd Assn. Annual Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Lifetime Dues: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check/money order payable to the **1st BCT/504th PIR Association, Inc.** and mail to:  
**James R. Cook, Treasurer**  
**185 Fox Run Rd.**  
**Pinehurst, NC 28374**  
 If you are also joining the 82nd Association, please send a separate check/money order for that membership payable to the **82nd Airborne Division Association.**

**\*\* You MUST include a copy of your DD214, ERB or ORB along with your application. \*\***

Questions or comments concerning the 1st BCT/504th PIR Association should be directed to one of the

following Officers: Association Secretary - [504th.PIR.Association.Secretary@gmail.com](mailto:504th.PIR.Association.Secretary@gmail.com)

Association Treasurer - [the504pir.assn@yahoo.com](mailto:the504pir.assn@yahoo.com)

Please visit our new website at [www.504thpirassociation.org](http://www.504thpirassociation.org) if you prefer to complete your application online.



Golden Brigade

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**JUMP QUALIFIED Applicants OR Those Who Have Served in Combat with or Attached to One of the Following:**

3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division  
505th Parachute Infantry Regiment  
555th Parachute Infantry Battalion  
Any Airborne Battle Group, 505th Infantry

505th Regimental Combat Team  
505th Airborne Infantry Regiment  
Golden Brigade (served Feb 1968-Dec 1969 only)  
508 Regimental Combat Team

### PANTHER ASSOCIATION

Annual Membership \$15.05  
Lifetime Membership \$75.05

Name \_\_\_\_\_ D.O.B. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name) (First Name) (Middle Initial)

Home Of Record \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Unit assigned to \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_

Rank/Grade \_\_\_\_\_

DD214 \_\_\_\_ Jump School \_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_ Company \_\_\_\_\_

Currently a member of (check those that apply):

505th RCT Association \_\_\_\_ 505th Chapter of the 82nd Association \_\_\_\_  
Golden Brigade Chapter of the 82nd Association \_\_\_\_ 555th Parachute Infantry Association \_\_\_\_  
None of the above \_\_\_\_

Type of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_(Lifetime) \_\_\_\_\_(Annual)

Make checks/Money order payable to Panther Association and mail to:

Panther Association, Inc. – 2400 Bailey's Crossroads Road, Coats, NC 27521-8920

*Applicants are required to submit a copy of their form DD214 to accompany their application.*



# 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION WOUNDED WARRIOR DONATIONS

Contributions to the Wounded Warrior Program are 501(c)(3) tax deductible and will be used solely and 100% to defray costs to sponsor our 82nd Airborne Division Wounded Warriors. Please make check/money order payable to 82nd Abn Div Assoc WW Fund and mail to: PO Box 87482 • Fayetteville, NC 28304-7482.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions with regards to the support for our Wounded Warriors; please feel free to contact one of your committee members: Gary Rezabek, President ([garyrezabek@yahoo.com](mailto:garyrezabek@yahoo.com)), Sue Federinko, Vice President ([sfederinko82@gmail.com](mailto:sfederinko82@gmail.com)); Maggie Peppers, Secretary ([peppers@82ndairborneassociation.org](mailto:peppers@82ndairborneassociation.org)), Larry Stewart, Treasurer.

The 82nd Airborne Division Association Wounded Warrior Committee will consider requests of the Divisions Wounded Warrior/ Purple Heart recipients for their own personal events. These might include fishing trips, mountain climbing, wounded warrior events, bike races and other events they might want to be sponsored for. They may request this through Gary Rezabek as listed above.

*Reaching out to 82nd Airborne Division Association Wounded Warriors. Have you ever thought about reuniting with your Battle Buddies? Why not have your reunion at the 82nd Abn Div Association National Convention this year. We can help. If you are interested please contact the following for details.*

Gary Rezabek, President 82nd Abn Div Assoc Wounded Warrior committee at [garyrezabek@yahoo.com](mailto:garyrezabek@yahoo.com) 216-310-4872

## PARAGLIDE ADVERTISEMENT IS OPEN TO CHAPTERS & MEMBERS

The Advertisement cost for publishing in the Association Paraglide magazine are noted below:

\$500 - Full Page / Color / 4 Issues

\$250 - Half Page / Color / 4 Issues

\$150 - Quarter Page / Color / 4 Issues

\$50 - Business Card / Color / 4 Issues

\$150 - Facebook & Website Advertising / Monthly

Ads & Artwork must be camera ready.

For more information please contact the National Headquarters at (910) 223-1182, or via email at

[execdir@82ndairborneassociation.org](mailto:execdir@82ndairborneassociation.org). An invoice will be issued once the ad is approved. ATW!

## **WOUNDED WARRIOR & GOLD STAR FAMILIES Of the 82nd Airborne Division**

The committee of the 82nd Airborne Division Association Wounded Warrior Fund has made some changes over the past few years. The Committee has grown to meet the needs of troopers with service connected disabilities that were sustained in combat or during a training accident.

We have been assisting our troopers and their families in different ways over the last few years.

We have assisted with:

Educational needs.

Housing improvements.

Travel and lodging for All American Week and to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne National Convention.

Donations to the Fisher House at Ft Sam Houston TX, Walter Reed Army Medical Center Wash. DC and our own beloved Womack Army Medical Center NC.

Assisting Gold Star Families as needed.

If you are interested please contact the following for details.

PP Gary Rezabek, President 82nd Airborne Division Association Wounded Warrior committee at

**[garyrezabek@yahoo.com](mailto:garyrezabek@yahoo.com) 216-310-4872.**

Dir Maggie Peppers, Secretary 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association WWF Committee.

**[abnpep@gmail.com](mailto:abnpep@gmail.com), 440-300-8903**

Larry Stewart, Treasurer 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association Wounded Warrior Committee. **stew-**

**art@82ndairborneassociation.org** , 281-844-1421

Contributions to the Wounded Warrior Program are 501(c)(3) tax deductible and will be used solely and 100% to defray costs to sponsor our 82nd Airborne Division Wounded Warriors.

Please make check/money order payable to 82nd Airborne Division Association WW Fund and mail to:

**PO Box 87482 • Fayetteville, NC 28304-7482.**

Your 82nd Airborne Division Association Wounded Warrior Committee would like to sincerely Thank You for your continued support for our Troopers through your donations, prayers, notes, etc. If you have any questions with regards to the support for our Wounded Warriors; please feel free to contact one of your committee members.

If you need a little inspiration. Here are a few photos that remind us of how strong our warriors really are and how thankful we are to have them in our lives. Airborne! All the Way.

Gary Rezabek,

President 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association Wounded Warrior Fund.

HONORING OUR FALLEN



82D AIRBORNE DIVISION  
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

# “Dedicated To The Memory Of Those 82d Airborne Division Paratroopers Who Lost Their Lives In Preparation For Combat Operations”



The 82d Airborne Division Memorial Association was formed to aid the 82d Airborne Division in raising and managing funds acquired from private donations to help memorialize significant events and the Soldiers of the Division through material markers in the 82d Airborne Division area.

The Association is fundraising with the goal of adding a new granite memorial at the 82d Airborne Division Museum, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The concept design for the memorial is seen in the image above.

**All donations to the project are tax deductible.  
Those making a donation of \$82 or more will receive a certificate from the Memorial Association**

Use the form below and mail your donation to:

82d Airborne Division Memorial Association, P.O. Box 43359, Fayetteville, NC 28309-3359

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_



The Members of the 82d Airborne Division Association and their families extend their deepest sympathies to the loved ones of these Troopers who have landed on their last drop zone. They gave their all. Their contributions and friendship have made a lasting impression on all of us. We'll miss you Trooper.

**Eugene Christoff**, a member of the ISG Leonard A. Funk M.O.H., Western Pennsylvania Chapter, passed away on March 20, 2014. Eugene was a veteran of WWII and a member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Eugen was a Medic.

**Ronald L. Francis**, a member of the ISG Leonard A. Funk M.O.H., Western Pennsylvania Chapter, passed away on September 20, 2024. Ron served as the Chapter Secretary in 2016 & 2017. Ronald was a member of the 618<sup>th</sup> Engineers of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.

**William J. McCartney (Bill)**, a member of the ISG Leonard A. Funk M.O.H., Western Pennsylvania Chapter, died September 26, 2024. Bill was a member of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and then the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Bill was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 1940.

**Lawrence Collins Morris (Larry)**, a member of the ISG Leonard A. Funk M.O.H., Western Pennsylvania Chapter, died July 12, 2024. Larry was in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.

**Michael Serago**, a member of the ISG Leonard A. Funk M.O.H., Western Pennsylvania Chapter, passed away on

August 22, 2024. Mike was a veteran of WWII serving in the 508<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in Germany.

**Stanley R. Yurczak**, a member of the ISG Leonard A. Funk M.O.H., Western Pennsylvania Chapter, died February 2, 2024. Stanley was a Staff Sergeant in the 618<sup>th</sup> Engineers of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Stanley received a Purple Heart during the Vietnam War.

**Jeronimo Galban Jr.**, a member of the North Texas Chapter, passed away February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at the age of 71. He proudly served our country in the U.S. Army as part of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne. He was one of the founding members of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association North Texas Chapter.

**Robert Lee Presson**, a member of the West Virginia All Airborne Chapter, passed away on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the age of 94.

**William Sorg**, a member of the West Virginia All Airborne Chapter, passed away August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. He is survived by his wife Roberta and two sons. He served in A/2-501<sup>st</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV.

**George Bicking**, a member of the New Jersey CPL Steven Koch All Airborne Chapter, passed away on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He served in the 82<sup>nd</sup> ADMIN Co, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV.

**Conrad Hoffman**, a member of the New Jersey CPL Steven Koch All Airborne Chapter, passed away on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He served in HHC/2-187 PIR, 101AD; HHC/XVIII.

**Stephen Kingsbury**, a member of the New Jersey CPL Steven Koch All Airborne Chapter, passed away on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He served in HHC & C/1-505 PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV.

**Duane Kuizema**, a member of the New Jersey CPL Steven Koch ALL Airborne Chapter, passed away on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He served in HHC/3-504 PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV.

**Michael Lacascio**, a member of the New Jersey CPL Steven Koch All Airborne Chapter, passed away on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He served in 1/504 PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV.

**Alessandro Panebianco**, a member of the New Jersey CPL Steven Koch All Airborne Chapter, passed away on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. He served in A co, 2-504 PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV.

**John Prior Jr.**, a member of the New Jersey CPL Steven Koch All Airborne Chapter, passed away on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He served in HHC/3-504 PIR and HHC/82d ABN DIV.

**Lee Siegfried**, a member of the New Jersey CPL Steven Koch All Airborne Chapter, passed away in 2024. He served in C, 3/4 ADA, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV.

**James Morris**, a member of the Wisconsin Badger State All Airborne chapter, passed away on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, surrounded by family after a courageous battle with cancer. He served in 1-505 Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.

**Jorge Mercado**, a member of the Puerto Rico Lozada-Rubio Conde chapter, passed away on August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He is survived by his wife Dolores and two children. He was a Vietnam veteran and he served with the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade.

**Jorge Otero Barreto**, a member of the Puerto Rico Lozada-Rubio Conde chapter, passed away on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. He is survived by his wife Tomasa and four



children. He was a Vietnam veteran and served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN DIV and 173<sup>rd</sup> ABN Brigade. He was the most Condeco rated soldier of the Vietnam War (5 tours to Vietnam).

**Wigberto Polanco**, a member of the Puerto Rico Lozada-Rubio Conde chapter, passed away on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He is survived by his wife Brunilda and three children. He was a member of the E Co, 1/65<sup>th</sup> INF(A), PRNG.

**Robert H. Bowden Jr.**, a former member of the Virginia Blue Ridge All Airborne chapter, passed away on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He is survived by his wife Jane and three sons. He served in the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade.

**CSM (Retired) Brian Keith Meyers** passed away on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. He spent 19 years in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, holding numerous leadership positions, from Infantry Team Leader to Brigade Command Sergeant major.

*Old Troopers never die,  
they just slip away . . . .*



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CHAPTER ISSUES: Some Chapters continue to struggle and have leadership issues, for a lot of reasons; illness, aging, family problems, etc. If no-one from the Chapter membership steps up, then it is inevitable that the Chapter may have to close. Another possibility is that Chapters may want to consider merging. In ALL cases, Chapter Officers must notify their membership, and then eventually enter the outcome in the Chapter meeting minutes. Next, the Chairman must notify National by mailing a signed letter of their intent. If the Chapter is closing, all Chapter monies and possessions must be provided the National office via Registered or Certified mail in accordance with the Association By-Laws. Exec. Director, Bill Bauer, ATW!

# WHY JOIN THE 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION?

The 82nd Airborne Division Association is dedicated to preserving the legacy of the 82nd Airborne Division. We do this through organized local Chapters throughout the United States that promote the Spirit of the 82nd Airborne Division within their communities through participation in community events such as: Veterans Day events, Memorial Day events, JROTC recognition of High School students, and even some chapters sponsoring Holiday toy drives, and sponsoring Active Duty Troopers of the Division in attend chapter events within their communities and in attending other local events that showcase their communities.

Our Veteran members are always available to support our Active Duty Troops. Active Duty Troops can affiliate themselves, during membership registration, with any of our local chapters throughout the United States. You can affiliate with a chapter close to your home of record or one near your next PCS move that can keep you informed of their local events your family members back home may like to attend or to establish a network link for you within that community. Our members come from all walks of life and are eager to assist fellow Association members whenever possible. When you chose to leave the Military, having fellow members that may be located in the community where you are going, and understand where you're coming from, can be a great asset to you starting off in a new environment.

As a member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association you will be helping us in supporting our Division through numerous programs such as our Holiday Troop Support Program, which provides meals to Troopers and their Families during the Holidays, helping to provide food for the Division Chaplain's food locker, and sponsoring numerous Division events throughout the year. Your support helps us to continue our 82nd Airborne Division Association Educational Fund, which provides educational grants to Troopers when they leave the military, and to their dependent children when they attend college. Your support also helps us to support our Wounded Troopers of the Division through

our 82nd Airborne Division Association Wounded Warrior Fund, which sponsors our Wounded Warriors to return to Fort Bragg for the All American Week events, and brings them to the Association's Annual Conventions, all at no cost to these Troopers who deserve our support. Your support will also assist us in realizing new projects that our Association is eager to sponsor that will support our Active Duty Troopers and Veteran Members. Join and be a part of our progress.

As a member of the Association you will be helping us to maintain the legacy of the 82nd Airborne Division through our support of numerous associations and organizations that are dedicated to preserving the history of the 82nd Airborne Division and continuing to recognize the memory of our fallen heroes. Our Association annually recognizes our fallen with the laying of wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery, and by attending the funerals of fallen members of the 82nd Airborne Division who are laid to rest within their local communities.

As a member of the Association, you will be joining the Brotherhood of members who have come before you. Our ranks include members who served in the 82nd Airborne Division during WW II, and in every conflict our Division has been a part of since. Be a part of their legacy. Come to our events and have the opportunity to sit and talk with these living legends, and to hear their stories in person. Learn from those who came before you what it was like to be a member of our storied Division throughout its history. Be a part of this legacy of great Warriors who have served in the greatest Division the world has ever seen. No matter where your life takes you from here you are now and forever going to be an "All American Trooper" and proud to have served your country in this historic Division. Stay a part of the legacy and this Division forever by becoming a member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, and continuing to support the Division through your support of its Association.

**AIRBORNE, ALL THE WAY!**

## AIMS & PURPOSE

Further develop the bond between current and past Air- borne forces of the U.S. Military.

Maintain a record of the history and accomplishments of Airborne Troopers.

Maintain a close liaison with the active Division.

Support the 82nd Airborne Division Memorial Museum.

Provide scholarships through the Association Educational Fund to recently released veterans and children of veteran and active duty members of the Association (\$127,600 awarded in 2016).

Honor the Jumpmaster, NCO & Trooper of the Year.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2009 Annual Donation from membership dues to 82nd Airborne Division Memorial Museum and the Education Fund amounted to \$5,485.80 each.

Provide funds for stained glass windows in the Division Chapel honoring Troopers of various conflicts who made the supreme sacrifice.

Present an Association watch, life membership and honor the 82nd Jumpmaster, NCO and Trooper of the Year at All American Week.

Support the Division by helping obtain items for which no official funds are available such as:

- Uniforms and sound equipment for 82nd Airborne
- Division Chorus
- Baby Certificates
- Uniforms for athletic teams
- Food for Chaplain's Food Locker
- 

**1948** - Instrumental in helping the 82nd get back the distinctive Jump boots, Cap patch and Air- borne tab.

**1980** - Helped get the Maroon Beret adopted as official headgear.

**1992** - During Desert Storm, coordinated corporate and personal contributions amounting to \$4 million in goods and services and \$17,000 cash to help family members of deployed soldiers.

**1994** - Following the accident at Pope, the Association provided \$5,000 for emergency use, Chapters in San Antonio, Texas and Hampton Roads, Virginia provided much needed support for hospitalized soldiers and their families.

**2005-2009** - Provided donations for the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Monument.

**Beginning 2002 through 2012** - Provided "goodies" for the troopers deployed to protect our nation in Afghanistan and Iraq. Additionally, chapters attended ceremonies for our troopers Killed in Action throughout the U.S.A. Furthermore, provided goodies and visits to our Wounded Warriors in Walter Reed Army Medical Center (Washington D.C.) and Bethesda Naval Hospital, MD and Brooke Medical Center (San Antonio, TX). Contributed funds for the new Division Chapel Stained Glass Window.

**2009** - Hosted 42 Wounded Warrior and their families sponsored by voluntary 82d Association Chapters at the 63rd Annual Convention.

**2010** - Hosted 47 Wounded Warriors and their families sponsored by voluntary 82d Association Chapters at the 64th Annual Convention.

**2011** - Hosted 32 Wounded Warriors sponsored by Members, Chapters and Organizations at the 65th National Convention.

**2012** - Hosted 16 Wounded Warriors and their Families, sponsored by Members, Chapters and

Organizations to the 66th National Convention.

**2013** - Hosted 7 Wounded Warriors and their Families, sponsored by Members, Chapters and Organizations to the 67th National Convention.

**2014** - Hosted 2 Wounded Warriors sponsored by Members, Chapters and Organizations to the 68th National Convention.

**2015** - Donation to 82nd Museum \$1,000; Education Fund \$1,000. Sponsored Wounded Warriors at 2015 All American Week and Convention through Wounded Warrior Fund. Provided grants to 93 applicants through Education Fund.

**2016** - Donation to All American members killed in training Memorial \$1,000. Donation of food to the Division Food Locker.

**2016-2024 Holiday Troop Support** - We provided 1,000 meals to the 82nd Airborne Division Troopers and Families over the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

**National Airborne Heritage Day** – Through the efforts of Association members across the country for the past eleven years, the U.S. Senate, as well as many states and municipalities, have recognized August 16th as National Airborne Day, now named Airborne Heritage Day.

**2018 - Inaugural All American Adventure** – The Association had the honor of partnering with The Center for Discovery, in hosting 20 Troopers of the 82nd Airborne Division for the first ever 'All American Adventure', in Hurleyville, NY. This project was made possible only by the generous gift of the Vera and Walter J. Scherr Foundation. The 'All American Adventure' project helps find ways

to assist the 82nd Airborne Division with the reintegration process of recently redeployed Troopers of the Division. The inaugural event, inspired by The Center's world-renowned model for health and wellness, was developed specifically for our Troopers to help support and honor our men and women of the Division, who have recently returned home after nine month deployments in Afghanistan and Kosovo.

**2018 Hurricane Florence Relief** – We provided 250 Commissary gift cards to young Troopers and their families who lost their perishable goods during the power outages caused by Hurricane Florence.

**2018 Holiday Concert** – We provided hundreds of bags of candy for Santa to distribute to children during the 82nd Airborne Division Holiday Concert.

**2019 All American Adventure** - The Association again partnered with the Center for Discovery and hosted a group of service men and women for a resiliency weekend in the Catskill Mountains in NY.

**WWII Veteran Return to Normandy** - The Association had the Honor of sponsoring a return trip for some of our WW II Veterans to Normandy, France for the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of D-Day.

**2018-2019 All American Adventure Project** bringing Troopers of the 82nd Airborne Division to Catskill Mountains for a 4 day retreat of boating, fishing, hiking, biking, good food, campfires and concerts. Project is designed as a resiliency getaway for Troopers to relax and reenergize. Project will be done annually.

**2019** - Sponsored trip for 4 82nd Airborne Division

WW II Veterans to return to Normandy, France for the 75th Anniversary Celebration of D-Day.

**2019-** Sponsored the attendance of 82nd Airborne Division World WW II Veterans at the 73rd Annual Convention in Washington DC.

**2024 9/11 Run to Remember** - Hosted first annual Run to Remember 5k in honor of those lost on 9/11/2001.

**2024 Hurricane Helene Relief** – Held a donation drive and provided St. Michael’s All Airborne Chapter with multiple trailers of cold weather gear and a \$2,000 donation to help Veterans and their families impacted by the aftermath of Hurricane Helene.

**2024 Hurricane Milton Relief** – Provided a \$2,000 donation to My Warriors Place in Tampa, Florida to support Veterans impacted by Hurricane Milton.

## **BENEFITS**

Beyond the obvious benefits of lifetime friendships and membership in a Brotherhood that has no equal, the following are provided to members:

- Remain part of a unique and elite organization dedicated to fostering the Airborne heritage of the 82nd Airborne Division.
- Ability to build a network within an Airborne community that recognizes the accomplishments and abilities of Troopers of the 82nd Airborne Division.
- Join our social network to stay in touch with fellow 82nd Veterans and be informed of Military news.
- Stay in touch with fellow Veterans who understand your experiences, have walked where you have walked, been where you have been, and understand your struggles.

- Opportunity to attend and share experiences at National and Chapter events throughout the United States, to include our annual National Convention and All American Week celebration.
- Opportunity to be a leader on our National Board of Directors or in a local Chapter to help shape the Association and work towards moving our organization into the future.
- Choose one of over 80 local Chapters through-out the United States that work to foster Military programs and maintain our 82nd heritage within their communities.
- Help the Wounded Troopers of the 82nd Airborne Division.
- Ability to apply for educational funding available to recently discharged Military Troopers and their families.
- Make a difference in the lives of our fellow Active and Veteran Troopers.
- Maintain that bond with the Military community.

With your support, the Association can continue is to provide donations to the 82nd Airborne Division Education Fund, the 82nd Airborne Division Wounded Warrior Fund, the 82nd Airborne Division Museum and Memorial and Memorial Fund, and provide numerous programs that directly support our Active Duty Troopers.



[www.82ndairborneassociation.org](http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org)



# PARAGLIDE GUIDE

The Paraglide is your magazine. To make it professional and easy to read as possible, the following guidelines and pointers are offered.

## CHAPTER NEWS

Space - Under the current structure of the Paraglide, each chapter is allocated a half page and we will use all submissions. When chapters submit more than that amount, it becomes necessary for the Executive Director to edit. You can calculate the one half page space using the following method. Set margins so that you have a 60-character line. Approximately 50 lines will equal one half page. Subtract approximately 12 to 15 lines for each photo.

**Issue Dates** - The Paraglide is published on the 30th of January, April, July and October. When you submit, write as if all events up to the publication date have taken place even if they haven't or hold it until the next issue.

## STYLE

**Ranks:** It is policy of the Association to only use rank when the individual is active duty SGT, a general officer MG, or when the individual retired CSM (R) or former rank is significant to the story. **Dates and Times:** All dates and times are written civilian style. Do not include day with date; example: 4 p.m., July 15, 2009.

## WHAT NOT TO SEND TO THE PARAGLIDE

Please send the items below to the Executive Director, not the Paraglide Editor. This is necessary in order to maintain accurate Association Records.

The Executive Director forwards appropriate information to the Editor.

- Change of Address
- Change of Officers.
- Notice of Member's Death.
- Anything to do with memberships.
- Submissions to the Airborne Calendar.

## NEWS ARTICLES

News stories are generally based on an event and are reported written in the inverted pyramid style. This means the most important facts should go into the first paragraph, with the other details following in descending order of importance.

## FEATURES

Feature stories are the soul of any publication. They're the heartwarming personality profiles, the tragic but heroic war stories, the photo features that make you believe you're there and the indomitable histories of people and events that have shaped the 82nd and the Association.

## PHOTOS

The 82nd Airborne Division Association is a dynamic group and the Paraglide should reflect that energy. When possible, submit action photos as opposed to posed or static shots. A good rule of thumb is to select photos in which the subjects' heads are dime-size or larger. Neither Xerox copies nor newspaper clippings can be reproduced for publication.

**Caption:** Identify everyone in the photo whose face is clearly shown. From left to right, include their first and last names.

## FORMAT FOR SUBMISSIONS

Submissions should be typed in upper and lower case letters. Please do not type in all capital letters. The name of your chapter should appear at the top of the page. When mailing, you may send registered or return receipt requested.

## DEADLINES

The Paraglide deadlines are firm and should reflect upcoming events and those which took place the previous quarter.

The deadlines are as follows:

**Issue / Deadline / Publish Date**

Winter / December 30 / January 30

Spring / March 30 / April 30

Summer / June 30 / July 30

Fall / September 30 / October 30

**Please send letters and e-mail to:  
Holmesteads**

**18865 Edwards Grove Drive Noblesville, IN 46062**

**(317) 674-3717**

**[paraglide@holmesteads.com](mailto:paraglide@holmesteads.com)**