

STATIC LINE AWARDS



DEVILS



DIGEST



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STATIC LINE AWARDS 2008

By Ken Hamill

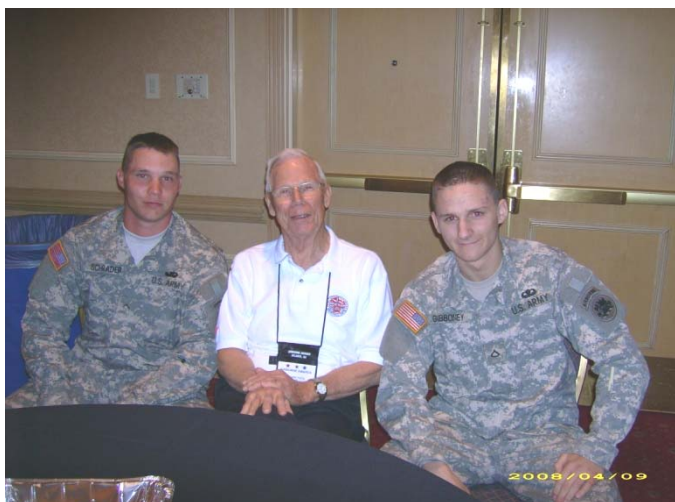
The Static Line Awards was held in Atlanta, Georgia 9 – 12 April 2008. I made it to the Airport Marriott, got parked, checked in and settled on Wednesday afternoon. Their excellent hospitality room was already very active. The room was open AM and PM through Saturday night, except during important briefings or meetings when the room was closed. The wonderful hosts of the Atlanta Chapter and their ladies offered food, snacks and beverages with good cheer and hospitality. Four buses of us old timers made the trip to Fort Benning on Thursday. The demonstrations by the Airborne Department and Silver Wings Sky Diving team were excellent. Ceremonies and memorial services were conducted at Airborne Walk and very well done. The impromptu talk by General Seitz was great. We had a very nice BBQ lunch in the PLF pit. The range firing was not conducted this year. We went to Fryar Field Drop zone, but winds prevented the planned jump. We made it back to the Airport Marriott by 5:00 and had some good Italian subs with our beer. The memorial luncheon on Friday was very well done. Even us old guys looked dapper in our coats and ties. We also had a very good pitch and slide show about the 82nd Airborne Division and Fort Bragg by Colonel Paul W. Bricker, the Rear Detachment Commander. Chick-Fil-A was the main course provided that evening. Don Lassen got the raspberry for winning his Quick Draw lottery. An excellent presentation was provided Saturday by LTC Paul Bontrager, Commander of the 7-17 Air Cavalry. He spoke about the 101st Abn Div and Fort Campbell. I met several members of the Family and Friends of the 508 PIR. Very nice people. A short article about the group appears on page 4. The Saturday Banquet was highlighted by the

arrival of General Petraeus who was the designated Airborne Man of the Year. The most prestigious Static Line Award given. The General had experienced a rough week answering questions from several liberal senators. The general's son, an ROTC cadet at M.I.T. also attended. General Petraeus gave an excellent and very informative talk. He was charming, humble, funny and entertaining. A great man. The crowd was thrilled by his presence. General Petraeus and his party left immediately following his presentation. The



GENERAL DAVID H. PETRAEUS

meal of beef, very tasty vegetables, a salad and desert was a good one. We also had a short pitch about the expansion of Fort Benning from the commander of the 199th Inf. Bde. The night was finished by a good dance band in the Hospitality Room. Not many current 508 Chapter members attended this year. A few previous affiliate members were there. My second trip to Static Line Awards in Atlanta was very good. It remains the best hospitality room of all reunions in my experience. HOOAAH!



Robert Schrader, Dick Yates & Donald Gibboney at Static Line Hospitality Room



Jim & Maria Jackson at Static Line Memorial Luncheon



Ken Hamill & Sam Hernandez at Static Line Memorial Luncheon

The 508 Airborne Chapter Meeting scheduled during All American Week is cancelled. Response to the February advertisement in our Devils Digest of the planned breakfast / meeting on Friday, 23 May 2008 at the Holiday Inn Bordeaux has been weak. The 508 Airborne Chapter will meet at the 82nd Convention in St. Louis, MO. 508 Chapter Members are requested to notify your Secretary if you plan to attend in St. Louis 11-17 August 2008. I want to arrange a free meal and meeting for the St. Louis gathering.

DEVILS DIGEST, QUARTERLY NEWS

We have 178 members that receive the Devils Digest via the website www.red-devils.org at a savings of 41 cents each. Thank you website users for saving our Chapter \$72.98 every quarter. If new internet users prefer to read our Devils Digest in color rather than in the mailed version in black and white and want to drop the mailed copy, please let me know and I'll make it happen. We have 222 members that receive the DD via snail mail. If anyone drops their internet service and needs the Devils Digest mailed, please let me know so that you don't miss reading our quarterly newsletter.

THE INTERNET

Chapter members who use the internet may notice slight changes to your name in the e-mail that I send you. I may have added your middle initial or changed your nick name to your complete first name. Please forgive me for this intrusion. The reason for the change is my new Vista Windows Mail Program lists people by first name, middle initial and then last name. Makes it difficult to find people sometimes.

Movers and Snow Birds are reminded to send your Change of Address to Chapter or National. The next Paraglide will be mailed out on July 15, 2008. Save our Assn 50¢

AFGHANISTAN TROOPS ASSISTANCE

Chapter members should feel very good about our assistance to the 508 PIR / 4th BCT in Afghanistan. Chapter Treasurer Frank Seif reports the following transactions supporting our Red Devils in Afghanistan. \$1763.00 has been donated by our members. Dr. Jim Jackson's auction in Clarksville generated \$2148.00. The 508th Chapter Treasury has donated \$3852.00. A total of \$7763.00 has been sent to Ken Glynn for distribution to our troops. Ken Glynn and Chaplain Pundt were both frustrated at times with the e-mail communication problems, but hung in there and got the job done. The following is a slightly edited message from the wife of a First Sergeant or NCO. "I wish you could have heard Chris on the phone, he was like a little kid". "They love the lights most of all". "What a great idea you had sending Christmas lights and decorations". "Of course the other stuff was much loved too". "Our boxes arrived at the same time as yours, so they had a little party". "I haven't heard him that excited in a long time". "The card I sent had a little dog hanging onto Santa's leg". "He had to show that off, the guys got a kick out of that". "I'm so happy for them". "Thank you so much for sending love". "Kim". Ken Glynn stopped sending packages in April, but donated money remained. With Chapter Staff approval, Ken Purchased Chili's Restaurant Gift Certificates and sent a Cashier's Check to 508 PIR Family Readiness Group. Chaplain Pundt will take several deserving paratroopers to Chili's in Fayetteville. SSG Ab who was helpful identifying soldiers in need will take his family to Chili's. Total Expenses \$7750.00 as follows: Gift Items \$4500; Mailing boxes and stamps \$1100; Chili's Restaurant gift certificates to Chaplain Pundt (500) and SSG Ab (50) for a total of \$550.00; 508 Family Readiness Group \$1600.00. Ken Glynn sent a photo copy of the \$1600 Cashier's Check sent to the Family Readiness Group (FRG). Ken's note to FRG thanked them for all they do and explained that the \$1600 remained from 508 Chapter Member Donations. He reminded them that our Chapter had been sending for 15 months and we hoped the money could help some of the families who can use assistance. Ken Glynn, 508 QM. Well said Ken. A big Hooaaaah from the 508 Airborne Chapter to Ken Glynn and the Orlando Chapter for making our

effort possible. A big hooaaaah is deserved by Frank Seif who was positive from the git go. A big hooaaaah also to Dr. Jim Jackson for his Auction in Clarksville. Thank you Chapter members for supporting this donation effort. We gave strong support until their tour ended. We of the 508 Chapter should have a warm glow in our hearts for the overall effort. I feel good !!!



Allan G. Wood of Olympia, Washington is shown below with his photo from WWII and holding the Bronze Star he recently received. In the late 1940s, a new policy authorized the retroactive awarding of the Bronze Star to soldiers who received the Combat Infantry Badge during WWII. Allan Wood was in George Company, 508 PIR. Allan was wounded by German artillery during the Battle of the Bulge on 22 December 1944 and received a purple heart. He learned 60 years after the war that he was eligible for the Bronze Star. The Bronze Star will be presented to Allen Wood on 19 June 2008, 1400 hrs at the American Lakes Center on Fort Lewis, Washington by the Commanding General, LTG Charles H. Jacoby.



Vietnam Vet Nick Nicholes sent a photo of his Dad and the 8 page 9 April 1945 Devils Digest. Staff Sergeant Ralph W. Nicholes and his Red Devil friends were visiting Jack Dempseys Bar and Grill in NYC where the photo was taken.



Taller Man Wearing Hat is S/SGT Nicholes

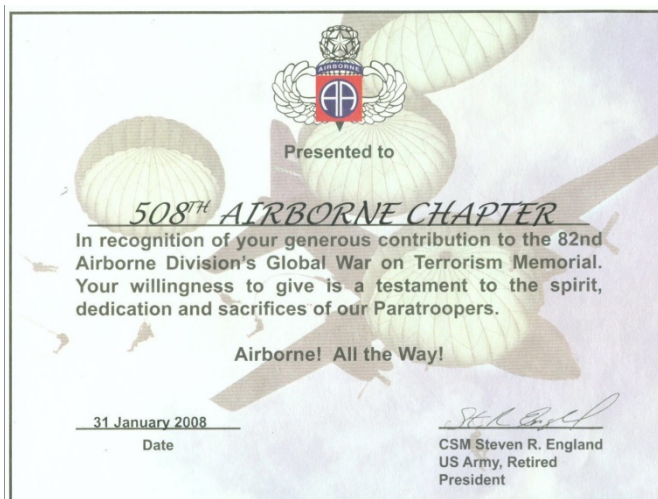
Family & Friends of the 508 PIR

The Family and Friends of the 508 PIR Group met on Saturday, 12 April during the Static Line Awards in Atlanta. Rock Merritt invited me. There were a dozen or more very nice people at the meeting. They are interested in supporting Red Devils from all historical eras regardless of when or where we served, from 1942 to the present. Dick O'Donnell maintains the fine 508 PIR Assn website. Dick supports 508 veterans who served in WWII; Frankfurt; the ARCT; 82nd battalions that served in Vietnam, Dom Rep, Grenada; with the 193rd Inf Bde in Panama; with SETAF in Italy, Bosnia, Kosovo, with the 173rd in Italy, Iraq and Afghanistan; and with the current 4th BCT of the 82nd Airborne Division just returning from 15 months in Afghanistan. The Family and Friends Group and our Chapter have a common purpose, to support our veterans and paratroopers of the 508. Let us all be friends and support our goals - united. The Family and Friends Group will sponsor a 66th Anniversary Celebration at Fayetteville, NC from Tuesday, October 14th thru Saturday, October 18th. Come on, let's go. We'll renew friendships and establish camaraderie with active duty Officers and Men of the current 508th PIR. Two items pertaining to the 66th Anniversary Celebration ...

are posted on our Website News / Events page - A welcoming letter with a schedule and a registration form. Chapter members interested in attending may contact the Chapter Secretary for a snail mail copy of the letter and registration form. Or, you can request these items from James Smith, 1403 Valencia Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28303, Tel# 910.488.6201.

Attention, 2nd battalion, 508 veterans

2LT Donald Huskey, HHC, 2-508th PIR recently posted a request on our Chapter website guest book and coordinated with your editor. 2LT Huskey has been tasked with putting as much information as he can find about his Battalion's history. He needs the names of the former commanders and Sergeants Major, as well as their photos. He said they are currently redecorating their Headquarters and he was hoping to display any memorabilia or photos from our unit's history for this purpose. He also wants to collect the biographies and photos of any former Red Devils from 2-508. He wants to assemble photos and articles in albums by time period so they can be viewed by current members of the Battalion. Any help that we provide in this endeavor would be greatly appreciated. He signed off - Fury From the Sky. 2LT Huskey, Donald HHC, 2-508th PIR. LT Huskey's Cell phone # is 636.795.9628 and his address is donald.e.huskey1@us.army.mil



**The Certificate Copied above Was Received for
Our Chapter Donation to the 82nd Airborne
Division's Global War on Terrorism
Memorial Fund.**

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 508 AIRBORNE CHAPTER



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SECRETARY



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QUARTERMASTER

TAPS - 508th PARATROOPERS RECENTLY DECEASED

Johnny C. Ake, Tennessee, E Company
55-56, 23 May 2005

James A. Convy, New York, HQ3
44-45, 9 February 2002

Joseph M. Flannigan, C1 43-45, 2008

Milton R. Fracker, B1 45-46, 2008

Frank Haddy, D1 43-46, 2 July 2004

Robert Jeidy, Plover, Wisconsin, C Company
55-56, 19 February 2008

Howard D. King, 2008

John W. Lierenz, HHC 42-45, 6 Sep 2007

Lawrence E. Lorring, 16 October 2004

John W. Loven, 10 November 2005

Clyde Malphus, Columbus, Georgia, G
Company 55-56, 4 March 2008

Marino M. Michetti, 782 Ord 42-45, 16 Oct 04

Richard B. Owen, H1 42-44, 18 March 2008

Harold W. Packer, HH3 43-45, 31 July 2004
Robert E. Peterson, Annual Member, Findlay,
Ohio, D Company, 45-46, 2008
Quentin T. Sandusky, A1 83-84, 2008
John Savchetz, 45-46, 2008
John F. Stack, Jersey City, New Jersey, B
Company 44-45, 23 March 2008
Robert E. Stenske, B1 57-76, 22 Feb 2008
John M. Waugh, AA Member, Arvada, CO,
H&H / Svc Companies 51-53, 28 Nov 2007
Edward J. Wodowski, A1 44-67, 2 March 2008

Medical Report

Past Chairman Jack Damron has been fighting melanoma for the past year or so. He has had five surgeries on his face and neck plus radiation treatments.

NEW ALL AMERICAN MEMBERS

Red Devil Thomas P. Lynch, Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Was a Corporal in G Company in 1946, a Master Sergeant in H&H Company 1951-52 and retired a Major General. Congratulations MG Lynch!



Annual Members...74
Affiliate Members...13
All Americans.....313
Total Members.....400

LOOKING FOR OLDEST MEMBERS

National requests that each Chapter poll their membership and report back their oldest two members no later than 30 June 2008. 508 Chapter members 80 years of age or more are requested to submit your names and birth dates to the Chapter Secretary by phone or mail. Thank you.

Annual Members with expired memberships are asked to send their dues to our Treasurer, PO Box 1462, Sun City, AZ 85372-1462. Why stay an annual member? All American Membership will cost \$100.00 if you are 50 years of age or older. All American Membership is good for life in the 508th Airborne Chapter and the 82nd Airborne Division Association. Membership Application on page 8.

KELLY & MUNNELLY

Received a snail mail letter sent on 16 March from William D. Kelly of Saint Petersburg, Florida. "I received your letter containing my personal data row from the Chapter Database and everything is correct". "When I reported to the 598th Engineer Company at Fort Benning, GA as a new Second Lieutenant, my Company Commander was First Lieutenant John Munnelly". "Sincerely, W.D. Kelly". Response- Yes, I remember Bill Kelly very well. Bill Kelly was an outstanding Platoon leader and an enthusiastic paratrooper. He joined the 598th after completing the Army language school (Serbo-Croatian). Departing the 508th for Flight School, Bill became a distinguished aviator and one of the first Army pilots to fly across the Atlantic delivering light aircraft to Europe. Bill assisted mapping South America as an Army aviator participating in the Geophysical Year revealing the mysteries of the terrain under all that jungle foliage. Bill Kelly acquired a degree in Architecture while on active duty. He is a licensed Architect in the state of Florida. Bill told me a story. He was doing some work for an attorney who kept him cooling his heels in a waiting room without explanation. Bill charged the attorney for his time and the attorney had to admit that the time was valuable and "billable." He is now retired and a golf enthusiast living in Florida. John Munnelly *Editors Note: Both of our Red Devil Engineers did very well. William D. Kelly and John E. Munnelly are retired Full Colonels (O6) and All American Members.*



ONLINE DD-214 RECEIVED

As described in the February Devils Digest, I requested my first hitch DD-214 at the following Website: <http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> I typed this into the Google address box and selected the site titled **eVetRecs: Request Copies of Military Personnel Records**. The postman delivered my USMC DD-214 on 11 Feb 2008 via first class mail. There was a cover letter and two copies of my DD-214. This was free of charge.

CLAUDE E. WILKINS

Claude E. Wilkins of Syracuse, NY wrote that he joined M Company, 508 right after Jump School in June 1951. Many were injured on a 21 November 1951 jump including Claude. After release from Fort Benning Hospital in early 1952 was assigned to 555th Tank Co at Sand Hill. Requested reassignment to Far East. Was subsequently shipped to Yokahama, Japan and then to the 187th ARCT. Returned to States in December 1953 and discharged. Claude requests our help – He had a large photo of M Company, 508 with all the trooper names on it, but it was lost in 1960. Would love to get a copy if anyone out there has an original to make a copy from. Claude will pay any costs involved.



WWII RESEARCHER NEEDS HELP

Researching two 82nd KIA's: (1) Seeking info on my cousin Emory Gardner who made the supreme sacrifice in Normandy in 1944. The family has virtually no info about him, save for a few brief notices in the local paper on his passing. How may I find more info concerning his experiences with the 508th in Normandy leading up to, and the circumstances of, his death? Basic info: Emory G. Gardner, PFC, Service # 13136882, Co G, 508th PIR, Entered the Service from: Bedford, PA, Died: 4-Jul-44, Buried at: Plot G Row 8 Grave 15, Normandy American Cemetery, Colleville-sur-Mer, France. (2) Wilson, Lehman M., PFC, HQ Co. 82 Div, (regt unknown), Sacramento, CA.; reportedly KIA 29 Jan 1945 in the woods near Meyerode, Belgium. That date may have been when he was discovered by villagers and reported to Graves Registration. He was the only American body nearby when the body of Lt Eric Fisher Wood (689 FABn, 106th ID) was discovered around the same date. He may have been helping Wood conduct guerilla ops behind the lines from 17 Dec '44 to late Jan '45. Contact k7ci@hotmail.com or telephone 814.839.2473

Name: _____	Address: _____
City: _____	State: _____ Zip: _____

Quartermaster Sales Form----(Members Only)

Complete this form and mail your check payable to Kenneth Glynn along with your name and address in the box above to:
Ken Glynn, 836 Glendale St., Lakeland, FL. 33803-4122

Please include shipping and handling charges in the amount column to the right of each item ordered.

ITEM/DESCRIPTION	QTY	SIZE (CIRCLE)	COST	SHIPPING/HANDLING	AMOUNT
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo, Embroidered		One Size Fits All	\$14.50	\$1.50 Each	
Hat, White, Maroon Bill, Chap Logo, Screened		One Size Fits All	\$12.00	\$1.50 Each	
Sweatshirt, Grey, Chapter Logo, Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$2 Each Additional	
Sweatshirt, White, Chapter Logo, Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$2 Each Additional	
Shirt, T, White, Chapter Logo, Screened		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$12.00	\$2.00 Each	
Shirt, Polo, Abn Maroon, Chap Logo Embroidered		M L XL *XXL *XXXL	\$22.00	\$3.50 + \$1.00 Each Additional	
Patch, 508th Abn Chapter (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, 508th ARCT (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, Para Red Devil (See 1, Below)			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Patch, 320th Abn FA Bn.			\$5.50	\$1.00 Each (3/\$1.50)	
Pin, 508th ARCT			\$3.00	No Charge	
Pin, Para Red Devil			\$3.00	No Charge	
*= Add an additional \$2.00 for each X above XL (XXXL size is a special order) 1= All patches can be purchased 3 for \$15.00 + Shipping and Handling. PLEASE ALLOW 2-4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY				TOTAL \$	

427TH AAA BATTERY

An exchange of information with one of our members led me to ask the question – What kind of unit was the 427th? The response I received from John Zugschwert follows: Ken, The 427th Airborne Anti Aircraft Battery was part of the 320th Airborne Field Artillery in 1955/56 and went to Japan with us. It was equipped with twin 40's and quad 50's on half tracks. It replaced the AAA battery that was with the 187th in Korea. I was in the 320th in 54/56 and brought the 427th back to Campbell and formed Mortar Battery of the 506th Airborne Battle Group and served with it until 58. Hope that clarifies it. Thx, Z

Editors Note – My outfit, Easy Company was located at Camp Chick. We saw Artillery and AAA at Mori during the bigger field problems.

ASSOCIATION AND CHAPTER

Annual membership is based on the calendar year, 1 January through 31 December. First year applicants and late renewal memberships still expire on 31 December of that year. An Early Bird list is published in the Association...

Winter Paraglide. All American Members are included in the Early Bird List as long as they live. Annual Members in good standing who renew their membership will be included in the Winter Paraglide Early Bird List if their check arrives at National not later than 15 November. Please keep in mind that Postal Service from you to our treasurer and then to National will take several days. Our Chapter Membership Applications are intended for new applicants and reinstatement of expired members. Members in good standing need only send a personal check to Chapter Treasurer Frank Seif.

CHAPTER RECRUITING

The recruiting efforts of Rodger Jacobson continue. I recently received the following e-mail message - Hey Ken, Myself, Turley, Starkey, Medeiros, and Cansler all served together at the same time in Panama and in the same Platoon. Feel free to send me an Application. Chris Vitolo, Willowick, Ohio. It should be noted that Jim Strickland has also sent in several recruiting leads. Thank you Rodger and Jim.



Ken Hamill, Secretary
508 Airborne Chapter
2207 Coventry Drive
Columbus, GA 31904-5034



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (PLEASE PRINT)

508th Airborne Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association

☐ All American ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member ☐ Reinstatement

Enclosed \$15.00 for my annual dues for the year _____ which includes Paraglide subscription.

Name: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail: _____

Last Rank Held: _____ Serial Number: _____

508th Unit (Fill In) Company: _____ Battery: _____ Battalion: _____

Major Unit (Select One) 2nd Abn Inf Bde: _____ 82nd Abn Div: _____ 508th ARCT: _____

193rd Inf Bde: _____ Golden Bde: _____ SETAF: _____ 173rd Abn Bde: _____

Dates of 508th Service: From: Month: _____ Year: _____ To: Month: _____ Year: _____

Present Spouse's # of

Occupation: _____ Single: _____ Married: _____ Name: _____ Children: _____

PLEASE MAIL TO: 508th Airborne Chapter, P. O. Box 1462, Sun City, AZ 85372-1462

**National Association requires rank, serial number and copy of DD214 or orders
indicating the award of the Parachutist Badge from initial applicants.**

*** \$8 Affiliate Members Only: I am presently a member of the _____ Chapter

I do / do not want to transfer to the 508 Chapter. Signature: _____