

INDIANAPOLIS AND NASHVILLE



DEVILS



DIGEST



September 2013

www.red-devils.org

Vol. 8 No. 3

82nd ABN DIV ASSN CONVENTION

By Jim Strickland, Spt Co 508 ARCT 1953-54

The 82nd Airborne Division Association held its 67th Annual Convention August 14-17, 2013 in Indianapolis, IN. The Convention was sponsored by the Tillman E. Beikes, Indianapolis All Airborne Chapter and they did an exceptional job. It would be remiss not to mention that the Sequester did have an effect which was noted by the lack of attendance of active duty support personnel. The attendance this year was quoted at about 325 which is about half that of last year. The Marriot East Hotel was nice and the facilities were more than adequate for the Convention. The employees were very polite and helpful. The hotel courtyard had a Military Memorial in the center and offered a very comfortable gathering place outside where the cool weather could be enjoyed. Those that were lucky enough had rooms that opened up at that location.

We arrived on Wednesday, August 14, 2013. The processing area was well organized and went very smoothly. It was located next to the Hospitality Room which was open and offered food and drinks of all kinds. The crowd was very small but continued to grow as the week progressed. To me the hospitality room is the "Heart" of the convention. That is where you meet old friends and make new ones. There is always someone interesting to meet and some good stories to exchange. Fred Spaulding the previous 82nd Abn. Div. Association's National President spent a lot of time there and we spent a lot of time talking with him. He is a well decorated individual and very interesting to talk to. Another interesting story came from William J. McDonald, Chairman of the Niagara Frontier Chapter located in Buffalo, NY. In our discussion we found that both of us had an interest in a local Army museum. We discovered that we both wanted to put a fully dressed ready to jump paratrooper manikin on display. He had his...

airborne manikin completed and displayed at a surprise location. It seems the Navy has three ships dry docked as a memorial at his location in Buffalo, New York. The Navy offered space, consisting of three rooms for him and his associates to establish an Army Museum. So on one Battleship, there are now three rooms dedicated to Army artifacts and a great deal of this is "Airborne". Another gentleman of interest that I have had the pleasure of talking to for two consecutive years is Matthew F. Wojtaszek. He has attended 17 consecutive conventions, made several glider assaults with the 82nd during WWII, and came to America at 17 as an immigrant. He has many stories relating to many different areas. So you just never know who you might meet or what you might hear if you spend some time in the "Hospitality Room".

Thursday we attended the "Wounded Warrior" Reception. The ceremony recognizing those deserving warriors was very nice. The Association Sales opened so there were pins, hats, T shirts, and other items for sale. There was always a good crowd there willing to spend some money. The 82nd Museum was notably absent. The 82nd Museum usually has a choice of items not available from other vendors, so they were missed. Friday we attended the Memorial Luncheon and several awards were passed out. The highlight was recognizing the Jumpmaster of the Year – SFC John P. Bailey; the NCO of the Year – SSG Cory M. Schmidt; and the Trooper of the Year – SPC Lawrence B. Anderson II. The General membership Meeting and Election was also conducted that afternoon. Saturday was a slow day unless you wanted to go downtown; many went to the Casino, the Indianapolis Speedway, or a baseball game. The Convention concluded with the "Airborne Heritage Banquet" with guest speaker, 82nd Airborne Division Commander Major General John W. Nicholson, Jr. It was an excellent reunion. A good time was had by all.



Indianapolis Convention Host Marriott East Hotel



Military Memorial Courtyard at Indianapolis Marriott



82 Abn Div Assn Convention Banquet



Indianapolis Memorial Luncheon



82 Abn Div Assn Convention Banquet



82 Abn Div CG, MG John W. Nicholson Jr. allowed photo session with audience members after banquet



**508 AIRBORNE
CHAPTER CHAIRMAN**
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TAPS - 508th PARATROOPERS RECENTLY DECEASED

<u>Donovan T. Batterson</u>	<u>Fort Bragg, NC</u>
<u>B Co. 508 PIR 2010-2013</u>	<u>7 March 2013</u>
<u>Peter J. Foss</u>	<u>Golden Brigade Chapter</u>
<u>1-508, 3 Bde, 82 AD Vietnam</u>	<u>9 June 2007</u>
<u>Roger R. Gravelle</u>	<u>Nashua, NH</u>
<u>King Co. 508 ARCT 1951-52</u>	<u>12 June 2013</u>
<u>Raymond R. Goetz Jr.</u>	<u>East Moline, IL</u>
<u>Easy Company 508 ARCT 1951-52</u>	<u>2010</u>
<u>Wilbur C. Henderson</u>	<u>Wallingford, PA</u>
<u>508 P.I.R. WWII</u>	<u>8 June 2013</u>
<u>Robert L. MacLeod</u>	<u>South Texas Chapter</u>
<u>H Co. 508 P.I.R. WWII</u>	<u>12 December 2012</u>
<u>Anthony E. Mitchell</u>	<u>North Jersey Chapter</u>
<u>H Co. 508 P.I.R. WWII</u>	<u>26 November 2012</u>
<u>Delton Plunkett</u>	<u>Corinth, MS</u>
<u>B Co. 508 ARCT 1953-56</u>	<u>25 February 2013</u>
<u>Jack O. Reames</u>	<u>Gen Ridgway Chapter</u>
<u>C Co. 508 PIR WWII</u>	<u>15 March 2013</u>
<u>Lawrence S. Rel</u>	<u>CSM Verdugo Chapter</u>
<u>1-508 PIR WWII</u>	<u>5 January 2013</u>
<u>Anthony Spickerman</u>	<u>Cornhusker Chapter</u>
<u>HHC 1-508, 82 AD 1969-70</u>	<u>28 December 2012</u>
<u>Arthur S. Stuckey</u>	<u>SGT Pusateri Chapter</u>
<u>G Co. 1-508 PIR WWII</u>	<u>3 January 2013</u>

NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Thomas G. Bodine Glendale, Arizona
A Co, 3-508 Airborne, Ft Kobbe, CZ 1962-65

NEW ALL AMERICAN LIFE MEMBERS

Franklin D. Ashworth Cottageville, WV
HQ Co, 1-508th ARCT Oct 1954 - Jul 1956
Jerome A. Massey Dahlonega, GA
Retired Ranger Company First Sergeant

Approximately 36 annual members forgot to renew membership for the year 2013. It costs \$35 for annual or \$175 for a life membership. The All American Life membership makes it easier for me and would mean you don't have to worry about sending in annual checks.



Annual Members ...28
Affiliate Members...13
All Americans.....302
Total Members.....343

I reported in the June 2013 Devils Digest that Dick O'Donnell does not want his Friends and Family 508 PIR Association to merge into any kind of combined 508 PIR Association. I apologize if I misunderstood Dick in Atlanta. Dick O'Donnell contacted me after reading my report and said I had not understood his words or intention. He went on to say that if the members of his Friends and Family 508 PIR Association wanted to combine with other 508 veterans and organizations, that could happen. The Friends and Family 508 PIR Association has a reunion planned to happen this Fall in Fayetteville. We'll wait and see if the Friends and Family 508 PIR Assn decides to help form an association composed of all 508 clubs and chapters.



September 2013 Treasurers Report

Printing expense June 2013:	\$143.01
Forever Stamps 500 ea 19 Sep 2013:	\$230.00
Newsletter Envelopes 19 Sep 2013:	\$31.16
QM Sales Deposit 20 Sep 2013:	\$78.00
Chapter Account as of 20 Sep 2013:	\$2717.94



The following members of the 508th Airborne Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association recently donated to our Chapter Treasury.

John E. Gillespie, Jr. of H Company 1953-55
William D. Kelly of 598 Engineers 1952-53
Norman G. Laumeyer of E Company 1952-54
Robert A. Norman of Hq Co 1-508 1951-54

THANK YOU CHAPTER DONORS

Mrs. Betty Grasso sent a very nice note and a soaring eagle card announcing the death of her husband Richard F. Grasso. Richard and myself served together in Easy Company, 506 ABG of the 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles" upon our return to Fort Campbell in 1956.

Support Co. 508 ARCT Assn Nashville **By Ken Hamill**

The Support Company 508 ARCT Association held their annual reunion 11 – 14 September 2013 at the Opryland - Airport, Holiday Inn, Nashville, Tennessee. The hotel had everything we needed and provided an outstanding free breakfast with a nice variety of food and a cook that made eggs to order or an omelet. We arrived a day early. The hospitality room (HR) would be open all day until midnight, every day, when the schedule allowed. On Wednesday, we registered in the hospitality room, where Jim Strickland had arranged for cold drinks, ice and snacks to be available. Every person or couple received a fabric gift bag containing several nice to have items. I was able to set up my new Epson projector and display photo slide shows most of the day for people to see when they registered in the hospitality room. I also showed the DVD video titled 508th ARCT Camp Wood, Kyushu, Japan 1955-56. The video was formatted to digital from the small film movies made by Dr. Marvin A. Rawitch while he was assigned to Camp Wood. The DVD is copyrighted. I purchased this DVD in 2003 after it was shown at a Clarksville reunion. Mrs. Rawitch may have DVD's for sale. The Rawitch email address is bettyfr@sbcglobal.net

Most of us ate the prime rib special at dinner in Jackson's Veranda, the hotel main dining room. On Thursday morning most of us gathered in the HR chatting and watching slides for an hour or two. It was a ten minute trip by POV to Opryland where we boarded the General Jackson Showboat. We enjoyed a wonderful buffet lunch with all the trimmings and great entertainment. The Steve Hall and Shotgun Red Show was top of the line. Seven men played instruments as good as it can be done and two gals added their vocal talents. It was a 2 ½ hour cruise on the Cumberland River and very enjoyable. Some folks shopped at Opry Mills that afternoon. Most people had dinner at Claim Jumpers in Opryland. On Friday, the association meeting covered a lot of ground and took a couple of hours. It was decided that the Support Company Association would become less structured, and without staff officers. Jim Strickland would coordinate...

...matters using a committee group to select a hotel site for the next reunion. The next Support Company reunion will take place in Charleston, South Carolina, 17-20 September 2014. Please mark the date on your calendar. The selection committee – Earl Christy, Frank Gonzales, Speedy Gonzales, Jim Grimes, Ken Hamill, Jud Haverkost, Jim Heyward, Jerry and Jim Strickland will meet in Charleston, SC April 9-12 to select the host hotel and consider the activity options available. The next reunion agenda will be mailed out by Jim Strickland or his committee. Contact information for the host hotel and the general schedule will be published in the June 2014 Devils Digest. The 13 September afternoon schedule allowed for free time. Several people spent a lot of time in the hospitality room telling jump stories. We also showed Dr. Rawitch's DVD movie again for those who had not seen it. We met for the banquet at 6:00 PM. Jim Strickland and his trusted sidekick's, brother Jerry and Earl Christy had the dining room ready to go. Jim greeted us and asked Jim Heyward to give the invocation. Guests were recognized. Appropriate military music played during the memorial service and a series of candles were lit to emphasize the moment. Jim presented plaques and certificates to Jim Heyward, Jim Grimes and Earl Christy for their dedication. Door prize tickets were drawn from a bowl by Norman & Bonnie Tracy's grand-daughters. A 508 shirt, T shirt, and two sweat shirts were donated to this cause. These last four chapter QM items had sat in my closet for two or three years. Al Vaitkus donated a beautiful 508 shirt. A military art lithograph was sent to me as a promotion. The picture of 82 paratroopers WWII through the present was suitable for framing and was won by Paulette Grimes. Jim Strickland has great interest in the Price of Freedom War Museum in China Grove, NC and wants to give a heavy duty manikin to them so a paratrooper can be permanently displayed. He has already given them 2 main parachutes, a reserve, jump trousers, jump helmet and liner. Our banquet group passed the hat to start his manikin collection which might cost \$900.00. Jim Heyward counted the donations which totaled \$900.00. A tribute to Jim Strickland's efforts. Congratulations Jim and thank you. Hooaaah!!!



The Holiday Inn Hospitality Room served us well



Elizabeth and Lance Harris, brother and sister and both Marines are grandchildren of Speedy Gonzales & joined our group for dinner at Jackson's Veranda



We had live entertainment while waiting to board the showboat General Jackson



Frank & Lorraine Cowdrey enjoy the buffet lunch and live music aboard the General Jackson



Steve Hall and the Shotgun Red Show aboard the General Jackson was Marvellous



This lithograph of 82nd troopers ranging from WWII to present was a door prize won by Paulette Grimes at the Banquet



The Hospitality Room promoted wonderful chatter. Several people sitting at this corner table are members of Speedy's wonderful family



Alex and Ikuko Elliott



Shirley Jones and Barbara Bednarz



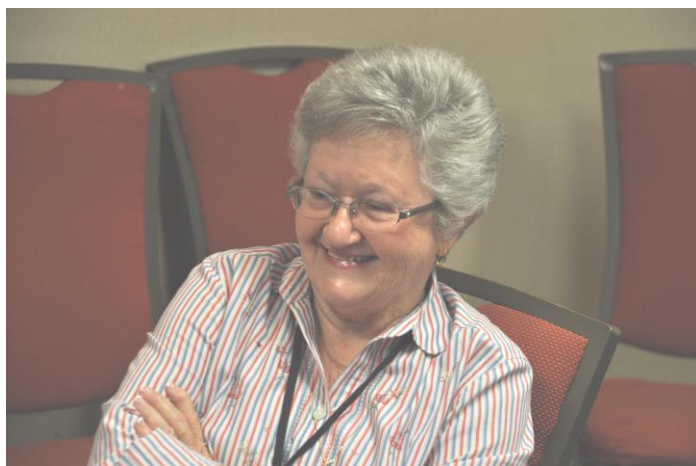
Elizabeth Harris is a Marine visiting her grandfather Speedy Gonzales



Frank and Amber Gonzales on the right spend time with Frank's sister Jessica Humbles



Speedy Gonzales with his grandson, Lance Harris who is also in the Marine Corps



Frieda Primm



Lance Harris & Jessica Humbles are the grandson and daughter of Speedy Gonzales



Alex Elliott



Almeda Medlin



Jerry Strickland & Earl Christy



Delfo & Lillian Ferranti



Jim & Paulette Grimes



Delfo & Lillian Ferranti



Joseph & Barbara Bednarz



Almeda Medlin & Ken Hamill



Jessica Humbles and Elizabeth Harris



Paul & Shirley Jones



Frank Gonzales and his sister Jessica Humbles



Speedy Gonzales & Frieda Primm



**Norman & Bonnie Tracy with their granddaughters
Sierra and Alexis**



Josephine & Marcial Lopez



Alex & Ikuko Elliott



Sandra & Jud Haverkost



Sue Lutes and her sister Jackie Morgan



Some of our group visiting Jackson's Veranda for their Prime Rib Special Dinner



Tom Greene a guest of Jim Grimes



Jackson's Veranda prime rib carving station



Delfo & Lillian Ferranti and Almeda Medlin and myself were the first to arrive at the Showboat Pier



Bonnie Tracy and granddaughters Sierra & Alexis at the Showboat Pier waiting area



All of our group arrived at the pier on time and ready for lunch, entertainment and a 2 ½ hour cruise



Jud & Sandra Haverkost with their guest Gerrie Morace



Paulette Grimes & Elaine Greene at the Showboat Pier waiting area



We had good entertainment at the Showboat Pier waiting area



We had a friendly bartender at the Showboat Pier waiting area



Elaine & Tom Greene on the showboat General Jackson



Sisters Jackie Morgan & Sue Lutes with their buffet lunch aboard the General Jackson



Lillian & Delfo Ferrante with their lunches aboard the General Jackson



Joseph & Barbara Bednarz at their luncheon table aboard the General Jackson



Ikuko & Alex Elliot at their designated table



Alexis & Sierra Tracy at their pre-designated table #27 aboard the General Jackson



Bonnie & Norman Tracy at their pre-designated table #27 aboard the General Jackson



Jim & Willie Mae Heyward



Frieda Primm & Speedy Gonzales



Earl Christy & Jerry Strickland



Earl, Jerry and Jim Strickland



Sandra Haverkost, Guest Gerrie Morace & Jud Haverkost



Vern & Bette Tuthill



Jim & Paulette Grimes



Amber & Frank Gonzales



The Entertainment is introduced



Steve Hall and the Shotgun Red Show begins



Great music, some comedy, great fun



This artist used hands, feet and knees to get the most out of this instrument



Steve Hall and the Shotgun Red Show was great



The showboat audience was totally into the band



Steve Hall and the Shotgun Red Show was great



Steve Hall and the Shotgun Red Show was great



The Band Leader was also a comic and a ventriloquist



The General Jackson Showboat had a single paddle wheel mounted at the fantail



The Cumberland River, Nashville, Tennessee



The port side of the General Jackson Showboat



**Looking forward from the bow of the
General Jackson**



Second Deck Entertainment



**The General Jackson Showboat,
Nashville, Tennessee**



The Showboat Pier and Ramp



Jim Strickland opens the Support Company Association Meeting



Support Company Association Meeting



Support Company Association Meeting



Support Company Association Meeting



Jim Heyward has a point to make at the Support Company Association Meeting



Jim Heyward clarifies a point at the Support Company Association Meeting



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Ikuko & Alex Elliott**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Frank & Lorraine Cowdrey**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Vern & Bette Tuthill**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Marcial & Josie Lopez**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Sue Lutes and Jackie Morgan**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Paul & Shirley Jones**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Barbara & Joseph Bednarz**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Jud & Sandra Haverkost**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Willie Mae & James Heyward**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Elaine & Tom Greene**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Paulette & Jim Grimes**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Lillian & Delfo Ferranti**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Jerry Strickland & Earl Christy**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Frank Gonzales & Marcial Lopez**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Norman Tracy & granddaughter Sierra**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Bonnie Tracy & granddaughter Alexis**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Almeda Medlin**



**Support Company Reunion Banquet
Jim Strickland leads the ceremonies and festivities**



Jim Strickland managed the banquet activities



The Support Company members and guests stand for the Memorial Ceremony



Earl Christy lights the candles for the Memorial Ceremony



Jim Heyward receives a Support Company Award from Jim Strickland



Earl Christy receives a Support Company Award from Jim Strickland



Jim Grimes receives a Support Company Award from Jim Strickland



A 508 T shirt, the first of the last four items in our chapter QM inventory was donated as a door prize and won by Marcial Lopez



A 508 sweat shirt, one of the last four items in our chapter QM inventory was donated and won by Jim Heyward



A 508 sweat shirt, one of the last four items in our chapter QM inventory was donated and won by Jim Heyward



The second 508 sweat shirt donated as a door prize is displayed while Alexis Tracy draws a winning ticket from the bowl



The second 508 sweat shirt was received by Sue Lutes while Sierra Tracy draws a winning number from the bowl for the next door prize item



The last 508 Chapter polo shirt in our QM inventory is displayed prior to the winning door prize ticket number being announced



The 508 polo shirt was won by Ikuko Elliott



The beautiful 508 polo shirt donated by Al Vaitkus is displayed



The winning door prize number for the Al Vaitkus polo shirt was held by Earl Christy



The military art depicting 82 troopers WWII thru the present and sent as a promotion and advertisement is displayed



Paulette Grimes won the Military Art



COL Jim Heyward starts the donor effort with the goal of eventually collecting enough money to buy a heavy duty manikin for a airborne display at the Price of Freedom Museum in China Grove, NC



Jim Heyward makes the rounds collecting for Jim Strickland's Price of Freedom War Museum in China Grove, North Carolina



Alexis & Sierra Tracy pose with Jim Strickland



Bonnie Tracy did a nice job helping take photos



Speedy Gonzales & Frieda Primm



Frank Gonzales with Marcial & Josephine Lopez



COL Jim Heyward announced that the Support Company group was generous and the banquet donor effort raised \$900.00



Sue Lutes & Jackie Morgan



Alexis & Sierra Tracy were delightful young ladies who made the occasion better



Vern & Bette Tuthill



Bonnie Tracy & Almeda Medlin



Almeda Medlin & Ken Hamill



Lining the chairs up for a couple of group shots



Ladies at the Support Company Reunion Banquet L-R Sitting: Barbara Bednarz, Shirley Jones, Frieda Primm, Willie Mae Heyward, Lillian Ferranti, Josephine Lopez, Ikuko Elliott & Lorraine Cowdrey. Standing: Alexis Tracy, Sierra Tracy, Bonnie Tracy, Jackie Morgan, Sue Lutes, Paulette Grimes, Bette Tuthill, Almeda Medlin, Sandra Haverkost & Elaine Greene



Men at the Support Company Reunion Banquet L-R Sitting: Paul Jones, Speedy Gonzales, Earl Christy, Jim Heyward, Delfo Ferrante, Norman Tracy, Alex Elliott & Jerry Strickland. Standing: Frank Gonzales, Marcial Lopez, Vern Tuthill, Joseph Bednarz, Jud Haverkost, Jim Grimes Jim Strickland, Frank Cowdrey & Ken Hamill



Support Company Reunion 2013 L-R Front row: Joseph Bednarz, Earl Christy, Paul Jones, Speedy Gonazales, Jim Heyward, Delfo Ferrante, Marcial Lopez, Norman Tracy & Frank Cowdrey.

Center row: Barbara Bednarz, Shirley Jones, Frieda Primm, Willie Mae Heyward, Lillian Ferranti, Josephine Lopez, Ikuko Elliott & Lorraine Cowdrey.

Top row: Frank Gonzales, Ken Hamill, Sierra Tracy, Jackie Morgan, Sue Lutes, Paulette Grimes, Jim Grimes, Almeda Medlin, Vern Tuthill, Bette Tuthill, Sandra Haverkost, Jud Haverkost, Jerry Strickland, Alex Elliott, Elaine Greene & Alexis Tracy



Support Company Reunion 2013 L-R Front row: Joseph Bednarz, Earl Christy, Paul Jones, Speedy Gonazales, Jim Heyward, Delfo Ferrante, Marcial Lopez, Norman Tracy & Frank Cowdrey.

Center row: Barbara Bednarz, Shirley Jones, Frieda Primm, Willie Mae Heyward, Lillian Ferranti, Josephine Lopez, Ikuko Elliott & Lorraine Cowdrey.

Top row: Sierra Tracy, Bonnie Tracy, Jackie Morgan, Jim Strickland, Sue Lutes, Paulette Grimes, Jim Grimes, Almeda Medlin, Vern Tuthill, Bette Tuthill, Sandra Haverkost, Jud Haverkost, Jerry Strickland, Alex Elliott, Elaine Greene & Alexis Tracy.

A PARATROOPERS MEMORIES #2

By Ed Slocum of HQ3-508 ARCT 1955-56

All American member Edward A. Slocum of Headquarters Company, 3-508 ARCT 1955-56 and Sumter, SC has written his life story. Searching for the Yellow Brook Road is the book title of Ed's life story. Ed would like feedback from us. If we spot an error, pass on the correction so Ed can fix it. Article #2 starts now.

Chapter 2, The United States Army-1953

I wanted to join the United States Air Force. Because I was not eighteen years of age, I needed my parent's permission for me to join the military. My mother agreed to sign my enlistment papers. I now realize that this was her way of saving me from a life of hard work and the dead end drudgery in some factory or on the farm. I am sure that I should have gone on to college, however financially it could not be and I did not know how to do it anyway. I went to Omaha, Nebraska which was about 40 miles away to the Army and Air Force recruiting station. I spoke to the Air Force recruiter because I had been a member of the civil air patrol and knew that I liked to fly. The recruiter gave me an enlistment test. I passed it and he then explained to me that he had a waiting list of at least six months, before I could join the Air Force. At age 17, six months was forever and might as well been six years or 60 years. As I was leaving the Air Force recruiter's desk looking sad, the United States Army Recruiting Sergeant who had been listening called me into his office. He said something to the affect; "Boy, do you like airplanes?" I said, "Yes Sir," And he said, "I'll let you fly". You can become a paratrooper in the United States Army. He went on to explain to me in his best recruiters spiel that I need not worry about the stories I may have heard about getting killed, or about combat missions of U.S. Army paratroopers. He explained to me how great I would look in a dress uniform with spit shined jump boots, a bottle of booze in one hand, and a pretty blonde woman hanging admiringly on my other arm. He also pointed out to me that he was probably wasting his time with me because the paratroopers were an elite unit and that I probably wasn't man enough to belong to it anyway. That was great salesmanship to...

...challenge a 17-year-old boy with the fact that he wasn't really a man and he couldn't measure up anyway. Recruiters have been playing fast and loose with the truth forever, and young recruits like me, hear what they want to hear. I quickly signed up to be a paratrooper. I realized that something was a little different when we got to Fort Omaha, the Induction Center. The medical personnel pulled a guy from Lincoln, Nebraska and me out of the mob for a more stringent physical examination because we were airborne volunteers. One of the things I remember is that the medical personnel required us to do push-ups, pull-ups and certain other agility tests to prove that we were physically fit and able. Of course since I was a refugee escaping from an Iowa cornfield, I was physically fit. I passed the physical exam and the test administered to prove my mental abilities. The Recruiting Sergeant said congratulations, you are qualified. I then raised my right hand, took the oath of enlistment August 12, 1953 and became a member of the United States Army.

The recruiters promptly put us on waiting buses that transported us about 175 miles to Fort Riley, Kansas. At Fort Riley, they issued us uniforms and performed more testing and sorted us into groups. After a couple of days they handed me orders for basic training at Fort Jackson South Carolina. They put us on a train for a several day trip to Fort Jackson. I believe that was my first remembered train trip and my first trip to the southern states. It was slow, uncomfortable and the proof that railroad travel in the United States was on its way out.

Fort Jackson, South Carolina: At the Fort Jackson Reception Center, we were processed like cattle on the farm, and quickly turned over to the cadre from Company B, 28th Field Artillery, and 8th Infantry Division. The Sergeant in charge screamed at us that we were jive farmers and other derogatory terms, before taking us to a mess hall where we were fed and then issued sheets and pillowcases and taken to a barracks to spend the night. The next morning, we started taking placement tests. These tests were designed to show our aptitudes and skills. After completing a day of testing, the Cadre Sgt. asks about 20 of us to remain behind for more testing.

TO BE CONTINUED

I heard from **William D. Kelly** of the 598 Abn Eng. Company 1952-53 and St Petersburg, FL. His story follows: I enlisted in the Army 26 July 1949 because my draft number was less than a month away. I enlisted for Airborne unassigned. The \$50.00 per month was a huge incentive for a kid making \$1.00 a day. After basic training at Fort Knox, KY, I went to Fort Benning for Jump School Dec 1949 - Jan 1950, then to B Co, 307 Eng. Bn at Fort Bragg. In jump school after the qualifying jumps, the last requirement was to take a glider qualification ride. As I recall, there were 3 gliders used for our orientation ride. The towing aircraft were C-47's. The class lined up in alphabetical order. Each glider load was about a squad size. So, each glider was to make as many flights as needed, until the entire class had their glider orientation ride and were qualified to wear the glider badge. After my stick load landed, we got on a truck and returned to our barracks. We were then free to get our travel gear, assignment orders, sign out and depart on leave in-route to our new duty station. Later I found out the glider containing troops with names starting with an "S" or "T" had crashed, killing all on board. I understand ours was the last class to have a glider qualification ride as part of their jump school training. I have never had the opportunity to verify this account about the crash. I only know that my glider ride was uneventful. Sincerely, William D. Kelly, (Col Ret)

Russell J. Lux Jr of B and MP Companies, 508 ARCT, 1955-56 and Morton, Illinois sent an interesting brochure from the Aviation Trail Parachute Museum. The museum tells the story of the development of the free fall parachute after World War I and the history of chutes up to today. The museum also includes interactive exhibits, artifacts, historic photographs and text. Russ said the Aviation Trail Museum is near the Wright Patterson Air Museum at 16 S. Williams Street, Dayton, OH 45402, Tel # 937.225.7705.

Joe Synakowski of C Co, 508 P.I.R. 1946 and Grand Island, NY sent the following: Experience the history of World War II through an interactive timeline and map now available for free on the American Battle Monuments Commission's...

...website www.abmc.gov/multimedia/ww2/ind. Established in 1923, ABMC oversees 24 cemeteries and 25 monuments, memorials and markers overseas. Great videos Joe, thank you.

Frank Seif of M Co, 508 ARCT 1953-55 and Sun City, AZ sent the following comments pertaining to the March Devils Digest article sent by Paul A. Mendelsohn II of Love Company, 508th ARCT. "2nd Lt Henry Jeffers of "L" Company was the Major in the 1965 Vietnam battle. Called in artillery right on top of the unit of the 11th Air Assault". "Remembered in book and movie "We were Soldiers Once and Young". "Rose to LTC, and died from an aneurism at the age of 42". "Mel Gibson was the Battalion Commander in the movie". "I knew Lt Jeffers well, being in M Co next door where the Company Orderly was my best friend". "Also knew SFC Fluekinger, who later became an officer and a Major at retirement". "Called his home soon after his death to speak to him, and learned then of his demise".

I heard from **George E. Davidson** of M Company, 508 ARCT 1954-57 and Eddyville, KY. George says the new health care system is very expensive for him. He has also found the Medicare Part D, prescription drugs and insurance premiums for home and auto owners to have increased two to three fold.

Aristeo Blanco of C Co, 508 ARCT 1951-54 and Reno, NV called and provided the sad news that Arthur Mooney of C Co. 508 ARCT 1951-53 and Sparta, Tennessee had died in June 2012.



Mel B. Echelberger of Gold Beach, OR and Medical Company 508 ARCT 1955-56 sent the photo above of his Washita Oilstone that he used to sharpen the injection needles to give us shots. He could not find his leg folding sterilizing heating unit. Thanks Mel!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 508 CHAPTER, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION, INC.

FORMAL NAME (No Nicknames) _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____

9-DIGIT Zip _____ ASN _____ (or) SSAN (Last 4) _____

MARITAL STATUS _____ SPOUSE'S NAME _____ NUMBER OF CHILDREN _____

OCCUPATION _____ HOME #: (____) _____ CELL #: (____) _____

EMAIL _____ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

____ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FOR YEAR 2013 \$35.00 + Wounded warrior _____ or Ed Fund _____ Total Sent _____

____ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP (\$250.00 FOR 49 YEARS AND UNDER OR \$175.00 FOR 50 YEARS +) \$ _____

____ ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY, RESERVE, NAT. GD – Current Rank and Date of Rank: _____

____ RETIRED MILITARY – Retired Rank and Date Departed Active Military Service _____

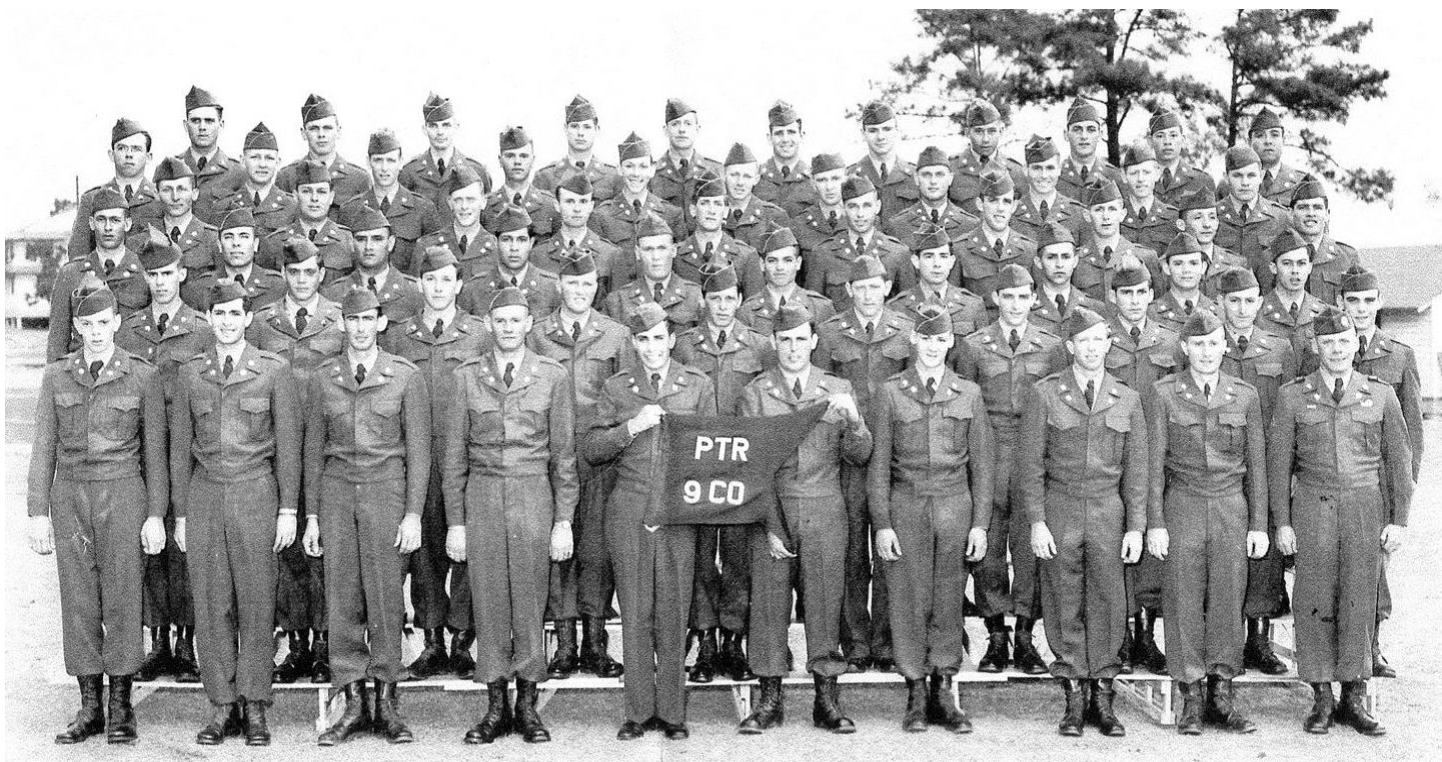
____ MILITARY VETERAN – Rank and Date Departed Military Service _____

508 UNIT: Co _____: Bn _____: Location _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____

Combat Tour Location: _____ FROM MO/YR _____ TO MO/YR _____

NEW MEMBERS MUST INCLUDE PROOF OF AIRBORNE QUALIFICATION

MAIL TO: KEN HAMILL; 2207 Coventry Drive; Columbus, GA 31904-5034



Lawrence "Jim" Adams, Jr. (holding pennant on right) of Metairie, LA and Item Company 508 ARCT 1951-53 sent this photo depicting 2nd Plat, 9th Company, Provisional Training Regiment, 82nd Abn Div, Fort Bragg, 24 March 51. Most went to Jump School and the 508 ARCT. We will attempt to follow them to Fort Benning.