

508TH PARATROOPERS DEPLOYED



DEVILS



DIGEST



December 2013

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Vol. 7 No. 4

508TH DEPLOYS TO AFGHANISTAN

Our 508 Airborne returns to Afghanistan again. The 1st & 2nd battalions of the 508 PIR will soon move to or has recently moved back to Afghanistan. My contacts with the 4th BCT, 508 PIR provided this information, which is not surprising because paratroopers today go to war, return home and go back to war it seems on a continual basis. The sad news is that the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 508 Parachute Infantry Regiment will stand down sometime in the not too distant future. Sorry if this news took the wind out of your sails, but sequestration is a harsh reality. Save money every way possible must be considered with every plan. The 1st Brigade Combat Team, 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment; 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 325 Parachute Infantry Regiment and 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment will continue to exist as part of the 82nd Airborne Division. Each Brigade Combat Team will have three maneuver battalions rather than the current two battalions. This addition will provide the 82nd Airborne Division nine infantry maneuver battalions rather than the current eight battalions. I'm told that the 2nd Battalion, 501 PIR has stood up as part of the 1st BCT joining the two current battalions of the 504 PIR. I'm also told that It is planned for the two 508 battalions to be assigned to the 2nd and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams of the 82nd Airborne Division when they return from Afghanistan.

The 508 Airborne has stood up and stood down many times from 1942 to the present. The 508 Airborne has always been an outstanding unit, no matter where they served or with whom they served. So, the 508 Airborne will continue to exist as an outstanding unit. We will survive this change and continue to be proud of our 508 paratroopers who are serving once again, in harm's way. I want to support our deployed troops. I am willing to purchase and send items to our paratroopers. If you want to send a...

...individual package to our 508 paratroopers in Afghanistan, call me or send me an email. I have a few addresses of unit First Sergeants that I can share with you. I recently sent a letter to these First Sergeants, asking them what items they would like me to send them. These First Sergeants will distribute our donated items to the troops in their Company or Unit. I will start sending items to the unit First Sergeant when that First Sergeant responds to my request for information. The method I used in 2012 to send packages worked very well. Sending Parcel Post using bushel apple boxes was very cost effective. I will send items until our designated O'Neal fund money that remains in our bank account and new donations received from you are expended. If any of you members out there want to purchase and send items to our troops on behalf of our chapter, I would gladly accept your offer to help or take it over for me. Page 7 of our September 2012 Devils Digest states that our O'Neal fund donor effort for our troops in Afghanistan totaled \$3916.00 and our chapter matching funds brought it up to \$7832.00. We spent \$6316.60 purchasing and sending items to Afghanistan in 2012. That left \$1515.40 of designated O'Neal fund money remaining in our chapter bank account. As of 30 November 2013 we have \$2514.93 in our chapter bank account. We cannot afford to give matching funds for this 2014 donor effort.

**The 2014 O'Neal Fund to Support
our 508 Parachute Infantry
Regiment Troops in Afghanistan
has started. Send your check to:**

**Ken Hamill
2207 Coventry Drive
Columbus. GA 31904**

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

I drove up, taking my time. I spent the first night in Greenville, SC, the second night in Henderson, NC and the third night at Quantico, VA. It was an easy drive up to Alexandria, VA on 8 Nov and I arrived early. I set up my laptop in the room and checked out my camera, then made sure my uniform – Blazer, 82 tie, grey trousers, etc. were ready to go. I spent a few hours with old and new friends in the hospitality room. Charlie and Sandy Wagner were not there with their 82nd association sales items because of budget constraints. Diana Tubbs did have items to sell for the Tucker Chapter. Ken Leggett & Karen Mest provided cold drinks and snacks as always. Our registration fee of \$75.00 paid for the hospitality room items and a late lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Jose Perez Ortiz brought his wonderful lady Maria and she took orders and collected money for our supper that Friday. I met 508 All American Roy Rohrbaugh of Item & Svc Companies 1954-56 and York, PA. I got up early on Saturday and secured my camera gear in my car. I then had a very nice breakfast provided by Hampton Inn. I picked up our 508 wreath and placed it in a van that was part of our convoy. We assembled in the parking lot and sat in the convoy vehicles and waited for the group to move. We made it into Arlington National Cemetery after showing the guards the proper paperwork and drove to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers. Stephen Couchman carried my 508 wreath to the 508 Memorial Site. I went to the basement area of the Tomb and got permission from a tomb guard to use the photography area reserved for this purpose. A uniformed cemetery employee allowed me to enter the photo area at the correct time. We watched and took pictures as the Tomb Guard NCOIC conducted a changing of the guard. He inspected the new guard in great detail, including a rifle inspection. He escorted the old guard out of the area. He announced proper protocol to the crowded audience and presentation of a wreath by the 82nd Airborne Division Association. He walked up the steps to meet our 82nd representatives and escorted them onto the main apron where the wreath was presented. The U.S. Army Band bugler played...

...taps making it a stirring ceremony. The 82nd entourage then moved about 50 yards down the sidewalk to the 508 Memorial Site. National President Harold Schroeder stood with me while I gave a short history of the 508 PIR from 1942 to the present. I directed the NCOIC to bring the color guard to Present Arms. We all saluted in some fashion while the 82nd bugler played taps. We then walked over to the 1SG Funk gravesite where Mike Lester of the 1SG Leonard A. Funk MOH Chapter spoke and the color guard and bugler completed the ceremony. We then loaded into our vehicles and drove to a new area to repeat the process. We laid a wreath at approximately 12 Memorial Sites before returning to the Hampton Inn for a late lunch on Saturday. Rich Becker, Marty Bier and I went to a nearby restaurant for supper. On Sunday we laid another dozen wreaths starting with the Women's Memorial and Museum. MG Dee Ann McWilliams spoke there. We also honored the 13th and 17th Airborne Divisions and the 173d Airborne Brigade on Sunday. An interesting site every year is the Team 162 Red Hat Memorial that draws a few dozen Vietnamese Airborne Veterans. Instead of returning immediately to the Hampton Inn on Sunday, most of us were pleasantly surprised when we went to a fancy restaurant named "Sequoia". An old 82nd Trooper had read about the 82nd honoring veterans at Arlington and offered Santiago a free meal to everyone involved. It was marvelous and indeed free. It was a buffet that served anything you might want for approximately \$35 a head. Rumor has it that this generous vet owns a few dozen restaurants and will provide free meals again next year. Early Monday morning I had a bite to eat and checked out of the hotel and found a parking spot near the DC Mall. I took several photos at the Mall while waiting for the 82nd group. I took photos while our group, speakers, color guard and bugler presented a wreath at the World War II Memorial; the World War I Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. When we found our reserved seating at the Vietnam Wall I took a few shots and then departed for Quantico before the entertainment began. Once again, great events had ended, but strong memories remained. Call me to perform the 508 PIR honors in 2014. Hooaaah !!



Roy Rohrbaugh of I & Svc Companies 508 ARCT 1954-56 & York, PA enjoying the Hospitality Room.



Ken Leggett and Karen Mest of the Tucker Chapter were courteous hospitality room bartenders.



Tomb of Unknowns NCOIC escorts 82nd Wreath Laying Group L-R: Jose Perez Ortiz, Harold Schroeder, Tom Holzman and Ed Herlihy.



Ken Hamill gives a brief history of the 508 Airborne Regiment prior to presenting a wreath at the 508 PIR Memorial site.



82nd Association President Harold Schroeder lays a wreath at the WWII Memorial



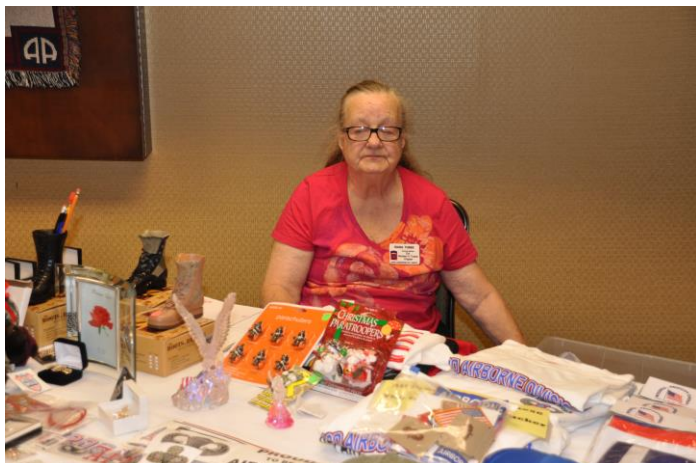
COL Bruce P. Crandall wears his Medal of Honor on stage at the Vietnam Wall Ceremony



Marty Bier & Bill Eberle



Mike Lester



Diana Tubbs selling Tucker Chapter souvenirs



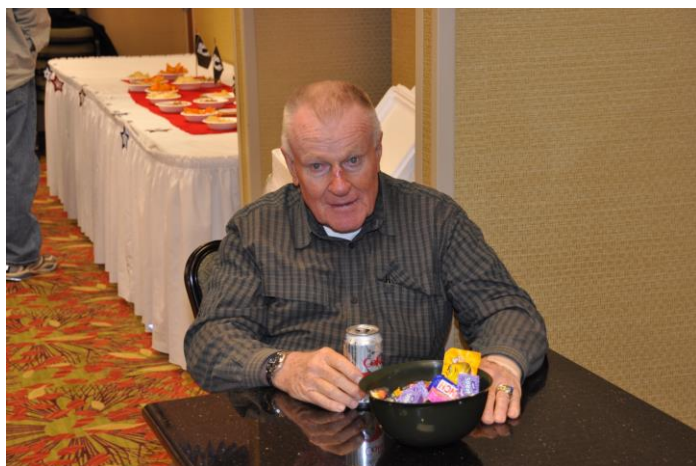
Gary Rezabek, Bill Eberle & Jose Perez Ortiz



Francine Noyon & Skip McGrath



Bert Vaughan & Mark Mest



Paul De Vries



Rich Becker with daughter Jodi Davis



**Edna & Harold Schroeder, President of
82nd Airborne Division Association**



**James Kiser, Anthony & Kimberly Henry
and Ed Herlihy**



Sal Beltran



Mary and Tom Holzman



Chufi Giaffo & Ogy Sniedze



James Roche



Ken Hamill



Maria Rodriguez, Jose Perez Ortiz and Ogy Sniedze partaking in the supper Maria ordered for us



82nd Association President Harold Schroeder and wife Edna wait for 9 November convoy to depart



Maria Rodriguez and Jose Perez Ortiz wait for 9 November convoy to depart



Gary Rezabek and Mike Lonetto



Karen Sinkovitz and Qunchao Zhan



Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers Guard man's his post in a military manner



Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers Guard man's his post in a military manner



Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers Guard man's his post in a military manner



Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers Guard man's his post in a military manner



Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers Guard man's his post while a crowd watches closely



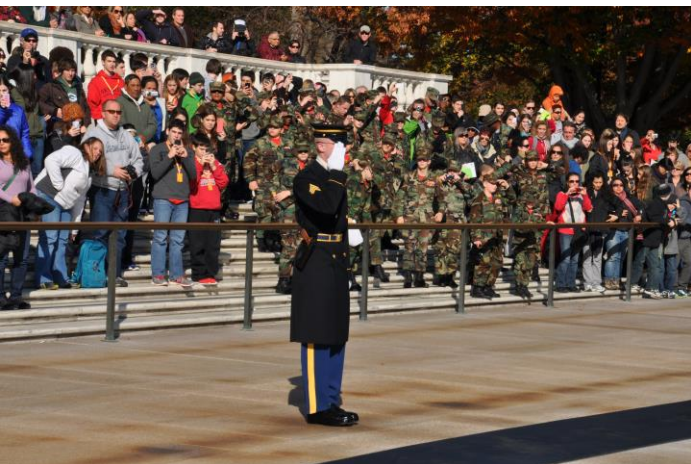
Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers Guard man's his post while a crowd watches closely



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC prepares to change the Guard



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC briefs the crowd on proper protocol during the ceremony



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC continues his sequence



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC and the old or new guard



I believe the old guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers continues to man his post while the new guard is inspected



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC conducts a very precise and complete inspection Of the new guard



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC conducts a very precise and complete inspection Including a rifle inspection



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC conducts a very precise and complete inspection Including a rifle inspection



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC conducts a very precise and complete inspection Including a rifle inspection



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC conducts a very precise and complete inspection Including a rifle inspection



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC inspects the new guard front and back, and top to bottom



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC inspects the new guard front and back, and top to bottom



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC completes his inspection of the new guard and directs him to move to the center area



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC leads the old and new guard through a sequence of relief and assumption of responsibility



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC leads the old and new guard through a sequence of relief and assumption of responsibility



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The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC leads the old and new guard through a sequence of relief and assumption of responsibility



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC leads the old and new guard through a sequence of relief and assumption of responsibility



This military ritual will accomplish the formal transfer of responsibility by both guards and the NCOIC of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers



This military ritual will accomplish the formal transfer of responsibility on order of the NCOIC of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers



The new guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers takes his place on the walkway mat and starts his tour of duty



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC escorts the old guard off of the concrete apron



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers guard will take 21 steps, do several facing movements and change shoulder arms during each traverse of the mat



A Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers guard and the U.S. Army Band bugler will walk up the steps and begin a new Wreath Presentation Ceremony



A Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers guard and the U.S. Army Band bugler bring the 82nd Abn Div Association wreath to the Tomb apron



A Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers guard and the U.S. Army Band bugler bring the 82nd Abn Div Association wreath to the Tomb apron



The 82nd Abn Div Assn wreath is temporarily placed at the side of the Tomb apron



Recently presented wreaths from previous ceremonies are displayed behind the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers



A Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers guard salutes the tomb prior to our 82nd Airborne Division Association wreath laying ceremony



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers NCOIC guides our 82nd Abn Div Association representatives down a stairway to start the ceremony



Our 82nd Abn Div Association representatives are L-R: Jose Perez Ortiz, Tom Holzman, Harold Schroeder and Ed Herlihy



82nd Association President Harold Schroeder and 505 Association President Ed Herlihy center and place the 82nd wreath with the help of the NCOIC



Our 82nd Airborne Division Association representatives, a Tomb guard and Tomb NCOIC salute as the U.S. Army Band Bugler plays Taps.



Our 82nd Abn Div Assn reps Jose Perez Ortiz, Tom Holzman, Harold Schroeder and Ed Herlihy salute as the Tomb NCOIC gives a command



Our 82nd Airborne Division Association reps are guided back up the steps by the Tomb NCOIC



Our 82nd Airborne Division Association reps are released at the top of the steps ending the ceremony



The Tomb Guard and Bugler departing, signals the end of this ceremony and may signal the start of a new wreath laying ceremony



508 Chapter Chairman Ken Hamill gives a brief history of the 508 Regiment at the 508 PIR Memorial site



82nd Association President Harold Schroeder and Ken Hamill uncover the floral wreath at the 508 PIR Memorial



The 82nd Airborne Division Color Guard comes to Present Arms while the bugler plays taps at the 508 PIR Memorial



Mike Lester speaks at the 1SG Leonard Funk gravesite



Brent Gulick & Mike Lonetto at the 82 Airborne Division Memorial



Donald Christiansen & James Jackson at the General Robinson gravesite



Cliff Fahrer & Steve Jessie at the General Ridgway gravesite



Donald Christiansen & James Jackson at the 555 PIB Memorial



Doug Dillard is a WWII Veteran of this unit and spoke at 551 PIB Memorial Site



Harold Schroeder & Paul De Vries at 504 PIR Memorial



Herb Shapiro & Ogy Sniedze at 11th Airborne Division Memorial site



Our group paid respects at the James C. Queen Gravesite



Richard O'Hare & Patrick Barry on 10 November



Roy Rohrbaugh & Ken Hamill on 10 November



Color Guard L-R SPC Kelvin Diaz, SPC Brandon Pettus, SPC Alexander Howard & SPC Austin Dunn



MG Dee Ann McWilliams (USA Ret) speaks at Womens Memorial site and Museum



Our 82nd Airborne Division Association leaders and members at the Womens Memorial



MG Dee Ann McWilliams & Laurie Clay



Gold Star father Bob Sandri speaks at Iraq & Afghanistan gravesite area



Ed Herlihy & Rich Becker at the 505 Parachute Infantry Regiment Memorial



John Kormann spoke at the 17th Airborne Division Memorial



Brenda Brookelee spoke at 13th Airborne Division Memorial



COL Lombardo spoke at the 173rd Airborne Brigade Memorial



Dozens of small U.S. Flags were placed at the 173rd Airborne Brigade Memorial



Rich Becker & George Fisanich at 325 Glider Infantry Regiment Memorial



Patrick Barry speaks at the "Golden Brigade" Third Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division Memorial



Ogy Sniedze and Rich Becker at the 187 ARCT "Rakkasan" Memorial



The Vietnamese Airborne Color Guard at the Team 162 Red Hat Memorial



The 82nd Airborne Division Color Guard at the Team 162 Red Hat Memorial



Gary Willis and Dr. Tien salute at the Team 162 Red Hat Memorial



Gary Rezabek & Bob Shawn at the Team 162 Red Hat Memorial



SFC Thornton & SPC Diaz enjoying a free and very tasty brunch at the Sequoia Restaurant



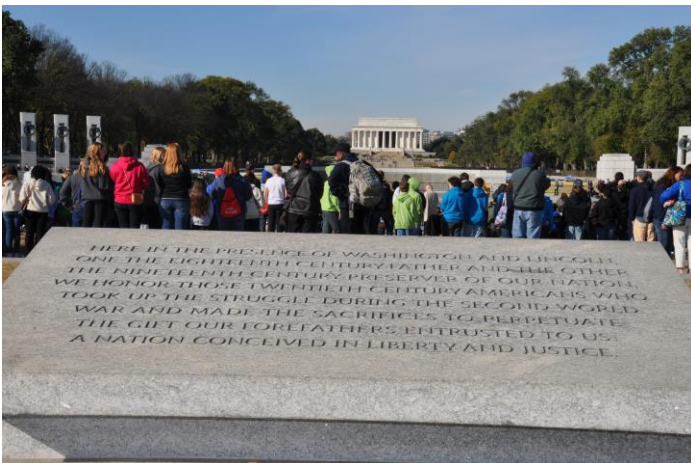
The interior of the Sequoia Restaurant



The Mall at Washington, D. C. with the Washington Monument under repair in the background



The west side exterior of the World War II Memorial



Looking west across the World War II Memorial Toward the Lincoln Memorial



Governor O'Malley of Maryland & Stephen Couchman of our Association



All Services Color Guard after ceremony



This couple was helping one of the Honor Flights visiting on Veterans Day



USNA Midshipmen greeting Veterans



USAF NCO enjoying the day



World War II Veteran with Honor Flight Attendants



Maria Rodriguez & Jose Perez Ortiz at WWII Memorial



Carl Bludau & James Kiser at WWII Memorial



Harold & Edna Schroeder at WWII Memorial



Floral wreaths displayed at the World War II Memorial



82nd Abn Div bugler plays taps during our Wreath Ceremony at the World War II Memorial



82nd Airborne Division Color Guard sets up at the World War I Memorial



Richard O'Hare speaks during the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the World War I Memorial



Chufi Giaffo & Ogy Sniedze at Korean War Memorial



Combat Infantrymen statues at Korean War Memorial



The Lincoln Memorial at the Washington D.C. Mall



Bowman Olds told me that he commanded the 508 Airborne during the Bosnia and Kosovo actions



82nd Airborne Division Association section of the Vietnam Wall Ceremony audience



Vets, dignitaries and perhaps entertainers on stage at the Vietnam wall Ceremony



82nd Airborne Division Association section of the Vietnam Wall Ceremony audience



Wolfhound friends at the Vietnam Wall



**508 AIRBORNE
CHAPTER CHAIRMAN**
Ken Hamill
2207 Coventry Drive
Columbus, GA 31904-5034
Telephone: 706.327.3207
E: khamill@knology.net

TAPS - 508th PARATROOPERS RECENTLY DECEASED

James E. Able	Benavidez-Patterson Chap
D Co. 508 PIR 1942-45	4 November 2008
Glenn T. Garner	Fayetteville Chapter
HQ Co. 2-508, 82 AD 1966-69	27 January 2010
John J. Grossi	Hartford Chapter
HHC 508 PIR 1943-45	31 May 2013
Stanley Kass	Rocky Mtn Chapter
H Co, 508 PIR 1942-46	10 August 2013
Norman G. Laumeyer	Enterprise, AL
E Co. 508 ARCT 1952-54	7 August 2013
Nicholas A. Pavone	Hughes Chapter
508 PIR 1942-45	29 April 2013
Irving T. Shanley	Gavin Chapter
HHC 508 PIR 1942-45	3 December 2012



Annual Members ...11
Affiliate Members...13
All Americans.....302
Total Members.....326



December 2013 Treasurers Report

Printing expense Sep 2013:	\$143.01
Veterans Day Wreath 508 PIR site:	\$100.00
Newsletter Envelopes Dec 2013:	\$31.16
Chapter Account 30 Nov 2013:	\$2514.93



The majority of our 508 Chapter Members are life members (All Americans) under the old system. These members paid for life and a \$4.50 annual rebate would be paid to their chapter. Our national association was hard hit by the economy and voted to withhold rebates. Our 508 Chapter has not received rebate payments for the past two years. There is occasional talk about paying the chapters their rebate money, but talk is cheap. We want the greenbacks, not talk...

...I have read articles in the Paraglide about generous individuals and some chapters who donated their rebates to National. This is not the case with the 508 Chapter. Our rebates were withheld, not donated. We are owed all unpaid rebates. We have expenses, four newsletters, admin costs and a Veterans Days wreath. We need the rebates.

Dick O'Donnell of the Friends and Family 508 PIR Association is willing to discuss forming a combined 508 PIR Association. I see an advantage in having an umbrella organization composed of The Friends and Family 508 PIR Association, 508 Chapter, the active duty military members of the 508 Airborne and 508 veterans who are not members of the first three mentioned groups. If you have thoughts or visions of such an organization or if you would like to make it happen send me some feedback.

Rodger Jacobson worked for years contacting veteran 508 paratroopers and informing them of the 508 Chapter of the 82 Airborne Division Associations. He informed fellow paratroopers, recruited new members and collected historic items. Rodger has several boxes of historical material that he wants to unload. Do we have any members that would like to read this material and perhaps compile historical data about the 508 Regiment? I have a full plate and not enough time. I recommend that any historical material not passed on to another 508 chapter member be sent to the Military History Institute and Army Heritage Museum. Their address follows: U.S. Army Heritage & Ed Center, 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle, PA 17013-5021 www.usahc.org Your recommendations and thoughts about this historic material would be very much appreciated.

I heard from **Mel Echelberger** of Med Company, 508 ARCT 1955-56 and Gold Beach, Oregon. The Navy trained Mel as a Corpsman 1949-52. He worked on Marine frost bit feet at Oak Knoll Naval Hospital. He later joined the USAF Reserve, medically retiring in 1977. He then worked at Oakdale, CA Airport teaching people to fly. Heart problems have slowed Mel down.

Marshall B. Truslow of Item Company, 508 ARCT 1951-53 and Annandale, Virginia recently donated to our Chapter Treasury
THANK YOU CHAPTER DONOR

I heard from **Lawrence "Jim" Adams, Jr.** of Item Co. 508 ARCT 1951-53 and Metairie, LA. Jim sounded good and said he felt strong. Jim worked in Regimental Finance at one of the Cuartels? while at Fort Benning. Jim was kind enough to send me some of his books and photos with so many pictorial memories of his era in the 508. I made copies. Thank you Jim.

I heard from **Louis Avitabile** of M Company, 508 ARCT 1952-53 and Havover, MA. Louis later served as an MP and with CID. He was Provost Marshall at Boston Army Base when he retired from the 94th Army Reserve. Louis gets good medical care at a nearby VA Hospital.

I heard from **Joe Ballaro** of D Company 508 ARCT 1951-53 and Port Charlotte, FL. Joe attended a 508 Chapter gathering in Punta Gorda, FL years ago. He is a prior Commander of American Legion Post 110, a current member of the U.S. Paratrooper Association and serves with their Honor Guard in Sarasota, FL.

Roland Bourassa of HQ 2-508 ARCT 1954-56 and Mullan, ID recently received some bad news - a malignant tumor in his right lung. It took the VA six days to approve him for 100% house-bound status. Let us join in hope and prayer that Roland will beat this cancer. Roland sends his best to all the best – 508 Past, Present & future.

I heard from All American Member **Eric I. Brown** of A Company, 508 ARCT 1951-54 and DePew, NY. Eric fractured his ankle on the Long Horn jump. He returned to Fort Benning with other casualties on a C-124 that dropped suddenly from 12,500 feet to 10,000 feet, violently displacing several trooper casualties from their bucket seats and stretchers.

I spoke to **Franklin Burns** of Service Company, 508 ARCT 1951-53 and Daytona Beach, FL. Franklin attended basic training and AIT at Fort Knox, then on to jump school at Fort Benning and Svc Co, 508. Franklin then transferred to the Pentagon where he drove a big black Buick 4 door sedan out of the U.S. Garage #1 under the Pentagon – driving Generals and Admirals. He learned Washington, DC very well. Franklin became an Airline Pilot for U.S. Airways...

...Franklin also lived for several years in Charleston, WV and near Lexington, KY.

Bill Coulter of L Company, 508 ARCT 1951-53, originally from Long Island, New York, now residing in Delray Beach, Florida called to say he is in the photo published on page 8 of the September Devils Digest. Bill Coulter is in the first row, third man from the left. That photo depicting 2nd Platoon, 9th Company, Provisional Training Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC on 24 March 1951 was provided by Lawrence "Jim" Adams.

I spoke to **Mrs. Darrel Gooler** who with her husband was in the 508 ARCT 1954-56 and resides in San Antonio, TX. He commanded Support Company, 508 in Japan. He wishes everyone the best of luck and stated "We did the job we were supposed to do and did it well". He was 87 years old last July. He joined the Army Air Corps in 1943 and became a crew chief on a B-29 during WWII. He then went to Trinity University and was commissioned a 2LT and stayed for 30 years. Mrs. Gooler said she enjoyed Camp Wood and Kumamoto, Japan.

REPLACEMENT MEMBERSHIP CARD OR CERTIFICATE

Members may obtain a replacement card and/or certificate for \$1.00 each. An updated application like the top of page eight of our Devils Digests must accompany the request. National cannot accept credit cards as a form of payment at this time. The address for National is: 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.
Post Office Box 87482
Fayetteville, N.C. 28304-7482

Our National Website has established a library - <http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org> The home page features seven links – About Us, Paraglide, Bulletins& Minutes, Events, Chapters, Vet Military Information and Museums. Each link displays new links when clicked. If you want to learn what it costs to replace a membership card, click on Vet/Military Info, then click on Membership. There is also a link there to display a Veteran Membership Application that can be printed and sent to National. Hooooaaah!!!

A PARATROOPERS MEMORIES #3

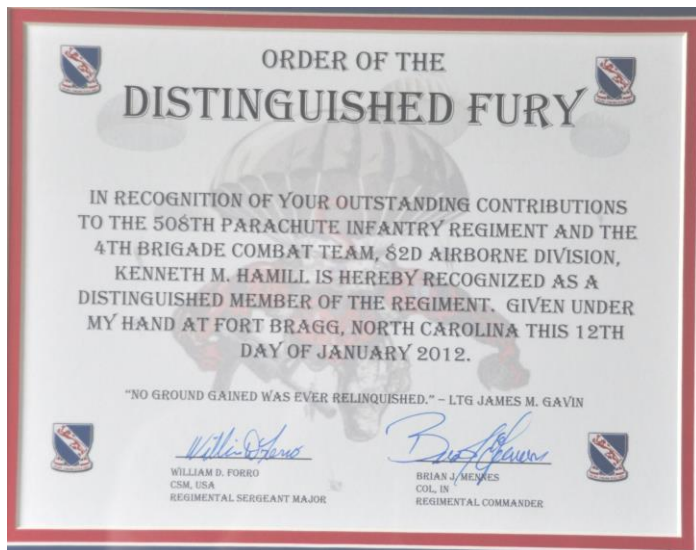
By Ed Slocum of HQ3-508 ARCT 1955-56

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. Ed would like feedback from us. If we spot an error, pass on the correction so Ed can fix it. Article #3 starts now. The tests we were required to take were qualification tests for Officer Candidate School. I did not know at that time that the Army groups all entrants into three mental categories. They're actually five but numbers four and five do not qualify for the military. All officers belong in mental category #1 which comprises about 6% of the Armed Forces. That was enlightening to me. I had no idea then that I was in a top category of IQ. Obviously, I was too young to attend Officer Candidate School. Sixteen weeks of heavy weapons infantry basic training began the following week. In addition to learning to use our individual weapons which at that time were M-1, 30 caliber rifles, and 30 caliber M1 carbines, and the 45 caliber pistol. We also learned to use crew served weapons. These weapons were heavy water cooled and light air cooled 30 caliber machine guns, 60 mm mortars, 81 mm mortars, 4.2 inch mortars, 75 mm recoilless rifles, and 105 mm recoilless rifles. Of course, it goes without saying that we also learned to march, to drill, to wear the uniform properly, military customs and, courtesy. In short we became soldiers. I remember the motivation that they used when they found someone not paying proper attention was to point out that considering there is a war raging in Korea, you probably ought to stay awake and be attentive. The information you are learning here, may save your life. We also had classes in close quarter combat and the use of knives and bayonets including a garrote, which is a wire between two handles and used to silently strangle a sentry. I remember the instructor asking the question; what is the spirit of the bayonet? The answer is; to kill! I completed 16 weeks of basic training, graduated and was given two weeks authorized leave of absence over the Christmas holidays 1953. I returned to Iowa to spend Christmas...

... with. my family. Shortly after New Year's Day 1954, I boarded a bus in Council Bluffs Iowa for a trip to the United States Army Infantry School at Fort Benning Georgia. At Fort Benning I was to complete the basic airborne course or jump school. Somewhere during the two-day bus trip to Fort Benning Georgia, I had a sudden thought. The United States Army actually expected me to jump out of an airplane flying 1200 feet above the ground. That was unnatural and besides, I ask myself, "Do I have the courage to do this?" I was about to find out. **Jump School at Fort Benning Georgia:** I reached Fort Benning Georgia on a Sunday afternoon. I was in uniform, carrying my duffel bag with all of my worldly possessions. I was walking towards the Airborne School. After asking for directions; I was directed to the orderly room of the Student Reception Company. Before I could sign in, I was accosted by a paratrooper Second Lieutenant. He must've been bored on weekend duty that day, because he then proceeded to lecture me about my sorry state of affairs and that I didn't look like I was capable of becoming a paratrooper. I remember he stuck a pencil in front of my face with his thumb showing only about a half-inch of the pencil and told me the half-inch of the pencil represented my real manhood. He also said that the only reason he was talking to me, was that I was an airborne volunteer. And that although he didn't know if I had the guts, or the ability to join the glorious ranks of the United States Army paratroopers; he did respect the fact that I was an airborne volunteer. He also pointed out that although I was a leg, (that is a derogatory term for a non-airborne qualified soldier), and that I was lower than whale manure which was at the bottom of the ocean, he supposed that as an airborne volunteer he would cut me some slack. After doing many push-ups while saying yes sir and no sir; he pointed out the orderly room and told me to sign in. Monday morning came all too soon, and our new class was assembled on the jump school grounds for a welcome ceremony. I remember that I had some trepidation about the way I had been treated yesterday by the Lieutenant. I was also concerned about what was about to happen.

TO BE CONTINUED

Distinguished Member of Regiment



Our 508th Airborne Chapter has been honored by the 508th PIR and 4th BCT, 82nd Abn Div. The Order of the Distinguished Fury Plaque, depicted above was sent to our Chapter Chair on behalf of our generous chapter members. The plaque reads "IN RECOGNITION OF YOUR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE 508TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT AND THE 4TH BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION, KENNETH M. HAMILL IS HEREBY RECOGNIZED AS A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF THE REGIMENT. GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AT FORT BRAGG, NORTH CAROLINA THIS 12TH DAY OF JANUARY 2012." The plaque was signed by CSM William D. Forro and COL Brian J. Mennes. The plaque could not be presented in January 2012 because our 508 PIR was about to deploy into harm's way in Afghanistan at the time. Thank you 508 Chapter Members for your generosity. Your contributions made it possible for our chapter to assist our 508 paratroopers on several occasions: Dr. Jim Jackson's auction and your donations generated \$7763.00 for our troops in 2007-2008. You provided \$1180.00 for our troops in 2010. Your donations generated \$6316.60 for our troops in 2012. Your donations and our Chapter sponsored Wounded Warriors to attend 82nd Abn Div Conventions. Your generosity generated \$3940.00 for our Gold Star Family to attend All American Week in 2011.

Best Airborne Regards, Ken Hamill, 508 Chair

I heard from Cary Peel of D Company, 508 ARCT 1954-56 and Calhoun, LA. Cary is feeling his jumping pains. He got hurt on a jump 5 June 1958 because of excessive wind. Cary later served in D Co, 506 ABG at Fort Campbell and sent a parachute accident report from that time that some of you may remember. Ft. Campbell, KY Parachute Maneuver Accident, April 1958.

TRAGIC PARACHUTE MANEUVER KILLS FIVE. 137 INJURED WHEN HIT BY GUSTS.

ARMY PLANS 2nd DROP SATURDAY (AP).

Army authorities planned to go ahead with another mass airborne drop Saturday on the heels of a tragic maneuver which killed five and hospitalized 137 paratroopers. The paratroopers were tossed about the drop zone by treacherous and shifting wind gusts. The victims, among nearly 1,400 taking part, were dragged across the rough drop zone by billowing parachutes which they were helpless to deflate. None of those hospitalized was believed in serious condition. "The guy who collapsed my chute for me looked like Santa Claus at Easter time," said Sgt. 1/C DANIEL KLING, St. Louis, who suffered severe cuts and bruises. The battle-trained soldiers making the jump were members of the 502nd Battle Group one of five such groups in the streamlined 101st Airborne Division. The 502nd is the aggressor force in Exercise Eagle Wing. The other groups, acting as defenders, are scheduled to jump Saturday. The five who were killed were blown against trees and rocks by the wind gusts or strangled by the suspension lines when they were unable to collapse their parachutes. Maj. Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, 44, who assumed command of the 101st earlier this month, jumped with the 502nd, his 70th jump without injury, but he was dragged 300 feet across the ground. "I just couldn't run as fast as my chute was going," he commented. Westmoreland said wind readings of 10 knots (about 11 1/2 M.P.H.) and under were made at drop time. Drops are permitted unless wind velocity exceeds 12 knots. Authorities declined to estimate the velocity of the gusts. The Defense Department listed the following five paratroopers killed in the drop: PFC MICHAEL E. ROBLES, PFC ALFONSO L. MARTINEZ, Pvt. ELLIOTT F. MORLEY, SP3 CARL G. PAYNE and PFC DANNY J. RUFFIN.

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 2014 \$35.00 + Wounded warrior _____ 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



Charlie Company, Airborne School Class 46, Fort Benning, Georgia graduated 15 June 1951. William T. Coulter, Edwin C. Carbery, Kenneth L. Glynn and Lowell A. Hamel are listed as members of C Company and may be depicted above. These four troopers became members of the 508 Chapter, 82 Airborne Division Association. Lawrence "Jim" Adams Jr. of Item Company, 508 ARCT 1951-53 and Metarie, LA sent the photo and is depicted left side, 3rd row, 3rd man in. King Company was also part of Airborne Class 46. If you are in the above photo, please inform the Editor