



## LINKING THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT

504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT / 1ST BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM ASSOCIATION, INC.

**JULY 2016**

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**DECEMBER 2016**

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## **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS**

**THIS WILL BE THE LAST PROPBLAST MAILED TO EACH CURRENT MEMBER DUE TO THE RISING COSTS OF PRINTING PLUS MAILING, MOREOVER, THE LACK OF DONATIONS AND NEW MEMBERS SIGNING UP. HOWEVER, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT MAILED TO YOU IT CAN BE AT \$8.50 PER YEAR/2 ISSUES.**

**JUST SEND A CHECK \$8.50 [Newsletters] WITH A CURRENT ADDRESS TO THE 504 PIR/1<sup>st</sup> BCT ASSOCIATION, attn.: RON RATH, TREASURER, 22 CLUB HILL DRIVE, GARNER, NC 27529-6528.**

**YOU CAN ALSO READ IT ON THE 504 PIR ASSOCIATION WEBSITE FOR FREE, JUST GO TO**

<http://www.504thpirassociation.org/home.html>

**See more on the next page**

## **REMEMBER YOUR REGIMENT**



**504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**RONALD H. RATH, TREASURER**

*rrath@nc.rr.com*

*22 Club Hill Drive*

*Garner, NC 27529*

*(919) 803-4554*

*15 November 2016*



As I said on the Prop blast cover, we can no longer keep mailing the newsletter to each member unless we charge for it. This again is due to the cost of mailing and printing going up so much and not as many donations coming in as before. Here is the breakdown of what it costs to mail 2 issues to all of our members less the active duty annual members, which I deliver copies to the Regiment/1<sup>st</sup> BCT to be put in the unit areas.

Per Member cost

Postage is \$3.62

Printing the newsletter is \$3.46

Mailing Envelopes are \$0.32

Labels are about \$0.06

Printer ink is about \$ .025

In case of cost difference at times \$0.79, i.e.: stamp or printing increase

Total cost is \$8.50 each

So 1,400 copies printed and mailed at 2016 cost of \$7.71 = \$10,794.00 per year that the Association pays.

Now in saying that, those that are Newsletter Boosters and have their names on the next page, who donate \$20.00 per year will continue to get the Newsletters mailed to them at no additional cost, which means they "do not" have to pay the \$8.50 per two issues as long as their name still appears on the Newsletter Booster list. If they have \*\*\*\*\* behind their name, then it is time to send in another \$20.00 or \$8.50.

Secretary Bill Eberle will again mail out our annual raffle tickets about March 2017 and we ask that you return them as soon as you can. The monies we make from the raffle help us to make annual donations to the Regiment, the 82d Educational fund, Wounded Warriors, War Museum and have first class Hospitality rooms. So if you can, please send in a little extra with your tickets as it will help us do more for our Active duty also. Again your donations are tax deductible.

I would like to thank all of those members for stepping up and give of their time or donations to our Association. As members it is very important for you and the Association to stay in touch. Whenever your address changes, please notify the Association.

I hope to see many of you at All American week and/or the Convention in August in Orlando, Florida August 10 to 13 2017. I totally understand many of you cannot make both, but please try to make one of them. So until then.... Ron

**SINE PARI**  
**Charlie Mike....R**

*"NOT FOR FAME OR REWARD, NOT FOR RANK, BUT IN SIMPLE OBEDIENCE OF DUTY"*

<b>NEWSLETTER BOOSTERS</b>		
<b>Ms. Kathleen Richardson</b>	<b>Mrs Charlotte M. Turner</b>	<b>Mrs. Judy Williams</b>
<b>In Memory of Roxie Demarco</b>	<b>In Memory of John Turner</b>	<b>In Memory of Reed Williams</b>
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<b>Robert S. Saverly</b>	<b>James A. Smolley</b>	<b>LTG® William M. Steele [XXIV]</b>
<b>Danny S. Shoaf</b>	<b>Your name could go here</b>	<b>Berry L. Summers</b>
<b>Carroll E. Sylvester</b>	<b>COL Colin P. Tuley [XXXVIII]</b>	<b>Michael J. Walding</b>
<b>Michael V. Wiltse</b>	<b>Robert F. Winkler</b>	<b>Michael Valdez</b>
<b>Mark Yeager</b>	<b>Director George Zablocki</b>	<b>Your name could go here</b>

**IF YOUR NAME IS FOLLOWED BY AN \* THEN YOUR BOOSTER \$\$ WILL RUN OUT WITH ISSUE**

The cost of becoming a Newsletter Booster is \$20.00 [Non Members-\$25.00] for you to have your name appear in 2 Newsletter issues.

Please send your Booster checks to the Treasurer  
504 PIR Association, Inc. Ron Rath, Treasurer, 22 Club Hill Drive, Garner, NC 27529-6528

When you are sending in your check, please state on the check that it is for a  
"NEWSLETTER BOOSTER"

Any questions, please call me at 919-803-4554/ [rrath@nc.rr.com](mailto:rrath@nc.rr.com)

**504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT & ATTACHED PARATROOPERS  
THAT HAVE BEEN KILLED IN ACTION DURING THIS WAR ON TERRORISM**

**SERGEANT ANDREW J. BADDICK, 1-504th PIR IRAQ  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROBERTO C. BAEZ, 3-504th PIR IRAQ  
CAPTAIN ERNESTO M. BLANCO, 1-504th PIR IRAQ  
SERGEANT TREVOR A BLUMBERG, 1-504th PIR IRAQ  
STAFF SERGEANT MARK VASQUEZ, 1-504th PIR IRAQ  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS GARY COLLINS, 1-504th PIR IRAQ  
SERGEANT RYAN YOUNG, 1-504th PIR IRAQ  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOEL K. BRATTAIN, D/1-504th PIR IRAQ  
SPECIALIST DAMION CAMPBELL, 1-508th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
SERGEANT STEVEN CHECO, 504th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSEPH CRUZ, 1-508th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JERROD DENNIS, B/3-504th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
STAFF SERGEANT JOHN G. DOLES, 1-508th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
SERGEANT KELVIN FELICIANO, HHC, 3-504th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS CLINT D. FERRIN, D/1-504th PIR IRAQ  
SERGEANT ERIC A. FIFER, 3-504th PIR IRAQ  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BENNY FRANKLIN, 2-319th FAR AFGHANISTAN  
CORPORAL DANIEL FREEMAN, 1-508th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
LANCE CORPORAL PHILIP GEORGE, 2-3rd MARINES AFGHANISTAN  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS NICHOLAS J. GREER, 3-504 PIR IRAQ  
SPECIALIST BLAKE W. HALL, 173rd ABN BDE AFGHANISTAN  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS EMMANUEL HERNANDEZ, 3-319th FAR AFGHANISTAN  
LIEUTENANT JOSHUA M. HYLAND, 173rd ABN BDE AFGHANISTAN  
LIEUTENANT LUKE S. JAMES, 505th PIR IRAQ  
LANCE CORPORAL KEVIN JOYCE, 2-3rd MARINES AFGHANISTAN  
SPECIALIST CHRIS M. KATZENBERGER, 2-504th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
STAFF SERGEANT LESTER O. KINNEY, 505th PIR IRAQ  
SERGEANT BRYAN W. LARGE, 3-504th PIR IRAQ  
SERGEANT MICHAEL R. LEHMILLER, 173rd ABN BDE AFGHANISTAN  
PRIVATE JASON HASENHAUER, 2-504th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
SERGEANT DANIEL J. LONDONO, D/1-504th PIR IRAQ  
AIRMEN FIRST CLASS RAYMOND LOSANO, USAF AFGHANISTAN  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JOHN D. MORTON, 173d ABN BDE AFGHANISTAN**

**504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT & ATTACHED PARATROOPERS  
THAT HAVE BEEN KILLED IN ACTION DURING THIS WAR ON TERRORISM**

**SERGEANT CORY R. MRACEK, 319th FAR IRAQ  
STAFF SERGEANT TRAVIS W. NIXON, 2-504th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
PRIVATE CHRIS L. PALMER, 173rd ABN BDE AFGHANISTAN  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS BRYAN "NICK" SPRY, D/1-504th PIR IRAQ  
SPECIALIST SASHA STUBLE, 1-508th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
SPECIALIST MATTHEW P. STEYART, 1-508th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS JAMES J. STODDARD, 2-504th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
LANCE CORPORAL STEVEN VALDEZ, 2-3rd MARINES AFGHANISTAN  
SPECIALIST JACOB T. VANDERBOSCH, 3-504th PIR IRAQ  
PRIVATE ROBERT WHITE, 1-508th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
SERGEANT ROMANES WOODARD, 1-508th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
SERGEANT NORMAN L. TOLLETT, 1-504th PIR IRAQ  
SPECIALIST MICHAEL K. FRANK, 1st STB IRAQ  
GUNNERY SERGEANT HERMAN J. MURKERSON, JR, MARINE EXP IRAQ  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ROBERT H. DEMBOWSKI, 1-504th PIR IRAQ  
SPECIALIST MATTHEW K. REECE, 1-504th PIR IRAQ  
SERGEANT KYLE DAYTON, 2-504th PIR IRAQ  
CAPTAIN DAVID W. SCHULTZ, 3-73rd CAV IRAQ  
STAFF SERGEANT LAURENT J. WEST, 3-73rd CAV IRAQ  
SPECIALIST JASON N. COX, 3-73rd CAV IRAQ  
CORPORAL DANIEL T. O'LEARY, 307th BSB IRAQ  
CORPORAL ANTONIO C. BURNSIDE, 1 BSTB,ENGINEER, AFGHANISTAN  
FIRST LIEUTENANT JONATHAN P. WALSH, A CO, 2-504th PIR, AFGHANISTAN  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MICHAEL J. METCALF, A CO, 2-504th PIR, AFGHANISTAN  
PRIVATE FIRST CLASS CHRISTIAN SANNICOLAS, C CO, 1-504th PIR, AFGHANISTAN  
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SPECIALIST CHASE MARTA, C CO, 3-73rd CAV, AFGHANISTAN  
SERGEANT JACOB SCHWALLIE, C CO, 3-73rd CAV, AFGHANISTAN  
STAFF SERGEANT NICHOLAS FREDSTI, D CO, 1-504th PIR, AFGHANISTAN  
CAPTAIN JAMES E. CHAFFIN, HHC 3-319th FAR, AFGHANISTAN  
SERGEANT FIRST CLASS SAMUEL C. HAIRSTON, A CO, 1-504th PIR AFGHANISTAN  
SPECIALIST BRIAN K. ARSENAULT, B CO, 1-504th PIR, AFGHANISTAN**

The Regimental KIA list as we know it and it will be listed in every PropBlast issue until the War is over. If you know "First hand" that I have made a mistake in location, name, unit. Please inform me at 919-803-4554 or [rrath@nc.rr.com](mailto:rrath@nc.rr.com)

## **NEW ASSOCIATION WATCHES FOR SALE**

BULOVA Watches with silver and gold snap bands and a large 504 PIR ASSOCIATION logo.

Choose Men's or Woman's [Ladies on left] regular sale price is \$250.00 each.  
For current members of the 504 PIR / 1<sup>st</sup> BCT Association, the cost is \$160.00 each "without"  
shipping & Insurance.

With shipping and Insurance the cost is \$175.00 each.

Send check or money order to: 504 PIR/1<sup>st</sup> BCT Association

Attn.: Ron Rath, Treasurer, 22 Club Hill Drive, Garner, NC 27529-6528

You can also go to the 504 PIR Association's web site at

<http://www.504thpirassociation.org/home.html>

and pay through Pay Pal, however, the cost is \$175.00/with shipping and Insurance it is \$190.00.

Please provide your full name, address, e-mail, and phone number when paying by Pay Pal



**2d BATTALION [WHITE DEVILS] 504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT**

**5" X 5" FULL COLOR MAGNETIC DECAL**



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER ONE OR MORE OF THESE,  
PLEASE SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$8.00 EACH,  
WHICH INCLUDES POSTAGE TO 504 PIR ASSOCIATION,  
CSM® RONALD RATH, 22 CLUB HILL DRIVE, GARNER, NC  
27529-65289**

## Operation Market Garden 72

“Those Devils in Baggy Pants” the 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, soldiers who gave their life and fought for the freedom of the Netherlands during WWII, were honored and remembered once again in the Commemoration of Operation Market Garden 72. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division (ABN DIV) recently participated in both the events and ceremonies. Different communities come together once a year for the same cause, and they do so out of their passion for our paratroopers.

Some of these communities are in Grave, where they commemorate the John Thompson Bridge Memorial and the Liberation of the city by our 504<sup>th</sup> PIR soldiers. Another community is in Groesbeek, where one can appreciate the Liberation Museum which is dedicated to the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV and all of the Operation Market Garden history. Another ceremony in Groesbeek is the Annual Monument Tour.

This year the Annual Monument Tour involved three ceremonies where they commemorated and visited the General James Gavin Plaque, the Groesbeek Memorial, and the unveiling of the new road sign “Arie Bestebreurtjepad”. Representing the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, was the Color Guard and members of 1BCT, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV.

One community of Kranenburg had a special commemoration this year. After 72 years, they found information of two crew members from one of the C-47 transport planes that flew during Operation Market Garden on the 17 of September 1944. The C-47 crash-landed a few miles into Germany. Two of the crew members were taken prisoner and transported to the neighboring village of Kranenburg. Both men were executed in the center of the town by a Nazi party member. This incident shocked the eyewitnesses and left a scar in the hearts of the population of Kranenburg. This year, after the information was found, they decided to organize a commemoration ceremony and a plaque with their names. They commemorated these two soldiers and named the plaque and the ceremony “Hate kills, Love conciliates”. Once again, the paratroopers of 1BCT, 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV represented with a platoon with the Division Colors. Family of the crew members that were remembered and commemorated attended the ceremony as well.

Paratroopers of the 1<sup>st</sup> BCT, 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV, also had the opportunity to represent the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR at the Liberation Service dedicated to Medal of Honor recipient John Towle. The Liberation Service took place at a church in the city of Oosterhout. The church had drawings of John Towle made by the community elementary school children. The service was very special with participation of the Church Chorus and small band.

The 1<sup>st</sup> BCT, 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV also visited the CSG High School in Ede, where Frank Van Lunteren (author of the history of the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR) teaches history and economics to junior and senior students. There, two groups learned the basics of how to perform actions on the aircraft, and what happens in the ground after jumping. They also learned what takes to be a professional, dedicated, committed and highly motivated paratrooper. This day was very special because Frank Van Lunteren was inducted as an Honorary Member of the 504<sup>th</sup> Regiment and his name will forever be on the Walls of the 1<sup>st</sup> BCT, 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV.

The 1<sup>st</sup> BCT, 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV also participated in the Commemoration of Market Garden over at Ginkle DZ the 17<sup>th</sup> of September. The ceremony, organized by the Dutch and 11 Air Mobile Brigade, commemorates the day soldiers jumped into different cities and DZs during Operation Market Garden. During the ceremony, some of the paratroopers had the opportunity to jump out of an aircraft using Dutch parachutes and joined by a multinational contingency of paratroopers with different parachutes and different aircrafts.

One special city is the City of Nijmegen. Nijmegen is known for the work of art in the bridge, "The Crossing", called the Lights Crossing. As my last article in the first Prop Blast publication this year, the Crossing Lights project is a discreet daily tribute to the soldiers and liberators of the Netherlands who lost their lives during the crossing of the Waal River during Operation Market Garden. Nijmegen is also known for their school ceremony and commemoration, also named "The Crossing Middle School". The children have a full program in the morning where they sing, act, play music and write poems to those soldiers who gave their life to liberate them. The school program is followed by a Commemoration at the Bridge Monument, and there is a stone with the 48 names of those who lost their lives that day crossing the river. They even named the street of the bridge "General James Gavin and the underpass that leads to the Monument over in the dike, "The 82<sup>nd</sup> Division Viaduct".

Also, there was participation in the daily Sunset March. The Sunset March is dedicated to the communities and to all of those who work so hard every year to show that "They Never Forget" and are forever grateful for what the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, accomplished during Operation Market Garden. There were paratroopers, families, veterans and community members walking that evening. The United States Flag was in the front of the formation being hold up high by two of our Honorary Members of the 504<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Johan Van Asten and Anja Adriaans. The veteran of the day, a 1<sup>st</sup> BCT, 504<sup>th</sup> PIR 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV Paratrooper, and Frank Van Lunteren led the formation. After the Sunset March, the paratroopers were presented two street signs, similar to the ones that are in the dike and the bridge.

Some of the community members and families walking the Sunset March that evening were Frank Van Lunteren, Johan Van Asten, Anja Adriaans and "Friends of Albany and Nijmegen Foundation", Tim Ruijling and "Team Sunset March", Evert Vos, Marco Cillessen and "The Groesbeek Airborne Friends Foundation", Ben Overhand, John Blom, Jan Bos, Rosalie Thomassen, Ada Wevers, Dorine Steenberger, and many others who have given so much, work so hard and their dedication, selfless service and commitment shows every time the 1<sup>st</sup> BCT, 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV is present in any of the events, communities and commemorations. Thank you for your hard work to preserve the history and pass it along generations through generations. The paratroopers from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division are forever grateful.

1LT Flores Alvarez, Wilmarie

1<sup>st</sup> BCT, 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV



Children from "The Crossing Middle School" presenting a small play and poems of "The Crossing" in memory of the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV paratroopers who lost their lives crossing the Waal River during Operation Market Garden.



1<sup>st</sup> BCT, 504<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV paratroopers at the John Thompson Bridge Memorial in Grave the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2016.



Picture taken during the CSG High School visit. Frank Van Lunteren with his students and his three publications about the 504<sup>th</sup> PIR history. "Battle of the Bridges", "Blocking Kampfgruppe Peiper" and "Spearhead of the Fifth Army".



Sunset March on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2016. Dedicated to the Community and all of those who have contributed to the history of the 1<sup>st</sup> BCT, 504<sup>th</sup> PIR and 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV.

*Robert A. Stonerock  
8955 Black Run Road  
Nashport, Ohio 43830  
30 August 2016*

### **39th ANNUAL DEVIL DINNER**

Our 39th Annual Devil Dinner at the 70th National Convention of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc. was held on August 11, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky. There was a brisk activity of ticket sales even as the doors of the ballroom opened. A total of 110 dinners were served and approximately 40 were to active duty soldiers.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation by director Dave Foy, the Memorial Candle Lighting Ceremony by Vice President Joe Steen, was followed by traditional toasts, and dinner was promptly served. The main course was pork loin or chicken Fetticini.

The 504 Regimental Commander, Colonel Colin P. Tuley, was the featured speaker for the evening. Col. Tuley provided guests with an update on the 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment as they prepare for future deployment. We are proud of our Devils in Baggy Pants' service and their maintaining of the legacy of our regiment. Also attending the dinner was Regimental Sergeant Major Alexander Barnett and Regimental Sergeant Major @ Vincent Myers. On the 82nd Association side we had 82nd Association President, Allen Schoppe, Executive Director Bill Bauer, and Past Presidents Mel Greene, Bill Eberle, Dave Foy, Ben Beekman and Ron Rath of the 82d Airborne Division Association.

A special thanks to the following members and widows who sponsored an active duty trooper to the Devil Dinner: Andy Anderson, R. G. Burns, James Crowley Jr., Bill Eberle, Tyler Fox, Dave Foy, Jimmy George, Mel Greene, David Henderson, Tom Ingram, John Kiser, Alan Lanoue Anthony Malley, Dennis Marks, Kevin McDonald, Miles Mc Millan, Hajdack/Mokan Chapter, Ron Rath, Harold Schroeder, Dan Shoaf, Carrol Sylvester, Jesse Thompson, Mike Walding, Judy Williams, Frank Wilson, Anthony Wood and anonymous. These donations allowed the Association to provide dinners to our active duty soldiers who attended the event. We are grateful for the outpouring of support for our active duty soldiers.

Special guests in attendance included Tom Ryan, nephew of John R. Towle MOH. Tom graciously displayed Towle's MOH at the front of the room. Student Tyler Fox was honored for his interest and dedication to the 504 PIR history and was presented an Honorary Life Membership in the 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment Association.

A special thank you goes to 1LT Wilmarie Flores who assisted on the active duty side while SSG Johnny Sterling our 504 military liaison, was attending a military school. A few telephone calls, e-mails and text messages were exchanged to make this event happen.

### **504 PIR HOSPITALITY ROOM**

The 504 PIR Hospitality Room was combined this year with other units and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association. A thank you to Executive Director Bill Bauer and Convention Director Joe Steen for coordinating this activity.

See you in Orlando, Florida, August 9-13, 2017

*Strike-Hold,*

*Robert A. Stonerock, Director*

Minutes  
Board and Membership Meeting  
August 11, 2016, 1300 hrs  
Louisville, KY

Call to Order – Vice President Steen  
Pledge of Allegiance – VP Steen  
Invocation – Gary Rezabek  
Roll Call of Officers – Secretary Eberle

President Briseno	Excused	1 <sup>st</sup> VP Steen	Present
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP Barnett	Present	Treasurer Rath	Present
Secretary Eberle	Present	QM Frazee	Present
Directors Glancy	Present	Stonerock	Present
Schroeder	Present	Zablocki	Absent
Meckenstock	Present	Cochron	Present
Foy	Present		

Approval of August 23<sup>th</sup> 2015 as amended, Minutes Secretary Eberle.  
Motion made and seconded to approve as amended. Motion carried

Finance and Membership Report – Treasurer Rath presented the Financial Report. He discussed at length the loan made by the 504PIR to the 82ns Association.  
See attached

Motion made and seconded to approve as presented. Motion carried

Devil Dinner Report Director Robert Stonerock said the group would be approximately 140 which includes 40 active duty paratroopers. Devil 6, Col. Colin P. Tuley will be our speaker for the dinner.

Raffle Report Secretary Eberle Trooper Henry R. Peterson a "Devil" from D Co 1 BN, WWII, assumed the cost of the printing again this year. Thank you Hank. This year's final total is not yet complete but is expected to be approximately \$8,000 this year, recommendations for donating these funds appears later in these minutes.

Quartermasters Report, The Association Quartermasters (Grunt Holding) submitted a letter of resignation. However, they will continue until a QM is located.

**Old Business:** Covered in QM report.

**New Business:**

We have received 4 recommendations for an Honorary Members.

Nominations are as follows, Thomas Ryan, Tyler Fox, Jean-Dumont and Antonio Taurelli. Nominations attached.

**All nomination were approved**

Election of Director and Officers

We have 5 Directors up for election this year. Those leaving office are Rath, Zablocki, Foy, Glancy, Cochron. Each has indicated an interest in remaining on the Board. Bill nominated those 5 to remain on the Board. There were no other nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed. These nominated were elected by acclamation, Rath, Zablocki, Foy, Glancy, and Cochron.

All Officers of the Board were re-elected.

The following is the recommended distribution for this year's raffle proceeds.

1BCT Chaplain's Fund	\$3,000
82nd Ed Fund	\$1,000
82nd Museum	\$1,000
82nd Association General Fund	\$1,000
82 <sup>nd</sup> ABN DIV Training Deaths Monument	\$1,000

Nomination for the 2017 Static Line Award – Doug Stephenson will be the Association nominee.

RSM had no comments

No further business the meeting Adjourned at 1400.

Wm Eberle

Secretary

NOTE: For all readers and family members of the brave mem who fought in World War II with the 83d Airborne Division---- PLEASE HELP

We are seeking photos and full names of members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment [1941-1946] for the use in a DVD project. We especially are in need of Companies G,H, and I. If you know of anyone who might have access to this information, please contact Denny Kennedy by email at [murbine@msn.com](mailto:murbine@msn.com). You may also contact him directly by phone at 719-836-3756.

WE ASK THAT PLEASE DO NOT SEND ITEMS OR PHOTOS FOR THIS PROJECT TO THE ASSOCIATION HOME ADDRESS OR ANY OF THE OFFICERS. SEND THEM TO MR. KENNEDY.

# RAFFLE 2016

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Well another raffle year has come and gone. And as has been true over the past 1 years that I have done the raffle, my fellow "Devils" did not disappoint me. We raised over \$8,500 with this year's raffle. I think you can measure our success by how much money we are able to donate. If that is our measurement, then here are the numbers,

## **Donations Approved for 2015:**

504th Parachute Infantry Regiment Chaplain Fund \$3,000  
82nd Airborne Division Educational Fund \$1,000,  
82nd Airborne Division Historical Society \$1,000,  
82nd Airborne Division Association General Fund \$1,000,  
82nd Airborne Division Training Deaths Monument \$ 1,000,

I think you can all be proud of your Association for how we support today's active duty!!

**Over the past number of years one person has made a big impact on the success of our raffle. That person is HANK PETERSEN. You know, I have never met Hank. A few years ago Hank answered my call for assistance with the printing of raffle items. Since that time he has paid for all the costs printing related to our raffle.**

As advertised, we had three winning tickets drawn at the Devil Dinner during the 82<sup>nd</sup> Association Convention. Here they are:

- 1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE - \$554.00 **JARED R. PERRY, A/2/501**
- 2<sup>ND</sup> PLACE - \$200.00 **WILLIS WEBSTER, Chicago, IL**
- 3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE - \$100.00 **RAY ANDERSON, Long Key, FL**

A special thanks to **Devil 6 Col Tuly, Devil 9 RSM Barnett** and **SSG Sterling** for their support of the raffle. Thanks to all the active duty Devils!!

We also had a successful auction during the convention. We again were able to make a signed license plate available. It was signed by all the "Devils" at the convention. That item along raised \$504.

Next year we are in Orlando, FL , August 13-19, celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Division. Put it on your calendar today so you make sure to include it in your 2017 travel plans.

In closing let me thank each and every one of you that support this raffle every year. Look for an increase in our second place payout. For those that send a few extra dollars with your tickets, for those that donate your tickets to the Association and for those of you who just send money, thank you. I would not do this every year if it were not for the fine men and women I meet during the raffle process. I look forward to another successful raffle next year!

Let's remember, our country, our Division and our Regiment still have service members in harm's way, Keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Bill Eberle, Raffle Chairman

AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY

NEW LIFE MEMBERS	NEW LIFE MEMBERS	NEW LIFE MEMBERS
SPC CARLOS M. SALINAS TROOPER OF THE YEAR	SGT ZACHARY W. DRUHM NCO OF THE YEAR	SFC DOUGLAS J. SMITH JUMPMaster OF THE YEAR
SGT MARK ABRAHAMS	LTC@ DOUGLAS G. ANDREWS	SPC ZACHARIAH P. BAILEY
1LT DEVONTA BANKS	MAJ. OBADIAH H. BRIANS	SSG JACOB BROCK
BRUCE BUTT	MAJ. BRIAN CANNY	JOHN A. DIKET
SPC WILLIAM M. FORTUNE	LANCE FRAZEE	LTC JOSEPH R. GEARY
CPT ANTWAN DANIELL GLENN-TRACY	SPC CODY W. GILMAN	SPC QUENTIN J. HERRERA
CPT YVETTE E. HUSTON	LTC MARK IVEZAJ	PFC JESSE JONES
SPC JOSHUA KEIFERT	LEOPOLDO LOPEZ	CPT MICHAEL D. MAKRUCKI
PATRICK B. MAYO	PHILIP McDANIEL	SPC JACOB G. McINNES
SFC RYAN J. MEIGHEN	SGT MARK R. METCALF	SFC EDWARD MICHEL
PFC DEREK J. NIETERING	SGM MICHAEL L. PALM	MSG WALTER R. PEREZ
ROBERT PLATT	CPT AARON PRICE	SPC NIKOLAS R. RAMRIEZ
SGT BRICE W. ROADS	1SG ANDREW A. RODRIGUEZ	THOMAS M. RYAN [HONORARY]
SSG CHRISTOPHER SABATH	CW2 DYLAN SEAN SCHESSO	1SG AARON SIMIN
CPT CHRISTOPHER E. STUTZMAN	CPT NICHOLAS JAMES TERPIN	DCSM@ CHARLIE A. THORPE
SPC STEPHEN TODD	PFC THADDEUS TOMASZEWSKI	SFC GEORGE J.P. TURKOVICH,III
MAJ. THOMAS A. WHITEHEAD	CPT LAURA M. WILLIAMS	CPT BRADLEY W. YOUNG

NEW ANNUAL VETERAN MEMBERS	NEW ANNUAL VETERAN MEMBERS	NEW ANNUAL VETERAN MEMBERS
COL@ ROBERT W.BROWN	JEREMY C. BRYANT	

NEW ANNUAL ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS	NEW ANNUAL ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS	NEW ANNUAL ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS
SPC NICHOLAS B. ALLEN	SPC KYLE ALVAREZ	VELMA BRITTON
PV2 DAKOTA CANNON	SPC CHRISTOPHER A. COLE	1LT. STEPHEN CUFF
SPC LISANDRO E. FLORES	PFC HILLIARD GRIFFIN	SPC ERIK M. GIGGLEMAN
PFC XAVIER HILL	PFC KENNETH J. HAMBY	PV2 PATRICK HAASE
PFC ERICH JOCHIMSEN	PFC PHILLIP MASON	SPC JOSHUA C. McCLAIN
SGT YONATHAN MOTA	SPC KURT NIEMEIER	PFC MANUEL P. OLIVEIRA
PV2 JOSHUA M. PAYNE	SGT JOHN PARKER	SPC JOSHUA PEREZ
SPC JOSHUA A. PINKERTON	SSG JONATHAN REED	SPC BRYSON SISK
PV2 CHARLES SKINNER	PFC DYLAN SMITH	SSG ROBERT R. ST. GEORGE
PFC ALEXANDER J. SULLIVAN	SGT SAMUEL TEDESCH	SGT NICHOLAS H. TEIGEN
SGT JOHN HENRY TEMPLETON	SPC JARED VANDERZWART	PFC JONATHAN M. VAUPEL
PV2 WILLIAM M. WALKER	SGT STEPHEN WALTERS	PFC JOSEPH VARGAS
SGT ETHAN J. WILSON	PV2 GINO ZARCONE	

ASSOCIATION MEMBERS	<<<<FINAL JUMP>>>>	ASSOCIATION MEMBERS
WILFRID J. MILES WWII VETERAN	CPT JOSEPH W. SCHULTZ KIA 3-73 CAV IRAQ	HARRY D. ZIMMERMAN WWII VETERAN
WILLIAM R. LEONARD WWII/CHARTER MEMBER	LAURENCE "SONNY" M. BRAGG WWII VETERAN	WILLIAM McMAHON WWII VETERAN
LEON A McINTOSH	VANDERBILT THOMAS, JR.	

WEB PAGE>	<a href="http://www.504thpirassociation.org/home.html">http://www.504thpirassociation.org/home.html</a>	<WEB PAGE
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**CURRENT DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL RAFFLE OVER \$15.00 ABOVE THE \$15.00 FOR THE TICKETS**

<b>ALLEN L. PAGE</b> \$200.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>SOCRATES M. PHOTIADES</b> \$15.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>HARRY J. REESE</b> \$110.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>MICHAEL J. REGAN</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>TREASURER RON RATH</b> \$85.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>MRS JUDY WILLIAMS</b> \$50.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>JAMES E. GEORGE</b> \$85.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>HERBERT C. LUCAS</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>DAN MOSES</b> \$15.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>GEN@ JOHN W. FOSS</b> \$15.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	YOUR NAME COULD GO HERE WITH A DONATION	<b>COL@ FLOYD E. HUDSON</b> \$85.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>GARY LEE JOHNSON</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>JOHN C. KISER</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>REYNOLD MARTINEZ</b> \$85.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>GEN@ DAVID H. PETRAEUS [XXIX]</b> \$85.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>JOHN T. PRIOR</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>MRS JACKIE STERN</b> \$100.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>GEN@ JOHN P. ABIZAID [XXVIII]</b> \$485.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>GEN@ DAVID A. BRAMLETT</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>GEN@ ANN E. DUNWOODY</b> \$85.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>RICHARD JACKSON</b> \$25.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>THOMAS J. McANDREWS</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>MILES L McMILLIAN</b> \$50.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>CHARLES W. NAVE</b> \$25.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>JOSE L. PEREZ-ORTIZ</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>RON VERTREES</b> \$15.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>EDWARD B. HAGER</b> \$85.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>JEREMIAH W. MARIK</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>ROBERT"STERLING" SAVELY</b> \$504.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>RICHARD D. SCHMIDT</b> \$15.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>COL TREVOR J. BREDEKAMP,XXXVII</b> \$135.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>COL MICHELE K. BREDEKAMP</b> \$135.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>BRIAN M. WILKOWSKI</b> \$15.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>CSM@ DANN A. RIDGEWAY</b> \$50.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>THEODORE L. CONKLIN</b> \$60.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>COL@ HUGH J. DONOHUE,JR.</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>JUSTIN HOLMES</b> \$15.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>BARRY L. SUMMERS</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>JERRY TOW,II</b> \$35.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>ROCKY MOUNTAIN CHAPTER</b> \$15.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND	<b>WILLIAM L EBERLE</b> \$85.00 DONATION TO RAFFLE FUND
<b>SPONSORSHIP OF ACTIVE DUTY TROOPERS TO THE DEVIL DINNER, 82d ABN DIV ASSOCIATION IN LOUISVILLE, KY</b>		
<b>1SG@ ANDY ANDERSEN</b> THREE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>DIRECTOR HAROLD SCHROEDER</b> ONE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>SECRETARY WILLIAM L. EBERLE</b> ONE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER
<b>CARROL SYLVESTER</b> FOUR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>DENNIS MARKS</b> THREE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>ANTHONY WOOD</b> ONE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER
<b>DANNY SHOAF</b> TWO ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>JIM CROWLEY</b> THREE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>RSM@ RON RATH</b> TWO ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER
<b>RSM@ DAVID HENDERSON</b> ONE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>DAVE FOY</b> ONE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>TYLER S. FOX</b> ONE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER
<b>ANTHONY A. MALLEY</b> TWO ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>JESSE THOMPSON</b> TWO ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>MILES McMILLAN</b> ONE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER
<b>CSM@ TOM INGRAM</b> ONE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>MRS. JUDY WILLIAMS</b> TWO ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER IN MEMORY OF REED WILLIAMS	<b>ANONYMOUS FROM CALIFORNIA</b> FIVE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER
<b>JOHN KISER</b> ONE ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>FRANK WILSON</b> FOUR ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>HAJDACK/MOKAN CHAPTER</b> 82d ABN DIV ASSOCIATION TWO ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER
<b>MEL GREENE</b> TWO ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>JAMES E. GEORGE</b> TWO ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER	<b>MIKE WALDING</b> TWO ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER

504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT/ 1st BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM ASSOCIATION, INC	ASSOCIATION OFFICE E-mail rrath@nc.rr.com cell no: 910-584-2081 <a href="http://www.504thpirassociation.org/home.html">http://www.504thpirassociation.org/home.html</a>	504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT/ 1st BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM ASSOCIATION, INC 22 Club Hill Drive Garner, NC 27529
OFFICE PHONE IS 919-803-4554		
OFFICE FAX LINE IS 919-803-2400		

TO DONATE 82D & 504 ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS FOR AN ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER AND IF YOU TO FROM YOUR OLD COMPANY SEND \$138.40 TO THE TREASURER NLT FEBRUARY 2017	YOUR NAME COULD GO HERE WITH A DONATION	BY DONATING ONE AND IF YOU ATTEND ALL AMERICAN WEEK 504 PICNIC YOU WILL BE ABLE TO PRESENT THE MEMBERSHIPS TO THAT TROOPER IF THEY ARE THERE A & NOT DEPLOYED
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CURRENT DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION OVER \$25.00 UNLESS THEY ARE TO THE GWOT/KIA FUND		
ANONYMOUS FROM CALIFORNIA \$200.00 504 ASSN GEN FUND	COL@ RENEAU G. BREARD \$15.00 504 ASSN GWOT FUND	JAMES E. GEORGE \$200.00 504 ASSN GEN FUND
CARROLL SYLVESTER \$365.60 504 ASSN GWOT FUND	SGM PETE JOHNSON \$9.60 504 ASSN GWOT FUND	JAMES E. GEORGE \$200.00 504 GENERAL FUND
PRESIDENT MIKE BRISENO \$404.82 504 ASSN GWOT FUND	CARROLL SYLVESTER \$138.40 MEMBERSHIPS FOR A TROOPER	DANNY SHOAF \$100.00 504 ASSN GWOT FUND
LTG@ WILLIAM M. STEELE [XXIV] \$100.00 NEWSLETTER BOOSTER	MICHAEL V. WILTSE \$45.40 NEWSLETTER BOOSTER	CSM OLIVER R. HOGGARD \$75.00 NEWSLETTER BOOSTER
COL@ JOHN K. GIBLER \$50.00 NEWSLETTER BOOSTER	JAMES E. GEORGE \$220.00 504 ASSN GWOT FUND	CLETUS SLABACH \$140.50 MEMBERSHIPS FOR A TROOPER
JA-LTC@ DOUG G. ANDREWS \$100.00 504 ASSN GWOT FUND	MILES MCMILLIAN \$138.40 MEMBERSHIPS FOR A TROOPER	JA-LTC@ DOUG G. ANDREWS \$100.00 NEWSLETTER BOOSTER
CLETUS SLABACH \$138.40 MEMBERSHIPS FOR A TROOPER	ANONYMOUS FROM CALIFORNIA \$200.00 504 ASSN GEN FUND	JAMES E. GEORGE \$161.00 504 ASSN GWOT FUND
COL@ JOHN K. GIBLER \$50.00 504 ASSN GWOT FUND IN MEMORY OF MG GUY S. MELOY	MRS PEGGY WEEKS \$82.00 82d MEMORAL ASSOCIATION IN MEMORY OF MSG BENNIE WEEKS	MS. KATHLEEN RICHARDSON IN MEMORY OF ROXIE DEMARCO \$1,000.00 504 ASSN GENERAL FUND

NON-MEMBERS DEATHS	NON-MEMBERS DEATHS	NON-MEMBERS DEATHS
Bush, Forest R.	Gurley, Paul E.	Russell, Lewis H.
Preston Scott	Wiebe, sr. William A.	

Herman Reed Williams was born March 5, 1940 in the Sulpher Springs Community, near Millers Chapel in Jonesville, Virginia, to George "Babe" Williams and Ola DeVault Williams. He was the fourth of six children.

George Everett "Babe" Williams was born, November 8, 1914, the son of Bill and Ollie Eagle Williams. Both his paternal and maternal ancestors were among the Millers Chapel community's first settlers: His paternal grandparents were Joseph and Nancy Napier Hayes Williams. His paternal great grandparents were George and Jane Ely Napier and his paternal great, great grandparents were Thomas and Eleanor Garrett Napier. Eleanor was the daughter of Thomas Garrett, another early Millers Chapel settler. His maternal grandparents were Ambrose and Phoebe Minerva Lockhart Eagle.

According to Babe's sister, Jeanette Williams Anderson, he was named George after his half-brother George Williams (the son of Joseph Williams and first wife Martha Thompson Williams) and Everett after his mother's brother, who died at age 21; about the time Babe was born.

Babe married Ola DeVault on Saturday, November 27, 1932 at the court house in Jonesville, Virginia. Ola's parents were L. A. (Leff) and Millie Muncy DeVault.

Babe's sister Jeanette said his house was ready for the new bride as he had already obtained furniture. Babe and Ola had six children. Howard White Williams was born on August 12, 1933. He suffered from cerebral palsy and was never able to walk or feed himself. He was lovingly cared for by his family until he passed away on July 29, 1999. Bill Leff "Hoot" Williams was born on September 1, 1934. He now lives in Franklin, Ohio and has a successful business. Charlotte Gwen Williams was born on April 19, 1936. She lives on the family farm in Millers Chapel, having cared for her father and invalid brother. Herman Reed Williams was born on March 5, 1940. He married Judy Huff in 1983. He and Judy founded Old Virginia Hand Hewn Log Homes, Inc., which is now located in the Dot community near Pennington Gap. Reed's Dad, Babe and his uncle Bob "Ug" Williams helped in hewing of the logs and handcrafting log home packages. Euria Myrna Williams was born on August 2, 1941. She passed away in Ohio on April 10, 2003 due to a heart condition. Henry Southgate "Cy" Williams was born on June 26, 1947. Cy retired from General Motors several years ago. He lives in Nashville, AK and enjoys fishing and hunting. Babe was gifted in animal care and was known as a "cattle doctor" in the community. He was glad to teach his craft to the younger generation.

After Reed was born, his family soon moved to Millers Chapel where he grew up on the family farm. "Babe" was a coal miner as well as a farmer. One of the mines he worked in was Bonnie Blue, Virginia which is near St. Charles, VA, fifteen or twenty miles from where he lived. He was one of the few in the neighborhood who had a car, so he gave rides to relatives and neighbors who also worked there. Like most people in the Chapel, "Babe" also raised tobacco, corn and cattle. Families in those days did whatever they could to make a living and raise their families.

Reed was able to start school a year early because they did not have enough students to fill the class room. He entered the little school in Millers Chapel, at age 5. Grades 1-3 were in one room and 4-7 in the other. There was a pot-bellied stove in each room. The school did not have running water, so their drinking water came from a bucket with a community dipper. He recalls making a drinking cup by folding a piece of paper into the shape of a cone. You had to drink up quickly! Mrs. Berta Muncy, wife of Newman Muncy, was his teacher in grades 1-3. Reed referred to her as a very kind and sweet lady.

During his school days Reed had many duties and responsibilities around the farm. He said when all the rest of the kids were playing ball or going to town, he was working in the fields or watching some old cow. He hated farming and cattle for this very reason. After graduating from Jonesville High School in 1957, he said he was hoeing corn one day and threw the goose-neck hoe through the fence and that was the end of his farming.

At the age of seventeen, he and T.J. Delph, a longtime friend, hitchhiked to Dayton Ohio, where Reed had relatives. Their search for work there did not pan out, so they hitchhiked back home. Unable to find work, he and T.J. decided to join the Army. They started walking down the road from Millers Chapel. On the way they passed the farm of Caswell Williams, a relative, where they saw Bruce Williams. They told him of their plans and Bruce told them to wait until he got his shirt, he wanted to go too. So they walked down to the forks of the road to Corb Huff's filling station where they pooled their money and bought a bag of Prince Albert, then hitchhiked to Big Stone Gap, Virginia where they would sign up to join the US Army and see the world.

The three were soon separated and traveled in different directions. Reed was a member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne – 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment. He joined this group largely because they paid an extra \$55.00 per month. He saw this as an opportunity to send the extra money home each month to help care for his crippled brother, White.

After several failed attempts, Reed finally perfected the tower jump after his instructor explained to him he would be there until he got it right, so why not do it the way he was told initially. He quickly advanced to the rank of Sergeant and became an instructor at Fort Bragg, NC. He toured several foreign countries, spending the majority of his tenure in Germany. He was discharged in 1963.

When Reed returned home, still seeing no opportunity for work, he decided to go to Northern Virginia, near Washington, D.C. where he found work with a construction company. He soon learned the tricks of the trade and became foreman for the company, building houses in several subdivisions. Eventually, he started his own company pouring concrete. Seeing how successful this venture was, he decided to form his own company, Williams Construction Co. He was very successful with the company, developing several high end sub divisions in Northern Virginia and Maryland. His office was on the top floor of the Bank of Vienna building in Vienna, Virginia.

A lady who sold homes for him in Northern Virginia wrote this about Reed. "I was privileged to sell the houses and I soon came to know what Reed Williams was all about. Like the elephant in the kid's nursery rhyme, he 'Meant what he said and said what he meant. Reed Williams was honest 100 percent.' He also was a fine builder and had compassion for others, especially the disabled."

Things were going super for him until 1979 when the interest rates soared and the economy soured. He finally was able to sell the houses he had started, paid all his debtors and left the city. He drifted for awhile, going to Florida for a short time. On his way home from Florida to Lee County, he passed through Franklin, NC and decided to hang around there for a while. He started a small construction company there, building residential homes. When one house sold he started another, until this business got on its feet. In the spring of 1981, on a visit to Jonesville, he learned that I was recently divorced, and called me. Although we were raised just a few miles apart, we did not know each other when growing up and going to school. We met in July for the first time since leaving school in 1957. Reed swept me off my feet, stole my heart and we became best of friends. He maintained his residence and business in the Carolinas for a year or so.

Reed had always wanted to build a log house for himself. We visited several companies and went through numerous brochures. With each manufacturer claiming to be the best, we became more confused with each one. He quickly saw their “best” was not what he wanted, so he decided to build his own. He knew his dad’s great-grandfather Ambrose Eagle and both his grandfathers, Emmett Eagle and Joseph Williams, were handcrafters and builders of log homes. With this in mind, we took a framing square, level and a little common sense and went up the hill to an old log house which had been handcrafted by Ambrose Eagle. We studied the technique he had used – integrating modern technology and a few modifications of our own, devised a near perfect system. Later, it seemed fitting to call the improved design “The Eagle System”. Later, Reed also designed a 6” x 12” hewn log on log system (The Williams System) with the option to have a “chink” look or not, and an 8” x 8” “D” log (The Huff System), the first in the industry with dovetail corners for either system.

With the help of Babe and Ug, combining their knowledge and expertise in hewing and handcrafting with Reed’s experience in construction, we began to build the first log house. Everything was done on site, next to the foundation. The logs were hand hewn; dovetail corners notched, and then the logs were placed in the wall, one at a time. When people saw the handcrafting, hewing, dovetail notches and workmanship, word quickly spread and the response was unreal. Before the house was finished, orders were coming in for other houses and Old Virginia Hand Hewn Log Homes was born, with the goal to continue an American heritage as well as a family tradition.

The business became very successful, delivering homes from Maine to Texas. Reed oversaw delivery and erection of the homes, traveling with the crew most of time, while I managed the office and sales. The company has delivered thousands of homes to more than thirty five states, as well as a sauna to the Finnish Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Some of the charitable activities of Old Virginia have been the donation of fellowship halls to the Fleenors Chapel Baptist and Millers Chapel Methodist churches; moving the old log church/school from Long Hollow and reassembling it on the grounds of Lee High School in Ben Hur, Virginia; doing the primary restoration on the Camp Meeting Shed at Jonesville; helping to restore the old Friendship Baptist Church for use as the Lee County Historical Society’s headquarters and building the log structure for Appalachian Service Project on the hill at the mouth of Millers Chapel.

Reed and I also hosted a community Birthday Party for his brother White. The last fifteen years White was alive his party featured Jim & Jesse McReynolds and the Blue Grass Boys, White’s favorite Bluegrass group, until White’s death at the age of 65, just days before his 66<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1999.

White was the inspiration for many of Reed's civic activities, some of which were: establishing scholarship funds at Mountain Empire Community College, Milligan College and UVA at Wise for special needs students only. He and Babe donated funds to build a room for use by handicapped students in Williams Hall (named in honor of Federal Judge Glen M. Williams) at Milligan College. He and his siblings donated White's wheelchair van and wheelchair to the Jonesville Rescue Squad to help in transporting the handicapped. Each spring, we hosted a fishing tournament for the handicapped at our home in Long Hollow near Jonesville, inviting handicapped children and adults as well as residents of the local nursing homes.

Reed also sponsored "Super Saturday" for the disadvantaged through the Junction Center for Independent Living, which would not have been possible for the organization without outside donations from sponsors. One evening each month the clients—and their caregivers if they wanted to come—were taken out for different activities, such as movies; have swimming parties; games and door prizes and then treated to dinner.

Reed was also instrumental in establishing a scholarship at LMU in memory of Ross Carter, a World War II hero who was born in Duffield, VA. Ross entered the army just after graduating from LMU in 1941. One of the three survivors of his platoon, he re-enlisted after the war ended and died of cancer in 1947. He was a member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division and wrote about his service during WWII, a book titled "Those Devils in Baggy Pants".

After a while, Reed became bored with the log home company and wanted to do something in addition. He formed a land development company, calling it "Axehandle, LLC". He gave it this name because the money to make it possible was earned with an axe at the log home company. The profits from the company would be donated to the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children. Through this company, he developed *Marwyngal* and *Countryside* Sub Divisions in Jonesville building affordable quality homes. The land for the first sub division was previously owned by the Martin/Wynn/Wygal families, thus the name "*Marwyngal*". Bricks were salvaged from the school that stood on the property and incorporated into the first house built there. It is said the bricks were made in Millers Chapel.

He was a lifetime member of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association, Ross Carter Appalachian Chapter, 504<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment Association, Preston Lodge #47- Jonesville, Miles Lodge #167 - Pennington Gap, Martin Station Lodge # 188 - Rose Hill, McPherson Lodge # 99 - Blackwater, Jericho Shrine Temple - Kingsport, TN.

Other clubs and accomplishments included 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason Scottish Rite of Free Masonry - Knoxville, TN, Powell Valley Shrine Club, Kazim Shrine Temple, Kazim Road

Runner, Legion of Honor, Order of Eastern Star Powell Valley # 13 - Pennington Gap, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Kentucky Colonel, American Legion (National), Lee County Optimist Club, Woodway Ruritan Club, Lions Club, VFW Bugler,

Grand Marshal of the Jonesville Christmas Parade, 2002

Grand Marshal of the Lee County Tobacco Festival Parade, 2007

Reed stepped down as Grand Marshal of the Lee County Tobacco Festival Parade, 2003 and recommended a very deserving local veteran who entered the military at age 13 and served in WWII; Korea and Vietnam, CSM Roy Cheek.

Selected for "Small Business Man of the Year" by Lee County Chamber of Commerce

504<sup>th</sup> PIR Association Trooper of the Year, 2014, Atlanta, GA

Received numerous award plaques for support of community projects, Masonic and Shrine functions.

Reed had always been known as one who gets things done. He didn't talk about doing things, he performed. Knowing this, R. B. Pennington invited Reed and me to their monthly Ruritan Club meeting. During the meeting there was discussion about how several organizations in the county had tried to build a Veteran's Memorial Wall without success. They asked who would be willing to serve on a committee for the project and of course, Reed volunteered. There was a committee formed to plan for the project, with Reed as Chairman and R. B. Pennington Co-Chair. We started soliciting funds, contacting the businesses in the county, set up a table on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and at the Lee County Fair selling red, white and blue hats and taking donations. Fundraising began in July, 2002 and the response was tremendous! Groundbreaking for the wall was on 9/11/2002. Reed designed and supervised construction of the wall. Through his diligence, the wall was completed and dedicated on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2003 Memorial Day weekend, less than ten months from commencing. Through his efforts, over THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (300,000.00) was raised for this project. . The wall is here today because of Reed Williams' ability to get things done as well as the generosity of the businesses and individuals of Lee County. He was so proud of this accomplishment, as we all should be.

Located in Cumberland Bowl Park in Jonesville, VA, the granite KIA monument displays 197 names from this county who were killed serving their country and over 2,000 servicemen bricks. This long awaited monument is a credit to the county and the state of Virginia and one of the finest tributes to those men and women who sacrificed so much for the freedom we enjoy today. A perpetual care fund for the Memorial Wall has been established. Names of annual donors are displayed on a plaque at the rear of the

wall over the flower box. Donations are still being accepted. If you wish to contribute to this very worthy cause, checks can be mailed to: Lee County Veterans Memorial Wall, P O Box 526, Pennington Gap, VA. 24277. All donations are appreciated. Servicemen bricks are still available to be placed on the wall.

The County of Lee chose the Veterans Memorial Wall to appear on their county sticker for automobiles in 2003.





Reed was truly a unique person. His Dad told me several years ago, that from the time Reed started walking, he hit the floor running and didn't stop until he went to sleep at night. He was the same with anything he attempted to do. He approached every project with *GUSTO*. He really lived up to the Army slogan, "BE ALL YOU CAN BE". I feel honored and blessed to have had Reed in my life for 35 years. He was my husband, partner and most of all, my best friend.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Williams

**Editor note: The Association usually does not accept anything for the Prop Blast of a member's personal life history, but Reed and Judy Williams have been for many, many years and still are big supporters of our Association. Over the years they have donated thousands of dollars and always attended the Devil Dinners [always also purchasing active duty tickets too], auctions, at the conventions, moreover, the annual raffle and anything else they can help with. Ms. Judy still does all of this and we Thank her from our hearts for what they and now her are doing for the Association.**

## Ron Rath

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**From:** Tyler Fox <bloodontherisers2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 11, 2016 2:43 PM  
**To:** undisclosed-recipients:  
**Subject:** The 21 Paratroopers  
**Attachments:** image.jpeg; image.jpeg

Seventy three years ago, on July 9, 1943, the invasion of Sicily commenced, when the 3rd Battalion, 504th PIR made their first combat jump of the war and led the way for the 505th. Two nights later, tragedy occurred when the US Navy began shooting down planes bearing American paratroopers of the 504th PIR & 376th PFAB. While 23 planes in total were downed, only few had paratroopers still on board. One of the aircrafts that was lost that night was C-47 #32918, belonging to the 61st Troop Carrier Group and bearing paratroopers from Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 504th PIR. Including the crew, 21 of the 22 occupants of the aircraft perished.

One of the paratroopers was Private First Class John Chesley Durham, Jr. (HQ/2/504). John Durham, the only son in the family, was born in Lamont, Iowa on July 7, 1919 to Mr. and Mrs. George Chesley Durham. Killed four days after his 24th birthday, PFC Durham was one of the oldest men to perish. "When John died, his life was turned around," recalls Richard Mark, nephew of PFC Durham, about John's father. Along with John, John's father died on the inside that night. In John's later years, he went to live with young Mark and his mother Dorthy, PFC Durham's sister. Even the slightest mention of World War II was "forbidden" in the household, and even the minor instances where the war, or PFC Durham, was mentioned "He cried. He could never get through it."

In the 1950s, John and his daughter Dorthy, along with young Mark, mustered up the strength to visit Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, on the banks of the winding Missouri River in Saint Louis, Missouri. Here, PFC John Chesley Durham rests in a group burial, in the same plot as the 20 other young men with whom he perished. Little was said amongst the family at the grave.

There was only one survivor of the airplane crash, and that was then-1LT Mack C. Shelley, then the 2nd Battalion's S-3. Shelley, who had the stick stood up and hooked up, was standing in the door waiting for the green light, when the plane began to go down. Lieutenant Shelley was was thrown out of the door, clear of the plane and he landed into a small tree upon the plane's impact. Shelley stayed in the Army after World War II and holds the unique distinction of having made six combat jumps in his military career. He retired a lieutenant colonel.

The photo of the group burial was taken today, July 11, 2016, on the 73rd anniversary of the crash during my visit to Jefferson Barracks.

--

Tyler Fox  
<https://www.facebook.com/504thpir>

*These men had the mental and physical courage to try anything, asking and expecting no odds. For as dispersal was widespread, so also were the surprises and confusion of the enemy.*

Captain Adam A. Komosa

504th PIR, 1942-1945

BORN  
ON  
THE  
OF JULY



# DEVILS OF THE 504 CHECK OUT OUR NEW PRODUCTS

• LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

[www.bornonthefourthofjuly.com](http://www.bornonthefourthofjuly.com)



MOISUTURE WICK - LS - SS

POLOS

\* SEE WEBSITE FOR AVAILABLE COLORS



REGIMENTAL COINS

BEANIE

BORN  
ON  
THE  
4<sup>th</sup>  
OF JULY



"DEVILS"  
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION



"RED DEVILS"  
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION



"WHITE DEVILS"  
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION



"BLUE DEVILS"  
82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION

BDE AND BN SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE IN ASSORTED COLORS

CONTACT US ( 561 ) 827 - 1933

The Treasurer/Membership Chairman has sent a second letter to all those members that did not respond to the first letter requesting that you send in a copy of your for active duty Officers a copy of their ORB and for Enlisted a copy of their EMRB. Veterans a copy of their DD214. This is needed to be on file with the Membership Chairman and kept in the Association's Safety Deposit Box in case the IRS wants to check our which we must maintain 90% Combat era status in order to keep our Association in the 501 c (19) status, which is tax deductible for any donations the Association receives. So far we have only received 457 DD214's/ORB's/EMRB's copies from our members out of our 1,200 members. This costs the Association a lot of money mailing these requests that could be used to help with things that the Active Duty may need. So we are asking you again to please response to this request for your copy as soon as possible.

**NOTE**

You do not have to worry the IRS will not be allowed to make copies of your record, nor will the Association share/give it with anyone else. The IRS will only be allowed to look at them and that is all they will be allowed to do.

If you have questions please call the Treasurer Ron Rath at 919-803-4554 or e-mail him at [rrath@nc.rr.com](mailto:rrath@nc.rr.com)

**504 PIR ASSOCIATION ITEMS THAT ARE FOR SALE THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION TREASURER**

	Item	Qty	cost
1	4" 504 PIR Association decal in full color	1	\$1.00
2	4" 504 PIR Association decal in full color	3	\$2.50
3	4" 504 PIR Association decal in full color	5	\$3.50
4	4" 504 PIR Association decal in full color	7	\$4.25
5	4" 504 PIR Association decal in full color	10	\$5.50
6	504 Pir Association note cards in color w/envelopes	10	\$7.75
7	504 Pir Association note cards in color w/envelopes	15	\$12.25
8	504 Pir Association note cards in color w/envelopes	25	\$17.75
9	1" 504 PIR Association envelope decals stickers in color	25	\$1.50
10	Replacement 504 PIR Association Life membership certificate in color W/Assn seal	1	\$5.00

\*\*\*\* ABOVE PRICES INCLUDE THE SHIPPING\*\*\*\*

**JUST SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO THE 504 PIR ASSOCIATION ALONG WITH A LIST OF WHAT YOU ARE ORDERING TO; 504 PIR ASSOCIATION, INC, 22 CLUB HILLS DRIVE, GARNER, NC 27529. SORRY NO CREDIT CARD, PAY PAL, OR PHONE ORDERS.**

FROM THE 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM GIFT SHOP They would like to let you know that they can supply most Military items that you may want. They may even go to the clothing sales or General Jackson's in Fayetteville for items [For a small added fee of course]. Please contact them at; P.O. Box 70119, Fort Bragg, NC 28307-0119 or (1-910) 436-1735. And yes they take Credit Cards.

**NEWS FROM THE 82d AIRBORNE DIVISION MEMORIAL  
ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 43359  
Fayetteville, NC 28303-3359**

**The 82d Airborne Division Memorial fund is supporting the new training accidents memorial that will be Dedicated to the memory of those 82d Airborne Division Paratroopers who lost their lives in preparation for Combat Operations and will be located at the Division Museum.. They are now fundraising with the goal of adding this new Memorial. The cost of the Memorial is about \$75,000.00. So If you donate \$82.00 you will get a certificate signed by the Memorial fund President. ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

**Just send your donation to 504 PIR Association, Inc, 22 Club Hill Drive, Garner, NC 27529-6528 and our Treasurer will deliver it to the Memorial funds Treasurer. Please fill out form below and include it with you check and *make the check out to 82d Airborne Division Memorial Association.* If you send your donation to the 504 PIR Association, then and only then the 504 PIR Association Treasurer will also put your name in the next Prop Blast**

-----

Name: _____		Phone: _____	
Address _____			
City: _____		State _____	Zip: _____
Signature: _____		Date: _____	Donation Amount: _____
82d Chapter [if any] _____		504PIR Association _____	



# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

(Effective 1 November 2016)



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

**To be a member of the 1st BCT/504th PIR Association, you MUST be a current member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association. To be a Lifetime Member of the 1st BCT/504th PIR Association, you MUST be a Lifetime Member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association.**

1st BCT/504th PIR Association Membership Dues	Annual	Lifetime	82nd Airborne Division Association	Annual	Lifetime
Veteran Member (Lifetime Member)*	\$15.00	\$90.00	Veteran - Under 50	\$25.00	\$250.00
Active Duty - 1st BCT/504th PIR (Annual does not include Propblast subscription.)	\$5.04	\$50.40	Veteran - Over 50	\$25.00	\$175.00
Annual Associate Membership (Not Assigned or Attached to 504 PIR, but Airborne)	\$15.00		Active Duty - Assigned to the 82nd	\$15.00	\$82.00

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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:  
**Ronald H. Rath, Treasurer**  
**22 Club Hill Drive**  
**Garner, NC 27529**  
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 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 - [secretary@504thpirassociation.org](mailto:secretary@504thpirassociation.org)

Association Treasurer - [treasurer@504thpirassociation.org](mailto:treasurer@504thpirassociation.org)

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

**NOTICE OF DEATH OF A 504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY  
REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBER  
[Please print clearly]**

**NAME OF DECEASED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE OF DEATH:** \_\_\_\_\_ **RELATIONSHIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE NO:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send notice to Membership Chairman Ronald Rath at 22 Club Hill Drive  
Garner, NC 27529-6528 or e-mail the above information to  
[rrath@nc.rr.com](mailto:rrath@nc.rr.com)**

**HAVE YOU OR ARE YOU MOVING?**

**If so, Please fill this out and mail to:**

**504 PIR Association, Inc.**

**attn: Membership Chairman Ronald Rath  
22 Club Hill Drive, Garner, NC 27529-6528**

**Please print clearly**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Card Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Old Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**New Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Effective date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**504<sup>th</sup> PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSN, INC.  
STRIKE-HOLD – DEVILS IN BAGGY PANTS  
Ronald H. Rath, Treasurer  
22 Club Hill Drive  
Garner, NC 27529**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

**ATTENTION ANNUAL 504 PIR/1<sup>st</sup> BCT ASSOCIATION MEMBERS**

**Please check you mailing label on this newsletter  
If your membership number that follows your name ends with /16) then your current membership  
has expired as of 31 December 2016. This will be your  
last newsletter unless you renew before Now!**

**As of 1 January 2009 the membership dues are as follows  
Annual Veteran Paratroopers is \$15.00 per year and \$90.00 for a  
Paid for life membership.**

**[ DO NOT FORGET TO ENCLOSE A PHOTO COPY OF YOUR DD-214]**

**Active duty Paratroopers is \$5.04 for an annual membership and \$50.40 for a Paid for Life  
membership.**

**If you are a 2016 annual member who is changing to Paid for Life, then there is no need to fill out  
an application unless your address or information has changed.**

**Just make a check out to the 504 PIR/1<sup>st</sup> BCT Association, Inc and put it in an envelope and mail it  
to; 504 PIR Association, Inc, attn: membership Chairman, 22 Club Hill Drive, Garner, NC 27529  
However, remember if you are also paying your 82d Association dues along with this, please  
make a separate check for that made out to the 82d Airborne Division Association, Inc.**

**You can also go to the 504 PIR/1<sup>st</sup> BCT Association webpage and pay by Pay Pal at**

**<http://www.504pirassociation.org/home.html>**