

2-508 PIR BACK AT BRAGG



DEVILS



DIGEST



September 2014

www.red-devils.org

Vol. 8 No. 3

AFGHANISTAN DONOR EFFORTS

By Ken Hamill

Thank you 508th Chapter Members and friends for donating to the O'Neal Fund to assist our Task Force 2 Fury, 2-508 Parachute Infantry Regiment troopers serving in Afghanistan. Donor names follow:

Brown, Eric I.	Brown, John F.
Cassiliano, John	Cobb, Albert T. Jr.
Coombs, Oliver P.	Davis, Willie F. Jr.
Duncan, William H.	Hagans, Robert L.
Hamill, Ken	Hanson, Raymond R.
Harris, Dennis	Hayes, Robert W.
Henry, Paul	Kelly, William D.
Larson, Allen F.	McHugh II, John D.
Robles, Ramiro	Rorbaugh, Roy W.
Spurling, William	Synakowski, Joe A.
Unroe, Jack L.	Vanderhoof, James H.
Yaiko, Leonard	Younes, Raymond J.

Thank you SGM Robert Edwards, Task Force 2 Fury, 508 PIR Operations Sergeant Major for allowing us to enter your net. Thank you SFC Christopher A. Wrenn for receiving and distributing our packages after SGM Edwards departed. SFC Wrenn mentioned that he saw the bundles of magazines sent by our Bob Hayes of C Company 1-508, 82nd Airborne Division 1971-73 and Marshfield, Mass. SFC Wrenn informed me to stop sending packages by the first of July - "I assumed" they would return home soon. My final packages were sent to TF 2 Fury on 27 June. The last of our 2 - 508 paratroopers returned to Fort Bragg on Tuesday, 2 September 2014. Second Battalion, 508th PIR is enjoying a long week end of rest as I write this article. I had SGM Edwards cell phone number and was able to communicate with him at Fort Bragg while we waited for our troops to return. I told the SGM that I wanted a new

address in Afghanistan, because I had a lot of stuff on my dining room table to send. He sent an email to CSM DeBois of 1-508 located at Camp Alpha, Afghanistan. The First Battalion, 508 P.I.R. Command Sergeant Major sent me his address and agreed to accept our packages. I shipped five bushels of mostly cookies and candy to 1-508 PIR on 12 August. All remaining gifts had been sent in apple boxes by standard mail at a cost of \$197.40. CSM DeBois sent me an email on 28 August thanking us for the support and stating that he had received four boxes and everything was passed out or given to the Chaplain to pass out while he is out visiting. A total of \$1808.00 was donated to our 2014 O'Neal Fund. We spent \$1600.84 on health, snack or fun items, \$312.50 on 82nd Airborne Division flags, \$20.23 on packing tape and \$973.15 sending USPS standard mail. A total of \$2906.72 was expended on our O'Neil Fund to assist our 508 troopers serving in Afghanistan. Most of our expenses were used to support our 2-508 PIR located in the Kandahar area. We spent \$197.40 shipping to 1-508 at Camp Alpha.

Both battalions are expected to hold an "End of Combat Tour Ball". Second Battalion has called me asking for money for their Ball. I told them that I would ask our 508 Chapter membership for help. To help promote this effort, I will give matching funds of my personal money up to \$100. If Chapter members give fifty dollars, I will give fifty dollars. If Chapter members give two hundred dollars, I will give one hundred dollars.

The 2014 O'Neal Fund to Support our 508 PIR Troops in Afghanistan has ended. Troop support checks received from you henceforth will be sent to Fort Bragg for their homecoming Ball & Ceremonies.

The Journey and the United Kingdom By Mark Eckenrode

As stated in the previous segment, the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR) sailed from Staten Island, NY on the 28th of December 1943 aboard the USAT James S. Parker. At some point off the coast it formed-up in convoy with other transport and merchant ships. Warships, to include, several destroyers, three escort aircraft carriers and the battleship USS Texas (BB-35) escorted the convoy across the North Atlantic. The USS Texas later provided naval gunfire support during the Normandy Invasion. The USS Texas is on permanent display, and can be seen and toured at San Jacinto State Park east of Houston, TX.

Once at sea, ship board life quickly settled into a routine. The morning chow line started around dawn and wound almost around the ship and the last man was served about midmorning. Evening chow was no different. After chow, deck side physical training (PT) began. This became more challenging once the ship hit deep water as waves slammed into the ship pitching it from side to side. After PT, below deck training continued which usually consisted of games of chance. Then at mid-afternoon the evening chow line began to form and so it went. New Years Eve passed uneventfully although some of the men gathered by the fantail to help empty a few bottles of champagne that somehow managed to find their way aboard. The highlight during the journey was when the deck gun crews engaged in target practice.

After eleven days at sea, the USAT James S. Parker slipped into the Belfast Harbor in Northern Ireland before dawn on January 9, 1944. By the time they disembarked and formed-up it was mid-afternoon when they marched in Regimental formation through the city of Belfast to the train station where they entrained for their next stop, Port Stewart, a resort town on the Irish Sea. Late that night they arrived at their destination and were billeted in Nissen huts at the estate of Cromore. The only windows were at the building's ends and warmed by two inefficient pot-bellied peat-burning stoves. Blackout regulations were strictly enforced. The first order of business was learning the country's customs and getting back into superb physical condition through PT, runs, and daily hikes and marches through the countryside. Once they regained peak fitness, training began with weapons, small unit tactics, mine laying, demolitions and night marches. ...

...While at Cromore Estate, fifty percent of the Regiment were given passes for exploring the nearby towns contingent on their training schedule. Classes were also given in VD prevention and treatment. The Army took no chances and prepared the troops for all possible contingencies. During this time, combat veterans from the 505th PIR, veterans of Sicily and Salerno, were billeted among the Regiment to provide practical tips, tricks and techniques for fighting the Nazis and surviving on the battlefield. Many of the men stated that these bull sessions were most valuable. The Regiment was also subject to the rationing of cigarettes and candy for the first time.

The 507th and 508th PIR's were attached to the 82nd Airborne Division on January 20, 1944. The 82nd was commanded by Major General Matthew B. Ridgeway and Brigadier General James "Jumping Jim" M. Gavin as Assistant Division Commander. Furthermore, General Dwight D. Eisenhower recently became Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force. Several weeks' later secret orders were delivered to the 82nd Airborne ordering the Division to parachute and land by glider into Normandy on the Cotentin Peninsula in support of the amphibious landing at Utah Beach and to cut off the peninsula from the rest of Normandy by blocking German reinforcements. On March 10th the Regiment again traveled to Belfast and boarded a ship, which sailed across the Irish Sea and through the Firth of Clyde for positioning at pre-invasion bases in Great Britain. They landed at Greenock, Scotland and again entrained and traveled through Glasgow to Wollerton Park near Nottingham, England. It was here, according to legend, that Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men roamed about.

Intensive training now began, though the great majority of the Regiment was still unaware of when or where the invasion would take place. Training included tactical assembly and maneuvering from the Drop Zone (DZ) after a jump with problems that approximated what they would experience on their first combat jump. All parachute jumps were conducted at night. Range time also continued with their weapons. Shortly, after arriving in England, a call went out for volunteers. As one would expect, more men volunteered than were required. Those selected, were sent to an airfield about ten miles south of Grantham, England at North Witham. Here they joined with other volunteers from the various regiments within the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. These volunteers were to form the provisional pathfinder companies along with...

...members of the IX Troop Carrier Command at the Command Pathfinder School.

A veteran of the Sicily and Salerno combat jumps with the 505th PIR was selected to command the 82nd Airborne Provisional Pathfinder Company, Capt Neal L. McRoberts. He chose to jump with and command the 508th PIR Pathfinder Team during the invasion. Each regimental pathfinder unit consisted of a team for each of the three battalions containing two officers, two Eureka operators, one wireman, seven light men, and a security element consisting of four riflemen. The Rebecca/Eureka system was a radio transponder system consisting of two elements. One element was a ground radio transponder, code named Eureka. The other element was a transceiver, code named Rebecca, which was mounted in the noses of the troop carriers. Due to concerns of saturated signals being beamed to the Rebecca units only the lead plane of each serial would contain the Rebecca. Thus, the Eureka element on the ground would be a beacon for the lead plane's Rebecca and the following planes in each serial would guide on the lead plane. The light system consisted of seven colored lights to be set-up in a "T" formation by each battalion pathfinder team to act as a visual signal for each serial on final approach to the DZ. The lights were color coded for each regiment. The 508th's color was amber. Furthermore, each regimental drop zone was named after a letter of the alphabet. The 508th's drop zone was designated as "DZ N." So one of the lights in the T formation was programmed to flash the Morse code signal for the letter 'N' which is " — •." The Pathfinder teams made numerous night jumps

honing their newly acquired skills with the serial lead planes.

Near the end of April a Division sized jump was scheduled. It was to be their final exam. Inclement weather set in and the Regiment remained at the airfield for more than a week waiting for the weather to break. Upon taking off the weather was still bad and the flight was ordered to return to base. But, heavy clouds prevented the other aircraft in the flight from seeing the visual signals from the lead planes, so they proceeded to the drop zone. Confusion reigned with formations broken and scattered with planes arriving at the DZ disorganized. Like the Tennessee jump, here was another harbinger of things to come. After the jump the Regiment continued with range time, small unit tactics, and commo training. Within short order the men felt confident with themselves and each other. They were primed, ready and "the fever" began to set in. **Next: Final Preparations.**



COL Pearson & Platoon SGT Raul Ramos 1952-53



Art Blanco & Raul Ramos 48 years later at El Paso Reunion

3-508 RECON PANAMA CZ 1966-68

In May 2006 there was a reunion of members of 3-508 "Recon" platoon in Raleigh, NC. We found 23 vets and 11 were able to attend our reunion. We have kept in touch. We visited the Airborne Museum in Fayetteville and enjoyed a dinner Saturday night. We said our goodbyes on Sunday. Those attending were COL E. Beruvides, SGM Ken Fox, Lance Ball, Richard Dowdigan, Henry Lee, Ron Miller, Mike Palasek, Marv Pulley, Lee Steppe, John Tinker and Mike Wojtyszyn. We may meet again. Anyone who reads this and was in or knows someone that was in the 508 in Panama 1966 - 68 please contact Marvin D. Pulley, 80 Terrace Ave, Henderson, NC 27536, Tel #252.425.5042 or John Tinker, 2407 Wooding Place, Greensboro, NC 27407, Tel #336.908.5329.

Support Co. 508 ARCT Assn Reunion

By Jim Strickland

The Doubletree host hotel in North Charleston was wonderful. With the help of Jerry Strickland and Earl Christy, we had the hospitality room ready to go. A large graphic of our 508 ARCT patch marked the hospitality room entrance. Water, soft drinks, beer, booze, snacks, wine and ice were available. Each family group received a roster, schedule and name tags.

People attending were Jean & Jane Ashcraft; Joe & Barbara Bednarz; Earl Christy; Alex & Ikuko Elliott; Judy Francis and her daughter in law Patricia; Bob & Mary Helen Gee; Speedy Gonzales & Frieda Primm; Frank & Amber Gonzales; Jim & Paulette Grimes; Ken Hamill & Almeda Medlin; Charles & Mary Ann Rickard; Jim Strickland; Jerry Strickland and Al Vaitkus. Our group of about 24 went to an O'Charley's Restaurant located at a nearby Mall Wednesday evening. We spent a few hours in the hospitality room after the dinner meal. On Thursday we had the full and delicious complimentary breakfast. Some people had eggs to order with bacon, hash, grits, fruit, toast, juice and coffee. We drove our POV's to the Charleston Visitor Center where we boarded a bus for a tour of Charleston. Our tour guide / driver was very informative and witty. We collected a nice tip for her because she was so good. We then boarded a boat for a tour of Charleston Harbor. The boat tour guide gave us a 90 minute history lesson of Charleston, plus Fort's Sumter, Johnson and Moultrie. Some of our group stayed in Charleston to see historic sights, restaurants or to shop. Some were back at the Doubletree by 3:30. Several people snacked in the hospitality room that afternoon and watched photo slide shows of previous reunions. Fifteen of us had supper at a Smoky Bones Restaurant. Fellowship at the hospitality room lasted until midnight. On Friday after another delicious complimentary breakfast there was a Support Company meeting that focused on the future of the Support Company 508th ARCT 1951-1957 Association. Members Joe Bednarz, Earl Christy, Alex Elliott, Bob Gee, Frank Gonzales, Speedy Gonzales, Jim Grimes, Ken Hamill, Jerry Strickland, Jim Strickland, and Al Vaitkus were present and made some major decisions...

...The organization would become less structured with our reunions becoming more spontaneous as a group of friends and most likely near one of our members who can no longer travel. We could also "tailgate" at a reunion hosted by a larger Association such as the 82nd, 101st or 173rd. We decided that next year, at a date to be determined we would gather in Clarksville, TN to be near Speedy Gonzales and Jud Haverkost, both currently having serious health problems. Clarksville was where this all began twelve years ago and would be the right place to hold one of our final gatherings. It was noted that Jim Strickland would maintain the company roster and communicate back and forth by letter and email with news pertaining to our members. The finance report showed that after all reunion related commitments were paid for, we would have a balance in the account. We discussed donating to several organizations and closing the account. It was determined by unanimous vote that all remaining funds would be donated to the Price of Freedom Museum in China Grove, NC. Several ladies went shopping while the men took care of business. Some people re-visited Charleston. A few people hung out in the hospitality room in the afternoon watching a video DVD made by Dr. Marvin A. Rawitch titled 508th ARCT Camp Wood, Kyushu, Japan 1955-1956. We assembled for the banquet around 6:00 PM. The women looked great and the men wore casual clothing. After the invocation; guests were recognized - Jean & Jane Ashcraft representing the 508 Chapter; Charles & Mary Ann Rickard representing the 519th QM Company and the same OCS class group as Jim & Paulette Grimes. Hopefully they will come to our future gatherings and spread the word so we might have others from the Regiment joining us. Jim Strickland led us with several toasts that ended with a toast to the ladies. Then a memorial service was held for Thomas Frances, Carl Lackey, Vernon Rentfro, Tony Trent, Bennie Estes, Roland Font, Ed Jaffie, Harry Smith, Richard Gary, Jim Lutes, Rich Chavez and for those unknown Support Company and 508th ARCT members that we had lost that were unknown. Warm thoughts were expressed for veterans and their families facing illness. Then it was time to wine, dine and socialize...

...Wine was provided at each table. Each lady present had received a beautiful red rose. The classy chef proudly announced his menu of salad, pork loin, braised beef, fried chicken, potatoes, macaroni & cheese, corn, buns & butter, iced tea, coffee and a nice selection of tasty desserts. Conversation slowed a bit as we ate with gusto. An associate member certificate was presented to Mary Helen Gee and three miniature paratroopers were presented to Judy Frances, Frieda Primm, and Ikuko Elliott for their support of our group. It was great seeing these old friends. Most of us are moving more slowly than we once did, but spending time together is marvelous. Saturday morning we had a good breakfast before saying our good byes and heading home. It was a nice Reunion.



This Gray Line 25 Passenger Bus with a great driver & guide gave us a wonderful tour of Charleston



This Spirit Line Harbor Tour Boat provided a history lesson & wonderful tour of Charleston Harbor



The Aircraft Carrier "Yorktown" is permanently located in Charleston Harbor



Shots were fired on Fort Sumter 12 April 1861 that started the American Civil War



Frieda Primm receives her Miniature Paratrooper Award from Jim Strickland



The large graphic display of our 508 ARCT shoulder patch marked the hospitality room.



Snacks and cold drinks were always available at this Hospitality room table.



Al Vaitkus at the Charleston Visitors Center



This very knowledgeable and witty lady was our official Charleston guide and bus driver.



We shared the harbor tour boat with 1930's China Marines who wore yellow hats.



Jim Strickland hands out harbor boat tour tickets near the ticket window.



Our group heading for the Charleston Harbor Boat docked at the Aquarium Wharf.



The Charleston Harbor Tour Guide gave a 90 minute history lesson from the top deck.



The port side of the Aircraft Carrier "Yorktown" as seen from the tour boat.



The Ashley River and Cooper River join at Charleston Harbor.



Views of the Charleston Harbor shore line



Views of the Charleston Harbor shore line



Views of the Charleston Harbor shore line.



Views of the Charleston Harbor shore line.



Views of the Charleston Harbor shore line.



Views of the Charleston Harbor shore line.



The Cooper River Bridge



The Cooper River Bridge



Patricia Frances and Judy Frances at the Smokey Bones Restaurant



Al Vaitkus and Jim Strickland at the Smokey Bones Restaurant



Barbara and Joe Bednarz at the Smokey Bones Restaurant



Jean and Jane Ashcraft at the Smokey Bones Restaurant



Paulette and Jim Grimes at the Smokey Bones Restaurant



Bob and Mary Helen Gee at the Smokey Bones Restaurant



Jerry Strickland and Earl Christy at the Smokey Bones Restaurant.



Frieda Primm and Speedy Gonzales at the Smokey Bones Restaurant.



Amber and Frank Gonzales at the Smokey Bones Restaurant.



Jean and Jane Ashcraft at the Friday Night Banquet.



Jim and Paulette Grimes at the Friday Night Banquet.



Mary Ann and Charlie Rickard at the Friday Night Banquet.



Speedy Gonzales and Frieda Primm at the Friday Night Banquet.



Patricia and Judy Frances at the Friday Night Banquet.



Ikuko and Alex Elliott at the Friday Night Banquet.



Joe and Barbara Bednarz at the Friday Night Banquet.



Bob and Mary Helen Gee at the Friday Night Banquet.



Al Vaitkus at the Friday Night Banquet.



Jerry Strickland at the Friday Night Banquet.



Earl Christy played Taps and assisted in several ways at the Friday Night Banquet.



Jim Strickland conducted all activities at the Friday Night Banquet.



Frank and Amber Gonzales at the Friday Night Banquet.



Jim Strickland conducted all activities at the Friday Night Banquet.



Almeda Medlin and Ken Hamill at the Friday Night Banquet.



Mary Helen Gee displays the Associate Member Certificate received during the awards ceremony.



Ikuko Elliott received a Miniature Paratrooper Award for her dedication to our group.



Judy Frances received a Miniature Paratrooper Award for her dedication to our group.



Frieda Primm received a Miniature Paratrooper Award for her dedication to our group.



Amber Gonzales with "Pop" spoke to Sandra & Jud Haverkost about Jud's medical situation.



Almeda Medlin and a few others spoke to Sandra Haverkost and sent get well wishes.



Six people sat at each of the four tables in our Banquet Room.



Six people sat at each of the four tables in our Banquet Room.



Jim Strickland conducted activities from the podium and Earl Christy supported from his nearby table.



Six people sat at each of the four tables in our Banquet Room.



Six people sat at each of the four tables in our Banquet Room.



Six people sat at each of the four tables in our Banquet Room.



Sit L-R: Paulette Grimes, Frieda Primm, Barbara Bednarz, Mary Ann Rickard, Ikuko Elliott, Mary Helen Gee, Jane Ashcraft. Standing: Patricia Frances, Judy Frances, Almeda Medlin, Amber Gonzales



Front L-R: Jerry Strickland, Al Vaitkus. Sit: Jane Ashcraft, Paulette Grimes, Speedy Gonzales, Barbara Bednarz, Mary Ann Rickard, Ikuko Elliott, Mary Helen Gee, Almeda Medlin, Judy Frances, Patricia Frances. Standing: Earl Christy, Jean Ashcraft, Jim Grimes, Frieda Primm, Joe Bednarz, Charlie Rickard, Alex Elliott, Bob Gee, Jim Strickland, Ken Hamill, Frank Gonzales.



**Sitting L-R: Jean Ashcraft, Speedy Gonzales, Earl Christy, Jim Strickland, Bob Gee, Jerry Strickland, Al Vaitkus
Standing: Ken Hamill, Jim Grimes, Joe Bednarz, Charlie Rickard, Alex Elliott, Frank Gonzales.**



Sitting L-R: Jane Ashcraft, Paulette Grimes, Speedy Gonzales, Barbara Bednarz, Mary Ann Rickard, Ikuko Elliott, Mary Helen Gee, Almeda Medlin, Judy Frances, Patricia Fraances. Standing: Earl Christy, Jean Ashcraft, Jim Grimes, Frieda Primm, Joe Bednarz, Charlie Rickard, Alex Elliott, Bob Gee, Al Vaitkus, Jim Strickland, Ken Hamill, Jerry Strickland.

A PARATROOPERS MEMORIES #5

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. The book is titled Searching for the Yellow Brook Road. Ed would like feedback from us. If we spot an error, pass on the correction so Ed can fix it. Article #5 starts now. They were the paratroopers who jumped into Normandy, fought their way across Europe, froze at Bastogne, Belgium, and brought the German war machine to its knees. Because of their experiences, they knew what kind of man it takes to be a U.S. Army paratrooper. One of the things that all of us learned was when an instructor asks you a superfluous question; there was no right answer. For instance, after the first week of training, and after the Saturday night when some of us went off post to celebrate surviving the first week of airborne school, it was soon Monday morning again. Sometime after the 5 mile run, one of the airborne cadre's asked me while I was standing at attention if I had been to Columbus, Georgia or across the river to Phoenix City, Alabama. I said that I had. He asked me if I met his wife who was a bartender at some unrecalled watering hole. Of course I told him I had not met his wife. To which he said, "You should have, she's a beautiful woman, you would like her. Or do you think you are too good to meet my wife?" He then proceeded to give me 30 push-ups, 10 at a time to teach me to be a more observant and aggressive young man. Of course I was 18 years old, with a baby face and too young to frequent bars. A week later or after the second weekend, he again asked me if I had met his wife. Of course I have learned. I wanted to avoid more pushups so I said; yes I have Sgt. He then called another Sgt. Instructor over, and told him that I was a home wrecker and was trying to steal his wife. They then took turns berating me and dropping me for more push-ups. So what I learned is there is no right answer. You were wrong when the Sergeant picked you out to ask a question. I later discovered that they used stories like that to put pressure on you, and find out if you would cave in and quit. Of course in addition to the verbal and mental harassment...

used to weed out the unfit troops, we also learned to become paratroopers. This was a three-week process that taught you to conquer fear, obey orders, correctly use the equipment and stay alive. The first week included orientation and physical conditioning and was devoted to ground training. The second week was devoted to the 34 foot towers and the 250 foot towers. The following week was jump week. There we were flown to 1200 feet and made five qualifying jumps needed to receive our parachute wings. **Ground Training;** Ground training was designed to teach you how to use the equipment, and how to make a correct parachute landing fall. We were taught how to wear a body harness that is part of the parachute. The harness contains a quick release button that will quickly free you from the parachute. Because most injuries occur upon landing, we learned to make a five point parachute landing fall. That means legs firmly together, making ground contact on the (1) balls of your feet, (2) twisting onto the right calves of leg, (3) right thigh, (4) buttocks, and (5) shoulders muscles. After mastering this skill in the sawdust pit, by jumping up and falling correctly, we then did it from a five foot platform. We then learned to do this landing by being suspended several feet above the sawdust pit in a parachute harness and permitted to swing or oscillate. The Instructor controlled the swing landing trainer and dropped you when you least expected it. We either learned quickly or broke something. This combined with nomenclature and function training of the T7A parachute; we slowly developed confidence in the equipment, in ourselves, and began to see how we might survive this training. **Tower Training Week** The third week moved us from the ground to the 34 foot jump tower. The 34 foot tower was a replica of the rear fuselage of an aircraft complete with an exit door. There was also a cable running from the top of the 34 foot tower downrange 150 feet to another pole. As a student jumper, I put on a jump harness with about 10 feet of the connecting risers for a parachute attached.

TO BE CONTINUED



**508 AIRBORNE
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Trinidad, CO 81082-2426
Telephone: 719.846.4713
E: haamchang@gmail.com

**TAPS - 508th PARATROOPERS
RECENTLY DECEASED**

Ramos, Raul M. Anthony, NM
C Co. 508 ARCT 1951-53 19 Jun 2014



Annual Members ...20
Affiliate Members...14
All Americans.....302
Total Members.....336



June 2014 Treasurers Report

Printing expense Jun 2014: \$143.01
Newsletter Envelopes Sep 2014: \$31.16
Chapter Account 31 Aug 2014: \$1480.62



**50 YEAR REUNION
OPERATION POWER PACK
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1965**

A reunion of veterans who served in the Dom Rep during Operation Power Pack will take place at Fort Bragg / Fayetteville during All American Week, usually the third week of May 2015. Get the word out to your Power Pack buddies. A flyer and information can be found on our website – www.red-devils.org or

John Urbach: (410) 282-0844
baltoscouter@comast.net
Jim Drainer: (904)940-9150
James32092@yahoo.com

Macular degeneration has ruined my eyesight. I sometimes use a magnifying glass with my left eye to read computer messages. Please do not send trivia emails to Ken Hamill. It is very time consuming to delete email that I would like, but will not open.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED

The 82 Airborne Division Association is standing on shaky legs. They have not paid life member rebates lately and I don't think they plan to pay in the near future. I think I can keep the 508 Chapter alive as long as I live, but if the 82 Association folds we will be in deep kimchee. We need to form a 508 Assn made up of the 508 PIR Family & Friends Assn; our Chapter; the active duty 508 members and other interested people. Dick O'Donnell of The Family & Friends Assn is currently interested in merging into a 508 Association. A volunteer or two from each of our organizations would form a committee to touch base with the 325, 504 and 505 associations and develop a plan to form a 508 Association.

Bob Bitgood of HH Company1-508, 82 Airborne Division 1963-1966 now retired in Costa Rica, searched and found 82nd Airborne Division Order of Battle on the internet. Each Brigade Combat Team has 3 infantry battalions. The 3rd BCT has 1st Bn, 508 PIR and two battalions of the 505 PIR. The 2nd BCT has 2nd Bn, 508 PIR and two battalions of the 325 AIR. The 1st BCT has 2nd Bn, 501 PIR and two battalions of the 504 PIR. Thank you Bob Bitgood.

508 P.I.R. BIRTHDAY

Mark Eckenrode, our very capable Historian reminded me that October 20th is the 72nd birthday of the 508th P.I.R.

William D. Kelly of St. Petersburg, FL is a loyal and generous life member of our 508 Airborne Chapter. Bill served in B Company, 307th Airborne Engineers during his enlisted service and the 598th Engineer Company, 508 ARCT after graduating from Engineer OCS.

Members that want to donate to the 1-508 and/or the 2-508 homecoming Ball and Ceremonies can send your check to:
Ken Hamill
2007 Coventry Drive
Columbus, GA 31904

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 2015 \$25.00 + 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



King Company, Airborne School Class 46, Fort Benning, Georgia graduated 15 June 1951. Lawrence "Jim" Adams Jr. of Item Company, 508 ARCT 1951-53 and Metarie, LA sent the photo. If you are in the above photo, please inform the Editor