

DIABLO



The Link for All Veterans, Spouses, Family and Friends of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association — September, 2013 - Vol. 8, Nr. 2

2013 Reunion

An exciting reunion in Fayetteville, NC, home of Ft. Bragg and the 82nd Airborne Division is being planned for us by Family and Friends President, Lou Gutierrez and Rock Merritt.

The Reunion will take place October 16-20.

Activities are tentatively scheduled as follows:

October 16 - Registration day, CP will be open

October 17 - Welcoming/Memorial Breakfast to include a short briefing of reunion events. Trip to downtown Fayetteville and a visit to the two museums.

October 18 - Activities at Ft. Bragg to include lunch with active duty paratroopers and a visit to the U.S. Army Golden Knights Headquarters.

October 19 - Banquet †

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Congratulations

Emile Lacroix

On the Belgian National Day – July 21, each town has its own patriotic celebration. The year, Emile's town of Fernemont paid homage to Emile for his commitment to perpetuate the memory of the 82nd Airborne Division and to recognize his receiving of the two decorations (2012 and 2013) from the Department of the Army and the Department of Defense. The homage took place after the wreath laying ceremony at the monument in the town square. The flags of all the various associations of war veterans were flying as well as the American, Belgian, and European flags. A band played the American and Belgian National anthems. Deputy Morgan C. Hall from the U.S. Embassy in Brussels was present at the ceremony. A reception was held following the ceremony. †



Final Jumps

Jeffers, Lawrence

I must inform you of the passing of my husband, Lawrence Jeffers on March 19th of this year in our local hospital emergency room. He was 89 years old and as you know an 82nd Abn, 508th PIR member who fought on June 6 – Sept 17 and The Bulge.

He was recipient of the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts – And was awarded Knight of the French Legion of Honor in October, 2012. He would have been 90 in July.

We had hoped to participate in the reunion for a final time this year and perhaps Europe in 2014, but illness prevented that.

He was buried with a military funeral at a local cemetery. I would have advised earlier, but could not find a contact address.

Thank you for memories of past reunions.

Shirley Jeffers

Condolences may be sent to Shirley at: P.O. Box 488; Hockingport, OH 45739 †

Richardson, Earl

I would like to report the death of Earl H. Richardson, 92 years, from Service Company, 508, 82nd Airborne on June 1, 2013 at the Veterans Home in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.

Thank You,

Rachel A. Richardson

Condolences may be sent to the Richardson family at: N. 9185 Highway 73; Greenwood, WI 54437-7747 †

Schlemmer, Zane

After a long illness, Zane Schlemmer passed away on July 21 in Maitland, FL. Zane was well loved in Normandy having made many trips there over the years. The French people in the town of Picauville have named a street after Zane – Rue Zane Schlemmer and put a marker near the apple orchard where he landed. His first trip back was on the 30th Anniversary of D-Day. In later years, Zane was a volunteer at the VA at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu and at the Hawaii State Veterans Cemetery.

Condolences may be sent to Zane's family at: Brett Schlemmer; 1074 Hamlet Dr.; Maitland, FL 32751-6304. †

Whitehouse, Laurence

Dear Editor,

"Flying Away Home"

I am writing to inform you of the passing of my husband, Lawrence Whitehouse, a member of the 508th Airborne on February 8, 2013. He'd been on dialysis for over two years, then we got the dreaded news lung cancer and it had metastasized to his bones. He was in constant pain. He fell and broke his pelvis in late January and I never took him home from the hospital. He was ready to fly off "into the wild blue yonder". I miss him, but I wouldn't wish him back as he was in so much pain. He went gracefully and peacefully and we had a memorial service per his wishes on Feb 17th. He was my friend and constant companion for 56 years.

"Making his last jump"

Sincerely,

Ruth Whitehouse

Condolences may be sent to Ruth at: 267 Hemlock Rd.; Grove City, PA 16127-6833 †

Condolences

Arellano, Madelyn Mary Adolph

I am very sorry to report that my mother, Madelyn Mary Adolph, Arellano passed away at Abington Memorial Hospital July 9, 2013 of complications including pneumonia and a blood clot in her leg. She was 83. My girlfriend, Wendi, and I were the last to visit her before she passed. Toward the end of our visit, I played a few recorded hymns from YouTube and we sang along with some of them. Then, Wendi offered a most beautiful prayer. Mom was aware of our presence and was as comfortable as you could expect with an oxygen mask on, and she wasn't in pain. We're grateful that her difficult times are over and that she's with the Lord now.

Yours in faith,

Lou Arellano III

1296 Roudenbush Rd.

Quakertown, PA 18951-5639

215-536-0396 Office

215-378-6588 Cell †

Porter, Marly

Marly Porter passed away May 18, twelve days before her 89th birthday.

Condolences may be sent to Carl at: 3415 N. Sheridan Rd.; Apt. 150; Peoria, IL 61604-1430 †

Checking In

Bob Nobles - 508 PIR

1942 – 1945

Took a return trip to France, St. Mere Eglise and the beaches June 11 to 22 with my 2 nieces and daughter. Missed June 6 because one niece taught school in Las Vegas and had to wait until school let out. Had a great time because I was the only one there from the jump on D-Day. Was captured on June 11 and spent 11 months as a POW. Will be 92 on Jan 30 so time is running out.

Found out one thing – overseas travel is for the young. After 66 years of marriage, I lost my Bette three years ago. I bowl once a week and still feel young. Fellow “C” Co. member died several years ago.

All the best to you old Vets,

Bob Nobles

(Editor's Note: Hey, Bob – Why don't you grab those nieces and your daughter and meet us in Fayetteville for the reunion. Would love to see you.) †

91 years old and hanging in.

Jumped in Normandy and Holland. Got hit in Holland and spent 10 months in hospitals.

Purple Heart and Silver Star

Thank you,

Chuck Wilkins †

Dear Dick,

I'm Nick Pavone – I was with “G” third Battalion. Made Normandy, Holland and the Bulge.

I would like to know if you have any cards left of the time we served in France by Gen. Gavin.

I'm proud to say for the good of our outfit, I have the French Legion o Honor medal.

A.A.T.W.

Thank you,

Nick Pavone

“G” Co.

1st Platoon

3rd Batt. †

I'm Bernice C. “Bunny” Calvert, - wife of Carroll B. Calvert. Carroll was in the 508th airborne parachute regiment Co. D – 1st Platoon and recipient of the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

I also have a framed picture of him leading his platoon, marching in celebration of France liberation.

I took all his patches and badges, also a red rope and framed them so they would be preserved. I believe the rope and gloves were worn in celebration for General Gavin.

Carroll had made a jump and broke his foot and was in hospital in England during Normandy. I told him that may have saved his life. The Lord is so good.

He is 90 years old now and it's a miracle. He had a severe head injury on the job in 1972 which left him totally disabled. He is thinking impaired, so he can't read the Diablo – but I do, and tell him what is in it – although, most mentioned he doesn't know. His closest friends were: Okey Mills –

Beckley, W.VA. George Book, MD. Others I wouldn't know. I could never get him to attend reunions. His tags: 35449002; Service time: 1942 to 1945. Co. D – First Platoon. Decorated: Silver Star for gallantry in action.

Sorry this isn't written like it should be, but I'm recuperating from light stroke and surgery.

Find enclosed a check. Thanks for the Diablo and continue the good job.

God Bless,

Mrs. Carroll B. Calvert †

Searching for.....

Hi All,

A couple of years ago, the foundation received some items belonging to Melvin P. Ferguson. He was a member of HQ 1/508th.

We do know that he earned his CIB on 17 Sept 1944, but that is all we know. His relatives don't know more either.

Is there anyone who remembers, recall or knew him?

We want to put his items on display on the upcoming exhibition with more information.

Thanks in advance,

Frits Janssen

Mook, The Netherlands

Frits.janssen@planet.nl †

Ellen,

Any info on these troopers would be truly appreciated since they are from my hometown of Rockford, IL, which is why I am researching them.

Cpl. Brassie S. Cascio

ASN: 36710620

Buried at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery, Belgium

Sgt. Robert Banks

POW 16 hrs after landing in Normandy

Passed away: April 1, 1994

Eric Turnrose

blachwk@aol.com †

Dear WWII Veteran:

There are countless books chronicling the heroics and horrors of World War II, but what about the humor?

Sure, there may be a funny anecdote sprinkled in among the personal narratives and history volumes, but no books that I've come across are filled entirely with smile-inducing stories.

War is hell. No question. And the atrocities during the Second World War are among history's worst. I don't intend to make light of that fact. But through it all, life continued to happen. Sometimes it even managed to provide some levity.

And I'd like to share that in a compilation tentatively titled THE LIGHTER SIDE OF WAR: Amusing stories told from the men and women who served during WWII.

That's why I'm seeking stories that made you smile and will in turn make others smile, perhaps even laugh out loud. From enlistment, to basic training, to VJ Day - I want to hear them, write them down, and pass them along.

Please mail, email or call me with your humorous tales while serving during WWII. I can't wait to hear what you have to say!

Thank you for your willingness to share. More importantly, thank you for serving!

Sincerely,

Nate Strong

Vice President: The Michigan WWII

Legacy Memorial

Honor Flight Michigan Board Member

2143 Cliffside Drive, Wixom MI 48393

248-762-2945

ndstrong@comcast.net †

Mailbox

Hi Ellen:

Last week I received the sad news of Zane's passing and would like to add a personal memory. My late husband, Edward V. Ott was also a member of Hdq. Company, 2nd. Battalion, 508PIR and frequently declared Zane as the best “scrounger” in the Company; always able to [scout] out and find what was needed. An example: When the Company was in need of transportation, Zane went out and “commandeered” a horse and wagon [from a farmer.] My favorite memory of Zane occurred in 1984 in Ste. Mere at the 40th Anniversary of D-Day. We had crossed the Channel, been bussed to Ste. Mere for the ceremonies and as Ed was leaving the bus, there, at the bottom of the stairs was Zane, in uniform and saluting saying, “Sgt. Schlemmer reporting for duty, Sir.” It had been forty years since Zane and Ed had seen each other, the last being the day in Holland when Ed was hit in the head by German shrapnel and taken to a field hospital. [Many in the Company thought Ed had died of his wound]. There wasn't a dry eye in the crowd. I still have an old VCR tape of that reunion and presume it is still playable. If anyone would like that tape, please let me know. Thanks, Ellen.

Patricia Ott †

Dear Ellen

So sorry to hear of the passing of Zane Schlemmer. I first met Zane in Normandy in 2009. What a great honor it was to meet this man.

Another great warrior of the sky men will be greatly missed.

God Bless.

Graham Lawson✈

Ellen,

With Zane Schlemmer's death I lost one of the last heroes of my youth and I cry. I ask to the airborne Museum to write something about him on the site:

<http://www.airborne-museum.org/>
click above on the left side on the British flag
click on the right side on Rest in peace
Henri Jean Renaud
hjyv.renaud@wanadoo.fr✈

Dear friends,

Today Sunday (Aug) 4th we had a memorial ceremony in Sainte Mere Eglise's church for our old friend Zane Schlemmer from the 508 PIR – 82nd airb.div.

At the beginning I talked about his exemplary military experience during the WWII, and above all about his love for Normandy and the very special friendship that he had with many French people of Sainte Mere Eglise area. He is missing to all of us.

Henri Jean Renaud
hjyv.renaud@wanadoo.fr

(Editor's Note: Henri Jean is the son of the war time mayor of St. Mere Eglise.)✈

Ellen,

It is with sadness to receive the news of Zane's passing. He was a very special man, an all time gentleman, trooper, and friend. I will cherish the wonderful times he and I shared during my visits to Honolulu.. My heart-felt sympathy to all who knew and loved him.

Skip McGrath
rmmcgrath@hotmail.com✈

Dear Ellen Peters,

In my role as the newly elected President of the Amis des Veterans Americans (AVA), which was founded by my mother, Simone Renaud, I am pleased to inform you of our upcoming events for your information and participation. We are continuing our mission of gratitude with our efforts to "Never Forget" the sacrifices made by our American soldiers and veterans.

As we begin planning for the 70th Anniversary in which we will honor our precious few remaining Veterans, the AVA's role is evermore needed to ensure that the legacy and the memory of their sacrifices are meaningfully passed on to the next generation. All this is made possible thanks to the efforts and time of our increasing AVA membership and supporters.

The AVA is currently seeking a 501-C3 not-for-profit tax-exempt status, which we hope to secure in the near future. However, donations are currently much needed to support these efforts. We cordially invite you, if you feel inclined, to send a donation and to encourage others to become a member of the AVA. To facilitate these payments, we have a PAYPAL account: ava50480@gmail.com.

With eternal gratitude,

Maurice Renaud
President of the AVA



Amis des Vétérans Américains
Boite Postale 02
50480 Sainte-Mère-Eglise

(If anyone would like to join this worthy organization, dues are \$15.00. Donations are also encouraged. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can send a check to me at: **Ellen Peters; 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805** and I will make the PayPal donation on your behalf. Please note "AVA Donation" in the memo line of your check.) . ✈

Hi Everyone

The weekend of June 29/30 saw the British Armed Forces weekend held in Nottingham. Although the main events were held around the River Trent, Trent Bridge and Victoria Embankment area of the city, a small group of 5 members of the Faith and Honor re-enactment living history group (which I am involved with) had exclusive license to set up camp in the grounds of Wollaton Park in Memory of the 82nd and British airborne forces of WW2.

We were very busy throughout the 2 days we were there. Families had interactive activities with cooking, weapons, uniforms and talks along with photo opportunities.

Best Airborne Wishes,
Graham Lawson
Nottingham, UK
thedudeinnottz@gmail.com✈



In 2010 I retired from the Army, I was a Paratrooper. I decided to start a non profit mobile Military Museum. The name is Winged Warrior Inc. We specialize in documenting Airborne Operations, although we collect from all eras.

I've done pretty good with collecting Fallschirmjager gear while in Germany, but finding it difficult to collect authentic American or allied items. Normally I buy all of my artifacts, but that is proving too expensive. An M1942 jump uniform is over \$1000. That may be a reasonable price, but since I'll never sell anything I get, because it is for educational

purposes, it does me little good. My service to the school system is free.

So now I think I should generate interest directly from the Veteran, if their story doesn't get told... it will die with them. My interest is video interviews with as many WW2 Veterans as I can, and if they are willing ...any item they are willing to donate or sell. I'll never work again and this is my way of staying busy.

I feel that someday my story will need to be told and when that time comes... I really don't want everything I worked for and saw my friends die for end up in some private collection or on eBay... I need help generating interest in this project and Erwin thought you would be the person to talk to.

SFC (Ret) Timothy A. McCoy
4024 Steepleridge Dr
The Colony, Texas 75056
(817) 443-7430
tamccoy357@yahoo.com

(I asked Timothy to send me a synopsis of his military career and he sent me the following. His family has produced three generations of paratroopers. He is Airborne All The Way!)

I started my active duty military career in 1986 after completing 2 years with GaNG, I completed Airborne school with A Co 507th and reported to 82nd Replacement, (only because I broke my leg on my final jump, I was scheduled to report to R.I.P Ranger Indoc Program) I was assigned to 505th PIR, but detached to 82nd Combat Aviation Battalion, after a reorganization of 82nd C.A.B, I was assigned to 2nd Battalion Aviation Brigade, my next assigned was 143rd Signal Battalion, 3rd Armor Division in Frankfurt Germany, after return from Desert Storm, I was reassigned back to Fort Bragg with HHC 327th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade (with 1SG Jordan, Michael Jordan's brother). After 1 year I requested a transfer and was accepted to 5th M.A.S.H the army's last Mini Mash hospital. (both 327th and 5th Mash were Airborne). I was reassigned to ASG-Kuwait at Camp Doha, Kuwait. my next assignment was to Fort Hood Texas with E Co, 52nd Infantry (ABN) (LRS), under 163rd Military Intelligence Battalion, under 504th MI Bde. after the unit was deactivated I was temp assigned to 3/8 Cav, 1st Cavalry Division, then reassigned to F Co, 58th Aviation (ABN) (ATC) (although based from Ft Bragg, this unit was NOT on jump status) I was selected for assignment to Korea with 2nd Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. (initially I was scheduled for 2nd Inf (LRS) but because of an illness I was sent to AVN). After Korea I was

reassigned to Ft Hood to HHC Divary (Division Artillery). I was once again chosen for reassignment overseas to Caserma Ederly Italy to activate 503rd PIR under 173rd Airborne Brigade, while gearing up to activate 503rd, events surrounding 9/11 cause a transfer to United States Army Southern European Task Force- USASETAF, there I worked in the PLEX as a Plans NCO, under which Operation Northern Block was constructed, Operation Northern Block was the 2003 Combat Jump into Northern Iraq headed by 173rd Abn Bde, I was later transferred to Germany to the multi-service organization.. Warrior Preparation Center as Plans NCOIC. after my overseas tour I was assigned to Ft Drum, N.Y and after my deployment to Iraq in 2009, I requested retirement, I retired on 28 Feb 2010. there are quite a few paratroopers in my family my oldest brother has a combat jump and worked at the Airborne School was an Instructor and Schools NCO, another Brother deployed with me to Desert Storm, he was with 82nd Artillery. My daughter is now assigned to 4th Bde 25th Inf AIRBORNE!!!, My father and a brother were both Airborne and served in Vietnam, My father completed 3 tours (he was my hero) that is a brief history of my military career ..minus a few Operations. ✈

For Sale

The Family and Friends commissary is open for business and look what we have for sale:

Family and Friends shirts are \$30.00 each. Sizes are available in Small, Medium, and Large.



Close up of shirt logo:



Family and Friends hats are \$20.00 each.



Those interested in purchasing a shirt or hat, kindly contact: **Ellen Peters**
3630 Townsend Dr.

Dallas, TX 75229-3805
(214) 632-1360
treasurer@508pir.org

Both these items will be available for purchase at the reunion in Fayetteville. ✈

NOTICES

Thank you –

Many thanks to John Downes and Chuck Wilkins for your very kind and generous donations.

Call for Dues!

Dues for the new fiscal year of Family and Friends of the 508th PIR Assn. are due November 1.

Dues are \$10.00 per year per household. Multiple years may be paid if desired and donations are gratefully accepted. **Please send dues and donations to:**

F&F508PIR Assn.
3630 Townsend Dr.
Dallas, TX 75229-3805

Changes of Address

Please forward change of email addresses and/or postal addresses to:

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3630 Townsend Dr.;
Dallas, TX 75229-3805
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