



LINKING THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT

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

JANUARY 2018

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JUNE 2018

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Ronald Rath
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THE 41st ANNUAL DEVIL DINNER

9 AUGUST 2018 [Thursday]

**DURING THE 82d AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION'S
72nd ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION**

8-11 AUGUST 2018

AT THE

ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL

9840 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE

ORLANDO, FL 32819

(800) 204-7234 www.RosenCentre.com (407) 996-9840

SEE THE DEVIL DINNER

REGISTRATION FORM INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER OR AT

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

**You must also be registered for the 82d Convention to attend the Devil Dinner
"That is the right thing to do"**

**PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO MAIL IN YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS TO
SECRETARY BILL EBERLE**



**1st BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM &
504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
STEVEN COPENING, PRESIDENT
4411 45th STREET, UNIT 226
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33407
(561) 827-1933
12 April 2018**



To All of our Members

I am honored to serve as your President this year and look forward to hearing from you with your ideas for growing our membership. We have an exciting year coming up. I hope all of you will participate in the events we have planned. Please mark your calendars for:

All American Week – 21 May -24 May

82nd Association Annual Convention - 8 Aug – 11 Aug

One of the highlights of the year will be our Devil Dinner on 9 August at the Convention. The dinner is always a good time and a chance to catch up with old friends and make new connections. The Association will also host a hospitality room at the Convention. Don't miss the opportunity to join us!

By now you should have received your 2018 Raffle Tickets. The proceeds from the tickets support the Brigade's Chaplain Fund, which is used directly to benefit active duty soldiers. Please consider purchasing tickets to help us support those who are currently serving our country.

I look forward to seeing everyone at All American Week and, in particular, welcoming our new members. Special thanks to Ron Rath, Bill Eberle, Cletus Slabach, Robert Stonerock, Joe Steen, Mike Walding and the active duty leadership of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment for all they do to make our Association a success.

STRIKE HOLD!

Steve Copening

Devil FRG Newsletter



1BCT, 82nd Airborne Division

Greetings, Devil Family!

It is hard to believe how fast time is passing! We are four months into our deployment, and rapidly approaching the halfway mark of our time away from our loved ones. In the last 30 days, we have assimilated our “uplift” of 1200 additional Devils into our formations and watched with pride as they made immediate contributions across Afghanistan. All seven Battalion Task Forces are making an incredible difference every day, but CSM and I would like to highlight the dramatic impact that our Red Devil and Black Devil battalions have made since joining us in Kandahar. TF Red Devil has made our Headquarters (Train, Advise, and Assist Command – South) twice as effective in advising our Afghan partners. We have literally doubled our number of touchpoints with the Afghan Army and Police forces based on the security and mobility that the Red Devil Paratroopers provide. We demonstrated this by embedding and providing persistent advising to two Afghan National Army Brigades in the same Corps simultaneously – a notable first for the Resolute Support Mission.



TF Black Devils have also made an immediate impact. Forming small, but incredibly effective Expeditionary Maintenance Advising Teams, our Devil Mechanics have improved the operational readiness rate of the Afghan 205th Corps (our partner force) by over 5% in the last 30 days. Fuelers, cooks, drivers and supply technicians are integrated all across Southern Afghanistan providing first class support to our Afghan and Coalition partners.

As the fighting season in Afghanistan draws to a close, our Afghan partners have Taliban militants on their heels, and are taking back key terrain in several highly contested districts in our AO. In Kosovo, our Gun Devils continue their stellar performance with their peacekeeping mission, conducting partnered patrols with the Serbians and Kosovo Border Police, while overseeing a highly successful and uneventful municipal election. Clearly, your Devils are making a difference! CSM and I remain incredibly proud of the whole BCT, especially our Rear Detachment and the amazing spouses in our FRG. We remain in awe of their incredible support.

ATW! Strike Hold!!

COL Tobin Magsig
Devil 6

CSM Robert Cobb
Devil 9

**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
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**

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

**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
PRIVATE FIRSTCLASS DUSTIN GROSS, C CO, 3-73rd CAV, AFGHANISTAN
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
SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER M. HARRIS, A CO, 2-504th PIR, AFGHANISTAN
SERGEANT JONATHON M. HUNTER, A CO, 2-504th 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



**1st BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM &
504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.
RONALD H. RATH, TREASURER**



***rrath@nc.rr.com
22 Club Hill Drive
Garner, NC 27529
(919) 803-4554
7 April 2018***

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. 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. WE CAN ALWAYS USE ANY AMOUNT OF DONATIONS TO HELP WITH ASSOCIATION PROJECTS/ACTIVE DUTY SUPPORT.**

YOU CAN ALSO READ IT ON LINE AT <http://www.504thpirassociation.org/home.html>

BUT IF YOU WANT IT MAILED TO YOU, YOU MUST SEND \$20.00 A YEAR BOOSTER OR \$8.50 FOR TWO ISSUES TO BE MAILED TO YOU. ON THE MAILING LABEL IT WOULD LOOK LIKE THIS:

**PAUL WALSH 12/17
THAT MEANS YOU HAVE TO RENEW 12/17**

ON ANOTHER PROBLEM WE ARE HAVING IS THAT MEMBERS MOVE AND DO NOT TELL US BY GOING ON WEB SITE OR E-MAIL, OR MAILING IN THE FORM THAT IS IN NEWSLETTER AND ON WEB SITE. OUR RAFFLE CHAIRMAN MAILED OUT OUR ANNUAL RAFFLE TICKETS TO ALL MEMBERS AND SO FAR HE HAS GOTTEN BACK over 100 OF THEM WITH "MOVED-NO FORWARDING ADDRESS AND 89 TO BE RESENT". THAT IS ABOUT \$200.00 THAT WE WASTED AND COULD HAVE BEEN USED TO SUPPORT OUR ACTIVE DUTY, BECAUSE, THOSE MEMBERS THAT MOVED NEVER LET US KNOW THEIR NEW ADDRESS. SO PLEASE IF YOU ARE READING THE NEWSLETTER ON LINE-FORWARD TO US YOUR NEW ADDRESS AND THOSE MEMBERS THAT ARE PLANNING TO MOVE, PLEASE FORWARD YOUR NEW ADDRESS TO rrath@nc.rr.com or weberle@earthlink.com OR SEND A MESSAGE ON WEB SITE TO OUR WEBMASTER.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO MAIL IN YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS, AS SOON AS YOU CAN. THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS RAFFLE HELP SUPPORT THE BRIGADE CHAPLAIN'S WITH FUNDS AND IF YOU ARE ABLE TO SEND IN A LITTLE EXTRA THAT WOULD BE GREAT ALSO. THOSE THAT HAVE ALREADY, WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

WE ALSO ARE LOOKING FOR A NEW DEVIL DINNER CHAIRMAN. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT rrath@nc.rr.com OR weberle@earthlink.com

**SINE PARI [Track them down]
Charlie Mike....R**

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

504th PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC
BILL EBERLE, RAFFLE CHAIRMAN
22 Big Woods Drive Hilton Head Island, SC 29926-2665 843-682-4171

April 2018

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A TWO-SIDED LETTER WITH TWO ENVELOPS
IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DEVIL DINNER IS ON THE OTHER SIDE!!

Greetings Fellow Devil's:

Well it is that time of the year: The boys of summer are in spring training, the birds have started to nest, CMS watching their grass grow, my golf game is coming out of its winter slumber, and it is time for the annual 504 PIR Raffle. Ah Spring

I have to tell you last year was not one of our better years for donations. I have been doing this for more than a decade and last year was the least amount of donations over that time, having said that, we were able to still donate over \$3,000 to the Chaplain. Last year was kind of unusual in that we had two of the three winners were with us at dinner. I am proud to say that we got most of their winnings back at the auction.

Our Association has a one-time a year fund raiser, the annual Devil raffle is that one time. It is that time again when we conduct our once a year fund-raiser, the 504th PIR Association Raffle. We have been able, thanks to your generous donations, to support the Brigade's Chaplain Fund and other worthy activities. We cannot meet every need but we can sure help make things better for those that are in harm's way defending our freedom.

So you know how this goes, enclosed are your 18 Raffle tickets for 2018. I am asking you to either purchase these tickets or offer them to someone else to purchase. The price is a modest \$15.00 for all 18 tickets. The small stub to the left of the tickets should be placed in the enclosed envelope with your check and returned to Bill Eberle by July 31, 2018. The check should be made payable to 504th PIR. Remember that the seller of the winning ticket gets \$50.00. As always the winning tickets will be drawn at this year's Devil Dinner being held August Thursday 9th.

This year as I write this, the 1BCT 504PIR are mostly back from their most recent deployment and we hope to see many of them at this year's convention in Orlando. Remember that our country still has troops in harm's way around the world; keep them in your prayers.

We Devil's have always risen to the occasion. Let's make this year's Raffle our best ever. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to support our Regiment.

DEVIL DINNER 2018

We encourage and Welcome all former and current Devils to join us for an enjoyable evening of fun, fellowship and good food at our 41st Annual Devil Dinner. **This year's dinner will be Thursday, August 9, 2018, located in the Rosen Centre Hotel, 9840 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819.** Social hour @ 1700, Dinner at 1800.

You have a choice of one of two entrees. (1) **10 oz. Grilled Ribeye** morel demi-glace sauce, caramelized onions with garlic mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables or, (2) **Chicken Piccata** All natural breast of chicken served over linguini with lemon caper beurre blanc sauce and seasonal vegetables. For starters, both entrees include a gourmet salad mix tossed tableside with jicama, sliced radishes & julienne carrots served with vidalia onion vinaigrette dressing; chef's potato, seasonal vegetables, fresh rolls and butter. For dessert: Chocolate Bombe: Creamy chocolate mousse over a layer of chocolate cake encased in a chocolate dome shell, drizzled with white chocolate. Freshly brewed regular and decaffeinated coffees, tea, iced tea and water. A choice red or white wines for toasts and your dining pleasure.

For all registrations postmarked July 4th or earlier, the cost for the dinner is \$40.00 per person. Registrations postmarked after July 4, 2018 will be \$45.00 per person. Registration can be completed on the 504 PIR Association website but an additional \$1.50 charge per meal will be applied when using Pay Pal. You also have the option of completing the form below and using the self-addressed envelope to: Robert A. Stonerock, 8955 Black Run Road, Nashport, OH 43830-9499 with your check or money order made payable to: 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment Association.

Dress code is casual: No shorts, tank tops, or bare feet please.

COL Tobin A. Magsig, CDR, 1st BDE Combat Team is our featured dinner speaker. Your Association Officers and Fellow Troopers look forward to seeing you at this 41st Annual Devil Dinner. As in the past, we offer you the opportunity to sponsor an active duty trooper for the dinner. This option is shown on registration form. Please complete the form below, and enclose your check or money order. Please plan to pick up your tickets in the 504 PIR Hospitality Room or at the 504 PIR General Membership meeting.

STRIKE HOLD!

Robert A. Stonerock

e-mail: strikehold504inf@MSN.com

NAME: _____.

ADDRESS: _____.

PHONE NUMBER: (____) _____ - _____. Total Number Meals _____.

PLEASE INDICATE NUMBER AND TYPE OF ENTRÉE REQUESTED @ \$40.00 EACH (\$45.00 if postmarked after July 4, 2018. If you use Pay Pal on the 504 PIR Association's website, there is an additional charge of \$1.50 per meal.)

#1 – 10 oz. Grilled Ribeye X _____

#2 – Chicken Piccata X _____

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR # _____ ACTIVE DUTY TROOPER(S) TO THE DEVIL DINNER.

Please mail to: Robert A. Stonerock, 8955 Black Run Road, Nashport, OH 43830-9499

YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE 504TH PIR ASSOCIATION TO ATTEND THE DINNER.



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 |
|--|---------|----------|
| Veteran Member (Lifetime Member)* | \$15.00 | \$90.00 |
| Active Duty - 1st BCT/504th PIR (Annual does not include Propblast subscription.) | \$5.04 | \$50.40 |
| Annual Associate Membership (Not Assigned or Attached to 504 PIR, but Airborne) | \$15.00 | |

| 82nd Airborne Division Association | Annual | Lifetime |
|------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| Veteran - Under 50 | \$25.00 | \$250.00 |
| Veteran - Over 50 | \$25.00 | \$175.00 |
| 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
- Widowed
- Married
- Male
- Female

Spouse's
First Name _____

Children _____

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

Association Treasurer - treasurer@504thpirassociation.org

Please visit our new website at www.504thpirassociation.org if you prefer to complete your application online.

| NEWSLETTER BOOSTERS | | |
|---|---|--|
| Ms. Kathleen Richardson In Memory of Roxie Demarco | Mrs Charlotte M. Turner In Memory of John Turner | Mrs. Judy Williams In Memory of Reed Williams |
| GEN ® John P. Abizaid [XXVIII] | JA, LTC® Doug G. Andrews | William L. Bonning ***** |
| Past President Mike Briseno | BG ® Leo A. Brooks, Jr.[XXXI] | R. G. Burns |
| Daniel Chaffee ***** | Jimmy Childress | Laurie K. Clay |
| President Steven Copening | James D. Crowley, Jr. ***** | Robert E. Devinney***** |
| LTG ® Patrick J. Donahue [XXXIII] | Jean-Luc Dumont | BG® Billy Don Farris,II |
| CPT Wilmarie Flores Alvarez ***** | David R. Foy | Brian J. Frey |
| James E. George | Victor R. Gilpin | Patrick "Doc" Halloran |
| Harris Rosen Foundation | COL® Robert R. Harper, JR [XXVII] | Michhale E. Haynes ***** |
| Frank M. Heffernan | JJ Henry ***** | RSM ® David R. Henderson[6] |
| CSM® Oliver R. Hoggard | CSM ® Thomas E. Ingram | Stephen A. Inouye |
| COL® Karl W. Johnson ***** | Paul Kalnins | John C. Kiser |
| GEN Fredrick J. Kroesen | Allen Lanoue ***** | Daniel P. Leonard |
| David J. Loveland | COL® Renard H. Marable | Jeremiah W. Marik |
| Dennis C. Marks | 1SG ® Reynold Martinez | Thomas J. McAndrews ***** |
| Edward T. Mc Donough ***** | RSM® Robert R. McLymore [1] | Miles L. McMillan |
| Thomas P. Metcalf | HRSM-RSM® Vincent M. Myers[5] | Zachary H. Niemann |
| Kevin M. Nishimura | Allen L. Page | MAJ. Kevin S. Petit ***** |
| GEN ® David H. Petraeus [XXIX] | Socrates M. Photiades | Theodore W. Podewil,III |
| RSM ® Ronald Rath [4] | Harry Reese | Rosen Hotels & Resorts, Orlando, FL |
| Robert S. Saverly | Director Harold Schroeder | Danny S. Shoaf |
| James A. Smolley | LTG® William M. Steele [XXIV] | Berry L. Summers **** |
| Carroll E. Sylvester | Jesse R. Thompson | Tom T. Vonahlefeld ***** |
| Michael J. Walding | Hugh D. Wallis | MSG® Michael V. Wiltse |
| Michael Valdez ***** | Mark Yeager | YOUR NAME COULD GO HERE |

YOU CAN HAVE THE NEWSLETTERS MAILED TO YOU ONE OR TWO WAYS;

- 1. BY BECOMING A NEWSLETTER BOOSTER OR**
- 2. YOU CAN SEND \$8.50 FOR TWO ISSUES, BUT YOUR NAME WILL NOT APPEAR ON THE BOOSTER LIST.**

IF YOUR NAME IS FOLLOWED BY ***
THEN YOUR BOOSTER \$\$ WILL RUN OUT WITH THIS ISSUE
AND IT IS TIME TO SEND ANOTHER \$20.00 TO THE
504 PIR ASSOCIATION, 22 CLUB HILL DRIVE,GARNER, NC 27529-6528**

**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.**



MANY OF YOU HAVE "NOT" SENT IN YOUR DD214 or ORB, or ERB, PLEASE DO

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 respond 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

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 | 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment Association Challenge coin "all in color" | 1 | \$15.00 |
| 11 | 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment Association colored patch | 1 | \$6.00 |
| 12 | 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment old Devil colored patch | 1 | \$8.00 |
| 13 | 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment Association Challenge coin "For Excellence" | 1 | \$15.00 |
| 14 | Replacement 504 PIR Association Life membership Card in color | 1 | \$3.00 |
| 15 | 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.

Friends of Albany and Nijmegen (FAN)

Anja Adriaans is the founder of the FAN project. A commemoration is celebrated every year in appreciation to General James M. Gavin and the 82nd Airborne Division for their efforts to help with the reconstruction of the city of Nijmegen in the Netherlands after Operation Market Garden, September 1944.

The Albany Aid Campaign for Nijmegen in 1947 was an effort by the city of Albany to collect goods and money for the city of Nijmegen, which suffered greatly during the Second World War. Thousands of people had lost their homes and reconstruction was slow because Holland was still recovering just following the war. By 1947 many damaged homes in Nijmegen still lacked windows and there was a great shortage of clothing, shoes, and medicine.

The Albany Aid Campaign for Nijmegen came about partially because of the Dutch roots in the region, but mainly thanks to the personal commitment and mediation by an American WWII commander; General James M. Gavin. His 82nd Airborne Division took part in Operation Market Garden and the infamous crossing of the Waal river at Nijmegen on September, 20, 1944. Gavin saw first-hand how the city of Nijmegen suffered during WWII. The U.S. bombing of February 22, 1944, and the fighting that continued after the liberation wore on the city and whittled its population down to the bone. Gavin also saw how helpful the Nijmegen people were during the liberation. Almost 800 US soldiers were buried at the temporary military cemetery at Molenhoek.

Albany, NY sent the damaged city thousands of pieces of clothing, food, and medicine. In addition, thousands of books were sent to restore the Nijmegen University library. The relief operation in 1947 led to a keen interest and contact between the two cities, including exchanges of letters among citizens. The Albany Aid Campaign can also be seen as a prelude to the larger scale Marshall Plan, the national economic aid plan to Western Europe from 1948-1952.

This year FAN celebrated 70 years since Albany provided the relief effort. Commemorative events and an exhibition were celebrated in Nijmegen about the Albany Aid Campaign.

The Regiment appreciates and is honored by the Netherlands' dedication and commitment to preserve the 504th PIR history.

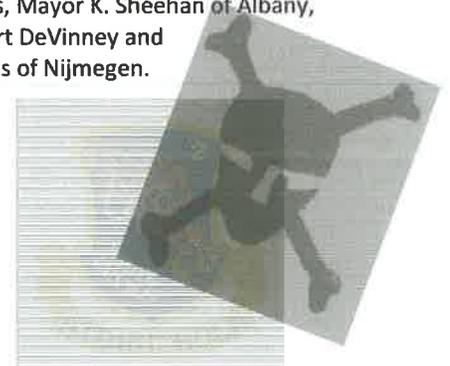


Plaque from General James M. Gavin presented to the city of Nijmegen.



CDA Shawn Crowley, Anja Adriaans, Mayor K. Sheehan of Albany, WWII veteran Robert DeVinney and Mayor Hubert Bruls of Nijmegen.

1LT(P) WILMARIE FLORES



| | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| NEW LIFE MEMBERS | NEW LIFE MEMBERS | NEW LIFE MEMBERS |
| 1SG BRIAN B. BOISVERT | RSM ROBERT H. COBB | SPC RONALD DECOMO |
| JAMES E. ELDER,III | SPC JONATHAN HANSEN | PFC COLTON HELMS |
| SFC JASON W. HODGES | 1SG THEODORE M. HOLLEY | SPC JESSE JONES |
| SPC NATHAN JONES | WARREN R. JONES | SPC DMITRY KOYSTRIK |
| COL TOBIN A. MAGSIG | KENNETH MESLER, JR | SGT EDWARD MOOREHEAD |
| MAJ. DAVID REUEL NAVORSKA | SFC JOSE R. NEGRON | CPT ALEX SAYRE |
| SPC CHRISTOPHER SMITH | SSG MANNY SOTO | SPC TERREL VERNEUIL |
| SFC CHRISTOPHER J. WHEATLEY | ROBERT H. WIDEMAN | 1SG GARRETT L. WILLIAMS |
| LTC ADLAI B. WOOD | ROBERT G YOUNG | |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| NEW ANNUAL VETERAN MEMBERS | NEW ANNUAL VETERAN MEMBERS | NEW ANNUAL VETERAN MEMBERS |
| CRAIG A. NORTHACKER | CSM@ CHAVIS TAYBRON, JR. | CSM@ NATHANIEL WASHINGTON |
| | | |
| NEW ANNUAL ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS | NEW ANNUAL ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS | NEW ANNUAL ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS |
| | | |
| ASSOCIATION MEMBERS | <<<<FINAL JUMP>>>> | ASSOCIATION MEMBERS |
| COL DOUGLAS D. DILLARD | COL JOHN K. GIBLER | WERNER E. SPEER |
| WWII VETERAN | ARTHUR A. SCHULTZ | WWII VETERAN |
| EDWARD MOOREHEAD | WWII VETERAN | PAUL W. THOMPSON |
| WWII VETERAN | JAMES F. COLEMAN | |

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| CURRENT DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL RAFFLE OVER \$15.00 ABOVE THE \$15.00 FOR THE TICKETS | | |
| MAJ. BRIAN CANNY \$35.00 RAFFLE FUND | MG RICHARD D. CLARKE, Jr \$35.40 RAFFLE FUND | TREASUER RON RATH \$500.00 RAFFLE FUND |
| PP ROGER K. HATTERSLEY \$35.00 RAFFLE FUND | GARY LEE JOHNSON \$85.00 RAFFLE FUND | GEN@ FREDRICK KROESEN \$15.00 RAFFLE FUND |
| JEREMIAH W. MARIK \$60.00 RAFFLE FUND | DAN MOSES \$15.00 RAFFLE FUND | HARRY J. REESE \$85.00 RAFFLE FUND |
| KEVIN K. SULLIVAN \$15.00 RAFFLE FUND | GERARD J. WICH \$15.00 RAFFLE FUND | YOUR NAME COULD GO HERE \$0.00 RAFFLE FUND |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| SPONSORSHIP OF ACTIVE DUTY TROOPERS TO THE DEVIL DINNER, 82d ABN DIV ASSOCIATION IN ORLANDO, FL | | |
| VP JOE STEEN 1 ACTIVE DUTY SPONSOR | TREASURER RON RATH 2 ACTIVE DUTY SPONSOR | YOUR NAME COULD GO HERE WITH A DONATION |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| WEB PAGE> | http://www.504thpirassociation.org/home.html | <WEB PAGE |
| EARLY BIRD ANNUAL RENEWS BEFORE 28 FEBRUARY 2018 | | |
| COL@ PAUL DEVRIES | PAUL KALNINS | BRIAN M. WILKOWSKI |
| 504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT/ 1st BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM ASSOCIATION, INC | ASSOCIATION OFFICE E-mail rrath@nc.rr.com cell no: 910-584-2081 | 504 PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT/ 1st BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM ASSOCIATION, INC |
| OFFICE PHONE IS 919-803-4554 | | 22 Club Hill Drive |
| OFFICE FAX LINE IS 919-803-2400 | http://www.504thpirassociation.org/home.html | Garner, NC 27529 |

CURRENT DONATIONS TO THE ASSOCIATION OVER \$25.00 UNLESS THEY ARE TO THE GWOT/KIA FUND

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| DIRECTOR KLAUS MECKENSTOCK DONATED BACK \$100.00 RAFFLE WINNING | VETERANS OF CHARLIE ROCK 2-504 \$1,983.76 GIVING TO THOSE BEHIND US | REYNOLD MARTINEZ \$200.00 NEWSLETTER BOOSTER |
| RSM@ VINCENT M. MYERS DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF REGIMENT CHALLENGE \$504.00 GENERAL FUND | RSM@ RONALD RATH DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS OF REGIMENT CHALLENGE \$504.00 GENERAL FUND | JAMES GEORGE \$100.00 NEWSLETTER BOOSTER |
| JAMES GEORGE \$100 GENERAL FUNDS | JAMES GEORGE IN SUPPORT OF ACTIVE TROOPERS \$100.00 2018 RAFFLE FUND | JEAN-LUC DUMONT \$100.00 NEWSLETTER BOOSTER |
| GRUNT HOLDING CO \$144.88 GENERAL FUNDS | KEVIN McDONALD \$620 GENERAL FUNDS | KATHLEEN A. RICHARDSON IN MEMORY OF ROXEY E. DEMARCO \$500.00 GENERAL FUND |
| VETERAN'S OF C/2-504 \$1,206.00 FOR 9 ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERSHIP | ANONYMOUS FROM CALIFORNIA \$200.00 FOOTBALL GAME WINNINGS | ANONYMOUS FROM CALIFORNIA \$200 GENERAL FUNDS |
| DENNIS C. MARKS \$60.00 PROPBLAST NEWSLETTERS | SOCRATES M. PHOTIADES \$50.00 PROPBLAST NEWSLETTERS | DENNIS C. MARKS \$115.00 GENERAL FUNDS |
| PATRICK "DOC" HALLORAN \$49.60 GENERAL TROOPER PACKAGE FUND | | YOUR NAME COULD GO HERE WITH A DONATION |

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| NON-MEMBERS DEATHS | NON-MEMBERS DEATHS | NON-MEMBERS DEATHS |
| BORIS, ROGER "DUKE" | BURKARTH, WILLIAM | MAYARD, ARTHUR P. |
| PLESEWICZ, RAYMOND | PRICE, JAMES R. | ROMONO, ANTHONY P. |

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





Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major Transition of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment

Once a Devil, always a Devil! That is what you hear around Ardennes every morning, or during the 504th Association Convention. Those that have left the 504th PIR and the veterans that were part of this storied Regiment cherish every moment. Former Brigade Command Sergeant Major, CSM Alexander Barnett, was just a Private when he served with the Blue Devils under former Blue Devils CSM (R) Vincent Myers and former 504th Regimental Sergeant Major Ron Rath.

CSM (R) Ron Rath became the Command Sergeant Major of 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division in February 1985. He deployed with them to Multinational Force and Observers (Sinai), Golden Pheasant, Just Cause, and Desert Storm. In November 1991, he became the Regimental Sergeant Major for the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Sergeant Major Rath's career spans over 30 years. After CSM (R) Ron Rath decided to retire, he couldn't bear staying away from the Regiment so he selflessly served as the Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major for over 17 years.

The Blue Devils and White Devils leadership lived the motto; Once a Devil, always a Devil! Former CSM (R) Vincent Myers, who was the Command Sergeant Major of 3-504th PIR, followed CSM (R) Ron Rath steps. CSM (R) Vincent Myers replaced CSM (R) Ron Rath as the 504th PIR Command Sergeant Major in 1994.

Just recently, 26 February 2017, CSM (R) Vincent Myers replaced CSM (R) Ron Rath as the Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major. In this article, CSM (R) Vincent Myers shared his experiences with the Blue Devils and the 504th Regiment.

What Year were you in the Blue Devils? I was part of the Blue Devils, 3-504th PIR from December 1991 to November 1994.

What was your position? I was the 3-504th PIR Command Sergeant Major.

What are some of your personal experiences?

There were numerous training events and jumps, but the major event was the Pope Airfield Crash that killed and severely burned some of our Paratroopers. I remembered those who came back to the unit that were disfigured, with burns on their face and hands. They were embraced by their fellow Paratroopers and did not want to leave when they came up on orders, because they felt accepted within the Battalion.

1LT FloresAlvarez, Wilmarie
2-504th PIR, 1BCT, 82nd ABN DIV



WALTER J. PIKUL, MBA, CPA, CFP®
Certified Public Accountant
1000 Hope Mills Road
P.O. Box 41035
Fayetteville, NC 28309

ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

To the Board of Trustees of
504th Parachute Infantry Regiment Assn., Inc

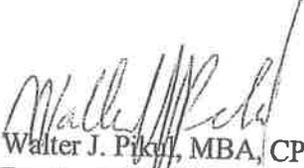
Management is responsible for the accompanying statement of financial position –tax basis of 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment Assn., Inc (a Nonprofit Organization) as of December 31, 2017, and the related statement of activities-tax basis, for the year then ended in accordance with the tax basis of accounting. I have performed a compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services committee of the AICPA. I did not audit or review the financial statements nor was I required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, I do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on these financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the tax basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The tax basis of accounting requires expenses to be categorized under the headings Program Expenses, Management/Administration Expenses, and Fundraising Expenses. Management has informed me that the statement of activities is not formatted as listed in the preceding noted categories for the above mentioned period. Management has not determined the effect on the annual financial statements.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures ordinarily included in the financial statements prepared in accordance with the tax basis of accounting. If the omitted disclosures were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Organization's financial position, results of operations, and cash flows. Accordingly, these financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

I am not independent with respect to this organization.


Walter J. Pikul, MBA, CPA, CFP®
Fayetteville, NC

March 1, 2018

504TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSN., INC.
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION - TAX BASIS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| CIB-General | \$ 12,112.07 |
| CIB-Money Market | <u>80,172.34</u> |

TOTAL CURRENT ASSET \$ 92,284.41

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 92,284.41

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

NET ASSETS:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Net Assets | \$ 84,896.32 |
| Current Earnings (Loss) | <u>7,388.09</u> |

TOTAL NET ASSETS 92,284.41

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS \$ 92,284.41

SEE ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

504TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES - TAX BASIS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| INCOME: | |
| Sales | \$ 12,860.24 |
| Membership Dues | 1,789.64 |
| Newsletter Income | 1,877.94 |
| Raffle Income | 5,716.50 |
| GWOT Fund Income | 3,126.64 |
| Association Dinner | 6,910.66 |
| Interest Income | 46.45 |
| TOTAL INCOME | <u>\$ 32,328.07</u> |
| EXPENSES: | |
| Printing & Publications | \$ 3,070.17 |
| Raffle Expense | 120.00 |
| Postage | 356.41 |
| Donations | 4,175.00 |
| Convention Expense | 844.70 |
| Promotional Expenses | 3,075.86 |
| Professional Fees | 925.00 |
| Devil Dinner Expense | 8,068.77 |
| Awards | 460.00 |
| FWOT Fund expense | 1,108.11 |
| Bank Charges | 3.00 |
| Membership expenses | 1,943.00 |
| Phone | 359.40 |
| Utilities | 430.56 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | <u>\$ 24,939.98</u> |
| INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS | <u>\$ 7,388.09</u> |
| OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE) | |
| INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS | <u>\$7,388.09</u> |

SEE ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

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 / 1st 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/1st 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





Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major Transition of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment

I remember when we jumped into France for the 50th Anniversary and follow on to the Netherlands for Operation Market Garden where we did numerous color guard ceremonies. We had the opportunity to meet the great Dutch people, some of them were Father Thuring, Ellen Nas, and Jan Bos. The jump was in Nijmegen and I was the first jumper in the right door and I landed short of the leading edge of the drop zone by a farmers house, There was an old woman standing by a barn , she looked at me like she add seen a ghost! I waived at her and she waived back.

During our visit to the Netherlands, we received the chalice for Julian Cook (Commander 3-504th PIR, Waal River Crossing WWII) from the Catholic Church and presented it to his wife and Daughter, who in turn presented it to the 82nd Airborne Division Museum, where it is to this day.

Were you deployed with Blue Devils at some point? Where and what was your mission?

I was in the Blue Devils when we had to prepare, pack and load for the jump into Haiti. We were less than a couple of hours from green light when the operation was called off.

How does it feel to be the Honorary Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division for all these years?

I am very humbled and honored by it, but mostly I am grateful to still be connected to the Regiment. There have been 3 Honorary Sergeants Major of the Regiment, Frank Varillia (3rd BN), Ron Rath (2nd BN), and myself, 3rd BN.

CSM Barnett was a young private in the Blue Devils, I remember him well, I told him what I was told as a Private- be in the proper place, time, and uniform, learn your job as an Infantrymen, and embrace the warrior spirit. I told him all this as I stopped him as he walked across the grass in front of BN HQ!



CSM Alexander Barnett



CSM (R) Ron Rath



Honorary RSM Vincent Myers

1LT FloresAlvarez, Wilmarie

2-504th PIR, 1BCT, 82nd ABN DIV





SHOW YOUR ASSOCIATION PRIDE!
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ROBONTHE4thOFFICER.COM



**GET YOUR GEAR FOR ALL AMERICAN WEEK
and
CONVENTION**

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BOB ON THE 4th OF JULY.COM

LTC (Ret) James Megellas Crossed “The Oversteek” Bridge over the Waal River in support of the Sunset March tradition in Nijmegen, Netherlands on November 1, 2017.



LTC (Ret) James Megellas crossing the Waal River.

Around 16:45 a group of people started to arrive at the foot of the bridge and then moved up the stairs to the first pair of lights. They were joined by Lt. Col. Megellas who, being well into his 100th year, participated in a wheelchair.

Before they marched across Megellas told a story of the last time he was there, in 2014, when he had lunch with Dutch Queen Beatrix. He asked her if it was appropriate if he could sign a copy of his book for her, which she gratefully accepted. About four months later, he received a special package from the Netherlands, and in it was his own book (the Dutch version) inscribed by the Queen, and also a personal letter. He said this never happened to him in any other country and it shows the gratitude of the Dutch.

LTC (Ret) James Megellas served with Company H, 504 PIR, which he would later command. While serving with Company H, LTC (Ret) James Megellas crossed the Waal River during Operation Market Garden on 20 September 1944.

Megellas, talking on the bridge: Provided by [War History Online](#)

Never before, in the history of World War II was there a mission such as this, Megellas said. “When we got out of that boat, and the 11 [remaining] boats turned around and went back. We were there, ourselves and in front of us was this dike, with the machineguns and fort Hof van Holland and snipers from the [nearby] bridges were firing on us. We didn’t have anywhere to go! There wasn’t any cover from machine gun fire; we were just racing through there.”

“I don’t think,” he continued, “there was another battle in World War II that was a suicide mission. Think about it; you can’t go back where you came from [because] the boats are gone. You don’t have any supporting weapons; you haven’t got any artillery, you haven’t got anything! In front of you are the machineguns and you can’t go back.”



LTC (Ret) James Megellas talks to those who walked the bridge that night at Nijmegen, Netherlands.

He was also the first American to be decorated by the Government of the Netherlands when he was awarded the Military Order of William Orange Lanyard. Selected by General James Gavin as the most outstanding officer of the 82nd Airborne Division, it was presented to him by the Dutch Minister of War in Berlin in 1945.





**82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION ASSOCIATION
72nd ANNUAL CONVENTION
ORLANDO, FLORIDA
8 – 11 AUGUST 2018**
(Please print legibly)



NAME _____ PHONE _____

SPOUSE/GUEST _____ EMAIL _____

ADDRESS CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

CHAPTER _____ ASSOC Member # _____

GUEST 1 _____ GUEST 2 _____

GUEST 3 _____ GUEST 4 _____

Any handicap needs: _____

Registration Fee \$110.00 per person (Includes Hospitality Room, and banquets)

_____ attending x \$110 = \$ _____

For those who request transportation to/from the drop, the fee will be \$15 per person, and please fill in the blanks below:

Bus to/from Drop Zone: \$15.00 x # _____ people needing bus = \$ _____ (Non-refundable)

Total Registration (above) + Total Bus seats needed (above) = TOTAL PAID _____

Please register early as registration goes up to \$135 at the Convention

Please make checks/money orders payable to 82ND Airborne Division Association. Mail to PO BOX 87482, Fayetteville, NC 28304 or register online at:

<http://www.82ndairborneassociation.org/events.html>

PLEASE MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS DIRECTLY AT

THE ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL

9840 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE, ORLANDO, FLORIDA
800-204-7234 (reference 82nd Abn Division Association)

Or

online at:

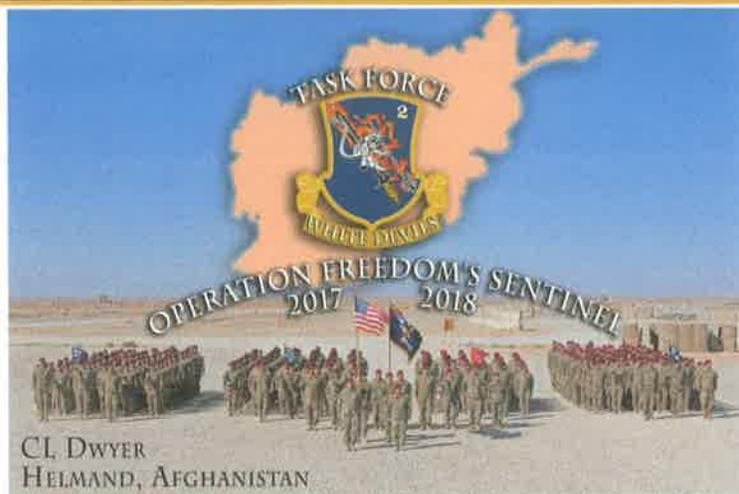
<https://www.phgsecure.com/IBE/bookingRedirect.ashx?propertyCode=ORLRH&group=GRP82Airborne&arrivalDate=08-03-2018&departureDate=08-16-2018>

Deluxe guest rooms, \$85 per room night (approx. \$96.48 tax included). Space is limited, so please book early. This rate will be applied only to those who are registered for the Convention. We look forward to seeing you at the 72nd National Convention!

" In this life I honor beyond measure those who do their full duty, but I do not pity them, I admire them— and all the more because the doing of duty generally means pain, hardship, self-mastery, self-denial, endurance of risk, of labor, of irksome monotony, wearing effort, steady perseverance under difficulty and discouragement."

-Teddy Roosevelt

July, 1903



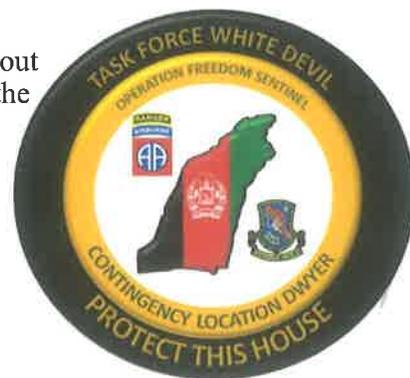
Grit - that's what Teddy Roosevelt was talking about, and that is what our Paratroopers have displayed throughout the deployment. Our team has demonstrated determination and resolve – our Troopers find a way to win!

Task Force White Devil is one month away from going home, and has started to prepare for redeployment. Our Troopers are excited to return home to reunite with their families and loved ones. These last weeks will be focused on reintegration briefs, lots of packing, and welcoming the next task force to CL Dwyer.

Over the past several days, Task Force White Devil conducted its battalion awards ceremony to recognize Paratroopers for their hard work, demonstrated professionalism, and leadership. The Baltimore Ravens cheerleader team visited CL Dwyer and put on an amazing show that boosted morale and provided excitement for all the Paratroopers. We conducted an indoor and outdoor Super Bowl party for all Soldiers and civilians on CL Dwyer. The USO recently visited CL Dwyer and provided waffles, prizes, and games for all in the formation to enjoy. The White Devils also welcomed three new lieutenants to the task force during our February hail and farewell.

Over the course of the deployment, White Devils have worked hard to accomplish the mission and win where they fight. They have been resilient, brave, and tactically ready every day. Our Paratroopers have refreshed and trained on their Airborne tasks, and are ready to return home and jump out of a perfectly good aircraft.

The 2-504th PIR Troopers are deeply grateful for the care, service, and support from all the families, veterans, and civilians who have sent letters and care packages. Without Your continuous support and love, our Paratroopers wouldn't be able to accomplish the mission. You are an essential part of our success and the White Devils thank you for all you do!



2-504th PIR TASK FORCE WHITE DEVIL FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



SSG Cain is inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

Greetings from Afghanistan! This will be our last newsletter from Afghanistan, as the next few weeks will be full of preparations for redeployment and conducting a relief in place with the Soldiers replacing us. Havoc Troopers will begin the redeployment process in late February/early March. Specific flight information and timelines will be available through the vFRG system. As we prepare to head home, our Paratroopers have continued to execute their day-to-day combat missions with professionalism and high esprit de corps.

In the past month we've continued to provide indirect fire support, medical support, and mission command for the Battalion's mission.

We've loaded our containers and begun the process of moving out of our housing here in order to make room for the incoming unit. Once they arrive, our focus will be on handing over our mission set to them, and final packing and training before we fly out of Afghanistan.

Congratulations to SSG Cain, our Mortar Platoon Sergeant, for his induction into the Audie Murphy Club. Additional congratulations go out to SPC Yoon (SCTs), SPC O'Connor (S6), SPC Rodriguez (HQ), SGT Cosby (MTR), SGT Delgado (S6), SGT Watson (HQ), and SGT Jarvis (M777) for their selection for promotion at the battalion promotion board.

As we reach the end of our deployment, we continue to be amazed by the constant hard work, discipline, and professionalism displayed by our Havoc Paratroopers. For the past 8 months, they have executed every single thing asked of them to a high standard in a challenging combat environment. 1SG and I could not have asked for a better group of Troopers, and we are both tremendously proud to be part of the White Devil team as we close this latest chapter in the storied history of this incredible unit. See you all at Green Ramp soon!



LTC Kuhlman fires a 155mm howitzer.

CPT Aaron Price and 1SG Stuart Sword



The Scout Platoon conducts a re-enlistment ceremony.



With about four weeks left in the deployment, the Blackhearts are staged to finish our deployment on a high note. By the time we depart, we will have completed over 620 separate missions in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel and Operation Resolute Support 17-18. We have demonstrably left the ongoing mission in a better place than when we originally inherited it, having had significant, measurable effects on enemy operations in the Kandahar region. Every Paratrooper in the company has excelled during this deployment; working together as platoons and sections. The Heathens, Renegades, Khaos, Devil's Rejects, Misfit and Joker elements have accomplished objectives on par with much larger organizations and proven once again that the Paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division are a step above.



SSG Sabbath and SSG Myers are formally inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.

In the time we have remaining in theatre as we prepare to welcome and integrate our replacements from Fort Carson, Colorado, we are keeping extremely busy executing training that will set the company up for success in the first few months back at Bragg. By the time we leave Afghanistan, every junior Paratrooper in the Blackhearts will be trained and qualified on the M9 pistol, the M500 shotgun, the M4 carbine, the M249 squad automatic weapon, the M240 machine gun, and the M320 grenade launcher. We will also have more than half our young Paratroopers trained and qualified on the M14 enhanced battle rifle, the AT4 launcher, and the M3 recoilless rifle. By accomplishing this volume of training here, the company will be fully prepared to continue leading the way in the battalion in lethality and readiness, and more importantly reserving as much time as possible upon return for Families that would otherwise be spent training.

This will be the final newsletter we send out from Afghanistan. The FRG will be sending email updates by vFRG when the time comes to announce that Blackhearts are enroute to Kuwait, and then again when they depart Kuwait for Bragg. We intend to give Families as much lead time to plan travel if coming from out of state to greet your Paratroopers upon return.

As I've been saying for nearly two years now, the Blackhearts are a unique organization that hit far above our weight class solely because we have such a dedicated, selfless, and exceptional team of Paratroopers and Families. This has not been an easy deployment, or an easy year leading up to it, but our team dominated in every regard thanks to you. We'll see you all back at Bragg!

CPT John Leisinger and 1SG Aaron Sirmin



Alpha Company Fire Team and Squad Live Fire Exercises



Redeployment is quickly approaching!

The efforts of TM Bravo over the past 8 months have been phenomenal. Your Troopers have conducted over 200 patrols to include over 70 key leader engagements, 55 quick reaction force responses, 25 fire missions, 45 reconnaissance aircraft flights, and over 72,000 hours of perimeter security. They have disrupted insurgent activity in our area of operations and enabled our Afghan partners to grow stronger here in Helmand Province.



Team Bravo

As we approach the last 30 days, know our Troopers are staying focused until the very end as we welcome the incoming task force coming from Fort Carson, Colorado. We know Families are very curious about the redeployment timeline and how things will work back at Ft. Bragg. First, ensure your Trooper has placed who he wants contacted on our FRG roster. Second, sign up for the vFRG page at <https://www.armyfrg.org>. Third, if you haven't heard from our key callers or received emails from our company FRG, please contact bcowhitedevilfrg@gmail.com and provide your contact info and Trooper's name.

As the weeks get closer, we will be able to provide a more refined window of when your Trooper will be coming home. Flights do not become "locked in" until only a few days out. Even then, aircraft availability and maintenance can cause shifts even the day of. The virtual FRG is the best place to receive these updates. The FRG key callers will call family members with the final flight time when their Paratrooper is on their way to Fort Bragg. Once at Bragg, Families will meet their Troopers at Green Ramp for a short ceremony and they will be moved to the Company areas for a final close out and equipment turn-in. Maps can be found on the vFRG page.

Outside of redeployment and combat operations, Troopers executed squad live fire training this month on CL Dwyer. Under the leadership of squad leaders like SSG Varley, SSG Rogers, and SGT Connors, all squads did an excellent job. This event was a critical step in recertifying the team this summer. The platoons also conducted numerous marksmanship ranges to make sure we are as lethal as possible.

We look forward to seeing you in the coming weeks!

Promotions: Congratulations to SPC(P) Snyder and SPC(P) Carpenter for passing the promotion board this month. Congratulations to SGT Slater on his promotion to SGT.

CPT Brian Sells and 1SG Jose Barreiro

**BRAVO
COMPANY**



Team Bravo Squad Live Fires



Team Bravo Squad Live Fires

Charlie Company Families and Friends,

We are quickly approaching the last days of this deployment and are looking forward to seeing you all at Green Ramp. However, our mission continues and we are staying vigilant. For our final update we wanted to take a minute to highlight some of the accomplishments of your Paratroopers during our deployment. Charlie company has conducted over 300 patrols, 30 key leader engagements, 40 60mm fire missions, 6,500 hours of base security, and 100 hours of UAS flights. We have had 15 Paratroopers reenlist, over 25 promotions, and awarded dozens of Paratroopers for their excellent service. Since our arrival, Charlie Company and the rest of Task Force White Devil, has continually improved our foxhole. Whether with improvements to our base, our equipment, or refining how we conduct operations, Charlie Company has made its mark. We have also continued to train, conducting weekly weapons ranges, team and squad live fire exercises, and the Mortar Training Evaluation Program.



Paratrooper conducting Live Fire Exercise.

As the redeployment process begins we will make every effort to push out accurate and timely information. At this time the planned method of communication is the vFRG website <https://www.armyfrg.org/>. Once you are properly registered on this site you will be able to view flight info about your Paratrooper's movement back to the states. This info will be available near the time the flight leaves. Updates will also be pushed out via Army E-Messaging System, this system will send messages to the phone numbers your Paratroopers provide for the company FRG roster.

The following Paratroopers raised their hand to continue to serve their nation by re-enlisting during this past month. We appreciate your commitment, and selfless service, and we thank your Families as well who continue to serve alongside you.

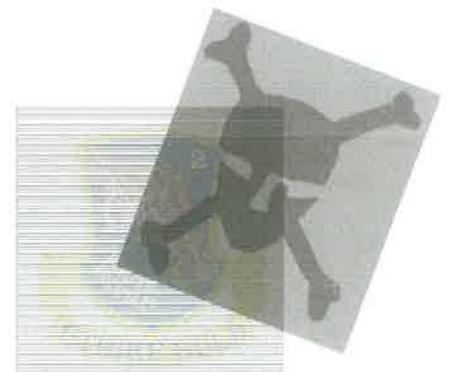
- SSG Hinnenkamp
- CPL Anguiano
- SPC Verneuil

Congratulations to the following Paratroopers who were selected for promotion:

- SPC Eldredge
- SPC Jampole

Finally, congratulations to SPC Leonetti who won the Battalion Soldier of the Month Board, his hard work and determination reflect great pride on himself and the entire organization. We have no doubt that SPC Leonetti will continue to achieve greatness in his career.

CPT Alex Sayre and 1SG Adam Breeding



Charlie Company

Our Danger Company Paratroopers with both TF White Devil in Afghanistan and TF Gun Devil in Kosovo are now well within 45 days of redeployment. Overseas, your Paratrooper will start doing all the tasks you might envision to prepare for a hand off to the next unit: consolidating briefings, fixing equipment, and packing containers, all the while continuing to patrol and strike to ensure a safe and secure environment. We all intend to set up the next unit to start at a better level and reach even higher achievements and levels of effectiveness. The days will certainly get longer before they get shorter, but that is necessary so we can ensure our readiness for the mission, and that any opposing forces are disrupted in their goals during this transition.



A squad exits the helicopter and conducts their air assault.

However, the biggest transition we will all face is the return home and reintegration with our love ones. Reintegration is more than just one event. It is a process that starts now! Both service member and Family members change on deployments—not better or worse, just different. On both sides, we have possibly experienced more control in our daily lives, more proficiency to problem solve for ourselves, different daily rhythms, or new cohesive relationships both at home and abroad. It is not uncommon for either service member or Family member to feel emotions reminiscent of the deployment or large positive and negative emotional swings as all parties begin to create new norms and behaviors together again.

Acceptance and communication will be critical for all of us to reintegrate properly. Maybe there are fun, new family traditions or ways to connect that your Family can create. With good connection and communication you and your loved ones will be able to compare expectations of roles in an active and constructive manner to blend each side's new found strengths developed over the deployment. In these days and weeks before redeployment, we recommend you reach out to your Paratrooper to discuss some of these transitions.

As always, please remain tied in with your FRG key caller for any big changes in your location or contact information so we can ensure you can be updated in a timely manner! Please do not ever hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns. Thank you for all you do! It is a truly humbling experience to serve you and your Paratrooper.

CPT Ryan Orsini and 1SG Edward Michel



Paratroopers running through the breach during a combined Air Assault training exercise.





Bravo 127 Live Fire Exercise

Families and friends,

February did not slow down as we raced toward the finish.

1PLT (Sappers) continue Route Clearance Operations ISO CTF Devil Strike Brave Hearts at Kandahar Airfield (KAF). 1PLT has managed to complete squad live fires at KAF while still maintaining focus on their daily RCP operations ensuring mobility within the ground defense area.

2PLT (RCP) conducted squad live fires executing a complicated breach using brazier charges. They reinforced the perimeter with over 600 meters of triple standard concertina wire obstacles. 2/B also cleared the MORTEP impact area, destroying several UXOs that were located in the anti-vehicular ditch allowing 3/B to continue construction operations in that section.

3PLT (LE) finished improving the anti-vehicular ditch that surrounds CL Dwyer. They promoted SPC Myers and SPC Dobbins to Corporal and reenlisted CPL Dobbins.

With redeployment right around the corner, Bravo Company has completed all redeployment tasks including: APFTs, re-qualifying on all weapon systems, medical examinations, and have concluded inventories in preparation for equipment outload.

We are excited to be reunited with all our loved ones soon!



Bravo 127 EN BN

CPT Petty Spurgeon and 1SG Jermaine Bruce



B 127 Paratroopers working on CL Dwyer Base Perimeter Security.



Distinguished Member of the Regiment

SGT (R) Edmund Moorehead was recognized as a Distinguished Member of the 504th Regiment for his actions during WWII. His son, Alan Moorehead, received the certificate on his father's behalf. This is an amazing story to tell for Alan, since he works as a civilian contractor in CL Dwyer. He would've never imagined he would be working alongside Paratroopers from the same battalion his dad was assigned to as a squad leader during WWII.



Alan Moorehead receiving his father's induction certificate as a Distinguished Member of the 504th Regiment

SGT (R) Edmund Moorehead was part of the 3rd Mortar Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 504th PIR during the invasion of Italy, Operation AVALANCHE. He was part of the regiment when it earned the official motto: "Strike Hold." SGT (R) Moorehead was the Squad Leader and along with Corporal Courtney, the gunner, they materially contributed to breaking up the German attack on Unnumbered Hill.

The following is an excerpt from the book Our Salvation by Tyler Fox:

Sergeant Moorehead was unable to pinpoint the new German positions accurately enough for Courtney to mortar. So, without regard for himself, he took his jump jacket off and started waving it around like a flag. The German gun positions opened up on him—he now had them. "We've called in fire from the Navy. So I thought, 'Uh Oh,' the Navy's ten miles away. But anyhow, in a few minutes we heard this gun way off (in the distance) fire. That shell, you could see it coming in, it was about like a five-hundred-pound bomb. It was a phosphorus shell." For Moorehead's action of exposing himself to enemy fire, he was awarded the Silver Star Medal.



SGT (R) Edmund Moorehead

SGT (R) Moorehead also helped secure the surrender of the Italian garrison in Sciacca. In reflection, SGT Moorehead wrote: "It was a few minutes, when no shots were fired at me, did I use some 30 words in Italian that I learned just the three days before we were ordered into C-47s to fly and jump onto Sicily behind the lines which of course was a military disaster for the 504th as our own Navy shot down some 24 of our C-47s... It was my first public speaking attempt where I told loudly the Italians that we Americans do not want to fight Italians – only Germans. I urged them to give up saying and pointing to my rear that we had many Italian-American paratroopers who will not fight Italian soldiers. This was repeated as more Italians came to all windows... After some 10 minutes I urged the Italians to come to me and celebrate the end of the war between Italy and the USA. It worked, Italian soldiers rushed to me dropping their arms, some 1,200 soldiers."

1LT(P) WILMARIE FLORES



**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

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: _____



Transport Workers Union of America
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Tulsa, Oklahoma 74116-2026

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DD 214 Increased Social Security Benefits for Vets

DD FORM 214 – Extra Social Security Benefit for those with active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001

See the website & notes below to possibly increase your Social Security Benefits.

DD Form 214 – Social Security Benefit Please share this with anyone who had active duty service between January 1957 to December 31, 2001, and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this:

You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty any time from 1957 through 2001. (The program was done away with 1 January 2002.) Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application, which can make a substantial difference in social security monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

Social Security website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put in your files for when you apply for Social Security down the road. It is NOT just for retirees, BUT anyone who has served on active duty between January 1957 to December 31, 2001.

FYI – this benefit is not automatic; you must ask for it! We've all been on active duty between 1957 and 2001 or know someone who has.

Passing on good information for all you military folks when you apply for social security. I know this may be too early for some of you to think about social security, but keep living and you will get there.

Regional Resource Coordinator
Maryland's Committee to Veterans Project State of Maryland – Southern
Region Human Services Partnership Building La Plata, Maryland 2064



Phone (918) 437-4300 * FAX (918) 437-4300 * Out of State WATS (800) 331-3998

Ron:
contact your Social Security for this up side
and receive your fair share. tell your buddies
on Prop Blast and 504 staff.

cheer

Jim George

**1st BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM &
504th 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**

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE THIS, PLEASE DO IT ASAP

**Due to IRS changes we need all of our members to submit a
copy of their DD-214, Please cross out all but the last four [4]
of your Social Security number and mail to the
Membership Chairman,
Ronald Rath, 22 Club Hill Drive, Garner, NC 27529-6528**

**The Association needs this to maintain our 501[c][19] status,
whereas; Association members can deduct all
DONATIONS/MONIES sent to the Association except
Membership dues**