



NOTIC! SOME REUNION PACTU
Geronimo!



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2012

Fort Polk and Alexandria, Louisiana, Serve as Great Hosts for the 509 PIA Reunion, May, 2012

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Main Stories	1
Inside Story	2
Bios/Member Info	3
Pictures	4/5
1st/3rd Updates	6
Events/Ads	7
Membership App.	8

What a great time and great turn-out we had at the 509th PIA annual reunion this year.

Housman and Associates did it again! They're a family-owned company, the Devanie family, dedicated to providing **professional meeting planning and sponsorship services**. But each year, they provide those services to the association for free.

This time we had a great hotel in Alexandria, the Best Western, and the room included a full breakfast. We had a fully stocked hospitality room, with snacks and the famous

bar tender, Ernie.

The 1st of the 509th gave us a wonderful day on Friday, with a tandem 1st and 3rd jump, and a display of equipment and arms that the membership could get up close and personal with. (see photos on pages 4/5). We had a great lunch provided by Housman and Associates in the officers mess at Fort Polk, and the association members and guests got to tour the 509th Museum.

Everyone at 509th headquarters made us all feel very welcome and had us sign their guest book, and provid-

ed desert and refreshments.

The Saturday morning membership meeting was well attended and the association's business was conducted, including election of officers and trustees. (See minutes on page 7)

On Saturday, the 509th provided the Color Guard for our banquet. After the speeches and presentations were over, the custom made rifle, donated by Dave Bush was raffled off, and won by Nick De Gaeta. We hope there will be a great turn out for our next reunion, which will be at Fort Bragg.



Custom made rifle donated by Dave Bush and raffled off at 509th reunion, May 2012

50th PIA Elects Executive Committee at their May 2012 Reunion

During our annual meeting, at the 2012 reunion in Fort Polk, LA, the membership elected its new Executive Committee. President, Dave Bush; Vice President, Tryggvi Larum; Treasurer, Barry Simpson; and Secretary, Matt Holtzmann.

Barry and Matt are continuing in positions they have held for several years. Dave Bush was our Vice President for the last few years, and was voted in as President by secret ballot. Although Tryggvi Larum ran unopposed for Vice President. John Devanie, Matt

Anderson (Webpage), and Philip Handscomb will continue on the Board, and the association has expanded the board by two new Trustees: Mark Jernigan and Hal Persun. Welcome to all of you! See more on this story on pg. 2.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

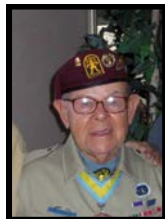
- *509th PIA Reunion at Fort Polk May 2012*
- *New Executive Board Biographies and Contact Info*
- *Membership Application on back page*
- *Updates on what our members are doing*
- *Fundraising Efforts and Advertising*
- *Upcoming Events*
- *509 PIA Website Link: <http://509thgeronimo.org/>*

MEET OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD

TRUSTEES



President, Dave Bush:
Bio: 1-509th ABCT, 1st plt, B co, weapons sqd 1975-1978. Dave has been our President since May 2012, and past Vice President of the Association. He has been very generous in the association's fund raising efforts by contributing a fabulous hand made rifle for our 2012 raffle, which was happily won by Nick De Gaeta.



John Devanie



Vice President, Tryggvi Larum:
Our 509th PIA member/artist, veteran of the 1/509th 75-78, elected to Vice President at the 2012 reunion. Tryggvi designed the new official 509th PIA logo, unanimously approved by the board and membership. (see front page of news letter). It symbolizes the Association with its imagery. (inside story, pg. 3)



Philip Handscomb



Mike Draper



Secretary, Matt Holzmann:
Our Secretary lives in California, where he has a business, yet he always manages to give the association his time and effort at reunions, deployments, and as our Secretary. He takes the minutes at our meetings and conference calls. I don't



Treasurer, Barry Simpson:
Works and lives in Alabama, and has been an indispensable member of the 509 PIA. He is a past President and Vice-President of the association, and is now the Treasurer. He keeps our compass straight and true, and keeps our math straight too! We will be sharing our budget info in the news letter.



Matt Anderson



Mark Jernigan

Congratulations to one of our Trustees, Philip Handscomb, who received a Bronze Award from the Disabled American Veterans.



Hal Persun

Matt Anderson is our Webmaster so send stories/pictures to:
webmaster@509thgeronimo.org
Or to the Editor, Margot Nitzsche at:
philiphandscomb@msn.com

27 May 2012- A Bridge Dedication for a Fallen World War II Soldier Brings Out Big Crowd

The hot weather didn't keep community members and veterans from coming to the renaming of a bridge on Route 151 in Ellamore. The bridge will now be named after Victor A. Osburn, who served in the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion as a medic, and saved many lives while doing so.

Osburn was a medic in the most decorated airborne unit in the European Theatre, at the time of WWII. He earned two Purple Heart Medals, and a Silver Star Medal for gallantry.

Osburn was killed in action in France in 1944, while giving aid to his fellow comrades.

The Upshur County Honor Guard and the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion Living History Group from Chicago were there. All came to see the man who saved so many lives, get his life honored.

The resolution to name the bridge was sponsored by 39th Delegate Bill Hamilton.

Victor Osburn's Infantry Assignment: HHC 2nd BN 509th PIR
HHC 509th PIB



Requesting that bridge number 42-151-0.01 on Route 151 in the Community of Ellamore in Randolph County, West Virginia, be named the "Technician Fifth Grade Victor A. Osburn

Story of the New 509th Logo Design

This new design came through an evolving process of reviewing photos of design imagery researched from the 509th WWII unit history. I came upon a photo of a small blue cloth, which had a 509th Infantry company guidon with white crossed infantry rifles superimposed upon a single parachute. This image struck me because, unlike the silver jump wings, this image would be much more instantly recognizable to even laymen, or non airborne types in its display as a symbol of a fighting unit of the U.S. Army's Paratrooper's. I then refined this old proud

white cloth image, by adding the refined detail lines to the cross rifles, and parachute image. Barry Simpson encouraged me to incorporate the seldom seen actual 509th coat of arms.

I researched the U.S. Army's official department of Heraldry and incorporated their own official "509th Infantry, Coat of Arms" developed by them following WWII, based upon this units WWII heraldry gained from their legendary combat record, and its distinctive unit patches. This Crest crowned by a prowling jackal and crescent moon,

from the badge of the 3rd French Zouave Army regiment, presented to the 509th in WWII, shows the jackal standing on a North African rock, above the 509th unit's crest. This Coat of Arms was then centered, and superimposed on the parachute, and crossed infantry rifles. Most of the American Airborne Associations since WWII have developed their own Assn. logos, based upon their unit crests and or patches. Now, the first American paratroopers to jump into combat finally have their own, too!

Original 509er Boyce "Boo" Nunnally, D.M.D. Passes

Boyce "Boo" Nunnally was born on November 15, 1924 in Alexandria, LA. He was a 1st. Lt. demolitions officer with the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion. He made two combat jumps and fought in the battle of Anzio. Boo was wounded

and captured by the Germans in France and spent 7 months in a POW camp at Oflag 64, in Szubin, Poland. After several escapes and recaptures, Boo was liberated on April 13, 1945 by 106th Cavalry

AUGUST 15, 2012—AN IMPORTANT MILESTONE

Today is the 68th anniversary of the 509th's last combat jump. To those that were there (most have left us, although some still remain)

THANK YOU!

Operation Dragoon, called the "other" D-Day, took place on August 15, 1944.







A 509er From 3rd Battalion Joins The 2012 Wyakin Warriors

June 12, 2012:

The Wyakin Warrior program, a comprehensive professional development curriculum for severely wounded and injured veterans, will double in size today as six more veterans will be inducted on the steps of the Idaho State Capitol building.

Alexander Crown attended One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, in July of 2004. He also completed Airborne School and was stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and finally Fort Richardson, Alaska, with the 3rd Battalion 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment 4th Brigade Combat Team 25th Infantry Division. Prior

to his deployment, Alexander was promoted to Specialist, joined the scout/sniper platoon and earned an Army Achievement Medal. Alexander deployed in October of 2006 to Iraq.

After eleven and a half months of continuous reconnaissance and sniping operations, Alexander was hit by an IED on September 1, 2007.

Alexander is studying zoology and is interested in working in one of Idaho's vast wildlife or agricultural organizations after he graduates in 2013.



3rd of the 509th Helps Secure the Border in Khost

KHOST PROVINCE, Afghanistan:

Soldiers from Company D, 3rd Battalion, 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division out of Fort



Richardson, Alaska, at Afghan Combat Outpost Chergotah located in the Terezayi District of Khost Province, Afghanistan, get some 120mm mortar fire support from the Indiana National

Guard.



Sgt. Mike Baranek's Dog Tags Returned From Italy

CUYAHOGA FALLS, Ohio — Two Italian gardeners were working in their backyard this spring when something caught their eye.

The shiny item coming up through dirt near Rome turned out to be the dog tag for an American soldier from World War II. It belonged to Army Sgt. Mike Baranek, an Akron South High School graduate who died at age 64 in 1980,

when he was living in Cuyahoga Falls. Baranek, an Ohio

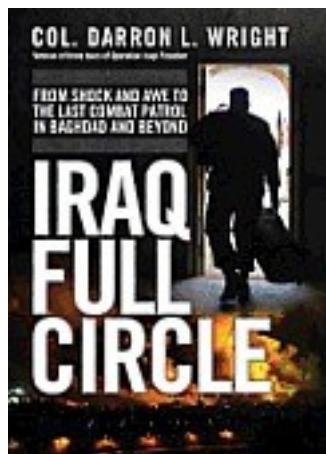


Edison retiree, took part in several battles in Europe with the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He fought in Italy and was wounded twice.

Records show his father received a Purple Heart, Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Stars and other medals for his service from about 1942 to 1944 with the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion.



PO Box 860, Huntsville,
Alabama 35804



May 19, 2012

509th Parachute Infantry Association Meeting Report

25 Members were present. Dave Bush opened and chaired the meeting.

John Devanie led the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance

Barry Simpson noted that the cost of 509th G Man flags would be approximately \$55 and suggested selling them for \$75-80. A new challenge coin has been designed by Tryggvi Larum, which the Association will charge \$12.50 for, postage included.

Barry noted that Margot Nitzsche has volunteered to do the newsletter. Matt Holzmann sent out 200 membership applications to 3-509th in Afghanistan.

The next topic was the location and timing of the next meeting. Cities proposed and the votes therefor were as follows:

Minneapolis, MN	0	Nashville, TN	2
St. Louis, MO	2	Ft. Bragg/Fayetteville	15

It was noted that the association should avoid All American Week in Fayetteville.

Finances were briefly discussed. There is money in the account.

Next was election of officers:

Board of Trustees

- Phil Handscomb Mark Jernigan Hal Persun Matt Anderson John Devanie
 - Treasurer: Barry Simpson Secretary: Matt Holzmann
 - Vice President: Tryggvi Larum President: Phil Handscomb vs. Dave Bush
- (Secret Vote counted by John Devanie and Tryggvi Larum) Dave Bush Elected President**

New Business:

Get a town to adopt 3-509th: Tryggvi will investigate.

Honorary Colonel & SGT MAJ: Still an open issue. We must discuss with LTC Himes of 1-509th to move this project forward.

Mainz Veteran Officers: Barry will reach out to these gentlemen and try to coordinate our activities.

Man of the Year: The *Static Line* newspaper has folded. The Atlanta Chapter of the 82nd Association has been the official host of the Airborne Awards for the last few years but at the present time there is no word if they will continue the Awards Festival. The Association should have our own Man of the Year and recognize them at the Reunion regardless of the Airborne Awards.

Original 509^{ers} Present: John Devanie, Bud Segal, Bob Erikson, Arden Peterson, Ralph Burrell

2013
509 PIA Reunion
Ft. Bragg, NC
See You There!!!

Organization Dues Statement

January 1-December 31

Annual 509th PIA Membership

- CHARTER WORLD WAR II VETERAN \$20.00 per year
- LEGACY IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF VETERAN \$20.00 per year
- REGULAR POST WORLD WAR II 509TH VETERAN \$25.00 per year
- ASSOCIATE NON 509TH VETERAN \$25.00 per year

Please make check payable to:

509th PIA

and send to:

509th Parachute Infantry Association
P.O. Box 860
Huntsville, AL 35804

We Need Your Support

Name: _____

Address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Unit: _____ Time Period: _____

Occupation: _____

Comments: _____

Check the box if you Do Not want your name and information listed in the Membership Directory