



Geronimo!



VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

MAY 2014

Our Man of The Year!



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SEND E-MAIL ADDRESS TO
PhilipHandscomb@msn.com
AND WE WILL SEND YOU A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER

Our 509th Man of the Year, Ernie Cochran, was honored at the 37th Annual Airborne Awards Festival in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 2-5. In attendance to honor him and represent the 509 PIA were: His Grandparents John and Jean Devanie, his mom, June Housman, John Eaves, Barry Simpson, and Mr. & Mrs. Philip Handscomb. (See photos pg. 2)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 70TH ANNIVERSARY OPERATION DRAGOON/RUGBY
- 1ST AND 3RD BATTALION UPDATES
- MEMBERSHIP APP
- 509 MAN OF YEAR
- 2014 REUNIION NEWS
- IN MEMORIUM
- 509TH WEBSITE LINK

509 PIA SUMMER EVENTS

The 70th Anniversary of Operation DRAGOON/RUGBY will be held in Southern France on August 9-16, 2014.

The 509 PIA Reunion will be in Harrisburg, PA. on 3-6 September. (application & information is on Pgs. 6-7)

<http://509thgeronimo.org/>



Robert J. Maille Purple Heart Recipient; age 90 DRACUT -- Mr. Robert J. Maille, age 90, a resident of Dracut, died on Friday, March 7, 2014. He was the husband of the late Doris T. 'Catin' (Casaubon) Maille who died on October 25, 2008.

Born in Lowell on December 24, 1923, he was one of nine children of the late Hector and Corinne (Lavoie) Maille.

Robert was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, having served with Company A 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment. He was honorably discharged in September of 1945 receiving several medals including a Purple Heart.

Prior to his retirement, he was employed as a stone cutter at H.E. Fletchers Quarry in Westford for many years.



John & Jean Devaney (left) give us a dancing lesson, Ernie receives his award from Grandpa John (far right), Barry Simpson takes a break for some refreshment ((right), June Houseman and John Eaves celebrate with Mr. & Mrs. Cochran at the Banquet. (Top)

16 March 2014

70th Anniversary D-Day Ceremony

Ellington Field, Houston, TX

A delegation from France was on hand to pay tribute to WWII veterans for their service in the liberation of France during D-Day, 6 June 1944. They made the trip since many of the veterans would not be able to attend the ceremonies this summer in Normandy. WWII 509'er John "Pappy" Devaney was one of the men recognized during the event. The honorees were presented medals & memorial vials with sand from Normandy Beach. The medals & vials were presented by Jean-Francois Le Grand (Honorary member of French Parliament & president of the county of the Manche, Normandy) & Marc Lefevre (Vice president of the county council of Sainte-Mere-Eglise). It was a fitting tribute to the men and women that participated in the historic events starting on 6 June 1944. John said he was accepting the honor on behalf of all 509 soldiers; past, present & future.

Thanks to Hal Persuns (pictured below with John) for the article and pictures***



More Man of the Year Photos



are: LTC Pat-
g, and CSM Scott
509; and LTC Tackett,

1st & 3rd Regimental Airborne Operation



1-509th IN (ABN) Airborne Assault April 2014



Who: 1-509th IN (ABN)
What: Regimental Airborne Operation
When: 30 April 2014
Where: Geronimo DZ, Fort Polk, LA
Why: To promote a brotherhood between 1-509 and 3-509.

Summary of Training:

Paratroopers from the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment conducted a regimental airborne operation from a C-17 on 30 April 2014. This was the first time in many years that the 1st and 3rd Battalions had the opportunity to come together and participate in an airborne operation.



1/509th Jumpmaster conducts inspections in final preparation for the Airborne Operation



A continuing example of the brotherhood shared between 1-509 and 3-509



LTC Matthew J. Tackett 1-509th IN (ABN) BN CDR
LTC Patrick S. Altenburg 3-509th IN (ABN) BN CDR

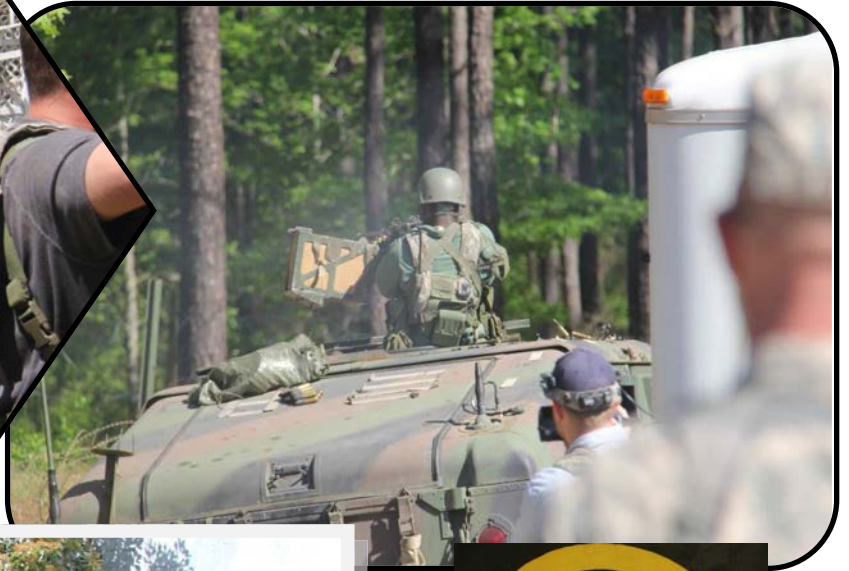


Geronimo Soldiers conduct a daytime T11 jump on Geronimo DZ



The Executive Committee and Board of Trustees of the 509 PIA were honored to be the guests of the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the 509, during their Regimental Airborne Operations in April. Thank you to LTC Tackett for his generous invitation. Thanks also for the briefing from CSM Young. It was great to see LTC Altenburg, and a special shout out to CSM Scott Beeson of the 3rd 509 and 1st Sgt Luneau of the 1st 509 for all the articles and pictures for the newsletter. We were well taken care of and had a wonderful time. The highlight of the trip was meeting with the paratroopers themselves and thanking them for their service. Those of us who had to leave early are sorry we missed the barbeque. Pictured at left are: 509 PIA President, Hal Persuns; Board Members: Dave Bush, Philip Handscomb, John and Jean Devanie, June Housman, and June's sister and her husband.

1st & 3rd Regimental Airborne Operation



1st & 3rd Regimental Airborne Operation





America's
First
Combat
Parachute
Troops



America's
Most
Decorated
Paratroop
Battalion



509th Parachute Infantry Association Reunion
September 3-6, 2014 – Harrisburg East Holiday Inn, Harrisburg, PA

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Names of those attending with you: _____

<u>Meeting Registration:</u>	Number attending (including soldiers) _____	X \$110 = \$ _____
	Number less than 21 yrs old attending _____	X \$ 60 = \$ _____
	Dues for WWII Vets and Family Members _____	X \$20 = \$ _____
	Dues for Post WWII Vets and Non Vets _____	X \$25 = \$ _____
	Gettysburg Historical Tour and Lunch Event _____	X \$50 = \$ _____
		Total = \$ _____

Make checks payable to **Housman and Associates – 509 Reunion**
Mail registration, checks and/or Credit Card Payment to:
Housman and Associates
1309 Pasa Tiempo
Leander, Tx. 78641
Or FAX Credit Card Payment to **512-259-5571.**

Credit Card Payment – All Information Requested Below is Required to Process Your Payment

Name exactly as it appears on your credit card: _____

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Provide the Address Your Credit Card Bill is mailed to: _____

Questions ???? Call 512-259-5554 OR Fax 512-259-5571



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509th Parachute Infantry Association Reunion

September 3-6, 2014 – Harrisburg East Holiday Inn, Harrisburg, PA

 The registration fee includes CP room Wednesday – Saturday, September 3-6, 2014. In the CP room we will have our usual bar, sodas, coffee, decaf, hot water for tea and snacks. Your registration fee also includes a dinner banquet on Saturday night. Fee is \$110 per person.

 On September 5th we will depart the Holiday Inn and head for Gettysburg where we will tour Gettysburg National Military Park Museum & Visitors center. The featured film “A New Birth of Freedom” will orient your group to the Battle of Gettysburg and the American Civil War. See the restored “battle of gettysburg” cyclorama painting, the largest painting in the country. Lunch will be at the historical Dobbin House. Four Score and Seven years before the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, (1776), Reverend Alexander Dobbin built a house to begin a new life in America for himself and his family. Today his home, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a colonial restaurant where candlelit elegance, superior food in abundance, and gracious service brings back the sights, sounds and tastes of two centuries ago. It consistently wins Mobil Guide's highest area rating. The friendly hospitality of the Dobbin House extends to the Springhouse Tavern, Gettystown Bed and Breakfast, Country Curiosity Store, Abigail Adams Ballroom, in-house bakery and secret "underground railroad" slave hideout. Once we have finished our lunch we will take a guided tour of the battlefield. There will be up to 4 stops for you to take pictures. We are also working with the 509 paratroopers to have a jump at the drop zone near the battlefield. Fee is \$50 per person.

 If you have not paid your Association dues and would like to take care of that now there is a place on the registration form to include your dues with your registration payment. Please make checks payable to Housman and Associates. There is also a 509th PIA membership application enclosed for your convenience if you would rather send your application and payment directly to Barry. Dues payments can also be made on site in Harrisburg.

Hotel Registration

Harrisburg East Holiday Inn
4751 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111

For reservations: 717-939-7841, Sleeping room rate (includes a full buffet breakfast each morning up to 2 people per room) \$113.50 plus 6% Pennsylvania Occupancy Tax and 5% local tax.

Hotel is non-smoking but they do have balcony rooms. Pets are allowed with a \$50 pet fee.

TRANSPORTATION

The Holiday Inn provides a complimentary shuttle to and from the airport every half hour. When you arrive and get your luggage call the hotel and they will come and pick you up.

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