



Geronimo!



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

APRIL 2015

509 MAN OF THE YEAR



The 509 PIA Man of the Year, Col. Darren Wright, was honored posthumously, in Atlanta, GA, at the All Airborne Awards, on April 4, 2015. His wife, Wendy, children, and mother, Kathy Rice, were there to receive his plaque. Barry Simpson represented the 509th at the awards.

(see pg. 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Headline & By Line	1
Atlanta Awards	2
Yarborough Museum	3
1st & 3rd 509	4/5
509 Reunion	6
509 Reunion	7
Membership App.	8

SEND E-MAIL ADDRESS TO
PhilipLand-scomb@msn.com

AND WE WILL SEND YOU A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 509 MAN OF THE YEAR
- YARBOROUGH MUSEUM DEDICATED
- MEMBERSHIP APP
- 509 REUNION APP
- 1ST & 3RD HONORS
- 509 PIA NEWS
- 509TH WEBSITE LINK

<http://509thgeronimo.org/>

SAVE THE DATE
509 REUNION
SET FOR TACOMA
SEPT 2-6, PGS 6/7

The 509 PIA Man of the Year, Col. Darren Wright, was honored posthumously, in Atlanta, GA, at the All Airborne Awards, on April 4, 2015. His wife, Wendy, children, and mother, Kathy Rice, were there to receive his plaque. Barry Simpson represented the 509th at the awards. Hal Persun, President of the 509 PIA received a letter of thanks from Col. Wright's mother, Kathy Rice, thanking the association, especially Barry Simpson, for inviting them and taking such good care of them while they were in Atlanta. She said it meant a lot to the family that, her son, Col. Wright had been chosen as the Man of the Year, and it was something the family would treasure always, The four day All Airborne Awards included the awards ceremony on Saturday night, the Ladies Luncheon on Friday, and trips on Thursday to the Atlanta History Center, Smith Family Farm, The Swan House, and Mary Mac's Restaurant. Some other 509ers in attendance were: members of the Animal Farm, and Tina and Greg Velasco. Greg is a Past-President of the 509 PIA. (Please see pictures)



This is the floral spray that the florist in Arlington is sent to Don McElroy's father's memorial in Washington DC, on behalf of the 509 PIA.



The Distinguished Member of the Regiment Ceremony took place at the 1st Battalion (airborne) 509th infantry Regiment, on Thursday, April 2, 2015, at 1030 hours, in fort Polk LA. Presiding at the ceremony was LTC Matthew J. Tackett and CSM Brian E. Stover. Honored at the ceremony were:

WORLD WAR II - LTG William P. Yarborough (accepted by his son, Lee Yarborough), COL Morton Katz, CPT Carlos Coolidge Alden, CSM Paul B. Huff, and PFC John C DeVanie.

ITALY - CSM Frank A. Grippe

FORT CHAFFEE, ARKANSAS - CSM Michael A. Ferrusi

FORT POLK, LA -CSM Eric G. Crabtree, SGM Matthew J. West, SFC Eric D. Luneau

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, ALASKA -PFC Justin A. Casillas, (accepted by SFC Collins)



The 1st Battalion (Airborne) 509 Infantry
Has invited members of the 509 PIA
To the Change of Command, when
Lieutenant Colonel Matthew J Tackett
Relinquishes Command and
Lieutenant Colonel Curtis L. Rowland, Jr.
Assumes Command of the 1st Battalion 509th
July 1, 2015, at 1000 Hours, on Warrior Field
Fort Polk, LA

Hal Persun, President of the 509 PIA , John DeVanie, Past President 509 PIA, John Eaves, Lee Barber and Philip Handscomb, Trustees 509 PIA, and Margot Handscomb, Secretary 509 PIA were all present at the dedication of the LTG William P. Yarborough Museum, on April 2, 2015. They also attended the Distinguished Member of the Regiment Awards. Philip Handscomb attended the Dining In Dinner later that evening.





SPCs Benfer and Moses after the downhill slalom



SPCs Benfer and Moses after the downhill slalom



SPC Sager conducts PCCs before SP



Cold Load Training prepared Scouts for UH-60 Insertion and Extraction



SPC Stoner passes 9-line MEDEVAC report

The 3rd Battalion 509 Parachute Infantry Regiment keeps busy in the field. Tom Tsvigas will represent the 509 PIA at the Change of Responsibility Ceremony for CSM Scott Beeson, on June 17, 2015, at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska. Good Luck Scott, you have been a great help to the 509 PIA



America's First Combat Parachute Troops



America's Most Decorated Paratroop Battalion



509th Parachute Infantry Association Reunion
September 2-6, 2015 - Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Tacoma, Washington

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Names of those attending with you: _____

Meeting Registration: Number attending (including soldiers) _____ X \$120 = \$ _____

Number less than 21 yrs. old attending _____ X \$ 70 = \$ _____

Association Dues: World War II Vets are paid in full life time members \$ _____ 0 _____

Dues for WWII Vets and Family Members _____ X \$20 = \$ _____

Dues for Post WWII Vets and Non Vets _____ X \$25 = \$ _____

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: _____



*America's
First
Combat
Parachute
Troops*



*America's
Most
Decorated
Paratroop
Battalion*



509th Parachute Infantry Association Reunion

September 2-6, 2015 – Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Tacoma, Washington

The registration fee includes CP room Wednesday – Saturday, September 2-5. In the CP room we will have our usual bar, sodas, coffee, decaf, hot water for tea and snacks and on Saturday night we will have our banquet. Reunion Fee is \$120



We are currently working on a jump or tour for Friday September 5, 2015. We will have more information on this event closer to the reunion. There will be an added expense for this event.



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 Tacoma.



HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

2102 South C Street

Tacoma, Washington 98402

For reservations: Call for reservations at 253-272-2434, Sleeping room rate (includes a full buffet breakfast each morning up to 2 people per room) \$129.00 (standard room) King \$139.00 plus 13.5% Tax and \$1.50 tourism tax.. If you would like to reserve your sleeping room online please copy and paste the following link into your browser.

<http://tiny.cc/HIExpressReg>

Hotel is non-smoking. The hotel does allow pets for a \$50 non-refundable fee. When you call for your reservation you must ask for the pet friendly rooms.

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: August 11, 2015

TRANSPORTATION

The hotel does not have a shuttle service. I am currently negotiating with a local company to give our group a discount on transportation to and from the airport. I will post that as soon as I get the information finalized.

Organization Dues Statement

January 1-December 31

Annual 509th PIA Membership

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|---|------------------------|
| CHARTER | <input type="checkbox"/> | WORLD WAR II VETERAN | LIFETIME MEMBER |
| LEGACY | <input type="checkbox"/> | IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF VETERAN | \$20.00 per year |
| REGULAR | <input type="checkbox"/> | POST WORLD WAR II 509TH VETERAN | \$25.00 per year |
| ASSOCIATE | <input type="checkbox"/> | NON 509TH VETERAN | \$25.00 per year |

Please make check payable to:

509th PIA

and send to:

509th Parachute Infantry Association
47 Washington Ave.
Box 310
Wheeling, WV 26003

We Need Your Support

Name: _____

Address: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Phone No.: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Occupation: _____

509TH SERVICE:

Unit: _____ Time Period: _____

Combat Tour: _____ Time Period: _____

OTHER COMBAT UNIT:

Combat Tour: _____ Time Period: _____

If you do not want your name and information listed in a member directory please check the box