



# Geronimo!



# Winner's HONORED



At the 75th Anniversary of the 509 PIA, in Columbus, GA, we were pleased to honor 3 of the original WWII 509ers. Pictured from left above are: John Devanie, Lloyd B. Plummer, and Charles Audet. At the Dinner we had 230 in attendance. For pictures of some of our new Executive Committee see pg. 2. For Minutes from the General Membership meeting see pgs. 6/7 For Pictures from the reunion see pg. 3.

# 2017 Reunion Sept 6-10

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HAS CALLED ON ALL MEMBERS, FRIENDS, FAMILY AND ASSOCIATES OF THE 509 PIA AND THEIR GUESTS TO ASSEMBLE IN SAN ANTONIO, TX, ON SEPT 6-10, 2017 FOR THE 509 PIA REUNION, THE REUNION WILL BE HELD AT THE EL TROPICANA RIVERWALK HOTEL IN SAN ANTONIO, TX. THERE ARE MANY PLANS IN PROGRESS AND YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS OUT, SO PLAN NOW TO ATTEND.

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2016

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**SEND E-MAIL ADDRESS TO [PhilipHand-scomb@msn.com](mailto:PhilipHand-scomb@msn.com) AND WE WILL SEND YOU A COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER**

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 509 NEW BOARD
- 2016 REUNION NEWS & LOCATION
- MEMBERSHIP APP
- 509 REUNION PICS
- 1ST & 3RD NEWS
- 509 PIA NEWS
- 509TH WEBSITE LINK

<http://509thgeronimo.org/>

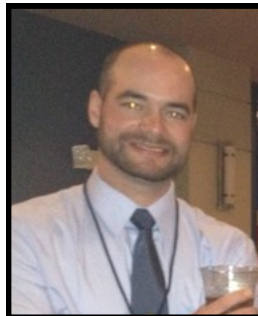
**OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD 2016**



Jamie Garza,  
President



Drew Pumarejo,  
Vice-President



Heath Stanley,  
Treasurer



Margot Handscomb,  
Secretary



June Housman,  
Membership



Philip Handscomb  
Sergeant at Arms

**A Sincere Thank You to Jaime Garza,  
our President**  
who is staying on and has organized a very successful reunion. All of our thanks and gratitude are his, for the time and hours he has put in, to make the 509 PIA grow and prosper. **Welcome to Drew Pumarejo, our new 509 PIA Vice-President,** and to all our new board members. A special thanks to our Treasurer, Heath Stanley,.




John Devanie,  
President Emeritus



Barry Simpson,  
Special Projects

**TRUSTEES**



Don McElroy



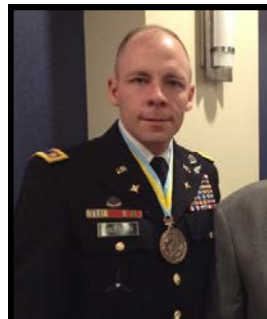
Tryggvi Larum,  
Special Projects



Tom Tsvigas



Lee Barber



Matt Anderson



Dave Bush

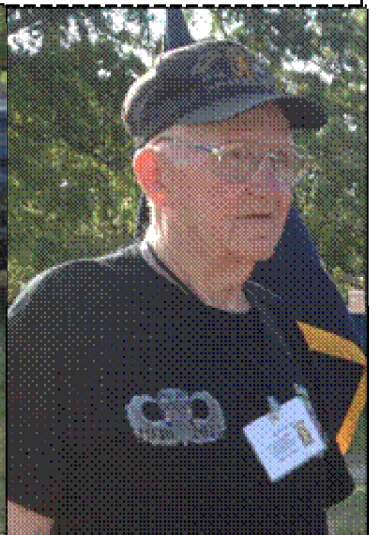
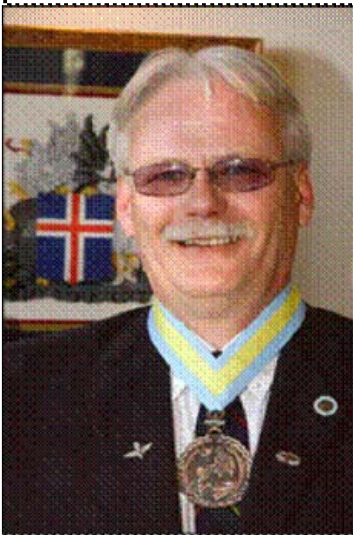


# 509 PIA Order of Geronimo

The 509TH PIA Order of Geronimo was established to recognize and honor persons who made positive, lasting and significant contributions to the association. Individuals are chosen solely on their significant contributions to the 509TH PIA and each selectee is able to stand up to close scrutiny. Attainment of high rank or position is not necessarily indicative of a significant contribution to the association.



The 509TH PIA Order of Geronimo was awarded for the first time at the 509 PIA Reunion in Columbus, GA, where the 75th Anniversary of the formation of the 509th was celebrated. There were 4 recipients, Mr. Tryggvi Larum, Mr. John Devanie, Mr. Charles Audet, and Mr. Lloyd B. Plummer, all of whom have contributed mightily to the 509 PIA, and 3 of whom served in the 509 in WWII. Mr. Larum designed the Award.



Mr. Tryggvi Larum 001

Mr. John Devanie 002

Mr. Charles Audet 003

Mr. Lloyd Plummer 004

# 509 Infantry Distinguished M



BG (Ret.) Ward LeHardy

COL (Ret.) John Reitzell

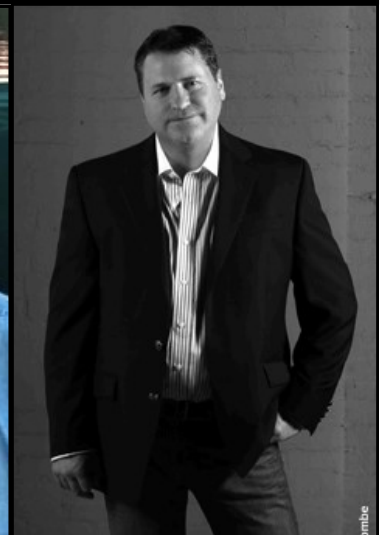
CSM (Ret.) Douglas Maddi

CSM (Ret.) Dennis Smith

# 509 2016 Man of the Year Congratulations Hal Persun



## Member of the Regiment 2016



CSM (Ret.) Drew Pumarejo   SGT Shawn G. Adams   Paul DeGaeta (Honorary)   Patrick O'Donnell (Honorary)

# 509 PIA | GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Meeting date | time 5/14/2016 10:00 AM | Meeting location Columbus, GA

Meeting called by	Jaime Garza, President	Attendees:
Type of meeting	Annual Membership Meeting	A Quorum of the Executive Committee was Present:
Facilitator	Jaime Garza, Heath Stanley	Jaime Garza, President; Joe Mancini, Vice President,
Secretary	Margot Handscomb	Heath Stanley, Treasurer; Margot Handscomb, Secretary;
		509 PIA Trustees; Lee Barber, Matt Anderson, Drew
		Pumarejo, Tom Tsvigas; Sgt. At Arms, Philip
		Handscomb: Past Presidents, John Devanie, Dave Bush,
		Hal Persun. Special Projects, Barry Simpson/Trygvi
		Larum. June Housman, Housman & Assoc. Also in
		attendance were all 509 PIA members in good standing,
		who were in Columbus for the 509 PIA Reunion.

## AGENDA TOPICS:

- I. The Membership meeting began with a Call to Order by the Sgt. at Arms. The minutes of the last General Membership Meeting were read by the current Secretary, Margot Handscomb, and approved. Our Treasurer, Heath Stanley reported on our current bank acct. balance of approximately - \$21,088.48. For the year we have taken in \$11,560 in dues, and we have had expenditures \$5,684, which leaves a profit of \$5,901.16.
- II. President Garza announced that Pay Pal is up and running through our Facebook Page. Our association membership has grown from 87 members to over 200 in the last year. He also introduced and showed our new 509 Order of Geronimo, which will be presented for the first time at our Banquet here in Columbus, GA.
- III. Barry Simpson, Special Projects, informed the membership that the current by-laws state that: "Battalion Commanders, Sgt. Majors get lifetime membership," and asked whether we wanted to discuss amending the by-laws to eliminate or change that provision. After a lively discussion, it was voted by the membership to prepare a by-law change for a vote at the next reunion that would give only the Soldier of the Year a lifetime membership.
- IV. June Housman presented the top three possible sites for the 2017 reunion, which had been voted on in 2016, San Antonio, TX, Shreveport, LA, and Kansas City, MO. After open discussion, it was decided that June will investigate San Antonio, TX, and Shreveport, LA, and get back to the Executive Committee with the best locations and times for 2017. Possible sites for the 2018 reunion were nominated from the floor: Savannah, GA; Hawaii; Las Vegas, NV; Milwaukee, WI; San Antonio, TX; Kansas City, MO; Biloxi, MS. A vote was taken and the top three sites for 2018 were: Savannah, GA; Kansas City, MO; and San Antonio, TX. A vote will be taken at the 2017 reunion to decide which of the three will be chosen.
- V. Barry Simpson, Special Projects, stated that he and Lee Barber would contact USAA for the feasibility of a 509 PIA Credit Card. They will also look into a Go Fund Me Acct. for the printing of a new printing of "Stand in the Door." A new edition will cost approximately \$20,000.

- VI. Trygvi Larum, Special Projects, advised of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary coin sign-up sheet to purchase. All who sign up and pay for the coin at the reunion will receive their coin in the mail.
- VII. Jaime Garza, President, Thanked Ernie, our beloved bartender, for again donating his tips to the 509 PIA, \$480. He also told the membership about Chip Glass, who is running across Georgia to sponsor Veterans with home repairs and help around their homes. The membership voted to Sponsor Chip with a \$1,000 sponsorship from the 509 PIA.
- VIII. Discussion of Officers and Executive Committee members including the fact that Joe Mancini will be stepping down as Vice President of the 509 PIA for a younger VP. Thank you Joe for your service to the 509 PIA. Nominations and election of Officers and Committee members followed and the results are as follows:
- a. President – Jaime Garza
  - b. New Vice President – Drew Pumarejo
  - c. Treasurer – Heath Stanley
  - d. Secretary – Margot Handscomb
  - e. Sgt. At Arms – Philip Handscomb
  - f. New Trustee – Don McElroy
  - g. Trustee – Matt Anderson
  - h. Trustee – Tom Tsvigas
  - i. Trustee – Lee Barber
  - j. Trustee – Dave Bush
  - k. President Emeritus – John ‘Pappy’ Devanie
  - l. New Membership Secretary – June Housman
  - m. Special Projects – Barry Simpson & Trygvi Larum
- VIII. Trygvi Larum, Special Projects, nominated Stephane Hgb, a member of the French Re-enactment 509 team in France as an Honorary Member of the 509 PIA. It was approved by the membership unanimously.

Update on 509 PIA Bank Account after September Conference call: As of 15 August 2016, our balance is \$29,125.40, and with our inventory it is \$32,040.40.

## Congratulations to Heath Stanley



## 2017's 509 Person of the Year

*Organization Dues Statement*

January 1-December 31

**Annual 509<sup>th</sup> PIA Membership**

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

*Please make check payable to:*

**509<sup>th</sup> PIA**

*and send to:*

**509<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Association  
1309 Pasa Tiempo  
Leander, TX 78641**

***We Need Your Support***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

**509<sup>TH</sup> SERVICE:**

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Combat Tour: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Period: \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER COMBAT UNIT:**

Combat Tour: \_\_\_\_\_

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

[\*\*Click here for 509th PIA Application\*\*](#)