



# Geronimo!



VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

JULY 2017

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**Our Man of the Year!**

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

Heath Stanley, the 509th PIA Treasurer Extraordinaire, was honored at the Atlanta Awards, as our Man of the Year 2017. Heath has been the person responsible for keeping our accounts coherent, and pulling more than his weight in the association, and was richly deserving of the award. For Pictures from the Atlanta Awards see pg. 2. For pictures from the Distinguished Member of the Regiment see page 3.

## 2017 Reunion San Antonio

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.. PLEASE SEE PAGES 6-8 OF THIS NEWSLETTER FOR THE APPLICATION, ITENERARY, AND CP ROOM AND HOTEL INFORMATION. SEE YOU THERE!

- SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:**
- 509 NEW BOARD
  - 2017 REUNION APP AND ITENERARY
  - MEMBERSHIP APP
  - 509 MAN OF YEAR
  - DMOR
  - 509 MEMORIAL
  - 509TH WEBSITE LINK
- <http://509thgeronimo.org/>

# DMoR & d



509 PIA's Trygvgi Larum Receives the DMoR award at the DMoR & HMoR ceremony at Ft. Polk.



CSM (Ret) Kevin Sharkey the DMoR & HMoR ceremony

Also receiving DMoR awards, but not pictured here:  
 COL Randall Harris (Ret)  
 CSM Charles Gooch (Ret)  
 SGT Andrew Brown

On 29 March 20...  
 (ABN) conducted...  
 Member of the F...  
 ceremony. These...  
 recognize the ac...  
 previous and co...  
 contributors to th...



MAJ Matt Andersen Receives the HMoR award at the DMoR & HMoR ceremony at Ft. Polk.



509 PIA's Barry Simpson the DMoR & HMoR ceremony

# HMoR 2017



Receives the DMoR award at ceremony at Ft. Polk.

17, 1-509<sup>th</sup> IN  
and a Distinguished  
Regiment induction  
The events were to  
accomplishments of  
continuing  
the regiment.



Receives the DMoR award at ceremony at Ft. Polk.



509 PIA Vice President, Drew Pumarejo is presented award by LTC Rowland at the DMoR & HMoR ceremony at Ft. Polk.

Also receiving DMoR awards, but not pictured here:

SGT Brett Swank

Mr. Nicholas DeGaeta

MG Mark Schwartz



COL Melvin Jenks (Ret) accepts the DMoR award at the DMoR & HMoR ceremony at Ft. Polk.

# RIP - FROM THE MANY, WHO

Jeanamay  
 "Marmie"  
 DeVanie, 7/28/1926 -  
 12/28/2016 Beloved  
 wife of John  
 "Pappy" Devanie  
 for 71 years, &  
 mother of June  
 Housman, Johnna  
 Brock, and all of  
 the 509 PIA. We  
 love and miss you,  
 "Marmie"



John Clarence DeVanie, known to his family & friends as Pappy, was born June 12, 1924 - Died, February 27, 2017. He joined the US Army July 19, 1943. He served with the 509 Parachute Infantry Battalion as a Pathfinder in Operation Dragoon establishing a second front against the Nazi's in Southern France. He jumped into the darkness on an early August morning and fought the Nazis with valor and distinction. He has been active all of his adult life in the 509 Parachute Infantry Association where he served in many capacities including President. We love and miss you "Pappy"



GROTON - John A. Pietras, age 94, passed away at his Groton home on March 27, 2017. He was born on his family farm in Groton on May 5, 1922 to Andrew and Catherine (Haberski) Pietras. He graduated from Groton High School in 1940. In 1942, he chose to serve his country in WWII as a paratrooper in the 509 Parachute Infantry Battalion. He fought in North Africa, Italy, France and Belgium. He earned many decorations and commendations including the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Emblem, American Campaign Medal and WWII Victory Medal.



Alexander George Peter passed away peacefully Dec. 12, 2016, in Manchester, NH. In 1943, he joined the WWII effort as a paratrooper in the 509 Parachute Infantry Battalion. He fought in North Africa, Italy (Anzio), France (the Champagne Campaign) and Belgium (Battle of the Bulge). He ended his service by helping the Red Cross assist and feed Holocaust victims in concentration camps. He earned the Purple Heart, Oak Leaf Cluster, Good Conduct Medal, & Victory Medal.



Francis Joseph "Joe" Davies - Passed away on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at the Martinsburg, Virginia, VA Medical Center.

# OWE SO MUCH TO THESE FEW!



1 OCT 77 VICENZA, ITALY

General Blanchard (NATO COMMANDER) awards the LEGION OF MERIT to Command Sergeant Major Frank I. Ponce ( U.S. ARMY-1st BN(ABN) 509th Battalion Combat Team)

**Command Sgt. Major Frank I. Ponce**

Hal Wallace Persun, 61, of Royse City, Texas, passed away Thursday, July 6, 2017. He was born Dec. 28, 1955, in Edmond, Okla., to Ralph Persun and Patsy (Penn) Persun. Hal proudly made his career in the U.S. Army, where he retired at the rank of major. He also served as President of the first 509th Paratroop Infantry Association from 2013-2014. Hal was of the Christian faith. He was very much a family man and a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and uncle. In his spare time he loved fishing and shooting at gun ranges. Hal was also a devoted O.U. Sooners fan.

Hal is survived by his loving wife of 19-plus years, Jane Persun of Royse City; children Ashley Pitt and husband Ryan of Moore, Okla., Hayley Hartman and husband Josh of Yukon, Okla., Jake Persun of Lone Tree, Colo., and Sarah Persun of Royse City; sister Julie Walker of Allen, Texas; and grandchildren Adler Pitt and Hayes Hartman. He was preceded in death by his mother, Patsy Persun, and Grandmother Maxine Penn.



Floyd Calvin Wells passed away on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 in Corsicana, Texas. He was born on July 15, 1920 in Muldrow, Oklahoma to Calvin Wells and Minna Riddle Wells. Mr. Wells was a veteran of the United States Army, and... an electrician supervisor for Hughes Aircraft and later an assembler at Walmart.



America's First Combat Parachute Troops



America's Most Decorated Paratroop Battalion



509th Parachute Infantry Association Reunion
September 6-10, 2017 - El Tropicana Riverwalk Hotel - San Antonio, Texas

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of those attending with you: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Registration: Number attending (including soldiers) x \$120 = \$
Off-Site Event - Dinner Cruise, 2 Free Drinks x \$ 70 = \$
Number less than 21 yrs old attending x \$ 70 = \$
Off-Site Event - Dinner Cruise x \$ 50 = \$
Dues for WWII Vets and Family Members x \$ 20 = \$
Dues for Post WWII Vets and Non Vets x \$ 25 = \$

\* Bean Bag Toss Tournament Friday - 2 Person Teams - \$20 Per Team Signup & Pay Onsite

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Provide the Full Address Your Credit Card Bill is mailed to: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions ???? Call 512-413-0953 or Email: june@housmanandassociates.com OR Fax 512-259-5571



America's  
First  
Combat  
Parachute  
Troops




America's  
Most  
Decorated  
Paratroop  
Battalion



### *509<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Association Reunion*

September 6-10, 2017 – El Tropicana Riverwalk Hotel – San Antonio

 The registration fee of \$120 includes CP room **Wednesday – Saturday**, September 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>  
Includes all adult beverages, Lunch on Friday, plus snacks, coffee, tea, sodas and the Saturday Night Banquet

#### CP Room Hours:

Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. - Midnight.

Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.

Riverwalk Cruise 5:45pm – 8:30pm Will board boats at the El Tropicana Hotel – Dinner and Two Adult Beverages Included. Space on the boats is limited so please get your registration in early. Dress is casual. Cost is \$70 per person -- NOT included in Reunion Registration Fee

Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30 p.m. -- Midnight.

Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – Midnight.

Lunch served in CP Room at Noon

Beanbag Toss Tournament -- 4:30 p.m. 2 Person Teams - Signup and Pay Onsite

Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. Board of Directors Meeting in CP Room


Bar will be closed until BOD Meeting is Over.

CP room reopens when meeting is over - close again @ 3:00 p.m. to prepare for the Banquet

Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Reception / Cash Bar

6:45 p.m. Dinner and Program – CP Room Re-Opens after Banquet

An agenda for the banquet will be available soon. Dress for the banquet is business casual (which means long pants or dresses and a nice shirt. NO SHORTS). We will have a DJ for dancing after dinner. Extra banquet tickets are \$55 and do NOT include CP Room Privileges after the Banquet.

 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 Housmar and Associates.

#### **HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION**

*El Tropicana Riverwalk Hotel*  
*110 Lexington Avenue*  
*San Antonio, Texas 78205*

**For reservations:** Call for reservations at 877-736-4311 and ask for the 509 Reunion sleeping block. Sleeping room rate (includes a full cooked buffet breakfast) \$115.00 (standard room) plus 16.75% state and city tax.

**DEADLINE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS August 7, 2017.** AS LONG AS THEY HAVE AVAILABILITY the hotel is non-smoking. The hotel does not allow pets unless you can prove your pet is a companion pet.



America's  
First  
Combat  
Parachute  
Troops



America's  
Most  
Decorated  
Paratroop  
Battalion



**509 PARATROOPER REUNION  
SEPTEMBER 6-10, 2017 -- SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2017**

Noon – 9:00 p.m. – Registration Open  
Noon – 9:00 p.m. – Sales of 509 shirts, coins, decals etc.  
Noon – Midnight – Bar Open – Snacks

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2017**

7:30 a.m. – PT run around the hotel  
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Buffet breakfast at the hotel restaurant  
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. – Registration Open  
9:00 a.m. – 5:45 p.m. – Bar opened and Snacks  
5:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – **Dinner cruise on San Antonio Riverwalk Boats**  
(boats load at 5:45 p.m. and set sail down the San Antonio Riverwalk.  
Dinner will be served on the boats and 2 free drink tickets. Wear comfortable clothes.  
8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. – Sales of 509 shirts, coins, decals etc.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2017**

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Buffet Breakfast in hotel restaurant  
9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. – Registration and sale of 509 shirts, coins, decals etc.  
9:00 a.m. – Midnight – Bar open, snacks  
Noon – 1:00 p.m. – **Lunch inside CP room**  
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Bean bag toss tournament  
**Sign up your team ON-SITE \$20 per team. Win prizes**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2017**

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Buffet Breakfast in restaurant  
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – **Board Meeting – we will have coffee available in the room**  
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Registration and sale of 509 shirts, coins, decals etc.  
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. – Bar open, snacks  
6:00 p.m. – 6:30p.m. – Reception inside banquet room – cash bar  
6:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. – Posting of Colors  
6:45 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – **Dinner and program – Dress Business (no shorts)**  
8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. – Auction  
9:00 p.m. -- Midnight – DJ – Our bar reopens

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2017**

*Have A Safe Trip Home! See you next year!*