



503rd PRCT Association WWII, Inc.

The Rock

Volume 3 Issue 1 February 2018

503rd PIR * 462nd PFAB * 161st PEC

2017 Reunion Highlights

Many thanks to Rick Miller, who hosted our reunion in Killeen, Texas. It was such great fun visiting, renewing friendships, touring and taking care of association business. Our veterans were well represented this year by Russ Nelson. E Co and Tony Lopez, F Co. and our widows were well represented by Ruth Castillo and Sara Mosey. Many family members were also in attendance and we are grateful to those who brought their parents. On Thursday, we enjoyed a lecture by Rick Miller on the Texas Rangers and Texas Outlaws followed by a visit to the Texas Ranger Museum in Waco, Texas. Friday brought a visit to Fort Hood. We enjoyed a demonstration by 1st Calvary Horse Detachment, toured the 1st Calvary Museum and lunch at the base. After lunch we watched an Air Assault training session. Saturday began with our annual business meeting, followed by visiting in the hospitality room, our banquet and auction.

Some of the actions taken at the business meeting include electing Dave Hudiburgh as President-elect, increasing dues to \$25.00 per year, implementing PayPal for payments, establishing voluntary levels of giving, and looking into the Ft. Benning area as the site of our 2018 reunion. On Sunday we sadly bid farewell.



503rd PRCT Association Officers for 2017 – 2019

President

Todd Mayer
111 N Liberty St
Delaware, Oh 43015
740-363-8644

President Elect

Dave Hudiburgh
12520 Timberline Dr
Garfield, AR
470-359-2299

Secretary/Treasurer

Nancy Young
10445 Old Telegraph Rd
Ashland, VA 23005
804-550-3354

Past President

Nelson Gatewood, deceased
2817 HWY 62-412 Rd
Highland. AR 72452
870-856-2216

Message from the President

“As usual the 503rd came through”

As I was looking through the 503rd PRCT archives, I came across the 1958 annual convention program for the National Reunion that was held in Washington, DC. This was to be the 2nd Convention and slow registrations created some anxious moments for the organizers, as they feared being a “victim of the recession that was “hovering over the country” at the time, but as usual the 503rd came through and the reunion was a success.

Sixty years later the organization faces many of the same issues that it faced in the beginning years of the group; finding ways to continue the National Organization by creating interest and reaching out to Veterans and Families of the 503rd PRCT, along with those individuals who have an interest in 503rd PRCT.

It’s not an issue of what to do, but how to do it. Several Years ago, the Veterans of the 503rd PRCT made their wishes know by allowing associate members to join their ranks and have a voice. By doing so, their goal was to allow the organization to continue to function as a group and carry on the mission of the organization, when they were no longer capable of doing it for themselves. My friends that time have come. It’s now up to us, the Sons, the Daughters, the Grandchildren and Friends to take the lead and move the group forward in the years to come.

Per my daughter, who has been to two reunions, “Your children and grandchildren are future of the 503rd PRCT and without them, there may not be a future for the organization. I say this because, if the children do not learn about and appreciation 503rd PRCT they will not want to carry on the reunions, when the day comes that the Veteran’s can’t”.

While many of us do not share in unit camaraderie and the sacrifices these men made that brought the men together to form this organization, we can surely appreciate and respect what these men did. As we move forward, this is what we need to hang our hat on. We need to continue to fulfill our mission of furthering the interest of the 503rd PRCT and honoring the men who served in the unit.

Todd Mayer, President 503rd PRCT Association WWII, Inc. Grandson of Richard E. Gruver F Co. 503rd PIR

\$\$\$\$ 2018 Membership Dues Are Now Due \$\$\$\$

- Please note membership dues are now \$25.00 per year. In an effort to be sure we have all of your correct information, please use the attached form when submitting your dues.
- We now offer various voluntary levels of membership, for those wishing to support the organization at a higher level!! Bronze \$50, Silver \$75, Gold \$100 and Platinum above \$100. Certificates will be sent to those members who give above the basic membership dues and names and levels of sponsorship will be included in the newsletter(s).
- We also now offer the option of receiving your newsletter electronically instead of through the mail if you so choose. Please note the options on the membership form. Newsletters and the membership forms can be downloaded at <http://503rdprct.org/SignUp.aspx>.

What's New

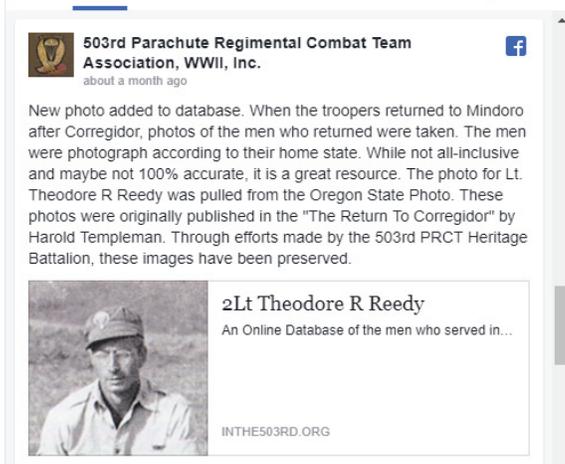
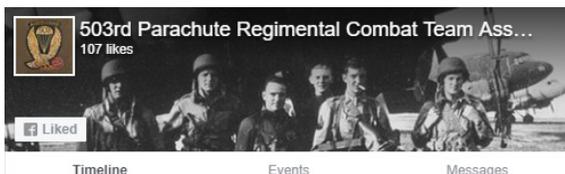


Is a Paratrooper Database to honor those men who served in the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team during WWII?

Per Bennett Guthrie, in his book Three Winds of Death, "The 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment initially contained nearly two thousand men; more than three thousand others eventually joined the ranks as replacements for casualties or other unit components that made us a parachute regimental combat team, unattached in the Southwest Pacific area theater of war."

The initial database contains the names of over 2700 men who served in the 503rd PRCT, who were listed on what is commonly referred to as the Templeman Corregidor Roster as found in, The Return to Corregidor, by Harold Templeman. The book contains a roster, as furnished by the 503rd PRCT Headquarters, of those men who participated in the recapture of Corregidor. The book was published in 1945.

Don't be alarmed if the veteran you're looking for is not contained in the database. As stated above, the initial database consists of those men listed on the roster found in The Return to Corregidor. While the Templeman Corregidor Roster is an excellent source, it is not 100% perfect. Also, the initial database does not account for those men who were with the unit prior to or after the Retaking of Corregidor. There are still some 2000 men that need added to the database.



Seeking Information on

Eugene F. (Bud) Asay, 1st Bn, 503rd

Ted Grant is researching the life history of his Uncle Bud Assay from Lovell, Wyoming. Bud was one of the 50 soldiers killed at Monkey Point when the Japanese detonated the ammunition dump on the final battle for Corregidor. Ted would appreciate hearing from anyone who remembers Bud.

Contact: Ted Grant, 1207 Amy Ln, Powell, WY 82435, 307-202-1170

503rdPRCT.org

General Website for basic information about the 503rd PRCT Association WWII, Inc. Membership Forms, Who we are, Current Events and Contact Information.



2018 Reunion

Work is under way on the planning of our 2018 National Reunion. As stated at our last reunion, Ft. Benning is the leading contender. Kimberly Pollard and her husband are heading to Ft. Benning later this month to check things out. As more details emerge, we will inform our rank and file.

Helping Hands needed: 2019 Reunion Hosts

It's never too late to start planning for the next reunion, the earlier the better. If anyone is interested in the hosting our 2019 National Reunion or beyond please let us know. As the host, you can use your imagination to provide our membership chance to meet and conduct our business.

News from Marr INC. (aka Doc Llewellyn's BX)

We the have following available for sale:

2 DVD copies of the 2012 Honor Flight trip of the 503rd to the WWII Memorial in DC
2 packs of DVD copies including: Nadzab Air Drop; Retaking the Rock; Corregidor, The Road Back; Corregidor, A Soldier Returns and Honor Flight Trip
4 DVD copies of Corregidor, The Road Back

We also have polo shirts, caps, patches and wings! Send all inquires to our Secretary/Treasurer.

Do you have images, newspaper clippings, war souvenirs, rosters, books or any 503rd PRCT memorabilia?

We are actively searching for all things concerning the 503rd PRCT, to preserve for future generations. We don't need the originals, unless you're looking to donate them. We would just like to document what you have in the form of digital copies- scans of images, scans of documents, photos of uniforms, etc. If you have something that you would like to preserve and share, please let us know. **We can help!**

PayPal has arrived!!!

We are now able to accept various forms of payments and donations through our PayPal account!



Directory Changes, Additions

Janet Mahoney, 610-937-1391 (cell)

James S. Pardue, 3973 Clubhouse Ct., Apt. 3G, High Point, NC 27265, 396-402-0057

Roberto Perez, 9317 Wildstone Pl, San Antonio, TX 78254

Martha Ross, 13124 Caravel St, Cerritos, CA 90703

Blaine Scott, III 320 N 11th St, Flagler Beach, FL 32126

Jessie Miller, 1790 E 54th St #120, Indianapolis, IN 46220

Nicholas Spiece, PO Box 29, Saranac MI 48881

Ruth Lundstrom, 6102 Trevino Ct N, Keizer, OR 97503

Melvin Bulman, 8166 Grapeview Blvd, Loxahatchee, FL 34740

Chad Jamison, 1116 Arlynn Ln, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Michael Hostinsky, Peachtree Corners, GA 30092 (name of city changed)

Frances Sorrell, 989-584-6528 (area code changed)

Joseph A. Dolosich, 100 Red Oak Dr, Apt 119, Cridersville, OH 45806, 702-430-1328

Joseph D. Pace, Sr 6713 Mallard Lake Ct, Roanoke, VA 24018, 540-819-7580

Richard G. Brown, Sr c/o Walking Horse Meadows, 207 Uffelman Dr, Apt 122, Clarksville, TN 37043

Tony Santoro, 5723 Sweetwater Dr, Shreveport, LA 71119

Shirley Oakley, 18 Humphrey Rd #8, Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Cecil Clevenger, 32290 First Ave S, Federal Way, WA 98003, 253-944-1563

Cecil R. Duquesne, 575 S 14th St., Grover Beach, CA 93433

Leo Zmuda, Jr., 3801 Fir St., The Villages, FL 32163

Edna Pitenger, 100 Mill St, Cambridge, MD 21613

MIA – Information Needed On These Members

John Kroll, Judith Seekins, Ray Mende, Verne White, Albert Augustyn

Please send all news and correspondence to our Secretary/Treasurer, Nancy Young.

Nancy Young

Treasurer@503rdPRCT.org

10445 Old Telegraph Rd

Ashland, VA 23005

804-550-3354

Paratroopers & Friends Remembered – TAPS

Lucille Christofferson, widow of Charles Christofferson, Btry A, 462nd, notified by her daughter, Kathy Wilkinson

Katherine “Kay” Sbordone, survived by her husband, Carmen, February 12, 2017, notified by Carmen

Robert O’Connell, F Co, 2015, and his wife, Marge, 2014, notified by Tony Lopez

Francis D. “Dell” Catlin, Btry D 462nd, April 17, 2016 and his wife, Joye, April 14, 2016, notified by their daughter, Cyndie Bollar

Clement Jacomini, HQ Co 2nd Bn, January 28, 2016, notified by Jim Jacomini

Alice Cadarette, widow of Wendell Cadarette, B Co, notified by her daughter

Helen Baines, widow of MD Baines, E Co, June 22, 2017, notified by her son, Lawrence Phillips

Nelson and Phyllis Gatewood, HQ Btry, 462nd, July 31, 2017, notified by Phyllis’s son, Blake

Paul Turly, F Co., 503rd, August 8, 2008

Robert H and Margaret Markel, RHQ, 503rd

Mary Hess, widow of Robert L. Hess, Co. D, January 8, 2017, notified by her family

Richard E Guetter, Co B, January 1, 2018, notified by his son

Dorothy Menefee, widow of Douglas Menefee, December 20, 2017, notified by her daughter, Sherry Menefee

Our condolences go out to our vets, widow and family members who have lost loved ones.



New Book Available On The 503rd PRCT by Paul Whitman

“BLESS ‘EM ALL” (Volume II) is the follow-up hardcover reference book bringing the history of the 503d PIR during WWII to fresh generations of “ROCK REGIMENT” veterans, their families and their friends. Originally intended to be published in three volumes, the scope of the manuscript will now be four volumes. Volume I deals with the training at Ft. Benning, the formation of the regiment, its time in Australia, New Guinea, and then on Noemfoor. Volume II follows the Regiment, now Regimental Combat Team, to Leyte and Mindoro, and sets up the preparation for the retaking of Corregidor. It reflects a wealth of materials including official papers, daily reports and journals. Through painstaking research these sources are being supplemented with the results of years of correspondence with the men intimately concerned with the events concerned. It’s not the official history, it eclipses it, and shows that the official histories were not always as accurate as history should require. The primary author is William T. “Bill” Calhoun, who joined the 36th Div., Texas National Guard whilst in high school, and enlisted in the Reserve Army Air Corps on 4 Jan 1941. To escape a permanent stateside posting he volunteered for parachute training, and graduated 19 June 1942, being assigned to the 502nd PIR. He attended OCS and was posted to Brisbane, Australia, arriving January 1944. He had been platoon leader 11 months when he jumped on Corregidor. Thereafter he became “F” Company Commander in Negros.

Available at <http://www.blurb.com/b/8461380-bless-em-all>



Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. First Name: _____ Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip / Postal Code: _____

Nation (If Not USA): _____

Home Telephone: _____ Work or Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ How to you want your newsletter? Mailed Electronic

Membership Type (please check one), A complete description of membership types can be found on 503rdPCT.org

Active, I am a veteran of 503rd PRCT, Unit _____ Years served: _____ to _____

Wife's name (if applicable) _____

Associate, I would like to be considered for membership on the following basis:

Widow, My husband served in the 503rd PRCT, Unit _____

I'm already a member, I just want to update my contact information and/or pay my annual dues.

Annual Membership Fees are \$25.00

Widows are not required to pay dues

Membership Dues are due each January 1st and are considered delinquent on April 1st

For those who wish to contribute more, we are offering additional membership levels

\$50 Bronze \$75 Silver \$100 Gold Over \$100 Platinum

Payment may be made via personal check (U.S. bank only), money order or international postal order, made out to the order of "503rd PRCT Association, WWII, Inc."

Send Completed Form And Payment To:

Nancy Young, Secretary/Treasurer; 10445 Old Telegraph Road, Ashland, VA 23005