

505 R.C.T. WWII

Regimental Combat Team



3630 Townsend Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75229

DATED MATERIAL

May, 2014

# The Panther



CENTRAL ZONE



## Message from the President:

### From Barbara Fortenbaugh, President of Family and Friends 505<sup>th</sup> RCT Assn:

Time flies and another exciting reunion is history. We had a great time with 4 of our WWII veterans (Pinky Pinkston, Duke Boswell, John Perozzi, and Ray Fary) attending to represent the 505 RCT at our annual 505 RCT/508 PIR combined reunion. One of the highlights for me was walking out of the museum in Fayetteville, and seeing Duke Boswell surrounded by active duty soldiers engrossed in his stories. Brought tears to my eyes. Another tearful time was flipping through a book in the museum and finding a picture of my dad.

The veterans were invited to attend a military ball with the 508 active duty and had a great time there. We had 3 of our European friends in attendance this year, great to have them, and hope they will continue to attend our yearly reunions. Pinky Pinkston took over as Vice President of the 505 RCT after the passing of Doc Franco.

January began the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of our Family and Friends Association. A shout out of thanks to Jim Blankenship, our founder.

Our own Secretary/Treasurer Ellen Peters was named the 508 Airborne Person of the Year and received a beautiful engraved statue. Way to go Ellen!

Ellen has her work cut out for her as she is the Chairperson of the 2014 Reunion to be held in Dallas, Texas. She was already making plans before she left Fayetteville. There is a possibility that the 507 Family and Friends and veterans will be joining us in the future, maybe it will happen for the Dallas reunion.

As always, I am so thankful to be part of the 505 RCT "family". I cherish the friendships I have made over the years. As a veteran myself, it is with pride that I say "thank you and I salute you" to our veterans.

### Airborne!

**Barbara (McKeage) Fortenbaugh, President 505 RCT Family and Friends  
Proud daughter of Don McKeage, F Co, 2/505 PIR, 82d Airborne Division**

P.S. Since I wrote this letter our Secretary/Treasurer Ellen Peters fell on the ice and broke her hip. Her hip replacement and recovery period is now over and she is on the mend and ready to get back to our 505 business. Glad to have you back Ellen. →



**Duke Boswell surrounded by active duty soldiers.**



## Final Jumps

Ellen,

Attached is TAPS for my dad. I was privileged to attend a couple of reunions with Daddy and got to meet many of his friends. What an honor to be related to such brave, fine men of the Greatest Generation.

**TAPS:** Norbert P. Beach, age 89, of Lubbock, TX passed away September 4, 2013. Norbert proudly and bravely served his country in World War II as a paratrooper of H Co., 505<sup>th</sup> PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, June 22, 1942 to September 25, 1945. He and his unit served in North Africa, jumped in Sicily; Salerno, Italy; Normandy, and the Netherlands. (4 Combat jumps) and the Battle of the Bulge. He accumulated enough points to return home on September 15, 1945.

**Paula DeForrest**  
**4922 48<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Lubbock, TX 79414**  
**(806) 792-1941**

## Devlin Book Available

Gerald Devlin's book, "Paratrooper" considered by many to be the definitive book on paratroopers and long out of print is now available as a Kindle edition on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

## Thank You

Many thanks to Ralph Yeager for his generous donation to the Amis des Veterans American Assn. (Friends of American Veterans)

We would like to thank Mrs. Harry E. Anderson and her grand daughter, Charmine Faulkner, for sharing with us many items in Harry Anderson's 505 memorabilia collection. You can now read the first three issues of Company E's "Listening Post" from 1942 on the 505 website. There is also a story on Max, the regiment's mascot, and all of the mail he received after being injured in an accident at Fort Benning. Just click on the memorabilia link of our website at [www.505rec.org](http://www.505rec.org).

## 2014 Reunion

The 2014 Reunion will be held in Dallas, Texas with the dates of October 15 – 19. We will again be joining the Family and Friends of the 508<sup>th</sup> PIR Assn. We have an exciting reunion planned with activities as follows:

**Wednesday, October 15:** Registration Day. The hospitality room will be open. People can register and visit with friends. Mr. Harlan Crow, son of the late Trammel Crow very kindly is allowing us rooms at the Hilton Anatole hotel in Dallas with a room rate of \$89.00 a night. This is less than half their usual room rate. The events we have tentatively planned are as follows:

**Thursday, October 16:** 9:00 AM – Memorial Breakfast

1:00 PM – Visit to the George W. Bush Presidential Library

**Friday, October 17:** 9:00 AM – We will board buses and ride out to Lancaster Airport where the Airborne Heritage Platoon will perform a parachute jump from an actual WWII C-47. Ride-a-longs will be offered to participants and two lucky veterans will be offered rides in a P-51 Mustang. This will be an all day event.

**Saturday, October 18:** Board Meetings and General Membership meeting will take place on Saturday as Well as the Veteran's Forum  
7:00 PM - Banquet

## Registration Form

### 2014 Reunion

Family and Friends 505<sup>th</sup> RCT Assn. / Family and Friends 508<sup>th</sup> PIR Assn.

October 15 – 19, 2014, Dallas, TX

**Registration Fee is \$95.00 per person**

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

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ Unit Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

I will have \_\_\_\_\_ Guests. Their names are listed below for Identification.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

Number of rooms needed. \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the following:

1. Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_ (AM/PM)

2. Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Registration Fee for \_\_\_\_\_ Persons.

Hotel Reservation Information

You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX, 75207 by calling 1-800-Hiltons [1-800-445-8667]. Be sure to mention the 82nd Airborne Division room block to get our group rate of \$89 per night. Reservations must be made by September 24, 2014 to receive this rate. The hotel is equipped with handicapped accessible rooms.

REUNION REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED IN FULL IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND BUT YOU MUST CANCEL YOUR HOTEL ROOM AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE TO AVOID ANY CHARGES.

Please send this entire page with your Registration Fee to:

Ellen Peters, 3630 Townsend Dr., Dallas, TX 75229.

Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to:

“F&F 505<sup>th</sup> RCT Assn” or “F&F 508<sup>th</sup> PIR Assn”



## THE 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY AND ITS MEANING

By US Army Colonel (Retired) Keith M. Nightingale

This June marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D Day. There will be huge crowds commemorating the event, panoply of officials from many countries and more than 500 Airborne soldiers representing the units that came here at that moment in time. Further away, National Presidents and a Queen will remember this day and its meaning. In St Mere Eglise, a monument will be dedicated to all those Airborne from all the Allies who died that this celebration and the population might live free.

Soldiers in ranks from the 82d, the 101<sup>st</sup>, Rangers and others will stand by the memorial at its dedication in homage to their predecessors who arrived on a dark night to deliver the light of Liberty to an oppressed land. They will stand in a church square in the shadow of where others landed and next to buildings that speak of the terror of that night and the glory of the morning light. The stained glass of the church tells the story of the night, the day and the future these soldiers' predecessors bought with their youth.

Within the crowd will be a family who has assured that these moments and these and those soldiers will never be forgotten-the Renaud's-Paul, Henri-Jean and Maurice. Their parents, the Mayor at liberation, and his wife lay buried nearby. Their spirit lives with the monument and with those young soldiers now arrayed in the square.

The Mayor wrote a letter to the President of France, Charles De Gaulle, and succeeded in the award of the French Fouragerre to the 82d Airborne liberators-a decoration worn today by all members of the Division. The Mother tended the graves of the liberating soldiers the rest of her life and rightly earned the title Mother of Normandy-the Mother none of the fallen would ever again know. The oldest son, Paul, designed the memorial stained glass windows of the church, the middle, Henri-Jean, manages the Airborne Museum and is the principle host for all returning veterans. The youngest, Maurice, is Chairman of the AVA, the local citizens group that hosts and feeds every returning Airborne soldier every year. It was Maurice who conceived of the Airborne Memorial monument and brought it to fruition for this moment. Their dedication to people unknown to them began in the early morning hours of 6 June 1944 in a muddy protective ditch behind the square and resides within the casualty figures displayed.

The spirit and the souls of those soldier's and their numbers lies beneath the memorial and receives the rightful homage of today's and tomorrow's participants. This is the story of one soul who serves for all.

The soldier is young. He has not yet lived his life. But in dying, he has fulfilled the meaning, the future and the salvation of life for all that he saved this day of days.

He brought a message of hope and future for a humanity that had lost hope. He gave his life that all others could live.

His body lay lifeless in the street as the dawn rose to the newly liberated citizens. They crept out of their cellars and safety to awaken to the first dawn of freedom in many years. Some walked next to him, stopped, crossed themselves and gave a silent prayer for the deliverance he and his brothers had given them. An older widow, dressed in black, stopped by a garden on the street and picked some flowers. She stooped by the young soldier's form and gently arrayed them over his chest.

Another person gently shifted the young soldier to his back, untwisted the last agony he endured for them and crossed his stained and dirt-encrusted hands on his belt. They had not yet been wrinkled or freckled with age nor would they ever be. Empty cartridges were brushed aside. His rifle was placed along his side-now useless-next to the weapon that just recently been so powerful and all-consuming in their service.

Down the street, the church padre walked with the Mayor, quietly talking to the citizens encountered and observing the damages of liberation. Behind the Mayor was his wife, dressed in a simple cotton dress and holding her three young children's hands. All were oblivious to the stains of mud and dirt covering them from the night's events-observed from a soggy but protective ditch behind their shop and house on the square. The sensitivities associated with cleanliness and appearance, so endemic in the people, was ground away and forgotten in the events of the night. Emotions had long since been lost in this moment.

The Mayor and padre came upon the young soldier and the pair attending to the corpse and in their way performing an act of contrition and cleansing to a body and spirit that truly needed no such help.



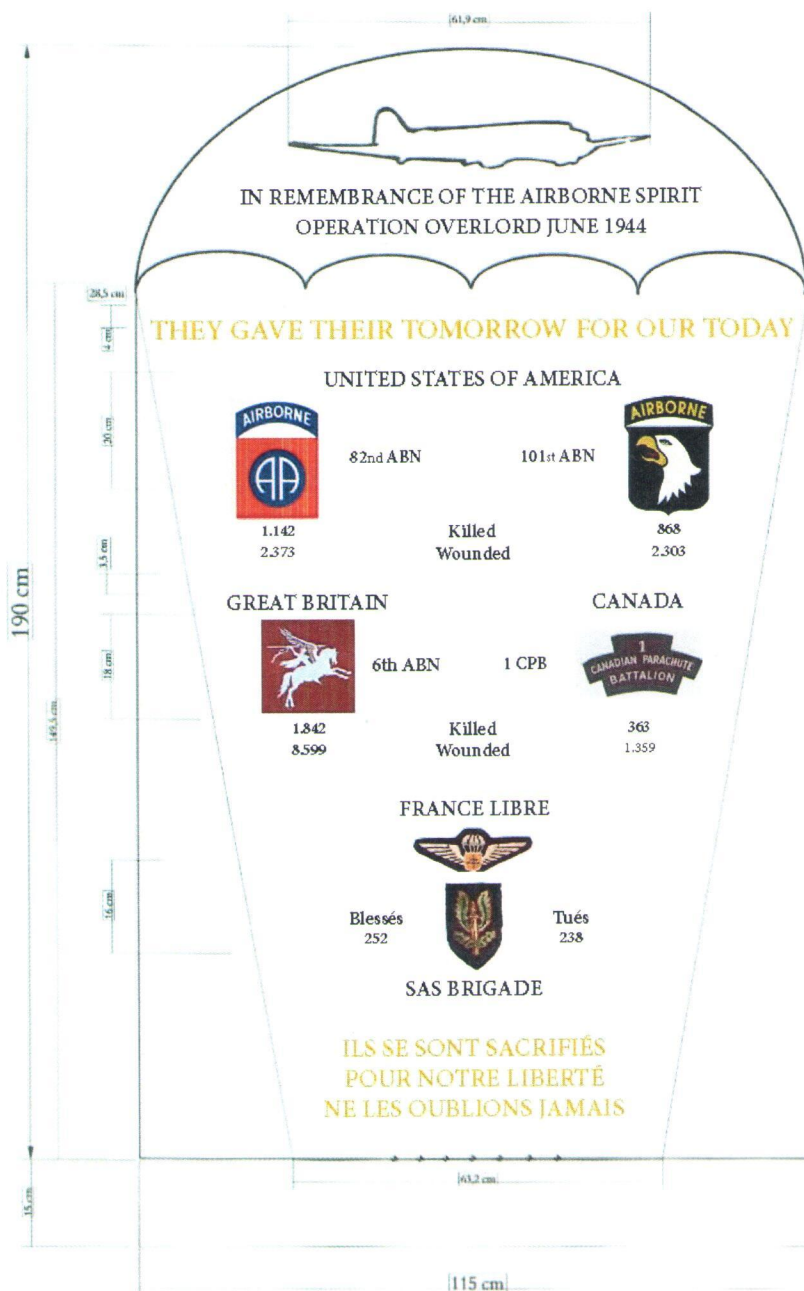
The priest and Mayor talked for a moment and the Mayor quietly went to several other citizens who had gathered to the scene. Together, they all grasped the body of the fallen paratrooper and his now limp and prostrated parachute canopy and carried them to the church. Other parishioners had secured the white rectangular box that resided on the edge of the square to accommodate occasional speakers and ceremonies. The box was placed just outside the church door.

The soldier was gently laid on the box and the parachute draped over his body. A breath of wind coursed through the square, lifting the shroud from his face, revealing the youth and vibrancy of the man among many who had brought them this moment. The weight slipped the silk past the boot tops, revealing the one part of the soldier uniquely identifying him as one of a very few number of delivering angels-truly from the sky. He would be symbolic of all those angels that descended that night-some of whose numbers the monument reflects.

The Mayor and the padre smiled. This silent soldier had brought them a life-liberating joy none there would ever forget.

The service was about to begin.

As you read the numbers on the monument, remember that service. ➔







Amis des Vétérans Américains



## **Monument in Honor of Allied Paratroopers Make a Donation**

Dear Friends,

### **THE AVA ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT.**

On June 8th, 2014, the AVA (Friends of American Veterans) will unveil a new unique monument on the church square of Sainte-Mère-Eglise. This monument pays tribute to the valiant Allied paratroopers of JUNE 1944 who with their blood redeemed our freedoms.

The monument will stand 2 meters high and will be made of light grey granite. With appropriate unit insignias annotated with the number of those killed in action (KIA), we will honor the following units:

United States of America: 82d and 101st Airborne Divisions.

Great Britain: 6th Airborne Division

Canada: 1st Parachute Battalion

SAS Brigade: British, Belgian and Free-French paratroopers

We are grateful to Colonel (Ret) Keith NIGHTINGALE for proposing this monument. To our knowledge, this monument will be the only one of its kind in France.

The cost is approximately \$25,000 USD. As we do not have access to public funding from any government, we are dependent upon private donations to meet this cost.

We hope that you will be able to help us in some way to honor the memory of the men who sacrificed their today for our tomorrows.

All donor names will be listed on our Association web site and engraved on the base of the monument for the most generous private or corporate gifts.

Whatever you can afford for this good and great cause, the AVA wishes to thank you in advance.

Sincerely,

**Maurice Renaud, President**

#### **Payment:**

**Via PayPal to AVA Account: [contact@avanormandy.org](mailto:contact@avanormandy.org)**

**Check Payable to: AVA Monument**

**Mail to: AVA  
Boite Postale 02  
50480 Sainte-Mere Eglise, France**



For those who wish to benefit from the 501C-3 fiscal deduction, please send a check to our sister association, Operation Democracy in Locust Valley, NY:

Check Payable to: Operation Democracy for AVA Monument  
P.O. Box 493  
Locust Valley, NY 11560

Be sure and write AVA Monument in the memo line on your check→

The Following article appeared in the May, 2014 American Legion Magazine



Published on *The American Legion* (<http://www.legion.org>)

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### Amis des Vétérans Américains

By Jeff Stoffer - May 1, 2014

Featured in [The American Legion Magazine](#) [2]



World War II veterans of the Normandy invasion sign autographs and meet visitors from multiple nations during a D-Day anniversary event coordinated by the AVA near La Fiére Bridge in France, site of one of the bloodiest small-arms battles in U.S. military history. Photo by Jeff Stoffer

Out on the hedgerow-stitched northwestern corner of France, the clock turns back each year to June 6, 1944, when Allied troops came by land, air and sea to liberate German-occupied Normandy and begin the long, bloody march to victory in the European theater of World War II.

Seventy years later, the narrow farm roads once again rattle under the wheels of green Army jeeps and half-tracks. Gray coastal skies are dotted with warplanes and parachutes. Men, women and



children of all nationalities dress in vintage American uniforms, helmets and boots. They stroll past U.S. flags flying higher than any others, take in battle-scene re-enactments and wreath-laying ceremonies, traverse the legendary beaches and stand before the graves of heroes.

Nearly every village, town and city in the region conducts observances, parades, dinners and other events to memorialize the invasion that changed the course of history. Tens of thousands pour into Normandy each year to meet, get autographs and shake hands with D-Day veterans, most of whom are now in their 90s, and to pay respects to those who never made it home alive.

At the center of all this is an organization that for decades has welcomed U.S. veterans and their families, along with active-duty military personnel and American Legion officials. Amis des Vétérans Américains (Friends of American Veterans) is rooted in a spirit of French gratitude that extends back to a parade on the war-torn streets of Ste. Mère-Église on June 6, 1945, the first anniversary of the liberation.

As U.S. veterans began returning in larger numbers to Normandy, the need to provide housing, dinners, ceremonies and events grew. In the 1960s, with the publication of the best-selling book "The Longest Day" and the blockbuster movie based on it, the AVA and U.S. veterans organized "milestone-year" pilgrimages to Normandy for the 20th and 25th anniversaries. The visits became more frequent after parachutists – including many who jumped with the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions during the war – began re-enacting the late-night air assault of 1944, a public spectacle that was started by the AVA and continues today.

On the 40th anniversary, Ronald Reagan became the first U.S. president to speak at a milestone anniversary of D-Day. His words about "the boys of Pointe du Hoc" are among the most remembered of his presidency. Following that, it became an expectation for world leaders to speak in Normandy on milestone years, a salute to the price paid in blood for freedom.

With the 70th anniversary this year, the AVA is welcoming American Legion National Commander Dan Dellinger and American Legion Auxiliary President Nancy Brown-Park for ceremonies in and around Ste. Mère-Église, the first town liberated in the invasion.

An AVA-produced Liberty Banquet on June 7 is already nearly sold out and will be attended by hundreds, including active-duty U.S. military units, and will feature music by the Holland, Mich., American Legion Band.

The AVA will also unveil a monument on the town square of Ste. Mère-Église, dedicated to Allied troops who gave their lives fighting behind enemy lines in the invasion. A major expansion of the Airborne Museum and a low-altitude parachute jump are also on the AVA agenda.

"We must never forget those young Americans, most of whom aged 20 years or younger, who gave their lives for our liberty," says AVA President Maurice Renaud, whose father was the mayor of Ste. Mère-Église on D-Day and whose mother founded the AVA. "Each year, we are honored to host veterans and their families."

The association recently developed a new website – [www.avanormandie.org](http://www.avanormandie.org) [3] – where photos, stories, calendars and information about the association and the new monument can be found. The AVA is also on Facebook.

Follow Commander Dellinger's official visit to Normandy for the 70th anniversary at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) [4] during the first week of June.

*Jeff Stoffer is director of The American Legion's Media & Communications Division. ➔*



# THE MEANING OF NORMANDY

By US Army Colonel (Retired) Keith M. Nightingale  
Normandy Systems, LLC

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Normandy Invasion. As time proceeds, the memories diminish and the significance ebbs into oblivion. There are occasional bursts of “remembrance” that capture a moment in time and permit some symbolic gesture for an historical event largely lost in time. This year, Presidents, Prime Ministers and the panoply of civilization will assemble on the week of the 6th of June to commemorate acts of long ago and to pledge fealty to that spirit and sacrifice. The invasion beaches will be serenaded by bands, banners and pomp and circumstance. Speeches will be made by the momentarily famous elected and appointed leadership of many nations recounting the events and meanings that took place there 70 years ago. Quickly, the crowds will disappear, the tides will continue and the events be forgotten. But the real meaning of Normandy, 6 June 1944, lives on in the obscure rural towns and villages of the Normandy Peninsula and more honestly reflects the true meaning of the event. For these people, 6 June 1944, is current events and a moment and spirit to be honored in perpetuity. Such a place is Hemevez.



**The Church at Hemevez, France**

Hemevez is a very small obscure farm town near the more populace city of Picaucville. One would have to have an acute desire to visit and a great sense of navigation or be hopelessly lost in order to encounter its environs. Yet, on the slight high ground of the village center, resides what the inhabitants believe Normandy and the invasion of 6 June was all about. The hill is dominated by a small church and copse of trees. The church is encompassed by a graveyard of several hundred years and several monuments to the various wars that the men of Hemevez have served and sacrificed. The monuments are close by an open farm field and gathered together-much like gravestones of the past. On one edge, in an open sunny place, is a unique stone. It is polished black granite with gold letters. Unlike the others, it is not an obelisk but rectangular. There are words and names incised on it and lettered in gold. Also unlike the others, it has a small gravel walkway leading from the church directly to its front. It truly stands alone among the others and is treated as such.

Across the top are the simple words in French, “*In Remembrance of the Fallen Soldiers 6 June 1944.*” Under are seven names. All are members of the 507th PIR, 82d Airborne Division, 6 June 1944. On that night, 14 soldiers of Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment, at around



0240, were misdropped over the small village of Hemevez and captured by the local German unit. On the back of the monument is the statement in French,

***"In memory of the 7 American Parachutists of the 82nd Airborne Division  
who were executed in the vicinity of this community 6 June 1944"***

Seven were captured and executed by the local German unit and seven evaded capture and eventually returned to US lines. One soldier observed the execution from a hidden shell crater. The villagers buried those seven within the grounds and later, as the Allies cleared the area, repatriated those bodies. However, the villagers did not forget them or what they signified and built this monument in their memory. Each year, at the anniversary period, the entire village gathers in the churchyard and remembers those teenagers of long ago and what they meant for their grandparents, for them and their succeeding generations.

This is not a contrived event as the town is as obscure as a distant rural small village can be. No personages of import, French or American, present themselves except on the rarest of occasions and then, often by chance. It is not important to the village. They know why they have assembled and it is important to them.

The sun peaks over the roof of the church. Next to the monument, the mayor stands. A farmer amongst them, he is wearing his best and only suit and tie with a stained shirt and shoes still muddy with the residue of his livelihood. The prefect of the church has a small antiquated CD player. Next to them, in line, are the local historical representatives of the FFI, Army units and Foreign Legion with their flags, dressed simply as the mayor. If there are attendees other than the village, the mayor brings them forward in a place of honor. He begins by playing the US National Anthem on the CD, somewhat broken and stuttering in repro-diction. Following protocol, he then plays the Marseilles. Every citizen, as is the French custom, including the flag bearers, sings somewhat lustily and with emphasis. At the conclusion, several of the donkeys in the adjacent field begin to bray, lending a concluding chorus to the affair.

The mayor signals for the CD to be stopped and ignoring the braying, quietly recounts the events of that night so long ago. It is a simple statement of facts. The villagers stand mute and without gesture, thinking about those words. The mayor then pauses and begins again. He quietly but with clear enunciation reads each name graven in gold;

**Pfc Elsworth M. HECK**

**Pvt Anthony J. HITZTALER**

**Pvt Andrew W. KLING**

**Pvt Delmar C. McELHANEY**

**Pfc Daniel B. TILLMAN**

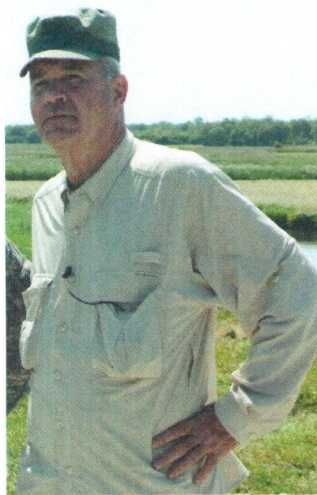
**Pvt Robert G. WATSON**

**Pvt Robert E. WERNER**





At the conclusion of each name, the villagers in unison and a firm voice state; "Mort Pour France." After the seventh name is read, the mayor turns to the village priest who issues a short prayer. The villagers cross themselves, quietly turn around and depart. Some linger and drop a flower or bouquet by the monument. The cattle peer through the wire at the event, the donkeys feed in the tall grass and the sun settles behind the church. Every year the village repeats this ceremony. Every year the villagers repeat the names and remember what they mean to them. This is unseen by the thousands who visit Normandy but that is not important to the village. They know why they come together and they always will. It's what they do. It's Normandy.



Colonel Keith M. Nightingale

**Colonel (Retired) Keith M. Nightingale** spent 30 years in the US Army as in Infantryman serving in Air-borne, Air Assault, Ranger and Special Operations Forces assignments. His lifelong passion has been the study of Airborne and Ranger actions on D-Day and has visited Normandy almost every June since 1978 where he walks the D-Day battlefields each year with the fewer remaining D-Day Veterans and listens, intently, as those D-Day Veterans share what really happened on these battlefields as they experienced D-Day. Then he walks the battlefields again talking with the young Airborne and Ranger warriors serving in those same units today as he shares the 36 years of collective stories from all of the D-Day warriors who made history in Normandy in June 1944. Keith is one of the foremost experts in the world today regarding the Airborne and Ranger battles on D-Day in Normandy and serves as the Chief Historian for Normandy Systems, LLC, a leadership training company he cofounded for the purpose of sharing the history and meaning of Normandy. ➔





**D-Day Drawing by Paul Renaud**

Paul Renaud was 14 years old on June 6, 1944 and an eye witness to the events that unfolded in St. Mere Eglise. The above drawing was done when he was 19 from his memories of D-Day. Paul also designed the famous stained glass window of the Virgin Mary with the paratroopers in the church.





## From Mists of Time

***Four Jumps For Freedom: The Duke Boswell Story***, currently in pre-production, is a one-hour documentary that will tell the story of a WWII veteran who braved four combat parachute jumps behind enemy lines. The producers will be bringing Maj. Henry 'Duke' Boswell back to the exact locations of his four jumps to interview him regarding his recollections of these extraordinary events. This rare, unique story has never been told on camera. The locations include Sicily, Italy, France and Holland. Maj. Boswell also fought in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium; that story will also be included in the film.

While Duke has been interviewed numerous times about his recollections from the war, he has never been interviewed while visiting the locations of his combat jumps. Many people, when they return to the locations of significant events in their lives, are able to recall many details and stories that they might not have otherwise remembered. It's these types of recollections that will make ***Four Jumps For Freedom: The Duke Boswell Story*** a truly unique and extraordinary documentary.

During the 505<sup>th</sup> and 508th Reunion last fall, Duke, along with the other veterans, visited the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne museum on Ft. Bragg. While touring the museum, Duke was reminded of several people and stories that he had not previously mentioned in his interviews. This was a great primer for the trip to visit the places Duke fought in Europe.

***From Mists of Time, a 501c (3) Colorado Nonprofit Corporation***, will produce documentary. The directors will use Duke's own words to guide the story, enhancing it with interviews from historians, authors and WWII experts, as well as true-to-life re-enactments.

### About From Mists of Time

From Mists of Time is an award-winning non-profit dedicated to capturing our country's oral history for future generations. Founded in 2003, From Mists of Time has conducted over 300 interviews of veterans and survivors of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. These include former POWs, Tuskegee Airmen, Medal of Honor recipients and veterans of D-Day. The interviews have been used for television, radio and classroom events in order to educate the public about the contributions of the Greatest Generation.

From Mists of Time's first documentary, *Bomber's Moon: Girls Beneath The Bombs*, was completed in 2009. Since that time it has aired in multiple television markets, shown at numerous school and local veterans' events and became an official selection to the Colorado Springs Indy Spirit Film Festival. From Mists Of Time's work has also been selected for an Edward R. Murrow Award for outstanding achievements in electronic journalism. From Mists Of Time's partnerships include Rocky Mountain PBS, E3 Dropout Solutions, The Classical Academy and the American Air Museum in Britain.

### Education and Distribution

***Four Jumps For Freedom: The Duke Boswell Story*** is the latest endeavor toward From Mists of Time's primary goal of providing younger generations with opportunities to learn about WWII as a critical moment in American history. Through our partnerships, we've already secured the ability to show this documentary to students in multiple school districts. It will become the centerpiece of our character-building curriculum, currently in development, that is designed for high school audiences. Our goal is to make the curriculum available to every school district in the country, as well as home school groups, public libraries, veterans groups and historical societies.

The directors of From Mists Of Time is seeking partners to help fund Duke's trip as well as the production of ***Four Jumps For Freedom: The Duke Boswell Story***. For those interested in knowing more about this project or partnering with Duke to help make it happen, please feel free to contact us.



**From Mists of Time**  
128 E. Willamette Ave.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
[josh@fourjumpsforfreedom.com](mailto:josh@fourjumpsforfreedom.com)  
[www.fourjumpsforfreedom.com](http://www.fourjumpsforfreedom.com)  
719-235-2220

*(Editor's Note: Check out the website for the promotional video) ➔*

The following article appeared on the American Air Museum in Britain's website

## **Duke's Jumps**

**Meeting the men and women who did extraordinary things during the Second World War is one of the privileges of my job.**

At the Library of Congress last month, John – our Collections Manager – sent me to listen to a series of interviews with paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division who had taken part in the mission to secure St Mère Église on D-Day. This town was the first liberated as the Allied troops pushed back the tide of German occupation in France.

One of the interviews was with Major (Ret.) Henry 'Duke' Boswell and I was captured at once by how he related what had happened to him. The interview was conducted by school students and forms part of the Library of Congress' fabulous Veterans' History Project (<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>), which seeks to collect the testimony of those who have served during wartime. The students had done a great job with their interview, but unfortunately, they were periodically interrupted by the school Tannoy.



Josh, Jenny, Duke & Dawn

Luckily, I was able to get in touch with Duke, via Ellen Peters at the 505th Regimental Combat Team Association. He agreed to be interviewed and thus it was that I found myself in Colorado Springs, being greeted by Duke's friends Dawn and Josh. I recorded an interview with Duke about his experiences, which were moving and fascinating by turn.



Duke is the veteran of four combat jumps – Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Holland. The museum’s C-47 transported paratroopers from Duke’s company to Normandy on D-Day, so I was particularly interested to talk to him about his memories of the journey over and the experiences he had when he arrived; you will be able to see excerpts from this in the museum when we create new displays in 2015. I was particularly moved by what Duke said about how the experience had left him feeling about war:

*‘When soldiers are killed, there is a ripple effect. Him, his immediate family, his relatives, his friends, people he had already met through whatever life he had lived up until that point... It wasn’t just one person missing... To me the real heroes were the ones we’ve left behind, what they’ve missed all those years I’ve been living. They had hopes, plans and everything else... what might those people have been?’*

This has particular resonance for the team at the AAM – our museum was founded to remember the airmen and women lost flying or supporting flight from British shores.

Jenny

## 101 years of living history

### 5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Story by Sgt. James Bunn

**Date:** 01.15.2014

**Posted:** 02.07.2014 13:42

**News ID:** 120286



By Sgt. James J. Bunn  
5th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

LAKEWOOD, Wash.- At 101-years old, Carl Paul, a former paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, has had his share of life experiences. During his birthday celebration Jan. 15 at the Veterans Affairs American Lake Campus, Blind Rehabilitation Center, in Lakewood, Wash., the World War II veteran reflected on some of those experiences.

While working at a logging camp in 1942, the then 29-year old Carl was not concerned about going to war until the day he received a draft notice. On March 18, he left his job and enlisted in the Army at Fort Lewis, Wash. to fight on the battlegrounds of Europe.

“When I held up my right hand and said ‘I do’ there was an airborne recruiter there,” Carl said. “He gave a speech and asked for volunteers. I stood up, looked around the room and everybody else was sitting down.”

Volunteering to become one of the early paratroopers in the Army brought a sense of pride to Carl.



“You had a better quality of men (in the airborne) than you did in the regular Army,” Carl said. “It was a pride that could not be explained.”

In July 1942, after completing Basic Training and Airborne School, Carl joined F Company, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division and was off to the European theater.

While assigned to the 82nd he jumped in to Sicily the first airborne combat operation ever conducted by the U.S. Army. Following Sicily, he participated in the second combat jump in Salerno.

On June 6, 1944, after surviving the first two airborne operations Carl jumped into Normandy with the rest of the division as part of Operation Overlord. Here Carl faced some of the toughest fighting of the war. During the fighting in France, the division saw 33 days of continuous combat and more than 5,000 paratroopers lost their lives.

Shortly after the invasion of Normandy, Carl jumped into Holland on Sept. 17, 1944, as part of Operation Market Garden. It was the last combat jump of the war and should have ended fighting in Europe. However, due to heavy German defenses, the war would go on until the spring of 1945.

Although he faced some of the harshest fighting conditions in WWII, Carl found the love of his life.

While his unit was waiting in England for the Normandy Invasion to kickoff, Carl met his wife Vera. They could not marry until later in the war because he was only in England for a short time. Between the fighting in Normandy and Holland, he was able to get 10 days of leave to get married. After the wedding, the newlyweds would have to wait more than a year before they saw each other again.

After the war, Carl started actively working with veteran groups, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the 82nd Airborne Association. He joined the VFW in 1950 and served in almost every leadership role he could. At one of the conventions, he reunited with some of the paratroopers he served with during the war.

“I was at a VFW convention and there was an airborne convention going on in the same town at the same time,” Carl said. “I went over and ran into some people I knew. I found out that there had never been a chapter (of the 82nd Association) west of the Mississippi. So, I started one right there at the convention.”

For 23 years, Carl and Vera hosted a weeklong potluck that was open to all the 82nd Airborne Association members at his ranch in Montana. They also started other chapters in the western United State because Carl felt like it was something he had to do so future paratroopers could stay connected.

“It was my life for a long time, and I enjoyed it,” Carl said. “My wife was an extrovert and I am an introvert, so she would make all the friends and bring them in and then they would become my friends.”

At his birthday party, Carl celebrated his life with service members, past and present. He attributes his longevity to never using tobacco or alcohol and having good genes.

“I’m in a lot better shape than some 60 year olds,” Carl said. “I still have a lot of life left.” ➔



Ellen,

I'm making a donation to the 505 RCT Association in John Perozzi's name. It is in appreciation of receiving a copy of his book, "Why Me".

**Bob Schweikert**

Dear Ellen Peters,

I know you don't know me, but I have been receiving the "Panther" paper for several years. My husband, Loyd E. Bills was with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, 505 Regiment, Co. B in WWII. He was with them in all their battles – wounded twice, but returned to his unit after each recovery. He jumped on D-Day, was wounded on the 6<sup>th</sup> day in; then on Sept. 17, 1944 in Holland – wounded again the 2<sup>nd</sup> day in. Returned and went all the way through the Battle of the Bulge. His unit met the Russians at the Elbe River. He also jumped in Italy in 1943 and with the unit in Sicily. He passed away March 29, 1999. He was a wonderful husband to me.

In 1969, we went with the group of 505 veterans to France for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day. A wonderful trip. We went for two weeks and went to St. Mere Eglise, to Paris, and on to Holland; then back to Paris and on to London for 2 days.

While in St. Mere Eglise, Maurice Renaud's brother took my husband and I, along with two other B Co. veterans out to the river and bridge near where Loyd had landed on D-Day. (I don't remember how to spell the name of the river), but they all told me it was where one of them fired a mortar and knocked the track off a German tank and turned the tank sideways on the crossing which stopped the German tanks from crossing the valley. I know at the time, the valleys were filled with water and we lost a number of our troops to drowning.

Maurice Renaud was on our plane going over to France. A very nice young man! After reading your account of your trip to that area, which was very interesting, I also read about the (AVA) headed by Maurice and decided to send a donation which is enclosed. I do not have a computer so I am sending it to you. We were treated so wonderfully while in St. Mere Eglise and had such a meaningful trip, which I will never forget. I do want these memories to continue for them in the future. We have lost so many of our WWII vets. Time is running short. (I am 88 yrs of age.)

Just a note: My father – Henry Earl Johnston was in WWI in 1918 – 1919.

Thank you for all you do for our precious veterans. May God's Blessings go with you.

Sincerely,

**L. Allene Bills**  
**12364 County Road 4039**  
**Holts Summit, MO 65043**  
**(573) 896-4576**

*(Editor's note: Mrs. Bills – the river you mention is the Merderet. Thank you so much for your donation. I will hand deliver it to Maurice)*

Ellen-

Thanks for all you do! And thank you for continuing to honor my father! I'm sure he is smiling down on you.

**Alice McKeage**

*(Editor's Note: Alice – it is my pleasure. I think of your father everyday and often find myself sending a big smoocher straight up to heaven! I miss him so much.)*



From: adiwild@hotmail.com  
To: ContactMeAt@aol.com  
Sent: 4/19/2014 2:17:56 A.M. Eastern Daylight Time  
Subj: 82nd AB 505th Veterans

Good morning, I am hoping you could help me.

My name is Adrian Wild and I run a re-enactment group in England. This is for the 505th RCT 82nd Airborne.

We are at a show in June (13th-15th) at Quorn in Leicestershire. This is the area that all the 505th were garrisoned around in the months before D-Day.

On the Sunday morning we have arranged with the organizers for a small service in the village to lay a wreath at the memorial to the 505th in the village.

I am hoping to find any veterans or family members that are maybe on their way back from the Normandy commemorations who would like to be there with us.

I feel that this is a very important thing for our group to do, we have a lot of younger members that while they have an interest in the WW2 period, need to fully understand the respect and remembrance deserved by these men.

If you wish to check that we are genuine please have a look at our website and Facebook page. These are -

**www.505thrctbrg.co.uk**  
**82nd airborne 505th rct -Facebook.**  
**Hope to hear from you.**  
**A Wild (Fritz CO)**  
**adiwild@hotmail.com**

**From:** Darren Bond <drwbond1984@hotmail.co.uk>  
**To:** "katiet1@sbcglobal.net" <katiet1@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 6:33 AM  
**Subject:** 82ns Airborne and Quorn project

Hi Katie,

I live in Leicester in the UK, the UK home of the 505th, 504th, and 325th. I have a keen interest in the 82nd and I guess you could say am a bit of a amateur historian of them.

At the moment I am working on a few projects to do with the 82nd in Leicester. I have been lucky enough to speck with John Diffin from G Com 505th and Leslie Cruise from the 505th. Collecting their personnel memories of there time in the UK.

I am very keen to be able to correspond with other veterans from the 82nd Airborne to do the same. To help build the bigger picture of what it was like. The training, the interaction with locals, places, camp life etc.. Do you know of any Vets or families that maybe willing to help with this?

Any information that is received will be much gratefully appreciated.

Thanks for you help and time

Kind regards,  
**Darren Bond**  
**2 Chelsea Close**



Glen Parva  
Leicester, LE2 9UN  
Email: drwbond1984@hotmail.com

### Searching For Info...

Our 505 RCT Webmaster, Bob Schweikert is looking for copies of the following books:

"Utah Beach to Cherbourg" by the Historical Division of the Army

"The Left Corner of My Heart: The Saga of the 551<sup>st</sup> Parachute Infantry Battalion by Dan Morgan

"Thirty-Five Days in Normandy" by William "Bill" Tucker

"Rendezvous at RochelINVAL" By William "Bill" Tucker

**Bob Schweikert**  
**ContactMeAt@aol.com**

To Whom it may Concern-

I was given your email address by Ralph Peeters. I am the granddaughter of pvt James Lee Cole a member of the 505th Airborne PIR. My family and I are trying to learn more about his service and if anyone remembers serving with him. We know he was killed on October 1 in Grosebeek holland and is buried in Margarten cemetery any information you can offer would be greatly appreciated. If you have any reunions or information or membership we would greatly appreciate that as well.

Thank you-  
**Shelby Wright**  
**706.338.5711**

**Emmett L. Zimmerman of A Company** - Looking for anyone who has information or knew him. He was my uncle and I am researching information on his time in A/505 PIR. He was one of the original members of the 505th and was in Africa, Sicily and Normandy. I am the family genealogist and history buff and want to see if I can find out what platoon and squad he was in so I can trace his footsteps from the general information in the 505 books. If anyone knew him and has some stories that would be awesome.

Thanks! Judy

**Judy Moisey Asay**  
**6519 Poppy At.**  
**Arvada, CO 80007**  
**Telephone # 303-229-2223**

Dear Ellen,

I am contacting you in my capacity as one of the research team for The American Air Museum (AAM) in Britain project. My colleague, the project leader Jenny Cousins has been in contact with you regarding the interview she conducted with Henry "Duke" Boswell. One of the aircraft in the exhibition is a Douglas C-47 which dropped members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment into the area around Sainte Mère Église on D-Day. It has been decided to integrate presentation of this aircraft (which will be suspended from the ceiling) with a narrative account of the paratroopers who fought in the 3rd Battalion. To this end, the AAM is seeking to display the uniform and equipment which would have been worn and carried by a D-Day paratrooper jumping into the Normandy countryside.



If you should deem it appropriate, I would like to ask for the opportunity to seek a loan of such objects from any of the Association members who are collectors of historical military artifacts. If you have any questions with regard to this request please do not hesitate to contact me.

For your information, I have enclosed a research document regarding the aircraft.

Sincerely,

**Sean Rehling**

**SRehling@iwm.org.uk**

My name is Timo Worst, I'm from Amsterdam in The Netherlands and I'm researching the actions of E Comp (Lt. Meddaugh), 505th PIR, against elements of 4 Comp, recce btln 1st SS Panzer Division east of Trois-Ponts on December 21, 1944.

In particular I am currently looking into the murder of 11 members of 505/E, eight of them being part of the bazooka team Lt. Meddaugh placed in front of his lines east of the Salm River. The war diary of the 82nd AB mentions them as MIA after their position was overrun by the Germans. A Soldbuch found on the scene identified these Germans as members of 4 Comp, recce btln 1st SS Panzer Division. The info from the war diary is a near perfect match with the post war statements of SS recce btln commander Gustav Knittel, who confessed to ordering the shooting of eight American POWs that same afternoon of December 21, a few miles from the lines of 505/E. It also matches with the testimony of Jean Elias, an inhabitant of Trois-Ponts who was a witness for the prosecution during the 1946 Malmédy Trial, who stated that on January 7, 1945, he found the bodies of eleven murdered Americans near the building 4 Comp, recce btln 1st SS Panzer Division had used as its HQ during the battle.

I am trying to identify the men from the bazooka team and the other three men from 505/E who were brutally murdered that day, and I hope you can assist me. Are losses of 505/E registered somewhere in a way that allows us to give these victims their names instead of remaining unidentified victims of the SS?

Kindest regards,

**Timo Worst**

**ruimteapjes@live.nl**

I am trying to do some research on my Uncle, Joe (Tiny) Horwath of 2HHC. I know he made all 4 combat jumps and fought in the Bulge and then into Germany. His highest rank was sergeant. He said he got busted a lot. I know one of his friends was a Sgt. Johnson. I think his first name was Wilton from Buffalo, NY. I have some pictures of his mortar position and one is on the wall at the Ft. Bragg Museum. I was told that he set a record and fired 1900 rounds in 36 hours from his position in Holland. A record that still stands today. His commander, Col Ekman noted that in his memoirs. I would like to find a photo of him with his company or someone who may remember him. Any information would be real nice to find out. He kept a low profile after the war, but was a party guy to the end. I hope you can help.

Thank you,

**Mitchell Ekovich**

**M.Ekovich@comcast.net**

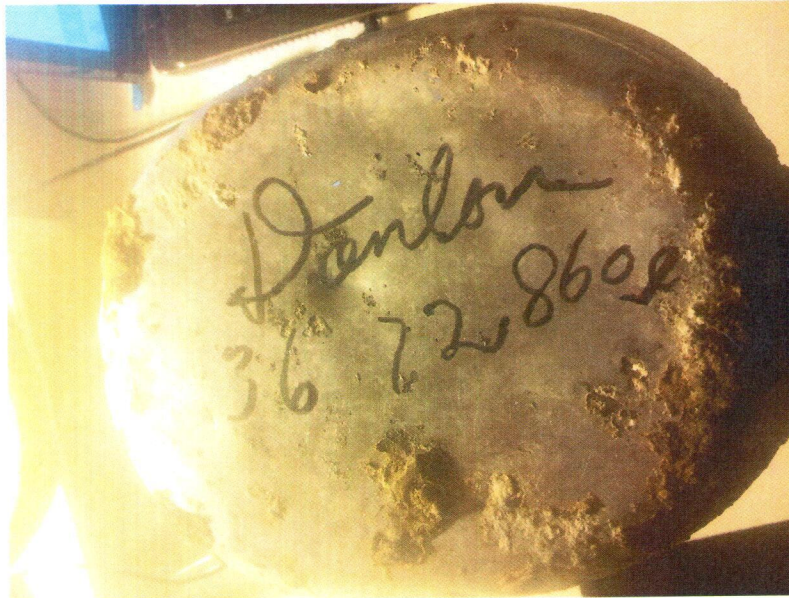
A Dutch friend of mine found a mess kit with a metal detector in the Berg en Dahl area. The name and ASN are that of James A. Donlan. My roster shows he was with D Co, and passed away on August 14, 1969. My friend would like to return the mess kit to his family.

Thank you,

**Dominique Potier**

**paracsm@hotmail.com**





The 505 webmaster is looking for morning reports from 1942 to 1945, all old Static Lines and Panther newsletters, all individual company news letters that were printed over the years. All old photographs, etc. etc. Also copies of all unpublished manuscripts written by troopers.

If you have any of these items and would like to see them on our website, please forward them to our webmaster at:

**Robert Schweikert**  
7208 Amboy Road  
Staten Island, NY 10307-1406  
Email: [ContactMeAt@aol.com](mailto:ContactMeAt@aol.com)  
Tele: 718-948-1350→

### 505<sup>th</sup> RCT HATS FOR SALE





Barbara Fortenbaugh found 505<sup>th</sup> RCT hats amongst her father's possessions. She has graciously donated the hats to our association. These hats are in limited supply. Cost is \$15.00 + postage. Anyone interested in purchasing one of these hats should contact Ellen Peters at (214) 632-1360 or [eeptx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eeptx@sbcglobal.net)

### Copies of "Ready" Available

Several copies of the original "Ready" were found in the Static Line wear house and are available for purchase. Price is \$250.00 + \$25.35 postage for a total of \$274.35. Contact Jim Blankenship at 2135 Saint Thomas Way; Suwanee, GA 30024-3285; Home: (678) 349-2262 Cell: (404) 906-5646 email: [jimspix@charter.net](mailto:jimspix@charter.net) or [ff505rct@charter.net](mailto:ff505rct@charter.net) or Ellen Peters at 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805; Home: (214) 352-7002 or Cell: (214) 632-1360; email: [eeptx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eeptx@sbcglobal.net).

### Call for Dues!

Dues for the new fiscal year of Family and Friends of the 505th PIR Assn. were due on July 1. WWII 505 RCT veterans, widows of WWII 505 RCT veterans, and Honorary Members are not required to pay dues. All others are. Your dues are critical to our FF505RCT operations and reunions.

Dues are \$12.00 per year. Multiple years may be paid if desired and donations are gratefully accepted. Please send dues to:

**F&F505RCT Assn.  
3630 Townsend Dr.  
Dallas, TX 75229-3805**

### Changes of Address

Please forward change of email addresses to [ff505rct@charter.net](mailto:ff505rct@charter.net) or [eeptx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eeptx@sbcglobal.net) and postal changes of address to: Ellen Peters; 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805

### Panther Submissions

#### Panther Submissions:

If you have something you would like to put in the Panther, kindly send it to Ellen Peters; 3630 Townsend Dr.; Dallas, TX 75229-3805 or [eeptx@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eeptx@sbcglobal.net). Send all changes of physical and/or email addresses to the same address/email.

### Dedication

This and all Panther newsletters are dedicated in loving memory to our original Panther editor, Don McKeage. We love and miss you.

## MY HEROES

