



## TEXAS LONE STAR CHAPTER



In 1975, Carroll Sylvester, still a current member, wanted to organize a chapter of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association in Houston, Texas, and he contacts the Association National office. He was told that Bill St. Claire, a member of the Association, had just moved from Colorado to Houston and Carroll was given Bill's telephone number to contact. Bill St. Clair had just moved to Houston from Colorado where Bill had opened the Denver Chapter of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association. In 1975 the Texas Lone Star Chapter was formed and submitted its application for a charter. At the 1976 National Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio the Texas Lone Star Chapter receives its national charter. Our chapter was a large chapter with many World War II paratrooper living and working in the Houston, Texas area. We were the first chapter chartered in Texas. It was not long before other chapters in the state were chartered and we help them by sending our members names that lived in the new charter chapter areas.

The Texas Lone Star chapter over the years had many projects. The first one was putting a monument on the wall of a building commemorating the men who lost their life at the battle at Ponte Dirillo near the Acate River. The monument covered the whole wall of a building on the road that leads south to Biazza Ridge.

1LT (Retired) Ivan Woods was the driving force that help the Chapter to accomplish this task. Today I have read accounts that others have claimed responsibility of erecting this monument, but it was the Texas Lone Star chapter that got it done.

Another major project of the Texas Lone Star Chapter was erecting an Airborne Museum on board the Battleship of Texas located near Houston, Texas. This museum was located one deck below in the aft end of the ship. It stood for many years until the Sate had the ship repaired. We were asked to take off the museum and we were not allowed to return it. May ask why an Airborne Museum on the battleship Texas? The Battleship has a long history with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. It was in the convoy that escorted the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division to Africa.

Then it fire on position in support of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division during D-Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Texas Lone Star Chapter undertook two other projects and they were the hosting of the 1981 and the 1987 National Conventions. Both Conventions were hosted in the Astro Village Hotel across from the Astrodome in Houston. Now in 2020, the Texas Lone Star Chapter will be hosting its third convention at the Houston Marriott Westchase located at 2900 Briarpark Drive, Houston, Texas.

Today the Texas Lone star Chapter has other projects that we support with our money. Due to the mission of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division which is to, within 18 hours of notification, strategically deploy, conduct forcible entry parachute assault and secure key objectives for follow-on military operations in support of US national interest, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division has more Wounded Warriors due to being first into combat. Our Chapter is reaching out to the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division in monetary support of the wounded warriors and their families. It not so much support for the wounded warrior, but support for their families who hurried to get to their son or daughter's side. Just having their family at their side helps the wounded warrior recover from their wounds.

Another project the Texas Lone Star Chapter supports is the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association Educational Fund. The chapter supports this project which gives a scholarship to former troopers and dependent children of veterans and active duty Association members that are pursuing a baccalaureate degree.