

## Favetteville Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association

Address: 606 Johnson St, Fayetteville, NC 28306
Phone: (910) 868-4010



## Dear Members,

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus 19 pandemic, 82nd Airborne Division and 82nd Airborne Division Association have had to make the very difficult and unfortunate decision to cancel All American Week 2020 events. Although it is with great sadness that we make this decision, as always, the greatest concern of the 82nd Airborne Division Association is for the health and welfare of our Troopers and Veterans. With a large number of our Members being elderly and, therefore in the higher risk category, and with concern for how long it will be until our Members will be safe to gather in large numbers, the Association feels that it is not in the best interest of our Members to conduct our AAW 2020 events. Many of the Association's AAW 2020 events have large numbers of Members gather in small spaces, such as, the Dinners and the Hospitality room events, not to mention the large numbers of Members having to travel and gather in large numbers in the hotels. These events are therefore not in the best interests of our Members, and are cancelled for the 2020 AAW. The Association is in complete agreement with the 82nd Airborne Division for the need to cancel events that bring large numbers of Troopers and Veterans together, and, therefore, fully support their decision to cancel the AAW 2020 events.

The 82nd Airborne Division is working to incorporate a Division Run, Hall of Fame Induction, and Memorial Ceremony into the Division Change of Command week, 6-10 July 2020, and the Association is looking into hosting a dinner where we can recognize the JM, NCO and Troopers of the Year, but there are no decisions made as of yet. Please do not call with questions regarding the Division Change of Command week as it is just beginning the planning phase and we have no answers for you at this time. As soon as we receive information, we will distribute it to the Association Members.

Please understand that the decision to cancel the AAW 2020 events was very hard knowing how important AAW is to the 82nd Troopers and Veterans, but the health and welfare of the Members of the Association and their Families is always our number one concern. The Association will be contacting all those who have already registered for the AAW 2020 event to offer them a refund of their payment. We will begin working on the AAW 2021 Event immediately and will offer those who have already registered the opportunity to transfer their payment to the AAW 2021 Event. We hope that you are all remaining safe and that we will have the opportunity to see you all again once the Coronavirus has subsided. Airborne, All The Way!

Below is the official 82nd Airborne Division Cancellation message from All American 6!



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All American Family,

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to impact every aspect of our lives, it's with a heavy AIRBORNE heart that we announce the cancelation of All American Week 2020, originally scheduled for May 18-21. This decision was not made lightly, but it was made to safeguard the health and well-being of our All American Family, many of which are amongst the most vulnerable populations. We felt an obligation to inform you as early as possible for planning and travel considerations.

All American Week is an event treasured by Paratroopers young and old. It provides an opportunity for us to celebrate this great Division and the amazing achievements that make us America's Guard of Honor ... all while strengthening the bond between the Fort Bragg community and Paratroopers past, present and future. Much like the rest of America and the world, this year we will forego some of our most sacred traditions for the greater good.

While we are certainly disappointed, we are working towards incorporating some of the signature events into with the Division change of command ceremonies this summer. This includes the Division memorial event, Division Hall of Fame induction, and of course the Division Run! We will share more information as this is developed.

As America's Guard of Honor, it's important that we do our part. The best way to slow the spread of this disease is to limit contact, social distance from other, rigorous hand washing habits, and by all means stay at home when you are sick. We will lead through this and I promise, All American Week 2021 will be one for the history books!

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Joseph R Tolley Fayetteville Chapter Secretary