

BY-LAWS

509th PARACHUTE INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I NAME, AIMS & PURPOSES, & NEWSLETTER

Section 1 Name:

The name of the organization shall be 509TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY ASSOCIATION and is organized under the provisions of the ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION of the 509TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION, INCORPORATED, filed in the State of Maryland on June 7, 1982.

Section 2 Aims & Purposes:

- a. To establish a permanent organization that will further develop the common bond existing between all who have served with the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion (PIB) and all units organized by the Army under the lineage of the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR).
- b. To maintain records and publish the history and achievements of the 509th PIB and all units formed by the Army following the lineage of the 509th PIR.
- c. To maintain a close relationship with the families of deceased members assigned to the 509th PIR paratroopers.
- d. To perpetuate the memory of the members of the 509th PIR who have died in the service of their country.
- e. To maintain contact with all members of the 509th PIR who have become disabled in the service of their country.
- f. To be of assistance and service in matters pertaining to veterans benefits.
- g. To encourage the Airborne aspect of national defense.
- h. To maintain close liaison with the active units of the 509th PIR.
- i. To recognize, by appropriate presentations, the Noncommissioned Officers and Soldiers “of the Year”, for the Battalions.
- j. To provide administrative and financial support to the memorials and museums honoring the 509th PIR in order to assist in maintaining the history and artifacts of the 509th PIR.

Section 3 Newsletter:

- a. To carry out these aims and purposes, the Association shall publish a

509th Parachute Infantry Association By-Laws

newsletter, with the goal of a quarterly publication.

- b. The Editor of the newsletter shall be appointed by the Executive Committee

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 Classes and Qualifications:

Membership in the Association shall consist of six (6) classes, as follows:

CHARTER MEMBERS: Charter Members shall consist of all officers and enlisted persons assigned to the 504th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the 2nd Battalion 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment (from February 24, 1942 through November 2, 1942), the 2nd Battalion 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment and/or the 509th Parachute Infantry Battalion, between October 4, 1941 and March 1945. Charter members shall also be life members, no dues being necessary to continue their membership in the Association.

GOLD STAR MEMBERS: Any family member or next of kin of service member, who has been assigned, or attached to, and honorably served with , the 509th PIR by whatever designation and whatever location since 1963, under competent orders, and died in service to the nation at any time of their military service. Gold Star Members shall also be life members, no dues necessary to continue their membership in the Association.

ACTIVE DUTY MEMBERS: Any soldier currently serving in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard who is or has been assigned to a properly constituted unit of the U.S. Army organized under the heraldry and lineage of the 509th PIR.

REGULAR MEMBERS: Any officer or enlisted person, who has been assigned or attached to, and honorably served with, the 509th PIR by whatever designation and whatever location since 1963, under competent orders, shall be eligible for membership in the Association. An applicant for membership shall first file with the designated representative of the Association, an application for membership on such forms as shall, from time to time, be prescribed, accompanied by payment in full of the then current dues. No applicant, having made proper application and possessing the foregoing qualifications shall be denied membership in the Association providing, however, that the Executive Committee may, in its discretion, refuse membership to any applicant who, at any time during or since their service, has been guilty of any conduct unbecoming a member of the 509th PIR.

509th Parachute Infantry Association By-Laws

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS: Any family member of an individual who is eligible for membership, other than Gold Star Members. Also, any family member of a deceased Charter and/or Regular Member of the 509th PIR, other than Gold Star family members. Any other individual who supports the aims and purposes of the Association may become a member of the Association with approval of the Executive Committee.

HONORARY MEMBERS: Any person, whose life and activities has fostered the ideals of the 509th PIR to the general public or whose service to the Association has been exemplary, may be elected an HONORARY MEMBER of the Association by majority vote of the Executive Committee. Any member of the Association may propose a candidate for Honorary Membership by written recommendation to the Executive Committee, outlining detailed qualifications of the candidate. Each such recommendation shall be certified to any member of the Executive Committee not less than sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting of the General Membership. Any Honorary Membership may be withdrawn by a majority vote of the Association at a duly-constituted General Membership Meeting.

Section 2 Voting Privileges:

- a. All dues paying members of the Association, as defined above, shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to the vote of the membership. This vote will be validated by the Membership Secretary. This vote may be cast in person, electronically, or by mail. The Executive Committee shall determine if the vote on a specific issue should go to the entire membership, **or only presented to the members attending the meeting.** The Executive Committee will provide the time period that all votes will be accepted and will ensure that results are provided to all voting members.

Section 3 Termination of Membership:

The name of any member may be stricken from the roll of members: (1) upon written resignation of a member, accepted by the Executive Committee, (2) upon direction of the Executive Committee, based upon any reason which would warrant refusal of membership to a new applicant, or (3) the Executive Committee, by affirmative vote of four-fifths of the officers, may suspend or expel a member for cause after an appropriate hearing by the Executive Committee. Notice of proposed termination, with supporting documents, must be served on such member at least sixty days in advance of the hearing, by certified mail.

509th Parachute Infantry Association By-Laws

Section 4 Dues:

Regular dues are as follows:

- a. Charter Members – Free Life Membership;
- b. Gold Star Members (includes Next-of-Kin) – Free Life Membership;
- c. Honorary Members – Free Life Membership
- c. Active Duty Members – \$25.00 *one time, for as long as the individual is on active duty*;
- d. Regular Members – \$25.00 per year;
- e. Associate Members – \$20.00 per year.

Dues for all members may be increased to such amount as shall be time-to-time be fixed by the Executive Committee, except those membership categories which are exempt from paying dues.

ARTICLE III

MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE

Section 1 Management:

The business and affairs of the Association shall be managed by the Executive Committee. The President shall respond to all issues requiring immediate attention and shall notify the other members of the Committee at the earliest practicable date.

Section 2 Bills, Obligations, Accounts and Investments:

All bills or obligations of the Association shall be paid by the Treasurer of the Association. A quorum of the Executive Committee must vote on any business that changes the status of the Association.

Section 3 Loans:

No monies shall be borrowed or loaned by the Association nor shall any financial notes be given by the Association unless authorized by vote of the Executive Committee in regular authorized session.

Section 4 Dissolution Statement:

In event of the dissolution of the 509th Parachute Infantry Association, Inc., the Executive Committee will determine the disposition of all assets of the Association.

509th Parachute Infantry Association By-Laws

Section 5 Interpretation:

Nothing in these By-Laws shall be construed to modify or alter the express direction of this Article.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section 1 Number of Positions:

The volunteer officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Membership Secretary, a Sergeant-at-Arms, a Historian, a Newsletter Editor and a Board of Trustees. These officers, hereinafter named, shall comprise the Executive Committee. Only a veteran who had been assigned to a unit whose lineage falls directly under the 509th PIR shall serve as President and Vice President. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to limit any one person from holding more than one office, except that the President, Vice President and Treasurer shall not hold any other office.

Section 2 Election and Terms of Office:

The officers of the Association, except for the Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms and Newsletter Editor, shall be elected annually by the Association members present at the annual General Membership Meeting. The Historian, Sergeant-at-Arms and Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the President, such appointment being subject to the approval of the full Executive Committee.

Section 3 Removal:

Any officer or agent may be removed by the Executive Committee or the members of the Association at the General Membership Meeting whenever, in their judgment, the best interests of the Association would be served thereby.

Section 4 Vacancies:

Any vacancy shall be filled by the President for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 5 President:

The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Association and shall, in general, supervise and control all of the business and affairs of the Association. The President shall also preside at all meetings.

Section 6 Vice President(s):

509th Parachute Infantry Association By-Laws

The members of the Association may choose to have up to two Vice Presidents. In the absence of the President, or in the event the President's refusal to act, the Vice President shall perform the duties of the President until such time as the Executive Committee can appoint someone to fill the position until a successor can be elected.

Section 7 Secretary:

- a. The Secretary shall be responsible for and keep minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee;
- b. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be directed by the President or the Executive Committee.

Section 8 Treasurer:

- a. The Treasurer shall have charge of and be responsible for all funds and securities of the Association; receive and give receipts for monies due and payable to the Association from any sources whatsoever, and deposit all such monies in the name of the Association in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as shall be designated from time to time by the Executive Committee.
- b. The Treasurer shall be required to submit quarterly reports to the Executive Committee detailing the income and expenses of the Association for the previous quarter.
- c. The Treasurer shall be required to submit annual reports to the Association at the General Membership Meeting detailing the income and expenses to the Association for the previous year.
- d. Upon request the Treasurer shall provide a copy of the annual report to any member, upon request. The Treasurer shall ensure a copy of the annual report is available to any member by mail or electronically. The Treasurer shall submit a summary of the annual report for publication in the first newsletter published following the General Membership Meeting.
- e. The Treasurer will perform such other duties as assigned by the President or the Executive Committee.

Section 9 Membership Secretary:

The Membership Secretary shall maintain a roster of active members and the official roster for Association mailings. This position shall be responsible for membership cards for all members and transmitting those cards and an Association decal for each member. The Membership Secretary shall be responsible for insuring that only dues paying members are allowed to vote.

509th Parachute Infantry Association By-Laws

Section 10 Board of Trustees:

The Board of Trustees shall consist of no more than five veteran members and should include one member from each active unit of the 509th PIR, when possible.

Section 11 Sergeant-at-Arms:

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall keep order during meetings, and if necessary, instruct any members who are overly rowdy or disruptive to leave the meeting area. This individual may sit with the Executive Committee, without vote.

Section 12 Historian:

A Historian shall be appointed by the President of the Association and approved by the Executive Committee. The justification for appointment shall be based on the individual qualifications of the appointee (noted author, historian, researcher, etc.). The Historian shall sit with the Executive Committee, without vote, and apprise the Officers on those pertinent matters concerning the unit and Associations history.

Section 13 Newsletter Editor:

A Newsletter Editor shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for an unspecified term and shall sit with the Executive Committee, without vote.

Section 14 Compensation:

No compensation shall be authorized any Officer, other than in payment of reasonable compensation for expenses and services rendered.

Section 15 Emergencies:

The Executive Committee shall have the power to act in all emergencies, and shall give the members notification of any such action at the earliest possible occasion.

ARTICLE V

ELECTIONS

Section 1 Qualifications:

An Officer must be a voting member of the Association.

Section 4 Nominations:

509th Parachute Infantry Association By-Laws

Any voting member of the association may nominate candidates for Executive Committee offices. Each such nomination shall be certified by the President or Vice President. Nominations may be transmitted via mail or electronic means, prior to the scheduled meeting to hold the election. All nominations must include a descriptive paragraph of the nominee, to include past and present qualifications and what benefit they would bring to the Association in the specified position.

Section 5 Elections:

At a meeting of the members of the Association, nominations for Officers will be accepted and introduced. Individuals nominated for any office should be, but are not required to be, present at the General Membership Meeting when such election takes place.

Section 6 Vacancies:

Any vacancy shall be filled by the President for the unexpired portion of any term.

ARTICLE VI

MEETINGS

Section 1 Meeting of Members:

A regular meeting of the membership shall be held, without other notice than the By-Laws, on any or all day(s) of the annual reunion at the location of the annual reunion. Meetings of members of the Association may be called at any time by the Executive Committee. Voting at meetings of members shall be by individuals who are voting members of the Association.

Section 2 Meeting of Executive Committee:

A regular meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held, without other notice than the By-Laws, on any or all day(s) of the annual reunion at the location of the annual reunion. Special meeting of the Executive Committee may be called by or at the request of the President or any three (3) Officers.

Section 3 Place of Meetings:

Meetings of members and meetings of Officers may be held anywhere in the continental limits of the United States provided at least ten (10) days notice is given. Notice as to Officers meetings may be waived by consent of a majority of the Officers.

Section 4 Quorum:

509th Parachute Infantry Association By-Laws

At meetings of members, the voting members present in person at duly scheduled business meetings shall constitute a quorum. At meetings of the Executive Committee a majority of Committee members shall constitute a quorum. The quorum of the Executive Committee shall not be affected at any time by the absence of any or all of the active unit Trustees.

Section 5 Order of Business:

The order of business at all meetings of the Board of Directors shall be as follows:

- a. Roll Call.
- b. Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting and action thereupon.
- c. Reports of Officers.
- d. Reports of Committees.
- e. Unfinished Business.
- f. Miscellaneous Business.
- g. New Business.

ARTICLE VII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall begin on the first day of August in each year and end on the thirty-first day of July in each year.

ARTICLE VIII

ANNUAL REUNION

The reunion site for succeeding years shall be awarded based upon a combined absentee and voice vote of members in good standing of the Association as outline below:

- a. Voting members may submit a ballot by electronic means, or mail listing their top 3 choices for a succeeding reunion site. This will be completed, and received, at least 7 days prior to the beginning of the annual reunion.
- b. Copies of all absentee ballots will be brought to the reunion and all those who voted in absentee will be verified as members in good standing by the Membership Secretary.
- c. These votes shall then be tallied prior to the general membership meeting by the Association's Board of Trustees.
- d. Those voting members in attendance will then be polled. The votes of absentee ballots and those at the reunion will be combined to determine the top three choices of succeeding reunion locations.

The Association shall, when practicable, determine the 3 sites in consideration of the reunion at least 2 years in advance.

509th Parachute Infantry Association By-Laws

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS

These By-Laws may be amended or replaced and new By-Laws may be adopted, by a combined two thirds vote of those who submitted absentee ballots and those present at the meeting. No action can be taken to amend these By-Laws unless:

- b. Proposed amendments have been delivered to the President approximately sixty (60) days prior to the meeting.
- c. The Executive Committee will then put such amendments into proper wording or phraseology.
- d. The proposed amendments will be published electronically or mail to all voting members. The Executive Committee will provide the time period that all votes will be accepted and will ensure that results are provided to all voting members.
- e. Copies of all absentee ballots will be brought to the reunion and all those who voted in absentee will be verified as members in good standing by the Membership Secretary.
- f. Absentee votes shall then be tallied prior to the general membership meeting by the Association's Board of Trustees.
- g. Those voting members in attendance will then be polled. The votes of absentee ballots and those at the reunion will be combined to determine the approval or disapproval of any amendments.

ARTICLE X

RULES OF ORDER

Except where herein provided for, *Roberts Rules of Order* will prevail.

Note: The titles of Articles and Sections in these By-Laws are for identification only and should not be used in interpretation or application of these By-Laws.