



Above and below, Mississippi Army National Guard retirees check out the current arsenal of military equipment showcased at Camp Shelby during the annual Retiree Day.



A retiree from the Mississippi National Guard catches up on the happenings at Camp Shelby with the latest edition of the "Reveille."



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, CSJFTC Public Affairs
At right, Purple Heart recipient Adelchi Pilutti of Ocean Springs attended this year's Retiree Day to catch up with old comrades and friends. Pilutti earned the Purple Heart during his service in World War II. At left, Maj. Gen. Augustus L. Collins served as the keynote speaker for this year's annual Retiree Day. He welcomed more than 300 retirees and their Family members from around the state.

TGIF

Continued from Page 1

Shelby include the ongoing remodeling of the gym and continued construction of an Operational Readiness Training Center building while renovation construction is almost complete for the CSJFTC All Ranks Club.

Advising the crowd of the direction in which Camp Shelby is headed, Collins updated everyone on the mobilization numbers and upcoming training for troops scheduled to train at Camp Shelby as they prepare for their mission downrange as well as the continued focus on annual training for the Mississippi National Guard Troops.

Collins was excited to share the enhancement of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team which was recently fielded with 36 new tanks while preparing for a projected total end strength of 58. This number reflects receipt of the latest Abrams tanks which are the M1A2 and SEPv.2s. These tanks are updating the fleet and replacing our current M1A1 fleet of tanks.

Collins explained that these new tanks will keep the 155th ABCT competitive because they are the only brigade combat team in the National Guard to receive both the Abrams SEPv.2 and M3A3 Bradley to update



This small symbol of remembrance on the back of his wheelchair reflects the courage, honor and personal sacrifice of Purple Heart recipient Adelchi Pilutti.

their combat vehicle fleet.

The day was filled with former battle buddies shaking hands and reminiscing with old war stories of days gone by and a time when they stood at the ready for their nation and state's call to serve. The friendships, honor and commitment to their state and nation has remained steadfast and for a brief moment time stood still.

A celebration of service could be seen throughout the crowd to include participants such as Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Adelchi Pilutti (Ret) of Ocean Springs, Miss. who served in the U. S. Army Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment Company of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. His unit jumped into Normandy on June 6, 1944 while participating in Operation Overload. After his service in

World War II, Pilutti continued his military service in the Mississippi Army National Guard until his retirement.

Some of the retirees even brought along their children and grandchildren who had a chance to view and explore the insides of antique military vehicles as well as the latest and greatest military vehicles in today's military arsenal, including the new M1A2 Abrams SEPv.2 tank, MaxxPro Mine Resistant Ambush-Protected Vehicle and the Unmanned Aircraft Systems on display for the event.

Retiree Day also offers retired service members and their Families the opportunity to visit the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum, the Exchange, as well as an opportunity to reconnect with comrades.

CAMP SHELBY
DELIVERY SPECIAL!

\$45

5 LARGE PIZZAS
Any Way You
Want Them

Any Size, Any Crust, Any Toppings

Additional charge for Stuffed Crust and Super Premium Pizzas.

Expires 06/07/13 One coupon per party per visit at any NPC International location. Additional charge for duplicate toppings and extra cheese. Not valid with other discounts or offers. Delivery areas and charges may vary. ©2012 Pizza Hut, Inc.

1000 Broadway Street
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
601-544-2318
Delivery and Carryout