



# 75 RANGER ASSOCIATION RGT

## Table of Contents



Officer's messages, information and Front Matter .....	pg 01 - 06
Gold Star Article: A Journey of Healing and Honor.....	pg 07 - 09
Modern Ranger Units.....	pg 10 - 15
75 <sup>th</sup> RRA Reunion - 2025.....	pg 15 - 18
Best Ranger - Cover Article.....	pg 19 - 20
WWII Merrill's Marauder's Article.....	pg 21
Remembering Jonnie Mellilo Clasen.....	pg 22
Vietnam Unit Director's Articles.....	pg 23 - 46
Ranger Hall of Fame .....	pg 47 - 48
VA Whole Health Article.....	pg 49
Obituaries and Rememberances.....	pg 50 - 52

## Contributors & Supporters of Patrolling Magazine

Tara Harris .....	Copy Editing
Stephen Odin Johnson .....	Contributing Writer
Rick Barela .....	Contributing Writer
Shelia Patton .....	Gold Star Writer

## THE RANGER CREED

**Recognizing** that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of my Ranger Regiment.

**Acknowledging** the fact that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who arrives at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other soldier.

**Never** shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight, and I will shoulder more than my share of the task, whatever it may be, one hundred percent and then some.

**Gallantly** will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well-trained soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, neatness of dress and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

**Energetically** will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle, for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy, and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

**Readily** will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor.

**Rangers lead the way!**

## RANGER BREAKFAST SCHEDULE

*Great thanks and appreciation to the Rangers who organize and keep these gatherings going!*

*This listing is a work in progress – if you know of a Ranger Breakfast in your AO that is not listed send me the date & time, and don't forget the point of contact so I can give credit where credit is due!*

### N. Alabama / S. Tennessee Luncheon

POC:

Greenbrier Restaurant  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ 1000

27028 Old Highway 20  
Madison, AL. 35756

### S. Indiana Ranger Breakfast

POC:

Merry Go Round Restaurant  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ 0800

2101 N. Fares Ave.  
Evansville, IN. 47711

### Columbus Ranger Breakfast

POC: Ranger Matt Walker - [rgrwalk@gmail.com](mailto:rgrwalk@gmail.com)

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ 0800

2101 N. Fares Ave.  
Evansville, IN. 47711

### Raleigh Ranger Breakfast

POC: Steve Keefer - [sk@skeefer.com](mailto:sk@skeefer.com)

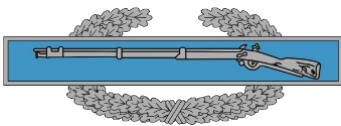
Big Ed's City Market Downtown Raleigh  
1<sup>st</sup> Saturday @ 0800

220 Wolfe St.  
Raleigh, NC. 27601

### San Antonio area Rangers & Special Forces

Rock and Brews  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday @ 1100

5702 Landmark Pkwy,  
San Antonio, TX. 78249



## WHO WE ARE :

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501©19 corporation, registered in the state of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F Co 58th, (LRP) and L Co 75 (Ranger) Inf. The first meeting was held on June 7, 1986, at Ft. Campbell, KY.

## WHAT WE DO:

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association participants in a variety of events that support our members and the active duty regiment. Each event is reviewed by the Board of Officers for merit and how it will promote the Association. Our current projects include; awarding scholarships (to qualified individuals) through our coordination and with the support of the National Ranger Memorial Scholarship Foundation. We also provide support to the Best Ranger Competition and any other events the officers regard as beneficial to the association ethos.

We hold biennial reunions (in conjunction with the 75th Ranger Regiment Rendezvous) and business meetings. The association officers (President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer), are elected at the biennial association business meeting. This reunion is held at Columbus/Fort Moore, GA Subordinate units hold off-year reunions at various locations across the United States per their unit schedule.

## Eligible Units

### 75th Ranger Regiment

75th Ranger Regiment, designated in 1986, and all subordinate, assigned and attached units

1st Battalion (RANGER)75<sup>th</sup> Inf, activated in 1974

2nd Battalion (RANGER)75<sup>th</sup> Inf, activated in 1974

3rd Battalion (RANGER)75<sup>th</sup> Inf, activated in 1984

75th Ranger Regiment HQ Company, activated in 1984

75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion, activated in 2007

75th Ranger Military Intelligence Battalion, activated in 2017

### WWII Rangers

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Battalions • 5307 Composite Unit (provisional)

### Korean War Rangers

Specific units will be listed in future  
Patrolling Magazines

### Long Range Surveillance:

Any Long Range Surveillance Company or Detachment that can trace its lineage to, or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element, that was deployed to Vietnam as listed in section 2, 3, or 4.

### Long Range Patrol

CoD (LRP)17th Inf.

Co E(LRP) 20th Inf.

Co E(LRP) 30th Inf.

Co E(LRP) 50th Inf.

Co F (LRP) 50th Inf.

Co E(LRP) 51st Inf.

Co F (LRP) 51st Inf.

Co E(LRP) 52nd Inf.

Co F (LRP) 52nd Inf.

Co C(LRP) 58th Infantry

Co E(LRP) 58th Infantry

Co F (LRP) 58th Infantry

70th Infantry DET(LRP)

71st Infantry DET(LRP)

74th Infantry DET(LRP)

78th Infantry DET(LRP)

79th Infantry DET(LRP)

Co. D (LRP)151st Infantry

### 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

Co A (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co B (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co C (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co D (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co E (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co F (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co G (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co H (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co I (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co K (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co L (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co M (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co N (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co O (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co P (RANGER)75th Inf.

Co D (RANGER) 151st Inf.

### Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

V Corp (LRRP)

VII Corp (LRRP)

9th Inf. Div. (LRRP)

25th Inf. Div. (LRRP)

196th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)

1st Cav. Div. (LRRP)

1st Inf. Div. (LRRP)

4th Inf. Div. (LRRP)

101st Abn. Div. 1st Bde. (LRRP)

199th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)

173rd Abn. Bde. (LRRP)

3rd Inf. Div. (LRRP)

### Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)

## OUR MISSION:

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible members of the 75th Infantry Rangers and those who served in the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Companies, Long-Range Patrol (LRP) Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger.

2. Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ). Also eligible are those members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the members of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

3. To sustain the Association. To promote and establish fellowship of the Special Operations ranger community by recruitment and encouragement of active duty and recently separated Rangers to become members.

4. To assist, when possible, those active units and their members who bear the colors and lineage of the 5307th Composite Provisional Unit (CPU), 475th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies (Merrill's Marauders), 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the 75th Ranger Regiment, consisting of Regimental Headquarters 1st, 2nd, 3rd, STB, and MIB Ranger Battalions, successor units, or any additions that are activated and assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

## Presidents

1986 - 1988..... Bob Gilbert

1988 - 1990..... Billy Nix

1990 - 1992..... Bob Gilbert

1992 - ..... Roy Nelson (resigned)

..... 1994..... Milton Lockett (resigned)

1994 - 1996..... Duke Dushane (selected by Directors)

1996 - 1998..... Roy Barley

1998 - 2000..... Rick Ehrler

2000 - 2002..... Terry Roderick

2002 - 2004..... Emmett Hiltibrand

2004 - 2005..... Emmett Hiltibrand

2005 - 2007..... Stephen Crabtree

2007 - 2009..... William Bullen

2009 - 2011..... John Chester

2011 - 2013..... Joe Little

2013 - 2015..... Bill Anton

2015 - 2019..... Richard Barela

2019 - 2021..... Stephen Johnson

2021 - 2025..... Art "Doc" Attaway

2025 - Present..... Rick Merritt





# PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING

RICK MERRITT



Happy Fall Ya'll!

Hope this finds each of you cooling down after the dog days of summer.

We had a great Bi-annual Reunion surrounding Memorial Day with Savannah's Imperial Battalion hosting. A big thanks to the 1st Ranger Battalion for supporting us.

See the related article in this edition.

Our Editor and I have started a "Fallen Comrades" section, reporting on those we recently lost.

Amongst those we lost I also felt a personal loss, like y'all have, of those I served alongside....including

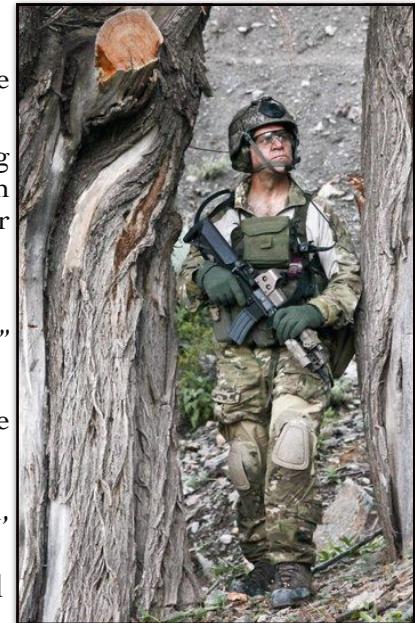
Shawn Nelson, a heroic Veteran of "Black Hawk Down" and Junior Chacon, both from 3/75.

Last week we lost the legendary GEN (R) Buck Kernan, our former Regimental Commander, and just a few days ago we lost my former CSM of 3/75, Stanley Fox.

I was honored to attend the burial of our first president of the Association, CSM (R) Bob Gilbert.

You can read more details of these fallen Rangers in this edition and in our monthly newsletter.

May they and all our fallen rest in eternal peace.



CSM (r) Rick Merritt

V/R,  
Rick Merritt  
75<sup>th</sup> RRA President

## Are you ...*of the Scroll*?

Scan the QR code with your phone's Camera to join  
The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association





## Faith After the Fight: Finding Your Purpose Beyond the 75th Ranger Regiment

For those who've worn the scroll of the 75th Ranger Regiment, life after your service can feel like stepping into unfamiliar territory. You'll likely miss the intensity, the brotherhood, the sense of purpose, even the dark humor and sarcasm that is part of all Ranger units. These kinds of things are simply hard to replicate in civilian life. That is why so many of us have several different jobs within a few years of leaving the service—we are all looking for what the Regiment offered us, but it is hard to find an organization with the kind of focus and purpose of the 75th Ranger Regiment. However, as Christians we are called to give the same kind of dedication we gave the Regiment to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

You see, the Ranger Creed is etched into the soul of every Ranger. We don't quit, we never leave a fallen comrade, and we always shoulder more than our share of the task. But what happens when the mission changes? In Ephesians 2:10, we're reminded: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." The scroll and beret may come off, but the calling remains. Through Christ, veteran Rangers can discover a new mission—one rooted not in combat, but in compassion, leadership, and service.

Leaving the Regiment means leaving behind a tight-knit community. The silence can be deafening. It overtakes some Rangers, and sadly we have lost several brothers in the past year to suicide. But the body of Christ offers a new kind of fellowship—one that transcends rank and MOS. A relationship with Jesus Christ offers us all a new brotherhood and one that is ultimately even more rewarding than our service in the Regiment.

Some DO's: Seek out Christian ministries, there are many led by Rangers that offer us opportunities to strengthen both our relationships with Christ and with Christian brothers. Don't know where to start, try Googling the following: Abishai's men, Tactical Evangelism, Free Burma Rangers, and the Warrior Poet Society. These are just some, there are many others. All these are Ranger-led ministries that offer places to serve, reconnect, heal, and grow. Additionally, Ranger veteran groups like the 75th RRA, Three Rangers Foundation, USARA and others all offer both chaplains and spiritual fitness events that help keep us grounded in Christ and connected with like-minded brothers.



Some DON'Ts: Don't try to solve your issues alone--The Lone Ranger is an old TV show and not a way to do life. Don't try to solve your problems with booze or pills--both are poor short-term solutions to larger issues! Don't let your pride stop you from seeking some help from a Ranger Buddy!

Combat leaves marks—some visible, many not. Grief, trauma, and moral injury are real. But so is redemption. Ranger John Lovell once shared that belief in eternal life helped him cope with the loss of fellow Rangers. "If I believe in heaven," he said, "then I haven't lost them forever." Faith in Jesus Christ reframes pain, offering hope and healing where the world (and the VA) offers only coping.

Transitioning well from service in the Regiment means embracing a new battle rhythm. Some of the old routine is still valuable, get up, make your bed, shave (optional), and do some PT. However, you no

longer have to spend the rest of your day focusing on the Big 5--marksmanship, physical training, medical training, small-unit tactics and mobility. These are all fine in moderation, if you still want to practice some of them. However, embrace some new disciplines that will help you and help others. Consider: Daily prayer. Bible reading/study. Serving others. These aren't just spiritual disciplines, they're lifelines!

Veteran support programs like 75th RRA, Ranger for Life and Three Rangers Foundation offer practical tools for navigating life after service. But it's the Gospel--knowing that Jesus gave His life on the cross for your sin and then conquered death by rising 3 days later and conquering death that offers the deepest transformation. Life with Christ gives you a new identity, a new mission, and a new legacy!

Closing Thoughts: To every Ranger stepping into civilian life: your story isn't over. In Christ, it's just beginning. You were forged in fire—but you were made for more than war. You were made to lead, to love, and to live with eternal purpose. If you're looking for ways to connect with other veterans in faith, reach out to me. I'm here to walk with you—every step of the way.

RLTW!  
Chaplain Dan Knight  
601.998.5087  
dan.knight@hotmail.com



*Ranger Dan Knight served multiple tours in 3/75, 2/75, and RHQ and has 11 combat deployments with various airborne and SOF units. He retired in 2017 and enjoys his time working with the 75th RRA, Three Rangers Foundation, and his local church. He spends his free time with his family and grandkids on his small farm in Star, MS.*

# From the Editor

Rangers,

The seasons turn and the fall issue of *Patrolling* is here. As you read these pages I hope you and yours are happy, healthy and prospering!

I have a few things to address, but first I have some bad news to share. We are all too familiar with tragedies and on September 7th, 2025, our community suffered a big one – Jonnie Melillo Clasen died from injuries sustained in a car accident in Columbus, Georgia. For those who didn't know Jonnie, she was our resident expert and liaison with all things concerning the Merrill's Marauders.

She was the daughter of WWII Merrill's Marauder and Korean War veteran Vincent Melillo and Rosie the Riveter Frankie Doris Melillo, an honorary member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, and an honorable inductee to the Ranger Hall of Fame. She spearheaded the Marauder Congressional Gold Medal campaign and was a Ranger liaison, an equal opportunity speaker at Ft. Benning, military exhibitor and the recipient of numerous writing and design awards. She also wrote and designed the Merrill's Marauder's article for *Patrolling Magazine* for many years, her last article is in this issue on page 17. She will be sorely missed - Rest in peace Jonnie.

The last issue saw two articles and part of another fall through the cracks and they didn't make it into the Summer issues. I have placed these articles in this issue next to or integrated with those unit's current articles. Otherwise, producing this issue was smoother this quarter and I anticipate this trend continuing as I streamline the publishing process.

Speaking of the future of *Patrolling*, I am on the lookout for a few Rangers to step up and volunteer as associate editors. I have three primary reasons. The first is a strongly held belief that collaboration produces the best product - my perspective of our community is one among many, and while valid, it is newfangled compared to our LRRP Rangers yet antiquated to our GWOT Rangers. All our perspectives are valid but subjective - *Patrolling* will benefit from an amalgamation of perspectives. Second, I am starting to in-build a base of institutional knowledge of *Patrolling* within the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA. I am aware that there is no such thing as future proofing, however establishing a SOP with which others are concurrently proficient (specifically desktop publishing, layout design, interviewing, editing and writing) will help ensure that I will not become a single point of failure, drive interest and validity and ultimately help ensure *Patrolling's* perpetuation.

My next point concerns content: I want your stories! Your memories are the foundations that underpin the 'Official' Ranger Histories, and they are the mortar of camaraderie that binds our community together! We all know Roger, Darby and Merrill but only a few of us have heard about that weekend on leave in Panama or the first-hand account of a Ranger who fought on Takur Ghar. I for one would love to read a story recounted by PFC Smith about that time they had leave in Paris in WWII – a simple memory of even the seemingly mundane can be captivating for those of us who didn't live it!

Make no mistake, I am not attempting to find some 'Truth' - Three Rangers who experience the same events can come away with very different stories! I want to share our on-the-ground histories and collect them into the care of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association ensuring that past, present and future Rangers can enjoy and perhaps come to appreciate Rangering in a different way.

Not a writer – no problem, I'll work with you to ensure your story reads well!

My final thought is about courtesy. Be polite, it costs you nothing but air, whereas rudeness and antipathy strip you of your righteousness and dignity. To quote Marine General (ret) James Mattis: "Be polite, be professional, but have a plan to kill everyone you meet."

Rangers Lead the Way!

- Samuel H. Chartier

A Co. 1/75

## Elected Officers

75th Ranger Regiment Association  
PO Box 2200  
Orangevale, CA 95662  
[www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org)

### **President**

Rick Merritt  
912.332.6692  
[president@75thrra.org](mailto:president@75thrra.org)  
[remerritt75@outlook.com](mailto:remerritt75@outlook.com)

### **First Vice President**

Kurt Buchta  
706.464.8188  
[kurt.buchta@yahoo.com](mailto:kurt.buchta@yahoo.com)

### **Second Vice President**

Lee Garcia  
706.604.4925  
[Lgarcia2204@gmail.com](mailto:Lgarcia2204@gmail.com)

### **Secretary**

Tom Sove  
209.404.6394  
[tsove@spcglobal.net](mailto:tsove@spcglobal.net)

### **Treasurer**

Joe Posato  
202.288.4747  
[jposato@verizon.net](mailto:jposato@verizon.net)

*Patrolling* is published quarterly by the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. And is mailed third class postage under postal permit #71. Bemidji, MN.

The opinions expressed by the Officers, Unit Directors, Editor and other writers are entirely their own and are not to be considered an official expression or position of the Association.

Advertisements for products or services do not constitute an endorsement by the Association. Manuscripts, photographs, and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics.

The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that is in bad taste, offensive, or discredits unnecessarily an individual or group.

Deadlines are the 7th of February, May, August, and November for the four yearly issues of March, June, September, and December respectively. POSTMASTER Send address corrections to:

*Patrolling*  
P.O. Box 2200  
Orangevale, CA 95662

# Unit Directors

## HQ/75<sup>th</sup> RANGER HHC

### Thomas Maier

email: maier3m@aol.com  
phone: 910.425.6412

## 3<sup>rd</sup> BN, 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER RGT

### Kurt Buchta

email: kurt.buchta@yahoo.com  
phone: 706.464.8188

## A/75-D/17 LRP-V Corps LRRP

### Stan Jones

email: stan6542@yahoo.com  
phone: 317.966.0645

## D/75

### Richard "Herd" Nelson

email: rnelson134@cfl.rr.com  
phone: 407.601.2801

## G/75-E/51 LRP-196<sup>th</sup> LRRP

### Al Stewart

email: aliniraq@yahoo.com  
phone: 336.423.8960

## K/75-E/58 LRP-4<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

### Roger T. Crunk

email: rogercrunk@msn.com  
phone: 970.858.4579 (c) 970.640.3815

## N/75-74<sup>th</sup> LRP-173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP

### Rudy Teodosio

email: sfoda184@hotmail.com  
phone: 404.386.9331

## ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

### Bill Miller

email: bietdongquan@yahoo.com  
phone: 803.641.9504 (c) 803.292.2571

## 1<sup>st</sup> BN, 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER RGT

### Jim Spencer

email: james.r.spencer11@gmail.com  
phone: 912.658.9316

## 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger STB

### Rob Ciaccio

email: rciaccio@gmail.com  
phone: 706.326.0456

## B/75-C58 LRP-VII CORPS LRRP

### MARC L. THOMPSON

email: marc.thompson321@gmail.com  
phone: 610.913.8183 (c) 610.763.2756

## E/75-E/50 LRP-9<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

### Duane L. "Poncho" Alire

email: duanealire2345@comcast.net  
phone: 505.469.0272

## H/75-E/52 LRP-1<sup>st</sup> CAV LRRP

### Pete Dencker

email: pdencker@outlook.com  
phone: 615.776.1496

## L/75-F/58 LRP-1/101<sup>st</sup> LRRP

### Charles "Chuck" Reilly

email: chuckreilly@netzero.com  
phone: 424.408.9894

## O/75-78<sup>th</sup> LRP

### IF INTERESTED CONTACT:

Association President  
Rick Merritt

**VACANT**

## LRRP DETACHMENT-3<sup>rd</sup> ID

### IF INTERESTED CONTACT:

Association president  
Rick Merritt

**VACANT**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> BN, 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER RGT

### Hugh Roberts

email: Hughra57@gmail.com  
phone: 253.468.2363

## 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger MI BN

### Bill Burkett

email: bill.burkett80@gmail.com  
phone: 706.536.9437

## C/75-E/20 LRP

### John Everly

email: johnndelaire@comcast.net  
phone: 215.870.3368

## F/75-F/50-25<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

### John McGee

email: irishlrrp@tampabay.rr.com  
phone: 352.346.2141

## I/75-F/52 LRP-1<sup>st</sup> DIV LRRP

### David Hill

email: lurp268@yahoo.com  
phone: 775.315.5695

## M/75-71<sup>st</sup> LRP-199<sup>th</sup> LRRP

### Lyle Webster

email: lylwebster@gmail.com  
phone: 805.824.2133

## P/75-79<sup>th</sup> LRP

### Thomas A Jones

email: tomjones12@yahoo.com  
phone: 870.356.2532

## Company D (RGR) 151<sup>st</sup> ABN/151<sup>st</sup> LRS INF Det / Co C 152 LRS

### C. Larry Rhodes

email: clarryrhodes@me.com  
phone: 812.483.1387

## F/51 LRP

### Richard "Dick" Moyer

email: dickmoyer702@yahoo.com  
phone: 702.610.9097



## Gold Star Family Advocates

**Sandee Markwell Rouse**  
goldstars75thrra@aol.com  
904.705.9374

**Jill Stephenson**  
iambenkoppsmother@gmail.com  
612.868.7446

**Dianne Hammond**  
rgmom175@gmail.com  
609.230.9511

**The following individuals have been appointed by the President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association to their respective positions to facilitate the day-to-day operation of the Association.**

**Chaplain**  
Dan knight  
Dan.knight@hotmail.com  
601.988.5087

**Legal Advocate**  
Travis West  
twest@westdunn.com  
608.535.6421

**State Coordinator**  
Marshall Huckaby  
770.658.8159  
nationalcoordinator@75thrra.com

**WWII Merrill's Marauder's Liaison**  
Jonnie Milillo Clasen  
clasenjonnie@gmail.com  
706.689.0153

**Website Management**  
WWW.75thRRRA.ORG  
Chris Borrelli  
chris.borrelli@75thrrra.org  
703.969.9265

**Patrolling Editor**  
Samuel H Chartier  
707.835.3703  
editor@75thrrra.org  
rangercs75@icloud.com

# A JOURNEY OF HEALING AND HONOR

## SUMMITING GOLD STAR PEAK

BY: SHEILA PATTON



They say the third time is a charm, and after all, Jimmy, SSG James R Patton, my Son, served with the 3rd Ranger BN 75th Infantry Regiment when he was KIA on April 18, 2010 in a helicopter accident while on mission in Iraq. His Father, CSM Gregory Patton, was also deployed, but to Afghanistan, serving with the 3 BCT Rakkasans, 101st Abn Division as the Brigade's Command Sergeant Major. Greg brought his Son home to American soil.

So, my story begins. This is not about Jimmy, his life or even his death, but that is how I got here. Those of us who have suffered loss have a story to tell and could probably write a book, oh the stories we could all tell.

Hearing the Pride we have when talking about Our Rangers fills my heart, and volunteering since before the loss of Jimmy has Blessed me with the opportunity to listen to others tell their stories of their loved ones who have died in combat.

On this third attempt to write this article I have decided to keep this personal, about my experiences as a volunteer and what I have seen over the last 15 years after the loss of my Son: Determination, Grit, and the Grace of God are the three things that have kept me moving forward, along with the support of Family and Friends. After laying Jimmy to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, Greg returned to combat for nine more months, we decided as a Family this would be the best thing for us, as he had over 5000 Soldiers relying on him and I was still very involved with the Family Readiness Group. We were determined to honor Jimmy by celebrating his life and not mourning his death. We still had two other children at home that we had to think about as well. We took some ridicule for the decision we made, but it was our survival mode, he was a Soldier, and I was the FRG Leader, that's what we did. He was taking care of his Soldiers in Afghanistan, and I was helping the Families at home, even the ones who suffered loss - who better than someone going through it themselves? I believe it helped them, and it helped me. It is what worked for us.

I have attended seminars, jumped out of airplanes with the Golden Knights (Leap of Faith), and have worked on various projects advocating for Families of the Fallen and Honoring Our Fallen. For over ten years I went from different organizations trying to see where I fit in, but I always felt like something was missing or I felt lost in some manner. Survivor Outreach Services played a huge role in helping me help others with the Fort Campbell Boot Display and Run for the Fallen each year, but that suddenly changed and so did I.

I received a call out of the blue from Col Chris Vanek, asking me if I would like to go to Alaska and climb a mountain, working with Three Rangers Foundation as the Gold Star Family Member Liaison. I didn't hesitate to say yes. I experienced a new energy, a new life in me that I hadn't seen in a long time, I felt needed again and it felt good.



Gold Star Mother Sheila Patton preparing to lead the Gold Star Families up Gold Star Peak Summit.



Gold Star Parents CSM (ret) Greg and Sheila Patton visiting their Son SSG James R Patton who was KIA on 04-18-2010. This was the first time they had visited Jimmy's resting place together since laying him to rest on May 6th, 2010.

I was curious, why me? Chris had seen me at Jimmy's Celebration of Life at the VFW in Vincennes, IN. He was there with CSM Rick Merrit who was speaking about Jimmy, (this is one of those stories I was talking about earlier) and he told me he saw how I handled myself after losing my Son, and I was still concerned about taking care of others. I am honored that he saw ME, and that he remembered me 10 years later when TRF decided to do a Summit with Ranger Families to Gold Star Peak. It is a role I take very seriously, I enjoy it, and it keeps me busy. We have a great team to work with, so I certainly don't do it alone. My role is to help plan the trip with the Families and provide them with the resources they need to prepare for the Summit. I chat with them for over a period of around nine months so we can make connections through group texts, I help find activities, book the excursions, and I coordinate with Alaskan Airlines, who provides us with round trip airfare for the Gold Star Family Members to Alaska. I also do many other things that help make the trip successful and meaningful for the Families who make the journey. I have been to Alaska three time to make the summit to Gold Star Peak. Each time holds a special memory and each time I grow mentally and physically.



# A JOURNEY OF HEALING AND HONOR

## SUMMITING GOLD STAR PEAK

continued



The first time of course was the hardest as we had never done it before and didn't know what to expect, plus, some of us, most of us, had never met. The Team at Three Rangers Foundation felt like we had prepared ourselves as well as the Gold Star Mothers and Spouses who were invited to attend. I don't think anything could have prepared us for the first time. We booked our lodging too late in the game in Seward, Ak, so it was a hail Mary for the place we had, and Thank God it was only for one night, as even we had no idea until the following year just where we were. Let's just say, Our Angels were upon Us. Lessons learned. But Oh, the Memories that were made: seeing wildlife, in Nature and in the ocean, the whales that put on a show for us, celebrating a birthday, as well as an Angelversary, the bonds will never be broken. The Summit was a challenge for all of us, mentally and physically, but we met all our goals.

When one Mother decided she could no longer go any further, and was ok with stopping (as long as we would still honor her Son) we all went onward and upward. It was like adrenaline took over and mama bear mode came out - not just in me, but in all of us - it was not just about me getting up there to honor Jimmy now. I had to get up there to honor both mine and her Son. I think we all felt like we were on a mission. I have now earned the name Mama Bear, and I hold it proudly. Andy, Ben, Joshua, Patrick, Ryan and Stephen you will never be forgotten, nor will the bonds I made with your loved ones on that Mountain and in Alaska.

I am not going to lie, I don't know how I made it up that mountain the first time, as it was the most mentally and physically challenging thing I have ever accomplished, that we accomplished. Pure Grit, as I climbed like a bear up the mountain and slid on my bottom coming down, the blood, sweat and tears of determination while climbing wasn't going to stop me or the others, and the Grace of God and the Angels Wings of Our Rangers, that's what got us up!

On to Gold Star Peak 2023, my second time going. This time GSP, TRF, Wounded Warrior Project agreed it would be nice to offer an invitation to a Ranger Escort to accompany the Family Member. It had to be someone who knew their Fallen Ranger. I think this decision has been life changing, for the Summit as well as the overall trip. We booked Military Lodging in Seward so there were no questions as to the quality of service as the lodging at JBER is always on top of things.

This time I decided to be at the end. It was much harder for me physically, but mentally I was prepared to be there for who needed me and who I needed. Another Mother and I began to fall behind and were just chatting and not thinking too much about it, but the challenge of talking too much and climbing I think may have gotten the best of us, our bodies got tired, and she was having difficulties breathing and my knees were screaming. Thank God we had escorts with us helping us along the way. We decided to stop at phase two, it was beautiful and we could see the others making their way to the top. We met our goal and of course her Son was honored. I think one day she and I will go to the top together in a very quiet, no stress manner and share a special moment. I continue to stay in touch with this group as I do with the first group and I hope to continue to do so for a very long time. Connor, Christopher, Joel, Jonathan H, Jonathan P, and Lance you will Never Be Forgotten, nor will your loved ones.



Gold Star Mothers Dianne Hammond and Sheila Patton with Rangers in the background, as the two walk to the top of Gold Star Peak together.



Gold Star Parents Greg and Sheila Patton stopped in the middle of the Summit to take a photo of the beautiful scenery.

In 2024, I took a year off and Ruthie Bednarzyk took my place and did a wonderful job of Summitting GSP with the Families. I cannot thank her



# A JOURNEY OF HEALING AND HONOR

## SUMMITING GOLD STAR PEAK

continued



enough for giving me that much needed break, not only for healing physically, but emotionally as well.

Which brings us to Gold Star Peak 2025, I was so ready to jump back into the preparation and planning and took on an even more of a personal goal of my own. I wanted to do better this time, as Jimmy's father, Greg, was going to be joining me. We haven't done much together in honoring Jimmy, but I have been the front runner, and he has always supported me, but stayed in the background. I think it is just harder to show emotion being a soldier and a father. He has done more in the past three years, and it is getting easier for him. Jimmy joined the Military to follow in his father's footsteps as Greg is a Plank Holder for 3rd Ranger Bn 75th Infantry Regiment. He was there when they reactivated in Oct 1984. Jimmy took a lot of pride in that. When TRF asked if he would like to go to the Summit it was not a yes at first, it took him awhile to choose to go. But once he was committed, he was in. We trained together and were excited about going. It has been a stressful year and the determination of us getting to Alaska together and making it up the mountain to honor our son was not just my mission, it was our mission. This was my best summit yet, maybe because I had my partner with me to honor our son and finally heal after 15 years of loss, or because I wanted him to see that I had grit, and determination or because by the Grace of God it was just meant to be.



Sandra Salinero, widow of SGM (ret)

Charles S. Salinero, brought her husband to a place he wanted to visit but was unable to before he passed away.

passed me, I stayed pretty much in the middle. I am not going to lie; the beautiful mountain of healing and honor is no joke. I had not prepared as much as I had wanted to, nor had Greg, but with his Ranger buddy by his side I was not worried. Chris, Kirk and the Chaplain and so many others were making sure I was going to get up the mountain. We stopped at each phase to make sure everyone was good to go, some were quicker than others, but it was not a speed race, it was about the climb.

When Greg and I made it to the top, the emotions were unstoppable, it is something we have only done a few times since losing Jimmy, what a great feeling of emotion and healing.

The Summit was not over. We still had others who were also on a mission. A Spouse who lost her Ranger husband to service-related cancer. She wanted to spread his ashes at the top of the peak. She was very calculated on the climb knowing what she needed to do, seeing her determination was inspiring.

Then there was Dianne, I have not mentioned many names at this point of the Family Members, but I have to tell you about her. She is the first person of her age to make the Summit and I was honored to walk the last few steps with her to the peak. The past few months we have been encouraging one another that we were going to make sure we made it, and at the ripe young age of 77 she holds the record as the oldest person to make the Summit.

Pure determination, grit, and the Grace of God got us up that glorious Gold Star Peak and where we are today remembering always Jimmy, Jared, Charlie, Alesandro and Robert. RLTW.

My next goal is to take Jimmy's daughter, Cec, and maybe his wife, Beatriz, to the Summit When Cec turns 18 - that will be GSP 2027. Then one day hopefully Megan and Cliff, his sister and brother will make the journey with me. By God's Grace one day they will all get to see the Beautiful Gold Star Peak.

On a final note, we, at Three Rangers Foundation could not do the things we do to support our Families of the Fallen without the support of the Wounded Warrior Project, Alaskan Airlines, KUIU, Samsonite, Onebrief, and of course Kirk Alkire and his team at Gold Star Peak, Inc. These donations continue to help us provide healing, peace, and comfort, for our Ranger Families and Veterans, and we cannot thank them enough.

Rangers Lead The Way!



Gold Star Parents CSM (ret) Greg and Sheila Patton embrace one another as they reach the top of Gold Star Peak.



# 1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION, 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - JAMES SPENCER

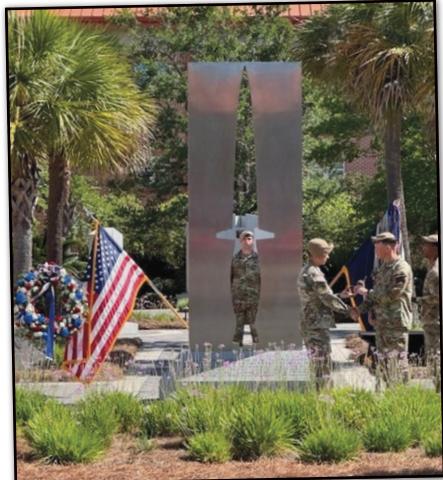
1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion was as busy as ever this Spring and Summer with Rangers training and in multiple countries around the world. 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion continues innovation efforts to remain relevant with emerging technology while still maintaining our mastery of Ranger Fundamentals. Our training weeks were highlighted by marksmanship densities, fielding of the new Infantry Squad Vehicles, and multiple echelons of Live Fire Training Exercises. The Rangers of 1/75 continue "to do things with their hands and weapons better than anyone."



Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony: Charlie Company provided support for the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal on 26JUN25 to World War II Rangers John Wardell and Joseph Drake. SSG Stephen Harbeck, alongside other Ranger NCOs from across the Regiment, assisted in escorting the veterans through the Capitol Building. This participation served to honor the legacy and contributions of our organization's forefathers.



**Best Squad Competition:**  
SGT Colin Lofgren participated in and won the 75th Ranger Regiment's Best Squad Competition. Members of the squad include: SGT Colin Lofgren, SGT Trey Scudder, SGT Jonathan Suarez, SPC Jorden Boone, SPC Rennie Wilson, SPC Ethan Wilner, and SPC Caden Thornton.



## Memorial Day Ceremony / 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association Reunion / A CO Reunion:

During the week of 19 May, 1/75 hosted the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Association Reunion and the Alpha Company Reunion. The Battalion conducted a static display, BBQ, and presented a State of the Battalion Brief. The week also consisted of various events hosted in the Savannah Area to honor our fallen and foster comradery between current and former Rangers. On 22 May, 1/75 conducted its annual Memorial Day Ceremony honoring all 1/75 Rangers Killed in Training and in Action since the Battalion's founding in 1974. The event continues to be a sober reminder of the ultimate sacrifice paid by those that came before us and ensures that their legacy is never forgotten.



Rangers Conduct the annual Memorial Day Ceremony to honor our fallen.

Rangers Conduct the annual Memorial Day Ceremony to honor our fallen.



# 1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION, 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - JAMES SPENCER

**continued**

**D-Day and Army Parade:** Charlie Company sent two Rangers to Normandy, France for the 81st D-Day anniversary: CPT Chris Kubitz and SSG McFadden. They participated in a PT event alongside the Secretary of Defense and joined other commemorative celebrations. Three Charlie Company Rangers traveled to Washington D.C. to march in the Army's 250th Anniversary parade, showcasing their pride and honoring the long legacy of the U.S. Army. These events provided invaluable opportunities for the Rangers to connect with the past, gaining a deeper understanding of the sacrifices made by those who came before them and reaffirming their dedication to upholding the traditions of the Ranger Regiment and the Army.



*Centered in the picture, SGT Cardwell of Charlie Company marches with the 75th Ranger Regiment formation as a part of the Army's 250th Anniversary parade in Washington D.C.*



*Members of Charlie Company Representation for D-Day with LTG Braga and CSM Naumann*

On 02 May, Fort Stewart hosted the annual graduation ceremony. In total, six 1/75 Rangers earned their Bachelor's degrees and four earned a Master's degree.



*1/75 Education Counselor, Mrs. Jusino and PHALANX NCOIC SFC Auda poses with Rangers at the FSGA graduation ceremony.*



*Current and former members of Charlie Company on the beaches of Normandy for the PT event*

**Alpha Company** conducted deliberate raids and mobility training with our SOAR counterparts, local ranges, support by fire training, CQB training all at Fort Benning, GA. Alpha Company was also victorious in the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment's Best Squad Competition.





# 1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION, 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - JAMES SPENCER

continued

**Bravo Company** conducted building clearance training planned and sourced by leadership to increase proficiency and build SOP's in Dense Urban Terrain Operations. Squads worked through problem sets involving varying levels of difficulty over multiple days of training.



**Charlie Company** trained explosive breaching, BD6, and individual marksmanship at the Guardian Center. The focus of was honing Ranger's marksmanship skills to increase proficiency. Each platoon dedicated valuable training repetitions for the Rural Qualification which features targets out to 400m. In conjunction with the rural qualification, platoons trained MG drills and night CQB qualification. Charlie Company's unwavering commitment to rigorous training and continuous improvement has resulted in demonstrably superior performance.



(Left) Charlie Company trains long range marksmanship (Center) breaching during Guardian Center RXLs (Right) conducting secondary weapon system training



# 1<sup>st</sup> BATTALION, 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - JAMES SPENCER

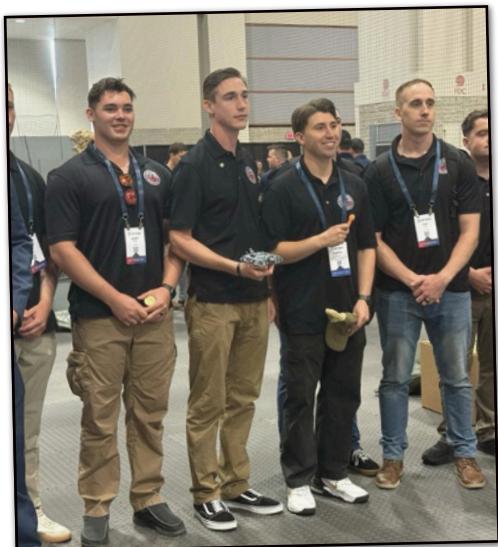
continued

Rangers from D Co graduate JFO, run a 40-mile ultra-marathon in Italy to honor Darby's Rangers and Rangers from D Co conduct a hero WOD to honor fallen Rangers from D Co's past.



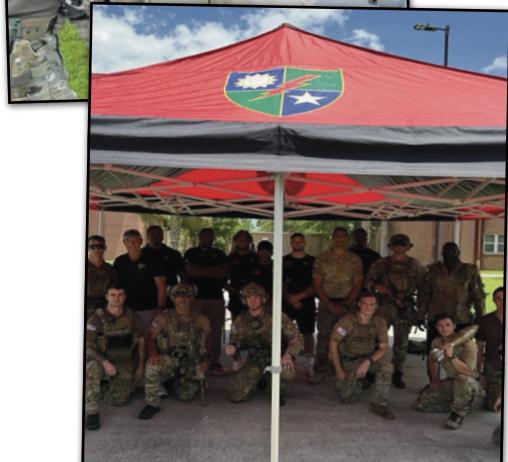
**Atlanta Falcons Visit:** D Co supported the Battalion in hosting players from the Atlanta Falcons this month on our footprint on HAAF, GA. It was an awesome opportunity to represent 1/75 and meet some impressive human beings.

*Rangers and Falcons players after the equipment fam.*



*(Center) SGT Bradley mid-race*

*The Army Team*



*SSG Bingaman showing off an M320*



## 2<sup>nd</sup> BATTALION, 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT

UNIT DIRECTOR - HUGH A. ROBERTS

**continued**



### Hooah Rangers

The 2nd Ranger Battalion spent the summer months focused on mastering the fundamentals, to include individual and collective live-fire exercises, as well as multiple airborne operations. The summer also featured Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) testing. Many will remember moving across Noble Hill from station to station, collecting GOs—until the dreaded hand grenade lane. After three attempts, some made the walk of shame back to their companies to explain to their platoon sergeants what went wrong.

Below are photos from this summer's training.



Of the initial 308 candidates, 297 Rangers earned the coveted Expert Infantryman Badge.

Congratulations, Rangers!

*Command Sergeant Major (retired) Hugh Roberts spent over 20 years as a leader in the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. He was a Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Command Sergeant Major and also The Regimental Sergeant Major.*



# MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

UNIT DIRECTOR - LEE GARCIA



Rangers,

This will be my last article for the magazine, since I have assumed the position of 2nd Vice President for the Association. I am going to hand over the RMIB Unit Director to Bill Burkett. Bill is no stranger to the Regiment or the Special Operations Community. I know Bill will take this position seriously and continue to improve the foxhole.

The Regimental Intelligence Battalion, since its activation, has been constantly deployed in support of our Nation. A vast majority of their accomplishments will remain unknown and shrouded in secrecy. Rest assured that the Rangers of the RMIB continue to live the Ranger Creed and Abrams Charter. They have been at the cutting edge of intelligence, technology, Cyber, and UAS. The RMIB is leading the way on developing TTP for UAS employment across the DoD and are often sought out to support all elements of SOCOM.



Change of Command Ceremony for the RMIB

On June 27th, the RMIB conducted its Change of Command. LTC Henry Ricardo relinquished command to LTC Chris Haskell. During the CoC week, former Ranger Intelligence personnel received an update on Intelligence, cyber, and surveillance operations being conducted by the RMIB. One of the highlights is the Cyber Platoon, consisting of 17C Cyber Operations Specialists, which has the highest percentage of Ranger-qualified in the Regiment.

The platoon is 19 out of 20 Ranger-qualified. Not only is the Cyber platoon innovating new ways to incorporate cyber operations for both analysis and targeting, but they continue to maintain the Ranger and Regiment Standard. The RMIB continues to develop new TTPs for analysis and targeting.



Former and current CSMs of the RMIB

In addition, we toured the new HQ building for the RMIB. We were not allowed to take photos of the building, but it is an impressive structure that will not only house the battalion but also serve as an operationally functional space to continue to conduct intelligence operations and analysis.

*CSM (r) Lee Garcia retired from the Army 2019. His nearly 20 year career took him through 13 deployments in support of the Global War on Terror including both the Afghan and Iraqi invasions. Among others he notably served as the First Sergeant at the MICO within the RSTB and as the CSM of the newly formed Regimental Intelligence Battalion. CSM Garcia also did a stint in the 3rd Ranger Battalion.*



## 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION REUNION 2025

By: SAMUEL H. CHARTIER



2025 saw the 75th Ranger Regiment's biennial reunion took place in Savannah GA and Hunter Army Airfield the week before Memorial Day.

The reunion began on Monday with attendees gathering at their leisure in the hospitality suite set up and stocked by the 75th RRA.



Rangers and family enjoying the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA Hospitality Suite





# 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION REUNION 2025

By: SAMUEL H. CHARTIER

**continued**



On Tuesday there was a lady's luncheon during which the Association conducted their general membership meeting where association business was discussed, and the results of our elections were formalized.



*BBQ at 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion*



*Recognizing Friends of the Rangers*



*Static Displays compliments of 1/75*



Wednesday kicked off with a nine-hole scramble in the morning for those who got up early enough followed by a BBQ lunch at the 1/75 compound. An award's ceremony saw friends of the Rangers receive recognition for their support which was followed by a State of the Battalion briefing by the current Commander and Command Sergeant Major of 1st Ranger Battalion. Wednesday evening at McDonough's Irish pub Rangers took over the second floor for the Sua Sponte Social.



# 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT Association REUNION 2025

By: SAMUEL H. CHARTIER



**continued**

On Thursday we returned to Hunter Army Airfield for 1/75's Memorial Day ceremony, static displays, and a tour of the battalion.

\*\*Special Thanks to 1st Battalion Rangers for the pictures of the Memorial Day Ceremony.





# 75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT Association REUNION 2025

By: SAMUEL H. CHARTIER

continued



Don Purdy (left) Art Attaway (center), Rick Merritt (right)



The VIP Table



Scan the QR code to watch CSM (ret) Don Purdy's keynote speech on YouTube



The association's reunion corresponded with the 22nd annual A Co, 1/75 & MSG Andy Fernandez Reunion - which is a good time for the A Co Beach boys.



# 2025

## BEST RANGER COMPETITION

75<sup>th</sup> Rangers Earn 1<sup>st</sup> Place for the 4<sup>th</sup> Year Running

By: Ranger Stephen Odin Johnson

The Best Ranger Competition (BRC) in 2025 is a two-man team competition where competitors face 35 events over a 70-mile course. The competition takes place over 62 hours and tests physical fitness, marksmanship, and tactical skills. The 2025 competition saw the 75th Ranger Regiment take the win.



LT Gabrielle White - U.S. Army  
Photo by Capt. Stephanie Snyder



BRC Rangers getting ready for a day's journey – photo courtesy of Stephen Odin Johnson



Friday morning buddy run  
'pain-in-the-neck'  
Photo Courtesy of Stephen O Johnson



Victory Pond at Fort Moore has a long and rich history, particularly in relation to the US Army's Ranger School and the Best Ranger Competition. The pond is a key component of the Ranger School's Combat Water Survival Assessment, specifically featuring the "Slide for Life" obstacle. Additionally, Victory Pond is the site of the final challenge in the Best Ranger Competition, showcasing the rigorous physical and mental demands of the competition

For the fourth year in a row, the 75th Ranger Regiment won the event. Team 44 winners were 1st LT Kevin Moore and 1st LT Griffin Hokanson. The 75th Regiment took 3 of the top four slots. The event started in the dark Friday morning with 56 teams, whittled down to 32 teams for Saturday's event, and finally pared down to 16 teams on the final day, Sunday. Awards were presented Monday morning.

Needless to say, these Rangers did an outstanding job to be even considered and participate in the BRC. The final 16 teams competing on the last day of the BRC, can be compared to the "Sweet Sixteen" of the colligate NCAA basketball tournament. Before I forget, Team 38 placed 14th overall in the BRC with First LT Gabrielle White, a former West Point cadet, who graduated from Ranger School in 2022. Friday, she became the first woman to compete, finish, and place in the Best Ranger Competition.

For the spectators, the event is viewable with most events at Fort Benning on Friday, Doughboy Stadium on Saturday, with the last event the buddy team run finishing on Sunday. Lots to see. Also, many social events for the Ranger supporters.



Made It! - SOJ

# BEST RANGER COMPETITION - 2025

By: Ranger Stephen Odin Johnson

**continued**



Malvesti Course - photo courtesy of Stephen Oden Johnson



75<sup>th</sup> Regiment team, after-action report.  
Photo courtesy of Stephen Odin Johnson



Rest when you can Ranger  
Photo courtesy of Stephen Odin Johnson



2025 Ranger Golf Scholarship Tournament on the day before the BRC at the Maple  
Ridge Golf Course. Over \$30,000 for scholarships!  
Photo courtesy of Stephen Odin Johnson

Thursday, the Ranger Golf Scholarship Tournament was held at Maple Ridge raising some \$30,000 for scholarships. That evening, a Black and Tan event was held in uptown Columbus with entertainment, food, and cheer. Friday the Ice-Breaker event was at Camp Rogers, and Saturday evening at the National Infantry Museum, a supporter supper took place. I participated in all of those social events plus the BRC.

For me, having breakfast at a Waffle House twice, and getting stuffed at the Plucked-Up-Chicken in uptown Columbus was a treat and then some. If you haven't been to the BRC, there is lots to see and do. Congratulations to the contestants, the National Ranger Association for hosting with other Ranger Associations and individuals sharing the job of assuring quality time for all. See you at the next 2026 BRC, Rangers.

*The legend, former editor of Patrolling Magazine, former president of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association and Stephen Odin Johnson*



# MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

WW II

JONNIE MELILLO CLASEN

CHINA·BURMA·INDIA



## United States' first WW II POW captured Dec 8, 1941, by future Marauder Nisei Tom Tsubota

Tom Tsubota was a 26-year-old Japanese American on maneuvers with G CO of the Hawaii National Guard's 298th Infantry Regiment when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. He and

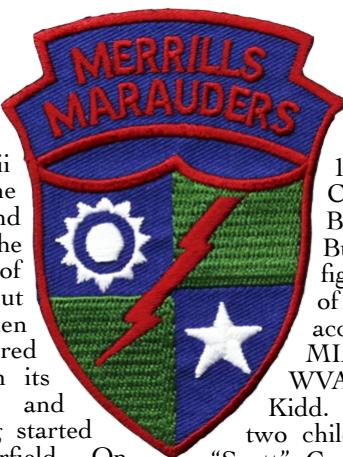


Tom Tsubota, Photo taken at Poston Relocation Center for incarcerated Japanese Americans where he shared his military experience.

the others thought the bombing was part of their maneuvers, but learned it wasn't when a plane with a red 'hinomaru' beneath its wings flew over and machine gun firing started near Bellows Airfield. On December 8<sup>th</sup>, he was guarding the shoreline when he saw a shivering, half-naked Japanese walking up the road and questioned him in Japanese. He was LT Kazuo Sakamaki, the only survivor of several Japanese two-man mini-submarines attempting to reach land. Tsubota had his blanket with him since he was on maneuvers, used it to cover the dead crewmember's body and turned Sakamaki over to the sergeant on duty. Tsubota later was one of the 14 Japanese American interpreters or Nisei volunteering from the Military Intelligence Service to fight with Merrill's Marauders. Only months after the Pearl Harbor attack, the U.S. government began placing Japanese Americans in Internment camps. Tsubota had two degrees from Japanese universities and had qualified for the 1932 Olympic trials in California. The last surviving Marauder Nisei at 102 when he died Valentine's Day 2017, Tsubota was also the second oldest Army Ranger after Dr. Joseph H. Hilsman Jr. from Tucker, GA, who was almost 104 when he died. Hilsman was an Army medical officer with the 5<sup>th</sup> Ranger Battalion in Europe.



Jonnie Melillo Clasen is the daughter of WW II Merrill's Marauder & Korean War veteran Vincent Melillo and Rosie the Riveter Frankie Doris Melillo. A 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association honorary member, she has volunteered her journalism and design skills to champion the "Greatest Generation" for 26-plus years. For spearheading the Marauder Congressional Gold Medal campaign, Jonnie became the second honorary female Ranger Hall of Fame inductee and first father-daughter unit. A Ranger liaison, she has been a Ft. Benning Equal Opportunity speaker, military exhibitor and recipient of numerous writing and design awards.



## MIA Marauder replacement PVT Mack Kidd returns home 81 years after being MIA

PVT Mack Kidd was 20 when he was KIA July 12, 1944, in Burma. He was one of 2,500 5307 Composite Unit Provisional replacements flown into Burma after the Marauders captured northern Burma's Myitkyina airfield May 17, 1944. He was fighting with K CO, 3<sup>rd</sup> BN trying to seize the town of Myitkyina when killed. His remains were accounted for Feb. 14, 2025, by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. A native of Dry Branch, WVA, Kidd was born Jan. 7, 1924, to Jesse and Edith Kidd. He and his wife, Gwendlene Kidd Peters had two children, the late Sonja Kidd Jackson and Ronald "Scott" Gene Kidd. He was buried July 26<sup>th</sup> next to his daughter, Sonja, who died Sept. 2, 2021, at age 77. They now rest together at Friendship Cemetery on County Road, Danville, AL. Attending his service were extended family and Army Rangers. PVT Kidd's flight home after 81 years landed in Nashville, TN, where a Hero's Welcome procession along the travel route to Lawrence Funeral Home was held through efforts by Commander Phil Terry with American Legion Post 25 in Moulton, AL, other American Legions plus VFW posts, Nashville and Alabama fire and sheriff's



departments, Alabama State Troopers and numerous others. Pastor Bobby Dodd officiated at the 3 PM graveside service. PVT Kidd's name is permanently inscribed on the Walls of the Missing at Manila American Cemetery.



## 5307<sup>th</sup> CUP MIA widow & Rosie the Riveter Eleanor Stark turned 101 Sept 6, 2025

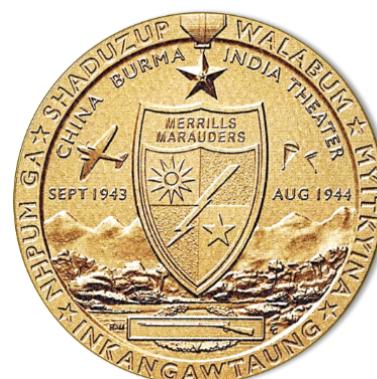
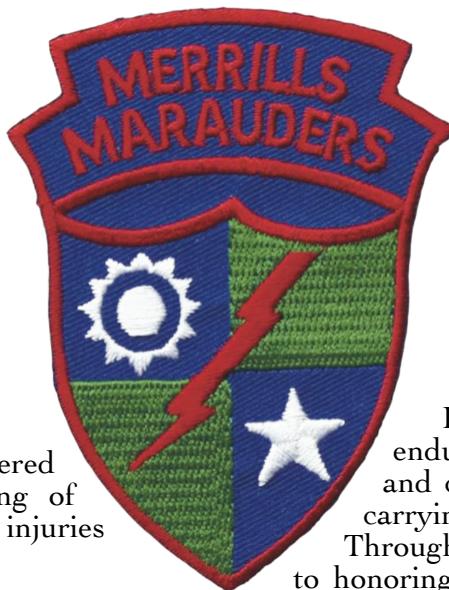


When Eleanor Stark was born Sept. 6, 1924, a new Model T cost \$300. A gallon of milk was 54 cents, loaf of bread 9 cents, a dozen eggs 12 cents, and a sirloin steak 39 cents. Gas soared from 11 cents to 24.8 cents a gallon. And the Statue of Liberty was declared a National Monument. Perhaps the most significant event in her 101 years was the 2024 return home after 80 years of her MIA husband, Luther "Buck" Bagley, KIA July 25, 1944, in Burma. She was just 19 with a baby boy, Nathan "Woody," Bagley working in Savannah shipyards when "Buck" was KIA. Bagley was buried in Fitzgerald, GA Aug. 10, 2024, the 80th anniversary of the 5307<sup>th</sup> CUP disbanding in Burma. Eleanor is seen holding "Buck's" photo with Ranger Hall of Fame member Paul Longgrear in 2023 when "Buck" was posthumously inducted into the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame. Longgrear founded the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame in 2013, and the first annual ceremony was held.



# REMEMBERING - JONNIE MELILLO CLASEN

BY: CHRIS BORRELLI



Dear Ranger Buddies,

The Ranger Brotherhood has suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of Jonnie Clasen, age 79, from injuries sustained in an auto accident.

Jonnie was much more than a friend to our Association—she was a tireless champion of Merrill's Marauders history and a steadfast guardian of their legacy. Her efforts were instrumental in securing the Congressional Gold Medal for the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), and she was a driving force behind the documentary that premiered in 2021 at Georgia Military College and the University of North Georgia.

As the daughter of Vincent Melillo, one of the Marauders who fought across Burma and stood at the final objective at Myitkyina Airfield, Jonnie carried their story forward with unmatched devotion. She was inducted into the Honorary Ranger Hall of Fame, a fitting recognition of her lifelong dedication to our history and our Rangers.

In addition to her legacy work, Jonnie endured personal hardships with resilience and courage, facing health challenges and carrying on after her father's passing. Through it all, she remained deeply committed to honoring Rangers and preserving the history we hold sacred.

Now, we have an opportunity to give back. A GoFundMe has been created to help honor Jonnie's memory and assist with closing her estate and massive funeral costs. We ask all members who are able to please consider donating in her honor. Every contribution is a way to say *thank you* to a woman who gave so much to ensure our history and sacrifices are never forgotten.

Thank you for standing together, as Rangers always do, in honoring Jonnie. May she rest in eternal peace, joining the "Big Ranger in the Sky."

- Sua Sponte



Scan this QR Code with your phone's Camera to open a link to Jonnie Melillo Clasen's Obituary



Jonnie with "daddy": Merrill's Marauder Vincent Melillo

**gofundme**

<https://gofund.me/5bcdefbd5>



Scan this QR Code with your phone's camera to open a link to donate to: Honor Jonnie Clasen: Support Funeral Costs Fund Raiser



# A/75-D/17 LRP-V CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - STAN JONES



Starting this issue on the 27th of May, just after returning from the 75th RRA Rendezvous in Savannah, GA. Thought I better start soon or I would forget even being there. Seems like the recall button is out of service more than in any more. The Rendezvous was 19-23 May. The HQ hotel was the Hilton Garden Inn, Midtown Savannah. I left at 6am EST, and arrived at 1930EST. On the way down, I passed through natures destruction, twice! Once on I-75 passing through London, KY. The whole town was flattened as far as you could see east and west of the interstate by a tornado earlier in the month. They were still cleaning debris off the interstate. Then, I-40 between Knoxville and Ashville, was one lane east and one lane west in the west bound lanes. The two east bound lanes were about 75-100 feet down in the creek/river below. I don't remember the actual mile markers, but it was several miles. This will take several years to



1971 Organization Day

completely rebuild the roadbed. This was only a small part of the destruction from Hurricane Helene last fall. During the Rendezvous, I attended the business meeting, BBQ lunch in the 1/75 HQ area, a State of the Battalion/Regiment conducted by the 1/75 CSM and Commander, a "Social Event" at the McDonough Irish Pub in downtown Savannah (open bar and food) funded by I think the Sua Sponte Foundation, a Memorial Day Ceremony conducted by the 1/75, and the Banquet to close out the week. A Company attendee were Fred Stuckey, Ted Tilson, Leslie "Willie" Williams '71 time frame, and myself. I had the distinct pleasure and honor of meeting Ranger Hall of Fame member, CSM Don Purdy, Ret. He was a member of Fred Stuckey's F Co. team in Vietnam. We ate breakfast together two mornings

and I really enjoyed talking to him. CSM Purdy was the guest speaker at the Banquet. I'm sure all the events of the Rendezvous itself will be well covered in other articles of the magazine as the new Editor of Patrolling Samuel Chartier took lots of pictures. While in Savannah, I took a trip down to Tybee Island and had lunch at the Wind Rose Bar and Grille. They had a wall at the end of the bar with military, fire, and police patches. I was wearing my A/75 PT T-shirt and the bartender first asked me if I was in the Air Force. I was only on my 2nd beer, so I replied nicely, no Army. She asked if our patch was on the wall and I said probably not, and I did not see one, but I had one of John Mikulak's scrolls over my sun visor, so there is now one on the "Wall of Honor" on Tybee Island. John still has plenty of scrolls left, if you need one.

Dennis Rick sent me a message on July 6th letting me know that Donna Brizendine had passed away. Here is a link to her obituary, <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/donna-brizendine-obituary?id=58414444>

Dennis just happened to find it when he went looking after not hearing from her in a while. RIP Donna, you and Tom are together again.

You should have received an email from Tom Sove, 75th RRA Secretary, asking if you want to get the Patrolling Magazine in print or electronically. Your choice, I prefer to get the magazine in my hand.

By the time this hits print and your mailbox, the next A/75 Reunion should be set in stone. Roy Bissey will be sending out an email blast to all the emails he has. If you don't hear from him, call me or Roy to get the info. Tentatively looking at April 30- May 3 in Branson, Missouri. Much more to come.

RLTW  
- Stan



Carson Cox Radio OP with Unk

Stan served in Alpha Company From November 72 - July 74, then shipped to Berlin Bde., Leaving the Army after 4 years. He worked at the USPS for 35 years. He has 2 sons, 7 grand kids and 8 greats. He is in his 39<sup>th</sup> year as a volunteer firefighter and currently the Chief of Department. Current status - Tanker Driver. He hails from Indiana.



# B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - MARC L. THOMPSON

Greetings and Salutations fellow LRRPs, Rangers, and Jayhawks...

Please stay safe, and stay healthy. Our previous article submission for the May deadline was SNAFU'ed, and no article appeared in the previous edition for the unit. Some of that content is included here, along with other new reporting.

## SAMUEL BOYD STORY

In other Sick Call news: In our last article, we reported that Sam Storey was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon Cancer and was then in Palliative Care at home. Due to circumstances beyond our control, that was not published, and Sam has now passed.

**From Joe Chetwynd:** We, as a brotherhood, need to acknowledge and give our deepest thanks to Joe Touchon, who left his home in Lometa, TX, some 40 miles SW of Waco, and drove over 1200 miles over two days to arrive at Oneida, TN in time to attend Sam's viewing Monday evening, along with Steve Lengel. Joe and Steve were there, first and foremost, out of deep respect for who Sam was as a LRRP, a soldier, a husband, a father, and true friend to us all, as well as being a man of deep, abiding faith in God, possessing great personal courage, displaying unbounded humility, and having absolute and unstinting American patriotism. They were there as our LRRP representatives, and by brief accounts their presence was most welcomed and much appreciated. We all owe Joe and Steve our deepest personal thanks for their dedication to the LRRPs. It should not go unsaid that Joe, himself, is nearly 87 years old and is, himself, still suffering from the horrific and debilitating cancer treatments he has recently undergone during the past six or more months. The man is a real trooper !!! Let them know how much you all appreciate their considerable "Airborne All The Way" efforts.



Toby Ivey and Sam Storey (right)  
photo courtesy of Toby Ivey

Over the past six decades since we have existed as the provisional VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN), we had already lost a number of good men just in our time at Nellingen Barracks. We also lost eighteen men to Vietnam, and over the decades since, we have lost the most number of our proud brothers and sisters. As we continue to suffer the natural attrition of our ranks, these losses, nevertheless, still sting. Not to the exclusion of any of our ranks who have already passed, but the names of Lt. Col. Ed Yarborough, Major Jim Jackson, and CSM David L. Clark were our most notable losses. Today we committed brother Samuel Boyd Storey to the hands of God, who passed away at his home in Robbins, TN.

Those old troopers who have all "joined the ranks" of those passed will be in the best of hands, with Lt. Col. Edward V. Jentz as CO, CSM David L. Clark as First Sergeant, and SFC Jack Luse in charge of the PT and the "Round The Horn" morning runs. LRRP Samuel Boyd Storey has now joined our late brothers with orders posting them to Fort Eternity. Hopefully, as Col. Maltese once boldly declared, "We will all meet again one day on the great DZ in the sky above".

AIRBORNE All The Way - AMEN ! - jtc

Feel free to call to send prayers and encouragement to Sam's wife Donna, and his Tennessee Family.

CONTACT U.D. FOR ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

PS: We should note that Joe still had to turn around and drive all the way back home again!

## VII CORPS SITREP FROM DICK FOSTER – 01 APRIL 2025

Now for the rest of the news. I apologize for my lack of timely correspondence. I won't bore you with the leg details, but technology, politics and health issues took precedence.

Don't know if I told you, but Zeke called and received belated info re the death of Master Sergeant Edgar Morales on November 22, 2024 in San Antonio TX. Morales was our point and host at the San Antonio reunion a couple of years ago. He was 86. His distinguished military career included decorated service with 3 combat tours with the 101st Airborne Division, the 5th Special Forces Group (RVN) Delta B-52 Recon (1967). In '69, he served with MAC-V SOG Command and Control, and Command and Control Central (CCC), assigned to Recon Team New Hampshire. Post Vietnam, he served with the 7th Special Forces Group. Following separation, Edgar acted as Senior Instructor in The San Jose State Univ, (San Jose CA) Senior ROTC Program. Following military service, he served 20 years with US Marshall Service, Police Chief Litchfield ME, and Parole Commissioner Texas Bd of Paroles and Pardons. His numerous commendations included the Purple Heart, Bronze Star w/ Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation with V Device, the Air Medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry w/ Palm, and numerous others.





# B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - MARC L. THOMPSON

**continued**

For further Family and Career information. search the web for: U.S.Special Forces Taps. (Special thanks to Sergeant Major (Ret.) Zeke Evaro).

So too, that tough old Texas Swabbie and distinguished LRRP, Joe Touchon is fighting off a spreading cancer. It has moved to his legs and the Medics are providing him with pills to fight off some of the pain.

Also, Zeke is still learning to drive with his new leg. Steve Lengel and Fat Back are still fighting the Good Fight! **†**. Almost forgot that our only, liberal ass LRRP, Al Moncayo, is in the hospital with some kind of heart problem. He didn't say what in his text, and didn't answer when I tried to call.

Bob Vanasse is doing well in assisted living in Knoxville TN. A word to the wise, Bob left his Home and all to an estate company to handle his earthly goods. Later he realized the bastards took all his 'Nam war medals, including his Purple Heart medal and papers. Note: If you want or need to pass on any or all of your army memorabilia, instead of letting it fall into the hands of scum sucking monetary scoundrels and yard sale vultures, send it to me to be disposed of honorably in museums or according to your wishes. We'll take care that your remembrances will be dealt with honor. I am in Alachua, FL (CONTACT U.D.). We'll even pay delivery costs.

The world will little note nor long remember what we accomplished without your and your family's attention. AIRBORNE!, You Damn LRRPs!

I am about to close this out, but before I do I want to apologize for being a sorry turd and not staying better in touch with you all. However, I don't want you to use that as an excuse for not being at the 2025 Ranger Regiment Reunion Association this coming May 19-23, at Hunter Army Airfield (HAAF) in Savannah GA. See you there!

Last but not least, on behalf of all VII CORPS LRRPs, we owe a debt of gratitude to B/75 Ranger Marc Thompson and the A/75 Rangers of V Corps LRRPs of Wildflecken. Also, a great salute to Touchon and Straehl for representing us at A Co's off-year reunion in Waco TX. Hopefully, we'll see A Co at 1st Battalion in Savannah in May.

Auf Wiedersehen, LRRP Fashenyeagers (sp).

Dick Foster, President, VII CORPS USA LRRP Assoc, President

## B/75 WINDOW DECALS – FROM LEO STARKEY

B/75 window decals!! After a long search I have found a supplier for our B/75 decals. It is through MilitaryBest.com. POC: Bob Fair at 866-514-1517

## MIKE MOSER - GETTYSBURG

Mike Moser and his Lady made a Gettysburg stop and checked in with me (Unit Director). Unfortunately, that occurred right when my better half was dealing with some medical issues, so no rendezvous was possible. Jeff Horne and I hope that Mike will be able to make it out for another Gettysburg trip with all of us in the near future.

## MEMORIES OF DEUTSCHLAND

On Wed, Jan 22, 2025 EZEQUIEL B EVARO wrote:

My head is covered with snow, my windows are blurred, my batteries are dead, I can no longer hear the birds chirping, the frogs croaking, the dogs barking or the phone ringing, and when I walk I stumble and walk like a grasshopper, but thank God, he know what he is doing. God Bless you all and keep you in his loving care. - Zeke

Joe Chetwynd: Zeke,

Have you forgotten about how tough life was living in a pup tent in Bavaria during the winter, while patrolling the Czechoslovakian border in December or January? I fondly remember having three feet of fresh snow on the ground and building a four sided shelter out of ponchos atop the snow. We raided a farmer's barn in a nearby village and took a dozen or so 2 or 3 inch round poles about 12 or 14 feet long with which to make the lashed wood frame. We then scavenged the nearby forest for fresh-cut pine boughs and used them, laid atop several piles, for a snow- proof roof, which included a hole in the center to vent the smoke out of the wood fire we built in the center of our four sided teepee. We laid out our fart sacks along the four sides, atop smaller pine needle branches that served well as a cushy floor, and also managed to keep a fire burning at least till we went off to sleep, letting it just burn itself out.

One night, after living in this arboreal, pine-and-smoke scented luxurious teepee for almost a week, there was a sudden "whooshing" sound, and with a loud roar, the roof lit up in a great blaze of fire as the now-very-dry pine needles fueled the



*A gasthaus beer with Sgt. Johnson (left)*

*photo courtesy of Gene Kauffman (right)*

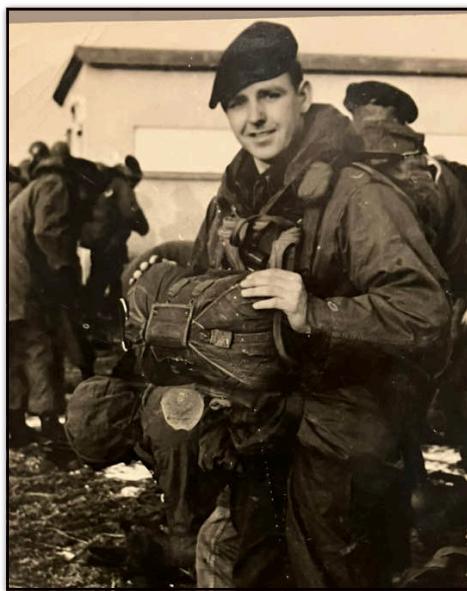


## B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - MARC L. THOMPSON

**continued**

mighty flames. Then a shower of sparks and flaming petals rained down on us at zero-dark-30 hours. In an instant we all rolled out of our warm, feather-filled winter fart sacks and stood shivering and stunned a bit in the thigh deep snow, in our bare feet, wearing only skivvies. We had all lost our night vision because of the roaring flames that now quickly died, and the heavens were black, but for some light from a clouded moon. It took us a while to finally find our clothing and boots and to get dressed as quickly as possible before we also froze to death. It was, to say the least, one of the more exciting times in our many, and always, exciting times serving in the LRRPs.



### *Getting Ready for the big step*

*"Getting ready for the big step off that landed me on a roof requiring the German fire department to get me down. Beetle Bailey landed in a tree in front of the Choctaw Theatre. A big change from the square miles of sand at Bragg."*

Sadly, I do not recall who all was in that patrol with the exception of Patrick "McNasty" Smith who somehow always managed to create "excitement" wherever and whenever he went. I also fondly remember him and me breaking a restriction to go up to "The Hill" a gasthouse owned and operated by a retired army NCO. He said we would go for "only one beer" and I said, "Oh, what the hell. ONE BEER - sure, let's go." When we got there, Patty went and ordered "Ein Bier, Bitte". It turned out to be a huge ten liter clay mug... but it still was "only one beer". To drink it, you put your arm around it and grabbed the huge handle, tipping it slightly with the bottom resting on a table and began to slowly quaff it down. It took the two of us well over an hour to finish it off, and by then, it being German beer (most likely Dinkelaker), ....it almost finished the both of us off, as well.

When we finally left the hill and headed for the upper gate to the post, it began to rain and our barracks were well over a mile away, but at least it was downhill. But the rain got wetter and drops much bigger and we both agreed we might drown before we reached the barracks (although that might have been deduced by the effects of the beer on our reasoning, but, whatever). Patty said we needed to get a ride and since there were no taxis lurking about, and hitch hiking was frowned upon (especially so late at night), he decided we would just have to take a truck (not a JEEP, mind you, but a TRUCK) from a nearby motor pool - which we did. We made sure to cover our hands in our fatigue sleeves so as to not leave fingerprints, hopped in a deuce and half, turned on the starter switch, revved it up and off we went, keeping off the main road for

obvious reasons, and swerving between other parked trucks, jeeps, and buildings along the way, so as not to be seen.

However, we were not far into our escapade when we were challenged by a young leg soldier wielding a baseball bat at port arms. Patty quickly told him what he could do with his bat and sped off into the dark of night, finally arriving in front of the company area, and in full view of the orderly room, the NCO on duty, and his clerk. Apparently we were not noticed and Patty agreed we needed to hide the truck. We then drove down the length of the barracks, turning left at the medic's billets, and parking it in their motor pool area. We then somehow managed to sneak back into our barracks unseen and return to our confinement room, unnoticed and un-missed, just in time for bed check.

Amazingly, the truck remained there for well over a week, and then there were several visits to the company by members of the Army's CID making "certain inquiries", and thinking this theft of government property had all the hallmarks of being perpetrated by members of the LRRPs which, of course, everybody vehemently denied, even as the "bat boy" on guard duty said the thieves were both wearing red berets... and appeared very drunk.

There were lots of tough hombres in our beloved LRRP company, but there were few, perhaps, if any, the equal in strength, guts, devil-may-care attitude, and who just loved to make mischief more so than do anything else but fight, than the late Patrick "McNasty" Smith of Eugene, Oregon. Those were some days. RIP, Bro'.

Airborne, All the way. JTC

Stay warm, stay safe, stay healthy. To Absent Friends and until next time...



*Good old Moncayo (pictured) with the only girl who would hang out with him*  
*photo courtesy of Tom Forde*

*Originally from Colorado, Marc Thompson now calls Pennsylvania home. He served in B Company Rangers from 72-74, was an 'original' NCO of 1st Ranger Battalion and served in other airborne, special operations and infantry units. He attended Tufts University earning a BA in Political Science and History. He is the CEO of Thompson Technologies and has been the UD since 2004.*



# D/151<sup>st</sup> - LRP / LRS

UNIT DIRECTOR - C. LARRY RHODES

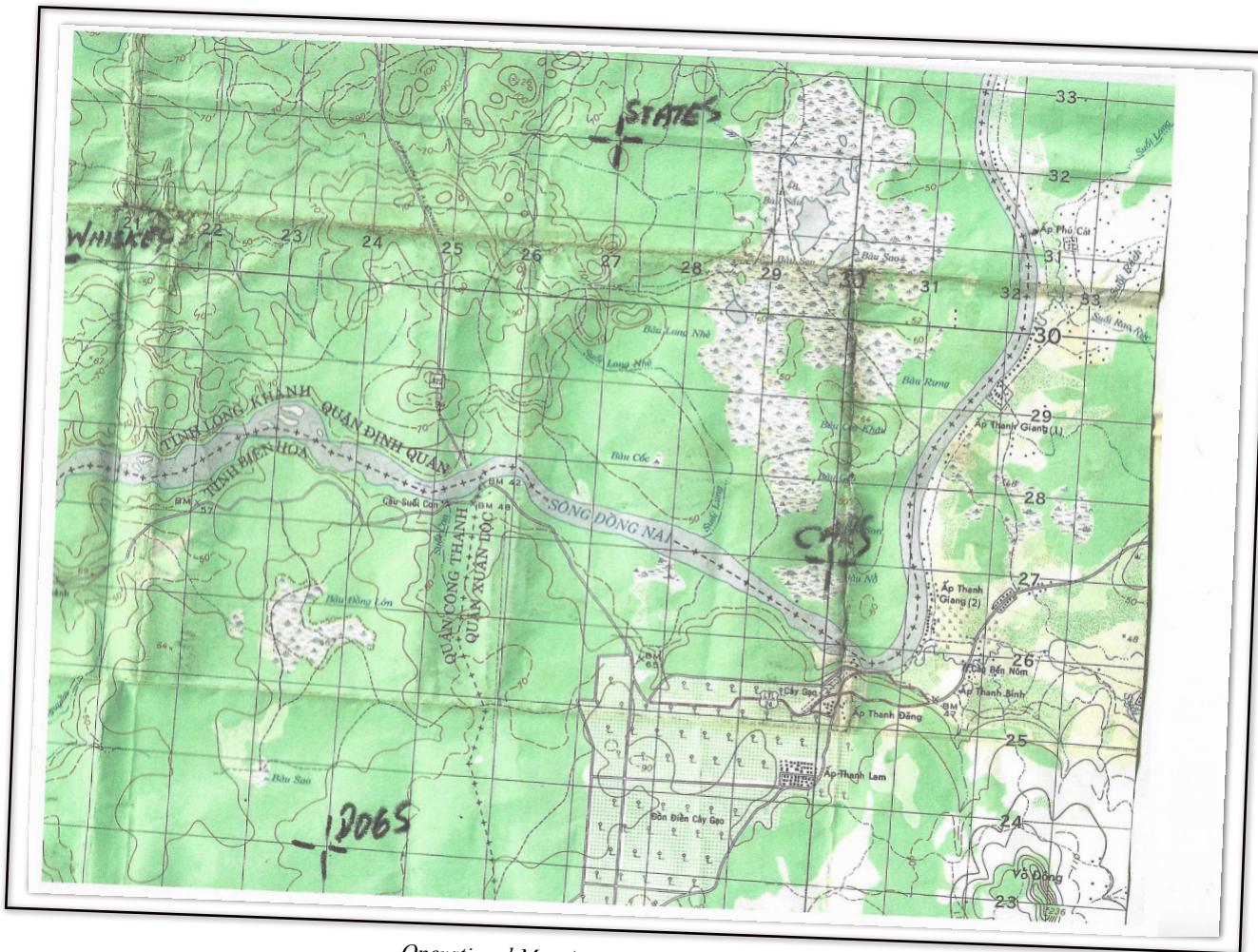


## Running thru the jungle

The topography map was sent with all team leaders and/or radio men, RTO's, on each mission. It was marked up in the command center with different axis points on the map identified with a name of some sort.

The names, for example, States or Whiskey, as you can see, are at intersections of the latitude and longitude lines on the map. For example, if you wanted to communicate with the LOF or, or the C-in-C, you'd maybe tell them in an area that you were in, you might say that you're four lines up from States and three lines to the west of States, which would put you in a general area that they could also identify on their maps so they have an idea where you are. These maps were periodically changed as the AO changed or as time changed so that if a map was lost, the enemy may find it, but it would be meaningless to them because the new map would have names on different intersections.

Generally, these maps were not used for navigation by the patrols. We had much larger in detail maps that we used for navigation that showed the topography of the area and certain landmarks. No team was ever near or in a village. A lot of missions were ran along the Song Dong Nai River that you can easily see on the map. The elevation in this part of Vietnam was not that high with maybe 100 feet



*Operational Map (partial) of our AO in Vietnam*

being one of the top elevations. So there was not a lot of mountains, but there were some hills and in most areas double or triple canopy.

Remember we were navigating with these maps and a compass, no satellite or GPS in Vietnam. As long as you knew where



on the map you started from, which was always the LZ where you were inserted, you could calculate your location.

One man's responsibility was to keep pace of how far the patrol had walked. The point man was responsible for direction using the compass. The radio man may at breaks signal the LOFT with a mirror and in turn the LOFT pilot would check his map and give you his opinion on where you were at the time. Hopefully everyone agreed on the coordinates.



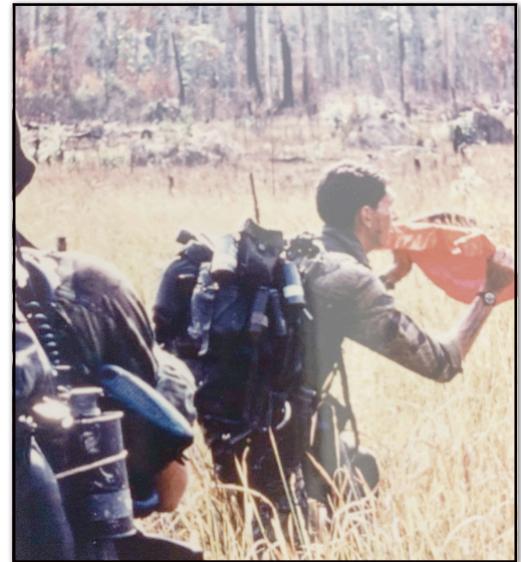
UH-1, 'Huey' on approach to the LZ

The target may be a particular trail that may be or may not be designated on the map. This was the assigned mission.

Once the trail was located and a good as possible site picked for the ambush, the RTO would let the LOFT know the teams position. The LOFT would relay this info back to the TOC at base camp and that position was noted on the wall map identifying the team's number in position.

Listen and wait. The team was ready for action.

Getting back to the PZ was not always easy, as the pick up zone may not be the same as the LZ in which you were inserted. As you can understand, land navigation was essential for life saving.



Radio man signaling a LOFT pilot

## ADDENDUM

After reading the Summer 2025 MACV Recondo article, Daryl Dassel wanted to add his perspective as a member of the ill-fated patrol. It was not a good night to experience. Not only dark of night, but rain coming down also.

"We walked all day from the time of insertion to the RON, many, many, miles and the only person with a map was the instructor. We were beat. About midnight I had completed my hour of Watch, when it started raining. I put my poncho over my body to get some sleep. When the explosion occurred, I thru my poncho off and started firing my M16, thinking we were under attack. Everyone around me was injured, but I was not burned, because of my poncho cover. After a couple of minutes, I did not notice any incoming fire, so I stopped firing and began to assess the situation. We were who knows where in the jungle and the Special Forces instructors was on fire along with the rest of the team. We were able to move the entire team by carrying the instructor and assisting the other members.

Once we made radio contact, and a helicopter was sent in our general direction, we moved to higher ground to display a strobe light when we heard the helicopter. A Parajumper repelled down and assisted each of us into the large helicopter using the STABO rig.

It was a night I have not been able to erase from my memory and most likely never will. It seemed like a miracle that the rain forced me to take cover and saved me from injury. I returned to Long Binh to rejoin my D 151 Ranger comrades. I completed my tour with 2 purple hearts, which were from contacts with the enemy and not from White Prosperous."

*Daryl Dassel was on the team the night the team leader Green Beret popped the WP grenade resulting in his death and the injury of the rest of the team except for Dassel*



# E/75-E50 LRP-9<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

Gentlemen,

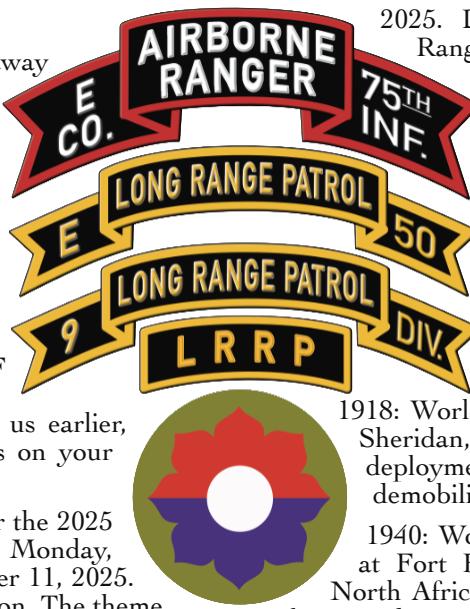
1. E50/E75 members thank Art "Doc" Attaway for his 4 years of service as association president. He Led The Way with enthusiasm pursuing bedrock goals that are foundational to the 75th RRA.

2. We also welcome Rick Merritt as our new president. We "have his 6" as he assumes his new position with many of the 75RRA members of the 18 LRRP companies aging into our 70s and 80s.

3. We also acknowledge our new RHOF inductees Thomas Sove, Robert Foti and Albert Stewart. "That which did not kill us earlier, made us stronger today." Congratulations on your inductions.

4. E50/E75 Reunion Update: The dates for the 2025 E50/E75 Reunion in Nashville are set for Monday, October 6, 2025 through Saturday, October 11, 2025. It's not too early to plan to attend the reunion. The theme for our reunion is Leaving Our Legacy - Honoring Ole Sarge Walden.

5. Lest We Forget: It is with great sorrow that we join the Stouffer and Moehle families in announcing the death of former E75 Ranger, Dan Stouffer, on Saturday, August 9,



2025. Dan served honorably with E Co. 75th Rangers in Vietnam from February 1969 – February 1970.

6. Introduction - 9th ID's "Road To War": The following report is a brief historical review of the 9th Infantry Division's (hereinafter referred to as 9th ID) "Road To War", a story of activations and deactivations and where E50 Infantry (LRRP)/E75 Infantry (RANGERS) fit into the division's proud legacy. It's a summary, not intended to be a treatise on the 9th ID's history in Vietnam.

1918: World War I: Organized in July 1918 at Camp Sheridan, Alabama. The war ended before deployment overseas, and the division was demobilized on February 15, 1919.

1940: World War II: Reactivated on August 1, 1940, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. It saw combat in North Africa, Sicily, Normandy, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe.

1947: Post World War II (Cold War): Deactivated in January 1947. Reactivated in July 1947 at Fort Dix, New Jersey, operating as a training division. It was deactivated on January 3, 1962.

## 7. 1964: Gulf of Tonkin Resolution – A Bump In The Road:

Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

Whereas naval units of the Communist regime in Vietnam, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, have deliberately and repeatedly attacked United States naval vessels lawfully present in international waters, and have thereby created a serious threat to international peace; and

Whereas these attacks are part of a deliberate and systematic campaign of aggression that the Communist regime in North Vietnam has been waging against its neighbors and the nations joined with them in the collective defense of their freedom; and

Whereas the United States is assisting the peoples of Southeast Asia to protect their freedom and has no territorial, military, or political ambitions in the area, but desires only that these people should be left in peace to work out their own destinies in their own way:

Now therefore, be it resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

Section 1 – The Congress approves and supports the determination of the President, as Commander in Chief, to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States and to prevent further aggression.

Section 2 – The United States regards as vital to its national interest and to world peace the maintenance of international peace and security in Southeast Asia. Consonant with the Constitution and the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with its obligations under the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty, the United States is, therefore, prepared as the President determines, to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed force, to assist any member or protocol state of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty requesting assistance in defense of its freedom.

Section 3 – This resolution shall expire when the President shall determine that the peace and security of the area is reasonably





# E/75-E50 LRP-9<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

**continued**

assured by international conditions created by action of the United Nations or otherwise, except that it may be terminated earlier by concurrent resolution of the Congress. Approved August 10, 1964.

1965: Secretary Of Defense Robert McNamara Recommends An Increase Of Troops In Vietnam: The Secretary called for an escalation of troop strength from 75,000 to 200,000 soldiers be deployed to Vietnam. President Johnson approved an additional 50,000. By the end of 1968 there would be 536,040 American military personnel in Vietnam.

1966: Vietnam War: 9th ID reactivated on February 1, 1966 at Fort Riley, Kansas and deployed to Vietnam in December 1966. The division was deactivated on September 25, 1969 in Hawaii. It was reactivated on April 21, 1972 at Fort Lewis, Washington. It was deactivated on December 15, 1991 at Fort Lewis.

In 1967-1970 its area of operations was in the triple canopy jungles of III Corps and later included the rivers, canals and swamps of the Mekong Delta of IV Corps. Operating deep within the Viet Cong (VC) controlled delta, the division was charged with protecting the area and its population against VC insurgents and ensuring the success of the South Vietnamese government's pacification program. Faced with unrelenting physical hardships, a tenacious enemy and the region's rugged terrain, the division established strategies and quantifiable goals for completing its mission.

## 8. 9th ID Mission: Operational Report HQ, 15 May 1969:

Subject: Operational Report of the 9th ID for the period ending 30 April 1969. Confidential. Downgraded at three year intervals. Declassified after 12 years.

### 1. (C) Section 1 Operations: Significant Operations

#### a. (C) Introduction

(1) During this report this period 1 February-30 April the 9th ID continued operations in support of missions and tasks either specified or implied by the following Plan and Operational Instructions:

(2) The mission of the 9th ID is to conduct sustained, coordinated, combined air and ground operations to destroy Viet Cong (VC) and North Vietnamese (NVA) main and local force units and their installations and infrastructure in the (III & IV Corps) Tactical Zones in close cooperation and coordination with US Navy Task Force 117 and execute ground and riverine operations to interdict enemy land and water lines of communication and deny the use of their base areas and to destroy main and local force units, conduct consolidation and pacification operations to identify and destroy VC guerrilla units and infrastructure and secure population centers and lines of communication in close coordination and cooperation with Government of Vietnam (GVN) and also conduct supporting operations to further the GVN pacification program by enhancing the capability of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN), Popular Forces (PF) and Regional Forces (RP) and to contribute to the health and welfare of the civilian population. The 9th ID has successfully accomplished the mission by conducting operations in Gia Dinh, Long An, Go Cong, Dinh Tuong, Kien Tuong, Blien Hoa, Vinh Binh, and Zien Tuong Provinces.

(3) Company E (LRP), 50th Infantry has been reorganized as Company E (Ranger), 75th Infantry under the provisions of US ARP AC GO 66, dated 27 January 1969. There were no changes to MTOE 07-157E, PAC 3/68. Strength authorization is as follows:

Unit	OFF	WO	EM	ACC
E Co (Ranger) 75th Inf. 3	0	115	118	

In Vietnam the 9th ID was initially assigned to the III Corps Tactical Zone and based in Camp BearCat (1966 –1968). It began operations in Dinh Tuong and Long An Provinces (6 January-May 31, 1967) in Operation Palm Beach. In May 1968, the division moved to IV Corps and was based at Dong Tam (1968 –1970) near the town of My Tho and then to Tan An (1969 –1970). The division (or parts of it) served approximately 1277 days in country.

The division's major units began departing from Vietnam on August 27, 1969. HHC & 1st Brigade to Hawaii, 2nd Brigade to Fort Lewis, WA; and on October 12, 1970 3rd Brigade to Fort Lewis, WA.

Note No. 1: The 3rd Brigade remained active in Vietnam until redeployment in October 1970. The remnants of E75 Infantry (Rangers), depending on how much time they had left on their tours of duty, were either assigned to other units in Vietnam or returned to the USA. In the waning days of 1970 1st Lt. Brent Gulick was the last company commander and, metaphorically, "lowered the flag, turned the lights out and secured the guidon".

Note No. 2: In 1967 the 2nd Brigade, 9th ID was the US Army contingent of the US Navy's Mobile Riverine Force (MRF). The brigade lived on the ships of the MRF and were transported on their infantry missions throughout the Mekong Delta on Tango boats (converted landing craft) supported by various other naval armored assets. The MRF was often anchored near Mỹ Tho or near the division's base camp Đồng Tâm. They conducted operations in coordination with the Navy SEAL teams, the South Vietnamese Marines, units of the ARVN 7th Division and River Assault Groups. E50/E75 LRRPs & RANGERS operated, at times, off the MRF's USS Benewah (APB-35), a barracks ship. MRF patrol boats (PBRs) were the "Ubers" of the day for the LRRP and RANGER teams in the Mekong delta.

## 9. Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Platoon:

In the fall of 1966, the 9th ID formed a division Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Platoon after division commander,



## E/75-E50 LRP-9<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DUANE L. "PONCHO" ALIRE

continued

Major General George S. Eckhardt returned from an orientation tour of the combat theater. He noted that each division had a long range patrol unit. He arrived back at Fort Riley, Kansas, where the division was completing preparations for its scheduled December deployment to Vietnam, and ordered the immediate organization of a reconnaissance platoon for his division. Captain James Tedrick along with lieutenants Winslow (Rick) Stetson, and Edwin Garrison were chosen as the officers for the LRRP platoon. They interviewed and screened the records of 130 soldiers and selected the best 40. The provisional unit was known as the "War Eagle Platoon". In November of 1966, the LRRP platoon completed the Jungle Warfare School in Panama. Capt. Tedrick conducted an extra week of tropical training following the regular two-week course. The platoon deployed to Vietnam in January 1967. In 1968 then Company Commander Captain Clancy Matsuda established the 9th ID Long Range Patrol Recondo School at BearCat and began training his soldiers to become LRRPs. The 9th ID LRRPs also attended the MACV Recondo School at Nha Trang – considered one of the most difficult schools in the army at the time.

Note No. 3: Former 1Lt. Prescott Smith (1968-1969) in his book, *Last Light With The Boys*, writes "the mission of E50/E75 was quite extensive and included locating the enemy, gathering intelligence, bomb damage assessments, coordination of artillery and air strikes, hunter-killer missions, along with special purpose raids and conducting harassing and deception missions." and "In most cases, the average age of most LRRP volunteers was eighteen to twenty years old".

10. Epilogue: On November 11, 1988 President Ronald Reagan left a message at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial which read in part, "Our young friends - yes, young friends, for in our hearts you will always be young, full of the love that is youth, love of life, love of joy, love of country - you fought for your country and for its safety and for the freedom of others with strength and courage. We love you for it. We honor you. And we have faith that, as He does all His sacred children, the Lord will bless you and keep you, the Lord will make His face to shine upon you and give you peace, now and forever more."

*Disclosure: The information contained in this report has been edited for length and clarity.*



## G/75-E/51 LRP-196<sup>th</sup> LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - AL STEWART



As the unit director, I am tasked with writing articles for our G/75th-E51st association in Patrolling Magazine and I am often nudged to write by Steve Johnson as is the case today. Often, I am announcing the death of one or more of our members. Thank goodness that is not the case today.

You may have picked up reading some of my past articles about the Alamo Scouts or other Ranger related chronicles. You may have picked up on the fact that I am an avid reader, and I read everything I can find regarding the Rangers. My wife (Nicki) often asked me what in the world will she do with the hundreds of books I have. I have found that reading is much easier than exercising, and being more and more sedentary in my old age, I find reading my best sport!

I read just about everything I can find on the Rangers. There is one book I have had for years that I have avoided for a long time only because it is a massive book. I have read many, many large volumes over the past years and I rarely stop reading a book without finishing, even if I don't particularly enjoy it.

I just finished reading *SPEARHEAD*, by James E.T. Hopkins in collaboration with



John M. Jones about the complete history of Merrill's Marauder Rangers. The authors of this book were medical staff with the Rangers throughout their entire campaign. It is an amazing story of warfare in the CBI campaign that was fraught with poor high-ranking leadership, poor support, and outstanding courage by the Rangers. The medical staff assigned to the Rangers were outstanding and they chronicled each and every significant injury and the status of what happened during the campaign. Using mules and horses to transport equipment and spotty airdrops to provide food, ammunition and water, plus medivac services, it is an amazing story.

Reading this phenomenal story of jungle warfare under horrific conditions convinced me that I have never had a bad day in my life. Truly, the Merrill's Marauder Rangers fought a war that showed courage in every aspect, under horrible conditions.

Don't let the 700 plus pages of this story stop you from reading this book. Once you start this story of war, it is difficult to put down. Courage was commonplace and the authors of this book chronicled the heroic actions of the Marauders.

*Al Stewart attended Basic Training and AIT at Fort Polk, the NCO Academy, Jungle School and Ranger School at Fort Benning. He was with Golf Company, attached to the 23rd ID (Amer. Inf.) operating in both the Chu Lai and Da Nang areas. After Vietnam he was stationed at Fort Hood with the Alpha Company Rangers until his service was complete.*



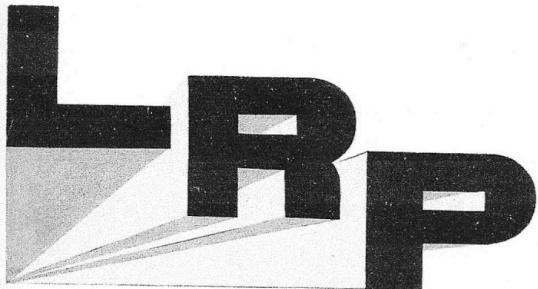
# F/51 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - RICHARD 'DICK' MOYER



Re-print article submitted by Richard Moyer.  
Originally published  
*The Hurricane* No. 7  
May 1968  
Written by: SP4 Paul Temple





## *F Co., 51st Infantry*

**Photos and story by SP4 Paul Temple**

The Long Range Patrol (LRP) team gathered in the briefing tent the night before its ambush mission to go over the location of the ambush site, radio frequencies and artillery support. A specialist checked out the team's equipment and supplies and a helicopter pilot pointed out LZ's on the briefing map and detailed insertion procedure. The patrol leader presented his plan and asked for questions. After discussion, the men returned to their billets for final preparations.

Preparation for a routine patrol? No, because LRP teams stay out for as long as six days, operating in contested and enemy controlled areas. Although they have the support of the most modern army in the world behind them, members of the LRP are in a real sense alone all the time they are out.

Twelve men, a "heavy" team, were on this patrol. Six-man teams, used for reconnaissance, avoid contact. The heavy team seeks it, attempting to kill the enemy in his own territory. The team is equipped with enough automatic weapons and claymore mines to engage and maul a large enemy force in a devastating ambush.

Members of the team work together, complementing each others actions. But each man is also an individual and his uniqueness is reflected in his gear. Each pack is different, according to the habits and physique of its owner. Some team members prefer the issue rucksack and frame, while others cut down the frame and mount the sack higher than usual. Some use claymore bags tied together and to the pack-frame with quick-release knots. Others use canvas rucksacks "scrounged" from ARVN sources. While the equipment carried is uniform, the manner in which it is packed varies as much as the rucksacks themselves.

The object in packing is to place the weight as close as possible to the body and make it comfortable, with no sharp protrusions into the wearer's back. The equipment is arranged in order of priority. Armament, of course, is the most accessible.

At 0600 the next morning the team arose,

camouflaged themselves and had breakfast. The choppers—two slicks and a light fireteam escort—moved the team to the LZ.

The first chopper came in and its passengers made a quick sprint to the treeline. The second came in and there was another sprint. The team drew no fire; it was a "clean" insertion. Then the team waited an hour for the Forward Air Observer (FAO) to come overhead and establish contact.

The team assumed its order of march and moved out through heavy bamboo and undergrowth. Progress was slow, with frequent stops to check position with the FAO by mirror and radio signals and listen for the enemy. The dry season had made the underbrush and bamboo brittle and absolute silence was impossible. But daylight sounds, rustling leaves and broken twigs, don't carry like coughs, clanking of metal or voices. There were no unnecessary sounds.





22

After three hours, the team had not reached the ambush site and the FAO had to go back for fuel. The team leader decided to establish a perimeter in a small clearing near a stream.

Claymore mines were set around the perimeter and patrol members, soaked with sweat, sprawled in the grass among the bushes. A few minutes later, a VC was spotted downstream filling a water pail—he was less than 35 meters away. The point man from the LRP climbed a tree to spot the enemy and saw a small campfire and poncho spread for a sunshade. Headquarters decided to keep the patrol in the clearing to ambush the VC when he returned for water and wound him, if possible, to take prisoner.

The wait, the greatest part of a LRP, began. Twelve people huddled in a small circle, not communicating, turning either to sleep, introspection or a microscopic examination of the tiny universe around them. There were grasshoppers of different hues, red ants fighting black ants and sounds from birds and crickets.

As darkness settled, each man cleared the area his body covered of anything that might make noise as he slept. At dusk, when the jungle slipped into night, sounds became distinct. Men tightened at each one, then relaxed as an insect noise or wind in the trees was recognized. Much later, something unnatural moved in the brush not far away. It was impossible to tell how far away—darkness had removed all size from the tiny clearing. Then flashlights shone through the trees and seven VC moved through one end of the clearing, silhouetted by flares in the distance. The team held its breath, but the VC passed and removed the possibility of a fire-fight and a terrifying night extraction. LRP's have found that firefights at night are unsatisfactory unless the team is in position for an ambush.

The night settled again, left to the insects, the breeze and the birds. The team pulled guard in shifts, waiting for dawn when VC are likely to attack. Dawn passed with no attack. The team lay in the clearing all day and into the next night. The stillness was broken by small arms fire close to the team position and gunships sent death through the trees and artillery moaned overhead.

Headquarters, over the radio, announced that another LRP team had made contact and been extracted. The patrol would be picked up early in the morning because infantry was going to sweep the area.

There are two ways to move in the jungle, quickly or quietly. The LRP used the same LZ for extraction as they had for insertion but, while it took three hours to reach the clearing, it took 12 minutes to return.

The extraction was uneventful but all members of the patrol seemed disappointed that there had been no contact and no opportunity to take a prisoner. There was no disappointment about returning to showers and hot meals.



## H/75-E/52 LRP - 1<sup>st</sup> CAV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - PETE DENCKER

Greetings Brothers,

Writing this as a follow up to the most recent reunion in Reno. Unfortunately I was unable to attend so I've included photos and happenings submitted by those who were in attendance. I am, however, making my commitment here - to attend next year's New Orleans reunion!

First, I would like to honor one of our Brothers who did not make it back Francis Kulbatski. This is a unique story as It does not appear that Francis was still assigned to H Company when he was KIA however his name

appears on our list of Brothers who did not come home. Thanks Chuck, Tim, Fred, Patrick, Donny and Kregg for getting back to me with regard to my request for information. There seems to be very little information on Francis – other than what took place with the 1/9th. Kregg Jorgenson spoke with Glen Senkowski, a pilot with A Troop, 1st of the 9th who, on his very first day in the Troop, flew a Low Bird out to the site where the Blues suffered a horrible hit. For a better description of what happened that day go to Know Their

Story podcast 105 - Glen Senkowski. Glen was there that day and talks about it, Glen did 18 months with Apache Troop and is one of the good guys. The A (Apache) Troop Blues and several pilots and crews suffered heavy losses and casualties in Feb. 1969 with the 21 to 23 man platoon being brought back to operational strength with new volunteers after that ambush. By Dec. 1969 the Apache Troop Blues were hit again when

the platoon leader was shot through both thighs and his femoral artery with his RTO KIA, and several others seriously wounded in the Tay Ninh area. I've reached out to Glen and will follow up with additional info once I have it. What I do have from the web.....

Francis K. Kulbatski was born on March 20, 1948. His home of record is Jersey City, NJ. He had two sisters, Lorraine and Karen, and one brother. He served in the US Army and attained the rank of Corporal (CPL). He was assigned (pad - to H Company for a period of time and then) to A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division. Kulbatski was killed in action on February 15, 1969, when his helicopter was shot down over Long Khanh Province. On February 15, 1969, a U.S. Army helicopter UH-1H (tail number 67-17727) from A Troop, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, was transporting troops in Tay Ninh Province, RVN, when it was hit by hostile small arms fire, crashed, and burned. One of the crewman and four troopers being transported were killed in the incident. They included helicopter crew chief SP4 Franklin B. Gilbert and infantrymen SP4 James T. Fields, PFC Francis K. Kulbatski, SGT Dennis C. North, and SGT Harold R. Tyson. Gilbert was posthumously promoted to Sergeant



CPL Francis Kulbatski





## RENO REUNION 2025

From our Vice President:

Ladies and gentlemen of the LRRP/Rangers. Thank you to all those members that attended the reunion. Thank you for the board members and general members that also attended. Doug, will let us know the exact number of attendees later but we had more than 30 attending our famous Memorial Luncheon!

Days before the luncheon we had our usual membership meeting with a quorum enabling us to pass some updates to our by-laws and re-elected the current board to another term. One item that will be noted by other board members will be having our membership look at the issue of "Last Man Standing". For those of you that want a brief refresher it's when our unit, at some point in time, will no longer be able to conduct a reunion or have a business meeting. In the beginning formation of our unit " LRRP/Rangers of the First Cavalry Division during the Viet Nam War" it was established that membership was only open to the men that were assigned to this unit. We will inevitably reach a point where we cannot continue. We must then decide together what happens to our assets. Please give this topic some serious thought! Tom Carpenter and Pete Dencker have put together some ideas that will be sent out to all via email and also be included in the next newsletter

At our luncheon we opened with the lighting of the candle representing our fallen comrades from Vietnam and paid recognition to the last years fallen brothers. You can see the memorial photo in the newsletter. As a typical luncheon goes, we ate ( the food was excellent!) our meals and had our raffle, which was also another success. Thank you for all the contributions made to this event!



*Fallen Comrades Table / Candle lighting at luncheon*



*2025 Reunion Attendees*

The reunion room was always occupied, and wonderful conversations were continuous. The stories were close to the same, but the embellishment's have grown! Very consistent with prior reunions. Doug did a wonderful job of obtaining a suite for us with the help of the CAV. Bill stocked the room very well and Benny had all our merchandise for sale. Our farewell breakfast was just as nice with guest, Brigadier General Waters, the adjutant general of Nevada! He was in the area and being a Ranger, he wanted to have breakfast with us.

Our next reunion in New Orleans will be in July next year. If you are able it will again be another terrific event to attend. Thank you to all our ladies in attendance at the reunion. We honor you all for your giving, caring and most of all LOVE that supports us all!

Until next time - RLTW



This article was written by Dave Flores, our unit Vice President, and is his tribute to the great NCOs with whom he served during his 1968-69 combat tour in our unit. SFC Michel Sharp and MSG Steve Mattoon were his Team Leaders, but all the "Sergeants" he mentions had a great, positive impact on his own tour of duty and our unit overall. -Dave Hill

## "SERGEANTS"

By Dave Flores

We all have heard the old saying: "The Sergeants run the Army". This is no doubting the veracity of that statement. As I sit with my thoughts and memories of my time in the Vietnam War, I invariably seem to think of some sergeant with whom I had the great fortune of serving over there. At reunions, the conversation centers on talking about one of those sergeants. That is right; those guys that backbone of any army unit and have been since nations first formed armies. They are the men who us what to do, how to do it, and when to do it! They are the guys that, while always ensuring that our were completed, also looked after our welfare. We were never "just names or numbers" to them, but personal charges, and they took that responsibility and duty extremely seriously.

Though I served with many great NCOs, I will only be writing about four with whom I served and got



Dave Flores - Lai Khe, 1968

to know well during my tour in Vietnam. Each of them had something different to offer to all of the young soldiers in our unit. Their leadership styles varied, but they always got the results required. Each brought something unique to our unit's young soldiers. They are/were all exceptional men, doing a tough job while nonetheless also endeavoring to get all of us safely home. With rare exceptions, they succeeded in doing so.

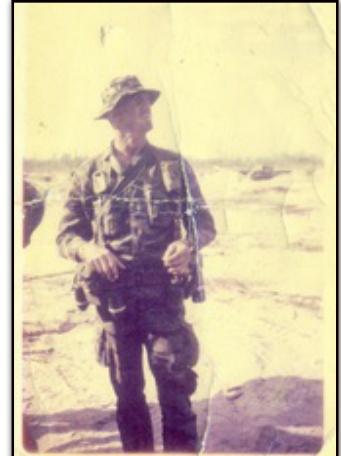
The four sergeants I am writing about are SFC (and 1st Sgt.) Jim Morton; SSgt. Steve Mattoon; SSgt. Michel Sharp; and SFC Jon Tapia. They were all career soldiers, who took what the Army gave them (us "FNGs") and made us into warriors. More than infantrymen/warriors, they taught us the skills and mentality to be Lurps and Rangers.

1st Sergeant Morton: Tall, lean, deep voiced, and with his "handlebar" mustache, he looked like a genuine cowboy actor Sam Elliot. He was also a man who could put us to shame when it was "PT Time". Yes, "PT" in Vietnam.

He led us in PT every day we were in our Lai Khe Base Camp (after one day of "stand-down/re-provision" following a mission), including long, tough runs. He said that he knew we would lose men—it was war—but stated: "I'm not going to lose a man because he is out of shape and cannot not keep up and do his job on missions". He knew that, operating as Recon Teams of only 4-6 men, "running" was sometime the only option for a team's survival against a numerically-superior enemy. He was not a man to "mess with", which some folks in other units, who had had the audacity to make "cat calls" at us while we were on our daily runs around Lai Khe, found out the hard way. Though many of his 1st Sergeant duties required him to remain in Lai Khe, he was still a "field trooper" at heart and made a point of running many missions with our unit's Teams. He went on missions with our teams not to lead them, but as a "strap-hanger," another expert combat infantryman. Our Team Leaders were still in charge, regardless of relative rank, but Jim was "along" to see if each of us were applying the extensive tactical training he and our own TLs had drummed into our heads. He was there to observe how we operated, our noise and fire discipline, how we moved, set up ambushes, selected and moved into our "Remain Over Night (RON)" positions, adjusted artillery and air support, and the many other actions required on a Long Range Patrol mission.



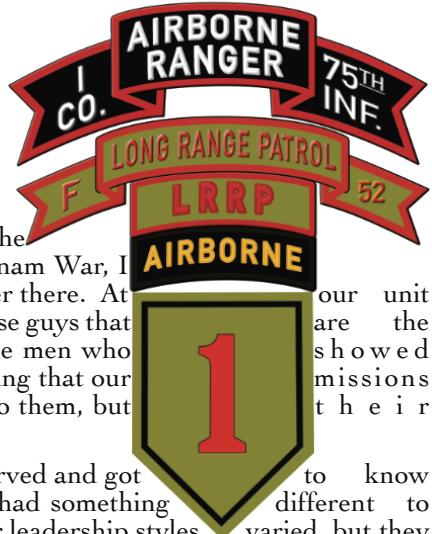
1<sup>st</sup> SSG Morton in Dress Uniform



1<sup>st</sup> SSG Morton in field kit

While he always let the actual TL run the team and execute the mission, it was nonetheless reassuring to know that he was there and ready to lead if required and provide another "steady rifle" (his trusty M-14E2) to any team he accompanied. Upon return to Lai Khe, he reviewed each mission with team members to ensure that "lessons learned" were identified and could be employed on subsequent missions. He conducted the team's initial debriefing. While we were fortunate to have him go to the field with us, if one was really lucky, 1st Sgt. Morton would select you for one of his "special" missions (down to Saigon or another major US base area to "barter" with his extensive network of fellow NCOs and officers for items which our unit needed, but was unable to secure on a timely enough basis through normal supply channels).

Following his tour as our 1st Sgt, SFC Morton "returned to his roots" ---Special Forces. There he served as cadre at the 5th SF Group "Recondo School" in Nha Trang, before moving on to a highly hazardous tour with "Command and Control, North (CCN)", which operated missions in the "denied" territory of Laos, as part of the "Studies and Observation Group (MAC-SOG). Following the completion of his multiple Vietnam combat tours, he finished his career as a



our unit  
are the  
showed  
missions  
their



# I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1<sup>st</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DAVID HILL

continued



Master Sergeant in the Army Recruiting Command. Until 2006, I had lost contact with Jim Morton and did not even know if he had even survived Viet Nam. So I was elated to receive that year, an email from him, so we could reconnect. Jim has since passed and is still greatly missed by all who knew him, particularly those of us who had the honor and privilege of serving with him. I remain in contact with Jim's beloved widow, Hazel (herself a retired Intel and Military Police Major), and speak fondly of him often.

SSgt. Steve Mattoon: The Team I was on (SSgt. Sharp's) at that time, ran missions with TL Mattoon's, as a "heavy team", out of the 1st Infantry Division's northernmost brigade base camp, Quan Loi. Our two teams worked quite effectively together for a period of months. Sergeants Mattoon and Sharp "ran their own show". Our teams were provided "recon boxes" by Brigade S-2, then Mattoon and Sharp would plan each mission entirely on their own. They would then give a "brief-back" to Brigade, secure their comms, artillery and air support, and conduct what we came to know and refer to (many years later) as the "Sharp-Mattoon War". While I was on the team, I thought at least some general orders or direction were issued to them, but they had been given only a recon box by 1st Brigade, and Mattoon and Sharp arranged everything else, entirely at their own discretion. We succeeded in providing much "intel", as well as conducting many successful ambushes and other "direction actions". He was always extremely aggressive in ensuring that his team accomplished its mission, while nonetheless minimizing friendly casualties. He was highly organized and, while brazen, not foolhardy. For SSgt. Mattoon, whatever the mission required, he would meet, "leading from the front". I too would later serve directly on SSgt. Mattoon's team as his RTO. It was a demanding but great experience!



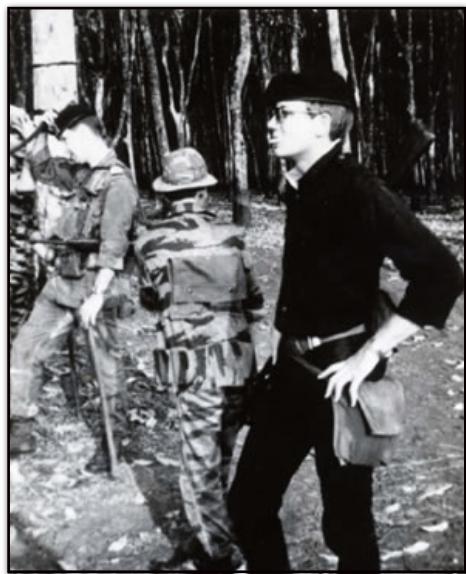
Ssgt Steve Mattoon

Steve Mattoon would go on to a subsequent combat tour as a Team Leader in H Co./75th Inf (Airborne-Ranger), 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), in Vietnam. Returning from Vietnam, he finished his career as a Master Sergeant, serving in various special operations commands, including one as 1st Sergeant of Bravo Co./2nd Ranger Battalion, Ft. Lewis, Washington. Following retirement, Steve and his wife started and ran their own highly successful "special operations and tactics" training school, whose students were comprised of members of military and law enforcement organizations. He was also a successful author of books on military, law enforcement, and survival tactics and doctrine. Having not been in contact with MSG Mattoon for since Vietnam, my former teammate (and Mattoon's primary RTO), Don "Giant" Hildebrandt, and I found out that he was to be in Reno, Nevada at an industry convention. So we hurriedly converged on him and, though we had not seen him for over four decades, it was like we had never been apart. Steve Mattoon was still built like a bull, handsome and confident.

It was like he had never changed. We were not surprised that he had become a successful business leader since his distinguished military service. At dinner that night, Don and I raised our beers to him and said: "Thanks for the lessons you taught us. Thanks for the close in B-52 strike we somehow survived, and thanks for scaring the shit out of us on countless occasions but always bringing our team back intact." Sadly, Steve passed away just this past year. He will always be missed.

SSgt. Michel "Mike" Sharp: For most of my Vietnam tour, Sergeant Sharp was my Team Leader, and I could not have had a better one. My primary job on our team was as its RTO, though Sergeant Sharp ensured that each of us was cross-trained in all team roles, positions and skill sets—from land navigation, communications, air and artillery adjustment, marksmanship and all the other myriad of the skill set required to succeed (and hopefully) survive as a Lurp-Ranger in Vietnam. My first contact of Sergeant Sharp was when he arrived to "shanghai" us from our 1st Division "Repo Depo" in Dian base camp. A dozen had just

arrived in-country, following "Jump School" and home leave. We had originally been assigned to the 101st Airborne Division, at that time operating up in "I Corps" (Vietnam's northernmost military region). However, as one always serves at "the need of the Army", we had all been re-assigned to the 1st Infantry Division's F Co./52nd Inf (LRP). When we had asked around what a "F Co./52nd Inf (LRP)", either nobody knew who they were, or they gave us an ominous "Sorry 'bout that"/you'll be sorry" response. Little did we know how fortunate that reassignment was for us. As we stood in our last formation in Long Binh's 90th Replacement Battalion, a booming voice called out: "Who here has been assigned to F Co./52nd? If you have, throw your shit in the back of that "deuce-and-a-half" and climb in." I got to ride "Shotgun" up front with Sergeant Sharp, but I had neither a shotgun, rifle nor even a pistol. I noted this to Sergeant Sharp, who dismissively stated: "I have my CAR-15. That is all we need." Turns out he was right, but we were all more than a bit apprehensive during out 45 kilometers drive northward up National Highway 13 to our new "home" at Lai Khe. As soon as we arrived, both 1st Sgt. Morton and SSgt. Sharp ordered: "Get off the truck with your duffle bags, take off your fatigue shirt, and get in the formation for a run!". We did. It was a harsh "Welcome to F Co. LRP's" for us FNGs. We were then assigned to our respective teams, and mine would be to Sharp's. Our team training started early the next day, with a trip to the range to zero our newly issued M-16s, get some grenade-throwing practice, and learn to fire the M-79 grenade launcher effectively (having had very little of such training stateside). What we thought we had learned at "Advanced Individual Training-Infantry" at Fort Gordon, Georgia, had obviously been only



Ssgt Michel 'Mike' Sharp with PRUs



# I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1<sup>st</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - DAVID HILL

**continued**



cursor. We were given a “graduate class” in real war-fighting—Sergeant Sharp-style. We were taught and repeatedly ran “Immediate Action Drills (IADs)”; first with dry-fire only, then graduating to IADs using live fire. We (particularly me, who Sharp had designated to be his RTO) were taught how to operate the Team’s PRC-25 radio (far beyond the depth of knowledge required of the average infantry RTO), got refresh training on land navigation, and trained on calling in and adjusting artillery fire and air support. We soon progressed to running short-range patrols “outside the wire” around Lai Khe base camp. We learned hand-signals, so few words were thereafter ever required for Sharp to order, and our team to execute, his direction. Despite this quick and necessarily compressed training period, I noted also how he took care of us, not just in the field, but back in base camp. We were “his Team” and nobody better get between us. Within days, Sharp reported to our Company Commander, Capt. Jack Price, that our Team was “mission ready.”



F Co. Heavy Team

As F Co. LRP began to operate out of satellite Mission Launch Sites other than Lai Khe, Sergeants Sharp’s and Mattoon’s Teams were put on trucks with our equipment and large amounts of 5.56mm ammunition, hand grenades, claymore mines and “LRRP” rations, and sent north to work out of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade base camp at Quan Loi. As mentioned previously, TLs Sharp and Mattoon then embarked on “their war” for the next several months. Returning to Lai Khe, we took on new missions, and I worked as RTO or “drag” (second in line of march, behind our point man) on both Sharp’s and Mattoon’s teams (and a couple of others) for the rest of my tour in Vietnam. We survived, and were extremely effective in combat, because of the training they imparted to each of us. I will forever be grateful for that.

SSgt. Sharp later became a SFC and served in Vietnam—always in a combat role—for over four more years—continuously. When he left F Co., it was to take command of a company of Provisional Recon Unit (PRU) Montagnards, as part of the very clandestine “Phoenix Project”, which was extremely effective in destroying the Viet Cong Infrastructure (VCI). He extended his tour numerous times, including stints with G Co./75th Rangers,

America Division, after having served as an acting company commander in one of that division’s “line infantry” units. He was finally forced to depart Vietnam only when the US troop “draw-down” precluded any further extensions—having served nearly five and ½ years in constant combat. After being out of contact with him for over forty years, we finally reconnected at the memorial service for SFC Jon Tapia in 2005 and have remained in close contact ever since. After a stint with the Chicago PD, and a successful career as a heavy construction superintendent, he finally retired. He now resides with his wife, Susan, and daughter, Shayna, near Phoenix, Arizona.

SFC (later CSM) Jon Tapia: SFC Tapia was another great Team Leader, and among the most experienced in our unit. As such, Jon Tapia was additionally our unit’s Training NCO. He, along with 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Morton, used his more than a decade of soldiering and years of combat experience to ensure that each of us got the maximum in training. He passed along to us the many “lessons-learned” acquired through his numerous successful Long Range Patrol missions. Though I never directly “pulled” any missions with SFC Tapia, I know from the many of my comrades who did have that privilege, what a great TL he was, and when it counted most. They all emphatically told me that they “would go anyplace, anytime under his leadership. He was also a great “combat multiplier”, continuously conducting exacting training sessions in and around Lai Khe in disciplines as diverse and important as mission planning, land navigation, adjusting artillery and air support, escape and evasion/rallying, and other topics vital to both our teams’ success and their survival. He was “on” 24/7 and insisted we be the same. He never “slacked” and demanded that same attitude and practice of every soldier in our unit. If someone was not “cutting it”, he got rid of them. If a trooper was not willing or able to operate up to his standards they were soon “gone”, so as not to jeopardize the mission or their teammates. He was a strict disciplinarian but was also fair—an invaluable quality and characteristic of any top-notch NCO. When our unit had to, sadly, conduct memorial services for our “Killed-In-Action” teammates, it was SFC Tapia who set up and led the ceremony with the solemn dignity due those we lost. After multiple special operations combat tours in Vietnam, SFC finally returned to CONUS, where he eventually rose to the rank of a division Command Sergeant Major. His military service was incredibly productive and distinguished. He finally retired to Tucson, Arizona, where he resided with his wife of many years, Lee, before passing in 2005.

I am still here only because of the “Sergeants” I was so honored and privileged to have served under in Vietnam. In closing, each of these four Sergeants taught me much of value, which I was then able to carry forward through the remainder of my service in the US Army, and I will never forget them or their legacy.

RIP Sergeants Morton, Mattoon, and Tapia. Enjoy many more years, Sergeant Sharp. You all have earned it, and our undying respect.

Dave Flores

Team “Wildcat 3”, F Co./52nd Inf (LRP)-I Co./75th Inf (Airborne-Ranger), RVN 1968-69



SFC Tapia leading Cohn Team Memorial



# K/75-E58 LRP 4<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - ROGER CRUNK



My Brothers,

The Brothers with whom we shared the blood, the sweat, and tears.

It does not take much for my mind to take me back to that time so long ago, yet it's just like yesterday. So close you can touch it, smell it, feel it in every fiber of my being. I'm not saying that's a bad thing, at least not for me. I am fortunate that I have never had nightmares as others have. But I do remember those bad days, every one of them. Maybe it is the good times we shared that causes my heart to ache for that time long ago.

One of my favorite songs is (Against the Wind) by Bob Seger. The song is about life and lost love of his lovely Janey but there are several lines in the song that remind me of who we were and where we are now. The song begins with, "it seems like yesterday, but it was long ago". I think all of us can relate that to our time in Vietnam.

The words that are most poignant to me are " we were runnin against the wind, we were young and strong, we were runnin against the wind. Then it goes on to later in life, "I'm still runnin against the wind, I'm older now but still runnin against the wind.

Some in the Division played on the letter and labeled us as the K-Company Cowboys. It was meant to be derogatory but we thought that it was funny, somewhat true, as we rode our horses (Huey's) into the badlands, always pushing forward. Which brings me to a couple of lines at the end of the song That I find humorous "watch the young man runnin', let the cowboys ride, they'll be ridin' against the wind. Which brings me to the line in Merle Haggards song, "so I'll just dream and keep on being who I am"

Over time a bond grew. Perhaps we didn't realize nor understood what was happening in the moment. But it did happen, and I am grateful for that Brotherhood. I'm reminded of the song by Tracy Lawrence, (Time marches on).

Okay, so I'm getting a bit long-winded on this so let's get back to business.

It is my sad duty to report the loss of some of our Brothers: Jake Spraggins - 1st Brigade LRRP, Robert Thomas III - 2 Nd Brigade LRRP, Raymond McFarr - K-Co Ranger, Travis Blaylock - 3rd Brigade LRRP, and Phillip Stafford - 2nd Brigade LRRP (See page 46 for more information).

I'm also sorry to report that after all these years we missed one of our KIA's. Thomas Earle Ramsey (1st Brigade LRRP). He was KIA on December 15th, 1968. I'm not sure how we missed him. I looked at our database and he is not listed.

A few days ago I came across a Facebook page by Doc Richard Keller with Thomas's info. You can go to Vietnam War Memorial Wall website to find hm on (Panel 36 W, Line 27. Thanks Doc for bringing this to light.

Report from Wayne Mitsch:

As your webmaster, I'd like to update you on the status of our website. Our website continues to be the premier, most updated and progressive of all of the LRRP companies. However, it can get stale with lack of new input. I try to keep it current with news, updating our combined roster, and creating Memorials for our fallen brothers both during the war and since the war. I can always use help in creating the Memorials, adding new photo albums, letting me know of the passing of a brother or anything else that you think would be of interest to all. Our website gets hundreds of visits every month so it isn't just our guys looking around. If you haven't looked at it lately, I encourage you to visit [www.k75Ranger.com](http://www.k75Ranger.com), look around, offer input and comments. Remember we have an Archive section which houses over 750 after-action reports. This section is password protected so only you can view them. If you need a password, send a message to me at [Wayne@k75Ranger.com](mailto:Wayne@k75Ranger.com)

As your treasurer, I'd like to give you a report on the status of our funds. Our company bank accounts are in



Photo of Thomas Earle Ramsey from the Vietnam Virtual Memorial Wall



# K/75-E58 LRP 4<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - ROGER CRUNK

continued

extremely good financial shape. We have 2 bank accounts with Affinity Bank with a combined total balance of \$12,228.00. This is due to the continued generosity of our LRRP brothers, the challenge coin fundraiser and just random acts of kindness from some of you. The funds are mainly used to keep the website going and sending flowers or donations to the family of our fallen brothers when possible. We won't need to add additional funds anytime in the foreseeable future. Thank you for your generosity!

The challenge coin sale raised slightly over \$3,000. John Dubois came up with the idea and deserves a lot of credit. He and I combined our efforts to design the coins and hat/lapel pins. I handled the order taking and he handled the shipping. The idea was a rewarding and overwhelming success with nearly 200 coins and over 80 pins sold. So, if you ordered and paid for yours and you didn't receive them, please let me know ASAP. If you didn't order, there is still time as we have a few of each left. We will keep this going and order more if the demand is there. As your communicator, I'd like to give a quick update. Currently I have email addresses for 175 folks. I use the term folks loosely because in addition to our LRRP brothers, there are non LRRPs on the list. This includes wives, significant others, siblings, and children of our fallen comrades. It's rewarding to know that there are some who want to stay in touch with us even after their LRRP loved one has moved on. If you aren't receiving my emails and would like to, send your email to me at Wayne@k75Ranger.com to be added.

Communicating with you, spending time on the website as well as replying and communicating to messages from the website is therapy for me. I have met many people, helped many and have been helped as a result. I have united LRRPs, family members and friends. I consider this a privilege. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

By the way ~ if you want to continue to hear from me, you need to give me your new email addresses when you change them. I have quite a list of email addresses that are no longer valid.

RLTW!

Thanks to John Dubois and Wayne for their work on the coins and thanks to everyone who purchased one. Every bit helps as they say. Also thank you Wayne for the report.

The last item is a reunion for next year. If anyone has recommendations as far as location let me know for consideration. We are all at that age where it might be difficult to travel so it should be centrally located.

In the meantime, take care and remember your Brothers as we continue to ride against the wind.

"Sua sponte" Rangers Lead The Way!

## ARVN RANGER ADV, BIỆT-ĐỘNG-QUÂN

UNIT DIRECTOR - BILL MILLER

### Fellow Rangers and Co Vans

Tom Sove has asked all unit directors to ask you to stay active within the organization. We realize that a lot of you are life members, but those who are annual members I urge you to renew your membership and to all of us please contribute to the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger funds. This is what keeps our young troopers going.

That's all for now.

How about sending some articles or photos! I really do need them.

- Biet Dong Quan Sat!



### General News

I spoke with Dennis Kim earlier this month and he is well and was getting ready to head out on another gold mining expedition. Dennis has been on several and even now that he is in his 80's he is going strong. Good luck Dennis! By the way Dennis still resides in Hawaii.

Mu Nau  
Bill Miller  
Unit Director

*Ranger Bill Miller enlisted in 1965 and was assigned to the Vietnamese 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Group in Pleiku in 1967 as the communications Sergeant. After being discharged in December of 1968 he earned a BS in Electronic Technology and worked as an engineer for the Bechtel Corporation until retiring in 2005.*



# L/75-F/58 LRP-101<sup>st</sup> LRRP

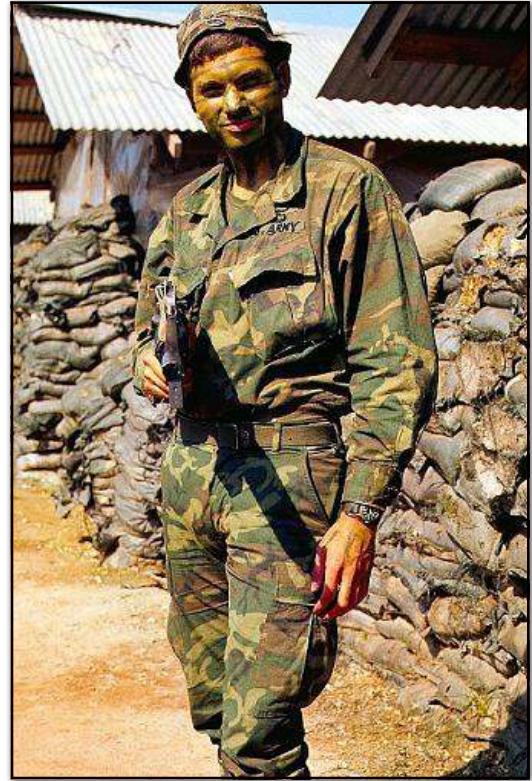
UNIT DIRECTOR - CHARLES "CHUCK" REILLY



## L/75 – F/58 LRP – 1/101<sup>st</sup> LRRP

Unit Director – Charles Reilly

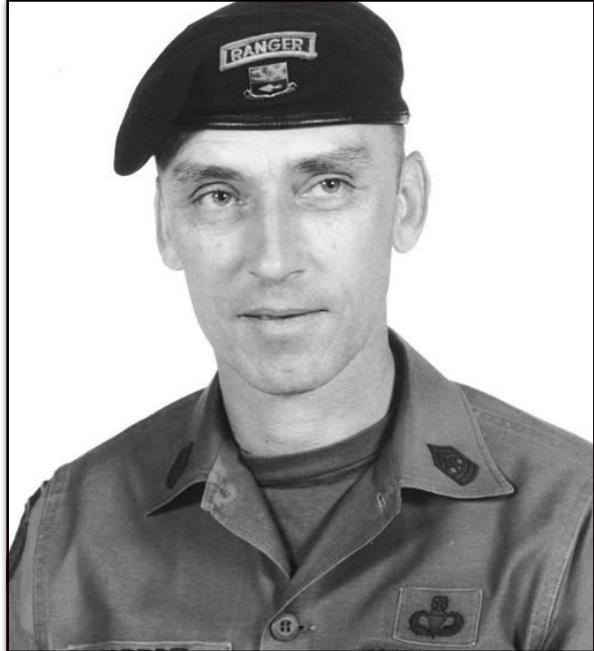
The last thing I want to do is turn this article into an obituary column, but the recent death of CSM Bob Gilbert, a true legend in our Ranger/LRRP history, at the age of 95, certainly warrants consideration to offer up a summary of his life and career. CSM Gilbert was born in Camden, Maine in April of 1930. At a young age, he signed up for a career in the U.S. Army and served for 31 years. That time included a few years during the World War II era, two tours of Korea and two tours in Vietnam. In between those wars, he graduated from Ranger School in 1957 when the school had only been in existence for several years. As a Combat veteran, Bob was proud to be designated as an Airborne Ranger Infantryman. His list of medals, citations and award is long and extensive, but I'm going to list them anyway. Bob Gilbert received...the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Army Commendation, United Nations Service medal, Korea Service medal, Republic of Vietnam



CSM (ret) Gilbert - Vietnam

Service medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign medal, National Defense, Combat Infantry Badge, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, Master Parachute Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Ranger Tab, Valorous Unit Award, Republic of Vietnam Armor Badge, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor medal, Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm and nine overseas bars. It takes a long and distinguished career to accumulate that number of medals and awards, and that's exactly the kind of career Bob Gilbert achieved. CSM Bob Gilbert was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2013. Bob passed away on June 29<sup>th</sup> of this year in Phenix City, Alabama. at his long-time residence.

According to Billy Nix, who served as one of our very early presidents of the RRA, it was Don Lynch who first came up with the idea of the creation of the Ranger Regiment Association in 1986. This happened right after the first reunion of "L" Company Rangers (formerly "F" Company 58<sup>th</sup>) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. It was then Bob Gilbert who followed through on the original idea and, with the help of Mr. Nix and Nicholas Gibbone, another Ranger from 1971, who put the idea into practical reality and established the association which we have today. Gibbone, who worked as a Controller in his civilian occupation, was able to put together a workable plan for the finances of the new organization which gave it a firm footing right out of the gate. But it was the credibility of Bob Gilbert, and the respect he commanded from all the Rangers and LRRPs, that set the RRA on a path of success. Bob was the association's first president in 1986 and served two years. After Billy Nix took over the leadership from 1988-1990, Bob returned as president from 1990 to 1992. During his two terms as leader of the association, he was able to establish a solid foundation for the success and future of the organization. It didn't take very long for the membership of the new association to begin expanding---and it continues to this day. We all owe Bob Gilbert a debt of gratitude for his role in the RRA and his guidance and leadership will be sorely missed. As for his immediate family, Bob left two sons, two daughters, thirteen grandchildren and 16 great



CSM Bob Gilbert



# L/75-F/58 LRP-101<sup>st</sup> LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - CHARLES "CHUCK" REILLY

**continued**



*Reunion in Moline with CSM Gilbert*

On an entirely new subject....I'm always receiving calls from former "L" Company Rangers regarding locating certain people who served together and have lost touch with, through one reason or another. One name that consistently gets mentioned is SSG Jim "Lobo" Bates. He served in the company in 1970 and 1971 and is well-remembered by all his Ranger buddies. After he completed a high number of missions, Bates was given the job of running the TOC (Tactical Operations Center) alongside SSG Dave Hazelton. Hazelton himself had been a long-time team leader and both men had success in the field. Hazelton was one of "L" Company's Canadian volunteers. He and Bates were well-respected within the rank-and-file as well as the officers of the company. If anyone needs information regarding either man, feel free to contact me. My phone and email are listed in the front of this magazine. If I remember correctly, Bates and Hazelton trained Dave "Muldoon" Rothwell

and Steve Barr as their replacements as their time in

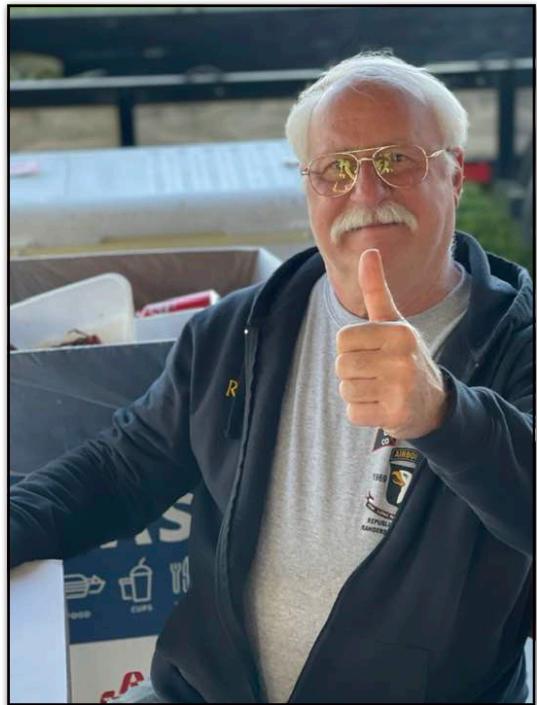
Vietnam began to run out. As you all know, TOC was really the lifeline of Ranger teams in the field. Many critical life and death situations ran through the walls of that operation and good and timely communications and precise decision-making were of the utmost importance. I believe all four men passed the test and were a great asset to teams in the field. In fact, I don't think I ever heard a single complaint about them. I have included one photo each of Muldoon and Mr. Barr taken at a recent reunion. I also found a photo of Lobo Bates from his old Ranger days that I have included. Unfortunately, I was not able to dig up any photos of Dave Hazelton. I promise to find some soon and submit them for the next publication of this magazine. I know they're out there....somewhere.

Well, that's it for now. It's already late August here in Southern California. The weather is hot and the ocean water temperature is a perfect 70 degrees. That means it's time for me to head down to the beach for a swim. Luckily for me, it's an easy walk to get there.

As always, RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Charles, 'Chuck' Rielly, Unit Director

grandchildren. Needless to say, through his family, his legacy will live on for many years. His legacy with the Rangers will certainly last as long. Rest in peace, Bob Gilbert. Yours was a long and fruitful life in service to your country and the preservation of our way of life. I have included two photos of Ranger Gilbert. One is a single shot of him in his fatigues and wearing his beret. Another one is Bob (third from the right) at a Ranger Reunion in Moline, Illinois several years ago.



*Steve Barr at Scott LA reunion*





# N/75-74<sup>th</sup> LRP-173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - RUDY TEODOSIO



September 1970, still a new guy on my third patrol. A mission into the mountains looking for a suspected base camp. After two days we found nothing. Having seen no sign of the enemy we were allowed to heat a canteen cup of water with a lump of C-4 and I had a hot spaghetti LRRP for dinner, yum. I brushed my teeth then walked out a ways to take a dump. I dug a small hole to deposit my droppings which I covered when finished. We did this not for sanitation purposes but to hide our presence. Same with our meal packaging, we buried everything. Once ready for bed the TL led us into our night lager site. Once we entered our night lager position there would be no eating, smoking, or anything. It was a hide site. He took us off the trail into some thick jungle vegetation. I had to use the saw tooth edge of my survival knife to cut away some vines and stuff to clear a space in my spot of the circle so I could stretch out. We formed a circle so there would be 360 degree security should we be alerted to something. This also facilitated waking the guy next to you when your hour of guard duty was over and hand him the radio handset. I was carrying the radio so had to place my ruck in the middle of the circle.

I got my nylon poncho laid out for a ground cover and my 5-quart bladder for a pillow. There was a root digging into my back and it took me five minutes to cut that out so I could get comfortable. It was nearing total darkness now. I slathered insect repellent on exposed skin. Covering up with my poncho liner, I said my prayers, thought about the folks and home for a moment, then went to sleep. I was awakened twice for a one hour, then a thirty-minute guard/radio watch.

Next morning, I packed my ruck, mixed up some ranger mocha and

munched one of the dry compressed cornflake bars. Then the signal to move. The SOP drilled into me during my training upon joining N/75 was to never leave your night lager on the same trail you entered. Break trail in another direction in case you were followed, and the gooks were waiting for you. I noted we were doing just that, going back out the same direction we had come in. Well, there were always exceptions to everything. It was a pretty dense thicket and the way we came in did offer the easiest route through it. We would have made some noise busting a trail out in any other direction. Made sense to me.

CRACK,CRACK,CRACK! Bullets whizzed by all around us, ambush! The river valley we were in was very jungled and this was a typical jungle firefight, firing blind at noises. I was told to pull rear security, a bid to protect the radio and allow me to report contact. Others moved past me to get online and return fire. I faced the rear. It was always possible the enemy fire was to pin us in place and divert our attention while others maneuvered to attack from the rear.

I lay prone as AK bullets cracked over my head and ripped through the vegetation with a whacking sound. I yelled into the handset, "HOTEL ONE-THREE, CONTACT, CONTACT, WE ARE AT LAST REPORTED LOCATION, OVER."

I half listened to the reply as I scanned for the enemy. I saw nothing moving behind us and was frustrated at not being able to shoot back at anything. I noticed some openings through the tree branches and vines. I couldn't shoot over my own guys but decided I could sail some frags through those openings.

I shed my ruck and detached two baseball grenades from my belt. I bent the pins back in to make them easier to pull. It meant standing up and making a larger target of myself. But what the hell, they couldn't see us either. One side hitting anyone from the other side was just a matter of random chance anyway as we blindly blazed away at each other. From the sound of the enemy muzzle blasts. I figured them about thirty meters or so from us.

I got on my knees and pulled the pin on one frag. From a crouch I released the spoon then stood up, hesitated a second, and threw the grenade as hard as I could in a high arc to get an airburst. I did the same with the second frag and dropped back to the prone thankful I hadn't martyred myself. There were two highly satisfying blasts. The enemy firing stopped for about 30 seconds, then resumed. Made them move their positions. Oh well, I got their attention anyway.

The enemy had made a not too brave attempt to ambush us, opening up from too far away or they would have surely nailed our TL on point. They had caught us flat footed. They knew we were too close to call artillery, so they fought us for a while. But they also knew gunships would be on the way. So after five minutes of a suitably brave performance, they broke contact and left.

Having been compromised, we were extracted that evening back to base. That was the good part. The bad part we all knew was that we had been very lucky no one had gotten dusted. The TL had violated SOP, and it very nearly cost him his life. Stupid has a very high mortality rate in the 'Nam.

By: Dave Cummings 70-71



Depiction of Patrolling by Richard L McBain



# N/75-74<sup>th</sup> LRP-173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - RUDY TEODOSIO

continued



75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Bullion DUI  
for Brazers / Suit with  
Magnetic tab \$40.00 each

Send Check to: Dick Davis  
3139 Doc Bennett Road  
Fayetteville NC 28306



National Airborne Day, 16 August 2025 - Water Jump Lake Dora FL with US Army  
Rangers/LRRPs of Son's of Mosby Motorcycle Association.

Rangers,

As summer nears our AO and activities fill our calendars, please take extra awareness of your surrounding especially your "sixes".

I been informed that 173rd LRRP Ben Moye has crossed over on the 28 April 2025. May God be with you Ben until we all meet again.



173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP Ben Moye (R)



Two 173<sup>rd</sup> LRRPs  
Ben Moye (R) & Ron Thomas (L)



## N/75-74<sup>th</sup> LRP-173<sup>rd</sup> LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - RUDY TEODOSIO

continued



East TX with Sons of Mosby MC Assn. Fun time on our rides, mixed companies of Rangers from Vietnam era to the present day.



Mt. Pleasant TX with Sons of Mosby Assn.



Mt. Pleasant TX Sons of Mosby Assn. Even got some Ice Cream

**LRRP  
RANGER**



## F/75-F/50-25<sup>th</sup> DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR - JOHN McGEE



One of the things that I promised Tim Walsh who was our outgoing Unit director that after taking over from him almost 10 years ago was that I would not miss having an article in Patrolling. I am not a literary giant so coming up with an article for each issue has been to say the least challenging. Many of you have been extremely helpful in sending me articles and after-action reports to publish in the magazine, for that I am extremely grateful. Your kind assistance is still needed anytime you want to contribute please e-mail me the information and I will put it in the next issue.

Last issue was about the Pavers at the Ranger Memorial for Company F members. Apparently, we missed some pavers that already had been purchased such as Duane De Vega. We apologize for missing anyone. Again, if any of you guys out there know of our guys who have passed and aren't on the list. Please let us know so that we can remedy the situation.

I also talked about Ranger Hall of Fame nominations for members of our unit. Several of you sent me names to consider. I believe that every name that was submitted was worthy of a packet to the Hall of Fame for consideration. Herein lies the rub. I need more than just a name, if you want me to put together a packet, you must get me all the pertinent information. I need DD-214s, military record, what they did to continue to live and represent the Ranger lifestyle after leaving the military. I will gladly take the time to organize and submit the packet but that is what I need to accomplish the mission. I will tell you it will not be easy getting this information from our guys. I pestered and pestered Mark Ponzillo for several years for him to give me the information. Unfortunately, I was only able to get the info and submit his packet after he passed away.

I believe that the entire 75th Ranger Regiment Association and especially F Company is full of heroes that deserve to be in the Ranger Hall of Fame, but the great majority of them think, hey I was just doing my job. They look in the mirror and think I was a good teammate and soldier. We were a great and unique unit doing really cool and dangerous things, but I don't belong in any Hall of Fame. That honor is for other guys. So there you have it if you want to nominate someone you know what you have to do.

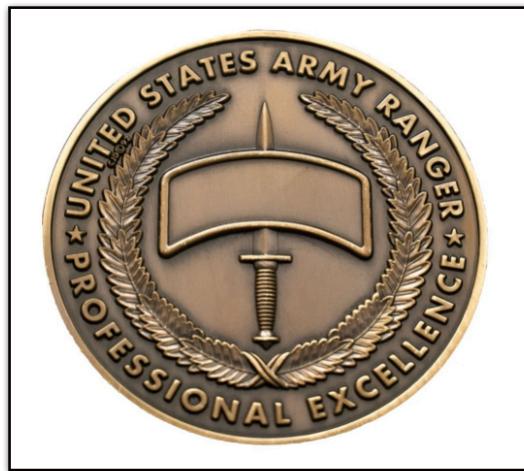
Good luck getting any of our guys to Bragg about themselves.

*Major (r) John McGee enlisted in 1967 at the age of 18 and was assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry division, Company F 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Long Range Patrol. After college John reentered the Army and was commissioned in 1977. He served in command and staff positions until his retirement in 1995. In 2006 he was recalled to active duty and re-retired in 2008 and continued as a Department of the Army Civilian until finally retiring in 2015. Major McGee wore the uniform of his country in 5 different decades, from the 1960s to the 2000s.*



# RANGER HALL OF FAME

By: RICK BARELA



To All members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and especially the officers and Unit Directors. That time has come to start considering who you plan to nominate for the Class of 2026 Ranger Hall of Fame. As you read in this article, your Unit Directors should be reaching out to all the members of the Ranger Companies and Battalions to see who is deserving to have their name submitted for the Ranger Hall of Fame for 2026.

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association selection committee consists of 3 members who are either past presidents and/or Ranger Hall of Fame inductees. The selection board members are selected by our President Rick Merritt.

NOTE: Any nomination packets that is directly submitted by an individual who is not the Unit Director of the 75th RRA, the selection committee will return to the individual who submitted the packet along with an email to the UD that a packet was not going through the proper routing. All packets must be submitted by the Unit Director.

Remember, we are looking for the best rangers who have had a great military career and have been out for over 3 years. Each candidate must be exemplary in character during and after their service and have proven themselves in promoting the Ranger Ethos in supporting our organization. Please ensure that whoever you nominate must meet the requirements as outlined in the RHoF By-Laws dated Nov of 2023 and our association RHoF SOP.

RHoF packets may be submitted by the following organizations of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association

- a. Members of the 75th Infantry Rangers
- b. Members of the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol Detachments and/or Companies,
- c. Members of the Long-Range Patrol Companies
- d. Members of the Ranger Companies and Detachments
- e. Members of the Vietnamese Ranger Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan
- f. 1st and 2nd (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1974; 2nd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1974. 3rd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1984.
- g. Members who served in the 75th Ranger Regiment

The Ranger Hall of Fame packet can be found on the 75th RRA website along with the RHoF By-Laws and our association by-laws. Directions for completing the packet are included on each page in the digital pages in the nomination packet or contact the 75th RRA Selection Committee chairman for assistance.

When filling out the form "Do not change" the format from the established protocols on any of the standardized forms. All packets must conform to the format as stated on the packet.

As in the past NO HARDCOPY packets will be accepted by the selection committee. All copies must be digitally emailed to the selection committee.

UD's Let's get this high on your calendar of things to accomplish for 2026. We did great last year by having all three of our packets selected for induction into the class of 2025. I would like to have the same result this year.

## Past Ranger Hall of Fame Inductees

As I do for each issue of Patrolling, I select 2 past RHoF inductees and provide the write up of the ranger selected. I do feel this is vital for every one of our members to understand the quality of those selected to be inducted. These two members were inducted into the class of 1993



# RANGER HALL OF FAME

By: RICK BARELA

**continued**



*CSM Neal R. Gentry*

## Command Sergeant Major NEAL R. GENTRY

Command Sergeant Major Neal R. Gentry is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for extraordinary valor and heroic service to the nation and the U.S. Army as a Ranger Leader. His service in the Ranger community began with a volunteer tour in combat with Company L, 75th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), where he was recognized numerous times for acts of valor and service. CSM Gentry was hand-picked by then LTC K.C. Leuer to serve as the first modern era Command Sergeant Major for the 1st Ranger Battalion. Author of "The Ranger Creed," he established a code of ethical conduct in which the Ranger of today sets his beliefs. CSM Gentry was responsible for establishing the cadre of noncommissioned officers that would build upon and set the standards and successful activation of the 1st Ranger Battalion. He was instrumental in the development of the Coat of Arms and Distinguished Unit Insignia (DUI) for the Regiment. The DUI is still worn as an accoutrement on the Ranger Dress uniform and black beret. The standards established by Command Sergeant Major Gentry were demonstrated in every combat operation that Rangers have participated in since activation in 1974. CSM Gentry's dedication to duty and superb leadership continue to lead the way for Rangers past and present.

## THE RANGER CREED

**Recognizing** that I volunteered as a Ranger, fully knowing the hazards of my chosen profession, I will always endeavor to uphold the prestige, honor, and high esprit de corps of my Ranger Regiment.

**Acknowledging** the fact that a Ranger is a more elite soldier who serves at the cutting edge of battle by land, sea, or air, I accept the fact that as a Ranger my country expects me to move further, faster and fight harder than any other soldier.

**Never** shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong and morally straight, and I will shoulder more than my share of the task, whatever it may be, one hundred percent and then some.

**Gallantly** will I show the world that I am a specially selected and well-trained soldier. My courtesy to superior officers, neatness of dress and care of equipment shall set the example for others to follow.

**Energetically** will I meet the enemies of my country. I shall defeat them on the field of battle, for I am better trained and will fight with all my might. Surrender is not a Ranger word. I will never leave a fallen comrade to fall into the hands of the enemy, and under no circumstances will I ever embarrass my country.

**Readily** will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the Ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor.

**Rangers lead the way!**

## Command Sergeant Major GARY L. LITTRRELL

Command Sergeant Major Gary L. Littrell is inducted into the Hall of Fame for conspicuous gallantry in action as a Ranger leader. CSM Littrell was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions on April 4-8, 1970, when serving as an Infantry advisor with the 23rd Battalion, 2nd Ranger Group near Dak Seang in Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam. After establishing a defensive perimeter on April 4, the battalion was subjected to an intense mortar attack which killed the Vietnamese commander, one advisor, and seriously wounded all the advisors except SFC Littrell. Sergeant First Class Littrell single handily bolstered the besieged battalion, directed artillery and air support by day and marked the units position by night, despite the heavy concentrated enemy fire. Assault after assault was repulsed as the battalion responded to the extraordinary leadership and personal example exhibited by SFC Littrell. He continuously moved to those points most seriously threatened by the enemy, redistributed ammunition, strengthened faltering defenses, cared for the wounded and shouted encouragement to the Vietnamese in their own language. When finally ordered to withdraw, numerous ambushes were encountered. SFC Littrell repeatedly prevented widespread disorder, by directing airstrikes within 50 meters of their own position. Ranger Littrell's extraordinary courage and selflessness displayed over an extended period of time clearly demonstrates that "Rangers Lead The Way!"



*CSM Gary L. Littrell*



# VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION WHOLE HEALTH

By: STEPHEN ODIN JOHNSON

Back in the late 60s when I was in the Army, including time with G 75th in Vietnam, conditioning consisted with running, clad in full combat gear with the "Charles" and his NVA cousins trying to chase or track you down (OJT). To prepare for this, we trained running with rucksacks filled with a full sandbag as a conditioner. Let's not forget our daily dozen that we were well-versed on the first day of boot camp.

I can't imagine back then, during my service-time, how my peers and superior officers would take to the idea of me or anyone else doing Yoga or Tai Chi, for example. The chances are soldiers practicing Yoga or Tai Chi would certainly be a candidate for a Section-Eight (discharge for service members deemed mentally unfit for service). Had we been serving during the McCarthy Era; our eventual mailing address might have been at Ft. Leavenworth!

During my 2025 and previous interviews with participants of the BRC (Best Ranger Competition), it wasn't uncommon for contestants to include the likes of Yoga, Mindfulness, and Tai Chi as part of their regimen training or preparing for the BRC.

So how do teams at the BRC dedicate themselves to 6 months of training prior to the rigors of the BRC?

The 75th Ranger Regiment has a Human Performance Program that includes strength coaches, mental performance coaches, dietitians, and athletic trainers. These athletes have individualized health plans they incorporate into a personalized agenda they adhere to and adapt as need be.

Back in the day when we were doing jumping-jacks, our health coach was either a DI or our First Sergeant with a boot up our ass followed up by a nutritious, breakfast-meal of SOS!

So, we can't change what was practiced in the past. But how can we as veterans maintain and/or improve our own health, copycatting the 75th Rangers of today?

Contact your VA medical center and communicate or link up with their Whole Health Coaching team to get started. I looked at nearly 300 VA medical centers in the country, including US territories, and except for a small handful, all had a Whole Health Department.

For me, the nearest VA medical center is Fargo, some 135 miles away from north central Minnesota. I am an active member of two combat support organizations, and we invited Whole Health from the Fargo VA to share with us what services they offered, and they did just that.

Not every Whole Health team uses the same approach and opportunities. For instance, I can directly sign up for virtual classes online including Intro to Whole Health, Taking Charge of My Life and Health, Gentle and Chair Yoga, Tai Chi, Relaxation skills, Mindfulness Meditation, Christian Connection, Fitness Connection, Walking Group, Drum Flow Circle, Virtual Reality, and the list goes on. Besides virtual classes, there are many of the above and more that are directly offered on site at many of the VA medical centers to take advantage of.

Through my VA medical providing team (I go through my doctor here at the Bemidji VA Clinic), based on need and commitment, I can access Battlefield Acupuncture, Group Acupuncture, Chiropractic Walk-In-Center, Reiki, Dietitians, Medical Massage, Clinical Hypnosis, and more!

You are at an advantage if you live close by a VA Medical Center. Even though I live in the boonies, I can still access virtual classes and use what is offered in my community to maintain or improve health segments. I use virtual classes including, Gentle Yoga, Chair Yoga, and Tai Chi. For my virtual classes, you are not marked as having missed if you are doing something else; it's not like making a VA appointment unless you are going through your provider.

This program will probably meet your needs and then some. It's up to you, Ranger, to lead the way for yourself! No Referral Needed. Enrolled Veterans call Whole Health at your medical center to get some more mojo into your life!



*Dietician at the Fargo VA making a Yogurt Fruit Bowl during a whole health gathering for newcomers to the many classes that they have. Pam (my wife) and I had more than one serving; so did everyone else. Thirty-some veterans present. Photo SOJ*



# REST IN PEACE - CSM (RET) ROBERT 'BOB' F GILBERT

By: RICK BARELA



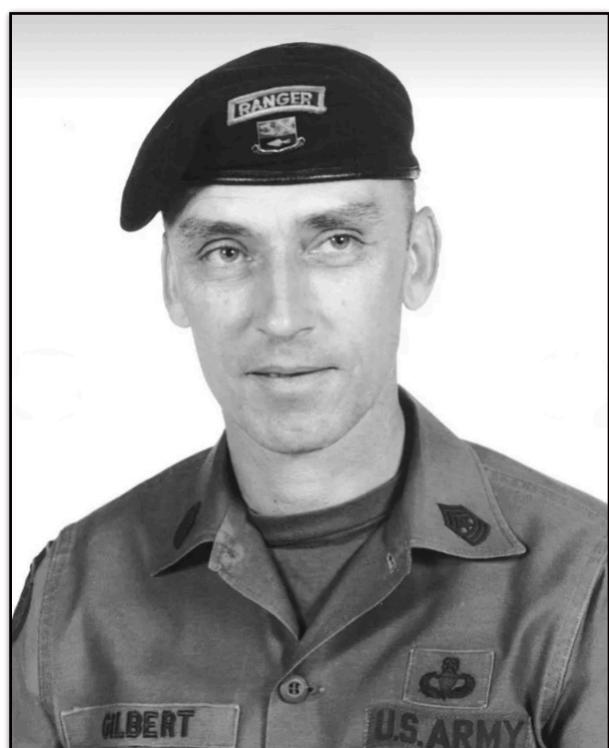
The officers of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association were saddened at the announcement of the passing of Command Sergeant Major (Ret) Robert F. Gilbert. He passed on 29 Jun 2025 at the age of 95 years.

CSM Bob Gilbert was the founding father and was overall responsible for starting the 75th Ranger Regiment Association in 1986. CSM Gilbert was elected as the 1st president of our association in 1986 and then served a 2nd term in 1988. Through his tireless efforts he was able to bring this brotherhood together from the members of all the LRRP, LRP and Ranger units who had served in Viet Nam in 1988. This

was the 1st ever reunion by rangers and was held in Columbus GA and Ft. Benning, GA.

During his two terms was instrumental in consolidating all the Ranger brethren from ranger units who served in Viet Nam and the active-duty rangers who were serving in the 75th Ranger Regiment.

Granted his leadership style was sometimes gruff and always blunt. However, his foresight made sense and made sure the association was leaning forward in the foxhole to move us forward as an association.



CSM Gilbert had a distinguished military career attending Basic Training in 1945. Initially trained as Military Police at the Provost Marshall General School at Carlisle Barracks, PA. and then assigned to Washington D.C. for town patrol duties. In April 1948, his unit was consolidated with another unit from Ft. Myers, VA and formed the 3rd Infantry Old Guard, merging with the Ceremonial Detachment from the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

He attended Parachute School at Ft Benning, GA between his two tours in the Korean War. He spent his second tour in Korea as a machine gunner in the famed 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team. During more than two and a half years on airborne status he was assigned to the 82d Airborne Division, 11th Airborne Division, 101st Airborne Division, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team, 508th Airborne RCT, 1st Airborne Battle Group 506th Infantry, 3rd Special Forces Group, First Sergeant of the 42nd Company (Airborne), of the Parachute School and the First Sergeant for Company L (Ranger), 75th Infantry.

He served three tours at the Army Ranger School as a Senior Instructor, Chief Instructor, and the Command Sergeant Major. Other Assignments included Military Police, Senior Cavalry Scout Advisor for two South Vietnamese Cavalry Squadrons in the Mekong Delta, Strategic Communications in Europe, and as 1st Brigade, 24th Infantry Division Command Sergeant Major before retiring.

CSM Gilbert authored the history of the 75th Ranger Infantry for the Airborne 50th Anniversary Book and provided a series of articles in the

Airborne Static Line to Don Lassen regarding Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols, LRP, and 75th Ranger operations in Vietnam.

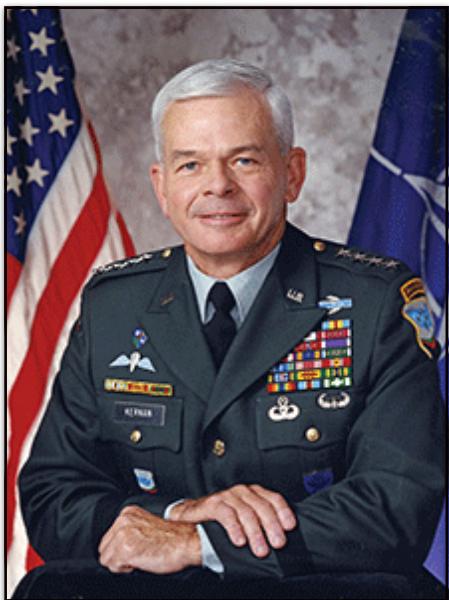
CSM Gilbert was involved in the initial planning and organizing the Ranger Hall of Fame. He had submitted 3 rangers who were awarded the Medal of Honor from Viet Nam for induction into the initial Ranger Hall of Fame. CSM Gilbert was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame class of 2013.

CSM (Ret) Robert Gilbert will be missed. Rest in Peace Ranger Warrior. Gone from our Ranks but not Forgotten. We will all meet again at the final patrol base in Valhalla.



# REST IN PEACE - GENERAL (RET) WILLIAM 'BUCK' F KERNAN

OBITUARY COMPLIMENTS OF BOLES FUNERAL HOME OF PINEHURST



Retired Gen. William "Buck" F Kernan, former Allied Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command and NATO Supreme Allied Commander - Atlantic, former commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, 101st Airborne Division and 75th Ranger Regiment, died Tuesday, Sept. 2, 2025, at his home in Pinehurst. He was 79.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Marianne Purnell Kernan, parents Col. William (Bill) Freese Kernan (Ret.), an infantryman who landed in Normandy, and Florence "Suzy" White Kernan, a World War II Army nurse.

He is survived by his son, William Keith Kernan, of Aberdeen; and siblings, Michael Kernan, of San Antonio, Texas, Susan "Suzy" Kernan Lowery, of Hampton, Va., James Kernan, of Whispering Pines; brothers-in-law, Thomas, of Woodbridge, Va., and John Purnell and his wife, Anne, of Pinehurst.

Kernan was a track star in high school at St. John's Military Academy, in Washington, D.C., and held the record in the DC metro area for the 100-yard dash, receiving a full scholarship to Texas A&M University to run track. He left college early to marry his high school sweetheart, Marianne Purnell. He continued his education and received his BA in history from Our Lady of the Lake University and his Master's degree in Personnel Administration from Central Michigan University. His military education includes the Infantry Advanced course, the US Army Command and General Staff College, and the US Army War College.

Lt. Gen. Greg Anderson, Commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, said in a statement, "The airborne and special operations forces communities lost one of its greatest leaders and advocates this week with the passing of Gen. William 'Buck' Kernan. He leaves behind a lasting legacy of distinguished service to our nation and a deep commitment to soldiers and their families. We offer our sincerest condolences to his family as we mourn together."



Scan to link to the full obituary

Kernan was drafted and served several tours in the Vietnam War. In 1968, upon graduation from Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned as an infantry officer. Just a year later, Kernan served as a rifle platoon leader in the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, in Vietnam...



General Kernan commanded the 75th Ranger Regiment during Operation Just Cause



# REST IN PEACE - CSM (RET) STANLEY 'SONNEY' LEE FOX

OBITUARY COMPLIMENTS OF STRICKLAND AND SONS FUNERAL HOME



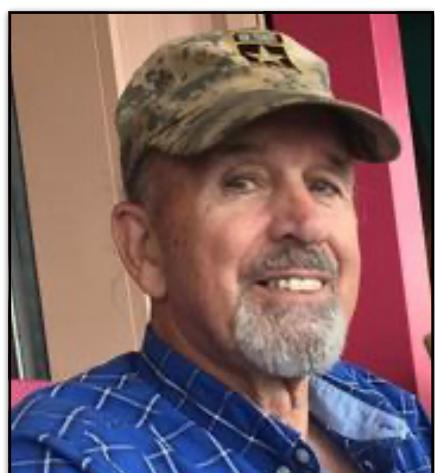
Command Sergeant Major Stanley 'Sonny' Lee Fox, 83, passed away peacefully on September 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 at his home in Rincon Georgia surrounded by his family.

Born on July 18<sup>th</sup> 1942, in Mountain Cove, West Virginia. Stanley was the son of the lat Stanley O. Fox and Mable Pridemore Fox. He enlisted in the Army following high school, beginning a 27-year career that would see him rise through the ranks to [one of the] highest enlisted positions. *sic*



Scan to link to the full obituary

Stanley retired as a Command Sergeant Major where he served with distinction. He was a U.S. Army Ranger (Airborne) and Vietnam Veteran who had many assignments across the world, mostly with the Army's elite 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. Stanley had many commendations and awards including a Bronze Star Medal, a Purple Heart Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with second Oak Leaf Cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with One Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal, and many more. He was widely known for his patriotism and dedication to serving his country...





# REST IN PEACE



## 1SG (ret) Robert 'Bob' Andreas

*Died September 4<sup>th</sup> 2025*

1SG Andreas served in the Army for over 20 years, including 40+ months in Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor, Bronze Star with 6 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart and many others.



## Robert F. Allchin - "Ranger Bob"

*November 12, 1936 - August 13, 2025*

Ranger Allchin's military career spanned 27 years where he served in many Ranger Units including A/75 at Ft. Hood between 1972-1974.



## Travis Blaylock

*Died April 17<sup>th</sup> 2025*

Travis served in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade LRRPs



## Misel 'Jr.' Froylan Chacon

*August 16<sup>th</sup> 1961 - August 14<sup>th</sup> 2025*

Jr served in 3/75 where he earned the rank of Master Sergeant (First Sergeant). He was a qualified military diver, a static line instructor and had logged over 4,075 hours of free fall. He was well known for his infectious smile.



## Jonnie Melillo Clasen

*Died September 6<sup>th</sup> 2025*

Jonnie was the daughter of WWII Merrill's Marauder Vincent Melillo. She was an Honorary member of the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA and an honorary inductee to the Ranger Hall of Fame. She spearheaded the Marauder Congressional Gold Medal Campaign.



## CSM (ret) Stanley 'Sonny' Lee Fox

*July 28<sup>th</sup> 1942 - September 7<sup>th</sup> 2025*

CSM Fox served for 27 years the majority with the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. He earned numerous awards including but not limited to, a Bronze Star, purple heart, ACM w/Oak Leaf Cluster,



## CSM (ret) Robert F 'Bob' Gilbert, Sr.

*April 12, 1930 - June 29<sup>th</sup> 2025*

CSM Gilbert wore the uniform for 31 years serving in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He also founded the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association. He is a Legend!



## General (ret) William 'Buck' F Kieran

*Died September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025*

Retired Gen. Kieran served as the Allied Commander, U.S. Joint Forces Command and NATO Supreme Allied Commander - Atlantic, Comander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division and the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment.



## Scot Robert Noss

*August 31<sup>st</sup> 1977 - July 20<sup>th</sup> 2025*

Ranger Noss served in B Co. 3/75 and suffered a severe traumatic brain injury during his 8<sup>th</sup> deployment after his Chinook crashed in the mountains of Afghanistan. He spent the past 18 years in a minimally conscious state.



## Phillip Stafford

*Died May 15<sup>th</sup> 2025*

Served in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade LRRP



## Dan Stouffer

*Died August 9<sup>th</sup> 2025*

Ranger Stouffer served in E Co. 75<sup>th</sup> in Vietnam from Feb 1969 - Feb 1970  
No Further Information



## Robert Thomas III

*Died July 12<sup>th</sup> 2025*

2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade LRRP  
No Further Information

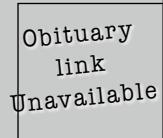


## Unverified, reported deaths.

### Raymond McFarr

*Date of Passing Unknown*

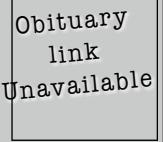
Ranger McFarr served in K Co.  
No Further information available



### Michael 'Shawn' Nelson

*December 19<sup>th</sup> 1969 - May 1<sup>st</sup> 2025*

Ranger Nelson served in 3/75 B Co. He was a veteran of Operation Gothic Serpent where he was the M-60 Gunner for Chalk Two. He was also a Husband, Brother and Friend.



### Jake Spraggins

*Died July 17<sup>th</sup> 2025*

1<sup>st</sup> Brigade LRRP  
No Further Information

