



CHINA-BURMA-INDIA
VIETNAM
GRENADA



75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 670174 MARIETTA GA 30066



PATROLLING

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VOLUME 1

ISSUE 3

James A. Champion Memorial Issue

Missing in Action;

Ranger James A. Champion

Company L (Ranger), 75th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Vietnam

After receiving intense ground fire from their primary landing zone on the West side of the Ashau Valley the team was inserted into their alternate LZ.

Taking the point, Team Leader Marvin Duren was severely wounded by automatic weapons fire, grenade and rifle fire, and evacuated. His ATL, John Sly, was killed in action during a heroic attempt with the team medic to drag Duren out of the line of enemy fire.

The MEDEVAC "Dustoff" pilot was a volunteer. CWO Fred Behrens knew other, newer, pilots could not handle a hot extraction early on, but, Behren was shot down during his second attempt to extract Sly from the same LZ, and found himself on the ground with the team.

Several other helicopters with reinforcements were shot down by intense ground fire and Aero Rifle Platoon reinforcements were forced to withdraw and regroup due to heavy fire from the NVA.

During the three day long battle that began at 1500 hours on 23 April 1971, Rangers Champion and Issako Malo left the team's defensive perimeter to seek water. Behrens heard shots, and the two Rangers never returned.

Ranger Malo was taken prisoner and released along with other POWs in 1973, nearly two years later. Malo now lives in Tacoma, Washington, and is 100% disabled from his time as a prisoner of the NVA.

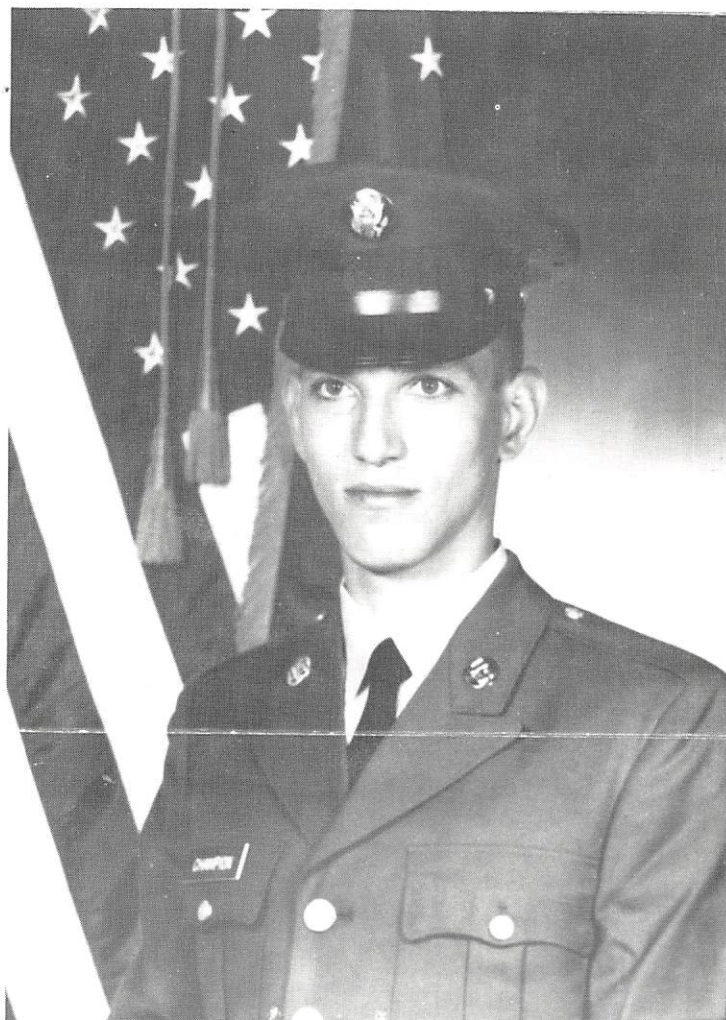
Champion attempted to escape and evade and is still listed as missing in action.

A reaction force from L/75 Rangers was inserted into the area and assaulted numerically superior NVA elements, driving them away from the Ranger Team's position, and successfully evacuated the survivors.

No one ever told this six-man Ranger team how large the enemy force was that they had been up against. However, it was a large enough force to warrant an Arclight strike by B-52 Bombers.

A memorial plaque that honors our missing Ranger is being presented to the Ranger Indoctrination Program (RIP) enlisted Honor Graduate each class by the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

This action took place in a saddle at coordinates YC 483923, Republic of South Vietnam, April 23, 1971.



JAMES A. CHAMPION
MIA - APRIL 23, 1971
Co. L (Ranger), 75th Infantry

"We have not
forgotten"

Rangers bid farewell to Colonel Stringham

James W. "Jim" England, Editor/Secretary

Eighteen-hundred battle-ready Rangers stood in formation July 23, 1987, as Colonel Joseph S. Stringham turned over command of the 75th Ranger Regiment to Colonel Wesley B. Taylor, in a ceremony at Fort Benning's York Field.

Stringham, the "fourth Colonel of the Regiment," will move to Fort Bragg to serve as the Deputy Commander of the 1st Special Operations Command (1st SOCOM).

Taylor, who earned the Silver Star among other decorations in Vietnam, commanded the 1st Ranger Battalion during its 1983 airborne assault on Grenada. He comes to the Regiment from the Army War College in Carlisle, PA.

The 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions joined the 3rd Battalion in a 1,400-man regimental jump at Fryer Drop Zone on Monday, July 20th, as part of exercise Callid Warrior. Not only was the drop a site to see, it also brought the Regiment together for the change of command.

Cupit takes over duties as Regimental CSM

Command Sergeant Major Gary L. Cupit, who served with N/75th Infantry (Ranger) in Vietnam and who has been a long term Ranger Instructor in addition to Regimental Operations Sergeant Major, assumed duties as the Regimental Sergeant Major on June 6, 1987. While this was designated as an interim assignment, they could not have selected a more professional soldier and Ranger for the job.

First CO of 1st Ranger Battalion makes it big

Major General Kenneth C. Leur, the first commander of the 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry, recently assumed duties as the Chief of Infantry, Commandant of the Infantry School, and Commanding General of Fort Benning, GA.

From the Ranger distaff side

We recently asked wives of Rangers assigned to Company C, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, what they saw as a common denominator in their experience as Ranger wives.

Each lady responded individually saying that first and foremost is the loneliness experienced while their globe-trotting Ranger husbands are gone.

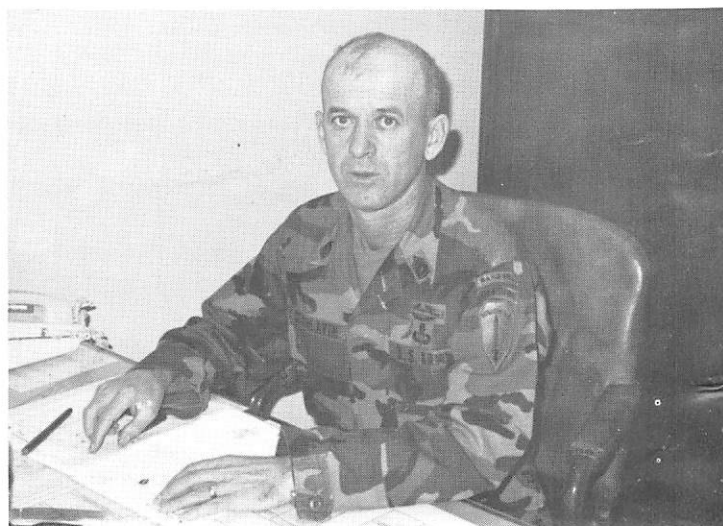
The second identical response was that of having to cope with everything; being mother, father, paying all of the bills, and making the decisions on their own.

About the time they begin to feel independent, here comes their Ranger home from a mission, to take charge again. As they leave again on another mission the cycle starts over. **Some things never change.**

Make your plans now for the July 1988 Reunion



Colonel Wesley B. Taylor, "Fifth Colonel of the Regiment," and previous Commander of the 1st Ranger Battalion.



CSM Jan Schalavin, currently CSM of the US Army Infantry School, served at the Mountain Ranger Camp during 1968 and 1970-71, Ranger Advisor in Vietnam 1969-70, 1SG Co C 2/75 1974-77, and CSM 1/75 1979-82.



(L-R) Angela Clement, Patricia Conway, Melissa Redtfeldt, and Belinda Hairston with baby Ricky, wives of Rangers assigned to Company C, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regt.

G. H. Bethke, Major General

Rangers are forever

Like Marauders in the past
We're bound by pride and loyalty
That is sure to last.

As a team we are unique

We've faced and passed each test
Our service to our country
Has proven we're the best.

The future is uncertain

As we live by day to day
But be assured we're ready
For whatever comes our way.

Marauders yesterday - - Rangers
today - - Invincible.



Major General G. H. Bethke,
Deputy Commander, Second US
Army, Fort Gillem, GA, and
past Commander of the 2nd
Ranger Battalion from July
1976 to May 1977.



PV2 Michael S. Fields, RIP Enlisted Honor Graduate, Class 9-87, with
his award memorializing MIA Ranger James A. Champion a member of L/75.



Letters

President R. F. Gilbert:

I thank you, and also Billy Nix, for
your very kind letter of March 10.

Needless to say, I am very grateful
for the way you wish to remember and
honor my son, Jimmy. He would be proud,
if he knew.

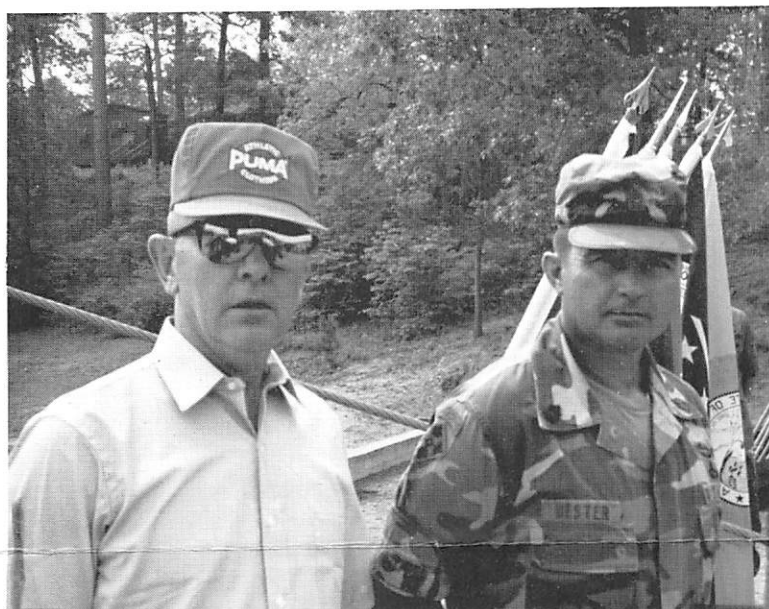
Of course, you have our blessing for
the project and plan.

Please extend our thanks to the
members of your organization.

Sincerely, Joe A. Champion

P.S. I'm very glad to hear that Mr. Malo
survived and returned.

We have not and will not forget our buddies who gave their all in
Vietnam and Grenada. June 1986 Reunion, Fort Campbell, Kentucky.



(L-R) SGM John Kingeter (Ret) B, D, and M/75th, and MSG John Hester K/75th, observe the annual David E. Grange Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, GA, April 1987.

Free Advertisements

Tiger The LURP Dog, by Kenn Miller. Miller served consecutive tours in Vietnam with the 1st Bde LRP, 101st Abn, Co F/58 LRP, and Co L/75 Ranger. This is a novel based on events that, for the most part, actually happened. Write to Kenn Miller, 8704 E. Duarte Rd, San Gabriel, CA 91775.

Long Range Patrol Operations: Reconnaissance, Combat, and Special Operations, by James W. "Jim" England. England served with K/75 Rangers in Vietnam. Written along the lines of a field manual but with lessons learned and methods added. The topic has been updated with current doctrine and equipment. Excellent reference for those engaged in LRP or similar operations. Write to Jim England, 809 30th St, Columbus, GA 31904. Send \$17.95, which includes postage and handling - he'll autograph it.

Charlie Mike and The Last Run, by LTC Leonard B. Scott. Scott served in Vietnam with C/75 Rangers. Written as novels, if you ever served in a LRP or Ranger unit in combat . . . especially in Vietnam, you will read of your experiences here. It is more fact than fiction to some of us. Write to: LTC Scott, 400 1st Div Rd, Ft Benning, GA 31905.

Static Line. Editor, Don Lassen, PO Box 87518, College Park, GA 30337. This is an all Airborne and Ranger newspaper published monthly. Lassen served with the 82nd Airborne Division's Company E/505th Parachute Infantry Regiment during WW II, which puts him in the category of Dinosaurs. It helps you keep abreast of Airborne events, reunions, and locating buddies. The Association runs a short column in the Static Line concerning LRP and 75th Ranger operations in Vietnam. We refuse to accept credit for the typographical errors and switching of story titles, as Ranger error; they belong to Lassen's typesetter.

Make your plans now for the July 1988 Reunion Perspective from the field

John J. Kingeter, Director

I recently made the trip from my home in Pennsylvania, to Fort Benning, Georgia, to see this year's "Best Ranger Competition," and I thought I'd pass on my observations and impressions.

The competition itself starts on a Friday morning and ends around supper time Sunday evening, with the awards ceremony for all competitors taking place on Monday morning.

The contestants put in some sixty tough hours which tests them both mentally and physically with very little sleep or rations.

If anyone thinks today's soldiers are soft they need to see these competitors in action, as I feel they are some of the best we've ever had, if not the best.

Just seeing the competitors is reason enough to take the trip. But, then throw in the comradery shared with Rangers and ex-Rangers and it makes for a great time.

In addition to the Ranger Department, Benning is also the home of our Regiment, the 75th Rangers, and it was nice to see the history of the Vietnam era LRRPs and Rangers recorded as part of their lineage, along with the Merrill's Marauders of World War II fame. Our sacrifices and deeds are recorded and remembered.

Our Association President, Bob Gilbert, lives in Columbus, Georgia, and thru him I was introduced to the Presidents of the Merrill's Marauders and World War II Rangers, and it sure was interesting talking with these gentlemen.

The people both on Fort Benning and offpost in Columbus couldn't be nicer, as everyone treats you well and makes you feel welcome.

In addition to all the Ranger activities and units on Benning, it is also the home of both the Airborne Department (1st Bn, 507th PIR) and the Infantry Center, so there is plenty more to see and the chance of running into old comrades is sure possible.

I would highly recommend the trip to anyone, and I'm looking forward to next year.

John is a retired Sergeant Major, and served with B/75, D/75, and M/75. He currently serves as a Director for the Association.

Poetic Notions of Victory, by Michael H. Segelstrom. Segelstrom served with L/75 Rangers in Vietnam. He was unavailable to describe his poetry. A quick review during 1986 gave some insight to events occurring during the Vietnam War. Whether it reflects the author's first hand recollections or was drawn from various sources could not be determined at the time we went to press. Write to: Mike Segelstrom, 2833 29th Ave South, Minneapolis, MN 55406.

Patches available

Quartermaster, PO Box 829, Long Beach, CA 90801-0829. Ask for catalog no. A14-1007, for L/75 patches. Patches are \$2.95 each plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

Peter J. McDermott, 803 Natures Run, Severna Park, MD 21146, has the type of patches and scrolls worn in 'Nam. He currently stocks scrolls for L/75 and others. Send a SASE for a catalog.

Make your plans now for the July 1988 Reunion
Incoming rounds. . .
from the Indiana Rangers

R. F. Gilbert, President

Drop! Drop! Drop! That's all we heard from the Rangers of the Indiana National Guard who served in Vietnam, following our last newsletter. We need to tighten that one up.

We referred to them as Company D (LRP), 151st Infantry, and got our ears boxed in the process. The reference for that gem of information was/is an official piece of correspondence, dated 28 March 1969, originated by the Pentagon. The document declared the former designation as "LRP" and subsequently as "Ranger." "Not so," say the Rangers who fought with the unit at Corps level in Vietnam.

We were supposed to have received copies of the LRP unit histories last December 15, however, it was placed on the back burner because of "exigencies of the service." That's Army talk for, "get in line." As a result I cop a plea of NOLO CONTENDERE on that blooper.

What the Delta 151st Rangers tell us is that their official title was, and is: Company D (RANGER), 151st Infantry. Larry Rhodes advised us it was called LRP at some time prior to going to Vietnam, but was subsequently called by the corrected name, RANGER.

As an added note, most of these Indiana Rangers came to Benning and trained at various schools, including: Airborne, Ranger, Pathfinder, and other specialty courses before they deployed to Vietnam.

While in Vietnam, the Indiana Rangers turned in a remarkable record, adding to Ranger history a track record few Guard units will ever match.

On July 25-26, 1987, Rangers from several units, including D/75, H/75, and L/75, joined the Company D (RANGER), 151st Infantry troopers at their reunion in Brown County State Park, Indiana.

During the reunion, a special memorial plaque was presented to the Indiana Rangers for their service during the Vietnam War, and because of their uniqueness among all of the LRP and Ranger units of the Vietnam era. The Delta 151st Rangers have a history to be proud of and deserve their Nation's thanks for a job well done.

Can we recover now Delta Rangers? This front leaning rest position is a bear!



Rick Butler, L/75th Rangers, a bricklayer from Indiana, provided his craftsmanship for this Vietnam Memorial located at Stoney Run County Park near Hebron, IN. Rick also served on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Committee that worked to provide this tribute to veterans.



James M. Costa, (foreground), reports that on his first blast in three decades his prosthesis (lost the leg in Korea), kicked him five times before he could turn loose of the aircraft, and he swore there was a phantom Jumpmaster out there with him.

Donations boost
Memorial Fund

R.F. Gilbert, President

Last December, while the Association Directors were meeting in St. Louis, MO, Ms. Connie Miller, a certified broker and member of the Million Dollar Club, made a contribution to the Association in the name of Wayne Vickers. Wayne served with the United States Marine Corps. The donation went to the Association's MIA Memorial Fund. Connie currently lives in Georgia . . . a Peach!

James M. Costa (see photo), a Defense Contractor from New Hampshire, also made a substantial contribution to the

Association recently. The donation was added to the MIA Memorial Plaque Fund.

Jim served as a Browning Automatic Rifleman with Fox Company, 187th Airborne Regimental Combat Team during the Korean War. One week before the end of the Korean War, Costa moved forward from a squad outpost in Kumwha Valley and engaged a squad of Chinese infiltrators, losing a leg to a Chicom grenade. Twenty-nine years later he received a belated Silver Star.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to those people who are helping to make our transition from a new association to a large and growing one easier. Thank you Connie and Jim.

Make your plans now for the July 1988 Reunion

**Sitrep: Lima 75th Ranger
looking even younger!**

R. F. Gilbert, President

Robin "Kris" Kristiansen (L/75) kneels with an M14 rifle (right) and other gear while waiting for transportation to Sniper School in Vietnam, 1969.

Known as "Socrates" among his Ranger buddies and on the radio, Kris put the training to good use both in and out of 'Nam, as shown (in the photo, right) by his whitewall tent, high-powered rifle, and, definitely non-cammy type winter clothing.

Looking a great deal younger in the 1982 family photo (right) with his family, dogs, and former Team Leader, are (L-R) Kris, Jim "Bugs" Moran, and Kris' wife Jennifer. In front of Jennifer is their son Simon and daughter Spring.

You've got it, the dog on the left is named Ranger, and the other one is Mahlia.

Jim "Bugs" Moran is currently Sergeant Major for the Mountain and Cold Weather School, Alaska.

Kris, within forty days of DEROS from 'Nam was severely wounded during a recon patrol eight miles Northwest of Khe Sanh, and sixty-seven miles West of Camp Eagle - base for Rangers from Company L, 75th during July 1970.

Four other team members were wounded, along with Kris, but not before inflicting thirteen KIAs among the enemy unit that engaged the patrol almost immediately after insertion.

Kris' wounds were received as a result of his throwing a Chicom grenade back out of the team's perimeter during the engagement. For this action Kris was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" device, which he rightly refused.

Operating far beyond artillery range, without airborne radio relay, other than "Hillsboro and Moonbeam," an orbiting C-130 supporting SF CCN teams operating in the same general area, and operating without standby air or gunship support, Ranger teams from Lima Company often suffered casualties because of a general lack of understanding of the capabilities and limitations of Ranger/LRP teams.

**POW/MIA Bracelets
still available**

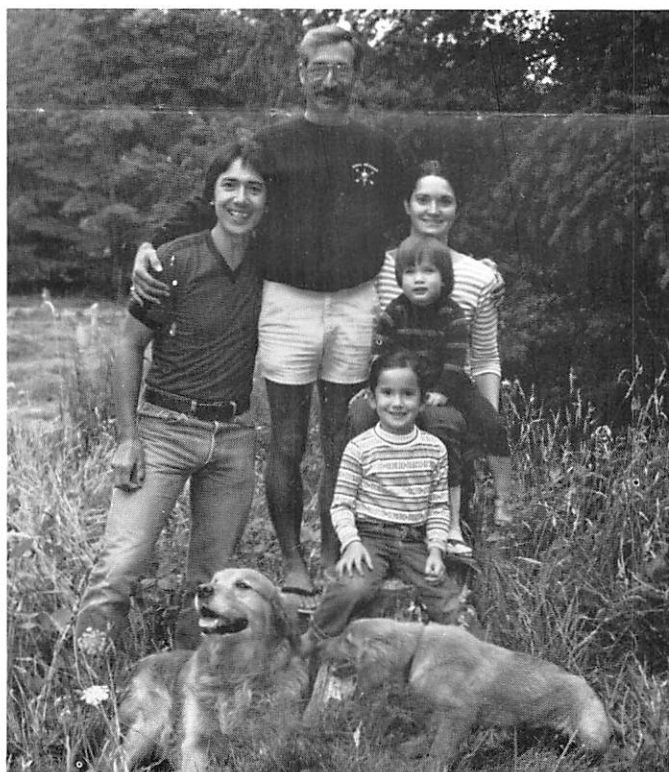
Any one who needs or would like to have a POW/MIA bracelet can order one for \$4.00 from the following address:

Task Force Omega, Inc., of Iowa
202 Grand Ave.
Spencer, Iowa 51301
Phone: (712) 262-7528

Bracelets are also available from the LIMA AREA MIA-POW, stainless steel for \$3.50, and copper for \$4.50. They can be requested with the name of a specific POW/MIA. Write to:

LIMA AREA MIA-POW
6525 Mayberry Road
Columbus Grove, OH 45830
Phone: (419) 641-2340

August 1987, Page 5, Patrolling



Looney says, "We are not crazy"

John W. Looney

There is a process that everyone who suffers a trauma goes through. A "Psychic Mechanism" in all people allows us to survive a traumatic situation. Victims of natural disasters like fire, floods, and tornados, as well as plane crashes, shark attacks, and rapes cannot be alert enough to survive such life threatening situations while expressing and feeling all the emotions one may be experiencing.

One might call it a "Survival Response." In order to survive we cannot take time to feel. The unconscious says, "Let me hold these emotional charges down with me until I am safe and ready to handle them." Like a credit card the unconscious holds the emotional bill away from us for a time. But, the bill must be paid and it only comes due when it is safe and we are ready. So how do we receive this bill?

1. Sleep Disturbance: dreams, avoid going to sleep, waking up in a cold sweat.
2. Knowing something is wrong and not being able to put your finger on it.
3. Hard to get close to family (spouse and children); Spouse says, "Why don't you show me you love me?"
4. Depression: loss of interest in job, family, hobbies.
5. Anxiety: hyper-alter, startle response.
6. Troubles with authority figures: bosses, police, cannot keep a job.
7. New Stressors: unemployment, divorce.

What starts or triggers our emotions? A word, a smell, a sight or sound may trigger an intrusive thought, dreams, depression, a thousand yard stare, etc. The sound of a helicopter, drizzling Spring rains, and the smell of diesel fuel on a hot day are common triggers.

If and when triggers are so active and emotions so strong they interfere with your enjoyment of life, then stop by a Vet Center and check it out.

No one can expect us to forget the War, but there is a way to live happily even with bad memories. We learned in our childhood to resist expressing our emotions (Big Boys don't Cry). That may have saved us in Vietnam, but it is safe now and we can let those old constricted emotions out. A person with constricted emotions is not fun to live with, as my wife can attest to that thought.

If I can be of service, please call me: John W. Looney, at the Pittsburgh Vet Center, (412) 765-1193. I will call you back to save charges.

Peace and happiness . . .

John W. Looney is a VA Counselor for a three state area. He served in Vietnam with F/58th LRP and L/75 Rangers.

Ranger needs some help

James Fenner c/o 32418
Almaden Blvd. #73
Union City, CA 94587

Fenner would like anyone who recalls him to please write to him at the above address. He served with Co. F (LRP) Abn FF II, 78th Inf Det (Abn) FF II, O/75 82d Abn Vietnam, and B/75 at Fort Carson, CO.

**Membership, membership,
MMMMMMMMNNNN . . . !**

In our first newsletter, which most of you received, we printed a membership application for your use on page three. Boy, were we surprised.

We learned that many of you did not have a copier near by and refused to destroy your newsletter by cutting it out. Others told us they completely overlooked it.

One Ranger made a trip all the way from Ohio to Georgia to talk with us and was flabbergasted to learn he was not a member - we gave him an application. Then, we have the good old procrastinators (smile) . . . now drop for ten!

In this issue we are inserting one application (separate) in each newsletter. For those of you who are members already hookup a buddy, a team member, or any other member of a LRP or 75th Ranger unit from Vietnam, Grenada, or now. A note of caution . . . we will not except **forced** memberships from active duty Rangers as some associations are known to do.

We want you to become members of as many associations as your wallet can handle, and there are many out there. We would ask that you examine them before (possibly) throwing your money away on an association that may wish to do things like: eliminate the number "75" from the only peacetime tactical Ranger unit in the history of the United States Army.

A Regiment that has three years and seven months combat time in Vietnam with at least 50% of its patrolling assets in the jungle, on patrol, at all times during those years.

A Regiment whose 1st and 2nd Battalions made an exclusive combat jump in Grenada into anti-aircraft fire from 500 feet. We say exclusive because they did it alone, not as part of a larger airborne force like others before them.

There are other associations that are associations in name only, staggering around like a drunken sailor refusing to fall. We ask that you investigate before you invest.

The Long Range Patrol units that preceeded the 75th had approximately one year of service, under several different lineages, and, like the provisional LRP Detachments and Companies that preceeded them in Vietnam, functioned identically as Rangers but under a different name.

Ranger Mother seeks help

Billy J. Nix, Vice President

James E. Holdman, has been missing for six years now. His mother, Ethel Holdman, would like to know if any of his Ranger buddies know where he is. Even if you didn't know him, check your local telephone book, he just might be listed, a short recon is in order. Pass a "sitrep" on to his mother at the following address or contact one of the association officers, thanks.

Ethel Holdman
PO Box 272
Somerset, TX 78069
Phone: (512) 429-3691



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Forget-Me-Not Assoc.
For POW-MIA'S Inc.*

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Florida 33743 • (813) 546-4962



(From l. to R) CSM Eddie Roberts C/75th, MSG Aubrey Batts (Ret) L/75th, CSM Jeff Yarbrough C/75th, and Association VP Billy J. Nix, at the final dedication of the Airborne Walk Memorial at Fort Benning, April 1987. Roberts is CSM for the 1/507th PIR (Abn Sch), and Yarbrough is CSM of the School Brigade. Batts worked in Saudi Arabia recently and Nix is a DAV National Service Officer.

8 C101

75th Ranger Regiment Association Officers

President.....Robert F. Gilbert
Vice President.....Billy J. Nix
Treasurer.....Nicholas E. Gibbone
Secretary.....James W. "Jim" England

75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

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