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75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 670174 MARIETTA GA 30066



PATROLLING

DECEMBER 1988

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 4

# Merry Christmas



# Happy New Year



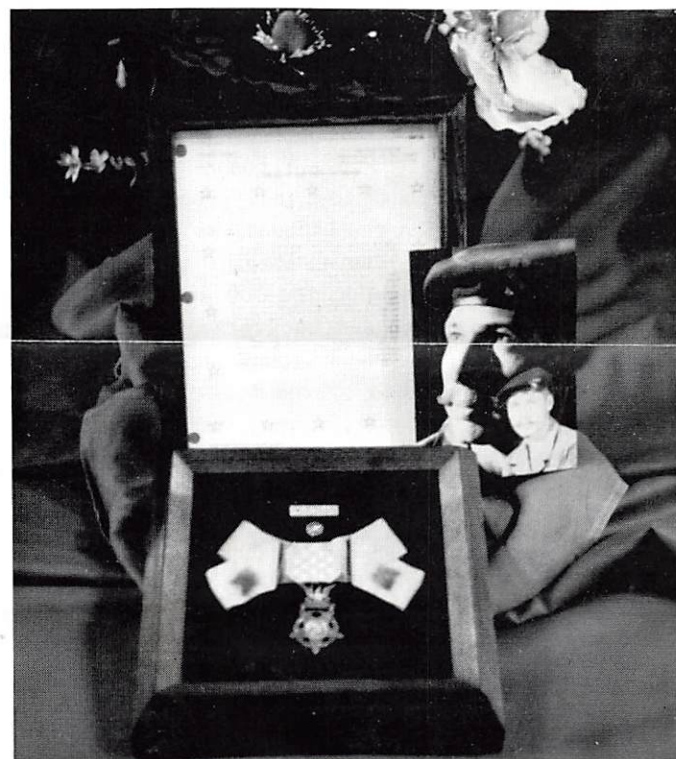
## Reunion Special Recognition

A special thanks goes out to the local Columbus area businesses that supported our first national reunion: Art Chriss, owner of ARCCO; Charlie Morgan, with B&B Beverage, who provided the Miller beer; Sunshine Biscuit Company, which provided cookies and snack items; and, Tom's Foods, which provided chips and other snack items for use. Their assistance in making the first national reunion a success is deeply appreciated.

## Reunion Book Update

The project is alive and well. Photographs taken by Robin Kristiansen have arrived and are being reviewed for use in the reunion book. We have to select the best for inclusion, mix in the different ads taken out, do the design and layout, then have it printed and mailed out. We do not have a price range yet selected yet, but we will keep you posted on the progress.

*The family of  
William N. "Red" King  
acknowledges with deep appreciation  
the kind expression of sympathy  
from the members of the  
75th Ranger Regiment Association*



*Above is the first ever Medal of Honor awarded to a member of a U.S. Army Ranger unit, and its awardee - Robert D. Law, Company I (Ranger), 75th Infantry, 1st Infantry division, Vietnam. Photo by Roberts.*

# The Reunion Messhall: The Ironworks Trade & Convention Center, Columbus, Georgia

## Who came to dinner at the "Reunion Messhall"?

From LRRP: 1st Cav G-2 LRRP, 173rd Abn LRRP Troop E/17th Cav, Company A LRP 23rd Div, and 1/101st LRRP.

From LRP: 71st, 74th, E/20th, F/51st, F/58th, D/151st, E/50th, F/52nd, F/50th, and E/51st (note, only E/58th was missing).

From 75th Ranger units: 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions, and Companies A through P Vietnam.

We also had one member of the PRU who served with other LRRP, LRP, and 75th Ranger units.

Special guests were Ranger advisors to the South Vietnamese Ranger Battalions representing the 32nd, 41st, and 42nd Vietnamese Ranger Battalions. We had two of our Red Cross ladies, a USAF Captain, and Eagle Dustoff 913 Fred Behrens who was presented an honorary Combat Infantryman's Badge by the Ranger and LRP members for his air and ground combat prowess between April 23-25, 1971, in the Ashau Valley of Vietnam fighting for and with a Ranger Team.

**Menu for the Barbecue:** There were 226 people in attendance, who were served BBQ chicken and pork, potato salad, cole slaw, Brunswick stew, baked beans, corn on the cob, French fries, bread and butter, iced tea or coffee, and watermelon. They also went through three kegs of beer and 152 soft drinks.

**Menu for the Banquet:** There were 216 people in attendance, who were served 12 oz beef tenderloin (140), boneless breast of chicken topped with Supreme Sauce on Holland Rusk (65), and eleven other meals consumed by walk-ins we didn't expect but were fortunate enough to have planned for with an overage allowance. The meals also included baked potatoes with sour cream and chives, green beans almonidine, rolls and butter, coffee and tea, and peach cobbler. Cash bars were open during the banquet. We presume everyone enjoyed their meals since no complaints were noted.

**Entertainment:** Following the BBQ meal a country and western band took off and we learned how the cowboys used to kick buffalo chips around campfires 100 or so years ago watching some of the folks dance. Following the banquet the Rangers, Lurps, families and guests were treated to some versatile professional entertainers, "The Works," featuring Pam and Donny Gaudreau.

Folks we are looking to double not only the membership by 1990 but double the attendance at the next reunion. Hook up!

## Team Photos Wanted!

*Send us a team photo for publication  
Wartime, Peacetime, Anytime  
Don't forget names, dates, etc.*

**Mail to:**  
**75th Ranger Regt. Assoc.**  
**809 30th St., Columbus, GA 31904**



*The "impact end" of one of the 250' jump towers at Fort Benning, and the parachute reunion attendees rode. Photo by Roberts.*

## Reunion Photography

Robin Kristiansen took about 350 color and black and white photos during the five days he was at the reunion - Columbus/Fort Benning area. He has a number of the LRRP/Ranger color pictures of the group photo taken after the business meeting available. Photos of individual tables at the BBQ and banquet and much more are available to you. He captured a stop-action shot of the Silver Eagles freefall team's bomb-burst execution. The lead jumper, as we mentioned before, was carrying the Distinguished Service Cross one of our Rangers earned during January 1970.

You can contact Robin for some memorable pictures at: 19520 Michigan Hill Rd., Rochester, WA 98579, or call him at (206) 273-5813. A number of his reunion photos will be forthcoming in future editions of **Patrolling**, some appear in this issue.



## Agent Orange

**By Bob Gilbert**

For those who attended the reunion and picked up a packet we had brochures concerning Agent Orange. I know from personal experience with the Atlanta, GA VA office that I was never contacted after telling them "yes, I was exposed to it." What I have learned is no record of Agent Orange sprayed in the Delta was ever kept when I was an advisor there long before any U.S. units arrived. Additionally, our patrols went into areas never frequented by major U.S. elements and there are fairly accurate records of where the USAF did spray around American units.

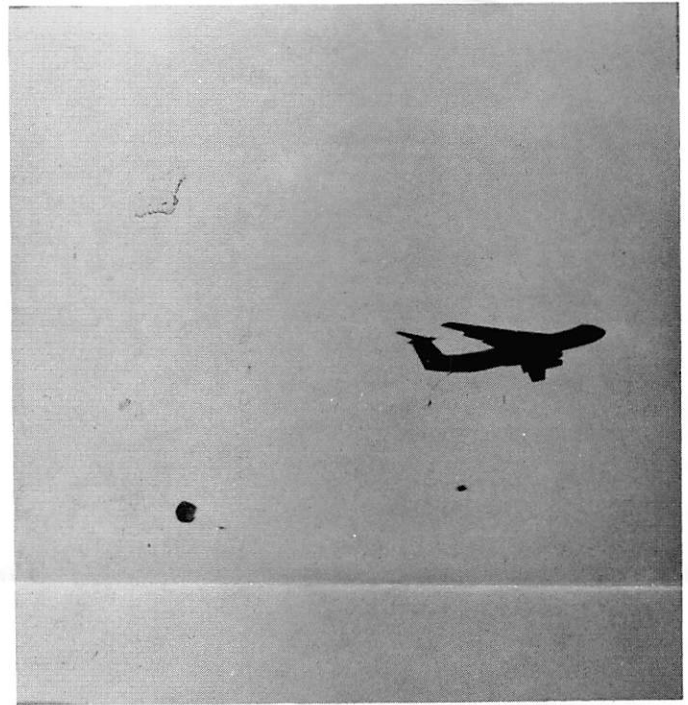
If you have ever had anything, especially a growth, removed since Vietnam from any part of your anatomy, particularly the scrotum, scope this out, Special Research Alert: New Jersey Agent Orange Commission, PO Box 1717, Trenton, NJ 08607-1717, phone (609) 984-7396 extension 7, testicular cancer has, apparently, been an outgrowth of exposure to the Dioxin in Agent Orange . . . check yourself out with the VA. And, thanks to "Donut Dollie" Jeannie Christie for this valuable information.

## Association T-Shirts

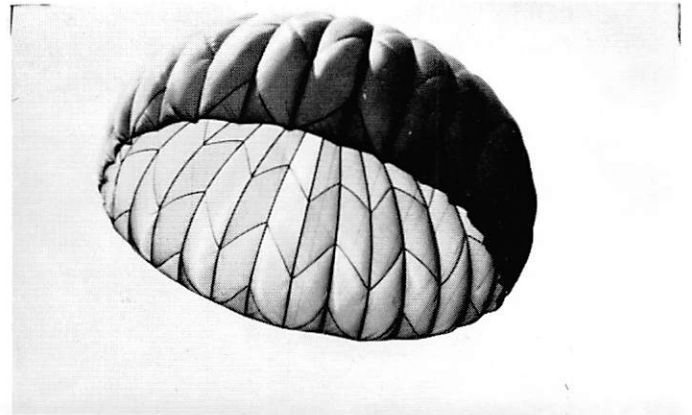
Association President Billy Nix, had a really great 75th Ranger T-Shirt designed for reunion sales. It is a heavy-duty, non-shrinking cotton, reinforced item that so far has been found to be resistant to fading of the Ranger Scroll or the words Long Range Patrol above the scroll. We didn't order enough for people attending the reunion and we know others want to display their colors. Contact Billy Nix, at the address listed on the back page, and he will order and forward them to you. Ask someone who purchased one what they think of them and you might order two. There was a request for smaller sizes for children during the reunion and we had not ordered them at that time. So, just drop Billy a note and he'll get cracking to order more. While you are at it, there are window decals with the same 75th Ranger and LRP logo available from Billy also.

**POW-MIA  
POW-MIA  
RETURN THEM NOW!**

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES  
OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA  
1608 K STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006



*New paratroopers get their first "blast" during jump week training, July 25, 1988. Photo by Roberts.*



*A new paratrooper comes in for his first jump landing July 25, 1988. Photo by Roberts.*

Reunion



*The above Medal of Honor display during our first national reunion featured awardees (l-r): Robert J. Pruden, Co. G (Ranger), 75th Inf.; Robert D. Law, Co. I (Ranger), 75th Inf.; and, Laszlo Rabel, 74th Infantry Detachment, Long Range Patrol, 173rd Airborne. We were fortunate in having family members, friends and/or team mates of theirs present at the reunion. Photo by Roberts.*



*Six members of the Demonstration Team, 75th Ranger Regiment. Ranger Regiment mon Grenada veterans a Airborne Memorial W Photo by Robin Kristi*



*Association members enjoy themselves during the barbecue (l-r): Gib Halverson, Rudy Parsons, Jim McLaughlin, Fred Behrens (Eagle Dustoff), Dave Rothwell, John Puzzo, and, in the background it looks like a group of 9th Division vets. Photo by Roberts.*

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*Ranger Exfiltration  
led by SGT Vasios, HQ  
pause at the 75th  
ment to Vietnam and  
the Fort Benning  
lk, July 25, 1988.  
nsen.*



*First national reunion attendees form up for a group photo  
following the business meeting July 27, 1988. Proud Ranger  
vets from Vietnam to Grenada! Photo by Robin Kristiansen.*



*Rangers move out from their assault boat during a beach  
assault demonstration at Fort Benning - part of the  
"entertainment" provided during the first national reunion.  
Photo by Robin Kristiansen.*



## Association Update

Geoffrey T. Barker, President of the John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Memorial and Museum Association and author of **A Concise History of Special Operations Forces**, contacted Bob Gilbert prior to the 75th Ranger's first national reunion. As a result of that contact two things have occurred.

First, Barker was able to learn about the LRP and 75th Ranger Medal of Honor awardees and include them in his book as it went into print.

Secondly, he went to the JFKSWM&MA Council with a proposal. On October 11, the 75th Ranger Regiment Association was unanimously accepted by that Council as ex-officio honorary member with a place on their Council.

Billy Nix, Association President, has moved to fill that position with one of the four original founders of our organization who will appoint an alternate. Both have Special Forces backgrounds and know their way around Smoke Bomb Hill at Ft. Bragg.

One objective of that Council is to build a memorial museum in honor of Arthur D. "Bull" Simons, a legend as a Soldier and civilian in Ranger and Special Operations. Geoff Barker, a former British Paratrooper and retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel has an extensive background in Special Operations. He has initiated a couple of things on our behalf already. We don't want to let the cat out of the bag regarding certain initiatives he has taken on our behalf at this time, however let us say to him right here and now, **thank you sir!** A Lurp and Ranger always appreciates help from any source . . . especially a gunship or Redleg . . . but people are special.

**Nice to know:** Why is your newsletter late? After the reunion everyone who attended had to play catch-up at work. Additionally, Billy Nix, your new president, nearly bought the farm in a six-car accident near Greenville, SC, on a rain-swept interstate. He was enroute to the Merrill's Marauders reunion at the time where Roy Boatman, Kevin, and Bob were holding forth. He nearly totaled his '87 BMW, but, fortunately Billy came out of it with little more than soreness after being knocked from the northbound into the southbound lane. You've got to be hard!

**Q&A.** In response to a Ranger's (name withheld) question, Bob Gilbert replies: No! One does not have to practice to be miserable to train Soldiers properly. Health is a factor in being fit to fight. Take care of it.

*Write to Patrolling*  
*Send your letters and photos to*  
*75th Ranger Regt. Assoc.*  
*809 30th St., Columbus, GA 31904*

## Letters



*Company E (LRS), 51st Infantry, change of command June 3, 1988: Outgoing commander CPT Steven L. Powell passes the guidon to LTC Nicholas P. O'Dawe, 165 MI Bn (TE), who then presented the guidon to incoming commander CPT Donald J. Lash, Jr.*

**Company E, 51st Infantry, October 24, 1988.**

Dear Bob Gilbert, thank you so much for your letter.

YES! We are very proud of our roots with the 75th Rangers in Vietnam and look forward to strengthening our ties with your very special organization. I have posted your letter, the newsletter, and several applications on our unit bulletin board. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association is a great source of esprit de corps and morale for us.

I have had contact with Mrs. Lawrence Pruden, the mother of SSG Robert G. Pruden. She was very impressed with the 75th Ranger Association also. She very graciously permitted us to name the new wing of our barracks, the **Pruden Wing**.

We are also holding the 1st annual Pruden Competition, best Long Range Surveillance Team competition, with emphasis on the mission essential tasks of a LRS Team.

I took command of E/51st Infantry on June 3, 1988. Since then we have participated in two international exercises and one USAREUR exercise. We have worked closely with elite units from West Germany, Belgium, France, Denmark, Spain, Portugal, Netherlands, United Kingdom, and the United States.

I can honestly assure you the soldiers in E/51st Infantry are of extremely high caliber and at all times uphold the high standards and traditions of those who served before us. Although we are stationed in Darmstadt, Germany, we feel close to the 75th Ranger Association and look forward to future contact. Of course anyone visiting the area is always welcome here as a guest in E/51st Infantry. I encourage former members of E/51st Infantry or G/75th Rangers to contact me.

Thank you, Donald J. Lash, Jr., CPT, Inf, Commanding

NOTE (from Bob Gilbert): Company E/51st Infantry became Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry when Long Range Patrol Companies changed over in Vietnam. There was no change in mission, troops, terrain, the enemy, equipment or anything else of consequence.

The selection of SSG Robert J. Pruden by E/51st is no accident. SSG Pruden, a Team Leader in G/75th at the time, was the second of two soldiers who earned the Medal of Honor while serving in a Ranger unit. We were delighted to have Pruden's parents, his brother, a nephew, and sister-in-law as guests during our first national reunion. They very graciously allowed us to display Robert Pruden's Medal of Honor along with those of Robert D. Law, the first soldier to ever win the Medal of Honor while serving in a U.S. Army Ranger Company, and Laszlo Rabel, the only member of the Long Range Patrol who ever won the Medal of Honor.

Okay you guys from E/51st and G/75th, here is your opportunity to let those Long Range Surveillance Company members learn, first hand, via letters, photos, etc. of your experiences. You can especially be a source of combat tips for them and hope they never have to use the advice.

We and the Army should consider the Long Range Surveillance element of the Ranger Training Brigade at Fort Benning extremely fortunate because they have one Sergeant, Bill Wilkinson, as a trainer for the Long Range Surveillance students. Bill is a charter member of the Field Force Ranger Company (Corps Level) C/75, and later he served in N/75th with the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

The patrolling tips you pass on to E/51st Infantry Long Range Surveillance Company may save some lives down the road, so don't let anyone from any unit be afraid to share your lessons learned with those fine soldiers. You can write to CPT Lash at 165th MI Bn. TE-#E51, APO NY 09175.

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**From Eva Rabel**, wife of Medal of Honor winner Laszlo Rabel, 74th Infantry Detachment, LRP, 173rd Airborne, Vietnam: I am very glad I went to the reunion. It helped me a lot. We are both planning to go to the next one and are looking forward to it. I am planning to go to Washington for Veterans' Day and visit the Wall and Arlington Cemetery. Thank you for the photo of Laszlo that one of his friends passed on to you.

NOTE (from Bob Gilbert): Eva Rabel's letter was edited for personal information therein. Maybe one day we can get Laszlo's daughter, a very pretty young lady that sings with a rock band, and your reunion entertainers Don & Pam, "The Works," to perform together for us.

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**Dear Association:**

I just received a copy of your June 1988 newsletter, **Patrolling**, from a friend who was attending a service school at Ft. Benning. I was a member of G/75th from 1970 to 1971 and am interested in receiving **Patrolling**. I am currently the brigade intelligence officer for the 1st Brigade, 40th Infantry Division

(Mech), California Army National Guard, and have been in the Guard since 1973. I have several acquaintances in the Guard who were members of 75th companies in Vietnam that I know may be interested in the Association.

I noted your comments in the book review section on **The Illustrated History of Rangers: The Vietnam War**, which I also recently read. I too noticed the incorrect reference to the Blue Ghosts and Team Opel. For the record, F/8th Cav, 23rd Div (Americal) was the designated division reaction force for the 23rd. This unit did react in support of G/75th on many occasions. In fact, many Rangers transferred from G/75th to F Troop and vice versa during the time I was in country. Sincerely, George D. Merkel, MAJ, Inf, CALARNG (formerly SP4, G/75th)

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**Dear Association:**

I served with Juliet Team, N/75th, 173rd Abn, during 1970 and 1971. A team mate of mine recently sent me a copy of your newsletter, April 1988 Vol. 2 Issue 1, which highlighted N/75th in its pictorial display. I was previously unaware of your fine organization, but have since learned that many of my former comrades are members. . . . The April issue mentioned above, notes the unknown team that "procured" the pictured leopard. This leopard was obtained in a mechanical ambush (widow-maker claymore) in the Suy Cai valley, May 1971, by Alpha Team. SGT Akuna (now a 1SG with the 25th Inf Div) was the team leader, and MSG Baugh set the ambush, prior to the team's occupation of their night lagger. MSG Baugh is now with the 10th Mountain Division's Divisional Schools (Ft. Drum) and still has the skin.

Sincerely, William J. Horne, MSG, U.S. Army

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**Dear Association:**

The Western States Chapter X, Society of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, will be hosting the first ever national reunion for the 173rd Airborne June 30 - July 5, 1989. The reunion will be held at the Tropicana Hotel, Santa Rosa, California.

For further information contact Ignacio Zarate at (213) 726-9760, or write to Western States Chapter X, P.O. Box 2000-86, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 95705.

Sincerely, Raymond C. Ramirez, President

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**Dear Association:**

I am trying to locate past members of V Corps LRRP Company (1963-66), which later became Co. D, 17th Inf. I would particularly like to locate SGM Mike Martin.

You can contact me at (415) 752-1594, or P.O. Box 20107, Oakland, CA 94620-0107. Thank you.

Sincerely, Milton Crow, Retired E-6, U.S. Army

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# Happy Holiday

## Membership Renewal

Association Secretary Don Lynch, will soon have completed all of the 1989 membership cards for mailing. If you missed the reunion, here is what will occur if you hold a current membership card: A card will be mailed directly to you for 1989 renewal. Upon receipt all you have to do is enclose your check or a money order in the envelope you receive for the '89 membership card to become valid. Just put a stamp on the envelope and mail it back with your dues. Then sit back and enjoy reading **Patrolling** once a quarter.

## Membership Criteria

Any active duty, discharged, or retired individual who has served in a LRRP, LRP, or 75th Ranger unit in war or peacetime is eligible for membership in the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. This is **your** organization and it is going forward and upward member-wise. There are other categories of membership available, for example: Families of deceased veterans, Dustoff pilots, and other categories of individuals who have worked on behalf of Long Range Patrol or Ranger units under tactical conditions may meet eligibility requirements. It's okay to ask!



PATROLLING

### Association Officers:

**President.....Billy J. Nix**  
*PO Box 670174, Marietta, GA 30066*

**Vice President...Roy Boatman**  
*187 Paddlewheel Rd, Fayetteville, NC 28304*

**Treasurer.....Nick Gibbone**  
*PO Box 582, Yeadon, PA 19050*

**Secretary.....Donald Lynch**  
*5823 Aquila Ave., N. New Hope, MN 55428*

**Editor.....Jim England**  
*809 30th St., Columbus, GA 31904*

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**Steve Woodson, C/75**      **Dave Harris, E/75**  
**Roger Roberts, D/75**      **Leslie Williams, K/75**

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