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75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 670174 MARIETTA GA 30066



PATROLLING

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Tribute to Al Bartz

"We Remember Skinny Freddy"

Says it All

The following poem was written by Master Sergeant Paul W. Brady in 1970 to one of his sons, who at the time was serving in Vietnam. Brady is a decorated hero of World War II and now rests in peace with his comrades in the Onondaga County Veteran's Cemetery. This poem was never mailed which brings us to the point in question this issue - let's not hold back; let's thank them now and forever. Don't bottle feelings up inside or hide them, let them out.

I wish I had the power to write the thoughts wedged in my heart tonight . . .

As I sit watching a small star, wondering where you are.

You know son, it's a funny thing, how close a war can always bring a family, who for years with pride, have kept emotions deep inside.

I'm sorry that when you were small, I let reserve build up the wall.

I told you real men never cry and it was Mom who always dried your tears, and soothed the hurt away.

So that soon you went back to play.

Now suddenly, I find my son, a full grown man, with childhood gone.

Tonight you're far across the sea, waging war for folks like me.

Well, somehow, pride and what is right just doesn't seem to go tonight.

I find my eyes won't stay quite dry.

I find sometimes men do cry.

And if we stood face to face, I'm afraid we'd find men do embrace.

Son, all dads are a funny lot.

And if I failed you in some spot, it's not because I've loved you less, it's just this so-called manliness.

But if I had the power to write the thoughts wedged in my heart tonight, the words would ring out loud and true.

I'm proud, my boy, so proud of you.

Tribute to Al "Skinny Freddy" Bartz - We Remember

"We Remember Skinny Freddy"

A Tribute to Al Bartz

We loved Skinny Freddy, but then again everyone did. Maybe we loved him because he had a disarming smile that said don't worry, Old Freddy's here. Or, maybe it was his impersonation of Marlon Brando in "On the Waterfront" - "I coulda' been a contender, I coulda' been somebody." Or, maybe because he never shut up in the rear, always talking never stopping and always the butt of his own conversation. Come to think of it, when Freddy was talking, we forgot about the war. He did what all the letters we wrote and all the books we read could not do. Or, maybe it was because he was a brave soldier who would never sham out of a mission and was always first to say "Let's get our guys out we can't wait for the Blues." Or, maybe it was when he tried to put out burning C-4 by stepping on it because the tower caught on fire. Or, maybe because he could never say no, your problem was his problem whether you told him or not. No problem a brother Ranger had was to big for Freddy and all his resources were at your disposal. He answered every cry for help he ever heard, but as was his style he never cried out for himself, until it was to late.

To the Big Ranger in the Sky, we pray please judge Freddy on his kindness to his fellow man and nothing more.

To Freddy, when you meet the Big Ranger in the Sky, smile, salute and say "Another Ranger reporting Sir, I served my time in Hell."

God Bless You Freddy, Blinky & Teach

From James Peterson:

I just returned from Al Bartz's funeral. I have no profound insights to share or offer. I guess I've known for some time that the hardest part for some of us was not surviving the War, but learning to cope with the peace.

Both of Al's parents had died, he had some aunts and uncles and nieces and nephews locally; two sisters in Colorado, and a brother in Jonesboro, GA.

Avon (where Al lived) is a very small town, lots of cornfields and dairy farms around. There are maybe a couple of dozen businesses in the town, all of the mom-and-pop variety.

Despite this fact, the turnout for Al's funeral was such that the minister was himself surprised. He remarked that he had expected to see a few surly-looking individuals (Us, I wonder??), but that in fact the room was full to overflowing and that people were standing in the hallway outside to attend the service.

There were some very nice flower arrangements there, from Bob Gilbert, Don Lynch, and several other Rangers whose names I didn't recognize, or have the presence of mind to write down. There was one arrangement in the shape of Jump Wings, and another in the form of a Ranger tab.



P/75th Rangers: (l-r, kneeling) Al "Skinny Freddy" Bartz and Ted "Teddy Bear" Tilson; and, (l-r, standing) Kevin "Rocky" Mayer, Mitchell "Browney" Brown, Gary Norton, and Cyril "Duke" Dushane.

In addition to myself, there was Paul "Blinky" Morgucz and another guy with an L/75th tab, but who had no name tag and I didn't recognize. He had no LRP tab, so I assume that he came in-country after I had left. I also assume that he was from out of town, as there are only myself and one other in Rochester.

A couple of cars and a van had 75th Ranger Regiment stickers and ID on them. In addition to us, there were a mess of people from the local VFW, and the president of the local Vietnam Veterans organization.

It was a nice service, and the minister mentioned Al's work in locating other members of his Company. There was a line of cars I would estimate to be over a half mile long to the grave site, and at the graveside, an honor guard fired three volleys at the end. I must have jumped a foot and a half with the first volley; I don't know why, I saw they were going to fire.

I just want everyone to know, that for the few of us that there are, that the 75th Ranger Association was very well represented; and that Al was seen out with respect, and with dignity.

" T a p s "

Al "Skinny Freddie" Bartz

P/75th and L/75th Rangers

Died June 1, 1989

From Bob Gilbert:

When I think of Al Bartz (Skinny Freddy) Company P/75th Rangers, Vietnam, I recall a guy who cared about his friends and buddies and went out of his way to help . . . always. During the nine months since the Association's first reunion Al was responsible for locating about 200 new or potential members from F/51st LRP, P/75th, O/75th, and a few other units. Most of the veterans he found are now members thanks to his pushing and shoving in finding and hooking them up. Al was a Ranger with a sense of humor that would keep you rolling on the floor.

During August 1988, just after our first reunion, Al had a Mass said for the men of Company P, 75th Rangers, Vietnam, at St. Agnes Church in Avon, NY. He cared. He raised a lot of money during 1988 to help a sick Ranger buddy he served with in Company L, 75th Rangers. He cared.

Al excelled in high school baseball and football, and, like many Vietnam Veterans was coping with the effects of combat logged in the DMZ, Khe Sahn, and Quang-Tri areas of I Corps in Vietnam. Friends and family from around the USA were at his service, he was buried with full military honors, with people overflowing into the hallways.

Al's war is over now, and may best be summarized by the poem written by poet Archibald MacLeish:

The Young Dead Soldiers

We were very young. We have died. Remember us.
We have done what we could but until it is finished it is not done.
We have given our lives but until it is finished no one can know what our lives gave.
Our deaths are not ours: They are yours: They will mean what you make them.
Whether our lives and our deaths were for peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say; it is you who must say this.
We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.
We were very young. We have died. Remember us.

It may come as a shock to some Vietnam Veterans, but the number of casualties killed in action in Vietnam, somewhere around 58,403, has been exceeded by the 1984 Veterans Administration estimate that at that time 63,000 Vietnam Veterans had committed suicide.

There are a lot of varied services available to veterans. Get in touch with a DAV, VFW, American Legion, AMVETS, or other service officer. They can do you a lot of good and the benefits you think are lost may be regained through your contact with those whose orientation is in helping veterans.



Team Killer 11, P/75th Rangers: (l-r, kneeling) Team Leader Ted "Teddy" Tilson, Gary "Possum" Elj, and "Red" Chitwood; (l-r, standing) Al "Skinny Freddy" Bartz, "Groucho", and ATL Charles "Chuck" Smiraldo; after a successful mission May 28, 1971

From First Sergeant Ted Tilson:

Al Bartz was a member of my team in Company P Rangers, 75th Infantry, Vietnam. During 1971 at Quang-Tri I was his team leader. Al was proud of his service and I was too. He was a fitted piece on our team who could always be depended upon.

On June 1, 1989, Al called me and was very distraught. He said his problems were many and he was going to check out of the net. Although we had talked by phone many times, this time he was saying things like, "I can't handle it, problems, I'm quitting, etc." The conversation was moving so fast I didn't realize what he was planning. His final word to me or anyone else was "Ranger!" To late I realized what he meant. I screamed helplessly into the phone trying to restart the conversation - he was gone.

I've got to tell you that Al Bartz loved Lima and Papa Ranger Companies first, but he loved this 75th Ranger Association of ours the most. He revealed to me on many occasions the Association was his family. Both his parents were deceased. I believed him because of the way he threw himself into finding LURPS and 75th Rangers.

I want you all to get this last message: Al Bartz was right . . . this Association **is** our family . . . and like any normal family, **it cares.**

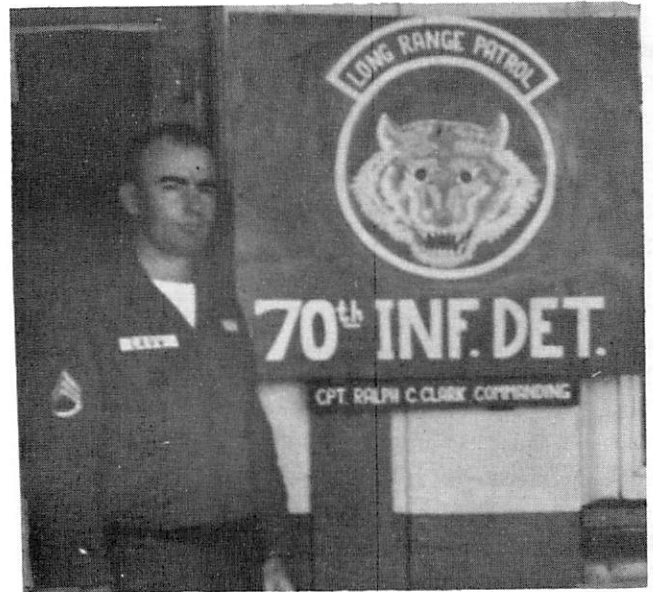
REUNION 1990 - Still up in the air, but plan for July 1990, direct your questions to Billy Nix, president.

Putting it Together in Nashville

On August 11, 12, and 13th, thirteen former Company F LRRPs, 51st Infantry who were among the original members of Company P Rangers, 75th Infantry, had a get together in Nashville, Tennessee. The renewing of friendships and the bringing back of memories was overwhelming as the LRRPs and Rangers gathered for their first meeting since 1969.

The stories began as the first Ranger arrived Friday afternoon and continued until the last Ranger left Sunday afternoon. The stay in Nashville included a boat shuttle to a small island where the Rangers hung the flag and spent the day cooking, fishing, and bringing back memories. Saturday evening included a visit to the 101st Airborne restaurant for drinks and then downtown for dinner.

A good time was had by all and all were in agreement that other reunions will follow. Anyone wishing to correspond with members of F/51st-L/75th please write: Dave Barfield, 295 Plus Park Blvd., #203, Nashville, Tennessee 37217.



SSG M.E. Crow, 70th Inf Det LRP: This photo was taken when Crow was assigned as the LRP Detachment Sergeant in December 1967, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.



F/51st LRRP - P/75th Rangers: (l-r, front kneeling) Clyde Tanner, Frank Majka, and Emory Carlton; (l-r, standing) Bobby Hampton, Roger Cassidy, Harold Buntin, Richard Moyer, James Beake, Robert Dickerson, Ken Emmick, and Walter Butler; (l-r, door) Rick Auten and Dave Barfield; and, (window) Franklin Robinson.



From Roy D. Nelson: Received this picture recently from Jerry Wilson. LURPS at Camp Bearcat, 9th Div LRRP Detachment, (l-r) SP4 Jerry Wilson, Edmond, OK; SP4 Robert Jones, Thermopolis, WY (KIA '68); and, SP4 Leland Cox, Newark, NJ (KIA '68).

K/75th Intell

In response to David Bobo's request for names that go with the faces in the front page photo last issue we received the following intell from K/75th Alumnus Ken Martin, former member of K/75th and L/75th:

I'll identify those that I am able to: Left to right standing, starting 5th from left is Michael Stepanae of PA, Joseph "Hercules" Naperkowski of Wilkes-Barre, PA, Mark "Big

John" Gerrasch of Cleveland, OH, and Steve Gamble of KY; Seated left to right, (myself) Ken Martin of Pensacola, FL, and John Martin of Los Angeles, CA.

Big John and myself were picked up later by L/75th when K/75th was deactivated.

I handed down my CAR-15 to Billy Nix when I left country. Last spoke to Billy in person at his home in Marietta approximately one month ago.

News from the Regiment

Colonel William F. Kernan assumed command of the 75th Ranger Regiment from Colonel (P) Wesley B. Taylor, Jr., at a change of command ceremony June 30, 1989, at Fort Benning, GA.

The hosting officer was Major General Michael F. Spigelmire, Fort Benning Commander, with Brigadier General James A. Guest serving as the reviewing officer.

COL Kernan was commissioned in November 1968 from OCS at Ft. Benning. His initial assignment was with the 1st Bde, 82nd Airborne, as the LNO and S-3 Air. Assigned to Vietnam in August 1969, Kernan served with the 1/327th Infantry, 101st, as a rifle platoon leader, recon platoon leader, and assistant S-3. Following his tour in Vietnam, Kernan was assigned to the 2/325th Airborne, 82nd, as a company commander.

He has also served with the Army's Recruiting Command, commanded two companies and served as the assistant S-3 of the 2/75th Rangers, and attended the Infantry Officer's Advanced Course and Command and General Staff College.

Following assignments at DA and the Military Personnel Center, Kernan was selected in August 1981 to serve as an exchange officer representing the 82nd Airborne Division to the British Parachute Regiment. During his two years with the Parachute Regiment he commanded Company C, 3rd Paras.

Following his tour with the Parachute Regiment Kernan served as the XO and then CO of 2/508th Airborne, attended the Army War College, and then commanded the 1/75th Rangers. In December 1988 he assumed duties as the deputy commander, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Colonel Kernan and his wife Marianne have one son, Keith. The Association wishes the Colonel and his family the best during his command of the Regiment.



Team 17, L/75th Rangers: Dan Roberts (front center), Bill Marry (front right) KIA May 1969, and Bill McCabe (top right). Names of the Rangers at top and bottom left are unknown.



From George R. Acree, Jr., G/75th Rangers: Team Oregon photo taken at Chu-Lai during April or May 1971. (l-r, standing) SP4 Frank Alauser, New York; SGT Brookbush, Salt Lake City, Utah; and, George R. "Grease" Acree, Jr., Forestville, Maryland. (l-r, kneeling) SP4 Triddle, Hershey, PA; SP4 Ernie "ti-ti-soldier" Horne; and a new guy from 1/96th Infantry that the team was training. The team leader was missing from the photo. Shortly after this picture was taken G/75th was split in order to cover a greater area of operations. The "second" company was called 2/G/75th Ranger. We had one of the greatest area of operations in Vietnam.

**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**

Letters

From CPT Donald J. Lash, Jr., E/51st LRSU:

I have been especially pleased to receive a few letters from former members of my company because of information published in **Patrolling**. I hope that more alumni of E/51st - G/75th will write to tell their story.

I am very pleased to announce two very special events that were conducted in the name of G/75th's Medal of Honor winner, SSG Robert J. Pruden. The first event was an extension of the 1988 Pruden Competition. The 1989 Pruden Competition (Best Long Range Surveillance Team) pitted teams from all over Europe. Teams competed from V Corps, VII Corps, 3rd Armored division, and 3rd Infantry Division. The competition was based on the mission essential tasks of an LRS team: Move, identify, communicate, and survive. First place honors went to Team 2, 3rd Platoon, E/51st Infantry, led by SSG Robert Saiz.

The second event was the dedication of the 165th Military Intelligence Battalion HQs building at Darmstadt as Pruden Hall. The dedication ceremony was held on July 14, in conjunction with the Battalion's organization day. Special guests of the V Corps were the parents of SSG Pruden, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pruden of Merrifield, Minnesota. The ceremony was attended by the Darmstadt Community Commander, MG Cercy, and the Acting V Corps Commander, MG Eckelbarger.

As you can see, we are very proud of our historical lineage with the LRRPs and the 75th Ranger Regiment. We hope to promote similar activities in the future.



Grenada Vet "on rappel," during Ranger demonstration at the 1988 National Reunion.



Tom Finnie, F/75th Rangers: Took up the bagpipes recently and is a member of the Syracuse Kiltie Pipe Band (Should we team him up with "Bagpipes" from 74th LRP?). In the top photo Tom is showing off his new outfit for his mother. In the bottom photo the band is marching in a parade. According to Tom, they play at most of the field days and parades in the area, and "it's just another good reason to drink."

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Medal of Honor winner honored

Marlys and Larry Pruden remove the cover from a plaque located on the side of Bldg. 4213 on Kelley Barracks July 14 during a dedication in honor of their son, SSgt. Robert Pruden. The building houses the headquarters of the 165th Military Intelligence Battalion. Their son sacrificed his life for his fellow soldiers and his country on Nov. 20, 1969 and was awarded the Medal of Honor for his acts. He was assigned to Company G, 75th Rangers, the predecessor unit of Company E, 51st Infantry, of the 165th. Marlys Pruden said that she believes that the living must be remembered as

well. "They (the Vietnam soldiers) were made to believe that did something wrong, and they didn't. They must be remembered." The Prudens are from Merrifield, Minn. Pruden's other awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, and Purple Heart. Also attending the ceremony were Maj. Gen. Donald Eckelbarger, V Corps deputy commander, and Maj. Gen. Travis Dyer, deputy commander of the 32nd AADCOR, as well as soldiers and friends of the 165th. (Photo by Princess Sullivan)

Pruden competition

TOP PHOTO: Soldiers with Team 2, 3rd platoon of Company E, 51st Infantry, bandage a fellow soldier's leg during the first aid category of this year's Pruden competition June 22-23 at Kelley Barracks. The competition is named after SSgt. Robert Pruden, a Medal of Honor winner in Vietnam where he was a member of Company G, 75th Rangers, the predecessor unit of Company E. First place went to Team 2, directed by SSgt. Robert Saiz. The members of the team include SSgt. Manuel Enriquez, Sgt. Patrick Hughes, Spec. James Guinn, Spec. Timothy Pendergrass and Spec. Raymond Draper. Team 1, 2nd platoon of Company E, took second, followed by Team 2, 2nd platoon of Company E.

RIGHT PHOTO: A "victim" is carried to a secure location after being treated for shock and other injuries. Nine teams from units throughout USAREUR, including the 3rd Armored Division and the 3rd Infantry Division, took part in the competition which tests soldiers' skills in vehicle identification, first aid, NBC, land navigation, and endurance in the form of a 16 1/2 mile road march. (Photos by Princess Sullivan)



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Jump in Taiwan

The International Association of Airborne Veterans has planned a jump with the Chinese Airborne on Taiwan for October 21-31, 1989. The



cost runs about \$2,300 - including air fare from about 50 different cities. For more information call 312-327-3120.

Questions?

Membership, contact Billy Nix or Don Lynch

Association policies and activities, contact Billy Nix

Newsletter input, contact Jim England



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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

Directors:

Steve Woodson, C/75; Roger Roberts, D/75; Dave Harris, E/75;
Steve Castile, G/75; Ron Crews, I/75; Leslie Williams, K/75;
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