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75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION INC

PO BOX 670174 MARIETTA GA 30066



PATROLLING

MARCH 1990

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 1

Operation Just Cause

By T.S. "Speedy" Gonzales

The ground shook like a San Francisco earthquake and wind howled like Hurricane Hugo as Manuel Noriega's back was engulfed by yellow streaks and his feet went into triple-time and he ran!

It was O'Dark-Thirty as Rangers from the 75th Ranger Regiment made another combat jump putting them in league with the troopers who have gone down before in Europe, the Pacific, Korea, Vietnam, and Grenada. And, as a matter of fact, many of the Vietnam and Grenada veterans were still around doing Ranger business and blasted over Panama.

Wounded Rangers were swiftly Medivaced to San Antonio, Texas, where they received care at Willford Hall Medical Hospital, Lackland Air Force Base. **They were not alone, ignored, or forgotten.**

On December 29, 1989, the wounded Rangers were visited by three members of the Association with a mission:

- Try and cheer them up;
- To let them know we are behind them 100% plus;
- To share a common bond of fraternal Ranger affection with them; and,
- To show unity unequalled by other military or civilian organizations.

Rangers visited were: SSG Ralph Borja from Agana, Guam, C 3/75th; SGT Kyle Kelly from Santee, Calif., C 3/75th; SGT David Reeves from Woodstock, Georgia, C 3/75th; PVT Dennis Wilson from Santa Monica, Calif., C 3/75th; and, SGT William Swinciki from Bay City, Michigan, B 2/75th.

Their visitors were: T. "Speedy" Gonzales, O/75th & F/51st LRP; Richard Gamez, I/75th & F/52nd LRP; and, John Meli, F/51st LRP & 173rd Abn. They all hail from the Austin, Texas LURP Team.

Other visitors cheering the Rangers up were family members able to make the trip through the generosity of millionaire and former Navy man H. Ross Perot. Thank you sir!

The Hospital Commander observing three dudes wearing Tiger fatigues, black berets, and 75th Ranger Association T-Shirts knew **exactly** who we were there to see. Colonel Grinstaff, a Vietnam veteran himself

- who flew combat and DUSTOFF missions, understood the close bonding of Rangers and approved the visit when first approached. He took us directly to the Ward because security was tight with the President's forthcoming visit. Our T-Shirts carried their own clout and we had **no** trouble with security people. Colonel Grinstaff's entire staff was thoroughly professional and we applaud them for their cooperation and sincerity. They went out of their way to be helpful and we hope to return the favor one day.

Smiles turned to happiness when we entered the Rangers' rooms and that instant, magical, bonding surfaced, with these, the third generation to fight carrying the lineage of the famous Merrill's Marauders from World War II. Mutual respect was obvious amongst old and new Rangers and our chests were swelled up with such pride for these new Ranger Vets that we **hulked** out of our T-Shirts in the photo (smile) - replacements are on the way.

We found that "Lessons Learned" long ago are still in place and increased the Rangers' survivability. These new **combat Rangers** have proven they take their lineage seriously from the Marauders, LRRPs, and Vietnam Ranger units.

During the pre-dawn parachute assault in Panama, two brothers carved out their place in Ranger history stone tablets. PFC Warren and PFC Dennis Wilson jumped together into Noriega's domain . . . which may be the reason he ran (smile). We recognize their professional readiness and are proud for them for any recognition they receive for their gallantry.

Editor's Note: Ranger Joe Mendoza called from Columbus, GA, asking what he could do to help these guys and their families. An offer was made locally in Columbus, GA, through the wife of one of the Rangers to the wife of the Regimental Commander, however they apparently had things under control.

Ranger Lester "Scotty" Scott, F/51st & L/75th, would like to hook-up with Association members that live in Alabama - if you're one drop him a card: 1213 Park Ave., Tarrant, AL 35217.

Personal Change of Address

Association costs for mailing each copy of the newsletter is approximately 10¢. When newsletters are returned because someone has moved and failed to notify us, the Postal Service charges the Association an additional 30¢ to return the newsletter and provide us the new address - if you left one with them. We have to re-mail the newsletter at an expense of 45¢ because it's no longer a bulk mailing. Our average number of address changes each mailing is fifty. Therefore, $10¢ + 30¢ + 45¢ \times 50 = \42.50 , or nearly two plaques we could provide RIP Honor Graduates. **Henceforth:** Any member who fails to provide the Association with a change of address will not have his newsletter re-mailed unless they remit \$1.00 to cover postage and handling to the treasurer, Nick Gibbone - Help us save! **Billy J. Nix, President**

Elections Ahead

With the national reunion just around the corner, we must prepare for the election of unit and national representatives and directors in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws, Article XI, (Leadership) paragraphs 8 thru 14, to wit: A president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and thirteen (13) directors-at-large who represent both the Long Range Patrol and 75th Ranger units.

All directors are elected for two years and may not stand for re-election without a two year break in **official** status.

Because of the criticality of the positions of secretary and treasurer, persons holding tenure in either may be elected to office as president/vice president and, consecutively return to their former positions as secretary and treasurer. That may occur one time only. The same individual secretary and treasurer may be re-elected to those positions on a recurring basis however at the pleasure of the Association membership, but not again ascend to president/vice president status without a two year break.

Officer directors and unit representatives are not reimbursed for costs involved in those positions, however, the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer are reimbursed for exclusive Association matters involving printing, postage, and telephone costs; properly documented by the secretary, approved by the president, and paid by the treasurer.

Names of proposed candidates and the position for which standing will be provided to the president, with a letter of acceptance from the nominee, not

later than **June 30, 1990**. Nominations may be taken from the floor, however, frivolous nominations waste time and effort. There will not be absentee ballots. A written proxy is acceptable if the signature is verifiable with Association records.

Things to be considered when selecting/electing unit/national directors:

1. Can they afford the personal expenses involved?

2. Do they have the knowledge, skills, and ability to perform their duties?

3. Do they have the drive to complete the Associations business on time?

4. Is a unit representative able and willing to absorb mail and telephone costs of his unit involvement?

5. Is a national director/officer able and willing to assume those much greater non-reimbursable expenses involved in travel, postage, printing, copying, telephone calls, etc.; notwithstanding those they are authorized reimbursement for when properly documented?

6. Are they known to fix things that are not broken?

7. Are they willing to represent **all** LRP and 75th Ranger members, or is their view narrow (within unit)?

8. Do they have ego problems dealing with non-Airborne members of this Association who performed identical missions under like conditions?

9. Are they really your best selection for the task at hand or just an emotional reaction to the "good-old-boy" network?

10. Think about it and gives us your input before June 30 - send it to Billy Nix, President.

Roll Call, New Members

Andrew Connelly, C/75th (now at Fort Benning, GA)

Don "Pat" Avery, HQ G-2 LRRP, 1st CAV Div.

Clark W. Etterman, F/51st LRP

Mike Cartwright, F/51st LRP and P/75th Rangers

Donald Glen Miller, M/75th Rangers

Robert C. Kazmierczak, L/75th Rangers

Jerome R. Phillips, K/75th Rangers

Gary L. Maxson, D/17th LRRP

Fred C. Forehand, F/75th Rangers

MSG James D. Wilson, 1/101 **original** "Tiger Force" LRRP, Jul 65 - Jun 66

Ranger Bruce Sartwell, E/50th LRRP, would like to here from fellow LRRPs that served with E/50th, 9th Division in 1968 time frame. Telephone 603-225-6559, 6 Roy St., Concord, NH 03301

Reunion 1990

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association will be having its 2nd National Reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the Marriott Hotel, from July 12th thru July 15th, 1990.

The Marriott of Colorado Springs is located at 5580 Tech Center Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80919-2339, and the phone number is 719-260-1800.

We have blocked off 200 rooms for our Association at the cost of \$70.00 per night, single or double. All meetings and banquets will be held within the Marriott Hotel. We are presently attempting to negotiate an additional meal outside the hotel and further information will be forthcoming as soon as possible.

Additional information, as far as transportation and rental cars, is presently under negotiation and you will be informed in the next newsletter or by separate letter.

Make your reservations by contacting the Hotel at the address shown.

See you in Colorado, Billy J. Nix.

Ranger John Madden, if anyone served with the LRRPs or Rangers, 25th Inf. Div., and knows anything about Nui-Ba-Din Mt. mission, summer '68, which included PFC Ackney, Gries, and SGT Aiello, please contact John Madden C/O Adrienne Simidian, 34 Lake Shore Drive RFD #3, Carmel, New York, 10512, Telephone 914-225-8801.

Ranger James D. Wilson, 1/101 LRRP, would like to make contact with members of the original LRRP unit, 1/101st from 1965-66. Contact him at Cornell Station P.O. Box 792, Bronx, NY 10173, telephone (home) 212-328-1768, (work) 212-292-9864.

Ranger Robert A. McHardy, L/75th, would like some help in substantiating a claim he has pending with the VA (C#27142157). Anyone aware of then-SP4 Robert A. McHardy being wounded by artillery fire on December 7, 1970, around the A Shau Valley, please contact a VA official with the claim number, or send a statement to McHardy. You can contact McHardy at 805-481-1187, P.O. Box 695, Avila Beach, CA 93424.

McHardy would also like to contact guys he served with, especially John Perz, William McCabe, Richard (?) Danner, and Robert Courtney.

Reunion 1992

If you would like to have the '92 Reunion (or later one) in **your AO**, please read on. Bob Gilbert, during his term as the Association president, had broken the country down into six arbitrary-areas with an eye towards getting LRRPs and Rangers together. Using those same areas would be a simple way of moving the reunions around the country every two years. The areas break down as follows:

Area 1: Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana.

Area 2: North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois.

Area 3: All the states east of Area 2 and north of Tennessee and North Carolina.

Area 4: California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona.

Area 5: Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

Area 6: All states south of Area 3 and east of the Mississippi River.

For those LRRPs and Rangers living in Hawaii, Alaska, and other far-flung locations, you weren't forgotten. The areas are broken down based on accessibility by automobile.

If you are interested in planning a future reunion, do all your homework and contact the Association president.

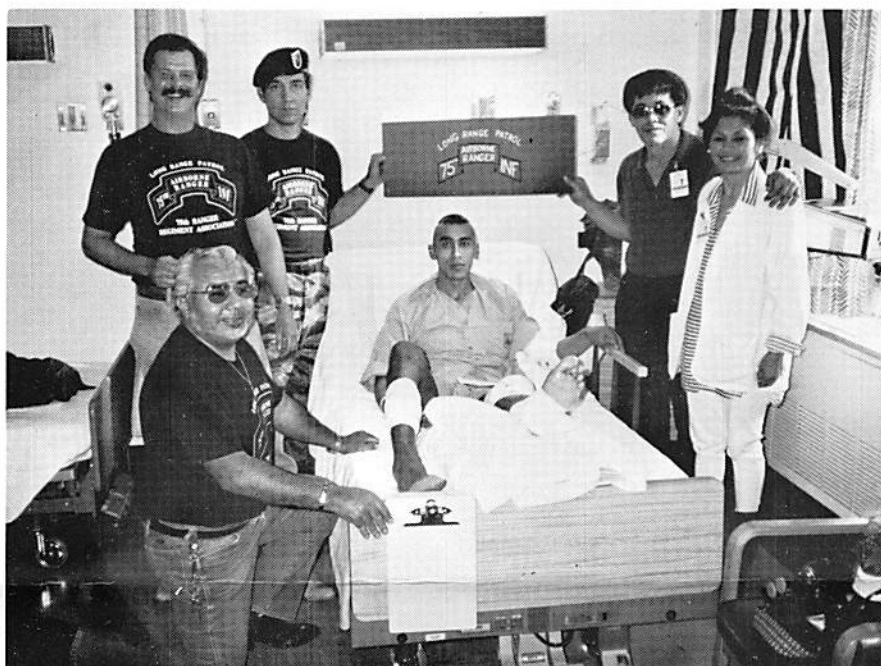
You should check with your local chamber of commerce, hotels/motels, food service and caterers, factories, beverage distributors, airlines, ground transportation people, entertainers, and so on. Then come to the next scheduled reunion, in this case July 1990, and present your plan at the General Membership Meeting. The membership would vote on where they want the next reunion held (which would be in 1992 at this time), and then you run with the ball instead of the Association headquarters.

The Association would work a deal with the reunion organizer whereby a percentage of the reunion profits from the sale of association controlled items would be given to the reunion committee from that area for the express purpose of getting all LRRPs and Rangers from their area together for a BBQ, dance, or whatever. The control factor here is that all funds must be accountable through the organizers, treasurer, etc., and all receipts for services and expenses be provided to insure strict accountability of all Association monies.

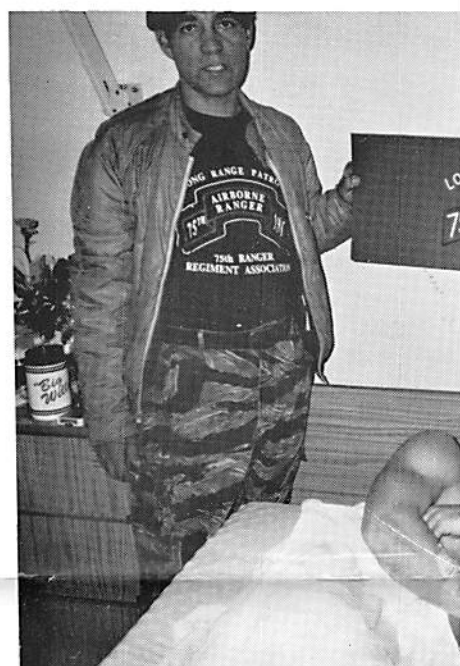
OK, on your mark, get set, DII

Ranger David "Brandy" Brandenburg, F/52th & I/75th, sent us a list of KIAs he knew of and asks that any guys he served with to drop him a line at: N2817 Hwy 57, New Holstein, Wisconsin 53061. Thanks Brandy

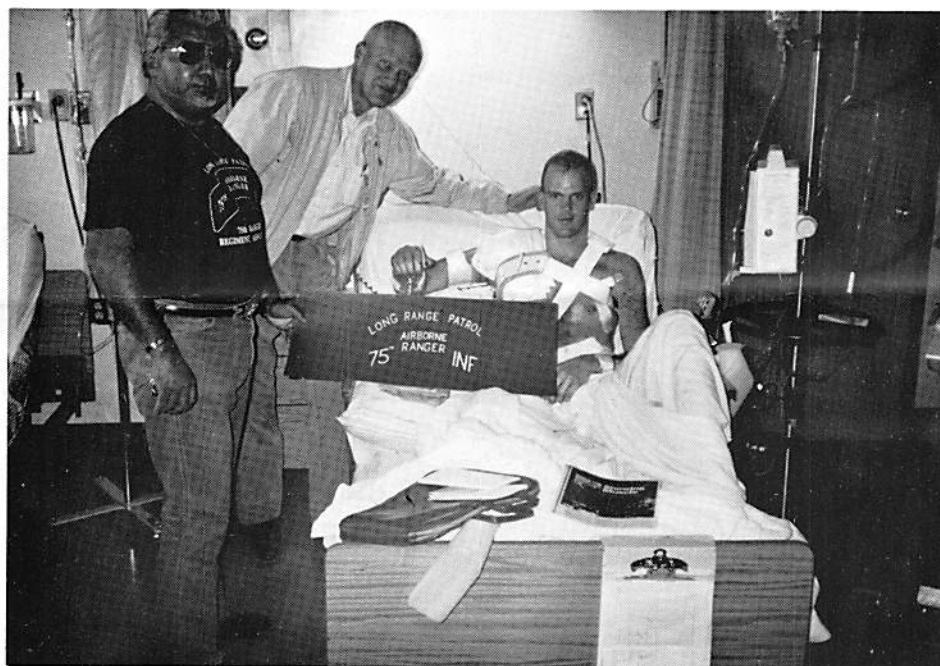
HOOAH!



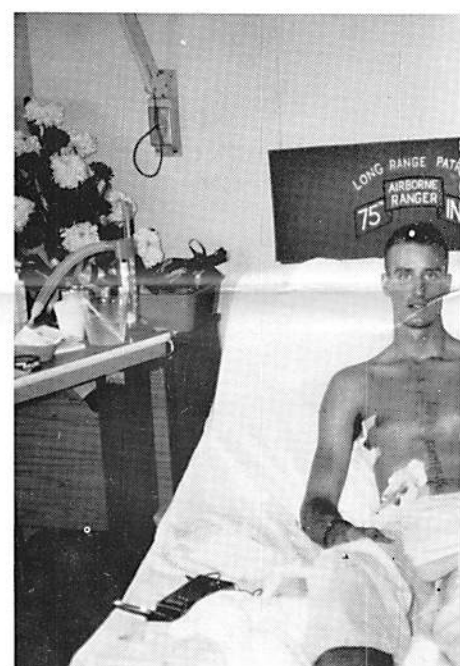
Kneeling: "Speedy", standing L-R J. Meli R. Gamez, SSG Ralph Borja in bed ... and Ralph Sr. and Mary Borja.



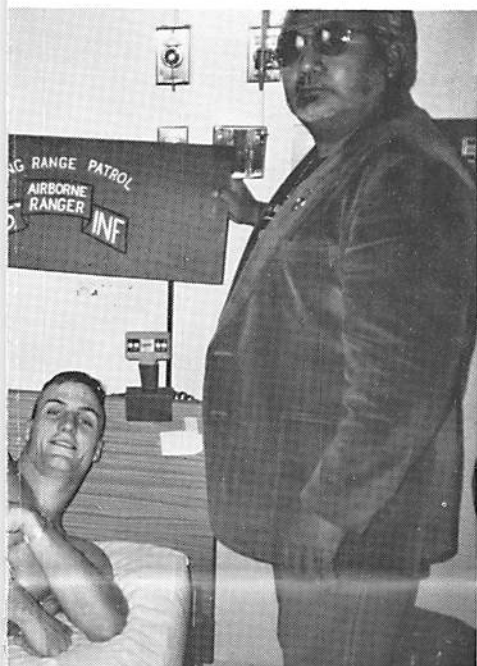
L-R R. Gamez, Sgt W. prior to going into



L-R Speedy, Mr. Reeves and Sgt D. Reeves.



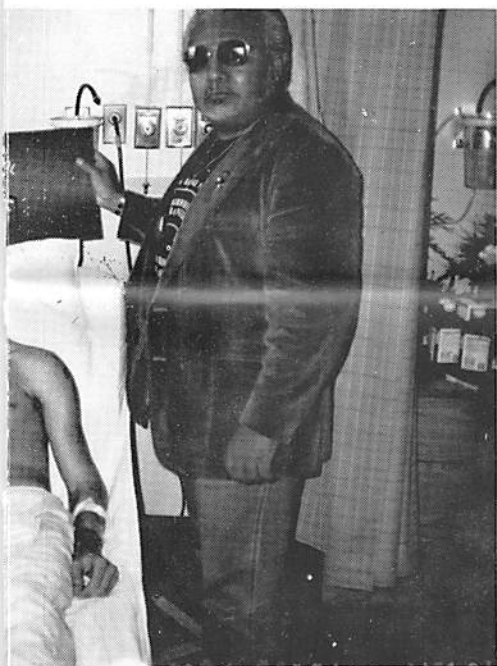
L-R Sgt K. Kelley painted by Speedy over Sgt Kelley's



Swinciki, Speedy, just
surgery.



Kneeling: J. Meli, Standing L-R Sgt D.
Reeves, SSG Borja, in bed, Speedy, Sgt K.
Kelley, R. Gamez and Private Wilson.



and Speedy. The scroll
appears to form a halo
head.



L-R J. Meli, R. Gamez, SSG Borja, Speedy
and Private Wilson.



MSG Rudy Teodosio N/75, and an unidentified trooper ready to greet the crisp air during a MFF operation, Yakima Center, Washington.

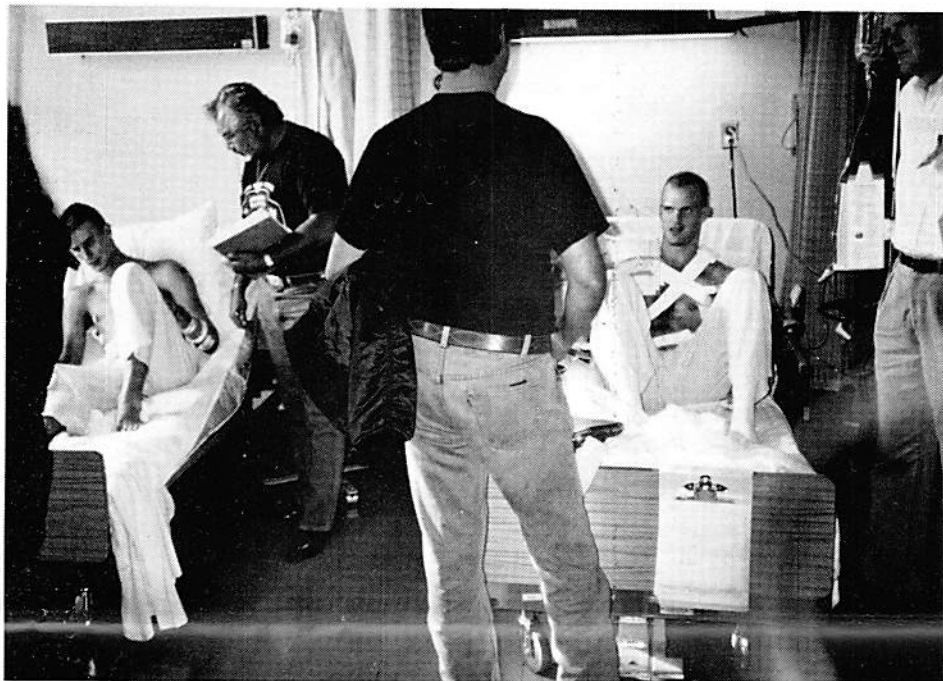


MSG Ruby Teodosio N/75, and HALO team members show their first point of contact to the camera as they make an Artic blast. Helluva way to go Polar Bear hunting Rudy.

OPERATION JUST CAUSE

By T.S.(Speedy)Gonzales

Rangers wounded in Panama and sent to San Antonio Texas area Hospitals were visited by members of the Vietnam Long Range Patrol and 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Men who took a solemn vow to NEVER allow any Veterans to return home and be confronted with verbal abuse many Vietnam Veterans did while a very silent majority of Americans stood by failing to provide moral support. Rangers T.S. Gonzales a former member of Company F, 51st Infantry Long Range Patrol and Company O, 75th Rangers, Richard Gamez Company F, 52nd Infantry Long Range Patrol and Company I, 75th Rangers along with John W. Meli of Company F, 51st Infantry Long Range Patrol and the 173rd Abn. Bde., all of whom are members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, all of whom live in Austin, Texas made the trip to visit wounded Regimental members. An interesting asides note is that Ranger Joe Mendoza from Columbus, Georgia who served in Companies O and L 75th Infatry Vietnam made a similar offer to help locally, however, the wife of one of the Rangers in Panama who made the offer to assist advised us the Regimental Commander's wife advised they had things under control and a lot of help unavailable in Texas, so we backed off in Georgia. Interestinly enough, Joe Mendoza is also an Austin Texas lad.



Rock and Roll (wild shot) taken as we entered the Ranger's Hospital room, L-R Sgt Kelley, Speedy, J. Meli (back to the camera), Sgt Reeves and Mr. Reeves.

*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*

Read / do it / Hooah

Ranger Roger L. Roberts, F/51st, E/20th, & C/75th sent this information in response to our request for information on KIAs, and MOH/DSC winners - it has been edited for length.

It appears from my research, that the final KIAs were from H/75th, June 9, 1972, near Tan Uyen. They were Jeffrey Maurer and Elvis Osborne. The first KIA from F/51st also was near Tan Uyen, SP4 Daniel Lindsay, December 5, 1967.

David C. Dolby (five tours!) served with C/75th in '68 or '69 and won a Medal of Honor with B 1/8th CAV in May, 1966. I know of two DSC winners, Billy Walkabout, L/75th, and SSG Harold D. "Ranger" Williams, C/75th. Williams as well as team member Frank Walthers were KIA after attacking an NVA command post, killing 11 (?) officers, August 1, 1969.

Roger also provided a five-page listing of Ranger/LRP KIAs which will be printed at a later date.

Memorial Scholarship Fund Announced

Ranger Medic James Markwell, 1/75th Rangers, is being remembered and honored through a scholarship fund.

Markwell was killed in action during Operation Just Cause in Panama, December, 1989. His family started the scholarship which will be awarded in his honor to a graduate from his former high school.

Donations are being sought to fund the award and may be sent to the following address:

Jim Markwell
Memorial Scholarship Fund
C/O Central Trust Bank, Department 500
Cincinnati, Ohio 45296

Thanks to SGT Donald K. Sherman, C 3/75th Rangers, for this timely information. We wish the family success in their effort.



Questions?

Membership, contact Billy Nix

Association policies and activities, contact Billy Nix

Newsletter input, contact Jim England



PATROLLING

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Roy Boatman, N/75*

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