

# PATROLLING

FALL 2009 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 24 ISSUE II



*Ranger Memorial, Ft. Benning, GA*

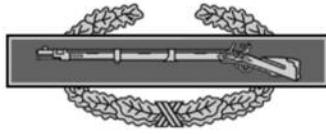
Officers' Messages .....	1-10
General.....	11-29 & 71-80
Unit Reports .....	30-70

CHINA - BURMA - INDIA VIETNAM IRAN GRENADA PANAMA IRAQ SOMALIA AFGHANISTAN





*Don & Vergie Bizadi at the banquet, Saturday, August 8, 2009. Behind them is a larger replica of the Navajo rug they presented to the Association at the banquet.*



**WHO WE ARE:** The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501 (c) corporation, registered in the State of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F/58, (LRP) and L/75 (Ranger). The first meeting was held on June 7, 1986, at Ft. Campbell, KY.

**OUR MISSION:**

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible 75th Infantry Rangers, and members of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Companies, Long Range Patrol Companies, Ranger Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan; 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 75th Ranger Regiment.
2. To sustain the Association. *Unlike the WWII Battalions and Merrill's Marauders, the 75RRA accepts members and former members of the Active Ranger Battalions. By doing so we are perpetuating the association. It will not "die off" as these two organizations someday will.*
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, and 3rd Ranger Battalions, successor units, or additions to the Regiment.

**WHAT WE DO:**

During the last five years we have provided financial support to the young men of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Each year, through contributions from our members and some outside sources, we have provided about \$4,000.00 to each of the three Ranger Battalions and \$2,000.00 to the Regimental HQ. These funds enabled the families of the junior enlisted men, (E-5 & below) to get certificates for toys for the children and turkeys for Christmas dinner.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE:**

**SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol**

- A. V Corp (LRRP)
- B. VII Corp (LRRP)
- C. 9th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- D. 25th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- E. 196th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
- F. 1st Cav. Div. (LRRP)
- G. 1st Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- H. 4th Inf. Div. (LRRP)
- I. 101st Abn. Div., 1st Bde. (LRRP)
- J. 199th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)
- K. 173rd Abn. Bde. (LRRP)
- L. 3rd Inf. Div. (LRRP)

**SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol**

- A. Co D (LRP) 17th Inf.
- B. Co E (LRP) 20th Inf.
- C. Co E (LRP) 30th Inf.
- D. Co E (LRP) 50th Inf.
- E. Co F (LRP) 50th Inf.
- F. Co E (LRP) 51st Inf.
- G. Co F (LRP) 51st Inf.
- H. Co E (LRP) 52nd Inf.

- I. Co F (LRP) 52nd Inf.
- J. Co C (LRP) 58th Inf.
- K. Co E (LRP) 58th Inf.
- L. Co F (LRP) 58th Inf.
- M. 70th Inf. DET (LRP)
- N. 71st Inf. DET (LRP)
- O. 74th Inf. DET (LRP)
- P. 78th Inf. DET (LRP)
- Q. 79th Inf. DET (LRP)
- R. Co D (LRP) 151st Inf.

**SECTION 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies**

- A. Co A (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- B. Co B (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- C. Co C (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- D. Co D (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- E. Co E (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- F. Co F (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- G. Co G (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- H. Co H (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- I. Co I (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- J. Co K (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- K. Co L (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- L. Co M (RANGER) 75th Inf.

We have funded trips for families to visit their wounded sons and husbands while they were in the hospital. We have purchased a learning program soft ware for the son of one young Ranger who had a brain tumor removed. The Army took care of the surgery, but no means existed to purchase the learning program. We fund the purchase of several awards for graduates of RIP and Ranger School. We have contributed to each of the three Battalion's Memorial Funds and Ranger Balls, and to the Airborne Memorial at Ft. Benning. We have bi-annual reunions and business meetings. Our Officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice-Presidents, Secretary & Treasurer), are elected at this business meeting. This reunion coincides with the 75th Ranger Regiment's Ranger Rendezvous, and is at Columbus, GA. (Ft. Benning). We have off year reunions at various locations around the country.

**PRESIDENTS:**

1986-1988	Bob Gilbert
1988-1990	Billy Nix
1990-1992	Bob Gilbert
1992-1994	Roy Nelson (resigned) Milton Lockett (resigned) Duke Dushane (appointed by Directors)
1994-1996	Roy Barley
1996-1998	Rick Erlher
1998-2000	Terry Roderick
2000-2002	Emmett Hiltibrand
2002-2004	Dana McGrath
2004-2005	Emmett Hiltibrand
2005-2007	Stephen Crabtree
2007-2009	William Bullen
2009-2011	John Chester

- M. Co N (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- N. Co O (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- O. Co P (RANGER) 75th Inf.
- P. Co D (RANGER) 151st Inf.

**SECTION 5: Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ**

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

**SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment**

- A. 1st Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1974.
- B. 2nd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1974.
- C. 3rd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf., activated in 1984.
- D. 75th Ranger Regiment HQ's Company, activated in 1984.

**SECTION 7: 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 above.



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

Bill Bohte  
44155 Camino Azul  
La Quinta, CA 92253  
760-345-5590  
Email: [lrpbill@verizon.net](mailto:lrpbill@verizon.net)

**B/75 – C/58 LRP – VII CORPS LRRP**

Marc L. Thompson  
80 Rock Ridge Road  
Morgantown, PA 19543  
H-610-913-8183  
C-610-763-2756  
F-610-873-8665  
Email: [mthomp@dejazzd.com](mailto:mthomp@dejazzd.com)

**C/75 – E/20 LRP**

Chuck Vaughn  
2808 Audubon Drive  
Audubon, PA 19403  
(610) 676-0691  
Email: [emptyhand@comcast.net](mailto:emptyhand@comcast.net)

**D/75**

Richard “Herd” Nelson  
1515 W. Washington St.  
Apt. 9  
Orlando, FL 32805-6705  
407-454-7478  
E-mail: [rnelson@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rnelson@cfl.rr.com)

**E/75 – E/50 LRP – 9th DIV LRRP**

Rick Stetson  
Box 1250  
Duxbury, MA 02332  
H-781-934-8504  
Fax 781-934-0395  
Email: [rickstetson@aol.com](mailto:rickstetson@aol.com)

**E/75 – E/50 – 25th DIV LRRP**

Tim Walsh  
5550 Carleton-Rockwood Rd.  
South Rockwood, MI 48179  
H-313-590-6673  
[twalshx2@comcast.net](mailto:twalshx2@comcast.net)

**G/75 – E/51 LRP – 196th LRRP**

Clifford M. Manning  
PO Box 148  
Woodbine, GA 31569  
H-912-576-5881  
Email: [tulmann@tds.net](mailto:tulmann@tds.net)

**H/75 – E/52 LRP – 1st CAV LRRP**

William T. Anton  
H -702-648-9836  
Email: [polarbear\\_ranger\\_h75\\_75rra\\_lm0044@runbox.com](mailto:polarbear_ranger_h75_75rra_lm0044@runbox.com)

**I/75 – E/52 LRP – 1st DIV LRRP**

Bob McGath  
647 Water Tower Rd.  
Murrayville, IL 62668  
H-217-370-9008  
Email: [bnjmcgath@gmail.com](mailto:bnjmcgath@gmail.com)

**K/75 – E/58 LRP – 4th DIV LRRP**

Roger T. Crunk  
1159 19 Road  
Fruita, CO 81521  
H-970-858-4579  
Email: [rogertcrunk@msn.com](mailto:rogertcrunk@msn.com)

**L/75 – E/58 LRP – 1/101st LRRP**

Jerry Gomes  
PO Box 1570  
Sandy, OR 97055  
503-668-6127  
Email: [azores46@verizon.net](mailto:azores46@verizon.net)

## UNIT DIRECTORS

**M/75 – 71st LRP – 199th LRRP**

Steve Houghton  
4972 N. Hillman Rd.  
Lake View, MI 48850  
H-989-365-9213  
Email: [escort@pathwaynet.com](mailto:escort@pathwaynet.com)

**N/75 – 74th LRP – 173rd LRRP**

Robert ‘Twin’ Henriksen  
2218 Augustine Dr.  
Ferndale, WA 98248  
H-360-393-7790  
Email: [novrgroco@gmail.com](mailto:novrgroco@gmail.com)

**O/75 – 78th LRP**

Michael L. Feller  
16676 6th St.  
Wellston MI 49689  
231-848-4948  
Email: [michigami@kaltelnet.net](mailto:michigami@kaltelnet.net)

**P/75 – 79th LRP**

Terry B. Roderick  
25 Carleton Dr.  
Cocoa, FL 32922-7003  
H-321-631-3213  
Email: [rgrock@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rgrock@cfl.rr.com)

**D/151 LRP/RANGER**

Leon Moore  
3433 W. Randolph Co. Line Rd.  
Fountain City, IN 47371  
H-765-874-1996  
Email: [leomoo@verizon.net](mailto:leomoo@verizon.net)

**F/51 LRP**

Russell Dillon  
39 Pearl St.  
Wakeman, OH 44889  
H-440-839-2607  
Email: [russmarilyn@verizon.net](mailto:russmarilyn@verizon.net)

**HQ, 75th RANGER REGT**

Richard (Rick) Barella  
PSC 45 Box 1248  
APO AE 09468  
PH 011-44-1423-507480  
Cell 011-44-7711-129772  
Email: [dabarelas@msn.com](mailto:dabarelas@msn.com)

**1st BN, 75th RANGER RGT**

Michael T. Etheridge  
912-884-6157  
Email: [michael.t.etheridge@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.t.etheridge@us.army.mil)

**2nd BN, 75th RANGER RGT**

Nate Smith  
PMB 276  
17404 Meridian Ave.  
Suite F  
Puyallup, WA 98375  
253-255-3085  
Email: [rangersmith275@comcast.net](mailto:rangersmith275@comcast.net)

**3rd BN, 75th RANGER RGT**

Scott Billingslea  
5513 Costa Mesa Drive  
Keller, TX 76248  
817-741-2505  
Email: [rangerinvictus@gmail.com](mailto:rangerinvictus@gmail.com)

**LRRP DETACHMENT- 3rd ID**

Michael McClintock  
2323 Armada Way  
San Mateo, CA 94403  
H-650-341-7331  
Email: [oldlrp62@aol.com](mailto:oldlrp62@aol.com)

**ARVN RANGER ADV. (BDQ)**

Bill Miller  
1090 Brightwood Dr.  
Aiken, SC 29803  
H-803-641-9504  
Email: [bietdongquan@yahoo.com](mailto:bietdongquan@yahoo.com)

The following individuals are appointed by the President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association to their respective positions in order to facilitate the day-to-day operation of the Association.

**Association VA Advocate**

Dan Nate  
408 Elm Street  
Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097  
H-856-848-9174  
[Dannate1@comcast.net](mailto:Dannate1@comcast.net)

**Web Master**

Dave Regenthal  
[dregenthal@comcast.net](mailto:dregenthal@comcast.net)  
H-239-207-1145

**USSOCOM Representative**

Smokey Wells  
[rgwells@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:rgwells@tampabay.rr.com)

**Gold Star Mother Advocate**

Sandee Rouse  
[GoldStars75thRRA@aol.com](mailto:GoldStars75thRRA@aol.com)

**Gold Star Wife Advocate**

Sandy Harris  
[SANDY5790@aol.com](mailto:SANDY5790@aol.com)

**Association Legal Counsel**

John Chester  
[john.chester3@verizon.net](mailto:john.chester3@verizon.net)  
James Savage

**Association Photographer**

S. J. “Peter” Parker  
[75thPhotographer@airborne-ranger.com](mailto:75thPhotographer@airborne-ranger.com)  
Link to site:  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/rangerpete/>

**Graphic Artist**

Dave Walker  
[lrp67aviator@prodigy.net](mailto:lrp67aviator@prodigy.net)

**State Coordinator**

Gene Tucker  
[egt12@comcast.net](mailto:egt12@comcast.net)

**Reunion Coordinator**

David Cummings  
[Davidf4f4@aol.com](mailto:Davidf4f4@aol.com)

75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association  
P. O. Box 129

Lake Orion, MI 48361

[www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org)

**President/Patrolling Editor**

John W. Chester

3208 Rueckert Ave.

Baltimore, MD 21214

H-410-426-1391

C-410-382-9344

[john.chester3@verizon.net](mailto:john.chester3@verizon.net)

**First Vice President**

Joe Little

3616 W. Bohl St.

Laveen, AZ 85339

H-602-237-0282

C-602-315-9227

[jlittle@hughes.net](mailto:jlittle@hughes.net)

**Second Vice President**

Jason D. Baker

610 Kingston Way

Ft. Mill, SC 29715

H-803-396-8064

C-206-850-8045

[jasonbaker@comporium.net](mailto:jasonbaker@comporium.net)

**Secretary**

Bill Postelnic

303 Kirksway Lane

Lake Orion, MI 48362

C-248-622-3835

[postelnic@comcast.net](mailto:postelnic@comcast.net)

**Treasurer**

Wesley Jurena

2950 E. Dublin St.

Gilbert, AZ 85295

214-557-7737

[jurena175@gmail.com](mailto:jurena175@gmail.com)

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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 that discredits unnecessarily any individual or group.

Deadlines are the 15<sup>th</sup> of February, May, August, and November for the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter Issues respectively.

**POSTMASTER**

Send address corrections to: *Patrolling*,  
PO Box 10970,  
Baltimore, MD 21234

# WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

The Association web site and *Patrolling* magazine are the windows of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. They are the principal means of communication from the Officers and Unit Directors to our members and the principal means of attracting new members. These two media sources, like the Association itself, are the property and responsibilities of all the members. We are going to highlight, in each issue, new features of each, and what our members can do to support and enhance both.

## MAGAZINE

Elsewhere in the magazine we will talk about a new writing project that we will be starting in the Fall. The obvious promotion outlets for the completed work are the *Patrolling* Magazine and the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.'s web site. In later editions of the magazine, we will furnish information on ordering the finished product, and ways in which our members can promote the book among friends, family and associates. Later in this issue we will furnish information on the project itself, and how our members can contribute to the project as individual writers.

We still have space for individuals who want to support the magazine and the Association by placing a business card size ad in the magazine. At \$100.00 for four issues, (\$150.00 if a link from our web site to theirs is included) this is a good deal. People that have done it report good results, so please let friends, family and any one you know that would profit from such a message know about this opportunity. Put them in touch with me.

## WEB SITE

Gentlemen-

Ranger Rendezvous 2009—Hot, but wow, wasn't it great? Sure was nice meeting so many of you . . . hope we'll see the rest next time. Totally awesome turnout from the current and past Battalion Troops—drive on!

Unit Directors- Please check the website for accuracy of your contact information. If there has been a personnel change which is not indicated please contact me directly. If you're picture is not up there (or you have one you like better) please e-mail it to me and the secretary so we can make the change to the website and *Patrolling* magazine. Got a Unit Director's Message? Whup it on me and I'll see that it's added . . . IN COUNTRY or RENDEVOUS pictures? Same applies.

There is a new feature on the website . . . a bulletin board. While slow to start, as many things are, I think you'll learn that it's just another cool feature for you to be able to remain in contact with each other—check it out.

You can still use the website to re-new your annual dues or pay for life membership. It's a PayPal function but you DO NOT need to have a PayPal account to use it . . . any credit card will suffice. Saves you the cost/exercise of stamps & mailing and makes it just a little easier on the secretary and treasurer. I have noticed that the post Vietnam-era folks have a leg up on utilizing this function . . . Hey, "Just do it!"

We soon expect to have a form on the website so that you can submit your pictures and articles for the President's Writers Project—Keep an eye peeled for it. All members can submit pictures and suggestions for the website and you are encouraged to do so. It's your organization, your website, let's all do what we can to make it the best.

Congratulations to the 2009-2001 Elected Officers (and Tim Walsh, replacing me as UD for F/75) and big THANK YOU to the outgoing folks who did a really fine job!

Dave Regenthal F/50<sup>th</sup> F/75<sup>th</sup> '68-69  
Association Webmaster



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

As most of you with any grasp of the obvious at all will note, this issue of the magazine is a little late. There are a number of reasons for this; I can always blame the reunion/rendezvous, of course, and we did extend the deadline until 1 September from the normal deadline of 15 August, but there were other complications as well. As I was laying out the issue, my mother was taken to the hospital on August 31 and passed away on September 5. I did not get a lot done that week or the week

following, due to the fact that the Labor Day weekend was in the middle and we could not schedule the funeral until September 9. Mildred, (my mother) was a staunch supporter of all things LRRP, LRP or Ranger and one of the last things she said to me was, "No flowers, if they want, they can contribute to the Ranger fund." She was a supporter of the Family Fund from Day 1, back in 2000.

I think we have time for one Mildred story. Like most mother – son relationships, ours was not conflict free. To paraphrase Pat Conroy, she did a lot of things to piss me off, like sending me to a military boarding school from the first grade, and other deeply felt transgressions that aren't worth the trouble to mention.

When I went to Vietnam, I smuggled in country, a Browning Hi-Power, 9 MM pistol. At the time it was one of the few (only?) handguns with a staggered magazine. The magazine held 13 rounds as opposed to 6 for the M 1911 .45 pistol issued by the Army. I reasoned that 14 rounds, with one up the spout, was far superior to seven, in the event that I needed a pistol. I took 150 rounds with me, but they were soon getting scarce. I related this in one of my letters home. Now I was fond of Campbell's canned clam chowder. Imagine my surprise when I opened my next care package from home, and found 6 cans of clam chowder. Two were ordinary cans of soup, and two, emptied and carefully re-sealed, were packed full of 9 MM rounds, about a hundred per can. The other two were empty, sealed, but emptied, so as to balance the weight. When the post office asked her what was in the box, and she told them clam chowder, they didn't believe her, so they opened the box, and sure enough, clam chowder. They never questioned her again. Thanks for the bullets, Mom.

I should thank everyone who voted for me for President for the vote of confidence. I am aware that I have some big shoes to fill (not size wise in Dana's case, but the footprint

was large), and I want to thank Bill Bullen for handing over an Association that is in real good shape, and for his advice and insights. I also want to thank Bob Gilbert for his words of wisdom prior to and during the reunion, and Emmett Hiltbrand, Dana McGrath and Terry Roderick for the wise counsel they have extended to me over the years as magazine editor, Secretary, and I hope, for the next two years as President. I really feel sorry for people who do not know of the wonderful energy and synergism that occurs when good men, even if their ideas are somewhat different, work together toward a common goal. I am humbled by that effort, and will do every thing in my power to hand this Association on better than I found it, as each of the individuals named above have done.

Just prior to the reunion the Association purchased a machine to make (plastic) membership cards. There was quite a bit of confusion and failed communications with the people that were supposed to make them before, so we decided to bite the bullet and just make them ourselves. The first batch should be in the mail as this is being written and the second batch will go out in a few weeks. In future, the cards will be mailed with the new member's packet.

Now comes the part I hate, because I'm always afraid that I'll leave someone out. We had more people pitch in and help than I remember from past reunions. If I leave anyone out, I apologize in advance, chalk it up to me being a little distracted.

The guys that pitched in behind the desk saved my life, (and my sanity). They included Fletcher Ruckman, John Jersey & John Jersey, Jr., Herb Reichel, Ron Coon, Bill Postelnic, Kevin Ingraham and Joe Little. A special thanks to Roger Crunk and Marc Thompson who stayed around to help all week and also helped with the computer stuff as well. Dave Cummings, thanks for running the cash to the bank, and thanks from all of us to Paul Vorhees, (Ranger Joe's) for donating the items for the raffle.

I also want to extend a personal thank you to Don and Vergie Bizadi for the beautiful Navajo rug that they presented to me and to the Association at the banquet, and I want to thank Bob Copeland and the E/75 guys for the plaque that they presented me at the banquet. Both were totally unexpected and most appreciated.

While speaking of Bob, sometimes truth is stranger than fiction. At the 2007 Reunion we raffled off a print of "God's Own Lunatics" by Joe Kline. As most of you know, Bob Copeland is Canadian. Well, he was sitting with Doug Pye, another Canadian, and he (Bob) won the print. This



**John Chester**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

year we raffled another of the same print and this year Doug Pye while sitting with Bob Copeland won the print. Go figure.

I think that most everyone that attended will agree, this was one of the best, if not the best reunion ever. Our immediate Past President, Bill Bullen, should have the lion's share of the credit for a job well done. I know how much work goes into one of these things, and Bill did a hell of a job with everything from the tee shirts to coordinating the arrangements with the Holiday Inn for the bar-b-queue and all the other little details that make a reunion work. Good job Bill.

There's an old saying that goes something like, "Find a good man, give him a job to do, and get out of his way." Bill Bullen asked Bill Postelnic to take point on the reunion banquet, and Bill P. exceeded all expectations. I have been attending reunions since 1996, and this was the best banquet that I ever attended. The table for the fallen was perfect and when CSM Rick Merritt read the names for the Once an Eagle Ceremony, I don't think there was a dry eye in the house. The speakers were great, they were cogent and on point, and things moved along in a timely manner, without being rushed. I want to extend from all of us, an **OUTSTANDING** to Bill Postelnic. Oh, and Bill, about the 2011 banquet?

### Writer's Project

I have been kicking this idea around for a couple of years, and since I'm not Secretary anymore, I thought that this would be a good time to bring it up. Suffice it to say that the membership approved the project at the general membership meeting, and that we will be going forward with the project. Look in the Feature Articles section of this issue for particulars and further information.

I am writing a couple other articles for this issue, so I am going to keep this relatively short. There is one person that I did not mention when I was thanking the folk in the above paragraph. I really need to thank her too. My wife, Mary Anne Colledge has put up with my quarterly ten day absences as the magazine gets worked on, and has put up with five years of Secretary duties. As the Association has grown, so has the Secretary's job, and Mary Anne has put up with a lot of absences and a lot of home repair projects that didn't get done. Not only did she put up with my absences, but since Bill Bullen appointed her as Director of Yoga two years ago, she has taken an active role in using Yoga as a therapy tool for trauma treatment. She has attended classes as far away as Boston, MA, that deal specifically with yoga as a treatment modum for PTSD, and has taken a number of continuing ed classes to keep her certification current. She has taught Yoga classes at our last two reunions, (as well as

at a local Vet Center). Since we have returned from Ft. Benning, we have received a number of LRRP'S, LRP'S and Rangers thanking her for her efforts, and commenting on the positive results they have enjoyed since beginning the practice of yoga. Thanks Honey.

Bill Postelnic has some ideas on how to streamline the Secretary process, and our new 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, (Jason Baker) and our new Treasurer, (Wes Jurena), are both young men, (relatively), out of the Battalions. They grew up using computers and will be able to advise us old guys on the best way to promote the Association on the internet, as well as ways to do more with less effort. I want to welcome Jason and Wes to the Board and to thank Joe Little and Bill Postelnic for signing on for another tour.

Just as I was sending this to the printer, I received word from Jim Testerman, a K/75 Ranger. He is suffering from cancer and is in the VA Hospital in Mountain Home, TN. I am sure that he would appreciate some words or notes from his friends. Contact information is as follows:

Jim Testerman  
PO Box 4000  
Ward C, Ground, Rm 8  
Mountain Home, TN 37684  
Phone- 423-975-6106



Guest speaker  
Eugene Sullivan.



Guest speaker  
Janice Nark.



Banner dedication this reunion to the member of WW II Ranger Zeke Zyrkowski, who made his first parachute jump with us at the 2007 Reunion/Rendezvous.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)



Larry Jordan, CSM Rick Merritt and wife, Merrill's Marauder Vince Melillo and Steve Mattoon.



Larry Jordan and National Gold Star Mother President, Ruth Stonesifer, a guest speaker. Her son Kristopher was a Ranger KIA in Afghanistan.



Our President, Bill Bullen and guest speaker Janice Nark.

## FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joe Little

Wow! Now what, we have completed another reunion and all went well. Met with some old friends and made some new ones. Our banquet dinner was great with exceptional speakers especially Janis Nark what a nurse; from laughter to tears welling up from how she touched our heartstrings especially those of us wounded in battle that require the care of our nurses a vision from heaven round eyes.



Joe Little

As we sat and listened to Col. McKnight Speak of the love and bravery of his men, many things went through my mind. Unity, pain, suffering, and not a word of complaint just standing up for our comrades as any forged and trained warriors would do.

"Any man in combat who lacks comrades who will die for him, or for whom he is willing to die," William Manchester wrote of his time as a Marine in World War II, "is not a man at all. He is truly damned." A century earlier, Robert E. Lee famously remarked that it was good that war "is so terrible. We should grow too fond of it." Neither was glorifying war — they hated its carnage. They were, rather, paying homage to the unique bonds forged in war, especially the one that enables so many to risk their lives, not only for friends but also for those they might have just met or have nothing in common with back home.

This extraordinary feature of combat is depicted in movies in bold, heroic colors, without depth or explanation. Most

leaders in the military, however, spend a lifetime trying to understand its complexity. Our pursuit usually starts at Thermopylae, a mountain pass in northern Greece where, in 480 B.C., 300 Spartans faced the entire Persian army. Leonidas, the Spartan king, had a choice: retreat, and live to fight another day, or stand. When the Persian king offered, "We do not want your lives, only your arms," Leonidas answered, "Molon labe" — come and get them. They held out for seven days, fighting until their weapons broke and then, Herodotus says, "with bare hands and teeth." Their spirit lives whenever wounded soldiers ask to return to their units rather than rotate home or sentries rest their chins on the point of a bayonet to stay awake so others sleep safely.

I listened to many of our active duty Rangers talk and some had some serious talks about battles they bore in their hearts and minds. There is common thyme evident; "I want to go back with my brothers to carry on the battle." I feel safe to assume it is a band of brothers or Comrades willing as long as "Their spirit lives whenever wounded soldiers ask to return to their units rather than rotate home ready to complete the mission." RLTW





## FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Another exciting moment this year was having with us was Philip B. Piazza, President of Merrill's Marauders Association. Well Ranger Bill Bullen had spoken with him prior to my meeting Ranger Piazza and there was talk about their association dissolving due to attrition in their ranks. Ranger Piazza made a decision to the offer to become full members of the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA. Wow! What an honor to have our lineage come on board and as we asked if they would honor us with having their colors fly with ours. Ranger Piazza stated that after an official letter from the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association he would grant us the colors and battle streamers. The board has decided without any hesitation that all Merrill's Marauders will be full lifetime members of 75<sup>th</sup> RRA; what an honor for us. WELCOME BROTHERS AND THANK YOU FOR HERITAGE YOU BRING WITH YOU. I welcome all to visit Merrill's Marauders web site at <http://www.marauder.org/> It has a great deal of history and great photos for all to see along with great music while you view. Did you know that the six colors on the current Ranger Flash the same six Combat Teams of Merrill's Marauders. The following is from the web site.

### Legacy

In slightly more than five months of combat, the Marauders had advanced 750 miles through some of the harshest jungle terrain in the world, fought in 5 major engagements (Walawbum, Shaduzup, Inkangahtawng, Nhpum Ga, and Myitkyina) and engaged in combat with the Japanese Army on thirty-two separate occasions, including two conventional defensive battles with enemy forces for which the force had not been intended nor equipped. Battling Japanese soldiers, hunger, fevers, and disease, they had traversed more jungle terrain on their long-range missions than any other U.S. Army formation during World War II.

The men of the Merrill's Marauders enjoyed the rare distinction of having each soldier awarded the Bronze Star. In June 1944, the 5307th Composite Unit (provisional) was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation:

*The unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission under extremely difficult and hazardous conditions as to set it apart and above other units participating in the same campaign.*

On 10 August 1944, the Marauders were consolidated to the 475th Infantry. A decade, later, on 21 June 1954, the 475th Infantry was re-designated as the 75th Infantry, thus, Merrill's Marauders is the parent, 75th Infantry Regiment, from which descends the contemporary 75th Ranger Regiment.

The commander of the 2nd battalion of the Marauders, Colonel George A. McGee was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for extraordinary valor and exemplary service.

I am humbled to been voted to serve as your Vice President and consider it an honor to serve with tireless John Chester, President, Jason Baker, 2nd Vice President, Bill Postelnic, Secretary and Wes Jurena, Treasurer. We have two young Rangers on the board that have more energy than the remaining three old guys. Jason and Wes are flooding us with ideas regarding growth and making this great association, which Ranger Gilbert reared as his own child to become more and larger to continue the heritage of Merrill's Marauders & the 75th RRA forward; yes we do Lead the Way.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY  
Hooah

## SECOND-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jason Baker



Jason Baker

Rangers:

First let me say, Thank you! To be amongst our nations heroes is honor enough; To be elected to represent them is completely humbling....

Let me share a story. A young, fatherless, 17-year old boy in 1988 picked up a new book called *INSIDE THE LRRPS, Rangers in Vietnam* by Michael Lee Lanning.

I suppose in retrospect, he needed or rather wanted to be exposed to the actions of real men, having a void there in his life. He yearned for direction, role models, and heroes. Inside that book he found that and more. He relished in the stories of camaraderie, even the off-color stuff! But more so, inside those pages he read of honor, commitment, and a sense of duty to mission, but mostly to one another, Ranger to Ranger. The creed was in there as well, and although he had nothing to measure such words against, they called out like a challenge. There was also great loss, suffering, and

## SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

extreme danger in the stories this book held within its pages. I guess even those stories, in some strange way, attracted him to the Ranger calling. Could he measure up? Did he have what it would take, mentally and physically, to share in this brotherhood? I am sure you realize by now this young man was me and that your stories of great valor changed the course of my life.

I will share many thoughts with you in the future: thoughts about your great stories and insights into my generation of Rangering. When Bill Bullen approached me about having a role in the Officers' vision for attracting the next generation's Rangers into the organization, I was hesitant. How could our stories of Rangering in the 1990s compare to the Vietnam era? How can they compare to the current era? We Rangered in a time of relative peace with combat exploits no longer than your R&R between violent battles. What could our role be? I've thought about that long and hard and it's clear now. At each Ranger event, I notice the respect each younger Ranger generation pays to their

Ranger forefathers. I understand that respect. They were your heroes and you read their stories about challenge, honor and a call to the duty of Rangering!

Darby's Rangers; the 6<sup>th</sup> Ranger Battalion's Raid at Cabanatuan; Merrill's Marauders; Ralph Puckett's Eighth Army Ranger Company; the Eighth Army Raider Company and First through Fifteenth Ranger Companies of the Korean War; the 2nd and 4th Rangers' combat airborne assault near Munsan; the 5th Ranger Battalion landing on Dog White Sector Omaha Beach during the Invasion of Normandy; the 2nd Ranger Battalion scaling the 150-foot cliffs of Pointe du Hoc, just to name a few. You honor them, and now it's our responsibility to honor you! I'm up to the challenge and look forward to bringing my generation of Rangers to the Association. You were our heroes, the images that called to us to serve. Your stories sparked the fire to Ranger in our hearts. Gentlemen, you are our heroes, much the same as your Ranger heroes before you. I look forward to honoring your service!

## TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Wesley Jurena

Fellow Rangers,

I've often heard others describe the inadequacy or poverty of words at certain times. In other words, being speechless or not being able to find the right words to describe your feelings. Most of you who know me, know that I might not be good at all things, but I was blessed with the proverbial "gift of gab".



Wesley Jurena

Recently, I've experienced two occasions where I experienced the inadequacy of words. The first, when I was approached about becoming an officer within this organization. My immediate response was "you must have the wrong guy." This organization which represents the unit that I hold so dear to my heart, must be making a mistake. The units that are represented here and this organization are filled with Ranger heroes, legends and Hall of Famers from our past and the modern day Rangers are re-writing history and creating heroes of the future. I'm just another 1/75 guy who marched until told to stop and stopped until told to march. After Bill Postlenic sat me down and discussed the need to begin to

bridge the gap between the fore fathers of the organization and the modern day Batt Boys, I agreed to accept the challenge. I'm both honored and humbled to be a part of this great organization.

I was born and raised in Houston, Texas and enlisted in the Army in 1987 at 22 after a failed attempt at college, seems beer drinking took priority over studying. My grandfather was a 30 year veteran with service in WWII and Korea and my uncle who I was named after, Wesley W. Carroll, was a cobra pilot who was shot down over the U Minh Forest in 1970. After failing to convince me that an NBC specialist or an Army Meteorologist was the right career path, I turned to the middle of the recruiting book and there were some guys in a Zodiac boat all camo'ed up with their PC's crimped, paddling through some swamp. Unlike many who read this magazine or who I ran into during my enlistment, I had no idea what or who those guys were, but it sure seemed more like what I wanted to do. I shipped as an 11x Unassigned Ranger, 3 days later.

After completing basic, AIT, Jump School and RIP, I was assigned to Charlie 2, 1/75 where I served as an assistant gunner, gunner, team leader and squad leader from 1987- 1993.

## TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

From 1993-1995 I was an RI at the Florida Ranger Camp  
From 1995-1997 I was a LRS Team Leader at F.Co 51st Infantry on Ft. Bragg.

In 1997 after 10.5 years, I had what I term as a “mid career crisis” and cashed in my chips to become a civilian and worship the golden calf.

After 12 months of wanting to re-enlist everyday, I ended up finding a sales job with a company called Electric Lightwave where I stayed from 1998 until the spring of 2009. This position had me living back in Houston, Boise, Idaho, Dallas, Texas and finally here in Phoenix, Arizona. I recently took a business development position with NavTech, LLC a visual innovation company with a focus on knowledge transfer. We are a wholly owned subsidiary of Navigator Development Group headquartered in Enterprise, Alabama.

The second recent incident of the “poverty of words” was at Rendezvous 2009 while at the Holiday Inn. Frank Gorski walked me into an ambush and I had my first face to face introduction with Sandee Rouse our Gold Star Mother Advocate and mother to James Markwell. Jim was assigned to our platoon just prior to Just Cause for a training mission and he and I had a bit of personal

interaction. I wish I had something to say to her at that moment but other than “I’m sorry”, I was speechless.

While Rangers are surrounded by Rangers, they take for granted what a small special community this is. I know I did and it was not until about 2005 that I plugged back into the community. I have found that I have absolutely nothing in common with the civilians I’ve worked with for years. Yet, I have seen Rangers who have never met, answer calls, provide money if needed, and even fly across the country to help a brother out. I have been able to talk to Rangers from different eras and while at times we may need to agree to disagree, we all share a common bond. That is why the transition of this organization is very important. We need to continue to lead the way to help the Bn’s or their members if the need it, we need to be able to help those Rangers who are transitioning to civilian life and we must be a rally point for help if one of our Brothers is in need. I will do my best to ensure this transition is made and that this organization rises above all others. The officers that came before me here deserve it, those that served with me expect it and the legend of the Airborne Ranger Demands it!

If any of you are ever in Phoenix my door is always open.  
RLTW!

Wes

## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By Bill Postelnic

### The Brotherhood Endures

As LRRPs and Rangers, we are not like other men. Nowhere was that more evident than at the Rendezvous and Reunion in



**Bill Postelnic**

August. We share a bond of past, present and future that only we can fully understand. It does not matter that we served at different times, in different wars or during peace time. It does not matter that we were of different ranks or whether we served for a few years or 30. We all have our scars. We are a Brotherhood, and while at times we do have our disagreements, we have more in common

than we will ever have in difference. We endure and we are there for each other, and that is the strength of our Association.

### The Association Moves Forward

It's only fitting to acknowledge the contributions that Bill Bullen, as president, and Reuben Siverling, as treasurer,

have made to the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association. Much of their work involved long hours behind the scenes and they leave office with a membership of well over 2,000 and the Association in a healthy financial position. Both these men deserve our thanks for jobs well done and for setting the stage for future.

As we move forward, I am confident we have the right team in place to build on the continued success of the Association. First, we have John Chester as president. As you all know, John also edits this fine magazine and has served as secretary for the past five years. He knows what it takes and how to get it done. Second, Joe Little, who served as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president for the past two years brings his experience to the job of 1<sup>st</sup> VP. Third, we have strengthened the future of the Association by electing two post-Vietnam Era “Batt Boys” as officers: Jason Baker as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice president, and Wes Jurena as treasurer.



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

But that's not to say that everything is perfect. The possible weak link in the new team is me, as the new secretary. But seriously, I believe we can overcome that possibility because John will assure a good training and transition process for me and Tom Sove, who served as secretary in the past has agreed to provide me advice and help as needed. So I have back-up... and I will be calling on some younger computer savvy men to help us take more advantage of Internet and database applications.

### **Making The Difference**

People make the difference and it bears mention that it takes a lot of people to put together a successful reunion, and by all accounts, and even with a few hiccups, the August event was a success. We all owe a lot of thanks to Dave Cummings, Duke DuShane and Terry Roderick for their help in planning the event. The registration process at the Holiday Inn went about as smooth as possible thanks to Roger Crunk, Herb Reichel and Marc Thompson. These men manned the desk just about all day every day. And Kevin Ingraham, Sherry Klein and Cal Rollins put in time to help with the set up for the Banquet at Ironworks. Additionally, Cal is the man who put together the video segments we projected during the banquet. My guess is that was more than a couple weeks worth of work for him.

We also owe thanks to the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment and specifically Captain Nate Farris, the Regiment S-5 for supporting us with the Color Guard. How can anyone present, ever forget the Missing Man Table Ceremony conducted by the President of the National Gold Star Mothers, Ruth Stonesifier, and our own Gold Star Family Advocate, Sandy Rouse. Immediately following the ceremony, the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Special Troops Battalion Command Sergeant Major, Rick Merritt, led the Ranger Roll Call. And that was followed by Amazing Grace and Taps played on bag pipes by Chris Shanahan, a currently serving team leader in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion. I know my eyes weren't dry. Another active duty attendee was Sergeant Major Edward Noland from the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Reconnaissance Company.

We also had some great speakers including Janis Nark, thanks to Dave Regenthal. Dave also took a lot of video of the activities and will have a highlights program posted on the Association website soon. Other speakers included Court of Appeals Judge Gene Sullivan who is also a tabbed Ranger, and Danny McKnight, who commanded the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger Battalion during the "Black Hawk Down" days. He shared a few very candid thoughts with us, and personally, I can't wait to read his book, which should be out before the end of this year.

Say what you will about the Holiday Inn North in Columbus, but the fact is that we returned to the Holiday Inn as our headquarters hotel for the Reunion because the way we are treated there is just about impossible to get anywhere else. Where else could some men set up a special Sun Rise Services Tent? Where else could we host a beverage trailer to quench the thirst of our members and the many young serving Rangers of the Regiment like we were able to do on Tuesday and Wednesday night? So special thanks goes to Catering Manager Erica Newton and General Manager Tracey Nierode, and the rest of the staff of the Holiday Inn.

### **2010 Ranger Hall Of Fame**

We all know a LRRP or Ranger who deserves to be in the Hall of Fame. I have said it before and I will keep saying it: There is no shortage of men deserving to be in the Ranger Hall of Fame. There is a shortage of men willing to take the time and do the work of preparing a nomination packet. For those of you thinking about nominating someone, now is the time to get going. For planning purposes, the packets should be sent to me as an MS Word document and should be finalized no later than 1 December 2009. A sample packet and instructions will be posted on the Association Website. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns and I will help in any way I can to include proofreading, editing and offering suggestions.

### **Check Out The New Website**

A hand salute goes to the Association webmaster, Dave Regenthal, for his work on the website. It has a new look with an easy to find guestbook and an all-new bulletin board, which functions as an on-line discussion forum. As we continue to get more and more "younger" members, our Internet presence becomes more important. They expect a flow of on-line communication. Take a few moments and check out this new feature, make a post, share a story and spread the word.

### **State Coordinators**

When a Brother LRRP or Ranger reaches the final rally point, he deserves a fitting farewell. We owe that to those he leaves behind, to ourselves and to each other because of the bond we share. Gene Tucker heads up our State Coordinators and certainly can use more than one volunteer for each state. You can help make a difference by having two or three of us attending services instead of one man, or by being there when no one else can make it and you can. Contact Gene Tucker. Let him know you are willing to do your part. You will not regret it, and in fact it will be a very rewarding personal experience.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### DISCLAIMER

**DISCLAIMER:** This series of articles entitled 'LEGISLATIVE HELP LINE' is meant to be an informative aid in assisting you in protecting your rights. It is also meant to keep you informed of the ever-changing legislative forum that may affect you. There is a caveat here. The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association is not allowed to assist you in this effort. Our Constitution has a stipulation that forbids this. Article IV: Sec. 2. The Association shall not endorse any political candidate, platform or party. Sec. 3. Officers, Directors and Members shall not engage in any form of activity that implies or specifically relates the Association to any form of public activity without first obtaining approval from the Association. Therefore, no Officer, Unit Director, Advocate or Member may present himself as a representative speaking for or on the behalf of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association. Now, this does not prevent you from acting for yourself on your own behalf, I quote Article IV, Section 5: The foregoing does not restrict or prohibit members from engaging in activities which are the constitutional right of any citizen. As I said, this section is provided as a service to inform you. You must act on your own. Do not attempt to act on behalf of the Association. Thank you, John Chester, President

#### **VA PRESUMPTIVE POW DISEASES Update 02:**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its adjudication regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for osteoporosis for former Prisoners of War (POWs) who were detained or interned for at least 30 days and whose osteoporosis is at least 10% disabling. The amendment implements a decision by the Secretary to establish such a presumption based on scientific studies. VA is additionally amending its adjudication regulations to establish a presumption of service connection for osteoporosis for POWs who were detained or interned for any period of time, have a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and whose osteoporosis is at least 10% disabling. This amendment reflects statutory provisions of the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008. Effective Date for the amendment is 28 SEP 09. For further information contact: Thomas J. Kniffen, Chief, Regulations Staff (211D), Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9725. [Source: Federal Register 28 Aug 09(Vol 74, Number 166 Rules and Regulations Page 44288-44289 29 Aug 09 ++]

#### **VA APPOINTMENTS Update 06:**

The inspector general for the Veterans Affairs Department says that agency managers were aware of serious problems with a \$70 million project to replace its hospital appointment system several years before the VA dropped the program. The VA announced the project in 2000 after complaints from veterans about long waits to make appointments. It was halted in 2009. The inspector general says that managers didn't take timely and appropriate action to address problems, even as millions more were put into the program. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki has since ordered improvements in the VA's information technology

management. But the IG says that the VA still needs more qualified staff. [Source: NavyTimes AP Kimberly Hefling article 27 Aug 09 ++]

#### **NOAA'S VOLUNTEER PROGRAM:**

Volunteers play an integral role in supporting the environmental stewardship conducted every day by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Across the United States and its coastal waters, opportunities exist for volunteers within NOAA's Fisheries Service, National Ocean Service, National Weather Service, and Sea Grant programs to take part in research, observation and educational roles that benefit science, our citizens and our planet. Individuals are needed on a recurring basis. If interested visit NOAA's Volunteer Page [www.volunteer.noaa.gov](http://www.volunteer.noaa.gov). There you can find opportunities for involvement in NOAA's Fisheries, Ocean, Research, and Weather programs in the area you are live in and a brief explanation of what you will be asked to do. [Source: [www.volunteer.noaa.gov](http://www.volunteer.noaa.gov) Aug 09 ++]

#### **PTSD Update 29:**

PTSD is a recognized anxiety disorder that can follow seeing or experiencing an event that involves actual or threatened death or serious injury to which a person responds with intense fear, helplessness or horror, and is not uncommon in war. Feelings of fear, confusion or anger often subside, but if the feelings don't go away or get worse, a Veteran may have PTSD. The VA published a proposed regulation 24 AUG in the Federal Register to make it easier for a veteran to claim service connection for PTSD by reducing the evidence needed if the stressor claimed by a Veteran is related to fear of hostile military or terrorist activity. This amendment would eliminate the requirement for corroborating that the claimed in-service stressor occurred if a stressor claimed by a veteran is

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

related to the veteran's fear of hostile military or terrorist activity and a VA psychiatrist or psychologist confirms that the claimed stressor is adequate to support a diagnosis of PTSD, provided that the claimed stressor is consistent with the places, types, and circumstances of the veteran's service and that the veteran's symptoms are related to the claimed stressor.

This amendment takes into consideration the current scientific research studies relating PTSD to exposure to hostile military and terrorist actions. It is intended to acknowledge the inherently stressful nature of the places, types, and circumstances of service in which fear of hostile military or terrorist activities is ongoing. With this amendment, the evidentiary standard of establishing an in-service stressor would be reduced in these cases. This amendment is additionally intended to facilitate the timely VA processing of PTSD claims by simplifying the development and research procedures that apply to these claims. Comments must be received by VA on or before 23 OCT 09. Written comments may be submitted through [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov); by mail or hand delivery to Director, Regulations Management (02REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave., NW., Room 1068, Washington, DC 20420; or by fax to (202) 273-9026.

Comments should indicate that they are submitted in response to "RIN 2900-AN32—Stressor Determinations for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder." Copies of comments received will be available for public inspection in the Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Room 1063B, between 08-1630 M-F (except holidays). Call (202) 461-4902 for an appointment. In addition, during the comment period, comments may be viewed online through the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) at [www.Regulations.gov](http://www.Regulations.gov). For further information contact Thomas J. Kniffen, Chief, Regulations Staff (211D), Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9725. VA is bolstering its mental health capacity to serve combat Veterans, adding thousands of new professionals to its rolls in the last four years. The Department also has established a suicide prevention helpline (1-800-273-TALK) and their Web site [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans) is available for online chat in the evenings. [Source: RIN 2900-AN32 & VA News Release 24 Aug 09 ++]

### GI Bill Update 55:

September living stipends for students using the new Post-9/11 GI Bill might be late. After receiving a flood of applications, Veterans Affairs Department officials warn it is taking at least a month to process benefits claims. Also, a full housing allowance, one of the key benefits of the new program, won't be paid until 1 OCT, VA officials said. VA's goal is to process eligibility and enrollment claims in 24 days or less, but the average has been 30 days since the 1 AUG launch of the new benefit. Processing could take even longer if the start of the fall semester brings a new flood of applications, said Keith Wilson, who heads VA's education service. About 200,000 people have filed eligibility claims to determine how much they could receive under the new program, which bases payments on the length of active military service since 10 SEP 01. VA expects 328,000 students will attend school in the fall semester using the new benefit and that a total of 460,000 will use the benefit in the 2009-10 academic year, Wilson said.

Under terms of the new program, payments for tuition and fees are to be issued directly to schools as soon as enrollment information is certified. Book allowances, up to \$1,000 a year, are to be paid directly to eligible students at the same time. Living expenses, equal to the basic allowance for housing of an E-5 with dependents for the ZIP code of the campus where the student is enrolled, are supposed to be paid at the end of each month to those who are eligible. That means `SEP payments, which could be delayed for some veterans, will cover only a prorated amount for the month of August, Wilson said. The first full monthly payment will come 1 OCT. Active-duty service members and their spouses are not eligible for the living stipend or book allowance.

VA hired 750 new workers specifically to handle Post-9/11 GI Bill claims. To get a jump on the expected wave of claims, VA also began accepting requests for precertification of eligibility before the official 1 AUG launch date of the program. Patrick Campbell of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America said he has heard from some veterans who have received initial payments. The biggest complaint Campbell has heard is from veterans who want their book and living stipends in hand right away, and were unaware the money is not paid until VA first verifies enrollment. "This is a detail that did not get enough attention," he said. Information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill is available at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). [Source: NavyTimes Rick Maze article 24 Aug 09 ++]



## H E A L T H

## DISCLAIMER

*The following articles dealing with health issues that concern or could concern our members are presented for your information and should not be construed as an endorsement of any of the treatments, medications or procedures outlined herein. It should be understood that there are new medications and treatments being developed that are largely untested, and though they show promise in the treatment of a given illness or condition, they may not be effective or safe for all individuals.*

### **My Bout with Squamous Cell Carcinoma - A Close Thing**

BY: Bob Murphy

I was 61 years old when I noticed the lymph node on the left side of my neck had swollen. Every other time the lymph nodes in my neck or armpits had swollen up it had been on both sides. And I was taking antibiotics for a chest infection at the time which made the swelling even more unusual. I went to my GP and said, "I think I've got cancer. I'd like a biopsy". The biopsy showed the presence of squamous cell carcinoma. But the results said it wasn't the primary site, which meant it had metastasized.

The next step was a CT scan, which showed spots on my lungs. But the oncologist I had been referred to said he didn't believe the CT scans showed cancers so sent me for a PET scan that showed the primary tumor was at the base of my tongue. He said that because the lymph node was nearby and connected to my tongue we could basically regard the outbreak as localized rather than metastasized.

All this time I was still working out with weights, bicycle riding and doing other strenuous things necessary when you live in the bush including tree felling and wood splitting. I felt fit and healthy. The next step was to meet a "multidisciplinary panel" of senior doctor specialists at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Institute in Melbourne to discuss treatment options.

Their consensus was to use a combination of chemotherapy and radiation treatment over a seven-week period rather than surgery. Surgery would have left me with a permanent speech impediment without improving the odds of beating the cancer, anyway. They put the odds at 60-80% for successful treatment with me towards the top of the range because I don't smoke and I wasn't overweight. Because I have industrial deafness they decided to use a combination of alternative chemicals because the regular one would have made my tinnitus (buzzing sound) much worse, permanently.

I agreed with the proposed treatment and initially there was nothing to it. I only had to show up at the hospital

at around 4pm and lie down on a table for half an hour and get nuked. The rest of the day was free. The first, fourth and seventh weeks included chemotherapy during which I had to wear a chemical pump on my belt hooked up to a permanent bit of plumbing on my arm that was available for all injections.

The first week chemotherapy made my thoughts a little fuzzy but I was still able to function and continued to exercise and go for fast walks. I could feel my mind clear within an hour of them disconnecting the chemotherapy pump at the end of week 1.

But the fourth week was a bit of a bear. Not only was I on bad drugs again (chemotherapy with a pump injecting "Cytotoxic" chemicals into my bloodstream) but I was having trouble eating because my throat was lighting up from the nuclear bombardment.

And I was supposed to take 33 pills each and every day without supervision in my apartment next door to the hospital. I kept a detailed log because with the chemical fog I often couldn't recall what I had taken and what I should take next. Some pills were to be taken before meals, some during, some after, some related to others and had to be taken in a certain sequence. And they did not give me generic names so often when I got a new bottle with a new trade name, I simply did not know what it was. Whenever it got out of control I scooped all the meds into a shopping bag, went next door to the hospital, found a doctor or nurse and handed them the bag and said, "I'm all yours". So they would put me in a ward and get the medications back on track.

By this stage I couldn't eat at all. My professor, bless her, told me on Tuesday after looking at my throat that I was going to need a feeding tube direct into my stomach. Thursday was the day they did that rather specialized little operation but that Thursday they were booked out. So it was basically 9 days without eating solid food. Now most of us are fairly enthusiastic types about everything we do including eating and I was packing a bit of extra weight. That soon changed. I shrunk up all over and my eyes stuck out like Marty Feldmann the comedian.

## H E A L T H

I felt OK mentally but my body was copping the lot. The tube helped a lot but the funniest thing is that I got a prepared protein drink to take through the thing. It turned out that I could drink the stuff even with my scarred throat so perhaps the tube had been unnecessary anyway. But it stayed in for 6 months and I used it most of the time.

The radiation on my taste buds made everything taste so odd that I developed the same sort of aversion towards eating as a woman with anorexia nervosa. The whole idea of eating was repellent. I lost 40lbs at a time when my body needed all the protein and vitamins it could get to counter the effects of the radiation and chemotherapy.

I was self-medicating painkillers including morphine by about my fifth week. That, of course, caused constipation so then I had to take drugs to counter that. Ex-wife Penny, the mother of my two kids, stayed over in the apartment and checked things off on my drug log on my last two chemotherapy weeks which was a blessing, given the chemical fog my brain was in.

The food tube was a potential cause of infections, which was a particular danger with my immune system shut down by the radiation and chemotherapy. Several times when they detected the beginning of an infection around the food tube they put me into a hospital ward with a computerized gadget plugged into my arm that delivered a cocktail of antibiotics. Between the chemotherapy, morphine, other drugs and malnutrition things could get a bit spacey though part of me always seemed aware of what was going on and observing it all including the confusion. It was like my consciousness was lying dog waiting to see what was going to happen.

The seven weeks was soon over. And then a new set of challenges opened up. I was weak, had no stamina, all food tasted terrible, I had lots of medicines to take, and my ass was dragging. And I live alone in the bush. Penny insisted I stay at her place for a week and fed me and I slept a lot and read books. Then I stayed with friends near my land for a week before going home and getting on with things.

But it didn't work. I was writing articles, reading, spending a lot of time in front of my wood heater but having great difficulty staying warm for the first time ever (it was winter and cold enough for a couple of frosts per week). Food still tasted revolting. One day I realized that I was so weak I couldn't function. It had crept up gradually while I focused on other things.

I drove into town to see my doc really feeling like my body was at the end of its tether. She said "malnutrition". I said

I don't even have the energy left to drive home". She said, "You shouldn't go back to the bush on your own." So I called my two best friends who came and got me and the dog and took me back to their place and put me in the spare room. Bonnie is a big hearted woman I have known for 25 years. She used to work for me and we were close. Her partner Mark was a good friend from my bus and tram driving days in Melbourne. They had met through me. Bon just kept showing food down my neck, or telling me when to use the feed tube and kept giving me feedback on when I had last ate, how I looked how I felt etc. I just kept saying, "Yes, dear" and doing as instructed.

After a week or so I was putting a bit of weight back on but was still so weak I could hardly walk. So I forced myself to plod around a fenced paddock out the back. It was about a kilometer and I walked the dog around it every day. At first I was hard pressed to make it from one fence post to the next. I could have just sat down to rest and stayed. It was 4 or 5 days before that got better. After six weeks I was strong enough to go back out in the bush. Bonnie called up every day to see how I was doing.

The biggest problem was that I couldn't get warm. Another great old friend heard about what was going on and called up. Janet lives in the sub-tropics where it never really gets cold. She said, "Murphy, are you going to come up here or do I have to come down and get you? It's 25C up here today and its 11C down there." "Yes dear, no dear. I'm on the way." So I took my dawg and my ute (pick-up truck), a sleeping bag, my espresso maker and camping gas stove (as carried in my LRRP ruck for years), my weight bench and both bicycles and headed north. Just the drive was a lift. I was out and moving. Lots of interesting things to see. It took me three days to get 1800km.

Janet is a great cook. She fussed over me like a mother with a sick kid and kept trying different kinds of food until she found some that actually tasted good to me. I started writing more newspaper articles and the discipline involved in the research and writing was also a tonic.

After six weeks I returned home but without her cooking I started going backwards a bit. My body was still not right and living alone is not a good thing when you are getting odd or wrong messages from your body and no feedback from a companion. Back at the Peter Mac for a check-up I spoke about my reactions and ongoing experience and was referred to a psychiatrist on staff there who prescribed an anti-depressant. He said many recovering cancer patients require anti-depressants and that I should take it for a year.

# HEALTH

I looked it up on net and found out that going on to anti-depressants and coming off them should be done in stages. In other words start off at half the recommended dose or less and build up over a couple of weeks to avoid some significant side effects. Neither my GP nor the psychiatrist had warned me about starting off at half dose. Even then the effects were amazing. I had strong suicidal thoughts for several days. I knew it was the drugs talking so didn't pay it much attention but called up the shrink who confirmed that it was the anti-depressant and that the turmoil should stop in a day or two which it did.

The anti-depressant was interesting. My body relaxed, my brain started interpreting things more positively and that helped deal with the continuing weakness which I found frustrating. I forced myself back into the habit of eating

regularly and was cooking small meals twice a day and still using the feed tube when I couldn't be bothered. Gradually my strength returned. More gradually my stamina returned. The longer days and warmer weather were uplifting, I planted my vegetable garden and was soon growing 80% of the food I ate. Then I got the tube out. After that it was all just a matter of time. I decided to stop taking the anti-depressant after 10 months and went off it gradually.

It took more than a year for my body to come good and for me to be sure the treatment had been worth the bother. So things were going well and I was feeling great again, in good shape, living a good life in the bush.

And then I got another blood test that showed that my PSA levels had started shooting up

## *The Memorials to Heroes*

*The war memorials are truly a sight to behold.*

*Our stories of sacrifice and service must be told.*

*From large cities, small towns, we went, both rich and poor.*

*For our love of our country, we went off to war.*

*The horrors of war, so quickly we would learn.*

*The reality of war, many a friend would not return.*

*The reasons are many why nations go to war.*

*Perhaps our leaders will learn, there will be no more.*

*Millions come the Capital each year, to visit and sight see.*

*What better place for Memorials than in Washington D.C.*

*Tributes in marble & stone aren't just for those that fought and died,  
their also for those that mourned, remembered and cried.*

*We haven't won all our battles but as Americans we had to try.*

*"Duty, Honor and Country", words that allow our flag to fly.*

*As you look upon these tributes honoring those that did their part,  
remember why we served, remember in your heart.*

*Dedicated to all those that served  
and VFW Post 1732, South Gate, California  
"HEROES ALL"*

*Written By: Michael D. Monfrooe USA Ret  
19, March. 2008*



# HEALTH

## **VA's Suicide Prevention Program Adds Chat Service**

*New Service Expands Online Access for Veterans*

WASHINGTON (August 31, 2009) - The Suicide Prevention campaign of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding its outreach to all Veterans by piloting an online, one-to-one "chat service" for Veterans who prefer reaching out for assistance using the Internet.

Called "Veterans Chat," the new service enables Veterans, their families and friends to go online where they can anonymously chat with a trained VA counselor. If a "chatter" is determined to be in a crisis, the counselor can take immediate steps to transfer the person to the VA Suicide Prevention Hotline, where further counseling and referral services are provided and crisis intervention steps can be taken.

"This online feature is intended to reach out to all Veterans who may or may not be enrolled in the VA health care system and provide them with online access to the Suicide Prevention Lifeline," said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA's Acting Under Secretary for Health. "It is meant to provide Veterans with an anonymous way to access VA's suicide prevention services."

Veterans, family members or friends can access Veterans Chat through the suicide prevention Web site ([www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org) <<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>>). There is a Veterans tab on the left-hand side of the website that will take them directly to Veteran resource information. On this page, they can see the Hotline number (1-800-273-TALK), and click on the Veterans Chat tab on the right side of the Web page to enter. Veterans retain anonymity by entering whatever names they choose once they enter the one-on-one chat. They are then joined by a counselor who is trained to provide information and respond to the requests and concerns of the caller. If the counselor decides the caller is in a crisis, the counselor will encourage the Veteran to call the Suicide Prevention Hotline, where a trained suicide prevention counselor will determine whether crisis intervention techniques are required.

"The chat line is not intended to be a crisis response line," said Dr. Janet Kemp, VA's National Suicide Prevention Coordinator at the VA medical center in Canandaigua, N.Y., where VA's trained counselors staff the chat line 24

hours a day, seven days a week. VA's suicide prevention hotline is also staffed continuously. "Chat responders are trained in an intervention method specifically developed for the chat line to assist people with emotional distress and concerns," Kemp said. "We have procedures they can use to transfer chatters in crisis to the hotline for more immediate assistance."

Since becoming operational in July 2007, VA's Suicide Prevention Hotline has received more than 150,000 calls, resulting in 4,000 rescues.

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## **Agent Orange Related Diseases**

Diseases Recognized by VA as Length of Time Requirements: (When Connected to Agent Orange Exposure symptoms of the disease have to appear and result in a disability at least 10% disabling in order to qualify for benefits) Types of Cancer Cancer of the Bronchus. No time requirement (veteran qualifies no matter when this disease first appears). Cancer of the Larynx. No time requirement (veteran qualifies no matter when this disease first appears). Lung Cancer. No time requirement (veteran qualifies no matter when this disease first appears). Prostate Cancer. No time requirement (veteran qualifies no matter when this disease first appears). Cancer of the Trachea. No time requirement (veteran qualifies no matter when this disease first appears). Hodgkin's Disease. No time requirement (veteran qualifies no matter when this disease first appears). Multiple Myeloma. No time requirement (veteran qualifies no matter when this disease first appears). Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. No time requirement (veteran qualifies no matter when this disease first appears). Diabetes. (Type II; also known as diabetes mellitus) No time requirement (veteran qualifies no matter when this disease first appears).

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### Merrill's Marauders to hold last Reunion

By: John Chester

During to course of the reunion, as I was talking to Phil Piazza, I learned of the above. I also met Vince Melillo in the hospitality suite and he confirmed the above. Bill Bullen suggested that the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. extend Life Memberships to each member of their Association. The rest of us enthusiastically agreed, and so it was done. One of my last jobs as Secretary was to add these men to our roster. It is an honor to have them as members.



Dr. Carlton Savory, a 2009 Ranger Hall of Fame recipient stands with three WW II Merrill's Marauders. From left to right are: Phil Piazza, a 1995 Ranger Hall of Fame recipient who started the Merrill's Marauder Association 63 years ago; Vincent Melillo, who alongwith Eddie Eiskant of Culpepper, Va., are the only two left from the five-person patrol in which the first Marauder, Pvt. Landis, was killed; and Bob Eatman, who was the youngest Marauder, joining the Army at age 15 with his mother's signature. Both Melillo and Eatman joined the Army in 1940 and served one year in Panama and two years in Trinidad with the 33rd Infantry before volunteering for the 5307 Composite Unit Provisional, later called Merrill's Marauders. Piazza was with the 33rd Infantry in Trinidad. All three men served in the 2nd Battalion under Col. George McGee with Merrill's Marauders.

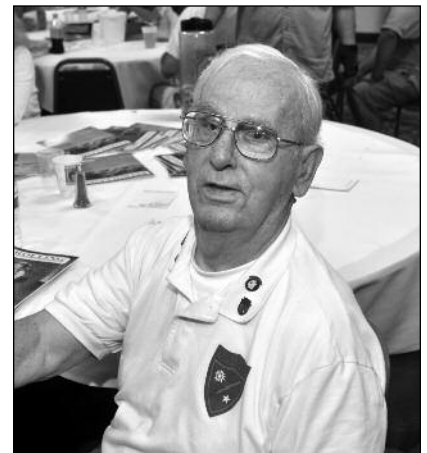
Ed Note: Just before I sent this to the printer, I got the following e-mail:

*After Ranger Rendezvous week, I sent you some info on the upcoming Merrill's Marauder reunion and a photo of my Dad, Vincent Melillo, with Phil Piazza and Bob Eatman. In the caption, I mentioned that Daddy and Eddie Eiskant, from Culpepper Virginia were the only two people left from*

*the five-person patrol on which Pvt. Landis was the first Marauder killed. If you haven't used the caption and photo, you may want to change it. Eddie's wife called Daddy last night to tell him that Eddie Eiskant died two days ago.. He and Daddy had been buddies since 1940, when they were with the 33rd Infantry in Panama, and until 2008 when I drove Daddy to Culpepper, VA, the two hadn't seen each other since they left Burma in 1944.*

*Take care — Jonnie Clasen & Vincent Melillo*

I had the pleasure of meeting Vince Melillo and his daughter Jonnie Melillo Clausen at the reunion. Vince had brought some of his memorabilia from Burma and was happy to answer any questions that our members and attendees might have had. Welcome to the Association Vince. Below are photos of Vince and some of the items that he brought.



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Iedo WALAWBUM Inkangawtaung nhpum-ga shaduzup MYITKYINA



# The Burman News



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### REUNION DETAILS

#### **THE MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ASSOCIATION WILL HOLD IT'S 63RD AND FINAL REUNION AT THE HOLIDAY INN SELECT MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT HOTEL**

The 63<sup>rd</sup> and Final Merrill's Marauders Reunion will take place on Labor Day weekend, Friday September 4, through Sunday September 6, 2009. The Hotel is located at 3 Appletree Square (I-494 & 34th Avenue South) Bloomington, MN 55425.

The Package Price for Friday and Saturday, which includes: 2 nights accommodations, 2 dinners, 2 full hot breakfasts. Saturday dinner includes 2 drink tickets per person. All of this for \$270.86 for a single occupancy; \$370.86 for a double occupancy; 470.86 for 3 in a room and \$570.86 for 4 in a room. For a beautiful spacious suite for the 2 nights add \$68.34. Additional nights stays are \$75.00 plus tax. For local guest requesting meals only: Breakfast is \$15.00, Friday Dinner \$28.00, Saturday Dinner is \$38.00, which includes two drink tickets.

The Association's Executive Officers invite you to arrive on Thursday, September 3, 2009, so that you can take part in and enjoy a Friday morning Association sponsored two hour Paddleboat Ride. Sponsored Busses will leave the Hotel at 9:00 AM and take you across the river to St. Paul and Harriet Island. The ride will be narrated and a buffet breakfast will be served. Your only cost will be a mandatory \$10.00 charge for the buffet breakfast.

**BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS NOW, CALL (952) 854-9000.**

**Ask for Merrill's Marauders Reunion.**

Please make your reservations now, even if you feel that you may not be able to attend and have to cancel, **you can cancel for any reason, right up to the scheduled day of arrival.**

**OUR GUEST SPEAKER FOR OUR  
SATURDAY BANQUET WILL BE  
CLARK DYRUD  
COMMISSIONER  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT  
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Clark Dyrud was appointed Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs by Governor Tim Pawlenty in March of 2005. He has served the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs for nearly 26 years.

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### Welcome Home

BY: Jim Savage

Two words....Welcome Home..... are undoubtedly two of the most meaningful words ever spoken to our veterans of combat. The veterans know that what that really means is “thank you for your sacrifices.” Most Vietnam veterans were not appropriately recognized by a grateful nation when they returned. Often when you run into one of your fellow Rangers, the greeting often is “Welcome Home.” We also know that it has been hard for many to find “home.” Home is not the same home that we left for combat, or will it be. We were happy to return home with our fellow Ranger comrades and our hearts remained with those whom we served with and were still there. Today the attitude means that because our Nation realizes what it did to the Vietnam generation of the military – that it will seek to do a better job in seeing that our veterans come home to the best home-coming possible. Acts of “Welcome Home” are varied and many. Today our veterans feel that their country cares more for their well-being.

Don’t get me wrong, as a Vietnam Veteran, I’m grateful for the recognition, even though belated. I am more than happy to see the country really trying to do something about making our veterans feel appreciated. The short-timer’s calendar has been extended for far too long. Those of the Association who served as Rangers in Vietnam, know that when we came home from the war it was the opposite. As Vietnam veteran Lou Sessinger (l seesinger@phillyBurbs.com) wrote, “most of us neither expected nor wanted a parade or any honors... Many only wanted the bullet holes and shattered bones in their legs to heal so that they could get out of the VA hospital and get on with their lives as fast as they could.” But for most of us we learned that our service would always affect our lives- too often in the negative. The lack of the honors along with the negative receptions, of course, affected so many who had sacrificed so much.

As Lou continues, “I enjoy the vista of rolling hills and open fields leading gently and peacefully up to a line of trees. But almost always, without thinking, I automatically find myself wondering where in that graceful line of trees would the enemy most likely conceal his fortified bunkers or heavy machine guns. The instincts acquired in combat have a way of staying with you, long after they serve any purpose.”

Some states, like Alabama, declare a “Welcome Home Day” to emphasize the remembrance. There is even a national foundation called “Welcome Home.” We see

mementos that tell us and the military today that we are not forgotten. And we feel the need to support these men and women who have given so much.

But then again, we see incidents of the same treatment that we experienced still being continued by those responsible for caring for the soldier and veteran. An example is illustrated by the current lawsuit by the Veterans for the United Truth brought on behalf of Afghanistan and Iraq war veterans. These veterans are committing suicide at the rate of 18 per week. Exposed was an email from the VA Head of Mental Health who had written reporters asking them not to let the public know that there are 1000 veterans trying to commit suicide each week. Things are just not being taken care of when needed by veterans and their families and it is felt that some VA employees are just there to draw a paycheck.

While we must appreciate the VA for stopping most of the suicide attempts, we must ask “why does the VA not want the public to know the seriousness of the problem?” “Why did the VA state that only 790 veterans committed suicide last year? And forget about the attempted suicides?” “Why did 524 veterans die while their claims were being reviewed by the VA?” These are hard questions for the public to face and our government is being deceptive in hiding the Truth. So “welcome home”- some things have not changed much since Vietnam. Yet we can see that many recent changes are here.

When I returned from Vietnam, I still can remember many sleepless nights in the university dormitory, recalling what I had seen. I believed then that most combat veterans experienced the same sleep interruptions for their lifetimes. Little did I realize that there could be help for those problems or that it would be years in the making. In the current war, the government seems to be making a much better outreach to those veterans to let them and their families know of help that is available and to provide families with information on how to help their loved ones who now are different. The attached government tips for helping returning veterans is attached with some minor edification to combine these helpful suggestions together. Since most combat Rangers are probably experts in this area, please review the tips to refresh yourselves so that you can more helpful to these veterans who have often been recalled to combat time and again.

So as we return to our homes, when someone says to you “Welcome Home” respond and be appreciative of their kindness—even if you have heard it a hundred times. Be proud because someone is saying “thank you” and also

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

realizing the sacrifices that you have made. Also, never forget to say the same to our current military who still have so much to face when they return home. Get your community to support Welcome Home celebrations and show up in your military regalia when events are held. Let the returning know that you have “been there,” “done that,” and are there for them. Help assure that their return home will be as pleasant as possible. Many people are depending upon these veterans for their future. They have much to offer if not sidetracked. Your help can help insure their success.

### **PSYCHOLOGICAL TIPS FOR RETURNING VETERANS**

Most veterans do return home but too many are coming home as “walking casualties.” That situation can be changed by us and caregivers. The VA and military’s following tips are offered in order to help veterans learn to cope with this stress. Even good events can bring about significant stress. So when issues arise; issues that might be normal during this transition, the service member and/or significant other might misinterpret these and view them as negative not realizing that they are part of the normal process when going through a reunification. Not knowing this, can sometimes affect and stress relationships whereas if the service member and/or family are informed about these developmental processes in reunification then it will not be viewed negatively.

Review these carefully and when in doubt, pose your questions to a professional such as the veteran’s center counselor or other mental health provider. Most Rangers realize that the tips are just good basic guidance in many situations. Some Rangers will realize that if this program had been available or known by them when they returned home, many problems may have long ago been lessened or disappeared. It is important that we impress upon those returning and having some issues, that such be immediately treated because the longer the wait, the more damage that might not be undone. Veterans need to take care of business now- not later.

### **TIPS FOR SOLDIERS:**

Support good things your family has done.  
Take time to talk with your spouse and children.  
Make individual time for each child and your spouse.  
Go slowly when reestablishing your place in the family.  
Be prepared to make some adjustments.  
Romantic conversation can lead to more enjoyable sex.  
Make your savings last longer.  
Take time to listen and to talk with loved ones.  
Go easy on partying.

### **TIPS FOR SPOUSES OR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS FOR REUNION:**

Avoid scheduling too many things.  
Go easily in making adjustments.  
You and your soldier may need time for yourself.  
Remind soldier he or she is still needed in the family.  
Discuss splitting up the family chores.  
Stick to your budget until you’ve had time to talk it through.  
Along with time for the family make individual time to talk.  
Be patient with yourself and your partner.

### **TIPS FOR REUNION WITH CHILDREN:**

Go slowly. Adapt to the rules and routines already in place.  
Let the child set the pace for getting to know you again.  
Learn from how your spouse managed the children.  
Be available to your child, both with time and with your emotions.  
Delay making changes in rules and routines for a few weeks.  
Expect that the family will not be the same as before you left; everyone has changed.  
Focus on successes with your children; limit your criticisms.  
Encourage children to tell you about what happened during the separation.  
Make individual time for each child and your spouse.

These tips are here to help with transitions and to help understand that the reunion process is not always easy. It is more likely for some tensions to occur than for everything to go smoothly. Remember, everyone is anxiously anticipating the reunion, but at times the reunion can be awkward. This is not unusual. The less we view this as a problem and instead understand that it is part of the transitional process the fewer stigmas it will have. Adjustments take time and patience.

The additional tips are offered in order to learn to cope with this stress. These are the tips that government counselors are telling our returned military, I also offer some edifications and additions. While Rangers could write these tips and also offer additional ones, it is important to rely on the professionals for this basic information. Even good events can bring about significant stress. So when issues arise; issues that might be normal during this transition, the service member and/or significant other might misinterpret these and view them as negative not realizing that they are part of the normal process when going through a reunification. Not knowing this, can sometimes affect and stress relationships whereas if the service member and/or family are informed about these developmental processes in reunification then it will not be viewed negatively.



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

As the conflict in the Gulf continues, Americans will experience varying amounts of grief and fear. Nobody is unaffected by war. In military families, however, there is the added fear for the safety of loved ones who may be or already have been deployed, as well as the potential challenges of coping as a single parent. You or someone you know may already be experiencing some of the following signs of the emotional impact of this stress, or these symptoms may arise over the coming weeks and months:

- Difficulty completing tasks
- Trouble concentrating
- Fear and anxiety about the future
- Apathy and emotional numbing
- Irritability and anger
- Sadness and depression
- Feeling powerless
- Extreme hunger/lack of appetite
- Difficulty making decisions
- Crying for “no apparent reason”
- Headaches or stomach problems
- Difficulty sleeping
- Excessive drinking or drug use
- Feeling withdrawn

Some people will try to get back into the routine of life as soon as possible to regain a sense of control, but others will have difficulty focusing for some time. Both reactions are common responses to crisis. The intensity of your feelings will decrease as time passes and you focus attention on day-to-day activities. Because everybody experiences stress differently, don't compare your “progress” with others around you or judge other people's reactions and emotions. While many people survive major life stressors without developing significant psychological problems, others may need assistance.

**It is important to Get Back to “Normal” and resume everyday life. Even before the rejoicing over one's safe return subsides, returnees will be trying to find their way back to what's normal again. Here are some additional coping tips and restated tips that you can pass onto the men and women to help them through this time of transition. This is good guidance especially for our veterans but also us.**

**Talk about It:** By talking with others, particularly other military spouses, you will relieve stress and realize that other people share your feelings. For months, the people who are closest to you have been living with the fear of losing you. Make a special effort to spend time with them

or, if they are far away, call often to support and reassure them. Support groups exist at most military installations and veterans centers. If there's one available to you, join; if not, consider starting one. If you feel overwhelmed, ask for help. Pray. It's not a sign of weakness. Talk with a trusted relative, friend, family services staffer, minister or rabbi. Chaplains can be especially helpful, as most receive training in pastoral counseling and crisis. Don't let yourself become isolated.

**Make Time for Yourself a Priority.** Veterans are often inclined to support others before themselves and neglect themselves. You are your first priority. Find your time for your peace. Others should understand but don't isolate yourself.

**Take Care of Your Physical Health:** Get plenty of rest and exercise, avoid excessive drinking and drugs, and eat properly. Avoid foods that are high in fats and calories. Watch your weight. It is so easy to gain and we all know the many dangers of added weight.

**Realize the reunion is more than just coming home.** It's a major event for the people in your life — maybe even bigger than your separation. In fact, research shows that reunion can cause more stress in people's lives than deployment. That's not to say that returning service members and their family and friends aren't happy about the homecoming. They're usually ecstatic. The stress comes from the changes that have taken place and concern for what life will now be like.

**View stress as normal.** Returning to your everyday life is a major change, and change always creates stress. If accepted and handled constructively, stress can be turned into a source of excitement and enthusiasm about new beginnings with family and friends.

**Go slowly.** Take time to ease back into your routine. Make a list of those things that must be done — such as banking, making living arrangements, contacting friends and relatives — and take them one by one. Trying to do too much too soon will only add to your stress level. Consider putting off major decisions until you've had plenty of time to readjust. As soon as you are sufficiently recovered and able, go back to work. Idle time prolonged is a danger in itself.

**Start the rebuilding process together.** Do it as a family. Make the decision that this time will serve to make you and your family even stronger. Get involved in positive activities that encourage togetherness and reassurance. Find positive minded clean friends. Find a good church to

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

attend regularly if you believe and/or you want your family with those values.

**Expect something of a letdown.** Most, if not all, service members experience it. It simply means that you're no longer running on pure adrenalin and that things are beginning to settle down. Or, it may mean that the homecoming hasn't solved all the problems that existed before the mobilization. Possibly, your reunion didn't go the way you thought it would. Whatever the reason, it's perfectly normal to feel this way. However, if this feeling doesn't go away, it could be a sign of something more serious.

**Watch what you spend.** Now that you're back, the urge to spend will be strong. Don't spend more than you can afford. Financial stresses probably break up more marriages than anything else even with non-deployed people. Expenses probably went up substantially while you were gone and more than your paycheck. You may now have less especially if expenses piled up while you were away.

**Limit your exposure to the news media:** Especially avoid around-the-clock television news coverage and the Internet. The images, rumors and speculation can be very damaging to your sense of well-being. You cannot control the news but it may incur damaging control of you.

**Engage in activities that you find relaxing and soothing:** Plant flowers, attend a concert, visit an art gallery, or take a long bath. Be kind to yourself. Relax and mediate. Try yoga. Learn to play the guitar and sing songs or whatever can keep your attention.

**Do something positive:** Get involved in activities that encourage togetherness and reassurance. Family activities, such as school and community sports and events should be

high on your priorities list. Contact community volunteer organizations to see how you can help. Give blood, prepare "care packages" for service men and women or write letters to people in the military. Support a friend or neighbor who is having a difficult time.

**Seek Treatment:** You may now be eligible for VA care. Use it – it is about the best in the world for an institutional offering – not perfect but available. File a claim if you have new health problems and don't hide your health concerns from the military or their record system. If you have strong feelings that won't go away or you are troubled for more than four to six weeks, you may want to seek professional help. People who have had previous mental health problems and who have survived past trauma may also want to check in with a mental health care professional. These can be serious life affecting illnesses that you may not want to acknowledge. Failure to do so promptly endangers your continued well-being.

Nearly every military installation has a family service center, family support center or Army community service center where you can access information, referral, counseling, and crisis intervention services. In addition, all military families, including National Guard members and Reservists who are activated for more than 30 days, are eligible for medical and mental health care either at a military medical treatment facility or at a civilian facility through TRICARE, the administrator of health services for the armed services.

So WELCOME HOME RANGER, BROTHER, SISTER, DAD, MOM, SON, DAUGHTER, NEIGHBOR AND VETERAN. THIS IS THE REAL WORLD AND WE ARE HERE TO HELP.

### First Ranger Battalion Celebrates 35th Anniversary

By: Todd M. Currie

On August 20<sup>th</sup> 1974, the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers was activated at Ft. Stewart GA. The cadre that was hand-selected to train and sustain the soldiers that would comprise this fledgling unit were the absolute finest soldiers this nation had to offer. With few exceptions these men were combat hardened veterans of Ranger companies who had served tours in the jungles of Vietnam and who understood the rigors of combat and the discipline required to always do the right thing to keep their soldiers alive.

The Battalion was commanded by LTC Kenneth C. Leuer, a true professional who was charged with setting and maintaining the highest standards within the Army. His right hand man was CSM Neil R. Gentry, the author of the Ranger Creed and a man universally respected by the NCOs throughout the Ranger Battalion. These two professionals were surrounded by officers, NCOs and enlisted men who had all bought into the Ranger Battalion concept and were prepared to do everything within their power to ensure the success of the unit and the proper training of their men.

The young soldiers who populated the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion came from all, walks of life and every geographic area

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

within the United States. They had one thing in common – all loved their country and were willing to fight and if need be, lay down their lives to preserve the freedoms Americans enjoy. These young soldiers were the clay for the cadre to mold.

I was a private strait out of Infantry training and Airborne School. In my short time in the military near the end of the Viet Nam War, with the nation divided and the military in turmoil, I had seen first hand the lack of morale and discipline within the ranks. When I came to the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn. I immediately recognized that this was a different world. The leadership from top to bottom was the epitome of professionalism. I was being trained by the best and I loved it. Hard work and long hours were no strangers to me. I had been raised on a dairy farm, living in an extremely Spartan environment. Heck, I joined the Army so I could sleep in. So I was not shocked by the intensity of training. I wanted this and they dished it out.

The lessons we young soldiers learned from men like K. C. Leuer, Roger B. “Hog” Brown, Ron Rokosz, J. J. Ellis, Gary Carpenter, Steve Murphy; the list could go on forever, were not lost. As we privates turned into NCOs we taught these sage lessons to our soldiers, ensuring they were prepared for any eventuality. These high standards of military professionalism have been passed down through the years and are embodied today in the young warriors who fill the ranks of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. These men are tough and well disciplined soldiers. They are the best America has to offer.

The original Rangers who stood up the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 35 years ago were recognized for their service at the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regimental Rendezvous at Ft. Benning, GA. in early August of this year. During that event I had the opportunity to rekindle old relationships that had faded over the years but had never been extinguished. I saw countless Rangers I had not seen in over three decades. All the memories and bonds of shared hardship came flooding back. It was as if I had been on leave for a week and had returned, but also a bit like Rip Van Winkle. We have all aged a bit and hopefully become wiser as a result.

While at the rendezvous I had the opportunity to meet and talk with the current Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn. and was very impressed with what I saw. The soldiers of that unit are in good hands. Seeing these young professionals and talking with them was an elixir for my soul. I am so proud that these people populate the ranks throughout the

Regiment and I sleep well at night knowing these Rangers are on that wall keeping the wolves at bay.

RLTW!

Todd M. Currie



**Row 1, squatting: Wayne Lott, Martin Borja, Bill Winget**

**Row 2, standing: Steve Murphy, Nels Nelson, Roger Brown, Steve Caldwell, Todd Currie, Ron Fallon, Marc Thompson, Steve Hawk, Ed Townsend, John Copeland.**



**Original 1/75 Ranger Ron Fallon imparting wisdom to the current 1/75 Battalion Commander.**



**1/75 Originals Ron Fallon, Todd Currie, Nels Nelson, Steve Hawk.**



**Original 1/75 Rangers en masse.**

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### Writers' Project

BY: John Chester

I have been thinking about this for a few years. I have read several collections of essays pertaining to some group's war time or military experience. They are usually put together by someone with no military or combat experience, and are more or less readable, depending on the source and the editing. I thought that we, as an Association, could do a much more credible job putting together an anthology or collection of stories that a lot that I have read. Some of the stories that I have edited for *Patrolling* deserve a wider distribution than that enjoyed by the magazine. Why couldn't we do a book comprised of contributions from our members and their families?

I talked to Joe Cassilly and Gary Dolan, both of whom have published books of their own, and they agreed that the project was worth the effort. The rough guidelines would be as follows:

Submitters must be 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association members or members of their family or family circle.

The articles submitted must be true and, if the names of other people are involved, must be verifiable. We will open the door right now for submissions for the 2010 edition, and will announce an end date in the December issue of the magazine.

We will establish a jury of 5 or 6 individuals who will screen the submissions, and select those that will be included. Thus far Gary Dolan, Joe Cassilly and I have agreed to participate. We need 2 or 3 more people with writing and/or editing experience.

We will contact several publishers and gauge the interest on their part, in publishing the work.

We will consider material dealing with LRRP'S, LRP'S or Rangers from the Vietnam conflict to the present time. They do NOT necessarily need to be stories of war. As long as they are related to the above individuals, they will be considered. They can include stories relating to the effect of such service on an individual in later years, on their family or anything else that is germane.

The benefits to the Association are many. Any published work will serve to promote the Association and will

certainly aid recruiting. It is a means of having our stories told. As we age, and more and more of us die off, there are that many less to tell stories that should be told. Most of the members of the public have no idea of what a modern day Ranger goes through in a deployment, much less what members of a LRRP, LRP or Ranger team endured in Vietnam or later Conflicts. Finally it will serve as a fund raiser for the Association. We can use it for the family or member's funds or for any purpose that the membership decides.

If you are submitting a piece that has been published elsewhere, it must be accompanied by permission from the publisher, or from you to use the piece. Each submission will become the sole property of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger regiment Association, Inc.

I have added an e-mail from Gary Dolan that is very succinct, and sums up the scope of the project nicely.

Brother John

It was a pleasure to see and talk with you at the recent RR . You requested I put in writing my suggestion regarding the Book Project. I recommend you publish a one page guideline for a submission by any Ranger or by any friend, wife or supporter of Rangers, with an absolute cut-off date for submission to a panel who will review content, style, grammar, authenticity, and appropriate standards for inclusion in a paper-back First Annual Edition of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. Anthology. Selected submissions would constitute a chapter in the book and all submitters would then become recognized published authors (a strong point to use in advertising this project).

There are plenty of printing houses/book printers that could be examined for use by the Assoc. The Assoc would then sell the books, with the proceeds to pay for the printing, advertising and delivery with remaining profits as determined by the Assoc.

Be well, my Friend.  
Gary

We will work on the guideline in the months until the December issue, But the point listed above are pretty much in the ball park. Please e-mail any submissions to me, (address on page 3). Please CLEARLY state that this is a writing project submission, not a *Patrolling* article.

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

### Get Over It?

**Ed Note:** I became aware of the following exchange of ideas soon after returning from the Reunion. I asked Marc to do what was necessary to get it in such shape as could be published in the magazine. He complied. Being involved with the writing project, has perhaps, heightened my awareness, and being a Vietnam Vet has also, no doubt made me sympathetic to the position, but this is a fine piece of composition, for all of that. Except where noted, this is by Marc Thompson. J. Chester

The following article was written in response to comments posted on armyranger.com (see: <http://forum.armyranger.com>). If you want to read or participate in similar discussions (not necessarily restricted to the Vietnam era, but covering all aspects of Ranger lineage or areas of interest) please visit (or, preferably register at) the site.

Some of the comments which prompted the response have been included (at the beginning) in order to allow the reader to understand the post in its entirety. We have received permission from some of the posters to include their name, and have edited the responses for publication or readability.

#### **TOPIC: I SHOULD GET OVER IT**

**By Bill Postelnic**

The new GI Bill passed by congress pays for full tuition and includes a housing allowance and a \$1,000 payment for books.

I think it's great and pretty much equals what WWII veterans received. But on the other hand, it's like rubbing salt in my old Vietnam wounds. I went to school on the then GI Bill that provided me around \$270 a month. Even though things were much less expensive then, in no way did that even cover half the cost of just tuition.

Again, I take nothing away from today's veterans. I am happy they are being treated better than we were and they deserve it. My problem is that it also reminds me of the smack in the face Vietnam veterans received from much of the country and congress for our service. I know, I should get over it, but never will...

**WE NEED MORE RANGERS!**

**By A RANGER 2**

I felt the same way but then again at least it will go to my Son. I think the whole thing is a bit much for someone who puts in three years. Just another way to help the ones to use it for the benefits and leave after three. Just my thought on it.

**By A RANGER 3**

I also know how you feel. To deal with it, I take the satisfaction of knowing I earned everything I have without any government assistance. I do not begrudge any veteran, past or present, any benefits, however generous, for their service. I, for one, am glad to see today's service members receive extra benefits. In today's culture, which is a little too reminiscent of the VN era, choosing to enlist is not considered "cool" or politically correct. Veterans are a shrinking percentage of the population yet the republic needs its defenders more than ever. I do have the impression today's VA is trying to do more for veterans than it has in the past, even for some of us FOG's. Still, I have those feelings of "Where was our parade?" I am glad to see today's service members get recognition but there is still some lingering envy.

**By Gary E. Dolan**

As far as I am concerned, you should not get over it - I know I won't. We, the warriors who heeded the call to defend our country in the far off land known as Vietnam, were treated and are to this day looked upon with scorn, and certainly never accorded honor and respect. However, it is with pride that Vietnam veterans believe the honor and prideful treatment accorded to the current soldiers is in large measure the result of a guilty conscience of our country's citizenry for the way they treated us "baby-killers." - Gary "28"

**By CPTAUSRET**

As has been stated, we did not return home to parades. I was spat upon in downtown Oakland, it was somewhat my fault as I ignored the advice not to wear a uniform downtown. (FURTHER COMMENTS EDITED). So, when I was retired at 20 years service and 100% disability, I was asked if I wanted a parade. I said "F—K NO" I don't want any one of these troops to have to march on a Saturday afternoon for me. I guess it still rankles!

**RESPONSE by RangerTee (Marc Thompson)**

This is turning out to be a fairly long post. After I began to write it, and again after I finished, I reviewed it to see if there was something that could be deleted from the post without affecting the intent and the message itself, and decided that it would have to remain lengthy. I suppose that this is a long-pent-up reaction of my own to this topic. Please bear with me.

I don't know a single veteran from the 1960's and 70's who doesn't feel the same way, with the same conflicted emotions, as all of you expressed in the earlier posts.. I doubt that I can add anything to the (logical) analyses of the



## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

earlier posts, but I might be able to add something else, to wit... Logic and emotions are two separate things, and no matter what we tell ourselves logically, no matter that we understand all those explanations logically, we will never erase the emotional reactions felt during those years. I do not know a single veteran of that era who does not have, somewhere deep in his being, deep in his soul, all those memories of the public reactions, the insults, the looks, and the denigration we all felt. The fact that the living, returning veterans had to deal with it was bad enough, but even worse, by extension, was the disrespect for the memory of all those who gave their lives because they honored their country's call.

You should not want to get over it. Your country tried to make you feel ashamed of something that they, as a community, a group, a government, a people, asked you to do.

I'm not saying it's logical, because it's not.

I'm not saying it's right, because it's not.

I'm not saying it even makes a modicum of sense, because it doesn't.

It's like this: If you walk out somewhere before dawn on a cool, crisp morning and smell heating oil, diesel fuel, and eggs and bacon, you are liable to flash on some barracks/mess hall area in which you first smelled that combination.

If you ever played football and went to practice daily on those almost-chilly fall afternoons, there's a good chance that when you walk outside early on a fall afternoon and feel that crisp tingle at the edge of your nostrils, that you are somewhere, deep inside you, going to feel that you need to collect your equipment and head to practice.

You will always hear the sound of a slick's "whop-whop-whop" several seconds earlier than anyone else in the area, frequently earlier than that; and will automatically swivel your head to look in the direction of the approaching sound. You will always feel that primal urge to bend forward to get under the rotors, hunch your shoulders, pull your weapon under your chest, and elevate your chin so you can maintain 360-degree situational awareness and to see how close the blades are. Minds, and memories, have their own logic. Emotions have their own prerogatives and lifespan. Because you felt, and feel, the way you do, I would even argue that it's important that you do feel that way.

Without the shared memory and the resentment on the part of veterans, the public may not have learned the depth of their failure of their fellow citizens, and by extension, the

depth of their failure to honor their obligations and responsibilities to their country itself. This is not to argue the rightness or wrongness of the war itself, because, for this topic, it's irrelevant. Anyone can disagree with a policy of their country without vilifying their fellow citizens charged with implementing the policy. There is no logical fallacy therein.

Without the country's recognition of the consequences of their actions, and of their disregard for, disrespect of, and defamation of the men (and women) who served in that time, it is possible that today's military would not be accorded the respect and recognition they rightly deserve. It is important that our fellow citizens realize how poorly they behaved, how desperately they failed their fellow citizens, and that they continue to understand that for as long as they live. It is important that they convey that recognition of failure to their children, and to the following generations. One could even argue that much of the respect and recognition accorded to today's military comes not necessarily from an altruistic appreciation of the sacrifices made by the troops and their families, but from a communal guilt for the manner in which the public treated Vietnam veterans.

It is a very different thing for a veteran to express their appreciation to someone currently serving than it is for someone who glibly thanks them "for their service" or pastes a yellow ribbon on their vehicle, when, in my observation, many of them do it because it is the politically correct thing to do, and is almost a mantra because they hear it repeated so often by politicians and the media (almost all of whom, it should be noted, have not themselves served).

When my son was in first or second grade, (around the year 2000) his elementary school had an annual Veteran's Day assembly to which they invited the parents and all local veterans. I wasn't going to go, primarily because of my own memories of those days, and because I had my own issues with having to leave the military because of my injuries. My wife prevailed on me to go, and because it was my son's school and activity, I assented, although I did not wear anything identifying me as a veteran.

Prior to the assembly the students wrote essays or poems expressing what Veteran's Day meant to them, and the teachers posted the written results on the hallway walls. I had wandered down the halls prior to the assembly, and saw the flowery verse or essays written in the abstract by the students. Some of them put quite a bit of effort into

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

them. Some of them were well done. As an aside, the Pennsylvania County in which I live has the highest percentage of veterans in the population than any other county in the state, so many of the children had family members to who they referred.

After the assembly was over, my wife said to me: "I want you to come and read what your son wrote about Veteran's Day." I followed her down the hall until we came to something written which appeared much shorter than most of the other sentiments posted on the wall. I don't have the exact wording, but the essay by my son went something like this:

**Veteran's Day.**

**War sucks.**

**All wars suck.**

**I know, because my Dad told me so.**

**Lots of good people get killed, especially your friends.**

**Lots of innocent people get killed too, especially women and children.**

**Thank you to all the veterans like my Dad and his friends. Especially the ones who died.**

The hallway was full of people walking by, and I was successful in swallowing hard and not giving any outward sign of the effect that this short sentiment had upon me.

The point is this:

Because of your experience during that time, because you answered your call to duty, each and every one of you is a man of honor, a man deserving of the respect you did not get at the time. The respect that, when someone from the general population expresses it now, sounds rote, trite, and brings on the need to repress the long-simmering resentment.

The HBO series "Band of Brothers" had frequent clips of interviews with the original members of the unit throughout the production. Dick Winter, the Commander of Easy Company, related during one clip a question asked of him by his grandson (paraphrasing):

"Were you a hero in the war, Grandpa?" He responded: "No, but I served in the company of heroes."

As did we all.

We served with those who put their country first at risk of their own lives.

Those who did what was needed despite the fact that they knew, even at the time, that their task would be thankless, and in many ways disparaged or belittled.

Each and every one of you should get out of bed each day and hold your head high.

Each one of you can, in fact hold your head higher than one who answers the call and is lauded and paraded upon their return. For the noblest sacrifice is the one not appreciated, but undertaken anyway.

I tried to impress upon any young men under my command that theirs was a higher calling, that it may be dirty or thankless at times, but that they would be held to a higher standard. That one cannot do that through a lecture, but only through one's own conduct and example. That the profession of arms is a noble and necessary one. That I expected them to exemplify that nobility of purpose in their conduct and the professional discharge of their duties. That the obligations of the profession required that they discharge the two primary imperatives every day: to accomplish the mission and address the welfare of their men. That is the essence of leadership:

You do your job.

You take care of your people.

Then, and only then, do you take care of your own personal needs.

When the subject of Vietnam comes up, you can stand there, silent, because you know that, despite being abandoned by your fellow countrymen, you fulfilled your obligations of citizenship, your responsibilities to your country, and most importantly (to us, at least), to your profession and your brothers, both those who passed on and those that remain..

I know some people here in passing, some I have met and conversed with, and some I know fairly well. Some I served with personally. I feel honored to be in your company, to have had the singular honor to have served with so many who put Duty, Honor, and Country above their own personal welfare. Who overcame their own fears and did what was asked of them. Who returned to pursue their own lives in a country which did not thank them, did not appreciate them, did not honor them, and did not deserve their sacrifice. The resentment will always be there. What I try to do is make it a positive.

I am a Boy Scout leader. I teach my Scouts to conduct themselves with honor. They need to guide the younger Scouts. They need to help their fellow Scouts who need assistance, because they are a Troop. They need to discharge all of their duties first, before they find other things to do or entertain them. They need to do the right thing, whether others do or not, whether it is popular to do so or not, whether others will make fun of them or not.

## FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

They need to exemplify the Scout Law:

A Scout is:

Trustworthy,

Loyal,

Helpful,

Friendly,

Courteous,

Kind,

Obedient,

Cheerful,

Thrifty,

Brave,

Clean,

and Reverent.

I remind people at every opportunity that there are young troops downrange every day who continue to need their support, and that there were a great many of my generation who sacrificed thanklessly. That I am not suggesting that they thank me, because I am not looking for thanks, but that any time they encounter a veteran, they should remind themselves of that, and make a silent vow never to let it happen again. To tell you the truth, I would rather have the respect of the others on this board than any parade that our fellow citizens might want to organize at this late date. So, from me, to each and every one of you, “Welcome Home, Brother”. You are the honored recipients of a parade every day in my heart, and in my mind. As are each and every one of the unsung members of our fraternity who no longer walk this earth with us.

The last thing I have to say on this topic is this:

Poetry is an oft-maligned form of literature, but some poetry is so evocative, so accurate in its emotional impact, in expressing the feelings of a generation, that we neglect it at our own risk. There are two poems, both by poets of earlier generations, which I suggest you read, and see if you agree that they don’t actually accurately address the original topic of this post. Two short excerpts follow:

**Excerpt of “Tommy”,**

**by Rudyard Kipling**

For it’s Tommy this, an’ Tommy that,

an’ “Chuck him out, the brute!”

But it’s “Savior of ‘is country”

when the guns begin to shoot;

An’ it’s Tommy this, an’ Tommy that,

an’ anything you please;

An’ Tommy ain’t a bloomin’ fool –

you bet that Tommy sees!

**Excerpt of “Apologia Pro Poemate Meo”**

**by Wilfred Owen**

(translation: An Apology for My Poem)

**[FIRST STANZA]**

I, too, saw God through mud –

The mud that cracked on cheeks when wretches smiled,

War brought more glory to their eyes than blood,

And gave their laughs more glee than shakes a child.

**[LAST 2 STANZAS]**

Nevertheless, except you share

With them in hell the sorrowful dark of hell,

Whose world is but the trembling of a flare

And heaven but a highway for a shell,

You shall not hear their mirth:

You shall not come to think them well content

By any jest of mine. These men are worth

Your tears: you are not worth their merriment.

Wilfred Owen

You can find the entire text of the two poems above at:

[http://www.poemhunter.com/ebooks/redir.asp?ebook=2205&filename=rudyard\\_kipling\\_2004\\_9.pdf](http://www.poemhunter.com/ebooks/redir.asp?ebook=2205&filename=rudyard_kipling_2004_9.pdf)

[http://www.poemhunter.com/ebooks/redir.asp?ebook=2361&filename=wilfred\\_owen\\_2004\\_9.pdf](http://www.poemhunter.com/ebooks/redir.asp?ebook=2361&filename=wilfred_owen_2004_9.pdf)

There are also some books, no longer in print, by Jean Larteguy which cover the French experience in Indochina and Algeria, which, if you can find a copy, bear quite aptly on the U.S. experience in Vietnam. The two titles are:

The Centurions

The Praetorians

RLTW

Marc L. Thompson

## GOLD STAR

Hello All

Hope this finds you Blessed and well. Can you believe Fall is upon us. Where did the summer go?

I can hardly begin to put into words what a great job was done by all those in charge of this years reunion. It was wonderful. A special thanks to Bill Postelnic and his Rangers who worked so hard.

To Bill Bullen and the other out going officers and Unit directors thank you for your time and all your hard work. To John Chester and the new officers thank you for taking on the task of leading such a great organization. Rangers do Lead the Way. I am as always here to assist in anyway I can.

I was so Blessed to have Ruth Stonesifer to buddy up with for the week. Ruth is the Gold Star mother of Kristopher Stonesifer KIA 10/01 Enduring Freedom. Thank you Ruth for so graciously agreeing to speak at the dinner. You have our love and admiration as well as our complete support in your new position as head of the National Gold Star Moms Because of the great things I am now seeing at the National headquarters under Ruth and her boards leadership I have finally joined and look forward to that assisting in making our Gold Star program even better.



I was so glad to be there and see you fly like an eagle as you jumped out of a perfectly good airplane. You rock girl!!! I'm jumping next time.



While out at the Jump site I happened to over hear a young man talking and heard him say he was a medic. I went over and introduced myself and asked him if he had ever heard of Ranger Markwell. It was apparent as soon as I said the name he had. He was so gracious and told me about how Jim will never be forgotten and that Jim is his Ranger in the sky. Zach Conaway I want to thank you for making an old lady's day. I will keep you in my heart & prayers. Stay safe. RLTW



You know after 20 years as a Gold Star family we don't expect to meet men that served with our son and yet sure enough it happened. I was scheduled to meet up with Sandy & Frank Gorsk. Frank

was at 1/75 with Jim. Frank was with Jim when he died. He has remained a special Friend to our family and I was so glad to see them and honored to spend some time together. I had no idea I would be Blessed to meet some other men who knew and served with Jim but I was. Wesley Jurena, Rob Lanier, & SGM Eddie Nolan you have absolutely no idea what meeting you and spending time with you meant to me. He would be so glad we have found our red thread and will be forever connected. I can't wait for the family to meet each of you in December.



Ok, the rest of you out there know what I am about to write here. Please, please continue to try and find your buddies families. The above words do not do justice to the gift a family is given when someone says, "Mam' I knew your son or daughter." Do it soon, Time will not wait!!

I will close these ramblings now and go back to enjoying my reminiscing as I try to absorb all the Blessings I received spending time with all of you.

If you didn't make it we missed you and will look for you at the next one.

As always It is an Honor Privilege to Serve you  
God Bless & RLTW

Sandee

# UNIT REPORTS



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - William Acebes

### FALLEN HERO HONORED WITH DEDICATION

On Friday, 12 June 2009, the US Military Entrance Processing Station at Jacksonville, FL dedicated the station's ceremony room, where new recruits enlist, to the memory of Sergeant Bradley Crose. His family and friends were present as the military unveiled the room and as the first class of recruits were sworn in. SGT Crose died 4 March 2002 while on a rescue mission during Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan. SGT Crose was an Orange Park High School graduate.



**Sgt. Bradley Crose**

### COL. FRANK NORTON – R.I.P

Colonel Frank Norton, 66, died Tuesday June 30, 2009. Then Captain Norton commanded HHC, 1/75, 1976-1977. He went on to serve as Military Liaison for Senator Sam Nunn and was a champion for all military soldiers and family members.

### PHIL HANABURGH

Phil Hanaburgh, former member of Alpha and Charlie Company, 1/75, suffered a stroke and has since made a remarkable recovery - He has written about his recovery in a book entitled "Are you Ready". It is a book of inspiration, awareness and love of life. His web site is [www.philiphanaburgh.com](http://www.philiphanaburgh.com)



### 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION MEMORIAL (HAAF)

The 1st Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment Memorial at Hunter Army Airfield received highest honors from the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects. Primary recipients were Thomas & Hutton Engineering, who donated the design and construction supervision for the memorial. They shared the recognition with those who led the

effort to build the Memorial and of course with the rangers.

"We're so proud," said Ranger Memorial Board president Dave Ermer. "I'm proud. And all the people on the board are proud. The Rangers are proud."

"I know so many of these Rangers and their lovely families and their [sic] just the greatest Americans I've ever met, God bless them all," said Ranger Memorial Board vice president Richard Eckburg.

"I think this place lends inspiration," said Lt. Col. Brian Mennes. "I think it connects us to the community. I think as we enter this long war to say continually that America is not going to forget our Rangers not going to forget the sacrifice made by the men who passed away. Not going to forget their families."

The memorial honors Rangers who died in combat or training since the Battalion's reactivation on Hunter Army Airfield in 1974. (memorial article from Savannah Morning News) - Shelia Dudley has been the driving force for this Memorial - Her tireless efforts will ensure Rangers will not be forgotten. She is a HERO to many of us.

### RANGER RENDEZVOUS 2009

Brenda Acebes went to Ranger Rendezvous at Fort Benning and reports she had a wonderful time. Saw lots of friends - The 1974 "originals" had a social at the Officer's Club on Tuesday night - Brenda says she stopped in for a few minutes - Thanks to all the Rangers who hosted that night - I know of Rangers Chaney, Ranger Brown and Ranger Nelson, and I'm sure there were others. A good



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

time was had by all. Brenda and Thayer and Chessica (her nephew and his girlfriend) enjoyed the picnic and hospitality of Roger and Linda Brown at their “hobby house” in the country.

The Change of Command was outstanding to watch - The Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was an honor for all inducted and their families. All Rangers belong there!

There were many displays by the young rangers (Parachute assault; boxing smoker; Status of the Regiment; Distinguished Member of the Regiment induction).

Until the next time; keep your head down, your hatchet sharp; your powder dry; and see you on the high ground.

Bill “Julio” Acebes  
CSM, Ret.



## 2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Nate Smith

*No Submission*



## 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

*No Submission*



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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte

### REUNION '09

By Bill Bohte and Bob T. Murphy

#### Bill's bit.

The news is that I made it to the reunion this year and what a reunion it was! There were a number of firsts this time and a great deal of the fun was being witness to as well as being part. There were 14 people from the V Corp LRRPs, some with wives.

Former C.O. Norm Carlton made it with his lovely wife Betty. This was the first time many of us had seen Norm since leaving the Company 44 years ago. What a pleasure it was to see him again. Glenn Rucker said that he had never seen Norm smile until the reunion and Norm was smiling the whole time.



**The “Old Man” Norm Carlton his wife Betty and Eddie Miller in the midst of all the story telling. .**



Then there was the first meeting of the left handed Murphys. Robert C left the Company in 63 and Robert T, traveling all the way from Australia for the reunion, arrived in company in 64. Both Bobs have contributed a great deal to the history and maybe even the reputation of the V Corp 3779 LRRP Company. They talked for hours each time they got together. It was great to see them interact and to listen to their conversations.

**That's Robert T. Murphy on the left and Robert C. Murphy on the right.**



Ed Miller and Don Funk came for the first time and we got to reunite with them after all these years. The album of pictures that Ed brought went over in a big way. The challenge was trying to put names to some of the guys after all these years.

**A/75 - D/17 LRP - V CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)**

Then Glenn called Tom Gattis and we talked with him and he decided to come for a day. I have wondered many times over the years about Tom and it was perfect when he and his wife Rachel came in the door. They still looked great.



**Rachel and Tom Gattis come in from their horse ranch in Jacksonville.**

There were many opportunities for round table discussions over beer, that seem to keep coming after the bar closed, and a few of the conversations went on well after hours. One between the Murphys went until 0200.

There were 14 people from the Wildflecken and Frankfurt eras, some with their wives, and 10 from the Fort Benning and Fort Hood eras. This was from the 23 that signed the sign in list. No the math isn't wrong. There is one of us that served in both sides. Terry Roderick got to the Company when it was at Gibbs Kaserne in Frankfurt and made the jump back to Fort Benning and the switch from LRP to Ranger when it became A/75.. There was one more of us at the reunion but he did not get on the list and I could not make contact with Gary Carpenter but I heard he was there from Roy Bissey.

All in all a good turn out and there would have been more but illness, work and commitments caused several to have to cancel. They were missed.



**Some of the A/75 guys sitting around the Holiday Inn were Henry Owen and Roy Barree. Roy's wife Debbie is sitting next to Roy**

**Also sitting around was Herbert Owens, Roy Bissey and Philip "Beetle" Bailey.**

**From the sign in List:**

Glenn Rucker	Henry Lightfoot
Stan Jones	Paul Edwards
Fred Stuckey	Bob C. Murphy
Norman Carlton	Roy Bissey
Paul Tabolinsky	Mike Cantrell
Bill Bohte	John Jersey
Eddie Miller	Roy Barree
Don Funk	Herbert Owens
Bob T. Murphy	Henry Owens
Leon Roy	Charles De Jarnet
Don Marah	Terry Roderick



**From L-R are Roy Barree, Charles "DJ" De Jarnet, Philip Bailey from the A/75<sup>th</sup> and Bob Murphy from V Corp LRRP.**

From here on the mistakes are entirely mine (Bob T Murphy). The 09 Rendezvous was the first one I've made and the first time I have seen most of the Germany-era guys in 40+ years. And I had never met some of the Wildflecken gang including Don Marah who attended with his wife, Virginia.

I must be turning into a slack ass because old running buddy John Jersey got within 6' of me without me noticing him which would have resulted in pain and mayhem way back when we used to Jap each other for sport. And he had his son JJ Jr with him who was living proof that genes (nature) can triumph over nurture. The JJs had only got together recently after young JJ was reared by his mom following the divorce. Talk about a chip off the old block!

The Rendezvous was the first time I got to meet the A/75 guys I have been talking to on airborne ranger.com and the A/75 server for years. I missed the Owens' after hearing about them for years, next time for them.

But it was neat meeting Stan Jones and big and little Roy in particular. I saw Roy Bissey striding down the sidewalk a block away from Rendezvous HQ and recognised him instantly, he's that hard to miss.

Roy Barree was wearing spit shined brown cowboy type footwear in the lobby at Rendezvous HQ. He had managed to work them up to a mirror-like finish while keeping the white stitching unsullied by boot polish. It could only have been Roy when I noticed the boots and I was honor bound to pile sh\*t on him like it was going out of style, no formal

**A/75 - D/17 LRP - V CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)**

introduction required. It was great to meet him and his wife and he can take and dish out a good ribbing with a sh\*t eating grin like only a LRRP/Ranger can.



**Check out Roy Barree's spit shined cowboy boots. Note white stitching.**

For me the Rendezvous was divided into three levels, meeting and hanging

with other guys from the company at the Howard Johnsons where we had rooms, meeting LRRPs and Rangers from other companies at HQ and meeting current duty batt boys at major functions such as the barbecue at Fort Benning.

I had a revelation at the hangar barbecue about General Abrams and his obsession with weeding out the "brigands" from the Ranger batts as they were formed and subsequently. I had always thought Abrams was being a prissy control freak but after that barbecue I have to agree with him.

There were more than a thousand Rangers at the hangar which was mind boggling for me, having served in an isolated company.

Can any of you other old LRRPs and Company Rangers think about that for a moment and what would have happened if a thousand of us got together when we were in our ornery prime? We would have torn the place apart, drunk the place dry, hassled every leg in sight and then fought each other for the sport when we ran out of legs.

I couldn't believe it but there was not a single fight or even a verbal altercation the whole time. And these young batt boys were buffed up, in terrific shape, sporting lots of tattoos and calling all us old farts, "Sir" without any apparent irony.

These young Rangers are probably the best soldiers this nation has ever produced and have the trigger time to prove their mettle beyond doubt yet off-duty are a pleasure to be around.

Abrams was right.

One guy I have wanted to meet since our epic pissing contests on [airborneranger.com](http://airborneranger.com) years ago (thanks for the playpen, Spiderman!) was Dana McGrath. This guy's experiences have blowtorched the bullshit right out of him and left one of the most focused minds and biggest hearts of anyone I have ever dealt with.

I saw a joker at Rendezvous HQ with a set of eyeballs that marked him as worth knowing and stepped forward and introduced myself. Yep, McGrath. And meeting his wife

and partner and watching the way he treated that wonderful gal was a pleasure. Hell, he even pulled her chair out for her when she was sitting down at the Ranger banquet!

And the leprechaun has nailed me to write a history of the European LRRPs urgently while all the guys with the key knowledge are still available.

He's dead right. I'll be back up from Australia next summer for a couple of months to interview the key players about early LRRP operations and development.

Several of them, Norm Carlton and Bob C Murphy, were at the Rendezvous. I was amazed at the level of recall the other Murph has after all these years and his involvement with LRRPs goes right back to the Provisional V Corps LRRPs which was cobbled together for a big FTX called Wintershield which proved the concept and led to the formation of the first DA authorized LRRP companies in 1961.

Other neat experiences for me at the 2009 Ranger Rendezvous meeting Jersey's running buddies from the 173rd LRP and N/75 and having dinner with Dave Clark, Kirk Gibson, Fatback, Jim Handlin and others from VII Corps LRRPs.

I also met Terry Roderick and three fine ladies who "No Cover Charge" Terry was accompanying at the Ranger barbecue.



**Terry Roderick with Joyce Boatman, Joyce & Roy's daughter Carol Jimenez and Mary Rossi.**

Last but not least was the Ranger banquet with great food and company and, unbelievable three non-drinking guys from the company who stuck to water all night!



**Ranger Roy Barree and the Missus at the Ranger Banquet**

Great stuff guys and thanks for the company. A good time was had by all.

To anyone who hasn't made a Rendezvous, it's certainly worth the trip. It's a neat refresher to remind you that you are not alone. There are other people in this world who get it, too and a lot of them were in Columbus for the reunion.

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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

Hello to all unit members following the Ranger Rendezvous at Fort Benning in August 2009. Actually, this Unit Director wasn't sure I was going to be able to travel to Georgia this time until the very last minute (less than a week before the reunion).

I didn't take any pictures this time out because I had enough to do as it was, and I knew that others would be taking photos, so I will snag some of theirs. Likewise, I decided to reply on my memory for occurrences and events during the week we were there, instead of taking notes that I have to try to decipher later anyway. Now, THAT may have been a mistake, since it appears that I am suffering from CRS bigtime, but we'll see if I can make it through the article without short-circuiting any synapses.

**ATTENDEES (SOME OF THEM):**

OK, so I know ahead of time that I am going to mess this up, and leave someone out or commit some other horrible faux pas, so I am just going to mention some I happen to remember off the top of my head:

2009 RHOF Inductee Steven J. Murphy  
 Dave Cummings  
 Kirk Gibson (who jumped, yet again)  
 Ellis Bingham  
 Kim Maxin  
 John Sanders  
 Eldon Bargewell  
 Dave Walker  
 Don Purdy

I did not get to pick up the unit sign-in booklet, am trying to locate that now. Will update the list of attendees for the next issue as soon as I can locate the booklet and transcribe the names.

I know that Kirk Gibson jumped this year, and I'm sure that some others did as well, and I didn't see anyone that looked like they were in too bad a shape.

**RANGER HALL OF FAME**

One of the inductees to the Ranger Hall of Fame this time was also one of B Company Rangers' own. For those of



you that didn't have the opportunity to attend the Rendezvous, I included a reprinted article from the Minneapolis StarTribune regarding his induction (below). Once the RTB website stops misbehaving, you will be able to see the citation for Steve there also.

(See: [https://www.benning.army.mil/rtb/Hall\\_of\\_Fame/hof.asp](https://www.benning.army.mil/rtb/Hall_of_Fame/hof.asp))

**Caption: Steve Murphy [RHOF] (photo from Star Tribune)**

**[REPRINTED ARTICLE FOLLOWS]**

Minneapolis StarTribune

By DEAN SPIROS, Star Tribune

Last update: August 21, 2009 - 8:36 PM

**Lakeville Ranger joins another elite group**

Lakeville resident Steve Murphy is one of only 281 people to be inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

Anyone familiar with retired Army Ranger Steve Murphy of Lakeville wouldn't be surprised to hear of the mission he completed in September.

His daughter, Brenna, requested that he wear his dress blues at her wedding at Fort Snelling. Murphy hadn't worn the uniform since he left the Army in 1996 after 26-plus years, but with the proper training, the few extra pounds came off in due time.

Up against someone so skilled in the art of fighting, those extra pounds never had a chance.

Murphy, 58, who long ago earned the tag as one of the Army's elite, recently took his place among the elite of the elite.

On Aug. 5, in a ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga., Murphy joined 10 others in becoming one of 281 former Rangers to be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

Through all the training he underwent after his enlistment upon graduating from Kennedy High School in Bloomington, through the jungles of Vietnam and the sands of Iran, Murphy's courage and leadership led him to what he calls the proudest moment of his life.

**B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP** (CONTINUED)

Murphy was attending a World War II Ranger reunion in Iowa as a guest May 13 when he received news of his induction.

"I got a phone call and took it outside," Murphy said. "I stayed outside for a while and composed myself. A few minutes later I told my wife."

Along with his wife, Karen, daughter, Brenna, 29, and son, Craig, 27, Murphy shares the honor with his father and his four brothers — all of whom served in the military — and his stepfather, H. Robert Petersen, an original First Ranger Battalion member in the early 1940s.

"I don't know what other award you could get" that would be more meaningful, he said. "When your peers and superiors think that much of you to nominate you, then the nominating committee — people who don't know you, look at what you've done and then decide. It's just the top of the profession for a military guy."

Murphy called serving in the military "a foregone conclusion," given his family background. Attempting to become a Ranger proved an equally clear path.

"There wasn't anything I didn't think I could do," he said.

The months of training that followed, designed to try a soldier in every way possible, left those who remained steel-ed for anything that might come their way.

"I'm competitive," Murphy said when asked about the intense training. "If it took twice to do it, I did it twice. I just kept at it. Not everything came easy."

Murphy's stint in Vietnam included 12 months of combat. The Rangers are known as those who "engage the enemy in close combat and direct-fire battles," according to the Ranger manual.

Murphy also had two three-month stints in El Salvador in 1986 during the insurgency there. Danger was the one constant.

"When you get into tough situations, you're always going to have some fear," he said. "It's all about taking care of each other. If you focus on that, you pretty much are going to be focused on taking care of business."

Murphy's highest-profile mission proved to be Operation Eagle Claw, an attempt to rescue 52 American hostages from the U.S. Embassy in Iran on April 24, 1980. He led a platoon of more than 40 men whose assignment was to secure an airstrip to allow the rescued hostages to leave Tehran.

But a series of catastrophic events, including a sandstorm and the fiery explosion of a fuel-smuggling tanker truck during the first stage of the plan, led President Jimmy Carter to abort the mission.

Despite the disastrous outcome, which led to the death of eight Americans and one Iranian civilian, Murphy looks back at the preparation for the mission as a highlight in his career.

"The constant training we did, the minute planning we did for our portion of the mission," he said. "Our mission was well in hand had we gotten to our portion of it. It just wasn't meant to be."

The majority of the details of Murphy's career will remain unspoken.

"You don't hear much, and that's the way it's supposed to be," he said. "What [Rangers] do and how they do it is kind of a secret. I signed a statement when I retired that said there were certain things I was not going to talk about."

Today, Murphy works for the U.S. Postal Service as a supervisor at the Twin Cities Airmail Center. He also is a volunteer firefighter in Lakeville.

Come Sept. 11, Murphy will be among those to reflect on the events that took place in the U.S. eight years ago on that date. It also mark the 40th anniversary of the day he enlisted in the Army, the first step in becoming all that he could be.

Dean Spiros • 612-673-1743

**[END REPRINTED ARTICLE]**

Congratulations, again, Murph, and thanks for all you have done over the years. It's an honor to know you and have served with you.

**FALLEN RANGERS:**

This is turning out to be a more difficult article for me to write than usual, for reasons which will become apparent. I hope that I can do justice to the memories of those whose stories follow this.

**RANGER MIKE HINES  
(1951-2009) (R.I.P.):**

**Mike Hines by Robert  
Henricksen**

Ranger Mike Hines joined me at the Reception Station in Fort Jackson S.C. in 1969 as we both





**B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)**

began Basic Training. Mike Left to meet the Great Ranger in the Sky earlier this summer. Mary Hines actually made the trip to the Rendezvous, along with her daughter-in-law Tina to honor Mike's memory, and both Mary and Tina made their first parachute jumps ever during the Reunion. Following their jumps, they both got a tattoo of jump wings in honor of Mike.

I won't go into too much detail here except to say that Mike went through Basic, AIT, Jump School, Ranger School, was assigned to B/75, and left the unit to do a tour with November Rangers in Vietnam. Following his return to Fort Campbell with the rest of the Herd, they were deactivated and absorbed into the 101<sup>st</sup>, while Wilk (Bill Wilkinson – also of Charlie Rangers and November Rangers) and I were assigned to the Division Pathfinder platoon there.

Mike had had both hips replaced in the past few years, but still made it to the RRA Reunions, even when he was using his walker. True to his Ranger ethic, Mike never complained, just kept driving on.

He and Mary joined Wilk and me at the off-year Reunion in Branson in 2006, which was just after he had finished the second hip replacement, and he was actually motoring around with no walker (yea!). While we were there, Mike bought 3 ID tags with the Ranger crest on one side for the three of us, something I wear today, and will continue to wear until I meet GRITS myself.

Mike's funeral in Arkansas was attended by a great number of November Rangers, most of whom also made it to the Rendezvous. I'm sure that the N/75 article will go into more detail on that. As I said, I won't go into too much detail here, but I think of Mike every day, and in all likelihood, I will continue to. I want to be sure to mention the outstanding effort exerted for both Mike's funeral and his memory at the Reunion by Robert (Twin) Henricksen. Thanks, Robert, for all you did to honor our Ranger Buddy. We all hope that Mary will feel comfortable enough to continue to come to the reunions in Mike's place.



Farewell, Ranger Mike!!!!!!! You are missed more than you would have imagined!!

**Mary Hines and Robert Henricksen with Mike's Photo**

**YOUNG RANGERS:**

One of the highlights of the Rendezvous is the opportunity to meet some of the serving Rangers from the Regiment. 3rd Batt was deployed, but 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt were present.

It's always gratifying and inspiring to be able to interact with these younger Rangers, without whom the Ranger tradition would no longer be alive. Many of these young men are on their 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 8<sup>th</sup> deployment.

The month prior to the Reunion, a young corporal from C Co., 3/75, Ben Kopp, was wounded in Afghanistan and died of his wounds on 18 July. His company commander, Dan, was also wounded in the same engagement, and had returned to the States, partially for Ben's interment at Arlington, which occurred August 8 (the Friday during the reunion). We made some calls to ensure that the RRA would be represented during the funeral, and spent some time hanging with Dan.

After I returned from Georgia, Dan was thoughtful enough to send two bracelets with Ben's inscription on them, so my son, Lee, and I both now wear them in his memory.

I hope that we lose as few of these outstanding young Rangers as possible in the ongoing conflicts, for they are a true national treasure.

**DARRELL AND ROY BOATMAN**

**(2005 and 2006 - R.I.P.):**

Some of you know that in addition to running my own technology company, I also coach (soccer, baseball, and lacrosse), and am a Boy Scout leader. One of my neighbors, and a close friend, is the Detachment Commander at Ft. Indiantown Gap.

This June we took the Troop to the Gap where they were billeted in the old WWII open-bay, non-air-conditioned barracks, prepared our meals in our own WWII-era mess hall (grease trap included), and generally did all the things that young men find exciting. I cannot say enough about the professionalism and courtesy extended us by the National Guard members of the 28<sup>th</sup> Division, many of whom were deployed at the time in the Stryker Brigade.

When we toured the post, we arrived at the 28<sup>th</sup> Division memorial, constructed in Iraq from parts salvaged from Humvees destroyed by IED's. The memorial has large openings cut into the four-sided steel obelisk, inside of which hang dogtags representing the Division members killed in Iraq. Around the base are individual plaques bearing the names of the Division's KIA's, both from the 28<sup>th</sup> itself, as well as other troops attached to the unit.

**B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)**

### 28 Div. 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT Fallen Warrior Memorial

While the Detachment Commander spoke to the Troop about the construction and significance of the memorial, I was photographing it, and the individual plaques surrounding the base. I was surprised when I saw a plaque inscribed with the name of Gunnery Sergeant Darrell W. Boatman. Those of us who knew Roy (and/or Darrell) still feel that loss. I asked why Darrell's name was on the 28<sup>th</sup>'s memorial, and found that he had been attached to the unit commanded by my friend, who had last seen him the hour prior to Darrell being fatally wounded by an IED.

#### Darrell Boatman's plaque on 28 Div. Memorial



I will be providing photos of the memorial to Joyce Boatman, and if she so desires, will accompany her to the rededication of the memorial on post on 12 September. I know that many others in the RRA also think of Roy and Darrell often, and our thoughts are with his family and children.

#### WEBSITE

Once you begin to read this, Dave Regenthal should have some of the changes posted to the website, including reposting some of the old photos, and the Unit Roster. I understand that there are to be other changes also, so keep an eye out for that. There is also, already in effect, a new Bulletin Board function, so if you haven't visited in a while, check it out.

#### RRA business and MEA CULPA

Since I usually spend a lot of time behind the registration desk, and doing other things as tasked by John Chester, and sign in a lot of people from every unit associated with the RRA, sometimes it is difficult to remember which members of VII Corps, C/58, or B/75 I got the chance to see or talk to.

I had half-expected to see Mike Moser or Bill Scanlan there after their emails (published in an earlier version of *Patrolling*), but on the other hand, I also believe that there were a number of members of the Association who were absent this Reunion due, in part, to the vicissitudes of the current economy.

If I left out mentioning someone, I'll blame it on my CRS... send me an email chastising me severely, and I will apologize (while in the leaning rest) in the next issue.

Until next time:

High Speed, Low Drag, & Keep Your Head Down.

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

Email: [mthomp@dejazzd.com](mailto:mthomp@dejazzd.com)

#### VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN) 2009 Reunion Recap

BY: Kirk Gibson

Once again, several former VII Corps LRRPs attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Rendezvous and had our reunion-within-a-reunion. This year's attendees were Col (RET) Ellis Bingham, accompanied by his two lovely keepers (his niece and her friend, who proved incapable of the task so he sent them home), SGTM (RET) John Kingeter and his grandson Kyle, Dick "Boss the incoming" Foster (more on him later), "Leftenant" Tom Forde, Bill "The IRS loves you" Hill, John "I love Fatback" DeCosta, Stuart "Workhorse" Land, Jim "Where are we now?" Handlin, Dave "On my best behavior" and his keeper Sylvia Clark, Rick "Fatback" Hathaway, John "Fish" Fisher, Bruce "second but not last reunion" Falconer, Fred "Beetle" Bailey for his first reunion, James "the local resident" Jackson, Don "the disappearing" Wagaman, Dom "Cameo appearances" Manio and Kirk "the outgoing" Gibson.

In a bloodless coup, Richard "Boss" Foster has accepted the mantle, scepter and the honor of heading up our Association, succeeding Kirk who is experiencing flame out. Look for some positive changes with new blood in charge. Bill Hill has policed up our By-Laws, which were created many years ago but never fully ratified in our infancy, and will work with President Foster to implement them. There are more ideas which will emerge, and I expect we will all support the Boss in every way.

As a nice addition, Fodter had a banner made up to exactly replicate the sign that was in front of our Company in Nellingen. The original sign was designed and created by Theo Knaak.

**B/75 - C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP (CONTINUED)****Jim Handlin and LRRP Company Banner**

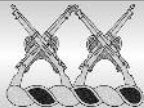
As to the reunion, I believe a good time was had by all. It is always nice to have a variety of activities made available by the 75 RRA, and there were plenty of them, including the picnic, the regimental drop, change of command, RHOF induction, annual meeting and banquet. Besides the Ranger functions, we saw the new Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning, which is really top notch. The jumping activity at Tuskegee was availed by Hill, Hathaway, Lane, Falconer, Gibson and Bailey - his first in several decades.

I hope you all got to see the VII Corps LRRP history book I passed around. It is a masterpiece, put together by Sam Rodriguez. Most said that they would like a copy, and I am working with Sam to develop a price for it and the accompanying data CD, and will report on that soon.

If all attendees would please forward their pictures and stories to me, I will consolidate them into a 2009 Reunion web album for all to enjoy.

And finally, thanks for letting me be the head cat-herder for the past few years. Although tedious at times, it has given me the opportunity to know all of our members better which is, as MasterCard would say, priceless. I wish Dick Foster all success in bring the Association forward, and promise to make the transfer as seamless and easy as possible.

Kirk out



**C/75 - E/20 LRP**  
Unit Director - Chuck Vaughn

**Message from the Outgoing President/Unit Director**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been a real honor and a pleasure to serve as your president and Unit Director these past two years. The time spent has taught me a lot about our membership. I have tried to pass that knowledge learned onto you, that we might get to know one another better, and to get some of the amazing stories from our unit on the record. I feel (as I have since first joining Echo Company back in 1968) to be privileged to be counted as a member of the best unit that ever served in Vietnam.

The job of president now rests in the capable hands of Mr. Del Ayers; a dear friend and a great human being. From the bottom of my heart, I thank each member for giving me the opportunity to work with a great Board of Directors in moving our beloved Echo/Charlie Rangers in a very positive direction these past few years.

I look forward to our next reunion in 2011, when we can all be together again.

With much love and affection,  
Chuck Vaughn



**Echo/Charlie Rangers and the 134<sup>th</sup> AHC 2009 Joint Reunion**

**By Chuck Vaughn**

May 6<sup>th</sup>: Wednesday - Rangers and Chopper Pilots began to converge on the Quality Inn in Columbus, GA to begin five days of events planned to show honor and respect to the joint effort both units put forth in Vietnam. The reunion was, in large part, the product of work done by our Secretary, Cal "Preacher" Rollins, Mr. Gary Dolan, and 134<sup>th</sup> coordinator Ray Grodeck.

May 7<sup>th</sup>: 0830, early Thursday morning the entire group boarded two

busses to take a trip to the Ft. Rucker Aviation Museum in Ft. Rucker Alabama. We had a tour of the museum followed by a box lunch. The local police department provided an escort to the Daleville Town Hall for a rededication ceremony to honor "Demon 325," a special Helicopter that flew many missions in the Central Highlands of Vietnam. A large portion of those missions was infiltrating and ex-filtrating LURP teams from Echo/Charlie Rangers. It was a real treat to have the original pilot from the Demons there at the dedication.

## C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

The Mayor of Dalesville, the Commander from Ft. Rucker, our good pilot buddy “Lucky,” and the Crew Chief from the 134<sup>th</sup> all gave speeches that outlined a little history of the relationships between the town of Dalesville, AL & Fort Rucker, and the 134<sup>th</sup> Helicopter Group, and Echo/Charlie Rangers.

The best story that was recalled about Chopper “325” was told by our ranger brother Rocky Stone (Jerry “Rocky” Stone was featured in a previous issue of *Patrolling*, recounting his experience on “Hill 875” Thanksgiving Day, 1997). Rocky told of how he and his team were rescued by Chopper “375,” flown by “Lucky,” from the 134<sup>th</sup>, after a heavy fire fight, which had left Rocky wounded so he could not use his right arm.



**325's Commemorative plaque.**

While under constant enemy fire, the Chopper could not land due to the foliage, but could only hover about 5 feet off of the ground. Rocky's teammates hoisted him up and into the Chopper, with the help of one man in the bird. It was the “old Heave Ho,” to get him on board. As the Chopper was leaving the exfill site, and heads were counted, they come to



**Big ‘O’, Chuck Vaughn, Doc Gove & Michael.**

find out that Rocky was missing. It seems that in the confusion of combat, with all good intentions, they had heaved Rocky in one side of the “Dust Off,” and out the other. He had continued on and out the other side of the rescue ship. Of course, after the discovery that Rocky had chosen to stay at the contact site, the team went back the second time, and this time, secured him in the ship while receiving heavy enemy fire. I’m sure it was not funny at the time, but to hear Rocky recount the tale in his mater of



**C. Vaughn & C. Tabron**



**Chopper 325**

fact way, one had to laugh. After leaving Daleville, the group headed back to the hotel to visit, and to hold a live auction.

May 8<sup>th</sup> 0930, Friday morning the unit headed to the *Best Ranger Competition*,

to observe our nation's finest compete for in the once a year event to recognize the best of the best, of today's rangers.

1330-The rangers had their by-annual business meeting. The Board stayed the same with the same officers except for the president. Brother Delbert “Del” Ayers was elected as president for the next two years. Congratulations Del, and the best of luck in your new position.



**Lucky, Mayor, Chuck Vaughn, Ft. Rucker Commander.**

May 9<sup>th</sup> 0930-Saturday morning the combined group met at a riverside ceremony for our fallen brothers. Following an invocation, the names of the men who have passed on, since our last gathering, were read off. A wreath for the 134<sup>th</sup> Helicopter Group, and one for Echo/Charlie Rangers were given up to the river currents to end the proceedings.

1700-The units met at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center for ceremonies, and a banquet. The guest speaker for the evening was CSM Andy Bell, who talked about the idea, that we are all part of the same all American team. The rest of the evening was filled with conversation and dancing.

May 10<sup>th</sup> Departure

### “Never Leave a Fellow Ranger Behind”

As Hannibal from *The A Team* show used to say, “Don’t you just love it when a plan comes together?” On June 17<sup>th</sup> of this year, Nguyen Van Trinh, and his family, arrived here in Philadelphia, PA, USA as refugees, and are receiving the benefits of that status. This is after being separated from his Ranger brothers since the end of the conflict in Vietnam. Almost everyone knows Trinh either from Vietnam (he was with Echo/Charlie 1967 – 1971) or from the 2007 reunion.

**C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)**

Trinh came into Echo Company in 1967 as an interpreter, a job he was very suited for since he spoke English fluently. He and I became fast friends sharing a hooch at An Khe. It was not long before he volunteered to be in my team, Team 2-2 (the Double Duce). We ran many missions together, and I can say that Trinh was a good LURP (the greatest compliment I can give anyone).

I left Nam in 1969. Trinh and I said good-by, he gave me a photo of himself and on the back it read "Don't forget me." I was not to hear from him for the next 37 years.



**Trinh & Family, first night in the US.**

a fellow member of our unit who asked if I knew a guy named Trinh; that he was looking for me on our web page.

Of course it was my old team mate. We e-mailed each other then talked on the phone and generally caught up on each other's lives.

With the help of Preacher, we received enough in donations to pay for Trinh and Rosa to attend our 2007 reunion at Benning. It was great to see one another again. Our Ranger brothers and sisters made them feel very welcome. Trinh and Rosa stayed a little while longer in the US after the reunion, first at Daniel Pope's LZ in Georgia, then at mine in Pennsylvania. Since that time, our association has been working diligently to get them immigrated here.

After many letters, from Congressmen, from many of our Rangers, and through a contact of Preacher's in Ho Chi Min City, our prayers were answered. Trinh, Rosa and three of their children (Thanh Quang, The Bao, and Thanh Ngoc) are now here in the US. Our



**Mr. & Mrs. B. Payne**



**Picnic – Van Trinh & family.**

country is really a great place to live. Here in Philadelphia there is a group (Nationalities Service Center or NSC). They were formed to help folks, just like our Vietnamese family, adjust to living in America. They helped to get the Trinh family into a house, have helped to get them all American ID's, have helped Trinh to get his driver's license, and have arranged to get the entire family into classes learning English.

Trinh and I did a little car shopping late in July, and he picked out a nice used Toyota, Camry. I think he got a pretty good deal. The guy that sold him the car said he wanted to help him out after he heard Trinh's story. He dropped \$200 off of the asking price, and even showed us the receipt showing what the dealership had paid for the car at auction. He gave him a good deal on an extended warranty, and even filled the tank up before he left him off of the lot.



**Rosa & Trinh & new car.**



**Trinh's entire family in Vietnam.**

It has been my great joy having my teammate back from the dead. We have spent many hours in fellowship, and look to many more in the future. I can tell you that he truly appreciates what our association has done to make his lifelong dream a reality. I have attached a few recent photos of Trinh, Rosa and the kids. One is a picture with them and their new car (new for them) a 1999 Toyota. The others were taken at their home in South Philadelphia, and at a cook-out we recently did at my home to welcome them here.

One journey for Trinh & Rosa (the one about them immigrating to the US) is accomplished, but another journey has just begun. Trinh is



**Trinh, Ann Sherman, Dave Dolby with KIA Rex Sherman's fatigue shirt.**

**C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)**

now 60 years old. The Commies stool his youth, and he has limited skills to compete in a slumping job market. For now,



**Picnic – Trinh, Sharon Vaughn  
& Brandon Vaughn.**

he will have to take jobs he would otherwise refuse, as beneath his dignity, but he is ready to do that. I guess what I'm trying to say is, Trinh and his family will need our continuing support until they get on their feet. Anyone wishing to contribute to this

worthy cause, please contact me at [emptyhand@comcast.net](mailto:emptyhand@comcast.net). We are in the process of setting up a special account to give financial aid to him and Rosa, and you can be assured any contributions will go directly to them.

I have been privileged to witness the changes in this family from day one until present, and I can testify that the change has been very positive. Trinh has confided to me, that one of the best things he has experienced over the time he has been here is, that he finds himself not having to look over his shoulder all of the time, like he had to under the communist rule in Vietnam. He says freedom from that is truly great.



**Picnic – Rosa with Elijah,  
Chuck Vaughn's grandson.**

**PROFILE OF NGUYEN VAN TRINH E20-C75  
RANGER, ID# 225AF3**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, I am kindly to report myself before and after 1975.

On March 15, 1968, I came and presented my self direct to the Recruitment Team of Interpreter by an American in charge of the office at Phuoc Tuy Province Headquarter (old) Baria-Vungtau (new). I passing English oral test. On March 22, 1968. I was taken to Quang Trung military training centre, taking an English test under the American-Vietnamese examiners and I passed the exam. Then I had to train five weeks of military at Quang Trung Military Training centre. Then also I was train and learning English Military Subject at Armed Forces Language School in Saigon.

After Graduation, I was granted Staff Sergeant, called NCO Interpreter. August 1968. I was moved to 4th Infantry Division USA located in Pleiku. At 4th Inf. Div. At Pleiku Camp Enary I was recruited by The E20-C75 Rangers Commander to being Ranger Interpreter of the Unit.

At the E20-C75 Ranger I was train Long Ranger Patrol training course ( with ARVN Ranger). Then I was attached to E20-C75 Rangers LRP Training Team To train Long Range Patrol to Vietnamese Rangers in Banmethuot, to Vietnamese Regular Force in Due Trong, Lam Dong, Dalat. Then was took part in Long Range Patrol jump team 2.2 of 2nd Platoon. Team leader was SSG Chuck Vaughn, Assistant Team leader, SGT Daniel Pope.

About June 1970, I was taken order back to 4th Inf. Div. in An Khê by 4th Inf. Div/HQ Then was attached to 1/10 Cavalry then G5. Until the unit going home in 1971.

At the end of Interpreter Department was dissolved, I was transferred to served the ARVN Signal Department. I was attached to ICS Site in Hue 1972. The final unit was AMSFV. Main Signal Supply in Long Binh Base, Bien Hoa province.

**DATE OF BEING CAPTURED, RE-EDUCATION  
AND NO-CITIZEN RIGHTS:**

From: March 15, 1975. I was on leave so as to take my wife and children to my parents-in-law home town preparing to give birth to the third child in Phuong Lam Village, Dinh Quan district. Long Khanh Province (old), Dong Nai Province (new).

On: March 17, 1975. Sudden, Phuong Lam and Dinh Quan was falling under Communist control, I was lost contacted with the unit. Being hid in fishing village

On: March 23, 1975. I was captured and being prison in Dinh Quan District, where I endured beatings and torture.

On: June 19, 1975. I was taken to La Nga Re-education camp in Dinh Quan District.

On: August 02, 1976. I was Re-leased, coming home to live together with my wife and children, farming at Agricultural Co-operation of New Economic area at Phu Thanh, Dong Hiep Tan Phu, Dong Nai Province. And I was put under surveillance in local area. Until, April 12, 1977. Then I got Re-paid the Citizen Rights.

On 1990 my family had consented relocated back to 53 Duong van Nga, Rach Dua, Vung Tau City and I living here now, here is also the previous place of my family live since 1964.



**C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)**

From: 1990 to 1993. I was unemployed, can not being employment of any agencies and organization of Socialist of Vietnam, with reason have been Re-education and Co-operation with Republic of Vietnam and United States Army. After farming 15 years at New Economic Area and three years was unemployed.

Until March 01, 1993, I got job in Vung Tau. I was employment only by foreign companies. Thanks to my God.

From: 1993 to 1994. Work for Trafalgar House Offshore International Ltd.

From: 1994 to 1995. Work for Professional Testing Services Ltd.

From: 1995 to 1997. Work for Weather Ford, American Company

From: 1997 to 2007. Present work for Matthews Daniel International (VN) Ltd.

**Member of family:****DOB:**

1-NguyenThiRang	1952	Wife	
2- Nguyen Quoc Tuan	1972	Son	Married
3-Nguyen Thanh Tuyen	1973	Daughter	Married
4-Nguyen Thanh Huong	1975	Daughter	Married
5-Nguyen Khac Vinh	1977	Son	Married
6-Nguyen Thanh Lan	1980	Daughter	Married
7-Nguyen Thanh Quang	1984	Son	Single
8-Nguyen The Bao	1986	Son	Single
9-Nguyen Thanh Ngoc	1989	Daughter	Single

Dear Brothers and Sisters. I would like to under take what I am reporting above are the truth. Vietnam.

Yours Sincerely

**D/75**

**Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson**

Well, another Reunion has come and gone, and we had a wonderful time there. There were 20 families from D Company 75<sup>th</sup> that signed in on our sign in sheet, for that reason this article will run somewhat longer than usual.

Tom and Janice Delaney were already there when I arrived. They had come in from Fayetteville N.C. where Tom returned after he retired from the army. He then started working at Ft Bragg in a civil service capacity. He finally retired from that job this year, now he has time for his fishing hobby. Tom was assigned to the third platoon and the team leader of team 3-5. After D Company deactivated he was transferred to L Company with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

Carl and Rosie Norris came in from Arizona and we had a great time together again. We always enjoy spending time with them. Carl was one of the Annie Fannie pilots that flew us to and from the field; as a matter of fact he was one of the pilots who picked me up on our last mission with Delta Company when I was injured on the insertion, so he and I have a special bond, not that he isn't also close to other D Company Rangers. They decided to drive over from their home in Carl's Corvette. They have come to every Reunion since 2004, which is when we actually met; he asked who had to be medivaced out by the C&C bird on that last



mission and I let him know that it was me. He and Rosie are so much a part of our Ranger family that the reunions would not be the same without them.

Billy Faulks also came in from Macon, Ga. where he was raised and has lived since he got out of the service. His wife Doris joins him at the reunions after she can get off from work for the week. Billy told me they have six Children and 16 grandchildren. He has been attending the reunions since around 1998, and the only one he has missed is the last reunion at Ft. Lewis Washington.

Billy was one of the RA members that served most of his tour with D151 but remained behind after they left to help train us members of D75th. After he left Nam his next duty station was in Korea where he was an MP up on the DMZ. Then he returned to the states and was stationed at Bragg with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. Once he got out of the service he returned to his home in Macon and became a residential building contractor. He just retired two years ago, now he has more time to play golf. When I called him to get this update he was on the tenth hole.

Frank Park came in from Pa. where he still works for the U.S. Postal Service; he plans to retire this October. He was accompanied by his girlfriend Dawn. She went with him when he made his three jumps during the reunion, and she

**D/75** (CONTINUED)

also jumped that day. For those of you who may have joined the association since our last reunion, Frank served in the 1<sup>st</sup> platoon with both D151 and D75th. Once he returned to the states he was stationed at Bragg with the 82<sup>nd</sup> until he got out of the service.

John Kingeter came in from Pa. with his grandson. John was a Team Leader in the first platoon. This was his 3<sup>rd</sup> trip to Vietnam. When he left D Company he was transferred to M Company 75<sup>th</sup>, he said he was only with them for a short time before he was promoted to platoon Sgt and had to leave. He remained in the Army until he retired. After he retired from the military he went to work for the US postal service, but left them after his wife became ill. After his wife passed away he remained retired and makes a couple of trips to Europe every year to visit friends he still has over there. Since he met his wife and married her while stationed in Germany her family still lives there and he will also visit with them while he is there.

Don "Vic" Viccaro came in from Indiana even though he lives in Rochester, NY. He had gone out there to visit with some of the D 151 Rangers. While out there he started having trouble with his knees again, so when he got to the reunion he was negotiating around with a walker he had borrowed from a friend. He said after he got there at the reunion they started getting a little better and eventually switched to a cane. By the time he was ready to leave they were feeling better. Vic was another of the RA Rangers that spent most of their tour with D 151 but stayed behind with D 75<sup>th</sup> for a while after the National Guard Rangers went home. He left on Saturday to go to Ft. Campbell Ky., where one of his sons is stationed. He just got back from Iraq so Vic wanted to spend a day or two with him and his wife before he had to return to New York.

Dave Capik was not able to attend this year because he has had some very serious health problems. He was in a coma for a while and was admitted to a VA nursing home; Vic contacted me during that period of time to see if I had heard anything about Dave because he had lost contact with him. I hadn't but Lou Hawk found out which nursing home he was in and by that time Dave was out of the coma and able to communicate with everyone again. Since then he has been riding a health roller coaster. He will get better for a while and then he doesn't do so well again. At the time of the writing of this article Vic has not been able to get an answer at the direct phone line to Dave's room, so we don't know what his current status is. Please everyone keep Dave and his family in your prayers.

Gary Olson drove over from his home in Ozark, Al.; it was good to see him as he and I have become better friends

since I started attending the reunions. I didn't get to spend much time with him in D Company because he was mostly involved with special opps missions there. We did get drunk together a few times when we were both in the rear, but it wasn't very frequent that we were in the rear at the same time. I do have a story to share from one of those times but I will save it for another article as this will be a long article already. Gary took a lot of pictures at this reunion and has sent me a couple of discs of these photos, once I have finished editing all of the pictures that were taken by me and others I will burn a disc and mail it to everyone who I have contact information for as I have done with other get togethers.

Marc "Moe" Lamphere and his wife Cindy arrived from South Dakota on Tuesday. They drove over but stopped and visited with some friends in Va. first. Moe was in the third platoon and was on Steve Johnson's team. He carried the M-60. Once he got out of the service he went to college and got a Bachelors degree. He and his wife Cindy went to Africa and worked for the Peace Corps for a while. When they came home to South Dakota they bought a cattle ranch where they raised long horns. When they decided to sell off most of the property for the ranch Moe started a fence company, which keeps him busy most of the time. He is also a volunteer fireman and teaches firefighting classes there in S.D. He and Cindy set up the rate deals we got when some of us went out there for a small D Company get together and we had a ball. We are starting to make plans to do it again next year again (possibly in June).

Steve Mead came in from his home in Danville Ky. He showed me a certificate that he was ordained as one of the ministers at the Ranger Chapel. He asked me not to tell anyone but I guess I'll have to tell him I'm sorry the next time I see him. For those of you who haven't been able to attend one of these reunions you won't understand the humor in that title, but those of us that do understand completely.

Mike "Bones" Miller came in from his home in Inman S.C. For those of you who don't recognize the name from Delta Company 75<sup>th</sup> He was known by his first name Ken while he was with us. He now prefers to go by either his middle name or his nickname. Mike was in the fourth Platoon and had gone through a lot of training with Wally Hawkins before they received orders for D Company. It was funny to watch him and my old team leader interact with each other at this reunion.

Lou and Shane Hawk came in from California, Lou is Rusty Hawk's widow and Shane is their son. Rusty passed away just prior to the first reunion I attended in 2005. At that reunion we had a memorial service for him at the

**D/75** (CONTINUED)

Ranger Memorial on Ft. Benning. They had been attending with Rusty for several years before Rusty passed, and we are grateful that they consider us enough a part of their family that they want to continue attending. They are certainly part of ours. At the 2007 reunion Shane made his first parachute jump and was presented a jacket with jump wings from Frank Park and some of the other Rangers.

Wally Hawkins arrived on Thursday with his wife Carolyn and their grandson Matthew. They live in Nashville TN. They had just spent a week down in Panama City Fl. As they had wanted to take Matthew down there so he could have a summer vacation. He is very athletic and plays several sports in high school so he spends a good part of his summer break from school in different sporting clinics. The last time Wally and Carolyn were able to attend the reunion was in 2005. Wally was in the third platoon, he was the assistant team leader for the first team I was on until our team leader was promoted. Wally then took over team 3-1 and Tom Delaney came to Team 3-5 and became our team leader.

Daniel and Diane Hughes came in from their home in Lugoff S.C. Dan was another one of the D151 Rangers that were RA and stayed behind with us to help train us when we first got there. He went by Daniel Winter back then. He had some knees surgeries since our last reunion, and it was good to see them again. They had convinced another D151 and D 75<sup>th</sup> ranger to come back to the reunion. His name is Gerald (JB) Brantley and he hadn't been at one of these reunions since 2004. Turns out he and I only live about 10 miles apart.

Mike and Sharon Warren arrived on Friday afternoon. They had to wait until then so that they could get their Grandkids settled in school; it was their first week back so they took off after they dropped them off at school on Friday. Mike and Sharon have been raising their Grandchildren for quite some time. The Kids mother does come over and spend a good amount of time with them and their father has them visit with him on weekends also. As a matter of fact he picked them up from school and they spent the weekend with him while Mike and Sharon were at the reunion. They are so used to me calling and talking with Mike that they call me uncle Herd now. Mike was also assigned to the third platoon and served with Moe on Steve Johnson's team as an RTO. When D Company deactivated he was sent to the 173<sup>rd</sup> airborne Brigade but was assigned to an artillery unit there. After he came home from Nam he got stationed at Bragg with the 82<sup>nd</sup>.

Another Ranger from D 151<sup>st</sup> and D 75<sup>th</sup> that was at this reunion was Richard Lowes. He hadn't been to one of these reunions since 1992. His wife became ill as was not able to travel for several years, and she passed away about 1 ½ years

ago from Cancer. Richard was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> platoon and was sometimes the RTO on his team sometimes the ATL, and sometimes just another hired gun. He went through Mac V Recondo School while with D Company and after we deactivated he was transferred up to M 75<sup>th</sup>. After he returned home he went to college and has multiple degrees. One of them allowed him to work as a forensic scientist, then he became a residential contractor, if I remember right I think he told me he also at one time was going to become a school teacher. As of late he has been working as a building inspector. He and his wife had decided to adopt children so they adopted two older children that had come from an abusive household. Their son had been abused so badly that he had brain damage. He now is raising their 13 year old Grandson.

Roger Barbe was also one of the D Company Rangers who attended this reunion. He was in the 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, and from what he told me they really screwed him when D Company deactivated. He was not allowed to go to another Ranger unit because he had made his platoon sergeant mad. He was sent to Song Bay (sure I misspelled that one). When he got home from Nam he got out of the service and he went home and became a carpenter. He also sold insurance and securities for a while. He is now retired and living in Wichita, Ks.

We got to go over and tour the new National Infantry Museum that opened earlier this year, and it was absolutely awesome. The displays are for the most part realistic. The reason I say for the most part, for example the display that is set up as a trail through the jungles of Vietnam are wider than I remember them in Vietnam. I assume this is to accommodate the large flow of traffic in these displays. In that particular display as you walk down the trail you will see a piece of plexiglas imbedded in the trail and when you step on it the punji pit under it lights up. When we got there to take a tour we had figured on two hours to walk through and we didn't get to stop and read half of the displays.

Over the last couple of years as your unit director, I have been asked on several occasions if I had heard from 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Harris. My answer has always been no, but I had heard that he had passed away, but I couldn't confirm that. While at Columbus this year I typed an old address I had for him into map quest and found that it was only about 8 miles from the hotel, so I went and checked it out. At that address I did find out that he had in fact passed away in September of 1995 due complications from an open heart surgery. His widow and daughter still lived there. His widow invited me in and we talked for about an hour. Their daughter has been afflicted with MS since she was 17 years old. I had visited on the same day as the Bar-B-Que at the hotel so I invited her to join us there, but she was not able to attend on such short notice, she would have had to find someone to sit with their daughter.

**D/75 (CONTINUED)**

Other Rangers who were not able to attend this Reunion even though they had, made plans were Bill “Fitz” Fitzgerald and his wife Kathy, Ken and Linda Dern, Ed “Maddog” Krause and his wife Janice, Richard Badmilk and his wife Deb, George “Psycho” Christianson and his wife Julie and of course Bear Papp.

Fitz and Kathy weren’t able to attend due to a conflict in times with one of his daughters wedding. Her wedding was on Saturday the same day as the Banquet and they flew out to California for the wedding on Wednesday of the reunion week. The wedding was very nice but the flight to and from was nightmares according to Fitz. The size of the seats on the airlines doesn’t give him enough legroom so he is still having a good deal of pain as of the writing of this article. He did want me to express how much he missed us at this reunion. Especially Tom Delaney and Wally Hawkins, Wally and Fitz were wounded by the same RPG on that last mission with D Company 75<sup>th</sup>.

Ken and Linda also had to cancel at the last minute and were greatly missed. Fortunately I only live a couple of hours from them so I go up and see them before the next one. Ken and I will also stay in almost weekly contact during the football season because he and I are both Jaguars fans, and they live in Jacksonville.

Maddog was in a PTSD program during this reunion so he and Janice were not able to attend. He is scheduled to graduate next week, but his doctors will not allow him to return to work, so he is going to have to go through the claims process now. I would hope it doesn’t take to long since the VA doctors will not allow him to work. The program he is in is at the VA hospital in Tomah, Wisconsin.

Richard Badmilk and his wife Deb had made plans to attend this reunion but because the powers that be on his reservation fired the entire School Board and he had to assume the Superintendent Job along with his job as principle of his school. The added responsibilities of that position didn’t allow for him being able to leave and come to the reunion. He assured me that by the next one he will be retired and plans to definitely attend.

Psycho and Julie were not able to attend since they purchased a second home in upstate NY and were working on getting it ready to use during the hunting season this year. I’m sure we will be able to see them next summer when we have the get-together in South Dakota again.

Bear Papp was not feeling well and had to cancel at the last minute because he didn’t feel he could make the trip alone. He had wanted to come by himself to this reunion to spend more time with his Ranger brothers.

Only one more item to add is the above mentioned get together in South Dakota. We plan to do it in June this coming year. We had a great time out there last year. I was so impressed with that part of the country that if I could have been able to endure the cold winters up there I would have gotten home packed up everything I owned and move to Hot Springs. There is plenty of sight seeing opportunities which are historical in Nature as well as wild animals just come walking through the streets every day. More about that in future articles.

RLTW

Herd Out!



**D Company 75<sup>th</sup> at the Saturday night banquet.**



**D Company after the Saturday Morning business meeting.**



**Carolyn, Sharon, Jan, Rosie and Cindy.**



**Jim, Donna, Diana, Dan, Gerald, Dawn and Frank.**

**E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9TH DIV LRRP**

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

E Company had three excellent representatives to attend the Ranger Rendezvous/Reunion at Ft. Benning. Bob Copeland, Marshall Larsen and Jim Godbolt enjoyed the opportunity to meet with dedicated veterans of other Ranger units and tour the newly-opened National Infantry Museum.

I received an "after action" phone call from Copeland who said the 190,000 square foot museum with more than 30,000 artifacts is well worth seeing. The contributions of the foot soldier from the colonial period, up to Operation Iraqi Freedom is depicted in life-like scenes. Copeland was especially interested in the Vietnam exhibit which even pumped in high heat and humidity to make the viewer feel as if he was back "in country." I was pleased to learn there is a section of the museum dedicated to the Rangers and there are plaques on display to honor the nearly 1500 infantrymen who are recipients of the Medal of Honor.

We are proud to announce that thanks to the outstanding narrative writing by Copeland, E Company will have two Rangers, Joseph P. Castagna and Emory Parrish,



honored by the Mountain Ranger Association next spring at the Ranger open house in Dalhousie, Georgia. Joe was KIA in Nam in 1968 and Emory died a couple of years ago in Florida. I had the privilege of serving with Emory in Vietnam where he was one of our most distinguished patrol leaders. Both men will have their names on the signpost at the Mountain Ranger Camp where they will be seen by Ranger students as they head out to the field on tactical training exercises.

E Company is sad to report the loss of MSGT Bob Maushardt who died of cardiac arrest in June. Burial was held at Ft.



Rosecrans Military Cemetery in San Diego. "Top" Muashardt, a combat veteran of three wars, was respected by all who knew him. We were blessed that he was able to be with us at our reunion last spring in San Diego. His son-in-law, Dan Crawford, wrote how much it meant for Top to meet with his old Ranger buddies

before he died. He gave special appreciation to Bob Hernandez and Ron Tessensohn for being with Top's family after the funeral and to Marshall Larsen and Hilan Jones for the flower arrangements.

Before closing, I'd like to pass along portions of an email we received this summer from Vietnam. It was sent by our PRU buddy, Nhan, who served as point man for many an E Company patrol. When Sal DiSciascio learned that Nhan and two of his PRU friends were experiencing some financial troubles, he sent out an appeal to E Company which resulted in the following:

Dear My Old Rangers:

We have received (the donation) you send to help us overcome the difficult period we are having. Sal did not tell us who has contributed but we still want to send you all a sincere thanks from deep in our heart.

Though many of you do not know or do not remember who we are, even if we lose contact with one another nearly 40 years, but when we need it you do not demur that help is available, and demonstrate that our team was very deep and is recorded in military history. We are not duds.

Thank you good friends of us. Thank you for not forgetting us. God of fitness for you and your family.

Nhan, Bao and Nghia

Thank you Sal and all others from E Company who helped



**E/75 - E/50 LRP - 9TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)**

Nhan and his friends in a time of need. Some of us would not be here today were it not for the PRU's. Their assistance while we were on patrol will never be forgotten.

**Rangers Lead the Way**

From Bob Copeland

In 2010 two deceased Members of Company E will be inducted into the US Mountain Ranger Association Fallen Ranger Memorial at the Mountain Ranger Camp, at Dahlonega, Ga. Sgt E-5 Joseph P. Castagna KIA 21 December 1968 and Staff Sgt Emory Parrish deceased 2 December 2005 will



be Honored with their names being placed on a Street Sign mounted on a post with four other inductees. I will read Citations regarding their accomplishments at the USMRA



Ceremony which takes place during the 5th Ranger Training Bde Open House. As the date and time have yet to be set I will advise you when I am notified. It is my hope that as many of the

Company E Members as are available will attend this Ceremony Honoring our Fallen Comrades.

It should be noted that I presented a Plaque to John Chester, past Editor and now President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, on behalf of Company E Members, to thank

him for all he has done for the RANGER/LRP/LRRP COMMUNITY, through the publication and editing of the PATROLLING MAGAZINE. The presentation of the Plaque by me to John Chester, took place at the Ranger Rendezvous Banquet, at the Iron Works. A HUGE THANK-YOU goes out to



Marshall Larsen of Company E who came up with the idea of the Plaque to Honor John for his service. Marshall contacted Ron Tessensohn who once again quickly put together an OUTSTANDING WORK OF ART and mailed



the Plaque to me at the Holiday Inn at Columbus, Ga., in time for me to present it to John. A HUGE THANK-YOU also goes out to Tess in recognition of his ART AND DESIGN

TALENT and DEDICATION to Company E. Thanks again Marshall and Tess for taking the POINT!!

The Rendezvous was attended by Company E Members Marshall Larsen, Jim Godbolt (Jim's lovely wife) and myself who had a great time touring the new Infantry Museum and spending lots of money at Ranger Joe's!! The 2009 Ranger Rendezvous was the best to date and I hope that more of you will be able to join us for hopefully an even better Rendezvous in 2011. HOOAH!! RANGER/LRP/LRRP LEAD THE WAY!!!!

**F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP**

Unit Director - Tim Walsh



I'd like to introduce myself to those who weren't able to attend the 75thRRA Rendezvous/Reunion in Columbus, GA (more about the Reunion later). I'm Tim Walsh, newly drafted, ah..., I mean "elected" Unit Director of F/75. I was in Co. F from Jan 70 through Mar 71. I look forward to working for you, the members of F/75, for the next two years. I'd like to personally thank Dave Regenthal for his service as Unit Director for the past two

years. Great job, Dave! One more housekeeping issue before I go any further. When I talk about or mention "F/75" in my ramblings here and elsewhere, I'm referring to all the men who served with honor in all the various names that our unit used - F/50 Long Range Patrol, LRRPs and F/75 Ranger. No matter what we were called, we all did the same job. Thank you all for your service!

We're trying a little different format for the Unit Director's position this time. I have agreed to be the "official" UD, but have asked a couple of other worthy assistants to help



**F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)**

me out. Bill Eberhardt and Colin Hall have agreed to be, for lack of a better title, “Assistant Unit Directors”. Think of them as my “ATLs”. They have assured me that they are willing and able to help out wherever needed. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or suggestions you may have. I’ll address your concern, or call on one of the other guys to help out. Each of them brings a unique set of qualifications to the table. Remember, we’re working for YOU.

The latest 75thRRA Reunion/Rendezvous was held in Columbus, GA during the first week of August. If you’ll read some of the other units’ articles in this issue of Patrolling, I think you’ll find that we all agree - a GREAT time was had by all. I’d like to start by thanking all the guys (and their families) who showed up. Without your attendance, these reunions just wouldn’t be the same. F/75 had over 30 guys in attendance, spanning all the years the company was in existence. Not as many as we’ve had for some reunions, but still a great turnout.

The 75thRRA reunion committee really put together a fantastic schedule of events. There were events for the wives & families, as well as a full slate of events for us “old-timers”. My wife, Theresa, really enjoyed the Mass Tactical Jump. It’s quite a sight to see hundreds of young Rangers parachuting at the same time. Come to think of it, she probably just wants to see hundreds of young Rangers. Well, can’t fault her for that. And the greater Columbus, GA area has a wealth of other things to do. The downtown Columbus area is great - my personal favorite is the Cannon Brew Pub. And a trip to Columbus just wouldn’t be the same without a visit to *Ranger Joe’s*. As in other 75thRRA reunions, the most satisfying part is interacting with all the active duty Rangers who come to the hotel. They are the most professional group of young men I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. It may sound corny, but I sleep better knowing they’re on duty.

One of the most interesting things to see is the newly-opened Infantry and Soldiers Museum at Ft. Benning. It opened in June and houses one of the most awe inspiring collection of things “Infantry” you’ll ever see. It chronicles the history of the US Infantryman from the Revolutionary War through Iraq and Afghanistan. There are displays from every theater of conflict. I enjoyed the “jungle patrol” room with realistic sights and sounds from Vietnam.

(Well... as “realistic” as they could make it without a body count. But we noticed that the effects were enhanced by making the room hotter and more humid than the rest of the museum. Pretty neat.) There’s an IMAX theater, a large area dedicated to Rangers and the Ranger Hall of Fame, a restaurant (Colin & Pearlle said the food was great) and a gift shop. There’s even an area where you can pay to “shoot” targets with an electronic M-16. My wife’s a pretty good shot - we got the same score. Maybe that says something about what a lousy shot I am, hmmm. We spent three hours and only saw about a third of the museum. Gotta go back! They have provided space for future expansion - in the unlikely event that there should ever be another war. Oh yeah, they’ll probably fill it up.



At the Co. F business meeting we discussed off-year reunions. Almost everybody wanted to have an off-year (2010) reunion, but we differed as to location. After much discussion, we voted to have an off-year reunion in Washington, DC. But there was a lot of support to have a reunion in Hawaii. We decided that DC was a better choice, largely because most folks couldn’t afford to go to Hawaii. More details to follow. Dave Regenthal and Nancy Camp have volunteered to help coordinate the DC off-year reunion.

But fear not! Since there was a lot of support for Hawaii, Mona and Tom (“Pineapple”) Gurrobat have volunteered to set up an off-year reunion sometime during 2010. Again, more details to follow. I would, however, like to point out that we wouldn’t have even considered Hawaii were it not for the women in attendance at this year’s reunion. (I’m going to call them the unofficial “Co. F Women’s Auxiliary”.) The Auxiliary made it perfectly clear that they preferred Hawaii to DC and they would be mighty P.O.’d if we opted to go someplace other than Hawaii. So rather than forcibly remove vital body parts from the newly-elected Unit Director (I had no doubt they would!), they took it upon themselves to plan an alternative off-year reunion. By the way, Theresa says we’re going to both reunions. Who am I to argue with that? I’ll make it a point to keep everyone informed about the reunion(s) plans. Keep tuned to our website - [lrp.com](http://lrp.com).

Mona sent this info mere moments before I submitted this article:

*Aloha Tim and Theresa,  
Getting some information to you regarding travel to*

**F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)**

*Hawaii next year.....looking at the end of April/beginning of May (after Spring Break and before the Summer rush). We can arrange/be a part of regular demonstrations scheduled at Schofield once the dates are confirmed.*

*Additional activities would include Pearl Harbor/Arizona Memorial/Might Mo, Punchbowl (Arlington of the Pacific), Diamond Head, Waikiki, Polynesian Cultural Center and a luau...besides shopping...for the island of Oahu. Those wishing to venture on to the Big Island (where we live) could participate in a Dolphin Swim, deep sea fishing, volcano, orchid farms, golf, and a host of other things.*

*Pineapple and I would join the group on Oahu for 3 days to do the above (those wanting to stay on Oahu longer can easily find their way around), then we'd come home, wait for those coming here.....suggest a week on our island, takes longer to get around.*

*Hotels on the internet start at \$90++ (taxes, etc.) per night. Here are some 2010 roundtrip fares, per person: West Coast \$450, Chicago \$675, Atlanta \$750, and the surprise.....Newark to Honolulu \$625!!!! Flying on a weekday. And of course the sooner you book the better.*

*Don't have everyone's e-mail, so please add to your article and send out an e-bulletin for me. Once a bunch of people have decided their dates, I guess we can announce it to the rest of the group and go from there.*

*Mahalo (thanks),  
Mona from Kona and Pineapple*

At the Co. F meeting, and throughout the reunion, Dave Regenthal asked for "in-country" still pictures of our time in Nam. He's going to use them to add to his Co. F video project. The video project is Dave's way of chronicling our experiences in Nam. He has already filmed hours of interviews with many of us who have attended past reunions. He'd like still pictures of those, and any other in-country experiences, to enhance the video. Please send him the actual pictures, **not scanned copies**. The scanning process doesn't provide enough detail. He'll digitally photograph them with proper lighting and return 'em unharmed. He promises to treat them like his own. I have selected a couple dozen likely candidates to send to Dave. And don't be concerned about what "kind" of pix to send. A black & white picture of Whiskey the dog is as valuable as color pictures of old teammates. Dave will decide what will work and what won't. Please include as much info about who, where, when, etc. Dave's address is: PO Box 2374, Fort Myers Beach, FL, 33932.

Thanks to all who donated to the F/75 company fund. I'll

give you exact details of how much is in the fund in the next edition of "Pointman".

Marshall Huckaby is in the process of getting more F/75 challenge coins made up. They'll be available for about \$10.00 through the company website. Keep tuned.

The national 75thRRA has voted to increase dues beginning Jan. 1, 2010. Annual dues will increase to \$30.00/year and a Life Membership will increase to \$300.00. If you're considering a Life Membership, it will benefit you to do it before Jan. 1, 2010. If you're not able to come up with the \$300.00 at one time, the 75thRRA allows you to make several payments in the course of a year to equal the \$300.00. If you'd like to take advantage of the lower \$250.00 Life Membership currently in effect, the RRA will still allow you to make payments that total \$250.00, **if you start now**. Call the new Treasurer, Wes Jurena at 214-557-7737, or email him at [jurena175@gmail.com](mailto:jurena175@gmail.com).

Dave Regenthal mentioned Joe Cassilly's book, Decoration for Valor in his last Patrolling article. I bought it at the reunion and thoroughly enjoyed it. My wife is currently reading it, as well. I recommend it. I remembered several places in Vietnam that he mentions in the book. Contact Joe at [bravo75@verizon.net](mailto:bravo75@verizon.net). A portion of the proceeds will go directly to the F/75 bank acct.

I'm still enjoying the memories of the reunion. I can't say this strongly enough - if you haven't attended a reunion, I'd highly recommend it. I'll keep Dave Regenthal up to date on the off-year reunion plans so he can keep our website current. Hope to see y'all in DC and/or Hawaii.

One last thing. I saw an interesting piece on TV. FOX News announces their "Power Player of the Week" each week. This week (Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>) they chose Tom Day. Tom started Bugles Across America in 2000, when Congress passed legislation stating Veterans had a right to at least 2 uniformed military people to fold the flag and play taps on a CD player at their funeral. Bugles Across America was begun to take this a step further, and in recognition of the service these Veterans provided their country, he felt that every Veteran deserved a live rendition of taps played by a live Bugler. To this end, Bugles Across America is actively seeking volunteers to provide this valuable service to Veterans and their families. Go to [buglesacrossamerica.org](http://buglesacrossamerica.org) to read more about this organization.

Until next time, live long and prosper.

Tim Walsh  
[twalshx2@comcast.net](mailto:twalshx2@comcast.net)  
313-590-6673

**F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)**

BY: Dave Regenthal

The Reunion was good for me (my 9<sup>th</sup>). Those of you who couldn't make it missed the opportunity to meet Vietnam Veteran JANIS NARK, LTC, Ret., a good friend and featured speaker at the banquet.



Rangers Gentile and Mrkvicka and I met Janis on arrival Thursday evening. She was up for manifest call and made her first jump the following

morning . . . now that's AIRBORNE!!!



We got a good guy, in Tim Walsh as our new Unit Director . . . let's be sure to support 'em! We've instituted a new "Unit Director Page" at LRRP.COM so that you can be kept up to date on happenings between issues of Patrolling (and the Pointman).

Also, soon to be established, is a "Quartermaster" page where you can offer stuff you have (or have found) for sale that you think would be of interest to other members. How'zit work? Simple:

Just e-mail a short description of your item, along with a picture(s), your contact info, and the price (including shipping to the lower 48). Alaska, Hawaii (sorry Pineapple), and foreign country folks can contact you for any additional shipping/instructions.

There will be no fee for this. Interested parties will contact you so that you can do business directly. Typical items may include, but are not limited to: tee-shirts, hats, coins, etc. Your suggestions on this are always welcome.

I need your IN-COUNTRY still photographs for the video project, as it will help tell the story of our unit. The best way is to send them to me at PO Box 2374, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33932. I would like to shoot them with a high definition camera, then return them to you. Scanning works but is not what's best for an HD project. If you want to offer some pics for consideration in the project but don't want to send them you can scan (at a minimum of 300 dpi) and save as a "jpg" file, then write to CD/DVD for mailing, or shoot them with soft lighting (watch out for glare) with a digital camera (at least 5 mega-pixels) and mail them on a disc. If you only have a few you can also just send them

to my e-mail: [dregenthal@comcast.net](mailto:dregenthal@comcast.net) Please don't do any color correction of cropping. It might be good to include a short description or say who it is in your pictures. Thanks in advance.

Speaking of LRRP.COM . . . There are just shy of 1000 After Action Reports (AAR's) in the members section of the website. There is also a current roster. If you don't already have access you simply need to register/request access from the main page, or: <http://www.lrrp.com/cgi-bin/la/register.cgi> and you'll be approved within 48 hours (usually much less when I am home).

If you've not looked at the "Our Wall" page in a while I'd recommend you take a peak . . . we still need a picture for 12 of the 40 of our brothers represented there. A few of them could use a better picture if you have one. Some years ago Corky and I spent an afternoon at the Wall, rubbing each of the names of our people. At the time I think we knew of 30+ but have since discovered a few that were somehow overlooked. I didn't have rubbings for these so a couple weeks back I went again and snapped pictures of all 40 (of our) names on the Wall. A few that are near the top of a tall panel will need to be re-shot as it wasn't possible to get them without a lot of glare from the sun. I should be able to do this over the Veteran's Day Holiday (which will also be the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my very first visit to the Wall).

Only news I've got is that I'll be leaving the Garden State returning to my normal CP the end of September. Also, I was fortunate enough to have spent a day with Rich Martin and Dan Nate.



Rich, his lovely wife Barbara, and girlfriend (hers, not his).

As mentioned above we'll try to keep you posted of current events, off-year reunion news, opinion polls so you can let us know what you think, etc. Keep an eye towards our website as well as 75thRRA.com

I will try to get some of the reunion pictures & video up on LRRP.COM shortly.

**F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)**





**G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP**

Unit Director - Clifford M. Manning



*No Submission*



**H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP**

Unit Director - William T. Anton

**Ranger Hall of Fame Induction  
August 5, 2009  
Keith Phillips**

Company H (Ranger) 75th Infantry (Airborne) is proud to add Ranger Bill Anton as another member of our unit who is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Ranger Anton

joins Ranger George Pacerelli as members of our unit in the Hall of Fame.

Part of Ranger Anton's induction speech stated the following:

"I stand here to receive this honor, but I only accept this as a member and representative of my unit, and our 40 KIA

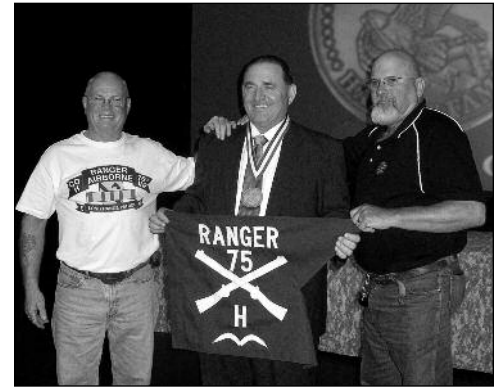
## H/75 - E/52 LRP - 1ST CAV LRRP (CONTINUED)



and one MIA. We were an invincible TEAM. Every soldier, NCO, and Officer assigned with me deserves to stand with me here today. Rangers, it was an honor to share the same battlefield with you. I witnessed intrepid bravery and gallantry in action every day by these men, and they have earned my undying respect and admiration.”

Bennie Gentry and I are shown in this photo with Ranger Anton – all proudly displaying our unit guidon, and another photo of Ranger Anton that shows him when he gave his induction speech.

Well done Ranger Anton!  
We are all proud of you!



## I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1ST DIV LRRP

Unit Director - Bob McGath



The day was the 11th, the Month was JULY, the year was 1967, and I remember it like it happened yesterday. I was setting on the front porch of the WFW waiting to catch the bus to the induction center in St Louis. Fast Forward to Basic training in Fort Leonard Wood Mo. then A.I.T. at Fort Polk La. On to Fort Benning Ga. to N.C.O.C. and Jump School next it was off to Fort Gordon Ga. then on to the Republic of South Vietnam and F co 52<sup>nd</sup> Inf LRRPS 1<sup>st</sup> INF Div. This is where a group of guys would forever change my life.

At the Time I did not know nor did I understand that the next year would be a trying experience that would change me forever.

I will forever remember these guys that called **Lai Khe** home. It seems funny that 40 some years later I would be writing a story about a reunion that these same guys that I had left behind and thought I would never see again.



RANGERS IN ATTENDANCE



RANGER WIVES

This year's reunion was a great success with 24 Rangers, 17 Wives and 6 Guests in attendance. The city of San Antonio Texas with the river walk was a great selection. I would like to thank Bob (buzz) Busby and wife Sharel for sponsoring this year's reunion and a great job of setting it up. The officers elected for the next two years are

Robert (Buzz) Busby - President  
Dave Hill, - Vice President  
Greg Catherwood - Secretary  
John Candiloro - Treasurer  
Bob McGath – Unit Director

The Reunion officially started on Thursday June 11th and ended with check out on Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup>. A welcome reception was held in the hospitality room on Thursday evening. A company meeting on Friday and a Texas Barbecue Buffet held of Saturday Evening. Special guests

**I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1ST DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)**

for the Barbecue were Gerry Rush a WW11 Ranger, Mike Schiltz and Hopp Campbell. Dave Flores did an outstanding job with the slide presentation during the dinner. Those pictures sure did bring back some memoirs. Toasts were made by Julian Rincon, Jerry Davis, Frenchie Suire, Bill Faulkner, Bob McGath and Giant Hildebrant. Invocation was given by Ron Crews. The food was good and the companionship was even better. I have attended other reunions, but this one seemed special. I really cannot put my Finger on why this one was so different especially since we have lost three brothers since the last Reunion. John Tapia, Noble Cox, and Bill Crawley will be sadly missed.



**Comrades Table;  
Gone But Not  
Forgotten**

**Left to Right Becky  
Hildebrant, Don  
(Giant) Hildebrant,  
Dave Flores, Jerry  
(LT) Davis**



The River Walk and the Alamo was of course on everyone's agenda.

One of the stops was also Schilo's Deli on the River Walk. The food was good and the Root Beer as well. This place is a real gem in history and food. It has been serving authentic German deli sandwiches since 1917.

The ladies did a lot of shopping and a few items purchased by a couple of the women Seem to have some great possibilities, is that right Shyron, Sharel, and Judi ?



**Left to Right Mr. &  
Mrs. James Moss,  
Shyron Suire**

**Right to Left Judi  
McGath, Brenda  
Wiggins**



At the company meeting, Ron Crews covered some really good stuff in regards to the V.A. I would like to say, Ron the information that you gave my wife and myself has already started to help. I would like to invite anyone that has never attended or have not attended for a while to try the next one. Our next reunion will be in Michigan and is being sponsored by John Candiloro and his wife Patty.

I would also like to invite everyone to visit the company web sit at [www.f52i75.org](http://www.f52i75.org) and check out the great job that Mike Wise has done. Mike and Danny Wiggins are in the process of making some changes and additions. Danny Wigggins is working on a section that needs everyone's input, so check it out and send Danny the info requested.

The outgoing Unit Director Julian Rincon has been a great help in getting my feet wet with this new undertaking. Thank you Julian, I hope I can continue to carry the messages and articles of the First Infantry Division LRRP'S & RANGERS as the well as the past unit directors.

**A veteran is someone who, at one  
Point in his life, wrote a blank check  
Made payable to "The United States  
Of America" for an amount of "up to  
and including My Life"  
This is Honor, and there are way too  
Many people in this country who  
No longer understand it'  
(Author unknown by me)**

Submitted by  
Bob McGath  
Unit Director







## K/75 - E/58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

Unit Director - Rodger T. Crunk

Greetings to all my Brothers,

I begin this article with the sad news that Bob Smyers passed away Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>, his wife Wanda followed a short time later, Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>. They were laid to rest together in the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, Florida on Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>. I spoke with his stepson, Mike who reiterated that his Dad was a loving husband and a great Father. He was a good man, a patriot who served his country well.

Bob was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade LRRP 1967/1968. He served as the Ranger Association Chaplin for several years and was one of our staunchest supporters. He will be missed by those he served with and those of us who came to know him later through the Association. The following is part of an article he wrote for the 4 Div Ranger website. You will be missed Bob.

Bob Smyers is a veteran of fourteen years service with the United States Army. He enlisted in 1956. His major assignments included the 3rd Infantry Division in Swienfurt, Germany, the 7th Infantry (Bayonet) Division in Camp Hovey, Korea, and the 4th Infantry Division in the Central Highlands of the Republic of Vietnam.

Upon arrival in Vietnam on April 1, 1967 he was assigned as a rifle squad leader with A Company, 1/22nd infantry, 4th Infantry Division. Soon after he joined the LRRP unit of the 2nd Brigade on May 14, 1967. He was assigned as team leader, then platoon sergeant until the end of his tour, March 29, 1968.

After his tour he was assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia as First Sergeant to the post replacement company. He was reassigned to the Weapons Committee at the Infantry Training School as an instructor in January 1969. He remained an instructor up to his discharge in March 1970. He left the army having obtained the rank of Sergeant First Class E-7.

### Author's Notes

The most often asked question I get about the articles I write as well as the stories is; how do you remember so much detail? One answer might be that I have always paid attention to details. However, the events I write about are forever branded into my memory. In these situations I somehow took a mental picture and added a narrative with each one as it happened. I believe experience is everlasting and we choose to remember or block out according to our



psychic make up.

Regardless of that, as a LRRP leader I had to make snap decisions that could mean life or death for my team and myself. This not only weighs heavy on a leader's mind but bores a place of residual residence. At least it did me. Thus making recall relatively easy even after 32 years. Some say I have a photographic memory. I prefer to believe these were significant events in this man's life that will be there the remainder of my days.



I was on the road from July 28-Aug 28. I will not bore you with all the detail except the highlight of my trip was being with everybody at the Assoc. reunion in Columbus. I spent most of my time helping John Chester behind the registration but that was fun too. You don't realize how big the secretary's job is until you see John at work. Maybe he

can rest now that he is just the Assoc. President, "right". On that note a big thank you also to Bill Bullen for his work the last two years as our President. I know he made a big push to get the younger generation involved in the Assoc. We saw the results of that effort in the election of two Battalion Rangers as officers of the Assoc. We can only grow from the work Bill and others put forward in this effort.

During our business meeting I was once again forced kicking and screaming into being Unit Director for another term, I hope you guys know what you're doing because I'm not sure I do. Thanks and I hope I'm deserving of the confidence you place in me.

It was decided that New Orleans will be the location for our Unit reunion next June [2010] We are looking at the first or second week before it gets too hot. Willie & Sue Williams have volunteered to be our host for this event. They have about a dozen hotel sites that they will winnow down to four or five that they will visit before making a final selection. We should have all the info in the winter issue of this magazine and will be posted on the website as soon as it is available. Thanks Willie and Sue for all your work

On the financial side, Wayne Mitsch reports that we received \$1097.00 in donations to the unit fund during the reunion. \$ 652.00 of that came from donations through the t-shirts

**K/75 - E/58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)**

provided by Bob Fraser. I also collected another \$300.00 from t-shirt donations at the San Antonio reunion. My thanks to all who gave so generously and we all owe Bob Fraser a big thank you for his generous donation of the t-shirts. You'll be glad to know Bob that I only have one box of shirts left! They are in large and extra large for anyone else who want one, or two, or three. In the near future I will purchase at the Ranger Memorial for Richmond Ross Luce and Filepe Obed Santiago. That should give us bricks for all our KIAs on the walkway. We will also make our annual donation to the Assoc. Christmas fund later in the year.

I did not get many reunion photos but here are some.



**Harry Phair,  
daughters  
Catherine &  
Jennifer & wife  
Cindy.**

After the Columbus reunion Tom Sove and I made the trip to San Antonio with a stopover at Willie and Sue Williams house. Thanks guys for your hospitality. We received a warm welcome from the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade LRRPS hosted by Bill & Susan Filipini. It was great meeting some of the guys and putting a face to names that are on the database. Had a great time on the River Walk. The barbeque on the last day was absolutely delicious. Again thanks guys for a great time and for your generous donations to the Unit fund.



**Janis Nark  
signing autograph  
on my back.**

Below is the San Antonio attendance list:

Stephen & Joan Bradshaw, Emmett & Kay Mulroney, Roy & Kris Simpson, Robert & Leslie Thomas, Al Kidd, Donald & Barbara VanWay, Armand Malinowski, John Duffy, Larry Flanigan, Robert & Mary McSweeney, Frank & Laurie Mason, Clay Andrews, Matty Gentilella, John Gibson, Bill Manderfeld, Denny & Shirley Ferguson, Melody Herbert, Jake & Marty Spraggins, Roger Crunk, Tom Stove, Jerry & Linda Owens, Rene Whitticer, Jim Handris, Gary & Judy Shellenbarger, Lee & Robbi Thibadeau, Renee Thibadeau,

Jerry & Frankie Alford, Jack Werner, Joanne Long, Vicky Wright, Peter & Joan Julian, David & Ethel Normand, Anne Zwiebel, Bill & Susan Filippini

Tom and I then drove to Waco for a great visit with Drew [Angel] Fatten and his wife Jackie. Drew was on my team, Romeo-7 the summer of 1970. That's too long ago to think about. Thanks Drew and Jackie for your hospitality. Afterwards it was on to Dallas/Ft. Worth airport for Toms flight back to California. Thanks Tom for being my road partner. Then it was on to Oklahoma City for rest at Jack Werners house, my home away from home. Thanks Jack, even if you did sabotage the pool handrail. After that it was back home and all the work I left and more that accumulated while I was gone, but its nice to be home.

Below is the Columbus attendance list:

Bill & Donna Bullen, John Chester & Mary Anne Colledge, Jake Rakauskas, Roger Crunk, Russell Temple, Ed & Kathy Mateer, Jim & GiGi Joyce, Ray, Janice & Stephanie Allen, Ken & Linda Nelson, Willie & Sue Williams, Lloyd Buddy Greer, Ron & Peggy Clark, Warren Russell, Bill & Freida Stacy, Ron Coon, Bill Postelnic, Steve Lemire, John Festus Gibson, Tom & Cass Sove, Dana & Peggy McGrath, Dave & Janet Bristol, Bob Fraser, Larry Massoletti, Harry, Cindy, Jennifer & Catharine Phair, Doug Flowers, Ray Barrio, Bryant Middleton, Ken & Paulette Poehlman, Herb & LaVina Reichel, RON & Nancy Neugard, Steve Lockard, Don Melanson.

ED NOTE:

Just as I was sending this to the printer, I received word from Jim Testerman, a K/75 Ranger. He is suffering from cancer and is in the VA Hospital in Mountain Home, TN. I am sure that he would appreciate some words or notes from his friends. Contact information is as follows:

Jim Testerman  
PO Box 4000  
Ward C, Ground, Rm 8  
Mountain Home, TN 37684  
Phone- 423-975-6106

**K Company  
ladies at the  
barbecue.**



**K/75 - E/58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP (CONTINUED)**



**Warren Russell & Ray Allen  
with active duty soldiers.**



**Old LRRP'S at Vietnam Memorial  
at San Antonio, TX.**



**First Brigade welcome banner.**



**Old LRRP'S, San Antonio.**





**L/75 - F/58 LRP - 1/101ST LRRP**

Unit Director - Jerry Gomes




**Report on Ft Benning Reunion, 2009**

During the week of 3-7 August this year, 2009 I finally made the decision to attend the "Ranger Rendezvous" at Ft Benning and Columbus GA. It was the right thing to do. What I found was a rich blend of ranger operations along with some of the warriors who served in units from WWII, Korea, Vietnam and modern day rangers. After I attended the state of the regiment briefing given by the ranger regiment commander and CSM I was blown away by what these young studs accomplish every day and night down range in Afghanistan and Iraq. Some have deployed 11 or 12 times. The next day at the "Ranger Hall of Fame" induction I heard about ranger types from WWII until present that have brought great credit to the ranger brotherhood. I met Chuck Waters who was the school sergeant major when I was a young E-5



instructor. I hadn't seen him in almost 50 years. Chuck was in the 1st Airborne Ranger Company during the Korean war. I got to thinking about how from WWII until now ranger type units would be formed during a conflict used or used up and then discarded like a used Kleenex. It would appear, at least on the surface, that the Army may have learned their lesson and the rangers of today are here to stay. Highly trained and ready to go anywhere anytime to protect our freedom. If you have never been to the rendezvous make plans to go while you can.

The 101st rangers had their reunion as well, Linda (Mom) Cox in charge and it is always good to see old friends. Roger(Hog) Brown hosted a party at his farm which was really nice.

He does it every time they have the rendezvous at Ft Benning.

Above Submitted by Darol "Top" Walker L75th

**L/75 - F/58 LRP - 1/101ST LRRP (CONTINUED)**

Gordy Smith, L75th, has a brand new Screaming Eagle Ultra Classic all tricked out and parked in his living room. He's itchin' to get back on his bike after his accident returning from The Ride to The Wall over Memorial Day Weekend. He said "Ya can't kill a Ranger or a LRRP, you can only dent them a little bit!" His advice: Wear Your Helmet! His helmet saved his life.

101<sup>st</sup> LRRP Ranger Association had our banquet at the Infantry Museum. Active duty attended. X Lrs D's that attended were Steve Dawson and his wife, Jason Burks and his wife Leslie, Adam Dobson and his wife, and Lewis, Andy, Chris and Travis. The museum is awesome. The Last Hundred Yards takes you back. The 3/506 Currahee LRRPS went out to the 34 foot towers and watched Black Hat Cadre Training. Sgt 1<sup>st</sup> Class Contratto gave us a tour. Sgt. David Lemoine received his Black Hat from Sgt Major Catterton, both are 101<sup>st</sup> Currahees who served in Iraq.

Colonel McCaffrey and Sgt Major Bohn made it possible for us to view training from the bleachers. The first time out of the 34 foot tower, I forgot my name and number! I got the Boot!

The 101<sup>st</sup> Lrrp Rangers found a Lost Eagle - Jim Mendoza 3/506 LRRP. Apprehensive at first, he soon reconnected with his buddies and is looking forward to the next reunion.

We spent a lot of time in the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Hospitality Room and we looked forward to talking to the young Rangers. The 75<sup>th</sup> Banquet was 1<sup>st</sup> Class, excellent speakers and wonderful food.

Sick Call: Gary Linderer recovering from his 2<sup>nd</sup> knee replacement, Tim Coleman is under the weather, and Randy White is also sick. Give these guys a call. If you need their phone # call Jerry Gomes 503-668-6127.

If you have a new e-mail address, please get in touch with us as we are updating our Roster. Jerry Gomes e-mail: [azores46@verizon.net](mailto:azores46@verizon.net)

Parachuting Pictures submitted by Reynel Martinez, 3/506 LRRP Picture by Kip Rolland LRRP Team VN Pictures submitted by Dave Walker

Top Walker will be sending us some pictures tomorrow (Tues).

Jerry Gomes  
503-260-6917

**Jerry Gomes,  
Jerry Wilson,  
Tex Hardin, Jim  
Mendoza, Gene  
Carne, Tim  
Howard, Kip  
Rolland.**



**L-R Front Row:  
Mother Rucker and  
Zach Conaway; Back  
Row L-R Tony  
Tercero, Carlos  
Melendez; Allen  
"Teddybear" Gaskell,  
Al "Lurch" Cornett,  
Rey Martinez.**



**L-R Tony Tercero,  
Teddybear  
Gaskell,  
Rey Martinez.**



**Dave Walker, left and  
Darol "Top" Walker (F/58  
LRP) taken at Ranger  
Roger Brown's AO at  
recent reunion.**

**Dave Walker, left, Gordy  
Smith, and Gene Carne  
at Logan's Roadhouse  
at recent reunion.**



**SGT Caughorn,  
Dave Walker, Jim  
Fleck, Jim Wilson  
(kneeling), and  
Richard Sachs at  
Camp Ray w/F/58  
LRP Dec. '67.**



## M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP

Unit Director - Ron Piper



BY: Ron Piper

The reunion has come and gone, those of us that made it had a great time at Ft. Benning and missed those of you that did not. Lyle Webster is doing well after his rather abrupt contact with Terra firma during a jump at Buddy Blue's place in Opilika. We have a new batch of Association officers, congratulations to John Chester and his new staff. Steve asked me to get something into the patrolling issue and with time being of the essence I'll write a couple of lines about a mission where absolutely nothing occurred....

The attached photo is of an early team with the 71st Infantry (Airborne-LRRP) 199th LIB. I was the team leader and the picture was taken as we came back through the wire after running an all night ambush site. To no avail as I recall. After all these years I cannot recall all the names of the members on the team, but I do remember that this mission was run in the area around Saigon known as the "pineapples". We had gone out

early in the day to insert people sniffers in an area of elephant grass and old pineapple fields with orders to delay and wait until dark to move into an ambush position off one of the canals of the Song Vam CO Dong River. The reason this mission remains fresh in my mind is because it was the one time absolutely nothing moved that night except the mosquitoes and the rain. I know it was miserable and all complained. Well, as usual, we did our job and returned to the "horse shoe" for a shower and hot chow, and I remember thinking man, it just doesn't get any better than this...just could not imagine being or doing anything else but "RUNNING RECON"



Well, that is about all for this issue. I hope everyone stays safe out there..

SUA SPONTE



## N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Unit Director - Robert Henriksen



### Message from new Unit Director, Robert "Twin" Henriksen

As your new Unit Director, my goal is to continue to locate members and organize company information. Our history needs to be documented

so future generations will know what we did for our country. As I take on this new leadership role, one of my main objective will be teamwork between the different teams of LRRP, LRP and Rangers. Good leadership requires good communication and trust. I'm honored and humbled and deeply grateful for this opportunity and for the unit's member's willingness to give me the chance to lead our unit company.



So much has happened this last year and 2009 Ranger Rendezvous is over. Since the last reunion we have located more members and have increased total members numbers to twice what we had at the last 2007 Reunion. The current unit document: "75TH RGR / 74TH LRP / 173RD LRRP"

**N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP (CONTINUED)**

Contact List has 128 members listed. With the continued effort of all of us more can be found and brought back into the company.

Ranger Rendezvous was a real success with many first timers and return of the early years (65-68) members. Our company turnout was the most for any unit there and the number of spouses, sons, daughters and friends was outstanding as I had worked really hard for that to happen. I had 31 rooms and that is not counting the rooms some members had reserved themselves.

We dedicated this reunion to the loss of Mike Hines (1970-71 Team Bravo) as he passed away a month before the reunion. Mikes portrait (almost life size on vinyl was displayed in the Holiday Inn lobby. Those that attended the reunion signed their names on it for his wife Mary to take home. Most of us had not planned to jump on Friday until Mary said she wanted to and asked TAD Tadina to be her Jump master. Company members and friends totaling 13 made the jump in memory of Mike (13 was his lucky number). Everyone had a great time and no one from our group had any injuries.

Below are the photos from Ranger Brown's Party:



**2009 Reunion  
Party Group  
Photo.**

**Flag Lowering  
Ceremony**



**Henriksen, Bill  
Shippey and  
Don Bizadi**



**Cummings,  
Shippey, Houser  
and Costello**



**Ranger  
Brown,  
Varmint  
Walker and  
Bill Shippey**



**Joe Marquez  
and Rudy  
Teodoso**



**Rocky Houser  
and Tome  
Roubideaux**



**Zaruba, Vencil,  
Bumgardner,  
Ranger Brown,  
Thomas, Cole  
and Sid Smith**



**N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP (CONTINUED)**

Reunion attendance:

Alaga, Elizabeth (173rd LRRP – widow)

Baker, Gordon & Sherry Baugh, Herbert & Friend - Richard Boothe 1st BN RGR Bizadi, Don “The Biz” & Vergie Blevins, Helen (Joe Hayes – sister) Boatman, Joyce (Roy) & Carol (daughter) Brown, Roger ‘Hog’ Bumgardner, Roger Christenson, Nancy (Chris) & Noni Balboa (son-in-law) Cole, Larry “Red” & Wife Cole, Larry “Red” & Shelly Shelley Costello, Donald & Wife Cummings, David & Sherill Gowen, Dave & Kathie Kinney (lady-friend) Henriksen, Robert “Twin” Hermann, Hal “Halo” & Son Hines, Mary (Mike) & Tina (daughter-in-law) Houser, Rocky & Debbie Huffstickler, Terry “Huff” James, Dick Jang, Bill & Easter Jersey, John Sr. & John (son) Kankel, Charlie “Teach” Lohmann, Allen Ludlow, Peter & Wife Marquez, Joe & Ramona Millinder, Carl “Milli” Nery, G. “Butch” Oritz, Albert Roubideaux, Tome ‘MadMonk’ Ruckman, Fletcher “Fletch” Schoonover, Tony “Schoonie” Shippey, Bill “SnakeEater6” Showalter, George Silsby, Art & Carol Smith, Sid ‘Stoney’ Swisley, Mike & Jeanette Teodosio, Rudy & Joe Salvador 173rd SPT (cousin) Thomas, Ron Turner, Gerald “Nasty-Nat” & Norma Tadina, Pat ‘Tad’ & Karen and Alamea (daughter) Vans Evers, Frank & Patricia Holley Vencill, Carl & Hans Felkt (friend) Walker, David “Varmint” Watson, Marion “Dale” Webb, Vance & Marsha Wilkinson, Bill “Wilkie” & Shellie Zaruba, Tom “Zeke” Zezlina, Ed “Flash” Ziengenbein, Terry “Ziggy” & Marlene

Friends invited by members to attend:

Cornet, Allan - 1/101st & SF Mac V and author Gaskell, Allen - 101st LRRP Martinez, Ray - 101st LRRP and author Mendez, Carlos - LRRP (pilot) Ronald Rucker -LRRP

A lot of folks spent time at the Ranger Walk. Rudy was able to tie up with his old friend SGM Baker. SGM Baker served with Rudy in N Rangers, 1st/75th Rangers and SF.



**Fletch Ruckman and  
Joe Ortiz**



**Dave Walker and  
Helen Blivens**



**Tad and Sid Smith**



**Rudy and SGM Baker**



**Zezlina, Swisley,  
Lohman,  
Cummings,  
Marquez and  
Rucker (101st  
Lrrp)**

August 7, 2009

Ranger Jump:

13 total in memory of Mike Hines (1970-71)

To demonstrate that with age has not come wisdom, 11 members made the jump along with Mary Hines (widow of Mike) and Tina Claybaugh (Mary's daughter-in-law). members joined the jump list after Mary and Tina said they wanted to jump and asked Tad for help. Tad jumped with a couple of his daughter's toy animals stuffed in his boots which he released just above the ground.

Robt “Twin” Henriksen

Pat “Tad” Tadina (with 2 of Alamea stuff-animals)

Mary Hines (widow of Hines)

Tina Claybaugh (daughter-in-law) of Hines

John Jersey Sr.

John Jersey

Tome “MadMonk” Roubideaux

Mike Swisley

Tony “Schoonie” Schoonover

Joe Marquez

Ronald Tucker

Nino Balboa

Tony Tercero

One final note concerning the jump, Pat Tadina, ‘Tad’ (RHOF), at the request of Mary Hines, released some of Mike Hines's ashes during the course of his jump. See photo below.



**N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP (CONTINUED)**

I received the following from Tony Schoonover concerning the jump.

Reed; Why I jumped out of a plane after forty years is beyond my mental capacity to comprehend. We were in the class room about an hour learning how to jump with a postage stamp parachute, when someone entered the room and said there was a jumper down and needed volunteers to go get him. A bunch of us jumped up and got into a pickup truck. We went into the woods and got him, by the time we got back to the class room, the only thing I was interested in doing, was going back to the hotel and taking a nap. However we finished the class, and I had the honor of being the first static line jumper. As we were going to the jump site, I said a little prayer to the Lord. I said Lord, I know I have not talked to you much over the years, however if you could over look that and see your way clear to get me out of this, I promise I will get out of the next one myself, Amen. I exited the aircraft with no trouble, however when the chute opened and I got my bearings. I noticed that they dropped me off at the north forty. Figured they were using me as a wind dummy. There was no way I could get to that building, so I just relaxed and enjoyed the view. We were taught to control the chute by feathering, and the way you do that is you pull down on both toggles when you want to slow down. We were taught about ten feet from the ground, you feather all the way to your crotch area. I forgot. I had an Oh Shit this is going to hurt moment, and it did. However I did a modified PLF and walked away.

Reed, as a rule I am uncomfortable at reunions, that is why I attended only one (1989 in Louisville, Ky). I really had no intentions of going to this reunion. Zaruba sent me a E-Mail asking if I was going. After talking it over with my boss, I decided to attend the last three days. Am glad I did. For the first time in many years I felt like I was home. It was great seeing Tome, Jersey, Cole, Vencill, Bumgardner, Sid, Ruckman, and many more, and I can't forget Ranger Brown. I did not tell Carl, he does not look 69. The only regret I have is I was not able to say goodbye to some of these guys. Reed if you could send me the e-mails of these guys, I would like to tell them thanks. I have Sids phone#. Tony Received from Tony Schoonover (Team 5 1966-68)



**Joe Marquez ready to board**



**Tome and Schoonover ready to board**



**John Jersey**



**Joe Marquez landing**



**Henriksen landing**

### **Tad releasing daughter's toys**

Unit Fund Raising Idea.

I want to run something past all of you.

I have a Farm and we have horses. My wife and I have determined we have

too many horses. She is attempting to find good homes for four good horses. These are not Nags! The are quarter horses of good bloodlines with real potential. So, here is my idea. I will donate the horses to the Ranger Association and run an auction. All the money goes to the fund and we figure out the good deeds to perform later. If I have to deliver the horse, I'll charge for the mileage, otherwise the winner can come pick up or arrange transportation. The horses are young, 3 years old or so, all papered, all vaccinated, healthy and trained.

Received from Sam Schiro (Team Echo 1970)



To the Men that wore Tigers or Leaf Pattern Jungles and painted Faces:

I want to personally thank everyone that joined us at the Rendezvous 2009. For many it was the first time since Nam they joined back into the ranks. We renew old friendships and made quite more new ones. I want to for opening your arms of friendship to my cousins Joe Salvador (173rd Spt 70-71) that joined me on this trip after not seeing him for 15 years. He never stopped talking about meeting members

**N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP (CONTINUED)**

and really recharged him for the next reunion. Save your Coins for the 2011 and pray that the count increases. Received from Rudy Teodosio (Team Alpha 1970-71)

**Rey Martinez  
(101st LRRP),  
Mary Hines and  
Don Rucker  
(101st LRRP)**



**Sherril and  
Dave  
Cummings,  
Dave Gowen  
and Fletch  
Ruckman**

**Rudy, Marquez  
and Costello**



**Tome, Sid and Rudy**



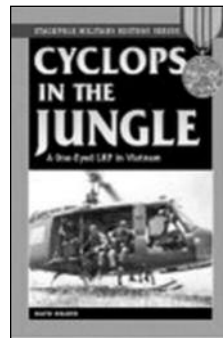
**Amelia Tadina**



**Tome and Henriksen**



**Zeplina, Millinder and  
Cummings**



**Velmon Phillips  
and Dale Taylor**

Ranger Brown wrote back that he didn't remember Velmon being that tall. He forgets that Dale was 5'5".

Dave "Varmint's" book "Cyclops in the Jungle" will be published in January or thereabouts and Dave sent on the cover for the book.

Finally a few photos from way back when. The photo of Velmon Phillips and Dale Taylor somehow didn't get published last issue.



Frank Vansevers sent this photo of Roy Gilmore and Captain Robert Stowell.

Place N75Ph33-0909 here.

This was taken after Bob took three rounds (one is still in his liver) and kept up the fight. Bob got the DSC and a Purple Heart for his troubles. Bob had just gotten out of the hospital and looked like hell with the metal brads holding his stomach together. Someone commented on this and he said "what do you expect after getting hit three times and being in the hospital!" or words to that effect Just got back in contact with Roy.



A photo of Henriksen back in the day.



And finally, Tango, the Wonder Dog

**O/75 - 78TH LRP****Unit Director - Michael L. Feller**

Greetings, it is with heavy heart that I must inform you there will be no article this issue. By next issue I should have reunion photos as well as some news of the event. Thanks for your understanding. Later, Feller

**P/75 - 79TH LRP****Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick**

Another Ranger Rendezvous/ 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association Reunion has come and gone and like it usually is, it was memorable for reasons that you just cannot plan for. For me, the highlight this year was the arrival of Momalani Lopez at the Columbus, Georgia airport on Thursday evening where she was greeted very warmly and lovingly by several members of our unit who came to make sure she felt right at home on her first ever visit with us.

She had lost her husband, our brother, Raymond "Yogi" Lopez, just a few short months earlier. Carney and Mary Walters had joined the Lopez family in California during the last weeks of Yogi's life doing many chores and tasks that made things easier for the family and enjoyed some time with Yogi before he passed. Unfortunately we never got to see Yogi after Vietnam, as he was busy making a life for his family in California. We all thank Carney and Mary for helping arrange Momalani's visit with us and we all regret that Yogi was unable to make it with her. Blue skies and fair winds to the Lopez family from your Papa Company brothers and sisters. As you'll see in this issue of Patrolling, Carney wrote a nice testament to his close Ranger Buddy, Yogi, and it describes a hell of a man and Ranger!! I didn't know Yogi personally, but Carney did a heck of a job in honoring his Buddy with his article.

Those in attendance this year at the 2009 Rendezvous/Reunion were Mary Rossi, Larry Smith, Clyde, Susan, and Sara Tanner, Jerry and Marlene Cornelius (Jerry's son, Eric, is going through Flight School as we speak joined us with his significant other.... Way to go Flyboy !!), Jose Dominguez, Jim Femiano, Terry Bishop, Bill Davis, Duke and Marion DuShane (of course), Bobby Hampton, Ted Tilson and the Tilson clan, Mary and Carney Walters, Momalani Lopez, Joyce Boatman (we stole her from N/75<sup>th</sup>), Carol Jimenez (Roy and Joyce Boatman's daughter who we also stole from N/75<sup>th</sup>), Fred Tompkins, and lastly, myself. I'd be remiss if I did not mention that we were extremely honored to have Redskin



16, former Cobra pilot, Steve Smith, join us again. We hope he will become a regular with us and he needs to learn to sleep at night instead of keeping "key personnel" up all night that have duties during the daylight hours. We're close to adopting or stealing Marshall Larsen from the E/75<sup>th</sup> gang if they are not careful too. I hope I didn't miss anyone. If I did, sorry!! We had a nice collection of guys and gals from the company as we always do. The only bad part was Jose breaking his

wrist on a parachute jump at the Tuskegee airport on Friday. He joined about 50 others who made jumps that day. A Special Thank You to retired 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Ranger David "Doc" Sisk, another of our favorite Ranger sons from 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. mostly (we will adopt him soon!!), who assisted Jose after the accident and took him under his wing and got him the care he needed (Doc, you're adopted into P/75<sup>th</sup> now). Jose tells me he is healing nicely, so don't cry for him anymore, Girls!! They had 3 wia's this year jumping out of about 50, so I figure a casualty rate of 6% ain't too bad considering the motley crew that was jumping that day !! Hat's Off to all those who made the plunge that day!!

The new Infantry Museum was a big hit this year as it was open and they had the Regimental Change of Command there on the new parade grounds where soil from every major American battle was collected and used to prepare the area for use by many. Very impressive and it is now a real place to go and visit and learn about the Infantry. For our banquet dinner, we had several Guest Speakers to include, retired Colonel Danny McKnight, who was the 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. Commanding Officer in 1993 during the Somalia firefight. Ruth Stonesifer, who is the new President of the Gold Star Mothers organization, was also a Guest Speaker. She lost her son, Ranger Kris Stonesifer, on October 19, 2001, soon after the GWOT began. We also had a lovely nurse, Janis Nark, who spoke of her time in Vietnam and captivated the audience. We also had a Federal Judge who had Ranger training years ago and currently hosts veteran

**P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)**

groups in his courtroom that needed a place to meet. It was an outstanding program and an outstanding reunion. Many thanks to all those who made it possible.

We're looking at the Smokey Mountain area for our next reunion again. Seems like nearly everyone likes that area and we're having Teddy Bear Tilson check out what is available to us. We might move west a bit into Eastern Tennessee near Pigeon Forge if we can find accommodations near a lake with some cabins or something instead of the usual hotel/motel living.

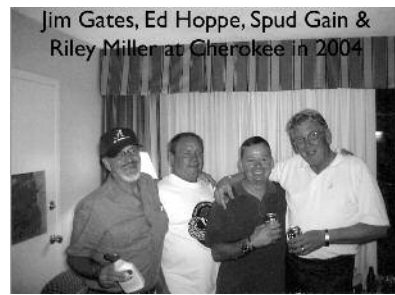
We now have our own "official" Papa Company Ranger Challenge Coin. As you can see there is quite a bit of artwork and the photo does not do it justice in my humble opinion. It is a Duke DuShane design and Jay Lutz's bright idea and I helped!! I have them and they are available

**Papa Co. Coin**



to you for \$10.00 each, plus postage. [rgrock@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rgrock@cfl.rr.com) 25 Carleton Dr., Cocoa, FL 32922 321-631-3213. We have received some nice feedback on these coins and they are almost too pretty to be Ranger coins if you get my drift!! Ha! Ha! Be sure to get your while I have them. A nice, low cost, attractive way to commemorate your service in the unit.

I want to give a "shout out" to Jim "Stepchild" Gates. He told me he wanted to see his photo in Patrolling just one time so I want to accommodate him this issue. Jim lives in Alabama and recently sent me all his photos and such so I could scan them into our archives here in my home. I appreciated his confidence in me. Ernest Balliet, former K/75<sup>th</sup> Ranger who came to P/75<sup>th</sup> in November 1970 through March 1971 recently checked in on our website. Blue skies and fair winds to all. Rangers Lead the Way!! Terry B. Roderick



I'd like to tell you about an American Hero. To qualify as a hero in my eyes is simple, you must be willing to give of yourself for others. The men & women in our military fall into that category. They are willing to lay down their lives for the freedom of others.

Our Brother Yogi was one that exemplified that spirit. Some of you knew him as I did, as "Yogi," a fellow

team member, the point man on Hunter-Killer Team 1-4 in Papa 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Company. Yogi served this great country of ours for 22 years. Let me give you the short version.

If you were like me, I thought Yogi was Mexican, but come to find out his heritage was actually Mayan Indian. Yogi was born on July 4, 1948 in Santa Ana, California. He grew up in California until he joined the Army back in October 1968. Being from California, he was sent to Ft Ord, where he took both his basic & AIT before being sent to Germany for what turned out to be the 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 trips there. This time he was assigned to the 4<sup>th</sup> Armor Division

From there he went to sunny Vietnam. Most of you know he was wounded there, what many don't know is he took an unknown number (A LOT) of rounds across his waist before falling off a step incline. The AK rounds literally blew his web gear off him. From what we could see there were rounds that tore apart his magazines & ammo without detonating the rounds in them. Even a grenade had been shot into pieces without detonating. As he fell backwards from the concussion one round creased his brow making him bleed like a stuck pig. He then fell over the hill and got beat up by the rocks as he fell. His midsection was quite bruised but none of the rounds broke skin. The Big Ranger was looking out for him that day.

After Vietnam he got out like many of us and that lasted about 6 months. When Yogi went back in he was 1<sup>st</sup> sent to Ft Knox, KY. They only gave him PV2 coming back in. He eventually started getting his rank back and ended up spending a lot of time teaching ROTC in Indiantown Gap, PA before being sent back to Germany. During that trip overseas he was assigned to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and

**P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)**

spent some time in Berlin. That was followed by an assignment to the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division in Ft Lewis, WA where he was the Senior Instructor at the NCO Academy.

He then attended Drill Instructor School and was assigned to Ft Jackson, SC which is where he met his wife Momilani. She was a WAC in basic training. Yogi then spent a short 6 months in Hawaii before being sent to Korea where he was the NCOIC of the Replacement Depot & Customs. Upon returning stateside he was stationed at Ft Ord again with the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. During that time he participated in several missions to Central America including Panama with JTF-B. Yogi was an acting 1SG when he retired even though he only made SFC.

During his service he was an Infantryman, an instructor & a Drill Sergeant. One of his prides was his assignment to Papa Company 75th Rangers in Vietnam. During that time he received the Army Commendation medal with V device for Valor. In his military career, Yogi received a Bronze Star, Air Medal, a Purple Heart, 3 Meritorious Service Medals, 3 other Army Commendation Medals, 2 Army Achievement Medals, Good Conduct Medal 7th award, Vietnam Campaign Medal and of course the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

After his retirement in 1990, Raymond spent the next few years relaxing- briefly working at North Monterey County High School as a computer tech & teacher and later at A.T. Systems as Vault Supervisor. Raymond then left the company to join Brinks Armored Transport as their Branch Supervisor. In 2005, Raymond happily gave his first Guard and Gun card certification classes as the owner/operator of Chomees Security Academy from his very own home. He was extremely passionate about getting others involved in the security industry. He watched his business grow over the years and was looking forward to expanding it even more.

There was no denying that Raymond was a family man. His love of his family was evident to everyone he met. Raymond was also a very generous man who would open his heart and house up to anyone who needed him. You could not help but get captivated by his compassion or get caught up in one of his stories. He was someone whose first impression will last you a lifetime. He enjoyed being outdoors, going on "adventures" with his grandchildren in the backyard.

One of his passions was riding his Harley with his wife and friends. I had the pleasure to go riding with him a couple years ago during a visit to California and we had a great time that I'll remember for a long time. Lastly, I cannot put into words what it meant to have spent Yogi's last days with him. We had some good conversations and I can tell you that he was a proud soldier & Ranger. He cared for each of us and having called him Brother enriched my life.

**Survivors:**

Wife of 30 years, Momilani P. Lopez; son, Edward in Colorado, daughters Julie in Washington, Deborah in Delaware, and Kawaiiolele & Victoria in Prunedale, California. His father, Raymond S. Lopez Sr and stepmother, brothers, Manuel and Danny; sisters, Rosie and Christina; all live in California. He also has nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild.







## D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Leon Moore

Hello fellow rangers & LRS's

We just got back from the Ranger Reunion in Ft. Benning, Georgia. We had a great turn out from D Company 151<sup>st</sup>. Billy Faulks and his wife, Richard Lowes, John Kingeter, Jim Owen and his wife, Vic Vicciano, Frank Park, Steve Meade, Chuck Eads, Mike Miller, Rusty Hawk's wife Lou and her son, Shane, John Mason, Bill (Pappy) Hayes, Larry Pauley, Dan (Winter) Hughes and his wife, Geraid Brantley, Michael Jausaud and wife were in attendance. There were a few more but they forgot to sign in on the attendee's sheet. We went to the new Infantry Museum and Billy Faulks' picture was on display. After that Billy was in 7<sup>th</sup> heaven the rest of the time. The feature article for this issue is from Chuck (Head Shit Burner) Wallace. Oh wait, Chuck forgot to send it to me. Isn't that hard to believe? Well I guess I will have to write it from memory, so I have to add a little to the story to make it more interesting. As a matter of fact, I added a lot more to it so some of it might not be true, but it made it a lot more interesting.

It was a warm summer day and Sgt. Eads was sitting in his lawn chair drinking a cold one and watching his men burn shit. He was down wind and taking in the fresh smell of shit being burned. Sgt. Eads was thinking to himself, life doesn't get any better than this" when Lt. Jausaud came up and said "Sgt. II Field called and wants another 6 man team in the field within the hour". Sgt. Eads jumps to his feet in double time (well walks fast) to his hut, looks at his logbook and says; "I only have one team left that is not in the field already". That team had 5 men and a Chou Hoy then it dawned on him that one of his men was burning shit. The one man burning shit was Sgt. Eads' head shit burner, Chuck Wallace. This put Sgt. Eads in a dilemma. If he pulls Chuck off shit detail then he would have to go out in the hot sun and watch over the men, or he could go out in place of Wallace on the mission. What to do? Well like any great Platoon Sgt. would do in this case, he grabbed the gear needed for the mission and walked to the ready room and yelled "Wallace get over here, grab your gear and get on that chopper". Well by the time Wallace got to the chopper the rest of the team was already on board. The only spot left was by the Chou Hoy, who said, "you smell like shit!" then the other guys on the chopper started smelling him too and was yelling at Wallace. Well by the time the chopper got to the LZ, the Cho Hoy started to



smell like shit also. At the LZ, the team got off and headed for their ambush site. A few hours later it became dark and through the jungle canopy they could see the moon. It was a full moon and very bright. Later they hear the loft flying over head and suddenly the pilot called down to the team radio man and said "I am going to switch the radio band over to the news station. Armstrong is getting ready to step on the moon." RTO explained step by step what was happening and the team passed the information down to each man. Well Wallace was at the end with the Cho Hoy and Chuck started telling the Cho

Hoy what was going on. He told him look up at the moon, "we have a man walking on the it right now. He is taking one giant step for mankind" and well Chuck forgot the rest. The Cho Hoy looked at Wallace and said "you dingy doul, no man on moon you dingy doul" and the other guys were shaking their heads, yes man on moon. Then the Cho Hoy said "all you dingy doul". The Cho Hoy didn't talk much the rest of the mission. Once the team got back to the base camp the Cho Hoy got off the chopper and ran up to Sgt. Eads and said "I no go out with this team no more, they all dingy doul. They say man walking on moon. No more go out with this team". I don't know if I wrote the story like it was told to me or not, anyway I did the best I could.

### Continued 40 Years Ago

October 1969

With a lot of the guys taking early outs for school, seasonal work and hardships a lot of the teams were reorganized. They started taking replacements out on missions to get them trained to take over when Company D was to stand down at the end of October, to deploy back to Indiana. Major Heckman was reassigned and replaced. Also the officers and enlisted men started to be replaced so Company D Rangers 75<sup>th</sup> unit could begin the transfer of replacing Company D Ranger 151<sup>st</sup>.

November 1969

During this time Company D Ranger 151<sup>st</sup> went on stand down to deploy on November 20, 1969. Major Himesel and a few of the National Guard guys were assigned to other companies and were reunited at Long Bin Airport, where Company D was staged to process out of the country

**D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)**

and back to Indiana. The sad part of this time period was the great guys the US's and RA's who trained and went over to Viet Nam with us. They became part of Company D 151<sup>st</sup> during our deployment to Viet Nam and became our brothers who we came to trust, respect and most of all loved as family. They were not able to stand down with us. Some stayed in Company D Ranger 75<sup>th</sup> and others were reassigned to other Ranger units to finish out their time of 12 months. A lot of them were sent into units who were not as well trained as we were and ran into a lot of shit.

Upon arriving to Ft. Knox to be decommissioned from the Army and back to National Guards, the Company spent several days there with a short leave to visit family, then put on buses and went to Tyndall Armory in Indianapolis on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1969. They were given a welcome home by Governor Whitcomb, General Owens and State Dignitaries. After a few days we went to the Greenfield

Armory and had a choice to stay in the Guards or get out. Most of us got out. Some later rejoined the Guards and a few went back into the Army (not me).

This ends the looking back of 40 years ago when we were young, except for Pappy, who was old then, bless his heart! Hope this has helped in some way. I am honored to have had the opportunity to write the last two years of the Patrolling Magazine. It is time to pass on the Unit Director job to someone who can do a much better job at writing and getting information to put in the magazine. I hope someone (anyone) will step up and take over. I've gone as far as I can, so please call me if you can replace me. My phone number is 765-874-1996.

Thanks again for all your support.

Sgt. Leon Moore

**F/51 LRP**

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

*No Submission*

**LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID**

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

*No Submission*

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)**

Unit Director - Bill Miller

**Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:**

I recently returned from the Ranger Rendezvous in Columbus, Ga. We had a pretty good turn out of BDQ's. In attendance were Bob Murphy, Walt Sanders, Skip Chittenden, Harris Parker, Karl Fee and Burton Eddy. A good time was had by all, but we were all disappointed that Earle Singletary and Willard Langdon did not get inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. I couldn't get there until Friday, but it was very enjoyable. I hope to see more BDQ's there next time.



and I am sure would appreciate hearing from any BDQ's.

Russ McDonald  
310 Caldwell Road  
Unit #205  
Ashland, TN 37015

**Part II Plei Tray Valley**  
**Working with the 23<sup>rd</sup> BDQ at Ben**  
**Het Early 1971**

.....and we were feeling very much alone, even though there were about three hundred of us hunkered down inside Ben Het.

**Sick Call**

The following individual is experiencing health problems

As I wrote earlier, we had been sent up to Ben Het at the north end of the Plei Trap valley to link up with the 22d

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)**

ARVN BDQ Battalion as they moved up the valley towards us. Having run head-on into the 28th, 40th, and 66th NVA Regiments, the 22d BDQ BN broke through regimental sized ambushes, lost 1LT Orië Dubbeld and SFC James Duncan to direct mortar hits, then pushed toward the relative safety of Ben Het. My Battalion, the 23d ARVN BDQ BN, moved into the jungle from Ben Het where we took up a night defensive position south of the camp. Although we were prepared for the worst, the night passed uneventfully and we linked up with the 22d BDQs at dawn. Then we all hustled back inside the wire to sort things out.

The 22d BN was moved back to our base in Pleiku. 23d BDQs remained at Ben Het, whose regular garrison of ARVN LLDBs (ARVN Special Forces) were away at the ARVN BDQ school for training. That left us, about 300 BDQs plus some of the 2d Ranger Group HQ staff, occupying the old SF border camp with three NVA regiments closing a ring around us. We were close to the tri-border area where Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam adjoined boundaries. Situated at the end of an old French highway well beyond the old Dak To SF camp, Ben Het was literally the “end of the line” in a hotly contested area. Major segments of the Ho Chi Minh Trail were just to the west along the borders.

Taking stock of our situation, we knew things were not good. Besides our BDQs, we had some 105mm artillery pieces organic to the camp plus a battery of 175mm guns from the US 1/92 Artillery. There were a few of the LLDBs too. Within a day after 22d BDQ left, the only road to Ben Het was cut and held by the NVA. Our requests for air support received the laconic response “air assets have been diverted to a higher priority” meaning “tough s\*\*\* guys”. We would get the occasional single Huey, usually bringing an Intel officer from Pleiku who would move red dots on our maps, telling us “there are now an estimated xx thousand NVA in your area”.

A couple days after settling in, 2d Group Commander LTC Sam and 23d BDQ CO, CPT Phuong, decided to set up a company size OP on Hill 880, a small mountain dominating the Ben Het area and affording views toward the border infiltration routes. Along with the BDQ company commander, SFC Acoba and I humped up the mountain, climbing in and out of massive bomb craters as we neared the summit. It is no exaggeration to say that mountain climb was harder than anything I had done at Mountain Ranger Camp in Dahlonga. Because the hilltop had been contested for years and changed hands several times, the top was a virtual moonscape of red dirt and debris from old fighting positions. Water soon became an issue, and the BDQs tried sampling water from the bottoms of bomb

craters. Those who tried it were immediately ill, and a quick probe of the muddy water revealed skeletal human remains, presumably NVA. Fortunately a Huey was on station and was able to ferry water from Ben Het.



**Hill 880 as seen  
from Ben Het**



**The top of Hill 880  
facing South into the  
Plei Trap Valley where  
the 22nd BDQ BN  
clashed with the NVA  
Regiments**

Almost simultaneously, we saw Ben Het take a massive bombardment from 122mm NVA rockets. We could see the launch point from our position and I began calling it in to the garrison. Some unknown voice came on the net hollering they were under fire and telling me to stay off the radio. Fortunately, our Group Senior Advisor, LTC Toner, was monitoring the net and knew why I was on, so he broke in to tell me to go ahead, which I did. Didn't do any good, however, we got the same “air assets have been diverted” story.

The next bit of news came from the BDQs, who told me NVA woodcutters were out in plain sight at the base of the mountain, which was a bad sign. It meant that, although the NVA knew we were there, they were out in plain sight in broad daylight, meaning they felt safe from us, which told me they were out in strength. They were too distant from us to engage without abandoning our OP, so we sat tight, held our perimeter, and called it in. Of course, we heard again “air assets were diverted etc. etc.” Along with the BDQs, SFC Acoba and I spent a long night waiting for the attack that, fortunately, didn't happen.

Next day SFC Acoba and I were flown off the mountain and back to Ben Het. Not long after we had left, the NVA wiped out the OP. We heard the attack had been opened with a satchel charge thrown into the position SFC Acoba and I had been occupying.

Sitting in Ben Het, our tensions were high and nerves were getting frayed. Someone, probably a BDQ, accidentally popped a CS grenade one night in the main underground bunker, sending everyone gasping out into the night thinking it was the opening of an attack. Everyone soon realized it was a false alarm. Thank God nobody opened fire.

With the NVA gathering in the area and patrols out to find

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)**

them, the ARVNs began moving more troops into Dak To and setting up a firebase on a mountain roughly between Ben Het and Dak To. With our supplies running down, a convoy was dispatched daily from Tan Canh to bring us artillery shells and some food. Every day the convoy would get hit and stopped somewhere just past Dak To. Finally, after all our pleas for some air support, we received word some Cobra gunships were coming on station to assist us. LTC Toner grabbed me and said “Fee, we got Cobras to fly cover for the convoy. Get on that slick and see where they are getting ambushed, then direct the gunships” Yessir.

Given the hostile environment, the slick pilot stuck close to the ground as we sped along the old highway. Although we kept a low profile, we also had no distance vision to see anything down the road. There was a small steep hill where the road took a semicircle detour directly ahead of us. Rather than go around, the pilot chose to go up, over, and down the hill. We came over the hill straight into an all-out firefight between the convoy and an NVA assault group. Right in our face was a five ton truck blazing from end to end, and it was loaded with artillery shells. Expecting to be blown into oblivion in a nanosecond, the pilot nearly hit the ground with a hard sharp 90 degree bank to the right, then took the steepest angle of climb possible to get above the lines of fire. In seconds we had a grandstand view of the situation. I could see the NVA in a streambed on either side of the road trying to move in on the trucks. Most of the vehicles appeared okay but three or four were obviously smashed or burning, including the ammo truck. Convoy troops were spread along the roadsides trying to hold off the NVA. Four Cobra gunships came on line just as I was reporting back to Ben Het. After giving them the enemy positions I watched them work out on the streambed. While I was admiring the Cobras handiwork and reporting it, out of the blue came a call from an Air Force FAC (we had been drinking buddies at the Pleiku AFB and knew each other’s call signs) saying “Can I be of assistance today?” with that staggering casual tone only an Air Force zoomie can have. “Sure” I said “Whatcha got?” He responded “Fast movers coming back from over the fence with ordnance” (Fighter bombers coming back from a mission in Cambodia) “What kind of ordnance?” I asked “500 pounders” he says. “Man o man let me get these gunships out of the way” I told him. After days of hearing “air assets have been diverted”, we suddenly had all we could ask for, Thank God.

After giving them the word, I watched the Cobras make their last runs and peel off back to friendlier territory. Then the FAC told me we had better get out of the way too, so we hauled ourselves back to Ben Het, where LTC Sam was beaming at the news of the convoy coming in. Trucks were rolling into the camp as we exited the slick.

We joined LTC Sam, LTC Toner, BDQ officers, and other US troops watching from the tops of the bunkers. Everyone who could had scrounged binoculars to watch the Air Force jets work out. For a minute or two there was just the voice of the FAC on the radio, then in a split second a pair of F4s dove straight in and rearranged the landscape. Although we were at a distance, it was still awesome to watch what 500 lb ordnance can do. After the jets finished their passes, the BDQs immediately dashed out for a counterattack, catching three dazed NVA prisoners. One of them was an NCO with a book containing the names and arms assigned to everyone in his platoon. Most important of all, it contained locations of his company resupply points. Whether this was acted on or not, we never knew, as the book was dispatched to Pleiku in hours. The POWs were flown to Pleiku the next day after some lengthy interviews. To their credit, the BDQs handled them with care, allowing them to smoke and eat.



**LTC Sam, 2d Ranger Group Commander, seated on the left and SGT Dong, 2d Group Interpreter, on the left, with one of the NVA POWs at Ben Het.**



**SGT Dong, 2d Ranger Group Interpreter, having a smoke while keeping an eye on his new friend from North Vietnam.**

After that day the road remained open to convoys and the NVA appeared to back away from Ben Het a bit, but not entirely. There was a lot of discussion about whether they had been massing for a surprise attack on Ben Het which was disrupted by the appearance of 22d BDQs in the Plei Trap valley and the subsequent actions around the camp. Whatever the circumstances, however, it was only a short relief for Ben Het. The area around Dak To and Ben Het remained hot for the remainder of the war. The new firebase between Dak To and Ben Het was overrun a few days after the convoy incident, recaptured, and eventually fell again in the final days of Ben Het in 1972. There was good reason Ben Het had the cynical nickname Been Hit.

Karl Fee  
23<sup>rd</sup> Bn BDQ 70-71

**SITREP:**

As I mentioned in the last issue I would be working on the 2010 Reunion. This is a heads up as the following

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)**

information is confirmed. The reunion will be held May 10, 11, 12 at the Radisson Hotel (Airport) in Charleston, SC. The guaranteed room rate is \$89 and they have sleep number beds and rooms with two queen size beds and rooms with a King size bed with a pull out love seat. Refrigerators, microwaves, and coffee machines in the rooms. There is a restaurant that serves Breakfast, lunch and Dinner and also a Cocktail lounge. There is also an airport shuttle to the Hotel. More information will follow as we get closer to the date and formal invitations will be sent out. Please mark this on your calendars, and let's have a great turn out. There is plenty to do in Charleston if you so desire. Here is a sample.

Visit Fort Sumter

Tour the Aircraft Carrier USS Yorktown (which houses the Medal of Honor Museum)

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**Quote:**

"Its soul, its climate, its equality, liberty, laws, people, and manners. My God! How little do my countrymen know what precious blessings they are in possession of, and which no other people on earth enjoy!"

Thomas Jefferson

Mu Nau Bill Miller, Unit Director



**2009  
Ranger Rendezvous**

**Jump - 3500 ft.**

**Dana McGrath**

**2002-2004 Past President**

**75TH RRA - Banquet**

# STATE COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES

BEHIND THE SCENES, YET IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE ASSOCIATION:

August 15, 2009

Gentlemen,

Ranger Cpl. Benjamin Stephen Kopp, C/3/75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, died July 18, 2009, of wounds received in Afghanistan.

Ranger Kopp's actions on the day he was wounded allowed a six man Recon Team to disengage from the enemy and be extracted safely.

Cpl, Ben Kopp was from Minnesota, and a memorial service was held on Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009, at Rosemont High School, his Alma Matter.

The service was conducted entirely by two outstanding Ranger Chaplains.

The Regiment sent about 30 active duty Rangers to Minnesota to support his funeral. Many of the Rangers were from Cpl. Kopp's Unit, and had been with him in Afghanistan.

Minnesota's Governor, and two Senators, 75<sup>th</sup> RRA members John Henry Berg and Ken McConkey also attended the service.

I had the Honor and Privilege to attend this service, as well as his wake on Friday evening, along with several Ranger and Airborne Veterans from the Twin Cities area. In addition, I had the extreme pleasure to be in the company of those outstanding young Rangers for a few days in Minnesota.

Cpl. Kopp was buried in Arlington National Cemetery on August 8, 2009.

John Henry Berg and I look forward to presenting his Mother, Ms Jill Stephenson, a Gold Star Certificate from the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA in the near future.

RLTW  
Thomas R. Eckhoff

N CO, Ranger, 75<sup>th</sup> INF, 173<sup>rd</sup> ABN, BDE (SEP)  
75<sup>th</sup> RRA Life Member #473

**Thank you Tom and John Berg for representing the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA. John is one of our State Coordinators.**

**NOW THAT IS WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT!**

**Please consider being a State coordinator for your state. As you can see our volunteers do a great service for the families, and the association. You may contact me at the email address below for more information.**

If you attend any services or events representing the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association please let me know so we may recognize your efforts.

## **FIELD COORDINATORS**

**John Chester has certificates for the mothers. Be sure to request them when needed.**

**I (Gene Tucker) will be able now to provide silver coins that you may present to the families of our departed brothers. Please notify me as soon as you know what you want engraved on the coins and the address to have the coin sent to. You may have 14 letters including spaces engraved on the first line and 4 or 5 on the second line.**

**Be sure to visit any wounded, injured or ill brother also.**

**Now is the time to step up and be counted as all the State Coordinators have been doing, we all appreciate their unselfish giving for their fellow LRRP's, LRP's and Rangers. !**

**Gene Tucker  
State Coordinator – Advocate  
75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association  
[egt12@comcast.net](mailto:egt12@comcast.net)**



# TAPS

## **BOB & WANDA SMYERS**

SMYERS, Robert E. 69, died Aug. 13, 2009. Graveside services 11am, Aug. 24, 2009, at Florida National Cemetery. Visitation Sunday, 1-3pm at Gee & Sorensen Funeral Home.

SMYERS, Wanda 71, died Aug. 19, 2009. Graveside services 11am, Aug. 24, 2009, at Florida National Cemetery. Visitation Sunday, 1-3pm at Gee & Sorensen Funeral Home.

Ranger Bob Smyers and his lovely Wife, Wanda – At Peace Rangers, I am sorry to inform you that Bob and Wanda Smyers passed away in August. Bob died at home August 13<sup>th</sup>, Wanda in the hospital on August 19<sup>th</sup>. They had been seriously ill for quite a while and had fought the good fight for many years together.

Bob was one of those E/58<sup>th</sup> LRP/LRRP-types whose Unit became K Co, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger after he DEROSed in 1968. Like many of our LRP/LRRPs, Bob was a LRRP at heart, yet carried the Ranger spirit long before he was known as a Ranger after his RVN tour ended. As a K/75<sup>th</sup>-type myself, Bob was one of those “Legends” I heard so much about and tried so hard to measure up to in my time in RVN. They obviously set the bar FAR too high for mortals such as me, but their examples sure helped me survive the attempts. Wanda was Bob’s personal Angel, a gal whose health had given her plenty of trouble, but never changed to her sunny disposition or her love for her Family and her Buddy, Bob. Those two were a “set” wherever they went – a pleasure to be around and willing to help in any way possible if there was something in need of attention. They passed away within a week of each other, so I imagine they’re hard at work helping somebody in the next life, but TOGETHER as they were in this one.

Sua Sponte,  
Dana McGrath  
K/75<sup>th</sup>



## **SSGT JASON S. DAHLKE, ARMY RANGER, FIRST RANGER BATTALION**

SUBMITTED BY: Richard Foster

With an Honor Guard of Sailors lining both sides of the block-long street in front of the All Saints Chapel at the Jacksonville Naval Air Station, a First Ranger Battalion Honor Guard of NCO pall bearers escorted SSgt Jason Dahlke’s remains to his final resting place. His motorcade, made up of family and Rangers brothers from the First Battalion, was led by a sizable contingent of the Jacksonville Police Department, with an escort of riders from The Patriot Guard bringing up the rear. Ranger SSgt Jason S. Dahlke, Co. A, Recon Platoon, First Ranger Battalion, was laid to rest at the Jacksonville National Cemetery, after services celebrating his life as a Ranger, a husband, a son, a brother, and a friend.

Ranger Dahlke, was on his sixth deployment (three to Iraq, three to Afghanistan), when he was killed in action by enemy gunfire on August 29, 2004 in Paktika Province. He joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion in 2005, last serving as a squad leader. Among other service medals, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Bronze Star, Expert Infantry Badge and the Combat Infantry Badge.

He is survived by his wife and best friend since middle school, Nicole; his parents, Roger and Tessa Dahlke; his mother, Deborah Delaney; and sisters Talia, Taryn, Donielle, and Kelsea.

Ranger Dahlke died with honor knowing that he had fulfilled his duty to his country and his Ranger Brothers. As his father recounted a conversation he had with his son over his numerous deployments, his Ranger son replied, “Dad, I’m a warrior and I’m good at what I do.” Rest in Peace, Jason Dahlke, United States Army Ranger. Courageously, did you do your duty.

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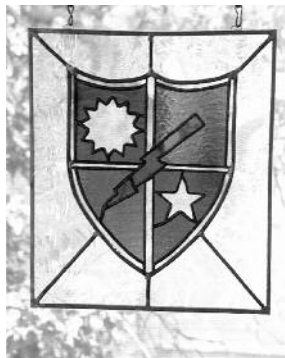
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Richard Gamez 1<sup>st</sup> DIV LRRP - F/52 LRP - I/75

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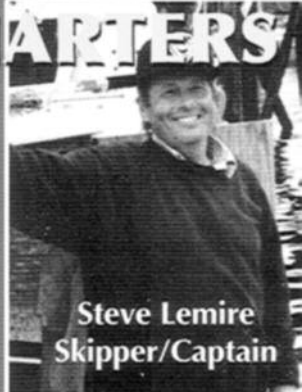
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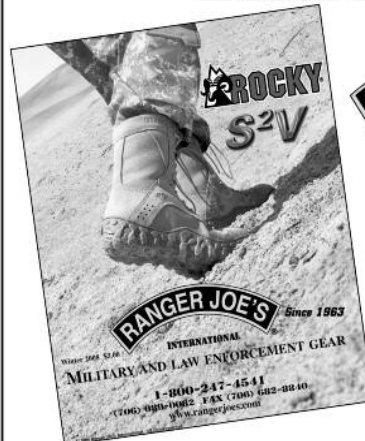


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## **A L.R.R.P. TEAM LEADER**

*By Wayne Lund*

*To be a good leader on any type of team, you have  
to be very strong,  
You work with each member to insure they feel that  
they belong.*

*I had a team of young men who have proved that  
they are very tough,  
At times to keep them alive and thinking I have to  
be hard and rough.  
When moving out on patrol in the jungle we always  
traveled real slow,  
No matter how quiet we moved, it seemed like the  
enemy would know.*

*Suddenly the point man cries out "contact", the  
enemy's been found,  
The only thing wrong, the firing seems to be coming  
from all around.*

*Yelling at my men, "follow me, lets clear out this  
ambush site",*

*Charging towards the enemy, they broke and ran,  
and disappeared into the night.*

*13 February 2004*



# *Please Listen Young Soldier*

*“Welcome young soldier”, it’s good to have you home.  
Soon, you’ll be with your family, to no longer be alone.  
You have served our country well, stand tall & walk with pride.  
Not just for yourself but also for those who died.*

*Like you I’ve seen combat, I’ve seen the horrors of war.  
Memories will haunt you, some forever more.  
Friends and family will ask questions, they want to understand.  
You’ll find it hard to talk about your time in the sands.*

*Dreams interrupted, war time images so vividly clear.  
Each day, morning will come, your nightmares disappear.  
Like medals and pictures, without care they gather dust.  
The first step the hardest, you must learn how to “Trust”.*

*This may be your toughest battle, one you may not win.  
To not seriously try would truly be a sin.  
So shake my hand young warrior, it’s good to have you home.  
Always remember that people love you, you’ll never be alone.*

*Michael D. Monfrooe USA Ret.  
18 August 2008*



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There were potential issues concerning the ownership and copy right of the figure on the reverse of the coin, the figure that we referred to as "Ruck Man". The new layout will allow much more space for engraving. The other side of the coin will remain the same, (see below).

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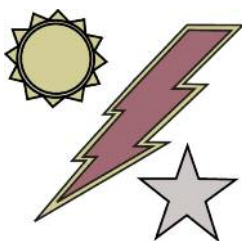
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