

PATROLLING

WINTER 2009 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 24 ISSUE III



*3rd Ranger Battalion Memorial Ceremony, (Memorial visible at left)
Photo by J. Chester*

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



KOREAN CONFLICT

1LT Andrew Adams of Drums, PA; First Airborne Ranger Co, US 2nd Infantry Division is congratulated by BG George Stewart, Assistant Division Commander, after receiving the Silver Star.



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 Erther
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

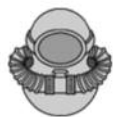
All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

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.



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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 15th of February, May, August, and November for the Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter Issues respectively.

POSTMASTER

Send address corrections to: *Patrolling*,
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WEB SITE & MAGAZINE NEWS

The Association web site and *Patrolling* magazine are the windows of the 75th 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.

WEB SITE & MAGAZINE SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

At the general membership meeting in August, 2009, the membership voted to increase the annual dues and the cost of a Life Membership. Annual dues are now \$30.00 and a Life Membership is now a one-time charge of \$300.00. On the mailing label of this magazine a series of numbers appears above your name, for example 1234/2009. The first four is your member number in the Association, the last four is the year in which your membership expires. In the above example, this individual's membership lapsed June 30, 2009.

If the last four numbers above your name is 2009 or earlier, this is your last issue of the magazine.

The invoices will be mailed later this year. You can pay your dues by mailing a check to the address at the top of the box to the left, or call me with a credit card, my numbers are also in the box to the left.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

I guess the first order of business should be to remind everyone that at the general membership meeting in August of 2009, the membership voted to increase the dues. After January 1, 2010, annual dues will be \$30.00 per year, and a life membership will be \$300.00. Our dues are paid from July 1 to June 30 of the next year. In order to keep things simple and to keep Bill Postelnic (the Secretary), from pulling out his hair, dues paid in future will be in the annual amount of \$30.00, regardless of when your dues were paid up to. See additional information on page 3.



John Chester

There was an interesting Supreme Court case not long ago, Porter v. McCollum that ruled that a defendant in a Capital (death penalty) case has the right to present, in a sentencing hearing, evidence of service in combat and evidence that the individual suffers with PTSD. The Court went on to say "The relevance of the defendant's extensive combat experience is not only that he served honorably under extreme hardship and gruesome conditions," the decision said, "but also the jury might find mitigating the intense stress and emotional toll that combat took on the defendant."

The point of this decision is not to approve of bad behavior because you have PTSD. This does not mean that you get a free pass IF you have been diagnosed with PTSD and have been in combat. It does allow a jury to consider those facts when sentencing a defendant found guilty of a capital felony.

Just about every reunion Herb Reichel and members of the Blue Bucket Community hold sunrise services each morning, starting at 0 dark thirty. Services usually include various potables that are based on the squeezings of the tomato and various other vegetables. There are generally other vegetables in their natural state available to garnish the potables and to lend an air of healthful consumption. I might add that the cost of the potables and vegetables is borne almost entirely by Herb and LaVina.

The main purpose of the services are to promote the social and spiritual intercourse among members of the Association, and to increase the understanding and camaraderie among Rangers, LRP's and LRRP's of different eras. From time to time, dependent of the volume of potables consumed and the level of comfort and well being thus induced, the hat is passed for the benefit of the family fund. The last reunion generated some \$300.00 for

this noble purpose. I wonder if there is any correlation between the amount of potables consumed and the amount collected for the family fund? Maybe a research project for the next reunion. All kidding aside, thanks Herb and LaVina, the Association appreciates the support.

Mary Anne and I attended the 3rd Ranger Battalion Ranger Ball held at the Ironworks in Columbus, GA. Our 2nd Vice President, Jason Baker was also able to attend. Since Jason's wife could not attend, he invited Gold Star wife Sandy Harris and her two daughters Tara and Heather. As usual lots of beautiful people and interesting conversation. Maybe its me, but these young Rangers are looking younger every year.

Writers Project

As I stated in the last issue, I have been thinking about this for some time. I have been working on this magazine for about 10 years now, and I have seen some great stories. There is also the fact that none of us are getting any younger, and if these stories don't get told now, they will be lost forever. I think that there are compelling reasons for telling these stories, I think that the coming generations of Rangers will want to know about the people that went before them, just as we wanted to know about WW II & Korea.

The following are the guidelines for submission of material: Stories should be Ranger, LRP or LRRP related, from the Vietnam era to present. Stories can be about any aspect of an individual's service, in combat or peacetime, and can cover virtually any aspect or part of the experience. Stories do not need to be all blood & guts, they can be humorous, and they can even deal with events that occurred after an individual's service, as long as they connect as a consequence of the service.

The length of the stories will not be specified. Take as long as you need to tell the story, however, all submissions are subject to editing, both for length and content.

All submissions must be true and are subject to verification, if appropriate. We do not want a collection of war stories. If a part of the story is unclear in the writer's mind or if peripheral facts are assumed but not known, say so. Do not put forth anything as true that cannot be verified.

All submissions will be evaluated by a panel. This panel will attempt to bring together a collection of stories that will be meaningful and illustrative of the Ranger, LRP or LRRP experience. There will be no grading of stories into which is

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

'better' than another. The point of the exercise is to publish a collection that fits well together, and tells our story.

All submissions become the property of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. The author may use his story in any other way he chooses, but the Association has the right to use the submission as it sees fit.

Dave Regenthal is setting up the mechanism for submitting material through the web site. We would prefer all submissions to be electronically submitted in Microsoft "Word" format, but if you don't have a computer or don't have "Word", send it to me in what ever form you have and I will take care of it. I don't want anyone NOT submitting something because they lack a computer or other means.

There are a number of goals involved with this project. Everyone who has a submission selected for publication will become a published author. There should certainly be some pride of accomplishment attached to that, as well as the satisfaction in simply telling our story. This is also intended to be a source of revenue for the Association. I have contacted a number of military gear type outlets who have agreed to stock our publication, and am talking to some other folk with an eye to get it marketed through Amazon and other sources.

There is no reason that we need to limit the publication to only one edition. If we have sufficient material, I fully intend to publish as many times as we can. I am especially interested in Ranger stories from Grenada to present, the stories from what us Vietnam era guys refer to as the 'Young Rangers'. There are quite a few Ranger books dealing with Vietnam and earlier Rangers, but very few stories from Eagle Claw, Grenada, Panama, and the current conflicts. These stories need to be told too. I don't think the project will be worthwhile, unless we have a tapestry of the Ranger experience across the whole spectrum from Vietnam to present.

So far we have Gary Dolan, Joe Cassily and me as a panel. Gary and Joe are both published authors and I have some editing experience. I would like at least 2 more volunteers, preferably someone from the modern Battalions and Regiment. You don't need to be a 'published author', if you have writing or editing experience that will do just fine. I would like to have the first issue in print by the end of 2010. I don't think that's too ambitious.

Please think about this and get something to us as soon as you can. We all have something to say and it's important that we say it before it's too late.



Jason Baker, our 2nd VP with Sandy Harris and her daughters Tara & Heather.



Mary Anne & The Yoga Ladies at Reunion 2009.



An ingredient is added to the Ranger Punch during the punchbowl ceremony.

FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joe Little



Joe Little

Well, it is another year coming to a close. It seems like yesterday I just wrote a piece for Patrolling and I am reminded again it is again time. I just returned from D.C. with my annual program and realized we have been doing it for 22 years now. Oh yeah, it is a program

started here in Arizona for those working on themselves through the Vet Centers. A good friend started the program and we take 50 Vietnam Veterans to the "Wall" every year. I noticed with the passing of each year we tend to cut down on our walking around the memorial and tend to take longer breaks. Thinking back, we did Arlington ceremonies at 11:00 and ran to our bus and managed to get to the "Wall"

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

ceremonies before 1:00 PM on Veterans Day. Well we cut the Arlington part due to our barely getting to the Vietnam Memorial and our reserved seats in time. I know you're wondering where I am going with all this; well you're not alone; must be half timers or more timers. I recall when we were younger we wished we were old enough to drink and some of us did not wait. We wished for the next pay period and some of us still do. Well, as we seemed to have grown older some smarter and some making the same mistakes as in the past; (insanity "doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result").

I was doing some interviews in my office for replacing my outreach person. I had one we nicknamed ZOOM. The name fit perfectly, she served in Iraq and was the outreach person from my office. When she left to relocate closer to home, there was a huge void. I attempted to fill in for some of the outreach she did and found myself getting further and further behind. I called for more help from my staff and other Vet Centers to help out. Well, as we found out none of us were in the same age category nor did any of us have the energy level that she had regardless of what age you were. However there are a couple of elements that seems to be present in those I am interviewing. One is combat experience, and another is loyalty/dedication to fellow Combat Soldiers now Veterans. They want to make a difference with their brother and sister soldiers. There is a strong desire that no one is left behind or ALONE to suffer with their own thoughts of what they felt could, should, would of haves, and the but's or tried harder. To make sure the transition back into the WORLD is accomplished with improved quality of life, the Vet Centers are making a transition; as the Vietnam Combat Veterans are retiring they are being replaced with a new generation of Combat Veterans. Not just from Iraq or Afghanistan, but from Desert Storm, Panama, Bosnia, Somalia and other areas as deemed by congress as conflicts/wars. It is a changing of

the guard approach and some of us were resistant at first, however; we noticed that surge of energy and it tends to make others pick up the pace or move out of the way. They come in wanting laptops to perform their duties when some of us still carry a pad and pen to meetings.

At our last reunion we voted in two such individuals, Wesley Jurena and Jason Baker and they both started out running with ideas and laptops and marketing ideas for increasing the ranks of our association. They even had demographics figured out as to target populations and years of service and those most likely to join. Hell, they had it figured out when most of us joined the Association. What is all this rambling about? It is about adapting to new and innovative ideas from our younger selves. They see a future, as we all do and they have the ability to take the mantle and move the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. into the next generation of growth by forging new links and recruiting more new members. It has awakened me and others to ask when we meet another who has served and that scroll has made a change from one shoulder to another to join our ranks. They have current ties with all the battalions and are making certain they know we are here to help our brothers. The challenge is for all of us to inform those we meet at the VA hospitals or on the street, that they have an organization that cares for those that served and those serving today. They know that we have contributed to Family Fund and the Christmas Fund and were present for the Ranger Balls and other programs as well; as we contribute to these programs the active duty components are taking notice of who cares. We have that answer; WE DO and always have and always will. As we move forward we expect to see more new faces with the same hardened look of experience not quite as old or as round (but they're working on that part) to carry our lineage forward.

Wishing all a Great New Year may all be blessed.

SECOND-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jason Baker



Jason Baker

Hello LRRPs & Rangers! Happy Holidays to you and your family fire teams!

This has been such a great fall season in the Carolinas. The weather has been excellent, the trout have been tugging on my fly line, and the travels have been safe and rewarding.

A recent travel I had the pleasure of taking was back to Ft. Benning, GA for Veterans Day and the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the 3rd Ranger Battalion. I was joined in Ft. Benning by our President, John Chester and his better half, Ms. Mary Ann Colledge.

We first attended a memorial ceremony at 3rd Battalion Headquarters honoring all fallen Rangers who have perished in both combat and training during the Battalion's

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

25 year history. After the memorial ceremony, LTC Walrath addressed the audience and commemorated the 25 year history of the Battalion. We moved into the battalion classroom, where I had the honor of speaking to an audience of Battalion Senior Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers. I delivered a brief presentation of the Association's mission, highlighted our Regimental outreach, and offered a strong (I hope) case for Rangers of 75th Regiment lineage to join our organization. As my service in 3rd Battalion was in the late 80s and early 90s, it is always amazing to see how the Battalion has matured. In the State of the Battalion Address delivered by LTC Walrath, he highlighted a Battalion I could have only imagined in the 90s. Numerous delivery vehicles, highly advanced communication assets, increased special troops roles, dog handlers, 60+ occupational specialties, tier-1 missions, and even higher requirements to stand in their ranks. It makes one very proud to see how the Battalion has matured. I was a member in just its young days and feel as if the Battalion has become a highly polished, highly advanced, and highly technical unit of pure excellence.

Day two was a special day! As the Association was a sponsor of the 25th Anniversary Ranger Ball, we were invited to attend. My wife could not attend, so I invited Sandy Harris and her two daughters, Tara and Heather. They are the family of the late 1SG Glenn Harris of the 3rd Ranger Battalion. Glenn, a Somalia Veteran, died in a parachute accident in training. I knew Sandy, Tara, and Heather as Glenn was my Platoon Sergeant in 1st Platoon, B Co. 3/75. Escorting three lovely women was a duty I was willing to take on for the Association. I hope you can see I

am willing to shoulder "more than my fair share of the task" for good of the Association.

The Ball was wonderfully executed. These Rangers are getting bigger, faster, and stronger, and their wives even more beautiful each year. The Ball was filled with Ranger history, honoring past Ranger veterans in attendance, toasting our lineage, and honoring fallen comrades. The Association was recognized by LTC Walrath for its ongoing support of the Battalion and presented us with an award signifying their acknowledgement and appreciation. It was truly an event that fills one with pride. It is a great honor to be able to call oneself part of this great Ranger lineage!

From my family to yours, we wish you a happy and safe Holiday Season and wish great success and safety to all Rangers in harms way over this special season.

RLTW,

Jason D. Baker



TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Wesley Jurena

Time Flies..

When I checked my email the other day and saw that the 75th RRA President, John Chester, was asking for my submission to the December issue of Patrolling, I was thinking how time flies. Has it really been that long since I was sipping beer at the Holiday Inn for Rendezvous 2009? Has it really been that long since I submitted the article for the previous edition of Patrolling?



Wesley Jurena

As it seems to happen when we get older, it triggered a stagger down memory lane for me. The December

issue will coincide with a small piece of history for many of us "gap" Rangers. I'm not sure where I heard the term or who came up with it but I think it's fitting. There is a "gap" between extended Ranger operations in Viet Nam and the current Ranger operations in support of the GWOT. During this "gap" in time, those of us who served in the BN's and later the Regiment spent a lot of time "training for war". Occasionally, the call came and we were able to take all that training and put it to use in support of the policies and objectives of the United States of America.

On 20 December 1989, as part of the Joint Special Operations Task Force commanded by Major General Wayne Downing, Specifically Task Force Red led by

TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Colonel "Buck" Kernan, the 75th Ranger Regiment spearheaded Operation Just Cause, the Invasion of Panama. The missions were many but in their simplest explanations, Capture Noriega and destroy the PDF's ability to fight.

It is hard for me to believe that it has been 20 years since I got that call just prior to block leave. 20 years since we froze our asses off at Sabre Hall during pre-jump. 20 years since I looked into the eyes of the most elite light infantry warriors in the world in the glow of red lights and knew that all the training we did over the years was going to pay off. 20 years since we stepped out that door at 500 ft AGL and accomplished all the missions that were asked of us.

Time does fly. Sadly, for some of our Brothers and their families, I have to believe that from that day forward time may have begun to stand still. So I dedicate my portion of this issue of patrolling to the Rangers who answered the call that night and paid the ultimate sacrifice and the families who supported them. They were men of the Ranger Creed, our Brothers and we will never forget them.

Staff Sergeant Larry Barnard
Company B, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment
Killed in Action December 20, 1989

Private First Class Roy Brown, Jr.
Company A, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment
Killed in Action December 20, 1989

Specialist Philip Lear
Company B, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment
Killed in Action December 20, 1989

Private First Class James W. Markwell
Company C, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment
Killed in Action December 20, 1989

Private First Class John Mark Price
Company A, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment
Killed in Action December 20, 1989

Speaking of Time..

I certainly don't know if it is flying or standing still for our modern day Rangers but since 19 October of 2001 they have been dealing death in Afghanistan and since 2003 they have been doing the same in Iraq. During that time an RTSB has been formed and to date, all 4 Battalions continue to conduct sustained combat operations in multiple countries. They work with a diverse section of special operators and conduct almost every type of mission you can think of. Proving once again that Rangers Lead the Way!

I wish them all Godspeed and hope they all return home safely.

Icebreaker.

During Rendezvous 2009 I was asked repeatedly why no "gap" Rangers or Rangers from my era, if you will, ever submit any articles to Patrolling about our experiences. If you look at it from our point of view, the magazine is filled with many wonderful stories of the Hero's we all looked up to, the Viet Nam Rangers and their experiences while fighting the numerous battles they were involved in. What I found when discussing this is that many of those trailblazers actually had an interest in our experiences, even if it was just a training event. So, I'll put a humorous one here and hope that other Rangers from my era decide to submit. Some day this magazine will be filled with stories from our GWOT brothers but until then our "training for war" escapades will have to provide substance and in this case some humor.

The standard for live fires in my day was a 4 step process to success - a day blank fire, then if this was done to standard a day live fire. If that all went well, the next step was a night blank fire, assuming that was accomplished to standard, then the crowning event if all was good to go, the night live fire.

One steamy, sweaty day on Ft. Stewart the men of Hardrock Charlie had completed their day blank fire and were excited to get on with the day live fire. Hot chow was on the way from Hunter and would be waiting after this live fire and before the night blank fire. Now, I'm trying to get the fog out of my head and remember why I was on the support line. I grew up in weapons squad so I could have been an AG or a Gunner or it could have been when we went through this crazy phase and I was a team leader air mobiling with a .50 cal. Which is a story for another day. Either way, the support line was moving into position and the assault line was quietly maneuvering through the wood line to get into position.

I was the far left machine gun, but the best position for the 90mm was to my left. All the guns were getting into position, machine gun AG's were linking the ammo to the starter belt and from right to left, the "thumbs up" was being passed down, keep in mind it's daylight so this was the easiest signal, Gun 1, "Thumbs up", Gun 2 "Thumbs up", Gun 3 "thumbs up". Now, I look over to my left and give the AG for the 90 the "thumbs up". In order to protect the "innocent" I'll just call the AG specialist "C". Specialist "C" had tons of college credits and that's how he got his E4. He was very tall and had the required "Birth Control" glasses to round out the entire package. I'm not sure what Specialist "C" was thinking at this moment, but once I gave him the "thumbs up", he looks me in the eye, returns the "thumbs up" but then he immediately slapped his gunner on the head!

TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Well, that was the signal for the gunner to fire that stove pipe. So, the gunner did exactly what he was supposed to do and let that flechette round fly .."BOOOOOM"!

This of course starts a chain reaction which has all the M60's dialed in on targets with the initial cyclic rate of fire, just as rehearsed. The only problem is, the assault element is probably 200-300 meters from their assault position. Specialist "C" had compromised the mission, caused the assault element to have to crash through the woods much

further than expected and had in reality cause the entire support element to have an accidental discharge!

I will say that it still rates as one of the funniest day live fire raids ever. As for Specialist "C", he finished his Ranger career as the company clerk.

Hope everyone has a great holiday season and if I can be of any assistance with anything just let me know.

RLTW!

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By Bill Postelnic

FNG OJT

I generally don't write about my personal situation, but feel compelled to do so because I have some explaining to do. As an FNG, I have not made great strides in getting up to speed on the job of secretary, so it all still seems more than a little overwhelming to me. The job is bigger than I ever imagined and I still don't know what I don't know. This is made worse by the fact that during the past year, the company I work for has gone through several staff reductions without an equivalent reduction in work load. I am working harder and longer than I have in years. But with two daughters in college and a third in high school, I can't retire and have to work, and am thankful to still have a job, when many of my neighbors don't.



Bill Postelnic

Bear With Me

In Michigan, where I live, the unemployment rate is well over 15% and depending on which expert talks, it's either going to get much worse or not get any better for the next couple of years. No expert paints a rosy picture. So pretty much, having a job in the state is lucky and on a day-to-day basis. I hate making excuses, but the result of my increased workload – on top of the steep learning curve of the secretary job – is that things like processing new memberships and renewing memberships is back-logged. I will get it all caught up. I just ask everyone to bear with me for a while. But I am confident in stating that based on the number of new membership applications I have to process, that the Association is gaining a lot of new members.

Our Association And The Internet

Like it or not, the internet is now the way of life and just about everyone under the age of 40 has grown up in the internet, computer and cell phone world. Among those under the age of 30, most of their communication is done on-line, most don't even bother with land-line telephones, and use their "smart" cell phones more for text messaging, e-mail and web-surfing than they do for talking. When I want to contact one of my daughters, if I call, I get voice-mail, record a message, and maybe get a call back in a few hours. If I send a text message, I get an almost instant response. More of our new members submit their applications on-line than they do by mail.

Our Association On FaceBook & LinkedIn

The Association website – 75thRRA.com – gets a lot of visitors and recently we have expanded our internet presence by getting on FaceBook and LinkedIn. The explosion of professional and social networking on the internet is amazing. FaceBook is the largest social networking operation with more than 100 million users in the U.S. and more than 300 users world-wide. When it comes to business and professional networking, LinkedIn is the largest with more than 50 million users world-wide and 22 million in just the U.S. ArmyRanger.com has more than 3,000 registered users. The future of the Association will depend more and more on the internet to include linking to more websites and getting established on YouTube. Jason Baker, Wes Jurena and webmaster Dave Regenthal are driving our internet activities. If you are a FaceBook or LinkedIn member, be sure to join the 75th Ranger Regiment Association group.

GOLD STAR

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

I am sad to report it has been a deadly quarter for 1/75 Rangers. The loss of Sgt Jason Dahlke, Sgt Robert Sanchez and Pfc. Eric Hario has left the families of these warriors and the Battalion with an immeasurable loss.

I had the honor and privilege to serve and assist 2 of the 3 families. I attended the funerals of Sgt Robert Sanchez and Sgt Jason Dahlke and



although due to circumstances beyond my control I was unable to meet and speak with the Dahlke family I did have the honor to meet and spend time with Wendy & Will Holland the parents as well as Logan & Jacob brothers of Robert Sanchez...I was also able to have several phone conversations with Becky & James Hario. I am always so blessed by these brave and patriotic families. The connection I have with them in their pain and in helping them walk through their grief is so devious and letting them see that in time they will learn to live in their New Normal is such a faith renewal for me and hopefully for them as well.

These heroes will be honored at 1/75 with a Memorial service on January 14 at the Memorial at HAAF in Savannah. After the Battalions service we will have a 75th RRA service at the memorial. At that time we will present them with their coins and certificates

I am always so glad to see the members of the 75th RRA paying their respects to the families. I ran into Bill and Brenda Acebes at Sgt Dahlke's funeral and Terry Roddrick was at Sgt Robert Sanchez visitation.

I have also been in contact with Jill Stephenson mother of Benn Kopp thanks to our own Tom Eckhoff who got her



and I connected. Jill is an amazing lady and I look forward to her friendship and assisting her in any way I can. My sincere thanks to you Tom.

Bill & I will be at HAAF the weekend of Dec 18-20 for the 20th anniversary (unbelievable, seems so close and yet so long ago) of Operation Just Cause. I want to say thank you to Major Jeremy Mcallister and Wes Jurena for putting this reunion together. We are

donating Jim's uniform and his Black beret (the one David Neilson carried on the Black Beret March to Washington) to 1/75 for them to put on display in the Panama Section at HAAF. I am looking forward to linking up again with several of Jim's friends.

As I write this it is approaching Thanksgiving the perfect time to count our Blessings. I count you the wonderful Ranger heroes and your families as well as the honor you have given me in allowing me to serve you as a major Blessing in my life. Thank you so much for your love and support. My Ranger led the way for me to follow that journey has been both challenging and amazing. I pray that I may continue to honor God, Jim and each of you until my journey is over.

One of the writings I found of Jim's describes the "Perfect Day" I want to share that with you. After many details about where and how the day could be spent he ended it with this "For me the perfect day is any day that is spent with my friends because friendships make the day perfect". Yes my dear son you were wise beyond your years.

May each of you know "my friends," know many perfect days

RLTW
Blessings
Santee

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 75th 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 75th 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 CLAIMS BACKLOG Update 30:

NAUS reported on the progress the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is making on reducing the number of ratings claims they have. In FY 2009, which ended on 30 SEP, the VBA made decisions on over 977,000 claims and received more than 1,013,000 new claims. Starting FY 2010 VBA had approximately 416,000 claims in progress. As of 7 NOV 09, VBA has 466,173 cases pending, of which 163,907, or 36% were over 125 days old. This is significant as the stated goal for processing is 125 days. Currently the average processing time is down to 156 days from a high earlier in the year of 161 days. These figures are only for Compensation and Pension cases and do not cover education benefits. [Source: NAUS Weekly Update 13 Nov 09 ++]

VETERAN STATISTICS Update 01:

Following are the results of a number of public opinion surveys/polls related to how current day vets fair versus those from prior conflicts. The source Rasmussen Reports at www.rasmussenreports.com is an electronic publishing firm specializing in the collection, publication, and distribution of public opinion polling information:

Twenty-eight percent (28%) of adults nationwide believe that veterans of today's conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan face more challenges when they return home than veterans of the Vietnam War. However, the latest Rasmussen Reports national telephone survey finds that another 24% believe veterans of today's conflicts face fewer challenges when they arrive home compared to those who served in Vietnam. The plurality (42%) believes the challenges veterans from both eras have faced are about the same.

Of those who have served in the military 27% say today's veterans have it worse, while nearly the same

number (28%) say they face fewer challenges than those who fought in Vietnam.

Polling during the summer of 2007 showed that 47% of voters believed the War in Iraq is similar to the War in Vietnam from the perspective of the United States, but another 44% disagreed and said the wars are not similar. Sixty-one percent (61%) of all adults now believe veterans should receive preferential treatment when applying for a home or a job, while 21% disagree. Another 18% are undecided.

Sixty-seven percent (67%) of veterans say those who serve in the military should receive preferential treatment in these matters, compared to 60% of non-veterans.

Slightly more Republicans than Democrats believe veterans should be given higher priority when it comes to applying for jobs and homes. Sixty-one percent (61%) of voters not affiliated with either party agree.

In May 09, only 46% of Americans said military veterans should receive preferential treatment in hiring or promotion, while 29% disagreed.

Sixty-three percent (63%) say National Guard members whose jobs were eliminated while they were on active duty should receive special preference in hiring for other jobs.

Voter confidence in America's conduct in the War on Terror is at its lowest level in nearly three years. But 52% of voters support no firm timetable when it comes to bringing troops home from Afghanistan.

[Source: Rasmussen Reports Recent Polls 9 Nov 09 ++]

COLD WAR MEDAL Update 03:

U.S. Senators Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME), Jim Webb (D-VA), Blanche Lincoln (D-AR), and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) on 5 NOV introduced the Cold War Service Medals Act of 2009 (S.2743), bipartisan legislation to authorize the secretaries of the military departments to award Cold War Service Medals to American veterans. To date, no medal

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

exists to honor the men and women who served and defended the United States during the Cold War. Comments from the Senators who introduced the bill were:

Senator Snowe: “From the end of World War II to dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Cold War veterans were in the vanguard of the Nation’s defenses. Although long overdue, this legislation will honor and recognize the American patriots who for nearly half-a-century defended the Nation against the advance of communist ideology in the form of the Cold War Service Medal. The commitment, motivation, and fortitude of these brave service members was second to none and their actions should be recognized in a long-standing military custom befitting their patriotism and service.”

Senator Webb: “The millions of Americans who served in uniform in the armed forces during the Cold War, spanning more than four decades, were the living embodiment of our nation’s strategy of deterrence. In their efforts to preserve peace, hundreds died during isolated armed confrontations when the Cold War flashed hot at remote locations around the world. This legislation will appropriately honor those who served in an effort that resulted in the largest single expansion in the number of democratically elected governments in world history.”

Senator Lincoln: “America’s Cold War veterans deserve every honor we can bestow upon them for their hard work and dedication to keeping our nation safe. The Cold War Service Medal would allow military service members, veterans, and their families to receive the recognition and honor they rightfully deserve. I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure our veterans receive the support and care they and their families need. It’s the least we can do as a grateful nation.”

Senator Landrieu: “For 46 years, we were engaged in a worldwide battle against communism. During that time, there were countless heroes, who served in our nation’s Armed Forces and played a critical role in America’s triumph. These men and women, who sacrificed so much for so many, deserve to be awarded the Cold War Service Medal in recognition of their faithful service to their country and tireless defense of freedom around the world.”

Specifically, the Cold War Service Medal Act of 2009 would allow the Defense Department to issue a Cold War Service Medal to any honorably discharged veteran who

served on active duty for not less than two years or was deployed for thirty days or more during the period from 2 SEP 45 to 26 DEC 91. In the case of those veterans who are now deceased, the medal could be issued to their family or representative, as determined by the Defense Department. The bill would also express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Defense should expedite the design of the medal and expedite the establishment and implementation mechanisms to facilitate the issuance of the Cold War Service Medal. The award of the Cold War Service Medal is supported by the American Cold War Veterans, the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other veterans’ services organizations. [Source: Sen. Blanche Lincoln News release 5 Nov 09 ++]

VA HOMELESS VETS Update 12: At the VA National Summit Ending Homelessness Among Veterans on 3 NOV Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki unveiled the department’s comprehensive plan to end homelessness among Veterans by marshalling the resources of government, business and the private sector. Shinseki said, “President Obama and I are personally committed to ending homelessness among Veterans within the next five years. Those who have served this nation as Veterans should never find themselves on the streets, living without care and without hope.” Shinseki’s comprehensive plan to end homelessness includes preventive measures like discharge planning for incarcerated Veterans re-entering society, supportive services for low-income Veterans and their families and a national referral center to link Veterans to local service providers. Additionally, the plan calls for expanded efforts for education, jobs, health care and housing. “Our plan enlarges the scope of VA’s efforts to combat homelessness. In the past, VA focused largely on getting homeless Veterans off the streets. Our five-year plan aims also at preventing them from ever ending up homeless.”, Shinseki said.

Other features of the plan outlined by the secretary include:

The new Post-9/11 GI Bill provides a powerful option for qualified Veterans to pursue a fully funded degree program at a state college or university. It is a major component of the fight against Veteran homelessness. VA is collaborating with the Small Business Administration and the General Services Administration to certify Veteran-owned small businesses and service-disabled Veteran-owned small businesses for listing on the Federal Supply Register, which enhances their visibility and competitiveness - creating jobs for Veterans.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

VA will spend \$3.2 billion next year to prevent and reduce homelessness among Veterans. That includes \$2.7 billion on medical services and more than \$500 million on specific homeless programs.

VA aggressively diagnoses and treats the unseen wounds of war that often lead to homelessness - severe isolation, dysfunctional behaviors, depression and substance abuse. Last week, VA and the Defense Department cosponsored a national summit on mental health that will help both agencies better coordinate mental health efforts.

VA partners with more than 600 community organizations to provide transitional housing to 20,000 Veterans. It also works with 240 public housing

authorities to provide permanent housing to homeless Veterans and their families under a partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. The VA/HUD partnership will provide permanent housing to more than 20,000 Veterans and their families.

Over the duration of the conference it is expected that over 1,200 homeless service providers from federal and state agencies, the business community, and faith-based and community providers will attend and participate in the summit. "This is not a summit on homelessness among Veterans," added Shinseki "It's a summit on ending homelessness among Veterans." [Source: VA News Release 3 Sep 09 ++]



BG Gronsky of the 28th Division, Pennsylvania National Guard Lays a wreath at the 28th Division Memorial at Ft. Indiantown Gap, PA. One of the honorees was Marine Gunnery SGT Darryl Boatman, Son of Roy & Joyce Boatman who was KIA by an IED while attached to the 28th Division.

HEALTH

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.

VA LAWSUIT (RANDEN HARVEY) Update 01:

The federal government has agreed to pay \$218,500 to settle a \$600,000 lawsuit over the fatal drug overdose of a young Michigan veteran who served as a U.S. Marine in Iraq. Randen Harvey died in 2006 at his father's home. His family had accused the Department of Veterans Affairs of failing to keep him in a hospital or commit him to a mental health facility. The 24-year-old Harvey served two tours in Iraq. He was honorably discharged as a lance corporal in NOV 05. Five months later, according to the lawsuit, he was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. Assistant U.S. Attorney Steven Croley said the government considered the settlement a 'reasonable resolution' given the cost of a trial. It admitted no liability. [Source: New York Times AP article 10 Nov 09 ++]

VA FAMILY CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE:

The Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2009 (S.1963) was introduced by Sen. Daniel K. Akaka [D-HI], chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, on 29 OCT 09. It would upon the joint application of an eligible veteran and a family member of such veteran (or other individual designated by such veteran), furnish to such family member (or designee) family caregiver assistance as part of home health services provided by the Veteran Affairs Department. The purpose of providing family caregiver assistance under the bill is to reduce the number of veterans who are receiving institutional care, or who are in need of institutional care, whose personal care service needs could be substantially satisfied with the provision of such services by a family member (or designee); and to provide eligible veterans with additional options so that they can choose the setting for the receipt of personal care services that best suits their needs. Those selected for participation in the program would be provided basic or additional instruction, preparation, and training as necessary with the goal of that individual becoming qualified and being approved by the VA as a personal care attendant for the veteran. Eligibility to participate

in the program would extend to veterans (or member of the Armed Forces undergoing medical discharge from the Armed Forces) who:

Have a serious injury (including traumatic brain injury, psychological trauma, or other mental disorder) incurred or aggravated in the line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service on or after 11 SEP 01; and

The Secretary determines, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense as necessary, is in need of personal care services because of an inability to perform one or more independent activities of daily living; a need for supervision or protection based on symptoms or residuals of neurological or other impairment or injury; or such other matters as the Secretary shall establish in consultation with the Secretary of Defense as appropriate.

The bill presently has no cosponsors and on 10 NOV Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) said he objected to the bill because its five-year, \$3.7 billion cost was not offset. Subsequently, Senate Democratic leaders reached a tentative agreement with Sen. Coburn that averted the necessity of filing cloture on a veterans' health care omnibus measure and could lead to passage of the bill early next week. A spokesman for Sen. Akaka said the senator had not yet received the text of an amendment Coburn wishes to offer, but would take Coburn's word that one is coming and would put off seeking unanimous consent on the floor to bring up the bill (S.1963). Earlier in the day, Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) said he would file for cloture on the omnibus measure if Republicans continued to block efforts to bring the bill up and pass it quickly." Approval of S.1963 would provide an array of vitally needed support services for family caregivers, such as respite care, financial compensation, vocational counseling, basic health care, relationship, marriage and family counseling and mental health care. [Source: Congressional Quarterly Oliveri article 11 Nov 09 ++]

PTSD Update:

A groundbreaking verdict for accused veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) was decided recently in Canyon City, Ore. when former Soldier Jesse Bratcher, on trial for murder, was found guilty

HEALTH

by reason of insanity. Bratcher, a veteran of Iraq who was rated 100% by the VA for PTSD killed the alleged rapist of his pregnant girlfriend. For more information on the case refer to www.nvf.org/blog/item/50. It appears to be the first trial in the U.S. where a veteran's post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) was successfully considered to mitigate the circumstances of a crime. [Source: Military.com Veterans Report 2 Nov 09 ++]

VA DISABILITY BENEFITS

Ed Note: IU & SC refers to Individual Unemployability & Service Connected. If a rating of 100% Service Connected or 100% due to Individual Unemployability, then that section will apply.

Federal

Commissary - 100% rating other than a temporary IU & SC. 100% qualifies you for a commissary letter from VA to obtain a Military ID for admission.

DVA fee basis outpatient medical card - applicable for any compensable SC disability if the situation warrants. Issuance is up to the local VA medical center.

Dental treatment - IU & SC 100% qualifies for all dental services. Others less than 100% do qualify in some circumstances CHAMPVA medical card for dependents - IU & SC 100% qualifies.

Rating of 30% or more qualifies for additional compensation for dependents.

Rating of 30% or more qualifies for Aid and Attendance allowance for disabled spouse.

Rating of 50% or more qualifies for Treatment for any condition other than the one you are receiving disability for. Annual clothing allowance (prosthetic/wheelchair/skin condition) - any SC condition that requires it.

Special adaptive home modification allowance - dependent on the actual disability such as loss or loss of use of both lower extremities, blindness in both eyes, loss of one lower extremity plus some other condition that impacts on balance or propulsion.

HISA grant for home modification - depends on the type of disability. SC are eligible up to \$4100 and NSC veterans are eligible for up to \$1200.

Auto purchase allowance (one time) - type of SC disability matters more than %age. Loss or loss of use of one or both hands or feet qualifies. Loss of vision in both eyes to a certain degree.

Auto adaptive modification allowance - same as above plus SC ankylosis of one or both knees, one or both hips also qualifies.

Service-Disabled Veteran's Insurance (S-DVI) – 0% or more for any service connected disability. You have two

years to apply from date rating was granted. An increase in an existing service-connected disability or the granting of individual unemployability of a previous rated condition does not entitle a veteran to this insurance.

Waiver of VA insurance premium - IU & SC 100% could qualify under certain conditions.

Home mortgage life insurance - must have a specially adapted house.

Vocational rehabilitation educational training for the veteran - a SC disability that causes an employment handicap to potentially qualify. 10% need serious employment handicap, 20%+ only need employment handicaps.

Withdrawal from SBP (after 5 or 10 years) - IU & SC 100% would qualify but with no futures.

DVA sponsored education for dependents - IU & SC 100% will qualify as long as there are no future VA examinations scheduled.

Civil service employment (veteran/spouse) 10-point preference.

Lifetime Golden access pass for federal parks - any rating as long as vet can show an ID card and paperwork identifying him as a disabled vet at the gate entrance to the park. The pass covers the fee for the vehicle and all parties therein.

Eligibility to compete for admission to military academies.

FPO/APO mail privileges for 100% rated if residing overseas.

Service-Related Death - up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001. VA will pay up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to September 10, 2001. If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed.

STATE BENEFITS

Ed Note: In most cases benefits are limited to those individuals rated 100% Service Connected or as a result of Individual Unemployability. This is by no means all of the benefits available, they vary greatly from state to state. Any individual that is rated 100% SC or IU should check with the local VA office or State Veteran's office.

Waiver of home disability insurance (CAL-Vet)

Property tax exemptions - In California call the LA County Tax Office **State** - Vets should check with their local VARO to see if any of the below state benefits are available to them: (213) 974-3399 and ask for the "Veterans Exemption for Property Tax" and the forms to apply for the exemption. DMV fee exemption and parking decal.

State EDC for dependents.

Waiver of registration fees at State colleges/universities (for vet/dependents).

State park permit.

Basic sport fishing license.

[Source: Various Nov 09]

FEATURE ARTICLES

REDEMPTION FOR A
DARBY RANGER**Capt. Charles M Shunstrom (1920 - 1972)**

On a cold, grey, wet, cheerless morning, Thursday, 16 October 2009, Captain Charles Merton Shunstrom, an original member of the legendary First Ranger Battalion of WW II, known as “Darby’s Rangers”, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery with Full Military Honors. He died, however, thirty-six years ago on Monday, December 4, 1972 in Buffalo, NY. He was just 52 years old. He was oftentimes referred to in accounts of his life as “*The Wildman of Anzio*”.

Receiving her father’s trifolded American flag was his first born daughter, Mrs. Susan (Shunstrom) Kuyasa. Receiving his father’s ashes was his only son, and namesake, Charles Merton Shunstrom, Jr. of Bladensburg, MD. Beside them sat Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Elaine (Shunstrom) Hawes, of Rockland, MA. Among the other guests and mourners present were Mr Richard Kuyasa, of Santa Rosa, CA., Mrs. Sherry Lief, of Bladensburg, MD, Mr William Shunstrom and daughter, Meredith, of West Bridgewater, MA., Mr and Mrs. Ronnie and Sandra Shunstrom, of North Weymouth, MA., Mr and Mrs. Joe and Shirley Barnhart of Rutland, VT, and Mrs. Wendy Vaillencourt of Whitman, MA.; all Shunstrom family members.

The **AMVETS Post No 72, of Buffalo, NY**, named in honor of **Captain Charles M. Shunstrom**, sent four distinguished representatives; Mr Ed Schroeder, past commander, Rev Otis Smith, pastor, Mr Grzsey “Gerry” Gerozka, and Mr Stanley Kazneirski. Unable to attend the ceremony was the post’s first commander, Mr Fred Garwol, of Cheektowaga, NY who was so instrumental, years ago, in making this at all possible.

Among the other distinguished guests in attendance were Ranger Col. and Mrs. Robert W. Black, USA (Ret), author and historian; Ranger John W. Chester, president of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, and Ranger CSM Jeff Mellinger, of Fort Meyer, VA., who, incidentally, never fails to attend a Ranger burial or memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Also in attendance was Ms. Susan M. Deeb, of Rochester, NY, a daughter of the late Darby Ranger Peter Deeb.; Mr. Patrick McCarthy, USN (Ret), of Washington, DC, and Mr. Joe Chetwynd of Pembroke, MA.

Charles Merton Shunstrom was born Nov. 20, 1920 at Boston, MA to Mr and Mrs. Charles and Doris Shunstrom of Quincy, MA., a rigger and house painter by trade. The family eventually grew to include four boys and two girls. Quincy was renowned for its’ vast granite quarries which supplied the material with which to build many of 19th

century America’s most notable buildings, monuments and sculptures; and the Fore River Shipyard which launched the greatest amount of tonnage of U.S. warships and commercial vessels between 1900 and 1960. The shipyard was the birth place of the popular cartoon icon of WW II, “**Kilroy Was Here**” which found its way around the world during WW II. Quincy was also the birthplace of two U.S. Presidents; John and John Quincy Adams, the first father and son presidents.

In Quincy Center there was, for decades, a no frills gymnasium run by Mr Joseph Beston, which drew in many young men looking to learn physical fitness and some “manly arts.” Just such a young man was Charles Shunstrom. Mr Beston, an apostle of the internationally renowned, 19th century, European physical culturist, Eugene Sandow, embraced this ethic and imparted it on all who trained under him. Beston trained championship boxers, wrestlers and gymnasts as well as many amateurs who followed his regimen of total fitness of body, mind and lifestyle. Under Mr Beston, Shunstrom built his slight frame into an impressive, well proportioned, supple, athletic and very durable body. He was a teenager, 5 ft - 8 in.; 160 lbs; with the physique of a gymnast; broad shoulders, slight waist and arms and hands of incredible strength. He took enormous pride in his ability as a wrestler and boxer in gymnasium matches. These attributes, his great strength and endurance, would serve him very well over the next seven years of his life. His great physicality reinforced his toughness and his self confidence. He had absolute faith in his ability to do anything that challenged him. He was quite fearless, as well, as when he took an old, leaking boat out onto a large pond, for instance.

Following his senior year in high school, Shunstrom decided to join the army. He enlisted on September 11, 1939 at Boston., Mass. Following basic training, he was sent to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, assigned to the 19th Infantry Regiment Field Artillery. In the two years he was stationed there he quickly rose to the rank of staff sergeant. He was also a champion weight lifter, wrestler and boxer, and excelled in track and field events, as well. His many awards were proudly displayed in his unit’s Headquarters trophy case. In his letters home he wrote in enthusiastic detail about his training and drilling, and reveled in the fact that he withstood the dreaded gas chamber drill longer than his fellow soldiers were able to. He clearly enjoyed being in the army and contesting himself against all comers. He was also becoming a trained leader of men. In 1941, Sergeant Shunstrom applied to the new Officer’s Candidate School at Fort Benning, GA. and was accepted for their third class. He then took a brief leave to go home and visit

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

with his family, who were now living in Rockland, Mass., and then to New York from where he and his fiancé then left together for Fort Benning. They soon married in a small ceremony in Columbus, GA.

With the sudden attack of the Japanese at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the OCS class was immediately shortened and the class was graduated on Dec 11, 1941, and commissions were awarded the following day. Within the next few weeks and months, Shunstrom's class was preparing to ship out "overseas". In February, 1942, Shunstrom was landed in Northern Ireland where he stayed briefly before volunteering to join the upstart American Rangers, headed by Maj. Wm. O. Darby, a West Point educated artillery officer. In short time he was undergoing the rigors of the British Commando School training course which quickly pared several thousand volunteers down to several hundred suitable candidates for further training.

After several months of the most intense and realistic under-live-fire and war-like conditions training, the successful graduates were officially called "Rangers", and soon after, they were activated as the First Ranger Battalion. It would not be long before the Rangers would enter the war with a select group of fifty Rangers who were assigned to join the British Commando Raid at Dieppe, France. The Rangers were dispersed amongst the mostly Canadian force in the very early morning raid on the German controlled French port city. While Shunstrom's gun boat was unable to get its raiders ashore, it did come under devastating enemy fire and was heavily damaged. The Rangers lost their first three combat casualties of the war in this action.

Following Dieppe, the Rangers were sent to Northern Africa, as a "Spearhead" force in Operation TORCH, landing at the city of Arzew, Algeria. From there they fought their way eastward through Algeria and Tunisia, with renowned battles at places named Sened Station, El Guettar, and Dernia Pass. In action at Feriana, Tunisia, Shunstrom distinguished himself....." *by his skilful arrangements (orders) and his bravery, destroyed enemy detachments.....arriving upon our lines, capturing vehicles and taking several officers prisoner.*" For his heroics of February 20, 1943, First Lieutenant Charles M. Shunstrom was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star and the Combatants Cross from the Constantine March Div. of the Free French Army.

Having concluded their campaigns in North Africa, the Rangers turned their eyes and legs towards Sicily. They would be a part of the invasion at Gela, which included the near disastrous airborne assault by the 82nd Abn Div. The

Rangers would first assault the city of Gela with two battalions, the 1st and 3rd. In heavy street fighting, the Rangers were met by several Italian tanks entering the city. In a particular action near the center of the city square, Darby and Shunstrom commandeered a jeep with an anti-tank gun in tow. They immediately turned it towards the oncoming tank and as Darby aimed, Shunstrom loaded the gun. Darby pulled the lanyard, hitting the tank square-on, stopping it in its track, with the second round destroying it. In the First Inf Div unit history, written after the war, this action was described as "*the bravest act of the war.*"

After the fight for Gela, the Rangers then headed inland fifteen miles to the ancient, stone walled "citade" city called Butera, which stood on a (1200 ft elev.) mountain top, and was protected by steep cliffs on three sides and a steep hill to the front. A single, winding road led up to the city gate. The approach was heavily mined and covered by machine gun nests, anti-tank guns and barbed wire. Military wisdom dictated that it would take no less than a division to succeed in taking this vital objective. On July 14, 1943, Col. Darby sent two Ranger companies to take it. Led by, now, Captain Shunstrom's "Charlie" Co. and supported by Capt Jim Lyle's, "Able" Co., Shunstrom's men crept up the frontal road in total darkness, getting within 500 yards of the defenders' outposts. They quickly dispatched the enemy with automatic rifle fire, "*killing thirty and capturing ninety*". The four-hundred or so Italian soldiers within the city, never expecting a frontal assault on their so-called "Eagle's Nest," were too frightened to fight back, even when ordered to fight by their German commanding officers. Shunstrom then sent one of his captives into the city to demand their surrender but it was responded to by brief burst of return gunfire. Shunstrom ordered his company to form a skirmish line around the walled city and ordered them to begin firing on the city wall parapets. It was not long before the Italians capitulated and the Rangers quickly secured the ancient city, capturing the remaining combatants. Orders were given by Shunstrom to open the food stores to the inhabitants who had remained hidden in caves and cellars during the battle. For his courageous actions at Butera, Capt Shunstrom was awarded his second Silver Star, presented on Dec 7, 1943 by Gen Roosevelt in a ceremony at Massone, Italy.

The Rangers were now done with Sicily. Soon they would be heading across the Tyrrhenian Sea for Southern Italy. Following a landing on Sept 7, 1943, at the port town of Maori, just above Salerno, they marched their way up through the mountains to the junction of several major routes which led from Naples to Salerno. at a place called Chiunzi Pass, the Rangers employed four self propelled half tracks

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

with 75mm cannons mounted, named “Cannon Company” and led by Capt Shunstrom. Their tactic was to harass the Germans by driving their vehicles up close to the enemy, in the dark of night, locate their targets and fire their cannons, destroying trucks, armor and field artillery and killing enemy troops. After firing, they would move quickly to the safety of the narrow pass and foot hills of the mountains. The Germans would pound the just abandoned area with heavy artillery, but did no damage to the half tracks. These raids were kept up for weeks, preventing the Germans from getting their own supplies through the pass and down to Salerno where the Allies were beginning their landing of troops and supplies. The Germans never imagined that this remote area was as susceptible to enemy attack, especially by such a small force as the Rangers. They counter-attacked with ferocity. The battle lasted for several weeks, ending about the 23rd of the month. The Germans never were able to breach the defense of Chiunzi Pass. The Rangers suffered a great many casualties and dead.

On January, 21, 1944, the Rangers were headed for the beaches of Anzio. Their mission was to land, overcome the beach defenses, clear the town and set up a defensive perimeter, and tie up with both the 3rd Inf Div, landing to the north at Nettuno and the British forces landing to the south. At 0200 hrs, the Rangers came ashore, meeting virtually no resistance.

With the imminent landing of the Allied forces onto Anzio’s beachhead, the most vital and immediate objective was the town of Cisterna which sat astride the Appian Way and Highway No 6, and which, if in enemy hands, would jeopardized the entire beach landing. The three Ranger battalions were chosen to cut the Appian Way in two places, thereby isolating the strategic Colli Laziali Hill area. The Rangers would infiltrate along the Mussolini Canal, with the objective of capturing the city of Cisterna before day break. They took with them only the barest essential, including rations, and carried as much ammunition, grenades, sticky bombs, and bazookas as they could manage. With faces blackened, noise making items secured, and their bayonets sharpened, the 1st and 3rd Bn moved out silently along the sides of the canal. The 4th Bn stepped off several hours later in their support role. What happened next sealed the end of the Ranger Force as a viable fighting unit. In short, they were met by a far larger German force than their intelligence had predicted would be there. Although they fought with their typical tenacious will all through the night, they would find themselves, at day break, in a large, exposed triangle of land, surrounded by the enemy. With odds estimated at ten to one, the Rangers still managed to kill a disproportionate share of their enemy and also managed to destroy many German tanks. In the end, with their ammunition either gone or close

to it, they fought with any weapon they found on the battlefield, including their bayonets, and, presumably, their fists. As daylight exposed their positions even more, the Rangers continued to maneuver and take the fight to the enemy, determined to keep up the fight until help could arrive. As the Rangers infiltrated German lines, they found themselves cut off and surrounded. After more than eight straight hours of the most intense, close-quarters combat, and with some of the newer Rangers already surrendering, Capt Shunstrom and Capt Saam were planning how they could draw the column of prisoners closer to them, kill the guards, and free their comrades. As the column got closer, a premature rifle shot alerted the Germans to the ambush and the rescue attempt quickly failed. There was total panic among some of those younger troops and all attempts to regain control of the situation failed, as well. Realizing, now, that continuing the fight was fruitless, this proud, but very battle weary Rangers began to destroy their weapons and equipment and prepared themselves to surrender with honor.

The Rangers who survived the battle were brought to Rome and herded into the Coliseum. After several days, they were, with heads held high and backs straight, paraded through the streets of Rome before the jeering Italians, as well as some “Cheering” Italians, who sometimes flashed the “V” for Victory sign ever so discretely. After some weeks time, the Rangers were then herded onto trucks and driven north to a POW camp at Littoria, in the mountains. There they would remain for several more months before their final trip to camps in northern Germany and Poland for the remainder of the war.

After about a month of captivity, Shunstrom conceived a plan to escape. Dressed in his ‘turned out’ clothes, and with his naturally dark hair, he effected the look of an Italian laborer. He more or less walked away from the camp, picking up sticks along the way as though he were innocently collecting firewood, and just kept walking away, either un-noticed or just casually regarded by his guards as a “local”. Shunstrom told the tale of his escape in a *Collier’s Magazine* story; Oct 17, ‘44, titled, ***God Love You, Captain.***

After several months of evading German troops and travelling six hundred miles through snow-filled mountains and dozens of small villages, and with the help of locals sympathetic to American and British troops, Shunstrom was finally able to reach the safety of Allied lines. In short order, Shunstrom was quickly processed out of Italy, put on a plane at Gibraltar, and a day later, arrived at Laguardia Airport on Long Island, New York. For Capt Shunstrom, the war was now over. He was soon back with his wife, Marie “Gigs”, and their 22 month old daughter, Susan Brook Shunstrom. A week later, they arrived at the

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Shunstrom home in Rockland, Mass., where the Old Colony VFW gave him a “time”. The local newspapers featured his family photograph and the stirring tale of his escape. At the same time of his safe return, however, the family was still mourning the loss of their other son, Richard, S/2, USNR, who was lost at sea in January while serving in a liberty ship, sunk in the North Atlantic.

Following Shunstrom’s triumphant return home, he was immediately assigned to the 2nd Army command at Tennessee, where he would be reviewing troop training. He was also sent on tours for the War Bond program. On June 12, 1944, Shunstrom unexpectedly appeared at the final reunion of the original Darby Ranger Regiments at Camp Butner, NC. There, he appeared on the popular radio show, “Vox Pop”, which interviewed five Rangers and a Red Cross official in a ‘light-hearted format.’ In contrast with the jocular manner of the interviews, Shunstrom was decidedly more serious and measured, and his deep baritone voice underscored his solemn manner. The program was nationally broadcast, and was heard in the hometowns of all the men interviewed. That was big stuff, back then.

Shunstrom was also being courted by Hollywood who wanted veterans as technical consultants on upcoming war movies they were readying to shoot. Shunstrom went to Hollywood and worked on two movies, the first, in 1945, called *Darby’s Rangers*, starring the unknown actor, James Garner, and the second, in 1946, called “G.I. Joe: The Ernie Pyle Story,” starring Burgess Meredith as Pyle and Robert Mitchum as an infantry officer who was the subject of one of Pyle’s most memorable stories about the death of the officer and his men’s respect for his corpse as he lay among the rows of the dead. Shunstrom appears briefly in the movie as a soldier, and is seen sitting next to Mitchum in a particular ‘wedding’ scene. According to family lore, Shunstrom was said to have been considered for the Mitchum role. There was even talk of a film being written and produced about the heroic career of Capt. Shunstrom, but, regrettably, it was never made.

With the war ending in 1945, hundreds of thousands of veterans were now returning to the more “normalcy” of civilian life. With the G.I. Bill, many thousands went back to school, got degrees, married, and had families, successful careers in trades, business, medicine, teaching, and what have you. Many, if not most, put the war behind them, tucked in their shirts, or rolled up their sleeves and got back to work. For some, however, it was not all that easy and neat. Many veterans could not shake their memories of the brutality of the war; that which they saw, heard, and had experienced.....and yet, somehow they survived. Whatever they experienced and could not let go

of, stayed with them for either some, many, or all of their days...and nights, to come. Within two years after the war, churches were admonishing their parishioners and congregations not to forget the ongoing struggles of the veterans, now home only a year or two, but still in great need of ministering and help in getting themselves resettled into society. For many, there was little help available in those times, as it has always been in times past, as well. For Charles Shunstrom, it was much the case. The war had left him a very changed man, said his wife, “Gigs”. There was no help available to him if he did not need it, nor would he likely be the type to seek it out. He bore his own crosses. He was, after all, the epitome of “a man’s man.”

When Shunstrom died at Buffalo, NY, in 1972, he had been living there for almost five years. He had earlier lived in California following the war, returned to Massachusetts for about ten years, then, to Buffalo...to Massachusetts, and finally back to Buffalo. The likely draw there was his fellow Rangers, Peter Deeb, Scotty Munroe and Allen Merrill. They often times got together to talk about the war and do what veterans do.....help one another. Deeb tried to get veteran benefits for many returned war vets, including Shunstrom. The Deeb family operated a family style restaurant in Tonawanda where they would meet for the occasional ‘home’ meal.

Shunstrom died alone and virtually unknown in the aisle of a neighborhood store. His body laid unclaimed for two days before he was identified, most likely by one of his fellow Rangers. His family in Massachusetts was then notified and both his aging father and his youngest sister, Elaine, came out to claim his remains. They held a one night wake, with only the immediate family and three Rangers attending. His body was then cremated and his ashes were brought home and interred in the Shunstrom family plot in the ancient North Weymouth Cemetery, without ceremony. It was an ignominious end for a once, great war hero of World War II. It was a Ranger who likely brought the story to the lead columnist of the Buffalo, NY **Evening News**. A week following his death, a front page story appeared about Shunstrom, headlined, “**War Hero Dies, Shunned by Army He Loved**”. It briefly detailed Shunstrom’s illustrious military career as well as his personal travails with his government over his contested discharge status following the war.

The story caught the eye of Mr Fred Garwol, the commander of a newly chartered AMVETS Post No. 72, in Buffalo. Garwol thought that the post should be named after Shunstrom and the decision of their board was unanimous. After several years of effort, and with the support of Congressman Jack Kemp, the former all-star quarterback of

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

the old A.F.L. Buffalo Bills, the post was finally granted permission to do so. In 1981, the post was officially named for Captain Charles M Shunstrom. His many medals are displayed there along with a handsome portrait of him.

With a recent and renewed interest in her late brother, Shunstrom's youngest sister, Elaine, expressed her long held desire to see her brother buried as the war hero he was. She said she wanted him to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery. After a visit to the local V.A. office, with her brother's DD-214 and Honorable Discharge in hand, she began the process of his re-interment at Arlington. She also began to inform her family members about the arrangements and they began to book their hotel and plane reservations. She also informed the officers at the AMVETS Post in Buffalo, NY so that they could make their own plans to attend.

It became quite obvious that none of Shunstrom's children were among the guests. He had a daughter born while he was overseas; Susan Brooks Shunstrom, born 1942 at New Jersey. His marriage, however, was an almost immediate casualty of the war, and it did not survive long after his return home. Years later, during the 1960's, Shunstrom began another family, fathering three children; two girls and a boy. That relationship, also, would not last. The mother took the two girls with her and the boy was adopted by a local couple. Elaine only knew that Susan and her mother had moved to California about 1960 and that the mother had remarried. As for the other two girls, Elaine knew one daughter had died about 1970 in Nevada but did not know about the whereabouts of other daughter. As for the boy, nicknamed "Rusty", for his obvious red hair, Elaine had no idea where, in the great cosmos, he might be.

With the help of the internet, Shunstrom's first wife was located in California. Incredibly, only a few blocks away from her lived her daughter, Susan Brooks, now happily married to fine, "gem of a man". Elaine began to tell Susan about her plans to have her father's remains buried at Arlington National Cemetery in October. She offered to Susan the honor of receiving her father's tri-folded flag. After some initial trepidation, Susan graciously accepted the honor. Now, at least there would be one of Merton's children at the ceremony. Although there was, now, much to be grateful for, there was yet another great and wonderful surprise in store for the Shunstrom family in the weeks ahead.

One night, while searching the internet, Elaine's son, Bill Shunstrom received a message from a man calling himself "Rusty", and claiming that his birth name was Charles Merton Shunstrom, Jr and that he was born in New Hampshire in 1962. He was searching for anyone named

"Shunstrom" in the hope that he could learn something, anything at all, about his birth parents. Incredibly, only a few months away from the burial ceremony at Arlington, VA., In what might well be called a miracle, the long lost namesake son of Captain Charles Shunstrom was found,....and, as in the old adage, "*The apple doesn't fall far from the tree*", "Mert, Jr" revealed that he had once been a Ranger, himself, with the 75th Regiment and also served with "Special Ops" in the USAF.

Bill Shunstrom sent out copies of news clippings, photos, documents, etc., as they pertained to Mert's late father and he was stunned to learn about his father, as one can imagine. He also learned that he had a half sister, Susan, living in California. He soon began to get reconnected to his birth family and his extended family, as well. In a matter of about several months, this great bear of a man was finally rid of a shell of his life in which he never felt a part of a real family. Now, having just recently legally taken his birth name and heritage back, Charles Merton Shunstrom (Jr) is a reborn man. He and his sister have bonded like glue. They each have a lot of a missed life that they now need to fill in together. That process began before they ever met at Arlington, VA, and it was nurtured there at the funeral, and it will continue to blossom for years to come. Out of the devastation of World War II, which did not end for some, even with its conclusion in 1945, but which lingered in many places, and in many souls, and in many families for decades more, comes a story of forgiveness, redemption and resurrection of the human spirit, and the reuniting of a scattered family.

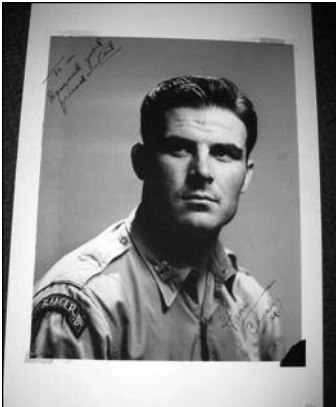
For those Darby Rangers, both living and deceased, who either knew of or served with Capt Shunstrom, this is another successful Ranger mission. This is most especially rewarding for Capt Warren "Bing" Evans, Lt Don Frederick, and Sgt Phil Stern who expressed their support for the efforts to get for their fellow Ranger the Full Military Honors burial rightly due him. They all professed their great and abiding admiration for him as a "soldier's soldier."

In a very moving tribute to Shunstrom, Ranger Allen Merrill wrote:....."*If, in the annals of the history of World War II, there would be a hundred men who were hero's in every sense of the word, Chuck Shunstrom would certainly have to be one of them.*"....."*this man who did all his country could ask of him, and much more, came home from the wars.....with scars, although unseen, were there in his young face, never to heal.*"....."*for him, the war was never really over. He fought it from day to day, through long, lonely, sleepless nights.....*". "*In the five decades he was here perhaps a handful of people knew him well.*"..... "*the legacy he gave to those few can never be forgotten.*"

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

At graveside, following the Full Honors ceremony, Ranger Col. Robert W. Black (Ret), noted military historian and author, spoke briefly and eloquently about the legacy of Capt Charles M. Shunstrom. He concluded his kind remarks with the following words;

“There were many brave men in the Rangers. There were none braver than Charles Merton Shunstrom.”



**Charles Merton
Shunstrom.**



**Susan & Charles
Shunstrom, Jr.**

*Rest in Peace, Captain Shunstrom.
Rangers Led The way
God Bless America*

Respectfully submitted by:

Joseph T. Chetwynd
II LRRP Co (Abn)



**AMVETS Post named for
Charles M. Shunstrom.**



**This photo of Marie,
Susan and Charles
Shunstrom appeared in
Colliers magazine at the
end of the war.**

A Belated Tribute to a WWII Hero My Father

Captain Charles Merton Shunstrom

By Susan Kuyasa

I meet my brother Rusty through an extraordinary situation. I have never known any siblings throughout my life, now I have. This is a new adventure for Rusty and me. We both have a newly founded family and it will take time to adjust our thoughts and feelings towards each other. I have been truly blessed. The story of how I meet Rusty unfolds as I narrate a much larger meaningful story as follows.

My Father, Captain Charles Merton Shunstrom, a war hero, served under Colonel Darby of the First Ranger Battalion during WWII, and was one of the original ranger officers. During the month of June 1944, my Father came home with Darby's Rangers for a much deserved rest. During that time my Mother, my Father and I had our pictures in Life and Colliers magazine. I was 22 months at the time. My Mother had the privilege of meeting Colonel Darby and Ernie Pyle, a nationally renowned war correspondent. I was presented with a cup titled "To the Smallest Ranger." Sometime later my Father and Mother were divorced and we went our separate ways.

March 1, 1945, my Father received an Honorable Discharge. Later, the Honorable Discharge was changed to a Dishonorable Discharge because of an incident with a

superior Officer.

During the summer of 1957, at the age of 15, I remember visiting my Father in Buffalo, New York. I spent two months with my Father. That was the last time that I saw him.

My Father died December 4, 1972 and was denied an American Flag from the government for his casket. In 1973, my Father's sister, wrote a letter to Senator Edward Kennedy to right the wrong. Representative Jack Kemp became involved and was totally instrumental to right the wrong. Subsequently, the U.S. D.O.A. upgraded my Father's Dishonorable Discharge to an Honorable Discharge in 1976.

In April of 2009, Elaine Hawes (my Father's Sister) called and informed me that my Father's ashes were to be reburied in Arlington National Cemetery with Full Military Honors on October 15 at 9:00AM. Elaine wanted to know if I would attend the ceremony. At first I had mixed emotions, but then realized that my Father served our country, and as a war hero was entitled the ceremony. I felt that I would honor him for what he did for our country.

A couple of months later, I was informed that I have a half-brother named Rusty. I contacted Rusty and since then we have conversed very often. Rusty was in the military service for six years as a ranger, *Father like Son*. I am currently on dialysis, and one night dreamt that Rusty volunteered a kidney. Two weeks later, Rusty called and

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

said he wanted to donate a kidney. I contacted Kaiser and Rusty is currently filing the necessary donor paper work.

During the next few months, I talked to Elaine and my brother frequently. We related to each other the past and present of our lives. We exchanged photos of our families as we became more familiar with each other. Elaine Hawes, Joe Chetwynd, and Bill Shunstrom were the key persons in bringing this occasion to reality. Elaine's niece, Shirley and her husband, Joe Barnhart brought the urn to Arlington National Cemetery and provided the necessary information for the burial of my Father's ashes.

Then the time arrived when my husband, Richard, and I would fly to Washington to meet the family on my Father's side. Within minutes, we were one happy family. We spent the rest of the day getting more acquainted and talking pictures of each other. Also present were four life time members (Ed Schroeder, past post commander, Chaplain Otis Smith, Stanley Kazmierski, and reserve Jersey Galozka) of the American Veterans (AMVETS) Post 72 from Buffalo, New York. The AMVETS had named the Post after my Father, Captain Charles M. Shunstrom.

Then the morning of the ceremony arrived. It was cloudy and rainy, but this did not put a damper on the ceremony. We arrived at the Administration briefing room where Elaine Hawes and Joe Chetwynd briefed the Chaplain about my Father. We were then escorted to the starting place where the military personnel, which include: a horse-drawn caisson, a casket team, a color guard, a firing party, an escort platoon, a military band, a bugler, and the Chaplain were located. The casket team placed the urn and American Flag in the casket, and then we were escorted to the ceremony site. The casket team removed the urn and American Flag from the casket. The urn was placed at the ceremony site and the American Flag was unfolded and held by the casket team over the urn. The Chaplain said prayers and then presented the American Flag to me. In the far distance, the band played, and then to the far distant left, I saw the smoke bellows from the seven riflemen as they performed the 21-gun salute. Then to the far distant right, the bugler sounded tapes at the final burial site.

Rusty picked up the urn and we walked arm-in-arm up the incline to the burial site. Colonel Black of the Rangers gave the eulogy and so-called "Once an Eagle" ceremony. There was a strong force that caused this ceremony to prevail, and it was beyond comprehension, and it is unlikely that I will ever understand the meaning of it. Maybe the force paved the way for Rusty and me to meet. I believe that my Father was looking down and said *Thank You*. I regret that both recently

deceased Senator Edward Kennedy of MA and Senator Jack Kemp of NY could not be present to witness this occasion.

We then left Arlington National Cemetery, and as I observed all the white crosses precisely aligned, I said to myself, they were all heroes who served their country.

We had brunch for all who attended. Again we shared our thoughts about my Father and the family. Colonel Black of the Rangers signed our books, *The Ranger Force*, that he authored. The book describes the heroic feats accomplished by Darby's rangers in WWII.

Joe Chetwynd introduced me to newly elected president, John Chester of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. John presented me with a "75th R.R.A. Challenge Coin" with my Father's name on it. I have this coin in my wallet and carry it with me at all times.

Later that evening the family had dinner in a private room at Ruth's Chris at 2100 Crystal Drive, Crystal City, VA. This was our last time together as we departed the next day. It was a great feeling to have discovered my new family. We all agreed that we should meet at least once a year.



Susan receiving her fathers's flag.



COL (RET) Robert Black at the Arlington ceremony.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

75th Ranger Regiment Ranger receives Silver Star for combat actions

By Tracy A. Bailey

75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs



Valor is defined as boldness or determination in the face of great danger; it is the quality which enables a man to encounter danger with courage and personal bravery. Valor describes men like Staff Sgt. Michael E. Norton, a squad leader with Alpha Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, who risked his life to save the lives of two Ranger brothers. “Any Ranger would have

done the same thing,” Norton said. “The Ranger Creed says, ‘I will never leave a fallen comrade.’ There was no moment of thinking about what to do. I had to get my brothers and the most important thing in my mind was how hurt they were.”

On Aug. 4 and 5, Norton led his squad on an objective to raid an enemy combatant’s headquarters camp in the mountains of northwestern Khowst Province, Afghanistan. While moving to the objective, Norton and one of his team leaders were alerted to possible enemy combatants along the route and moved forward to assess the situation. As Norton and his team leader were attempting to identify the possible enemy in the valley, a seven to nine man enemy element initiated a complex, near ambush on Norton’s squad from the high ground with rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire from a position of 25 meters to the squad’s front. “The fire came from our 12 o’clock and then maybe a couple of seconds later from our right and left,” Norton said.

Behind the first enemy rocket-propelled grenade team, a medium machine gun on elevated ground to the northwest engaged them with highly effective fire. Two more enemy combatants were on the slope of the valley to the west, engaged the Ranger squad with an AK-47 and rocket-propelled grenades along the long axis of their formation, while another group of enemy fighters were on elevated terrain to the east, raked them with small arms fire from the rear of the Ranger squad formation. The multiple enemy positions had effectively enveloped Norton’s squad from multiple directions at a distance of 25 to 50 meters, leaving Norton and his element pinned to the floor of the valley by the intense and accurate small arms fire.

The valley left no room for maneuver; Norton, his squad and the machine gun team element behind them immediately returned fire, but they were unable to gain fire superiority over the well-established enemy. After the second rocket-propelled grenades

knocked two of his Rangers temporarily unconscious and blasted the rest of his squad with shrapnel and debris and realizing his element could not gain fire superiority, Norton shouted for his squad to break contact. When Norton realized that two Rangers had not gotten up and were still exposed to the heavy volume of enemy fire from the high ground to the east and west, and with complete disregard for his own safety, Norton turned around and with marked distinction, purposefully charged back into the interlocking fire of the enemy ambush kill zone in order to recover his downed Rangers.

“The example of personal courage that Staff Sgt. Norton showed, to get his men out of the kill zone is a testament to his character,” said Maj. Keith Carter, A Company, Commander. “NCOs such as Staff Sgt. Norton are the reason I wanted to serve in the 75th Ranger Regiment, and it is an honor to lead them.” Without hesitation, Norton dove down into the midst of enemy fire with his unconscious comrades, uncertain of their status. “There was nothing fancy going on in my head besides hoping they weren’t dead,” said Norton. While the rest of the element attempted to suppress the enemy, and lying next to the Rangers, Norton “started shaking and yelling as quietly as I could.”

After reviving his Rangers, Norton led them back to cover through the hail of direct fire and rocket-propelled grenade strikes, saving their lives and bringing his entire squad out of the enemy onslaught intact. “I’m proud of the actions of my squad, because we continued the mission after that,” said Norton. “It was just two minutes out of our overall mission.”

As his platoon fought off the enemy ambush with direct fire, mortars and close air support, Norton quickly assessed his casualties and reorganized his squad to return to the fight. Norton continued leading his squad in the follow-on assaults through two more direct fire contacts, killing two enemy combatants. “We receive a lot of great training here at 3rd Ranger Battalion and I was just acting on instinct,” said Norton. The training conducted by Rangers means everything on the battlefield. “The goal of the company and battalion is to create the most realistic scenarios possible while minimizing risk,” said Carter. “We constantly integrate new enemy tactics from overseas into our training so that we are ready in any situation.”

The overall assault force killed 20 enemy fighters, destroyed two enemy anti-aircraft guns and several other weapons, explosives and military supplies on the objective resulting in the disruption of a major enemy headquarters and encampment.

Norton joined the Army from his hometown of Pensacola, Fla., June 2004, after graduating from West Highland Christian Academy and has deployed six times in support of operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. He is the son of Jimmy and Deborah Norton of Holly, Michigan.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

75th Ranger Regiment promotes one of their own

3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment



The Rangers of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment proudly bore witness as one of their own, Staff Sgt. Scot Noss was promoted to Sgt. 1st Class Nov. 12, in front of the 3rd Battalion Memorial, Fort Benning, Ga. Scot's wife RyAnne, stood by his side during the promotion, as she has done every day since Scot was seriously wounded in a

helicopter crash in the mountains of Afghanistan Feb. 18, 2007. Scot suffered a massive head injury that left him minimally conscious and has required continued hospitalization as well as intensive physical and cognitive therapy, first at National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., and then at the Tampa Veterans Hospital, Tampa, Fla.

Since the day of his injury, Scot has been fighting to recover physically, while RyAnne has fought to ensure he and other wounded veterans receive the care, financial assistance, and progressive treatment they so rightly deserve. When questioned regarding the specifics of Sgt. 1st Class Noss' struggle, Lt. Col Russ Kotwal, Regimental Surgeon said, "RyAnne Noss has been a phenomenal advocate for her husband Scot and for all injured Soldiers who require continuous care from Family caregivers upon their return from the battlefield."

When the crash occurred, RyAnne was writing her dissertation en route to a Ph.D., in Chemical Engineering. She put her pursuit of a Ph.D. on hold in order to dedicate herself to Scot and to advocate for other severely wounded veterans but has since graduated from Auburn University with her doctorate degree. "Family caregivers will often sacrifice everything to care for their wounded loved ones, RyAnne selflessly fights to ensure that Family caregivers are afforded the opportunity to do so without incurring further undue hardship," said Dr. Kotwal.

Fortunately for Scot, through the efforts of his wife and his brothers in the 75th Ranger Regiment, he has been able to stay on active duty and has been transferred to the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation in New Jersey for progressive treatment. "Scot's courage and sacrifice is an inspiration to his fellow Rangers as is the amazing dedication and tenacity embodied by his wife, RyAnne in her continued fight for those who continue to struggle to recover from injuries suffered in this war," said Dr. Kotwal.

Scot's Rangers remember and use the leadership lessons he taught them. "Sgt. 1st Class Noss is a man who always cared about his men, whether it was going on one of his death runs, making you do something over and over until you got it right or taking you to the side to help you with a personal problem," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Lonergan. "Sgt. 1st Class Noss always made sure you were prepared in every aspect of your life. He has been an example to me of what a leader is and should be."

RTB FACT FINDING MISSION, RVN 1968

During September 1968 I met a Ranger instructor in Da Nang from the Ranger Training Battalion (RTB), coming from Infantry School Fort Benning, Georgia. We met in the airport snack bar at Da Nang. I was on way back to Chu Lai. He sat about 3 tables away.

He was a Master Sergeant in stateside fatigues and jump boots wearing a black beret with Ranger tab and the Ranger school crest under the tab. On his chest were cherry jump wings. On his left shoulder was a color Ranger tab and a blue and white follow me patch affixed below the tab. I approach him and asked him if he was a LRRP? He laughed and said no way, I'm an instructor from FT. Benning, GA and, No; I'm not crazy enough to go behind enemy lines with only 4

men. He further stated he was in Vietnam to do a study on the LRRPs. He was going to Company E (L.R.P.), 20th Infantry. He asked if I was with that company. I told him I was out of Chu Lai with the Americal Division's Company E (L.R.P.), 51st Infantry (Airborne).

He asked me questions about the way we operated in the field and if we considered ourselves as Rangers. I said we are better than Rangers and that we were Reconnaissance Commandos, We were trained by 5th Special Forces, but we use the Ranger and MACV Recondo handbooks to prepare and conduct or execute our missions. He asked if Lieutenants and senior NCO's went on patrols? I told him they don't normally, but sometimes the new Lieutenant's would go to the bush to see what we did and how we did it. The Platoon Sergeant only went to the bush when it was a raid or a team was deep trouble or the platoon was deployed

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

in mass. He asked me if we had Ranger qualified Officers and NCOs. I said yes, but mostly Airborne and some are SF qualified. He asked if we used rubber boats. I said we do and we even have scuba qualified sergeants coming from prior LRRP & SF assignments. He asked if we jump. I told him the Airborne guys go to Nha Trang to jump and some of our legs go to Jump school down there too, after MACV Recondo School. Does your company teach a jump course? I don't know, but they teach a 14 day LRP Recondo Course to the new guys. He thanked me for the information and said-you guys have some balls going out there on three and four man patrols. I walked away with my chest out and was very proud of my unit and it's men. When I got back to the company orderly room, I was looking at the Ranger poster on the wall and realized that we were really a pretty special group, much like Rangers and Special Forces. Years later after I retired from the service I saw the evolution of our unit

It seemed to me that there was no room for LRRPs if the Ranger units were to be fully recognized. We the soldiers of that war were absorbed into the 75TM Ranger Infantry CARS. Just like the 5307TM (Provisional) "Merrill's Marauders" were absorbed into the 475TM (LRPS) Infantry Regiment during WW II. It was a political paper shuffle. Well, enough time has passed for us that were LRRP/RANGERS in the Vietnam War to reflect on what occurred then and now. So, I decided to write this article to let others know of the September 68 fact finding mission from the RTB, prior to the 10 Dec 68 decision to make us 75TM Rangers rather than 1ST (LRP) and 2ND (LRP) Battalions of 51H Special Forces Group, 1 • Special Forces (Airborne).

Ranger John Starnes "Gunner"

Company E (Long Range Patrol), 51ST Infantry (Abn),
751H (Ranger) Infantry (CARS) 23RD Infantry Division
(Americal) Chu Lai, Republic of Vietnam

A Thank You to Vietnam Vets from a Marine in Iraq.

A guy gets time to think over here and I was thinking about all the support we get from home. Sometimes it's overwhelming. We get care packages at times faster than we can use them. There are boxes and boxes of toiletries and snacks lining the center of every tent; the generosity has been amazing. So, I was pondering the question: "Why do we have so much support?"

In my opinion, it came down to one thing: Vietnam. I think we learned a lesson, as a nation, that no matter what, you have to support the troops who are on the line, who are risking everything. We treated them so poorly back then. When they returned was even worse. The stories are nightmarish of what our returning warriors were subjected to. It is a national scar, a blemish on our country, an embarrassment to all of us. After Vietnam, it had time to sink in. The guilt in our collective consciousness grew. It shamed us. However, we learned from our mistake.

Somewhere during the late 1970's and into the 80's, we realized that we can't treat our warriors that way. So, starting during the Gulf War, when the first real opportunity arose to stand up and support the troops, we did. We did it to support our friends and family going off to war. But we also did it to right the wrongs from the Vietnam era. We treated our troops like the heroes they were, acknowledged

and celebrated their sacrifice, and rejoiced at their homecoming instead of spitting on them.

And that support continues today for those of us in Iraq. Our country knows that it must support us and it does. The lesson was learned in Vietnam and we are better because of it.

Everyone who has gone before is a hero. They are celebrated in my heart. I think admirably of all those who have gone before me. From those who fought to establish this country in the late 1770's to those I serve with here in Iraq. They have all sacrificed to ensure our freedom.

But when I get back, I'm going to make it a personal mission to specifically thank every Vietnam Vet I encounter for their sacrifice. Because if nothing else good came from that terrible war, one thing did. It was the lesson learned on how we treat our warriors. We as a country learned from our mistake and now treat our warriors as heroes, as we should.

I am the beneficiary of their sacrifice. Not only for the freedom they, like veterans from other wars, ensured, but for how well our country now treats my fellow Marines and I. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrifice.

Semper Fidelis,
Major Brian P. Bresnahan
United States Marine Corps

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

MARK RENNINGER



Sgt. Mark Renninger, 39, a devoted husband and father and distinguished police officer, was taken from this earth far too early on Nov. 29, 2009. He leaves behind his wife, Kim, daughters Letra and Allison, and son Nicholas.

Born Aug. 13, 1970 in Bethlehem, PA, Mark was the second of five siblings. He was an active member of the Bethlehem Boys Club as a youth and participated in football and baseball. At Liberty High School, Mark was a star athlete, a standout for the Hurricanes football team as a strong safety, helping lead them to two conference titles. But he was equally dedicated to his school work, even going beyond the basic requirements to help others. While taking a sociology class in high school, Mark led classmates into a project producing a documentary to help young people better understand what it's like to be elderly. With his classmates, Mark visited senior citizens living in Bethlehem several times a month. "A lot of kids are cocky to older people," Mark was quoted telling The Morning Call of Allentown in 1989. "After sitting and talking to them, you change your way of thinking. Even if this changes three peoples' minds, it's worth it. I spent more time on this than anything. All my study halls are dedicated to this class."

Despite having the opportunity of playing football in college, Mark bypassed his love of the gridiron to begin serving others in 1989. Mark enlisted in the U.S. Army and did his basic training at Fort Dix in New Jersey. Shortly after, he went to airborne training at Fort Benning, GA, and was accepted to the prestigious Army Rangers program and was part of the 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning.

At Fort Benning he was honored as Soldier of the Quarter and a jump master. Four years later, he arrived in Washington State when he was transferred to Fort Lewis and was assigned to the 2nd Ranger Battalion. Mark was honorably discharged from the Army in 1996 and would later jokingly tell his family that all the camping he did as a Ranger gave him no interest in ever going camping again. It seemed only natural that Mark would go from serving the country in the military to serving the public. He joined the Tukwila Police Department in 1996 and quickly became a leader in the patrol unit. While in Tukwila, Mark was active with the Community Oriented Policing Unit and the Pro-Act Team, and was president of the Tukwila Police Guild. In 2004, Mark moved on to the Lakewood Police Department. Mark worked as a patrol officer and later served in the Neighborhood Patrol Officer Unit before being promoted to Patrol Sergeant in 2008. He was on the path toward becoming a lieutenant with Lakewood PD.

Mark's true calling in law enforcement was when he received an assignment as a SWAT officer in 2001. His experience and expertise as a SWAT officer later led to Mark becoming a well-respected SWAT instructor both locally serving on the executive board of the Washington State Training Officers Association, and nationally with the National Training Officers Association. He brought those talents as a SWAT officer to Pierce County after he joined Lakewood Police and became a Team Leader with the multi-jurisdictional Metro SWAT Team in April 2005.

As an officer, Mark was awarded the Medal of Merit, The Core Values Award, Distinguished Service Award and the Chief's Commendation. He received the Lifesaving Award with Lakewood PD after stopping while on his way home following a shift and ran through leaking gas to help pull a driver from a burning vehicle.

In 1999 he went to Stockholm, Sweden and participated in the Police and Fire Olympics. But all of his talents for police work were secondary to his home life. He made a point to leave police work at the office and focus on his family when at home — three children and his wife.

He married his wife Kim in 2003, not surprisingly while on a trip to a NASCAR race, and three years later welcomed their son Nicholas to the world. Whether it was making a point to be at the softball games of his oldest daughter Letra, the school activities of Alli, teaching young Nicholas during his first few years, or simply spending quiet time with his wife, these were Mark's favorite moments.

While not coming close to matching the love for his family, Mark's love of football—specifically Penn State and the Philadelphia Eagles—was a runner-up. He followed Big 10 football religiously, and always was willing to argue about how the Big 10 was superior to the Pac-10. He was also like every other Philadelphia fan, always willing to write off the Eagles at the slightest step backward but remaining a devoted fan.

He also made a point to see as many NASCAR races as he could. It didn't matter if it was the Truck Series, Nationwide Series, or the Sprint Cup cars, Mark would watch them make left-turns incessantly. He even dragged his wife along to see a couple of races live.

The decorations on the walls of his home office are one of three things: pictures of SWAT officers, or Penn State or NASCAR memorabilia. Along with his wife and three children, Mark is survived by his four brothers, Matthew, Marty, Michael and John, a sister, Melissa, his mother, Nancy, and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. The family asks that memorial donations be made to the Lakewood Police Independent Guild. Arrangements by Mountain View Funeral Home, 253-584-0252. www.mountainviewtacoma.com.

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Op Order Lost Patrol Gathering 2010

WHAT: Lost Patrol Ranger Reunion 2010

WHERE: DoubleTree Inn—Columbus, Ga.

WHEN: June 24—26 (3 nights)

WHO: Any Ranger, any era, Tabbed or not. Officers and enlisted personnel.

WHY: Because we can—and we like it

This year we take **The Lost Patrol** to a new location. We are “**going home**”..... to Columbus, Georgia. A place that is familiar to almost all of you. Home of the Benning School For Boys: **Airborne Training, Ranger School**, etc. We have done this since 1997. Our numbers grow every year. We have a plan. It’s simple, it’s fun, and no one has ever attended one of these gatherings, and lived to regret it. It has been said by many, that: “**A LARGE time was had by all**”

Cost of the rooms is \$91/night. As in all years past, you can get your room either **SMOKING** or **NON**, and you’ll have the option of 1 King bed, or 2 doubles.

TRANSPORT: Getting there is easy. Probably best to fly into Atlanta and then connect to Columbus....unless you are close enough to just drive there. Good restaurants and bars all over the place.

ORP: As always, we will have a Hospitality Suite available to us. That Suite is ours 24/7 while we are there. It will have a bar in it, and we can stock that ourselves. Rangers Pribyl, Hickson & Getz are likely to be tasked w/ making sure that’s done properly.

Entertainment:

I expect to have access to Ft. Benning for all in our **Lost Patrol Group**, and maybe even some kind of “**reception**” put on by **The Regiment**. We’ll also get to see some of today’s Rangers doing their thing, at a Training Facility located adjacent to Ft. Benning. A special demonstration will be set up just for us.

Banquet: We’ll have a **Ranger Banquet** on Saturday evening, Jun 26th. Likely to occur at the newly opened **Infantry Museum** at Ft. Benning. They have a special Banquet facility there, and have offered it to us for our

convenience. More details will be available on that, as the date draws nearer.

I have to have a \$1000 deposit to them by 1-15-10. I cannot guarantee any rooms to anyone who waits past Feb 20th to reserve their room. All rooms in our “block of rooms” revert back **TO** hotel control as of 2-21-10. I really need some folks to pay early to get our deposit done, and get this thing locked in.

To reserve your room, send me a check for \$150, and specify the type of room you want. That’s **SMOKING** vs **NON**, and 1 bed vs two. If 2 guys wanna share a room, no problem. If you want to upgrade your room, no problem. Just stick a note in with your check, giving me all the pertinent details. Of your \$150 sent to me, \$40 goes into our Entertainment Fund, and the other \$110 goes down as a deposit to reserve your room. You pay the balance of the room charges at “**check out time**”. The money in the Entertainment Fund pays for our Hospitality Suite and for the “**talent**” at our **Friday Night Ranger Extravaganza**. Please share this **Frag Order** with all Rangers you have commo with. Network, network, & network some more. Any questions, either call me or send me some email. Send in your deposits ASAP, as it is important that we make a favorable “**first impression**” with this Hotel, and that we do this right.

DCL55@msn.com

916-919-1015 (cell)

916-774-0435 (hm)

send checks (\$150) to me at:

Dave Lukoskie

9618 Swan Lake Drive

Granite Bay, Ca 95746

Dave Lukoskie

Co C 2/75 Rgr Bn

’75—’76

Spread the word, and please send in those room deposit checks early.....Thank you.....that is all!!

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



52 Rangers recognized for bravery at Fort Benning Valorous Awards ceremony

Staff Sergeant Michael E. Norton was awarded a Silver Star, the Army's third highest military honor, during the Nov. 24, 2009 3rd Ranger Battalion's Valorous Awards Ceremony held at Fort Benning's Ranger Memorial. Lieutenant General John Mulholland, commander of the US Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, presented the Silver Star to Norton for his heroism during an August assault in the mountains of Afghanistan. Gen. Mulholland also presented seven Bronze Star medals with Valor Device, 15 Army Commendation Medals with Valor Device, 19 Purple Hearts, and 10 Bronze Star Medals to Rangers from the 3rd Battalion. A complete list of the awardees is below:

Silver Star

SSG Michael E. Norton

Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device

CPT Justin B. Johanson
1SG Craig A. Bishop
SSG Benjamin W. Carlson
SSG Joseph W. Edwards
SSG Jeremy J. Keller
SSG David M. White
SGT Andrew J. McElroy

Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device

SSG Donal R. Ellis
SSG Kirk R. Foster
SSG Kahler J. Macphail
SGT Aaron A. Arnold
SGT Eric M. Baker
SGT Austin L. Cooper
SGT Randall J. Henigan
SGT Nicholas G. Irving

Army Commendation Medal with Valor Device, cont.

SGT Carson Wilshire
SGT Ray E. Perez
CPL Clinton W. Gingerich
SPC Daniel M. Crist
SPC Nathan T. Keith
PFC Sean G. Scappaticci
PFC Samuel F. Trocano

Purple Heart

CPT Donovan C. Duke
CPT Daniel W. Krueger
CPT Jay H. McKenna
CPT Kane D. Morgan
SSG Edward H. Canon
SSG Jonathan Long
SGT Dustin C. Chennault
SGT Joseph A. Fanelli
SGT Bret R. Keyes
SGT Joseph Metzger
SGT Caleb E. Perkins

Purple Heart, cont.

SGT Jeffrey L. Thompson
SGT Christopher L. Watkins
SPC Richard Cessna
SPC Mark A. Collins
SPC Cody A. Hukhill
PFC Ryan P. Browne
PFC Darren J. Crass
PFC Eric S. Deaurora

Bronze Star Medal

MAJ Kurt J. Cyr
CPT Charles H. Felker
CPT Jonathan P. Rembetsy
CWOL William J. Burkett II
1SG William D. Pouliot
SFC Tyson C. Crosby
SFC Brady R. Davis
SFC Michael R. Elliot
SFC Brian T. Groff
SSG Anthony T. Houston

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

<http://www.1stbn75thgrregtmemorial.com/index.htm>
(1st Ranger Battalion Memorial Website)

INVITATION:

1st Ranger Battalion Memorial Ceremony
January 14, 2010 at 2 p.m.

*In Memory of SSG Jason Dahlke,
SGT Roberto D. Sanchez, PFC Eric Hario*

*1st Ranger Battalion Memorial (Behind Bldg 405, HQ, 1/75 Bldg)
Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia 31409-5120*

*POC: Shelia Dudley
912 414 5437*

1st Ranger Battalion Ranger Ball
March 13, 2010

*Please put us on your calendar for the 2010 1/75 Ranger Ball.
I know how busy you all are – and wanted to let you know in advance.
The venue will be the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center
and we look forward to your visit. As always, thank you for your support!*

POC: Sheila Dudley 912-414-5437

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

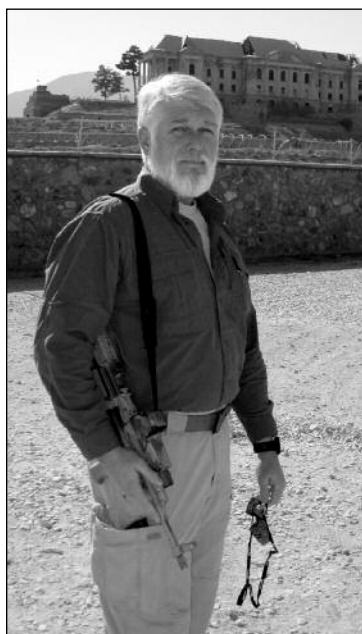
Unit Director - Todd M. Currie

My Introduction to the 1/75 Ranger Battalion, October 1974.

By Chris Brewer

Rangers,

One of my favorite stories is also my first experience with the 1/75 Ranger Battalion. In October of 1974 I arrived at Ft Stewart, GA as a new PFC fresh out of jump school, along with Rangers Rollier and McCune. We reported into the Staff Duty NCO, and were immediately whisked out to the clothing issue facility to receive our TA 50.



In any ordinary unit, three brand new cherries would be left in the barracks until the unit returned from the field. But 1st Ranger Battalion was no ordinary unit. The Battalion was in the field undergoing their activation evaluation and the Ranger NCO in charge of we three new Rangers was not about to let us miss out on the fun. When one Ranger goes to the field, we all go to the field.

We were directed to get out of our dress greens and into cammies right there in the lobby of the Battalion HQ. Dress greens and spit shined jump boots went into the duffle bags and were traded for brand new jungle boots and camouflage fatigues. We were given a quick class on Ranger Battalion SOP on packing the rucksack and each was given a full issue of C rations. The C rations are an important part of the story but more on that later. Once complete we were hustled onto a waiting 2 1/2 ton truck and whisked out to the field.

After some time the truck came to halt. Our mentor walked around to the back of the truck and shouted out, "who is the senior man back here". We all looked at one another. I



glanced at the E2 mosquito wings on Rollier and McCune and they pointed at my measly PFC rank. I wasn't sure what was coming next, but I had a feeling I wasn't going to like it. Nonetheless, I held up my hand and said "I guess I am, sergeant".

With an evil grin he directed us to get off the truck with all our gear, and he handed me a map and a compass. He barked out "Ranger, you are assigned to Battle Company, 3rd platoon. Your

unit is three-thousand five-hundred meters from your present location on a magnetic azimuth of 310 degrees. Take charge of this patrol and move out!" Then he got back into the truck and drove off.

Now for those of us who have been down this road a few times, literally and figuratively, a thirty-five hundred meter movement is not that big a deal. But for three brand spanking new cherry Rangers, fresh faced and innocent to the ways of the world, we were just a tad bit intimidated. We were alone on the side of the road, headed to Tac-X with nothing but swamp in all directions as far as the eye can see and armed with no more than an azimuth that leads right into the water. It's a cold October day and the sun is already beginning to set. We had no idea of what awaited us at the end of this trek through the swamp but for now getting there was our most immediate challenge.

We took a quick look at the map to see if there was a way around the water. Nope, where we are going is in the middle of the swamp. So we set the compass, took a heading (not a lot of terrain association to be done in a swamp) and off we went. After a lot of wading we came up out of the water onto what appeared to be the only dry land for miles. Well, sorta dry, certainly drier than the cold muck we had been in for the last hour. As we came out of the swamp we ran into a perimeter and two Ranger NCOs were glaring at us in our slightly less new but relatively clean, from the waist up anyway, uniforms. I reported to them and they pointed me over to an area within the perimeter.

We were met by SFC Cullifer and welcomed to the platoon. He directed me over to my new squad leader and sent Rollier and McCune to different squads within the platoon. My squad leader, Bill Bryson, turned me over to the tender

1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

mercies of the members of my new squad or the Sp4 Mafia as they were known in those days.

Now the story isn't quite complete at this point without giving you a little background on how the Ranger Battalion goes to the field. As I would learn later, but was blissfully ignorant of at that moment, the Battalion usually went to the field for at least two or three weeks at a time. And when you went out, what you had on your back was all you could count on having for the duration. Everyone usually got a case of 12 C rations before leaving for the field. Under normal circumstances, that's three meals a day for four days.

However, under normal (for a Ranger) conditions, you need to plan on that case of C's lasting you for not four days, but one week before you could hope to see a resupply. It gets better; if you wrote up your resupply request incorrectly, you could pretty much count on that not happening either. Each C ration weighed about two pounds, making a total of twenty-four pounds for the 12 meals. That is not taking ammunition, weapons, accessories such as tripods and spare barrels for the M-60 MG into consideration. Add to that the precious little "creature comfort" items we carried such as rain gear, dry socks and poncho. You had some serious decisions to make when packing that rucksack. The LRRP ration, that blessed meal of freeze dried bliss would carry you all day and only weighed eleven ounces, but unfortunately required a lot of precious water to reconstitute, would not arrive until later.

Not that you had many choices in packing your ruck. The packing list was directed in detail but you could scrimp a little bit on chow if you just couldn't handle the weight. I never actually knew anyone who did that though because in the Rangers, food was paramount. We would strip the cans out of the cardboard boxes and weigh for a moment the relative merits of cheese and crackers (light) vs. beef and spice sauce (same size but heavier, and I swear to God, made by the same company that makes Alpo dog food) while we packed our rucks.

I should also mention the Ranger Battalion policy on rain gear. Today our soldiers have the most modern Gore-Tex and poly pro garments available, and permission to actually wear them. In those days we had rubber coated parka's and trousers that for some reason always smelled like vomit, no matter how well you cleaned them, that we were required to carry, but never, under any circumstances, were you permitted to actually wear. They make noise and shone when they were wet you see, whereas a soaking wet, shivering Ranger doesn't shine and will choke himself to death before he makes a noise.

Or maybe it was that the platoon sergeant would choke you death. I distinctly remember choking as being part of the equation when trying to be silent on patrol, but whatever. The first time we ever wore the esteemed rubber suit was much later, when we had the merciful and beneficent CPT Ellis as our new company commander, as opposed to Ronny Rucksack the merciless, who reigned in the time of the story I began with. I digress but I'm old and I ramble and it's a good story, so bear with me.

It was years later, I remember it was raining hard, with the temperature as cold as the heart of a Ranger school lane grader and we saw CPT Ellis stand up in the clandestine patrol base wearing his rubber jacket. We were awe struck, having never before seen anyone dare to actually don the forbidden jacket. A platoon sergeant finally came up to CPT Ellis, and with an inquisitive voice asked, "Sir, can we wear ours?" CPT Ellis looked at him like he was insane, and said, "it's raining, aint it?" Permission was granted down the line to don the treasured vomit smelling rain coats, and jubilation was heard among the ranks. This was followed immediately by squad leaders and platoon sergeants choking out privates for breaking noise discipline.

So, having set the stage somewhat for the Sp4 Mafia welcoming committee, I had been directed to as a new PFC, wearing clean and dry (upper half) cammies and bearing a rucksack full of C Rats; you can imagine what was going through the minds of the tired, dirty, half starved Rangers I had just been assigned to. Sp4 Eckbold looked up at me, cracked one eye open to glare in my direction and rasped out, "cherry, you got any chow?" Ron Adkins, Norm Allen, and Denny Neiman among others leaned forward to hear my response.

Now being new, and not indoctrinated into the way of the Ranger (there was no RIP in those days) I had one fleeting selfish thought of "hey, that's my chow". But also not being completely stupid, I looked around at the crew of dirty, tired, and decidedly unfriendly Rangers staring up at me, and immediately dropped my ruck and starting passing out what I had. C rats, followed by dry socks and dry, clean cammies. The crew left me one meal, invited me to sit down, and I was honored with a gruff "you may do, cherry".

And that was my introduction to the 1/75 Ranger Battalion. Closely followed by the 20 mile "death march" back in to garrison at the conclusion of the field exercise wearing brand new boots that ate my feet, and a rucksack that was significantly lighter than it would have been if I had hoarded my belongings. I sacrificed some chow and creature comforts, but gained Ranger buddies that will last a lifetime.



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Nate Smith

Greetings 2nd Battalion Rangers! I need to step down as Unit Director as I've become too busy with work and its' associated travel. If you're up to the challenge, contact me so we can do a handover. Rangersmith275@comcast.net or (253)255-3085

Some 2/75 Rangers that I've run into in my travels in and around Afghanistan over the past several months-

Mark Ferguson A-2/75

Mark Wilton A-2/75

CSM Jeff Mellinger...Actually I ran into him in Northern Virginia, anyway, he still looks like a bobble headed Ranger (sorry CSM, but it's true).

Former 2/75 Ranger Chaplain Jeff Struecker was recently the subject of a great article published by the Army News Service.

RELEASE NUMBER: 091118-01

DATE POSTED: NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Chaplain Helps Others Fight Stress

By Samantha Quigley

Office of the Secretary of Defense Public Affairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Courtesy of Army News, Nov. 18, 2009) - Readers of Mark Bowden's "Black Hawk Down" can put the book aside when they've had enough of their mind's reaction of the brutal 1993 battle of Mogadishu, Somalia.

But Maj. Jeff Struecker, chaplain, isn't that lucky. The decorated Army Ranger was charged with leading the ground assault force on all the targets that the task force hit in Somalia.

"I had been shot at and seen many dead warriors [before Mogadishu]," Struecker said. "I never experienced anything like the violence and the overwhelming sense of desperation like I experienced in Somalia. After losing one of my men and having many others wounded around me, I found a great sense of peace and courage through my faith."

Struecker, who also deployed to Operation Just Cause in Panama in 1989 and Operation Desert Storm in the Middle East in 1991, went back and forth into Mogadishu three times during the main firefight.

His experience in the Somalian capital was a turning point for the soldier who's currently deployed to Afghanistan



with the 75th Ranger Regimental Special Troops Battalion.

"My wife, Dawn, and I had a great relationship before Somalia, but after the operation we both understood just how fragile human life is and how valuable our relationship is," he said. "Somalia helped me put my priorities in order."

It also led him to consider pursuing a different aspect of his military career.

"After the big firefight was over, I had many men that I work with asking me questions about matters of faith and how to deal with the trauma of an event like this," Struecker said. "It was this experience — talking with my friends about combat stress and faith in Jesus Christ after the big firefight — that caused me to start thinking about becoming an Army chaplain."

Since 2001, every time Struecker has deployed, it's been as a chaplain, drawing on the combat experiences he's had during his 22-year military career to help servicemembers dealing with the traumatic stress they may be feeling.

"I talk to them about what has helped me and others in similar situations like theirs," he said. "I [also] work diligently to stay abreast of resources for warriors who are struggling with the weight of their profession."

Those resources are much more plentiful than they were in the days surrounding Mogadishu, Struecker said.

"The task force had a unit psychologist and a chaplain available to answer questions and work with guys, but most of them were overloaded with the amount of people coming to see them," he said. "The U.S. military, and specifically the [Department of] Veterans Affairs, has done greater work in the past few years helping warriors deal with the stress of combat than I have ever seen in my life."

Struecker is deployed to Afghanistan from Fort Benning, Ga. He and his wife, Dawn, are both from Fort Dodge, Iowa, and have five children — six, if you count the family's black Labrador retriever.

"[He] acts like one of our children most of the time," Struecker said.

Struecker, who enjoys reading and running in his off-duty hours, said he feels strongly about helping other servicemembers deal with the traumatic stress they may feel after combat.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

“It is an enormous burden to carry for those warriors that have been directly affected by the stress of severe combat,” Struecker said. “Our nation owes all our warriors a debt of gratitude. We especially need to honor these courageous men and women for their service to our country and for the sacrifices that their families have made for our freedoms.” Struecker recently received the “Unsung Hero” award for using his experiences to help others dealing with the effects of traumatic stress. The award was presented at the Country United Gala here, the final piece of a two-day event that included the Partnership for Military Medicine Symposium.

The symposium highlighted discoveries in military medicine and fostered collaborations among military and civilian partners to further advance research and clinical care. The Country United Gala recognized the efforts of medical researchers, clinicians, and educators, as well as friends of military medicine.

The Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine joined with the Tug McGraw Foundation to present the symposium and gala.

The Tug McGraw Foundation was established in 2003 to enhance the quality of life of children and adults with brain tumors, and in 2009 expanded programs to include post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.



Modern day Rangers and veterans participate in a memorial ceremony during the 65th anniversary of the Normandy landing at Pointe du Hoc, France by the 2nd Ranger Battalion on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

**3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT**

Unit Director - Raleigh Cash

Greetings,

My Name is Raleigh Cash and I have the honor of stepping in as



the 3rd Battalion Unit Director.

Let me tell you a little

about myself. I got to B Co 3/75 in the spring of 1991 as a young Forward Observer. I moved through the ranks and was finally able to take over Bravo Company FIST, as

the Team Sergeant and Headquarters Platoon Sergeant slot. I finally left BN in the Winter of 1999. For my last 2 years in the Army, I worked at the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Joint Close Air Support. I had the opportunity to help re-write the Close Air Doctrine so that all the services were doing it the same way. I met a lot of squared away men in my time in BN so this truly is an honor for me to be your Unit Director. Below are a couple of stories that some of you can probably relate to.

R.L.T.W!

Raleigh Cash

**The Baby Shoe**

I'm not a good story writer and this is a much better story when told in person, but I'll give it a shot.

My Ranger buddy and I had been in BN for about 8 months and it was getting time for us to go to

the suck. We were damn near equal in P.T. (me better at pushups, him better at sit-ups, same-same in the run) but he got to BN about 1 1/2 months before me. He “outranked” me so he went first.

At this time, even though we are privates, you have gotten to that point in BN life that you don't really get messed with unless you deserve it. Both my F.O. and his F.O. at this point are really teaching us great stuff and we are focusing on Ranger school tasks. My Team Sergeant is also providing good mentoring along with some smoke sessions (the fun kind, where you respond with “you can't smoke a rock Sarnt!!) But I digress.....

A couple of days later (T minus one month for my buddy to leave), Our Team Sergeant came into the C.P. with

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

something in his hand. We were both very curious as to what the hell it was, because it was obvious he was trying to keep it hidden. He snaps up to attention with a good “ON YOUR FEET!!!” and all 3 F.O.’s come into the room. Team SGT. starts making a big production about what he has on his desk, the importance of it and then started with the history of the Item.

He starts off with:

“Rangers, this, is the baby shoe. It has 5 Ranger Tabs and the original Drive on Tab, you have nothing. This shoe was found by my Team SGT. in the middle of a suck fest and I was smoked. He looked at me, asked me if I wanted to quit, and I told him no. That night, in the patrol base, my Team SGT came up to me with the shoe. He had pinned a Drive on Tab to the inside of the baby shoe and gave it to me. He told me, Ranger, you will keep this baby shoe with you 24/7 and take it through School. You leave for Hooah school in 1 month. Do not mess this up, or I’ll pull your slot. I took the baby shoe through school and got my Tab.

Now Ranger, it’s your turn. Are you going to mess this up?” My Ranger buddy replies “Negative Sarnt!” He goes through the suck and comes back with his Tab. After he came back from an extended 4 day pass, he walks in our room, tells me to beat my face. While I’m beating my face, he adds his Ranger Tab to the shoe. My Ranger buddy tells me to recover and hands me the Baby shoe. We then go to the PX because Charles Beckwith was signing books. I told my Ranger Buddy, He NEEDS to sign the shoe!

We got to the PX, stood in line and got to meet Charles Beckwith. What a great honor!

CB: Do you two young Rangers have a book for me to sign?

US: No Sir

CB: What can I do for you then?

Me: Sir, can you please sign my baby shoe?

CB: Confused look

US: We explain that the baby shoe is a conglomerate drive on Tab. He signs the bottom of the shoe laughing the whole time.

I go to the suck. Baby shoe in hand. It gets a lot of attention from the RI’s when they see it.

RI: “Ranger, What the heck is that?”

Me: “It’s my baby shoe Sarnt!!”

RI: “What BN you from Ranger?”

Me: “3/75 Sarnt!”

RI: “Friggin Batt Boys.....”

This happened quite a bit. I also had a couple of RI’s smoke

me because that had seen the shoe before. There was one RI in Florida (can’t remember his name, but he was an ex-Batt boy) who knew about the shoe and every time he saw me, I had to present the shoe, and recite all the Tabs that the shoe had and exclaim that I was not good enough to carry the shoe. He would then tell me to give the “contraband” to him, which every time I replied “Negative Sarnt!!, I cannot leave the shoe behind!” I’d do some pushups and he would walk away smiling.

I graduated, got my Tab and passed it on to the next Hooah who was set to go.

Distinct Honors that the Baby Shoe has:

Signed by “Chargin’ Charlie” Charles Beckwith

Served in two conflicts. The shoe got it’s mustard stain jumping into Panama and also served it’s Ranger proud in Somalia. It also has 2 purple hearts.

Ranger Tab from:

K. Stewart	S. Stewart
Nelson	Buelow
Kohlman	Goodale
Cash	McLaughlin
Thomas	Carlson
Zuber	Ross

I Tracked the Baby Shoe until I left, I wonder if it still exists?

First Jump in Bn.

We’re conducting an airfield seizure on some big ass airstrip in N.C. in the middle of nowhere. When I say big ass airstrip, I mean BIG ASS. This thing is about 3 times longer than any airstrip I’ve seen since. Not to mention my Team Sergeant is telling me that if I don’t make the link up with my PLT because of the size of the airstrip, I’m toast. (I’m not at all worried about this).

We go through all of the fun stuff getting ready for the mission. I find out that we are going to do an in-flight rig YEAH! Since I’ve never done one before (this being my 10th jump and all) I had no idea how much fun I was in for. We load the bird and off we go. Now mind you, we are “simulating” some real world situation, so we are in the bird forever. About 4 hours later we start to rig up. This was a whole bunch of fun. I’m still putting on my stuff like I’m in Airborne school, so it’s so friggin tight I can barely stand. The JM JMPI’s me and throws on my ruck. I’m really happy now. By this time we are about 20 minutes out.

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

The doors open and I'm thinking....cool, pretty soon I'll be out of all this stuff and I can show my F.O. what a stud I am and beat him to the assembly area.

We get the commands, stand up..... And the ball is rolling. Did I mention the big ass airstrip we are jumping into? It's BIG. Did I mention that both sides of the strip are lined with the friggin Amazon forest? Yeah, it was. Tarmac death lined with friendly trees.

The stick starts moving and I'm on my way. I "jump" out (read as barely fall out the door with an extremely weak exit), count to 4 and look up. Crap, I can't look up. I'm twisted to the bottom of the pack tray, I shit you not. I grab on and start pedaling like Lance Armstrong to get all of the twists out. I finally get them out (which seemed like an eternity) and I check all my stuff. Crap, remember when I told you about the trees? Yep, that's me, the Lone Ranger over the top of 'em. I'm slipping so hard I swear to God I have silk in my hands. Too late, I'm going to be a tree land. Yep, here it comes.

I just about dropped my ruck, but then remembered that I was supposed to keep it (as it affords me protection) and I'm thinking to myself, those Fire jumpers are retarded to do this for a living. I crash through the tree tops with my hands/arms covering my face while doing my very best to keep my feet and knees together. As I'm falling/bouncing through the trees, I remember thinking to myself, crap, how am I going to get my chute to the edge of the runway? Crap, I'm dead now. My left leg hits the tree, and my left foot gets wedged between where the tree has split. Ouch. That didn't feel real good.

So now I'm hanging upside down, with an 80lb rucksack that's supposed to "afford me protection" slammed in my face. Trying to stay calm and relaxed (as relaxed as you can hanging upside down with a ruck on your face) I go to release my ruck. I didn't really think this part through. I release my ruck and it takes the path of least resistance... Yep, right over my face with the lowering line about taking my nose off. I snatch the quick release and as it's passing my face, it pops me in the mouth. So now, I have a bloody

nose and a fat lip, and something wrong with my ankle. This Rangering stuff is the BOMB!

I take off my K-pot to try to see if I can figure out how far up in the tree I am. I drop it and guess that I'm about 10 feet off of the ground. O.K., no big deal, let me drop my weapon and lets rock & roll. Now I'm trying my best to pull myself up with the risers / do an atomic sit up and I finally get my leg released. I pull with everything I have to get the chute out of the tree. No Go. I'll take some tape, mark the tree, and leave the kit bag on the edge of the DZ. Now, I get down from the tree and take a step. Oh..... That don't feel right. I can feel my ankle swelling up like a grapefruit. Crap. I grab some 100mph tape and do it up as best I can to stabilize my ankle. I finish up and think CRAP! I haven't put my radio in to operation yet!!!!!!

Now I've forgotten about the ankle, nose and lip, drag my ass to the edge of the strip and get my radio working. I'm up, get a commo check, and my F.O. asks me where I'm at. I can tell that he's not super duper happy with me right now so I tell him en-route. I get to the assembly area (yep, last one) and told him I had a tree landing. He still was not happy with how long it took me to get there, but I already figured that out.

We finished the mission and at the end my F.O. asks me, Ranger, why are you limping and what's up with the tape? I explain in detail what happened and he tells me that we'll check it out when we get back. Mission over, hop on the bird and head home. Get back to the team room, and the Team Sgt. Asks me to take my boot off. WOW, It's got some really pretty colors and swelling now.

Go to the ER, 3rd degree sprain, here's your Motrin and a wrap.

Back to the FIST office. My Team Sgt. Gives me a counseling statement for improper tree landing and for damaging Government property. Man..... they had me scared about that one for a while.

And that, was my first Jump in Bn.



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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte

No Submission

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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

Dick Foster has submitted a separate article for VII Corps, so I will fill you in on the news I have here, and try to make it a little less lengthy than the last one, so some of the other units have some room in the magazine, and we don't kill too many trees printing this issue.

VARIOUS NEWS:

Bob Woolstrom:...wasn't able to make it to the reunion in August, and let me know that beforehand because he was on a contract job, and would not be able to break away. I was remiss in not mentioning that in my last article. I have a contact number for Bob if anyone wants to get in touch.

Bill Scanlan: Received an email from Bill Scanlan (3rd Platoon, B75). He was unable to make it to the reunion due to cancer surgery. I am enclosing the contents of his email here. His email address is: billandmarylee@bellsouth.net Marc -

I missed the Rendezvous as I was in the hospital following cancer surgery. I did attend the Homecoming at the FL Ranger Camp at the end of May. At that event it became apparent the vast majority of NCO,s that I worked with were now deceased (to include some of the old B/75 members). Guess the majority of us are dealing with assorted health issues as we hit our mid sixties.

I believe that I have an answer that was being questioned several issues ago. When I graduated Ranger School (along with Bill Walters and a Sgt. Fry) and returned to Ft. Carson, the company commander was Lt. Aguliar as both Capt.Kubasik (he was special forces qualified not Ranger qualified) and Capt. Harris were both with the two large groups of B/75 personnel. (One Captain was in charge of each group in separate classes.). I am about 99 % certain. Still hope to make one of the reunions at some point. I am interested to know if we have any type of list of B/75 personnel that have passed away. (I know about Jim Moran, Bob Hensley, George Nick and that is about it). (NOTE: I am forwarding the list of deceased unit members about whom I know to Bill).

Bill Scanlan

HEARD FROM:

Stan Harrell: Got the following email from Stan: Friends

After two and a half months of traveling to the hospital in



Florida and driving back to Myrtle Beach, SC to be with one of my older boys that is in the hospital, and now, my son Anthony is attending school in Orlando, FL. and has moved to Orlando with his wife and son. My wife can not stand being away from the grandbaby with the other son in the hospital, for this reason we are moving to Florida.

We have found a place close to the hospital and between Orlando and Tampa. The new address will be:

P.O. Box 322

Davenport, FL. 33836

Don Bruce: Was copied on this email

from Don during some of the correspondence from the originals from 1st Batt.:

HEY Ranger Bud, I am in good health retired in the Dominican Republic in the Punta Cana area. After I retired from the 25th Div as a Bn. CSM in July 1990, moved to Las Vegas and spent 16 years there. I put together a personal training business and the name was For Women Only. By the time I was done I owned and operated 5 Gyms in the Greater Las Vegas Valley. Sold them in 1999. Out of boredom I got into Vacation Ownership sales. Moved to the DR 3 years ago got married finally and am as happy as can be. I walk the beach a lot and play a lot of Golf and read a lot of ranger stories on the net. I guess I should start telling some of my own and you of all people should join in the choir.

Don RLTW

Mary Hines: Mike Hines's widow (she and family are doing well in Arkansas after their return from the reunion).

Don Purdy: Don was waiting for notification that he and a buddy were to be re-deployed to the big sandbox in a contract capacity. More info as I hear from him.

John Henry Voyles: RV is doing well after a couple of small strokes. He no longer works at the VA in Lakewood, WA, but as he says, spends a lot of time as a domestic engineer and "driving Miss Daisy". He wants everyone to know that this getting old stuff ain't for sissies. Feel free to call him at his home number: 253-588-1179.

Doc Wentzel: Doc couldn't make it to the reunion due to some family issues, but is still in North Carolina and doing well, and his son is still in the Army.

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

Ed White: DirtyEddie has been busy graduating from college with his master's degree in history and helping to edit some of the stories for the original 1974 members of the 1st Battalion, a project started by Todd Currie, who also lives in Colorado.

Jim Jackson: Jim is still in the Columbus, GA area, and works as a volunteer for the Freedom Team Salute, an organization which helps to express their appreciation for the service veterans have rendered in the past.

Pat Fuscaldo: Pat is still looking for some copies of the original Ft. Carson photographs, and I think we may have located some of them to assist him.

Larry Coleman: Larry is doing well and emails me occasionally.

Contact me for either email addresses or phone numbers for any of the other unit members you want to get in touch with.

VII Corps LRRP Association

I received a copy of the VII Corps LRRP Association Bylaws from the new President of the Association, Dick Foster, along with a very nice note, and look forward to working with Dick in the months and years to come.

ARMYRANGER.COM

If you haven't had a chance to check out their website/forum yet, give it a look. A lot of people you may know are registered and post there, and it's good to have a place we can all go to maintain our contact with other Rangers in a private forum.

(www.armyranger.com).

Until next time:

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

(especially all you guys still working in the Big Sandbox or Rockpile).

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

Email: mthomp@dejazzd.com

VII CORPS LRRPS

With the winter edition of Patrolling magazine, we start a new year with a new governing body for our company. The change in leadership comes with Kirk Gibson's voluntary posting of his colors. After six years of leading our unit almost single handedly, it was Kirk's decision to hand the reins over to one of us.

So, at an upscale bar in Columbus at this year's Ranger Reunion, I was, with some forewarning, nominated and elected your biannual President; unanimously, I might add.

There must have been at least seven of our voting members present. I felt underwhelmed, to say the least.

As any good President would do, I set about soliciting a cabinet too drunk to resist the offer of carrying the day to day burdens, while I carried the accolades. Your Executive Committee consists of Bill Hill, Vice-President; Tom Forde, Treasurer, and Zeke Evaro, Secretary and Chaplain. We proposed and all agreed that Sam Rodriguez is and ought to be our official Historian. We did this without his knowledge or approval. Tough shit, Sam; you shoulda been there!

If you think you can improve on this bunch of Social Security derelicts, take a deep breath and wait your turn. We have a mess of Article 15's to dole out to malingerers and malcontents.

Our immediate concern was the revision and dissemination of our by-laws. A masterful job done by Bill Hill, I think the main function of the revision redefines the duties of officers and the purpose of our Association, while strengthening our relationship and ties to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and the 75th Ranger Regiment and its Officers and Men. We are proud to be associated with both units.

We have attempted to reach all of you with a copy of the above mentioned revised by-laws; that is, all for whom we have e-mail or USPS addresses. Your vote, either up or down, should be forwarded to Bill. By January, we expect to have something to report. A non-response will be construed as a YEA vote. In this case, silence is golden.

Membership shall be from fiscal year to fiscal year with dues being paid in the preceding January, if you wish to remain current. They're still \$25.00. Send your dues to Tom Forde. A membership card will be sent to you. If we don't hear from you, we will try to touch base once again before dropping you from Company rolls. Tom will be visiting the Eire homeland some time in December or January, so be patient. Your checks will get cashed (in the USA!)

One further note of interest: We have selected Ft. Carson, CO as our 2010 off-year Reunion site. We have yet to ask Tom Lake for his able assistance, so details are, at this time, very slight. Prospective dates are the first or second week of August.

Finally, I want to take a moment, on behalf of your Executive Committee, to thank Kirk Gibson for his many years of dedication and service to our cause. His consistent Patrolling duties kept us abreast of each other's comings and goings, his intermediary services kept us together and aware of our purpose, while his unceasing attempts and

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

reports of lost and found members added to our camaraderie and friendship. He gave more than he got back, unless you count the debt of gratitude we owe him. Kirk, thanks for leaving us better off than before. We hope to do as well and try to improve on your efforts.

With but one last sappy, but sincere plea, let me say that we are a proud part of the 75th RRA and I encourage each of you who haven't done so, to join this exceptional brotherhood. Aside from meeting good men you never would have otherwise, but wish you had, you'll get an opportunity at our reunions to rub elbows with the young Rangers we gave birth to. Speaking for all who have had this privilege and honor, you'll never meet a finer, stronger, more courageous, more upstanding group of young men as those of the present 75th Ranger Regiment. I promise they will restore any lost faith you might have had in the young people of today and renew your faith in the future of the Ranger corps, the Army, and the United States. They embody the motto, Rangers Lead the Way.

I hope you all have a prosperous and grateful new year.

Officers' info:

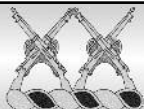
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Rangers Lead The Way
Pvt. Foster, USA LRRP
VII Corps



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

No Submission



D/75
Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson

Hello everyone, once again it is time for me to submit another article. My section of this will be brief for this issue because Mike Warren has made my job easy this time by submitting an article to me for inclusion in Patrolling.

First I'd like to report that I was not aware that we had another Member of D 75th at the Reunion last August. After the article came out in Patrolling I found out that Larry (Sky Pilot) Pickle was also in attendance. He was not aware we had a sign in sheet in the hospitality suite. Steve Meade told me that on his shoulders since Larry came to the reunion with him and Roger Barbe and he didn't inform Larry that we had the sign in sheet. Larry served in Delta Company on Steve's Team after serving his first tour in a heavy weapons Platoon with the 101st. Larry is a single parent (3 daughters and a son) living in Oklahoma City.



By the time this issue of patrolling comes out Bears son will be home from his third deployment to the Middle East, his tours have been from 12 to 18 months each. So I would like to say, very loudly, **Welcome Home Willie**. However Bill Fitzgerald's daughter will be deployed. She has just made 1st Lt. and is due to deploy around Thanksgiving. She will be stationed in Kuwait but her and her platoon will be providing security for convoys traveling into Iraq. As I understand it they will pick up convoys some where in Kuwait and be a part of them while

they make their deliveries in Iraq and after they return they will have a couple of days to prepare for the next run and do it all over again. We would all like to wish Aileen a safe tour and look forward to her returning home safe next year. Please keep these extended family members in your prayers.

D/75 (CONTINUED)

Everyone else that I talked with was doing well; I would like you to also extend prayers to Ken Dern's family as when I spoke with he was at the funeral of his Aunt up north. He said they were doing well he had taken his mother up for the funeral. Tom Delaney said they were in the middle of the aftermath of T.S. Ida and that he was preparing for the Reunion with the Golden Knights which he served with for six years. That reunion will be right there at Ft. Benning the Knights home.

One other item I am enclosing in this article before I add Mikes contribution is we have set a tentative date for our get together in South Dakota in June 2010. The week end we are shooting for Friday June 11 – Sunday June 13. Moe says feel free to arrive on Thursday the 10th, which are my plans and I will have to see what is happening but I may not leave until Tuesday.

Now here is an article Mike sent to me, I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I did.

On 1 December 1969, Team 3-3 was in between missions when we were ordered to prepare to relieve a Ranger team that had just made contact with at least one enemy KIA. I hurriedly packed my PRC 25 radio and other essentials for the mission, my quiet day interrupted by a sudden turn of events.

Our heavy team of nine Rangers were inserted into an area located in War Zone D with very little overhead canopy and only elephant grass to conceal our presence. Our team leader, Steve Johnson, quickly positioned us in a heavily vegetated area of the tall grass fairly close to the area where only a few hours earlier, contact had been made. After we formed a circular defense, Steve told me to accompany him on a recon of the area. SGT Steve Johnson was not only my team leader but someone I had total trust and confidence in. Steve was one of the finest NCOs the Army had produced in 1969 and when we were in the bush I knew that his instincts and light infantry tactics would keep us alive.

We soon found the area where the other Rangers had made contact with the enemy KIA on the ground. Staring at the dead North Vietnamese soldier, I remember seeing the ants crawling in and out of the oozing bullet holes and thinking about the realities of war. The contact area had been cleared of vegetation from exploding claymores and had a stench of death and violence in the air. Steve had little comment. Returning to our team, we set our ambush on a fresh trail to the East of our position. I set my claymores about 10 meters to my front and attached a Long John Antenna to my radio for clearer reception, being nearly invisible in the tall grass.

That evening as I heated water in my canteen cup using a piece of C4 explosive I thought of the dead soldier we had seen earlier and suddenly lost my appetite. The night passed without incident with only an occasional commo check with HQ.

Around noon the next day, we were still in our same position when we heard a noise of metal against metal, like a spoon in a medal cup, an unnatural sound in the jungle. Next to me was a ranger we called "Che" and pulling himself close to me said in a whisper, "We'll make contact in TT time". TT in the Vietnamese language means "small or little" and it proved to be true.

Most everyone's attention was focused on the area where the noise had come from when I suddenly looked over my shoulder toward Steve's directions and saw someone parting the tall elephant grass coming in our direction. He was wearing a red bandana and was so close I could see the sweat running down his face. I stretched my leg over Che and touched Steve. Immediately he looked to his front and saw the Vietnamese soldier. As I looked at Steve's face I could see his eyes beginning to bulge, trying to protrude from their sockets, a sure sign of adrenalin overload. I watched as Steve moved the safeties from his two claymore detonators and Che and I did the same, quietly. The next thing I remember was claymores exploding and then everything was totally black. I was deaf and blind from the noise and back blast of the claymores but managed to turn the volume up on my radio and yell "Contact, 3-3 contact, 90 degrees, 10 meters". When the black finally cleared the effects of the claymores were devastating. The entire area for at least 30 to 40 meters had been cleared. Two enemy KIAs were to our front and the Long John Antenna on my PRC 25 had been severed. Steve and Che quickly searched the bodies and found a large payroll intended for a battalion of soldiers who would always wonder what happened to their pay. The NVA with the payroll was also carrying a colored photo of Ho Chi Minh and presumably his family in his pocket.

Our air support soon arrived, with Huey Cobras and UH-1H Hueys eager and ready to support us in any way. The pilots were part of the 117th Assault Helicopter Company and as their logo on front of their flying machines depicted, were know as "Annie Fannie". These pilots were among the bravest Soldiers to ever wear the uniform and we were fortunate to have their services and support when contact was made. With no enemy activity observable, air support was not requested but the cobras continued flying in a close formation around our position like an angry wasp protecting a nest. Two Hueys suddenly dropped out of the sky to pick us up and the feeling was good. At headquarters, the money was counted, converted to MPC

D/75 (CONTINUED)

(Military Payment Certificate) and divided between the nine of us, each receiving around 30 dollars, not bad for a day's work; I had just turned 19 two weeks earlier.

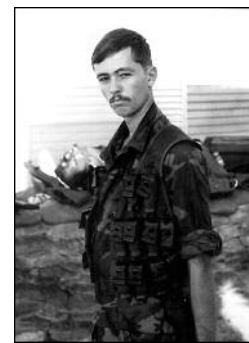
In September 1991, I was in a bookstore at Ft Knox, KY when I spotted "Rangers at War in Vietnam" by Shelby L. Stanton and opened it to page 231 and read "On 2 December 69 a Delta Ranger ambush killed a transportation executive officer of the communist Subregion 5 who was carrying the enemy payroll, capturing 30,500 Vietnamese piasters." All of a sudden I was back in War Zone D, feeling the sting of the tall elephant grass, smelling the stench of death and feeling the adrenalin rush of enemy contact, thankful that I had survived to see another day and that I had been part of

something bigger than anything I could ever imagine and was able to share that with the best Soldiers in the United States Army, Army Rangers of Co D, 75th Infantry. RLTW

Thank you Mike you made my job much easier this Quarter.

The photos I elected to include with this issue should be self explanatory. Since the reunion is still fresh in the minds of those who attended, I wanted to add some 40 year old pictures of people who served in Delta Company, or who was so important to us that we couldn't survive without their support and who also attended the reunion.

RLTW
Herd Out

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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

Like veterans everywhere, I am deeply disturbed by the recent killings at Fort Hood. The Army usually does a good job of screening soldiers before they are placed in positions of responsibility, but the system obviously broke down when it came to Major Hasan.

When the 9th Infantry Division decided to form a long range patrol platoon prior to deploying to Vietnam, a call went out over Fort Riley for volunteers. A number of soldiers were interviewed and some 30 were selected for the unit, however that did not make them a lurp. The volunteers were made to get up early and double time before breakfast through the cold Kansas winter winds. We took the platoon to Panama for jungle training. When the unit arrived in country, the soldiers were sent to Nha Trang to attend the MACV Recondo School run by the Special Forces. Some of the soldiers washed out while others decided to quit on their own, but those who



survived the training still had to prove on a daily basis that they could be counted on when it came to performing in the field.

The evaluation and training was continuous. You could not tell by looking at a soldier if he had what it took to be successful as a member of the long range patrol. One of our soldiers who was built like an NFL lineman was told by his trainers that he would never make it as a lurp because he was too big and clumsy. It was thought he would not be able to navigate through the jungle without getting hung up on the vines and bamboo. He turned out to be one of our best patrol leaders.

We had cowboys from Texas, city boys from the Bronx, college educated and high school drop outs. As we built a long range patrol unit, what mattered most was whether a soldier could perform his duties when sent out on patrol. We had to have absolute faith that the men dropped deep in

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

enemy territory, often out of range of radio contact and friendly fire support, had each other's backs. After the unit had been in country for a while and replacements were needed, we received some soldiers who were not volunteers for the long range patrol, but they had to meet the same high standards. We established our own LRRP training school, and if a soldier demonstrated he did not have what it took to be successful, orders would be cut and the soldier would be immediately transferred out of the unit. The job of patrolling in the enemy's backyard required that we retain only the best as there was no room for error when a patrol was out in the bush.

The public may never learn why Major Hasan was allowed to remain in the Army. Certainly there were numerous red flag warnings ranging from advising patients they should switch their faiths to Islam, to applauding when a soldier was murdered at an Arkansas recruitment center. Medical officers at Walter Reed had been warned by Hasan's classmates that his views were anti-American, yet he was somehow promoted. The major was dangerous and never should have been assigned to Fort Hood where soldiers, some suffering from PTSD, were returning from a combat environment. The last thing needed by a soldier experiencing mental anguish was to be confronted by a psychiatrist promoting opinions like the ones held by Major Hasan.

The Army was once big on "lessons learned." If mistakes had been made, they were studied to prevent them from happening again. In the future, should a soldier exhibit the red flags demonstrated by Major Hasan, the Army must take immediate action to remove the individual so that innocent soldiers are not harmed. Just as we once had to weed out those who did not have what it took to be a lurp, so must the

Army do the same with its psychiatrists and others responsible for the health and welfare of our soldiers.

Shifting gears, we have the date for the Fallen Ranger Memorial dedication at the Mountain Ranger Camp in Dahlonega, Georgia. The Ranger open house and memorial dedication will be held on May 29 during which two E Company sergeants, Joseph Castanga and Emory Parrish, will be honored. Representatives from the Castanga and Parrish families plan to attend and we hope a good delegation from E Company will be present to lend their support. For those living out west and unable to make the trip to Georgia, Doug MacCallum is putting together a reunion for early May in New Mexico during which Joe and Emory will be remembered. Be sure to check the E Company web site for updates on Mac's reunion as well as other E Company news and views.

Just got word from Mac as this was "going to press." The dates for the New Mexico reunion are May 2-9 in Santa Fe. Mac and Poncho have been working together to line up a great variety of activities as well as scouting out restaurants to enjoy the excellent variety of food offered in that area. Mac is also taking recon trips throughout North Georgia to put together a mini-reunion May 26-30 in Dahlonega. Stay tuned as more information about both reunions will be sent out in the months ahead.

Our thoughts and prayers, especially during this holiday season, are with our military fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq and as well as personnel stationed in far off lands around the world. And to those who fought in prior conflicts, may the blessings of health and happiness remain with you and your families throughout the New Year.

**F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP****Unit Director - Tim Walsh**

Greetings!

This will be brief. I wanted to have something for this issue of Patrolling, but it won't be as much as I'd like.

Dave Regenthal has worked wonders with both the 75thRRA website and our own lrrp.com website. If you haven't been to either one lately, they're worth a look. Dave has added a Bulletin Board to both sites for all of us to use. That's always worth a quick look.

In the last issue of Patrolling I neglected to list all of the F/75 attendees at the last 75thRRA reunion in August. I'll list them here, without their individual addresses or emails. If you'd like a specific address or email, they're available

on our website. If you don't have access to the website, drop me a note and I'll get that info for you. Here they are:

Jack Cordle, Emmett Hiltibrand, Rick Ellison, Joe Gentile, Ray Armstrong, Jesse Salazar, Colin Hall, Tom ("Pineapple") Gurrobat, Joe Cassilly, Tom Finnie, Fred Stuckey, Ron Harrison, Tim Walsh, Frank Park, Dave Regenthal, Bill Mrkvicka, Joe Little, Ron Zellner, Ron Hart, Charles Boyle, Bobby Etheridge, Tim Rowbotham, Ted Miller, Bill Eberhardt, Rick Booth, Thomas Pease, George Flannery, William ("Bear") Hart, Robert Byrd, Don Purdy, Marshall Huckaby, Billy Thornton. Janice Nark also signed in.

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

Marshall Huckaby has ordered new F/75 coins. The coins go for about \$10.00. He also has ordered new F/75 pins and decals. The decals are 3.5 inches tall and go for \$2.00. The pins are 1.5 inches tall and go for \$3.00. See the picture below. Send him the money and he'll send you the coins, pins or decals of your choice. As always, the proceeds will go to the F/75 fund. Contact Marshall at rvnlrp.com or at his home address: 699 Willow Dell Dr., Senoia, GA 30276

Final details are being worked out as we speak about the next off-year reunion in Hawaii. It will be in late April or early May, 2010. Look to the lrp.com website for final details.

As I said, this isn't very long or informative.. at least not as informative as I will strive to be in the future. As always, please send me anything you'd like to have me put in this magazine. Well, maybe not ANYTHING you'd like to see, but certainly anything F/75 related. Maybe you have an in-country story or photo you'd like to share. Just send 'em my way, I'll get 'em in the magazine. Speaking of pictures...please send Dave Regenthal any in-country pictures you have. 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. Dave's address is: PO Box 2374, Fort Myers Beach, FL, 33932.

I was looking through my old pictures and came across this one of the POW compound that was immediately adjacent to our barracks in Cu Chi. I think everybody just had to get a picture of the "No Picture Taking" sign.

Until next time, live long and prosper
Tim Walsh
twalshx2@comcast.net
313-590-6673

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

Unit Director - Clifford M. Manning

**Vic Valeriano**

It seems like yesterday that I wrote an article, with great pleasure, both for "*Sua Sponte*" and "*Patrolling*" relating how friends and comrades had gathered at Fort Benning, GA, to honor Vic on the occasion of his induction into the US Army Ranger Hall of Fame. It was only 2002, a scant seven years ago, but seven years filled with the most rewarding "lifetime" of memories, camaraderie and stories. How sad then, to now relate that friends and comrades once again recently gathered to pay homage to Vic, this time at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington as he was laid to his eternal rest.

Vic passed away on February 19, 2009, after an adventurous life, succumbing to



a massive infection that began with an injury to his foot that occurred on his beloved island near Palawan in the Philippines. He was cremated in the Philippines shortly after his death and his remains were accompanied by his brother Francisco back to the US to await interment at Arlington National Cemetery in Washington. Vic had always thought it was bad luck to speak of his own death and what sort of ceremony he wanted, but he made it clear, in his own unique way, that he wanted to rest at Arlington with other warriors. So, family, friends, old comrades, and several former members of other LRRP detachments and a number of Ranger veterans, who had not known Vic, but who wanted to join us to pay their respects to a fallen warrior,

G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP (CONTINUED)

gathered on a gentle slope in Arlington, just down from the old Amphitheater, and across the road and down the hill from President Kennedy's grave, in the late morning of May 21, 2009 to say their last "good-byes."

The service at Arlington was properly somber and respectful; the day was clear and the sun was bright; and the Old Guard did their usual superb and respectful job in a ceremony that was befitting the hero that Vic was. The graveside service was attended by an Army chaplain as well as Father Alfredo Balinong, the Valeriano family's long time pastoral cleric. Vic's three brothers – Francisco, Jed and Butch - and so many other family members that they are too numerous to mention here, traveled to Washington from all corners of the globe to be with him at these last moments. BG Mark Brennan USA (Ret) who along with Vic, was one of the first members of the embryonic LRRP unit of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade ("196thLIB") led all LRRPs and Rangers in attendance in the very poignant "Once an Eagle" ceremony. A silver 75thRRA challenge coin, with his name inscribed was then presented to the family. Afterwards, Francisco and his bride Rose held a repast at their nearby home.

It was inevitable that Vic would choose a martial life for himself. Vic was born on February 28, 1942 into a well-known Filipino military family. His grandfather – Benito Valeriano - was a famous general in the Philippine army. His father – Napoleon D. Valeriano – was a major in the U.S. Army when the Philippines fell during World War II. Major Valeriano was a part of the Bataan Death March from which he escaped into the jungle. After escaping, Major Valeriano helped to organize an insurgency network to fight the Japanese occupiers of the Philippines. Major Valeriano was there when General MacArthur returned to the Philippines and was with him as much of the Philippines was liberated. Major Valeriano was later a noted speaker on the subject of counter-insurgency, including a number of seminars at West Point, as well as an American advisor during the initial stages of the United States presence in the Republic of South Vietnam.

Vic spent his formative years in the Philippines. He always liked to point out (perhaps as a counterpoint to his reputation as a soldier) that as a youth, he engaged in a nationwide competition sponsored by the Catholic Church in the Philippines in celebration of the Marian Year Congress, by writing an essay about the Immaculate Conception. For his efforts, Vic was awarded a special prize – a Papal Medallion from Pope Pius XII. At this time in his life, despite his military lineage, there was little to suggest Vic's future calling. He traveled widely throughout his youth in Southeast Asia; and in his later teens, attended

high schools in Bangkok before moving to the United States, where he completed high school. Vic once told me of how, as a teenager, he had taken tea with President Diem of the Republic of South Vietnam and his father, who at that time was serving with the United States Embassy in Saigon as an advisor to President Diem.

Vic joined the US Army in 1965 and attended Leadership School later that year. In 1966, Vic attended Airborne School, and was later assigned to C Company, 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry, 196thLIB. When the 196thLIB was deployed to Vietnam, Vic learned that a LRRP unit was being formed. It seemed right up his alley, and so Vic immediately volunteered and became one of the unit's founding members, along with Joe Smith, Earl Toomey, Bob Webber, Mark Brennan, and (then) 1LT John Maxwell. Vic's contributions to the group's ability to quickly become fully operational cannot be overestimated. With another of the founding members of the unit, Vic embarked on a now legendary scrounging mission in Saigon to outfit the group, a project on which he enlisted the aid of his father, who at that time was still stationed in Saigon. The mission was a complete success, with critically needed gear and equipment being brought to the unit, sometimes in taxicabs, including original tiger stripe fatigues, virtually completing the unit's initial equipment needs, allowing it to become functional almost immediately.

I've told and retold the story of how I first met Vic, and it bears repeating. I volunteered for the LRRP unit and was in the next wave of about 10 guys (a few days after the original 6) joining the unit. Earl Toomey, who was then acting as de facto NCOIC, took a few of the "FNGs", including me, around to the detachment's hooch to introduce us to the "old guys." As he introduced Vic to us, Vic barely looked up from the honing of his Fairbairn. He looked at us, nodding, not saying a word. Later, I would pull many missions with Vic, and got to know him better, and learned that he was the proverbial "man of few words," and was basically kind of reserved. I now look back on my original assessment that this was one ominous SOB, and realize that this was only part of Vic's makeup. He was also one of those people who would do anything for a friend or teammate. He actually had little regard for money, and at that young age, recognized that true wealth is measured in the friends you collect along the way. And despite his adventurous life, this was something he would never forget.

In early 1967, Vic, then a SP4, participated, as an assistant team leader on one of the 196th LIB's earliest known clandestine forays by US Forces into Cambodia. The patrol, near the Parrot's Beak in Tay Ninh Province, encountered a large enemy element that set up for the night

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within a few feet of the LRRP team's night laager. After a few hours, several members of the enemy unit walked into the LRRP team's position, and a fierce firefight broke out. The team managed to escape to the rear of the firefight in the confusion that ensued, successfully breaking contact. Unfortunately, the team was forced to withdraw further to the west into Cambodia, since the enemy blocked all other possible escape routes. From its position in Cambodia, the team was able to flank the enemy position and called in an artillery fire mission. Forced to remain in the area overnight, the team was extracted the following day. At the debriefing, BG Richard T. Knowles, who was then commanding the 196th LIB, participated. The mission was also reported prominently in a front-page story in the *New York Times*, written by a reporter who was accompanying the General.

Vic became a stalwart on those early LRRP teams, exuding a quiet confidence about his own abilities and those of his teams, without ever becoming overconfident. Vic quickly became a team leader, a position he held, while often simultaneously holding other positions, such as supply NCO. Vic remained with the 196th LIB's LRRP unit through its transition to E Company (LRP), 51st Infantry, until the events of January 20, 1968, at which point he was a Sergeant (E-5). He was asked to lead a 6-man team on a mission in Thien Phouc to locate and eliminate an enemy mobile radio unit. After having received fire shortly following insertion, Vic's team was ambushed by an enemy "LRRP hunter" unit. The team was caught in a bloody cross-fire, which prevented it from moving, and which resulted in every man on the team being wounded – wounds which resulted in the deaths of three members of the team. During the ensuing firefight, despite having lost the use of one arm due to his wounds, Vic was effectively able to respond to the withering fire of the superior enemy force, holding it at bay. At one point during the firefight, Vic's weapon was shot from his hand, and he was forced to retrieve several enemy grenades thrown toward his team and throw them back at the enemy with his other arm. His tenaciousness and leadership during the encounter saved the lives of the remaining members of his team.

After recovering from his wounds, Vic left the Army, and began to pursue a career in civilian life. He joined United Air Lines, working his way up to senior sales representative, where he regularly arranged charters for sports teams, like the Washington Redskins, and for the White House press corps. But after 13 years, Vic yearned for a return to the combat arms.

In 1984, Vic began to undertake security work, an undertaking that continued through the early 1990s. One of

his more important undertakings was to lead the formation and training of home defense forces in one of the provinces of the Philippines. This province was a major sugar producing area, and many of its villages and farms were regularly raided by Communist insurgents. Vic's organization of the province's defense elements became a successful model used repeatedly in other provinces by the Philippine government over the next several years. As Vic became better known, and as his security business started to become successful, he began to adapt his ideas to other uses. Toward the end of the decade of the 1980s, Vic was approached by the US Government to use his skills and talents to help US interests and companies operating in the Philippines to establish similar defense forces. Vic also became very active during this period, at the behest of U.S. interests, in the Philippine government's efforts to rescue victims of kidnappings, as well as in bringing the kidnappers to justice.

In the early 1990s, Vic returned to the United States, and resumed his civilian life. He began a car service in the Washington, D.C. area, and was even called upon by the US Government to assist in the unmasking of an espionage operation undermining US interests by using one of his cars to clandestinely bug conversations among several passenger targeted by the investigators. Several times a year, a couple of weeks at a time, Vic participated, in conjunction with a private consulting organization, as an instructor in a series of courses designed to help train US Government employees, particularly those about to embark on overseas assignments, in such things as surveillance and counter-surveillance, and other self-protection and self-defense measures.

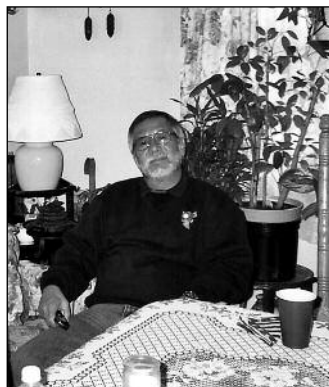
I had not seen Vic for many years, but a serendipitous encounter brought us together again. The short story is that, because of an initiative undertaken by a firm with which my firm had an interest in doing business, I was introduced to Vic's brother Francisco, and once it became clear that he was Vic's brother, we spoke for hours. And within a few days, Vic and I were regularly speaking by phone, making plans to get together in Washington, DC. I traveled to Washington a couple of weeks after that, and we visited the Wall, where we looked up the names of those members of the unit that we knew lost their lives in Vietnam. Vic was especially emotional at the sight of those names of those who had lost their lives on that ill-fated mission in 1968.

For the last couple of years, Vic had undertaken the building of a home on an island in the Philippines of which he was steward, mostly from native materials, and he took up scuba diving. He and I spoke, and communicated by

G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP (CONTINUED)

email often, about his plans for the island, our time in the unit, old friends, and his running battle with the VA. For the most part, I think he was finally able to relax, and recognize that the time had come for him to pass the torch to a new generation of warriors.

When I learned that he had passed, it was as if I had lost a part of myself. The unit had lost one of its heroes. The world occasionally produces the kind of person whose likes will not come this way again. Vic was such a man, and he will be missed.



I dream the dream of death, so brilliant and vibrant, so real, yet so ethereal. I walk with heroes under a canopy of green and black complexity and through pools of scarlet, midst things that crawl and slither. And always he

is there. I exist in and travel through verdant fields; swamps of primal origin; and exquisite forests. The night sounds its call; and the sky of stars blanket a Southern Cross. I sense the heat, the smell, the closeness, the dankness of the journey, the inevitability of what is to come. And they are all there, heroes all – those who have gone before, waiting silently, and he is there. Their faces, painted as always to be one with their surrounds, so young and yet so old, so bright and indestructible, yet so weathered and tired. Their eyes so wide, witness to their own passage in a world foreign to them. They are gone now, but they are all there in my dream. And he is there, so calm, so invincible, so determined, at the rear in tiger stripes. Through the rains, the chill of the night, under the withering sun, the heat of the day, they gather, and he is there in my dream. He looks and waves to me with his injured arm, laughing, as he did in life, calling “*just one more mission; just one more firefight!*”

“There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare [children] to them, the same [became] mighty men which [were] of old, men of renown.” Genesis 6:4

Godspeed my old friend!
TOM NASH

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

Unit Director - William T. Anton

MEMORIES OF YOUNG FACES

By Scott Hancock

Those rare days when the newsletter arrives are never easy ones. When I find one in my mail box, my mood always shifts. Upon the sight of my old unit crest upon folded paper, I find my inner me is suddenly stilled. From what ever busy hurly-burly pace of got-things-to-do-places-to-go mood I had been in, transitions immediately into a much more somber, quiet and reflective place, and I carry the thing back into my home unopened, a true mix of emotions churning inside.

It may not be right away that I open and read it, that newsletter. I usually wait till bed that night, when things are quiet and I will be undisturbed. It is the best time, the best way I can handle reading it.



Every year I think, this next time I will make the Unit Reunion, and yet, when it comes time to schedule such things, I find reasons not to go. I think I am afraid it will be too hard. Too hard to see faces of men grown older, faces whom I had only known as young, made harder to see by the remembering of faces of friends who never got the chance to grow older. Each year I tell myself, next year I will go, and wonder secretly if I lie to myself yet again.

It was but one year. One year in Nam. But filled with moments seared indelible into the soul and psyche, dressed now in a burnished patina only years of tears can create.

Don't get me wrong, most days are spent never giving that one year in Nam a thought, but then, - but then, it is Memorial Day, Veterans Day, or a day like today

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when the newsletter comes, and I am there again, hearing the throbbing beat of an incoming Huey come to save our butts in an emergency extraction, feeling my heart pound in rhythm with the whirling blades, my nose filled with the pungency of cordite, and then come memories of my teammates faces and the knowing smiles we gave each other as we feel the bird lift us heavenward out and up from a green hill filled with death.

The newsletter came to my mailbox today. Telling me of all those things it does. Of the reunion missed again, reminding me of promises I made myself and broke, of the chances missed not only to see living smiles of friends once known, but to see again the smiles of those Donut Dollies, whose presence out there was a touchstone to all that which lay back-home and which was worth fighting and dying for. I missed the Reunion again, another opportunity lost.

I read in the newsletter Bill Carpenter's call for history, for accounts and so on. One year, one year in Nam. The memories covered in a burnished patina. Forty years of tears, forty years of raising the flag and saluting, and remembering those faces.

How can I write of that time, forty years past, and dare think I got it right? How many things might I write of and be writing only things as I can see them through that patina? How dare I even try?

I know of those who have done so, written of events of their service, and they were able to capture each truth, each date and event, so precisely, as to leave no doubt as to historical accuracy. But I, I with my patina, my off colored glasses, dare I try to recount what happened, what I think happened, and why?

I only know of hushed conversations while on patrol, of discussions of life and loves, of children and parents, of trials and fears. I only know the feelings that turn within me, within my teammates, as Tet unfolded and we watched and listened as the world went mad, the calls on the radio matching the gunfire that came from all the LZs in every direction around us, until the radio fell silent by command order. But the gunfire and explosions went on.

And I remember standing outside our HQ tent, in the dark one night, tears streaming down my face, listening as one of our teams, on the side of some hill, were being hit. I heard them calling for help. I heard them giving sitreps as the battle they were engaged in progressed. And in the background as they reported each time, was the crackle of

gunfire, and the explosions of grenades. I stood there listening to it all, the sitreps coming in, the responses being made. And I wept, because I could not help, because I was not there, standing with them. I listened to the recounting of the wounds received, of the grenades coming in, of the damages taken, the movements of the enemy. And then the reports stopped coming.

I stood there in the darkness, only canvas between me and the radio inside, and listened to those standing at the microphone calling again and again for a response, till it became quite clear, there would be no more reports received from that team. Ever.

And then I went back to my cot, in my own tent just down the hill, and lay there staring up into the darkness, until dawn came.

I know of some changes in procedures that were made while I was there, changes that many said were the root causes of some teams running into trouble. I remember discussions about the numbers of greenies being introduced into teams, about how it had once been that they would only put only one new man on a team at a time, and would not count that new man "experienced" until either the team said he was, or ten missions had passed.

Only changes were made while my year passed, and experienced teams were broken up and made up of half newbie's or so, and team members swapped around without care as to the working relationship of a veteran group. You team with a group, and like them or love them at first, if you come to trust each other, and come to know each other, then you will not be second guessing your team mates possible actions when the shit hits the fan. Second guessing and uncertainties lead to take too much time, lead to too many mistakes. And in battle with rounds incoming, you have no time and can make no mistakes. Constantly mixing teams, treating men as if fully interchangeable parts, only works as long as they have time to learn each other. But my memories could be bad, or off the mark, I was but one guy in a Tiger suit.

Not all memories be bad. Being among the first into A Shau Valley and standing watch as dawn came my first morning there, the light, the mist in the trees, will always be one of my most beautiful memories, and the coming to know the values of and giving full respect to the Montagnard scouts I came to know..., but not the least and the most treasured, are the memories I have of smiling faces of the men I served with, when I too wore a younger man's face.

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

Unit Director - Bob McGath



Here it is the fall, which is not my favorite time of the year. I know that this should be a Joyous time, with Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner. At this time of the year I can not help but remember the loss of Sgt Washington's team Wildcat 10 on the 21st of November 1968. I will remember that day as the biggest screw up in our unit's history. That is my opinion of course. I will have more to say on that subject at a later time.



**Lrrps with Jiffy Pop heated with C4
Around Thanksgiving 1968**

**Lower left to right Bob McGath,
John Knapke, Unknown, Dave Flores,
Julian Rincon and on top John Tapia.**

When I took this job I asked everyone to send in articles of interest. Danny Wiggins and Richard Howell Responded with two poems by Danny and a story about a mission from Richard. I can really relate to the poem ONE DAY I'LL TOUCH THE WALL. One day I may make that journey to the wall.

*Written by
Danny Wiggins
F-52 LRRPs / I-75 Rangers*

*We are all brothers, one and the same
We are brothers, Lurps and Rangers by name*

*Thirteen units linked by a common thread
Thirteen units a blend of black, white, brown, and red*

*Young men trained never to surrender or accept defeat
Young men destined to become the Army's elite*

*Brave men who were revered by all they knew
Brave men who fought for Red, White, and Blue*

*Many teams of six, a long way from home
Six young men in the jungle always alone*

*Many of these men paid the great sacrifice
For all the others; memories would be their price*



*Never any respect from many back at home
And when they returned, they still stood all alone*

*Mocked and scorn by some they served
Even our great Uncle Sam threw us a curve*

*These men now share a bond, few will ever find
All became brothers that will stand the test of time*

*Now, often we meet with a grand sense of pride
We honor and toast those brave men who died*

*Still today, even older men we may be
We would gladly fight again for men to be free*

“One Great Mission blessed by Lady Luck”

We were inserted into a live base camp:
It was the summer of '69 and by now I've
been a team leader long enough to have a
lot of the basic functions down pat and I

also had great confidence in my team members. Yaazie (SP) was point man (Apache and a damn good man, never did I question what he said about enemy positions), Smith the ATL (One mellow fellow and he knew his job well), Robert McVey on the 79 (my best 79'er ever under fire), and Greg Catherwood was our RTO. Greg was pretty new but always remained calm and stayed on top of things; he would later graduate from Recondo School #2722. I knew if anything happened to me the men were well enough trained to handle all my duties and would be able to survive. We had a normal recon mission set up to go into an area that intelligence said held great potential for enemy contact. I knew the insertion was the most critical time to get through. First any LZ's (landing zones clear enough to handle a chopper) near enemy positions had what we called LZ watchers, their job was to watch for chopper insertions or any other activity into their area, they would then run back to alert their comrades of our actions. The second concern was running into a wood line full of VC and having them open fire as we unloaded from the chopper, not a fun thought. So part of my ritual was to pick the closest artillery pre-plot location to our LZ. I would then plan distance to insertion point so I'd have an idea how to adjust the artillery for maximum effect quickly, this info I would commit to memory for seconds could make all the difference in the world. It was now my habit to be the first one off the chopper during insertions and the last on during extractions. I'll tell you now no matter how well prepared we were I was still petrified on every insertion, for running for that wood line you just knew at any time bullets would start slamming into you.

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

So there we were taking an early morning chopper ride out of Lai Khe base camp to our insertion point and it was another beautiful steamy day. We were inserted into a LZ that ran north and south for a long ways with a 45 degree bend in the middle and it was about 50-75 meters wide. We jumped out very close to the west wood line where a small section of the woods jutted out a little bit right at the bend, the chopper pilot was good and he got us in real close quickly. I jumped out first and stopped just at the wood line and counted the men go by as Yaazie lead the way into the jungle. Yaazie set up real close and immediately signaled contact so we quickly established a defensive formation in some thick brush and my RTO (Greg) got artillery alerted for a fire mission. We could smell the cook fires and hear a great deal of talking and commotion going on in the woods on all three sides of us north south, and west. The only direction with no VC was the LZ itself and we had no idea what was on the other side and we definitely didn't want to try and cross it in the open. Bringing a chopper back for an extraction was pure suicide for Charlie (VC, Viet Cong or Victor Charlie) knew we were there and he was scrambling to get his act together. We were stuck with no place to go and couldn't hope to win a pitched battle against such overwhelming odds, we needed to distract Charlie before he attacked us, time was something we couldn't afford to waste. So I alerted the choppers and called in an artillery fire mission to the planned pre-plot. We had an insertion chopper, a C&C chopper and a Gunship all over head with artillery on the way, so now all we could do was to just remain calm, alert and wait for the fun to start.

To put things into prospective you must realize that the first artillery rounds were on the way within seconds of our unloading off the chopper, hitting too far away to do any good. I made a really radical adjustment based on my preplan and what we could judge by the sound of the artillery impacts. We needed that artillery in our laps to disrupt Charlie's plans and couldn't waste time making small adjustments. The artillery officer refused to fire saying they couldn't fire within 300 meters of our position. We started receiving small arms fire from up the north wood line, the men reported about three gooks approximately 75-100 yards up the wood line so we laid down some suppressing fire, but they had good cover behind a few thick trees. I argued with the artillery people about how far away their first rounds hit from us so they finally sent the second volley. As we waited I called for the gunship to direct fire on the gooks to our north by making a NE to SW run which would put the gunship on their backside.. He couldn't see them and asked for better directions. I told McVey to place an M-79 grenade round as close as he could to the gooks. McVey was one of those

shaky kids who couldn't hit the broad side of a barn on the practice field but under fire he'd get real calm and was plain deadly with that thumper. He put it right on the money, and the chopper seeing the impact took care of the rest, scratch those VC. The second artillery volley landed point blank and the woods just seemed to plain explode. As the shrapnel came flying in among us I dove left and my RTO dove right. My RTO started screaming "Check Fire" into the radio "you're going to kill us all, Check Fire". McVey I believe got nicked in the neck with shrapnel but it wasn't serious. I got the radio handset back and talked to the C&C Officer, he was going crazy for secondary explosions were going off all over where the artillery had impacted for we had hit their ammo cache and there was one hell of a racket going on. I handed the artillery over to the C&C officer so he could control it from the air, he had a better view. I ask him not to drop it any closer but to work it up and down the woods. We knew now we were on the edge of a major VC base camp. Then the chopper gunship pilots started sounding off "The gooks are running through the open fields". By now we had more Gunships on station and they we're having a great time shooting Gooks in the area all around. As more artillery came in there were a few more secondary explosions from other ammo caches. The VC were totally desperate to get out of the base camp, and they had lost all interest in us. We were pretty low to the ground trying to keep the shrapnel from hitting us but still we could see some of the gooks running through the open fields. It was really impressive to watch the Gunships work and with the VC running into the open in all directions the Gunships stayed pretty busy. The C&C ordered us extracted shortly afterwards, I think he had some major fire power on the way and needed us out of the area.

In came the extraction ship and we loaded without any trouble, Charlie was way to busy running away to worry about us anymore. No one talked much on the ride back to Lai Khe for each of us was reflecting on the mission and were simply happy to be alive. I know I was really proud of the way the men had preformed for none had cracked; they had all remained calm and preformed their job exactly the way they had been trained. For awhile I had the shakes when I considered all the what-if's, so many things could have gone wrong yet it had all turned out perfect. All I really knew was how green the jungle seemed below as we flew over, never had it seemed so beautiful as that day and I was truly thankful we were all alive. REMOTE TRAILS out.

Written by Richard L Howell
Recondo #1818

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



**Left to right
Howell, McDermott,
Smith and Garcia;**

**Poem One Day I'll Touch The Wall
By Danny Wiggins.**

One Day I'll Touch the Wall

*It's now been 40 years since my time in the Asian land
I both cherish and damn those Memories as bet I can*

*I've had my share of problems and those memories by far the worst
Sometimes I've felt my heart would swell and often even burst*

*You know I missed my brothers but I really wanted to forget
The ones who lost their life; and other things I will always regret*

*Unlike Korea, Vietnam they have managed to keep alive
The wall was erected and there thousands have wept and cried*

*I've made many excuses for not visiting and touching the name
Of all my fallen brothers and any of my excuses are all very lame*

*Once I traveled there: my heart pounded and I began to sweat
I could not approach the wall and I still have regret*

*I guess I'm a coward when it comes to that wall
I'm scared of my feelings and the tears I know will fall*

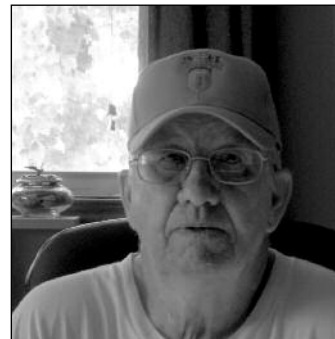
*I fear touching the names of my brothers: my fear I can't explain
I have thoughts of joy and loneliness: with intense feelings of pain*

*I can't understand why so many of my brothers had to die
But now I know it's not wrong for a grown man to cry*

*One day I'll overcome my fears and finally beaconed to the call
I'll be proud and relieved the day I finally touch the wall.*

Once again guy's send me your stories and visit the web site. Things are changing all the time. Hope everyone has a Great Thanksgiving and outstanding Christmas.

**Bob McGath
Unit Director**



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

Unit Director - Rodger T. Crunk

Greetings to All,

Seems like just yesterday that I submitted my last article, here it is November and time to do it again. I'll start by relating my Halloween trick or treat [Rocky the Rabid Squirrel] adventure.

I live in a rural area so we don't get any trick or treat goblins other than a friend or relative who bring their kids by because they know a softy when they see one.

Sure enough a friend stops by with her daughter and a cousin. We're standing in the doorway doing the usual treat thing when all of a sudden a gray blur streaks out of the flower garden up the step and in the door. Of course our friend and the kids do the usual screaming bit but as I'm a



battle-hardened Ranger tested in the badlands of the Central Highland jungles of Vietnam, this does not register on my threat scale as any big deal.

I have been trained to identify the enemy, engage and dispatch forthwith in any disposal method in my arsenal. Even dressed up as a miniature gray ghost my dog "Cricket" and I recognize the intruder right away. It's none other than our nemesis "Rocky the Squirrel" from the nether regions of

the front yard. Cricket has spent countless hours lying in ambush in the front yard in hopes that Rocky would make a mistake. "I think he just did" She trees Rocky in the hanging ivy jungle on the bakers rack in the dining room. Having spent many days of my youth hunting squirrels in

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

the Tennessee hill country I know how to take care of this problem. Oh, for you liberals it was not for sport, it was to put food on the table. And don't jump to conclusions yet. I hate remodeling so I did not get out my shotgun.

Cricket, as a good squirrel dog should, sits at the base of the tree [bakers rack] awaiting her masters next move which is to shake the tree. Rocky leaps to the floor and he streaks off to the TV room and behind the couch. It's a large corner sectional so my son-in-law helps me move it and there is bugged-eyed Rocky staring at a bad-ass Ranger [me] and his loyal dog. I know he's thinking that he's just made the biggest mistake of his life. Cricket immediately grabs Rocky in her teeth and just as quickly lets' go. Squirrels have sharp teeth and know how to use them.

My leather gloves were in the pantry so at some point in the recent melee I have put them on in anticipation of doing battle with Rocky, which I do. I reach in and we clinch in a classic battle stance, Rocky doing the better "clinging" as he has the aforementioned sharp teeth. Those teeth went right through those Wal-Mart leather gloves into my left forefinger. I grab him with my right hand and pull him in close to keep him from doing further damage. Rangers know a thing or two about close combat. I'm thinking to myself: Any squirrel who would invade the domicile of a bad-ass Ranger and his dog has got to be crazy, right? As in rabid type crazy!! So I have this rabid animal in a death grip or more like he has me, and he isn't letting go any time soon. If he is rabid then I need to save this gray monster to be tested and I can get those dreaded rabies shots. I tell my son-in-law to get the pet carrier out of the garage so I can save Rocky or at least get loose from him. Have you seen some of these new pet carriers? Do I have one with a simple hinged door and latch? No, no, no, I have one with six different ways to get in or out of it. As we are trying to figure out how to get this thing open Rocky still has his teeth through my finger. I'm bleeding, the pain is great but I'm calm and collected as Rangers in combat should be. Been there-done that, got the t-shirt.

I talk to HQ to get the react force going! Get arty on the push! I lay the gun ships in danger- close! Urging my team to remain steady and pick their targets! OOPs, was that a flashback? I've never had one so I can't say. So now you'll tell me I have to talk to somebody about this!!

Okay I'm good. Where was I? Oh yes, Rocky has me in this death grip. We get the carrier open and with great effort I pry him loose from my finger, stuff him in the carrier and slam the door. The battle is over; the adrenaline is draining away along with my blood. Now comes the after action report and all that paper.

I call the hospital and give them the short version. I think they have me on speaker cause I hear laughing in the background. I tell the nurse this is serious, she agrees and says I should come in. They are still laughing. I call the county animal control office to pick up Rocky so the Health Dept. can test him for rabies. It's a no, they only handle domestic animals. Well good grief! He is in a pet carrier! They are not impressed; I'm instructed to call the Dept. of Wildlife. I think I hear laughter in the background. No one home at the DOW, its hunting season and all the officers are in the field. At least it's a recording so I don't get the laughter.

My son-in-law says he will call the Sheriff's office and have them contact a DOW officer by radio. In the meantime I should go on to the hospital, so with that great stoic effort possessed by us Rangers in dire straits I drove myself to the VA hospital. I was taken into the ER, the nurse started cleaning the wound and explains the procedure for the rabies treatment. That means lots of needles. She asks by chance did I capture the animal so it can be tested. I give her the long version. She goes back out to the nurses' station to call the county health department. The door is open; I definitely hear laughing out there. The word is that the county health department does not do animal testing; they will contact the State health Department and get back to us. In the meantime my son-in-law contacted the sheriffs Department. You guessed it, they laughed. The short of it is there were no DOW officers available but they would have the "domestic" animal control officer pick up Rocky. Don't you just love it?

Back at the hospital: After a long wait the state Health Department calls back. They report that there have never been any reports of rabid squirrels in Colorado so there is virtually zero chance that I'm in any danger, so Rocky does not need to be tested and I don't need the dreaded shots. Now did you pick up on their wording? I did. "Virtually zero", not a complete zero. Just because there have been no reports does not mean that there are not rabid squirrels in my yard. I suppose it depends on your take on life, your cup is half full or half empty. Oh well. The doctor shows up, "he must be all of nineteen" but assures me that he has seen a few "rabid Rangers" and that I would be fine. I was sent home with a dinky band-aid on my finger and no pain meds. I know I heard laughing as I went out the door. I'm not foaming at the mouth yet but if you hear a report of a rabid Ranger loose in the wilds of Colorado biting Navy, Air Force, and Marine types, and a few liberals for good measure you will already know "the rest of the story". I kind of miss Rocky, he would have made a cute pet. Cricket sits in the front yard waiting for Rocky II to make his move. Sorry this is so wordy but that's a technique us novelists use. More words+more

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

pages+more books= more\$\$\$\$. As Top Richards told me many times, "That will suffice"

I have recently been in contact with Jim Testerman of the 2nd Bde LRRPS. He has been quite ill but is doing better now. The doctors have not been able to pinpoint the problem yet. He would like to hear from any of you who served with him in 2nd brigade. You can contact him at (sandraterstern@comcast.net) or 540-783-3418. Also here are some pics so you will recognize him after forty years. Probably looks the same right? I know I do.



In October Herb Reichel and I attended a banquet in Kansas City to see Reuben Siverling receive an award from the Clay County Economic Development Council. Reuben was clueless until the mc started reading off his many accomplishments. Congratulations Reuben, I hope it was a nice surprise. Following is a local article.

Reuben Siverling Honored with 30th Look North Award

Oct. 8, 2009

A banker, educator and business mentor was honored for nearly three decades of leadership at the annual Look North Awards Banquet Thursday night.

Reuben Siverling, a former Rockhurst University Small Business Development leader who now serves with First Community Bank-Northland, was awarded the 30th Look North Award since its inception. The honor was delivered at the Clay County Economic Development Council's Look North Banquet at Harrah's-North Kansas City.

"Tonight's honoree is one of the best examples yet of the ideals of the Look North Award," noted Chris Stigall, master of ceremonies for the evening. "This person has

helped guide thousands of businesses to success, serving as both a mentor, and a guide to financial and other critical resources."

Guest speaker for the event was Kent Rader, a Liberty resident who has become a nationally recognized because of his combination of humor and leadership guidance. A former accountant with 12 years as a hospital CFO and CEO, Rader used real-world examples to illustrate how business leaders can benefit from an occasional "light touch." Also addressing the more than 300 people at the event was EDC Chair Jeff Dema, who noted the real progress realized by the EDC and Clay County despite a challenging economy.

"It's worth noting that Clay County has fared well, and in many cases very well," Dema said. We have continued to record solid economic growth to create new employment. We've even seen a housing market that actually builds and sells homes!"

Siverling's award was not the first this normally quiet leader has received. Recognized in 2003 by Midwest Small Business Finance, he has also earned recognition from the state of Missouri and Kansas City for his efforts helping to create thousands of area jobs.

His service has included both private enterprise and higher education. In addition to his service with Rockhurst, he also served as an adjunct professor at both William Jewell College and Park University. He served as treasurer for "Project Choice," a program involving Westport High School where he guided students to pursue a higher education and pursue higher education. While he was involved, student enrollment in higher education went from 17 percent to 87 percent.

During the Vietnam War, Siverling served to two tours of duty with the 75th Infantry Airborne Rangers. He was the first commanding officer of the highly decorated 4th infantry Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol. This group's mission was to travel deep into Viet Cong territory to pinpoint enemy locations, one of the most dangerous assignments in the service.

Among the more moving moments of the evening occurred after Siverling accepted his award. Not only was the honor a surprise, but two of Siverling's fellow Vietnam veterans made an unexpected appearance: Herb Reichel and Roger Crunk, who traveled from Colorado for the event.

After his service his military service, Siverling moved his family to the Northland in the early 1970s. By the early 80's, he graduated with honors in both his undergraduate

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



and graduate work at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Last year, he published a book entitled "Reflections," a collection of true Vietnam combat stories as told by the Rangers of the 4th Infantry Division.

Don't know when I served to tours in Vietnam with the 75th Rangers but did serve two tours. I guess this is proof positive that there is room and opportunities for old LRRPS/Rangers in civilian life. I am deeply humbled, surprised and honored and "lost it" when Roger Crunk and Herb Reichel (K-75 Rangers, Vietnam) came front and center and saluted me as I was trying to blurt out an acceptance speech. God is so good. Thank you my dear friends.
Reuben

REUNION 2010

Our reunion hosts Willie and Sue Williams have done a great job putting together our gathering in New Orleans. Thanks Willie and Sue, you make my job easy.

Please take note of the info and make your arrangements. The info has only been out for a few days and I've already gotten several e-mails from some who have made their reservations. I think we will fill up but we have the option of more rooms if needed. As daily itinerary items are nailed down we will get that out to you.

New Orleans-2010
4th Div LRP/LRRP/Rangers

Here is the latest info from our reunion host/coordinator Les Williams. Please make your plans early. If you have any questions contact Les. Note: This is for all Div. and Brigade units. Roger Crunk K-Co Unit Director rogercrunk@msn.com

Hey gang!

Having spent four fun filled days in fantastic New Orleans, Louisiana with the one I love, after much leg work and research, we have selected a venue for the 2010 K-Co Reunion. One could spend years, or at least many more days and would still have a difficult time choosing one location over another as there are hundreds to choose from. The task is somewhat simplified with the Internet.

We have selected the "Drury Inn & Suites" located at 820 Poydras St. It is close enough to be convenient, but far

enough off downtown to be a quiet location. We have reserved a block of 30 rooms for **June 16, 2010 Wed) thru June 19, 2010 (Sat.)** (We will need to book 80% of these rooms to hold the prices as contracted. They have the usual room arrangements.

King Size and Double Rooms: \$79.00+Tax

Suites: \$99.00+ Tax

Parking Fee:\$5.00 per day

Full use conference room at no charge

The hotel offers great amenities:

Free Hot Quickstart Breakfast – Enjoy scrambled eggs, sausage, biscuits & Gravy, Belgian waffles and more!

Free Evening Beverages & Snacks- served daily from 5:30-7:00pm!

Free High Speed Internet Access - in every room!

Free Long Distance- One Hour, every room, every night!

Reservations can be made at:

www.druryhotels.com

(Go to Book It Fast, enter Group # 2074312)

Or Call 1-800-325-0720

(Specify Drury Inn & Suites New Orleans & Reference K Company)

**** Please make your reservations by Wednesday, May 19, 2010 to receive our group rate. Reservations made after this date will be subject to prevailing rate and availability.**

Now that we have a venue pinned down we will be returning to New Orleans after the first of the year to plan what we want to do as a group. These are some of the things we are looking into:

River Boat Dinner Cruise
Limo Plantation Tour (for the Ladies)
Aquarium of the Americas
Audubon Zoo
National D-Day Museum

I will be using Kco75th2010@aol.com for reunion Q/A.
I will forward more as it becomes available.

Les "Willie" Williams
Leslie T. Williams
(318) 371-9265
Kco75th2010@aol.com
318 Leonard Morgan Road
Minden, LA 71055-6272

**L/75 - F/58 LRP - 1/101ST LRRP****Unit Director - Jerry Gomes**

MSG Jason Burks with his wife Leslie has been transferred to a ROTC Unit at Missouri Western State University, St. Joseph, Missouri.

Jason was Platoon Sgt and then 1st Sgt of 101st LRSD.

Demo Dawson - Steve Dawson is retiring.

Just want to say one more time thank you to John and all you guys that put the reunion at Ft Benning together, it was Number One! See you there again in two years.

Riley "Dozer" Cox, F 58th, has been diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins lymphoma and is scheduled for a bone marrow transplant this winter at the Seattle, Washington VA Hospital. His treatment will require that he and Linda live near the hospital in Seattle for approximately 90 days.

This will impose a financial burden on them and we're asking our association members to contribute something towards their unexpected expenses.

Gomes will be collecting your donations and will forward the money to Riley when he is in treatment in Seattle. Please send your donation to Jerry Gomes, PO Box 1570, Sandy, Oregon 97055, 503-668-6127

Randy White has also been ill. Randy is the webmaster for our website Lcompanyranger.com

Paul Timothy Coleman Sr. died October 4, 2009. Tim died of a stroke while undergoing treatment for acute myeloid leukemia stemming from Agent Orange exposure. Tim was part of the reaction force at Ruong Ruong Valley Nov. 20, 1968 earning the Silver Star and Purple Heart for this action. He served in F 58th Infantry LRRPS. Tim was buried in his Tiger Fatigues with full honors at South Florida VA National Cemetery.

Gary Linderer reports that Tim appreciated all the calls he got from LRRPS when he was ill. He said "I'm a hard fighter." He didn't give up. "Tell John Reid - You still can't beat my Ass!" He appreciated all the Doctors and Nurses who cared for him "They have a Calling."

Tim attended many of the LRRP reunions and enjoyed visiting and entertaining everyone with his humorous stories. He will truly be missed.



L to R
Terry Macauley,
Riley Cox, SSG
Bowman F-58th.

He leaves sons Paul and Nick who left this message on the Patriot Guard website: " My father was a hero to me and many others. I guarantee that as long as I'm around NONE of you will be forgotten. Welcome home boys... Welcome Home!! And to the guys of F & L Co - Gary, Walker, Riley, Mother, Ken and the wives, you know who you are, you will always be my family and I appreciate all the years! RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!!! HOOAH!!!"

For pictures of the units go to 101st LRRP Ranger Website www.lcompanyranger.com.



Leslie Burks, Kip
Rolland, Adam Dobson
and his wife Ft
Benning - Ranger
Rendevous – LRSD.



Ron Edwards, Lewis, Andy, Chris Active Duty X
LRSD Currently SF.



Seen at a Veteran's Day parade in Albany, Oregon.

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

Unit Director - Don Tillisch

As I write this article as the new director of the M 75-71ST LRP-199 LRRP I think about all of the work our past directors, Jack Fuche and Steve Houghton and others have done over the last few years to keep our name in print and to keep us current on all of the events of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. I know that I speak for all of the guys in the unit when I say” thanks so much for your dedication and your efforts.”

As I left Columbus, Georgia and the Ranger Rendezvous last August, I thought about all rangers from the 71ST/M75 who were there and the good turnout we have had over the last few years. This year in attendance were Ron Piper, Bob Sampson, Gary Olson, Bob Smalinkas, John Kingeter, Lyle Webster, Roger Blanchard, Michael Ruminski, Bob Tate and Tom blue. Those who have been to past rendezvous/reunions have been Jack Fuche (past director), James Hell, Tim Henderleiter, Steve Houghton (past director), Randy King, Dan Hunt, Dave Wolfenberger and Terrell Ross. Sorry if I missed anyone. One of the things we have talked about is expanding our network by reaching out to include more members of our unit so more will attend the next reunion. This is a great nucleus upon which to expand. I hope everyone appreciates, as much as I do, the opportunity this reunion gives us to get together after all of these years to catch up and spend time together.

I arrived in the Republic of South Vietnam in November 1967 when our base was located at Cat Lai, the Brigade forward Base. In those days I remember that our unit was known as the 199th Brigade-LRRP prior to being designated the 71st Infantry Detachment LRP (ABN) the last part of 1967. Lt. Chuck White had just taken over as CO of the unit and we were receiving new equipment frequently. After a short stay at Cat Lai, we moved to the Brigade main base and operated from the airfield at Camp Frenzel Jones. For the next several months, we had good helicopter support from the air cavalry unit attached to the 199th LIB whose call sign was Silver Spur and most of our insertions and extractions utilized helicopters. Those were the days when we had to go to Redcatcher and recruit new members for the 71st. Later on, people were assigned specifically to our unit after they completed airborne school and arrived in-country. After forty years, some of the details are a little fuzzy. In the ensuing months hopefully we can all talk and fill in the blanks.



The following is the contact information that I currently have: Bob Sampson, Atlanta, Ga M75@aol.com; Gary Olson, Ozark, AL golson302@charter.net; Ron Piper, Grapevine, TX scuba.folk@verizon.net; Roger Blanchard lrrp@Embarqmail.com; Tom Blue Red Wing, MN: Jack Fuche, Grayling, MI: Tim Henderleiter, North Kansas City, MO thenderleiter@valspar.com; Steve Houghton, escort48886@yahoo.com; Randy King, Athens, TN Randyrdwy@aol.com; John Kingeter, Mechanicsburg, PA: Michael

Ruminski, stilldagoneit@yahoo.com; Bob Smalinkas, West Milford, NJ bobspar@virizon.net; Bob Tate, machette06@myway.com; Lyle Webster, lylwebster@aol.com; Dave Wolfenberger, Hulbert, OK susan@edge3000.com; James Hell, Everett, WA:

Here are some great pictures of the 2009 rendezvous/reunion at the Columbus, GA Holiday Inn, thanks to Bob Sampson and also an article, “last mission”.

THE LAST MISSION**JANUARY, 01 1970**

CO to TL, Team One-One, “I’ve got a easy mission for you, this will be your last mission before your re-assigned to TOC”.

JANUARY, 02 1970

0900 hrs: RVN, Team one-one inserted into LZ.
 0930 hrs: C&C “You are out of position, they inserted you into the wrong LZ”
 0945 hrs: C&C “Your 3K south”
 1045 hrs: Team one-one “scouts report 50-75 NVA moving in our direction”
 1050 hrs: C&C “continue mission”
 1130 hrs: Team one-one locate NVA camp, estimate Battalion size
 1140 hrs: C&C: “continue the mission”
 1630 hrs: Team one-one “scouts report more activity. We’re surrounded”
 1730 hrs: Team one-one “request extraction”
 1745 hrs: C&C “Negative on extraction, no cold LZ in area. Establish a good defensive position”
 1750 hrs: Team one-one “NO SHIT”
 1800 hrs: Team one-one coordinate arty

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1815 hrs: C&C “sorry, your out of the artillery fan.

Establish a good defensive position”

1817 hrs: Team one-one “NO SHIT”

1750-0800 hrs: Long fucking night...but we're in a good defensive position(all 6 of us)

JANUARY 03, 1970

0800 hrs: C&C “move 4K west to extraction point, link up with team one-two”

0830 hrs: Team one-one “ scouts report NVA patrol on our tail”

1000 hrs: C&C “ NVA patrol between one-one and LZ”

1010 hrs: Team one-one “request LFT to cover E&E”

1015 hrs: C&C “negative on LFT, all gun-ships are supporting infantry operation”

1100 hrs C&C “ move to secondary LZ, stay off trails, lots of enemy activity”

1105 hrs: Team one-one “NO SHIT”

1600 hrs: Team one-one moving out from good defensive position. All hell breaks loose, two men own!! TL hit 3 rounds of AK, radio hit

1610 hrs: Team one-one “we're hit! We're hit! Two men down”

1615 hrs: C&C “we'll send help, get in a good defensive position”

1618 hrs: Team one-one “NO SHIT”

1700 hrs: C&C “you've got to move to a small clearing, your under triple canopy”

1715 hrs: Gun-ship “negative on move to clearing, it's hot”

1730 hrs: C&C “LFT reporting heavy incoming fire from 75-100 NVA in your area. Low on ammo”

1745 hrs: Team one-one “we're low on ammo, TL is bleeding out, but we're in a good defensive position”

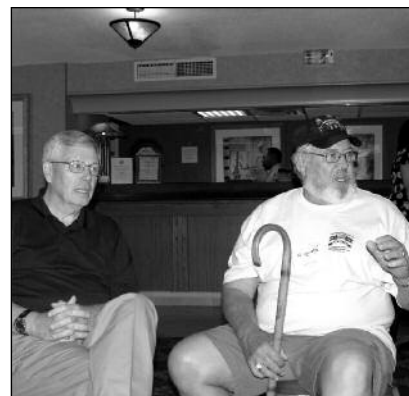
1800 hrs: C&C “it's getting dark, dust-off can't get in, we'll drop you ammo, pick you up in AM

1810 hrs: Team one-one “@#&* NO WAY!! We'll be KIA in a matter of hours”

1830 hrs: Gun-ship “hang in, we'll get you out”

1845 hrs: Dust-off extracts team with jungle penetrator

All team members out alive, and the CO was right, this will be my “last mission”



**N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP****Unit Director - Robert Henriksen**

First, I want to thank the members who have been giving support and advice on how to improve unit in a positive direction. My goal is to continue to restore our history as that is what was done many years by Roy Boatman as he gave of his time to unite us. His dedication to our unit, inspires me as he brought me and many back from being lost and not home at the company main LZ. The unit director position is a very time consuming and work load grows with the numbers of members totaling 150 and increasing weekly. I'll be requesting assistance in the other positions which have not been filled. My short time as unit director has been with ups and downs but it takes time to adjust to the demands of the members as to the right way to do things. I realize that not all will be satisfied with the current workings of the unit and its director but every effort by members and I will work things out. Returning / found members is such a joy in doing this job of welcoming them back to the LZ and trading stories of our in-country time. 2009 was full of memories from members family activities shared with all in company to the successful Ranger Reunion. Our unit company members contact list increased 150% from the 2007 Reunion. Members attendance at the reunion was up 100% and wives there went from 15 to 28, also the number of members military / non-military friends that came. To see John Jersey and his son jump was such a family unity. As I'm writing this, my heart / mind set is saddened by the news that one of our members passed away (in Nov) John Scalf from Team India 1971. You members and I have to make effort to locate lost teammates and get them back to our company LZ. For a LRRP + LRP + RGR to pass away alone without his teammates by his side is what we were trained not to do "Never Leave Anyone Behind" Ron Thomas requested to be the POC for a mini-reunion in Las Vegas (March or April) and Chopper companies that supported us have been notified / invited to join us there. By the time this Patrolling Issue comes out more information on this event will have been sent out.

I contacted our company support chopper companies and received email from Casper unit director and he / rest of the group from Cowboys, Lucky-Star, Star-Blazer (spell ?) are giving thumbs up for the reunion. I'll be sending out email to all with Ron's suggestion and he will be POC and handle



every-thing. **John Jersey and Johnny Vogt** live there. Ron was involved in the Special Forces and Ranger.org reunions this year. Hotels will be bidding for our business, to keep prices down and air-fares low in those months. Members interested in attending, contact unit director Robt Henriksen or Ron Thomas

Robt

I want to thank you for posting this on our web site. My name is Phil Johnson and I am presently the president of Casper Aviation Platoon Organization. I served 69/70 as pilot for Casper. Ned Costa is our Executive President and is our web master. It's been nice to get back with guys we more in common with. Your idea of a mini reunion would

really be great if it could be worked out. So many of our reunion conversions involve you rangers, you guys had the balls!! Please keep us in mind if any mini reunions can be arranged, if Las Vegas can be worked out, I for one will be there and I hope others from our group.

Thanks again for your posting

Phil Johnson

Castaic, Cailifornia

661 295-0802 (editor's note – if it were not' for the Cowboys, Caspers etc – most of us wouldn't be here several times over)

In the last couple of months the 173rd LRRP members have been active / involved in Unit Company history findings and supplying early years information and valuable photos. Current amount of company information on my computer is 6.3 GB and is backed up daily so our history will not be lost. Thanks to all members who have supplied me with information on our Unit. Colonel Lawton sent some photos of his days with N Rangers. One is of a very, very young John Lawton with SFC Shelton to his right and SFC Peppy LeBlanc to his left. Oh the savage ravages of time. The second is of Matos Santos' team bringing in an NVA POW. Some folks have written in requesting that a brick be purchased for Bullet to go along with the one purchased for Tango. Have received a good photo of Team India. Team Leader was Cheney with Welch as TL.

The following is from Sam Schiro in Kabul

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HEY

I am sitting in a US compound in Kabul, Afghanistan. From where I sit, I am privileged to get a view of a lot of things that eventually will be epic stories, newspaper articles, televised debates, and discussions over beers in a backyard on a summer afternoon. Right now it is the present, History in the making, stuff you watch on the news and Leno makes jokes about.

Yesterday I rode through the streets of Kabul. I love traveling, adventure, challenge, but most of all something different. Kabul is different. We live in a compound with most of the amenities you would find at any US base or place. Just outside the gate is like entering the STAR TREK HoloDeck. Older model and European style Autos are Bumper to Bumper all belching some form of noxious gas, the drivers trying to get from where he left to where he is going. Young men and boys are on Bicycles, weaving in and out of the streets doing the same. Old men with white beards carefully and very slowly are crossing the street in what seems like an exercise just to get to the other-side. Women in long flowing silken shawls holding the hands of their children are quickly moving along the side of the road with a look of determination and resignation on their faces. All the while, we make our way through the streets in a vehicle wearing Body Armor, Kevlar Helmets, and Eye Protection while the Driver and Right Seat keep a vigilant eye out for those that would do us harm. As we get to an intersection a couple, the man wearing a well worn suit of clothes, his mate wearing a Blue Burka completely covering her form are crossing the street. Our lane of traffic has the right of way of sorts and he has his mate and a destination. He realizes the vehicles are not stopping and quickly reaches over and pulls his mate toward him as he stops his forward motion and the vehicles glide past their presence. He looked surprised and dismayed. Our vehicle is different than their vehicles. I notice how he reacts to us. Just for a second he looked disturbed as we passed and left him and his mate standing in the flow of traffic. There is sort of a dance in the traffic of the local population. The pedestrians, bicyclers, and autos all move in a randomly synchronized motion as they make their way. There is a flow, a dance as the pedestrians dart their way between the oncoming traffic which appears to never stop. It always seems to me that we are not synchronized with the local traffic. As they weave their way to their destination, we are not moving with the same rhythm. Never the less we move on down the road as the boy with the herd of cattle makes his way along the service road. On the side walk there is a herd of goats feasting on a pile of garbage. All with their heads down and tails wagging as the boy watching them sits on the sidewalk and the traffic moves to another destination.

There is a passage from “Seven Pillars of Wisdom “by T.E.Lawrence that aptly explains and provides guidance on how to Dance with Wolves which goes like this:

“Better the Arabs do it tolerably than that you do it perfectly. It is their war, and you are to help them, not to win it for them.” -T.E. Lawrence

Take Care

Sam

We are getting some excellent information on the very early days (1965-66) of LRRP that has been lost for years. We need information on the founding days of N Rangers. Ron Thomas has sent me the official history of E/1/17th Cavalry for 1965. This was put together by the unit XO, Lt Coker (now retired MG Coker, USAR). I have extracted those items that refer to L RRP and Ron has put in his considerations of the “Official History” which is rather self-serving as far as the CAV and, in particular, its XO, Captain Moore.

Long Range Patrol Platoon

This platoon was formed on 6 October, 1965, when personnel were attached to Trooper “E”, 17th Cavalry for duty in the Long Range Patrol Platoon. Prior to this, 1st Lt. Edward M. Young was assigned as Platoon Leader. The concept of operations for this platoon was to provide long range reconnaissance information on Viet Cong troop concentrations and movements. All members of the Platoon were to be trained as artillery observers, enabling them to call in artillery fire on enemy locations. They were not to become engaged with the enemy, since the organization of the platoon called for five-men (5) to operate independently

(At his point the LRP was inventing the wheel. no one had ever done this before. we had classes in map reading, call for fire, talking to the air force for support. rappelling from choppers and ladder climbing. in early Oct. we lost a man repelling. something went wrong and he came all the way in. the LRP was hit and miss until the classes started at MACV Recondo and there was qualified instruction.) - Ron

(Ed young was a former NCO that went to OCS. when he got to us he was also a Ranger. because he spent a lot of time with the S-2 and not at the Cav. Moore the commander of the Cav. hated Young. to show this hate, one of the last things Moore did before leaving Vietnam was to fire Young. Moore was one of those big bully guys that had little or no respect of the officers and enlisted of the CAV or LRP. One morning on police call an unexploded grenade was found under his private hut. A lot more on this guy, but I'll refrain.)

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During this operation, two five-man teams of the LRRP were first employed (6 November). These teams were lead by SSG James Chaney and SGT John Williams, and had the mission of observing and reporting any VC movement, and to call in artillery and air strikes if possible. The Team of Sgt Williams was observed and followed by VC shortly after being heli-lifted into their operational area, and therefore requested to be extracted. This was done at 1014 hours, 6 November. The other team remained in position for twenty four (24) hours and had negative sighting of VC and was extracted by helicopter at 0755 hours, 7 November

(Chaney was never in the LRP, Williams was. Chaney was a scout leader in the 3rd PLT for this mission Chaney was put in by Moore so the CAV could run the operation. We were put into the Courtney Plantation to find the enemy. We all know what happened the next day on Nov. the 8th. We didn't find them, they found us. - Ron

Early in the morning of 21 November Troop E load vehicles and personnel aboard Air Force C-130 aircraft and left for Vo Dat airfield. Upon arriving, the First and Third Platoons conducted mounted reconnaissance patrols north and south of the airfield, while the Long Range Patrol Platoon sent out dismounted patrols to the north east. All reported negative enemy contact.

(This was called the Rice Bowl) it was supposed to be the first combat jump, and then reports came in that a large enemy force was there. We didn't find any. this is one of the ways Moore looped the LRP in to the cav. the LRP would mount up in the CAV's vehicles., looking like the cav. the CAV would go to a location and set up. the LRP's would then change uniforms, cammy up and go lay low until the CAV left the area. We would then wait hours seeing if anyone came to were the CAV had been. Sometimes they did sometimes they didn't. Most of the time troops left shit all over the place and the VC would go through it.) - Ron

On 23 November Troop E was attached to the 1st Bn, 503rd Inf. Movement south was begun. The Troop cleared the highway for some thirty (30) kilometers, and linked up with elements of the 1st INF Div at 1315 hours. While clearing this road, patrols were sent out in all directions. One of these, from the LRRP, captured a vehicle and trailer. They also destroyed 165 gallons of kerosene. This was the first vehicle captured by any unit of the Brigade.

This was one of the legends from the early days that was still being told when I got there in October 1966 (editor's note)

(The attachment is a picture of the truck, gave some others to Jake. ask him, his might be better) - Ron

On Thanksgiving Day, Three LRRP teams were sent out with no enemy contact.

The Troop continued to patrol in the TAOR during the period 5-9 December using mounted and dismounted patrols, ambush patrols, and aerial observers. Two LRRP teams were put across the river in Engineer Company boats, at a crossing secured by the First Platoon. On 10 December, the Troop moved back to the Vo Dat airfield with the mission of security the airfield and Brigade CP area. The next three (3) days the Troop was stationary, with the exception of Long Range patrols, none of which made contact.

(As I said there was no contact to be found. we had too large a force there in the area) - Ron

Operation "Smash" was the final combat operation of the year 1965. The operational area was around the Courtney Rubber Plantation between Xuan Loc and Vung Tau. The area supposedly contained a Viet Cong Regiment. The 173rd Airborne's mission was to find and destroy this unit. Troop E escorted the artillery elements in the move to Courtney. One team of the LRRP was placed in the area in conjunction with the heliborne assault of the 1st Bn, 503rd Inf. The move began on 17 December, with all elements closing in at Courtney by mid-afternoon. The only element of the Troop that was deployed during the day (19 December) was an LRRP team. Their mission was to be heli-lifted into an area believe to be frequently used by the VC, and to report troops movements and direction of travel. At dusk, the eleven (11) man patrol was lifted in. Quickly moving off the LZ, the patrol was discovered less than three (3) minutes later by a large VC force. After a fierce fire fight, the patrol requested to be extracted. Accordingly, an extraction ship was sent out. Although it was now dark, the rescue helicopter, with armed helicopter support landed. It was obvious that all eleven men could not be taken out in one lift. Four (4) members of the patrol, 1st Lt Edward M. Young, SSG James Chaney, SGT Paul Palocat, and SP4 Buck, volunteered to remain. When the rescue helicopter returned, it was unable to locate the four men. The AC Commander, Capt. Hathcock of the 173rd Aviation Platoon, disregarding the intense fire, got out of the helicopter and located the men in the dark (he received the DFC for this). All were quickly loaded into the helicopter, and Capt. Hathcock took off. Although the aircraft received several hit, no injuries resulted. An estimated twenty (20) VC were killed.

Ron noted that this was not the way they remembered it and this is another of the legends from the early days of the unit. The way the tale was told by the time I got there a year later was that the team ran into the wood line and right through the VC chow line. The VC were to bewildered by the

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*audacity (in reality, the blind stupid luck of the team) to react, **CHOI OI, WTF, OVER!** (editor's note)*

(Chaney, Palocat and Buck were not part of the LRP, they were members of the Cav.) As I have said, Moore would not leave us alone. – Ron Two choppers were use to insert the two teams. One LRP and the other from the Cav. Chaney was the senior NCO and in charge of the operation. To get into the insertion area the choppers had to come in and set down, do a 180 and fly back out. This was done very easily. The 5 man LRP team with Young as a strap hanger was on the left. Chaney and his five were on the right. About 10 minutes on the ground the shit hit the fan. What happened was that we had been set down in a VC regimental mess area. The choppers were called back on a MAY DAY. They did a fly over and saw a lot of shooting. They told Chaney to fire a full tracer magazine on an azimuth. They came in with rockets and knocked the top of the trees out over our heads. One chopper came in to extract and all but four go onto that chopper. For some reason I thought we were all on it.

Sorry guys, my brain is just about worn out at this time. Maybe some other stuff later. - Ron

Ron contacted retired Major General Coker USAR, who was the XO of E/1/17th CAV when the LRRP platoon was formed in October 1965. The following is from MG Coker

Ron, My memory, supported by the Troop history, is like this——Lt. Young and I arrived in the BDE in late September, 1965. We actually met in the Oakland Army Terminal before we got on the plane. We sat next to each other on the ride over, and then rode to the BDE together. I was by name assigned to Troop E, 17th CAV, so I went straight to the Troop. Lt. Young was just assigned to the 173d ABN BDE as a replacement Infantry Officer. A few days later, he shows up at the Troop and tells me he will be the platoon leader of a Long Range Patrol Platoon. The LRRP was officially “born” on 6 October, 1965. The Troop history states that the members of the platoon were ATTACHED to Troop E, 17th CAV. Since I wrote the history, together with the Troop clerk, I am sure the use of the word “attached” was not accidental, but was used in the official sense. Back in 1965, the morning report was completed in sections, one of which was “attached personnel”. If my memory is correct, that meant that the service member was not truly assigned, but was attached for rations, quarters, administration, operations, military justice, etc. He would have been carried on the morning report of the CAV as attached, but would have also been carried on the morning report of the parent unit as “detached”. Again, that was a long time ago, but I am almost certain that the TO&E

position did not go with him, but was retained by the parent unit although it was occupied by the detached service member. The receiving unit could not promote him, since no slot existed, but neither could the losing unit assign someone else to the position nor promote a replacement for him, since had had he still occupied the slot. In your case, since you were, in fact, assigned to the Troop, you would have simply moved internally from my platoon to the LRRP, The LRRP was, to my recollection, not a Department of the Army TO&E organization. The everyday term for such units in that day was that they were “taken out of hide”. Since we were over strength, it was not that big of a problem. If you recall, the Infantry Battalions took their anti-tank platoon and their scout platoon and formed a Delta Company, using the same method. One other bit of information——The troop roster of 31 December, 1965 does not seem to contain members of the LRRP who were not originally from the 17th CAV. I found your name, along with Chaney, but did not find the names of others who came to the LRRP from other units. Neither did I find “[Doc] Gordon, my medic, who was attached from B Med. That contributes to my belief that they were attached and not assigned.

I also do not remember that all members of the initial platoon members were ranger qualified. If they were, they did not all wear the tab. It is also my understanding that all were not even 11 Bravos, since Mark (I forgot his last name, who lives in Oregon) was a rigger in the Support Battalion. Hope this helps. If you need anything else, let me know. Coker

—— Original Message ——

The Following is from Bruce Porter of the original 1965-66 LRRPs. First guy we lost was I SP5 Hudson (correction from Larry Cole and Jakovenko) When we weren't running missions we mounted 50s in jeeps and went out with the CAV. Of course the gun couldn't mount on the pedestal so we had to jury rig amount on the floor of the jeep using 2x4s and straps. If we got in a fight we'd get to the front quickly, which was easy because the CAV guys were all hiding in the bushes and open up. When we got back in we'd have to do heavy maintenance because the gun would shake the jeep apart. They'd give us a CAV guy as “jeep commander” but as soon as the shooting started they'd “fall off” and it would be me and my driver. My driver was Jerry Tollefson, great guy from 1st Bat. Really handsome fellow from CA. He got sent back to the BN over some humbug. Also had Sgt Barberick who had lost 3 squads in B 2/503 and had a kind of fatalistic outlook.

He made it but died as a member of the Golden Knights when they had that airplane crash back in the late 60s as I recall.

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Hudson was killed by a new kid. We asked that they not take him, he was very young, an artilleryman, and had just gotten in country so he had no combat experience. We had 3 teams go in to companies and stay behind as an ambush. The only team that got in a fight was Hudson's (he was asst team leader). When they did the extraction under heavy fire Hudson covered and didn't get to the chopper so the team went back to get him with another team hitting the ground and us headed that way. When the guys found the body he had been hit in the back by an M16 round. The new kid also had never left the chopper and was laying on the floor in the fetal position. When we got back in they just *disappeared him*. But rough to take your first KIA and it was friendly fire.

I'm thinking the plat daddy was a SFC LeBlanc. Another point of interest is that we had some of the guys go to Project Delta and train. SF at the time was running 5 man teams. We did 6. Our guys were able to show Delta the logic of 6 instead of 5 so they changed.

If anything else comes to mind I'll email.
God bless,
Bruce Porter

Vladimir Jakovenko remembers the same event. The First Brother killed in LRRP was I think SP-5 Hudson, older feller Korean War Vet, wife and some kids, my team was in the hole and we monitored their extraction. I thought it was Hamilton but it was Hudson (the ATL). The Team Ldr never went out again and always rode the Infil and Extrac ships. Billy Jack was one of the original Team Leaders. Sp-5 Hamilton stayed with me going through Special Forces Training at Bragg. He went back to Vietnam SOG CCC. Out of the four that I knew Hamilton came back and got out, one Drew Dix got the Medal of Honor, one was MIA and one KIA but body never recovered, helicopter blew up in mid-air. We named DZ Hudson after our first KIA in LRRP 1966.

COL Bill Palmer, the "godfather" of 173rd LRRP wrote TO ALL: THE FIRST MAN KIA IN THE 173th LRRP WAS HUDSON I THINK HE ON SGT RICE'S TEAM. HUDSON WAS AWARD THE SILVER STAR. I WROTE THE KIA LETTER TO HIS WIFE/FAMILY AND HIS AWARD. I WAS LATER PROMOTED MADE THE BDE S4 AND HELP PLAN THE COMBAT JUMP ON 22FEB. KEEP IN TOUCH!!
BILL PALMER

The following is from Rudy Teodosio.

You older guys may know Tony Foster, he finally got his fifth PH for his tour with the 173rd LRRPs and went back to the states to recover, later Tony did some time at Benning as a RI and served as SSG Team Leader with our sister

company Charlie Rangers! I met Tony over a year ago at the VA Clinic in Atlanta and he was wearing a Base Ball Cap with some 173rd pins and Charlie Rangers pins and spoke to him about the Units. At the beginning he thought I was wannabe with lot knowledge about the Rangers. He had me check out with Roger Brown, and of course I got a positive report from him and the next meeting he apology in checking me out and really happy to find a another real ranger in his midst! We been ranger buddies ever since! - Rudy

Tony was at the last reunion, but due to his health issue he couldn't make it to the banquet; he was at Ranger Brown BBQ though! Now I may be wrong, but I believe he was hit in the mid section, and he has total four of those PH with other units. Sometimes talking with him and him showing his paper work I get crossed over by the actions he been in. He was awarded the DSC in Charlie Company, later worked with SF and back to the states. But he wasn't career because of his multi disabilities; he is a good country boy though! He is always good for some laughs and ranger stories in peace and war. Rudy

Got this from Dave Cummings.

I had the privilege of attending a rather significant event within the Ranger community this October. The WWII Ranger Battalions Association held its annual reunion for 2009 at the Holliday Inn, Columbus, GA (AKA Ranger HQ). A special reunion, (this is not an official announcement), but the talk was this was to be the Association's last scheduled annual reunion. It is getting hard for these Rangers (80s-90s) to make it to the assembly area now. I know that earlier this year the Merrill's Marauders Association made the same announcement. I showed up for the first evening's mixer (I have an attraction to **FREE BEER**). They had spent the day touring Ft. Benning and were featured at a Ranger School graduation and the attendant Rangers in Action demonstration. Each of them had their own active duty 75th Regiment "Ranger Buddy" assigned escort for the day. That graduation event at Victory Pond is a little strenuous even for some people my age, (so I'm told, not me of course). Yet when I arrived I found the Holliday Inn lobby as active as during our own (75th RRA) reunion, only on a smaller scale (not many left). A real treat was an adjoining Hospitality Room occupied by the 2nd Ranger Battalion Infantry of St. Louis, MO. This group of WWII Ranger reenactors had come, on their own dime, to present their living history museum. They brought an impressive collection of uniforms, weapons, and equipment. As importantly, they are all well versed in the history of WWII Ranger operations. These men, of varied backgrounds including a doctor, have chosen to dedicate themselves to preserving the WWII Ranger Battalions heritage. In light of the decreasing

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ability of the WWII Rangers to publically present their story, this group serves an increasingly valuable role in preserving the heritage of the WWII Battalions. Let me encourage you to look up their website and find out how you can donate to help them defray some of the costs they willingly assume themselves in this noble effort.

The Hospitality Room was humming. I caught bits of Soldier talk and just sat down by some folks to listen. The man was patiently explaining to a questioning granddaughter the conversation he had just finished with a compatriot. The granddad she had grown up around had been discussing some horrifying event of death, destruction, and mayhem that she had found unsettling. At ease discussing the event with a comrade, he was finding it difficult to explain to his questioning loved one, he didn't want to seem callous. We locked eyes and I rescued him with some lighter conversation about soldiering. I am continually amazed at that sense of shared understanding and acceptance that underlies communication between all Rangers, though they are complete strangers. They are us, we are them, and same with the present generations. I am grateful of those few times over the years I have had the privilege to talk with these amazing Rangers and had the honor of being accepted as a comrade. I recall one unforgettable moments a couple reunions ago when the WWII Rangers held their reunion in conjunction with ours. Drinking a beer with a group of guys, one a Darby Ranger, one from Korea, me from 'Nam, and a couple of young active duty Regiment guys. The buzz involved "some of the krauts were pretty good....VC were lousy but we respected NVA regulars....the ones in Iraq can't hit shit, but the Afghan guys can shoot dude...." Generations apart, yet speaking the same language, Ranger. For those of you that never had the privilege, chances of meeting one of these men will now come rarely. Books will present the history and significance of their battles and some of their individual exploits will be preserved. But we are losing, at an alarming rate, the man himself, his personal reflections. Men like:

Ranger Sodoski, 90 something, he sat in his wheelchair in the lobby, drinking a Bud-Light. Steel town Pollack tough (his own description). Still a big, ruddy faced, bear of a man. Simple and direct, he enjoyed talking about his exploits and would let you know he considered himself the prototypical Ranger. Should you find his uncompromising directness uncomfortable then the hell with you. He was pre-war regular Army, horse cavalry. The steel plated, smoke-belching replacements for the horse were a little too reminiscent of the mills. So, when Col. Darby began recruiting volunteers for the 1st Ranger Battalion, Sodoski gladly raised his hand. The big, tough, hard drinking, hell

raising Sodoski was recognized as a good Ranger. Good enough apparently that even though he had to stand in front of Darby himself to answer charges of off duty mayhem, he kept his job. He still thinks Darby secretly liked him because of his tough reputation. (Have things changed a little?). An original 1st Bn Ranger, Sodoski fought in North Africa. He was captured in battle by Rommel's Africa Corps and sent to Germany as a POW. Repeated escape attempts had him transferred to tougher camps farther east. So when he finally made good his escape, it was into the Russian lines. Russians, Slavic rude, crude, hard drinking soldiers. His kind of people, Sodoski served with the Russian Horse Cavalry and fought with them nearly a year before being repatriated to US control.

Ranger "Halftrack" Burmese. I noticed during the week that this rather slight, white haired gentleman garnered much attention from many participants. He had served with A Company, 2nd Ranger Battalion. I never did catch the origin of his nickname. In stark contrast to Ranger Sodoski, Halftrack was rather unassuming, not particularly enamored of his own exploits. I sat with him in the lobby and we talked. He had been severely wounded which may account somewhat for the contrast in attitude. He had served his country, volunteering for the Rangers. A good Ranger no doubt, he was promoted to Platoon Sergeant. Then he was taken out of the war with a severe wound. After the war he started his own business, made a go, and raised a family. Now into his 90s, this is a man with a life well lived, successful, a loving family. As we talked that aforementioned shared understanding allowed him to open himself up to those issues not easily discussed among friends and family, but more easily shared among Ranger comrades, old and new. During his last combat a shell landed in his platoon formation. Shrapnel perforated his body and the blast put his lights out for a long period. He awoke in hospital, trying to piece together what had happened. Some of his men were in hospital with him and told him they had been lucky, the shell had wounded most everyone in the formation, but killed only one. As he talked to me I could see he was still struggling to put it all together in his mind. The KIA had been the guy right next to him in the formation. They never recovered a body; he had apparently been vaporized by the shell. Nothing identifiable remained. Halftrack was talking to me, but in the manner of trying to fit the last few pieces of a puzzle in his own mind. "You know," he theorized, "some thought it was an 88, but the way I see it, it must have been a mortar. That round had to have come straight down and hit (regretfully I don't remember the soldier's name), went inside of him and then exploded. Maybe that muffled enough of the blast to keep me from being killed, and that's why there was nothing left of him."

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He had tried to get the families address from VA, but couldn't. He never found them to tell how their son had died. But he wanted me to know he had tried, in that way trying to reassure himself that he had done all he could. 92 years old and a life well lived, yet in his waning days, uppermost in his mind is the loss of his man and whether he had done enough for him. Their final reunion, they toasted each other from bottles of Calvados, an apple based liquor, peculiar to Normandy, France.
Dave Cummings

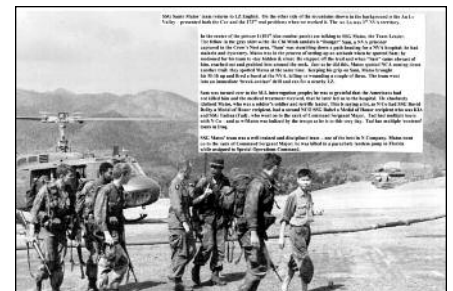
Tome Roubideaux sent me information on the combat patch of the 74th Infantry (derived from the WW II unit, the 474th Regimental Combat Team. Both the 1st Special Service Force and the 1st, 3rd, and 4th Battalions of the Rangers were disbanded in early 1945. The Forcemen and the Rangers were combined in a new unit along with Norwegian-American 99th Battalion into the 474th Regimental Combat Team. This formation was to be used

as a Special Operations unit for the liberation of Norway. The Rangers and Forcemen were basically augmentation to the 99th Norwgia-Americans. The patch was symbolic of all three units.

The Red Arrowhead was from the 1st SSF

The Viking Long Ship was the patch of the 99th

The scroll above the mast of the Long Ship was the scroll of the 4th Ranger Battalion. This unit and patch therefore represented the lineage of the two finest US Special Operations organizations of WW II along with one that was not as well known. The commander of the reformed. 173rd BDE at Vincenzia intentionally named the unit LRSU the 74th LRSU to maintain this lineage. And then the Army, in all its wisdom, changed this to the 93rd Cavalry. The 93rd has probably the ugliest unit crest around and didn't do much of anything as a Corps level Recon Battalion in WW II.





O/75 - 78TH LRP

Unit Director - Michael L. Feller

Happy Holidays all, '09 is rapidly drawing to a close and I suddenly realized that I'd better get this in the mail.

As promised here are some reunion photos. The reunion went well and I'd like to thank Bailey and Ros for there help. Ros imported some very good maple syrup, while Bailey brought the wood. Two new O Co personnel came, Doug Pye and Don Carson both came up from the great frozen north (Canada)to act as translators.

The Manistee locals cooperated nicely. Even had a couple of Great Lakes Freighters up the river. The new World Record Trout, freshly caught, was on display a few doors down. With the weather holding nicely the Port City Street Fair was in full swing on the street in front of the Inn.



The dinner went well, early in the afternoon Rod Exo showed up with a 2 1/2 T giving rides to the beach at Lake Michigan. Things got to running a little late but all the ladies pitched in and things were back on track in no time. Toasts were made with a local vodka donated to the event. Rod Exo then played taps as a tribute to our fallen. We then dined on Goat chops and kabobs prepared by Mike Feller Jr. on a grill he donated to the event. Local roasin' ears etc. as well as a homemade cobbler by Peggy and some helpers.

All said I want to again thank Ross and Bailey for their support and Don and Doug as well for taking the time and traveling the distance to back me on this. Later ... Feller





P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick



With the holidays coming up, I'd like to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday and also hope we all can make it through unscathed. We're still in the process of finalizing our plans for our Summer 2010 Papa Company Reunion and trying to get dates and reservations set, but it seems like it's hard to do until after the first of the year, so we'll get the news out as soon as possible. We're looking at the Cherokee, western NC area again, since we all seem to enjoy it and like the area so much. Plenty to do and the weather is usually bearable during the summer months. Before I forget..... Jose Dominguez reported that he is fully recovered from that ground in Alabama rising up and hitting him so hard unexpectedly at the drop zone in Tuskegee, BUT "the ground" is continuing to have problems recovering from the blow that Jose gave it. Just like it used to be in the old days !! Ha! Ha! Thanks again Doc Sisk for handling that for us. How does it feel being adopted by us now ?? You can call me if you don't want to make it public. We'll understand!!

I recently got a phone call in late October from CSM George (he goes by Dave now as reported earlier) Gates to inquire about the challenge coins and some general conversation. He sounded good and told me he was healthy, cholesterol was good, blood pressure normal, and he works out every day in some form. I got a call two days later from his daughter, Amanda, that he had a massive stroke the day before (Saturday) and was in the hospital in Marietta, Ga. Amanda's Mom, Linda, called me a day later and let me know how Dave was doing too. Of course that was a shock to everyone, but right now he is fighting back and has quite a long rehabilitation period ahead of him I suspect. Knowing him as I do and his attitude towards life, I have no doubt that he'll get back as much as possible. Right now he is in a rehab facility and he has family and friends nearby to assist him. You can send cards to him at his home address: **2278 Forest Green Court, Marietta, GA 30062**. Right now, I think that contacting him by phone might not be the best idea but if you wish to do so, contact me and I'll do what I can to assist you. Dave retired a few years ago after 30 years of service this country and his last assignment was as CSM of the 1st Infantry Division in Germany and he had retired General, David Grange as his Division Commander. Dave and I attended General Grange's retirement ceremony at the Ranger Memorial a few years ago and it was obvious to me that General Grange held Dave in very high esteem and that were very close friends.

As I write this article here in late November, I just had contact with Charles Pickering via e-mail. He lives in or around Tucson, AZ and now might have an accomplice in Bill Davis who moved there a couple of years ago from Oakland, Ca. I also have a younger Ranger Buddy from B/3/75th named Rick Smith who lives there also. I may have to make a road trip out that way or just fly into the AO and see what's the attraction?? I'm sure those 3 could make it interesting and keep me busy

and in trouble the entire time if I go.

I've had some contact with Lucien "Gene" Pope lately too. It has taken me a bit longer than I like to finally get a handle on who he was?? Most of you who served with me will remember Gene by his photo and many probably went to the field with him at some point. I recall him as being a bit quieter and less conspicuous than some of us, but he obviously contributed like we all did and I see him in photos with Anthony Howell, so I assume they were close friends..... Here's the body of our latest exchange and you can see how modest he is to this day. I mentioned to him that I'd like to spotlight him a bit and publish the photos he sent to me recently and here is his reply....**"Terry, I deeply thank you for the thought. However I did nothing to write about. I just did my job and had a barrel of laughs with the greatest guys that ever walked God's green earth. You have my permission to use me in any way that you want to. I was there with SSG Gates, Steve Printz, Papa Bear, Anthony Howell, Fred Blankenship, Capt. Luke Ferguson, 1Lt. Korenek, Kearney Spencer, and others whose names escape me right now. Terry, I believe that you could find one of the guys that deserve paper space to write about but do what you think is best."** As you can see, like most of us, he has not changed that much over the years. I know he and Dave Gates had been in contact some over the past couple of years so I'm sure he is shocked and saddened by Dave's recent health issues too. I'm hoping we can get Gene and his family to join us for our next Reunion this coming summer.

Being a first time Grandpa, I did the Halloween thing this year for really the first time. I had asked my ex-wife if we had done pumpkins for the kids when we were married and she did not remember doing them either. I think we just gave the girls more candy to try and make ourselves feel better for not taking the time and effort to make the mess and do the work needed for carving a pumpkin. My son-in-law had a bright idea and carved the pumpkin with Duke's P/75th design but ran out of

P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

patience and time to do the fletching of the feathers on the wings, but it still came out pretty good after I put the marking pin and some ornaments on it. Maybe next year we'll get it right, but you can see he did a nice job for the first time. I really enjoyed Halloween this year for the first time in a long time. One of the many blessings that many of you already know about from having grandchildren. I believe Macie will always be remembered for her quick smile and pleasant disposition in the future and I told her Mother not to expect all of her children in the future to be so easy to deal with.

On November 11th, Veterans Day, the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, celebrated their 25th Anniversary at Fort Benning with a reunion and services to dedicate a new 3rd Bn. Memorial. They held their annual Ranger Ball the next evening and had a large turnout with many of the former 3rd Bn. Rangers gathering to share laughs, memories, and the good times from years gone by. They are moving into the slot we used to occupy and we are moving either up or down the chronological ladder, depending on your perspective. I had planned to attend, but broke a tooth off the night before I was leaving and ended up in the dentist's chair at the VA on the day before the festivities. I had hoped to get up and see many of the younger Rangers I've met over the years and spent time with. They are not that much different than we are actually. They're prettier now and in much better shape physically, but they do enjoy our company and the brotherhood we share. If you get a chance in the future, spend some of your quality time with them when you're in their AO, get to know some of them, and enjoy the fun and learning experience you will have. In closing, Jay Lutz called me the other day. He is still in the process of having his hip replaced and somehow the

operation went awry and the shaft that holds the ball broke out of his femur and they have to go back and repair it AGAIN!! During all this, they pulled a 5.56 mm round out of his buttocks that reared (like that one??) it's ugly head. Big question now is.....

Which one of you shot him in the ass ?? I'd like to be able to express it more gently, but now that we have the evidence, someone is GUILTY!! Jay assured me that it was not one of our guys and that he got hit while serving with another unit before coming to P/75th, where it was so safe!! Some of you may remember that several years ago, he also had a piece of shrapnel removed from his scalp while doing another VA stint for an unrelated health issue. Jay has been a walking shrapnel cushion for years and we didn't even know. Good thing he's tougher than Kevlar (leather does not adequately describe Jay's toughness). Our Ranger Daddy, Duke DuShane, just got home from having back surgery to fuse #3, 4, and 5 levels of his lower spine, two pins inserted, and 11 days in the hospital. He'll be slowed down for about 4 months to recover and is up and about with a walker right now. I know he has been in severe back pain for years now and hopefully this will give him some relief and allow him a better quality of life.

In closing AGAIN, I still have the Challenge Coins and some t-shirts for anyone who needs a Christmas gift idea. The coins have been very well received and I think is an excellent way to leave your mark with those who you care about. I probably forgot something, but we'll try again next time. Best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season and may you all get all you are asking for !! RLW!!

In Ranger brotherhood, Terry B. "Rock" Roderick



Papa Company pumpkin at night.



MG David L. Grange and CSM George D Gates, October 29, 1999.



Lucien Gene Pope.



Papa Company pumpkin.



Lucien Pope, Kearny Spencer & Terry Bishop.



George D. Gates, back in the day.



D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Leon Moore

Well it's winter already and I have not received any offers to take over Unit Director job yet. So I am writing it again. I really don't have much to write about, because no one gives me any thing to put in the issues.

I did receive a letter from David M Capik who took over for Vicks team 1-5 when we stood down. David was one of the Co.D 75th Rangers who carried on until the Army Decommissioned the Rangers in April of 1970. David ended up with 42 missions, and also received the Air Medal, Bronze Star, and Silver Star. He also sent 4 pictures.

Thanks for the pictures sorry it took so long to put it in the Patrolling Mag., but I could not find your letter until I had straighten up my desk. Thanks again.



1st picture is Capik, Mead, and Sanchez. Capik was team leader for 1-5 and Mead was team leader for team 1-3.

2nd picture is Team 1-5 on their 6th mission with Left to Right is Capik, Nye, Sharpless, and Parks.

3rd Picture is team 1-5 Scout Nugen Van Lough.

4th picture is Nugen and his wife at their wedding on Feb of 1970.

We are starting to work on our 41st reunion that is coming up in Aug. 2010 if any one can help you can get hold of Bob MacIntire or myself or

any Board Member.

Well that all I have until someone steps up and send me some news or willing to take over the unit directors job. My e-mail is leomoo@verizon.net or Phone is 765-874-1996.





F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

This year's reunion was a great success thanks to Mike and Terry Feller and the staff of Manistee Inn. The weather played in our favor as it was in the 70's all week. Manistee MI. made everyone feel welcomed and Manistee Inn and Marina was a good choice as we filled all their rooms with 29 members signed in with their wives or girlfriends. The Inn's staff made us feel at home, and very helpful in the preparation of the peach cobbler desert. Our dinner for the members was a BBQ that consisted of goat that most thought was good eating. There was a river walk about 1 mile long that was a relaxing walk along the river to the lake, and if you were lucky you would see a freighter entering or leaving the river. The sands at the beaches were white and clean and had an inviting look to them. There was a distillery tour of a start-up vodka company that was interesting and the vodka tasted very good. The women went on a wine tasting and vineyard tour while we had our members meeting. All said it seems that everyone enjoyed the reunion and got caught up on happenings since the last reunion. A military vehicle restoration person, Rodney Exo, came with a 2 ½ ton truck and gave rides to those that wanted one and later played taps.

New attendees included Peter Laizik XO from F/51LRP, Bob Slade from F/51 and O/75, Doug Pye and Don Carson from O/75, Mike Fellers son Mike

Next Reunion is up in the air with thoughts of Upstate New York, Fayetteville NC during Airborne week and Fort Benning with the Rangers, have been suggested for 2011 reunion. Vote your choice for the reunion on www.elitebastards.org web site. The off year Alaskan cruise information is below and a trip to Vietnam in an off year are being looked into.

Off year reunion, Ed Dovorak has found an off year Alaskan cruise information I went directly to Princess Cruises and found a better deal. I have to send them the money for my booking by Monday, so I probably will. Their prices are \$649 per person for inside cabin, \$799 for window with OBSTRUCTED View(life boat or transport boat on davits), but they are guaranteeing specific balcony rooms for the next five bookings for a balcony for the same price as a regular balcony not guaranteed of the location on the ship at \$1099. They have a lot of balcony spots left but can't assign



exactly where they will be on the ship. They are \$50 cheaper on each of the rooms as compared with the other company I sent you. If you book now you can cancel your booking at no loss of fee until June 15, 2010.

They have a bus/coach that will pick you up at the airport for \$48 round trip, take you to the ship and return you to the airport at the end of the cruise. It is 15 miles from SeaTac to downtown Seattle so I don't think a taxi would be any cheaper. If everyone books a morning flight for the morning of Aug 29 into SeaTac they could catch the bus right to the dock and they can start checking in at 1200 hours, thus they don't have to book a hotel for one night prior to the ship departure time.

I believe that they have parking for people that are going to drive but I will have to confirm that. We have two extra beds at our house and a whole lot of floor space if someone wanted to drive and crash at our PAD for the night. We are about 1.25 hours from Seattle by driving on a good day and that should not be too bad since it is a Sunday. **The ship** is the Sapphire Princess/ Bermudan, **leaving** Aug 29,2010 from Seattle and **return** Sep 5, 2010 to Seattle

If people are interest call the lady I talked to Joni, 1-800-901-1172 X41612 or jspannenberger@princesscruises.com Thanks, Ed

OPERATION TOAN THANG PART 10

This continuation covers from May 18, 1968 until May 23, 1968. From April 25th until April 29th F/51 LRP was under operational control of the 2nd Brigade 25th Infantry Division and was operating out of Cu Chi and worked in the area South of Duc Hoa in the Pineapple and Orange operational areas. From April 30th through May F/51 LRP were under operational control of 3rd Brigade 101st Airborne Division and operated once again in the "Catchers Mitt" area in the operational areas of Upshur II, Los Banos, and Los Banos East. The general missions consisted of trail, canal, and rocket watch and to detect enemy movements.

TEAM 22 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 18th at 0941HRS (9:41 AM). At 1245HRS (12:45 PM) Team 22 reported movement 150 meters Northwest of the team. Team 22 also said that they

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had movement to their North and that all movement had stopped at 1303HRS (1:03 PM). At 1325HRS (1:25 pm) Team 22 reported they had initiated contact against 3 Vietcong, 1 of who had a AK-47. 1 Vietcong was dressed in black pj's and the other wore khaki shirt and black pants, 50 meters West of the team. At 1331HRS (1:33) Team 22 reported movement to the team East and West. At 1338HRS (1:38 PM) Team 22 reported initiating contact again. At 1508HRS (3:08 PM) a platoon from C 3/187 CAV was inserted and linked up with Team 22 and together they swept the area where the contact occurred. At 1545HRS (3:45 PM) Team 22 had to medevac 2 team members for heat exhaustion. At 1652HRS (4:52 PM) Team 22 and C 3/187 CAV were extracted. The gun-ships covering the extractions reported receiving ground fire. As a result the gun-ships fired up the area and artillery was called into the area.

Team 46 was a 5 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 18th at 1800HRS (6:00 PM). At 1803hrs (6:03 pm) Team 46 reported hearing 3 knocks on wood 75 meters West of the team with an answering knocks coming from the teams East and South. At 1822HRS (6:22 PM) Team 46 reported movement to the teams East and approaching the team position. At 1826HRS (6:26 PM) Team 46 reported movement had stopped and at 1829HRS (6:29 PM) the movement started again. At 1830HRS (6:30 PM) Team 46 reported being in contact with approximately 30 Vietcong on all sides of the team. All incoming fire was from automatic weapons. The Vietcong were along a East to West stream bed. The gun-ships reported receiving heavy gun fire from the ground and that the fire fight on the ground was intense. At 1859HRS (6:59 PM) Team 46 was extracted with negative US casualties and unknown Vietcong casualties. The gun-ships expended their ammunition and artillery was called into the area. At debriefing Team 46 reported that all the Vietcong were wearing black pj's and one Vietcong wearing a light tan uniform.

Team 12 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 17th at 1445HRS (2:45 PM). On May 18th at 1010HRS (10:10 AM) Team 12 reported that they had buried a sensor device and gave the location. On May 19th at 2017HRS (8:17 PM) Team 12 reported hearing mortars or rockets leaving their tubes 1000 meters South Southwest of the team. At 2150HRS (9:50 PM) Team 12 reported 3 or 4 Vietcong moving from the East to the West on a trail 200 meters West of the team location. On May 20th Team 12 had negative activity in their area. On May 21st at 0915HRS (9:15 AM) Team 12 was extracted.

Team 26 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 18th at 0930HRS (9:30 AM). At 1004HRS (10:04 AM) Team 26 reported finding a tunnel

entrance or a possible cave 25 meters off a East to West trail. On May 19th at 1126HRS (11:26 AM) Team 26 reported hearing automatic weapons firing 300 meters South Southwest of the team. At 2038HRS (8:38 PM) Team 26 reported seeing a flashlight 250 meters West Southwest of the team. On May 20th at 0015HRS (12:15 AM) Team 26 reported hearing automatic weapons fire and mortars 250 meters West Southwest of the team. At 1258HRS (12:58 PM) Team 26 reported they had placed a sensor device and gave the location. At 1743HRS (5:43 PM) Team 26 reported hearing voices 75 meters North Northeast of the team. At 1945HRS (7:45 PM) Team 26 reported automatic weapons firing 200 meters Southwest of the team. At 1949HRS (7:49 PM) Team 26 reported mortars firing 300 meters West of the team. Artillery was called into the area of the mortar fire and at 2033HRS (8:33 PM) Team 26 reported hearing screams when the artillery landed. The fire mission ended at 2046HRS (8:46 PM) and Team 26 reported having movement to their West. At 2137HRS (9:37 PM) Team 26 reported having movement to their South. On May 21st at 0211HRS (2:11 AM) Team 26 reported hearing rockets firing 800 meters South of the team. Artillery was called into the rocket area and 27 rounds of 155 mm were fired into the area. At 0220HRS (2:20 AM) Team 26 reported hearing voices West of the team. At 0306HRS (3:06 AM) Team 26 reported having movement 75 meters all around the team location. Artillery was called into the area around Team 26 until 0330HRS (3:30 AM) at which time the movement had stopped. Artillery was fired again at 0425HRS (4:25 AM) on a small sized element that Team 26 heard to the Southeast of them. The fire mission ended at 0455HRS (4:44 AM). At 0457HRS (4:57 AM) Team 26 reported seeing 1 Vietcong stumble into the woods 25 meters from the team. The team believed that the Vietcong was wounded. At 1110HRS (11:10 AM) Team 26 reported a Vietcong grenade had landed and exploded in the team area with negative team casualties. At 1122HRS (11:22 AM) Team 26 reported being in contact with 8 Vietcong in black pj's. The gun-ships began making their firing passes. At 1127HRS (11:27 AM) contact was broken and at 1130HRS (11:30 AM) Team 26 was extracted and artillery was called into the area.

Team 37 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 19th at 1107HRS (11:07 AM). At 1847HRS (6:47 PM) Team 37 reported finding an unoccupied trench complex 100 meters West of the LZ the team had come in on. Team 37 had negative activity in there area for the next 3 days and on May 23rd at 0925HRS (9:25 AM) Team 37 was extracted.

Team 44 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 19th at 1115HRS (11:15 AM). At 1135HRS (11:35 AM) Team 44 reported finding a few small

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trails at the LZ and going to a recently used watering point. At 1132HRS (11:32 AM) Team 44 reported finding a wire fence and a cage on a hill in the vicinity of the LZ. At 1155HRS (11:55 AM) Team 44 reported movement and the smell of cooking on the hill West of the team's LZ. At 1156HRS (11:56 AM) Team 44 reported hearing wood knocking noises. The team then pulled back to their LZ. At 1159HRS (11:59 AM) Team 44 reported finding 3 small trails running from the creek to the top of the hill. The cage was believed to be used to catch small animals. At 1200HRS (1200PM) team 44 reported movement and wood knocking 200 meters South of the team. At 1214HRS (12:14 PM) Team 44 reported movement beginning to close in from the North, West, and South of the team. At 1237HRS (12:37 AM) Team 44 reported that they had initiated contact on 2 Vietcong 25 meters West of the team. Team 44 reported contact had stopped at 1250HRS (12:50 PM). At 1251HRS (12:51 PM) Team 44 reported contact again to the teams Northwest. At 1258HRS (12:58 PM) team 44 reported seeing 2 more Vietcong to the teams South. A sweep of the area near the LZ produced negative results. Team 44 and the reaction force were extracted at 1615HRS (4:15 PM) with 1 member suffering from heat stroke. At the brief back team 44 reported that the Vietcong were wearing black pj's and had AK-47's and carbines. The location of a 4.5 X 3 foot gate. There were a number of footpaths and chicken wire and stakes in the area that were probably markers for a base camp.

Team 47 was a 5 man team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 19th at 1137HRS (11:37 AM). At 1145HRS (6:45 PM) Team 47 reported finding a bunker on the edge of his LZ. At 1158HRS (11:58 AM) Team 47 reported hearing talking in his area. At 1432HRS (2:32 PM) Team 47 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 50 meters South of the team and hear twigs breaking all around the team. At

1545HRS (3:45 PM) team 47 reported seeing 10 NVA with AK-47's slung and moving West to East on a trail. The NVA were wearing khakis and floppy hats and were all around Team 47. @ NVA were carrying a dark gray object and 1 NVA had a large oval rucksack. The NVA point man saw 1 of the team members and began talking to him, at that time the Team 47 initiated contact killing 3 NVA. Team 47 then withdrew to the North and was extracted at 1605HRS (4:05 PM) with negative US casualties. During the extraction the gun-ships and the extraction helicopters reported receiving ground fire. Artillery was called into the area and the gun-ships expended their fire power.

Team 23 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 19th at 1755HRS (5:55 PM). At 1809HRS (6:09 PM) Team 23 reported having movement 50 meters East of the team. At 2002HRS (8:02 PM) Team 23 reported movement 50 to 75 meters to the West of the team. At 2050HRS (8:50 PM) Team 23 reported having a squad or platoon sized element 50 meters North West and East of the team and that the Vietcong were signaling each other with whistles. At 2212HRS (10:12 PM) Team 23 reported 8 to 10 Vietcong moving toward the team from the West. At 2231HRS (10:31 PM) Team 23 reported initiating contact by throwing grenades at the Vietcong. At 2241HRS (10:41 PM) Team 23 reported that the suppression fire from the gun-ships had the Vietcong running. T 2245HRS (10:45 PM) Team 23 reported seeing 2 Vietcong on the LZ Southeast of the team. The Vietcong were KIA by the gun-ships and at 2305HRS (11:05 PM) Team 23 was extracted. During the extraction the extraction helicopters and the gun-ships received ground fire. Artillery and Spooky were called in on the area. Spooky reported seeing 1 sampan on the Song Bong Nai East of team 23's contact. Results of the contact were 1 Vietcong by Team 23 and 2 by the gun-ships.

**LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID**

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

The 3rd ID Lurps are starting to get a little long in the tooth given that our origins date back to 1960 with the formation of the V Corps LRRP Co. (Abn) in Wildflecken, W. Germany. Most of our NCOs from that nascent period in the history of the LRRPs were WWII and Korean War vets who were in their 30's in the early 1960's and most have gone on to meet the Great Ranger in the Sky. Some, like MSG Bobby McMeans, are still alive and kicking, but the



majority have passed on, even some of the younger NCOs like Clifford Mize, Jack Gamey, Bernard Franz and Eugene Comes. Many of our younger guys have also started on their last patrol. Guys like Skip Algeo, Ron Scott, "Big Kid" Bob Evans, Bobby White and Dalton Nail, among others, who were scarcely out of their teens

in the early 1960's have passed on. Most recently was Jack "the Panda" Grant. Panda was a draftee who had served

3RD ID LRRP (CONTINUED)

with the 24th Infantry in Munich, went home to San Francisco for a year, got bored and reenlisted. He volunteered for the 3rd ID LRRPs upon his return to Germany in 1962 and he and I became good friends. Jack was a solitary drinker and carried a lot of demons with him for most of his life, but in the field he was a top notch soldier. Jack's life turned for the better when he met and married his wife Holley, whom he had met while working in an AIDS hospice in Washington, DC in the 1990's.

Before then, when the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment was disbanded in August 1964, Jack returned to his TO&E unit, although he had been accepted by the VII Corps LRRP Company (ABN), his 30th Infantry Regiment company commander would not release him. Jack had intended to extend his tour of duty to be with VII Corps, but when his CO refused to release him Jack ended up going home shortly thereafter when his rotation date came up. Nothing the CO could do about it. Jack got out of the Army and stayed out, but was always bitter about the way he was treated. The Army lost a good man because of the shortsightedness of that CO. I last saw Jack when I spent the Labor Day

weekend in 2008 with him and Holley in Gettysburg, PA. Jack took me around the battlefield and we went out at night looking for ghosts. We didn't find any, but Jack still had with him the ghost of what might have been had things turned out differently back in August of 1964. Jack died of complications from his cancer treatments in early 2009. I know he has rendezvoused with our other departed brothers, including Robert "Red Dog" Schroeder and Don Rampanelli. Rest in Peace, brothers all.

Best wishes for the holidays to all of our LRRP, LRP and Ranger brothers. Special holiday wishes go out to Ranger Gavin Speirs of West Chester, PA. Gavin was, and is a special kind of guy. As a draftee, and a college graduate, Speirs volunteered for the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment. We didn't get that many draftees who volunteered for LRRP duty and Gav was a classy guy to boot. I learned how to make a gin & tonic, and how to tie a double-Windsor knot in my tie from him. He also introduced me to the delicacy of fried eggplant in San Remo, Italy when he, Bob Evans and I took off for a two week R&R in Italy and France back in 1963. But that's a story for another time.

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)**

Unit Director - Bill Miller

**Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:**

It is my pleasure to inform you that Specialist Fourth Class Charles Crafts has been awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star (V), and the Bronze Star. The awards ceremony took place in Jay, Maine on Nov. 9, 2009. Specialist Crafts served with MACV Advisory Group Detachment 95 as a Radio Operator and Advisor to the 33rd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion. The Silver Star citation reads as follows;

THE SILVER STAR

For Gallantry: in action on 29 December

1964, while serving as a Radio Operator and Advisor to the 33rd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion, in support of combat operations near Binh Gia, Vietnam. While accompanying two Vietnamese Ranger Battalions to a landing zone to repel a Viet Cong force, they were ambushed by an estimated 5,000 troops from the newly formed 9th Viet Cong Division. During the initial onslaught of automatic weapons, mortar and rocket propelled grenade fire, numerous Vietnamese Rangers were wounded or killed. Specialist Fourth Class Crafts moved about the battlefield to organize and encourage his men to continue to fend off the determined enemy. He



refused air evacuation twice due to the intense volume of fire on his position, ultimately resulting in his capture. Specialist Fourth Class Crafts' valorous actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

From all the BDQ "Great job Charlie" they were long overdue.

Sick Call

The following individuals have passed away since the last issue. Please keep

their families in your prayers.

John Russ McDonald

Russ McDonald age 78 passed away Sept 3, 2009 at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Murfreesboro, TN, after a long battle with cancer.

Russ was a retired Command Sergeant Major and served two tours of duty in Korea with the 7th Infantry Division and the 45th Infantry Division. He also served three tours of duty in Vietnam. In 1963-64, he was an Advisor to the

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

32nd Ranger Battalion, ARVN, South Vietnamese “Black Tigers.” In 1965-66 he served with the 1/327th Rangers and in 1967-68 served with the 3/506th Airborne Infantry. “Author Tommie Willard put it well in an article for National Magazine when said, “CSM John Russell (Top) McDonald was a leader who inspired, lead to victory and turned frightened kids into fighting Machines.” ”He was a soldier’s soldier.”

Frederick Christian Brander

Frederick Christian Brander, 80, passed away Sept. 10, 2009, at Gateway Medical Center. At his service the remarks of LTG (R) John Lemeyon were read by Joel Anthony. Full military honors were conducted at the grave site.

Frederick enlisted in the Army in January 1946 at the age of 17. He served three years in Germany, and with the 7th Ranger Company (Airborne) until deactivation in 1951. MSG Brander volunteered for Vietnam and was assigned as platoon Sergeant Company C, 1/327th Rangers until March 1966. He was then reassigned as an Advisor to the 37th ARVN Ranger Battalion. He would later serve as an Advisor to the Vietnamese Airborne Division Team 162.

**37th ARVN Ranger BN
(Biet Dong Quan)****Tet 1968—at Khe Sanh Combat Base**

By Willard J. Langdon

I was assigned as a Ranger advisor to the 37th ARVN Ranger BN (Biet Dong Quan), stationed a short distance out of Da Nang in October, 1967. I replaced SSG Brock, who was KIA a few weeks prior. In January, 1968, Cpt. Walter Gunn was assigned as my new senior advisor, and I could tell immediately that he was going to be a great team captain. The other members of our team were 1/Lt Stan Brodka and Sp/4 Burlson, radio operator (RTO), an easy going guy from Chicago who loved his music.

Around the last of January, 1968, rumor had it that higher authority wanted a Vietnamese flag flying at Khe Sanh because it was a critical area for the NVA coming south from the DMZ and Laos. We were also informed that General Giap had two NVA divisions (approx 20,000 men) closing in on Khe Sanh and we were needed there to help defend the base. Therefore, the 37th ARVN Ranger Bn (Biet Dong Quan) was selected on very short notice for this difficult mission, and we arrived on January 27th, 1968, just before the Tet Offensive on January 31.

Khe Sanh combat base was located in western Quang Tri Province (I CORPS) nearly at the corner of the northern

part of South Vietnam, bordered to the west by Laos and to the north by the DMZ and North Vietnam. The Khe Sanh plateau lay in a major North Vietnamese infiltration route, via Laos around the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The terrain was rugged hills, triple canopy foliage, bamboo thickets and elephant grass. The Rao Quan River and Route 9 (not usable by vehicles) were east/southeast of the base. The air strip was approx. 3,500 ft. in length covered with matting, starting at the edge of the east perimeter running west. An Army Special Forces “A” team already had an outpost just above the village of Lang Vei, a few miles southwest of the base, using Bru Montagnard tribesmen who came from the local villages—they were really in a ‘hot spot’.

The 37th loaded onto C130’s at Da Nang airbase with a full supply of ammo and equipment. They were packed in the planes like cattle and seated on the floor. While getting seated, an ARVN Ranger accidentally fired a round from his M-16 that went through the ceiling of the aircraft. This did not go well with the Air Force loadmaster. Due to enemy fire from the hills around Khe Sanh, the planes made a very steep descent on the final approach before touching down on the east end of th strip. The planes dropped their ramps and we ran out the back (some falling) while the planes were turning around to make a fast departure—the wheels never stopped rolling. We then had to run for cover; for the planes and the 37th were welcomed with a barrage of incoming 122mm rockets by the NVA. The C-130’s made it out safely and we then started moving toward the east side of the perimeter near the approach end of the airstrip, which was near the left flank of our perimeter.

As we started to our position, I made a quick estimation of the situation. It was culture shock!! I couldn’t believe my eyes. The base looked as if it had been chopped up with a double bladed ax, or a hurricane had just hit it. The ammo dump had been destroyed by enemy fire with shell casings, duds, debris and rubble scattered about. All along the airstrip lay damaged equipment, aircraft parts, blades, etc. Plenty of bunkers were everywhere and mostly everything was at or near ground level. There was no doubt in my mind that this was the real thing, and it was obvious that the NVA didn’t want us there. On the other hand, we didn’t want them there either!

Once we got to our position on the perimeter, the Marines who occupied that sector moved back behind us as a second line of defense. So we had Marines on our left and right flanks with the second line of defense behind us. Initially, the Marines seemed somewhat skeptical of us and they appeared to have concern on their faces—very difficult to read. Some

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

of the Marines asked me if the Rangers were trustworthy and good fighters. I assured them that the 37th would have no problem in securing and defending their part of the perimeter.

On February 7, 1968, around midnight, the Special Forces Outpost near Lang Vei was overrun by the NVA using tanks (PT76s) and flamethrowers. When the tactical situation permitted, the outpost survivors were evacuated the next day to Khe Sanh and later transported out. These guys were real heroes!

At this point, everything around or in front of us was enemy—NVA, Laos to the west, and the DMZ to the north. It appeared that on the first big ground attack after we arrived, the NVA zeroed in on the 37th, welcoming them to Khe Sanh with an attempted butt kicking. However, things went bad for the NVA. The Rangers annihilated them and really put on a display of fierce fighting like I had never seen before. The next day, the same Marines that expressed doubt about the fighting abilities of the Rangers said they were suitably impressed, and felt more relaxed.

We had to dig a bunker for our CP, and it was the first time in my life that I enjoyed digging. That bunker was going to be home at Khe Sanh and a ticket back home to my family. We also had a Marine Lt and an enlisted man attached to us as FO's for the Marine 105mm Howitzer located a short distance behind us. The 105s fired directly over our perimeter day and night. The perimeter was made up of double and triple rows of barbed and concertina wire, trip flares, land mines, claymore mines, and noise makers—c-ration cans with rocks, etc. Our sector of the perimeter covered the main routes of advance into the base by the NVA. There was always action around the clock.

Cpt Gunn worked directly with the ARVN Rangers Bn Commander, Cpt (Dai-uy) Hoang Pho, and I worked on a daily basis with the ARVN Ranger Sgt/Major, who was a super guy. We would supply them with their logistical needs (food, water, medical aid) and ammo, air and artillery support. The ARVN Rangers shared with me their worries and fears about how difficult it was for them to get their pay, and how concerned they were for their families, because TET was all over South Vietnam. We all needed each other down to the lowest private, so we worked together like a well-oiled machine. In addition, the Marines were really helpful because the advisory team was the link between the Marines and ARVN Rangers. It took us all to accomplish the mission.

During February, 1968, the weather was miserable—cold and foggy all the time. Most of our resupplies to the base were air dropped by parachutes and low extraction type

drops. There was never enough water because the bad weather affected the resupplies. Did the Vietnamese really understand the seriousness of the water situation? I was hoping they did. They are naturally good survivors anyway. We could not get clean. About all we could wash was vital parts with water in steel helmets and brush our teeth. We had to dump by sitting over a hole. Food was basic c-rations. My can of Right Guard was great as long as it lasted. We all looked alike at Khe Sanh—scroungy!

Many things went through my mind. After the initial shock, I was determined that I was going to maintain the Ranger image and not let it get me into a bunker mentality. The personalities of our team really helped the situation. Because of sniper fire, we never could walk in an upright position except in the early morning when the fog was rolling in. Some days the base would receive an estimated 500 to 1500 rounds of incoming; some days even more. After time and getting adapted to the situation, we learned the sound and could identify the type of incoming that was shot at us. At first we had to adapt to the situation. There was noise all the time; either incoming artillery and rockets exploding, or friendly 105's outgoing toward the enemy. But they say you can adapt to anything—after being there for awhile, things became routine. Dodging incoming was part of life at Khe Sanh. I saw suffering every day—either by the Marines or the ARVN Rangers. No one was immune from getting hit by incoming.

At mid-March, water was at an all time low—we *really* had to conserve now. But those brave pilots managed to always keep us enough supplies to operate with each day, regardless of the weather. Everything we had came through the resupply efforts of the Marines, and they did a super job with the logistics of getting it there.

We received incoming each day from some of the following types of weapons: artillery, 60mm and 82mm mortars, 122mm rockets, recoilless rifles, RPG's, AK47 rifles, .51 cal machine guns, and sniper fire. The NVA used some improvised devices attempting to breach the wire on our perimeter. They were constructed of bamboo strips laced around blocks of TNT, using them as Bangalore torpedoes. The Rangers, however, were prepared—every time they tried to set off their 'torpedoes', the Rangers killed them in the wire and captured their devices.

The NVA, with the cover of rolling fog, started an elaborate tunnel system, and tunneled up to and beneath the perimeter wire. Again, the Rangers repelled these tactics. The enemy was definitely determined to break through our defense, but the Rangers did not allow that to happen.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

There was one NVA the Marines nicknamed “Luke the Gook”. He had a .51 cal machine gun, and shot at all the aircraft that came into Khe Sanh. Sometimes he would get a hit and other times he would miss. Luke the Gook shot at jets, helicopters, C130’s and C123’s—anything flying. A few days before we arrived at Khe Sanh, he shot down a Phantom jet that was trying to knock out his position. The pilot bailed out and was rescued by the Marines. From our position on the east side, we could hear the .51 cal machine gun behind the hills. Luke was a tough dude—or he had a lot of replacements.

On February 10, 1968, Luke or his buddy apparently hit a KC130 fueller and set it afire before it touched down on the airstrip. The pilot and co-pilot escaped, but some of the crew members were incinerated. The plane went off the airstrip and the whole aircraft was engulfed in flames. I later learned that it was carrying rubber bladders of aircraft fuel. I was an eye witness and it was only a few hundred meters behind our CP. It was then that I realized that I was in the fight of my life, and I had never seen or experienced anything like this—a C130 aircraft burning behind my position. It was a terrible scene. It really got my attention and I sat down and said a prayer for those involved in the crash. In addition, shortly after this, C130’s stopped landing at the Khe Sanh strip—only C123’s came in. They had a shorter landing and take off distance, and could get turned around quicker.

On a regular basis, we were being fired upon by an NVA recoilless rifle, and an ARVN patrol was sent out. They had heavy enemy contact but destroyed the rifle crew and captured the recoilless rifle and returned it to our position. Patrols were not normally sent out due to the defensive wire perimeter, mines, and friendly fire from other units—it was best to stay defensive. On or about February 25, 1968, a Marine patrol was sent out and it was ambushed by the NVA. These were the only patrols that I remember going outside the perimeter near our sector while I was there. Outside the wire was no man’s land—free fire zone.

I remember late one night we heard the thumping sounds of mortar rounds being fired from the hills. We were ready but we never heard any explosions! The next morning there were numerous mortar rounds on line and to the right of our bunker stuck nose first in the ground. After investigating, we learned that the safety band had not been taken off the round, so it did not explode on impact. The NVA must have had a new recruit mortar man. The Marines helped us remove the rounds from the area.

Another night we were in our bunker when an explosion went off that knocked everyone cuckoo. One corner of the

bunker caved in on us and we had to dig our way out by moving and throwing sand bags. We thought the world had come to an end!

Come to find out, an approx 2,000 lb bomb (delayed fuse) fell short during friendly radar bombing. It landed next to our bunker inside the perimeter and blew a crater approx 10’-15’ deep. To this day I don’t know how we survived! We got a small taste of what the NVA were experiencing.

We had the opportunity to see and be involved with the best support available. B52’s (arc light) day and night (we could feel the ground shake during these attacks) radar bombing, jet support with bombs, napalm, artillery, 105’s and Army 175mm located at the Rock Pile, small arms fire, machine guns, and anything available—it was given to us at Khe Sanh. The Air Force sprayed pesticide around the area to clear the foliage. Air power and artillery support was incredible and it definitely saved us. We also had a 106mm recoilless rifle left in our sector by the Marines, and I used the .50 cal spotter with scope to shoot at targets a long ways out, i.e., enemy stragglers after an attack when made known to me.

I was sent back to Da Nang once to get supplies for the team, and I picked up mail and other important items. In order to get a plane out of Khe Sanh, we had to help carry on a body bag. The C123 carried a few guys like me and approx 10-15 filled body bags. It was a strange feeling to look at the bag and wonder who was inside, maybe a father, a very young man, some mother’s son. We showed respect by remaining silent during the flight. On take off, the pilots of the C123 made a maximum departure take off. When leveling off at altitude, it was just above a stall—yes, we had outgoing machine gun fire from the hills but we got away clean. When I got to Da Nang, it was another world. After getting our supplies (and of course the best shower of my life), I returned to Khe Sanh in another C123. You could smell hydraulic fluid and it rattled as if it was falling apart. It sounded bad—brakes squealing while taxiing—but it had powerful, smooth running engines. I could see the pilots through the opening to the cockpit and they were calm and cool in their comings and goings, as if it was a pleasure flight.

The landing back at Khe Sanh was a very steep approach with a quick turn around. When I got my feet back on the ground at Khe Sanh, I said, “Never again until everyone is leaving!” That trip has remained with me ever since. The pilots at Khe Sanh are my heroes, too—they were great.

During the first week of April, 1968, at various times of the day, depending on the wind direction, there was a vile odor in the air. So the 37th sent Rangers out front of the wire in

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

front of our sector and found tunnels, trenches and fighting holes with a confirmed body count of 70 NVA.

On April 6, 1968, the 84th company of the ARVN 8th Airborne Bn was airlifted by the 1st Cav Div aircraft into Khe Sanh combat base and linked up with elements of the 37th Ranger Bn. This marked the official link up by forces at Khe Sanh. The ceremonial ARVN link up has been barely mentioned. I just don't understand why! The 37th ARVN Rangers were second to none. They did a superb job and I was proud to serve with them. It is difficult to explain the situation at Khe Sanh—you just had to be there! There are only four people who personally know about the hardships and bravery of the 37th Rangers at Khe Sanh: Cpt (Major retired) Walter Gunn, 1/Lt Brodka, Sp-4 Burlson, and SFC (1SG retired) Willard Langdon—Co Vans. I Group Senior Ranger Advisor (Biet Dong Quan) Maj (Ret Lt Gen) Jack Woodall attempted a visit with us but the NVA saw things differently. Once his C123 aircraft touched down, a rocket hit the airfield—the full stop landing was aborted. They kicked the cargo out of the back and departed. Therefore, Maj Woodall was unable to get off. Aborted full stop landings were routine at Khe Sanh.

On April 8th, 1968, the relief of Khe Sanh was effected and the 1st Cavalry Div became the new “owners”. On April 15th, 1968, the 37th Ranger Bn departed Khe Sanh for Da Nang—thank God! The 37th started moving west along the side of the airstrip to an assembly point at the west end of the strip in order to be picked up by planes going to Da Nang airbase. The NVA apparently had an FO in the hills and saw our movement. We received a going away present when we got to the west end of the airstrip—probably 130mm and 152mm batteries in Laos. Most of the rounds were off course and fell on the Marines. The 37th ARVN Rangers (Biet Dong Quan) were instrumental in helping the Marines to stop and destroy two NVA divisions at and around Khe Sanh combat base.

After retuning to Da Nang, I never served with the 37th anymore. My Group Senior Advisor Major (retired Lt/Gen) Woodall offered me a job in G-3 Air at the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) which had come open. I spent the remainder of my tour helping coordinate and sending support similar to what we had received at Khe Sanh. I knew how it felt being out—calling for support. I felt somewhat guilty by walking off and leaving Cpt Gunn, but I knew he would do well with any replacement.

Khe Sanh will always be a part of me; I just tune it out when it comes back for any length of time. There is also

some good that came out of Khe Sanh. I learned to appreciate life, to be more thankful, and to be an overall low maintenance person. It doesn't take a lot to make me happy because eating C-rations on a daily basis and dealing with the living conditions at Khe Sanh has taught me to be more appreciative. Cpt Gunn, 1/Lt Brodka, and Sp-4 Burlson will always be remembered by me—we were a great team! We were also fortunate to have Maj (Ret Lt/Gen) Jack Woodall as the Ranger Senior Advisor of I Corp—Advisory Team 1.

Thanks for this opportunity to tell my story.

SITREP: UPDATE

As I mentioned in the last issue I would be working on the 2010 Reunion. This is a heads up as the following 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. The Hotel will hold rooms until April 10, 2010 so please reserve a room ASAP. (Phone 843 744-2501) Be sure to state you are with the US Army Ranger Advisors BDQ. The Hotel is **pet** friendly, but please contact them for additional information. The rooms have refrigerators, microwaves, and coffee machines. 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)

A WWII Submarine

The Aquarium

Horse Drawn Carriage rides (there are several different routes)

The downtown Market

Rainbow Row & the Battery

Southern Plantations within easy driving distance

Quote:

“Army: A body of men assembled to correct the mistakes of diplomats.”

Josephus Daniels

Mu Nau Bill Miller, Unit Director

STATE COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES

BEHIND THE SCENES, YET IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE ASSOCIATION:

SSgt Jason S. Dahlke,
Army Ranger, First Ranger Battalion,
was laid to rest on 5 September (Saturday) 2009

State Coordinator Richard Foster attended the services and made the following report.

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 1st 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, you did your duty.
 Rangers Lead The Way.

PFC Eric Hario

State Coordinator Bill Postelnic attended the services and rendered the following report:

Fallen Michigan Ranger

A funeral with full military honors was held for PFC Eric Hario, a 19-year-old who served with the 1st Battalion 75th

Ranger Regiment. Eric died on August 29th in Afghanistan. He was killed by small arms fire during a 20-hour fire-fight in Paktika province. He was born, raised and buried in Monroe, Michigan and is the first Ranger from Michigan to be killed during the GWOT.

I attended the funeral along with a five other former Rangers from Michigan. I was humbled, moved to sadness and filled with pride at the same time. Also attending were Brigadier General Trombitas from SOC, 75th Ranger Regiment commander Colonel Kurilla and Command Sergeant Major Hardy, and 30 active duty Rangers who served as the color and honor and guards, and pall bearers.

It seemed the entire town paid tribute to PFC Hario and his family. During the procession from the church to the cemetery, the road was lined with people holding flags, saluting, and holding their right hands over their hearts. Even the vehicles coming in the opposite direction pulled to the side of the road, stopped, and the occupants exited to extend their respects. Leading the procession were 147 Patriot Guard motorcycles.

Colonel Kurilla presented a brief eulogy in the church and the 75th Ranger Regiment Chaplain, Major Bowlus led the graveside service. The Ranger detail carrying the coffin and folding the flag performed with exacting precision. Colonel Kurilla concluded his remarks at the funeral with the following words: "We should not mourn the passing of such men as Eric, but Thank God that such men as he lived. Rangers Lead The Way!"

NOW THAT IS WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT!

ARLINGTON ARLINGTON ARLINGTON

We are having many RANGERS, LRRPs and LRP services being held in Arlington. We only have one or two State Coordinators to assist in this area. We need more volunteers for Arlington so that these coordinators may be able to take a break. They are selfless and will continue to assist the families and the 75th RRA. WE JUST NEED TO ALLOW THEM A BREAK. Please consider assisting in this location. Contact me and let me know that you may assist in the Arlington area at egt12@comcast.net.

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.

STATE COORDINATOR ACTIVITIES

BEHIND THE SCENES, YET IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE ASSOCIATION:

If you attend any services or events representing the 75th Ranger Regiment Association please let me know so we may recognize your efforts.

The president of the 75th RRA Association and I have sent to each of the State Coordinators that have assisted service members families since my appointment as the State Coordinator advocate an engraved Silver coin. It is to show the appreciation of the association for your representation of the 75th RRA and because of your selfless actions in assisting the families of our fallen brothers. Please display them proudly as you have earned them.

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
75th Ranger Regiment Association
egt12@comcast.net

WE HAVE REDESIGNED THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. CHALLENGE COIN.



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).

We will also be able to furnish the coin in bronze as well as silver. Bronze coins are \$20.00, plus shipping and engraving as specified below.

Price of the above silver coins are \$40.00 each. (The price of silver has doubled). They are solid silver. Engraving cost will vary depending on number of characters, add \$5.00 for shipping.

If you order more than one coin, add only \$5.00 for the shipping. We have available through the coin company, bezels that fit around the coin so that it can be worn on a chain. Call for info.

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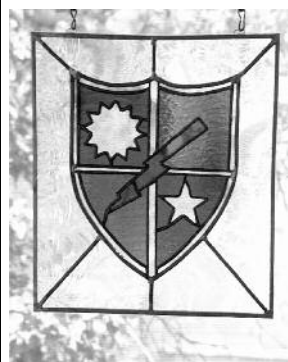
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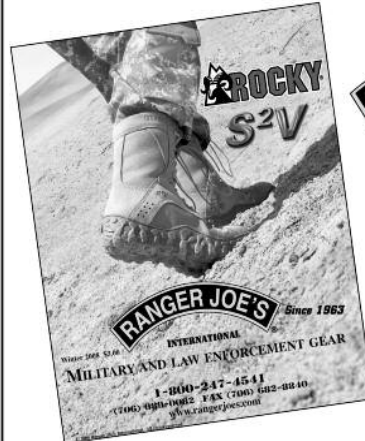


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*Don't envy a man his medals
All those ribbons on his chest
He did not try to get them
They were not there at his request.
They were earned in stinking hell holes
Where no man would like to go
Or in cold and wintry places
Where there's only ice and snow.
He did not know he earned them
Till they were awarded at parade
And they were bright when he first got them
But in time the colors fade
He was told he had to wear them
And to wear them all with pride
But when the memories came to haunt him
Those same medals make him hide
Cause those medals will not bring back
All those guys he left behind
And he would trade them all forever
For a little peace of mind
So don't envy a man his medals
You don't want to take his place
Instead extend a hand
And thank him face-to-face
Author Unknown*

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MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Invoices for dues will be late this year. To prevent any lapses in your membership, you can mail your dues to the following address:

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Remember , if you pay your dues before Jan 1, 2010 it is \$25.00. If you pay after Jan 1, 2010, dues are \$30.00.

This Christmas season we have made donations to each of the three Ranger Battalions and to the Special Troops Battalion for the benefit of the young Rangers and their families. If you wish to contribute to the Family Fund, it is not too late. Please mail your contribution to the address above. If you send one check for a contribution and your dues, please specify how much goes to each. Thank you.



75 th Ranger Regiment Association. Inc
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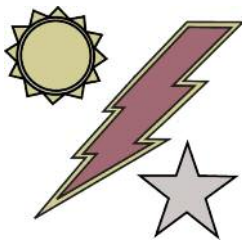
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