

PATROLLING

SPRING 2009 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 23 ISSUE IV



*Military Funeral, Arlington National Cemetery,
the 3rd Infantry Regiment, The Old Guard.
Photo by J. Chester*

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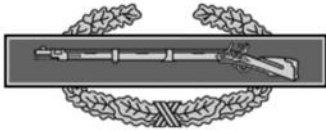
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WHO WE ARE: The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501 (c) corporation, registered in the State of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F/58, (LRP) and L/75 (Ranger). The first meeting was held on June 7,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

PAST PRESIDENTS:

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

- 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 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:

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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.

MAGAZINE

There seems to be some confusion regarding the mailing label on the magazine each quarter. If you observe the label, you can discover the status of your membership. A typical mailing label will look something like this:

1234/2009

Roger Ranger
6789 Oak Lane
Anywhere, MO 12345

The first number above your name, is your member number; the second number is the year that your membership expires. The Association's year runs from June 30 to July 1 of the next year. In the above case, Roger's membership will expire on June 30, 2009. If Roger were a life member, the line above his name would read as follows: 1234/LM. Even though the invoices go out in the Fall, the mailing label will still indicate your membership status. If the label reads 2008, you have received your last issue of *Patrolling*. You can always pay your dues by using the form on the last page of the magazine. You can also pay your dues at our web site using Pay Pal or Visa or Master Card.

WEB SITE

The 2009 Ranger Rendezvous (Reunion) announcement has been posted to the website. This section will be updated (as new information develops and is forwarded to me). More importantly we have again added the ability to pre-register and pay on-line. Also included is a "print & mail" form for the convenience of folks who prefer to handle this by mail. The ability to join, or re-new, your membership has been a feature of the association website for years now – take advantage of these conveniences . . . it saves a little work for the secretary and treasurer.

We are in, or approaching, the season where some units have events, organizational meetings, or company reunions in the works. If you have something coming up please get the information to me ASAP so we can get it posted for your members. If the unit directors or designated personnel have pictures they wish posted to (or linked from) their unit page, get them to me as well.

I will be removing my standard request for the UD's "mug shot" from the main page of the website due to lack of response. The idea was to have a picture so that the guys who haven't been able to attend a reunion might recognize your Unit Director . . . it was also intended to be combined into a business card type graphic (see any of the 13 who provided a pic) which incorporated the address and e-mail information, thus making it impossible for the "bots" to read it thereby cutting down on spam the UD's would receive.

Suggestions/observations/complaints always welcome.

See you in Columbus!

Dave Regenthal

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Bullen

Our condolences go out “Doc Sweeny, member of the “LRRP/Ranger of the First Cav During the Viet Nam War Inc.” Doc lost a nephew in Afghanistan; 30 Oct 2008. Paul was an A-team Member with the 3rd SFG based at Bragg. Paul carried a flag with him in Iraq and then in Afghanistan, signed by NYCFD engine Co 167 Ladder 87. The flag had been retrieved from the rubble at the Twin Towers, signed by the



Bill Bullen

members with an inscription; “If you guys wonder what you are fighting for- this is it”. This story was taken from the “LRRP/Rangers of the First Cavalry Division During the Viet Nam War” Unit Director’s news letter. My hat is off to you fellows for a fine publication and thank you for including me on the mailing list and invite to your Reunions. Thanks also to all the other units who extend invitations for your Reunions to include me; thank you.

At this point I would like to encourage anyone of our members who would aspire to be in a leadership position within the 75thRRA, to let someone know that you may be nominated. It is a chore at times but the rewards far outweigh work.

Here it is spring and our 75thRRA Reunion is just a few months away. I realize things are tight but we want all to be present, this will be a very good Reunion. The committee, which Bill Postelnic is facilitating, is doing a wonderful job. This group has all been in charge of getting a Reunion together in the past, so I feel confident most avenues will be covered. If you would like to have some constructive input, get in touch with your Unit Director, Duke, Terry or Bill Postelnic.

You will notice a change or another option to our challenge coins. The Patrolling man on the tail side will be removed and there will now be an unraveled document in his place, thus allowing more space for engraving. I have had the honor to hand many coins to surviving family members, and always had trouble deciding what to leave out to accommodate engraving. These will be available at the next reunion, perhaps before through John Chester.

The Ranger Hall of Fame packets are in and will have been submitted by the time you get this. My thanks go out to the reviewing committee and all who took the time to research and develop a packet for submission to the Ranger Hall of

Fame BOD. It is a fair amount of work but a worthwhile endeavor. If you have anyone you think is a potential Ranger Hall of Famer, please ask your unit director for guidance. A Ranger, who has had a commendable duty assignment and has continued in the spirit of accomplishment since, through community, civic or in the Ranger community, would be a likely candidate. Read more about criteria at the RHOF web site. Better yet, look at Ranger Hall of Fame Inductees on the wall at the Ranger Training Brigade; this will give you a better idea of what it takes.

Briefly, I’d like to thank Scott Billingslea, 3rd Bat Unit Director, for his past service to the 75thRRA. Scott will be replaced by Raleigh Cash. Welcome Raleigh. Scott is going to be pursuing a more rigorous and challenging work schedule, thanks Scott for recruiting your replacement and thanks Raleigh for stepping up.

At this point I will close; I pray that every Ranger and their family are doing well. If you need help reach out to another Ranger if you can help someone, likewise, reach out.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve.
Rangers Lead the Way,
Bill

NOTE: I received this just prior to publication, and I think that it should included for general publication, rather than in the N-75 Unit pages. I think he captures the essence of who we were. Bill Bullen

Perspective of a LRP Who Was Just Average

I look forward to receiving *Patrolling*. I read the entire edition. I especially like to read about my own unit. Sometimes, I read of those with whom I served. Sometimes I see old photos and recognize those with whom I served. Often I read about or see photos of those who served after I did, or in another LRP/Ranger unit; LRP/Rangers I never met. I spend a little time on the web looking at articles or information about the best of the best, soldiers like Patrick Tadina and Lazlo Rabel among others whom I knew and with whom I ran missions and others whom I didn’t know. Those in the Ranger Hall of Fame absolutely are my heroes.

I’m submitting this article to *Patrolling* because I was just an average LRP - and, I am damned proud of it. The majority of us were just average LRPs/Rangers, including most of those of us who, at some point in time, might have

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

become team leaders. The bell shaped curve applies to LRP/Rangers just as it does to everything else - most are average and a few are above or far above average.

As I think about those of us who were average LRRPs/LRP/Rangers my gut tells me that not one of us was average in the larger picture of warfare in Vietnam. Just to be a LRP/Ranger, in my humble opinion, meant that one was far above almost all other soldiers/sailors in terms of training, discipline, motivation and pure guts. However, within this extremely elite function, there were the superstars and the average. No one who remained a LRP/Ranger was below average – below average washed out at some point. The bell shaped curve was skewed.

I was assigned to the LRP within about a week of entering country even though I had no previous combat experience. I did have about 9 months with the 10th Special Forces Group in Europe and a couple of communications MOSs so perhaps that's why I was directly assigned. Who knows? In any event, my assignment was tentative. I needed to formally volunteer, pass the board, run some test missions and ultimately graduate from RECONDO school in Nha Trang. Until then, I was not a LRP. I was a wannabe.

What I first noticed when I reached my LRP unit was the incredible quality of those who were already in the unit, many of them who would be, like me, an average LRP. Some of them would have had a difficult time in garrison duty but in the field there was no comparison. To a man, it was clear that I was in the company of some supremely special soldiers including those who were average LRPs. I knew that if I was going to make it with this group of warriors, I would have to call upon everything I'd learned, not only in the military but in my entire life. I was going to have to dig down deep to find inner resources and strengths that nothing in my previous life had required of me. It was the single greatest challenge of my life. I have been fortunate to have had some major successes in academia, family and business throughout my post war years but those successes don't come close to the success I feel as having been just an average LRP. When my time comes, I want the first line of my epitaph to read, "he was a LRP, just an average LRP, but a LRP". Even if that's the only line on my epitaph, it will be enough.

A general in Vietnam said that, among other things (paraphrased), "LRPs/Rangers need to have Ice flowing through their veins; they need to be able to hang tight with only 4 other men located within the perimeter of a remote enemy base camp with a couple of hundred NVA within

meters or even feet of them". I'd not heard that at the time I was a LRP, but in retrospect the guys I first met certainly seemed to meet the criteria. The LRPs/Rangers were unique. As a new guy, I wasn't left to myself to learn the ropes as I might have been in a line company. Some of the experienced LRPs, both the super LRPs and the average LRPs took me under their wings. I formally volunteered, ran a few test missions, mostly easy ones (compared to later missions), passed the board and was sent to RECONDO school. RECONDO school was a butt kicker but I learned more in that 3 weeks than in all of my previous military schools and experience, combined.

When I got back to my unit, it took only one mission to learn that I was still green. There was so damned much to learn. There were, however, so many good teachers – all of those who'd been in the unit before I arrived. I don't recall all of the names but those that I do recall are Schoonover, Kelner, Resor, Trombelay (KIA), Tadina, Thompson, Rabel (KIA – MOH winner), Waide (KIA), among others. To them all, I owe a debt of gratitude. They were willing to take a chance on me and transfer their skills to me. Each had a unique, personal approach to LRPing. Each was at some point a team leader. The culmination of what I learned from them individually and collectively, mixed with my own personal style was enough to keep me alive, keep my team members alive when I ultimately became a team leader, and end the lives of a significant number of our enemy. I was never a super LRP/Ranger in any stretch of the imagination. Any successes I might have had were due mostly to my teachers. All in all, mine was an average LRP experience and I was an average LRP. But, I say again, from a much higher point of view, there are very few who served in Vietnam who would consider any LRP/Ranger experience "average". Other combat and non combat vets (friends and acquaintances alike), including chopper pilots, Marines and grunts have told me they simply can not comprehend what it took to continuously run missions with only a few other guys, especially in the most unfriendly of remote areas of Vietnam or other nearby areas.

So today, I sometimes feel a little bit cocky when I tell other people that I was a LRP, just an average LRP. If it's a civilian I'm talking to, he/she has no idea what I mean and will tend to focus on the word 'average'. That's perfectly ok with me. What goes through their heads doesn't matter because I was a LRP and they weren't. I feel no need to explain anything to them beyond telling them that I was a LRP, just an average LRP. Occasionally, and

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

with great pride, I will tell others of the super LRP/Rangers, at least the ones I knew, some of whom are now members of the Ranger Hall of Fame. Of course my pride has nothing to do with anything I did; it has to do with just knowing some of those super soldiers and having served under them and/or learned from them at some point in my tour of duty. My suggestions to all average LRRP/LRP/Rangers: be both humble and politely arrogant.

You earned it. Being average in a military organization such as the LRP/Rangers is an enormous honor. Even more, honor and speak of those who were above average. They truly were the inspiration for all of us.

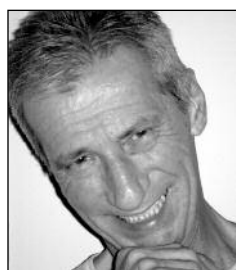
Respectfully, Joseph R. Welke, Sgt., 74th Infantry Detachment (LRP), 173rd Airborne Brigade, Aal of 1968

FIRST-VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Bill Postelnic

We All Make The Association What It Is

It is no surprise to anyone that within our ranks we often have differences of opinion on a number of issues. But we drive on because those differences are not stronger than the bonds we share through service as LRRPs, Rangers and Advisors from whatever era. Borrowing some words from Retired Command Sergeant Major Andy Bell, who served with the 1st Ranger Battalion and is often referred to as "The Pastor" because of his color command of language...



Bill Postelnic

*"We are not the men we are
because we became LRRPs and Rangers.
We became LRRPs and Rangers because of the men we are."*

Those words best describe the special nature of the bonds we share. And no single person makes the 75th Ranger Regiment Association what it is. What makes our Brotherhood what it is, are the members and the men who serve as Unit Directors and State Coordinators, those who serve as Advocates, Web Master, Photographer, Reunion Coordinator and in all the other positions listed on Page 1 of Patrolling Magazine. Everyone who is a member or holds a position, only wants the Association to build on our tradition of camaraderie and contribution to the Ranger and LRRP Community, and to continue being the leading Association within the community. Collectively, we all make the Association what it is.

The Best Man For The Job

Certainly it is also no surprise to anyone that the man who makes a huge contribution to the success of the Association is John Chester, who has done double-duty as Secretary and Editor of Patrolling Magazine. Oh yeah, he also is our

Legal Counsel. But John needs a new opportunity and should become the next President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, and of course to continue as the Editor of this fine magazine. And yeah, to also continue the legal stuff.

The one drawback to a President John is the fact that he would no longer be Secretary. That means there will be some pretty big shoes to fill. But the good news is that John would still be around and be able to maintain continuity and assure a smooth transition of the Secretary duties. I have told John that I will volunteer to be a candidate for the job if he can not find someone better and who is willing.

If you or anyone you know is interested in the Secretary position, step forward and let it be known. The same holds true for the other elected Association positions of 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents and Treasurer. During the Business Meeting at our Reunion this summer we will be electing Association officers for the next two years. I urge everyone to vote for John to be our president. No one is more qualified. He is the best man for the job.

2009 Ranger Hall Of Fame

Each year, the Association is allowed to make up to three nominations to the Ranger Hall of Fame and we have done so this year. The RHOF Executive Board will meet in May to select the 2009 inductees and we will post the names on the Association website. Again, thank you to the men who served on the Association selection committee: Roy Barlley, Duke DuShane, Kevin Ingraham, Wes Jurena, Wayne Mitsch, Terry Roderick and Jim Waters.

Association Reunion

Planning is well underway for the reunion in August. If you have not attended a reunion, you really owe it to

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

yourself to come. There really is something special about being with your own kind, reuniting with men you served with, making friendships with men who served at other different times and in other units, and meeting those who are serving today. In addition, there are many special events that will be conducted at Fort Benning, including the Ranger Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, demonstrations and range firing and 75th Ranger Regiment Mass Tactical Parachute Jump.

Regarding parachute jumps, Bill Miller is once again organizing a jump for Association members. As I recall, there were about 25 or 30 of us who jumped at the last

reunion, and one of the jumpers was Henry Zyrkowski. Zeke served as Ranger during World War II. He never attended jump school and he made his first parachute jump at age 83 during the reunion in 1997. Zeke passed away last year and this year, Bill Miller is dedicating the jump in Zeke's honor. If it has been 10, 20, 30 or more years since you have jumped, this is your chance. First time jumpers are also welcome. In fact, at the last reunion, there were several wives who made their first jumps.

But whether you plan to jump or not, make it to the reunion. Up to date reunion information will be posted on the Association website and you can also register on-line.

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By John Chester

We are counting down to the reunion, I have already received quite a few registrations and payments even



John Chester

though we are still 7 months out. If you have not done so, get your registration in and get your hotel reservations made. Our 1st VP, Bill Postelnic has been making sure that this reunion and rendezvous will be one to remember. He has taken point and has organized the activities and the ceremonies at the banquet. We now have a plan that should make this reunion and banquet one to remember. You are now able to register and pay for the reunion online. Just go to our web site (75thrra.org) and follow the directions.

Mary Anne and I had the honor of attending the funeral of James Patrick, one of Darby's Rangers. It was in January, so it was a cold day. The ceremonies are very moving, even though I've been to more than my fair share (we live 40 miles away), they still get to me on some level. The Old Guard really does a fine job with the Colors and the firing squad. They really are dedicated, it was quite cold that day, and their performance was flawless. These are the same troops that guard the Tomb of the Unknowns.



I am really looking forward to stepping down as Secretary. Not to mention that if I do it much longer, I'll be single again. I will have been Secretary five years in August of this year, and that's long enough. I know how Ron Edwards and Roy Boatman felt. I have been looking for individuals to take over the position for the last several years, with no success. Last summer, at the K/75 reunion in Kansas City, MO, during a conversation with Bill Bullen (current

SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

President), Tom Sove (former Secretary), Bill Postelnic, (current 1st VP) and me, the difficulty of finding someone to take the Secretary's job was the main topic.

The way things were planned, Bill Postelnic, (1st VP), would go on to be President in 2009. Faced with the difficulty of finding an individual who wanted the job and had the computer skills and time to actually do the job, Bill P. suggested that he would take the Secretary job, and to keep some sort of continuity, I should take the President's position. I would still do the magazine and would be available to advise him, along with Tom Sove as to the Secretary's job.

I don't think that Bill P. would be devastated if someone wanted to take the Secretary's job, so one last time, I would appeal to anyone who thinks that they could do the job to let one of the elected officers know, and throw your hat into the ring. Absent any volunteers, we will have to do what we think is best for the Association. We need a Secretary, and I can't do it any more.

While at the VA last week for my monthly tune up with my shrink, the subject of phonies or wannabe's came up. He mentioned that there were more and more phonies applying for benefits from year to year. I mentioned that any real Veteran of any given conflict could tell a phony in a very few minutes of conversation. He agreed and said he didn't understand why the Veterans Administration doesn't have a panel of veterans to run applications by, it sure would make the verification process more meaningful, and might even save some money, money that is being wasted on phonies getting benefits. Not to mention the time that is wasted on a verification process, which is, at best, imperfect. We both agreed that the idea made so much sense, that there was no chance that it would be implemented.

Next issue we will have a full slate of officers standing for election and a day by day schedule of rendezvous/reunion activities. This information was not available when the magazine went to the printer, but check the web suite from time to time. We will post updated information about the rendezvous/reunion as it becomes available.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

By Reuben Siverling

One Reunion-Many Lives Changed Forever

It's hard to believe that nearly five years have passed since I attended my first 75th Ranger Regiment Association



Reunion (August 2004 - Tacoma, Washington). Oh yes, there had been invitations several times in the ten years prior to that one. Specifically, I still have more than one letter invitation from Tom Sove from 1994 and recall several phone call invitations from my former (and always present) First Sergeant Don Keller, former K 75 Executive Officer/Platoon Leader Cliff Norris and others. However, at each invitation I failed to put Ranger Reunion on my priority lists. As I look back on those years now, I cannot even muster up a good alibi or excuse for not attending.

Events following Pat Tillman's funeral in 2004 changed all of that. Dana McGrath (then Association President and previously our Company K 75th Ranger clerk), Ron

Edwards (then Association Secretary), Bill Bullen (then Association Vice-President) John Chester, Patrolling Editor, Roger Crunk (K 75 Unit Director), Wayne Mitch (K 75 Treasurer) and several others made personal contact and encouraged (shamed) my wife Bonita and I into getting to Tacoma. Briefly stated, which for me is impossible, that reunion and the days, weeks, months and years that have followed have changed my life forever. That is in no way meant to come off as an embellished statement from an extreme sentimentalist (which I am) but to somehow convey my gratitude to the many past and present Association Officers for always keeping their search engines hot and extracting me from the comfort of my 35+ year base camp, Kansas City, Missouri.

Words will never convey the many emotional displays of elation, pride, humbleness, tears, joy and sense of being in the presence of great and mighty warriors. The several days of renewing old acquaintances and creating the beginnings of new lifetime friends was, and remains, wrapped in warmth and love deep inside me. As Dana introduced me as "one of the captured who had strayed away from the fold" and Sandee

TREASURER'S MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

Rouse gave her presentation straight from the heart publicly testifying to the greatness of God's blessings, I admittedly wept nearly uncontrollably. Oh what a void that would have remained for a lifetime, had it not been for the persistence of those seeking and keeping alive true camaraderie.

In those few years since, my wife and I have attended the two 75th RRA Reunions at Columbus, Georgia (2005 and 2007) and two Unit Reunions. In 2008, Bonita and I were honored to host a huge Welcome Home Reunion for the 4th Division LRRP/E 58 LRP/K 75 Ranger. In 2005 I volunteered-and was elected by the members to become your Association Treasurer and am now completing my second and final two-year term in that position. What an enlightening and rewarding experience this has been.

As former commander of Company E 58th Infantry (LRP) and Company K 75th Infantry (Airborne) Ranger it has been a true honor to again serve along side of three other Association Officers who are also former members of those 4th Infantry Division LRRP/LRP/Rangers. Joe Little, Association 2nd Vice President has served admirably and has not tolerated any foolishness or perceived monopoly of the other four elected officers. Had it not been for attending that first Reunion in Tacoma, I would have cheated myself and my family of experiencing the joy of coming together under much more favorable circumstances with the dear, honorable and courageous brothers who had walked point and "had our back and flank" under terrible conditions nearly 40 years ago. I certainly would have denied myself of the opportunity to unashamedly hug the hundreds of men at these reunions as we expressed to each other "Thanks and Welcome Home My Brother!"

Tonight I am reminded of a song we sang in High School Boys' Chorus in Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania in the mid-1950's. It rang in my mind in the 1960's in two tours in Vietnam and still rings true today:

"No man is an island, no man stands alone. Each man's

joy is joy to me-each man's grief is my own. We need one another, so I will defend-Each man as my brother-Each man as my friend."

Why all these sentimental offerings in this issue of Patrolling. Simply stated, "We Need You!" As you read this, final planning for the reunion in Columbus is being solidified. Also, as previously announced, elections will be held to select the replacement of John Chester as Secretary and me as Treasurer. "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away". Each election year, individually and collectively, your Association Officers vow to serve voluntarily, be good stewards of the resources entrusted to them, and upon termination as an Officer of the Association, ensure that the Association is in good standing, financially solvent, and serving the needs of others in greater measure than when the officer assumed the duties of the respective office. What an honor to have served and to report that those self-imposed vows by each of us have been honored and will carry on.

We will be publishing a full disclosure of all financial income, disbursements and balances in the summer edition in time for discussion at the reunion. Succinctly stated, we are in great shape, financially strong, have no indebtedness and continue to provide more services. Your generous contributions to the Family Fund have enabled us to increase our monetary gifts to each of the three Active Ranger Battalions and the 75th Regimental Headquarters.

Now what? Get registered for the Reunion (See Detailed Registration Information in This Issue). Notify Bill Bullen, John Chester, or your Unit Director of your desire to be nominated as an officer of the Association. At the business session of the Reunion you will have the opportunity to publicly state your qualifications and desire to serve. Serve at least one two-year term then consider serving a second term. Get involved- you and so many others will be glad and honored when you do.

RANGER QUARTERMASTER

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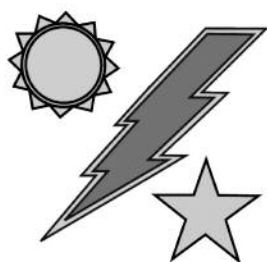


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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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, William L. Bullen, President

ECS 2009 UPDATE 01:

The final stimulus package agreed to by House and Senate conferees was pared back from what both the House and Senate had passed earlier, but is still a massive \$789 billion package that includes funding for a variety of initiatives that will affect the military community in one way or another. Following is a summary of selected provisions:

- **Federal Income Tax Rebate:** Working employees (including the self-employed) would see a reduction in federal income tax withholding and liability of up to \$400 (single) or \$800 (married filing joint return). This tax credit would be calculated at 6.2% of earned income, up to the capped amount. The credit would phase out for taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes above \$75,000 (single) or \$150,000 (married joint return).
- **Special Payment:** Social Security annuitants, disabled veterans, and certain others would be eligible for a one-time \$250 payment. Anyone who is eligible for this payment and also eligible for the federal income tax rebate mentioned above would have the \$250 deducted from the latter in determining the end-of-year tax liability.
- **Military Homeowner Assistance Program (HAP):** HAP benefits (normally payable only at BRAC locations) are extended to certain military homeowners who bought homes before 1 JUL 06 and who sell the homes before 30 SEP 12. To qualify the person must have received PCS orders or must have incurred a service-caused condition during a deployment in that period that caused disability retirement. For a member who died during a deployment, the surviving spouse is eligible. The HAP authorizes the government to reimburse the homeowner for a loss on the sale up to 95% of the original value, or to purchase the home for up to 90% of the original value. Market values are determined by the Defense Department.

- **Education Tax Credit:** Taxpayers with college education expenses would receive a tax credit of up to \$2,500 for the cost of tuition, books, and related expenses during 2009 and 2010. The credit would be 100% of the first \$2,000 and 25% of the next \$2,000. The credit would phase out for taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes above \$80,000 (single) or \$160,000 (married).
- **First-time Homebuyer Tax Credit:** For 2009, the credit would be 10% of the purchase price, up to a maximum for \$8,000. The previous requirement for homeowners buying homes after January 1, 2009 to pay the money back would be removed, unless the house is sold within three years of purchase.
- **Vehicle Sales Tax Deduction:** Taxpayers purchasing a new car, light truck, RV or motorcycle in 2009 will be able to deduct state and local sales and excise taxes paid on the vehicle. The deduction will phase out for taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes above \$125,000 (single) or \$250,000 (married).
- **Incentives to Hire Unemployed Veterans:** Businesses would get a tax credit of 40% of the first \$6,000 in wages for hiring unemployed veterans who are within 5 years of leaving active duty and who have drawn unemployment compensation for more than 4 weeks during the year before being hired
- **Filipino Vet Compensation:** Authorized release of \$198 million to rectify Uncle Sam's postwar snub (i.e. see Filipino Vet Inequities article). About 18,000 Filipino vets who fought in the war under the American flag will now receive up to \$15,000 for their service.
[Source: MOAA Leg Up 13 Feb 09 ++]

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

VA COLA 2010:

U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, on 10 FEB introduced S.407 to increase veterans' compensation through a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). The bill is cosponsored by Ranking Minority Member Senator Richard Burr (R-NC) and all the other members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee: Senators Rockefeller (D-WV), Murray (D-WA), Sanders (I-VT), Brown (D-OH), Webb (D-VA), Tester (D-MT), Begich (D-AK), Burr (D-IL), Specter (R-PA), Isakson (R-GA), Wicker (R-MS), Johanns (R-NE), and Graham (R-SC). "Compensation for disabled veterans and their survivors is a cost of war. Many of the veterans and widows receiving this benefit live on a fixed income, and they count on annual cost-of-living-increases to protect the purchasing power of their compensation," said Akaka. The COLA increase for veterans would match the annual increase provided to Social Security recipients, which is based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index. The COLA is designed to offset inflation and other factors that alter the cost of living over time. Last year's increase was 5.8 percent. The increase for this year has not yet been determined. The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2009 directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase, as of 1 DEC 09, the rates of:

- Veterans' disability compensation;
 - Dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children; and
 - Additional related benefits.
- [Source: Akaka press release 11 Feb 09 ++]

VA EMERGENCY CARE UPDATE 03:

On 19 FEB U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka (D-HI), Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, introduced the Veterans' Emergency Fairness Act of 2009 (S.404). This bill would enable the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to reimburse veterans enrolled with VA for the remaining costs of emergency treatment received outside of VA's health care system if the veteran has outside insurance that only covers part of the cost. Under current law, VA can reimburse veterans or pay outside hospitals directly only if a veteran has no outside health insurance. "Because insurance may not cover all costs, a trip to the ER

can leave insured veterans financially crippled. My bill would enable VA to fill the gap for veterans whose outside insurance does not meet their needs," said Akaka. In addition to reimbursing veterans for future costs of emergency care, the bill would allow the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide retroactive reimbursements back to May 2000 when VA was first authorized generally to cover the cost of outside emergency care for veterans enrolled with VA for their care. [Source: Sen. Akaka press release 11 Feb 09 ++]

VA HOME LOAN UPDATE 15:

Recent changes to the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program are helping veterans in financial difficulty. The new VA Loan Electronic Reporting Interface (VALERI) system provides banks and lending institutions more opportunities to help veteran borrowers retain their homes in this difficult mortgage environment. VALERI is a rules-based system designed to identify veterans who are experiencing financial difficulty. VALERI automates VA's previously paper-based processes. Now, via the Internet, servicers can electronically report delinquencies and major loan events, apply VA rules to help borrowers become current, send electronic documents, and file claims. VA completed the transition of all VA-backed loan servicers nationwide to the new electronic reporting system in NOV 08. Servicers now report on daily activities for more than 1.2 million VA-guaranteed loans. As a result of VA's efforts to help veteran borrowers retain their homes, VA's serious delinquency rate (loans more than 90 days delinquent) has dropped over the past six years. According to the most recent Mortgage Bankers Association National Delinquency Survey, VA's serious delinquency rate is 3%, as compared to 17.85% for subprime loans. Three hundred VA loan technicians at nine regional offices assist veterans and service members with VA-guaranteed loans avoid foreclosure by helping establish repayment plans, special forbearance, or loan modifications. VA loan technicians also provide as much assistance as possible to other veterans who do not have their home loans guaranteed by VA. Information about VA's home loan guaranty program is available at www.homeloans.va.gov. [Source: Veterans Today 10 Feb 09 ++]

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE MESSAGE (CONTINUED)

DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION (DIC):

DIC is a monthly tax free benefit paid by the Veterans administration to eligible survivors of a:

- Military service member who died while on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training; or
- Veteran whose death resulted from a service-related injury or disease; or
- Veteran whose death resulted from a non service-related injury or disease, and who was receiving, or was entitled to receive, VA Compensation for service-connected disability that was rated as totally disabling for at least 10 years immediately before death, OR since the veteran's release from active duty and for at least five years immediately preceding death, OR for at least one year before death if the veteran was a former prisoner of war who died after September 30, 1999.

Those eligible to receive benefits are:

1. Surviving spouses meeting the following criteria:

- Validly married the veteran before 1 JAN 57; or
- Was married to a service member who died on active duty, active duty for training, or inactive duty training; or
- Married the veteran within 15 years of discharge from the period of military service in which the disease or injury that caused the veteran's death began or was aggravated; or
- Was married to the veteran for at least one year; or
- Had a child with the veteran, and cohabited with the veteran continuously until the veteran's death or, if separated, was not at fault for the separation, and is not currently remarried. However, a surviving spouse who remarries on or after 16 DEC 03, and on or after attaining age 57, is entitled to continue to receive DIC.

2. Surviving child(ren) who are not included on the surviving spouse's DIC and are unmarried and under age 18, or between the ages of 18 and 23 and attending school, or a helpless adult meeting specific criteria. Criteria requirements for helpless adult children can be obtained by calling 1-800-827-1000.

3. Surviving parent(s) may be eligible for an income-based

benefit. When countable income exceeds the limit set by law, no benefit is payable. Eligible parents must report all sources of income to VA; for example, gross wages, retirement annuity, insurance proceeds or annuity, interest, and dividends. The spouse's income must also be included if living with a spouse. A spouse may be the other parent of the deceased veteran, or from remarriage. The 2009 income limit for a sole surviving parent, or one of two parents not living with a spouse is \$13,456. For a sole surviving parent living with a spouse, or one of two parents living with a spouse it is \$18,087. Payment rates are reduced based on the countable income of the parent or parents: Income limits change annually.

Those eligible for DIC are also eligible for Health Care (CHAMPVA), Federal Employment Preference, Home Loan Guaranty, and Survivors' & Dependents' Educational Assistance. Under current law a spouse's Survivor Benefits Plan (SBP) annuity is reduced by any DIC amount received. Bills have been submitted in Congress for the last 4 years to eliminate this deduction without success. The 2009 bill is H.R. 775. The basic monthly rate of DIC changes annually with COLA adjustments. There can be no decrease in the amount. For 2009 it is \$1,154 for an eligible surviving spouse. The rate is increased for each dependent child, and also if the surviving spouse is housebound or in need of aid and attendance. Add \$246 if at the time of the veteran's death, the veteran was in receipt of or entitled to receive compensation for a service-connected disability rated totally disabling (including a rating based on individual unemployability) for a continuous period of at least 8 years immediately preceding death and the surviving spouse was married to the veteran for those same 8 years. VA also adds a transitional benefit of \$286 to the surviving spouse's monthly DIC if there are children under age 18. The amount is based on a family unit, not individual children. For benefit rate tables, including those for children alone and parents, refer to <http://www.vba.va.gov/bln/21/Rates> or call 1-800-827-1000. To apply for DIC claimants should complete VA Form 21-534 Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by a Surviving Spouse or Child. Veterans in receipt of VA disability compensation are encouraged to brief their spouses on how DIC would apply to them to ensure there are no false expectations in their estate planning. [Source: www.vba.va.gov/VBA/benefits/factsheet 12 Jan 09 ++]

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.

TITLE II—PAIN CARE

SEC. 201. COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON PAIN MANAGEMENT.

Ed Note: Many disabled veterans suffer from chronic pain. This new law requires that individuals who receive their health care from VA not only be treated for that condition, but also requires that records be kept detailing treatment modems and follow up. This was furnished by Emmett Hiltibrand.

(a) Comprehensive Policy Required- Not later than October 1, 2008, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall develop and implement a comprehensive policy on the management of pain experienced by veterans enrolled for health care services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) Scope of Policy- The policy required by subsection (a) shall cover each of the following:

(1) The Department-wide management of acute and chronic pain experienced by veterans.

(2) The standard of care for pain management to be used throughout the Department.

(3) The consistent application of pain assessments to be used throughout the Department.

(4) The assurance of prompt and appropriate pain care treatment and management by the Department, system-wide, when medically necessary.

(5) Department programs of research related to acute and chronic pain suffered by veterans, including pain attributable to central and peripheral nervous system damage characteristic of injuries incurred in modern warfare.

(6) Department programs of pain care education and training for health care personnel of the Department.

(7) Department programs of patient education for veterans suffering from acute or chronic pain and their families.

(c) Updates- The Secretary shall revise the policy required by subsection (a) on a periodic basis in accordance with experience and evolving best practice guidelines.

(d) Consultation- The Secretary shall develop the policy required by subsection (a), and revise such policy under subsection (c), in consultation with veterans service organizations and other organizations with expertise in the assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and management of pain.

(e) Annual Report-

(1) IN GENERAL- Not later than 180 days after the date of the completion and initial implementation of the policy required by subsection (a) and on October 1 of every fiscal year thereafter through fiscal year 2018, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of the policy required by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS- The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) A description of the policy developed and implemented under subsection (a) and any revisions to such policy under subsection (c).

(B) A description of the performance measures used to determine the effectiveness of such policy in improving pain care for veterans system-wide.

(C) An assessment of the adequacy of Department pain management services based on a survey of patients managed in Department clinics.

(D) A assessment of the research projects of the Department relevant to the treatment of the types of acute and chronic pain suffered by veterans.

(E) An assessment of the training provided to Department health care personnel with respect to the diagnosis, treatment, and management of acute and chronic pain.

(F) An assessment of the patient pain care education programs of the Department.

(f) Veterans Service Organization Defined- In this section, the term 'veterans service organization' means any organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of title 38, United States Code.

CURRENT HOUSE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS
LEGISLATIVE DAY OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2008
110TH CONGRESS - SECOND SESSION

GOLD STAR

My dear friends

I am sorry to report that on January 6 Staff Sergeant Anthony D Davis HHC 1/75 was KIA in Iraq. Our sympathy and prayers go out to the Davis Family. There will be a Memorial Service at the 1/75 Memorial at 11 am on March 19.

I am also sorry to report that Goldstar father of Marc Anderson 1/75 Dave Anderson died suddenly Wed 2/11 here is the notice Sheila sent out

I regret to inform you that Dave Anderson, Father of Marc Anderson, died last night at approximately 1130 p.m. Anderson Hall Barracks was named after Marc and was a great source of pride for the Andersons.

When Marc died in Afghanistan, Dave and Judy were the first ones to welcome our guys home. They would meet each arrival after that and attended all of our functions. They were also present at the funeral for SSG Anthony Davis.

Dave will be greatly missed in the Ranger Community.

Cards may be sent to:

Mrs. Judith Anderson
2412 Burlingame Drive
Jacksonville, FL 32211



The journey of a Gold star Family is a Journey no one wants to take and yet it is a reoccurring reality throughout history.

We are all here for a purpose and some of us find that the real purpose in our lives happens when the tears stop and the pain that never leaves wanes. God's then readies us for the plan He has for us. We then find ourselves Blessed beyond description as we receive our marching orders. That is why I am here and this is what I do. But as you are finding out this is and has happened among several of our families. Last issue we saw how Marie Tillman's wonderful mission to keep Pat's memory alive is touching thousands of students.

This issue we see how it took one of our own, a precious friend, Ruth Stonesifer, to start the move to push the National Gold Star moms organization into this era. That



organization and their lack of communication, is what caused Emmett to found the Goldstar branch of the RRA. Ask me sometime and I will tell you the story.

She has taken on the task as a board member and 1st VP of slowly nudging and exposing them to the modern day needs of today's Goldstar families and assisting that organization into getting back to the values and reasons they were founded on. Rangers Lead way and so do their Mom's.

By Ruth Stonesifer, National 1st Vice

President

What's the deal with all this "white" stuff? That was the question I was asking myself in May 2004 as I sat in a hotel parking lot waiting to attend my first Department of PA meeting. I had received a letter about the annual event and realized that I needed to know more about my role now that I had begun my reluctant journey as a Gold Star Mother. The thing that stood out the most to me in this invitation, however, was that we were required to wear all WHITE!

Personally, I had given up wearing white about forty pounds ago. After some consternation (and let's be truthful here, frank resistance) about being told what to wear, I spent two days of my life desperately shopping for a pair of white pants and a blouse that made my "big-boned gal" frame look several sizes smaller, despite a color that wouldn't camouflage anything! I was going to be a good sport about it, at least for my first meeting, so I had continued to shop.

Always an hour early for every event in my life, I sat for 45 minutes in my car that day daring someone else to walk into the hotel dressed up in a similar ice cream suit. I was hoping in my heart that no one else would appear in white and I could quickly change into my black outfit, neatly folded on the back seat. But then I saw the first participant arrive. Yes, there was someone else "foolish" enough to dress in white before the official start of summer. Hoping that there was perhaps a Good Humor ice cream sellers' convention taking place in the same hotel, I tried to delay the inevitable. I bargained with my fate - "I'll wait for just one more before I get out and show myself to the world." More arrived. I realized that my black outfit would have to stay neatly folded on the back seat. It was time to go in and be recognized as an official member of this AGSM

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

organization that I had never wanted to be eligible to join. It turned out to be a great meeting and I was honored to meet Molly Snyder, our Korean era mother, who has traveled down this path long before any of the rest of us. Long before we were aware of how proud we were to be Americans – a truth largely unrecognized until our own child's death brought it home to us.

Over the years, most of my questions about AGSM traditions have been answered. But the question of why we wear white was one I never got a clear answer to, other than "We've always done that." I heard other mothers energetically questioning it as well, but the answer never varied. We knew what we did, but not why we did it. So I decided to do some research. I contacted Holly Fenelon, who is writing a soon-to-be published history of our organization, and asked her about AGSM and its tradition of wearing white. She told me that the tradition dated back to the earliest days of AGSM:

The selection of white as an organizational color is probably directly related to issues that arose during The Great War or, as we know it today, World War I. By the end of the first year of American involvement, tens of thousands of the nation's soldiers had died. President Woodrow Wilson was concerned that large numbers of women wearing the traditional black or dark-colored mourning clothes would have a negative effect on public morale, diminishing the nation's will, and eventually its ability, to win the war.

The concept of "gold star mothers" was already an honored part of the national psyche by then. Service flags (sometimes called service banners) had been hung in windows since the nation had declared war, displaying blue stars for each family member serving in the military and a gold star covering one of the blue stars for each family member who died in military service. The gold stars on the service flags had led to the "gold star" honorific for the mothers of the lost soldiers.

In May 1918, a gold star mother from New York wrote to President Woodrow Wilson asking him to authorize a "badge of honor" to represent the loss of a child in the nation's service so gold star mothers would "not dare to mourn, lest those seeing [us] and knowing of that supreme sacrifice, might think we felt it a precious life thrown away."

Thinking that such a decision would best be made for women by women, President Wilson turned the matter over

to the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense for suggestions. He heartily endorsed their recommendation that traditional black mourning clothes be replaced with "a three-inch black band, upon which a gilt star may be placed for each member of the family whose life is lost in the service, and the band shall be worn on the left arm."

In the new book there is a picture taken in 1925 of Chicago gold star mothers posed wearing gold star armbands. Two of the five mothers are still "old school," dressed in black but wearing the new armband which can hardly be seen against the dark background. The other three are dressed in WHITE, their armbands boldly proclaiming their status and embracing both the emotion and the intent of Wilson's suggestion. While the armbands symbolically acknowledge their sacrifice, their overall "message" is one of pride, not sadness.

Holly also added a comment about the symbolism of white: While black is a traditional color of mourning in Western cultures, I think the decision by AGSM to wear white, rather than black, was a strong statement of how the women wanted to be perceived as they participated in the organization's business. Yes, they mourned their lost children, but white made a symbolic statement that went beyond mourning, a statement of peace, sacrifice, innocence and goodness. Those were the things that their children had been and had died for - wearing white celebrated their children's contributions while the gold star acknowledged their sacrifice.

Another factor that may have influenced the selection of white as the formal color of AGSM is the Red Cross uniform worn by volunteers in the hospitals during World War I and afterwards. The uniform was starkly white and resembled a nun's habit. It may be that the AGSM color choice was made in keeping with that tradition since, from its very beginnings, the members were hospital volunteers. This tie-in with the Red Cross uniforms seems to me one of the most logical explanations.

In the earlier history of the American Gold Star Manor written by Holly Fenelon and Mary Schmitz, it states that when the AGSM formed in 1928 "the members adopted white service uniforms as a psychologically positive way to honor the memory of their loved ones and to acknowledge their organizational kinship." AGSM has always prided itself on not being a "weepy" group and their choice of white reflected that – their efforts have always been focused on

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

what could be accomplished for others rather than commiserating with each other over their personal losses. There are references throughout the organization's history to the wearing of white:

1936: "Upon their silvery hair white flannel overseas caps, marked with a gold-thread star, sit in jaunty incongruity. Arms that once, in years gone by, cradled baby sons now pull about their shoulders long white flannel capes lined with pale gold satin." (Describing attendees at the Detroit Convention)

1941: "There were more than 300 of them, graying now, dressed in white and each wearing one or more gold stars that testified to their priceless sacrifice on the altar of democracy 24 years ago."

1945: A photograph of two white-clad, garrison-capped members of AGSM selling war bonds to the public appeared in the New York Times in November 1945.

1947: A request from national president Eleanor Boyd to the committee planning the 1947 convention: "There is one change that I would like to see you make if possible for the incoming officers. Have them wear long white dresses also. It gives a gracious womanliness and will impress your distinguished guests and most women look much better in long dresses than in short."

1947: In response to members' requests for "official dresses" rather than a uniform, national president Eleanor Boyd contracted with a manufacturer in Los Angeles to make both "a white costume street length for our mothers and also a white costume, floor length for institutions and installations, chorus work and for formal dinner or banquet wear."

1948: "Wearing white and their distinctive white hats with gold lettering, they were familiar sights at parades and other events honoring veterans."

1949: Responding to a question about when the traditional white outfit would be worn, including caps, Mrs. Boyd advised the members that "you do not wear them promiscuously at any time. Why? Because we want to keep the dignity and reverence due our sons and daughters who were gallant, honorable and true to all of us."

As someone who spent 8 years of her life researching the Stonesifer/Voshell family tree, exploring the history of this tradition is fascinating to me. But that doesn't solve the dilemma that many of the newer moms face when dealing with wearing what they view as the "dreaded white." Here are a few more observations on that tradition.

We stand out in a crowd when we're all wearing white. My

first observation of this fact was at the candle light vigil at the Vietnam Wall during the Memorial Day weekend of 2004. Most of the Vietnam moms knew the drill and wore their casual whites with our AGSM organizational jacket. Around dusk, the "Carry the Flame" procession walked solemnly to the apex of the wall. Veterans and their families held glow-stick candles above us as they parted the way for the Gold Star Mothers. It was a very moving tribute. Then we walked to the other two monuments with the crowd making way for the moms in white. The mothers who had not dressed in white were gradually peeled away from the main group through no fault of their own; they were simply not recognized as being a part of the Gold Star Mother group. They had to fight their way back through the crowd to catch up to the moms in white because the crowd had closed ranks on them, thinking they were part of the onlookers. I could definitely see the advantage of wearing white after just that one event.

Often the first question from the general public upon seeing us dressed in white is: "Were you guys Army nurses in World War II or what?" While that particular war reference causes me pain since I was born after World War II, I think that my gray hair is proof of my tolerance for these uninformed, but good-hearted questions. Our "white" statement has drawn their attention; it offers me a chance to educate them on our mission.

My response is always calm and encouraging to those curious about why we are all dressed in white: "Actually we are mothers of sons and daughters who gave their lives in the service of this great Nation." As they recoil from their obvious gaffe and wish they were about three miles away from this conversation, I usually smile and continue with, "Thank you for asking about our organization, we volunteer for the veterans in honor and memory of our sons and daughters." As I walk away I smile softly and think to myself, "It could be worse, thank heavens we don't have to wear the capes anymore."

Holly also offered me some thoughts on the power of white:

There is also a certain power to the wearing of white - your example of the crowd parting for the gold star mothers in 2004 is a wonderful anecdote, as is the fact that gold star mothers who hadn't worn white were separated unintentionally from the group for they were not recognized as part of it. The issue of organizational kinship and recognition is an important and powerful one.

GOLD STAR (CONTINUED)

This has turned into a fascinating question. I'm beginning to think that AGSM's original decision to wear white as an organizational color was inspired. It set the members apart in any crowd, recognizable and powerful as a unit; it reflected the active celebration of the lives of their children through service rather than the crippling sadness reflected by traditional black mourning which actually served to distance the mourner from other people; white symbolized peace, the one thing that gold star mothers of every generation have prayed for; and white reflected both the sacrifices of their children and the grace, purity and innocence of those who had died so young to create a world of freedom.

However, the question remains - how does this relate to the Convention and the discomfort many of the newer mothers felt about the dress code? To be fair, it was stated in the Convention Call in our Newsletter that the wearing of white was the suggested attire, not a requirement as it was for my first Department convention. This wording always appeals to my sense of fairness – as a group we can be accommodating and flexible.

Do I wear the white suit at every event where I represent the AGSM? No, I evaluate each event before making my decision. Sometimes I'm right with the program; other times I wish I had shown up dressed like the rest of the Gold Star Mothers, but failed to get the white memo. One thing I have learned is that the veterans recognize us in WHITE. And it is really easy to spot the group of Gold Stars Moms you need to join amid a sea of humanity.

Things have loosened up a bit since my first convention. Or, possibly, I have simply made my own personal decision as to what I will or will not do. I was so proud of the Gold Star Moms in Kansas recently when a new member showed up not dressed in white and was encouraged to participate in the Memorial Service regardless of what she wore. Most on the current National Executive Board feel that, no one should be turned away because of what they have on. (In the Bulletin IX February 28, 1947, Eleanor Boyd, the National President, wrote about the wearing apparel for the upcoming convention, "You may wear white to the meetings if you care to. It is not absolutely necessary" ...then goes on to some other details but ends with"we want no one to be barred from coming or participating after they arrive because of clothes." (And we thought we were revolutionaries.)

I agree there is a special beauty and dignity to the ceremony when we all march to the altar in our long white gowns to

pay our respects to our fallen heroes and members of our organization who have passed from our ranks. But more important to me is that the new mothers feel welcomed and comfortable as part of our beloved 81-year-old organization. I don't want to drive the newer mothers into other organizations over a tradition that hasn't been fully understood for decades. Nothing should be allowed to prevent them from blossoming into fully active Gold Stars dedicated to volunteering for the veterans, the active duty personnel and the families of the military community.

I hope that we are seen as Holly has suggested:

Think what you will, but I'll bet you any amount that not one person who sees gold star mothers going about their business individually or collectively in white thinks about whether that's a younger person's color or unseasonable or unflattering. No, they are thinking "Wow! Look at those amazing women!" because you are recognizable in your white as part of a unit that has a long, honorable and respected tradition of service, patriotism and sacrifice.

I don't hide in my car anymore. I know that I am not alone in this overwhelming grief I feel for my son. It is helped by the intense pride I feel belonging to the group of amazing women who wear the gold star, dress in white and do phenomenal volunteer work for our veterans.

Post Script—

On Veterans Day 2008 Barbara Benard, Mary Byers, our flag and banner guards, Georgie Carter Krell, the National President AGSM, and yours truly were walking towards the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery to attend the breakfast sponsored for the VSO's.

We were all decked out in our winter white pants suits so there was no mistaking us for not belonging to the same organization. After the breakfast a gentleman approached us as we headed to board the buses for the Memorial Amphitheater. He said that he was standing with a group of Veterans who saw us approach the building earlier that morning and stated they all stopped talking to marvel at the stunning group of women approaching to the building.

This maybe the first time I have ever been associated with a group who were described as stunning but I have to admit we did look very official. Just take a look at the matching outfits our Banner and Flag guards wear as they carry our Banner representing our organization and the American Flag . They do us proud and I will cherish that morning's fleeting description of Stunning the rest of my life.

FEATURE ARTICLES

I went to the Wall. I'm sitting here on a bench, watching the tourists flow by in droves, gawking and making comments, paying respect as only they can.....In a vain attempt for sure. They have no conception of the absolute concentration of the souls embedded in the wall.....dense.....I can see the boys, the team, the warriors, the Rangers, the LRRPs.....I'm with them now for a very short focused moment moving slowly through the dense....jungle....very, very silent.....a team of six...the vegetation slowly yielding to the bodies as.....they glide through.....six minds tuned to the purpose of the team.....a deadly thing, this team has the capacity of instant and lethal power.....at the same time, very vulnerable, but to clarify the meaning of "vulnerability," the cost of exerting aggression will come at a very high price.....the totality of all this is astounding.....the consequences of a very brief instant in time are not only permanent but also so potent in the meaning of things.....the memory of such brief glimpse in the time of living are so everlasting, so permanently engraved into our minds and consciousness, it is truly amazing.

I'm sitting here on a bench in the quiet of the night. It is humid. The bugs are alive with their nocturnal music. The grass and the trees are wet....around me and this spot are the sounds of the world...traffic, air, auto, etc., yet somehow the Wall and its surrounding grass and trees do not seem part of the surroundings. Tourists flow by chattering in many languages and every once in a while a sound of a language jumps out and falls into place of the Wall Vietnamese "bombai" was one of the expressions that rang a note of memory.

We have found all of our fallen Rangers and have paid our respect to those who came before us a fraternity that is because of what we were. To those I knew, I felt the time we were together, good times and laughter, beer and sharing our pasts, and hopes for the future, knowing their loved ones through their thoughts and expressions, working the jungle together as warriors, such perfection one cannot imagine. It is awesome to reflect upon....the mechanics of it, but more so, watching ourselves execute.....with extreme prejudice the poor NVA/VC who happened to be the object of our mission. Even when we found ourselves in an impossible situation, a look in their eyes to share a thought that we will extract a heavy price, and most important, to understand... that we will go together as a team, always together, an image of confident resolution to what seems at the time a foregone conclusion.....having

left the thought of loved ones at home and arrive at the end with my team and arrive at the end with my team together is good.

It is nice here when the tourists are gone. It seems to me a very peaceful place empty as though the souls and spirits embedded in the Wall are "resting." I touched my brothers on the Wall and I felt warmthand enjoyed the feeling before the rational part of my mind explained why the granite was warm. I felt a different warmth, and it felt good.

Eventually the emotional story comes to the agonizing visual memory of the end... Patino, Morgan, Peel..... I witnessed their ends and as I write, I feel a pain, an utter loss as the vision of their lifeless bodies are displayed in my mind. I just want to explode, but no matter what I do, the pain will always be there. They are never coming back, and I can't.

THOUGHTS AT THE WALL

Join them painfully, we did leave them behind, and it's not right....we should be together. Blake and Doc Kramer did years later, I know, for if there's any good justice or righteousness in life, it must be so. Kramer said, "I think I'll join the boys," and did so. Blake fought for his fallen team, and when he no longer had the strength, joined Morgan.....I can see them now very clearly. Man they were "strike." I feel a sense of being honored and privileged to have been part of their lives, and to the bonds of the Ranger LRRPs.

This has been a journey I had to make...a journey that has been satisfying. It sounds absolutely stupid, but the fact is, I'm finally home. I can feel the "boys" and I'm going to feel them with me until I join them again. I don't feel lost....I have a new team at home... my family and my group team. I'm truly thankful I do feel the tranquility for which I've longed for, not all is good, but what good I have is enough.....thankful to be sure. A thought I did enough, I did good, not to feel guilty. I would, however, go back in time and experience it again, all of it crazy but honest. A horrible idea, given the fact of having done some awful things, "killing."

There is a song by Santana which has the words, "all you killers... turn your light on.... there is a boogeyman hiding under my bed... holding my hand, telling me what to do, so

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

turn your lights on.”

I'm back at the Wall. It's Monday morning around 9:00 a.m. A beautiful day to look at, but it's very hot and humid. How ironic. Close your eyes, and it feels like the beginning of the road back to Nam.

This is the first time in daylight and I feel odd, the crowds are not bad, but a sense of uneasiness prevails. It's in the open, no cover... never liked that, never will.

After last night here, I feel good, hard to explain.....maybe knowing the boys are so honored every day, I suppose for an eternity, is some solace, but hardly fair ... in that I mean they and their loved ones have not had what should have been had. Peel's baby daughter, now a grown woman his love for her was so great....too much. She was born while he was in Nam, so he extended, took 30 days and went home to see and feel the love of his life.....a gamble for sure, and one that was life~altering. A termination. He came back, went back to work as a LRRP Ranger, it seems that he felt he was needed and could not ride out his time while his teammates worked the jungle and its venomous inhabitants.

I'm sitting here in this peaceful space... I want to sit and think and feel emotions to be sure. Robert and I were just talking about our lives, being together, and he mentioned something. "Here at the Wall the airport takeoff pattern goes right over the Wall. It feels like a constant fly~by tribute to the boys." Odd thought to be sure.

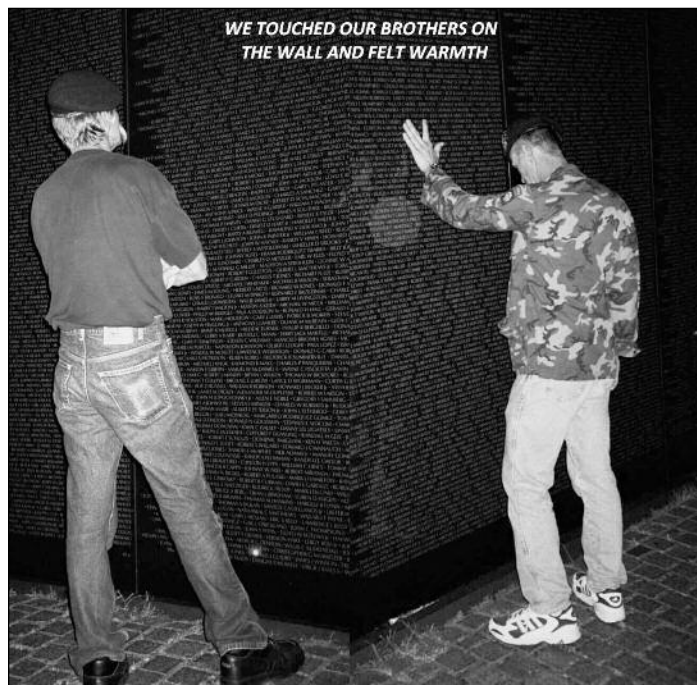
Peel, Morgan, Patino, Sweeney died 30 years ago, and it still seems like it was last month. I suppose it will always feel like that... there will always be nightmares of firefights and dreams of fear dreams of things that represent evil as evil manifests itself in visions of doing the dirty work as I call it now.....back then, it was the ultimate rush...killing with extreme prejudice and celebrate the accomplishment with a rush....for many years, I minimized the numbers, the intensity and satisfaction, but in the year I've come to accept all of it.

I'll have to carry not only the loss of my Ranger brothers, including those that went later,also of the nature of tasks.....rationalizing always the justice of it all I doubt that this counseling will do much to erase, not that it's supposed to, but so far, life is so much better and I trust the process.

It's sad to see the tourists n~ yet how in the hell would they know some of the souls on the Wall. The squirrels here are almost tame, and they seem to attract more attention than the Wall. I've been here all morning, and should leave, but we stay sitting here on the bench looking at the Wall. People flowing by in droves I wonder how many are boonie rats, arty, medics, etc. Age is a potential to identify, but a lot who were not even born, flow by too.

The distraction at the Wall... tourists sitting in the darkness on a bench in view of the Wall, the thoughts were many, contradictions, knowing that mental strength was back. A year ago I would have broke into a deeper depression, but feeling lost, feeling that I should not be on the living side of the Wall....reliving the reason for that knowledge, and yet feeling good about myself and the place I now have in life, and yet, wanting to go see the boys, to join, not really knowing.

Written by Sven Henriksen
N Company 75th Inf Ranger Regiment
1970-1971 Delta Team Central Highlands, VN



FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

America's Last Draftee: "I'm a Relic"

By [Mark Thompson/Washington](#) Saturday, Feb. 07, 2009



America's generals love to brag about their all-volunteer Army. That's because they tend to overlook Jeffrey Mellinger. He donned his Army uniform for the first time on April 18, 1972, about the time

the Nixon Administration was seeking "peace with honor" in Vietnam and *The Godfather* was opening on the silver screen. Nearly 37 years later, he's still wearing Army green. Mellinger is, by all accounts, the last active-duty draftee serving in the U.S. Army.

"I'm a relic," Mellinger concedes with a self-deprecating laugh. But the last of the nearly 2 million men ordered to serve in the Vietnam-era military before conscription ended in 1973 still impresses 19-year-old soldiers. "Most of them are surprised I'm still breathing, because in their minds I'm older than dirt," the fit 55-year-old says. "But they're even more surprised when they find out this dinosaur can still move around pretty darn quick."

Mellinger was working as a 19-year-old drywall hanger in Eugene, Oregon, when he came home to find a draft notice waiting for him. "I went down to the draft board and asked them if this was really serious," he recalls, "or if it was like an invitation." But it was an order, the first of many Mellinger would obey. He started his military career as a clerk in what was then called West Germany, and was looking forward hanging up his uniform after two years of service. "I was dead-set on getting out," he says. "We had a lot of racial problems, drug problems, leadership problems." But his company commander talked him into re-enlisting. The lure: the chance to join the Rangers, the elite warrior corps that Mellinger came to love (his 3,700 parachute jumps add up to more than 33 hours in freefall). Re-enlisting "was the best decision of my career," Mellinger says.

The Army sent him all over the world, including tours in Japan and Iraq. General David Petraeus, who served as Mellinger's boss during the draftee's final three months in Iraq in 2007, calls him "a national asset" who kept the top generals' aware of the peaks and valleys in battlefield morale. "We lost count of how many times his personal

convoy was hit," Petraeus says. "Yet he never stopped driving the roads, walking patrols, and going on missions with our troopers." (Mellinger's 33-month Iraq tour was punctuated by 27 roadside bombings, including two that destroyed his vehicle, although he managed to escape injury.) Mellinger now serves as the Command Sergeant Major, the senior enlisted man in the Virginia headquarters of the Army Materiel Command, trying to shrink what he calls the "flash-to-bang time" between recognizing what soldiers need and getting it to them.

The son of a Marine, Mellinger had been turned down by both the Marines and the Army when he sought to enlist. "I was not a perfect child," he says. He finds it strange that the compulsory military that launched his career no longer exists, but says the Army is better for it. "You get people who want to do this work," he says of today's nearly-all volunteer force. "If you had a draft at any other business in the world, you'd get people who maybe weren't suited to be accountants or drivers or mathematicians."

He doesn't have much patience for those, like Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., who want to bring back the draft to ensure that war's burdens are equally shared. "We're doing just fine, thank you, with the all-volunteer force," Mellinger says. "Until the time comes that we're in danger of losing our capabilities to do our missions, then we ought to stick with what we have — there is no need for the draft."

Like many veterans of the Vietnam-era Army, he bristles at suggestions that the draftee force was riddled with misfits and druggies. "We didn't run off to Canada," he says, taking a swipe at those who avoided the draft by heading north. "While it makes great rhetoric to stand up and say 'We don't want a draft Army because the draft Army was bad,' the facts don't support it," Mellinger says. "Just because they didn't run down and sign up doesn't make them less deserving of respect for their contributions." There's a sensitivity evident in being viewed as less of a soldier for having been drafted. "I'm proud to be a soldier, and I'm proud to be a draftee," he says. "I took the same oath that every other enlistee who came in the Army — there wasn't a different one for draftees."

His proudest moments are watching those he trained climb the military hierarchy themselves. "I can think of several soldiers who went on to become command sergeants major who were privates when I was either their squad leader or their drill sergeant," Mellinger says. But such memories also trigger his lone regret. "I wish I were as smart as I thought I was when I was moving into those duty positions."

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)

Mellinger has told his wife, Kim, that this is his final Army posting, meaning he's likely to retire sometime next year. The couple has no children, although Mellinger has three grown kids from a prior marriage. The last draftee then plans to move to Alaska, where he spent much of his career,

and spend his days reading history and running with his two Dobermans. "When I tell my wife it's my last assignment, she just rolls her eyes," he concedes. "This is my sixth 'last assignment'."

Christmas Fund After Action Report

Ed Note: When we discovered that each Ranger Battalion added an additional Company (D Co), we increased our contributions to each of the Battalions. Each Battalion was given \$4,000.00 for toys and \$1,500.00 for turkeys and their Christmas party. We also contributed to the Special Troops Battalion, which was new this year. This is something that we can all be proud of. Those of us who are Vietnam Veterans are well aware of the lack of support we had when on active duty. It does us proud that we will not let that happen to this generation of warriors. John Chester

To The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.
Thank you all for your contributions to make the holiday season just a little nicer for our Rangers' families by helping to make the Battalion Christmas Party a wonderful event. Especially as most of us will not be with our families this Christmas, this event was a wonderful way to provide a memorable event in lieu of being with Daddy.

Your continuous and faithful support to this battalion humbles me and without getting too touchy feely I really just want to say thanks...Thanks for sharing your special talents with us, thanks for supporting our Rangers and their families, thanks for your gifts that help make these events all the more special, thanks for being the great patriotic Americans you are and lastly thanks for caring enough to volunteer the most precise thing of all...your time.

Although, we don't know all of you personally, CSM Smith and I indeed feel fortunate to count you all as friends. If we can do anything for you in the future please ask.

With warmest wishes and deepest regards.

LTC Brian Mennes
CDR, 1st Ranger Battalion
brian.mennes@us.army.mil

Ed Note: Another letter we received as a result of our contributions during the Christmas Season.

Hey,

My name is Melissa Hunter and my husband Donovan and I are in HHC.

I really didnt know who to send this Thank you to, but I just wanted to say thank you for the Batt. Christmas Party! My son is only one, but we had sooo much fun. And, I think it was so neat you guys had Santa and the crazy magic guy there for the kids! Thank you also for the Wal-Mart gift card and the Yankee candle (I'm a total sucker for those darn Yankee Candles and we will have fun picking out new toys at the store).

I also loved the little Ranger charm that was tied to the candles, I was wondering if there was any way I could some how acquire about 30 of those? Buy them, or whatever...I have a little idea up my sleeve I'd like to try.

Let me know, and again, thank you so much for the Christmas party. It really was one of the nicer events we've had in a while.

Thank you,
Melissa Hunter

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association has once again made a lot of young Rangers happy. I just finished handing out the \$50 gift cards for Publix to the companies for their families who need assistance.

I will have lots of pictures for you from the Christmas Party for Patrolling.

We are compiling our list for Christmas now and will make a lot of kid's Christmas much brighter with your help. Please know that we appreciate all you do and have done for us and our Nation!

God Bless and Happy Thanksgiving!

Shelia

Shelia Bowen Dudley
Project Manager, 1st Ranger Battalion Memorial

FEATURE ARTICLES (CONTINUED)



75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

2009 REUNION 2 THRU 8 AUGUST, 2009 REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, I will attend the reunion at Ft Benning, Ga, 2 - 8 August, 2009.

NAME _____ MEMBERSHIP # _____

UNIT AFFILIATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

I will be accompanied by _____ guests;*

(By registering your guests, you are helping to defray the overall cost of the reunion. The Beer Garden, transportation, speakers, munchies, hospitality rooms, activities, are all expenses to the Association. We try to make the reunion break even, guest registration helps.)

NAMES: _____

REGISTRATION FEE PER PERSON @ \$40.00 \$ _____

BANQUET TICKETS # _____ @ \$35.00 \$ _____

TOTAL PAID..... \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the 75th Ranger Regiment Association (75thRRA).

Mail to: 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 10970
Baltimore, MD 21234

Make your reservations now. Call the Holiday Inn North, Columbus, GA. Local phone number for reservations is 706-324-0231. National Reservation number is 800-465-4329. Our banquet will be at the Iron Works. The Holiday Inn North, Columbus, GA offers complimentary shuttle service, lounge, restaurant, pool, free parking and other amenities.

RANGER RENDEZVOUS / REUNION 2009

AUGUST 2 - 8, 2009

FT. BENNING (COLUMBUS), GA

**THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.,
WILL HOLD ITS' BI-ANNUAL REUNION
AND BUSINESS MEETING ON THE ABOVE DATES.
OUR REUNION HEAD QUARTERS WILL BE
THE AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN NORTH, ON MANCHESTER ROAD.
WE HAVE A GUARANTEED RATE OF \$79.00 PER NIGHT.
THIS REUNION WILL BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT RENDEZVOUS
AND CHANGE OF COMMAND.
AT THIS TIME, WE DO NOT HAVE A SCHEDULE OF
REGIMENTAL ACTIVITIES, OTHER THAN THAT
THEY WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN THE ABOVE TIME FRAME.
THE MARCH, 2009, (SPRING) ISSUE OF *PATROLLING*
WILL CONTAIN SCHEDULES.**

**THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT, INC. BANQUET WILL BE HELD THE EVENING OF
SATURDAY, 8 AUGUST, 2009.**

**SPEAKERS WILL BE RETIRED FEDERAL JUDGE EUGENE SULLIVAN
Janis Nark, Lt. Col (Ret.) served as a registered nurse in the Army, including a tour in Vietnam.
Serving in the Army Reserve she was recalled to active duty for nine months during Desert Storm**

**WE WILL HAVE A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES FOR OUR MEMBERS
AND FOR THEIR FAMILY MEMBERS, TO INCLUDE:**

*****BICYCLING ALONG THE RIVER WALK**

*****HORSEBACK RIDING**

*****INTRODUCTION TO YOGA AND STRESS REDUCTION FOR SPOUSES**

*****INTRODUCTION TO YOGA & STRESS REDUCTION FOR VETERANS**

*****SEMINARS ON VETERAN'S BENEFITS AND NAVIGATING THE VA.**

RANGER RENDEZVOUS/REUNION 2009 PARACHUTE JUMP

For all you young at heart Jumpers who feel the need to throw yourselves out of a perfectly good airplane, we have great news for you.....

On Friday August 07th, 2009 at 0900 there will be a Parachute Jump!

**Place: Opelika, Alabama
DZ: Tuskegee, Alabama
Jump Master: SMG Buddy Blue**

Book Early..... 50 person max for Friday
(if we exceed 50, an additional jump day will be scheduled)
Dedicated to Henry (Zeke) Zyrkowski

Please email the following contact persons below with your full name and jump type requested for the Master List which will be provided to the Jump Center.

STATIC JUMP

4 hr class
Inc. all equipment
\$175.00 1st Jump
\$45.00 2nd Jump

HALO JUMP

student is current and
will provide all gear
\$20.00

TANDOM JUMP

\$ 175.00

POC's

Bill Hill: WHHILL@COMCAST.NET

To view the schools web page, please go to **WWW. SKYDIVEOPELIKA.NET**

Echo Co. 3rd Bn. 506th Inf. RECON “LRRP’S”

*E/3/506th RECON, young men filled with pride.
Proudly honored their country and those who died.
Working out of “Phan Thiet” along the coast,
they were the best, no need to boast.*

*Charlie knew the LRRP’s were there to stay.
Combat tested leaders led the way.
“Can Do Pad”, the name said it all.
Every man a volunteer, each man stood tall.*

*RECON missions came with a sense of doom.
Some “Bought the Farm”, they came home too soon.
Trained ARVN’s as LRRPS, to fight a new kind of war.
Instructors with the yellow patch, were all hard core.*

*“Leave No Man Behind”, our most important creed.
A fellow LRRP was down, very much in need.
Your generosity & kind words have helped another.
Gave hope to a stranger, hope to a brother.*

*Written for Phil “Goody” Goodman a former
E/3/506th RECON
Dedicated to the Phan Thiet LRRP’s*

*Author: Michael D. Monfrooe USA Ret
E/3/506th RECON – “L” Co. 75th Rangers*

UNIT REPORTS



1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Michael T. Etheridge

There are only three type people in the world; sheep, wolves and sheep dogs. Sheep are those who go to bed thinking everything is alright and take no actions to protect themselves or their loved ones. There are wolves that prey on sheep; they are the bullies, criminals and terrorist of this world. And then there are Sheep Dogs. Sheep Dogs are those of us who stand in the breach to protect the sheep. Men and women like you and I who answered the call and dedicated their lives to the ideals of the Ranger Creed. It is my duty to inform you of the loss of a dedicated brother sheep dog.

STAFF Sergeant ANTHONY D. DAVIS

Killed in action on January 6, 2009

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Staff Sgt. Anthony Dee Davis, 29, was a team leader assigned to 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield. He was born on Feb. 20, 1979, in Mainz, Germany.

He was killed during a direct fire engagement by a heavily armed enemy combatant in northern Iraq. The enemy combatant was subsequently killed when he engaged the assault force. Davis was serving his sixth combat deployment. His previous deployments were to Afghanistan and Iraq.

After graduating from Seabreeze High School in his hometown of Daytona Beach, Fla., Davis enlisted in the Army in October 2000. He completed One Station Unit



Training at Fort Benning Ga., as an infantryman. After graduating from the Basic Airborne Course there, he was assigned to the Ranger Indoctrination Program also at Fort Benning.

He graduated from the Ranger Indoctrination Program in June 2001 and was then assigned to Company C, 1st Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment in July 2001. He served there as a fire team leader and a team leader. His military education includes the Basic

Airborne Course, Ranger Indoctrination Program, Warrior Leader Course, Combat Life Savers Course and the U.S. Army Ranger Course where he earned his Ranger Tab in 2002.

Davis' awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, two Army Good Conduct Medals, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge and the Ranger Tab.

A memorial Service will be held for SSG Davison March 19, 2009 at the 1st Battalion Memorial. If your wish to attend please RSVP to Mrs. Dudley @ (912) 315-5608 or email dudleys@soc.mil.

Please forgive my plagiarism. The sheep dog analogy is not mine. It was written by a Marine.



2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Nate Smith

Greetings Rangers,

Well my plan to return to the Regiment seems to have failed. I have heard nothing from big Army since I last wrote. Luckily I was offered a corporate position with the PSC that I was on contract with, so I am now a full time

firearms and tactics instructor....not a bad gig. The big boss is another former B 2/75 Ranger, we have one A 2/75 Ranger and a couple of SEALs so it's a good mix. I've included a photo of Ranger "WK" and myself taken near Kabul earlier this year.

2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

Ranger Pat “Mac” Mcleath is putting together a trip to Panama to mark the 20th anniversary of Operation Just Cause.

Email him at mac@rangermac.com if you’re interested in getting involved. RUMINT via CSM Kennedy is that Fort Sherman is a high class tourist spot.

My email server has been acting up with all of my traveling. If you haven’t gotten an email from me in a while please send me one at rangersmith275@comcast.net. I fear that I may need to rebuild the email list from scratch.

Ranger Bill Bullen recently sent out an email reminding us that scholarships are available to qualified Rangers of all eras and their dependants from the National Ranger Memorial Foundation. The National Ranger Memorial Foundation has partnered with the Ranger Battalions Association of WWII to offer up to 25 annual \$1,000



competitive scholarships. Visit www.rangermemorial.org for more

information. Often these scholarships go unused.

Time Magazine journalist Mark Thompson wrote an article about 2/75 Ranger Jeff Mellinger in the February 07, 2009 issue. The article can be found here:

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,1877943,00.html>

As always, join the association and call or email if I can help.



3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

Rangers,

First and foremost, allow me to apologize for not having anything in this space in the last issue. I imagine one of the many things we all have in common is absolutely no use for excuses, so I will not offer any now.

Make sure you check out the information in this issue about the upcoming Rendezvous at Fort Benning. It’s shaping up to be an outstanding event. Rooms are going pretty fast, so be sure and nail down your accommodations ASAP.

I finally got some more information on the National Infantry Museum, and will have some images attached. This place looks like it could take up a whole day by itself during Rendezvous. They will have one area dedicated to the Ranger Hall of Fame that looks to be outstanding. Here’s a link to the info on the website if you don’t already have it: http://www.75thrra.com/news/reunion_news.html



THE NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM

The Grand Opening of the new National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center has been confirmed for **June 19, 2009**.

Earlier plans to open the galleries in March were changed to give exhibit fabricators the time they need to finish their work with the highest quality possible.

“With a project this big, this complex, delays are not unusual,” explained National Infantry Foundation Chair MG

Jerry White. “We could have opened as planned in March, but it would have been without some of the features that truly make this museum spectacular. And we owe those we are honoring in this museum nothing but the best.”

However there will be activities in March that will be historic in their own right. On March 19, the first class of Infantry Soldiers will graduate on Patriot Park’s new five-acre parade field. The field will be dedicated at this inaugural event, including the sacred soil ceremony in which descendants and heroes from the Infantry’s major

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

battles will spread soil collected from battlefields around the world. From that day forward, Infantry school graduates who pass in review on the parade field will have a tangible connection to the forefathers whose legacy they've just joined.

After the graduation, the non-gallery portion of the museum will open to those soldiers, their family members, guests and the public. In Soldier Center, visitors can see an IMAX movie, eat in the Fife and Drum restaurant, shop at Soldier Store or browse the Ranger and Officer Candidate School Halls of Honor. Soldier Center will remain open until Grand Opening festivities in June.

<http://www.nationalinfantryfoundation.org/home.shtml>

REST IN PEACE WARRIORS

I have to admit, these are always difficult to read and pass on. Two more Rangers are gone. One in a stupid traffic accident, the other in combat operations. Both are losses we could ill afford, deeply felt by their brothers in arms and their families.

A Ranger from Fort Benning was killed early Saturday and four other soldiers were injured after the SUV they were riding in went out of control and crashed on U.S. 27 near LaGrange, the Georgia State Patrol said.

Pfc. Adam Wayne Bopp, 22, of Indiana, was pronounced dead of massive head injuries at 5 a.m. at West Georgia Medical Center, about three hours after the 2:10 a.m. wreck, said Troup County Coroner Jeff Cook. Bopp was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning.

Four other soldiers were injured in the wreck. Three were also members of the 75th Ranger Regiment and one was from 197th Infantry Brigade.

Tracy Bailey, a public affairs spokeswoman from the Ranger battalion, said one Ranger was treated at the scene of the wreck. The other occupants were transported to The Medical Center in Columbus where their conditions were unknown late Saturday.

Bopp was identified as the driver of the Chevy Trailblazer traveling southbound when the vehicle went out of control just south of LaGrange. Bopp was trapped in the wreckage, Cook said.

The names of the injured soldiers were not available. The cause of the accident remains under investigation.

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/news/story/583759.html>

PRESS RELEASE: Army Ranger killed in action

U.S. Army Special Operations Command Public Affairs Office

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (USASOC News Service, Oct. 6, 2008) — An Army Ranger died Oct. 5 of wounds sustained when he was hit by enemy fire during combat operations in northern Iraq while serving with 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment based at Fort Benning, Ga.

Sgt. William P. Rudd, 27, was wounded during a ground-assault raid targeting associates of senior Al Qaeda leaders when enemy fighters, some armed with suicide vests, engaged the U.S. forces with small-arms fire.

Rudd was in his eighth deployment in support of the War on Terror with two previous deployments to Afghanistan and five to Iraq.

A native of Madisonville, Ky., Rudd initially entered the Army on Oct. 2, 2003. After completion of One Station Unit Training and the Ranger Indoctrination Program at Fort Benning, he was assigned to Company B, 3rd Bn., in August 2004. Rudd served as a rifleman, grenadier and fire team leader with Comp. B.

Rudd's military education includes the Basic Airborne Course, Ranger Indoctrination Program, Warrior Leaders Course, Jumpmaster Course, Master Breacher Course and the U.S. Army Ranger Course.

His awards and decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal, three Army Achievement Medals, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Combat Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge and the Ranger Tab.

Rudd is survived by his father William E. and stepmother Barbara Rudd, and step brother, Josh of Madisonville, Ky.; his mother, Pamela F. Lam and sister, Elizabeth of Nortonville, Ky.

3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (CONTINUED)

Finally, I would like to let you all know that by the time you read this, there will be a new Unit Director in place. Serving the Association and my Ranger Brothers in this role has been an incredible honor. I wasn't comfortable stepping down until I found a suitable replacement.

I am confident that the man who has stepped up and

volunteered his time is going to do a great job.

Raleigh Cash is very well known within the Ranger community. He spent 10 years in 3/75, was a member of Task Force Ranger, and is a published author. He's going to be a great resource for the Association. Welcome aboard Cash!



THE NEW NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM AND SOLDIER CENTER

The Plan to Meet These Needs

The new National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center will be built on a 200-acre site called Patriot Park linking Fort Benning (the Home of the Infantry) and Columbus, Georgia. A 2002 study and master plan devised by nationally renowned museum consulting firm Lord Cultural Resources projected annual visitation at approximately 380,000.



The Last 100 Yards

The museum will be a signature attraction for the region, boosting tourism and economic development. Columbus State University's Abbott Turner College of Business projects an annual economic impact of \$50 million. With its location just 90 miles south of Atlanta, access will be easy for visitors from across the nation and throughout the world.

The 180,000-square-foot museum will tell the comprehensive story of the United States Infantry from its inception before the birth of the United States to the present day. Visitors will begin their journey through history by traversing "the Last 100 Yards."

It has been said that while other branches of the armed forces provide strategic and necessary support, it is the Infantryman, with his muddy boots and bayonet, who owns the last 100 yards of the battle.

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience life as an Infantryman through contemporary interactive displays created by one of the nation's leading exhibit design firms. The experience will be attractive not only to those who have a particular interest in Infantry history, but to families seeking a unique, entertaining and educational experience.

Visitors may choose to learn the lessons of history through a chronological timeline, or they may choose to visit an era gallery that has personal meaning to them. The journey for all visitors will end with a closing experience that will help them assimilate all they've seen and march on with a newfound respect and understanding of the Infantry soldier.

Outside, Patriot Park will feature a 7-acre parade ground with covered seating for 2,500. Each year, more than 40,000 Infantry and basic training soldiers will graduate from training on this site. It will also be used for official change-of-command ceremonies. Soldiers' families and friends from across the nation attend these events. The community will be encouraged to use the arena for concerts or other large public gatherings.

Connecting the museum and the parade ground will be a quarter-mile Walk of Honor featuring dozens of monuments and memorials to Infantrymen in garden-like settings. The walk will lead visitors to World War II Company Street, where seven 1940s-era Army buildings will recreate the time when 16-million Americans joined the war effort.



World War II Company Street



WORLD WAR II COMPANY STREET

FOLLOW THE INFANTRY

HONOR THE SACRIFICE

THE NEW NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM AND HERITAGE PARK

A Place to Remember

The Americans of the U.S. Army Infantry have safeguarded our liberty far better than we have safeguarded their legacy. With your help, the National Infantry Foundation will change that.

We have embarked on a \$75 million campaign to build a new National Infantry Museum and Heritage Park to honor the legacy of the Infantry. It will be nestled in 200 acres of majestic pines and hardwoods where Columbus, Georgia meets Fort Benning, the Home of the Infantry.



In addition to the museum, there will be a seven-acre parade ground where mothers and fathers, grandmothers and uncles will watch their loved ones graduate from Infantry training. A Walk of Honor flanked by gardens and memorials will lead visitors to the museum. Headquarters and sleeping quarters once used by General George Patton will be open to visitors as they stroll through a World War II Company Street. A full-size replica of a 250-foot jump tower will stand as an icon to the Infantry Airborne experience.

The museum will trace Infantry history from colonial times to the present. It will pay special tribute to those who have loved an Infantryman. Infantry trainees will discover the legacy



they're joining and veterans will return to reconnect with the priceless artifacts that tell their story.

The museum will feature state-of-the-art immersion experiences which will allow visitors to taste the bitter air of battle and touch the bloodied soil of our nation's defining moments. As kids of all ages experience a combat parachute jump, they'll also learn the lesson that freedom is not free. The museum will be home to the region's first IMAX theater.

The National Infantry Museum will emphasize the values that define the Infantryman as well as the nation he protects, values of duty, integrity and selfless service. It will preserve and display one of the greatest collections of military artifacts, but it will be a museum of people, not things. As a visitor, you will meet the Infantryman face to face, and join him on his journey. You will come to understand why an Infantryman does what he does, why he puts himself in harm's way in defense of an idea, and you will leave transformed, just as the Infantry transforms the man into the soldier.



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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte

Still finding them

We have located another LRRP from the days of old when knights were bold andAhh, Oh never mind. Any way Edward Miller was located and joined this Band O Bandits on January 30th. Ed brought with him a bunch of photos that he has been sitting on for years. It is great seeing old shots from the good old days and he has a lot. I selected one of his and one from pictures that Mike Cantrell had posted on the A75 site. Ed's from some where in the 60 of a set up LPPR display and one of Mike's from Reforger in the 70s. Four LRRPs in each picture with a few years separation. Different equipment, different times but maybe not so different after all.



Harris, McClure, Newcomer and Jim Harper.
Photo from Edward Miller's collection



LRRP Team; Theisen, Lopez, Bayless, Sundquist,
Cantrell taking picture.

Photo from Mike Cantrell's collection



Ed miller at Gibbs in 65.
Photo from Edward Miller's collection

SOS

Last November I was able to make an SOS gathering. No not the SOS Mini breakfast that so many of the V Corp. LRRPs have from time to time. This was an organized group that originated from a young lady by the name of Erica Stone. I first heard of Erica and her effort on the news and then I had the opportunity to meet her when she came to one of our American Legion Riders meeting for a presentation to her for her work. Erica is a very energetic young woman that has started a program in support of the Marines stationed in our area. I took a piece from the organizations web sit that explains how this all came about.

In January of 2007, while at the Palm Springs International Airport, Erica Stone encountered an injured marine who had just been released from the hospital and was returning to Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base, the largest military base in the world. He arrived at the Palm Springs International Airport with three sea bags. He was on crutches and still had on a full cast up to the hip on one leg. The marine had been shot and then fell off a roof while in Iraq, injuring himself while serving our country.

*He arrived at the airport at 5:30 p.m. only to find that the last bus to the Marine Corps base had already left thirty minutes prior. He would be stranded at the airport until the morning after. He, as is the case with many of the servicemen that find themselves in similar situations, could not afford the \$150.00 taxi fare ride to the base. That night, Erica Stone gave this Iraq War veteran a ride to the Marine Corps base and **Soldiers Organized Services (SOS)** was formed.*

Soldiers Organized Services gathers a group of volunteers that will drive the 63 miles to the Marine Base and pick up soldiers and take them back to Palm Spring to the Airport, train station or bus depot. The soldiers are not charged and the volunteers usually foot the bill for their own fuel. As the group builds a purse from donations Erica reimburses some drivers for there fuel depending on their particular circumstances, usually by putting some fuel in their vehicles on the way to the base.

I mentioned earlier that I had heard about SOS on the news.

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

Well the taxi cabs were up in arms at these volunteer that were taking their fares. The cabs companies threatened law suites but found out that since the volunteers were not charging for the rides there was nothing they could do. The taxi's were charging \$150.00 to \$200.00 a seat and not for just the trip. This to me is criminal and I understand that they run a business but way to mercenary.

I received an email from Erica that she was looking for drivers for four trips over the Thanksgiving holidays. Through her communications with the base command she had a list of about 40 young marines that were going home for the holiday. My work schedule allowed me to make only one of those days so I said mark me down. We met at the Palm Spring Harley shop at 09:00 on the day. There were 12 vehicles in all. Erica has an arrangement with a local car dealership that displays the SOS logo on their shuttle van and has the use of it for her trips to the base. She pulled a trailer for the sea bags and luggage they might have. This was my first trip and I met a lady named Betty in her Caddy Eldorado that was on her first trip. These people gave up their time, their vehicles and a tank of gas to support this venture. We drove the 60 some odd miles to the base and Erica had plaques for each vehicle and had phoned in to the base a count to get everyone through security at the gate. She dispersed the young marines into vehicles depending on their travel destinations and they headed out. I drove three of these kid to the Airport to catch flights for the east coast. A young man and woman from New Jersey and another young woman from Brooklyn. All undergoing communications training. Erica provided permits she had procured from the Airport that allowed us to drive into the taxi unloading area to drop off our passengers.

I said Erica was energetic, well her desire is to have an SOS group performing this service in bases all across the country. I think she may have a pretty good start.

I enjoyed the experience and wish I could have made more of the days. Erica hand out a card to every one of these soldiers with her phone number on it in case they have trouble and arrive out of schedule, they can call her and she will get them back to the base.

This is one of the many efforts from individuals in this country that shows support for our military. You can find out more about SOS online at sosride.org.



Sgt. Tom Brizendine

Photo taken by Beatle Bailey, Co. A, 75th Rangers at Fort Hood Texas, 1973.

My thanks to Tom Brizendine for passing on his remembrances of times gone by. These stories are a way of recording a moment in our past and I for one enjoy hearing about events that occurred in the lives of the men in this unit.

Well.....Alright you're twisting my arm.....
These are "No Bullshit" stories. I've lived every one of them.

WINTER 1961, Big Delta Alaska Maneuver Area

I was assigned to the 521st Transportation Company (Experimental) Driving what is known as an RN 110 B (Nodwell). A tracked cargo carrier. The vehicle was made in Canada, with a Ford V-8 reversed engine and transmission. Tracks made of rubber, each track three feet across, and connected by metal plates called GROUSERS. Tires are truck tires that run inside those tracks, and the track tension was by a grease adjustable piston.

The cab was fancy wood (Actually polished plywood), but fancy by military standards, had a real powerful heater, and two blower fans for defrozing. The cab was very wide, enough room for 4 people. Never had an assistant driver before, but on this one occasion, they had assigned one to me.

I had been driving for over a day with no rest across the frozen tundra and snow. This "assistant" had been riding and sleeping and eating the whole time, And finally I asked him if he wanted to drive for a while. "Sure" he says. I stop the Nodwell and tell him "Just keep it between the trees". Top speed on one of those vehicles was about 30 miles an hour across loose snow, and I switch sides with him, and fall asleep fast as I hadn't had any sleep or rest.

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



Take the cage and winch off the back of this one,
add a stake bed, and this is the one.
Tom

Next thing I know, a big CRASH!! and the Nodwell rocks to a stop. I asked him what did you hit? NOTHING was the answer.

WELL.....The Nodwell has stopped moving, and I got out to see what had happened. There lays the spare tire still in its bracket with a big frozen limb wedged into it. We had also thrown a track when he hit the tree. I told him to get in the passenger side and DON'T MOVE, or I'll leave your ass sitting out here in this cold. SPEAKING of which, the temperature was -60 below, with about a 10 mile an hour wind. I get the tool kit out and break the track and collapse the piston. Finally get the track laid out so I could drive the nodwell back onto it. All this done at night without a flashlight, and worked by touch and feel. Those grousers are

3 feet long and has a u shaped groove where the tire rides. The grouser plates are about 1 and a half feet long and about 1/4 inch thick, bolted to the grouser with 1 inch bolts.

NOW here I am...Laying on my back working on that track while the gasoline is dripping on my face. That crap was COLD too. I'm holding up the grouser plate upside down, and trying to get the bolt started. I was having a hard time holding the grouser plate up while I got the bolt started. SMART TOM, lets go of the grouser plate and reaches across his chest to get another bolt to put in. Knowing full well that GRAVITY will take charge, and let the grouser fall. JUST as predicted, it does just that. Smacking me across the bridge of my left eye brow and leaving a one inch gash. NOW I have gasoline mixed with blood in my eye, and I'm cussin' that "assistant" driver like a blue streak. I finally get the track back on and adjusted out, and get back inside to warm up. THAT SOB HAD BEEN ASLEEP THE WHOLE TIME!! and was curled up in the cab. It took three more days to get to the rear, and I went to see a doc about my eye. He told me it was too late to sew it up, that I should have come in when I had cut my eye.

NOTE ON THE "assistant" driver....I never saw him again after I threw his ass out at the command CP, with word that I was going to kick his ass as soon as I got back from the Doc's.

Tom



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

Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson

Not as much news as usual this edition. Kirk Gibson will be submitting some VII Corps news also, so we should have at least something for you to read in this issue.

Heard from Bob Woostrom, but am playing telephone tag with him trying to get some more detail on what he's been up to. Believe that he recently returned from the big sandpile. Heard from Mike Hines also, still doing well down there in Arkansas.

For those of you who are alums of the 1st Battalion, the Ranger Ball is taking place on March 20 in Savannah, but this issue will probably arrive after the event itself. I will not be able to attend due to business commitments. If anyone is a 1st



Battalion Batt-Boy, and did not get an invitation, let me know and I'll see what is necessary to get you on the list for the next time.

The weather here in Pennsylvania has been a little odd the past month or so, with lots of ice storms and not so much snow. We are lucky compared to the folks in the Midwest who got hit with the worst of the storms and the power outages. I sure hope that when Congress passes this new bill they include something in there for upgrading the power grid; it seems to get worse every year with massive power outages.

I know that some of you have relatives who are veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan, and am sure that most of them

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

already are aware of the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Association, but you may want to mention it to them (iava.org) if they are not familiar with the organization. They have been very active in trying to get the New GI Bill, and trying to secure pre-funding for the VA each year, so that the funding delays and shortfalls that plague the system will be somewhat ameliorated.

I have calls and email in to some of the guys, but haven't heard back from a lot of them yet. Seems like a lot of us are taking some big hits with the economic situation lately.

Memorial Day Weekend

I received an email from Rudy Teodosio, info also posted on the guestbook on the website, about a road trip this Memorial Day:

"Airborne,Rangers,SF, Vets, Few of us "Old" scrolls are planning a road trip for next Memorial Day weekend 2009 to Rolling Thunder (WA D.C.). So far we got some rangers as far as west of TX as south of FL as north as IN for a link up. So far we got some brothers in Avn coming with us and my retired SF and Airborne brothers committed on this! We are still in the planning phase, so we can cover all angle of approach. Let us know if you wish to link up with us on the route to DC! Time to show our colors to the Nation Capital for our day! HOO-Ah, Bradda R.Teodosio"

You can contact Rudy at:

Rodolfo A. Teodosio: sfoda184@hotmail.com

N-75 Rgr/C 2-75 Rgr

GEORGIA, USA

2009 75TH RRA REUNION

The information about next year's reunion at Fort Benning August 2-9 will appear elsewhere in this issue under its separate section. Please refer to that section for information about the reunion.

PAT FUSCALDO AND COMPANY T-SHIRTS (REPEATED):

Please don't contact Pat about the T-shirts I referred to in the last article. That was a misunderstanding on my part, and he doesn't need the email clogging up his inbox. Again, Pat, sorry about that! Again, my bad. I'm repeating this in order to make sure Pat doesn't get any more emails than he already has.

OLD SCROLLS (REPEATED from last issue): 1ST Battalion Plankholders:

I noticed on the website guestbook that Joe Mattison posted in August a message about the original members of the 1st

Battalion. Joe says that Sherry Klein is representing MG Leuer and Col. Nightingale in attempting to build a roster of all the original plankholders who served at Fort Stewart in 1974 and participated in the qualifying Road March (foot march) in December 1974. They are attempting to develop a roster of names, email addresses, postal addresses, and/or telephone numbers as all who qualify as plankholders" of 1/75. If you were one of the original members of 1stBatt, or know of any members who do not have email or ordinarily read the guestbook/message board at the website, they ask that you please pass on this information. Advise the Ranger to register with the National Ranger Memorial Foundation Ft. Benning, GA. (NRMF) ASAP!

Further (according to the guestbook) actually all Rangers are requested to register, either by email, phone or snail mail. Support all our Ranger Brother Associations and Web Sites, to encourage the brotherhood.

I talked to CSM (ret.) Bill Acebes, and he thought it would be a good idea to put this information in our unit section in the Patrolling magazine, since so many of us from B Company Rangers were some of the original members of the 1st Battalion.

Please contact:

sherrymcklein@aol.com

WEBSITE

Got a couple of email asking what had happened to the unit roster and photos on the website. Have an email in to Dave Regenthal to find out where we stand on reconstituting the page as it was set up before (that may be done by the time you are reading this edition of the magazine).

If anyone else has photos or other items which you want posted on the site as it changes, please let me know, and I will pass them along to Dave.

CONTACT INFO

Michael C. Hines: onespirit13@aol.com

'B'co Ft. Carson—'N'co 75th 173rd Abn Bon Song, LZ English, '71
ARKANSAS, USA

Joseph Griesi

Looking to contact any of the men I served with on Ft. Carson, in 1970-1971

Email: jag7314@aol.com

Co B 75th inf. colorado springs 1970
FLORIDA, USA

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

VII Corps point of contact:
Contact Kirk Gibson...
Email: khgibson@yahoo.com

T out

Marc L. Thompson
mthomp@dejazzd.com

VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN) Assn.

Reunion 2009 will be in Ft. Benning, during the Ranger Rendezvous. This time we encourage members to stay at the Holiday Inn, so we can all be in one place. Make your reservations ASAP.

Reunion 2011, marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of the V Corps and VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN), is in the planning stages for the Stuttgart, Germany, area in the fall of 2011. It has been confirmed that Das Haus von Drei Farben still exists, and we will have a side trip there to visit the shrine they have, um, erected, with several oak leaf clusters, to the VII Corps LRRPs.

CSM (RET) Jim “Taz” Craig reports proudly that his grandson, Sgt Craig Maniscalco, completed his Special Forces Training and graduated in August 2008. He was awarded his Green Beret in MOS 11C, Combat Engineer, Demolitions. His training included SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance, Escape) training and Chinese language school. He was then assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Lewis, WA. His unit is now in Iraq, and he deployed in October, 2008 to join them.



New and Old Green Berets

Taz says he has received two emails and one phone call from him in Iraq, so has direct contact of what is going on over there. On New Year's Eve, 2008, Sgt Maniscalco was in a convoy of four vehicles, three gun trucks (MRAPs) with a cargo truck between gun trucks two and three. He was in charge of gun truck three. As they passed through the market area of a small town, two men came

running from a group of people and threw tubular-shaped objects at his gun truck. Moments later, there were two explosions, one at his 8 o'clock (the explosive sailed over his vehicle) and one at his 6 o'clock, and they received small arms fire. It was a short fire fight, and there were no casualties.

Taz states that, in short, this is the same type of tactics he encountered in Vietnam. His grandson also said that the convoys have people of all ages throw sticks and rocks at them, so who knows when, where or how a grenade or RPG will hit a convoy. Taz says that the first words out of his grandson's mouth were, "Oh shit," and his later quote was, "Yeah, that was fun!" Since then, all has been quiet.

And finally, Sgt Maniscalco states that the news media over there are a bunch of worthless lying shitheads. Well, I guess we knew that, but confirmation is good.

Jim Handlin stopped in Harrisburg, PA, in January while en route between his adopted home in Bangkok, Thailand and other parts of the world. Kirk Gibson and John Kingeter caught up with him for a debriefing and, as usual, learned nothing. But we had a good breakfast and a lot of laughs.



Gibson, Handlin, Kingeter

Over the past few months, several attempts to email our members have failed. If you read this and have heard nothing from me lately, please let me know where you are. A quick note to khgibson@yahoo.com will do it. If you do not have email, have someone else email your current address and phone number to me, please.

Kirk out



C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director - Chuck Vaughn

We have included in this issue a letter to our Company from the 134th AHC's Reunion Coordinator. He called and asked me personally to include his invitation in our section of *Patrolling*. Of course, I agreed so let's let this old Chopper Jockey speak for himself.

2009 joint reunion [134th AHC, E-20, C/75th]

Yo, My Boonie Rat Brothers,

This is the first posting regarding our long overdue upcoming joint reunion. Cal Rollins and myself have been coordinating the details since your mini reunion in Charleston, S. C. this past October. It was a pleasure for me to be in the company of those who attended. For those of you that did not make it - we had a meeting and discussed some of the events being planned. To begin with, the dates are May 6-9, 2009 in Columbus, Georgia. This being our first official reunion since back in the day, it was necessary to add an extra day to accommodate the interests of all.

Thursday, May 7th will be an memorable day for the Demons and Devils of the 134th AHC, and we very much want you to share that day with us. We have chartered two luxury tour buses that will be transporting us to Ft. Rucker, Alabama. For many, it will be our first trip back to Rucker since our training days. There will be a welcome party awaiting our arrival at the U.S. Army Aviation Museum. We have arranged a catered lunch at the museum and ample time to enjoy all the exhibits. After our visit to the museum, we'll be headed to the Dalesville Town Hall where the Mayor and other dignitaries will greet us. Perched upon a brick foundation in front of the Town Hall is a UH-1H, tail number 16325. This "Huey flew over 2100 hours with the 134th AHC. Ironically, this will be another reunion first. Our mission, the rededication of "Demon 325". The Mayor, the Town, and others are anxiously waiting to meet the crews that flew her, the men that kept her flying, and some of the men whose lives she saved. They know nothing of the proud history of "Demon 325" or the 134th AHC. We will be presenting the Town of Dalesville with a 24 x 30 inch bronze plaque. Engraved upon it, will be a 150 word history of the 2156 hours "Demon 325" served with the 134th AHC in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. Immortalized in that history, is the heroic support "Demon 325" and her crews gave to the LRRP's & LRP's of E



Company, 20th Infantry and C Company, 75th Rangers. You are forever a part of us, it was an honor and a privilege for us to provide the vital direct support you needed for the successful outcome of the mission. Gary Dolan and other Brothers of E-20, C/75th have asked for the opportunity to present a testimonial at this ceremony. REQUEST GRANTED!

Among others whom will speak, will be one of our crewchiefs who spent 16 months with "Demon 325". May 7th 2009 promises to be a proud day for all of us, and will reconfirm our bond. Isn't it amazing, how those "Hueys" never let us down, even one that sits quietly dormant. They are what link our past together, and

"Demon 325" is going to do it one more time. Friday, May 8th will also prove to be a special day. The 134th will join you at the new National Infantry Museum. The museum staff will be there to greet you and another memorable ceremony will take place. The details are still unfolding and you'll have to check with Cal for updates. One of the reasons for picking these dates was the annual "Best Ranger Competition" which starts that day. So after another catered lunch, we can cheer on this years Ranger Teams. When the days events conclude, it will be a perfect opportunity to group up and walk down to Broadway and visit one of the many restaurants [The Quality Inn at 1325 Veterans Parkway is just 4 blocks from Broadway]. Don't linger too long downtown, our joint auction will start at 8:00 pm in the Hospitality Room [1/2 the banquet room]. The auction is always a highlight and they take on a life of their own. Great stuff too!

Saturday, May 9th, my wife Carla along with Anne Wolcott are planning a Ladies Day which will include a luncheon. Cal is also planning to put together some guy stuff. However it shakes out, the Brotherhood will continue. The Grand Finally of course, will be the Banquet. We were able to secure the North Hall of the Columbus Trade Center and will start with a "Happy Hour and a Half". Dinner will be served at 7:00. As always, there will be prominent guest speakers and a number of presentations. Anyone that is not so prominent, and you would like some speaker time, just ask, but watch out for the cabbage and tomatoes. After the Hoop-la, there will be dancing and other individual acts of stupidity, to the flashback sounds of the 60's and 70's. When all the MIA's are rounded up and safely transported back to the Hotel, the hospitality room will remain open

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

until the last soldier is “Toes to the West”, at which time the 134th AHC Electrical Committee will turn out the lights. In closing, let me say that the excitement level is building on our side. The Demons and Devils are hover check complete, and cleared for take off. I don’t think anyone needs to be motivated. What we need to do is make sure that everyone that can be, is contacted, and no one is left behind. One of the outcomes of this joint reunion should be that we both start showing up at each others reunions, and I believe that will happen. Most certainly, our first get together will be talked about for years to come. So the bottom line is, “BE THERE”.

Love, Respect, and Brotherhood,
Ray Grodeck
134th AHC
Joint Reunion Coordinator

My Mission with Major Malone The Founding Father of Echo Company, 20th, LRP

By Robert P. Johnston

I was recruited into E Co. 20th, by Major Malone in August 1967. On one of my earlier missions as Team Leader of Team 4-4, Major Malone himself, came out with us as an extra team member. This is the story of that mission.

It was early December 1967, the 1st Platoon was running missions out of a Special Forces Camp near Plei Me. We were doing a walk out mission from the camp to ascertain if the North Vietnamese were building up around this area. On this particular mission I was asked to take four Montagnard soldiers with us. I had some concern about this because the “Yards” didn’t know LRP tactics, or how we conducted a mission. On top of all that, Major Malone informed me he would also be going with us, that he would be a team member, and that I was to stay the team leader.

We were to walk out at first light the next morning. As I was going over the logistics, and thinking about the upcoming mission that evening, it occurred to me, instead of the six man team I was comfortable with, I now had an 11 man team, four Montagnards that did not know LRP tactics, and also our CO, Major Malone. I sure didn’t want to be the team leader remembered for losing our beloved Major Malone. We went out at first light the next morning. Major Malone had informed me he wanted to carry his weight, and be used as I felt he was needed. On the first day I let him walk point, carry the radio, and do rear security; all of which he did quite well. We based up the first night and he took his turn at radio watch along with the rest of us.

The following morning, we started out. We were working our way around the camp, about a mile out. Around noon of that same day, Major Malone informed me he wanted to go back to camp, because on that very night, one of the other teams was going to try to make a night jump from a chopper, and he wanted to be part of *that* mission. I guess the major felt we were not going to have any action where we were, so being Major Malone, he wanted in on that combat jump. We called a chopper to pick him up, which made me somewhat nervous, because this commotion could compromise our position. He was whisked off and we continued on. Needless to say, we were still somewhat uneasy, with all the noise the chopper had made.

After moving for about an hour, we spotted what I thought were possible Montagnards, moving in a low lying area below us. As we watched them I asked our Montagnard Sergeant to look through my binoculars to see what his opinion was, he said, “VC, VC.” I started the team towards them to try and determine just who these people were. I had a hard time holding our Yards back; they didn’t understand LRP tactics and movements (another story) and they were hungry to get at the VC. As I moved up to where we thought the VC were, we flushed out three or four more, and engaged in a fire fight. Three of them were hit, and fell down into a ravine. We couldn’t get to the bodies so we put a lot of fire power into that area. One of the VC hesitated and then started to run. After a short foot race we were able to capture him.

I called for a chopper to pick up the prisoner. During our wait for the EVAC to arrive, I had to keep our Montagnards from killing the prisoner. The chopper arrived none too soon. We dumped the prisoner on board the chopper, so they could get him back for interrogation ASAP. We figured that this mission was compromised due to all the activity with shots fired, and choppers coming and going, so we concluded this mission, and headed back to the base camp.

When Major Malone learned about our contact, he was somewhat upset that he wasn’t part of it. He did, however, get in on the combat jump. This mission was somewhat different than most. Having to control the Gung Ho Montagnards, and having our CO as a team member, made it so. Our LT, Robert Stein, later told me the captured prisoner gave us a lot of helpful information. The mission was considered a success. We had killed three enemy soldiers. They were later determined to be an advanced group of NVA, who were scouting the Special Forces Camp in that AO. The information gleaned from the captured VC proved to be accurate. The best part about the mission was that none of us were injured or killed, and above all we didn’t lose the major, who was a fine man, a legend, and a damn good soldier.

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)**Profile of Robert Parker Johnston**

After a year in Vietnam with the 101st, I returned for a second tour and was recruited by Major Malone for E. Co. After Recondo School, we relocated to our new home in Pleiku, and started our assigned missions (one of these missions I write about in this issue). On February 19, 1968, Team No. 4-4's final mission together resulted in contact with the NVA. In this action, all members of the team were wounded. This ended my tour in Nam.

After a week in the Vietnamese hospital, I received my first of three operations, and was then airlifted to Japan. I stayed in Japan for about 3 weeks. While there, I received another operation. After my second operation, I was sent to Valley Forge Hospital, in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. I was held at Valley Forge for approximately 4 months, where the doctors performed a *third* operation. Thankfully, this was my last one. After leaving the hospital, I was assigned to Ft. Bragg, NC. I was on a no-jump status during this time, and was therefore sent to Ft. Lewis, Washington to be an Airborne recruiter for basic training and A.I.T. This assignment lasted 4 months. I then returned to Ft. Bragg. It was there I decided I would rather spend my last year back in Vietnam, rather than state side duty.

I returned to Vietnam in November of 1969. While at the Replacement Center, a captain approached me. He stated he had looked at my records, and would I be interested in interviewing for a special type of assignment? My experience with special types of assignments was (look out! – here it comes). Somewhat reluctant, I asked just what this special assignment entailed. The captain said they were interviewing E-6's and E-7's for the position of NCOIC for General Creighton Abrams' bodyguard attachment. He said a prerequisite for this duty was combat experience, and that the interview would take place in Saigon. I thought, what the heck, a night in Saigon....what could I lose? It seemed like a good idea, at the time.

After arriving in Saigon I went to MACV headquarters. I was interviewed by some major, and then by General Abrams himself. I was very impressed with the General. He was a no-nonsense; tell it like it is type. We talked about 30 minutes covering many subjects. I then returned to the NCO quarters. I was just settling in when I was told to report back to the General's headquarters. The major met me and said I had the job. My first thought was OH SHIT! – NOW WHAT? In short, I settled into this assignment, and to say the least, it was a very interesting year. After completing my tour, I returned to the U.S. and was discharged.

Back home, I returned to police work with the Baltimore City Police Department. After 3 years there, I was accepted in the U.S. Marshals Service. I didn't have the required college degree; however, they counted my military background instead. The assignment with General Abrams was very instrumental in getting me into the U.S. Marshals Service. While with the Marshals, I was assigned to the Washington, DC office. After two years, I applied for the Marshals Service, Special Operations Group (SOG). After four weeks of training I graduated and performed various assignments with SOG until 1983, when I was promoted to Inspector, and assigned to the Witness Protection Division. I did this until I retired in 1994. I retired as a Senior Inspector, and could have stayed 5 more years, but decided it was time to go.

As a civilian, I now teach physical education classes three days a week, and dabble in my artwork. On the side, I have also done some background investigations. Looking back on my different careers, I feel the one that stands out the most was the one with Echo Co. There's something about LRP type missions that cannot be found in any other profession. I guess, maybe that's the way it should be. There has never been anything like it before or since. In the LURPS, I met and walked the boonies with some of the finest men I have ever been associated with. I will always remember those of you I have had the honor to serve with. You are truly "above the rest".

Sincerely,

Sgt. Robert Parker Johnston (Ret.), Echo Co. 20th INF,
4th Plt., Team No. 4

Eulogy of two Rangers gone home:

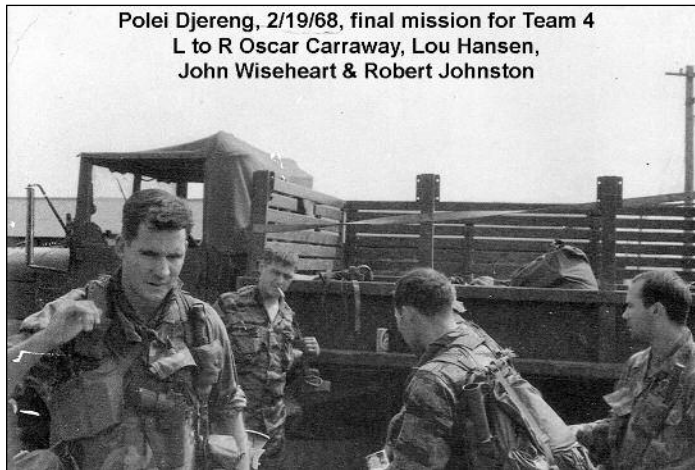
Since our last reunion, we have lost two of our brothers, who have gone on their last mission. Ranger Lew Hanson, and Ranger Lester Steinke will be missing at roll-call come May.

I got to meet Lew at the 2007 reunion, and found him to be a really great guy. He was part of team 4-4. Lou and his teammates were highlighted in the Winter 2007 issue of *Patrolling*, Volume 22, Issue III, which told of a mission where their team was in a fierce fire-fight. Each member of the team was wounded, and just barely got out alive. Because of the seriousness of their wounds, these brave LURPS were evacuated from Nam to different hospitals, in different countries and lost touch with one another. The team was reunited at our latest reunion at Benning, and had a chance to catch up on each other's lives since that fateful day.

I knew Les (known to everyone as "Steinke") personally. We first met in Vietnam, as part of Echo Company, and

C/75 - E/20 LRP (CONTINUED)

even though on separate teams, we became close friends. That friendship continued after hooking up (thanks to Danny Pope) after years of civilian life. We were in constant communication since. Les was a professional soldier for most of his life, spending tours with the Army, the Marines, the French Foreign Legion, and the Army



Polei Djereng, 2/19/68, final mission for Team 4
L to R Oscar Carraway, Lou Hansen,
John Wiseheart & Robert Johnston

Reserves. I will miss old "Steinke" and his dry sense of humor. If one was to look up LURP in the Army Dictionary, you would find Lester's picture right there.

C. Vaughn



L to R Lou Hansen, (dec.), John Wiseheart, Del Ayers,
Robert Johnston & Oscar Carraway

**D/75**

Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson

Hello again Delta Company, during this quarter I have had the privilege to talk with a couple more of our Ranger family that I haven't seen or had contact with since I left Vietnam.

The first was Bruce Demboski from the second platoon. He was the team leader of Team 2-5. After Delta Company deactivated he and his team were transferred to L Company with the 101st Airborne Division. He had also served with the 173rd Airborne Brigade in 66-67. He got out of the service in 1972 and returned to Arizona where he found a job selling motorcycles. He later got a job as a police officer with Glendale PD. After that he went into the restaurant business. After he got in trouble for losing his temper he decided to go back into the military and retired in 1986. He now lives back in Arizona about 200 miles north of Phoenix.

He did give me some sad news that part of our family is no longer with us. Robert Houser who was the second platoon Sergeant was killed in an automobile accident during a snow storm in Alaska where he had retired. He did confirm this through his wife. Please include him and his family in your prayers.



Another Delta family member I heard from was John Cziprusz. I had included a picture of him in the last article with Hal Whiteman. When he saw it he called to get Hal's phone number. As it turns out he also lives in the Tampa area of Florida and since they had lost touch with each other were not aware that they lived so close to each other.

I called him this week to see if he and Hal had had a chance to hook up and he said that they had lunch together the day before I called. I also got the

opportunity to talk with him about his career and what has happened to him since our Delta Company days. He did serve three Tours in Vietnam. His first was as an enlisted man with the Special Forces and his commanding officer convinced him to go to OCS. After he was commissioned he returned to Vietnam to be one of our Operations Officers. He did run several missions with Delta Company but many of you will remember him as one of our debriefing officers when we came back from the Bush. He was a 1st Lt. when he served with Delta Company. When we deactivated he was sent to the 1st Cavalry Division and was involved with the invasion of Cambodia. He later served with the 5th Special Forces Group. He has had a

D/75 (CONTINUED)

long and distinguished Career in the military. In his career he has served mostly with Special Forces and Infantry units, including 1st Mobile Strike Force, 6th Special Forces Group, Back to the 5th Group, 2nd infantry Division and the 82nd Airborne Division. Not only did he have three combat tours in Vietnam but he also was in the Bosnia conflict and the first Iraq war. He retired as a Lt Col.

He now works at McDill Air Force Base in Tampa. He is a GS 13 and still running missions in Iraq with the Special Operations Command Center there. He has tried to retire a few times but the General he works for has asked him not to. When I asked him if he was going to come to the reunion this year he told me he hasn't been able to take a vacation in a couple years with his duties at work, so he probable not be able to attend.

I am including this portion of an e-mail I received from Mike; unfortunately I have not had the chance to confirm the passing of this brother yet. I will however do some further checking before I have to submit the next article. If any of you have any further information please forward it to me.

My name is Kenneth Mike Miller I'm a new member. I served with you in 69-70. I just found out one of our brothers passed away last year, I've been looking for him for years his name is DANNY CROWNOVER. He lived in Texas and passed away in a VA Hospital, I think Fort Worth Texas. I found this out on face book. Danny 1st served with Delta 151st ranger's National Guard then with us in the 75th. He was in 4th platoon. He was I believe one of the few CPL E4 and a great soldier. I went out on several missions with him; he was a natural in the bush. You probably have ways of doing better research to find out more? Please include him in the next article. Sorry this is all the info i have on Danny. The last address I have on Danny was 701 Ernest St Fort Worth TX 76105.

Carl and Rosie Norris are enjoying their time in Arizona. The last time I talked with them was right after the game that put Arizona in the Super Bowl. Rosie was excited because she is a big fan, and before Arizona she was a Steelers fan. They are also planning to be at the reunion if August.

I talked with Richard Badmilk on several occasions this last Quarter and he tells me that he is still going to Physical therapy for his Knee Replacement. He is doing well but if he doesn't continue with the exercise his knee stiffens up. I don't think the cold weather in South Dakota helps much either. When I talked with him around Christmas he told they were hoping it would reach 30 degrees that day, and the same thing yesterday. He said that there was a Blizzard headed that way. I told him the only reason I didn't pack

up all of my belonging and move to Hot Springs S.D. when I came back from our get together last May was that I knew I would not be able to handle the cold winters they have out there. He tells me he is also planning to attend the ranger reunion this year.

I have also had many conversations with Moe Lamphere and some e-mail contact. His wife Cindy sent me an e-mail with photos of Puma tracks in the snow on their porch right in front of there door. They have been watching for its return as they told me that those Cats tend follow a pattern and will probably return on a regular cycle. Moe has been staying busy with his business installing fences around S.D. They are planning to drive down to the reunion this time.

Mike Warren and his family are doing great in Kentucky. By the time you receive this magazine he will be retired from the Army Reserves. As I reported in the last article he retires on the 20th of February which is next week as of the writing of this article. Now he is going to have to find something else to occupy his time. Mike and Sharon are also going to be at the reunion.

Tom and Janice Delaney are doing well also he is still working and tells me he is just hibernating until it warms up again. I asked him when he plans to retire and he said soon but that's what he has been telling me since the last reunion and I teased him about it when I talked to him the last time. I know what it was like when I was forced to retire after my heart gave out on me a few years ago. If I was able to work I'd still be working as I was defiantly a not ready to retire. I can't say that I loved to work all that much, I just liked the money I made by not taking any time off.

Wally Hawkins and his wife are doing well and occupy their time with raising their teenage grandson. We had a good conversation on the phone to catch up. He does plan to attend this year's reunion unless their Grandson has some school or sports activities that will not allow them to get away.

George "Psycho" Christensen and his wife Julie have been enjoying retirement, he does a lot of hunting and they sent me a couple of pictures of the new house they bought in upstate N.Y. Julie is excited that they will attend the reunion this year, because we all had such a good time at the get together in S.D. last year.

William "Fitz" Fitzgerald and his family are still doing well, and as I have reported in earlier articles one of his daughters is deployed in Iraq. He is also feeling the effects of the cold weather this winter. It seems that we are all having unusual weather this winter.

D/75 (CONTINUED)

Richard “Bear” Papp and I stay in close contact. His son Willie deployed back to Iraq for his third tour on December 13 and he got married before he left. He will probably have his honeymoon when he gets a leave to come home around August sometime. I know Bear does plan to attend the reunion this year as long as his son’s leave is not during that time. Bear sent me the pictures that I am including with this article. One is of the Deer that Fitz got on Nov 4th, the day before he was leaving to go visit his daughter in Az. One is of Bear and Fitz together in Bear’s front yard, another is of the deer Bear shot on Nov 12th and the other is of Bear and his Son Willie who I have mentioned in several articles as he has spent so much time in Iraq since I have been Unit director.

Ken and Linda Dern have been doing well in Jacksonville FL. Ken has been able to stay busy with his painting business even though they have had a lot of freezing weather there. He has a lot of inside work to keep him busy in the cold weather. I am hoping to go up and visit with them in March. I had planned to visit in February but with the weird weather in Florida this year I don’t want to go any farther north than I have to. As I mentioned before I can’t handle cold weather.

I have been doing well also. I do keep myself busy doing little wood working projects here on my porch. I also belong to a social group here called the Vietnam Brotherhood where we meet once a week for supper at a Winghouse. Once a month we go to the VA nursing home here in Orlando and do a bingo game for the Veterans there. We also try to help support a Christian Orphanage here. So we get involved with some fundraising projects to raise money to support these two activities. Sometimes we just get permission to set up a small tent at a local grocery store and pass out the most recent veterans handbooks and flyers for our group, we also set out a hat for people who want to donate. On other occasions we will set up with the Winghouse at events like car or motorcycle shows. We have the Winghouse girls serve beer, cocktails and food. We purchase the kegs and liquor from them and receive the money for those sales and the Winghouse makes their money from the food and tips. All of these activities get me out from in front of the TV and my computer.

In closing I would like to request that you keep the family members who are in harms way in Iraq in your prayers, as well as the family members of our brothers who are no longer with us.

RLTW

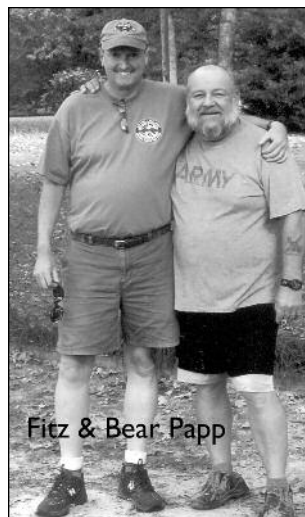
Richard “Herd” Nelson



Fitz his deer



Bear Papp & his deer



Fitz & Bear Papp



Bear Papp & Son Willie



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

Unit Director - Rick Stetson

Greetings E Company Rangers:

Greg Foreman called the other night with the sad news that Craig "Birdlegs" Dryden died on Feb 17th. It was his wish that no service be held, however, I think it is only proper that we remember him when we gather at our reunion in San Diego. We always honor our comrades who were lost in combat, but prior to the memorial service, it would be nice if some of you who were close to Craig could say a few words in his behalf. As George Mathews said in his email, Craig was "a warrior to the end" and "one of the best LRRP's to patrol the jungles of Nam."

Speaking of our reunion in San Diego, I have been in touch with Bob Hernandez and he tells me that everything is coming along well. At this point, we have 22 Rangers who have registered with Bob. That's a good start, but there are quite a few folks who plan to join us in San Diego but have not sent Bob a check yet. Hopefully, you can do so in the near future because May is just around the corner. It is hard to believe that the reunion is less than three months from now. What follows is a write-up I did for the next issue of Patrolling magazine and it gives the info you need to get in touch with Bob. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in what should be one of the best settings we have had for a reunion and that's the Mission Valley Resort. It sounds like quite a place and of course, there are attractions in San Diego that will appeal to a wide range of interests. So get ready for a great time and don't forget to let Bob know if you can join us.

"California here we come." That's the battle cry of E Company this year. I have my short timer's calendar made out and can't wait until May 11-17 when E Company's hard-core bunch of long range patrol veterans will gather in San Diego. If you have not done so already, be sure to contact Bob Hernandez if you plan to attend: Bob Hernandez, 4424 Rock Island Drive, Antioch, CA 94509. Don't forget to include a check for \$100 which will cover the registration and hospitality room.



The reunion headquarters will be the Mission Valley Resort (800-362-7871.) Be sure to mention E Company when making your reservations. The resort has three heated pools, tennis and racquetball courts and a fitness center. It is located close to Old Town with lots of shopping opportunities and there are 65 golf courses within 30 minutes of the resort, in fact, there is a championship course that is less than a mile away.

A schedule of the reunion activities has been posted on the web site so I won't list them all here except to say that Bob and his committee have lined up some excellent

events to include a trip to Coronado Island where the Navy conducts SEAL training. We will also have an opportunity to board the USS Midway which saw service during both the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm. The first and last air to air kills during the Vietnam War came from aircraft launched from the Midway. There is a museum on board with at least 25 different models of aircraft parked on the decks to look at, making it an interesting visit for all those who are interested in military history.

The 9th Division's long range patrol helped write some history of our own while in Vietnam and it is always a meaningful experience when its veterans gather to remember the good times as well as the bad. I hope to have a copy of Erik Spink's excellent video, "Painted Faces," available for those who were not able to see it when it was shown in Colorado Springs. I'm sure there will be some scrapbooks and old photos to look at and of course, we will conduct a memorial service to remember our buddies who gave their all. It should be a great reunion with lots of sunshine and fun. Hope to see you there.

Rangers Lead the Way,
Rick Stetson
Unit Director



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

Unit Director - David Regenthal

Ranger Rendezvous 2009 will be here before you know it! Need something to do while waiting for the snow to melt? How 'bout getting out your phone book, business directory, company roster, and find someone who we haven't seen in 40 years and bring them to Fort Benning this summer? A quick tip on this: I've learned that standard encouragement or bribes don't work – your best bet is to sneak up, hit them over the head with something heavy, throw them into the trunk of your car, then drive like a bat out of hell. (Gag and blindfold are optional but have a tendency to cut down on strange looks when passing through toll booths). Let's have a big turnout this summer!

Gary Lemonds. I didn't get to know Gary well In-Country, we may have been to the field together a couple of times. The truth of it is I think that I might have been a little bit afraid of him. I can say to a certainty that I never questioned his abilities in the field as a Ranger.

I got to spend some time with Gary over the years as our paths crossed at reunions and once or twice at "the Wall" in Washington, DC. Not unlike many of us, he struggled with his demons. I also know that he made a fair amount of progress with this in later years, which I think was remarkable.

My regret is that I didn't have more time to know Gary just a little bit better. I knew him well enough to know that he was a good man, had a good heart, and despite any disability to verbalize his feelings it was evident to all that he cared about each and every one of you. I know that Gary invested himself personally in actions and projects to the benefit of other veterans.

We exchanged e-mails last summer but he never mentioned he was experiencing any health issues. Not one to complain openly he was just a good guy, one who I came to admire and enjoyed more and more over time. A Ranger Hall of Fame inductee and one of "Georgia's Heroes", Gary will certainly be missed by each of those left in his wake. I don't know about you but it's a comfort to know that when my time comes friends like Gary will be up ahead once again, waiting to lead the way. Gone but not forgotten, thank you for your service Gary, and all that you have done for us. God bless my friend, until we meet again . . .

Quartermaster. We've not done much to market our merchandise for some time. A few of the fellows have gone to the trouble to have made Tee-shirts, caps, and other items for you. There is still a good supply of tee-shirts that Joe Little made up for the last reunion.

Anybody with anything they wish to make available to members of F. Company should forward pictures and information to me. I will post that information on the company website, LRRP.com so that our people may take advantage of these opportunities. Please be sure to include your preferred method of payment, shipping expense, and contact information . . . that might go a long way to facilitate getting this stuff out to the folks who want it.

Company F Reunion. Short and sweet . . . I think we ought to get together is Washington, D.C. during the Summer of 2010. I would be willing to work on this project and we've already had a couple folks who have committed to working towards this goal as well. Bring your ideas (including those for competing sites) and facts to Columbus this summer for a vote.

1:50,000 Maps. Interested in doing some research? Want to connect some of those missions in our AAR's to the same map you used on the ground when in the field? Have I got a deal for you!

Well actually I don't, but the USGS does. I went through the brief research process (which has become much less confusing than it was not that long ago), and secured the maps I was interested in, of our old AO. The bottom line is that now you can go on-line to place (and pay for your order), and they will show up in your mailbox in about a week to 10 days.

Here's where to go: <http://store.usgs.gov/> and here's the description and product number of my purchase (type the "61" numbers in the search box):

DUC HOA	61144
TRI TAM	61148
TAY NINH	61151
HIEU THIEN	61149

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

BEN CAT 61203
AN THANH 61150

The maps are \$9 each, and there was a \$5 shipping charge.

Company Video Project. I've got to be honest and say that this project is stalled. Given one generous exception I haven't received the desired response to my request for still pictures (In Country photographs).

Others are in agreement (with me) that our story, 25th Infantry Division LRRP in Vietnam, is one worth telling. It takes a couple of things to make this happen: People who were there—willing to tell their story in front of a camera (duh). A lot of still photographs that can be put in front of our handsome faces (so the viewer doesn't fall in love while watching us talk 'em to death for 60 minutes on their big screen TV). It also takes someone with the time, equipment, and a couple bucks to fund it . . . (I think I've got that last part pretty much handled).

Many of you have been charitable with your time in sitting in front of the camera (for me). We need to do more of this if there are enough brave souls left that want to tell this story but, for the moment, we're dead stop without the material (photos) needed. If any of you are the least bit interested in helping get this project back in gear I would be happy to hear from you.

The Pointman. It had been my intention to deliver another issue of "the Pointman." For those of you that don't know what that is . . . it's a newsletter that was primarily done by Bill Mrkvicka and myself a few times back in the dark ages, prior to Al Gore inventing the Internet. Despite having called on (and receiving) articles from Bill and Captain Ponzillo I have come to the conclusion that a simple informational postcard is a smarter approach to inform the guys (that don't receive "Patrolling") of this year's reunion at Columbus/Fort Benning.

Unit Director. When I became unit director two years ago I naturally assumed that I was up to the task. I was quite certain that I would become the "great communicator" and bring all of us (and all things) together. It has since become evident to me that I somehow managed to overestimate my capabilities. The lesson learned, for me, is that I should stick to doing things that I am good at, i.e., camera work, coding websites, and playing beach volleyball, etc. My apologies for having let you down.

We will elect a new unit director this August. Hopefully there will be numerous willing candidates to choose from in Columbus this summer, (Gene Tucker has expressed

interest). I would encourage anyone thinking about taking on his role to speak with past unit directors Bill Mrkvicka, Joe Little, or Ron Harrison on this subject.

Be well – I'm looking forward to seeing you this Summer!
Dave Regenthal '68-69
F/50-F/75

On January 8, 2009 Gary Lemonds died.

BY: Bill Mrkvicka

Gary served in Co F in 1969, earned a DSC and is in the Ranger Hall of Fame (Hall of Fame citation below). On January 10, 2009 Jeff Sandell, Joe Gentile, Marshall Huckaby, Bill Evans and Bill Mrkvicka attended the service for Gary. It was an impressive ceremony. The approach to the Chapel was lined with over 40 flag bearers from the Georgia American Legion. The Legion also provided an honor guard that stood watch over the coffin throughout the ceremony.

The chapel was full – standing room only. Gary's family was kind enough to reserve seats for Co. F. members in the front of the chapel behind the color guard.

Gary's final eulogy was given by a schoolmate of Gary's who was also an Infantry officer with the 25th Inf. Div. Wolfhounds. He related that on April 10, 1969 contact initiated by team 2/4 (Gary was TL on this mission and earned the DSC) set events into motion that drove the enemy into a Wolfhound position where the officer was gravely wounded. This action lasted through the 12th of April.

The procession to the cemetery from the chapel was led by The Georgia Legion Patriot Guard Riders (99 bikes in all), followed by Gary's towed Harley. Excluding motorcycles the procession stretched out a little over one mile. All on coming traffic along the route pulled over on the shoulder and some people exited their vehicles to stand in tribute until the procession passed. Each intersection was manned by three police officers – town, county and state – standing at parade rest.

At the cemetery on this bitterly cold day the American Legion provided a 21-gun salute and a bugler who played taps. Two active duty MSG's removed the flag from the coffin, folded the flag and then presented it to Gary's mother.

Gary's mother, his daughters Kim and Jennifer and grandchildren (especially Jessica) invited us to visit with them after the funeral. The family was very gracious to us and thankful that we, "Gary's buddies", had come so far to honor Gary.

Marshall Huckaby arranged for the delivery of a floral wreath from 25th LRRPs Co F.

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

The Ranger Hall of Fame Citation:

STAFF SERGEANT GARY LEMONDS

Staff Sergeant Gary L. Lemonds is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam. Staff Sergeant Lemonds distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on the 9th and 10th of April 1969 while serving as team leader during an ambush patrol maneuver. When an enemy force launched a massive attack Sergeant Lemonds led his men in an assault on the enemy emplacements. He single-handedly charged a bunker and destroyed it with grenades. Sighting another fortification, he crawled through the fierce enemy fire and silenced it with his rifle. After eliminating the

hostile entrenchment system, he continued his patrol mission. On the 10th of April his patrol was attacked a second time. From his patrol position in a bomb crater, he called in artillery and air support on the large enemy element. When withdrawing his troops to a nearby landing zone for evacuation, he came under sniper fire from two North Vietnamese soldiers, whom he quickly eliminated with a well thrown grenade. Intense enemy fire thwarted the extraction aircraft's first landing attempt. He then directed a gun ship on the enemy location and effected a successful extraction. Staff Sergeant Lemonds' extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Rangers, and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!!!



No Submission



PTSD??? Not Me!!!

By Jim Regan

I grew up among WW II and Korean War veterans. Some were my close family and I paid attention to what they said and did. Role Models? You bet! I had another role model, but I never really met him. My Dad! He was a "Crusty" Navy Chief. He was on the PT Boats that took General McArthur, et al, off Corridor. Dad and his crew, eventually, after running out of; fuel, torpedoes, and supplies, burned their boats and "E&E'd!!" He was captured and "MIA" for a couple of years. A 6'4", crusty ol' Irish, Navy Chief Petty Officer!!! I already know that he took the toll as a POW. Enroute to the mainland Japan, with 1800 other POWs, his ship, the Arisen Maru was sunk. It was part of a convoy and unmarked. A U.S. sub sank it. Five survivors from the Arisen Maru! Dad did not survive.

"Sainted" Uncle Bill came home from the Islands. Wounded and decorated. He became one of my mentors/teachers/friends. I used to watch him, especially on holidays and celebrations. A glimmer in his eye, like a twinkle. Now I know that it was a tear!



When I entered the US Army, lots of Veterans took me under their wings. They cajoled, harassed, haunted, pushed and physically pounded me to be a Soldier. Too many to number or name. Their names and faces are burned into my mind.

Who were these guys? They were Veterans from WW II. and Korea. Some of whom had more Valorous Decorations than I can remember. One comes to mind. A Buck Sergeant, who took time to train me in demolition, and yes, Long Range Patrol (1960.) But he had a problem with the "Bottle." He was awarded the MOH in WWII, and resubmitted for another MOH in Korea with the 187th RCT!

Where is this going? The folks, friends, relatives, and comrades, were not the same when they returned from combat. There is no way that I could ever imagine what my Dad would have been like had he survived!! Then on to the Vacation Land of Southeast Asia. First tour. LRRP Company, later Ranger Company. All my years of training prepared me for this. The Troops/LRRPS/Rangers/ and all the Support Troops were exactly who I would want to "Go to Combat with!!!"

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

We lost some wonderful guys that first tour. As I DEROS'd, I had a chance to sit around and drink a Bud with some of my fellow senior NCOs who were going back to the land of the big PX. On our last night in 'Nam, they/we were all getting pretty melancholy. One guy says that he lost "umpteens" troops at LZ whatever on one night. Another says how many he lost over the year, lots! It kind of goes on like this for the evening and I just sit, quiet, and think. The numbers of the losses is really out of sight. Things get quiet and the guys finally look at me and ask, "Jim, how many guys did you lose?" I was startled, and almost reluctant when I told them the number of Rangers that we had lost! It got real quiet when I told them that we had lost fifteen Rangers/LRRPS over the year! These fellows were accustomed to casualties, I was not. You never get used to it!

Next tour was w/ the Vietnamese Rangers. No close associations. Different from what I did with the US LRRPS/Rangers. Lots of "back seating Chinooks with my Ranger Bn, cross border into Cambodia. Had lunch in some interesting places across the Red Line. I remained on active duty with the Army. That became my support group, and I never realized it. There were periods of hard charging beer drinking. Moved on to other things in the

Army. Different kinds of jobs, arenas. Divorce, drive on! My mentors came through and pushed me to do other neat things in the Army. Cleaned up my act, and even got to work for some really heavy guys.

Now retired. Do I have PTSD?? I think the last letter is "Denial!" Never knew I had it 'til someone came up with a name for it. Can I overcome? You tell me!

1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion
Killeen/Fort Hood, Texas
3-7 June, 2009

The Shilo Inn Suites Hotel, located at 3701 South W.S. Young Drive in Killeen (800) 222-2244 or (254) 699-0999, will be our Reunion Headquarters. The Shilo is located next to the Killeen Convention and Conference Center (KCCC) which will be the main location for most of our events. Come by the Shilo to pick up your tickets, reunion pin and schedule or to register if you chose not to pre-register. The Shilo will also host our Reunion Room and the Crossed Sabers Souvenir Shop. Go to this web site, and you can download the reservation form: http://www.1cda.org/62nd_Reunion.htm



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

Unit Director - Julian Rincon



MILITARY CRYPTIC SPN/SPD/RE CODES

By: Julian Rincon - Director F52/I75
 Airborne Ranger

Back in the 60's and 70's when all of us were busy fighting the war in Vietnam the Department of Defense had been giving us these codes developed since War World II. These codes the military said, were only for the military to help them with re-enlistment purposes. Even if you were given an Honorable discharged, a "Spin Code" (SPN-Separation Program Number) was still assigned to you which can hurt a veteran's chance of being hired by a prospective employer. An increasing number of employers, veteran organizations, local law enforcement agencies, physicians, attorneys and creditors are making employment membership, legal and credit decisions based on a veterans RE, SPN or SPD code listed on your DD214. These spin codes were put on your DD214, your discharge papers, from the 1940's through the early 1970's. The military Separation Spin Numbers (SPN) - Was used by all military, except the Navy they used,



Separation Designator Number (SDN). These codes are contained in your military records and may be annotated on various military separation documents. These codes are subject to change, and the Department of Defense will no longer allow the military services to release the meaning of these codes to the general public. By Law, RE, SPN and SPD codes are to be used solely by military recruiters for re-enlistment purposes and are NOT TO BE USED by any other person or agency.

HISTORY

Shortly after the Vietnam War it was learned that many Vietnam Veterans were being denied credit, refused employment, accommodation or housing based on their SPN or SPD code. At that time, Congress ordered military services to stop using negative SPN/SPD codes. Congress also mandated the Veterans Administration to assist all veterans, regardless of their SPN/SPN codes, to apply for a new DD214 that not contain these codes. At the same time, the National Records & Personnel Center was mandated to approve all such request

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

expeditiously provide the veteran with a new DD214. Once the Vietnam War was over, a system of codes were added to the DD214 that were intended to provide military personnel and recruiters with a summary and characterization of the serviceperson's first tour of duty so if the veteran intended to enlist, the recruiter would have something to review to make an informed decision as to whether the veteran was WORTHY of re-enlistment. The problem was that civilian employers got their hands on the code system and were making hiring decisions based upon these SPN/SPD codes.

A DD-214 is created in eight copies. Distribution of those copies include two (#1 & #4) for servicepersons. The problem is that there are 22 boxes for information on copy #1 and there are 30 boxes for information on copy #4. It is on copy #4 that serviceperson's "character of service" is listed, along with codes that further describe the serviceperson's enlistment and reason for separation from military service. In fact there are actually three different codes that can be included in one or more of these additional boxes. The SPD (Separation Program Designator) code (Box 26) or the SPN (Separation Program Number) code and the RE (Re- enlistment) code (Box 27) there is also a new code for more current DD-214's the NROS (Narrative Reason Of Separation) code (box 28) which had never been used before. There are literally hundreds of (SPN, SPD, and NROS codes) reasons separating from the service which the government conceals, through coding from a prospective civilian employer. Further concealment is accomplished through delineating these codes on the #4 copy of your DD-214. Final concealment occurs when you are ask by a possible employer for a copy of your discharge papers and you give them your #1 copy.

CURRENT

As a means of ensuring that all personnel receive a copy #4, DoD also places the veteran's "Character of Discharge" (Honorable, General, Dishonorable) on this copy and not on copy #1. In short, a veteran is not issued a DD-214 that show he or she receives an Honorable Discharge unless they "request" a DD-214 that might also list negative information. Veterans who learn that their RE, SPN, or SPD code is being used by any individual or agency for any purpose, or are denied employment, services or membership based on their code should immediately seek legal counsel for the purpose of initiating a discrimination lawsuit filing against the individual or agency basing their consideration or decision on RE/SPN/SPD codes. The work that is being done by a veteran named Edwin H. Crosby III is invaluable. He has taken the Federal Government to task since the 1970's and has current litigation pending in the Federal Courts for the

great injustice the Air Force has done to him by branding him with a irrelevant spin code. His Exhibit #19, a letter from the Department of the Air Force Dated: 30 October 1979 directed to The Honorable, Robert Morgan, United States Senator from North Carolina, has a underlined sentence that is very important to many of us I quote "Copies are furnished to the Veterans Administration for determining basic eligibility for veteran's benefits" end quote. Ever wonder why you have been denied benefits by the Veteran Administration.

Examples of a few spin codes:

SPN 258 - Unfitness, multiple reasons

SPN 263 - Bedwetter

SPN 41E - Obesity

SPN 211 -Unsanitary habits

COMPANY NEWS

Congratulations are in order for Robert (Buzz) and Sharel Busby they are new Grandparents for the very first time. Their youngest daughter Sara had a baby girl. On a sadder note our condolences to Sharel on her mom's passing. Ramona Catherwood tells use of Greg's fight with prostate cancer. Greg had to have surgery the hospital used a robotic arm oooch! Greg is recovering at home and is doing well, no sign of any new cancer. Like to thank Greg Bennet for the photos you see with this article he was nice enough to share them with all of us. REUNION! REUNION! REUNION! Don't forget the date June 11, 12, 13, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas you can get the number for reservations at: www.radisson.com/sanantoniotx



**Blankinship, Dave
Flores, Rodney
Hayashi, Don
Hildebrandt, Ray
Cervantes with his
back to camera.**



**Robert (Buzz) Busby
and Harry Suire.**



Rodney Hayashi.



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

Unit Director - Rodger Crunk

Greetings to all 4th Div. LRRPs/Rangers
It has been a long winter so far but it is warming up despite what that groundhog in Pennsylvania says.

I don't know about the rest of you guys but I'm looking forward to my bail-out money! What? You say us honest, hard working tax paying Americans are not eligible?! But Barney Frank said..... Okay, I'll just go back in my mushroom cave. That's enough politics.

A reminder to get your reservations made for the August reunion. Rooms are limited with so many people in Columbus for various events. Also get your registrations turned in to the Assoc. Also note that the 1st Brigade is hosting a reunion in San Antonio the week following the Assoc. event. This is open to all 4th Div. LRRPs/Rangers so if you can't make it to Columbus this is an option.

1st Brigade, 4th ID LRRP Reunion

12 August '09-15 August '09

Hotel: Radisson Downtown Market Square Hotel
502 Durango

San Antonio, Texas 78207

Room Rate: \$99 p/night (great deal for this tourist town
Rate applies from 10aug.-17 Aug.

Reservations: Call 210-224-7155, Radisson, San Antonio
or 1-800-333-333 Radisson Worldwide
Tell Reservations you are with "K Co 75th Ranger/LRRP"
and Request the group rate. The group rate expires 12 July '09
Contact Bill Philippini for assistance or further info.

E-Mail: plipsue@stic.net

Home: 210-884-9027

If you visit the website you will notice a new look. In that regard if you have pictures, etc. that you would like to add please get those to me and I'll get them to the webmaster. And another reminder that if you have anything to include in this publication please note the deadline s in the front of the magazine and get them to me at the appropriate time. I need all the help I can get. A reminder also about Assoc.dues if you haven't got that done. Also 4th ID dues

if you are a member of the LRRP chapter.

Last fall Bill Bullen forwarded an e-mail to me from the daughter of Raymond Gheen. She was seeking info about and anyone who served with her father. If you knew and served with him please let me know. A surprising coincidence: In January I received a phone call from a military collector from Knoxville, Tennessee who came across the medals Bronze Star, Air Medal, etc. in a pawn shop with Raymond's name and unit inscribed on them. This can get long so I'll shorten it up. Ray is deceased (2005), his daughter did not meet him until she was 25 years old. She has a fairly good idea how the medals came to be in a pawn shop. I am working at this point to recover the medals put them in some type

of display and return them to her. So if anyone has pictures or stories etc. of Ray, she would be very appreciative of them.

Top Keller has several items relating to the history of our unit that he has put together and will transfer to me as "unofficial Historian". There will be a log listing each item with space to add new material. If you have pictures or other items that you wish to put in this archive please let me know. This should include brigade and Div. LRRPs as your experience and sacrifice were the building blocks for K-Co. The one significant item that will be added shortly is our Guidon that former CO Kim Olmsted has generously donated to this effort. Thanks Captain Olmsted. On this topic I think we should decide at our August meeting weather to appoint an official historian or if the unit director should be in charge of this. I know there are guys out there who know more about our history than I do.

There are scrolls available and hopefully by the time you read this there will be pocket patches also. Again this is through the generosity of Top Keller. Let me know if you need any. I know that Top does not seek any accolades but he does so much for us behind the scenes but once again he has shown how much he cares for us. Thanks Top.

Hope to see everyone in August. Roger Crunk

P.S. If you knew Tom Farnsworth and would like to contact him let me know, I can give you his contact info.



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

Unit Director - Jerry Gomes



No Submission

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

Unit Director - Steve Houghton

Greetings everyone from the frozen north. Time has passed and it's time for another article. Not much news, good news anyway. Larry Hall sent me some photos awhile back saying he was passing them along so others might enjoy them because, as he said, "diabetics has about done me in". As I write today, I'm not sure of Larry's condition. God bless you Larry, we hope and pray for better health for you. I'll make sure these photo's get to Benning with or without me. I've heard from a couple guys, Gary Olson and Ron Piper who are planning on attending. I'm pretty sure Jim Hell is coming too. As The economy continues to worsen, I'm sure it will impact attendance.

To flesh out our unit article space, I'm including a short story my son Eric wrote sometime back for one of his college writing courses. He loves to write and he is pretty good at it. This is one of his early stories.

It is titled, "The Third Night of the Final Exam" It comes from his recollections of the stories I told about Recondo School. It's not 100% accurate, but close. Please don't take issue with anything, it's a young man's recollections about his Dad's stories. I thought you might like to read it.

The thing that stuck out in his mind as he lay there in the vegetation was how incredibly green and lush everything appeared. A moment of extreme silence and something very close to peace settled over this place in a matter of a few short minutes, as if it were ultimately meant to be undisturbed and the noisy commotion of their coming only momentarily ruffled the natural state of things. The young man marveled at the lushness of his surroundings while he readied his gear and prepared to "lay dog."

"That's what we called it, laying dog. It's when you lay still and quiet, like a dog," he would explain years later to his son. At this moment, after running off the helicopter and belly flopping to the ground, he took the term at face value. He never considered that he would someday explain to anyone, let alone his son, what the term "lay dog" meant. Just then, the thought of even living long enough to have a son seemed ludicrous. He simply lay dog, and did it like the quietest dog that ever walked the earth. The practicality of this phrase overwhelmed him.

On the way in the helicopter dipped down so low to the ground that its blades hacked chunks off the surrounding trees. The young man, amidst the adrenaline rush and frantic movement of his exit from the helicopter, mistook



the sound of limbs snapping for gunfire. A cold, quick spasm clenched his stomach. "Already? I thought. "We just got here and they're shooting at us already?" "Were you scared?" "Yeah. Of course I was. I mean, I knew they would shoot at us, but...." He pauses for a moment in the middle of his thought and looks at his son. To tell this story is to relive it, only if only for a short time. He is twenty years old again, huddled in the tall jungle grass on a mountainside in Vietnam. He thinks he is being shot at and the specific fear that particular

situation instills in a person rises up in him again for the thousandth time. But he is not twenty. More like forty-five, and his son eagerly listens to every word coming from his father's mouth, lapping up the Army terms like any teenage boy raised on G.I. Joe and Transformers would. "When the Huey lifted into the sky and drifted off to the east, I figured out it wasn't gunfire after all, just tree limbs snapping off." "Huey? That's the name of the helicopters, right?" "Yeah, those particular ones were Hueys."

His son makes a mental note of this detail, securing a place for it in his mind so that he can use the proper terminology later when he tells the story to his friends. His father's story feels like legend in so many ways. He has heard it often enough he knows what to expect, knows that soon the team will figure out they got dropped off right in the middle of a enemy camp and will have to run for their lives for the next three straight days. That part is coming up. For now the jungle has regained its composure, filling in the great rifts torn in the silence. The young man watches the helicopter float away toward the safety of the base camp, miles and miles away from where he now lay.

The young man and the rest of the team lay spread out along the ground a few yards from a huge bomb crater. Shoots of new grass clung to charred edges of the crater; evidence of the jungle's bid to reclaim the dead and blackened ground. This crater served as a logical insertion point for the team, as it was the only clearing for miles around, a huge gouged out chunk of earth surrounded by the patiently encroaching jungle. Under different circumstances, the young man would have reflected on the brilliant grass growing in the midst of this devastation, and quietly pondered the tenacity of life. He might have even considered the ominous meaning behind starting his first honest-to-God Long Range Recon mission in the middle of a huge, blown-out crater, but dusk was quickly giving way to darkness and the team would have to set up their night

M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP (CONTINUED)

halt position very soon. There was very little time to think. Fear began to rise up in him. He tried to reassure himself by remembering that this mission he was on was a training mission, the last step towards graduating from the elite Recondo School for Army LRRPs and Rangers. He reminded himself that he volunteered for this. From the moment that he walked to the mailbox at his parent's modest home in Michigan and took out the unmistakable draft notice, unmistakably addressed to him, he knew that he would do everything in his power to survive the war and come home in one piece. In his mind, that meant volunteering for Long Range Recon Patrol, the LRRPS.

Everyone in the Army thought LRRPS were crazy. To be a LRRP was to have a death wish. Their purpose was reconnaissance, to go behind enemy lines and observe troop movements. LRRPS did not go looking for fights. The teams usually consisted of six or seven men, all lightly armed, no heavy ordinance to slow them down. They were built for speed and stealth, not all-out combat. and if a LRRP team made contact with the enemy, the results might not turn out very good. Always outnumbered the LRRPS knew that their wits and skills determined their survival. That and a lot of luck. "So, rather than be a piece of meat in the Infntry, I voluntered for the LRRPS, and ended up in RECONDO School. I figured it was my best chance to get out alive. It was just a matter of playing the odds."

His son hears this but does not quite understand the thought process behind it. To him his father is a hero, a slightly crazy, incredibly brave soldier who chose the hardest path imaginable to get through a tough spot. The son knows the outcome of the story, so his father's decision makes sense. Of course it was the best thing to do, he got back alive didn't he? What his son doesn't know and what he can't understand is that back then, in December 1968, no such certainties existed. He son will never quite grasp that as his father laid there in the jungle that first night, fighting to stay awake through his guard shift, he had serious doubts as to just why he got himself in this situation.

"The next day we realized we were in a pretty tight spot." This is where the story gets good. His son perks up, leans in, pays extra close attention. "I wouldn't call it an emeny base or camp, but where we, there were hundreds of NVA in the area and they were looking for us. They hadn't found us yet. But they were coming."

The son imagines his father and the rest of the team hunkered down on the top of the mountain surrounded on all sides by enemy troops determined to catch and kill them. The NVA and VC had a special hatred for the LRRPS because they played by a different set of rules than the rest of the invading American Forces. The LRRPS snuck right into their back yards and spied on them, and the intelligence they gathered often resulted in devastating

showers of artillery fire, air strikes and the deployment of larger infantry units. "They hated us. The Chinese even had a special school where they trained the NVA in counter-LRRP tactics. We were marked men, to be sure." His son hears this and it only makes the mythical nature of the tale grow stronger. Outnumbered, hunted, trapped on the top of a mountain with no hope of rescue, it all plays out like a plot of a movie. His father is Indiana Jones.

The team proceeded as planned for the first day, gathering information and making their way slowly down the mountainside. Evidence of a large number of enemy troops lay all around them. They heard them in the trees, saw freshly worn paths through the jungle, but no one actually made visual contact yet. They were hunting ghosts. Or the ghosts were hunting them.

On the third day of the training mission, the team saw their first, real live enemy soldier. The soldiers formed a single file line as they moved through the jungle. The young man, being second in command, brought up the rear. Army regulations stated that the second in command be as far removed from the lead officer as physically possible so that in case of an attack, the odds of both men dying were lessened. The column came to a sudden stop and the young man whirled around to secure the rear. As he did so, he noticed a large rock with an outcropping that hung partially over the trail they had just come down. On the outcropping rested the largest snake he had ever seen in his life. The snake looked directly at the young soldier, then silently slid off the rock and came toward him.

He wanted to run. He hated snakes. He had no way of knowing if this was poisonous or simply a constrictor. He only knew it was large. Twelve foot at least. What he didn't know was at the front of the line, the point man was in a staring contest with a soldier of the North Vietnamese Army. After a few tense moments of sitting perfectly still, watching the grass in front of him shake from the snake's movement, he got the word to move. They had been spotted. The gig was up.

"That night was pretty hairy. It's hard to remember exactly how everything went down," It's true. The son has heard this story at least a dozen times and each version is a little bit different. What never changes is the fact that they ran. Like Crazy. That was all there was to do. The enemy had found them. They were hopelessly outnumbered. Their only salvation lay at the bottom of the mountain. No helicopter could have gotten to them where they were; no one could have extracted them. They had to get off the mountain or die trying.

The father usually stumbles over the ending as he tells the story. Details from one night blend and mix with events from another. There is the part where the team huddled together in a clump of vegetation while enemy soldiers

M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP (CONTINUED)

passed by so closely that they could smell their breath. He tells his son about the artillery strikes they called in almost on top of their own position in an attempt to scare the enemy away, how the explosions and the hurtling chunks of rocks and trees kicked up by the shells woke a monkey and sent it screaming down the mountain passing with inches of his face. And he tells his son how after the artillery strike faded and everything quieted down again, the enemy returned, this time even closer. He tells his son that for the first in his life, he knew he was going to die.

"But I didn't, Obviously."

"Yeah, obviously."

Somehow, they made it out. The young man and the rest of the team made it down the mountain and on to a waiting helicopter. They returned to base, their training completed. That's what the whole ordeal had been, a training mission, the final exam for Recondo School. "That day we got off the chopper and headed straight to our debriefing, I remember being so tired I could hardly stand up. We had been up for three straight nights. As soon as I finished my debriefing, I went to my bunk and passed out."

The young man slept for what felt like an entire day. When he awoke, he looked around the room. The clock read 12:15. He had passed out at 12:00. "What day is it?" he asked a soldier standing close by. It's the eighth. Why? "How long have I been out? Did I sleep for a whole day?" "No man. You've been out just over ten minutes. You're fried." The young man looked around in amazement. Outside, he could hear what sounded like a party going on. "What's all the racket?" "That's our graduation party, man. We made it. You wanna go down and get yourself a beer? C'mon, you can sleep when you're dead." The young man smiled a little at this. "Yeah, let's go, he said, sitting up in bed. The two men walked out of the barracks toward the din of the celebration.

Hope you liked it.

Until next time

Steve Houghton

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

Unit Director - Reed Cundiff



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Rapid City, SD 57702
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reed.cundiff@gmail.com

The snail mail address is that of our mail forwarding service.

Steve Schiro and Robert Henriksen have submitted articles directly to John Chester which simplified my job but complicates John's. Robert sent in photos of three of the guys

with their families: Rudy Teodosio, Millie Millander and Joe Marquez. They have the current records for large families.



**Rudy Teodosio
family photo**

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

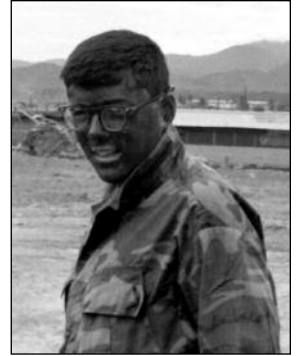


Joe Marquez family photo

One photo from Sam Schiro that went around for identification was finally identified as Ralph Raperto in 1970. Ralph went through Class 0 of Recondo School (LRRP Class #5) in 1966 and was with the unit in 1966 and 1967. I believe he went to the batts, was wounded and returned to N Rangers in 1970. Sam wrote that he has only 600 more photos to identify. He may need help on this.



Dick Davis sent in two photos of his team and of Santos Matos



Frank Vansevers has been sending around some good pictures from Dak To in 1967. One series is of a volleyball game at Dak To. The two identified in the photo are Pantaro in the middle and Ingram on the right. Frank would like to have the guy on the left identified.



I have a photo of Tom Zaruba, Ralph and Ingram taken in March 1967. Someone had shown Ralph some techniques for tying up prisoners. So Ralph, with Zeke's apparent guidance, used Ingram as his training aid. The photo is taken next to the super-bunker that Team 4 put together with some nice hardware (large aluminum pallet and half a dozen pieces of PSP) lifted off the air strip at Plantation Tierre Rouge. The brigade forward base was mortared just after I left and Zaruba dove into the bunker as the first rounds impacted. He was well supplied with a folding chair and a one shower shoe. Sid Smith dove into a ditch, realized it was the one in which the grenades and claymores were stored, crawled along it and fell into the bunker through the back exit and almost got brained with Zeke's deck chair. Major Sutton requisitioned the bunker for the HQ for E/1/17th Cav the next day.

WHAT HAPPENED?

By: Sam Schiro

When I look at the experience of Vietnam, I see a kaleidoscope of emotion. I was watching a movie where the two male characters who were long term business associates sat at a table eating. It had been a long day, they were tired. Character A asked Character B, "Do You Love

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

me?” Character B did not know how to answer. He went into a dialogue avoiding the issue. Character A wanted to know if character B would risk his life for him. Character B said “No”; there was no reason to do that. That really struck me as odd.

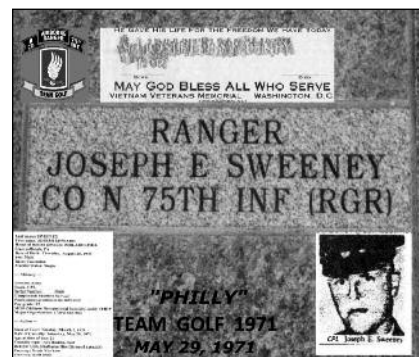
A friend asked me once, “What Happened in Vietnam? At the time I did not have an answer. After 40 years or so, I think I am figuring out “What Happened”.

I think “What Happened” is a paradox. Nothing happened and everything happened. At some point I was willing to risk my life to save a friend. From the outside looking down, adventure, fear, bravery, violence and heroic deeds are seen. From the inside looking around there is just one person looking out for the other person and in the process accomplishing the mission. All the things that occur in between are of what stories and legend are made.

**One Team Member's Memories Of Fallen Ranger**

All, I trust I can do the memories of Sweeney justice. He was a grand Soldier and I was fortunate to have him as a battle buddy from Basic, AIT, Airborne and then ship together to the Herd. We were both in the transient billets when the N Co Ranger “recruiting 3/4 truck” came to Sharang Valley to look for potential Rangers. Both of us figured we should “try out”. Going to different teams was the first time we hadn’t been together since enlisting. He never seemed to let the frustrations of Soldiering or life get him down and he was the most positive people I’ve ever encountered. He loved the Army boxer shorts and the Phillies. Joe was the first Army friend I lost and regret to this day I wasn’t with him when the times got tough. The Army and America lost a fine man when he died and I don’t imagine many folks of his caliber and life outcome replaced him back on the block. He came from a big family with little money but plenty of value. He would have enjoyed knowing how the rest of the men have done in their lives after the war. At some point as a soldier you realize that tears and ceremonies don’t bring Soldiers back to life. The best you can do is tell others of the day in and day out heroes we were so incredibly fortunate to serve with. They all made a different in how we turned out. Sweeney’s impact on me can’t be fully told as every day I think of him and Juan “BJ” Borja and how much I miss them. God bless them all and cradle them in Heaven till we can join them again.

Written by Jeff Horne Team Mike/Juliet 1970-71
N/CO Ranger 75Th Infantry Regiment



**O/75 - 78TH LRP****Unit Director - Michael Feller**

The other day I had to make a trip into town. As I drove down Maple St. I noticed each and every telephone and electric pole had a bucket hanging on it. Then it hit me “shit, it’s time for the spring issue of Patrolling.”

Man what a winter. I did not keep track but I do believe it snowed every day beginning Thanksgiving. On the weather they said except for three storms that blew in, the rest was “Lake Effect”. Generally half way thru the winter the Lake freezes enough that evaporation is minimal and the snow pump stops. This year they say some guy in Chicago was warming a car excessively causing a warming effect and the lake would not freeze. Evaporation then moved over land freezing and causing snow inland. The outcome; excessive use of snow blowers in Northern Lower Michigan. This in turn created cold winds that pounded Chicago, while at the same time drawing frigid arctic air down from Canada that settled over Detroit whose efforts at staying warm caused lake warming. On both Erie and Sinclair and on and on up and down the East Coast. There calling the condition Al Gore A Phobia. They say it was made worse by the Detroit Lions who sucked like a huge vacuum this season drawing more arctic air. Don’t know what happened out west some kind of low pressure kicked up down around Texas about the second week of January.

Enough about politics I’m gonna need your support come September for the F51 Reunion in Manistee MI. 09 is the 40th anniversary of F51 becoming O & P Ranger. Manistee is on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan about 2/3 of the way up. Along with the reunion there will be a street fair and the 82nd Airborne association will be

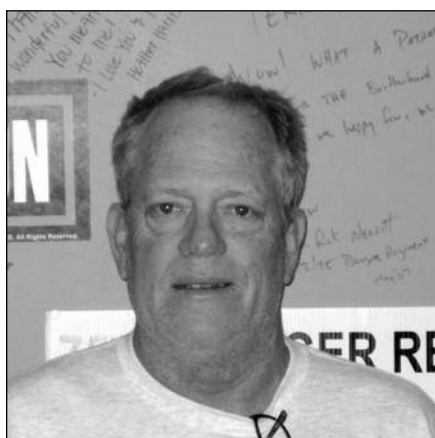
presenting Camp Trooper its salute to veterans. If things go as planned there may also be a jump at the airport. If there is enough interest I might be able to get some rates on a fishing charter. I have secured rooms at two different lodgings in Manistee, both in town both within a mile and a quarter of the beaches of Lake Michigan. All rooms going for \$54 a night with shuttle to the casino and airport. Both are overlooking the Manistee River and the River Walk. They are the Manistee Inn and Marina 800 968 6277 and the Riverside Motel and Marina 231 723 3554.

Well I suppose it’s also time for the memorial issue. The following list is accurate to the best of my knowledge. If you see mistakes please inform me.

In Memorial

“Nothing is dearer than life. Nothing is more precious than to live in Freedom.” The following risk there own lives to secure the freedom of others. May God grant them the piece they struggled for.

Beck, Jerry D	KIA	Frazier, Michael D
Kelly, Michael J	KIA	Goodner, Gary E
Koenig, Daren L	KIA	Harris, Shelby D
LaPolla, John A	KIA	Kane, John P
Wright, Charles	KIA	Maggart, Thomas H
Boonville, Henry R		Martinez, Arthur R
Chairez, Gilberto		Prestwood, Jonas S Jr
Clemons, Donald L		Rinkevich, Bernard E
Ervin, Lessle W		Trinajstick, Stephen
Fenner, James C		Wilkerson, Robert L

**P/75 - 79TH LRP****Unit Director - Terry Roderick**

So much has happened in the early part of 2009 that is positive for the Papa Company Rangers that it’s hard to know where to start. Jay Lutz (St. Pete Beach), Ted Tilson (Gainesville, GA), and I drove down to Stuart, Florida on Friday the 13th of February to meet Dave Slone, Team 18, for lunch while he and his wife were visiting her brother in Fort Lauderdale. I don’t know how it went for Dave, but for Jay, Teddy Bear, and I, it went fine and we had a great time. Dave got to the company in the middle of June 1970 along with Larry McNew, Juan DeLarosa, and several other guys who came in about the same time. Jay had left the company after being severely wounded when the bunker complex we had two teams out blowing up detonated prematurely and it became chaos on the ground the first week of June 1970. To this day, no one who was on the ground that day or anyone else for that matter has been able to explain what happened to our guys that day. Fortunately, we didn’t lose anyone KIA from Papa Company that day, but we did lose an engineer,

P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

who was one of two who joined our teams along with a dog and handler that day to assist with the large task of blowing up and contaminating that bunker complex with crystallized CS. Not sure why we had a dog and handler there, but no one was telling me much or asking me much back then. We did have several guys wounded also, but most of them were able to rejoin us later on. I guess Jay could say that they sent in 5-6 new guys to replace him and it would be hard to refute. Ha! Ha! Ted Tilson got to P/75th early in 1971, so I was the only one who was actually there with Dave, but you'd never have known it. I hope

Dave enjoyed himself as much as we did and though I didn't know Dave that well in Vietnam, it seemed like old times right away. He has done well for himself and is self employed and has made a good life for himself over the years. He has one son who is 27 years old now and graduated from Columbia University with his BS and got his Masters degree from Georgetown. It sounded to me like some smart people there and I'm still trying to figure out how we got Dave to come to our company. Ha! Ha! It only took a few moments of conversation and it was clear to me that we really missed having him there with us longer. We're hoping we made a good enough impression that we can get Dave and his family out to join us one year soon. Ted came down to visit with me for a few days and to make this trip with Jay and me specifically. It means a lot to me personally and I'm sure Dave appreciated the gesture too. That's what it's all about, Boys!! Reach out and touch some of the guys you knew before we get too old to enjoy each other again!!

On a much sadder note, Raymond "Yogi" Lopez, from Salinas, California is in a fight for his life right now against a near insurmountable enemy, cancer. Thankfully for him and us all, Ed "Carney" and Mary Walters left their home in Wyoming and drove out to California to be with Yogi and his family during this terrible time in their lives. He's been giving me updates every few days and it's not looking good for our brother, Yogi. He's in good hands and he and his family have appreciated the calls and cards from several of you who have taken the time out of your lives to wish them the best and offer your support. Mary and Carney are doing yeoman's duties to take a load off the family and giving them a chance to breath and just have a break from the darkness of the cancer experience. Not a fun thing to do even when the person is your own biological family. To think that they would travel that far and take the time out of their lives to do this for a Ranger Brother shows you the

level of support and love that many of still have for each other. I'd like to see it in our current lives too and enjoy

you all before you get sick or begin to leave us. My hat's off to them as I know firsthand what they are doing and it's not a pleasant experience, but it sure can give some comfort to the person you love. We hold out hope for Yogi, but it does not look good for him right now. Please keep him and his family in your hearts and prayers.

Raymond Lopez, 8985 Prunedale South Rd., Prunedale, CA. 93907.

Larry McNew and his friend, Pam, stopped in the first week of February

for the weekend and we had a nice visit. They are down from Michigan escaping the frozen tundra of their state for the 80 degree weather we have had here in Central Florida most of the winter period so far. They came rolling in on Larry's Harley Davidson that they trailered down. Unfortunately, they had to go back to Michigan from Sebring, Florida the day before we met with Dave Slone due to a family emergency. It was good seeing Larry again and we had a good time reminiscing about the old days. I got a bunch of new photos to scan from Jim "Stepchild" Gates (GO GATORS!!) to scan and share and will be finishing up that project soon.

For years now, I've had a bit of a "bucket list" of my own and two items concerned me as I had thought that maybe I'd never accomplish or be able to check them off my list. One was getting to meet Dave Slone again in person and the next was to get one of my former Team Leaders, SSG Linvel "Sgt. K" Karres, Killer 15, to come join us again from his home in Minnesota. He's not back completely yet, but he has opened the door a bit and I have confidence in him that he will join us again in the near future hopefully. I realize what a shock and life changing experience it is to go back to a time of your life when things were serious and didn't always go the way we wanted them to. Not to mention the decisions that are made that could mean life or death to others you care about. As I've mentioned before, the TL's had a responsibility and burden that many of us didn't have and I'm beginning to realize it does make a big difference in the way the experience is viewed years later. Thankfully, Lynn has gone on to have a productive and good life and from our correspondence I get the feel that he has done the same with his life that he did as a TL in Papa Company. He has done well and is skilled and respected in his professional life. I was not surprised one little bit to be honest. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that our paths will cross again, along with the other members of that team then, Steve Printz,



P/75 - 79TH LRP (CONTINUED)

Dave McNulty, Eddie “Hardcore” Johnston, and Jim Femiano. Others who come to mind real quick would be Carl Bolden and Roger Cassidy who also spent time with Sgt. K back in the day. Anyway, welcome back, Sgt. K, and just want to let you know that we all look forward to seeing you again. Hopefully in Columbus, Ga this Summer.

I recently heard from Bill Bickell, Claremore, OK (70-71), and Charles Gooch(71). They were in the company during the 1971 time frame. Also, Donald Rose (71) checked in and told me the guy he came to the company with, John McDaniel, and he had commo. They got there a few weeks before the company stood down and never got to know that many of the guys before they started shipping guys out to other units. As you all might expect, I told them to come and join us and it won’t take long before they are welcomed back into the fold and I assured them that they would feel like family in a short time. I didn’t feel like I was going out on a limb with that statement.

John Chester, the 75th RR Assn. Secretary, told me recently that he had gotten Troll Lloyd’s Lifetime Membership application and was processing it. Also, Duke got Troll’s brick application form for the Ranger Memorial and was taking care of getting that where it belonged for him. I guess you all know now that since Troll has gotten all that taken care of, that you will no longer have an excuse for not doing it yourself!!

In closing here, I’d like to pass along the condolences of the entire Papa Company family to Dave Barfield (F/51st and P/75th) and his family on the loss of his little brother recently. Dave’s sister is having some health issues too and I know it’s been hard on a guy like Dave who is so full of life, entertaining, and such a wonderful guy. I regret that I missed him in Vietnam as I think if we both had been there together, it would have been most interesting for you all!! You all stay warm, healthy, happy, and full of life. Don’t let it pass you by!! RLTW!! TR



Terry Tilson, Jay Lutz, David Sloane & Terry Roderick, Stuart, FL February 13, 2009



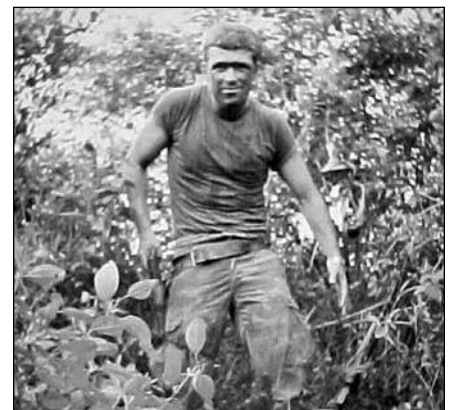
Butter & Peanut Tilson, 2008



Dave & Stephanie Sloane



Linvel & Mary Karres, 2008



Sgt Linvel K. Karres, 1970



D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Leon Moore

To my fellow Rangers and LRS's

In writing this spring issue I would like to ask each of you to take the time to call one of your brothers whom you have not talked to in a long time and get reacquainted. Spring is here and as we start our summer plans don't forget the Ranger Reunion Aug. 2nd – 9th 2009 in Columbus, Ga. It is at the same place, Holiday Inn North on Manchester Parkway. Cost is \$79.00 per night. You need to make reservations ASAP the rooms will go fast. Also you can go on line to register for the reunion at 75th Ranger Regiment web site.

Also check our web site at www.ranger151.com. There are up dates, photographs, up coming events, and information on our company's history. The more you guys get involved and tell your stories on the web site then maybe our children and their children will know we did not lose the war in V.N. but the politicians did. Also by telling your stories it may help you. It may let others get to know you, and the mental pain you try to hide like me. I've found it's easier to write it on paper in a room by yourself, than to talk to others. This way they don't see the pain in you eyes.

This winter Chuck and Sandy Wallace invited Dave and Mike Reisman and myself to take our motorcycles to Tucson, Arizona and ride for 2 weeks. We had pretty good weather, and we were able to spend a few hours visiting with Bruce Sherwood in Phoenix. We told a lot of stories and had a great time together. We were also able to visit with Carl Norris and his wife Rose. Carl was with the 117th choppers who flew for our company in V.N. We had lunch with them then went to their house and exchanged stories. When we were getting ready to leave, Carl tuned to his wife Rose and said: "These guys would jump on the chopper a team of 5 or 6 guys and off we would go to the designated LZ then drop them off in the middle of an enemy area. They would run off the LZ into the jungle and set up ambushes, and a lot of times they would make contact with the enemy then call in for extraction, we would go in lay down fire if needed. Then out of the jungle they would come running to the choppers, hop on and off we would go. They acted like it was just another day on the job".

Well Carl if you get to read this we want you to know that to the guys of Co D 151 you choppers boys were and still



are our hero's. Anyone who would get in a tin can and fly in and out of LZ's whether they were hot or not and pick up the wounded or a team can never be told thank you enough. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! And many more.

Continuation of 40 years ago

March 1969

During this time we are going out on patrols, at least 2/3 of the teams are out during the same time. This was due to needing to cover the 199th area in the II Field Force section.

Also the teams would be set up for 5-day missions. Due to making contact with the enemy our missions would be cut short. This would cause reduced downtime; get resupplied then sent out to finish our 5-days. During this time we were not able to visit with the other guys as often as we would like, seeing that they were out on missions.

When we started going on missions we were supplied with camouflage uniforms. After awhile we started buying tiger strips, because they seem to blend in with the jungle better.

Some of the guys started going to Recondo School that left some teams short a man for missions. We would get a fill in or made into a heavy or go out one man short. This normally did not effect the mission for the most part.

April 1969

On April 12th we lost Robert Smith. This was the second loss for the Indiana Rangers. Bob was more than a hero. He was a son, husband, father, and to those who knew him he was a great friend. Bob we miss you everyday.

Sometime in April one of the teams had a visitor in the way of an elephant, she did quit a bit of damage in a short amount of time. She picked up Bucy and lifted him in the air, threw him to the ground, and was ready to smash his head in when the team opened fire on her. She then turned away and headed to her baby who was calling for her, and headed after her into the jungle. During the confusion Doug Hagan got hit with a claymor and messed up his foot. Doug got a trip home, but did not get a Purple Heart. Go figure! Doug said I had not mentioned his name in any of my issues so here it is. Anyway we all love you, and you always make me smile. At a boy Ernie

D/151 LRP/RANGER (CONTINUED)

May 1969

Our third loss came on May 10th Peter Fegatelli. Unfortunately, I never got to know Pete, but those who new him have said many times he was a Ranger through and through, and good friend.

As time went on we lost more Rangers due to WIA's. One was Mike Reisman who took a hit to the chest. Mike spent the next year and more in hospitals recouping.

By the end of May we had 44 Rangers graduate from Recondo School. Here is a list of names and their Recon No.'s by classes:

Class No. 15-69

Robert Lewis	1802	Peter Trepak	1886
Danny Crownover	1896	Bruce Sherwood	1864
Ronald Steenburgen	1887	Terry Hall	1898
Max Anderson	1874	Mike Brunenberg	1890
Charles Manis	1899	James Bohanan	1876
Eric Ellis	1895	Donnie Holland	1905
David Drydale	1881		

Class No. 16-69

Kirt Jacobson	1929	Lawrence Kelle	1940
Dennis Engi	1933	David Deaton	1943
Philip Cravens	1934	David Geisser	1945
Charles Smith	1938	Peter Fegatelli	1946

No. 17-69

David Gates	1971	Michael Slabaugh	1993
Leon Moore	1978	Jerome Crawford	1999
Harry Miller	1981	Robert Ramey	2005

Class No. 18-69

Terry MacDonald	2053	John Mason	2077
Jack Jarves	2072	Bruce Bennett	2079

Class No. 19-69

Billy Faulks	2115	Michael Wieck	2122
Marvin Carey	2119	James Kaiserski	2130

Class No. 20-69

David Keith	2151	Dwain Roberson	2164
Daryl Dassel	2156	Allen Seiner	2166
Bishop Baranowski	2163		

Class No. 21-69

Gary Tichenor	2230	Anthony Houston	2238
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Class No. 22-69

Gerald Harris	2266	H C Cross	2271
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Well this brings us to June of 1969 were we will pick up again in the summer issue. Who knows some of you guys might even e-mail me something to put in the next issue. I'll be holding my breath until I receive it!

My E- mail is leomoo@verizon.net in case you have something to share.

God speed and health be with you all.

Sgt. Leon Moore
Signing off



F/51 LRP

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

F/51 LRP Reunion

The 2009 reunion is to be held in Mainistee Michigan from 8-13 September 2009. Those from the 151, O and P 75th Rangers and F/51 LRS are also invited. The inns are the Manistee Inn and Marina phone 1-800-968-6277 and the rate is \$54 during the week for a standard room, \$61 on the river, and 109 for a jacuzzi on the river. The Riverside Motel and Marina phone 1-231-723-3554 and the rates are a single queen \$59, doubles are \$79, doubles with a walkout on the river \$99, and suits are \$149. There is a street fair and the 82nd Airborne Associations Camp



Trooper is scheduled to be in Manistee also. Hope to see some of you there.

**OPERATION TOAN
THANG PART 8**

This continuation covers from May 10, 1968 until May 17, 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

F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

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 26 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 10th at 1430HRS (2:30 PM). At 1454HRS (2:54 PM) Team 26 reported hearing voices 50 meters North of the team location. At 1716HRS (5:16 PM) Team 26 reported an artillery piece firing 500 meters South of the team location. At 1750HRS (5:50 PM) Team 26 reported movement 35 meters Northeast of the team. At 2255HRS (10:55 PM) Team 26 reported mortars landing 100 to 300 meters Northeast of the team. On May 11th at 0153HRS (1:53 PM) Team 26 reported 1 outgoing rocket 500 meters South of the team. At 1933HRS (7:33 PM) Team 26 reported hearing movement in the brush of approximately squad or platoon sized moving from East to West 100 meters Southeast of the team. At 1938HRS (7:38 PM) Team 26 reported hearing mortars 900 meters South of the team. At 1940HRS (7:40 PM) team 26 reported that movement had stopped. At 2020HRS (8:20 PM) Team 26 reported hearing 3 outgoing mortars 200 meters West of the team. At 2024HRS (8:24 PM) Team 26 reported hearing 8 more rounds being fired. On May 12th at 1510HRS (3:10 PM) Team 26 reported movement of 1 or 2 personal 50 meters West of the team. At 1516HRS (3:16 PM) Team 26 reported seeing 2 Vietcong 40 to 50 meters West of the team. At 1517HRS (3:17 PM) Team 26 reported firing at 1 Vietcong with negative results and negative enemy return fire. At 1549HRS (3:49 PM) Team 26 reported movement of 2 or 3 personal 40 meters East of the team. At 1605HRS (4:05 PM) Team 26 reported seeing 4 or 5 Vietcong across the trail 50 meters East of the team. Team 26 also reported that they had 2 Vietcong behind them. The Vietcong were wearing black PJ's, khakis, OD fatigues, steel pots, web gear, and carrying AK-47's. At 1610HRS (4:10 PM) Team 26 reported they had been spotted by 1 Vietcong. At 1619Hrs (4:19 PM) Team 26 being in contact with Vietcong 20 meters North of the team. Team 26 reported 1 Vietcong KIA and an estimated 9 to 10 Vietcong in the area. All had AK-47's and wearing steel pots. At 1637HRS (4:37 PM) gun-ships began making their gun runs and the team hear the Vietcong screaming. At 1648HRS (4:48 PM) Team 26 was extracted.

Team 45 was a 12 man heavy team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 12th at 1504HRS (3:04 PM). On May 13th at 0906HRS (9:06 AM) Team 45 reported the team was in a base camp area that contained tunnels and caches. At 0945HRS (9:45 AM) Team 45 reported a trail that appeared to be about 12 hours old running North to South, 2 nose cones for 122 MM rockets,

1 used Chicom grenade, 1 US field jacket from the 101st ABN DIV with the name of Daniels on the jacket. At 1307HRS (1:07 PM) Team 45 reported hearing movement of approximately 10 personal 25 meters South of the team and moving West to East. At 1312HRS (1:12 PM) Team 45 initiated contact killing 1 Vietcong. At 1317HRS (1:17 PM) as the team was sweeping the area Team 45 come in contact again killing another Vietcong. At the same time the Vietcong threw a grenade that wounded Team 45's leader. At 1327(1:27 PM) Team 45 came in contact again as they were caring for the wounded patrol leader. At 1345HRS (1:45 PM) Team 45 reported that they could not move the wounded team leader to the LZ and requested a Dustoff. At 1400HRS (2:00 PM) Team 45 reported movement 25 meters South Southwest of the team. At 1412HRS (2:12 PM) Dustoff dropped an force penetrator to Team 45 and at 1419HRS (2:19 PM) the wounded team leader was extracted. At 1431HRS (2:31 PM) team 45 was extracted. The gun-ships and artillery fired up the base camp area. At the debriefing Team 45 said that the contact that Team 17 had 900 meters East of Team 45 had driven the Vietcong to Team 45's location. The Vietcong were carrying carbines and AK-47's and were wearing black PJ's. The bunkers the team had found were large enough to hold 2 to 3 men and were less than a week old.

Team 15 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 12th at 1834HRS (6:34 PM). Immediately after landing on the LZ Team 15 was in contact with Vietcong 45 meters West Northwest of the team. At 1842HRS (6:42 PM) Team 15 was extracted. At debriefing Team 15 reported seeing 2 Vietcong in dark clothing, one was wearing a straw hat and at least 1 had a AK-47 and initiated the contact. Team 15 reported 1 Vietcong KIA and 1 secondary explosion by the gun-ships. The extraction helicopters also drew ground fire from at least 20 positions West of the LZ.

Team 17 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 13th at 0914HRS (9:14 AM). At 0948HRS (9:48 AM) Team 17 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 150 meters South of the team and across from the LZ. At 1155HRS (11:55 AM) Team 17 reported seeing 2 Vietcong coming toward the team at 75 meters from the South coming down a stream bed and both had weapons. At 1233HRS (12:33 PM) Team 17 was in contact with 2 Vietcong 75 meters South Southwest of the team with the Cheiu Hoi wounding 1 Vietcong. Team 17 then swept the area in the direction of the contact. At 1253HRS (12:53 PM) Team 17 saw 1 Vietcong 150 meters Northwest of the team and found the blood trail of the wounded Vietcong. At 1300HRS (1:00 PM) the C&C helicopter reported seeing

F/51 LRP (CONTINUED)

red smoke thrown by the Vietcong towards Team 17. At 1312HRS (1:12 PM) Team 17 reported receiving fire from the teams West. At 1325HRS (1:25 PM) Team 17 reported being in contact again 25 meters South of the team. At 1340HRS (1:40 PM) Team 17 reported Vietcong 200 meters Southwest of the team. At 1347HRS (1:47PM) Team 17 reported 1 Vietcong being hit by the gun-ships on fire and running through the woods. At 1354HRS (1:54 PM) Team 17 reported secondary explosions caused by the door gunners. At 1401HRS (2:01 PM) Team 17 was extracted with negative team casualties and 7 Vietcong KIA and 1 Vietcong KIA by the gun-ships. At the debriefing Team 17 reported seeing 10 Vietcong, 9 in khakis and one in black PJ's, 5 had web gear and weapons seen were 2 carbines and 1 AK-47. The area had a foot bridge, a water point and 3 sleeping positions, and a 6 man bunker. Artillery and the gun-ships fired up the area after the team was extracted.

Team 15 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 12th at 1834HRS (6:34 PM). Immediately upon insertion Team 15 came under fire from 2 Vietcong 45 meters approximately West Northwest of the team. The Vietcong were wearing dark PJ's and 1 had a conical shaped straw hat. One Vietcong was believed to be killed and a secondary explosion on the North side of the LZ caused by the gun-ships. Team 15 was extracted at 1842HRS 6:42 PM). The extraction helicopters reported receiving ground fire from the West side of the LZ by about 20 Vietcong. Team 15 was reinserted into a secondary area of operation on May 13th at 1736HRS (5:36 PM). As soon as the Team 15 was inserted the team reported having movement 50 meters approximately West of the team. At

1742HRS (5:42 PM) Team 15 reported more movement 50 meters approximately Southwest of the team. At 1745HRS (5:45 pm) Team 15's Chieu Hoa spotted 4 Vietcong on the East side of the LZ. At 1751HRS (5:51 PM) Team 15 reported seeing 1 Vietcong 50 meters approximately West of the team. The gun-ships began making their gun runs at 1751HRS (5:51 PM). At 1752HRS (5:52 PM) Team 15 reported they were receiving fire 50 meters Northeast of the team location. At 1755HRS (5:55 PM) Team 15 was extracted and artillery was called in with unknown Vietcong casualties. At 1805HRS (6:05 PM) Team 15 was attempting to be reinserted into another area of operation, but the insertion helicopters reported receiving ground fire from a LZ watcher. Team 15's mission was aborted and the gun-ships expended their ammo on the LZ area.

Team 32 was a 6 man light team that was inserted into their area of operation on May 13th at 0930HRS (9:30 AM). On May 13th at 1845HRS (6:45 PM) team 32 reported hearing 2 shots 200 to 300 meters Southeast of the team location. On May 14th at 1200HRS (12:00 AM) Team 32 reported having one sick team member and requested extraction of the team member. The extraction happened at 1828HRS (6:28 PM). On May 15th at 1919Hrs (7:19 PM) Team 32 reported seeing 2 people moving to the West 30 to 40 meters South of the team location. On May 16th Team 32 reported negative activity for the day. On May 17th 0749HRS (7:49 AM) Team 32 reported hearing a transistor radio playing Vietnamese music 100 meters South of the team location. At 0937Hrs (9:37 am) Team 32 was extracted. At debriefing the team reported a bridge of logs 15 feet long and 1 foot 6 inches wide.



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

No Submission



ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Bill Miller



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Heads up! If you haven't already received your invitation to the US Army Ranger Advisor's Monument dedication here is the pertinent information.

March 28, 2009

10:30 Hours

Airborne & Special Ops Museum

100 Bragg Blvd

Fayetteville, NC

If you do attend, please bring your berets and any photos you want scanned by the museum historian. These photos will be returned immediately after scanning. I hope to see all there.

Sick Call

It has been brought to my attention that the following individuals are experiencing health problems and would probably like to hear from any BDQ's.

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

LTC Jack Daniel
PO Box 52606
Knoxville, TN 37950

LTC James Rogers
201 W Mimosa Circle
San Marcos, TX 78666

**FROM POLEI KLENG TO
BEN HET, II CORP BDQs IN
THE PLEI TRAP VALLEY 1971**



**Karl Fee and Montagnard
at Ploei Kleng January 1971**

Rangers”, the camp garrisons were rotated through the ARVN Ranger School at Duc My. As these units went through training, regular BDQ battalions would occupy the camps.

In January-February of 1971, I accompanied my BDQs, the 23d BDQ BN, to Polei Kleng, a border camp at the south end of the Plei Trap valley, close to the Cambodian border and about 50 kilometers SSE of the Laos-Cambodia-VN tri-border area.

This was always a hotly contested area due to its proximity to heavily used sections of the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

The 23d BDQ BN was assigned to occupy and hold Polei Kleng in the absence of the regular garrison.

While we were there, a large recon operation was laid on involving the US Air Cav, A & B Batteries of the US 1/92d Arty (175mm), and four ARVN infantry BNs. Three of the ARVN BNs were regular leg infantry while the fourth was our sister unit, the 22d BDQ BN. The 175mm guns were dug in just outside the wire and the Air Cav set up a hot re-arm/refuel point on the airstrip. With all the LOHs, Chinooks, Hueys, and Cobras running all day, Polei Kleng became a literal beehive of activity.



After the decision had been made in 1970 to convert the Special Forces border camps in VN to ARVN BDQ camps as “B o r d e r

sightings of NVA by the Air Cav, we knew the NVA were

up to something in the area between Polei Kleng and the border. Nobody could quite figure out what it was they were doing, but it appeared to be significant. The 1/92d Arty batteries were firing contact missions every night.

As the garrison occupying Polei Kleng, 23d BDQ BN was not involved in the operation. We were just spectators watching from the sidelines.

I sneaked into the briefing tent the day BG Wear, senior II Corps MACV Advisor, and his ARVN counterpart made a critical decision that changed everything. The ARVN general stated the current operation was being shifted to the north end of the Plei Trap towards Ben Het (cynically known as Been Hit) at the tri-border area, a really hot spot. When the ARVN general said the four ARVN BNs would be airlifted to Ben Het, BG Wear responded with words I will never forget “Why waste the air assets? Make them WALK up the valley to Ben Het!” As it was a long 40 kilometers from Polei Kleng to Ben Het, all of it through dense jungle across major branches of the Ho Chi Minh Trail, and all of it out of reach of friendly artillery fans, this was a truly daunting gauntlet for the battalions to run.



**SFC Calhoun (L) and
1st Lt Orie John Dubbeld**

From the sporadic contacts and



**Left to Right CPT Gomez, SFC
Acoba, SFC Johnson, advisors to
23rd BDQ Bn, in the area south of
Ben Het the night before linking up
with 22nd BDQ Bn**

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

And with that, everyone, the Cav, the Arty, and all their support, packed up and left Polei Kleng. The regular garrison had just returned to relieve the 23d BDQs, so we were part of the general get-away, moving in a big dusty convoy returning to bases in Kontum and Pleiku.

Just before that critical briefing, however, the Senior Advisor to the 22d BDQ BN was due to go on his six day R&R. He, along with the NCO advisor, was extracted from the field and sent back to Pleiku. 1LT Orie Dubbeld, who had less than 30 days remaining before his rotation back to the US, was sent into the field with SFC James Edward Duncan, who had just arrived from the US a week earlier.

I was out on the airstrip to meet Dubbeld and Duncan when they arrived, and I watched them board the slicks for insertion into the Plei Trap. 1LT Dubbeld was clearly unhappy about going into the field at this late date in his tour of duty. I never saw Dubbeld and Duncan again.

You might have guessed it - the 22d BDQ BN and the three ARVN BNs walked up the valley right into a base camp of the 28th, 40th, and 66th NVA Regiments, who had apparently been massing for a surprise attack on Ben Het. The three ARVN infantry BNs were massacred and virtually vanished into history. By contrast, the 22d BDQ BN remained a cohesive unit, driving through regimental size ambushes all the way up the Plei Trap. Out of radio range of any friendly positions, the 22d BN could only communicate with aircraft directly overhead. Spotty communications and thick canopy hampered efforts to call in gunships or air strikes. An AC-47 Spooky gunship was able to bring some fire but was unable to stay on station for undisclosed reasons.

On the night of 3 March 1971, the 22d BDQs made a stand on a hill just south of Ben Het, taking hundreds of mortar rounds in less than an hour. It was a direct hit on their foxhole that took out Dubbeld and Duncan.

The 23d BDQ BN was then dispatched from Pleiku by truck convoy through Kontum to Tan Canh with orders to move to Ben Het and then head south to link up with the 22d BDQ BN. We ran a virtual gauntlet from Tan Canh to Dak To and on into Ben Het. As we arrived at Ben Het, the outpost was being pounded into dust by the NVA. Crouching in the command bunker before moving out of the camp, I overheard a surreal conversation on a field phone by some O4 "This IS Ben Het, yes sir, we are under fire, no sir, RIGHT NOW, I said, NO SIR I AM NOT A LIAR...."

Within the hour of our arrival, just before dusk, we went out into the jungle to attempt linking up with the 22d BN. It turned into a hot steamy night, right out of an old war

movie, all of us tensed to the max. Of course, because we were expecting the worst, nothing happened. We connected with the 22d BDQs at dawn, then we all hustled back to Ben Het and hunkered down. The 22d was airlifted back to Pleiku and there we were, 300 or so of the 23d BDQ BN in the camp, an estimated 10,000 or so NVA said to be closing in, and the only road in or out was controlled by the NVA. Friendly artillery was too distant, air assets had been "diverted to higher priorities", and we were all alone. There was an inevitable sense of disaster. Dubbeld and Duncan were dead already, we could be dead soon.....

Karl Fee

SITREP:

I want to thank all those who have contributed to the BDQ Memorial Fund. I realize that two other monuments have already been placed, however those monuments included the Vietnamese. This monument is in recognition of the US Army Ranger Advisors. Contributions are steadily arriving and the following is a list of contributors thus far. Thanks again for your support in this endeavor. Remember all donations are fully tax deductible within the limits of State and Federal laws. Under the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, a deduction will be allowed for any gift of \$250 or more only if the donor has written substantiation of the gift.

Freddy McFarren	John Tippen
Mike Martin	Bill Miller
Burton Patrick	David Schofield
Joe Mattison	Dan Donohue
Sidney Baker	Greg Gile
Ron Payne	Jim Waters
Wally Crain	John Thomas
Joe Connelly	Alice Brinkley
Ed Briggs	Louis Constantini
Edison Scholes	Jack Woodall
Bill Schwartz	Hans Zaglauer
Dale Shipley	Mark Truhan
Robert Sparks	John Holecek
Allan Imes	Bob Reitz
Mike McNamara	Willard Langdon
Steve Leighton	Harris Parker
Andy Baxley	Joe Carino

ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (CONTINUED)

Joe Guerra	Hans Tees
Robbie Robinson	Frank Casey
US Army Ranger Assoc	Joe Szabo
Jerry Devlin	Doug Nolen
Roy Allen	R. J. Farris
John G. Zierdt	Richard W. Potter
Doug McCabe	Charles Hanson
Richard Wandke	Gordon Keiser
Walt Saunders	Henry McNeil
Almo "Pop" Mercier	Rod Wijas
Pete Cosgriff	

Several of the contributors above are "Friends of the BDQ". Contributions may still be sent, made out to "BDQ Advisors Memorial Fund" Mail to Bill Miller, 1090 Brightwood Dr., Aiken, SC 29803.

BIET DONG QUAN SAT

Congratulations:

Congratulations go out to Willard Langdon and Earl Singletary on their nominations to the Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

CONTEMPLATIONS:

Although we are awaiting the BDQ Monument Dedication, I want to remind everyone that we are planning our reunion for April/May of 2010. Right now my choice for the reunion is Charleston, SC. There are quite a few things to do if you are so inclined, such as The Medal of Honor Museum aboard an Aircraft Carrier, a boat trip to Fort Sumter, an Aquarium, shopping at the Market in downtown Charleston and several old south plantations that are tourist attractions. The Citadel is also in downtown Charleston. There will be more to follow as things are finalized.

Insert Photos #4 & #5 w/captions

Quote:

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity".

George S. Patton

Mu Nau Bill Miller, Unit Director



SFC Roy (Bac Si) Davidson carrying a wounded VN paratrooper from a chopper at the Cong Ha hospital in Saigon, August 1964 while serving as a medical advisor to the VN Airborne. He also served with the Special Forces and as an advisor to the VN Rangers at Trung Lap Training Center.



Bob Murphy, Sr. Advisor to the 6th VN Ranger Group cleaning personal weapons. Bob also served as an advisor to the VN Airborne and received the Distinguished Service Cross while serving with the 101st Airborne Div. Bob retired as a Colonel.

STATE COORDINATOR – ADVOCATE

BY: Gene Tucker

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

US Army SSgt Henry J. Preckajlo died yesterday 1/11/2009 at 87 years of age. He served in the Army in Burma during WWII where he lost both legs in combat. He was 100% service connected disabled. He was one of Merrill's Marauders.

Rangers and Friends of the Rangers,

First, I want to extend my most heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been so great in helping me out. I received the message below from Ranger Robert E. Passanisi of the Merrill's Marauders Association verifying my uncle's service with the Marauders. We are extremely proud of him and the life he lead during his service with the Marauders and beyond. He was truly an amazing individual. At 86 years of age, wheelchair bound from losing both legs in combat, he would insist on doing things himself. He would shovel his driveway clear of snow, do his own laundry with washer and dryer located in his basement and had even taken to cutting his own grass with a push mower on occasion. After writing some of this, it reads as though he came from the worst family ever, but that was not the case. Uncle Hank had help from his son, nieces and nephews. He was just the type of guy who would often beat them to the punch and just as soon do it himself before they arrived. He was a sports fan and would regularly go to games with his nephews. He would push himself up the ramp at Giant's stadium (in his 80's!) and if you tried to touch his chair or push him he would tell you to get your hands off, that he could do it himself. He had a great sense of humor. He loved his family and really loved the kids. At his own brother's funeral only a few years back, he was taking the kids for rides in his wheelchair at the wake in the funeral home (we had the place to ourselves). He and his brothers and sisters endured some extreme hardship growing up, not only as all Americans did who lived through the depression, but also from having lost their mother at a young age in childbirth. They too lost siblings at a young age growing up. He and his closest sister had to take on an enormous amount of responsibility at a very young age to help their father with the younger children. He remains an example to us all of what one great American can do to have a lasting impact on this world and he did. He was the epitome of everything that makes me proud to wear a uniform. And after having the chance to speak with many of his comrades from across the proud lineage of the US Army Rangers, it comes as no surprise

that he served among men of the same caliber. From the first e-mail sent and phonecall I made, the wave of response was more than impressive from all ranks and periods of service. You truly do lead the way. On behalf of my uncle Hank and our whole family, thank you all for your service and for your consideration in the well wishes bestowed upon us on behalf of the Rangers. RLTW! Happy New Year to you and your families.

Last, I just hung up with the Galante's Funeral Home (908) 687-2110 and was able to confirm that uncle Hank will be put ot rest with military honors via the Fort Dix casualty office (609) 562-4453. His military service was confirmed through the VA regional office in Newark through his 100% service connected disability. His wake is Wednesday the 13th from 2-4pm and again from 7-9pm. Thursday he will be laid to rest in a mausoleum beside his wife located at Hollywood Memorial Park on 1500 Stuyvesant Ave in Union, NJ 07083 (908) 688-8979 with a 10am service at the funeral home followed by the entombment at approximately 10:45am.

MSgt Michael O'Hagan
106th Rescue Wing,
Westhampton Beach Long Island, NY
Cell 609-234-2636
Home 973-347-0955

Here is the information provided by historian - Ranger Passanisi.

Sgt. Henry J. Preckajlo, ASN: 32765525, F Company, 2nd Battalion, Composite Unit 5307th Provisional, was one of the heroes that answered the President's call and volunteered for a dangerous mission. He joined the Marauders at the end of May 1944, and was involved in a major battle, for the town of Myitkyina North Burma, which lasted for three months. He then continued on with the 475th Infantry, when it was formed as part of the Mars Task Force, into Central Burma. During his service in Burma, he fought recurrent Malaria, deadly Mite Typhus, Amoebae Dysentery, Malnutrition, and extreme Exhaustion, all in addition to the fighting the best the Japanese had to offer. He fought behind enemy lines under the most difficult conditions and he fought long and well. He was wounded twice, the last time was, January 27, 1945, for which he received an Oak-Leaf Cluster to his Purple Heart Medal. He also earned among other possible medals: The Combat Infantryman Badge, effective 1 June 1944, The Presidential Unit Citation, and The Bronze Star Medal,

for exemplary service against an armed enemy. He is and always will be an American Hero among Heroes. Sgt. Henry J. Preckajlo, we, your fellow Marauders salute you.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Passanisi, Historian
Merrill's Marauders Association
historian1@marauder.org
Webpage: <http://marauder.org>
Sorry All,

Hello Bill and Gene,

Thanks again for all that you did and thank you so much for presenting Uncle Hank's son Joe with the coin you made. That was really something. Everyone from the whole Ranger community was so great. I can't thank you all enough. Please give my regards to everyone and all the best to you and your families.

We thank you again so much for everything. We intend to get a stone for Uncle Hank at the Ranger Memorial. Thanks for letting us know about that honor and please let me know what the next steps are. I am so glad our paths crossed and that by connecting first with Ranger Bullen and then fellow Rangers we were able to do that much more to honor Uncle Hank's life and his sacrifice to our country. We will be forever grateful to YOU ALL.

On behalf of a grateful and proud family, thank you for all you have done for us and thank you for your service. Thank you again for everything. We are honored to have Uncle Hank take his place among the "Magnificent Brotherhood" of fellow fallen Rangers at the memorial with his stone. We are definitely doing that.

Respectfully, Michael O'Hagan

Bill Bullen President 75th Ranger Regiment Association and James (Jimmy) McKinney, former 1st Ranger Battalion Unit director and 10 year Bat Boy, were honored to attend the Funeral in Union, NJ. An engraved coin was presented to a very appreciative Joe Preckajlo, son of Henry J Preckajlo. They also met Henry's sister Matriarch of this very fine family. The mention to Bill and Gene above is meant for all of us in the 75th RRA. We all feel the pain and desire to assist our fellow fallen Rangers and their families. That is what makes the State Coordinator program so great.

William V. Dicky G-75th Ranger

A memorial service was held at the Kahie - Moore Funeral Home in Cary IL. There were approximately 60 to 80 family and friends in attendance. William Dicky's widow Nina, his parents Vern and Irma, and his two brothers, Dennis and Charles were also in attendance. **Mike Wood represented the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and a silver coin was given to the widow Nina.**

A most impressive ceremony was presented by the "Black Tigers" The memorial was conducted by Ben Dunham and the eight Black Tigers. Ben came from Nashville TN and the rest of the groups were from Mattoon, IL.

Others in attendance were Norton Newcomb, a member of SFA, Ch, 37; George Beach a member of the E/51 – G/75 association and Al Hammer a good friend of Bill who now lives in Thailand.

Joseph P. Meinike president of the G-75 / E-51 Association.

NOW THAT IS WHAT WE ARE ALL ABOUT!

Please consider being a State coordinator for your state. As you can see our volunteers do a great service for the families, and the association. You may contact me at the email address below for more information.

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

FIELD COORDINATORS

John Chester has certificates for the mothers. Be sure to request them when needed.

I (Gene Tucker) will be able now to provide silver coins that you may present to the families of our departed brothers. Please notify me as soon as you know what you want engraved on the coins and the address to have the coin sent to. You may have 14 letters including spaces engraved on the first line and 4 or 5 on the second line.

Be sure to visit any wounded, injured or ill brother also.

Now is the time to step up and be counted as all the State Coordinators have been doing, we all appreciate their unselfish giving for their fellow LRRP's, LRP's and Rangers. !

**Gene Tucker
State Coordinator – Advocate
75th Ranger Regiment Association
egt12@comcast.net**

TAPS

Fred Webster(89) 1st Lt. (2nd Ranger Battalion)

Fred was quite the character. He was proud of his wound he received while storming the cliffs in Normandy June 1944. He always said Forrest Gump had nothing on him. Fred received a gunshot wound to the Buttocks on that day in France. I will truly miss Fred and the service he did for our country. (submitted by Dale Wischkaemper)

James Patrick, 1st Lt. (2nd Ranger Battalion)

Services were held at Arlington National Cemetery on January 29, 2009.

James Manville “Manny” Nelson, Age 61

Died February 6, 2009 at St. Joseph’s Hospital in St. Paul. Preceded in death by his father and mother, Alfred W. and Goldie M. Nelson, and his brother, Gary. He is survived by his two sons, Eric James (Dena) and Brian Jefferey (Donna) Nelson; grandchildren, Emma Grace, Evan James, and Jacob Daniel; his sister, Nancy, and his brothers, Larry, Wilmar, Arvid, Carl, and Alfred. Manny was born on Dec. 15th, 1947, and grew up in Crystal and Medicine Lake. He proudly served his country as an Airborne Ranger from Company H of the 75th Inf., 1st Air Cav. Div. in VietNam and retired from the Army as a Staff Sgt. During his service he was highly decorated, earning among others two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star Medal for Heroism, and the Air Medal. He will be best, of Spring Park, MN died Friday, remembered, though, as a wonderful father and grandfather who will be sorely missed.

US Army SSgt Henry J. Preckajlo

Died 1/11/2009 at 87 years of age. He served in the Army in Burma during WWII where he lost both legs in combat. He was 100% service connected disabled. He was one of Merrill’s Marauders. SSgt. Preckajlo, F Company, 2nd Battalion, Composite Unit 5307th Provisional, was one of the heroes that answered the President’s call and volunteered for a dangerous mission. He joined the Marauders at the end of May 1944, and was involved in a major battle, for the town of Myitkyina North Burma, which lasted for three months. He then continued on with the 475th Infantry, when it was formed as part of the Mars Task Force, into Central Burma. During his service in Burma, he fought recurrent Malaria, deadly Mite Typhus, Amoebae Dysentery, Malnutrition, and extreme Exhaustion, all in addition to the fighting the best the Japanese had to offer. He fought behind enemy lines under the most difficult conditions and he fought long and well. He was wounded twice, the last time was, January 27, 1945, for which he received an Oak-Leaf Cluster to his

Purple Heart Medal. He also earned among other possible medals: The Combat Infantryman Badge, effective 1 June 1944, The Presidential Unit Citation, and The Bronze Star Medal, for exemplary service against an armed enemy. He is and always will be an American Hero among Heroes.

Sgt. Henry J. Preckajlo, we, your fellow Marauders salute you.

Sincerely,
Robert E. Passanisi, Historian
Merrill’s Marauders
Association



Staff Sgt. Anthony D. Davis

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (USASOC News Service, Jan. 7, 2008) — An Army Ranger serving with 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment died Jan. 6 while conducting combat operations in Northern Iraq. Staff Sgt. Anthony D. Davis, 29, was killed during a direct-fire engagement by a heavily armed enemy combatant. The enemy combatant was subsequently killed when he engaged the assault force. No other Rangers were injured.

“Staff Sergeant Davis leaves behind a legacy in the countless Rangers who he has trained, influenced and befriended through numerous years of service and multiple deployments with this Regiment,” said Col. Richard D. Clarke, 75th Ranger Regiment commander.

“Today our Nation mourns the loss of Staff Sergeant Anthony Davis,” said Lt. Col. Brian Mennes, 1st Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment commander. “A man who selflessly chose to serve his country during this tumultuous period in our nation’s history in a manner that is both honorable and respected. Staff Sergeant Davis died defending his nation fighting alongside his buddies, leaving behind hundreds of Rangers who called him their friend.”

Davis was in his sixth deployment in support of the War on Terror with three previous deployments to Iraq and two to Afghanistan.

A native of Daytona Beach, Fla., Davis initially entered the Army on Oct. 10, 2000 was assigned to Company C, 1st

TAPS (CONTINUED)

Bn., at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., July 3, 2001. He served as a fire team leader with Co. C and a team leader with Headquarters and Headquarters Company. He earned his Ranger Tab when he completed U.S. Army Ranger Course at Fort Benning, 2002. Davis is survived by his mother, Ellen Davis of Fayetteville, N.C.; his stepfather, Nelson Buckwald of Florida; sister, Staff Sgt. Nakischa Davis, Fayetteville, N.C.; and, niece, Ariana also of Fayetteville.

MAJ(R) Robert Prince C & Hq 6/75

Passed away on 1 Jan 09. Ranger Prince planned and executed the Regiments first special operations mission when he led a company of Rangers on a mission to liberate 500 survivor's of the Bataan Death March at Cabanatuan.

I had the pleasure of meeting Bob a few times. At Ranger Ball in 05 I was walking through the lobby of the Sheraton in Tacoma. I saw him checking in at the front desk. I immediately recognized him because I had seen him on the news a few weeks prior when the movie came out. I ran up to the hotel run and told my wife in a high pitched girl like voice, "guess who I just saw?" She said to me, "well did you say hi?" I looked at her like she was crazy and said no "of course I didn't just walk up to one of the legends and start gushing like teenager at an N sync concert....are you crazy?"

Late that night Ranger Prince was sitting up front with the BC, CSM and some other important people. My wife pushed them aside and walked up to him and said, "you're one of my husbands heroes. The book, *Ghost Soldiers*, was the reason he became a Ranger." Ranger Prince said, "Your husband is one of my heroes. Tell him to get up here."

In 07 I got to meet with Bob again at his house for lunch along with Rangers Wayne Beals, Shaun Curry and Sherry McKlein of the Sons and Daughters Association of WWII Rangers, with us was WWII D 2/75 Ranger Zyke Zyrowski. That was probably one of the coolest days of my life. It's not often in life that you get to stand in the shadow of true greatness. As you will recall we lost Zyke this past year also. Those guys wrote the book. I'm glad that I had the privilege of meeting them.

There will be no service.

Sua Sponte, Nate RLTW!
Nate Smith



**L-R Nate Smith, Maj Prince, Ranger Zyrowski,
Ranger Beals, Ranger Curry.**

I Wish, I Wish

*I remember the 4th of July parade, the soldiers marching by.
I looked up at my grandpa saluting the flag, a tear in his eye.
In school, teachers spoke of freedom as if it were a living thing.
Preacher would speak of it on Sundays, then we all would sing.*

*At night after supper, we would watch the war news on the T.V.
As they showed the dead & wounded, mom would glance over at me.
At night, real late, dad would sit up in his favorite chair.
He would just sit there in the dark, just sit there and stare.*

*Mom was so angry, she seemed to cry night and day.
Her and dad didn't talk, I didn't know what to say.
Our house, once filled with laughter, now filled with tears,
I miss my older brother, he'd wipe away my fears.*

*I remember last month when those men knocked on our door.
They told my mom and dad, my brother was killed in the war.
After the funeral I went to my room and cried.
I wish my life was like it was, before my big brother died.*

Michael D. Monfrooe USA Ret

29 March 2008

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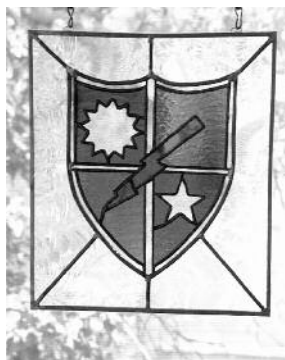
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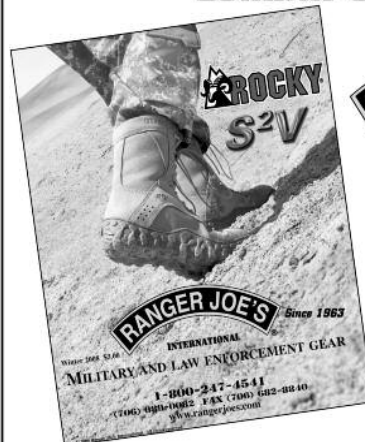


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Have I seen so much that I don't want to see anymore?*

*How many of our sons and daughters must die?
How many loved ones have to mourn and cry?
Proudly we honor those for being brave,
silently we grieve, standing by their grave.*

*Our enemies path of death and destruction, trails of tears,
founded on beliefs that have existed for hundreds of years.
Generals understand our way of life, "The Soldiers Creed".
For they, not politicians, should be allowed to lead.*

*We are the United States, defender of freedom everywhere.
It seems as though we always do more than our share.
Perhaps one day we will learn from our past,
diplomacy will prevail, we will have "Peace at Last".*

Michael D. Monfrooe USA Ret.

23, March 2008

Membership Information

A MEMBERSHIP YEAR in the association runs from 1 July this year to 30 June next year and the mailing label on your “Patrolling” will always reflect your dues status. For example if above your name on the label it says “0628 2008” it means your membership number is 0628 and your dues were paid through **30 June of 2008**. Annual dues are \$25 and you may pay them at any time during the membership year or if you want to pay ahead you can pay for multiple years. Dues can be paid by check, credit card (MC/VISA), or payment can be made online using Pay Pal. Check your address label now and see when your membership year ends. **WE WILL BE MAILING STATEMENTS THIS YEAR. EVEN IF YOU ARE A LIFE MEMBER, YOU WILL GET A STATEMENT.** Life Membership is \$250 and can be paid by check in up to five monthly installments or by credit card. Mail your dues to: **75th Ranger Regt. Assoc., P. O. Box 10970, Baltimore, MD 21234**. If you have a question on your membership status you may contact me at that address, or email: john.chester3@verizon.net or call (410) 426-1391. The following have joined, rejoined, or became Life Members in the association since the last issue of “Patrolling”.

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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. Call for details and prices, they have not been set as we go to the printer.

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Altar offerings to the memory of Colonel Nguyen Thanh Chuan; former Vietnamese Political Prisoner Center, San Jose, CA, November, 2008. Note foreground, 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. coin displayed with MG Ed Scholes commemorative coin.



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The Grand Opening of the new National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center has been confirmed for June 19, 2009. "With a project this big, this complex, delays are not unusual," explained National Infantry Foundation Chair MG Jerry White. "We could have opened as planned in March, but it would have been without some of the features that truly make this museum spectacular. And we owe those we are honoring in this museum nothing but the best."

However there will be activities in March that will be historic in their own right. On March 19, the first class of Infantry Soldiers will graduate on Patriot Park's new five-acre parade field. The field will be dedicated at this inaugural event, including the sacred soil ceremony in which descendants and heroes from the Infantry's major battles will spread soil collected from battlefields around the world. From that day forward, Infantry school graduates who pass in review on the parade field will have a tangible connection to the forefathers whose legacy they've just joined.

The museum won't be open during Best Ranger Competition, but it will be open for the Rendezvous & Reunion. We will arrange tours.