

# PATROLLING

FALL 2011 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC. VOLUME 26 ISSUE II

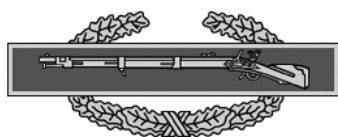


*Our own Joe Cassilly and his family shown with actor Gary Sinise. Joe was awarded the DAV's Disabled Veteran of the Year award. We will speak more of this in the December issue.*

General .....1-2 & 48-56

Unit Reports.....3-47

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



**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.

- 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.



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

**PRESIDENTS:**

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





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The opinions expressed by the Officers, Unit Directors, Editor and other writers are entirely their own and are not to be considered an official expression or position of the Association. Advertisements for products or services do not constitute an endorsement by the Association.

Manuscripts, photographs and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics.

The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission, that is in bad taste, offensive or that discredits unnecessarily any individual or group.

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

**POSTMASTER**

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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.

FROM: John Chester

I had thought that I would no longer be writing for this magazine, but events have given lie to that set of facts. Due to many circumstances beyond our control I once again find myself chasing a deadline, this one long past.

As any one with any grasp of the obvious can instantly see, this issue is incomplete and quite late. Here is the plan; this the (September) issue will contain only Unit Reports. The December issue will be complete and will be more or less on time. I did not want, after 11 years and 46 issues, to miss an issue, even though the appreciation factor is completely underwhelming.

I will write more in the forthcoming issue, address the 2011 Reunion, and discuss other items that are of significance to the Association and the LRRP, LRP & Ranger community in general.

If I left anyone out of the Unit Reports, the fault is entirely mine and I apologize in advance, just make sure that I have what is needed for the December issue.

The message below from Kevin Ingraham is self explanatory. I wish to extend Mary Anne's and my sympathy at the loss of his father.

Rangers,

It turned into a helluva season here at the Ingraham patrol base after my redeployment from Rendezvous. Our city got hit with the worst flooding in local history. While we only had minor damage, my in-laws lost everything and moved in with us "temporarily". They are 90 and need fairly constant attention. Then my father died. This was supposed to be my inaugural issue as editor of Patrolling but life got in the way. Regretfully, association matters kept getting put off – I beg your collective forbearance.

I'd like to thank John, who is supposed to be kicking back with a cool one enjoying the product of someone else's (i.e.: MY) labor, but who instead resumed the old ball and chain to get an autumn issue out with only the bare minimum of help from the "new editor".

My apologies for the delayed and slender issue but there it is.  
Kevin

# UNIT REPORTS



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Todd M. Currie

### IN MEMORY

**SSG Jeremy A. Katzenberger**  
**SGT Alessandro L. Plutino**

Staff Sgt. Jeremy Andrew Katzenberger, 26, was killed by enemy forces during a heavy firefight while conducting combat operations in Paktika Province, Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Katzenberger was a squad leader assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. He was on his eighth deployment in support of the War on Terror with four previous deployments to Iraq and three to Afghanistan.



**SSG Jeremy A. Katzenberger**

He was born Nov. 2, 1984 in Kansas City, Mo. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in October 2004 from his hometown of Weatherby Lake, Mo. Staff Sgt. Katzenberger 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 Assessment and Selection Program also at Fort Benning.

Staff Sgt. Katzenberger graduated from the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program and was then assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment in April 2005, where he served as a rifleman, automatic rifleman, team leader and Ranger squad leader.

His military education includes the Basic Airborne Course, Ranger Assessment and Selection Program, U.S. Army Ranger Course, Warrior Leader Course, and Jumpmaster.

His awards and decorations include the Ranger Tab, Expert Infantryman Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge and the Parachutist Badge. He has also been awarded the Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army



Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Army Good Conduct Medal with one loop, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with three Campaign Stars, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral 2 and the Army Service Ribbon.

Staff Sgt. Katzenberger is survived by his wife Colleen A. (Montgomery) and his son Everett James, both of Richmond Hill, Ga., and his parents Robert and Peggy Katzenberger of Weatherby Lake, Mo.

As a Ranger, Staff Sgt. Jeremy Andrew Katzenberger selflessly lived his life for others and distinguished himself as a member of the Army's premier direct action raid force, continuously deployed in support of the War on Terror, and fought valiantly as he served his fellow Rangers and our great Nation.

**- RANGERS LEAD THE WAY! -**



**SGT Alessandro L. Plutino**

Plutino was a Team Leader assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. He was on his sixth deployment in support of the War on Terror with three previous deployments to Iraq and two to Afghanistan.

He was born Aug. 23, 1982 in Washington Township, New Jersey. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 2006 from his hometown of Pitman, N.J. Plutino completed One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Ga., as an infantryman. After graduating from the Basic Airborne Course there, he was

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

assigned to the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program also at Fort Benning.

Plutino graduated from the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program and was then assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment in February 2007, where he served as a rifleman, grenadier, automatic rifleman, and a Ranger team leader.

His military education includes the Basic Airborne Course, Ranger Assessment and Selection Program, U.S. Army Ranger Course, Warrior Leader Course, and the Emergency Medical Technician Ambulatory Course.

His awards and decorations include the Ranger Tab, the Expert Infantryman's Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Parachutist Badge.

He has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal with

two oak leaf clusters, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon and the Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral two.

Plutino is survived by his mother Dianne Hammond and his father Sandro Plutino, both of Pitman, N.J.

As a Ranger, Plutino selflessly lived his life for others and distinguished himself as a member of the Army's premier direct action raid force, continuously deployed in support of the Global War on Terror, and fought valiantly as he served his fellow Rangers and our great Nation.

**- RANGERS LEAD THE WAY! -**



## 2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Kevin Ingraham

To our Ranger Families and Friends,

I last wrote a letter home in April marking the return of our final Platoon from our previous combat deployment to Afghanistan. Forgive the long delay between letters...as you well know the Battalion has been very busy the last three months training for combat, occupying our new Battalion and Company headquarters facilities, and spending time with our families. Frankly, I debated the merits of even sending a note given everyone is enjoying the few scant months of good weather in our brief Washington state summer. I decided it was appropriate though to send this letter to thank each of our Rangers for their service and highlight some of their accomplishments.



available for the April Battalion Combat Awards Ceremony and photo above given their pre-deployment training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as we enjoy our upcoming block leave in advance of the main body deployment.

Once again...these great men are "entering the arena..."

I referred to the Rangers of this storied Battalion as the "Men in the Arena" during our Combat Awards Ceremony in downtown Tacoma at the Stadium High School. Many years ago when the Battalion first deployed to both Afghanistan and Iraq, the famous quote from President Theodore Roosevelt resonated with the Battalion...so much so



As I write this letter, B Company is already deployed to Afghanistan and conducting combat operations. They deployed after Independence Day weekend and were not

that it found its way to the Memorial Obelisk in front of our former Battalion Headquarters. An excerpt from this speech is included at the end of this letter.

**2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

The 2d Ranger Battalion has so much to be proud of... The last three months of challenging training helped us gain perspective on our service and what it means to be part of 2d Ranger Battalion. Your Rangers trained to accomplish assigned missions with multifaceted problems in several complex scenarios. They also had very meaningful engagements with our local community. Throughout, we learned that these men continue to be held in the highest of regard.

Some may remember from my last letter, the passing of 1SG Lomell of D Company, the Ranger leader who earned the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions at Pointe Du Hoc. He was a Ranger who wrote extraordinary history. Generations later, another NCO from D Company earned National 2/75 recognition. Words cannot describe the pride (and humility) in attending the presentation of the Congressional Medal of Honor to our very own, SFC Leroy Petry, during the 12 July ceremony in the East Room of the White House. The citation follows:

**Medal of Honor Citation**

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty:



*Staff Sergeant Leroy A. Petry distinguished himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action with an armed enemy in the vicinity of Paktya*

*Province, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008. As a Weapons Squad Leader with D Company, 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, Staff Sergeant Petry moved to clear the courtyard of a house that potentially contained high-value combatants. While crossing the courtyard, Staff Sergeant Petry and another Ranger were engaged and wounded by automatic weapons fire from enemy fighters. Still under enemy fire, and wounded in both legs, Staff Sergeant Petry led the other Ranger to cover. He then reported the situation and engaged the enemy with a hand grenade, providing suppression as another Ranger moved to his position. The enemy quickly responded by maneuvering closer and throwing grenades. The first grenade explosion knocked his two fellow Rangers to the ground and wounded both with shrapnel. A second grenade then landed only a few feet away from them. Instantly realizing the danger, Staff Sergeant Petry, unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his safety, deliberately and selflessly moved forward, picked up the grenade, and in an effort to clear the immediate threat, threw the grenade away from his fellow Rangers. As he was releasing the grenade it detonated, amputating his right hand at the wrist and further injuring him with multiple shrapnel wounds.*

*Although picking up and throwing the live grenade grievously wounded Staff Sergeant Petry, his gallant act undeniably saved his fellow Rangers from being severely wounded or killed. Despite the severity of his wounds, Staff Sergeant Petry continued to maintain the presence of mind to place a tourniquet on his right wrist before communicating the situation by radio in order to coordinate support for himself and his fellow wounded Rangers. Staff Sergeant Petry's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service, and reflect great credit upon himself, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and the United States Army.*



It is my deepest honor to salute SFC Petry, a Ranger who follows in the footsteps of other Ranger heroes who wrote extraordinary history.



Many of the Rangers from SFC Petry's Platoon were in attendance and had premium seating at each of the Medal of Honor events (White House ceremony, Secretary of Defense "Hall of Heroes" ceremony, and Sergeant Major of the Army reception)...the second photo of the President is from their seats. The new Secretary of Defense, the Honorable Mr. Panetta, even hosted the Platoon for a private session in the Pentagon in advance of the Hall of Heroes. President Obama also talked with the Platoon separately and invited all in attendance to enjoy a reception in the White House. Rangers, being Rangers, kept the White House staff on their toes and I am sure the staff instituted "special protocols" in the event a similar bunch ever gets invited back to the White House...

I also shared with most of you the report of TEAM RANGER and their "Climb for the Fallen."

In what will be one of the most memorable "Memorial Day weekend tributes", the men of TEAM RANGER (SSG Lachnit, SSG McCall, SSG Pierce, SSG Ray, and SGT Cresto) successfully reached the summit of Mt. McKinley, at 20,320 feet above sea level. They made an impressive push to the summit in very difficult conditions...these conditions led to the unfortunate death of two climbers the day prior to TEAM RANGER's ascent. At 17,000 feet, our team supported the rescue of the two remaining climbers of that four-man team.

**2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

These men will go down in 75th Ranger Regiment history as the first to take on such a challenge. The team summited the peak with a 2d Ranger Battalion flag that included the names of our fallen comrades. This photo says it all...



Every team on the mountain that came in contact with these men not only learned about the Rangers who serve, but they also witnessed the incredible tribute these great men are willing to pay in honor of their friends who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation. The parents of one of the guides who perished that weekend came by the Battalion to thank TEAM RANGER for bringing their daughter "home" to them. Rangers from the team honored the family in attending the Memorial Service in Seattle the following weekend.

In my last report, I shared the story of Chance Rodgers, an extraordinary young man (15 years old) who suffered from Osteosarcoma (Bone Cancer). Confined to a wheelchair from the amputation of his leg, Chance endured the cancer as it spread to his back and his spine. The Make-A-Wish Foundation approached Chance and his family, and he honored this Battalion with his request to be an Army Ranger for a day.



Chance passed away peacefully on the 9th of July. Our Rangers honored him by serving as the pallbearers at Chance's funeral in Klamath Falls, Oregon. The funeral hosted over 1,000 friends,

families, and others who Chance touched in his brave story. After his visit with the Battalion, Chance wore his Ranger ACUs every day and asked to be buried in them with his tan beret.

Chance Rodgers honors us more than we could ever honor him. The funeral in Klamath Falls reminds us of what is most important in life. The service also connected our great Ranger role models with citizens who very much appreciate and respect their service.

On a happier note, this summer provided our Rangers and their families time to enjoy the Pacific Northwest and included many incredible accomplishments too long to list in this document (leadership awards at our Army schools, etc.). Nothing says "summer," however, as much as the commemorative first pitch at Safeco Field (Home of the Seattle Mariners). CPL Brent Grossman, A Company, a Ranger wounded in action, had the honor of throwing the pitch and both he and his fellow Rangers enjoyed a standing ovation from the Seattle crowd.



If you are interested, the video played during our Rangers entrance onto Safeco Field titled "The Army's Premier Raid Force" is at the link: [www.benning.army.mil/tenant/75thRanger](http://www.benning.army.mil/tenant/75thRanger)



Most recently on 25 July, the Battalion jumped into Fort Benning for Ranger Rendezvous '11. The week included Ranger demonstrations, sports competitions, ceremonies to honor

Distinguished Members of the Regiment (our very own CSM Pete Roethke was inducted), and a parade honoring the change of command between the 16th and 17th Colonels of the Regiment, COL Erik Kurilla and COL Mark Odom. The week of 25-29 July also commemorated well over 3500 straight days of combat for the 75th Ranger Regiment. No other formation in the Army boasts this record of commitment, success, and sacrifice.



Ranger Rendezvous is an incredible reunion hosting multiple generations of Ranger veterans. I couldn't help but admire the remarkable interaction between young and old Rangers. The conversations I heard did not constitute the typical banter about how much harder things were 'back when' from the old timers, or about advancements in kit or equipment. These conversations defined mutual respect. I was humbled to hear Vietnam LRRPs speak so highly of our young Rangers. I was similarly humbled to hear these Rangers say the same of these



**2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

courageous veterans. Both started conversations in envisioning each other's hardships simply with, "I couldn't imagine..."

Today, the Battalion will depart on a well-deserved block leave in advance of our return to Afghanistan. Tonight, B Company likely conducts combat operations in Afghanistan...

I thank our Rangers for their service and I thank the families for your commitment to our Rangers and each other. What we're doing is important...it is important to the Army, it is important to our Nation, and it is important to future generations.

**RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!**

DAVID M. HODNE

LTC, IN Commanding

**COMBAT AWARDS CEREMONY****REMARKS: 29 APR 2011****TRIBUTE TO THE "MEN IN THE ARENA":****THE RANGERS OF 2D BATTALION**

For those unfamiliar with our Battalion area at the south end of main post, in front of our headquarters there is a simple, black granite obelisk that stands amongst war trophies from various conflicts through the years. Most would walk by it and hardly take notice...the Rangers of this Battalion however, recognize its significance. It hosts inscriptions of our fallen Rangers...those who died in training...and in combat.

These Rangers would know that one inscription recognizes SFC Dave McDowell, Ranger Platoon Sergeant in C Company, who died of wounds three years ago today in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan. Collectively, we honor him tonight.

If you were to look on the front side of this obelisk you would see a quote from Theodore Roosevelt. The quote is appropriately titled, "The Man in the Arena" and this particular quote carries special meaning for the men assembled in front of you today.

Ladies and gentlemen...I present to you the "Men in the Arena."

We're here to present decorations earned in combat. Awards for valor and heroism...and awards for wounds received while in contact with a determined enemy.

This is the first combat awards ceremony that this Battalion ever conducted outside of the confines of



our installation. Quite frankly, these men deserve this public recognition...and our great community deserves to know what these Rangers have done in support of this Nation. Where some might solely seek to document their failures out of curiosity or idle gossip...a scant few care or know about their many successes...regardless of their historical significance.

These men deserve more. We are here tonight to honor their success...their courage...their selfless service.

They are the Men in the Arena. They are the generation of men that Theodore Roosevelt described in his speech "Citizenship in a Republic", that he delivered 101 years ago this week. He reminds us:

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points at the strong man who stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better".

"The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by the dust and sweat and blood; who arrives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; ...

who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at best, knows the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall NEVER be with those cold and timid souls who know neither defeat or victory..."

The Rangers of this Battalion entered the arena of combat 13 times (that equates to almost 4 years out of the last 9 deployed overseas and is characterized by thousands of operations). Having just returned from Afghanistan 3 months ago, the entire Battalion will be together at Ft. Lewis for only 14 weeks before we enter the Arena again. B CO is absent from the formation as they will be the lead element of this Battalion returning to Afghanistan...tonight they train...

Some may think it a matter of routine for this Ranger Battalion to deploy to and from theaters of war. Ask any of these family members present and they will quickly remind you that there is nothing routine about these deployments. There is nothing routine about saying farewell to your wife and children.

Even now these men are required to assume an alert footing, knowing the world we live in is wrought with crises. In many respects, they are "home, but not home." It takes a special man and a special family to do so time and time again. These Rangers...these warriors...recognize adversity and are willing and eager to embrace it.

**2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

They do this because they understand that the payoff of a life of adversity is freedom.

This life of adversity is left for the Men in the Arena...

Men like 1SG Bryan Barker, SFC Jason Conde, SFC David Withey, SFC William Twine, and SFC Kellet Sayre. Men who have been on every one of our Battalion's deployments know this. Others in this formation like Roethke, Schwarz, Taylor, Navarro, Plante, Curry, Staidle, Gendron, Scott, Anderson, Appleby, and easily a few dozen more who have spent 3 or more of the last 9 years overseas in Iraq or Afghanistan. I must also recognize Buck Whitfield and Chuck Dearfield, two of our civilian employees who deployed with the Battalion 13 times as well. Gary Toombs, our Battalion Armorer also deployed for every rotation and was even wounded in the vehicle explosion where we lost SGT Jay Blessing 8 years ago.

This Battalion recently honored the passing of Bud Lomell, of 2nd Ranger Battalion...one of the "Boys of Pointe Du Hoc" who scaled the impossibly sheer, 100 foot cliffs on D-Day. This Ranger was one of the greatest of the greatest generation. He returned home, put his uniform and medals in his closet after the war and built a whole new world...

These men to your front, these modern "Boys of Pointe Du Hoc" represent almost a decade of combat experience in the longest war fought by our Nation. And in this endeavor, there is no guarantee of success. Like at Pointe Du Hoc, this war will yield an outcome determined only by dedicated and courageous servants of our country. In their valiant efforts in a conflict with global significance...these men are a precious few. They are the guardians of this generation, and of generations of come.



In a moment, the CSM and I will present the awards to these courageous men. I wish I could adequately describe both the honor and the humility I feel in pinning valorous medals on the chest of fellow U.S. Army Rangers. Words simply do not account for this.

For those unfamiliar with valorous awards, it's been documented back to ancient times in Sparta that decorations for valor have seldom been awarded for brute aggression or for solely overpowering the enemy. The feat that inspires witnesses to honor valor is almost invariably one of selflessness. The hero (though none of these recipients will allow you to call him by that title) often acts as much to preserve his comrades as he does to defeat his foe.

Selflessness. You will see it in their eyes... ..and you will hear it in their creed.

Much like 1SG Lomell of Pointe Du Hoc, those who receive these medals will speak nothing of this recognition tomorrow. They will return to their roles in their respective formations. Before they even get to the parking lot they will remove them from their chest – not out of embarrassment, but simply because they do not actively seek this recognition.

Many, many years from now after much reflection (a luxury they don't have now) they will share these stories with their grandchildren.

I, for one, will tell my grandchildren that I served in the company of these heroes. Following the ceremony, there will be an opportunity to shake the hands of these proud men and I ask you to do so.

I'll close with reminding those in attendance that Rangers have always played a critical role in American history.

These are YOUR U.S. Army Rangers. These are the Rangers that our Country requires...right now.

As you look at this formation of Rangers to your front, an old Command Sergeant Major reminded me... that one of the distinguishing features of the U.S. Ranger is that when freedom is threatened, Rangers muster. They tend to freedom first. All else is a distant second, including self-interest, or personal gain. Rangers understand that freedom is a legacy on loan for all Americans; it is ours to enjoy, and to cherish...

...and it is ours to preserve and protect... in order to pass it on to the next generation of Americans... honorably and intact.

**RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!**



**Kevin Ingraham**

This column begins with the sad news of two B Company deaths in Afghanistan. The following details are extracted from the USASOC releases:

Sgt. Tyler Nicholas Holtz, 22, was killed by enemy forces during a heavy firefight while conducting combat operations in Wardak Province on September 24. He was leading an assault against an enemy position when he was mortally wounded by small arms fire. Holtz was a team leader serving on his fourth deployment to Afghanistan. Memorial

**2ND BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

services were held at Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego, CA on October 8.

Spc. Ricardo Cerros Jr., 24, was killed by enemy forces on October 8 during a heavy firefight in Logar Province. He was mortally wounded as he fought against enemy insurgents barricaded in a compound. Cerros was a rifleman on his first deployment.

The Association's national coordinator and the California state representative was able to ensure that RRA members were able to be present at their services.

Further information about these young men can be found at [www.soc.mil/UNS/News.html](http://www.soc.mil/UNS/News.html).

This Quarter in 2d Battalion History:

October 1, 1974. 2d Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry is activated at Ft Lewis, WA. Along with 1st Battalion, assumes the heritage of the 5307th Composite Group (Provisional), aka "Merrill's Marauders". The lineage and honors of the original WW2 2d Rangers are not conferred until 1984.

October 25-28 1983. 1st and 2d Ranger Battalions (-) capture Point Salinas airport on Grenada in the first ranger combat parachute assault since 1951. On October 26 Bn (-) conducts a heliborne assault into True Blue medical school campus to rescue American students. The next day, A Co does a heliborne insertion onto a Cuban position at Calivigny. Three UH-60s collide and crash on the LZ, killing three rangers: Phil Grenier, Kevin Lannon and Stephan Slater. A Co. medic, Sgt Trujillo, is awarded the military's first Silver Star medal since Vietnam for his conduct on the LZ. The Battalion receives the Valorous Unit Award.

November 16, 1974. The rangers of the newly reactivated 2d Batt become airborne-rangers at the unit's first ever parachute operation.

November 21, 2007. D Co. is reactivated at Ft Lewis. The company colors are presented to the company commander by WW2 D Co Ranger 'Zeke' Zycowski.

November 23, 1943. 2d Battalion departs New York City for the European Theater of Operations on the RMS Queen Elizabeth. Unit arrives in Greenock, Scotland on December 1. 2d Ranger Infantry Battalion is assigned to U.S. V Corps for Operation Overlord. Sub-unit training begins.

November 24, 2000. RRD Team 2 deployed to Kosovo to support TF Falcon.

December 7, 1944. Colonel Rudder is reassigned to the 28th Division, where he assumes command of the 109th Infantry Regiment. Col. Rudder promotes Cpt. George Williams to major and gives him command of 2d Rangers.

December 7-8, 1944. The newly appointed commander leads the battalion in the capture and defense of Castle Hill / Hill 400 during the Huertgen Forest campaign. This is likely the most severe battle in battalion history. The outnumbered rangers held the hill against counterattacks by German paratroops for 56 hours until relieved. The rangers, under strength to begin with, suffer 23 KIA, 86 WIA, 4 MIA and twenty injured.

December 1975. 2d Battalion completes its first unit training cycle upon completion of unit ARTEP exercises and is declared operational. (Army Training Evaluation Program)

December 20, 1989. 2d Bn and B Co, 3d Bn conduct a combat parachute assault onto Rio Hato airfield, Panama, to neutralize military facilities and capture Noreiga's beach house. Follow-on operations include securing the American embassy, taking control of remote Panamanian garrisons and conducting stability operations. Battalion is withdrawn from operations on January 7th and redeployed to Ft Lewis on 9 January, 1990. Two rangers, John Price and Phillip Lear, are killed in the initial attack.

December 1969 – April 22, 1970. H Co/75th participates in Operation Dong Tien, working closely with ARVN Airborne elements.

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

Unit Director - Scott Billingslea

I'm happy to report that, as of this submission going to print, Rangers are still killing bad guys! I know, not really a surprise there, but with all the focus on reunions and everything else, I'd like to keep our focus on what's really important.



Lots going on this past quarter. The men of 3/75 welcomed a new Commander. Col O'Donnell is moving into his new role as DCO, and handed the Guidon off to LTC Evans.

**3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

In one of the main stories for this issue, SFC Joe Kapaczewski earned a very prestigious award, and was recognized in Washington D.C. in front of a pretty select audience.

I've had the honor of knowing SFC Kapaczewski since he was rehabbing his leg at BAMC down in San Antonio. He is a walking, talking embodiment of what intestinal fortitude and the Ranger Creed are all about. Due to my own work schedule and other events, I wasn't able to get an interview with him in time for this issue, but I expect to have one ready to go for the next one. I have included a story from the Bayonet on him below.

The boys got back from another trip, and didn't lose a man. That's a pretty incredible accomplishment, considering how much time they spend in contact. This is a great reflection on the excellent leadership of the NCO's in the 75th Ranger Regiment. Deployment after deployment, they hone their teams to a razor's edge.

One of those leaders that have been so instrumental in preparing his men for battle that has had a huge impact on the Battalion, recently changed over responsibility.

1SG Rob Phipps. I knew 1SG Phipps when he was a SP4 and SGT. While he wasn't my favorite person on earth (he smoked my ass a few times!), I can say he was always very well respected. There aren't many people (if any) that can say they've deployed on every combat deployment but one 3/75 has had in the GWOT. He was also a member of Task Force Ranger in Somalia. While he will be sorely missed by the men of 3/75, he will continue to mold young Rangers. His next assignment will be as the ROC 1SG, responsible for RASP I and II, as well as pre-Ranger (whatever it's called these days).

Here's to you 1SG Phipps, thanks for your incredible contribution to the men of 3/75, and your selfless service. Who knows, maybe we'll see 1SG Phipps roaming 3/75 again in the not too distant future, but in a more expanded role!



**1SG Phipps at the  
Ranger Ball.**



**Ranger Ball....a little  
later in the night!**

**Determination keeps Ranger on the 'line'**

By LORI EGAN

[www.thebayonet.com](http://www.thebayonet.com)

Fort Benning's SFC Joe Kapaczewski was deployed to Afghanistan when he learned he was one of two recipients of this year's Freedom Award. Gen. Raymond Odierno, commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command and President Barack Obama's pick to be the next Army chief of staff, was the other.

Kapaczewski, a platoon sergeant with 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, is the first enlisted Soldier to receive the award honoring the "sacrifices required to defend liberty, becoming selfless in the willing pursuit to deliver no greater sacrifice in the great cause of freedom," according to the award. Command Sgt. Maj. Chris Hardy, Maneuver Center of Excellence CSM, said Kapaczewski is the epitome of the Army Values and Ranger Creed.

Hardy has known the 29-year-old since 2007 when Hardy became the Regimental Special Troops Battalion command sergeant major and Kapaczewski was working in the arms room while undergoing physical and occupational therapy for the wounds he received in October 2005.

During a mission in Iraq, Kapaczewski, then a squad leader, "distinguished himself through heroic actions taken while being severely wounded," wrote Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Merritt, who nominated the platoon sergeant for the award.

While on a mission during his fifth deployment, his six-vehicle convoy came under fire during an enemy ambush. Insurgents engaged the Stryker from an overpass using small-arms fire and grenades. A grenade fell through the gunner's hatch and exploded, injuring three Rangers.

Ignoring his life-threatening injuries, Kapaczewski warned his unit of the attack, and directed his vehicle out of the kill zone, Merritt wrote. Only after he ensured the safety of his men did Kapaczewski administer self-aid and let Sgt. Matthew Sanders apply a pressure dressing to his right arm.

Kapaczewski's wife, Kimberly, said she was told it was a miracle he survived.

"Advances in battlefield medicine kept Joe alive," she said. "Ten years earlier, he would have died."

After transferring to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, and enduring more than 40 surgeries, doctors



**3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

told Kapaczewski the probability of walking again was slim. But the doctors didn't consider Kapaczewski's motivation and commitment to continue to lead and be a part of the Army team, Hardy said.

After two more operations on his right foot, Kapaczewski chose to have it amputated because the Regimental surgeon said it was his best option for regaining the physical prowess necessary to return to the Regiment.

"I couldn't imagine doing anything else," said Kapaczewski, who enlisted in 2001. "The friends, the camaraderie is unlike anything else I've ever experienced." Transferred to the Ranger Operations Company as cadre, even missing a leg, "he could smoke anyone I knew at running," wrote David Pickard on the Army Facebook page May 19.

The training to become a Ranger is hard, Hardy said, and Kapaczewski motivated the young Soldiers to keep trying.

Kapaczewski swims laps during his lunch hour and competes in triathlons, marathons and relay races. He has run in Operation One Voice's annual 600-mile relay since 2007, ran a 7:10 pace during the 2008 Army Ten-Miler and has run in the New York City Marathon for the last two years for the Lead the Way Fund.

Hardy credits Kapaczewski's intense desire to get back into the fight as a Ranger squad leader with helping him pass the Ranger standards and completing the train-up, which includes the Army physical fitness test, five-mile run, 12-mile road march, Airborne jumps and fast-rope certification.

Hardy remembered Kapaczewski discussing the possibility of injury while deployed.

"If someone breaks his leg while on a mission, he'll have to redeploy for medical treatment," Hardy recalled Kapaczewski saying. "I'll just have to go back to the (forward operating base) and get another leg."

After a medical board's decision to continue Kapaczewski on active duty, he returned to his unit as a squad leader.

"Everyone puts pants on one foot at a time," Kapaczewski said. "I just have a different foot. 'No matter what the position or grade, every (Ranger) needs to meet the Ranger standard.' 'There's a photo of Kapaczewski in Afghanistan putting on his prosthetic leg — that's at 10,000 feet,'" Hardy said.

"When he's faced with adversity, he continues to fight," Hardy said. "If I could create every Soldier in his image, it would be

a good outfit." When Kapaczewski isn't deployed, he visits wounded warriors at Walter Reed and Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. "They have the most difficult challenge they'll ever have to face — I let them know they aren't alone. Whether it's limb salvage or amputation, we talk about the different options, about staying in the military or getting out. It's harder to find guys who have gone back to the 'line,' but I let them know it's possible," he said.

**ABOUT KAPACZIEWSKI**

Sgt. 1st Class Joe Kapaczewski's military awards include the Bronze Star Medal with V device, the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart (3rd award), Army Commendation Medal with V device (2nd award), Army Commendation Medal (3rd award), the Ranger Tab, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge and the Senior Parachutist Badge with Jump Star.

**ABOUT THE FREEDOM AWARD**

Presented by No Greater Sacrifice in Washington, D.C., May 24, the award recognizes service members who have dedicated their lives to defending freedom wherever duty calls. Past recipients are Col. David Sutherland, 2008, Gen. David Petraeus, 2009, and Gen. James Conway, 2010. No Greater Sacrifice, a nonprofit organization created in February 2008, is dedicated to the 50,000 children of our nation's fallen and wounded service members. The Freedom Award is presented annually by the No Greater Sacrifice public charity and is designed to honor the recipient(s) that best represents five core principles:

**FREEDOM.** NGS honors a man or woman in the U.S. military who is not only committed to the freedom of all Americans but who works tirelessly to promote and support freedom around the globe, especially in areas of conflict.

**SACRIFICE.** The Freedom Award honors a service member who embraces the sacrifices required to pursue and attain freedom and becomes selfless in his or her willingness to commit all that they possess in the great cause of freedom.

**COMMUNITY.** The recipient works diligently to build bridges between the military and civilian communities so that we, as civilians, can be more effective in our effort to support Wounded Warriors, the re-entry of veterans and the families of all military personnel.

**PATRIOTISM.** Regardless of the politics and rhetoric that accompany all military deployments, the recipient rises above the rhetoric and defends the Constitution and the ideals of American freedom at all costs.

**3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

ESTEEM. The recipient of the NGS Freedom Award holds the American Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine in the highest esteem possible and both recognizes and articulates the need to establish new foundations within the American public to help all service members re-enter our society with grace, dignity, honor and unconditional support of our men and women who wore the uniform of the United States of America.



**Photo by Johnny Bivera**

**Sgt. 1st Class Joe Kapaczewski, a platoon sergeant with 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, is the first enlisted Soldier to receive the Freedom Award. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, former vice presidential candidate, presented it May 24 during the fourth annual Freedom Award Gala in Washington.**

## **Cancer survivor graduates from Ranger School**

Vince Little, The Bayonet

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Cpl. Austin Saunders could've taken a medical discharge. Few would've blamed him. He wanted a Ranger tab instead.

The 21-year-old Infantryman successfully completed the 61-day grind of Ranger School, overcoming the mountains, swamps, sleep and food deprivation, and other tasks to graduate June 24. But first, he had to survive cancer.

In March 2010, a month before Saunders' second deployment with 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, he was diagnosed with lymphoma, cancer of the lymph nodes. The aggressive tumor erupted out of his skin, making one side of his neck the size of a softball.

"It didn't really hit me till I started chemo. I thought, 'Hey, this is serious stuff,'" he said Friday. "It's the hardest thing I've ever done. ... I never failed at anything before. I knew this was gonna be another obstacle I had to overcome. It sucked every day, but I knew I was going to beat it."

Saunders returned to his hometown of Grayson, Ga., a suburb north of Atlanta, and began chemotherapy at Emory University Hospital. He faced a week straight of high doses every 21 days. The sessions went on from March to July last year.

His mother, Kim Yarbrough, a full-time nurse, said she took off from work to care for the oldest of her five children at home as he recuperated between treatments. That first month, however, Saunders spent 18 of 30 days in the hospital.

"It was very difficult," Yarbrough said, fighting back tears. "I stayed with him in the hospital through most of it. ... The chemo takes the bad stuff, but also takes the good antibodies. It kills everything."

Saunders said he suffered through the typical nasty side effects: nausea, vomiting and loss of his hair. The chemo damages the esophagus lining — it's nearly impossible to eat or drink anything. Doctors told him an older person or someone not in his physical shape wouldn't have been able to handle the toxicity.

"Because I'm a nurse, I just kinda went in that mode," his mother said. "I'd literally set the timer at night and go check on him. I'd check his blood pressure and give him medicine for nausea."

"I think I struggled a little more afterward than during. Looking back, it's more traumatic. I look back now and think about what a miracle it really was."

His chemotherapy ended in late July. Two weeks later, Saunders returned to C Company's 3rd Platoon. He was given the option of receiving an honorable discharge via an Army medical board, but he declined.

"I had a lot of people tell me I should do that, and get the disability pay," he said. "But I really wanted to stay in, continue what I was doing and not let it affect me at all. I didn't want to join the Ranger Regiment and not have my tab. I wouldn't have been able to quit knowing I wasn't a 100 percent Ranger." Saunders also went against his doctor's advice in coming back to the platoon, regiment officials said. But he was cleared to conduct physical training and completed a vigorous battalion PT event, which consisted of an eight-mile run in body armor and various combat-related tasks.

"It speaks volumes," said Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Horsager, his platoon sergeant. "He could've gotten out of the military and been taken care of the rest of his life, but he didn't do that. It's pretty motivational to see a guy who has the drive to do that after surviving cancer and four months of chemo."

Several more medical hurdles remained before he could enter Ranger School, Horsager said. It required a number of waivers. But Saunders slowly regained his physical strength.

By February, he'd fully recovered and was medically cleared for the Small Unit Ranger Tactics course. He went to Ranger School the following month.

**3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

Attending and completing Ranger School was “one of the highlights of my military career,” Saunders said.

“It was definitely awesome to graduate,” he said. “The physical part was hard for a lot of people. Being in the Ranger Regiment helped prepare me for it. The mental and emotional part was hardest for me, but my team leaders and squad leaders taught me everything I needed to know before I got there.”

Saunders played football, basketball and baseball for Grayson High School, where he graduated in 2008 and joined the Army that summer. His competitive nature led him to the Ranger Regiment, he said.

“I always liked being the best at everything,” he said. “I heard the Rangers were the best, and I wanted to be a part of this.” Saunders, who deployed to Afghanistan in 2009, said he wants to continue serving in the special operations community. When he returned to the unit following Ranger School, he became a senior gun team leader in 3rd Platoon.

His advice for other Rangers?

“It can always be worse than what it is right now,” he said. If the cancer doesn’t resurface within this first year, there’s a 98 percent chance it’ll stay in remission, doctors have told Saunders.

“It’s incredible that he even went back. He didn’t have to, but he just did it,” Yarbrough said. “He looks better today than he did before. He looks awesome.”



“He’s always been that kid who’s been bound and determined. Whatever he sets his mind to, he’s going to do it. That’s just his personality.”

**A year ago, Cpl. Austin Saunders was undergoing chemotherapy for lymphoma. The tumor is in remission today, and he just earned his Ranger tab.**

## Ranger excels in Georgia Games

By NATHAN DEEN

nathan.deen@thebayonet.com

Jarrett Williams of the Regimental Special Troops Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, didn’t go to the 2011 Georgia Games for silver and gold — he went to wrestle and defeat anyone who called themselves “the best.”

“The fact that I get to beat a guy who is supposed to be the best of his state or the best in the nation, that’s what I like,” Williams said.

After winning gold medals in the 149-pound weight class in folk, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling in 2010, Williams returned to the Georgia Games May 21-22 and won gold medals in folk and freestyle and took silver in Greco-Roman.

Over the course of two days, Williams wrestled 45 matches, with short breaks in between. However, it wasn’t winning medals that kept him going—it was another opportunity to wrestle an opponent.

“It’s sore on the body, but once you’re in a match, your adrenaline is pumping,” he said. “You just have to have the mindset to push through. You get through it pretty easily as long as you sit down and get your breaks in.

“If I could keep rolling, and thought I could beat a guy, then I would go ahead and wrestle, but if it were someone I knew I would struggle against, I would take my full 15-minute break.” Williams said he began wrestling in the sixth grade and comes from a family that loves the sport. In high school, a meniscus tear kept him off the mat for his freshman and sophomore years. While recovering from his injury, Williams said he doubted whether he would be able to wrestle again. He looked to his older brother, Casey Thompson, who also wrestled in high school. “I said, ‘I’m done, I can’t win any titles now, maybe I should give up,’” Williams said. “(Thompson) wanted me to be better than him at wrestling.”

He finished his high school career with four state titles, two in freestyle and two in Greco-Roman. Williams said his talent blossomed when he began working with wrestling coaches like Jason Griner and Josh Montesinos from the South Georgia Athletic Club in Valdosta, Ga.

“It is fast and it’s explosive,” Montesinos said about Williams’ style. “If he grabs hold of you, expect for your feet to go over your head. “He’s a phenomenal athlete and has a very intense work ethic. With Jarrett, the sky is the limit. It all boils down to opportunity. He has the work ethic that he doesn’t want to take second place. As far as freestyle goes, I’ve never seen anyone that’s on a level with him in the Southeast.”

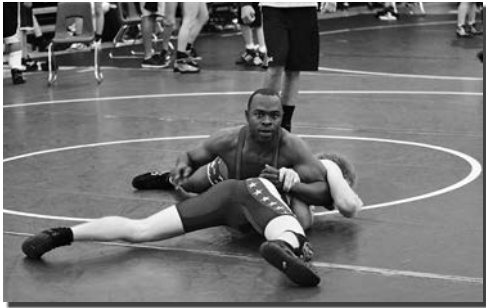
SGAC helped Williams earn a scholarship to wrestle for NJCAA program Darton College in Albany, Ga. After college, Williams joined the Army at the risk of forgoing a competitive wrestling career. But when Williams heard about the opportunity to wrestle for the Army at the Georgia Games, he said he jumped at the opportunity.

**3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

Williams said he told his commander and non-commissioned officer in charge about his skills and passion for wrestling and was invited to compete in the Georgia Games, where he showed his talent in each style of wrestling. Griner pointed out in each of Williams' techniques for the three styles, Williams is looking for the best way possible to demonstrate his skills.

"If it's Greco or freestyle, he wants to end it with a five-point throw, get you in the air and teach you how to fly. With folk style, he wants to just dominate," Griner said. "He will pick you apart. He got disqualified one time because he wanted to do a move I told him not to do, and I had to fight to keep him in the tournament."

Williams is unsure about the next level he would like to reach, but said trying out for the All-Army wrestling team was a high possibility as was trying out for the World Class Athlete Program. Williams also said he would consider mixed martial arts and maybe even combatives. "A lot of guys, when they wrestle, it eventually leads up to MMA," Williams said. "If it comes my way, I'm not one to back down from anything. Before I hang up my wrestling shoes, competing on the world level is what I plan on doing. I don't want to say I had the chance and didn't take it. You have that 'what if?' in your mind and I don't want that."



**Jarrett Williams wrestles an opponent at the 2011 Georgia Games. Williams won two gold medals and one silver medal at the Games.**

## **Fort Benning Rangers awarded for their actions in Afghanistan**

By BEN WRIGHT - [benw@ledger-enquirer.com](mailto:benw@ledger-enquirer.com)

During a U.S. Army Ranger raid in Afghanistan, an enemy soldier pushed away Sgt. Robert J. Troemel's rifle and tried to stab him in the throat. Troemel blocked the knife, which went through his hand, then drew his own knife, blocked more thrusts and killed the enemy attacker by stabbing him in the throat.

Troemel and 25 other members of the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning were recognized Thursday for their actions in Afghanistan between Dec. 15 and July

9. Troemel was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor and the Purple Heart.

"That is what we train for," said Troemel, 26, after the ceremony at the 3rd Ranger Battalion Memorial. Troemel, who hails from Lansdale, Pa., has been deployed four times -- once to Iraq and three times to Afghanistan -- in the last four years.

"It was a great deployment," he said. "We only had a couple of people to get injured."

Staff Sgt. Richard J. Cessna was recognized for saving other Rangers during a night helicopter raid on a location known as a safe haven for enemy fighters. While under fire, Cessna pursued a fighter to a building where he fired an M67 fragmentation grenade then entered the building and halted any threat from the soldiers inside.

"You basically got a helicopter assault and we were moving up to our target and I saw somebody moving from a building so I interdicted them and started taking shots," Cessna said. "I chased them down and located the building he was in."

Cessna, 23, of Warren, Mich., said nobody really wants to get an award for actions he described as everyday life for Rangers. "It is a team effort," Cessna said.

Lt. Col. Marcus Evans said the awards event was a chance to recognize the Rangers on their most recent deployment. "It is a time to pause and it's a time to remember what they have done," he said.

The commander pointed to the actions of Pvt. 1st Class Gabriel J. Demaggio as selfless service displayed by Rangers. Awarded an Army Commendation Medal with Valor, Demaggio returned early from his third deployment not to take a break but to enter Ranger School.

"This is an individual that deployed four plus months," the commander said. "He is obviously in close contact with the enemy as recognized by the Valor award. He comes back only to pack his stuff and go out to Ranger School and graduate two weeks ago."

Evans said all Rangers are quiet professionals and they wouldn't want recognition if it weren't done in a ceremony like the one at the battalion.

"I think the majority of them just want to do their jobs on a daily basis and they do it so well," he said. "They are really the finest we have to offer. It's an honor and privilege to be associated with them."



### 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)

## RANGER AWARD LIST

Here is a list of 26 Rangers from the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment presented awards of valor Thursday.

### Order of St. Maurice

1st Sgt. James K. Anderson  
1st Sgt. Robert J. Ciaccio  
1st Sgt. Christopher N. Hutchins  
1st Sgt. Brian J. Strait

### Bronze Star with Valor

Staff Sgt. Nathan A. Davidson  
Staff Sgt. Joshua Estrella  
Sgt. Richard Cessna  
Sgt. Robert j. Troemel (with Purple Heart)

### Army Commendation Medal with Valor

1st Sgt. Christopher N. Hutchins  
1st Sgt. Robert R. Phipps II  
Staff Sgt. Kyle C. Hageman  
Staff Sgt. John H. McElroy  
Staff Sgt. James L. Wilbur  
Sgt. Thomas E. Amiss  
Sgt. Shaun M. Hardin  
Sgt. Brady J. Hojek  
Sgt. Nathan T. Keith (two awards)  
Sgt. Ryan Picou  
Cpl. Michael R. Browne  
Spc. Jonathan F. Velando  
Pvt. 1st Class Richard J. Benavidez  
Pvt. 1st Class Gabriel J. Demaggio  
Pvt. 1st Class Jason M. Drodgy

### Purple Heart

Staff Sgt. Joseh W. Edwards  
Spc. Nicholas J. Murphy  
Pvt. 1st Class Collin C. Bull



**Sgt. Richard J. Cessna, left, is presented the Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device by Lt. Col. Marcus Evans**



**Receiving the Order of Saint Maurice Thursday morning were First Sgt. James K. Anderson, First Sgt. Robert J. Ciaccio, First Sgt. Brian J. Strait, and First Sgt. Christopher N. Hutchins**

## Gallant Few

I'd also like to introduce those of you who don't know about it, to an organization called Gallant Few. The purpose of this organization is to help Rangers with the transition from the military to the civilian sector. The man who envisioned and started this effort, is Ranger Karl Monger. He spent time in 1/75 in the 90's. Karl is highly respected in the community, and never stops working on behalf of Rangers. I asked Karl to put together something for this issue, and I'll share that with you now.

At the recent National Veterans Business Conference in New Orleans, the Deputy Under Secretary for the VA Office of Economic Opportunity said that 30% of all veterans are unemployed. In raw numbers this is one million men and women. Veterans are significantly more likely to be unemployed than a non-veteran, more likely to be homeless, and 18 veterans commit suicide every day. Rangers are not immune to this – in fact they may be more susceptible.

Most of our Rangers leaving active duty have never written a resume, never sat through a job interview, and are returning home to a community where people who know how to do these things and have a local professional network are having difficulty finding jobs. To go from being part of the proudest,



**Receiving the Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device Thursday morning were, from left, Sgt. Richard J. Cessna, Staff Sgt. Nathan A. Davidson, Staff Sgt. Joshua Estrella and Sgt. Robert J. Troemel**

**3RD BN, 75TH RANGER REGT (Continued)**

most elite and capable organization in the US Army to not even getting a call back for an interview strikes at the heart of self-esteem, and can be extremely demoralizing. To make it worse, the loss of nearby contact with other Rangers leaves that Ranger to deal with his experiences alone.

Those of us who have successfully transitioned from active duty to civilian lives understand the value of a well-written resume, we know techniques that help on a job interview, and we have great home-town personal and professional networks. We transitioned the hard way and we have a lifetime of lessons learned. It's time we put these resources to use for our returning Ranger veterans.

GallantFew, Inc. was formed as a 501(c)3 non-profit in 2010 with a primary mission of supporting Rangers leaving active duty. The core of our program consists of one-on-one mentoring – by a Ranger veteran with a new Ranger veteran, in the same home-town. Every Ranger among us that runs a business would hire a Ranger if the opportunity presented itself, or would connect that Ranger with a friend who runs a business. We know the value of the character, ethics, standards and discipline that a Ranger brings to the table – assets that are highly valued by corporations. We also provide information and coaching through an SBA grant on Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) and Veteran-Owned Business (VOB) opportunities, a program for which every Ranger should easily qualify.

The military's transition assistance programs will never be fully effective. The people providing that training have never been successful business people, the Rangers leaving active duty are not focused on their briefings, and they go home ill-prepared and poorly informed of benefits and programs.

What if every Ranger leaving active duty was met in their hometown by a Ranger veteran mentor– one who now is an accountant, a lawyer, a sales manager, or small business owner – and the mentor reviews the resume, rehearses the job interview, and introduces the new Ranger veteran to his hometown contacts. What if this relationship continued over time and more Rangers coming home connected to this hometown Ranger network? I believe that more Rangers will complete their education, more will be employed at the levels befitting their skills and experience, fewer will experience emotional valleys related to their service, and their families and our communities will be better as a result.

GallantFew is working to achieve this in every community in the United States. We need Ranger veterans to be mentors, we need Rangers leaving active duty to know we are out here – a nationwide network of brothers, ready to mentor, network and assist.

**New Battalion Memorial Complete!**

I'm happy to report the new Battalion Memorial was completed while the boys were deployed. The Ranger Assistance Foundation was instrumental in raising the money for the Memorial, and continue to raise money to support 3/75 Rangers in times of need. They are also helping to fund some of the improvements to the Battalion area. Having seen these additions first hand, I can only say I wish we'd had them way back when. When all is said and done, they should include BBQ grills, an outdoor fireplace and a Tiki Bar so no one has to leave the Battalion AO for a cold adult beverage. Can't wait to help break it in!



**New 3rd Ranger Battalion Memorial**



**New Battalion recreation area**

The mission of the Ranger Assistance Foundation is as follows: The Ranger Assistance Foundation exists to operate exclusively for charitable purposes and provide fundraising and support to the Rangers of the 75th Ranger Regiment, including the design, construction, and maintenance of various Unit Memorials, immediate assistance to Rangers during rehabilitation, complimenting official U.S. Army programs for assisting families and other relatives of Rangers with travel, lodging, and other expenses incurred in assisting Rangers during rehabilitation and attending ceremonies, and to provide Rangers, their families, and the Foundation's supporters with timely updates on its activities, events, and projects. References available upon request. All donations and sponsorships are tax deductible on top of REALLY being able to make a difference and support our Rangers, the most lethal special operations force the world has ever seen!!!!

Donations can be sent to:

Ranger Assistance Foundation  
PO Box 6243  
Columbus, GA 31917



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

Unit Director - Bill Bohte

The recent Rendezvous was the second I have attended and I had a great time. It was worth the trip from Oz.

I noticed several obvious things, the first being this company's traditional hotel for the Rendezvous, the Hojo on Veterans Parkway has turned into little more than a slum with the kitchen and bar gone, the rooms tired and I woke up in a pool of sweat because the air-conditioner which was running when I got there just didn't do the job. The place was a dead hole and I doubt whether any of us will stay there again. I stayed there because I was a day early but moved to the Holiday Inn, Rendezvous HQ and stayed from Sunday to Sunday.

Much better venue and it was great being around the broader LRR/Ranger community. There was a time when each company sat together but the guys from the various units are mixing much more now which I really like.

I spent a fair bit of the time with N and P Company guys and other people whose company affiliation I have no idea about. And, of course, I spent a fair bit of time in the company of the N Company Ranger widows, outstanding gals all and some of the most sociable people I have met.

But it was great catching up with my old company buds at Hojo for a couple of talk sessions and for breakfast across the street. It certainly didn't hurt that Eddie Miller showed up with a case of Grolsch beer in flip top bottles which went down a treat. Thanks, Eddie!

**Eddie Miller hands Bob T Murphy a 4 pack "traveller" carton of Grolsch flip top beers as they leave the Rendezvous.**



I catch up with Bill B every time I come to the States and it was great to see him but at this stage of my life I'm not sure I'll see anybody again and it was particularly neat to see John Simmons, John Jersey, Ron Dahle, Eddie Miller, Henry Lightfoot, Bob C Murphy and Don Marah.



**John Simmons**



I got to 'fess up that I didn't spend as much time with my buds as I did at the last Rendezvous because I was spending a lot of time with Mary Rossi from the P Company contingent and the truth of the matter is, as much as I love you jokers, it was fierce competition.



**Mary Rossi, Bob T Murphy, Bill Bohte, Ed Miller at breakfast**

### Ranger Banquet

The Ranger Banquet this year was a great social success marred only by a grossly inadequate sound system that made everything unintelligible even to the few people there who were not hearing impaired. The only thing I heard loud and clear was Tome Robideaux's strong Lakota chant which put a good chill up and down my back with its power. The rest might as well not have been spoken.

Surely the time has come to hand the technical side of the Banquet over to an events organizer who can control the volume, get the damn humming/rumbling air-conditioner turned off and run LRRP/Ranger videos and soundtracks professionally. Personally I think our hard working volunteer office bearers have better things to do with their time than grapple with the technical intricacies of one mass event every two years.

I did manage to make the Reno Reunion after a good wander down the Left Coast from Seattle where I saw ex-V Corps LRRP Jerry Gordon's daughter Audra, who is also my god daughter. It was great to see Everett Grady still on this side of the dirt after his recent operation. And the event was the first time I had seen Dick Hoque and Hans Zaglauer since Frankfurt. Hans was easy to recognize because he still has that

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

outstanding Dennis the Menace expression I noticed on his first day in the company when he arrived as a corporal. He is one funny, competent man who is welcome at my front door in Oz any time he wants to show up.



**Bob Murphy and  
Dick Hoque at the  
Reno Reunion.**

I simple didn't recognize Hoque who was my first Patrol Leader, and a patient and intelligent one who taught me a lot. It wasn't until I had watched him talking to others around the table that his mannerisms and way of speaking triggered the memories.

As for recognition, there's something about Stan Harris' face that makes him easy to pick in a crowd. He is immediately

recognizable to anyone who knew him 40 years ago in the company. His droll sense of humor and razor sharp intellect are still very much in evidence.



**L-R...Terri Bishop, Sandy and Bill Bohte, and Ron Bishop  
at the Reno Reunion.**

It was also neat to meet Ron Bishop and his magic wife, Terri for the first time after all these years chatting on the net.

That's it for me. It was great to attend both events. Good to see my buds. Bob T Murphy

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

**Unit Director - Mark L. Thompson**

The 2011 75th Ranger Rendezvous is history and, once again, it was by every standard an outstanding reunion of warriors, young and old. The 75th RRA Executive Committee continued to maintain the Ranger standard of EXCELLENCE. Thank you Ranger Chester and Officers. We, of VII Corps USA LRRP Association, were well represented with 15 members. Those present included myself (Foster), Fred Bailey, Bruce Falconer, Steve Lengel, Jim Jackson, Tom Forde, Ed Yarbrough, Rick Hathaway, Sam Storey, Zeke Evaro and wife, Jane, Dave Clark and wife, Sylvia, John Fisher, and Don Wagaman.

Members of B Co who signed in were Mike Moser, Steve Murphy Tony Harley, Earnest Fowler, Gary O'Neal, and Sam Snyder.

The accompanying photos include (1) L-R, sitting: Yarbrough, Lengel, Foster, Sylvia; and standing: Falconer, Bailey, Hathaway, Forde, Clark, Storey, and Jackson. Wagaman was in the hospital getting repaired and Fish had not arrived yet. (2) SM Evaro taking part in a Prop Blast ceremony from the Company's old chrome-plated steelpot filled with a fine bottle of excellent



Vodka provided by Fatback Hathaway. Beetle Bailey liberated the fabled helmet, now in the possession of Zeke, who promised to have it in Harrisburg. (3) Zeke leading us in prayer over the grave of Jack Luse killed in a jeep accident years ago. (4) Forde, Hathaway, and Bailey with Medal of Honor recipient SFC Leroy Petry of the 2nd Battalion Rangers. Sfc Petry lost his hand saving his squad from certain death from an enemy grenade thrown in their midst. (I should comment that SFC Petry was extremely gracious with his time, having stayed until 3 AM talking with us.)

The week's activities began with a mass tactical jump by the combined Ranger Battalions and ended with the traditional closing dinner Saturday night. In between were days of self-selected activities and nights of free beers and stories past and present. We were interested in the exploits and war stories of the active-duty Rangers as much as they were interested in our activities and war stories that led to their existence as Rangers. Mixed in with all that was the pure social enjoyment of seeing each other, once again. You guys that didn't make it should kick yourself in the ass if you don't make the next one.



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

Speaking of that, Zeke suggested and all agreed that our 2012 off-year Reunion would be held at Harrisburg/Gettysburg, PA area, probably the 3rd week in July. Details will follow as they develop. Kirk Gibson has agreed to be the point for organizing the minutiae. PLAN AHEAD!

In other goings-on, a meeting, as per our constitution, was held Friday night to nominate and elect officers. With the only quorum we could muster present (Fatback/LD Hathaway, Bettel and I), the present slate of Foster, Hill, Forde, Evaro, and Rodriguez was nominated and I, on behalf of the others who left to go home, accepted the unanimous acclaim of the aforementioned band --- mainly because nobody else wanted it or because your present officers are without peer. Pay would remain the same due to hard economic times.

Dues: If you are not a life member of our particular Unit, your 2012 dues of \$30 (or whatever you can afford) are due in January, 2012. Reminders will follow, but in the meantime forget the fiscal year crap because it was too difficult for many of you to figure or care about. Send your checks to Tom Forde at 80 Carolina Dr, New City, NY 10956. Please don't make your checks out to Tom. Its too much of a hassle to deposit and it might anyway end up in Ireland to solve their debt problem, which is actually worse than ours, if you can believe it. (I complained I had no shoes, until I met a man with no feet.)

In Memoriam: Our plan to recognize those brothers who served in our Unit at one time or another and, subsequently, were killed-in-action in Vietnam, on the Gold Star Mothers' "Quilt of Honor" is still a go. All we need do is present a rough acceptable design and they will do the rest on a donation-only basis. We can decide the particulars at our 2012 meeting. Cheryl Visel has a list of our KIA's. Also, more info will follow on memorial brick purchases at the Ranger Memorial at Ft. Benning for those who served with us, but have passed on. Zeke and I, for example, are leading the way to commemorate the life of our Patrol Leader, SFC Pappy Eggelston (WW II and Korea).

In other news: Tom Forde has managed to locate Charles Straehl, lost to us since 1962. After separation, Chuck retired from the National Guard. In a bit of irony, Chuck lost his original LRRP pin some time ago. Cheryl Visel happened upon it on E-Bay or some militaria shop and purchased it. We were, at the time, able to identify it because he had partially scratched his name onto the back of it. Small world.... Welcome home, Chuck. Hope you can make it to Harrisburg next year.

Sick Call: We've received no word from JIM JOINER regarding his battle with cancer. We can only hope he's fighting it as strong as the warrior he is and winning the battle. ART DOLICK, I've

heard, also has cancer, but I've not been able to contact him in order to give you an update. And TOM LAKE was seriously injured when his plane crashed. The news I've received (I've not talked with him or Diane) is that he broke both legs, his pelvis, and several ribs. C'mon guys; I need your help. If you know of a brother who's having serious health issues, let me know and I'll try to pass it on in a timely fashion. It goes without saying, that you can do so, as well. Let me end by saying that our thoughts and prayers go out to you and your families in your courageous battles against the big three: Cancer, heart disease, and high blood pressure. Get off your asses and see your doctors immediately when something ain't right.

I think I've forgotten something, but CRS these days. If so, I apologize. Hang in there, guys, and know that you are loved. Til next time....

I'm sorry to report to you guys that two of our brothers have left our ranks. Sergeant Major Rowe Attaway and John "Chubb" Visel passed away recently, leaving us and their loved ones with sad hearts, but fond memories of lives well lived.

The last I reported to you, Rowe, having had a second stroke with subsequent complications, was not doing well, at all. After having been moved to an assisted living facility while waiting for his home to be made handicapped-accessible, he finally succumbed to the physical ravages brought on by the strokes. He fought the good fight with his loving wife Barbara by his side. He passed peacefully having benefited from the love and generosity given by her and her granddaughters --- girls he called his own. They shed many tears for their Opa and he knew and felt their love before he departed.

A military Honor Guard accompanied him to his final resting place. Gary Baura, Greg Eacker, Kirk Gibson, Dick Roach, Sam Storey, and I attended as friends and representatives of our esteemed Association. Thus, in the end, Attaway had all who mattered to him honor his life on this earth and his parting from it --- family, friends, and representatives of his life of duty and service to others and the cause of freedom. Rest in Peace Sergeant Major Rowe Attaway.

{NOTE: Do not print this parenthetical info. This is reserved for Kirk Gibson to add photos of Attaway's services and any accompanying notes. Enter here or as you see fit, Hoot. Foster}

Another shocking and sad note was the recent news that John "Chubb" Visel had died as a result of a fall down some stairs at his home in Michigan just last week (August 7). Massive head injuries led his wife and family to the agonizing decision to end life support. All that could be done was, leaving Cheryl, his children, and us to mourn his unexpected and sudden

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

departure from our ranks. More information regarding the celebration of his life will follow from those (notably Kirk) who were able to attend his funeral service.

Please keep Cheryl, his wife of 35 years, and the family in your thoughts and prayers as we honor and celebrate John's life and our memories of it.

One final parting note: Due to a lack of committed interest, we cancelled our off-year reunion in Branson in early August. To the best of my knowledge, Tom Lake, Dave Clark, and Harlos Kelley and their wives were all that attended. Evaro, Storey, and I cancelled due to the lack of interest after having lost a considerable amount on reservations. Continued off-year reunions will be considered at our next reunion with the 75th Ranger Regiment Association at Ft. Benning in August of next year (2011).

We strongly encourage those of you who are NOT members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association to join. As I've told you in the past, you will not regret joining (if you do, I'll personally refund your dues). You'll have the opportunity to meet up with old friends, meet new ones, and rub shoulders with the young warriors now bearing the burden of a prolonged war. It will be the best \$35 you've spent. Contact me or join at the next 75th RRA meeting. Details will follow.

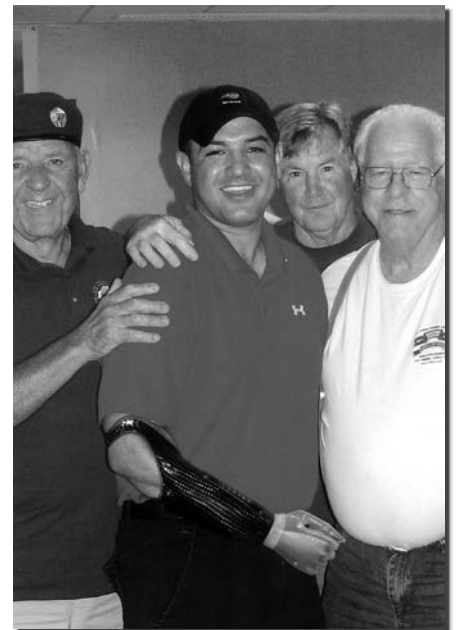
Re our VII Corps LRRP history book compiled and edited by our Historian, Sam Rodriguez: I believe there are limited numbers of this limited edition available. Contact Tom Forde, Treasurer, if you want to be included in this one and last of its kind publication. DO NOT go through Kirk. He's trying to E & E his previous seven year commitment to and responsibility for us. It's

all ours now. However, as a last resort, use his ass (metaphorically speaking) as you would the Tri-Color House frauleins.

In closing, on behalf of the United States Army's VII Corps Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Company Association, I want to pass on to B Company's John Henry Voyles and C Company's Gary O'Neal our sincere congratulations on their induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame. It is, I'm sure, a well deserved recognition of your achievements and of those who nominated you.

Til next time, take care of yourselves, mentally and physically, for yourself and your families. Keep Barbara and Cheryl and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

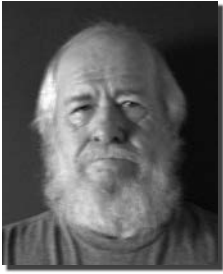
Dick Foster, El Guapo, Pvt. E-10  
USA LRRP Co. (Airborne)  
VII Corps, Germany





## C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director - Del Ayers



**Del Ayers**

### "CUDOS"

By: Del Ayers

2011 Reunion is now a memory. We who attended are home safe. Special Thanks to Bones and Milt for their diligence and planning.



Special recognition to Mrs. Lonnie Dolan, Gary Dolan's mother who was there to attend his induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Although she was scheduled to return home Thursday she was able to re-schedule her flight and stay on until Sunday. At 87 years young Lonnie's dynamic energy, quick wit, infectious humor and insight quickly gained her the respect and love of all. When Gary bid everyone goodnight Friday evening and went off to bed "Momma" Lonnie remained long after to visit with each of us.

I would also like to say a special thanks to the wives and significant others who sent their men and to those who attended and let their men frequently abandon them to hang with their brothers.

### 2011 Fort Benning Reunion

By: Milt Hendrickson

The 2011 E20/C75 reunion was a great success with a number of first time reunion attendees. Before I go any further there are some names that need to be recognized for their assistance in enabling me to organize some events. First I would like to say thanks to all the below mentioned names, Ranger Smokey Wells for putting me on the right track to set up the Honor Guard, next Ms Linda Davis Regimental admin assistant for providing me with a point of contact for the Honor Guard, and SMG Ballesteros for providing the Honor Guard and lastly the Regimental Special Troop Battalion who provided the smart looking Rangers that were the Honor Guard.

This years reunion was a special reunion as I mentioned earlier we had some first time attendees, but also the unit had the pleasure of seeing another one of our comrades inducted into the Ranger Hall Of Fame, Congratulation Gary Dolan, with Gary's induction that makes 2 members of the unit inducted 2 years in a row, an honor for them and a lot of pride for our unit.

Other memorable moments included Gary Dolan's Mother Lonnie she was a real trooper at 86 she out lasted most of

us staying up listening to stories and telling a few of her own ( we love you momma Lonnie ) other events included our memorial to our fallen brothers, the Infantry museum tour which everybody enjoyed, some saying they could spend an entire day there and our dinner and our raffle after the dinner in which funds were raised for the unit fund.

Saturday morning we held our Bi-Annual business meeting. There was not much in the way of old business discussed. A few minutes were given over to Vaughn Davidson to ask if anyone was lacking the receipt of earned medals to please contact him and he will help in that effort. New Officers were elected for

the next two years, Darryl (Bones) Benton as President, Milt Hendrickson as Vice President, James Worth as Secretary, Dean Baker as Treasurer, Gary O'Neal as Sgt. At Arms, Tom Bragg as Chaplin and Del Ayers Vet Rep. Discussions were held about next years mini reunion to be held in Colorado Springs near Fort Carson. John "LT" Eder, Gary O'Neal, and Joe Hayes volunteered to set this reunion up. It was decided that we should start the 2013 Fort Benning reunion earlier in the week so as to have more time to coincide with the Ranger Rendezvous and change of command and be able to interact more with the young Rangers before they leave after the change of command.

Milt Hendrickson and Darryl Benton will continue to assist and coordinate the 2013 reunion, any other volunteers would be greatly appreciated. It was voted that the 2013 reunion would be held at the Wingate hotel again.

### BRIDGE DEDICATION

By: Darryl "Bones" Benton

I would like to say it started with an email I received a few weeks ago on the 5th of June 2011 . The email just said "Hey, there is a family, the Robinson family, looking for someone that knew their Uncle and Brother in Vietnam ". His name is Loyd E. Robinson. In particular they are looking for Darryl "Bones" Benton who was with Charlie Rangers in Vietnam 70-71.

At first I kind of went into shock. The last forty years I have tried to keep closet doors from busting open that hold back memories I'm not sure I want to dwell on any more. While I'm proud as hell to have participated and been part of Charlie Company Rangers in Vietnam, it's some times tough to relive the bad moments. I remember the day we lost Loyd, "Robbie"

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

as we called him. Suddenly upon receiving this email I could hear the contact on the radio again. I heard the radio saying one KIA. No name. I ran through my head the members I knew on that team. At this time we were not receiving replacements and we only could put together a few teams of veteran troops at any given time. I knew Warner was out there and Robinson. To this day I cannot remember who else.

You see, it did not start on June 5th, 2011 , it started way back on 4th of July, 1970.

It started in a snack bar at Ft. Benning , Ga. Where I met Loyd Robinson and Steve Mantooth a couple of troops who were there for the same reason as I. We were there to be turned in to Paratroopers. We became Paratroopers over the next 4 weeks after the 4 th of July ended. As anyone can tell you who have been there, Jump school does not leave time to socialize much. Any friendships are developed during chow hall breaks or moments before falling into exhaustive slumber.

We all three made it out of Jump School and went on a nice bus ride to Ft. Bragg NC to become Special Forces Troops. We jumped into Camp McCall and went through 5 more weeks of grueling training. To this day, I'm not sure after it was over where I blew it, but apparently I did and so did Mantooth and Robinson. We all said goodbye one night in the barracks for the next day we were all going home for 12 days and then we had to report to Ft. Lewis Washington. We said our goodbyes and off we all went to our perspective home states. When we ever met again, we would be Airborne Infantry Troops in Vietnam.

I'm not sure when Robinson or Mantooth got to Cam Rahn Bay. I got there and was wandering around on my first day waiting to be assigned to a unit when I bumped into Mantooth. I asked Mantooth if he had run into Robinson and he said no. I took Mantooth and we went surfing. That's a different story.

The next day we received our orders for the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Upon arriving at CharangValley, the 173rd Headquarters we ran into Loyd Robinson. He was just a day ahead of us. We pulled some guard duty and went on the outside of the perimeter on a day patrol with a bunch of noisy troops. It was uneventful, thank goodness. That evening as we were about to go to chow a truck pulled into the base camp. A tall rather lanky Sgt. Bolton stepped out of the truck and wanted an audience. A small formation was arranged for anyone who may want to listen to what he had to say. Sgt. Bolton was a Charlie Ranger. He told us if we wanted to stay alive we should probably get on his truck and volunteer for Charlie Rangers. He told us we would have to endure some more OJT, on the job training, but our chances of staying alive would be greater if we fought in a smaller more trained unit.

The training that followed was intense but without a lot of bullshit. Even if we stayed and passed the training we would have to be accepted by a team of veteran Rangers if we were to stay attached to this group. Robinson, Mantooth and I all became Charlie Rangers. We were all put on different teams. Mantooth and I went to the 4th platoon and Robinson to the 1st platoon. After my first mission with the 4th platoon I was sent to the 1st platoon who at that time was located in Pleiku. Bolton was there, Doc Gove was there along with Robinson and I. We were a tight knit group in Pleiku away from the rest of the company. 1st platoon had about three working teams so I never ran on the same team as Robinson because they always tried to put newer troops with older troops to even things out. That's where I met Warner we were on team 1-5. Robinson was with McCabe and Spearman on team 1-3. We ran missions out of Pleiku for the next 4 months. We joined the rest of the company in Ahn Khe at the first part of March. The company had lost Thorne and Scott the latter part of February. The base camp of Ahn Khe had shrunk to the size of a mole hill and a runway when we arrived back. The field was HOT with gooks. The missions were intense and there was not much stand down time between them. We lost Sgt. Spearman that month. We had a few wounded over the next two months and there were no more replacements however a few new troops arrived but the company was getting ready to stand down soon. On June 11, 1971 Loyd Robinson became Charlie Ranger's last KIA.

I can still hear the radio over the base camp loud speaker saying we have one KIA.

June 5th, 2011 I picked up the phone and called the niece of Loyd Robinson her name is Beverly Nissel. I told her my name was Darryl "Bones" Benton. I told her I knew her uncle and had served with him in Vietnam. She got pretty excited; I got tears in my eyes. It seemed like yesterday I was with her Uncle. She told me she was the young age of 12 when we were in Vietnam. I thought your Uncle and I were the young age of 19 when we were in Vietnam. Loyd Robinson was KIA at 21 years old; I was only 20 at the time.

Beverly said they were going to dedicate and name a bridge in West Virginia to her Uncle Loyd. She asked if I would please be there, it would mean a lot to Loyd's brothers and sisters. I told her it would mean a lot to me. She told me the family would be honored if I would be there. I told her it would be an Honor for me to attend. She asked if I had any pictures I could send. I said I would begin immediately to send the few I had. She asked if I knew any other Rangers that knew Loyd and might want to attend. I told her I would try and find the ones I knew. This was going to happen in two weeks on the 24th of June 2011 . Exactly 40 years and 13 days from the day I heard that loudspeaker say one KIA. I hung up and cried for awhile or maybe I just had some shit in my eyes.

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

I then called Gary Dolan who had passed around through the internet the call to "Ranger Up", we had a mission to accomplish. I told Gary I was going to be there. He asked if I would do the Fallen Eagle Ceremony, I told him I would if we could get enough Rangers to show up. It was very short notice. Immediately I heard from Ranger Gordon Hockman, 75th Ranger from 1981 through 1984. C company 1st Bat. He told me he lived in eastern West Virginia and would show up and support the effort. Thank goodness this Ranger made the effort. He showed up with his lovely wife and added a whole lot of class and some real beauty to the rest of the ugly, I mean seasoned looking Rangers that showed up. Joe Hayes drove in from Detroit, Luke Bolton drove in from Raleigh, North Carolina, Gary O'Neal drove in from Raiford North Carolina and Steve "Doc" Gove rode his motorcycle from Kansas with his dog Toto. OK, maybe Doc did not have a dog. When you included me, we had a six man team present and accounted for.

We met the family the first night at the home of Nettie Gregory, Loyd's sister. There we also met Col. Kevin Gregory an active duty Artillery Officer and Loyd's nephew. Loyd had another nephew, Ranger Benjamin C. Dillion who was KIA 10/06/07 , B Co. 3/75th There we had a great food off the grill and a lot of neighborly West Virginia hospitality. We became part of Loyd's family, or maybe Loyd's family became part of us. We all got comfortable with each other and then went through what was to take place the next day. It was humbling, tearful, and at times down right full of laughter and a comfortable peace came over us all. The Robinson family was feeling closure and the Ranger team was feeling the mood.

The following was written in the Intermountain News:

**Bridge renamed for Roanoke man**

Robinson was killed by enemy fire in Vietnam

June 25, 2011

By John Wickline - Staff Writer, The Inter-Mountain

The nephew of a fallen Army Ranger told those who gathered on a bridge over a wind-swept Stonewall Jackson Lake Friday that they should remember the words of Gen. George S. Patton.

"It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died," said Col. Kevin Gregory, whose uncle SP4 Loyd Eugene Robinson was killed 40 years ago this month while on patrol in Vietnam. "Rather, we should thank God that such men lived."

Family, friends and those who served with the Roanoke man gathered on Oil Creek Road to see a bridge dedicated in Robinson's memory. Robinson graduated from Lewis County High School in 1969 and, like his older brothers, joined the military. He enlisted in the Army and earned his way into

an elite Ranger unit, Company C of the 75th Infantry. He was killed by enemy fire on June 11, 1971, nine months after being sent overseas.

"We talk about freedom, but this is where we understand what the price of freedom really is," said West Virginia Sen. Doug, D-Braxton.

The resolution to name the bridge in Robinson's memory came from Delegate Peggy Donaldson Smith, D-Lewis. She said the bridge just off U.S. 19 south of Weston is the perfect spot for honoring one of America's fallen heroes.

"He played here as a child," she said. "He jumped in the river here before we had the lake. It's so peaceful and calm here."

Darryl "Bones" Benton, who served in Vietnam with Robinson, recalled a man who was always positive, "true to himself, his country, and his God."

"Loyd, like many members, volunteered for the Army at a time when many young men were trying not to get drafted," Benton said.

Gregory said he listened to the stories of the men who served with his uncle, and he told the audience those veterans may not even realize the impact they have on today's soldiers. He said many of those serving today strive to honor the memories of those fighting men and women who came before them.

"From my foxhole, I appreciate what you have done for our nation and our military," Gregory said.

Born Feb. 17, 1950, Robinson was the 10th of 13 children born to Richard Charles and Adeline Williams Robinson. His sisters, Lena Nissel, Grace Alderman, Nettie Gregory, Betty Mitchell, Hazel Blake and Kathryn Craig, along with three surviving brothers, Jim, Roscoe and Johnny, were all presented with copies of the state resolution and with copies of the Department of Highways signs that marks each side of the bridge. The sons of three deceased brothers of Robinson, Rick, Jackie and George, also received the resolution and sign.

Contact John Wickline by email at [jwickline@theintermountain.com](mailto:jwickline@theintermountain.com).

The ceremony took place on a clouded Friday morning, however it did not rain, it was rather comfortable. Our six man Ranger team was received with the utmost honor and respect. For me it was a wonderful welcome home and thank you from a very large group consisting of various Robinson family members and local town folks.



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

After the ceremony we all proceeded to the fellowship hall down the street where we had refreshments and a get together with a lot of the local folks and family. We then went to the Mountaineer Military Museum in downtown Weston, run by Ron and Barb McVaney. Ron is a Khe Sahn siege Marine Vietnam Veteran. There Barb had set up a Memorial to Loyd in the front yard. We toured the Museum and talked with the locals. It was a moving tribute to all of West Virginia's fallen Sons.

We then headed up the road to Loyd's grave site with niece Beverly, our tour guide and Ranger sister for the entire three days. We placed a wreath at Loyd's gravesite and paid our respects to our fallen Ranger brother.

The next day we were guest at the Robinson family reunion where we were all given West Virginia Base Ball Hats and made official sons of West Virginia and the Robinson family. If ever you are asked to "Ranger Up" for such a ceremony, show up. It meant a whole lot to Loyd's family, and it perpetuates our history as a unit and shows the world we still take care of our fallen brothers. It should be the mission of each and every one of us, until the last survivor.

Bones

Darryl Benton, C/75th, 70-71 June 27, 2011

**D/75**

Unit Director - Richard "Herd" Nelson

Hello everyone this article is usually devoted to the reunion at Ft Benning: However right after I returned home I received a phone call from Don "Vic" Viccaro that one of our brothers (David Capik) had passed away. Therefore I will be dedicating part of this article and all of the photos in his memory. I have since been in contact with David's brother and he sent me his obituary which I am including in this article.

"Old soldiers never die, they just fade away!" What a perfect adage for David Capik, as he faded from this life on 15 August 2011. David was born on 21 March 1949, the third of eight children born to Evelyn and Marcel Capik of Davis Creek.



He attended grammar school in Davis Creek and graduated from Modoc Union High School in 1967. In September of 1967, Dave enlisted in the Army. After training, Dave was sent to the DMZ zone in Korea. His time there was immediately followed by a tour in Vietnam. Throughout his Army career, he served proudly and gallantly as an Airborne Ranger. During the time spent in Vietnam, Dave was awarded the Silver Star and the Bronze Star for heroism and the Air medal for participating in 40 aerial missions over hostile territory. In June of 1970, Dave completed his military duty and came home

to his family and friends in Northern California.

**D/75 (Continued)**

Shortly thereafter, Dave enrolled at Butte College. He graduated from that school after completing his course of study, and returned to Modoc County. He held several jobs that included owning the Texaco Gas Station in Alturas. Eventually, Dave decided it was time to move "all the way home", purchasing the family ranch from his parents, Evelyn and Marcel. For 14 years, Dave owned and operated the ranch but still found time for some of the true loves he had developed over his lifetime. He loved to hunt; he loved to fish; he loved to help many of the local youth with their 4-H projects. Dave was a professional guide who thrilled many a waterfowl and antelope hunter with his hunting expertise. Many fall deer and elk hunts were conducted with his brother, Mark, his nephew, David Rhoades, and others in California and neighboring states. But, Dave was probably proudest of his wartime experiences as an Army Airborne Ranger, and he attended several reunions of his Ranger Company D, 75th Infantry.

In November of 2008, Dave somehow contracted Bacterial Meningitis while at his home in Davis Creek. He spent the next 10 months in treatment at several hospitals, including Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto. Having met all of the rehabilitation goals set forth by the VA, he was discharged in September 2009. Since that time Dave has lived near family in Roseville, California. David always dreamed of coming home to his beloved Modoc County, and will now do so for eternal rest there.

David is survived by his brothers, Mike, Mark, John and Dan; his sisters, Wanda, Marcella, and Mary; his brothers-in-law, Dave Rhoades, George Andreasen, and Tony Geiser; sisters-in-law, Kam, Nancy, and Christie; eight nephews, two nieces, 2 great nieces, 3 great nephews and a new great niece due to arrive in December.

Friends are invited to "pay their respects" at Kerr Mortuary in Alturas, from 1 p.m. – 7 p.m. on Friday, 26 August. A funeral Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, 27 August. Burial will follow immediately in the Davis Creek Cemetery.

Now on to the reunion, the first person I saw when I arrived was my old team leader, Tom Delaney. He and his wife Jan brought one of their Granddaughters, Michelle, with them she is living with them while she is going to college. Jan finally retired the day after they got home from the reunion. I talked with both of them the day that hurricane Irene was going through their neck of the woods. It wasn't too bad for them mostly winds but not bad enough to damage the house. They did have some limbs and leaves down and Tom had it cleaned up almost before the storm was over.

Shortly after that Kaiser Sterbinsky came out and for those of you who don't remember Kaiser he was with commo at

D Company and a lot of the time he was out at fire support bases running radio relay stations for us, but when he was in the company area he worked over at the TOC. He did leave the reunion early since his wife wasn't feeling well and he felt guilty for leaving her home.

I also ran into Roger Barbe that first night, he told me he had lost his wallet and also his cash. He did find his cash the next day when he got a book out that he was reading; John Chester gave me the wallet the next day at breakfast. It was found in the grass out by the pool. The next day it came up missing again but he later found it in the room where he had hidden it from himself.

Carl and Rosie Norris arrived on Tuesday afternoon, their son Michael, his wife Cindy and their daughter Katie and one of her friends, Tory, came in on Wednesday. Michael is a retired Special Forces Officer. Michael was attending the reunion because some of the guys he served with were supposed to also attend, but they didn't show. The girls had a good time and on one occasion told Carl and Rosie "Ranger Babes forever".

Gary Olson was also in attendance, but he also had to leave early, so he was only there until Thursday. Steve Meade showed up later in the week because he had helped his son move out to California and had to catch a bus home and then get his car and drive on down to Ft Benning.

Billy Faulks came down and attended all of the functions, on Thursday he, Roger, Steve and some of the D 151 guys went back up to Macon to kill and butcher a pig. They then put it on Ice and drove back down to Benning for a unit Bar-B-Que on Friday. The story they told about the difficulty they had finding the pigs and then trying to kill one was hilarious. The Bar-B-Que was outstanding though.

Moe and Cindy drove in from South Dakota again which is almost 1900 miles. We all enjoyed seeing them. Mike and Vicki Jaussaud also drove in from Indiana; it was also great to see them as well. They had actually signed in before I arrived, but then they went back to Atlanta for a few days. All in attendance had really good time.

We had the usual events, the second batt. Sponsored the Bar-B-Que out at Lawson field, the only difference is that it was held out at Freedom hall instead of the hanger so it was air conditioned. The only drawback to that as they were having a kick boxing tournament during the event and was very noisy during the meets. The Hotel Bar-B-Que was good as well and then the Banquet was great and a show was put on by some of the Native Americans to honor the fallen heroes. They sang some songs in Sioux which I remember from the movies "The Man Called Horse" & "Dances with Wolves" However they translated the songs for us.

**D/75 (Continued)**

For our unit Bar-B-Que we had enough food to feed all of those in attendance from both Delta Companies we served with plus others were also invited as well. We had the pig that Billy furnished and he did the cooking. We also had Cole Slaw and 4 different kinds of potato salad.

Bill Fitzgerald was unable to attend because he and his wife Kathy went to their daughter's promotion party when she made Captain. I did talk with him after Irene went through New York where he lives. They did take a direct hit but there was no damage to their house, and like Tom and Jan they had fallen branches. He did tell me that there was a lot of flooding around him, but not at his house.

Ken and Linda were not able to attend again this year, neither was Bear and his wife, or Frank Park. This was the first reunion that Frank Park and Don "Vic" Viccaro were not in attendance when I was there, I hadn't talked to either of them before hand, and have only talked with Vic about Dave's passing afterwards. Both were able to attend the funeral, I was told that Dave and Frank were on the same team with D Company, by Dave's brother Mark.

As I told you earlier I am dedicating all of the photos in this article to Dave Capik. I will put photos of the reunion in the next article. I am submitting one photo of Dave receiving his Silver Star while in Vietnam. Also a Hunting photo, one of him branding cattle on his ranch, one of his family at the funeral, one of Frank and Vic at the funeral, and one of his 21 gun salute during the funeral.

RLTW  
Herd



**Dave Capik receiving the Silver Star in Vietnam.**



**Dave Capik hunting:**



**Dave branding cattle on his ranch.**



**Frank & Vic at Dave's funeral.**



**21 gun salute at Dave's funeral.**



**Dave's funeral.**



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

**Unit Director - Rick Stetson**

Greetings E Company Rangers:

Hard to believe that our reunion is drawing near and that next month we will be in Buffalo. Is it safe to say we are "short?" A "tip of the hat" goes to Allison Barley who has compiled a great web site that is loaded with reunion info at: [www.allisonbarley.com/lrrpbuffalo](http://www.allisonbarley.com/lrrpbuffalo).

I won't repeat the complete schedule of our reunion week activities that Allison has included on the web site, but each day is loaded with interesting places to visit, many with links that provide additional information. Well, maybe I should give just



a hint of some of the events in store for us. On Monday, Sept 26, we will have a chance to dine at the Anchor Bar, the home of the original Buffalo chicken wings. Tuesday will include a visit to the Made in America Store, where every item in the store was made in the Good Ole USA. Take that, China. On Wednesday, I'm looking forward to a cruise on the Erie Canal with an Italian dinner that night. Lunch Thursday will be on the fantail of the USS Little Rock, the only guided missile cruiser on display in the United States. Friday we will get wet on the Maid of the Mist at Niagara Falls with dinner at a great Polish restaurant that evening. Saturday morning will include

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

our business meeting and memorial service. I'm hoping that Saturday afternoon, we might work in an Erik Spink Film Festival. Many of you have seen Erik's "Painted Faces," but he has done other videos, equally good, since then. Erik will be in graduate school next month, but he will try his best to be with us Saturday if his schedule will allow. Our dinner that evening will be a barbeque at an American Legion post and it will be a meal you won't want to miss.

The above are just a few of the events Allison has lined up for us. There are a number of other activities too many to list here. You will have to get on her web site and check them out. Included on the site is a reunion registration form. It will be a great help to Roy Barley if we register ahead of time (registration is just \$50.) Send your registration form (can be printed from the web site) and check to Roy at:

P.O. Box 233  
Springville, NY  
14141-0233

The Summer issue of Patrolling is out and it was nice to see a photo of Brent Gulick attending a Memorial Day cookout where he met a F-75 Ranger he had helped rescue years ago in Vietnam. I had hoped to see photos of Poncho Alire that were taken at White Sands Missile Range earlier this year when he took part in the Bataan Memorial Death March, but neither the photos nor his excellent article about the march made it in this issue. I have asked the editor if it can be included in the Fall issue. Poncho also had an interesting article published in the Spring issue about a return trip he and Puck Smith took to Vietnam. Unfortunately, his photos were not included with the article but maybe Poncho will show them to us in Buffalo.

Congratulations go out to past E Company unit director, Bob Copeland, who has been appointed an international director of the US Army Ranger Association. I'm certain Bob will be a valuable addition to the board of directors. It's another example of E Company helping to "lead the way."

The link below is a video made by Michigan Vietnam vets, but it is one we can all relate to. Click on it if you have a couple of minutes to watch the short film. The sound of Huey rotor blades sure brings back the memories. And there will be many memories made in Buffalo next month when we gather for both fellowship and the opportunity to pay respects to our fallen brothers. See you there.

RLTW  
Rick Stetson  
Unit Director

## **Boots On The Ground At The 22nd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March**

By Duane (Poncho) Alire

### **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this journal to Mr. Ruben O. Montoya – neighbor, friend and a highly decorated US Army veteran of the European Theater of WWII and to Mr. Evans Garcia (deceased) – a native New Mexican and survivor of the 1942 Bataan Death March.

### **PROLOGUE**

The events that led to the Bataan Death March of 1942 began at dawn on April 9th when Major General Edward P. King, Jr., and against the orders of Generals Douglas MacArthur and Jonathan Wainwright, surrendered more than 75,000 (67,000 Filipinos, 1,000 Chinese Filipinos and 11,796 Americans) starving and disease-ridden men. The men were the last of the defenders of the Bataan Peninsula. At the time of the surrender, MG King inquired of Colonel Motoo Nakayama, the Japanese colonel to whom he tendered his pistol in lieu of his lost sword, whether the Americans and Filipinos soldier would be well treated. The Japanese aide-de-camp replied: "We are not barbarians."

The infamous Bataan Death March began immediately after the surrender. The "march", or forcible transfer of 75,000 prisoners of war, was characterized by wide-ranging physical abuse, murder and resulted in fatalities inflicted upon prisoners and civilians alike by the armed forces of the Empire of Japan. The treatment of the American prisoners was described as dehumanizing as the Japanese soldiers "felt they were dealing with sub-humans and animals." Thousands died from disease, starvation, dehydration, heat prostration, untreated wounds, and wanton execution. Marchers were harassed with random bayonet stabs and beatings. Accounts of being forcibly marched for five to six days with no food and a single sip of water are in postwar archives including filmed reports.

The exact death count is impossible to determine, but some historians have placed the minimum death toll between 6,000 and 11,000 men. Other postwar Allied reports have tabulated that only 54,000 of the 72,000 prisoners reached their destination. The number of deaths that took place in the internment camps from the delayed effects of the march is considerably more.

On May 30, 2009, at the 64th and final reunion of Bataan Death March survivors in San Antonio, Texas, the Japanese ambassador to the United States apologized to an assembly of survivors for Imperial Japan's treatment of Allied prisoners of war, on behalf of the Japanese government.

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

Over the last 10 years I have attended a local Veterans Day event whereby the veteran community conducts a ceremony honoring the men and women who defended the Philippines but were ultimately surrendered in 1942 during WWII. During the ceremony the US flag is lowered and a white flag of surrender is raised. After brief comments and a moment of silence, the white flag is lowered and the US flag is again raised.

I have also studied the infamous Bataan Death March and considered participating in the Annual Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sand Missile Range in south central New Mexico. For a variety of reasons, I always had an excuse to not participate. I did not have the right boots. The weather was too cold. I had other plans. This year the stars lined up – I had no valid reason not to participate.

I began my training by reading everything I could find on the annual march. I learned about the dreaded “sand pit”, the blistering heat, the long up hill climb on the hot, paved road and the wind driven sand storms. I also relearned the value of “unit cohesion” and the camaraderie that develops when people bond together while performing arduous tasks. From the web page about the march and from former participants I learned the Annual Bataan Memorial Death March is one of the most difficult marathons a person can participate in.

In January I increased my hiking and walking mileage from 3-5 miles to 5-10 miles per day; my training frequency from 2-3 times a week to 4-5 times a week and the duration of each session from 2-3 hours to more than 5 hours. My training included both walking and stretching. I changed my diet from simple carbohydrates to complex “carbs” and more protein. I relearned the value of complete hydration by drinking water “until I peed”. The winter weather in Santa Fe, my home town, worked against me. The weekly snow and ice storms hampered my distance training schedule. I knew the temperatures at the missile range would be significantly hotter and dryer than what I was training in.

Still uncertain about participating in the death march, I missed the deadline for the mail in registration. With the deadline for the on-line registration looming on March 20th, I submitted my registration and payment of \$65.00 on March 18th. I was committed.

**22ND ANNUAL BATAAN MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH LOG**

Thursday, March 24th Not wanting to arrive at White Sands Missile Range at the last minute, I traveled to the military base early on Thursday. I wanted to recon the base and to check out the march routes before inserting with “boots on the ground”.

Upon arrival, I was alone at Volunteer Park, the local on-base campground. I also found White Sands Missile Range to be a confusing tangle of narrow roads with very small street signs. When I returned to Volunteer Park late in the afternoon, I met Mr. Burt Carlson near his modest tent and rented car.

Little did I know the first person I would meet at the death march was a living legend in the marathon world and a “six timer” of the Annual Bataan Memorial Death March. This year’s march will be Burt’s 6th and his 315th marathon! In his ever gentle Minnesota manner he explained the restroom situation, the camping and dining options and then invited me to camp near his tent. After parking my truck, he invited me to walk over to the Frontier Club, the base cafeteria, for supper. I learned more about the annual death march from him in the next hour than I had from hours of research on the internet!

He is a WWII veteran of the US Navy. I photographed him inside the turret of a MK39 5in/54 Gun from the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. Burt served on this ship but not as a gunner. The gun is one of the many outdoor exhibits at the base museum. After meeting him, I was both humbled and inspired.

Friday, March 25th Today was registration day for me and Burt showed me the ropes. My number was 5459 and I designated my brother, Larry, as my emergency contact.

Later in the day we were joined by Dick from Texas (civilian, male heavy, 26.2 mile marcher). Following Dick we were joined by “Dr. Dave” (civilian, male light, 26.2 mile marcher), Paul (civilian, male light, 15.2 mile marcher) and Peggy (civilian, female light, 26.2 mile marcher) – all are marathoners, and from Minnesota. In the evening we attended the Ricky Lee Concert, a musical tribute to America’s veterans, warriors and their families. We ended the day enjoying cold beers in the hurricane force and dust laden winds!

Saturday, March 26th Today we visited the base museum, shopped at the Base Exchange for essential supplies and walked around the base to adjust to the higher temperatures and dry humidity. As a group, we attended in the Bataan Historical Seminar and met Bataan POWs and survivors. Several were signing their books and event memorabilia.

The culmination of the historical presentation was the awarding of a scholarship in the name of Mr. Evans Garcia, a Bataan survivor, by his daughter. I had met Mr. Garcia, who died last January. I had met him through a neighbor and friend, Mr. Ruben O. Montoya. Also, at the presentation, I met Mrs. Judy Reed, a former co-worker of the National Park Service. Mrs. Reed’s father was also a Bataan survivor.

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

The 22nd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March was now a personal matter.

After the presentation we “carb loaded” at the pasta buffet at the Frontier Club and watched the movie, “The Great Raid”. The movie is a testament to the strength of the U. S. Army Rangers, particularly the men of the 6th Ranger Battalion of WWII.

The new friends, the historical presentation, meeting the POW and Bataan survivors, the patriotic music, the movie and finally the sound of TAPS signaling “lights out” being played over the base’s public address system at 22:00 hrs. – caused me to be overwhelmed with pride for having volunteered to participate in this honorable adventure.

Sleep came fitfully and slowly as the winds were gusting to 60-70 mph. Marchers arrived throughout the night and I kept thinking about my plans for tomorrow’s march.

Sunday, March 27th The day dawned clear but violently windy. Windy is not an adequate descriptor. Hurricane force wind is more appropriate. The gusting winds blew down tents and shook campers. Dust was every where.

We reported to the starting area at 06:00 hrs. The marchers - estimated to be 6,000 strong and included both the 15.2 honorary marchers and the 26.2 marathon marchers - gathered in the predawn light at the rally point. The early morning opening ceremony titled, “Their Past, Their Glory, Our Thanks”, honored those who fell at Bataan and the survivors through Reveille, an invocation and a moving roll call. The ceremony was awesome.

At 06:45 hrs. we began moving toward the starting gate. Thousands of marchers, including Ampu-Team Soldiers, Military Heavy Individuals and Military Heavy Teams – the “heavies” humping 35 or more pounds of non-perishable foods in their packs - inched toward the starting line. Most of us reached down and shook the hands of the Bataan survivors who were seated near the starting line and its timing pad. I spoke briefly with an American Indian and told him I was honored to represent him on this tough march. He simply smiled and thanked me. Paul and I crossed over the starting timing pad at 07:15 hrs.

The first few miles traverse a low desert environment. The marchers were still “herded up” as we jostled for space to stretch their legs and set a pace. I was surprised when we reached Water Point #3 which is the break off point for the honorary marchers. Paul and I were averaging more than 4 miles per hour on a trail crowded with all kinds of marchers. He set one hellva pace! Paul turned on to the 15.2 mile route while I continued on to the 26.2 mile route.

Both routes are physically tough and mentally demanding. Both routes are miles and miles of nothing but desert! After turning on to the 26.2 mile route, I started up a long section of paved road with a steady incline of about 4-5 %. It continued in this manner until we turned on to a dusty gravel road near Water Point #5, which was near the mid-point of the march. At the water point, I saw many wounded warriors tending their injuries. There were a number of people sitting along the trail with boots off, tending blisters, changing socks, drinking water and eating food. Marching on the paved road had taken its toll on many of the marchers. The air was dusty and a strong, constant wind blew from the west. I decided this was a good place to eat a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and to hydrate. I had been carrying two pints of water but was drinking water or Gatorade at each water point. The water I was carrying was simply dead weight! After chowing down on my sandwich and drinking from my water bottle, I took off again on the march.

The route continued up hill for a while and then began to descend sharply. At Water Point #6 I was greeted by the smell of hamburgers! Yes, hamburgers. To add insult to injury, the hamburgers and hot dogs were not free like the oranges and cookies and Gatorade and bananas at the other water points – they were for sale. Even if they had been free, I was in no mood for a hamburger or a hot dog! I marched on to the NM Nat’l Guard sponsored Water Point #8.

This water point is at the junction of the gravel road and the paved road. We had looped around Mineral Hill, the high point of the march. At the water point I chowed down on my last PB&J sandwich, changed socks and checked my feet for hotspots. The US Army medic, who looked at my feet, reported no hot spots or blisters but suggested a little moleskin and tape might be in order for my right foot. This was my second sit-down break on the march. After being doctored up by the medic, I turned south along the paved road we had covered earlier in the route.

After passing under the US Highway 70 overpass again, the march continued for a mile or so and then turned west on to a gravel road. This road transitions into the area known as the “Sand Pit”. This trail feature is known for its ankle deep, shifting sand, steep uphill incline and its dust. It is a tough section as marchers “herd up” while trudging along the sandy trail.

The march ends with a long walk along a stone wall that is adjacent to the base housing area. Here we were greeted by local military families with cheers, water, cookies, small USA flags



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

and lots of words of encouragement. They shout "You're near the end!", "You only have a mile to go!" and "You can do it!". Many shout "Thank you"! The finish line was crowded with well wishers who shout encouragement and offer brief hand shakes. As I crossed the timing pad at the finish line, it read 8:13 hrs. The most difficult portion of the march for me was from the finish line to my campsite as I was no longer walking at a steady pace, the parking lot was hot and I knew the march was over.

After a short debriefing with the boys, I drank a couple of cold beers and a bottle of water to re-hydrate. Afterwards, Paul, Dr. Dave and I headed off to the base gym for hot showers to wash off the desert dust and sand and to change clothes and footwear. I suffered no blisters or hot spots on my feet but my sore leg muscles were definitely "talking to me". I was done with my mission of putting 'boots on the ground' at the 22nd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March.

**POSTSCRIPT**

For most of the marchers, the 22nd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March was not about a competitive score or a personal best. Its purpose is to honor the men and women who survived the Bataan Death March in 1942. The 1942 march was a tough, grueling and deadly forced march. Life in the POW camps was not much better. The march I completed on March 27th was tough and grueling but nothing like what the troops endured in 1942. I am proud to have honored the original Bataan Death March survivors. In remembrance of the 1942 Death March, I quote from the epic poem by Frank Hewlett, "We're the Battling Bastards of Bataan. No mama, no papa, no Uncle Sam. No aunts, no uncles, no cousins, no nieces. No pills, no planes, no artillery pieces. And nobody gives a damn!" Today, the survivors know that we care and we care enough to honor them by completing the 22nd Annual Bataan Memorial Death March.

My accidental meeting of the marchers from Minnesota at Volunteer Park was significant in the relationship our respective states have with the Bataan Death March. We did not recognize the significance until after the march. Both New Mexico and Minnesota have a military and historical connection to the defense of the Philippines and the Bataan Death March of 1942.

The New Mexico Connection with the defense of Bataan: World War II began for most Americans on December 7, 1941 when Japanese aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor. The war had been in full swing for two years in Europe and for four years in Asia. Although the attack on Pearl Harbor was

unexpected, preparations for a war had begun earlier. As part of the troop movement to bolster the defense of the Philippines, the 200th and 515th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) regiments were sent to stations around Clark Field near Manila. Both units were from the New Mexico National Guard and had a heavy representation of Hispanic officers and enlisted men. The military units had been selected because many of the men in the units spoke Spanish, a principal language of the Philippines.

Upon their arrival, they became the largest single American military unit in the Philippines. Most of the 140,000 defenders of the island were members of the Philippine Army (100,000). When the Japanese bombed Clark Field on December 8, 1941, Sgt. Felipe N. Trejo of Santa Fe, New Mexico and Pimento Ruby of Winslow, Arizona were among the first American casualties.

The Minnesota Connection with the defense of Bataan: Company A, 194th Armored Regiment, was deployed to the Philippines in the fall of 1941. A plaque located in the "Court of Honor" at the Minnesota State Capitol Complex honors members of the 194th Tank Battalion and others who participated in the Bataan Death March. The plaque reads, "In honor of the soldiers of the 194th Light Tank Battalion, many of whom were from Brainerd, Minnesota. On April 9, 1942, shortly after the American entry into World War II, these Minnesotans were among those stationed in the Philippines who were ordered to surrender to the Japanese military and forced to march up to ten days with no food or water in what has become known as the Bataan Death March, during which thousands of American and Filipino soldiers and civilians died."

I offer a special note of thanks to Prescott "Smitty" Smith who donated the E/50-E/75 challenge coin for the event. After being displayed in the registration area, the coins and the beautiful coin rack will be moved to the White Sands Museum to be displayed in their special Bataan Memorial Death March section.

Duane L. Alire, aka "Poncho", served as a LRRP team leader with "E" Company, 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from 01/68 until 01/69. He is a life member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. He retired from the United States National Park Service in 2001 and lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



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

Unit Director - Tim Walsh



**Tim Walsh**

Greetings once again!

Just got back from the latest 75th RRA Reunion in Columbus, GA. Co. F had 42 guys sign the roster - a couple more may have been there but didn't sign.

A list of attendees follows: Tim Walsh, Joe Little, George Timmins, Tom Finnie, Ron Harrison, Rick Ellison, Marshall Huckaby, Dave Regenthal, Colin Hall, Fred Stuckey, Chick Boyle, David Krein, Dan Nate, Ron Hart, Dennis Petersen, Tom "Pineapple" Gurrobat, Joe Gentile, Bill Eberhardt, Bobbie Byrd, Ron Zellner, Jesse Salazar, Ted Miller, Phillip Davis, Bobby Ethridge, Bob Spiegel, Fred Forehand, Tim Rowbotham, Jeff Sandell, Phillip Norton, Mike Turner, Francis Jarvis, Nick Demongeot, Ray Armstrong, Bruce Craft, John Collins, Cliff Lawrence, Tom Schommer, Frankie Hamilton, Gene Reilly, Joe Cassilly, Bob Gericke, John McGee.

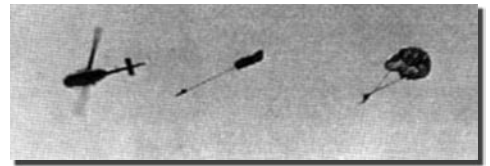
Many of the guys were accompanied by their significant others. My wife Theresa has been with me for the past six or seven reunions and she really looks forward to seeing all the other wives (and all the young Rangers, but that's another story). The wives have formed a close-knit "Ranger Wives Auxiliary". I had the opportunity to talk for a little while with Pineapple's wife, Mona. She shared some of her thoughts about the Ranger's Wives Auxiliary. Among the many things she appreciates about the Auxiliary is that they can share their experiences which helps them relate to their husbands. Once they start talking, they realize that they're not the only ones who have had to put up with our service-related problems. One of the very best things I have said about reunions is that it gives us guys the opportunity to share the things we went through. It's the same for the women. Mona was relieved to know that most of the other women face the same issues.

Mona's comments are also available on video at our Co. F website, [lrrp.com](http://lrrp.com). Dave Regenthal has put up a ton of terrific stuff from the latest reunion. Videos, photos all kinds of excellent material. And speaking of the website, please send Dave your pix of the reunion - you'll find a link to send pix on the website.

This issue of Patrolling will contain a few very interesting stories from "back in the day". Gene Tucker has kindly sent me some articles that originally appeared in the Tropic Lightning News



(TLN). I don't know about you, but I had all but forgotten about the TLN. I'll be publishing these stories in upcoming Patrolling articles, and also include them in my "Pointman" newsletters. Most of the stories have pictures accompanying them. We were looking pretty darned good back then. The first set of stories comes from TLN issues from 1970 and 1971. Enjoy.



### 23 February 1970

#### Jumping at Tan Son Nhut Airborne Rangers: Training Hard, Harassing Enemy

**CU CHI** - The Airborne Rangers of Company F, 75th Infantry, perform a Division-wide mission harassing the enemy from the Straight Edge Woods to the Black Virgin Mountain to the Ho Bo and Boi Loi Woods. Most of the Ranger operations are performed over two and three day periods by elite well-trained teams consisting of both U.S. and ARVN Infantrymen.

Training is a continuous effort for the Rangers and recently they traveled to Tan Son Nhut Airbase to make parachute jumps. The Rangers accomplished three things that are important to any Ranger outfit as a result.

First on the list was getting the practice so important to performing a feat which requires a great deal of skill. Second, the jumping enables the Rangers to maintain their jump status. Finally, the Rangers will eventually be awarded Vietnamese jump wings as a result of their extra efforts.

Story and Photos by SP4 Joe O'Rourke



**The leap into emptiness**



**Teamwork on the ground**

**F/75 - F/50 LRP - 25TH DIV LRRP (Continued)****11 May 1970 TLN****Enemy Trapped Despite Detour****By SGT DAN DELANEY**

**TAY NINH** - Twelve Rangers from the 25th Division's Company F, 75th Rangers, recently killed seven enemy soldiers in the Crescent woods area. Claymores and other explosives were rigged to detonate into a kill zone. "We spent over two hours setting everything up along a well-used trail," said Sergeant Joe Hard, of Austin, Tex., the team leader. "When they (the enemy) came along, they took an old APC track trail that led them nearly 30 meters from our ambush site, but we were able to blow the ambush on them anyway." Shrapnel and claymore fragments ripped through the kill zone.

"It took ten minutes or more for the smoke and dust to clear away enough to see anything," said Private First Class Kenneth Palmer, of Idabell, Okla. Two dead enemy soldiers were found on the track trail initially while blood trails led the Rangers to five additional enemy bodies. "They must have been a resupply group," said Hard, "as there were several straw or bamboo bushels of rice and mangoes scattered all over the place."

**15 June 1970****Ranger Scout Wins Combat Honor Award**

A 25th Infantry Division soldier who distinguished himself by exposing himself to enemy fire without regard to his own safety in order to rout the enemy has been added to the Tropic Lightning Combat Honor Roll.

Sergeant Fred B. Stuckey of Longview, Tex., earned the award while serving as a scout observer for an element of Company F (Rangers), 75th Infantry, on April 2.

The Ranger Team was on a reconnaissance mission when it came under intense enemy fire. Stuckey was in the front of the formation and with complete disregard for his own safety, exposed himself several times to enemy fire as he positioned himself to return effective fire on the hostile force.

**02 November 1970****Rangers Thread Needle****By PFC DAVE COOPER**

**CU CHI** - While on recent operations in the Hobo Woods, a 25th Division Ranger team threaded the needle with hand grenades, resulting in one enemy killed and two wounded detainees. At about dawn on the last day of the three-day operation, the team from F Company, 75th Rangers, heard several enemy crashing through some nearby bushes.

"The enemy set up a day resting position only about 30 feet away from us," stated team leader Sergeant Scott Cook of Grass Valley, Calif. "A few minutes later one of them got up and started walking down the trail, but we didn't follow him."

That left the others vulnerable to the Rangers' skills.

Besides the Communist casualties, this action also netted 20 VC ponchos, one full AK-54 magazine, a US pistol belt and flashlight, some medical supplies and clothing.

**08 February 1971****'ALL THE WAY'****By SP4 TRUMAN KAPUT****FRENZELL-JONES** - "RAIN-JAH"...

"HAIR-BOHNE"... "HAAAAA!!!!!"

Remember that from basic training? And everybody visualized a bunch of fanatical Marine-types who would go out of their way to step on an ant.

Well, here at F-J, one needs only to walk or drive by the brightly painted black and yellow barracks near the snack bar to find the 25th Division's representatives of this elite guard.

The 75th Infantry's Company F (RANGER) troopers are all volunteers and proud of it. They take pride not only in their performance but in themselves and their unit as well. From their black berets to their well-shined boots they are STRAC-all the way.

But for all of the sharpness of appearance, it is the high degree of professionalism in battle that is of the utmost importance to each man.

Whether it's on a reconnaissance or ambush mission, the Rangers PERFORM. Working in highly-trained six-man teams and utilizing their Vietnamese scout or a combat tracker, finding signs of the enemy's presence is their thing. After detection comes the insertion of a contact-seeking team.

"We carry as much weaponry and ammo on an ambush patrol as a line unit platoon," said Staff Sergeant Mike Hochrein of Dubois, Penn. Hochrein is a team leader whose six men have accounted for five enemy kills in the past two months.

Backing up the small-sized teams are the helicopter gunships of the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry's Delta Troop.

"Centaur' firepower has helped many teams out of trouble and so we have a very close relationship with the men over there," stated CPT Jay Hickey of Ocoee, Fla., the Ranger CO.

Working in dense jungle necessitates some exceptional skills on the part of each man - especially in the area of first-aid.

"Not only being able to administer the four life-saving steps to a wounded man but also to be able to give an intravenous transfusion when a medevac can't land is part of my job," explained Private First Class Timothy Hunter of Rhinelander, Wis., a Ranger medic.

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

Of the 60-odd Rangers, about half are on jump status and draw the extra jump pay of \$55 a month. 26 are Ranger School graduates, and 29 have been through Recondo School.

When asked to explain his men's approach to the Army and to life, Captain Hickey points to a sign in front of the Rangers' headquarters: "It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit actually belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust, sweat and blood; who knows great enthusiasm: great devotion, the triumph of high achievement and who, at the worst, if he fails, fails while daring greatly; that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory or defeat. For those who have had to fight for it, life truly has a flavor the protected shall never know."



**RANGER ON THE MOVE - Team Leader Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Demongeot of Osseo, Mich., a member of Company F, 75th Infantry (Rangers) moves through the jungle southwest of Xuan Loc. (Photo by SP4 Joseph Kelly, II FFV)**



**UP GOES THE RADIO - Team Leader Staff Sergeant Nicholas J. Demongeot from Osseo, Mich., and Specialist 4 Brunette Lenord from Superior, Wis., set up a field expedient radio antenna in thick jungle southwest of Xuan Loc. (Photo by SP4 Joseph Kelly, II FFV)**

**CALL - Specialist 4 Mayo McClinton from Md. requests further instruction as operation continues southwest of Xuan Loc. (Photo by SP4 Joseph Kelly, II FFV)**



**TIRED - PFC Edward C. Sellers Jr. of Memphis, Tenn., returns from an observation post, tired and weary. (Photo by SP4 Joseph Kelly, II FFV)**

**22 February 1971**

**Co F, 75th Rangers**

**FSB SCHWARTZ** - Rangers of the 75th Infantry's Company F battled a large group of Viet Cong in a wooded area northwest of here recently, killing four.

The GIs encountered the enemy force moving through the trees of a wild banana grove. A quick exchange of gun fire ensued and the enemy took to cover.

The Tropic Lightning Rangers immediately called in artillery and helicopter gunships while keeping the VC pinned down with a continuous stream of small arms and automatic weapons fire.

A subsequent sweep uncovered four enemy dead and two AK-47s. Two U.S. troops suffered minor wounds.

Another blast from the past! Marshall Huckaby sent me a list of "Remember These?" from our times in the service. Here are a few more of them. Great stuff!

Meals of (A's/B's), (C's). Didn't you pick up your "C" at breakfast, hope you have a stash some place;

Piss tubes and four-holers;

Dust boiling out from the rear of a 2 ½ ton truck as it bounds down the road during a rain shower, then came prin-a-prime, a black oil they put on the camp roads;

XM16E1 rifle with the split flash suppressor;

How to open a case of "Cs) with that flash suppressor;

Light weight ground sheets because the Army still had the old heavy ponchos;

Hundred Mile an Hour Tape and how the Insect Repellant used to make it gummy;

M-14 AMMO Pouches with five 20 round M-16 magazines with only 18 rounds each, four in the pouch with a strip of bandolier strap around one so you could pull it out and the

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

fifth one in the top of the pouch laying flat? I carried 22 mags in all, 20 in four pouches, one in the weapon and the last one on the stock with a helmet camo band to hold it on.

I have asked that you send me any information and/or stories about guys we served with. Got this from Jerry Camelleri, he served with Dave Zonfrilli:

“Sgt. Dave Zonfrilli. Otherwise known as “Z”.

I volunteered for the Rangers. It was explained to me due to my high IQ that I was one of seven asked to join out of a Holding Company of 250 guys at Cam Ranh Bay. I was informed that they had 7 guys killed in the last three years. The numbers worked for me so I volunteered.

Met Z first time out. He was instructed to give the FNG's training runs. He did. He made everything make sense for the next year.

One night, couldn't sleep and bored. He “instructed” me and Monk to call in “arty”. We boxed ourselves in using Willey Pete and HE.

I heard that he was a hit man hiding from the east coast guys as he was from New York. I don't know if this was true or not but the man did know his s... I sure would like to thank him.”

I have two of the terrific “Cassilly” polo shirts for sale. One of the Patriotic shirts and one plain. Both white, XL. The Patriotic shirt sells for \$45.00 and the plain white one sells for \$25.00. I also have a few black F/75, Co. F/F 50/LRRP hats for sale as well. Hats sell for \$10.00 each. All funds collected

from the sale of these shirts & hats goes directly into the F/75 company fund. Let me know and I'll send a hat or a shirt.

Joe says that he will order more shirts, but he needs to order 12-15 to make it affordable. He can order some larger sizes (XXL) if you want to order a specific size.

The next Co. F/F/50th “off-year” reunion is scheduled for May 16-20, 2012 in Nashville, TN. The Co. F reunion will be held in conjunction with the ¾ Cav reunion at the Millennium Maxwell House Nashville. ¾ Cav has been urging the LRRPs and Rangers from our days in the 25th Division to join them for several years. I have mentioned that they want us to join them at one of their reunions before. Marshall has attended several ¾ Cav reunions and has said that they really would like us to be there with them. Please contact the hotel directly at: 615-259-4343 and tell them you're registering for the ¾ Cav reunion in May, 2012. They have made all the arrangements, so all we have to do is let them know we're coming and enjoy! They have a golf outing and have scheduled trips to the Grand Ole Opry, 101st AMBL Museum, Ft. Campbell and the Hermitage Mansion. They'll also have a hospitality room available.

And finally, I have been remiss in acknowledging the valuable assistance that I have been getting in preparing my articles for Patrolling and the Pointman newsletters. My wife, Theresa, has a very good eye for detail and has offered outstanding suggestions for this article and all of my other submittals. Many thanks, Theresa.

Until next time, live long and prosper.

Tim Walsh



## RETIRING THE LAST HUEY HELICOPTER



The following speech was given by CW4 Lawrence Castagneto, on 17 May 2011 at Ft Rucker when they retired the last Huey. My response to CW4 Castagneto follows.



## “THANK YOU SIR”

“As a Vietnam Veteran Army Aviator, I would like to thank everyone for coming to this special occasion, on this to be honest...very sad day, the end of an era. An era that has spanned over 50 years. The retirement of this grand old lady “OUR MOTHER” ... the Huey. I would like to thank, MG Crutchfield for allowing me to speak at this event and try to convey in my own inadequate, meager way what this aircraft means to me and so many other Vietnam veterans. First a few facts:

It was 48 yrs ago this month that the first Huey arrived in Vietnam with units that were to become part of the 145th and the 13th Combat

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

Aviation Battalions; both units assigned here at Ft Rucker today. While in Vietnam, the Huey flew approximately 7,457,000 combat assault sorties; 3,952,000 attack or gunship sorties and 3,548,000 cargo supply sorties. That comes to over 15 million sorties flown over the paddies and jungles of Nam, not to include the millions of sorties flown all over the world and other combat zones since then ....what a amazing journey.... I am honored and humbled to have been a small part of that journey.

**Steve Crabtree**

To those in the crowd that have had the honor to fly, crew, or ride this magnificent machine in combat, we are the chosen few, the lucky ones. They understand what this aircraft means, and how hard it is for me to describe my feelings about her as a Vietnam combat pilot.... for she is alive... has a life of her own, and has been a life long friend. How do I break down in a few minutes a 42 year love affair, she is as much a part of me, and to so many others,,,as the blood that flows through our veins. Try to imagine all those touched over the years ...by the shadow of her blades. Other aircraft can fly overhead and some will look up and some may not; or even recognize what they see but, when a Huey flies over everyone looks up and everyone knows who she is... young or old all over the world she connects with all. To those that rode her into combat... the sound of those blades causes our heart beat to rise... and breaths to quicken... in anticipation of seeing that beautiful machine fly overhead and the feeling of comfort she brings. No other aircraft in the history of aviation evokes the emotional response the Huey does... combat veterans or not... she is recognized all around the world by young and old, she is the ICON of the Vietnam war, U.S. Army Aviation, and the U.S. Army. Over 5 decades of service she carried Army Aviation on her back, from bird dogs and piston powered helicopters with a secondary support mission, to the force multiplier combat arm that Army Aviation is today. Even the young aviators of today, that are mainly Apache pilot's, Blackhawk pilot's, etc., that have had a chance to fly her will tell you there is no greater feeling, honor, or thrill then to be blessed with the opportunity to ride her thru the sky... they may love there Apaches and Blackhawks, but they will say there is no aircraft like flying the Huey " it is special". There are two kinds of helicopter pilots: those that have flown the Huey and those that wish they could have. The intense feelings generated for this aircraft are not just from the flight crews but, also from those who rode in back ...into and out of the "devils caldron". As paraphrased here from "Gods own lunatics", Joe Galloway's tribute to the Huey and her flight crews and other Infantry veterans comments: Is there anyone here today who does not thrill to the sound of those Huey blades?? That familiar whop-whop-whop is the soundtrack of our war...the lullaby of our younger days it is

burned in to our brains and our hearts. To those who spent their time in Nam as a grunt, know that noise was always a great comfort... Even today when I hear it, I stop...catch my breath...and search the sky for a glimpse of the mighty eagle. To the pilots and crews of that wonderful machine ...we loved you, we loved that machine.

No matter how bad things were...if we called ... you came... down through the hail of green tracers and other visible signs of a real bad day off to a bad start. I can still hear the sound of those blades churning the fiery sky ....To us you seemed beyond brave and fearless... Down you would come to us in the middle of battle in those flimsy thin skin -chariots ...into the storm of fire and hell...we feared for you , we were awed by you. We thought of you and that beautiful bird as "God's own lunatics"... and wondered ...who are theses men and this machine and where do they come from ..... Have to be "Gods Angels". So with that I say to her, that beautiful lady sitting out there, from me and all my lucky brothers, that were given the honor to serve their country, and the privilege of flying this great lady in skies of Vietnam - Thank you for the memories...Thank you for always being there...Thank you for always bringing us home regardless of how beat up and shot up you were..., Thank You!!!!. You will never be forgotten, we loved you then..... we love you now... and will love you till our last breath ... And as the sun sets today, if you listen quietly and closely you will hear that faint wop wop wop of our mother speaking to all her children past and present who rode her into history in a blaze of glory ...she will be saying to them: I am here... I will always be here with you. I am at peace and so should you be ... and so should you be."

**MY RESPONSE**

In 1982 or '83 I was working at Teldyne Ryan in San Diego on a new helicopter program, the AH-64 Apache. We took a set of fairings to Hughes Helicopter Company in Mesa, Arizona. I think you know the place. We arrived a full day before the fairings did so we were given free access to the plant. Howard Hughes had an area where he stored some of his experimental aircraft. We entered it in awe as some of the "projects" were really out of this world. Over in a corner there was a Huey Medivac Helicopter that some how had made it back from Vietnam. It was painted white with the red crosses still intact and covered with dust from sitting idle for months and months. It was to become the chase plane for the new Apaches. I walked over to it, sat down on the cargo deck and reminisced about what that vehicle had done for me and my buddies a decade before. One of the other engineers made the comment, "What are you doing sitting on that old piece of junk?" I answered back, "If you ever call this beautiful lady a piece of junk again, you and I will have more than words between us. This beauty saved our butts many many times in Vietnam." He turned around and walked away. I don't think he understood what I had just said or my love affair with the Huey.



**G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP (Continued)****PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

By: Steve "Tower" Johnson

Another fantastic reunion this year at Myrtle Beach and the Association would like to give special thanks to Tom and Sharon Robison for their hospitality toward our members and guests. The Friday evening social hosted by Tom and Sharon was a hoot!

Saturday at our banquet, we had two special guests with the mayor of Myrtle Beach presenting the Association a plaque of appreciation and a VA representative that shared insight into the VA for services and provided a question and answer session that was very informative.

This next year in the month of June, we will be having our reunion in Branson, Missouri hosted by Richard and Jo Jo Corkan.

Michael Chu is welcomed aboard as our new editor for "Sua Sponte". You can read the inset to the left to find out who the officers and board members of the Association are. One important note about address changes: Sharon Robison is now in charge of our data base and should you have any address, phone, or email changes, please contact her with the address to the left in the inset. News article submissions need to be sent to Michael Chu; again that information is in the inset.

The Association would like to thank Stephen Crabtree for raising funds allowing some very special guests. George Olson's sister and newpew, Diane and Mike Pierce, stayed with us as guests at the reunion. Thank you for those who contributed to this worthy cause. George was KIA in March of 1970 and it was nice to have former team members of George, John Haines and Dan Linehan, share some quality time with them including the rest of us who knew George.



The Association is presenting \$1,000 each to the children's Christmas party for the first and second Ranger Battalion and another \$500 towards the Ranger Memorial. We have cut back \$4,000 this year towards the 75th Ranger Regiment to assure a surplus budget for operating expenses for our members.

Pam and I were delighted seeing everyone in attendance at this year's reunion. A lot of us enjoyed cooling off by wading in the ocean right out our beach front rooms.

Dave Moncada, Tim Garver, Bobby Guynn, Pam, and myself played a round of golf together Sunday. It was so hot and humid on the course that we quit drinking beer and consumed lots of water. There was a lot to do in Myrtle City Beach and every year that I can, I enjoy our reunion. This year we had four new first-time attendees and that is part of the reason we shift the location of our yearly gathering to different parts of the country to allow those of you who have not attended a chance to do so.

A special thanks to Danny Jacks who stepped down as chairman of the board; Tom Nash now holds that position.

If any of you who attended Myrtle Beach and have photos of the reunion that you would like to have in "Sua Sponte", please send jpeg photos to Michael Chu's email.

"Tower"

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

Unit Director - William T. Anton

**Ranger Class # 1-1961**

Sit back and relax. This is going to be a LONG Tale! While assigned at the 101st Airborne Division, in a Weapons Platoon, there was a great "surge" for the Non-commissioned Officers (NCOs) to attend the newly established and the "First" Recondo" School, Fortress Campbell. Many NCOs from my Company attended, graduated, and proudly wore the "Recondo" brand on their left pocket! It caught on in the Division and we began to compete for a "slot" at the school. Maybe, if I get my "Brand" I'll get some slack on the duty roster! Well, my time comes. I check in and do all that you are supposed to do as a young Infantry Soldier. First week is not easy. Lots of harassment, cajoling. What else is new for me? We're down at the "Quarry" and now is "Confidence Course" time for us. We all get through the "Slide for life," and move

to the Helicopter Rappel from a "hulk" hanging sixty feet over the quarry. Wow! Rappelling exercises continue and we are really "pumped!"

At the end of the day, they never told us what was next on the training schedule; we are marched back to the quarry. Now, we must negotiate, climb up a pole, walk across a timber, and crawl out onto and hang from a rope, above the water. Did a good job on most of the parts. While I'm hanging by two hands, I need to "Salute" with my right hand and ask for permission to "DROP!" The guy on the platform below takes his time before he gives me the command. My left arm is completely numb. As I hit the water I can only struggle to reach the bank, with one good arm. A Medic grabs me, asks stupid questions, pulls me out of the water, and proceeds to "relocate"

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

my left shoulder where it should be. End of Recondo School for me. Dislocated shoulder and would "feel" that for the rest of my life! Several of my buddies, that I came into the Army with, and indeed the 101st and 1st Cav, are RECONDO Graduates!

The end of my Time in Service is near. I haunt the Operations/Training NCO. I want to go to Ranger School. OK, but you'll have to re-enlist to make the "time in service" requirement. Sign me up! Here's the "catch." In order to get a slot for attendance at the Ranger School at Fortress Benning, you must first pass a physical exam and then a "competitive" PT Test at the Airborne School!!! Seems as if there are lots of young fellows, such as me, who want to be "Airborne Rangers!" Time marches on and I'm told that I can "compete! What in the world have I done???!!!"

I find that there are four other Troopers from the 1/501st Battle Group, my outfit, who will test along with me. I don't know any of these guys. A couple are Buck Sergeants like me, and a couple of Speedy Fours. My Platoon Sergeant arranges to drive me to the Airborne School the morning of the TEST! I show up in my uniform: White "T" shirt w/ Name stenciled on the chest, Fatigue trousers, belt w/ shined buckle, and "Spit Shined" Jump Boots! My "Plat Daddy" tells me to "Do good Regans!" Yes Sergeant! Off I go and then on to one of the most grueling, rigorous, intense, PT Tests that I had ever had to encounter. All the exercises; push ups, pull ups, sit ups, squat jumps. Then, the "Five Mile Run," at a little quicker pace than we were all used to! The fellows in the "Black Hats," Cadre from the Airborne School, cut no slack. Folks were dropping out like flies!

At the end of the day, selections were complete, and I made the "Cut" along with my fellows from the 501st! All five of us. We became a strong, determined group of soldiers, and made a "Pact." We will not fail, and if we do, we will go AWOL and never come back to the 101st!!! I "paired up" with a fellow. Spec 4 Rose. He and I will be "Ranger Buddies," Throughout the course. He's bigger and stronger than me. I think that if I get in trouble, Ralph will be there. Found out later, he felt the same way about me! Now, it's off to Fortress Benning and what they will do to make us "Airborne Rangers!"

Here we are at Fortress Benning, summer of '61. The gnats, flies, and sand fleas are in power. The "Drill" begins when we are assembled as a Ranger Company. The TAC Officer, in charge of us as we go through the course, is Captain Reid. Will not forget him! We are separated into three Platoons of about forty guys



each. The First two platoons are "Officer" Platoons, and they have several different kinds of Officers with them. Three Marines, a guy from Pakistan, one from India, and an observer from New Zealand. Our Platoon is all Enlisted Personnel. Mostly from the; 101st Airborne Division, 82nd Airborne Division, 1st Infantry Division, Special Forces, and yes, from the "Old Guard!"

The training begins and guess what? First thing out of the bag is a "PT" Test. I thought that the Black Hats were tough, no way! Whole new set of standards here! This is not going to be any fun! We manage to survive, mostly because we all had prepared for months before coming here. On to the other training; Land Navigation, Hand to Hand Combat, Confidence Course (Oh, Oh, here

comes that "ROPE DROP, and other stuff again!!!" I'm able to make it through, lessons learned at Recondo School, and am still on track! In the Hand to Hand Combat Training, an Instructor gets his leg broke on the final "Bear Pit" exercise. We all thought we were in trouble. (I'd see and work w/ this guy about ten years later.)

During the "Benning" phase, the TAC, Cpt. Reid, gathered the Enlisted Platoon together one night. Oh, Oh, we're in deep stuff now! No he says, seems as if there are some Officers from the other Platoon who want to transfer to the "Enlisted" Platoon! Imagine that! There were three officers from what, they used to call, "Force Recon." MARINES!!! They wanted to join our Platoon for the rest of the course. No Ranger students wore rank insignia. We were all Ranger "STUDS," (Students!) OK, says we, but they aint officers over here!! Agreed. What a great move that was for them and us! Nary a bad word said amongst us! Now Cpt. Reid had another trick up his sleeve. Most evenings, he'd come out to the formation with two sets of boxing gloves. The deal was... three minutes, in a circle with the rest of the company watching, with your "RANGER BUDDY!" Sometimes it got ugly and we could tell that some of the "Ranger Buddies" were not really "Tight!" Some Rangers "washed out" and did not travel to the mountains of Dahlenega, Georgia with us. Sometimes we stood formations and low and behold, ol' what's his name was gone! Now on to the Mountain phase of Ranger School. (I'd see lots more of this place in later years!!!)

Here we are in the Mountains of North Georgia, along the Appalachian Trail. The Mountains, in themselves, were a challenge. Navigating, trying to navigate through the dense forests and avoid trails. The Mountaineering training was

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

intense. My Ranger buddy was bigger than me and able to “assist” me when I had to rappel from the 60’ ramp, with him strapped to my back. We “walked” those hills and did what we needed to do. Move, locate the enemy, strike, and get out! It seemed as if there was some kind of conspiracy against me and Ralph. Each and every patrol that we went on, he or I always; got to carry the ol’, heavy; AN/PRC-10 radios, A-6 Machine guns, or BAR rifles. We never got to lug, just our M-1s! The critiques from the instructors, “Ranger Instructors (RIs)” was always punishing. No slack!

On one particular patrol, Ralph and I were “covering” a well traveled road. Along with the rest of the squad, we were trying to determine the density and type of enemy traffic. We were “laid up” on a hillside, A-6 machine gun trained on the road. The weather deteriorated! All of a sudden, here comes this thunder storm. We honckered down and about that time, a bolt of lightning strikes the big ol’ dead log that I had the Machine gun laid on. Me, Ralph, and all the gear are tossed into the air. WHOA! We hit the ground and the first thing we do is look for our gear. Don’t loose stuff in Ranger School. Our fingers and toes are tingling; we start giggling, and soon are really happy to be alive!!! The RI did not know about the “Strike!” We kept that to ourselves. At base camp there was even less slack. In our twelve man tent, no time for woof goofing, or lolly gagging! Mountaineering training was tough, and the trip to Yona Mountain tested us all. If you screwed up, you got hurt, your buddy got hurt, or you did not accomplish your mission. This is short but by no means sweet. The mountains were tough and we lost some more Rangers from our ranks. Now on to the Florida phase. Reckon they saved the worst for last!!! Looking forward to another several hundred miles in the back of a 2 ½ ton cargo truck. That’s how me made our way from Benning to Dahlenega, back and then to Eglin Air Force base, Florida. Logged lots of “Bone Butt” time in those “deuce in a half’s!”

Had a day of “slack time” at Fort Benning, getting ready for our trip to the swamps of Florida. UGH! Most of our “wounds” from the mountains are healed. We’re getting the gear in shape and looking around to see “who’s left!” Some of the fellows have been talking about “Was the mountains the worst part?” We all looked at each other and thought, the worst is yet to come for sure. Eglin Air Force Base Auxiliary Field # 7 - Home sweet home! We settle in, get some survival training and eat snakes and possum. YUM! I still love those “C” Rations. I have been able to trade lots of “C” Rations for good stuff. I’d trade for tuna and noodles, spaghetti & meat balls etc. I’d trade off my; Pecan Nut rolls, peaches, pound cakes and stuff. I may be one of the few guys that “gained” ten pounds while going through the Ranger Course!!!

Now we get into our patrol operations. Through the swamps. Oh my! I’ll never forget about those cypress knobs that grow about crotch high and wake you up while you’re struggling through the water. The only happy thought I ever had while in the swamps of Florida, “That Instructor is right here with us, YES!!!” One particular patrol, an amphibious attack on a Fort at Santa Rosa Island. We were loaded up on Navy LCMs, (Landing Craft Maintenance) with our rubber assault boats. We finally got off the LCMs without killing ourselves in the high seas/waves. As we attacked the Fort, we discovered, no one ever gave us info, that the wall of the Fort was “Concave!” The attack stalls!

We, our platoon, decided that the BAR men would not fire in support of the attack, and we’d use the bi-pods to latch onto the top of the wall and climb up. Worked well and we began our climb. Down the wall we hear these screams from the other platoon’s “BAR” folks. Seems as if they were climbing up with “hot” barrels. Attack is over and we are “trucked” back to Eglin. Seas were too rough to try a rendezvous. There were other great opportunities for us to “show” a little imagination. You gotta wait for the TALE about the helicopter extractions. On one other patrol, we had trudged and slugged through the swamps, hit the objective, and were ready to move back towards the Friendly lines. Our RI tells us that we will be doing something new and exciting. We’ll be picked up by helicopter, HH-33s, a newly acquired heavy lift helicopter from the Army. We get to the Pick up Zone (PZ), secure it and are ready for pickup.

Excitement is rampant. There is an Observer from the New Zealand Jungle Warfare Center, a Lieutenant Colonel, and he will travel with us. He has an 8mm, hand held, camera, and is “shooting” all kinds of happy snaps. The bird comes in, and we rush to board. The Crew Chief tells us to “strap in” and off we go in a flurry. A really powerful helicopter. About a hundred feet above the tree tops, the bird loses ALL power and begins to fall/crash. We hang on and the pilots are able to control our crash through the sixty foot slash pine trees that the rotor blades are chopping into cord wood. The LTC is filming away! We crash and the Crew Chief kicks the side door open! We exit as if we were “puff wheat “shot from guns. The rotor blades are still spinning and we are running as if the devil was chasing us. Safe distance away, the RI says, “We’ll go back to the PZ, there’s another bird inbound.” What????!!

Here we go, same drill. This time the LTC decides to stay on the ground. We load up and take off. Sure enough, about a hundred feet off the ground, this bird loses all power and the pilots try to control the crash. Now the trees are ripping the sides of the fuselage off and we can “see” the trees rushing by! We lean forward to keep fro being sucked out from the bird.

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CRASH!!!, Bounce a time or two. The side door is jammed and the Crew Chief runs forward and kicks the clamshell doors in the front. We are right behind him and the engines are screaming in protest to the trial. Safely away from the helicopter we all take count of; who's here, anybody hurt, got all your gear? The RI tells us that we will "walk" back to the Friendly Front lines, a kilometer or so. We all smile! Because of the helicopter crashes, and the extended march back, we would miss what we thought would be a "hot" meal, breakfast at the Air Force Mess hall. Wrong! The TAC Officer, CPT Reid tells us to "stow your gear, wash your face and hands, and meet me at the mess hall in five minutes!" Yes Sir!

We walk into the mess hall and the cooks start hollering at us, "Come on in, Steak and eggs for all, how many eggs you want???" We eat ourselves to death, and kept looking at each other as if we had died and went to heaven. We talked about the mission among ourselves. There was never any discussion, questions, or talk from the TAC or RIs, about the two helicopter crashes all the time we were there. It happened on Labor Day, 1961. I'll not forget it! By the by, I lost a couple of BAR magazines during the crashes. UGH! I'll catch the devil 'bout that! You'll never guess what kind of patrol we had the very next night! Wait and see.

The next patrol is an attack on an enemy airfield, at night. We will be moved by CH 34, Choctaws. Ol' Korean War vintage helicopters. Squad sized units will move via Choctaws to the airfield, assault, wipe out the enemy, and return to the helicopters, on the air strip for exfiltration and return to base. We load up, not without a lot of apprehension, (remembering our last flight in helicopters,) and take off after sunset. The birds fly out over the Gulf of Mexico and circle 'til the appropriate time for the assault. Lots of helicopter noise but not a "peep" from us. Strained looks on all our faces. We can't see anything except the Navigation lights on the other birds. The Crew Chief keeps smiling and I want to slap him.

Here we go, into the Landing Zone (LZ), out of the bird and charging onto the objective. Enemy fire begins and we lay down horrendous fire from our Company. I had already told my guys that I was "short" a couple of magazines and to "listen" for BARs from the bad guys. We find a position, overrun it and have the bad guys; face down on the ground while we search them (find some magazines!) "OK" shouts my buddy. Off we go and run down the runway and climb into the Choctaws as they taxi down the strip. Mission accomplished. last patrol at Florida. The next day is equipment "turn-in" day. I'm in line with all my buddies and some guy from the aggressor force is catching heat from the supply sergeant about missing magazines. The Sergeant tells the troop that he'll take care of it, and by the way "How'd you lose those magazines?"

"You don't even want to know," the troop replies. We all got a giggle over that.

On our last night at Eglin, the TAC, CPT Reid, has one last get-together that evening, and out came the boxing gloves. We thought that we had seen the last of them, no way. As we all gather 'round him in our usual circle, he looks at a note book and hollers "RANGERS REGAN AND ROSE!" Me and Ralph step up and "glove up," I tell him not to hold back and he says the same. The whistle sounds and we go "toe to toe, slugging our hearts out!" No slack, no backing of. He is bigger and stronger and I seem to get inside him a bit. We beat the daylights out of each other, and I can still hear the other Rangers hollering and cheering for BOTH of us. Finally the whistle sounds and Ralph and I fell into each others arms, just to keep from falling down. Wow, what a way to end the Florida phase! Next morning, load up on the deuce and half's and head back to Fortress Benning. Let's see who makes it and who doesn't. We are all pretty confident at this point!

This last part is about our graduation ceremony from the Ranger course. The Division Commander, ours, from the 101st Airborne Division would be participating in the ceremony. He would actually "pin" our Black and Gold Ranger tabs onto our short sleeved Khaki shirts. He began with pinning the Officers', and then came to our platoon. You could see him just "busting" with pride. There were five soldiers here from "his" division, who had earned the Ranger tab. As he pinned our tabs on, he managed to "prick" each of us, just a bit so that there was a drop of blood on our sleeve. He'd smile and look, and tell us how proud he was of his troops from the 501st, Geronimo's, who earned their tab. We all felt as if we were ten feet tall.

This fellow, the Commanding General from our Division, would later become recognized world wide, for many reasons, his name was; Major General Creighton, W. Abrams! Our three Marines stood in formation with us and the General did a "double take" when he saw their uniform and rank among the Enlisted Platoon! There were a couple of other "low keyed" Lieutenants who got their Ranger tab that day with us:

2LT, and later Lieutenant General John Abrams, USA, (Ret) Former TRADOC Commander.

2LT, Kris Kristofferson, Soldier, Song writer, Actor, Singer, Great American.

Can't remember their names, the Three Marines from our Platoon, a Captain (Patrick something) and two Lieutenants, from Force Recon. Solid RANGERS all! You see, you never really know who you are going to be around when you gather

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

with Airborne Rangers!!! PS: After my first tour of duty in the 'Nam with H Co, 75th Rangers, I was assigned to A Co, 75th Rangers at Fortress Benning. Upon reporting in to the unit, I found that it was really not a unit but an Admin type place. I checked into the Ranger Department and reported to the Sergeant major. He said how happy he was to see me and gave me a choice of assignments. Fort Benning phase, Dahlonga, or Florida phase.

I asked if I could think about it overnight. Next morning I checked back with him and told him my choice. You see, even nine years later I still remembered most of what I went through at the Ranger Course. I told him that I'd like to be assigned at the Mountain Ranger Camp. He came around the desk and

actually hugged me. Everybody wants to go to Florida, he says, thanks for selecting the Mountains!

From there it was back to the mountains of North Georgia. As soon as I checked in, I knew that I had made the proper choice. Met several compadres from my past assignments and many more new and super Ranger Instructors/Leaders. Had a wonderful tour and fifteen months later was on my way back to Vietnam and assigned as a Light/Heavy Weapons Advisor to a Vietnamese Ranger Battalion on the Cambodian Border. Another great outfit with no nonsense Rangers.

RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Jim Regan, SGM USA RET

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

Unit Director - Bob McGath



*No Submission*

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

Unit Director - Rodger T. Crunk

Greetings Brothers,

It's a month beyond our reunion in Columbus and it is time I get this together again before the editor is yelling at me. You would think by now this would be an easy chore but it doesn't seem to work that way for me. It was another great gathering in Georgia by all the comments I've heard. Hope all those in attendance enjoyed themselves as much as I did. Those in attendance were:

K-CO Reunion attendance list

Ray Allen  
Ken Nelson  
Tom Reed  
Worth Anderson  
Les Williams  
Jim Joyce  
Merle Freed  
Steve Lockard  
Roger Crunk  
Russ Temple  
Jim Burke  
Steve Lemire  
Herb Reichel

Tom Sove  
Jake Rakauskas  
Noble Taylor  
Kenn Poehlman  
Ron Coon  
Warren Russell  
Clayton Perkins  
Ed Mateer  
Harry Phair  
Larry Massoletti  
Duane Sells  
Drew Fatten  
Bob Thomas

Bill Bullen  
Robert Sans  
Mike Mooney  
Bob Fraser  
Michael Claymore  
Ron Neugard  
Billy Powers  
Wayne Mitsch  
Rick Noble  
Brian Radcliffe  
Gary McClure



Also in attendance was Susan Mclean, a Donut Dollie in An Khe, 1970-1971.

I was again elected as your unit director and appreciate your confidence in me. The other item of note at our business was a vote to buy bricks at the Ranger Memorial for those of our KIAs that somehow got missed when the Memorial was built. We have a total of 13 who we need to purchase a brick for at \$280.00 per brick. Our intent is to purchase bricks for at least half of the list this year and the rest in the future as we receive the funds to do so. We received a total of \$880.00 in donations to this cause at the business

meeting. Also those who attended the reunion in Dearborn, MI will be donating to this effort also so as soon as we receive those funds Wayne and I will get to work on it. Thanks to all who gave to this worthy cause. Below is the list of KIAs that we will be buying bricks for:

Johnson, Robert Lee/LRRP	KIA- 08/01/1967
Smith, Richard Edward/1st Bde LRRP	KIA- 11/02/1967
Ramos, Jose/1st Bde LRR	KIA- 11/27/1967
Mitchell, Peter/1st Bde LRRP	KIA- 03/03/1968
Steimbach, Joseph John/2nd Bde LRRP	KIA- 04/12/1968

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

Albrecht, Adolph William/1st Bde LRRP KIA- 7/11/1968  
 Ahrendsen, Dennis Lynn/2Bde LRRP KIA- 9/16/1968

1st BDE/K 75 REUNION  
 Dearborn, MI  
 9 August to 14 August 2011

Thanks to all who sent me photos. Here are a few.



The weather was perfect, the gathering was filled with friendship renewals and all had a great time. More than 23 LRRPs and family members attended the reunion along with close friends. A highlight of the festivities was the attendance of members from the 3rd BDE and the 119th Aviation Co. As normal we enjoyed the "War Stories," catching up on recent history and touring the Dearborn/Detroit area. A highlight of the reunion was a pig roast hosted by Roy and Kris Simpson, their family and friends in Charlotte, MI. Planning is underway for the 2013 reunion ... all are welcome!



Taken at the pig roast, not in order: Al Kidd, Armand Malinowski, Bill Filippini, Bob Kilpatrick, Calvin Gotts, Dan Busby, Denny Ferguson, Dick Vetter, Emmett Mulroney, Gary Shellenbarger, George Douglas, Geronimo Adame, Jake Spraggins, John Duffy, John Churchill, John Serrano, Matty Gentilella, Pete Julian, Robert McSweeney, Roy Simpson, Stan Craig, Stephen Bradshaw, Tom Trebby,



119th Aviation Crew  
 L-R John Churchill,  
 Tom Trebby,  
 Bob Kilpatrick,  
 Dick Vetter

Also a brief note from Bill Filipini about the 1st Bde/ K-Co gathering in Dearborn.



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

Unit Director - Jerry Gomes

*No Submission***M/75 - 71ST LRP - 199TH LRRP**

Unit Director - Don Tillisch

*No Submission***N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP**

Unit Director - Robert Henriksen

*No Submission***O/75 - 78TH LRP**

Unit Director - Michael Dolsen

*No Submission***P/75 - 79TH LRP**

Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick

*No Submission***D/151 LRP/RANGER**

Unit Director - Leon Moore

To the men of Co. D Rangers

This as been a great summer our head count has remained the same. We did have a change in our officers Doug Hagan has step down after many years as being our secretary and Tom Hughel has step in to fill the open slot.

In June Jim and Donna Owens came up to Doug Hagan's home and Doug open his home to the Co. D Rangers to welcome Jim and Donna. This was the first time many of the guys had seen Jim sense his heart attacks.

On September the 10th we were able to get a group together to go to the Healing Fields at Bear Creek Farms for the 9 11 victims and solders. We gathered at the Museum Of The Solders in Portland IN. and took a tour of the museum along with Max Anderson's wife Brenda and his daughter and grandson. The museum has a



special section dedicated to Co D 151 for this year. Then we to the Healing Fields there we saw 100's of flags in this huge field and pieces of debree from the Twin Towers. Several of us had bought flags in honor of a loved one who serviced in the wars.

Those in attendance were: Allen and Cindy Brown, Pamela Porter, Greg Brown, Chuck and Sandy Wallace, Chuck and Linda Eads, H C and Sherry Cross along with their son, Steve Justus, Terry Lunsford, Wes and Terry Kleiber, Brenda and her daughter Miah and grandson, and myself along with my wife Laura.

On September 11th Co. D was the Grand Marshall of the parade at Ft.Branch IN. Larry Rhodes supplied a 1968 Duce ½ for the guys to ride in. They were able to get 12 Brothers to be in the parade. We also had Lt. George Kleiber's memorial on the same day in Indy so we had to split

**D/151 LRP/RANGER (Continued)**

up so Co. D could present both events.

The follow is an article written by Tom Blanford who attended the Ranger reunion in Ga. this Aug.

Hello fellow Rangers,

From your old Ranger buddy, Tom Blandford.

Yes, I'm glad to say that I'm still around. My leukemia is still in remission, 5 years. Thanks for all your prayers and good wishes. Our Ranger buddy Daryl Dassel's wife Susan now has the same type of Leukemia as I, so please pray for her too.

I asked Leon permission to write this issue's portion of the article since he could not make it to the latest reunion.

I attended the summer reunion for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association in Columbus Ga. My traveling companions were Mike Slabaugh of D 151 and John Collins, a LRRP from the 25th Infantry Division. Traveling with them is always filled with laughs. Also, in attendance was Jim and Donna Owen, Mike & Vicki Jaussaud, She has posted many pictures of the Reunion on the D Co. website. Also there was Jim Bohanon, Billy Faulk, Carl Norris one of our chopper pilots, and his wife Rosy were there too. Steve Meade, Marc (Mo) Lamphere and Tom Delaney three of our "replacements" were there too. Steve looked great and said he is taking care of himself now.

Long story here but I have to relate some of what went into the barbeque by Billy Faulks. Billy and his brothers made plans for a barbeque for D 151 and D 75 (commonly referred to as our "replacements"). D 75 took over for us when we departed Nam, and they made us proud with their great successes. So Billy, his brothers, Jim Bohanon and Jim Owen went to the pig farm to kill some pigs for the grill. Fresh pigs to eat! Someone had left the gate open and the pigs were on the run. No problem for Bohanon, he just ran them down, receiving bloody scratches but catching a 50 lb pig. Someone forgot to bring a gun but they found an old 22 under the truck seat. Bo shot the enemy, I mean pig, but it took several shots. He says the gun kept jamming, but we all know how he has excuses for everything. Anyway, they cleaned the pig, chopped it up and brought it to the Holiday Inn, and popped on to the huge grill. It couldn't have ever smelled better at the Holiday Inn. We had a great meal provided by Billy and his brothers and Bohanon, many thanks to them all.

The banquet had the best food I've ever had at such an event. Columbus GA has a Convention Center that really does things right. There was a video to be played but the technical problems prevented that. Our Association President, John Chester moved the program along nicely though.

Our trip included a visit to the Fort Benning Infantry Museum, a multi-million dollar monument to the accomplishments of

our great nation's "on the ground" fighting forces. The building is so impressive and beautifully done. It is really an out-fing-standing monument. We took one of the tours with a guide who was very informative. This tour is called "the last 100 yards" meaning the ground that the infantry must take to destroy the emplaced enemy. It was a series of scenes from several wars beginning with the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, WWI, WWII, Korea and Viet Nam. All the scenes were very realistic with visual and sound effects. I began to be affected with the overhead scene with the Paratroopers jumping into enemy territory in France on D Day in WWII. Then when we got to the Viet Nam scene, so realistic, with the sounds of choppers and gunfire I became so emotionally overwhelmed that I had to immediately leave the building. It took a couple hours to regain my composure. If you have any feelings of connection to past Infantrymen and Paratroopers of previous wars you really need to visit the Infantry Monument! It is worthwhile.

We missed Larry Rhodes and Billy Waters who took off on a bike road trip before we arrived.

Sad news arrived recently, our Ranger buddy from California, Ranger Dave Capik died. Several years ago, when I was Unit Director for D 151, Dave called me, although our only connection was our time in D 151. He wanted me to put together a framed collection of his medals from Viet Nam. He sounded so wanting of this that I said I would, although at the time I had no idea how to do it. Gary Porter of D 151 suggested that I contact the Army Archives department to obtain a new and complete set of Dave's medals. I did that and was so impressed with his accomplishments that I thought I should have the framed box with medals presented to him by an appropriate California representative. It was arranged by the Congressional House of Representative to have Governor Gray Davis personally make the presentation. Well, Dave didn't like the Governor so he declined the offer. But, I had the good fortune to meet Dave at the 75th Reunion in Seattle Wash. and I got to thank him for the opportunity to honor him.

Latest plan for the D 151 reunion next year will be in August 2012. Instead of the usual banquet, speakers and side trips, the committee has chosen a more simplified yet dignified get together. More time to visit with each other and reminisce. Look for probably only 1 newsletter to come out shortly beforehand.

When you begin to notice that you are not a normal thinking person, because of your PTSD symptoms, I hope you call your local VA Vet Center. The good people there can help you. I have used their consoling services for many years and I recommend them to you. The Indy office is at 317-988-1600. Call your VA Office for the number.

**D/151 LRP/RANGER (Continued)**

If you need legal advice the website is [statesidelegal.org](http://statesidelegal.org). They can put you in touch with someone who can help. Or check with your local Veterans Association for your local help.

Speaking of Veterans Associations, I wholeheartedly recommend that you join a VFW, American Legion or other association. If you are like me, and Ranger Mike Slabaugh, we are members of the VFW in Carmel IN, it is so rewarding to be in a group of Veterans that help other Veterans.

Thanks for your time. Rangers Lead the Way! Tom Blandford

Keep your power dry and your eyes and ears alert. And with the help of God may we gather again. - Sgt. Leon Moore

**F/51 LRP**

Unit Director - Russell Dillon

*No Submission*

**LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID**

Unit Director - Michael McClintock

*No Submission*

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)**

Unit Director - Bill Miller



**Bill Miller**

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

**SIT REP:**

BDQ Reunion 2012: I have not finalized a date for the 2012 reunion; however I am trying for April/

May in Columbus, Ga. We have a number of BDQ who live in the area and I believe everyone would like to see the new Infantry Museum.



were members of small teams or groups usually confronting the enemy with deep penetrations into their fortified positions; missions behind enemy lines and covert type operations. Many fought to the last survivor or disappeared entirely, both as individuals and as units....Legends and myths would emerge over the years of their proudness and devotion to duty against overwhelming odds—such was the destiny of the 81st Airborne Rangers!

From the efforts of Ranger Nguyen Quoc Khue, to document the history of the 3rd Vietnamese Ranger Group and their participation during the battle of An

Loc/Binh Long in 1972, I have prefaced this article with his observations of the 81st ABN Rangers from an excerpt of his recorded recollections. Nguyen Q. Khue was the Assistant S-3 and concurrently the Air Support Officer for the 3rd Ranger Group (comprised of the 31st, 36th, and 52nd BDQ battalions) at the battle of An Loc, from 7 April 1972 to 7 July 1972.

## Feature: Vietnam's 81st Airborne Ranger Battalion

By Mike Martin

The battles that took place in the Indochina wars' were some of the bloodiest in modern warfare. Many of the soldiers who fought there were some of the most unorthodox and hardened warriors that history has witnessed, belonging to units that went beyond the norm: characteristically, they

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)**

"In mid-May 1972, airborne forces were sent in to reinforce the Rangers' defense of An Loc and cover their rear. Another battalion (Airborne) set up positions on the high ground in the area of the Xa Cam Rubber Plantation and the southwestern perimeter of An Loc.

Because of anticipated enemy attacks, III Corps reinforced An Loc's defenses with more elite units from the Joint General Staff's (JGS) general reserve force. For that reason, the JGS also sent the 81st Airborne Ranger Group into An Loc and placed it under the overall command of the commander of the ARVN 5th Infantry Division. The 81st Airborne Ranger Group was commanded by LTC Pham Van Huan; after he led the clearing of the entire northeastern portion of the city, the III Corps Commander, General Minh, flew in and on behalf to the President promoted him to "Colonel" in a ceremony at the 5th Division Headquarters.

The Airborne Rangers had their own special methods of operations and tactics, and they were especially skilled at night fighting. We knew of this talent of theirs' already, and the more we saw them in action, the more respect we gained for them. When the 81st Airborne Ranger Group arrived in An Loc, it was immediately deployed to positions inside the city. At the same time the Group was ordered to immediately clear the northeastern portion of the city and to recapture the city's airfield, which was then under the control of enemy forces. That night, I heard a request over the 81st Airborne Ranger Group's coordination frequency to speak with our Ranger Group's S-3 officer; I sat down next to the radio to respond. The Group's S-3 asked me to ensure that our Rangers not use any flares, not even small hand-flares that night so that the Airborne Rangers could begin their attack. I accepted the request and reported it to Major Tran and LTC Biet. Colonel Biet ordered Major Tran to tell all our Ranger battalions' that they must obey and absolutely follow this request to not use any illumination flares. Major Tran then switched to the 81st Airborne Ranger Group's internal radio frequency to monitor the progress of this elite unit. Using their quick, sure advance tactics, in the dark of night with stealth step by step aggressiveness they cleared the area, one house after another." This was a classic example of night fighting within an urban area.... This was the professional forte` of the 81st AIRBORNE RANGER BATTALION: the only Airborne Ranger Battalion to fight in Vietnam!

Throughout 1974 and up until 30 April 1975, the 81st Airborne Ranger Group was assigned to III Corps to operate in the Duong Minh Chau War Zone, War Zone D, and the mountain jungles of Tay Ninh, Binh Duong, Binh Long, Phuoc Long, Binh Tuy, Phuoc Tuy, Long Khanh, and Bien Hoa provinces. The 81st Airborne Ranger Group's mission was to

drop reconnaissance teams to operate in areas where other units seldom operated because enemy forces there were too strong or the terrain was too rugged, they would be outside the range of friendly artillery support, also because they were far from the operational areas of friendly units, etc. The reconnaissance teams had the advantage of being small (each team consisted of only six men) so they could easily avoid enemy contact and easily escape enemy pursuit, using their meticulous training in escape and survival techniques. The mission of the teams was to collect information on enemy operations to report to higher levels. Depending on the target, the teams could conduct raids or ambushes to capture prisoners for intelligence exploitation. When a target was beyond the capabilities of a team, and upon the request from Corps Headquarters, the 81st Airborne Ranger Group occasionally launched raids into enemy rear areas, such as the ambushes that destroyed convoys of enemy supply vehicles in the Ashau Valley in Thua Thien province in 1968 and in the tri-border area (the Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Lao border area) in Kontum province in 1972. In addition to the above-mentioned ambush and raid missions, depending upon the situation, the 81st Airborne Ranger Group could mass its forces to conduct coordinated operations with other units, such as was done in the city of An Loc in 1972, in Quang Tri in 1973, and in Phuoc Long in 1975.

## **The Final Days of The Vietnamese 81st Airborne Rangers**

In the Co Mi Jungle, Col HUAN assembled his troops for the last time. Two thousand Airborne Rangers stood silently before him. He faced a very difficult decision: either lead his troops in a long resistance from jungle hideouts as the 81st had planned or obey the orders of President MINH to lay down their arms.

After a meeting with his staff, Col HUAN addressed the troops, "We are living in the South, fighting for Freedom of the South, but the situation does not allow us to continue fighting. We have to obey the orders of our President. Do not be afraid. You have no guilt in this course of action; you are only following my orders. If the enemy wants to shoot someone, they will look at me first. Since we are a highly disciplined unit, we will organize ourselves in a four-line formation. I will lead you to meet the new authorities to turn in our arms; we cannot let the enemy look down on us."

Out of the Co Mi Jungle, four lines of soldiers of the 81st Airborne Ranger Group, in full combat gear with their unloaded guns pointed down, silently marched for the last time towards their capital city of Saigon on the Korea Highway, disregarding all of the commotion around them. The abandoned troops of the South as well as the North

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)**

Vietnamese soldiers dotting the highway looked at them in wonder. A few enemy television crews filmed the marching lines. Finally, the troops were intercepted by a delegation of North Vietnamese officers. All of the Airborne Rangers were sent home in their uniforms.

Six reconnaissance teams remained deep in the Duong Minh Chau Zone. They lost radio contact with the 81st Operational HQ on April 29, 1975 because all communication relay stations were shut down. These teams did not even know that South Vietnam had collapsed. Three of the teams contacted each other by radios and used map and compass to walk back to Tan-Uyen. Their 5-day food supply was consumed and they were all hungry on their march. On May 5, 1975 when these 18 team members approached Dai-An village, they asked for food from the local civilians. But the Viet Cong surrounded the hungry rangers, disarmed them and put them in a makeshift jail without giving them food or water.

The VC then shot these 18 recon rangers and disposed of their bodies in the Dong Nai River. A few days later, local civilians buried their decomposed bodies. Eight of the bodies were buried in an empty well; the other bodies were buried along the riverbank. But there was one seriously wounded Airborne Ranger, named DUC. An elderly couple, which hid and fed him, saved his life. Every year he returned to visit the old couple until 1995 when they passed away.

The other three teams were also captured during May 7 to 15, 1975, but were spared death. They were all sent to prison for several years. Team sergeant VO VAN HIEP and team member NGUYEN VAN SON were tortured to death while in captivity. Col HUAN and his entire staff were released briefly. Then they were rearrested and sent to prison in North Vietnam for years—many of them died in prison. Col HUAN was released after thirteen years in a Communist “Re-education” Camp. He and some other officers from the 81st ABN Rangers resettled in the United States. They formed The Family of the 81st Airborne Rangers’ Association as a network of support for each other and those members still living in Vietnam....

An Overview—81st Airborne Rangers (Tieu Dong Biet Cach)  
The Vietnamese 81st Airborne Rangers started out as an elite battalion-size reconnaissance and combat unit of Project Delta. They were organized and advised by the 5th Special Forces Group and made many contributions to the Vietnam War; patrolling along the western borders of South Vietnam and engaging in many fierce battles in the Ashau Valley, Saigon, Hue, An Loc, Nha Trang and many other locations. When the 5th SF was withdrawn from Vietnam, the SF Advisors were replaced with US Advisors from the Vietnam Airborne Division, “Red Hats”. All of the 81st troops were airborne

qualified and required to make frequent jumps. Most of the members were trained at the Vietnamese Ranger Training Center at Duc My prior to joining the unit.

At the end of 1964, the Delta Training Center (Project Delta) was formed and in November 1965, the 91st Airborne Ranger Battalion. Because 9 plus 1 equals 10 and 10 is bad luck to a Vietnamese, the 91st was redesignated the 81st.... Besides a HHC the 81st had six recon companies; companies 5 and 6 became the 2nd and 3rd Recon Companies, respectively, of the Airborne Division.

In 1971, the Vietnamese Special Forces were reorganized and served directly under the Joint General Staff through the 3rd and 7th Offices. The 81st Inter-group Airborne Recon Battalion was under the 3rd Office and contained three Airborne Ranger Task Groups. Each group contained four special companies consisting of 189 officers and men. The 81st, called the FALCONS, was based at Suoi Mau (Bloody Stream), Bien Hoa Province. In conclusion, the 81st had responsibility for special operations in Vietnam, conducting recon and exploitation missions against the VC and the NVA.

\*\*\*The information in this article has been summarized from the reminiscences of soldiers of the 81st Airborne Ranger Group; Red Hat historian John Martin; Cecil B. Smyth Jr., author of “INSIGNIA OF SPECIAL FORCES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA”.



**81st Airborne Ranger  
Shoulder Patch (SSI)**



**91st Airborne Ranger  
Battalion (SSI)**



**Detachment B-53, Special  
Mission Advisory Group, 5th  
Special Forces Group pocket  
patch. The missions were  
highly classified; cross border  
operations in Laos, Cambodia  
and North Vietnam**

**ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ) (Continued)**

**Sad News:**

Command Sergeant Major Henry C. McNeal passed away Saturday August 13, 2011 in Killeen, Texas. Henry was an advisor with the 37th VN Ranger Battalion 1965-67. He was personally awarded a Presidential Unit Citation by General William Westmoreland and also the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Gold Star for his actions at Thach Tru. God Speed Henry.

**Quote:**

"In war there is no second prize for runnerup."  
General Omar N. Bradley

Mu Nau  
Bill Miller  
Unit Director



Lt. David Grange with the Vietnamese Airborne Division 1972. He also served as an advisor with the 81st Airborne Ranger Battalion. He is a retired General and a leader in the Ranger community.



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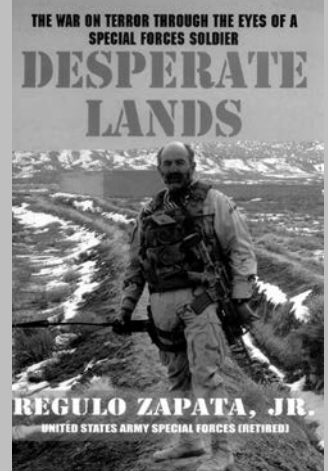
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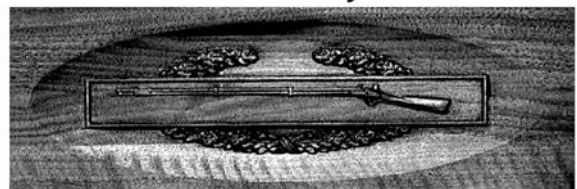
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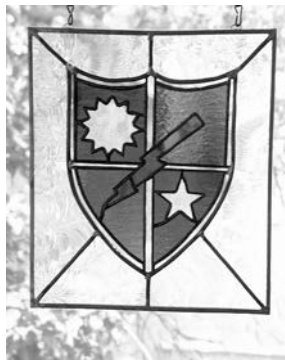
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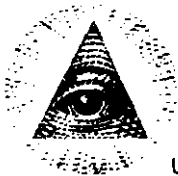
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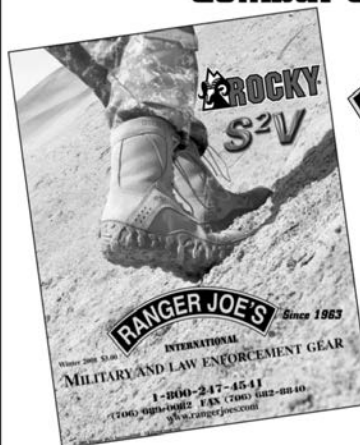
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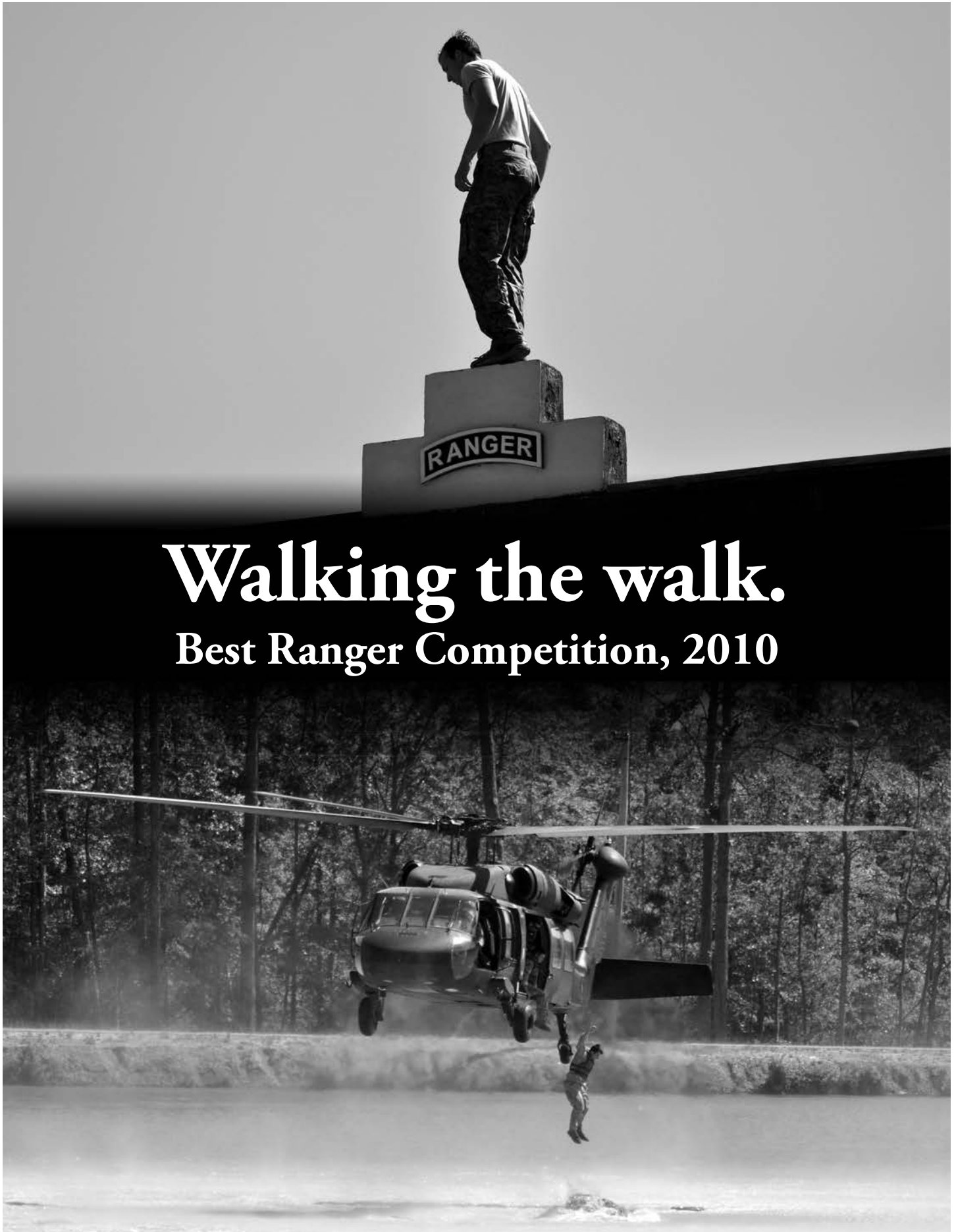
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MEMBERSHIP CONTINGENT UPON PROOF OF SERVICE: ORDERS OR NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS YOU SERVED WITH IN THE UNITS LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. UNITS MUST CARRY THE LINEAGE OR BE IN THE HISTORY. WE ARE NOT JUST A VIETNAM ERA ASSOCIATION. ALL UNITS OF THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP



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*The top of the gene pool. The 2011 Reunion Banquet Color Guard and escorts at the reunion banquet and the Iron Works at the Convention Center in Columbus, GA.*