

# PATROLLING

SUMMER/FALL 2017

75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

VOLUME 29 ISSUE II



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





# Global War on Terrorism Memorial Dedication

By: John Chester

On October 16, 2017, I had the distinct honor of attending the dedication of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial. Since the attacks in America on September 11, 2001, some 7,000 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines have given their lives in this continuing conflict. In the 16 years of the GWOT, there have been only a few small memorials honoring the sacrifice and valor of the individual service members involved in the conflict. While only recently, Congress has authorized the placement of a GWOT memorial on the Mall in Washington, DC, it will be many years before that memorial is completed. Meanwhile the GWOT Memorial at the National Infantry Museum stands in appreciation of all who served, and memorializes those who've made the ultimate sacrifice.

The memorial includes elements that reference the attacks of September 11, 2001, which triggered the GWOT and the American response to them. At the front are two concrete pillars representing the Twin Towers, bridging them is a 13 foot steel beam that was taken from the wreckage of the North Tower. The beam is attached to the pillars at different heights, representing where each tower was struck by the terrorist operated aircraft. In the center of the Memorial is a five sided platform paying tribute to the individuals that were killed at the Pentagon. Atop the platform is a bronze statue of SPC Ross McGinnis, who was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for actions which saved the lives of his comrades. (See photos, preceding page.)

Among the dignitaries present were General John Abizaid, (USA, R), General Stanley McCrystal, (USA, R), General George Casey, Jr., (USA, R), General Charles Jacoby, Jr., (USA, R), Lt. General Thomas Metz, (USA, R) and Major General Eric Wesley, USA, CG of Ft. Benning. General Abizaid chaired the Memorial Committee.

In addition to the above luminaries, I ran into several members of the extended Ranger family, including Marshall Huckaby, Sheila Dudley of 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion fame, our Association Gold Star mother Jill Stephenson and Jonnie (Melilo) Claussen, (Merrill's Murders).

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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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## Call to Action...Congressional Gold Medal for Merrill's Marauders

Rangers: We published this appeal in the last issue (Spring '17) due to its importance and recognizing the short amount of time to get it done. For reasons we are unable to explain, the performance on the request has simply not met the standard. Accordingly, we are asking again (perhaps with greater emphasis) that you pay closer attention to the appeal for action...in other words, "get up off your 4th point of contact and get this done!" (Please). This process and action required of you appears below in the last paragraph. Thanks in advance...(Regenthal).



A bill, HR 667, to award the Congressional Gold Medal to WW II Merrill's Marauders, officially the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional, was introduced Jan. 24, 2017, by New York Congressman Peter King.

In order for the bill to be passed by Congress, two-thirds support from members of both the House and Senate must be obtained during 2017. "This is a very difficult accomplishment that needs support from ordinary citizens in every state," said Merrill's Marauder spokesperson and historian Bob Passanisi, 92.

"We are asking people to please write or email their national representatives and senators as quickly as possible, asking them to support HR 667," said Passanisi. "There aren't many of us left, but those of us remaining can't thank you enough for your help." Passanisi was instrumental in having the bill introduced in his home state of New York. Representatives Lee Zeldin and Kathleen Rice from New York, Sanford Bishop from Georgia, Tim Ryan from Ohio, Tulsi Gabbard from Hawaii, Linda Sanchez from California and David McKinley from West Virginia have already lent their support for passage of HR 667. More information can be obtained by going to the Merrill's Marauders Association website, [marauder.org](http://marauder.org), or the Merrill's Marauders Proud Descendants website [merrillsmarauderspd.org](http://merrillsmarauderspd.org). For a sample letter, go to: [merrillsmarauderspd.org/template-generic-cgmletter-to-congressman](http://merrillsmarauderspd.org/template-generic-cgmletter-to-congressman) You can also contact MMPD liaison officer Jonnie Melillo Clasen, [jmc6154@aol.com](mailto:jmc6154@aol.com) or 706 689-0153.

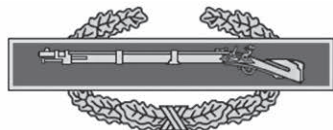
Gilbert Howland

Attending the 75th Ranger Regiment Association banquet during Ranger Rendezvous was something my Dad, Vincent Melillo, Georgia's last original Merrill's Marauder, and I looked forward to every two years. His Christmas Eve 2015 death meant the 2017 banquet was my first without him. That loss was softened by the presence of Marauder Gilbert Howland and his son, Bob, and daughter, Mary, alongwith Marauder

Dominic Baracani and his son, Bob. Marauder James Richardson was too tired to join us and rested at the hotel with his daughter, Judy, and her husband, Larry. What a surprise that evening when president Rick Barela called my name and asked me to join him at the podium, where he told me I had been made an honorary member of the 75th RR Assoc and was presented with a certificate and two beautiful gifts. For once I was speechless, but now I'd like to thank Rick and his wife Barbara. I'd like to thank former president John Chester and his wife, Mary Ann, for their role that evening and also Dave Regenthal, who made sure I was there before the program began. I am honored to officially be part of your organization, and proudly wear the beautiful necklace presented to me. The 75th RR Association under John Chester was the first to make Merrill's Marauders free "life-time" members, and the organization has done many behind-the-scenes efforts to honor Merrill's Marauders. I have been privileged over the years to serve as a Marauder resource to several 75th Ranger Regiment Association presidents, including John Chester, Joe Little, Bill Anton and Rick Barela. It has truly been an honor, and one I look forward to continuing. Thank you to everyone!!

Jonnie (Melillo) Clasen  
MMPD liaison officer, Daughter MM Vincent Melillo  
706 689-0153 H  
828 230-8724 C - no texts

USMA



### 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.

3. 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  
V Corp (LRRP)  
VII Corp (LRRP)  
9th Inf. Div. (LRRP)  
25th Inf. Div. (LRRP)  
196th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)  
1st Cav. Div. (LRRP)  
1st Inf. Div. (LRRP)  
4th Inf. Div. (LRRP)  
101st Abn. Div., 1st Bde. (LRRP)  
199th Inf. Bde. (LRRP)  
173rd Abn. Bde. (LRRP)  
3rd Inf. Div. (LRRP)

### SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

Co D (LRP) 17th Inf.  
Co E (LRP) 20th Inf.  
Co E (LRP) 30th Inf.  
Co E (LRP) 50th Inf.  
Co F (LRP) 50th Inf.  
Co E (LRP) 51st Inf.  
Co F (LRP) 51st Inf.  
Co E (LRP) 52nd Inf.

ICo F (LRP) 52nd Inf.  
Co C (LRP) 58th Inf.  
Co E (LRP) 58th Inf.  
Co F (LRP) 58th Inf.  
70th Inf. DET (LRP)  
71st Inf. DET (LRP)  
74th Inf. DET (LRP)  
78th Inf. DET (LRP)  
79th Inf. DET (LRP)  
Co D (LRP) 151st Inf.

### SECTION 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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

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

**SECTION 5:** Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ  
All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ).

### SECTION 6: 75th Ranger Regiment

1st Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf.,  
activated in 1974.  
2nd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf.,  
activated in 1974.  
3rd Battalion (Ranger) 75th Inf.,  
activated in 1984.  
75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion,  
activated in 2007.  
75th Ranger Regiment HHC Company,  
activated in 1984.

**SECTION 7:** Long Range Surveillance: Any Long Range Surveillance Company or Detachment that can trace its' lineage to, or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element that was deployed to Vietnam as listed in section 2, 3 or 4 above.



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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Richard S. Barela



**Richard Barela**

## Ranger Rendezvous 2017

Our Ranger Rendezvous helped identify specific topics of improvement for 2019. A committee is established for getting ready for Ranger Rendezvous '19. We had over 248 members register this year with 338 members and guests

attending the banquet (These numbers are up from the previous rendezvous). Did everything go smooth, "Of course not" but we did learn from our mistakes. With the addition of feedback from our attending Unit Directors through written AAR's we've got a pretty good sense of where we are and where we need to go. I think the most valuable lesson for me is to remember to ask for help when needed and to continue to encourage working as a team moving forward.

Many have complimented us on the success of the banquet. General McChrystal's presentation was a profound statement on what Rangers are about and was appreciated by all. Daughter Catherine Phair treated us to a heart-felt talk about how many family members, children, and relatives of the Rangers feel about what their Rangers have done and where they fit into the scheme of things. Catherine says that they are "TRUE HEROS." Both of these, and the Ranger Hall of Fame ceremonies will be available in video format on our association website.

There are still a few folks stuck in the past on a topic...one which requires immediate correction. In the distant past the term "baby ranger" while meant to be endearing but likely not receiving the fullest appreciation of those upon which it was bestowed. The world has changed, with most active Regiment types having served multiple deployments, some as many as 10 combat deployments. Respect is earned, not given and our active duty troops have certainly earned it. Call them what they are Rangers and let's leave it at that.

## New Elected Officers:

First, I would like to thank 1<sup>st</sup> VP John Chester, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Dave Regenthal, Secretary Tom Sove, and Treasurer Roger Crunk for their valuable service over the last two years. Thanks Guys. I was elected to a second term as president and wish to thank all of you for your confidence. Our newly elected officers, and we're glad to have them, are 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Stephen Johnson of G/75 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President (and past president) Roy Barley of E/75. Welcome Aboard! We have some continuity in the organization with Tom and Roger continuing as secretary and treasurer. Let's work together with the outgoing officers, unit directors, and members to make this association grow. I have met with each one of these and with their help will develop a business plan for the upcoming years so we can move forward together.

## By-Law Changes:

The association mailed ballots for 12 proposed by-law changes and of the 1614 ballots mailed out 457 were returned completed. This represents a 28.4% response and is more than eight times the participation from the previous two years. All the proposed by-law changes were approved by a wide margin. This level of participation speaks for itself. The revised by-laws will soon be available on our web site. Thanks to all of you for taking the time to read and vote on these critical issues. Thanks again to the officers that spent 3 days at host John and MaryAnne Chester's home going over budget, business, and by-laws, making recommended changes. Well Done Rangers!

## Patrolling Magazine:

The magazine will continue at 48 pages, plus cover. We'll work hard to include your material in the printed form. We'll do our level best to balance the available real estate, carrying anything over 48 to the electronic issue on the website (available in PDF) which can be downloaded or read from there. Unit Directors please send your submissions to [patrolling@75thrra.com](mailto:patrolling@75thrra.com) for inclusion into the magazine. Please do not use that e-mail address for conversation, questions, or any other purpose (as everything sent there goes directly to our publisher). We are going to continue mailing our magazine while also making an eVersion available online. We need and want your stories—keep 'em coming!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Continued)

### Ranger Hall of Fame Nominations:

Ranger Hall of Fame packets need to be in sometime prior to the end of the year. Get packages developed but make sure you look at the RHOF requirements. They have changed and are much more restrictive. Let's get the best qualified rangers from our units nominated. Remember there are a total of 15 slots. Each of the associations has 3 that can be inducted. I would like to see three inductees from our association every year.

### Closing Comment:

I want to thank all who attended the Rendezvous and hope to see even more of you next time. The results of the After-Action Reports I requested from

UD's and officers will be available in the next issue of Patrolling—that guide us in making things even better for the next time. It must be remembered, that we are at war in several various places around the globe. Because of this and deployments a lot of rangers were not present for this, the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the establishment of Army Rangers. We are working with the Directorate of Resources for the regiment hoping for more involvement. Participation will always be dictated by War on Terror and other needs but they know how important the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association is to the active duty ranger.

Rangers Lead the Way – All the Way!!!

## 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Steve Johnson

Fellow Members:

I would like to share with you some things about myself for those of you who have not met me or perhaps have forgotten particulars about me. Facial recognition works for me in remembering people at each Ranger Rendezvous, but for some reason, I have trouble associating those faces with a name.

Pam and I live on a dead end road in northern Minnesota (Bemidji) and have been married for 43 years. I would like to think of those days as a cakewalk, but too often Pam reminds me that I am high maintenance on a good day!

I was "fast tracked" serving in the Army from June of 1968 through June of 1970. Ft. Lewis basic and advanced infantry training; Ft Benning "shake and bake", Ranger, and Airborne (last stick to jump out of a C-119); 30 days at home then off to Vietnam volunteering for G Company (Ranger) 75th where I completed the Americal Recondo School and midway through my tour the 5th MACV SF Recondo School. LRRP team member, assistant team leader, and team leader before coming home.

Finished my teaching degree with help of the GI Bill, met and married Pam, taught 30 years. Pam just retired 4 years ago from teaching. During those educational years, we took a hiatus for 6 years and worked for a pipeline contractor.

I am a charter member with the Company G (Ranger) Infantry Association, consisting of the 196th LRRPs, E 51st LRP, and G 75th Rangers. Currently I am the longest standing editor of our newsletter "Sua Sponte" (Irrpranger.org) and Unit Director for G Company. I have served as president, chairman, board member, and vice-president. I am a lifetime member of both G and the 75th RRA. I have also authored or coauthored five Ranger Hall of Fame packets and continue to do so.

One accomplishment that I would like to share with you was the start up of the Bemidji Combat Veteran Support Group. A former student of mine, and now Marine combat veteran, collaborated in establishing this group. As a facilitator, I used the principles of "Choice Theory" established by William Glasser, MD. He does not believe in the use of any "mind medicine" that has no pathology, and he is a psychiatrist! I am Reality Therapy Certified and have written about Choice Theory in a previous Patrolling article.

I am proud to serve you as the 75th RRA 1st Vice-President. The members who were present (about 5%) at the membership meeting in Columbus bestowed me that honor and I will try my best to complete my responsibilities as stated in our by laws in assisting the officers and members of this association.

A special thank you to our outgoing 1st VP John Chester. In my mind, he has done more than any other member in keeping this association moving forward!



## **1ST VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** (Continued)

Also, kudos to outgoing 2nd Vice-President David Regenthal who fulfilled his duties and still continues the website for our association with utmost professional care. He continues to serve us in various capacities in communication support and the like.

Next election, instead of a small number of members who attend our two-year reunion and vote, every member will have a chance to vote via electronically and/or mail in ballot. If you want to throw in your hat to become an officer of the association, you have the voice and slated time line to do so and we encourage you to do just that please.

Several members shared with me their likes and dislikes of the activities and hotel accommodations while in Columbus. Those particulars are being addressed in our after action report to the president and changes will be made from your suggestions. I choose to be proactive and not reactive and will actively make mention of details that worked and those concerned items that need improving or eliminating.

Please feel free to contact me. For me, nothing gets slid under the rug!

RLTW Stephen "Steve" Johnson

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## **2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**By Roy Barley**

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The current day Rangers are in the same situation that many of us were in almost 50 years ago. Remember how we felt and how it was difficult to find others who we could talk to who would understand what we went through. Remember those days and the frustration involved. Now is the time for us, both individuals and as an organization, to step up and make ourselves available to the current day Rangers. Listen to what they have to say and listen to whatever struggles or issues they are dealing with. Dealing with the aftermath of combat is something we have done and we can help others with. Mainly just listening is what we need to do. No need to be a shrink but just listen. I remember when I came home and I was asked what I did in Viet Nam, I told them.

I was often told I was nuts and that no one could possibly have done that. The Army would never send five men into the enemy's backyard and that they could not have done that. Insisting that they did and I did often would receive a response of "your nuts". There was no one around that could understand, until I went to my first 75th Reunion in 1992. When walking into, what I felt was a room of mirrors, and seeing others who walked the same walk. A great feeling. This is what we need to provide to the current day Rangers who have walked the same walk. Just listen to what they have to say. That can go a long way to helping them. Take the time to seek them out and just listen. Who knows, you might just make a difference in their life.

## CHAPLIN'S MESSAGE

By Joseph Marquez

Greetings Rangers,

I trust this note finds you well. As is true of many of you, I, and one of my sons carry on a tradition of military service. My Dad was an RTO in the Army Air Corps in the Philippines during WWII. He told of being sent to one of the many small islands with a small detachment of men and a radio to relay back to headquarters the whereabouts, number and direction of movement of Japanese planes and ships. It was dangerous work as the Japanese would search for, and sometimes find them. Operating his radio while hidden in a tree, he was the sole survivor of an attack that wiped out the entire squad tasked with protecting him and his radio. Early on in my first tour a patrol walked into our perimeter at night and were fired on.

The next morning one was left dead in front of the fighting position. I handled that dead carcass. Another night after dark, as we approached a small thatched roof hut, an enemy ran out of a bunker, through a bunch of us and escaped with his life. Several times we have escaped death by very little. It seemed that life was balanced on a razor's edge. But on reflection I see that the hand of God was with me to keep me alive. I survived to tell the tale.

But our lives are soon spent and we must leave this world so it makes sense to consider what we are here for. Most modern philosophers have come to a point of despair, as they feel that, according to evolutionary theory, we are just the product of time and chance, with no purpose other than to wring a little pleasure out of a meaningless existence. But any theory is one's best explanation for what has occurred and may be accurate or not.

The Apostle Paul expressed the fatalist's view when referring to the Gladiators who fought beasts in the arena in Ephesus. "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." But the Bible tells us that we, as men and women, have been made for much greater purpose, to bear the image of our Creator.

And that we were made, after living in this mortal body for a time, to be those who will forever reflect the glory of the living God. Paul again refers to this when giving his defense for being a Christian to the

Roman authorities when he asks. "Why should it be thought incredible by you that God raises the dead?" We who have been in combat have seen death in all its ugliness. By experience we know what that is.

The question is; will we ever see life as God originally intended it to be before sin entered into the world, and death by sin?

It is the Gospel story that God sent his Son to live a life we could not live, to die a death that we should have died, and to be raised again to give everlasting life to all those who trust the keeping of their souls to Him. Our confidence is that God sent One who did for us what we could never do for ourselves.

On one occasion, our platoon walked into an enemy base camp on the side of a mountain in the An Lao Valley in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, and were in a firefight for several hours. We lost two KIA and several WIA. Outnumbered, surrounded and almost out of ammunition we were rescued by brave helicopter pilots who came into a dangerous one ship pick up zone blown out of the jungle. It was there on the 17th of September of 1969 that I experienced physical deliverance from imminent death.

While it was over a year later, in November of 1970, that I finally read for myself and believed the love that God had for me. That night I was delivered, saved from eternal death, by trusting in the Good News that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

My confidence is in the word of a God who, the Bible says, cannot lie.

I have not found a better explanation for the incredible complexity of the environment that surrounds us other than God's design, in whom we live and move and have our being. Don't let despair choke the life out of you. Hope is not for just here and now. It is for then and there too. But it needs to be focused on a person, not just a creed, denomination or some 'feeling'. That person is Jesus Christ, the Sent One, the Son of God and the Savior of the world.



**TREASURER'S MESSAGE**

By Roger Crunk



Roger Crunk

**Bank Account Balance as of 7-27-2017**

Operations Checking.....	\$35,555.61	Life Membership Money	
Savings/Operations.....	\$25,671.44	Market .....	\$38,214.78
Benevolent Checking .....	\$8,247.57	<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$122,545.38</b>
Benevolent Money Market .....	\$14,855.98		

**Statement of Financial Position as of Sept. 30, 2017****ASSETS**

## Bank Accounts

1000 Affinity / Operations.....	35,343.34
1002 Affinity / Family fund.....	9,011.98
1030 Affinity / Savings.....	25,697.34
1040 Benevolent Funds MM .....	14,994.79
1042 Life Funds MM.....	38,291.70
1050 Paypal Funds.....	6,690.41
Total Bank Accounts.....	\$130,029.56
Accounts Receivable	
1100 Accounts Receivable.....	0.00

Total Accounts Receivable .....\$0.00

Total Current Assets .....\$130,029.56

**TOTAL ASSETS .....\$130,029.56****LIABILITIES AND EQUITY**

## Liabilities

Total Liabilities

## Equity

3000 Net Assets - Unrestricted ..... 118,161.37

Net Revenue ..... 11,868.19

Total Equity .....\$130,029.56

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY .....\$130,029.56****Statement of Activity April - June, 2017****REVENUE**

## 4000 Program income - DNP

4002 Membership dues.....	8,370.00
4004 Life membership.....	880.00
4006 Reunion income.....	8,260.00
4008 Patrolling ads.....	200.00
4010 Coin sales.....	670.65
4012 Quartermaster sales .....	381.80
4020 Miscellaneous revenue .....	35.22
Total 4000 Program income - DNP.....	18,797.67
4100 Member donations - DNP	
4102 Family fund contributions.....	2,675.00
4104 Goldstar contributions.....	1,415.00
4110 Operations contributions.....	2,695.00
Scholarship.....	450.00
Total 4100 Member donations - DNP.....	7,235.00
4900 Interest income.....	103.49
Total Revenue.....	\$26,136.16

**GROSS PROFIT.....\$26,136.16****EXPENDITURES**

## 6000 Program expenses - DNP

6002 Cash awards & grants-Battalions ....	3,000.00
6006 Cash awards & grants - Members...	1,000.00
6008 Association patch.....	517.98
6012 Other costs.....	500.00
6014 President's travel .....	176.90
6016 Reunion costs.....	816.00
6020 Website maintenance .....	992.42
Total 6000 Program expenses - DNP .....	7,003.30

## 6100 Patrolling expense - DNP

6102 Patrolling printing .....	8,888.41
6104 Patrolling postage.....	1.40
6106 Adobe subscription .....	53.43
Total 6100 Patrolling expense - DNP .....	8,943.24

## 6500 Operations - DNP

6502 Bank and merchant fees .....	272.48
6510 Insurance - D&O liability .....	475.00
6514 Office supplies.....	276.23
6516 Postage and mailing service .....	133.41
Total 6500 Operations - DNP .....	1,157.12

Total Expenditures .....\$17,103.66

NET OPERATING REVENUE .....\$9,032.50

**NET REVENUE .....\$9,032.50**

# SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

By Tom Sove

General Membership Meeting Wednesday, June 28, 2017 Double Tree Inn, Columbus, GA

President Barela called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. He led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance. This was followed by having past presidents stand and be recognized, followed by having the Unit Directors stand and be recognized. He then directed Secretary Sove to conduct a roll call of represented units. All were present except for D/75, I/75, M/75, O/75, RSTB, and 3rd Div LRRPS.

Barela then directed Secretary Sove to report on the by-law voting results. Sove confirmed each proposition needed a minimum of 66.7% of votes cast to pass. All propositions passed, as follows:

- Proposition One had 440 votes, 426 yes, 14 no, passing with 96.8%.
- Proposition Two had 443 votes, 423 yes, 20 no, passing with 95.4%.
- Proposition three had 442 votes, 407 yes, 35 no, passing with 92.1%.
- Proposition four had 442 votes, 416 yes, 26 no, passing with 94.1%.
- Proposition five had 441 votes, 413 yes, 28 no, passing with 93.7%.
- Proposition six had 440 votes, 419 yes, 21 no, passing with 95.2%.
- Proposition seven had 438 votes, 420 yes, 18 no, passing with 95.9%.
- Proposition eight had 443 votes, 422 yes, 21 no, passing with 95.3%.
- Proposition nine had 439 votes, 414 yes, 25 no, passing with 94.3%.
- Proposition ten had 439 votes, 431 yes, 8 no, passing with 98.2%.
- Proposition eleven had 440 votes, 345 yes, 95 no, passing with 78.4%.
- Proposition twelve had 441 votes, 356 yes, 85 no, passing with 80.7%.

Barela then made a few comments on why the bi-annual reunion will continue to be held at Columbus, GA.

Treasurer Crunk was called upon to give the Treasurer's report. He reported the association is in good financial shape, per his recent quarterly report. He gave a quick summary of funds received in the course of this reunion.

- \$6,300 income from registration, raffle, and coins
- \$ 80 donations
- \$2,000 income from credit card transactions
- \$2,000 income from pay pal transactions

Crunk further reported we have two old banners for sale, proceeds to be entered as a donation.

Barela brought up the subject of an audit that was done by member Nick Gibbone. Gibbone's conclusion was that we haven't had many audits in the past, and over the years some records have been lost through predictable attrition; i.e. lost in transition from officer to officer, inadvertently thrown out by spouses, etc. Consequently he couldn't account for much prior to 2004, but record keeping is very viable at this time. Records are now in place and readily available, although he suggested we make them available through the cloud by our web master.

The officers were then asked for their reports. 1st VP Chester had no report. 2nd VP Regenthal noted his job was a working position, and thanked Barela, praising him for being a good listener, his willingness to reach out to the UD's, and for making decisions through consensus.

Secretary Sove then gave a secretary report. He gave membership numbers, the highlights of which were:

- Over the years we have had 2,403 members;
- Currently 1,828 members are active;
- 1,195 of those are regular life members;
- There are 743 regular annual members, who are our sole source of membership income.

Barela then announced two changes regarding membership. First is that regular life memberships will no longer be offered starting July 1, 2017. Second, annual dues will rise to \$40 per year starting July 1, 2017. On the topic of the magazine, Barela confirmed the number of pages will remain at 48 per issue. He



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE (Continued)

wants photos and long articles to be posted on the web site rather than the magazine.

A question came regarding advertising. 1st VP Chester announced the magazine is on track, but advertising is not good right now, but that will change. He further discussed the idea of forming a committee to consider reduced dues for members who receive the magazine electronically.

Another question came asking, if the magazine will be limited to 48 pages, will there be a limit on pages for unit inputs. The answer was no change, depends on the total amount submitted by deadline. 2nd VP Regenthal briefly discussed the fiscal advantage of the 48 page limit; previously the magazine cost \$6,000 per issue plus \$1,500 in postage; it is now down to \$2,800 per issue.

Barela took a straw man vote of who wanted an electronic version of the magazine. Roughly 75% responded affirmatively. Regenthal remarked that we already are offering the magazine electronically on the website. However, there is no printing savings because of the print cost per batch.

Barela gave a report on his expectations when he took office. He desired to have an audit completed; the by-laws updated; and at least 3-5 Hall of Fame submissions per year. On the last item he noted we had 3 submissions this year, with 2 accepted. He urged UDs to get their packets in, and to make sure all information was correct.

The next item was election of officers, starting with president. Copeland nominated Roy Barley, seconded by Tilson. Little nominated Rick Barela, seconded by Chester. Crawford moved nominations be closed, seconded by Little. Motion passed by acclimation.

Secretary Sove passed out ballots for a confidential vote. After collecting them he left the venue with Little to count them. The ballots were counted three times. The results were Barela was reelected by a margin of 58 to 19.

For 1st VP, Sove nominated Steve Johnson, seconded by Barela. Copeland nominated Roy Barley, however, Barley immediately declined, allowing Johnson to run unopposed. Cassilly moved nominations be closed, seconded by Williams. Motion passed by acclimation.

Sove moved Johnson be elected 1st VP by acclimation, seconded by Gunderman. Motion passed unanimously.

Copeland nominated Roy Barley for 2nd VP, seconded by Mitsch. Barley consented to run. Tilson moved nominations be closed, seconded by Crawford. Motion passed by acclimation. Sove moved Barley be elected 2nd VP by acclimation, seconded by Crunk. Motion passed unanimously.

Crunk nominated Tom Sove for Secretary, seconded by Williams. Tilson moved nominations be closed, seconded by Reed. Motion passed by acclimation. Barela moved Sove be elected Secretary by acclimation, seconded by Crunk. Motion passed unanimously.

Hall nominated Roger Crunk for Treasurer, seconded by Gunderman. Reed moved nominations be closed, seconded by Hall. Motion passed by acclimation. Williams moved Crunk be elected Treasurer by acclimation, seconded by Gunderman. Motion passed unanimously.

Barela then led the membership in a prayer for our lost brothers. He followed with a brief elegy of past President Bill Anton. Barela then asked for comments from UDs in attendance. None came forth. Motion to adjourn, seconded and passed by rowdy acclimation at 11:23 am.

## FEATURE ARTICLES

### The Rat Cross

by Jim "Lotz" Lotzgesell

This is a tale of the seldom-awarded Rat Cross. In fact, in an unusual step, two more-typical-awards of the still-coveted-but-more-common Bronze Rat with a "V" (for valor), were, in an unusual move, upgraded and awarded by impact the same day of action. This was due to the momentous nature of that action, which occurred Feb. 4, 1971 in the G Co., 75th Inf. company area on the beach at Chu Lai.

As for my own involvement in this escapade, I must lay-the-blame on my partner-in-crime. Bruce "Banner" Lewis was well-known to be the all-most-constant company center of disorder-and-amusement, having an instinctive sense of comedy. It was he, I plead, that was the locus of chaotic activity. I was only a credulous witness—Bruce's stooge, in fact.

Bruce and I were very short in-country at this time, and were both rotating day-to-day as company orderly room CQ. On the day in question, it was my memory that Bruce was serving as CQ, and it was I, a comparative civilian, who stumbled upon him pursuing the activity that would soon lead to our questionable execution of duty, thievery, improper use of government material, drunkenness, and general mayhem -- also leading, surprisingly, to great deeds of valor. However, it is Bruce's attestation that it was I who should have been properly manning the orderly room, and it was he that was the innocent. Well, perhaps he is right. At any rate, in some fashion I stumbled upon Bruce crouching by the exit of a bunker to the side of the company area, as a large gray NVA rat approached his ambush. Dead-center the formation area, a large coiled-spring-type Stateside rat-trap was set, baited and cocked.

Of course, the activities of valiant NVA rats in our immediate company headquarters AO were legendary. Tunneling under the grates, they would lay in waiting as we stumbled to our quarters in the dark after a hard evening of drinking, fighting, or otherwise soldierly employment at the company club. Many an unwary Lurp has been led to the wrong hooch by their scurrying ahead. I can attest that one time



I was led by a brave counterpart-in-our-war directly into the surf. A sobering experience, indeed. On one occasion, I remember our brave company dogs, led by the valorous Whiskey, taking on the dangerous role of tunnel rat, attempting to dig, one-behind-the-other, under the grates to finally put a proper end to our invasion. Alas, they were outwitted, as was mostly the case when American Lurp met NVA rat.

On this night, though, the shoe was to be on the other foot. As I watched from the post I had taken by the foot of the orderly room stairs, the intrepid rat lunged forward, attempting to snatch the prize before the trap snapped closed. However, our wily Bruce had smeared the irresistible peanut butter bait onto a patch of cotton, which was then well-secured to the bait pad. His teeth fastened to the bait, the rat attempted to scramble back—only to find that he remained where he had started. The weight of the enormous trap held him tight as the spring-loaded wired crushed down upon him, killing him instantly.

Bruce whooped and I yelled in applause. The miserable enemy was in hell where he belonged.

I soon found that Bruce had managed to trap a total of three enemy rats in this fashion. A disorderly pile of their bodies lay by that bunker entrance where he had crouched as his ambushes succeeded. However, despite his great results, that inbred desire to blow things up that marks all future Lurps at birth, compelled him to try a new type of ambush. He had gotten a couple of claymore detonation cap cords and a clacker to work with in this new approach, one that most of you have probably already worked out.



## FEATURE ARTICLES (Continued)

This time, the peanut butter was spread all over the cap. He situated this in the middle of the formation region and unrolled the electrical cord as he backed toward the bunker entrance. Then, kneeling down, he plugged in the clacker, to wait. Remarkably, despite watching his fellows taken to slaughter, a new rat rushed to volunteer. There was something in the peanut butter that caused them to lose all caution. So soon, he was shooting up some fifteen inches into the air, to come crashing down—stone dead. The pile now contained four rats.

Bruce's total take eventually numbered five. At this juncture, I too, became inspired. Suddenly, in my mind's eye, I could see the five rats nailed by the tail to the wall of the club/orderly room. What a great way to greet everyone at Reveille the next morning, with the yields of Bruce's mission. And, of course, it was a short step then to tacking on note-cards above each rat, with the particulars of each rat's end. Soon, we were engrossed with getting the First Sergeant's stapler to stick staples in the wall. The epitaph we were proudest of recounted that this poor fellow had suffered on unfortunate and accidental fall from the staircase while being interrogated during extraction by same.

Around this time, we committed our felony. Work of this nature required alcohol and the club beckoned. Leaping down from the NCO club's railing, we raided the coolers. My memory is that we took an entire case. From then on, things began to speed up a bit. And, I was soon possessed by another inspiration. Why not put us both in for medals? I have always been able to write in others' style, and all of us had grown familiar with the traditional wording of citations. So, taking a typewriter to the CO's desk, I began to pick and choose my way through the keys. Between the two of us, we concocted a glorious tale of contact, firefight, and even rescue. When we were done, we signed our document and left it on the CO's desk.



By this time, the cock had crowed, the sun risen, and men were beginning to collect around the five rats nailed to the wall. By this time, too, we were very drunk. Everyone was excited, laughing and congratulating us. We soaked in the praise, laughing along with everyone else. Eventually, the CO found the citation. To our surprise, an ad hoc awards ceremony was organized around us. One of the senior NCOs determined to draw up the medals, deciding then, also, to upgrade to the Rat Cross. It was not long before Bruce and I stood silently before the company, as the CO read out the citation. Then, the First Sergeant handing the medals one-by-one to him, he placed each in our respective pockets—

the pockets above which our CIBs were sewn.

We never heard a word about the stolen beer.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry, 23d Inf. Division  
APO San Francisco 96374

14 Feb. 71

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION FOR THE BRONZE RAT WITH A "V".

TO: The Executive Officer  
Co. G (RANGER) 75th Inf.  
APO S.F. 96374

1. Under the provisions of paragraph 69, Rat 13-1, Recommend that Sp/4 Bruce Banner and Sgt. Jimmy Lotzgazursky be awarded the Bronze Rat with a "V" for the date of 14 Feb. 71.

2. Sp/4 B. Banner and Sgt. Jimmy Lotzgazursky, distinguished themselves while involved in military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on the date of 14 Feb. 71. B. Banner and J. Lotzgazursky came in contact with a large element of N.V.A. rat's. While under contact and under heavy fire B. Banner distinguished himself by assaulting the enemy basecamp and getting two N.V.A. rat K.I.A's, while B. Banner assaulted the hostile positions J. LOTZGAZURSKY layed down a heavy base of fire and when his teammate came under intense fire he reacted immediately coming to his assistance without regard to personal safety, killing two more N.V.A. rat's. They were both then able to break contact and then proceeded to L.Z. During extraction by stairway they again came under enemy fire and were able to kill one more enemy. Sp/4 Bruce Banner and Sgt. Jimmy LOTZGAZURSKY displayed extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty which were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects distinct credit upon themselves, the 23d Inf. Division and the Armed Forces of the United States.

*Bruce Banner*

Bruce Banner  
Sp/4 11B20

*Jimmy Lotzgazursky*

Jimmy Lotzgazursky  
Sgt 11B4P

## FEATURE ARTICLES (Continued)

## Ranger Whole Blood Program wins an Army's Greatest Innovation Award

The 75th Ranger Regiment's Ranger O Low Titer (ROLO) Whole Blood Program was recognized by the Army Materiel Command as the individual military winner of the annual Army's Greatest Innovation Award at the Association of the United States Army Global Warfare Symposium in Huntsville, Alabama on Mar. 14.

The ROLO Whole Blood Program was developed in concert with international multidiscipline civilian and military providers of the Trauma Hemostasis and Oxygenation Research (THOR) network to bring emergency blood transfusion from the hospital environment to the battlefield. Thanks in large part to Lt. Col. Andre Cap, Chief of Blood Research at the Army Institute of Surgical Research and Lt. Col. Jason Corley, Deputy Director of the Army Blood Program, the ROLO Whole Blood Program went from concept to implementation at the unit-level in only 18 months.

The program identifies all blood group O members of the unit and then tests them to determine possible donors to be used at the point of injury (POI). Previous research and publications demonstrate that whole blood with low anti-A and anti-B IgM titers presents a low/negligible risk of a catastrophic acute hemolytic transfusion reaction when given to individuals that are not of the same blood group.

Following the example of blood programs from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, the 75th Ranger Regiment Medical Detachment adopted group O low titer as IgM titers less than 1:256. The use of group O low titer donors eliminates testing steps and the possibility of incorrectly matching group-specific donors and recipients in the emergency blood



transfusion process.

"Recognition at the Army-level of the ROLO Whole Blood Program would not be possible without the dedicated Army Medical Department team committed to providing Soldiers better trauma casualty care on the battlefield," said Lt. Col. Ethan Miles, 75th Ranger Regiment surgeon.

"The Rangers were chartered by Gen. Creighton Abrams to be "elite, light, and the most proficient infantry in the world"; our team was committed to finding a battlefield blood transfusion option that benefits all of the Nation's warfighters," Miles stated.

The Army's Greatest Innovation Award Program

revives the Army's Greatest Invention and Soldier's Greatest Invention award programs that became non-operational after 2012. Army Materiel Command announced reestablishment of the Army's Greatest Innovation Award Program in 2016 with an expanded focus in technologies, processes, and programs that ensure our Soldiers are the best manned, trained, and equipped.

There are three award categories; Individual-Military, Individual-Civilian, and Group. The program operates on a fiscal year basis with nominations accepted beginning the prior fiscal year starting in October. For additional information, please visit the program homepage at [www.amc.army.mil/amc/agiap.html](http://www.amc.army.mil/amc/agiap.html).

The MG Harold J. Greene Award for Innovation award was commemorated in 2016 by then-Commanding General Dennis L. Via in honor of the late MG Harold J. Greene. MG Greene was a highly regarded leader in the Army's Science and Technology community prior to being killed in combat in Afghanistan in 2014.



## FEATURE ARTICLES (Continued)

## Catherine Phair Speech



Good Evening. In true Ranger fashion, I'd like to begin with a toast. To our fallen. Our fallen of the past, our fallen from today and our fallen yet to come. To our fallen.

For those of you that I have not had the pleasure of meeting at these reunions over the last 25 years, allow me to introduce myself. My name is Catherine Phair. I am the youngest daughter of Sgt. Harry Phair. 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Airborne Ranger; K-Company LRRP and team leader of Romeo 4. A two-time Purple Heart recipient and winner of the World's Best Dad Award 34 years running.

I've spent half of my childhood, all of my teens and twenties and half of my thirties attending these reunions. I've been to so many banquets like this and have heard so many influential people share their stories. I was nine years old when I went to my first reunion. There were a lot of firsts for me on that trip. It was the first time I ever slowed danced with my Dad and it was also the first time I had ever seen him cry. Most importantly it was my first time meeting all of you.

It was my first glimpse into this eclectic and elite group of strangers. Middle-aged men gripped in bear hugs with the brothers they hadn't seen in decades. Wives meeting and greeting other wives with "knowing" and "understanding" smiles. Hundreds of people gathered together. We were strangers no more. Instantly we were family.

One of my favorite memories from my first reunion was a trip I took one evening down to the hotel lobby in search of my parents. As I got off the elevator I was lost in a sea of people. Hundreds of people crammed into one hotel lobby. Rangers, young and old, tipsy

from too many trips to the beer garden, trading tales and handshakes. The room was booming with laughter and boisterous conversations. I began to lose faith that I would be finding my parents anytime soon.

But then, I heard a deep voice coming from above "Hey little girl, do you need to get through?" I looked up and saw one of the most attractive men I had ever seen looking back at me. He asked again "Little girl, do you need to get through?" Panicked and red-faced "What do I do, what do I say?" So I said what any 9 year old girl would say to a handsome and strong military man...NOD HEAD UP AND DOWN. He immediately turned and howled "Rangers move to the side! This little girl needs through!" Instantly a path was cleared all the way through the lobby. It was as if Moses himself had split those men down the middle. Absolutely incredible! To go from 4<sup>th</sup> grade science class to that?? I wasn't in Kansas anymore!

To most people, VIPs, superstars and legends are usually found in Hollywood or Sporting Arenas. We see things a little differently here. Who cares about Brad Pitt when you're standing next to Medal of Honor Recipient Leroy Petry. George Clooney who? I just got to meet Black Hawk Pilot and POW Michael Durant.

And let's not forget our leading ladies! Tessa Gonzalez Champion, the sister of Ranger James Champion MIA; She is the true definition of determination; never giving up her quest to be reunited with her big brother. And one of my personal favorites, a true celebrity in my eyes is Janis Nark, a nurse in Vietnam. She gave me an entirely new outlook on the effects of war. When I thought of war it was always tanks, bombs, choppers, guns and grenades. I had never thought about the aftermath. The people behind the scenes, mending the wounds of our fallen soldiers. Janis and those like her are the unsung heroes of war.

We have all been in the presence of true greatness. Merrill's Marauders, Wounded Warriors and Gold Star Mothers like Jill Stephenson who is here tonight.

The definition of HERO is a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. Look around you, there are heroes

## FEATURE ARTICLES (Continued)

everywhere. Every one of you has your own story to tell, your own memories to share, you have suffered your own losses and celebrated your own victories. I want to wholeheartedly thank you for sharing your journeys with me. It is almost impossible to verbalize what you all mean to me. I can't imagine my life without you all in it.

My father passed away July 19, 2015 and as you all know, loss can be crippling. My Mom, my sister and I weren't sure if we could go to anymore reunions. It would be too difficult, too emotional, we thought. I now know that is the only place we should be. For the first time, in almost two years I am looking into the face of my father. He's here, in all of you. In your conversations, your corny jokes and in your hearts. He's here.

They say it takes a village to raise a child and I am eternally grateful that you are my village. I am forever indebted to you...my village...my friends...my family. Thank you for listening, thank you for sharing your stories and Rangers Lead the Way!!!!



## Why Reunions Matter



At the LRRP-LRP-LRS Rally in Branson, MO in June of this year, a guy (Jim Martens) asked me if Jim Thayer ever came to the Rallies? I responded, "yes he does and he is sitting right over there," pointing to Thayer.

I watched as they spoke briefly and then give each other a massive hug. Being the inquisitive guy I am I had to ask Jim Thayer about their meeting and the following is his written narrative:

*"This is part of the story about Jim Martens and me. On Nov. 6th 1968 command sent two five-man teams on a hunter killer mission not far from 9th ID at Dong Tam in Vietnam, we inserted near two hooches and monitored the AO for five minutes then moved out across a rice paddy toward a wood line, thick jungle area, when we got there the VC opened up on us and Jim Martens walking point took a round right thru his left knee and fell, we opened up on the VC and seven guys took off back to the cover around the Hooches.*

*I picked up Jim Martens and carried him about 30 meters back to the rice paddy and put him on Bob Pegrams back, I then picked up our weapons and fired at the enemy while Bob carried Jim about 100 meters across the paddy with the VC shooting at us. We then called in a medivac and put Jim on while the VC were still shooting at us. One round went thru the hooch and hit a boy about 14 years old in the head. A second chopper was called for the boy and his mother.*

*Knowing the VC would think we left on the second chopper we took cover behind some bushes near the hooch and waited. After a few minutes, five VC came out of the jungle area and started searching for anything we may have dropped. Bad mistake by them, we opened up and mission accomplished.*

*I had found out Jim was taken to Japan and then home, never seen or heard of Jim again but thought of him many times over the years, 48 years past and I found him on Facebook, we planned our reunion at the LRRP Rally, so thankful for the Rally and spending time with my old friend Jim Martens."*

As we get older and move toward the "twilight of our years", it is even more important that we renew old friendships.

Marshall Huckaby, 25<sup>th</sup> ID LRRP, 1966-1967

# UNIT REPORTS



## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

Unit Director - Bill Acebes

In May, I attended the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Reunion in Oklahoma City. 173<sup>rd</sup> guest speaker was COL William L. Ostlund. COL Ostlund started his Army career as a Specialist in the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion, way back in 1983-1987. It was obvious his soldiers from the 173<sup>rd</sup> (ABN) Italy; admired and respected him. (Picture attached.)

Karen and Bill "Doc" Donovan's Memorial Day Gathering. An outstanding gathering. Thank you Karen and "Doc" for your hospitality. Our heroes will never be forgotten. So great to see BG and Sandy Stringham in the crowd; and Chaplain Berry came in from Fort Bragg.

SPC Etienne J. Murphy, age 22, of Loganville, Georgia, died in the line of duty on May 26, 2017, in Al-Hasakah, Syria. Etienne died of injuries sustained in a vehicle roll-over accident. Etienne was serving in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, which is the U.S. Military operation against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

Former 1st Battalion Members inducted into Ranger Hall of Fame 2017 include: CSM Frank Ashe; 1SG Herbert Baugh; 1SG Ronald Grenier; MAJ Larry Moores; LTG John Vines. Congratulations to all!

Vice Chief of the Army General Dan Allyn retired in June. Then Captain Allyn and Debbie was a Company Commander Team in 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion; 1989. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement. Debbie Allyn's father; 1SG Hargrove; (a Son Tay Raider) and was First Sergeant of Charlie Company, 1975.

6541 Dauphin (Coast Guard Rescue Helicopter) was named for Coast Guard Petty Officer James (Jamie) Caines in June. PO Caines was lost at sea; June 1997; on a Rescue Swimmer Mission. He is the son of Wanda Guyton McCartney. Wanda was the Battalion Secretary just before Shelia Dudley.



23 June – Pat Stevens son graduates Ranger School. Ranger Daniel Stevens Graduates from Ranger Class 6-17. One of 44 who went all the way through without a recycle. Danny is a 2LT assigned to the 2/501st at Fort Bragg. On hand to help pin on the Ranger Tab (among others) was MG (R) Ken Leuer. MG Leuer commanded the 2/501st in Vietnam Nam. Danny will be deploying soon to support

Operation Resolute Support.

Ranger Rendezvous and Regimental Change of Command– Lots of 1/75 guys there. Three 1<sup>st</sup> BN Gold Star Mothers noticed in the crowd: Sandee Markwell Rouse (PFC James Markwell); Sue Peney (SGT Jonathan "Doc" Peney); and Dianne Hammond (SGT Plutino).

Incoming Regimental Commander; COL Brandon Tegtmeier; 20<sup>th</sup> COL of the Regiment; was 1<sup>st</sup> BN Commander, 2014-2016.

Shelia Dudley and BG Stringham recognized for service to active duty and veteran Rangers and their families after Regimental Change of Command.

ALERT: SSG Jason Dahlke Adventure Challenge; September 8, 2018 at Lotts Island, Hunter Army Airfield, GA! Here is some news coverage from the 2017 Dahlke Adventure Race: [www.wtcc.com/story/35422277/energy-put-to-test-in-annual-race-in-honor-of-ssg-jason-dahlke](http://www.wtcc.com/story/35422277/energy-put-to-test-in-annual-race-in-honor-of-ssg-jason-dahlke)

During the 2017 Dahlke Challenge, Tessa Dahlke was presented the Order of Saint Maurice.

The SFC Lance Vogeler Bridge was dedicated on July 8<sup>th</sup>; in Frederick, MD. SFC Vogeler was killed in action; 1 October 2010.



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

**Tessa and Roger Dahlke at the SSG Jason Dahlke Memorial Energy Adventure Race Challenge. Tessa was awarded the Order of Saint Maurice at the Challenge Awards Ceremony.**

Veterans Parking Dedication was held on 22 July at the Savannah Harley Davidson Shop. Honorees from 1<sup>st</sup> BN were SSG Anthony Davis and SGT Alessandro Plutino; other honorees were CPT Matthew Freeman, USMC; and from 3<sup>rd</sup> BN SPC David Hughes.

Ranger breakfasts everywhere – Look for one in your area.

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

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

Unit Director - Stan Jones

Ok, for those that made it to Columbus this past June, you had a great time. For those that didn't make the trip, you missed out on a great chance to reconnect with your old friends and make new ones. It was great seeing Capt. (Major) Nolen, CSM Gary Carpenter and 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Romo again. They hadn't aged a day older than any of the rest of us. I will be brief with my part, but need to make everyone aware of a few changes. Elections were held and I believe we have a great staff to lead us for the next two years.

Changes in the Patrolling Magazine were made. In order to keep costs down and still provide the printed copy, each Unit will only have one full page in the magazine unless extra space is available in order to keep the magazine at 48 pages. Articles that take up more than one page, the remainder of the article will be available on the electronic version viewable from the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA website. After July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, lifetime memberships will no longer be available. IF you are currently a Life Time Member, your status does not change. There are more Life Time Members than non and the few are carrying the many. Dues for next year are going up. That's my update from the Reunion.

In the last edition, I submitted an article from Bill Bohte about their V Corps reunion. The pictures were printed, but an article submitted by Mike Thiesen, which had been in an earlier edition, was printed again (could have been my fault). So here is Bill's story along with the obituary for Lee Farley.



Submitted from Ron Dahl:  
Hello Ron,

Below is my dad's obituary with a photo attached. Please have it published in the Ranger newsletter. You can also post it on the website. Thank you so much for coming to his service. It meant so much to my mom, my sister, and I to have all of you guys there. We appreciate your kind words and memories.

Thank you,  
Karen



Lacy Lee Farley, 80, died peacefully on March 2, 2017, at Martin Army Hospital, Fort Benning, Georgia. He was born on May 31, 1936, in Beckley, West Virginia. He enlisted in the US Army in 1953 as an Airborne volunteer. He was a member of one of the first Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols with the 504th Infantry in Mainz,

Germany, from 1958 to 1961. Many of his early years in the Army were in Germany. He volunteered for the first official LRRP unit (the V Corps 3779, Band of Bandits) in 1961 in Wildflecken, later transferring to Frankfurt. He completed Officer Training School in 1963 and returned to the 3779, serving as an officer until he was sent to Vietnam. He was awarded the Bronze Star for

**A75 (Continued)**

meritorious service in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967. On December 23, 1963, he married Helga Brigitte Berstel, a native of Augsburg, Germany. After retirement from the Army in 1973, they settled in rural Harris County, Georgia, for life on "the farm." After nine years of working odd jobs while attending college, the high school dropout graduated from Auburn University in 1982 with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. His career included stints at Morton Machine Works and Callaway Chemical. After retirement, he started his own consulting business as an engineer. A lifelong lover of motorcycles, he taught motorcycle safety classes in his retirement. He continued to ride through his last year of life. His favorite activity in his later years was riding his motorcycle to Tuskegee to go skydiving. He is survived by his wife, Helga, and two daughters, Karen (James) Storlie of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and Pamela (Nickey) Pate of Phenix City, Alabama, and two grandchildren, Jessica (Matthew) Miles of San Jose, California, and Bentley Storlie of Minneapolis, Minnesota. His ashes were interred at the Fort Benning Cemetery, Fort Benning, Georgia, on May 4, 2017, at a private ceremony with full military honors.

This is from Bill Bohte (article to match last issues pictures).

The planning was well under way for the upcoming mini reunion for the dates of 3-5 March 2017 in Rutledge, Ga when I called Lee Farley to talk to him about his attending. We decided that it was important, as none of us are getting any younger. Lee declared that the reunion was going to be at the head of his bucket list. I called Lee on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February and Helga, his wife answered the phone. She informed me that Lee has been admitted to Martin Army Hospital on Ft Benning, Ga and was going through various stages of consciousness at the time. I talked to Lee on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February and decided that if he couldn't make it to the bucket, (reunion) we would bring the bucket to him. The attendees started to plan on going to Ft Benning on Saturday afternoon, the 4<sup>th</sup> of March, to visit our Brother.

Early in the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Helga called me and informed me that Lee passed away late in the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Lee will be missed by everyone who knew him. His ashes will be interred in the vault at the Ft Benning Cemetery in May.

**SOS Mini Reunion**

The Rutledge reunion went off as scheduled, and a good time was had by all, thanks in large part to our host, Henry Lightfoot. We met up at one of Henry's places for "Henry's Low Country Boil" and general camaraderie Friday evening. We proceeded from there to the cabins at Hard Labor Creek State Park in Rutledge where we stayed. (All except Paul Edwards who slept in Henry's barn because he snored too loud.)

The next morning everyone converged on Ron Dahle's cabin for breakfast, which consisted of Ron's SOS, home fried herb potatoes, and farm fresh eggs provided by Ron's chickens. Ron was assisted in the food prep by Pat Simmons, John Simmons widow who graced us with her presence, as well as John's daughter and her partner and little baby. The general consensus suggested that it was a fair to middling batch of SOS. I am sure that for some present, thus was the first time they ever had farm fresh free range eggs.

We then proceeded to the "Walk of Heroes" Veterans War Memorial, located in Conyers, Ga. This was a delightful surprise for all. Nestled on a three-acre site at Randy Pointer Lake. The setting provides a passage through a U shaped paved path with chronological pavers, starting in 1900, and proceeding to the present, covering the six major wars and all military engagements the United States has participated in. An amazing trip through history, that everyone learned a bit from. One would never know it is a work in progress as it is being incrementally expanded to give the impression that it is a complete display. I look forward to visiting there in the future to see where they take it.

Saturday evening, we dined in a local Rutledge restaurant, Yesterdays, which was good enough to warrant a return for breakfast Sunday morning. After breakfast we all departed for our own base camps, totally satisfied that this was one of our finest reunions, and looking forward to the next time Henry invites us back (hint).

The passing of Lee Farley just before the reunion reiterates the importance of these reunions, for as we are all learning, there are no guarantees for tomorrow.

Again, thanks to Henry Lightfoot for all the work and coordination necessary to pull this off. See Spring 2017 edition for pictures. Keep those stories coming, I received a few promises at the reunion so let's get those in. That's it for now. Check the Patrolling /75thRRA website for more.



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

Unit Director - Marc L. Thompson

Gentlemen:

Here is the after-action report from the Rendezvous. I had intended to attend, but personal stuff got in the way, and I had to give up my slot and hotel room, so I missed the RHOF inductions and the big 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary shindig.

Dick Foster did attend, however, and enclosed (below) is his AAR for the VII Corps LRRPs. I believe that we are still publishing a truncated version of Patrolling, so will keep this short so it doesn't get chopped.

### Other News

Heard from: Mike Herrin, Bob Wolstrum, and Stan Harrell. Ranger Voyles is still hanging in there in his battle with cancer. If you need contact info for someone, shoot me an email, or call.

Leo Starkey has some fantastic coins for the Unit he had made...they are full color and spectacular. See color photos of them in the Facebook unit pages, or if you don't do FB, let me know and I'll email you color photos (the magazine doesn't do color).

### 2017 Ranger/LRRP Association Meeting

VII Corps LRRPs AAR re 2017 Ranger Regiment Association Rendezvous at Columbus GA.

From: Foster, President

To: VII Corps LRRP Assn Troops

Well, Gentlemen, most of you missed a really good muster at the above meeting. What we, as a unit of the 75thRRA, missed in quantity (10+2), we made up for in quality. Those present included Captains Jim Jackson and Judge Toby Ivey, Sgts. Tom Forde, Dave Smith, Bob Vanasse, Bill Mathiak, and Steve Lengel, and Upstanding EMs Rick "Fatback" Hathaway, Sam "Oh Good God My Parachute Ain't Open" Storey, and I, "Sgt Harold Egelston's Patrol Head Cranker".

It was great to see Jim after so many absences, but he seemed to be doing well in his struggle to ward



off the downhill slide from his stroke. He even managed to drive to the hotel and hold court with his LRRP brothers. That stroke he had several years ago is a battle he will not surrender to willingly—and Jim, we talked much about you in the evenings and most of it revolved around how proud we were to see you carrying on against this invisible foe. Stay strong, Captain!

Once again, we welcomed a ghost from the past. David Smith, the ghost from the past ('61) was in our LRRP unit

for some time. He never said much and still doesn't, but he's one of the few of us that keeps his mouth shut and just does the job. Major Maltese or Captain Hunt (both WW II) always made him the guide-on on company marches and runs, which made it tough on us short people. Dave was and is about 7 feet tall so he fit the job. In fact, when the company entered a team in the 100 mile Nijmegen (Op Market Garden) March competition in Holland (to commemorate a bridge too far), Dave and Zeke Evaro, among others I didn't recognize, won the forced march in three days, beating all other contenders by a day. Think about it: 100 miles in three days; 33 miles a day! If that or something akin isn't part of the Best Ranger Competition, it should be! The gauntlet has been thrown down now to the Regiment and the 2nd Battalion, those who followed in our footsteps.

In true Airborne style, they did the Airborne Shuffle in black combat boots filled with blistered feet and soaked fatigues. Smoke 'em, LRRPs! Oh, by the way, Smith wound up a 20+ year career with Special Forces and a couple of tours in Vietnam before settling down to be a horse farrier and preacher of The Light House Church in Reidway SC. Silent Dave is no longer silent when the cause is right.

Damn, I almost forgot to let you know how we found Dave after 50 years. To make a long story short, Jackson was in contact with Zeke and he informed him of Smith's whereabouts in SC.



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

Zeke let me know and I got in touch with him re our June 75th RRA reunion and he enlisted. And the beauty of it was that he brought his lovely bride of some 25 years with him. She was and is a charming lady and fit right in with Bill Mathiak's beautiful caretaker and wife Donna. The network is alive and well fellas, but we have to use it! C'mon, we're not getting any younger and we need the dues, as usual.

One final sad note to add: Sgt. Harry McMorrow, Life Member #46, (1937-2017) has passed away. I'll try and get the details, if someone will get back to me. Significantly, Harry served over ten years in various assignments, including RVN (67-68), where he was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze, RVNMC w/device, air medal w/oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart w/ oak leaf cluster, CIB, and GCM. He leaves behind his wife, Edith and daughters Tammy, Sheila, and Regina.

Rest In Peace Sgt. McMorrow, Soldier and Warrior. You did your duty faithfully and honorably, and all who knew you and served with you salute you!

Not to be forgotten, please continue to pray for Tom Lake and his beautiful wife, Diane, in their battle with her fight with cancer. Greg Eacker, our itinerant Snake Eater stopped by for a couple of days after a celebration with his Special Forces' brothers at Ft Bragg. Like a true "Sneaky Pete" he left as he came, silently in the night—or at least unseen in his tactical withdrawal.

Before lights out, let me say that, I think the 75th Ranger Association Rendezvous was sad. Without going into too much detail, it was lacking in several respects. The meet and greet room was too damn small for any free association and simple hanging out or banner hanging, it did not allow for "get togethers" with each other and present day young Rangers. Were they even invited or made to feel welcome? We missed the camaraderie of the young guys and the other units. The absence of the free beer wagon was evident and not just because of the free beer.

There was no traditional mass jump by the Regiment, or the accompanying display of modern weapons and spirited tee shirts that raised monies for the battalions.

In short, the affair in its entirety was dull and insipid, lacking in esprit de corps and brotherhood. Finally, the Hilton Doubletree Hotel: This has been our second experience with DT and both (VII Corps LRRP at Fayetteville and here at Columbus) were not very welcoming or accommodating, in our opinion. The Hilton simply tries too hard to be an upscale place for first-class fliers, not old warriors who are so pedestrian as to drink beer, eat pizza and pretzels and get loud and raucous on occasion.

And the \$40 Banquet sucked! We were fed and treated better in our mess halls. That's all I have to say on the matter. I'll forward this letter to Rick and the Exec Committee for consideration. I'm not suggesting I could do better, but we didn't see much to compare with past events at the old Holiday Inn. I'm tired!

We had some discussion about next year's LRRP meeting, though nothing definitive was settled. We put together two options: San Antonio and Las Vegas. I favor San Antonio for no other good reason than the Texas Patrol (Touchon, Morales, and Aviles) show up regularly to Ranger reunions. On the other hand, "He Who Pisses Over Deuce and a Halfs" Kennedy put in a good word for Vegas, viz., low prices and action. We discussed weather, activities, accommodations, and access; weather was the dominant topic since hot weather has a way of curtailing activities. Both places are hot as hell these days. So, if you have any concerns or "druthers" let me know. Alaskan cruise, anyone?

Guys, I really appreciate those of you who attend these get-togethers, thereby making them meaningful and fun. I also appreciate those of you who contacted me re: your plans or family disruptions. It would be great to see you guys show up once in awhile, when you can. No one who has ever regretted it to my knowledge. We need more storytellers—or liars.

Having said all that, I'll get off my bandwagon till next time. Be strong in the way. Stay in touch. I'll try and forward some reunion photos with this. Bless you all.

Foster. (Pfc), President  
VII Corps LRRP Assoc. (C-58 LRP, B-75)



## C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director - Joe Hayes

### Reunion 2017

My name is Joe Hayes. I served with the C/75<sup>th</sup> from May 1971 until October 1971 when we closed the doors in An Khe. I came to the unit as a radio operator and my house was the Commo Plt. I'll write some of my memories later, but now, while my thoughts are still fresh about our 50<sup>th</sup> reunion at Ft. Benning from June 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup>, I'd like write about it.

This reunion was my wife Donnas' and my fourth one. It was good to see Lonnie and Gary Dolan, and to meet Eddie, Gary's fiancé. And there was Doc Gove, looking like he should and his wife Carole. Trinh, his wife Rosa and his daughter were there. It was truly a pleasure sitting down with them. If you ever need a garden fish pond built – Trinh is your man. Trinh does beautiful work! And to everyone, I say it was great being with you for those couple of days.

We've been fortunate to have been able to attend 2011, '13, and the '15 reunions. I was a bit apprehensive going to the first one; not knowing too many of the folks that were there. I did know Bones, (who doesn't – what a guy!), Boston, Doc Gove, and Gary Dolan. But that uneasiness went away PDQ, as I met other guys like Ray Bohrer, Phil Mayer, Milt Hendrickson; other E/20 LRPS, as well as other C/75 Rangers from before my time. I think one of the first things that I did then was to buy an E/20 LRP-C75TH ball cap from CT. The second thing I did was I had a beer. I wore that one practically every day for a year and gave that one to my brother Pat, who helped set up the "12 reunion with L-T. In '13 I bought another cap from CT, and had another beer. I am proud to wear that hat. I like to see the two id's together. When out and about, sometimes I would be asked what the hat meant. I would find it hard to explain to them the meaning, primarily because they didn't want the Herman Melville version. So, I'd just say that it was my in unit Vietnam. You all know that it is an awkward question. I can say that I served with Charlie Rangers, but I can't say that I served with E/20 LRPS (although I'd like to). But the Guy in the grocery story doesn't really care: and I have to get home to put the ice cream in the freezer.



Having been to four reunions, and meeting and listening to so many of the stories from both units, I understand very well now the nuance of the contraction of these two very unique identities, especially having come to the unit late in its four short/very long tough years (for many of you). I remember a four by eight foot plywood sign that hung on the beer hut in An Khe. I wish I could remember who painted it. It read "The Professionals". Underneath was the C/75<sup>th</sup> Airborne Ranger Scroll. Under the scroll were the names of KIA's Sgt

Rucker, Pfc. Scott (who Sgt Ladd told us about at the Color Guard ceremony at the Ranger Memorial), SSgt. Thorn, Sgt Spearman, and Pfc. Robinson. These were the KIA's from December '70 to June '71. I remember like it was yesterday, standing in front of, and just staring at that sign. I was the –cherry boy – newbie – Mr. clean and green – I'm sure there were other, more colorful titles (I know it went with the territory, & everyone at some time or another got the same treatment). But there I was standing there, and someone walking by said to me, "there's a lot more than those guys." He didn't stop and I didn't know what he meant.

Over the next few weeks I got to know some of the guys. Some hadn't been there for a whole year (maybe 3 or 4 months). It's nice to get to know someone, because when you do, you get to sit in on stories. And I like listening to stories. So you get a morsel here and a morsel there. You all can remember how it was. Well I listened. I didn't have anything to add, and I didn't know what to ask (I learned that sometimes it's best not to ask); but at least I was sitting with the guys. I think it was Dwayne Desmond who told the story of a team from before we had all gotten there, lucky to be alive after getting shot up and being pulled out of the woods by a chopper, hanging on a rope, and being smashed through the trees. It was like being back in the scouts sitting around a fire, and someone's telling a story about one of the Eagle Scouts, who is a troop legend, but has since moved on. I don't remember Desmond giving a team number or names, although he might have. Looking back, it was probably a story that had been told and retold many times. It was one

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

of those legendary stories that made me think – I’m part of this. I never thought I’d be an Airborne Ranger. But I’d sung the song like everyone else that went to jump school. But I didn’t know who the guys in the story were. To me, they were Charlie Rangers who were now back in what we called “the world.” I still had a long way to go.

I met Oscar Caraway and Del Ayers in 2011. Del asked me if I wanted a t shirt from the 2009 reunion. I said “I wasn’t there Del.” He just looked at me and said again – “do you want the t shirt?” ... “Yes Del” I said, “I’ll take the shirt.” I don’t remember meeting John Wisheart in ’11, but I met him just over a week ago. And John, if you’re reading this I hope you do paint that picture from one of Smokey Wells’ photos. I also met Sgt. Johnston, this time around. It clicked! The story that Desmond had told some forty six years ago... it clicked in my mind. I had read Bob Stein’s book “Ghost Warriors” a few weeks before the reunion. The story of Chippergate 4-4 was in the book. These were the guys in the story. They were here and I met them. They weren’t Charlie Rangers. They were Echo 20 LRPS. I honestly don’t know why I didn’t put this together before. Anyway I thank Bob for writing the book because it was a good way for me to know these guys better – to know the stories – to discover the history. I didn’t quite understand the distinction before. Now I do. But I so much like to wear the hat with the E/20 LRP banner above the C/Ranger scroll. It makes me proud. I am proud

And so we have a reunion. Every one of them is unique. So many are not with us now...The Jew, Randy Mills, Tommy and Tony Foster, and, Don Erickson, to name a few. They are remembered... These two or three days when we gather together and experience probably every human emotion that one can feel. I guarantee a good laugh if you should attend the auction. I brought a rain jacket down to be auctioned. I didn’t know what it was made of until the auction. I didn’t read the label Bones didn’t either but he knew what it was made of. Forty five bucks was made on the jacket and everybody had a good laugh. Then there are those late night discussions where the subject turns to how military uniforms have changed. And rightly so, the question is asked by Steve Murphy – “why would the Navy go to blue cammo fatigues on ships? It seems to me,” he says, “that you would want to find the guy if he fell in the water...you would think maybe orange or yellow... or something besides blue

cammo.” Gosh, that was funny! Later, in our room, Donna, my wife, asked me if Jesus had a belly button. Like Milt Hendrickson, who stays away from political and religious discussions – I answered the question more from a biological viewpoint, since that was my major in college. “Yes,” I answered. “Being a human being, I ‘m sure He had a belly button. Why do ask?” “Well,” she said, “Walter wanted to know.”... I am truly sorry that I missed that conversation, because I’m sure that there was a whole bunch of stuff in that question. Maybe next time I can get in on the conversation. But Walter – when I was walking out to my car to head back home you stopped me and gave me kudos for taking over for Del. I sincerely want to thank you for that.

I’m telling you folks – you laugh – you cry – you wonder why you are here and other’s are not. Those of you who have yet to make a reunion I say please come. Just come and sit for a couple of days and enjoy some good company. There is something for everyone – and I do mean everyone .If you like art or hand crafted things which you can buy at auction – this is the place. I am talking beautiful quilts made by Debra Rapp, and other very talented ladies, whose names I wish that I would have written down to pay them tribute. There’s needlepoint blankets, and dioramas, and painted artwork, and memorabilia which is bid on and taken home to be proudly displayed and cherished, if for nothing else than to support and honor the unit. Thanks to all who contributed to the auction. You all know where the funds go. There’s a lot of struggling young Ranger families out there that need help. We are there for them.

I want to thank Bob Parker Johnston who wore a lot of hats in his lifetime: among them is one of an artist extraordinaire. Parker added to black and white photos which were included in Bob Stein’s book. There was one of Bob Stein, Regis Murphy, Milt Hendrickson, Ray Bohrer, Oscar Caraway, and a couple of others. They were beautifully done and it was nice to talk to Parker and get the back story. Equally as enjoying was Sgt Johnston’s talk at the dinner on Friday night. Thank you Parker for coming. It truly was a highlight of my trip down to Ga.

I want to mention Julianne Cambell. She was special needs all her life. She passed on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Julianne was the niece of JoAnne and Bobby Russell. I remember her here because at the reunion two years



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

**JoAnne and her niece, Julianne**

ago, JoAnne told me about her niece. I can't remember how that conversation came to center on Julianne but I would e-mail JoAnne periodically to find out how Juliann was doing, as at that time she wasn't doing that well. Julianne was 44. She was a joy and a blessing to those who knew her. JoAnne said that Julianne would never say that she can't do something. Rather, she would say –"you help me!" I'm sorry that I never met her, but I will miss her just the same. I'm enclosing a picture of JoAnne and her niece Julianne. I don't think anyone will object to making Julianne a Ranger.

Milt and Bones...Milt and Bones...I could say great Job! Or Well Done! – And I do say those things. But there's more. For six years Donna and I have been

coming down to Ga. It's been fun! We know when we leave Michigan that we are going to have a really good time. That just doesn't happen; it is made to happen. You guys have made that happen! I know that there's no magic wand. It takes time and planning, and caring and generosity. I know you guys will probably say that it's no problem but everybody knows what you do. We've been spoiled! Thanks for a great time!

And finally I look forward to posting in Patrolling for you guys. I'm relieving Del Ayers who is someone that I have admired from afar since I met him at the '11 reunion. I don't think that we were formally introduced. I don't know why, but I'd kind of watch him. Maybe it was like what Parker said - the ZZ Top beard – I don't know. But I saw Del as a quiet guy – a real gentleman. I wish I knew him when he had red hair...Del – I'm still trying to picture you with red hair! Anyway Del, I hope that I don't let you, or for that matter, any of you down. I'll always strive to honor the stories and the memories. So, until later...Joe

**D/75**

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

Greeting D Company Rangers, I trust your summer is going well and fit, it's been quite a summer for some of us, me included. A little up-front intel, I am helping Herd with our article this month due to his health issues, hopefully Herd will continue to recover a get his strength back soon. We all support each other with prayers and good thoughts, get well soon Herd!

Like many of you, I couldn't attend this year's reunion due to a scheduling conflict, hopefully that will not happen again. We need to attend every reunion we can if only for a couple days, miss seeing you all.

Those of you who are in e-mail contact with herd might want to look at the after-actions reports Herd sent us, the good and the bad, nothing substitutes for good planning that's for sure. Enough of the preliminary stuff, here is some news on our group:



Sad news first we lost Roger Barbe this year, I don't know all the particulars of his passing. Billy Faulks called Herd and said that Roger's son had called him and informed him that Roger had

passed.

Gary Olson attended the reunion and from all

reports had an outstanding time seeing everyone that he knows and telling those priceless stories of yore when we wore the uniform of Soldiers and lived that



**Roger Barbe Arresting Steve Meade at Cook Shack Village**



**Roger Barbe**

**D/75 (Continued)**

almost magical life. When I saw Gary at a reunion several years back it was the first time since Vietnam and I related to him that I still remember yelling "on repel Sergeant" to Gary just before exiting a Huey helicopter 150 feet off the ground, those were the days. Gary will always have my respect as a bother-in-arms and patriot.

**Billy Faulks**

Billy Faulks also drove on down to Columbus for the reunion but only stayed a couple of days since it wasn't attended by many D Company Rangers this year.

Herd talked to Frank Park and told me that Frank goes to California in the Winter where his lady friend has a home and then they go back to Pennsylvania for the Summer months where his home is, living the good life. Frank's son has retired after 24 years in the Army, 18 years of that as a Ranger. He is a combat vet and Ranger instructor at Camp Rudder, Eglin AFB. His last duty station was at the Ranger camp also as an instructor Dahlonga, Georgia. Frank's son now teaches ROTC cadets how to correctly fire Military weapons at a college near Dahlonga Georgia where he retired. We know you're proud of your son Frank, we are.

Ken and Linda Dern went vacationing in the Dominican Republic this year, oh the good life!! Ken and Linda enjoys traveling on vacation and are doing well. My First Sergeant at the 82<sup>nd</sup>, 1SG John Oliver, used to say, "every day's a holiday" and it looks like Ken and Linda are following that saying, miss seeing you guys. Mike and Vickie Jaussuad are doing well. They are taking care of Vickie's mother who is in poor health. A good deed for sure, maybe we can meet up at the next reunion.

**George "Psycho" Christiansen**

Psycho is having shoulder replacement, ouch! Seems he was riding home from a party on his motorcycle and suddenly saw three deer, he dodged two of them but hit number three, wrecked and was knocked cold for about 20 minutes, lying in the road. He was found by a friend driving home from the same party and like a good ranger, Psycho got

up and drove home. The doctor said he had suffered a concussion from the wreck and injured his shoulder which now has deteriorated to the point it should be replaced, we'll be thinking about you buddy and trust that all goes well with the surgery whenever you let them do it. Herd and I just wanted to say, "deer 1, Psycho 0", just joking of course. I can remember at a company cookout a few years back when I overheard SFC Bailey telling MAJ Drisko about you and your exploits, both were smiling, get well soon.

Fitz and Kathy are doing well in New York. Their son-in-law, who has served two fifteen-month tours in Iraq, just received orders to re-deploy to Afghanistan, I know they appreciate the prayers for him, his family, and all our servicemen and women in harm's way. We all know the sacrifices are great for the soldier and their families back home, be safe Major Shawn Abbott.

Mo and Cindy are also doing well and enjoying the warm summer days in the Dakotas. I can just see Mo and Cindy on their back porch enjoying the mornings and evenings in that beautiful country.

Tom and Jan are in hot weather in North Carolina. Both are retired now and have more time to get caught up on the important issues of the day.

I recently went to see the movie Dunkirk and I will say it is worth watching on the big screen. I normally don't watch war movies but this one is different, in a good way. If you get the chance to watch it, I highly recommend the trouble.

Carl Norris has been spending time in Arizona with a friend of his. She will be closing on her new home in North Carolina and Carl plans on going there to help her move in.

Well, Herd and I will close this article by wishing you all a very good summer and hope to connect with you all before the next article is due, hopefully we will all be in good health, take care all, RLTW

**Team 3-5 together again for second time in 43 years**



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

Unit Director - C. "Jeff" Webb. Jr.

Summer greetings to all Echo Company Rangers and Warrior Women! To recap the Ranger Rendezvous held in late June at Ft. Benning, we all had a very pleasant visit with each other and it's always very special to visit Ft. Benning, the infantry museum and of course this was a special year as we were able to participate in the 75<sup>th</sup>'s 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In attendance were 11 E/50<sup>th</sup> & E/75<sup>th</sup> Rangers.



**Seated:** Roy Barley, John Berg, Marshal Larsen, Bob Copeland. **Standing:** Brent Gulick, Rick Stetson, Ron Tessensohn (back cover Patrolling Fall 2016), Jeff Webb (E Co. Unit Director), Bob Hernandez (Chairman 2017 Las Vegas Reunion), Gerald Cody, Gerald Johnson (last CO of Echo Company 1970)

Congratulations to Roy Barley for being elected to 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA. Roy has served as its president in the past and as Echo Co. UD. The future of the association is in good hands! HOOAH

Final Reminder for October 2017 Reunion – the dates are October 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> – the reunion hotel is the Fiesta Henderson Hotel & Casino, Henderson, NV – call (888)-899-770 for reservations – make sure you mention E Co. 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers. Also, we would appreciate items of interest for the Chinese auction held in the hospitality to help raise funds for the unit – please contact Tom Koontz for information [tokoontz12000@yahoo.com](mailto:tokoontz12000@yahoo.com).

**Echo Company LRRP/Ranger Reunion**  
**October 8-15, Henderson/Las Vegas Reunion Itinerary**

**Sunday-Monday, October 8-9** – Registration

**Tuesday, October 10** – Hoover Dam Tour and the Boat House Cruise on Lake Mead. (Sign-up info to follow.)

**Wednesday October 11** – Nevada Test Site tour, where the United States conducted atomic testing. Tours are conducted only four times a year and there



is a waiting list so you need to sign up with Terry Leishman. We will need your full name as it appears on your ID, your place of birth, and your social security number. Please send to [Leishman4@gmail.com](mailto:Leishman4@gmail.com). The tour is an all-day event and is free.

**Thursday, October 12** – Mob Museum- Admission is \$18 with military ID. Las Vegas was controlled by the mob until the early 1970's and the museum offers a full history with lots of photos, several short movies and hundreds of displays. Not far from the Mob Museum is the Neon Bone Yard. The Bone Yard

is a museum of old neon casino and hotel signs that used to line the old Las Vegas Strip. It is an outside museum and there day and night tours.

**Friday October 13** – is a free day I would suggest the streets of Fremont on this night. The Fremont Street Experience is a light show. It starts at dusk and runs for 10 minutes on the hour till 0100. The lights are synced to "old time" rock and roll. It is free and right outside the Nugget. There are also two zip lines running almost the length of Fremont Street. You can have fun just walking around this area and can have your photo taken with a topless nun or Kiss dressed in jock straps, or many other strange people. It is an experience not to be missed.

**Saturday, October 14** – Business meeting at 10am for the men, 1 pm memorial service, banquet at 7pm.

**Sunday, October 15** – Check out and return home with priceless memories

If you have any questions about the reunion please fill free to call anytime or if you would like to attend and need a little help, we have a unit fund to help with such matters and will be kept confidential. Anyone that wants to share a room let any member of the reunion committee know and we'll try to put you in touch with each other.

### Reunion Committee

Chairman – Bob Hernandez, 925-437-5058

[lucky322@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lucky322@sbcglobal.net)

Terry Leishman, Tom Koontz

See you all in October! Viva Las Vegas! RLTW!!





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

Unit Director - John McGee

Well the Ranger Rendezvous celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the formation of the 1st Ranger Battalion has come and gone. It was wonderful to see the great turnout of our F company family. We had no less than 35 of our members show up at Fort Benning. We probably had the largest turnout of any one company.

I will say that the reunion had some very high points but I would be remiss if I did not mention that there were various problems at the function. We had a very productive unit meeting and the issues that were expressed to me by our members and I passed them on to the National Organization. I believe that the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA is at a crossroads as we the Vietnam Veterans age and steadily dwindle in numbers. How do you keep the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA viable to the next generation of Rangers without losing touch with our heritage. Our members no longer feel tied to the events of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment and Fort Benning and they should not drive the time or location of the Reunion. My personal belief is that if this continues the Association will lose large numbers of Vietnam veteran attendees. Scheduling the reunion during prime vacation time adds expense to the membership. The association may want to look at some off-season scheduling. (i.e. late spring early, fall).

Unit members feel that the Ranger Regiment could care less if we were there or not. The Rendezvous is for the active duty Rangers, many members felt that we were an afterthought. The Ranger Regiment does nothing to promote the interaction between today's Rangers and our Organization. Example in the entire week there was only one night that any of the young Rangers came to the hospitality room I know that Big Army does not promote drinking but in years past the turnout of young Rangers was much greater. I cannot express enough of how our unit members spoke of no longer being tied to the National association for our reunions. The majority of attendees expressed a desire to schedule our own Company F reunions in the future.

On a side note while touring the Infantry Museum I ran into some F Company 52nd INF 1st Infantry Division LRP/Rangers. They had told me that they now plan their own unit reunions and are just barely affiliated with national. I sincerely hope this is not the future but



I would be lying to you if I told you that the members of Company F were not leaning in that direction.

We are going to look at our next Company F reunion in either the left coast or somewhere in the middle of the country. Places such as Branson Missouri, San Antonio, Texas and Las Vegas were mentioned as possible locations. Where ever we have it we are going to need help setting it up, so anyone who would like to volunteer your participation would be greatly appreciated.

One of the items we discussed with members in attendance is how we can honor our fallen. Those in attendance voted that we should now purchase a stone at the Ranger Memorial for the families of our fallen. We will attempt to research the number of how many of comrades that have passed and have no memorial stone. If you know of any please e-mail me with the information. We have a generous and caring unit and when we passed the hat and had our raffle we brought in more money for the unit fund, but we might have to ask for contributions to cover the cost of stones. We will keep everyone up to date as where we stand on the task.

Additionally, the members in attendance gave the green light to forming an executive committee that would assist and advise me in making any future decisions for the organization. The committee will consist of Tim Walsh, Joe Little, Bill Mrkvica, Mark Ponzillo and David Regenthal. I want to everyone to know that your input on any subject that affects our organization is important and you are always welcome to express your concerns to me at any time. I work for you!! We will be sending out a post reunion 'POINTMAN' so be looking for it in the mail.

One last thought, I know that our unit has some great soldiers and warriors as members and I am in awe of them. I want some help with nominating someone from our unit for the Ranger Hall of Fame. Come on you guys know you have served with real live heroes. Let's get them the recognition they so justly deserve.

RLTW, McGee Out



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

Unit Director - Al Stewart



Those of us that had the chance to attend this year's Rendezvous event in Columbus wore happy faces most of the time, except when I shared the fact that Dave Parson is battling some health issues and could not make the gathering. In 2015, Dave Parson of G Company made his first reunion of any kind since coming home from Vietnam and he asked me to say hi to everyone. He is a true Ranger that "giving up" is not in any part of his vocabulary.

This September 21<sup>st</sup> we start our Company G (Ranger) 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Association Reunion with checkouts on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held in Buffalo, New York at the Airport Fairfield Inn. For those of you who live nearby, please stop by for an adult beverage and share a conversation and meet some of us. Information and an itinerary can be found on our website: [lrrpranger.org](http://lrrpranger.org).



2015 Rendezvous, L-R: Steve Johnson, Richard Negrete, Robert Weekley's granddaughter, James Burns, Robert Weekley, Dave Parson.



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

Unit Director - David A. Christian



The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Rendezvous which meets bi-annually was highlighted for the first Infantry Ranger/LRRPS with one of our members being inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. Ronnie N. Imel served his country gallantly winning the Silver Star on the battlefields of Vietnam and further served his country fighting on the social battlefield in the States in the War for Veterans rights. Former Staff Sergeant Ronnie N. Imel became a part of Ranger History as he entered the ranks of those that have gone before him in the Ranger Hall of Fame.

Proudly the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Ranger/LRRP unit stood in the audience of McGinnis-Wickam Hall in Marshall Auditorium at Ft. Benning, Georgia. Our Unit numbered about 70 as we joined hundreds in the audience to witness our Ranger/LRRP "Battle Buddy" Ronnie N. Imel humbly accept his legacy of honor for "All Rangers".



It was a coincidence or divine intervention that our Rendezvous/Reunion was held at the same time and same place as the Ranger Hall of Fame Ceremonies. Ronnie Imel stood shoulder to shoulder with Medal of honor recipient, a Merrill's Marauder Survivor and other Distinguished hall of fame inductees-a total of 17 new members were inducted into the class of 2017.

It was the best Rendezvous/Reunion in the ten years I have been coming to these events. The active duty Rangers could not have made the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment feel more welcomed. And the ladies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Ranger/LRRP unit did an outstanding job in making all the unit members feel welcomed. We had the best hotel location right on Fort Benning and right next to the new Infantry Museum. I visited all the unit's hospitality suites and we had the best hotel and hospitality for members and guests. We had the best



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

of everything from drinks to snacks to pizza and the best unit "T" shirts and souvenirs to be purchased.

The first day of events kicked off with a serious parachute jump by Active Duty Rangers who demonstrated their skills and training. Most of the members of our unit stayed at the hotel, while some members stayed at the RV camp also located on the Fort. Because of our strategic location, we participated in every base activity from barbecues with Active Duty Rangers to visiting Ranger Memorials, participating in the above-mentioned Hall of Fame activities to meeting with the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment officers to participating in dinner with Ranger General McChrystal. The night before departure our unit ladies secured the former Ft. Benning Officers club where we enjoyed a wonderful meal and everyone received a beautifully wrapped and camouflaged packaged Dog Tag (which had our unit and the date of the Rendezvous/Reunion),

followed by door prizes. A Great time was had had by all Ranger Unit members, their families and friends.



**David A. Christian**

Yes, according to our Constitution and by-laws we held our bi-annual meeting where President Dave Hill was re-elected and Vice President Dave Flores was re-elected. Michael Sharp resigned after wonderful service to our unit and David A. Christian was elected to the position of Unit Director. Next year's Rendezvous/Reunion is scheduled for Branson, Missouri with Philadelphia, Pennsylvania the following year. We will keep you posted on specifics. Other business was voted on and discussed and will be posted in the next issue of Patrolling.



**Hall of Fame member Ronnie in his civilian colors**



**Vice President 1<sup>st</sup> Division Ranger/LRRP Unit Dave Flores**



**President 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division Ranger Unit Dave Hill**



**Unit Member**



**Dog Tag gifts from Women of Ranger Unit**



**Reflection of "Yesterdays" and Combat unit patches**



**Unit Director Christian with General McChrystal**



**Ranger Change of Command**



**Ranger Wives and family**



**Hall of Fame - 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Ranger Supporters**



**Ranger Unit Men**



**Same as above**



**Formal Hall of Fame Photo during Presentation of Ronnie Imel**





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

Unit Director - Roger T. Crunk

Greetings to all, I just returned from another successful Ranger Reunion in Ft. Benning GA. For some reason it was very tiring for me this time around but still rewarding. Do you think its old age?

The festivities were kicked off with the parachute assault on Fryar Field by approximately 400 rangers on Monday ~ quite a sight to witness! With the change of command of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rangers, there were many festivities and activities on Ft. Benning.

Once again our Brothers and Sisters of K-Co. stepped forward without being asked to help out at the registration desk and raffle table. It can be difficult and frustrating at times dealing with so many people but with their generous time and effort we got through it, my eternal thanks to all of you.

For me the highlight of the week was at the banquet when Catherine Phair spoke to us about what it meant to her being the daughter of a Ranger and attending our reunions since she was nine years old. She received a standing ovation and there were not many dry eyes in the house. There is a video of her speech on our Facebook page. Our keynote speaker, General Stanley McChrystal followed. When he got up he remarked to those at his table "how do I follow that!" Thank you Catherine!!

Once again Herb Riechel worked his Blue Bucket Chapel tirelessly and generously—only accepting donations. Worth Anderson provided a well-designed pin which he gave away asking for donations to be made to the K Company account. A total of \$50.00 was donated from Worth's pins, the donations from the Blue Bucket Chapel is still to be determined. Worth also brought a high quality golf shirt and ball cap with the same logo that he was selling and giving away. Thanks to both men for their generosity.



At the unit meeting Pittsburgh, PA. was selected as the site for our next K-CO. reunion. The site of our KIA Memorial is a few miles away at Jim Bell's house. Jim built it with his own funds and effort. If you haven't been there this is your opportunity. The date will probably be mid-September, 2018. I will be in touch with Jim to arrange a trip to his house. Jim Joyce lives in Pittsburgh and will check out some hotels for

us. I will get the info out as it's available so everyone can make their plans.

Thanks to Wayne Mitsch for the untold hours and days he has put into our website. Along with the help of Willie Williams (not telling how many hours and days Willie spent compiling the spreadsheet) the after action reports are now searchable by name, date or team number. If you haven't visited the website lately, I suggest you take a look – it is continually updated. [www.k75ranger.com](http://www.k75ranger.com). The after action reports can be found in the archive section or clicking this link [www.k75ranger.com/archives-password-protected-section](http://www.k75ranger.com/archives-password-protected-section). If you need a password, contact Wayne at [info@k75ranger.com](mailto:info@k75ranger.com). Let me also take a minute to solicit your Vietnam photos as an addition to the site. It would be a welcome addition – contact Wayne at the same email address as above for guidance. Wayne does want you to know that only some after action reports from approximately June, 1969 to December, 1970 were located at the National Archives. There are obviously many more missing so if you don't find one with your name on it, none have been located.

Also thanks to Wayne and Fran for allowing me to relax at their lakeside home for a couple days before returning home.

There were at least 35 LRRP/Rangers who either signed in. My apologies if I've missed anyone. Also in attendance were at least 23 spouses, friends and family members.

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

Ron Clark	Wayne Mitsch	John Serrano	Kevin O'Brien
John Chester	Steve Lemire	Les "Willie" Williams	Ron Clark
Noble Taylor	Les "Willie" Williams	Rick Callahan	John "Festus" Gibson
Mike "Armi" Armistead	Denver Hall	Noble Taylor	Tom Reed
Herb Reichel	Bob Crawford	Jerome Spelhaug	Butch Nesbit
Ray Allen	Larry Massoletti	Ron Coon	Brad Finch
Dave Gunderman	Al Moreira	Jim Joyce	Herb Reichel
Lowell Tidline	Jim Joyce	Lt. Hank Alderson	Rob McCarthy
Tom Reed	Sherman Tilley	Bob White	Gary Heald
Ken Nelson	Ed Mateer	Mike Cortney	Steve Lemire
Roger Crunk	Worth Anderson	Steve Lochard	Larry Massoletti
Gary Lucas	John "Festus" Gibson	Irving Mariano	Keith Naccarato
Tom Sove	Dave Bristol	Denver Hall	Don Melanson
Doug Childers	Butch Nesbit	Ed Mateer	Tom Sove
Ron Coon	Ron Coon	Pat Navarro	Dave Gunderman
Rick Noble	Bob Fraser	Ken Nelson	Ed Freed
Duane Sells	Ed Freed	Bob Fraser	Tom Schadegg
Tom Jones		Dave Bristol	Steve Oberg
		Dave Cope	Ray Bailey
		Ron Wilkinson	

For a look back and comparison, the following LRRP/Rangers (with family and friends) attended the reunion in San Diego last September:

As you can see, our numbers stay pretty consistent but there is always some change to the faces. It would be nice to see your name added to the list next time!

RLTW! Roger Crunk

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

Unit Director - Robert "Twin" Henriksen



I am taking on another two years as your unit director and would really appreciate more input from members. Keeping me informed on your contact information, medical updates, finding more team members, photos, stories and staying in contact with me.

Any one with questions, concerns, suggestions contact me. We have lost 5 members and two member's spouses so far this year. Be sure that I am contacted by you or family members to any situations. Each time it is deadline for submissions to Patrolling, I have to dig through our files to get stuff. Need members to assist with sending material to me.

By Robert "twin" Henriksen - 70-71

**June Reunion**

In June, we had another great Reunion at Columbus, GA. The 75th Ranger Regiment Assoc. and US Army Ranger Org. were both at the same hotel. In the attendance from our Unit, 173rd Airborne Brigade Lrrp / 74th LRP / N/75th Rangers was 42 members and counting family members / friends of Unit, we had a total of 64. It was a little crowded at the hotel with two associations trying to have their own space but overall it went of pretty well. One thing that we appreciated was the weather was the cooler weather this time.

(insert photo no. 2)

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

Potter, Jakovenko, Vencill, Hill, Browm, Cole

**Tin Cup Ceremony**

A ceremony honoring the Fallen was performed at the hotel where some from different unit members, line. A speech by Tome Roubideaux on the history of the tin cup was given. Started at a LRRP Reunion in Branson, MO. The tin cup wrapped with barb wire was filled with name brand "Tin Cup Whisky. Each member name a fallen member then takes a sip of the whisky. An awesome ceremony to remember our team members.

**Member inducted into Ranger Hall of Fame**

Sgt. Herbert M. Baugh. Baugh joined the Army in 1969 and was assigned to Troop B, 1/17th Cavalry, 82nd Airborne Division. He volunteered for deployment to the republic of Vietnam and was assigned to Troop E, 1/17th Cavalry, 173rd Airborne Brigade as a M60 Gunner. He later volunteered and was reassigned to Company N (Rangers) 75th Infantry and served on Teams Alpha and Bravo as a Scot Observer and RTO. Baugh

was wounded during a Hunter-Killer mission and yet continued the mission. 1st Sgt. Baugh was awarded the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry in November of 1970.

After his medical retirement in August 1990, Baugh became a teacher of at-risk youth and the founder of both youth and veteran organizations.

**Daughter of John Blake**

Hi Robert!

I cannot tell you how much it has meant to my life to have met you. To have the honor of putting faces to some of the names which have been rattling around in my head my entire life. I have held onto the stories and images which my father bestowed on me and held them just as close as I do him. My only regret is that I did not get to spend as much time with you one on one while we were in Vegas. Know this...you are very dear to me. Should you ever need me for anything...no matter what...I am right here! Hopefully, we can stay in touch now.

Rachel Anne Pearl Blake

**Chest Rig – Follow Up**

This chest rig is designed to carry the large 30 round banana clip AK-47 ammo. In 1969 I believe Pat Tadina had one he had taken off a dead body, but he didn't wear it all the time. In the spring we got permission to carry AKs (off and on) for a while. SF Command and Control had been "spiking" caches of AK ammo with C-4, so those of us who were carrying the weapon had to carefully shake each round to make sure we could hear the powder rattling around before loading our mags. I used a large claymore bag attached to the belt of my LBE to carry 4 banana clips, and balanced the load with an empty canteen pouch filled with 4-5 M-26 grenades on the other side.

The AK was a superior weapon to the M-16, but we had a propaganda war going on where our people were claiming the M-16 was best. The heavier 7.62 (almost 30 cal) AK bullet would actually kill people where the M-16 5.56 (about .22 cal) bullet was light, and easily deflected by a blade of grass or a piece of cloth. The problem with humping the AK was the tedious bullet shaking process one had to go through to load "clean" mags, and when we got resupplied in the field on a relocation mission the only rounds brought in were the 5.56 ammo...so the guy with the



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

AK was SOL. To get as much ammo in the field as possible, in addition to the four mags in the claymore bag, I taped two mags together (back-to-back, one upside down) to carry in the gun.

There was an article in "Stars and Stripes" in early 1969 about a sapper found in the wire at Phu Cat AFB with the bolt of an AK lodged in his eye socket. The commentary said "See...the AK is an unstable weapon and is apt to explode." Of course replacing the powder with C-4 helps a little. It was also a reminder to us to shake those rounds. However, I did carry an AK almost my entire time in Vietnam and I used part of the chest worn 30 round NVA web gear so I can talk about it a little bit. First, I don't know that one can hear the powder in any full metal jacket round by shaking it. That sounds like bullshit but perhaps my ears weren't as good as Joe's were. I never did that. There were rumors that SF was "poisoning" AK rounds they'd find in caches in Laos, etc., but that is highly suspect, too. I can't see SF SOG teams spending all the time it would take to pull apart the rounds, dump the powder and replace it with high explosive nor can I believe that SF would hump in hundreds of rounds of poisoned AK just hoping they'd find a cache. If they did it, I think it was pretty rare indeed. The NVA chest web gear had to be fitted to U.S. web gear and everyone had their own way of doing it. I don't know that anyone ever created a standard way of doing it but perhaps someone did after I left. I preferred the AK because it wasn't built with really tight specs, meaning that it could be wet and muddy and still fire because it was pretty "loose". That's why it made such a 'clacking' sound.

The M16 was made to such precise specifications that the tiniest grain of sand or drop of water would make it useless (that's a bit of an exaggeration but the M16 was notorious for finding ways to not fire and I had on two occasions that exact problem with one of the damned rifles blowing the top out of it, ripping the carrying handle in two). The downsides to the AK in my opinion were that it was horseshit trying to fire from a prone position. The banana clip would hit the ground forcing one to keep their head up higher to sight it, not good in a fire fight. One also could not hump as much ammo as one could with an M16. And, it was heavier than an M16. The upsides were that the round was heavier and less likely to run astray from a small branch and, best of all, the damned thing ALWAYS fired. I pulled mine from the muddy water in the bottom of a



**Chest Rig worn by  
Sgt. George Morgan**

bomb crater once after a full night's rain, ejected one shell with the barrel down to clear water from the barrel and the damned thing fired like new. Oh, it also wasn't as accurate as an M16 but neither one is a sniper rifle so in the jungle, it really didn't matter that you couldn't hit anything at 250 yards because most of the contact was a LOT closer than that.

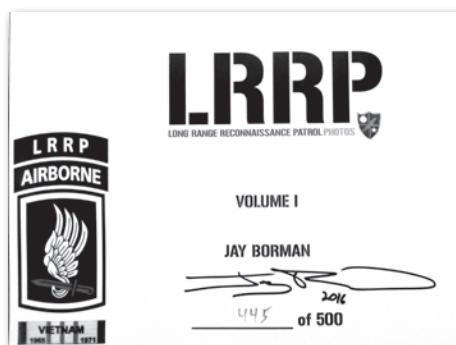
So, that's my AK47/NVA web gear story. I'm sure each guy who used one has their own. I still can't believe one can

"hear" the powder rattle in any rifle round. I'll have to check that out. Perhaps I've always been deaf and don't know it.

Reed "Joe" Welke – Team Charlie 1/68-12/68

## Member Contributing to next LRRP Book

Hi Terry Ziegenbein, i just wanted to shoot you a note and let you know I've shipped back your photo albums. I was able to scan just about everything. There is a TON of great info in your materials. I will spend some time cleaning up my scans and once I do, I will send you a thumb drive with all the files on it. I can't thank you enough for letting me borrow everything. It was a real treat to be able to scan them and see what your 16 or so months were like in Vietnam. I will probably have questions for you as I go through this stuff so I hope you don't mind if I reach out to you. Also, thanks for letting me copy that interview you did. There is a lot of good information about your service in there that will be very helpful to me. Thanks



by Jay  
Borman LRRP  
book Author  
(Honorary  
Member N/75)

**LRRP book  
with Herd  
Patch**

**N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP (Continued)****Turtle Christenson**

One of the early guys in LRRP was Chris "Turtle" Christenson who died of heart attack a number of years ago after he returned from doing security work in Iraq. We got together at the 2005 reunion. He was wearing shorts and had scars running down his leg where they had pulled arteries/veins to do bypass surgery. He had his fatal heart attack in Arizona where he was taking his newly acquired sailboat. He spent 30 years as a cop in Kalispell, Montana and his widow said he really hated winters—and he was living in northern Montana! I never knew why he was called "Turtle" and it turned out neither did she. Turns out they did a mud pit elimination at Recondo Class 00 aka last LRRP class at SF HQ in September 1966. It was either Gary Loetze or Bolen that tried to drag him out and he



just him out said it was like trying to dislodge a mud turtle.

**Chris  
"Turtle"  
Christenson,  
Bill Collins  
(KIA), Ben  
Moye**

**Backstory on Photo**

Team 4 has had its photo in a lot of anthologies of RVN photos and it does have a backstory. The Brigade had made the parachute drop at Katum. Teams three and six had been inserted two days before the drop to keep the DZ under surveillance to make sure that 4/503<sup>rd</sup> Parachute Infantry was not dropping into a fire sack. Four teams were to be inserted the second night we were at DZ. The first three insertions were run out under fire with a number of casualties so Team 4 stood down that night. Team 3 did not get in since they were fired upon at primary and secondary LZ's. They attempted a passage of lines the following morning and were engaged by VC/NVA skirmisher fire. This was the last patrol action of Sgt Frank Guill. Guill had jumped into Philippines with 11<sup>th</sup> Abn and made both drops with 187<sup>th</sup> in Korea along with a second Korean combat tour with 2ID. He was on his fourth tour in RVN and had his third award of CIB. He had incredible corporate knowledge which he was willing to partake with those who would listen. A number of us are alive because we listened.

Team 4 was inserted the following night just after photo was taken. I do not remember the photographer being there since I had other things on my mind. It does help to have team photographs by a world class LIFE Magazine photographer.



**Time  
Magazine  
photo**

The LZ was on a small clearing about two or three km from Cambodia. A

major trail ran around it. This was about two meters wide and was entirely Lambretta motor trike tracks. There were all-weather roads to large villages/towns on the border and the track ran straight to where the Suoi Ba Cham and Suoi Saigon met to make the Song Saigon. The track ran down an elevated region that was perhaps one or two meters higher than the marshland that ran for several km on either side. We reported the trail and were told that our patrol had been changed from area recon to point recon of the trail. We moved back about 50 m from the trail so we could listen for movement. We heard bicycles being ridden during the night (squeaking bike wheels).

We moved back to observe the trail and just as we got near the trail, two guys in black pajamas walked towards us, each carrying an RPD but neither had pack nor hat. We could have easily taken them out but I remembered that Guill had said to never engage if folks were not carrying packs since they were probably within a cantonment area. The terrain was fairly open high timber with a lot of large termite domes. We figured we had probably been spotted and requested infiltration but all choppers were involved with battalion lifts. We moved several hundred meters and waited for exfiltration. After two or three hours we were directed to head back to original LZ by "leaning into the fire". I had to ask what this meant. Artillery would fire 18 rounds of 105 mm and we would move into the beaten zone and artillery would fire another 18 rounds.

We spotted the LZ and I had the team go on-line and just as we got to the trail, three folks on bicycles rode past. We fired on them and dropped all three—and the RPD waiting for us nearly nailed our point man, Manuel Moya. They had apparently covered the



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

possible exfiltration LZ(s) and were waiting for us. This pinned everyone down and everyone emptied a magazine downrange (my SOP was first magazine was half ball and half tracer so it looked like the Roger Bumgarder was behind a two foot thick thick tree and he heard a lot of rounds impact the tree. I thought Moya had been hit at the first burst of fire from the three cyclists and figured we had to take out the RPD. I Located the RPD and put a magazine of aimed auto fire (it was only 15 to 20 meters away) into the prepared RPD position. I did it the way that Guill said to do it. Remain standing and fire down into the dug in position. It worked. Someone yelled "you got them." since two bodies went about a meter in the air (got a grenade or ammo box). Someone else was still firing from behind a termite dome. Went over to Bruce Baughn (RTO) and Ray Hill (ATL) who were arguing. Ray's rifle was jammed (he had taped two magazines together and jammed his weapon). I told Bruce to trade with Ray since he was to communicate and gave him my .45 and gave Ray a WP grenade. We took off as Ray tossed the WP on the guy and the NVA quit firing. Ray lost contact with us for a short time and ran right past us. He heard footsteps coming towards him, figured this was it and switched to full automatic and almost took out our point man. He had gone past us.

We changed direction several times to throw off pursuers. Stopped for water several times. We heard folks talking all around since we were within a large base camp. We heard chickens and people laughing and talking. We also found a pile of brand new shovels, mattocks and unused sandbags (they may have stolen these off the drop zone - we were 10 km from the Katum DZ). We walked through several hundred yards of base camp (sleeping platforms, tied over bamboo and cooking platforms). We finally were told that they would pick us up in 30 minutes but they asked that we cut an LZ in 30' bamboo (with Kabars and Randalls!). I asked for rope exfiltration but they finally agreed to a ladder exfiltration. I took radio and tied on seat sling (could always clip on to ladder and at least had radio if I had to solo E&E. Ray went up first followed by Moya. Ray moved over to other side of chopper, Moya crawled in and hit Ra's butt with his head driving Ray out the other side of chopper but door gunner grabbed him. I only found out this year at the Reunion in Branson that Ray saw NVAs on line heading our direction. We were being tracked. I had thought a bit about moving into the swamp and trying to recon the base camp but they would have been waiting for us.

by Reed Cundiff - LRRP Team 4 1966-67

## Three Caches Yield 1,500 Pounds of Death

Three caches were found by brigade elements recently, totaling more than 1,500 pound of explosives and ammunitions. **The largest, found by a Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) Ranger Team, attached to N Co. 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry.** was discovered in the An Loa Valley. The cache, strewn carelessly on a platform of branches, included 33 75mm and 39 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, three B-40 rockets, one 81mm mortar round, three 60mm mortar rounds, eight Chicom hand grenades, seven cases of .50 cal. machine gun and six cases of SKS ammunition. Various small arms ammunition also found. Sgt. Frank Aragon, Las Angeles, a ranger team leader and advisor to the ARVN team, was at the location when the rangers discovered the find. "At first we thought it was just a bunch of empty canisters. But when we began to check it we found out differently".

Article by Firebase 173



**Three Enemy Weapons Caches**



**Team Member,  
choice of  
Weapon**

**Author  
"Harry" Bell (KIA)**



**N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP (Continued)****Three Photos from Early Times**

Picture is me and Sgt. Smith. I don't know his first name. He was one of my interviewers when I came into the platoon. In this picture we were on C/6, a 50 cal jeep; we ran counter ambush for 17<sup>th</sup> Cav when we were not out on a mission. This picture was taken in the spring of 1966. We had been ambushed four times that day, but had only two or three WIA, and one KIA. This was prior to sending teams to Nha Trang for training. We got some training from the tab Rangers in the outfit, and an Aussie NCO, whose name I can't remember. Major Moore was in charge of the Cav then, and our platoon leader was a Lt named Young.

**Carter and Smith**

Picture is Jerry Linsner (L) and me. Same mission as picture 1, but before the ambushes.

**Jerry Linsner and Mark Carter**

Picture is two teams, at a pre-mission inspection. This is the first team I was on after the reorganization, when three teams came back from Project Delta. From

right to left is Bolan, Sipes, Carter, Lt Tieu (an ARVN officer)....I can't identify the rest, but Capt Palmer has his back to the camera. I can't identify the other man, but he may be either Sgt. Williams or Sgt Van Boven. That team also had Tessien and Van Boven in it. I can see Wolf Lotz in the background. It was taken in May, 1966, I think.

**LRRP Patrol Briefing**

Picture 4 is a mission briefing of LRP Team 3, probably June, 66. Van Boven gives the briefing. From left to right are: Sipes, Lt Tieu, RC Bolan, Carter, and Tessien. by Mark Carter - 173'd LRRP 65-66



## P/75 - 79TH LRP

Unit Director - Terry B. Roderick



It's been a busy spring and summer for the Papa Company Rangers. I'm writing this from my daughter's home in Charlotte, N.C. and don't have my notes handy so if I forget anyone or anything, please bear with me. Been a lot going on since my last article. Kicked off with the Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning in early April and then to Camp Merrill a couple of weeks later for the Mountain Ranger Association annual Critter Cookout and Open House in late April. Next event after that was the 2017 Ranger Rendezvous and 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association Reunion. A week later and Brother G got married in Galax, Virginia.

The David Grange Best Ranger Competition started out in early April and the weather was great. It's almost like a mini-reunion for Rangers of all eras. Duke DuShane, Ted Tilson, Terry Roderick, Rita and Colonel Joe Rippetoe and several of their family members, and WWII Ranger daughter, Lynn Towne were all in attendance. Lynn graciously and generously sponsored Duke, Ted, and I at all the events of the weekend and for that we all say, "Thank You very much."

Next up was the annual Critter Cookout and Open House at Camp Merrill in Dahlonega, Ga., at the Mountain Ranger Camp. Eddie Hoppe drove in from Texas and Jerry Yonko came in from Mississippi for their first time enjoying the event. Jerry brought me a nice knife that his son, Kelly, made for me as a gift and I wouldn't trade it for a new Randall. Probably too late for me to do anything sinister with it but it will become a family heirloom I hope, along with a few other items I've saved over the years. Both said they will be back. Tom Perry and Dave and Sheryl Gates were also there and I had about ten family and friends attend this year. Both daughters, their brother from another father (my husband-in-law) and his son, both sons-in-laws, granddaughter, Macie, and some friends of my daughter from the Charlotte area. Of course Ted Tilson and I were there too. Feel like I left someone out. When you read this, please let me know. My family unit rented a real nice home on a river in the area for the weekend and really enjoyed themselves and will be back. Always a good time there for the Open House and cookout. You should try and make it next year.

June found several of us at the annual Ranger Rendezvous and 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association Reunion. This was a special year as it marked the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Modern Rangers and included a Regimental Change of Command that was impressive as always. The banquet was Thursday night and General Stanley McChrystal was the guest speaker and entertained us, but the youngest daughter of one of our K/75<sup>th</sup> Rangers (Sgt.

Harry Clifton Phair), Catherine Phair, really stole the show with her emotional and inspirational speech about what our LRP/Ranger family means to her and her family. She's a beautiful young lady of 34 now, and related she has been attending these reunions for the last 25 years. She mixed humor with emotional words and held the audience spellbound during her speech. The video of her speech that you will enjoy is at the [www.75thrra.com](http://www.75thrra.com) website. There is a media tab at the top and then go to "videos" and you can listen to her 8-9 minute speech. You'll be glad you did. Though the activities ceased on Thursday night, we still had a representative group and we had a great time together and many of us stayed until Saturday morning. In attendance this year were Fred Tompkins, Terry Bishop, Garry Norton and his stepson Bob, Tom and Laurel Jones, John and Bonnie Beckwith, Dave and Sheryl Gates, Carney and Mary Walters, Steve and Barbara Nash, our special guest Dr. John Thiel, Kayla Skogebo and Anna Mayer (granddaughters of Kevin and Grace Mayer), Duke DuShane, Ted Tilson and his oldest daughter Jennifer Patterson, and Terry Roderick. I'm guessing Dr. Thiel enjoyed his stay with us and he fit right in with the guys and girls. I even saw him attending services at the "chapel" on several occasions during the week!! Ha! Ha!

Then everything began to take a back seat to Sam "Brother G" Burnette's upcoming nuptials a week later. The Lovely Ms. Betty Stoneman of Galax, Virginia was unable to withstand the advances of our Brother G and finally succumbed to his irresistibility that we're all familiar with from his days as a youngster with us in Camp Red Devil. Doubt she ever had a chance once he set his sights on her, but she tried to resist initially. He told Hardcore and I about her when we attended K/75<sup>th</sup> Ranger, Jim Testerman's funeral service in Marion, Virginia a few weeks earlier. We noticed his



**P/75 - 79TH LRP (Continued)**

glee during lunch as he showed off her photo to us and told us she liked riding horses and motorcycles. You could see the gleam in his eye and the spring in his step as he talked about her and told us it wasn't nothing real serious yet. Lo and behold, it seems like 6-8 weeks later and we got our invitations to their wedding on July 8<sup>th</sup> in Galax. Unbeknownst to Eddie and I, Sheryl and Dave Gates had visited them while they were in the Mt. Airy, NC area visiting Dave's family last fall and had met the bride to be then. I mentioned the wedding to Steve and Barbara Nash at the Rendezvous and they were more than ready to come down for this wonderful event. They had enjoyed the hospitality of this wonderful community for a prior event that wasn't such a joyous occasion about four years ago. So, we had Dave and Sheryl Gates there, Steve and Barbara Nash, and myself to make sure he went through with it and he made it easy for us. To show you that this is a real country style wedding, everyone except Dave, Sheryl, Steve, Barbara, and I were in blue jeans, cowboy boots, and cowboy hats. That all aside brings me to another subject...Dave Gates is dressing so fashionably and consistently that he's really making our former best dressed Ranger, my Ranger Daddy, and Ranger Hall of Fame member, Duke DuShane, into a "piker", for lack of a better word. Duke used to make me feel dirty when I was

around him with his fashion and creativity of dress, but retired CSM Gates is on a different level I'm telling you. And he's so humble about it that it makes me mad in a way. He was rocking a multicolored bowtie at Brother G's wedding that if I'm honest, I wish I had been wearing. Of course I had to chide him about it, but I was jealous and Duke better start stepping his game up when Gates is around.

In closing, we've decided to take our 2018 Papa Company Reunion to Rhode Island next summer. Nearest major airport is Providence and we'll be firming up plans and get information out to you all as soon as possible. The New England coastal area in Rhode Island is not a place I've ever been and I'm anxious to see it. This is Ranger David Slone's AO and we've decided to bring the company to him. For those who do not recognize the name or have memories of serving with Dave, he was our lone survivor of Team 18 and a major part of our unit history. We're anxious to share the brotherhood with him again and to invite all his family and friends to join us next summer. Steve Nash will be assisting Dave or vice versa in setting up accommodations for us as we work towards the dates, etc. Stand by for more information as it comes available. Until next time, blue skies and fair winds to you all!! In Ranger brotherhood, Terry "Rock" Roderick



**Sam "Brother G" and  
Betty Burnette**



**Terry Roderick, Sam  
Burnette, Dave Gates,  
and Steve Nash**



**My family unit at Critter Cookout**



**Terry Roderick, Jennifer Tilson  
Patterson, Kayla Skogebo,  
Anna Mayer, and Ted Tilson**



**Yonko, Perry, Hoppe, Tilson,  
Gates, and Roderick**





# ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Unit Director - Bill Miller



Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Once again this abbreviated edition of the BDQ submittal is the direct result of no one sending anything to be published. This is very disturbing to me as I spend a lot of time and energy trying to keep us together.

I still need your articles and photos. If you don't respond I will not have much to send in for publication. I know that many of you like and wait for the patrolling magazine to arrive, and there have been problems, but I believe that it is a great magazine and we need to continue this publication.

If you are an annual member please send your dues to the following address: 75<sup>th</sup> RRA, PO Box 348360, Sacramento, CA. 95834-8360

## New Member

It is a pleasure to announce that we have a new member. His name is Bob Long who served with MACV Advisory Team 21, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Group, 22<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 66-67. Bob currently resides in Florida and has provided me with additional names of Team 21 that served at that time. Welcome aboard and we look forward to you joining us at our next reunion.

## Lost Souls

If anyone knows the whereabouts of the following Rangers please let me know. Robert Gill and Joseph Connolly II have been located.

George Chigi  
David Cuellar  
Dan Donohue  
Courtney Frobis  
George Horvath III  
Calvin Morse  
Phillip Vargas  
Gary Littrell



## Quote

"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the Labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

- Thomas Jefferson

## One Final Tribute

### U. S. Army

It is the Soldier, not the minister  
Who has given us the freedom of religion  
It is the Soldier, not the reporter  
Who has given us freedom of the press  
It is the Soldier, not the poet  
Who has given us freedom of speech  
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer  
Who has given us freedom to protest  
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer  
Who has given us the right to a fair trial  
It is the Soldier, not the politician  
Who has given us the right to vote  
It is the Soldier who salutes the flag  
Who serves beneath the flag  
And whose coffin is draped by the flag  
Who allows the protester to burn the flag

- Charles Michael Province

Mu Nau  
Bill Miller, Unit Director



## D/151 LRP/RANGER

Unit Director - Tom Hughel

On March 30<sup>th</sup> of this year the City of Carmel, Indiana, The American Legion 155 and the VFW 10003 hosted a Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans dinner at the American Legion 155 in Carmel, Indiana. The event included special recognition of Company D, 151<sup>st</sup> Infantry, the "Indiana Rangers". Dinner was followed by speeches made by Carmel Mayor, Greg Brainard, Ron Sukenick, Vietnam Veterans of America, and Sgt. Sammy Davis, Medal of Honor Recipient. Mayor Brainard presented all of the Vietnam Veterans with a special challenge coin made specifically for this event.



Since this was a non-reunion year for the Unit several of the members got together and planned a mini-reunion. The owner and operator, our own Dwain Robinson, of the Whitewater River Campground in Connersville, IN hosted the event by setting aside camp sites for the members and their families. We had about 25 men from Company D and in all about 60 people were there over the three days in August. Food, fun, games, music and war stories prevailed. If you're looking for a great camping site, see Roby at Whitewater. This is was our third year to have this event at Whitewater and it looks like an ongoing event for the Indiana Rangers.



# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

To prevent lapses in your memberships please send dues and any ADDRESS CHANGES to:

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PO Box 348360  
Sacramento, CA 95834-8360

The Association makes donations to each of the four Ranger battalions for the benefit of the young rangers and their families. We have also established a Gold Star fund to support our Gold Star families program. If you wish to help out, anytime is the right time—especially right now. If you wish to pay with one check for any combination of dues and funds, please specify how much is to go to each. Thank you!



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SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

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FROM (DATE)	TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS
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## **WILLIAM T. ANTON, LTC,**

### **Ret - Past President 75th Ranger Regiment Assn. 2013-2015**

LTC (Ret) William T. Anton, Ed. D. Dr. William T. Anton was born in Chicago, Illinois on 7 July 1948 to LTC (Ret.) & Mrs. Andrew Anton. Upon completion of High School, Ranger Anton accepted an ROTC scholarship to the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Ranger Anton played football for the Cornhuskers. Due to an injury sustained playing football, Ranger Anton ceased to play for the team so that he may continue his role as cadet. In '69-'70, Ranger Anton was selected as National Commander of Pershing Rifles, and promoted to Cadet Major General. He was the highest ranking ROTC Cadet in the United States with over 20,000 cadets in his command, with 17 Regiments.

Ranger Anton, a Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG), entered active duty into the United States Army in February 1970 as a Regular Army 2nd Lt. and completed I.O.B.C. From this point, Ranger Anton successfully completed and graduated from the U.S. Army Airborne School and the U.S. Army Ranger School with Ranger Class 14-70. Ranger Anton was a Patrol Platoon Leader in Co. O (Arctic Ranger) 75th Inf. (Airborne) and made the historic first tactical parachute jump on the Polar Ice Cap. Ranger Anton served with Co. H (Ranger) 75th Inf. (Airborne), the most decorated combat Ranger Unit in Vietnam, serving as Company Commander and Executive Officer. Ranger Anton was decorated for valor while serving in this unit.

Ranger Anton retired from Active Duty in November, 1990 after serving 20 years on Active Duty in the United States Army. Ranger Anton holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Education from the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, a Master's Degree in Education from North Carolina State University, Raleigh, and a Doctorate in Education from the George Washington University, Washington, D.C. Ranger

Anton serves as the unit Director for Co. H (Ranger) 75th Inf. (Airborne), 1st Cavalry Division, 75th Ranger Regiment Association. His Masonic activities are numerous, including Past Master of Solomon Lodge No. 822 and a Past Senior Grand Warden within the American Canadian Grand Lodge. Ranger Anton is also a Coroneted 33rd Degree; Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite member. Ranger Anton is also a Life Member in MENSA, the high I.Q. society.

Additionally, he is a Life Member of the Combat Infantryman's Association, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, 75th Ranger Regiment Association, U.S. Army Ranger Association, 82d Airborne Division Association, and Special Forces Association. Ranger Anton is a 100% Disabled Veteran. Ranger Anton is currently the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Department (State) Adjutant in Nevada – this equates to the Chief Executive Officer of the organization. He is also in line to be the President of the Commanders and Adjutants Association at the DAV National level.

To the very end he lived up to the creed: "Surrender is not a Ranger word." Retired Lt. Col. Bill Anton, Nevada's first soldier inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame, died Thursday of complications from a lengthy battle with cancer, which he blamed on his exposure to Agent Orange defoliants during the Vietnam War. He was 68. "He was an American hero who will be greatly missed by our family," his son, Mike, said Friday.

Bill Anton, of North Las Vegas, was a veterans advocate in many service organizations. As state commander for the Disabled American Veterans, he worked through Department of Veterans Affairs channels to assist veterans with their claims for benefits.

He also lobbied for legislation at the state and federal levels to preserve the integrity of military medals and awards through “stolen valor” laws.

He helped craft a bill sponsored by former Rep. Joe Heck and Sen. Dean Heller, both Nevada Republicans, that President Barack Obama signed into law in 2013. The law makes it a crime to lie about receiving military medals and targets people who try to profit by falsely passing themselves off as war heroes. Anton noted the problem is widespread, often saying military frauds and phonies and those who embellish service records “are everywhere.” “Our veterans deserve this,” he told the Review-Journal after Obama signed the law on June 3, 2014. “It keeps the jackals and lowlifes from trying to cash in on all of our hard work. The veterans have something that these wannabes don’t have. That is integrity.”

William Terrence Anton was born July 7, 1948, in Chicago. He graduated in 1966 from East Anchorage High School in Alaska, where his father, Army Lt. Col. Andrew Anton, was stationed.

### **Cornhusker lineman**

He attended the University of Nebraska on an ROTC scholarship and played guard on the Cornhuskers football team. In 1969-70, he was selected national commander of National Society of Pershing Rifles, becoming the nation’s highest-ranking ROTC cadet.

He entered the Army’s active duty ranks as a second lieutenant and distinguished military graduate in 1970, later completing Army Airborne School and Army Ranger School. He was an Arctic Ranger patrol platoon leader “and made the historic first tactical parachute jump on the polar ice cap,” according to his Ranger Hall of Fame biography from 2009. His call sign was “Polar Bear,” which he said was fitting because he was left-handed, in keeping with the myth that all of the ursine arctic dwellers are southpaws.

During the Vietnam War he served as executive officer and commander of Company H (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne), the most decorated combat Ranger unit in the conflict. He later served as director of the 1st Cavalry Division, 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

“Bill has been a champion for the cause for veterans, particularly disabled veterans. He just had a big heart to make sure the government got the veterans what they earned,” said Jim Faulkner, a Silver Star recipient who served with Anton in Vietnam.

Anton wrapped up his 20-year Army career in 1990. In 2003, he moved from Maryland to Southern Nevada because the arid climate helped ease the soreness of his war injuries, which included compressed vertebrae, two shot knees, a bum shoulder and no feeling in his feet. His exposure to dioxin-laced Agent Orange contributed to diabetes and bladder cancer. He also battled post-traumatic stress disorder.

### **‘Caring and effective’**

Retired Army Maj. Gen. Scott Smith said Anton was one of “the most caring and effective persons I’ve ever known. His vast experience, quick mind, persuasive way with words and deep love and respect for all his fellow veterans set him apart.”

Shortly before his induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2009, he was honored by throwing out the first pitch at a Las Vegas 51s game at Cashman Field. He told RJ sports columnist Ed Graney that he was “shocked, humbled and honored beyond belief” to be selected for inclusion. “You can’t politic for this. It has to come from your soldiers and NCOs. My men. They pushed for it. It touches me more than you can imagine.”

Besides his bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Nebraska, he earned a master’s degree in education from North Carolina State University and a doctorate in education from George Washington University.

In 2012, the Military Intelligence Corps presented Anton the prestigious Knowlton Award for his “high standards of integrity, moral character, professional competency and selflessness” in leading his electronic warfare company to develop a key intelligence-gathering tool in 1979. The battle-tested, shock-resistant system continued to gather vital intelligence more than a decade later during Operation Desert Storm.

He also served as Nevada’s civilian aide to the secretary of the Army in 2015. Anton was a longtime member of Special Forces Association Chapter 51 and American Legion China Post 1.

He is survived by his wife, Maryna Anton; brothers Terrence Anton of Oklahoma and Thomas Anton of Idaho; daughter Susan Anton of Washington, D.C.; son Mike Anton of Scottsdale, Arizona; and three grandchildren, Joshua Olmos, Sofia Elena Olmos and Camden Anton. Plans for a memorial service are pending. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Contact Keith Rogers at [krogers@reviewjournal.com](mailto:krogers@reviewjournal.com) or 702-383-0308. Follow @KeithRogers2 on Twitter.



I hope you enjoy the little story I put together about the very popular China Burma India veteran Earnest “Ernie” Hubacker celebrating his 102nd birthday in Jamestown, ND. Although “Ernie” was a long-time presence at Merrill’s Marauders’ reunions until the past several years, he always made sure everyone knew he was with Mars Task Force and not the Marauders. Mars Task Force operated in the CBI after the Marauders disbanded. Like many of the Marauders and other WW II veterans, Ernie loves life and people—and has many interests. At an Atlanta Marauder reunion years ago when Ernie was being twirled around by an attractive swing-dance instructor, he said if he’d known “getting old was this much fun, I would have gotten old sooner.”

Some of you are probably already aware of this, but I wanted to make sure all of you know that Merrill’s Marauders—officially the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional—was completely omitted from the 2017 Ranger Hall of Fame program’s “History of the American Ranger.” This year’s RHOF program is the first—to my knowledge—since the annual Ranger Hall of Fame inductions began in 1992 that has left Merrill’s Marauders out of the “Ranger History.” It has always been included in previous programs—with minor errors—but always included. Dad saved every program before he died - and now I do.

Even though the Merrill’s Marauder history is a bit confusing, those soldiers who have taken Ranger history know that the crest for the 75th Ranger Regiment is the Merrill’s Marauder patch. Camp Frank D. Merrill, where the Airborne Ranger Training Brigade conducts the mountain phase of Ranger training, is named after the unit’s commander. The almost 3,000 men in this “expendable” top-secret commando unit in the China Burma India Theater were not considered Rangers during WW II. That honor came later, as Merrill’s Marauder Bob Passanisi, now 93, mentioned in his 2016 Merrill’s Marauder RHOF acceptance speech:

“I can’t even begin to tell you just how honored I am for being inducted into The Ranger Hall Of Fame, to be chosen to be included among America’s very best of the best, is beyond my wildest dream. There was another time when I felt deeply honored; that was back in the early nineteen sixties when the newly formed Ranger Unit, after searching the escapades of all of the Army’s World War II units chose Merrill’s Marauders as their heritage and I, a kid from the streets of Brooklyn, became a Ranger. True, I didn’t attend Ranger Training

School or compete in the nearly impossible Ranger Obstacle Course, but I, who had just turned nineteen and was still wet behind the ears, did manage to keep all of Merrill’s Marauders radios in repair and kept our vital communications operating.”

And this year, Merrill’s Marauders were fortunate to be honored again when Merrill’s Marauder Gilbert Howland, 92, a WW II, Korea and two tours in Vietnam veteran, was inducted into the 2017 RHOF. Howland is one of only several hundred triple CIBs whose names are displayed at the National Infantry Museum. How sad that the keepsake RHOF program that he—and hundreds of other folks—took home doesn’t even mention his unit. Howland’s son, Bob, was the person who pointed out this omission to me in June.

Hopefully, this omission was not intentional. During the era when I worked as a professional journalist and PR person, I would have been fired for a mistake like this. Even the 2017 program cover had issues. This is the first year that the color—black—did not “bleed” to the edge. Instead there was an unnecessary white border around the front and back cover, which diminished the “punch” of the design. “Attention to detail,” or to say it the Ranger way, “100 percent and then some” is now more important than ever, particularly when the multitude of communication choices like texting, power points, face book, twitter, instagram, etc., etc., may cause folks to be too relaxed when they have to produce a formal document. The reasons that led to writing “The Charge of the Light Brigade” are an excellent example of what can happen in battle from poor communication.

Thanks to all of you for reading this—sorry it’s a bit long. I should have sent this email sooner, but I’ve been incredibly busy since Ranger Rendezvous when I set up a very comprehensive Merrill’s Marauder display as part of the first-ever Ranger Expo held in the front corridor of McGinnis-Wickam Hall. Since the end of June, I’ve done seven Merrill’s Marauders living history exhibits/presentations in Georgia and nearby states, and have distributed hundreds of pieces of information about our ongoing efforts to obtain the Congressional Gold Medal for Merrill’s Marauders.

Again thank you—Jonnie Melillo Clasen  
Merrill’s Marauders Proud Descendants liaison officer  
Daughter, Georgia’s last Merrill’s Marauder Vincent Melillo

**“Ernie” Hubacker is oldest WW II China Burma India veteran  
Mars Task Force survivor turned 102 Oct. 16, 2017**

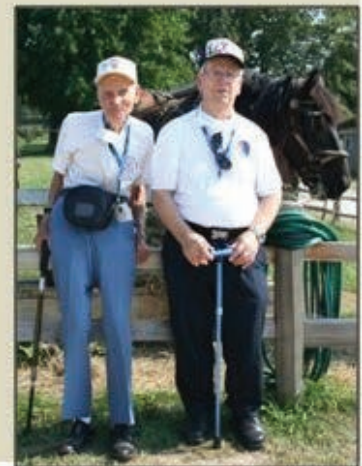


Ernie Hubacker  
Eventide  
1300 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, NE  
411-B  
Jamestown, ND 58401-3709



*by Jonnie Melillo Clasen, Merrill's Marauders Proud Descendants liaison officer*

Ernest “Ernie” Hubacker sits astride his horse as a young Cavalry soldier with the 253<sup>rd</sup> Remount Squadron, Troop A, at Ft. Reno, OK. That photo hangs at Ft. Benning’s “Fiddler’s Green” Bar. Last week, Ernie celebrated his 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday with friends and family at the American Legion in Jamestown, ND. He became the oldest CBI veteran after Merrill’s Marauder Tom Tsubota died Valentine’s Day 2017 at 102. Tsubota was very briefly the oldest Army Ranger, replacing WW II Ranger and physician Joe Hilsman who was four days away from turning 103 when he died Jan, 18, 2017. Merrill’s Marauders lost another centenarian when retired Maj. Gen. Milton Pilcher died Easter Sunday 2017. Ernie, who flew on an “Honor Flight” to Washington, DC at age 100, enjoys writing and receiving letters. His address is above. Until recent years, the well-loved CBI veteran regularly attended Merrill’s Marauder reunions, although he always pointed out, “I am not a Marauder.” Ernie’s first love was with the Cavalry at Fort Reno, which he said was where “the horses took their basic training. Trading in my shiny boots for a jungle uniform was enough to make a grown man cry.” Ernie and the late Merrill’s Marauder Vincent Melillo are seen with one of the draft horses that pulled the boat they were riding in through the Erie Canal when the 2011 Merrill’s Marauder reunion was held in Canton, Ohio.







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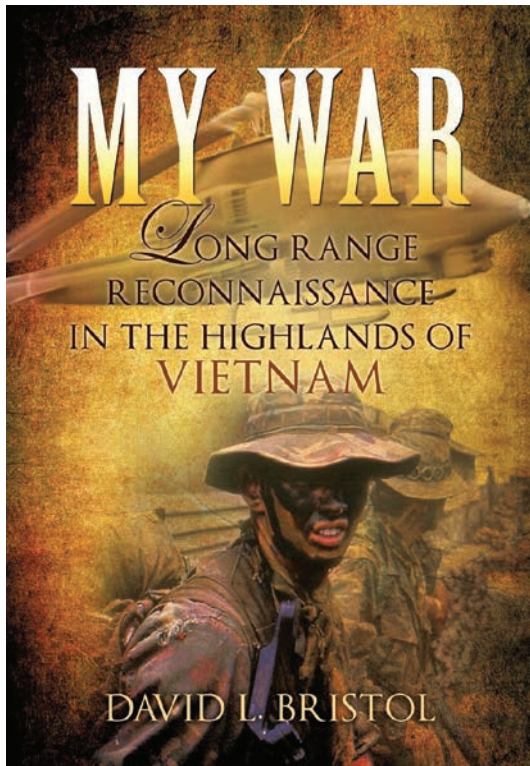
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## My War

is the story of a young Ranger, in the Highlands of Vietnam, his experiences and the men he served with. It was written for those who were not there, but Veterans have found it helpful as well.

The book is available online at Amazon in paperback and E-book. Signed copies are available at [www.mywarvietnam.com](http://www.mywarvietnam.com)