

PATROLLING

JUNE 2020 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC. Volume 32 Issue II



Fort Benning, GA— Soldiers from the Ranger Flight Company known as the Ravens, prepare to depart Lawson Army Flight Airfield. The Ravens conduct air assaults, air maneuvers, and special mission aviation training and support of the Commanding General, MCoE, and Fort Benning, GA. Photo Credit: Patrick A. Albright, Maneuver Center of Excellence and Ft Benning Public Affairs.



Columbus' Mogadishu Mile 5k event logo (left) and Three Rangers Foundation virtual event shirt logo

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Editor's Corner

By Stephen Odin Johnson—Editor

2020 Ranger Hall of Fame Ceremony Postponed until July 2021

For those of us who have been successfully social distancing by living in a self contained bomb shelter or without any means of communication, take notice. The 2020 RHOF Ceremony will now take place in July 2021.

Front Cover Page— The top photo shows the “Ravens” who work closely with the 75th Regiment soldiers during their missions. The bottom photo shows Columbus’ Mogadishu Mile 5k event logo (left) and Three Rangers Foundation virtual event shirt logo (right).

Photos— We would like to thank the Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning Public Affairs for providing photos for Patrolling!

Corrections— I apologize to Vic Power for not spelling his last name correctly. I mistakenly spelled his last name wrong in Dianne’s Gold Star article in the last issue. Sorry, Vic.

Snowball Express— John McGee shares information about an event that he and his wife participate in and is asking your support. **P-9**

Open Letter— Rick Barela provides a challenge to the GWOT era Rangers. **P-11**

Liberty Jump Team— Retired CSM Tracy Huff shares information about the Liberty Jump Team. You might want to “hook up” with them. **P-12**

Merrill’s Marauders— Jonnie Clasen gives an update on each of the 9 surviving Merrill’s Marauders **P-13**

Social Distancing— For those of us who are affected by PTSD, social distancing is nothing really new. Read Jill Stephenson’s Gold Star Article. Jill always provides us a great read! **P-14**

Health Article #7— Conscious Breathing is a viable intervention for good mental health. Harrison Jack is continually providing health information that we can use if we choose to. **P-16**

Unit Director Reports— Outstanding articles by our unit directors. Your units and other readers from the Association will be pleased! **P-18-51**

Any suggestions for Patrolling magazine please let me know.

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Patrolling is published quarterly by the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., and is mailed third class postage under postal permit #71, Bemidji, MN.

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

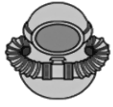
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The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that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

Deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August, and November for the four yearly issues of March, June, September, and December respectively.

POSTMASTER

Send address corrections to:
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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

BY JOE MARQUEZ

Greetings Rangers,

It is with mixed emotions that I write. In the last several months we have lost some good friends, some through the Coronavirus and some through cancer. Others through other disease or accident. While those who are in dangerous places around the world are at risk of life and limb serving the interests of the United States of America. Here in Paraguay we have been on countrywide lockdown, staying at home for the last two months. Around the world it has come to our attention that the world is an insecure place to live. How can one live some what tranquilly in such a place? Two thousand years ago a man would be born during a turbulent time. His supposed father was a humble carpenter, his mother a young virgin engaged to be married. An angelic messenger was sent to both Joseph and Mary with a revelation of the stupendous purpose of God to send His Son into the world by miraculous means. "A virgin would conceive, and bear a Son, and his name would be, Emmanuel, God with us." The Prophet Isaiah had prophesied as many centuries before.

Why did He come? To save those who were tired of trying in their own strength to meet the demands of their instinctive knowledge that something was wrong with them and with the world around them. As the patriarch and Prophet Job had asked, "How can a man be just before God?" Who can you pass muster before a Holy Being who expects each to reflect His image perfectly in a world of broken people? My mirror has long been shattered as has been all those around me, by ignorance or on purpose.

God's fix for such a world was not to magically transform it. But to condemn it! And in condemning the conduct of all of us he sent His Son to bear the burden of that condemnation. Although Jesus was condemned by Jewish and Roman rulers for saying just what was true. That he was the Son of God come down from heaven to give life to a world in rebellion against its Creator. The nation's religious rulers hated him for exposing their hypocrisy. The Roman ruler wanted to rid himself of a troubling situation, and Herod, well he wanted to see a miracle from this man whom he had heard much about. Jesus spoke, and then was quiet. Led as a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearers, so he opened not his mouth. He let wicked men put him on a Cross, lifted up between heaven

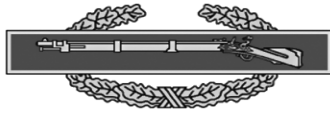
and earth. Exposed to humiliation and shame from those who refused to recognize his heavenly origin below. Exposed to the rage of his and God's ancient enemy as God turned his face away from His beloved Son. The One who was made sin for us, he who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

When Christ's body was broken on that tree. For cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree. He, the Creator of all bore the curse of each man and woman who ever lived on the earth. He died, the innocent for the guilty. The perfect mirror was smashed.

Three days later, He rose again. And now sits at the right hand of the Majesty on High, next to the One who delivered Him up for us all. He who searches the hearts looks for those who despair of finding a right standing from anything or anyone on earth. But look up to the One who created us to live, and not die. To ask for forgiveness for our sins from the only One who has power to forgive them. "But that you may know that the Son of Man has power to forgive sins..."

The Apostle Paul preached repentance towards God and faith toward Our Lord Jesus Christ. When I realize that this world offers no hope of redemption, and I turn my eyes toward heaven. I find that my heart of stone has been changed. That I now feel things as God meant me to do. And that with a new heart I can serve freely. The burden of my past is taken away. The future before me is bright. "Therefore, being justified by faith (not in my faith, but in His work on my behalf) I have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." May each who reads these words find peace in a weary world, in troubled times find an anchor for one's soul that doesn't depend on the circumstances around but on the truthfulness of Him who said, "He that hears my words, and believes on Him that sent me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto life."

Joe Marquez, C/1/503rd, '69 N/75th, Juliet, '70 A/2/503rd, '70 Chaplain: of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Serving those who served. 864-467-0424 Cell 864-525-6941 Our lives are but for a moment, while what we do or leave undone will echo down through eternity.



WHO WE ARE: The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501©19 corporation, registered in the state of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F Co 58th, (LRP) and L Co 75 (Ranger) Inf. The first meeting was held on June 7, 1986, at Ft. Campbell, KY.

OUR MISSION:

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible members of the 75th Infantry Rangers and those who served in the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Companies, Long-Range Patrol (LRP) Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ). Also eligible are those 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 members of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

2. To sustain the Association. To promote and establish *fellowship of the Special Operations ranger community by recruitment and encouragement of active duty and recently separated Rangers to become members. The association provides a special "No Cost Membership" to all personnel while assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.*

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, 3rd, STB, and MIB Ranger Battalions, successor units, or any additions that are activated and assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

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.

Section 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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



WHAT WE DO: The 75th Ranger Regiment Association participants in a variety of events that support our members and the active duty regiment. Each event is reviewed by the Board of Officers for merit and how it will promote the Association. Our current projects include; awarding scholarships (to qualified individuals) through our coordination and with the support of the National Ranger Memorial Scholarship Foundation. We also provide support to the Best Ranger Competition and any other events the officers regard as beneficial to the association ethos.

We hold biennial reunions (in conjunction with the 75th Ranger Regiment Rendezvous) and business meetings. The association officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer), are elected at the biennial association business meeting. This reunion is held at Columbus/Fort Benning, GA
Subordinate units hold off-year reunions at various locations across the United States per their unit schedule

Presidents

| | |
|-----------|--|
| 1986-1988 | Bob Gilbert |
| 1988-1990 | Billy Nix |
| 1990-1992 | Bob Gilbert |
| 1992-1994 | Roy Nelson (resigned) Milton Lockett (resigned) Duke Dushane (selected by Directors) |
| 1994-1996 | Roy Barley |
| 1996-1998 | Rick Ehrler |
| 1998-2000 | Terry Roderick |
| 2000-2002 | Emmett Hiltibrand |
| 2002-2004 | Dana McGrath |
| 2004-2005 | Emmet Hiltibrand |
| 2005-2007 | Stephen Crabtree |
| 2007-2009 | William Bullen |
| 2009-2011 | John Chester |
| 2011-2013 | Joe Little |
| 2013-2015 | Bill Anton |
| 2015-2019 | Richard Barela |
| 2019- | Stephen Johnson |

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 Regiment HHC Company, activated in 1984
75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion, activated in 2007
75th Ranger Military Intelligence Battalion, activated in 2017

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.

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Vacant

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FREE MEMBERSHIP- NOT A RENEWAL OFFER

NEW MEMBERS FREE OFFER*

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. is embarking on a membership drive specifically aimed at veterans of the 75th Ranger Regiment. The 75thRRA is offering free one-year memberships to those who qualify as a Regular Member as defined in Article VIII-Section 2 of our By-Laws, and only to those who served in a qualifying unit as defined by Article V-Sections 6 & 7. Our goal is to acquire 500 new Regiment members, and the offer will expire only when that goal is reached. *

ARTICLE VIII-SECTION 2: Regular membership

Regular membership is afforded to any individual who served honorably in any of the predecessor or successor units, or who is presently serving in a current or successor unit listed in ARTICLE V of these Bylaws. Regular active members enjoy the full rights and privileges of membership, to include the responsibility and the right to vote on all issues and matters presented to the membership, which include elections of all Executive Board Officers of the Association and changes to these Bylaws. Only members afforded Regular membership status may hold National level Association office of Executive Board of Officers. Applications for Regular membership, along with the prescribed supporting documentation, shall be submitted to the Association Secretary.

ARTICLE V-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 Regiment HHC Company, activated in 1984
 75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion, activated in 2007
 75th Ranger Military Intelligence Battalion, activated in 2017



COMPLETE ALL FORMS AND SEND TO:

75th RRA

PO Box 2200

Orangevale, CA 95662

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 of Article V of our by-laws

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----|
| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | MI |
| STREET ADDRESS | | |
| CITY | STATE | ZIP |
| PRIMARY PHONE | SECONDARY PHONE | |
| EMAIL ADDRESS | | |

SIGNATURE _____

UNITS

FROM (DATE) TO (DATE)

UNIT (Company or Battalion)

NAMES OR ORDERS

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | |
| | | |

REMARKS _____

MEMBERSHIP CONTINGENT UPON PROOF OF SERVICE AS REQUIRED BY OUR BYLAWS: orders, or have two current members provide testimony of your service in an eligible unit as designated by our Bylaws. We are not just a Vietnam era veteran's organization. Service in all units of the 75th Ranger Regiment is eligible for membership.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY STEPHEN O. JOHNSON

COVID-19 has affected our lives on a daily basis as individuals and with all of our quality world connections. One major result of the virus is the postponing of the 2020 Ranger Hall of Fame Ceremony that has now been moved to July of 2021. It was a difficult decision that involved feedback from the 2020 RHO of Class, the RHO of Selection Committee, and the support of MG Brito, among others. But ultimately, Colonel Scarpulla of the ARTB announced the postponement. So we support that decision and the 75th RRA will plan accordingly and move forward.

RHO of CLASS 2020— Congratulations to several members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association who have been selected into the 2020 RHO of Class, including George (Dave) Gates, David Cummings, and Rick Barela.

BYLAW AMMENDMENT— This is needed to amend Article XI section 6.a.

What was mistakenly printed on the 2017 ballot and what was supposed to be printed was not intended. A backdrop on this, please read Patrolling on pp. 10-11, Volume 28 Issue IV. If you do not have the magazine in your possession, go to our website and click on "Info Central", click Patrolling, then click on 216 4. During our constitutional meeting held in 2016, everyone of the executive board was in total agreement. Read it and look at our present bylaw in question. We need to get this corrected now and we are.

Secretary Tom Sove has in his report for this issue, a succinct explanation of the new proposal. Also there is an enclosed postcard ballot that you can mail or you may vote by email. Directions on how to do this is on page 52. The intent was never to have term limits for our secretary or treasurer during the constitutional meeting to ensure stability for the 75th RRA.

UNIT DIRECTORS— Driving back from Florida this last month, after the powers that be closed the beaches and golf courses, postponed the Best Ranger, and Critter Cookout, I was somewhat "down". Until I returned a call to recently retired CSM Rick Merritt. He mentioned that he had a lot of time available to serve within the 75th RRA. An instant smile came to my face as I thanked him for volunteering and mentioned several UD positions that were in need of a new unit director. One of whom was 1st Batt UD Bill Acebes. Bill is concentrating on improving his health after cancer treatment. Rick, after coordinating with Bill and Brenda, is now our new 1st Batt UD (OMG, new blood!).

Right now, Tony Mayne, 3rd Batt UD wants to step down and focus his time on the Darby Project. Understandable, but maybe he'll continue?

So, if you want to be involved in the affairs of the 75th RRA we have several UD positions available:

3rd Batt, HQ 75th, and O 75th.



Give me a call or an email and I will get back to you with another smile.

OPERATION SNOWBALL EXPRESS— John McGee's article on a request for unit patches found on page 9 deserves the Association's support and individual help as well. John is the 25th UD and he and his wife deserve a big thank you from us!

NEW BLOOD— Attrition will eventually take care of that problem. Right now the modern era Ranger has a minority of memberships within our organization when compared to the Vietnam Ranger era members. It's been my observation that often times younger Ranger Veterans (I was there once) might want to become a member of a Veteran organization only when they have had their feet on the ground for 10-30 years after leaving the service. After becoming a member, about half stay and indirectly participate and the other half (for whatever reason) leave. Those that do stay, often will not volunteer to be directly involved with the association that they are members. Less than <1% will ever consider stepping forward. Less than that actually do. That's where we are at now. We have free memberships available that trickle in each month, we have changed our logo to include the Armed Forces and GWOT Expeditionary Ribbons, and are doing other interventions. There is no magic wand my friends. But we will encourage and be respectful to the young Rangers who venture our way and gladly accept them. This is what a lot of Association members do now. I can't control what other people do but I sure can control what I do. Choices. Baby steps, but we are moving forward and we can't turn the clock ahead nor behind.

UNIT DIRECTORS— Get your 2021 Ranger Hall of Fame committee together and come up with a list of possible inductees for the 2021 RHO of. I will be mailing to you the most recent PDF packet. Replace all other PDF packets with the one I am sending you. Also you and your committee will be getting the latest RHO of Bylaws, MOI, and signature page. A couple of things to remember. It's not just the candidate's military service but equally weighted are his contributions to the Greater Ranger Community. Secondly, if that nominee has done something while in the service or as a civilian that could prove embarrassing to himself and the Association, that has to be taken into account. You can't start this process soon enough.

Merrill's Memberships— Tom Sove, coordinating with Jonnie Clasen, has sent out memberships to 7 of the 9 Merrill's Marauders who did not have a membership with the 75th RRA. Now, all 9 surviving Marauders have a 75th RRA membership!



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1st VP MESSAGE

ROY BARLEY

What Spring? Did we have a Spring this year? With everything cancelled or postponed it sure does not seem like it. What we have happening this year seems to shrink every day. To-

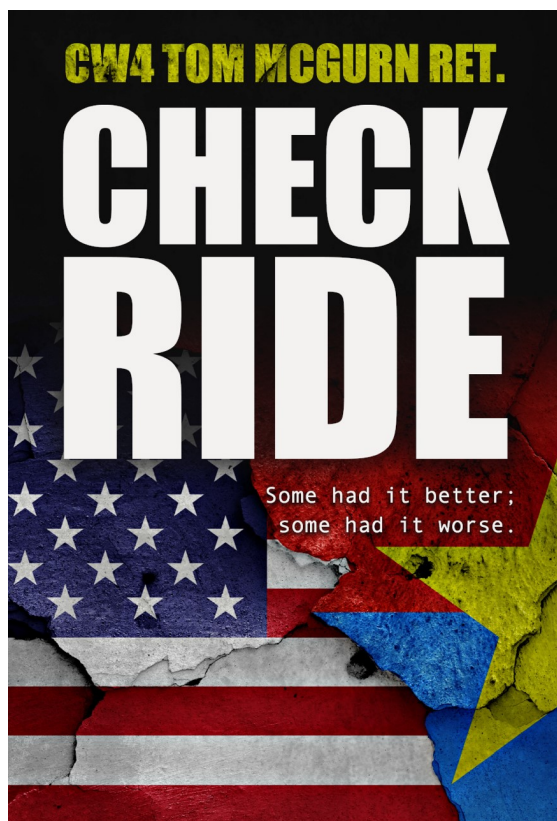
day I learned that the Hall of Fame inductions are postponed until 2021. Does that mean that the 2021 HOF is postponed until 2022? This Army has been kinder and gentler for some time now and maybe it is time to go back to basics. Is it right to make these well deserving men, who have earned this honor, wait for a full year because of perceived problems with this virus? Could it be held outside, liked they used to be? *There is no good reason why this should be postponed. Their families have sacrificed and this is their reward also. The honors need to be done and done now.*

We have an important change that needs to be made in our constitution. Most of this change we thought was done the last time around. Our Secretary and Treasurer are main stays of our organization and there is a need to allow them to hold their office well and beyond a two-year time period. If we had to replace either Tom or Roger, we would be set back at least two or three years. We have in place a section that would allow for

their removal for not doing their job or dishonesty. And the membership could always simply vote them out of office. Simple! As in the past, there is no reason why they cannot continue for as long as they are needed and want to serve.

One topic that constantly comes up is the need for new blood in this Association. We have offered free membership for the younger Rangers. We have extended ourselves in an effort to attract new and younger members. There is only so much we can do but we must continue to drive on and secure as many as we can. I remember returning from Vietnam and wanted nothing to do with any veteran's organization, thinking I could just forget about it and get on with my life. Oh, was I wrong. I attended my first reunion in 1992 at Ft Benning. I have many times mentioned how concerned I was and then it was like walking into a room with mirrors and meeting the men from other units that I learned I was not alone in my approach to organizations. I realized that we are a breed apart from the standard soldier from our era. We had an incredible pride in what we did and how well we did it. Today's rangers have missions that are different than those we had, but they are truly the best this country has. These Rangers have proven themselves repeatedly. And now they need to step up and get involved by taking leadership roles.

Roy



Check Ride is the raw, true story of one Army Aviator's time in Vietnam from 1969-1970. While Tom McGurn was only one young pilot, thousands shared his experiences in the Army. In **Check Ride**, he recounts previously undisclosed details of flight missions, giving the reader a taste of the every day flavor of life during those times. From Ranger insertions/extractions to shipborne operations, combat assaults, SEALs, and the usual WTF missions, this era created a new generation of mobile warfare warriors who were fine-tuned by the needs of the United States Army.

Tom will be donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of this book to the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund.

Tom McGurn will be our guest speaker at the 75th RRA Rendezvous Banquet in 2021.



SECRETARY REPORT

TOM SOVE

The last changes made in our bylaws were in 2017. One of the most significant changes was in regards to the term limits of the President and the two Vice-Presidents. They were originally limited to only one term each. There was concern we did not want to have dynasties. Over the years it has become clear that we can still accomplish that goal as well as reap the benefits of good leadership by allowing an extension to these specific positions of one additional term, and that was approved by vote in 2017.

However, the wording of that ballot item omitted, by error, other vital information. In reviewing the ballot before printing we all missed the fact that the term limits intended to be applicable only to the President and two Vice-Presidents also included the Treasurer and Secretary. From the beginning of our organization it was recognized these two positions required much more continuity and were never subject to term limits.

We recently discovered this error and now we would like to set the bylaws straight. We will present a bylaw ballot on this one issue in Patrolling.

Here is the current wording, in Article XI Officers, Section 6.a:

“All Executive Officers are members of the Board of Directors. All Executive Officers are elected into office during National Reunions for a two-year term. All elected officers may run for a second consecutive term if so nominated, seconded, and receiving most votes cast. No officer may serve a third consecutive term.”

And here is the proposed change, indicated by the underlined words:

“All Executive Officers are members of the Board of Directors. All Executive Officers are elected into office during National Reunions for a two-year term. All elected officers may run for a second consecutive term if so nominated, seconded, and receiving most votes cast. No officer may serve a third consecutive term. This term limitation is not applicable to the offices of Treasurer and Secretary, either of whom may succeed themselves in their respective office for as many terms as the General Membership will allow.”

A returnable postcard ballot is included within this copy of Patrolling. It is addressed to the Secretary, and requires the member’s name and member number. However, in strict concurrence with other changes to the bylaws in 2017, this time we will accept email ballots. An email may be completed with a simple vote of “Approve” or “Disapprove”, and must accompany the member’s name and member number in the email. Ballots may be sent to Secretary@75rra.com, or tsove@sbcglobal.net. All ballots will be collected and available for all officers to review. All ballots must be received by August 1st, 2020



An Open Letter to the Members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association

Rangers, I am asking for your help and assistance for a great cause. Last December my wife and myself were lucky enough to volunteer to help the Gary Sinese Foundations 'Snowball Express'. What is the "Snowball Express"? Each December the Gary Sinese Foundation hosts a five-day free of charge experience for 1,750+ children of the fallen and their surviving parent or guardian. As a therapeutic retreat with a blend of fun and inspiring programs, these families can lean on their peers for support. And this year again they are bringing Snowball Express to Walt Disney World® Resort!

My wife is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and they in association with the Patriot Guard Riders help recruit volunteers to sew military patches on the children's vests. What the Patriot Guard Riders has done for the last several years gives each child a black leather vest. The children can then pick out 5-7 patches to be sewn on the vest. That is what DAR volunteered to do; they sewed on patches for these children. The most popular patches of course were the military patches. The children wanted the patches that their fallen parent wore to adorn their vests in honor of that parent.

All of this brings me to why I am asking your assistance. The most popular patches were Army unit patches. The Patriot Guard Riders have requested for vets to donate any used patches for this cause. Specifically, the most popular unit patches are Special Forces, Ranger, SOCOM, and 82nd and 101st patches. I am not a rocket scientist, but I quickly figured out what organization's members might have an abundance of these patches. Who better to honor our fallen brothers and sisters than the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

On a personal note, since I have retired, I have been heavily involved in Veterans Organizations. I am a DAV service officer, former commander of both the local VFW and DAV chapters and these organizations do great work. I will tell you nothing ever made me prouder than to volunteer for the "Snowball Express", to see the joy on the faces of these Gold Star widows and children that Gary Sinese's Foundation provides during the week is unbelievable. Talking to the widows and children will move the hardest "Snake Eating, Bayonet in the Teeth, Airborne Ranger, Special Operations Operator". To watch Gary Sinese, (Yes he is there with them all the time) interact with these is just unbelievable. The guy is for real!!!!

Back to my request, I will gladly collect any patches that you send and deliver them to the Foundation and the Patriot Guard this December. If you want to assist please e-mail me at irishlrp@tampabay.rr.com, or instant message me on Facebook or for that matter call me my number is at the front of the magazine.

Thank you,

John McGee

Unit Director

Company F, 25th Id LRRP/50thINF LRP/75th Ranger





Proposed 75th Ranger Regiment Memorial Walkway

Fort Benning (Columbus), Georgia

"Built by Rangers for Rangers"

We the co-chairs (Rick Barela and Shelia Dudley (RHOF Class of 2019) of the Ranger Memorial Walkway committee are reaching out to the Ranger family. We need all brothers, Past and Present, to come together on a project memorializing the sacrifices every Ranger has made since World War II up to our modern-day Ranger Warriors. The memorial is to be located at the Headquarters of the 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, Georgia.

Many volunteers have come together to build this project. We have two major contributors who have donated their services, our Architect, Tracy Ward and our Surveyor, Brian King. The artist, Alan Cottrill, for the Global War on Terror (GWOT) Memorial has agreed to work with us pro-bono.

To ensure the memorial is historically accurate, the research efforts will be conducted and led by BG (Ret) John Brown, BG (Ret) William Leszczynski, (RHOF Class of 2007) and Col. (Ret) Ralph Puckett (RHOF Inaugural Class of 1992). This will be in concerted effort with the official historians of our respective Ranger organizations. The goal is for the Ranger veterans organizations affiliated with the 75th Ranger Regiment to join in sharing this endeavor by lending their respective talents, promotions, and fundraisers.

Only through your patriotic generosity and support will this Memorial Walk become a reality. The approximate cost of the build is \$1.5 million dollars and the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, a 501c19, has graciously agreed to accept all tax-deductible donations. These donations can be made via the following avenues

Via the 75th Ranger Regiment website at: <https://www.75thrra.com/walk/index.html>

All checks should be made out to "Legacy Walkway" and mailed to the following address:

75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.

Attn: Legacy Walkway

PO Box 2200

Orangevale, CA 95662



Direct ACH deposits should be sent to the following bank account:

Infinity Bank

400 Galleria Pkwy

Suite 900

Attn.: Legacy Walkway Account

Atlanta GA 30339

Account #: 3007189

Bank Routing #: 061020197



Please consider donating to the 75th Ranger Regiment Memorial Walkway to further honor the memory of those who made the ultimate sacrifice for this great nation, including their loved ones -- the Gold Star Families who have been left behind.

Your donation of \$25.00 can make this Ranger Memorial Walkway come to fruition and honor what the Rangers have accomplished over the last 75 years. Let us Lead the Way and donate to this worthy cause.



An Open Letter to the Members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association

Rangers of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, hope this finds you all safe and doing well during this time of COVID-19.

As the former president of this Association, I feel it is time we start moving forward. We need to pass the torch to our younger members of the Association and especially those Rangers who served during the “Global War on Terror (GWOT)” era.

I was the first president of the modern-day Ranger battalions and 75th Ranger Regiment, I was always trying to get the new blood active in our Association. There were other officers who preceded me but not to the highest office of the Association, i.e. Kevin Ingraham and Scott Billingslea were Vice-Presidents of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

The time has come to have new blood and new ideas, and this can only be done by having our younger brothers of the Association to take an active role in the day-to-day operations of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. However, the current officers will need to mentor them so we can move forward. Why do I say this, because sad part our Ranger brethren from the Viet Nam era are decreasing which is the natural order of life. The same is true for those Rangers brothers from my era of time in service. I do not only see this in our Association but also other veteran organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and The American Legion.

Let us all get out there and get these Rangers who are members to step up and run for an office. Let us listen to their ideas on how we can move forward. This does not mean we are losing our status. However, if we do not get them involved, we will lose this Association as others have gone before us like Merrill’s Marauders who have only 9 Rangers still alive, but most are in the high 90’s. They were integrated into our Association to keep their legacy alive. Lastly, the Korean War Ranger Association turned in their charter two years ago. Let us not follow in the path of these organizations. MOVE FORWARD Rangers.

Let us get our current era Rangers active and more involved. I have had discussions with the former president of United States Army Ranger Association, and he agrees, if we do not involve all our Rangers then we will go the way of the Dodo Bird which is to say “extinction”. I do not want that to happen to us.

The Ranger Associations have so much to offer our Ranger community and to keep them viable we need to work as a team not as individual entities to assist our Rangers still serving. Not only as a way to stay in touch but also by providing moral assistance and sometimes personal help to a Ranger in need. Let us not leave a Ranger brother to falter.

My charge to the Rangers of the GWOT era; Get involved, time to step up to the plate and as our motto states, “Rangers Lead The Way” and now is time to Lead. We are one year out from our Rendezvous and we need you to place your name in the nomination pool for one of our elected officer positions, i.e. President, 1st and 2nd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. I understand the association is still looking for a new Unit Director (US) for the 3rd Bn and maybe even the Regimental HQs who also supports the STB and MIB. These should be members who have served in these units and should be the most familiar with what is transpiring currently within the unit.

Remember Rangers are the elite soldiers that arrives at the cutting edge of battle. Granted this is not a battle but to keep us active and supporting the Ranger community WE NEED YOU!!!

Rangers Lead the Way

Richard (Rick) S. Barela
Past President, 75th RRA

Are you missing the feeling of that breeze hitting your knees? Maybe you just want to continue showcasing military airborne history? Do you sit at home some days and think back to days where you were gearing up for a mission? If so, consider taking a couple minutes and look up the Liberty Jump Team (LJT) (www.libertyjumpteam.com).



Liberty Jump Team members at fort Benning, GA after jumping onto Lawson Army Airfield for the 70th Anniversary of the airborne.

The Liberty Jump Team is comprised of 95% current serving, or retired, members of allied armed forces and 5% civilians who are eager to help preserve military history. LJT travels around the United States, Canada, and Europe performing at airshows and military anniversary events (D-Day, Arnhem, etc.) helping to keep history alive.



At all events team members wear the M42 uniforms and jump from historic D-Day veteran C47 aircraft, allowing crowds all over to see what a military jump operation looks like. Every event that LJT performs at serves as a living reminder for the new generation, that we live today enjoying the freedoms we do because of sacrifices made by so many that came before us.

If it has been years since your last jump, don't worry, you can come out to one of the team's refresher courses where you will be brought up to date with all the flight and safety procedures. All courses are taught by highly professional Jump Masters.



Liberty Jump Team members after hooking up



Liberty Jump Team before boarding L4 at an airshow in the U.S.

If you are looking to get your knees back in the breeze, don't hesitate to get in touch with this amazing group.

Airborne All The Way!



Merrill's Marauders in their 90s adapt to fight invisible -- 2020 Covid-19 Invasion --



Ask your U.S. Representative
to support H.R. 906 & award Marauders
Congressional Gold Medal in 2020

The NINE living

Merrill's Marauders

LEFT COLUMN – Top to Bottom

*** **James T. Collins, 96**, who lives alone in Tampa, FL, is doing well despite a bout of pneumonia earlier this year. He regularly visited his local VFW and American Legion posts until Covid-19. He's now shopping for hot tub parts. His son, Greg, who visits frequently, said his Dad's house has a new roof.

*** **Rocco Deluca, 97**, Joyce Horey hasn't been able to visit her Dad in person since Connecticut's March 9 "lock-out" began for long-term-care facilities. She visits her Dad every day, waving through the window to him in his wheelchair. He's wearing his Buffalo, NY 2019 Christmas shirt.

*** **Russell Hamler, 95**, Carole Ortenzo said her "Uncle Huck" and his son, Jeffrey, who lives with him, are well and "sheltering-in-place" in his Pittsburgh, PA home. Family members visit regularly. Congressman Conor Lamb visited Hamler earlier this year in his home. He is now the youngest living Marauder.

*** **Lester Hollenback, 97**, has recovered from a small internal bleed requiring transfusions earlier this year. His son, Johnny, said Lester lives in the Deltona, FL, home he shared with his wife, Betty, until her death at age 91 in December 2019. His daughter, Sandy, now spends the nights with him. Another daughter, Linda, from Illinois visited often until Covid-19.

RIGHT COLUMN – Top to Bottom

*** **Gilbert H. Howland, 97**, cannot leave the Hamilton, NJ senior facility where he has an apartment. His son, Bob, can deliver groceries to him. Seen here, Gil reaches in the car window to pick up groceries from a sheet covering the seat. Gil is required to wear a mask when he steps out of his apartment. Bob said his Dad is frustrated from not being able to play golf, attend Ft. Benning military events and campaign in Washington, DC for H.R. 906.

*** **Gabriel Kinney, 99**, Carol Crawford said her Dad and Mother, Elena, are well at their senior facility apartment in Daphne, AL, despite a six-week separation earlier this year when Elena had surgery. Gabe walks daily, and Elena is planning her 94th birthday in June. Gabe holds a flag for young, combat-wounded Ranger Cory Remsburg which was destined for all NINE Marauder signatures until Covid-19 stopped its journey.

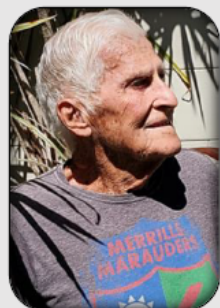
*** **Raleigh Naves, 97**, Jim Naves said his Dad's health is "steady," as he and his sister, Pam, stay in touch with their parents. His facility in Chippewa Falls, WI is closed to visitors, but it doesn't stop his wife, Betty, 92, from every-day trips. She visits through his window at meal-time, encouraging him to eat as she holds up handwritten notes. Raleigh waves at his wife, and beckons for her to come in. He doesn't understand why she can't.

*** **Bob Passanisi, 95**, Bob, in this "selfie," holds a water bottle at the home he shared with his late wife, Aileen, in Lindenhurst, NY. A man with a well-stocked freezer who cooks, Bob is "face-mask ready" to go grocery shopping. He exercises, uses his computer to gain support for H.R. 906 and stays in touch with family and friends through facebook, phone and visits.

We're almost there!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Ask your U.S. Representative to cosponsor H.R. 906
so Merrill's Marauders receive Congressional Gold Medal in 2020**

*** **James Richardson (LEFT)** who turns 99 in July, and can still wear his WW II Army jacket with Merrill's Marauder patch, holds his unit's Congressional Gold Medal campaign button at his Jacksboro, TN home in February. He hopes the House of Representatives pass H.R. 906 so he can go to Washington, DC. for the ceremony. A hip fracture kept him from joining Passanisi and Howland on the Feb. 5, 2020, DC trip. He's seen here after signing Cory Remsburg's flag. He plans to be at Ft. Benning's 2020 Ranger Hall of Fame ceremony.



created by Jonnie Melillo Clasen

GOLD STAR MOM—JILL STEPHENSON

Greetings from the state of quarantine (literally and figuratively for most of us). What does your quarantine state of mind look like? Has social distancing been difficult or not so much? I was recently on a zoom call with fellow military family survivors. There was a unanimous consensus within our group that life hadn't really changed that much for any of us since the quarantine began. Social distancing is something we all agreed we were good at. Our losses have made us comfortable doing this, whether it had been one year or eleven years since the death of our loved one. The person who brought it up was hesitant to do so, but was quickly supported by the group. Were we being cold or callous by brushing social distancing off as not that big of a deal? Again, we all agreed we were not. Spending time alone is a choice many of us made after the loss of our loved one. It is how and where we learned to be still. So, in light of all of us having to stay home and not see a lot of people for gatherings, it has felt fairly normal. We also agreed that none of us had any type of overreaction to the news that life as we know it was going to change. Our lives as we once knew them are long gone, this is nothing new for us to adjust to. A "new normal" is old news. As we came together as a group to support each other, we found further cause to unite and meet at a place of understanding we may not have expected. I believe this is true for many who experience a trauma in life. There was no demeaning the difficulty any one may be having, this has been essentially another day in the life for most of us. We will survive. Tomorrow is a new day, the sun will rise again.

May is one of my tough months to get through. There are three days that pull at my heart and they happen fairly close together. It starts with Mother's Day, then my birthday is the 19th and then Memorial Day. Mother's day weekend is the last time my Ben was

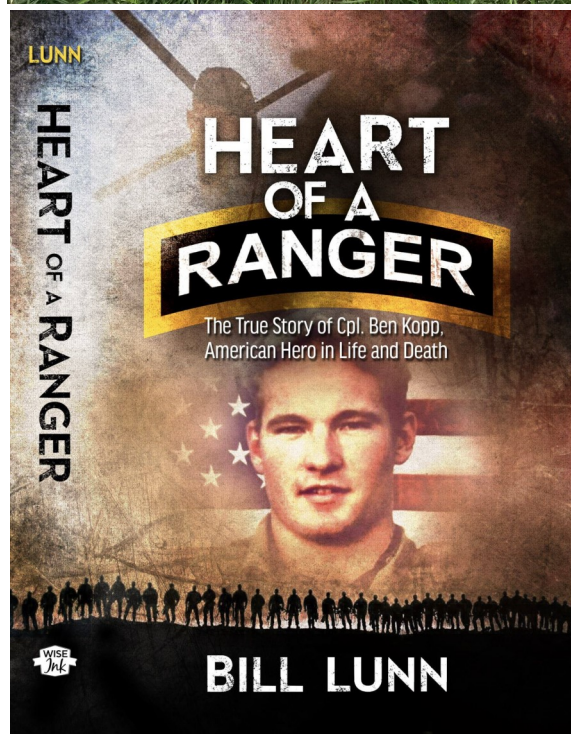


home and I saw him alive and well. We always celebrated birthdays, and Memorial Day is our national holiday to honor those, like Ben, who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. I know these days are challenging for the many gold star parents I know.

As I write this, Mother's Day has just passed and the other two days are forthcoming. Since Ben's death I have not been forgotten on any of these dates, especially Mother's Day. Like many years in the past, I received a lot of heartfelt and kind messages. I am made to feel loved and for that I am grateful.

My birthday is also the day Heart of a Ranger: the biography written about Ben's life, was released three years ago, so there is more to celebrate. For the last two years and again this year, I will be walking twenty-four miles in twenty-four hours to honor our fallen over Memorial weekend. I start in suburban Chicago on Friday and end Saturday afternoon at the Middle East Conflicts Wall in Marsailles, IL. The MECW is the only wall in these United States that contains the names of every service member killed in action in the middle east since 1967 (excluding Vietnam as we know they rightfully have their own memorial wall). I did not know it existed until 2017 and have made it my mission to make the public aware and educate them about the meaning and importance of honoring our fallen for Memorial Day. Of the ten Memorial Day weekends since Ben died, I have spent seven of them at Arlington where he is laid to rest. I chose to break my routine of going to Arlington to ensure that America knows about the MECW. I have missed being at Arlington amidst the grand scale honoring that takes place, but willingly traded the time to raise awareness of another place in our beautiful America that honors our fallen.

Continued on the next page



When May is over, I roll into June and begin planning the Ben Kopp Memorial Ride. It is held every year on the last weekend in July. This year will be the eleventh year, officially the tenth in name. The BKMR has become one of the premier events for the gathering of Rangers across the country. It is a fundraiser whose monies raised support veteran organizations in Minnesota. This year our fiscal sponsor is the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association. I will be working closely with them to support their mission of "supporting and defending those who have defended our country and our freedoms and to focus on veterans helping veterans". I am proud to use Ben's name to help his brothers in arms across service era's. We host a dinner, silent auction/raffle and a motorcycle ride. It's a fun filled event that offers great opportunity for comradery and fellowship.



When July comes to an end, I breathe a sigh of relief and look to August for relaxation. This year will feel different due to the affect the pandemic has had on our daily living. I know that people are itching to gather and spend time with friends and family not seen for the last couple months. This includes me. I have much to look forward to, yet have been keeping my sanity by focusing on life one day at a time. I am

grateful to be in good health, to not have any other health issues that required me to see a doctor or be hospitalized and for the good health of my friends and family. I wish all who are reading this good health and a blessed summer. This too shall pass and life as we once knew will return - praying for this every day! Be well friends. RLTW!



BEN KOPP
MEMORIAL RIDE

Conscious Breathing:

Although we take breathing for granted, few of us are aware that daily stressors may have restricted our breathing to the point where it is not nearly as effective as it could to be. In fact, the result has even been named, “shallow breathing”, a condition where only the upper part of our diaphragm is utilized in taking a breath. It is essentially the same breath that is taken when we are in fight or flight, short rapid breaths that are an effort to get as much oxygen into our lungs in as short a period of time as possible. It also takes place primarily through our mouth. Since Triceratops Rex isn’t chasing our butts down these days, fight or flight is seldom a condition we need to confront. However, our bodies may not be able to distinguish between life threatening physical danger and the stress created from constant media negativity, the action movie syndrome or the very real CV-19 challenges that we currently confront. And so we cultivate the unconscious habit of breathing shallowly, by default – we have a built in autopilot breath control.

So, what’s the big deal with taking shallow breaths, I’ve made it this long without someone critiquing how I breathe? The Big Deal is that it literally creates a life style that weakens your physical structure at a couple of levels. First of all, it doesn’t exercise your upper body the way it needs to be. Upper torso muscles aren’t used and the skeletal frame begins to sag, causing hunched shoulders and over time even a more aggravated condition of shallow breathing. Secondly, the lower part of your body is similarly affected. Abdominal muscles aren’t used and lower diaphragm lung capacity is negated, depriving blood of oxygen that it could use to satisfy multiple requirements. Thirdly, it actually helps to create stress because the body is not getting a full supply of oxygen or allowing wastes to be expelled that could be. Metabolic rates are affected as well so digestion becomes negatively impacted. The entire bodily engine is not getting the oxygen requirement it needs to perform properly, sort of like an engine that is deprived of sufficient oxygen, it functions less efficiently and certainly not at a level of sustained performance. Part of the reason older folks become hunched over is because they have developed the habit of shallow breathing to the point where their skeleton has adapted to their breathing routine. When you think about it now, it might be a bigger deal than you realized a few seconds ago.

Now let’s look at what Conscious Breathing looks like and the benefits associated therewith. First of all, conscious breathing intake is through the nose. Why, because it fills the bottom of the diaphragm first. The last thing to fill is the upper diaphragm, which means it is taking in a full charge of air. It naturally exer-

PATROLLING YOUR HEALTH

cises much more of the body’s muscular/skeletal structure. And it naturally reduces stress. Exercise: Sit erectly in a straight

-backed chair, close your eyes; relax your facial muscles, shoulders back. Place your hand on your abdomen and breathe in through your nose to a three-count, hold for a second and then out through your mouth. Your hand should expand outwards on the in-breath and then back in towards your spine on the out breath. See how it feels. At first it may feel a little awkward, even irritating to take so long to breathe. It’s a habit; habits are difficult to break. We don’t like change and something as natural as breathing never comes into question. My suggestion is to take it one day at a time and to start with maybe only a short session, a minute or two. Combined with meditation you can get a two for one benefit. Watching your breath is one of the oldest disciplines there is for the same reason today as it was thousands of years ago – stress relief, quieting the mind, health....to feel good! Over a couple of days one’s resistance will diminish, the time will pass more quickly and you will notice a change in yourself, varying with each individual and at first subtle, but noticeable. The more often and longer one consciously breathes the more he will notice things like brain fog diminishes, aches and pains subside, blood pressure goes down, bodily pH becomes more alkaline, Cortisol levels reduce, fatigue lessens, sleep improves, stamina increases, recall improves.... Flood your body with oxygen and life changes for the better.

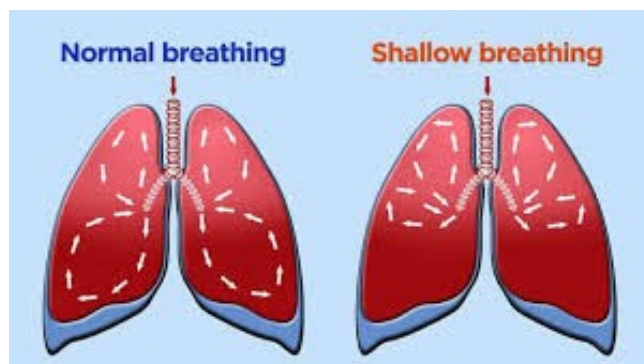
If you want to become your own breath control manager, consciously, focus on breathing deeper, slower, quieter, and more regularly says Andrew Weil, M.D. These four parameters will begin to establish a balanced breath cycle that will also balance your sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous systems. When the nervous system is balanced, the entire body becomes healthier. Stress is relieved because Cortisol levels are lowered and most, if not all, bodily systems come into balance. When the body is healthier and more balanced, one’s immune system becomes stronger and is able to combat outside influences like bacteria, fungus and viruses more effectively as well. It also is prepared to deal with CHANGE, one of the most stress producing conditions that we face, much more creatively. One’s thoughts flow more easily. Rigidity takes a back seat to adapting; new opportunities begin to present themselves rather than attempting to keep a routine the same or going back to the old way of doing things. So, it appears that the more “consciously” one manages his breath, the more enjoyable life becomes.

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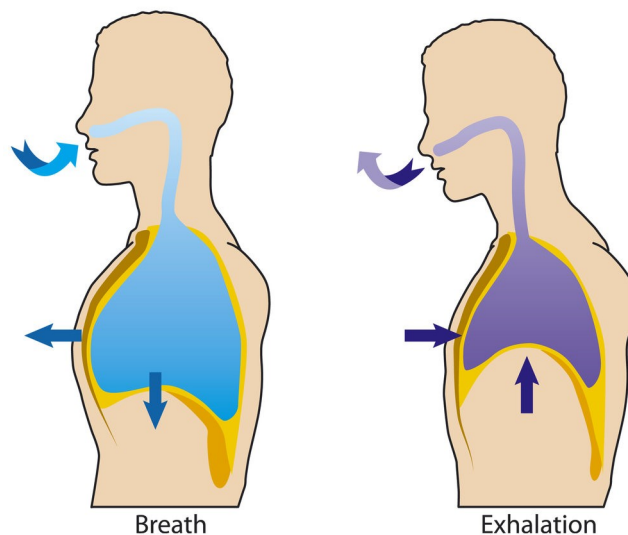
Stanford recently conducted a breathing study of Veterans with PTSD symptoms who had returned from both Iraq and Afghanistan. After 90 days of controlled breathing techniques, there was a noticeable drop in anxiety, improved sleep patterns and general quality of life. Panic attacks were all but eliminated. One significant result was that the grieving process began to occur naturally, usually within a few minutes, sometimes almost immediately. The body began to release pent up emotion that had not been allowed expression. The sympathetic nervous system was able to be bypassed and allowed to function naturally without the inhibition of social mores or standards of conduct – “real men aren’t supposed to cry”. I can’t imagine anyone reading this article that wouldn’t benefit. What we were trained to do and the discipline to accomplish such, came with a price, many times at the expense of our true nature. Fortunately, we can all benefit from learning breathing techniques that can impact us at varying levels. One such exercise follows for grief release: After assuming a calm, relaxed sitting position, adopt the following breath routine – inhale through your nose for a count of 4, hold your breath for a count of 7, exhale to a count of 8. Do ten repetitions, morning and evening. Sit and relax after each set of repetitions. Allow your breath to naturally flow through your nose afterwards, don’t try to do anything, just let thoughts and feelings flow naturally – whatever happens is the body’s natural expression of regaining balance and harmony – don’t fight it, just allow things to flow. Although Ranger operations may be your initial focus, don’t be surprised if the experience takes you to other places that have been long forgotten.

As I finish this article I am participating in my regular Vet Center group meeting via conference call. I discussed this article in specifics and the whole tenor of the group “check-in” changed to a positive outlook during this time of uncertainty. A few of the group had done breathing exercises with very positive results; each supported what I have shared with their own experience. One member even went on line and found the Stanford Veteran

studies. A new scenario unfolded during which each one of us discovered something that could have a positive impact on our life NOW, and amazingly at no cost. I hope you enjoy a similar experience. Just remember: DEEPER, SLOWER, QUIETER, more REGULAR.



The movements of the chest during breathing.



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1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—RICK MERRITT

COL (Ret) Steven Berry— (Submitted by Shelia Dudley)

Chaplain Berry's dream of becoming a Ranger began in 1963 when his father purchased for him a copy of Ranger Jim Altieri's book, "The Spearheaders", a chronicle of Darby's Rangers of World War II fame. For Chaplain Berry this was the beginning of a long journey to become an Army Ranger. Following graduation from Huntington High School in 1970, Chaplain Berry attended East Texas Baptist University in Marshall Texas and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1974. Called to ministry, he began his career as a minister of music and youth at Trinity Baptist Church, Henderson, Texas and then in Casper, Wyoming and finally in Havre, Montana. He left Havre to pursue a degree at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. There he received his Master of Divinity Degree. Chaplain Berry's dream of becoming a Ranger had not diminished over these years, but he did not know how he might pursue it.

Seeing an advertisement in the seminary newspaper recruiting Army Chaplains, he believed that he might have finally found his opportunity to become an Army Ranger. Chaplain Berry talked with the Army chaplain recruiter who knew little or nothing about Army Rangers, but offered a glimmer of hope with the opportunity to become an Army paratrooper first. Chaplain Berry jumped at the opportunity. The Oates Drive Baptist Church in Mesquite, Texas where Chaplain Berry was working while in seminary encouraged him to pursue his dream. While still in seminary, Chaplain Berry was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and began his journey to becoming an Army Ranger. After four years on active duty he finally had his chance.

While at the Chaplain Advanced Course, he received not less than 3 different requests for orders sending him to a variety of locations before he finally got what he had been dreaming of for so long: orders to the First Ranger Battalion. Chaplain Berry report to the 1st Battalion in December 1990. He was finally home. A man who believed his ministry to the "boys" was best exercised where the "boys" were, there was nothing the 1st Battalion Rangers did that Chaplain Berry did not do with them. He was in the field, on the jumps, ruck marching, and running with his Rangers. He was everywhere that they might be. Not satisfied with not having his Ranger tab, Chaplain Berry attended Ranger class 8-91 at age 39 and was hurt during a jump at Garrett Farms during mountain phase and medically dropped with an open tibia and fibula fracture. Undeterred, following surgery and rehabilitation for his injury, he returned and graduated with class 10-92 in September 1992 at the age of 40.

Just over a month home from Ranger School, Chaplain Berry



participated in OPERATION EMBRYO STAGE; a real-world mission profile rehearsal that resulted in one of the worst training accidents in 1st Battalion history. On the ground following the helicopter crash at Antelope Island, Utah, Chaplain Berry provided pastoral care and counseling to his Rangers and, then, he did the same for their families. He was a source of comfort and hope where there appeared to be none. He helped the Ranger leadership gain their bearings as they assumed new and unexpected respon-

sibilities to lead the Battalion. He stood as a pillar for those around him during this heart-breaking time and led the memorial ceremonies for the Battalion Commander. While at 1st Battalion, Chaplain Berry was selected to receive advanced civil schooling and attended Duke University. There, in true Ranger fashion, he completed his Master of Theology degree in Ethics, a two-year program, in just nine months, including the completion of his Master's Thesis.

His utilization tour took him to Fort Knox, Kentucky, to the US Army Armor Center and School, where he provided Ethics instruction as the Senior Writer and Instructor in the Professional Development Division. After arrival at Fort Knox in the summer of 1995, Chaplain Berry discovered that no pre-Ranger training existed for Armor Basic Course students, who were attending Ranger School following their basic course completion. Along with a Ranger-qualified NCO from the Armor School's Scout Platoon Leader Course, they established an unfunded "hip pocket" training program. They focused on physical training, foot marching (including overland movement at a local Kentucky state park), the Army Combat Water Survival Test, and the entry-level tasks that Ranger students were required to complete during the Ranger Assessment Phase of the Ranger Course. He developed the course to include Ranger-qualified volunteers from the Armor Officer Advanced Course, who assisted in training the pre-Ranger students. Eventually, the pre-Ranger course included Armor Office Advanced Course captains, as well. There are Ranger-qualified senior officers serving today, who successfully completed the pre-Ranger training before attending and graduating from Ranger School. His efforts inside the classroom resulted in being recognized as the US Army Training and Doctrine Command's Instructor of the Year award for 1996.

Chaplain Berry returned to the Ranger community in 1998 when he became the 75th Ranger Regiment's first Regimental Chaplain. Charged with providing leadership and guidance to the battalion chaplains and religious support to the Regimental Staff, Chaplain Berry quickly insured that ministry to the Rangers in field met the Ranger Standard.

Continued on the next page

He advocated for religious support to Rangers and their families both at home and while deployed. He established standard operation procedures that helped provided uniform support to Ranger units where ever they might be found, and he became a force multiplier to the battalion chaplains, enabling them to provide the best religious support possible. His love for Rangers and their families drove him to be his very best every single day. Chaplain Berry is married to Colonel (Retired) Vanessa Berry, a former United States Army Judge Advocate. They have three grown offspring, including a second-generation Ranger Veteran with service in the 1st Ranger Battalion, and four grandchildren. Chaplain Berry lives in Missoula, Montana, where he enjoys the Rocky Mountains, clean air, and outdoor living. He continues to extend his ministry and influence by coaching young pastors toward excellence in pastoral care and by assisting churches in the area as a pulpit supply preacher. He also serves as an Elder in his local church. Chaplain Berry performs volunteer service with Three Rangers Foundation as the Spiritual Fitness and Wellness Director and, also, with Wreaths Across America.



COL (Ret) Steven Berry

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2nd BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—KEVIN INGRAHAM

Just a quick note to lead off for this quarter. A tip of the beret to Taft for his reflections on Ranger leaders whose leadership and examples influenced many of our lives.

I'm back in touch with the current authorities at 2d Batt. They're working through the pandemic best as health safety measures allow but know this—they are training just as hard while as a group, they remain largely inside the 2/75 bubble.



to decide if I wanted to remain his driver or go back on my MG and go with my PLT and A co to Canada. I told him I wanted to go Canada. In a couple of days I was back in 3rd PLT C co and on my GUN! Soon after that we were on our way to Canada under the command of CPT Kernan to train with the Commandos. It was quite an experience. We made a night combat equipment mass tac out of C-130s. Akios were loaded and placed on the ramp of the C-130s. The Akios were dropped and we jumped from the doors,

TWO GREAT AMERICAN RANGERS/WARRIORS/LEADERS AND FRIENDS OF MY TIME IN 2/75 RANGER BN, 75TH RANGER REGIMENT, REGULAR ARMY AND CIVILIAN LIFE.

Ranger Taft Yates

Over the course of my 20-year career in the army I have, as many of you have served with great American patriot Ranger warrior leaders. I would like to share my personal story of two of these Rangers. We all either know them or at least know of them. General Wayne A. Downing and General William (Buck) Kernan.

For me it all began in June 1975 when my Army career began. Attending Basic and AIT at Ft Polk LA. I kept on hearing the exploits of Rangers in Vietnam. In November 1979 I arrived at FT Lewis WA. As life would have it there were 2 NCOs from the newly formed 2/75 Ranger BN came to the 525th replacement company and gave a straight up no BS recruitment briefing to all that wanted to attend. There were several of us in the room listening. By the end of the briefing I was the only one to sign up for the 2/75. I spent a couple extra days in the 525th because I had waived my original army contract in order to have the opportunity to be assigned to 2/75 Ranger BN.

The leadership from Team Leader all the way up the chain of command was the very best. My relationship with Generals Downing and Kernan began in winter 1978 when I was an M-60 gunner in 3rd PLT C co. 3rd PLT was tasked with providing the BN commander (LTC Downing) with a replacement driver. I was selected for the task. No big deal I just did my job. CSM Gooden was willing to make me a stronger and smarter Ranger. We all remember the hundreds of push-ups we did during BN PT.

The BN was sending A co under the command of CPT Kernan to Petawawa Canada to train with the Canadian Commandos. One cold and rare clear morning I was driving LTC Downing to the machine gun range when LTC Downing brought up the upcoming trip for A co. He said there would be an additional PLT going with A co. When we arrived at the range the guns were singing. I got to get a little trigger time. As the LTC and I were headed back to the vehicle he told me I had a choice. He told me I had

following them. A full rucksack, snowshoes and my M-60. There was a full moon that night. We jumped on a frozen lake. There was supposed to be a couple feet of snow, however by the time we jumped the snow had been blown away so we hit on solid ice. One of the Akios did burn in and was sticking out of the ice like a yard dart. All in all we had a great time in Canada.

In 79 I re-enlisted and was a Black hat at Tower Week. In the summer of 1981 Ranger SSG W. C. Williams and I got letters of acceptance from CSM Stock to return to 2/75. The Airborne CSM had other ideas for Williams and I. We were both sent to 1st Armored division in Germany. Williams went to Erlangen and I went to 3rd BDE in Bamberg. There were 2 Ranger NCOs in the entire BDE. A former C co 2/75 Ranger by the name of Harold Roberts was the 1st PLT PSG C co 1/52 INF. Roberts and I knew each other from our time in C co. I was the 1st Squad Leader in 1st PLT. In 1982 Colonel Downing arrived and took command of 3rd BDE. Things began to tighten up in 3rd BDE. In Nov of 82 I went in to visit with Colonel Downing on his open-door policy due to some issues with my PL (turns out I was on target. The LT was later court marshaled). The morning after my visit with the colonel. I received an urgent Red Cross message. I went home on emergency leave due to a very serious illness my 6-month-old son had contracted. While on leave I made a stop at BN HQ. I spoke with the BN CSM. CSM "Ranger" Voyles. CSM Voyles told me to report to ROP and he would get me a compassionate re-assignment back into the BN. In Nov 82 I was assigned as 1st Squad Leader 3rd PLT A co. In Oct 83 I participated in Operation Urgent Fury. After the BN returned home to Ft Lewis I received a phone call. The call was from Colonel Downing. He affectionately chewed me out for going to war without him.

In Oct 84 when A cos 1st and 2nd Ranger BNs were at Ft Benning GA to activate the 3rd Ranger BN and Ranger Regiment HQ. Colonel Downing became promotable to Brigadier General. He invited me to his pre promotion party along with all PSGs and up.

Fast forward to 1989.

Continued on the next page

I was again back in 2/75. This time I was the 1st PLT Vatos Locos PSG. General Downing was the JSOC commanding General and Colonel Kernan was the Ranger Regimental commander. We were all primed and rigged for Operation Just Cause. Col Kernan gave those of us at Lawson Army Airfield on Ft Benning GA a Hooah talk before we boarded our aircraft for the Night Mass Tac jump into Panama. Around day 3 of OJC I was returning from a PLT- night ambush. I observed a small contingent of HMMVs near my PLT sector. I saw a number of soldiers wearing ragtops. I told the Squad Leaders to get the boys back to the PLT AO and I would check on the vehicles in our AO. As I approached the group, I saw 1 bald Kevlar helmet in the group. I saw a bunch of CSMs, LTCs and other brass. The person sporting the bald helmet turns and I see it is LTG Downing. He walks toward me then grabs me and gives me a hug calling me Old Ranger buddy, I glad you are hear.

The last time I saw General Downing was when he was the Guest speaker to dedicate the Ranger Memorial at then Building 4 on FT Benning GA.

My next contact with General Kernan was when I was employed by MPRI. He was in the hierarchy. It was great to see him again. I spoke with General Kernan in 2012 when I had returned from Afghanistan. Was great to see and talk with him especially since we had a lot of the same ideas about situations.

2 of many great Ranger commanders. Timing could not have been better. General Downing to be the 3rd commander of the Ranger Regiment. Making him the commander for the largest Ranger element since D-day. General Kernan commanding the Ranger Regiment for the largest combat jump since WWII. This was also the largest combat jump for any Ranger unit. RLTW



FORT BENNING, Ga. — Trainees with 30th Adjutant General Battalion (Reception) stand at parade rest while awaiting instructions from drill sergeants. These trainees are part of social distance enabled training, or SDET. The first two weeks of training are modified in order to conduct controlled monitoring and confirm the trainees are virus free before shipping to one-station unit training. (U.S. Army photo by Patrick A. Albright, Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning Public Affairs)



3rd BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—TONY MAYNE

3d Ranger Battalion returned home from its deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom this spring. We thank God the battalion suffered zero casualties and wish a happy reintegration of the Rangers to their families.

Mogadishu Mile. Events commemorating the courage and sacrifice of the 27th anniversary of Operation GOTHIC SERPENT's Battle of the Black Sea's are confirmed for Saturday, Oct. 3, 2020.

More than 2,000 participants routinely pack downtown Columbus' streets for a fantastic 5k event in Columbus, Ga. The majority of the battalion will don their body armor and run the course with their families. There is no better way to support the battalion than to participate in this event as all proceeds from the 5k are earmarked by supporting organizations to benefit the battalion's Rangers. Register for the 5k at <https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Columbus/MogadishuMile>.

For those unable to participate in the race in Columbus, Three Rangers Foundation provides a virtual option. Three Rangers Foundation was founded by three Mogadishu Ranger Veterans with the purpose of providing mentorship and personal development for 75th Ranger Regiment veterans. Register for the for the Mogadishu Mile virtual event at <https://fragoutcc.com/collections/mogadishu-mile>.

Register for one or both of the events today – "Never leave a fallen comrade".

On February 21, two 3d Ranger Battalion alumni were front and center for the Regiment's change of responsibilities as CSM Michael Albaugh relinquished the senior NCO billet to CSM Curtis Donaldson. CSM Albaugh is now the senior enlisted leader of Special Operations Command-Africa (SOCAF). Under his leadership, the Regiment established the "Ranger for Life" program, a unit specific professional development and personal readiness program designed to support Rangers now, in their future Army career and in their transition to civilian life.



The following article is courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Jorden M. Weir, 75th Ranger Regiment Public Affairs NCOIC.

A Cut Above: 75th Ranger Regimental CSM Reflects on Career Spent Leading the Way

No military unit carries more of a modern-day mythical reputation than the 75th Ranger Regiment, and in the Rangers, no man is more mythic than the Regimental Command Sergeant Major.

As he looked back to 1996, and the start of his career in the most elite special operations raid force the world has ever known, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Albaugh, the 75th Ranger Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM), never would have pegged himself for the job.

"When I was a private in the Rangers, I was just trying to keep up with everybody physically and mentally, learn my job, and not get Released for Standards," Albaugh laughed. "The RSM? That's just some mystical creature out there somewhere. You know he exists, you heard about him, but you're never going to be that guy."

Yet it's exactly the position that Albaugh, who started out as an assistant gunner, working his way up through every major leadership position within the Regiment, meeting every challenge and rising to every occasion along the way, has held for the last two years.

As he prepares to relinquish his responsibility as the 75th Ranger Regiment's senior enlisted advisor later this week, he reflected on his time in one of the most professional, well-trained, and deadly special operations units in the U.S. military.

"I came into the Army a little bit later than most," Albaugh began. At 27 years old he had already gone to college, bouncing from job to job with nothing really catching his eye. But the Army had always been on his mind.

So, he started researching.



← Albaugh:

CSM Michael Albaugh served as 1st Ranger Battalion's and the Regiment's Command Sgt. Maj.

Continued on the next page

"This was back in the late 90s, so there wasn't a lot of information out there," Albaugh said. "Social media wasn't a thing, there wasn't a lot of public press, but I knew that there were these Army Rangers and that they were these elite, tough guys, and did this special mission."

That was all it took. The allure and mystique of the 75th Ranger Regiment had drawn him in.

"I just said, 'hey', if I'm going to go into the Army, I kinda want to try for something a cut above everybody else," he said. "I want to do something special and make my time in the Army mean a little bit more."

In an organization that prides itself on being so much more than merely a cut above the rest, Albaugh has managed to distinguish himself.

"The Regiment is a better place now because of CSM Albaugh," said Col. Todd Brown, the commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment, "not just from his service these past two years, but from his service the past two decades. CSM Albaugh has had a tremendous impact in combat operations, training, and growing the Ranger Regiment. He will continue to make a tremendous impact to the Joint Force in his pending assignment."

The 75th Ranger Regiment's culture is founded on high standards and discipline, a long and storied history of courage in valor in combat, and of course, the Ranger Creed. And while those are all vitally important, Albaugh says that what the culture truly thrives on is its people.

"We hire and assess and bring on and train the best people in the Army," he said, referring to the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program. "And being here for so many years, they really become family to you. Just about anybody who's ever left here, they almost always want to get back. They want to be around people they feel comfortable working with, who are like-minded individuals and are kind of all striving for excellence."

The measure of that excellence is what Rangers know as the "Big Five": Marksmanship, Physical Training, Medical Training, Small-Unit Tactics, and Mobility. They are the fundamentals that determine each Ranger's individual success as well as that of the Ranger mission. As a Regiment, the Rangers are relentless in their pursuit to constantly improve on each of the five pillars.

It not only makes them better warfighters, but in many cases the benefits carry over.

"The biggest impact we've had on the Army as a whole, I'd say, has been in the medical field," said Albaugh.

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 in 2017.

"If you look across the Army, the best-trained and most capable medics that we have are in the Ranger Regiment. We're always training, always trying to stay at the cutting edge of how to best care for our Rangers and increase survivability on the battlefield. If you want to be the best medic you can be, then you want to be in the Ranger Regiment."

When asked how the 75th compares to other units around the Army, Albaugh was quick to point out his belief that every organization has their camaraderie, their band of brothers. So how are the Rangers different? A few things, he says. The "Big Five" for one, but also the requirement that every potential Ranger, regardless of rank or occupational specialty, must undergo a stringent assessment and selection process just to get in. Everyone must earn the right to wear the scroll and tan beret. And once selected, every Ranger is continuously assessed for the privilege to stay.

"That really kind of elevates the type of people that come and stay in this organization," said Albaugh. "I think that's a little of what sets us apart. This place brings out the best in its members because you're challenged every day. The good thing is there's plenty of people around you that are going to help you, they're not going to let you fail."

As Albaugh prepares to take the next step in his professional journey as an Army Ranger, there's one thing he wants past, current, and future Rangers to know.

"No matter whether you stay in the Ranger Regiment four years or 24 years, this will always be something you'll look back on in your life and be proud," Albaugh said. "It's a small portion of your life, but it'll mean so much."

"As well it should, because this isn't something that's easy. This isn't something that just anybody can do. And that's why it matters."

Connect

3d Ranger Battalion's official Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/3dRangerBattalion/>

3d Ranger Battalion's official Instagram account is @3d_ranger_battalion

3d Ranger Battalion alumni group Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/112604044797/>



3d Ranger Battalion continues to stay mission ready for worldwide contingency options through a robust training schedule led by our Army's finest small unit leaders.



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

Well by now we are knee deep in the middle of who knows where. I hope all are well. I talk with a few from A Company every week and so far we are all clear. Things are changing so rapidly; there is no way of knowing what tomorrow will bring. I am starting this on March 18th. Last big news was the auto factories are closing and workers are on indefinite layoff. We will survive and come out better in the end but it's going to be a long road.

I had just recently sent out invitations through Facebook to do a Ranger/ SF Breakfast in Kokomo, IN. They are becoming quite popular around the country and was unable to locate one anywhere in Indiana. But it will need to be canceled since all restaurants and bars are closed. Perhaps May will work, who knows. Whenever we get it going, it will be at the Golden Corral in Kokomo on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 0900. Next on scheduled for June 13th, then July 11th.

Sadly, on March 29, 2020, SFC Benjamin Bland passed away. He will be buried in Baltimore at a National Cemetery with a memorial service after the quarantines lift. Sgt. Bland served in Viet Nam, A Co Ft Hood and 1st Batt plus many other assignments. Sgt. Bland was well respected in A Co as Team Leader and squad leader. His skills in the field were outstanding with a small problem with reading a map. Benjamin was my team leader for several months and I lost some shoe leather on his map reading, but eventually we convinced him to let me, his RTO to have the map and things went well. He was probably the best cadence caller I experienced in my 4 years in the Army. Al Gonyea said "I remember Tom Brizendine trying to teach him to swim before going to Ranger School. He literally beat the water to death. He was a good Ranger and friend. Lest We Forget....RLTW". Chauntel Bland, Benjamin's son replied, "No, dad was not much of a swimmer and he admitted as much to me. But he loved all the guys he served with". Several A Co Rangers commented RIP RLTH! A couple of pictures below, one with Benjamin and his son and one from his A Co days.

Beagle Bailey went back under the knife to re-repair a hernia that he did not properly take care of the first time. He told me he has learned his lesson this time and will let it have time to heal.

Mike Cantrell finally gave in and had his hip replaced and recovering well. Bill Bowman made a bad PLF in his garage and broke his tibia just below the knee. Seems he thought he could fly as he stepped from a ladder to the steps going into the house. Not that any injury is good but he said it would force him to stay home, which he said he hadn't been doing very well. I went in



again on the 11th of March and had more work on my varicose veins. Then, two weeks later, had to go in for a follow-up Doppler to make sure there were no blood clots. All good, but like Bowman and Cantrell, I really didn't want to go into that hospital the way things are.

Michelle and I spent a weekend in January with our grandson Austan, his wife Jasmine and soon to be great- Granddaughter Payten. Austan has been at Ft Campbell the last 2 years and recently re-upped for the 25th in Hawaii. He's on the E-5 list and hopes to get promoted before leaving in April. His monthly pay raise from E-4 to E-5 is what I was making as an E-4 in 1972. First stop was Ft Campbell

and the world famous Air Mobile School (picture attached). Tower looks about 25' tall in comparison to the 75' we rappelled on at Ft Hood. But hey it's a leg unit. Austan said it's not an easy course and it's not just rappelling; they learn riggings and other stuff you need to deploy out of a helicopter. We also toured the Ft Campbell museum. Red Herman had promised me a tour of Ft Campbell when he was stationed there but never happened, so thanks Austan. Friday night he took us to Casey Jones Distillery, a local legal maker of moonshine. Their best paled in comparison to the "recipe" we enjoyed in the old days of the cabin and hilltop at Carlisle's. Austan and I seem to attract storms when we are together, woke up Saturday morning to tornado warnings. Most of Hopkinsville was out of power for several hours. After the strong storms cleared, we went to Nashville and walked through the Opryland Hotel and then to the outlet mall. My legs were getting tired and I noticed a sign for the Bavarian Bierhaus. Austan and I told the girls to go shopping and take their time. Thought I had gone back in time to the Hofbrau Haus in Munich in 1975. We enjoyed a couple of beers while waiting on the ladies and listened to a gentleman playing the accordion in his lederhosen. Had a great time and wish them all the best as they become parents and Austan takes on the role of an NCO. Austan and I will always banter back and forth about Airborne vs Airmobile but I'm proud of him and his service to our country. Update on Austan. They are home in transit and in limbo. DOD has suspended all military travel until May 15th. Update, they left for Hawaii on April 15th and spent 14 days on house arrest.

From Richard Cole: "I keep looking for men who were a member of the Provisional V Corp LRRP Co. that we set up in October of 1960 in Wildflecken, Germany. And men who may have attended LRP School in the spring of 1960. So far I have only found two besides myself".

From Jim Savell "I was head of the General Subjects Committee at Camp Mackall in mid '70s. We taught rappelling, bridges & survival.

Continued on the next page

We were always researching to be the best at our profession. This was before computers, internet & cell phones. I owned a 14-acre farm in Hoffman, NC that was 5 minutes from Camp Mackall. Hoffman had one service station & was the center of activity for the community. Approx. 4 miles from my farm was a state prison. The guards would be all around after a prison escape. I was talking to one of the guards & he happened to have the tracking dogs. He asked if we had any military maps of the prison area? We decided to help each other out. My committee taught the guards map reading & terrain analysis for lines of drift. OP/CPs were established. After this time there wasn't another successful escape. As soon as a convict was unaccounted for the guards went to their assigned OP/CP and here would come the escapees running right up to them. The dog handler taught us his training & SOP for tracking. This information taught us how to beat the trackers. Seems the dogs know what to do. The handlers are the weak link & can be outwitted."

I hope it all makes sense as I added and updated as I had time. As I get this ready to send off, things are starting to open again, but it will take some time to get back to normal, whatever that will be. Everyone stay safe, do the social distancing stuff and stay well. There are as many theories as to what started this and where it came from, as there are doctors and common-sense people. There are other forums for that discussion.

My wife, Michelle, has been busy with her stained glass. She recently made a 75th Unit Crest panel for Mike Theisen, Tom Brizendine, Frank Hudoba and Dan Becker. Dan is a 3rd Batt Ranger who is a state trooper in Indiana and had seen the panel on Face book. Dan and I and our wives had a good visit when he came to pick up his panel. He has also spent many years in the Volunteer Fire Service, so we had plenty to talk about. Dan is a Panama Invasion Vet and as he says "I have mustard on my jump wings". He will be attending the Breakfast next month and promised to bring a few others. And Michelle is now working on a fifth, Mike Theisen wanted one as a gift to a Ranger friend of his from one of the Honor Guards he serves on. A picture of the panel is below.

That's all for this time. I/WE need your stories. I know there were a lot of heads popped up at Waco last year that we have not heard from since. As always RLTW!!!

Stan

Michelle's Crest



Austan and Me at Ft Campbell



SGT Bland Company A



SGT Bland and son Chauntel



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—MARC L. THOMPSON

VII CORPS, C/58 LRP, B/75

Greetings and Salutations:

Hello again, fellow Rangers, LRRPs, and Jayhawks!

MEMORIAL DAY & TAPS: CHUCK REAMS

February 29, 2020 (from Stan Harrell):

I just found out yesterday that our unit brother Chuck Reams passed away.

I spoke to his wife Cindy Reams and she told me about his long illness.

Chuck, my Brother, RIP. RIP, LRRP/Ranger. See you in the tall grass!



This is from Nate Allsopp of Charlie Rangers, that he posted on Facebook. It seems appropriate for Memorial Day:

We have a long and storied tradition that has lasted from each war until today.

Every Ranger today follows in the footsteps of Rangers willing to put their lives on the line with each mission.

Nate Allsopp (Charlie Rangers): Rangers Lead the Way! A tribute to three brave Rangers!!

50 years ago today!!! By now most know that this is the anniversary of that fateful day in May, 50 years ago! That morning 6 men, team 4-4 Co. C Rangers, made their way to a trail in Cambodia carefully setting an ambush and began to wait. In just a few hours we'd initiate contact on 15 soldiers. I was later told we were surrounded by a force estimated at over 200. Before this contact was over 3 Rangers lay dead and one dying (myself)! I'd later be rescued by a reactionary force led by team 4-2 along with two other remaining 4-4 Rangers. Today is to give honor to those fallen Rangers: SSG. Steen B. Foster, Cpl. James Loisel and our borrowed Scout Hoa. These men gave their all that day and I give them honor. RLTW honor them by sharing their story!

RANGER HALL OF FAME: DAVE CUMMINGS

Dave Cummings will be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame after he was submitted by Jeff Horne of November Rangers. So now we have yet another member of the unit in the Hall with all the other legendary Rangers! Congratulations, Dave, on a well-deserved addition (and attaboy, Jeff).

FB GROUP(S)

I believe that I saw Dirty Eddie White surface on Facebook in the VII Corps/B-75 Group (brought in there by Leo Starkey). I could not find a link to The Dirt's profile, so I shall investigate further. I know John Toney and Chris Maxfield are relatively new additions to the group, so I will try to get in touch with them too.

SICK CALL

It seems like half the guys I know about are dealing with some form of cancer or physical repair. I have not been informed of anyone else expiring to visit the Big Ranger, so we'll leave it at that, and just list the various contacts over the past 3-4 months.

HEALTH/WELFARE

I know we are all always competing for space in these articles in Patrolling, due to the reduced page count (compared to some of the past issues). Perhaps that's a good thing this month, since I am scrounging for material. I'm not going to make any excuses; you get what you get. Well... your Unit Director quit smoking five weeks ago (yesterday). I can't do anything... can't focus on anything... can't remember anything... Who am I and why am I writing this article, again?

On the plus side... my circulation is much better... breathing is better... skin color is much "pinker"... I feel the "quit smoking" tension extremely keenly, so I have to exercise more often (several times a day) to burn off the anxious tension, and my muscle tone is improving (according to my wife). I have managed to avoid eating constantly by using "Vitamin C" cough drops, but still gained 5-10 pounds compared to what I weighed before I quit. The weight gain was probably a good thing after all the radiation treatments for the cancer in my stomach! Although I did not really lose too much weight during the treatments, it is good for me not to get too heavy (to avoid issues from the back injuries). I may even get a Patrolling article finished on time one of these days!

HEARD FROM: (in one form or another)

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Alfredo Moncayo Sr. | Bill Waterhouse |
| Andrew Pancho | Bob Kraus |
| Anthony Lorren Roberts | Bob Lund |
| Bill Mathiak | Bob Woolstrum |
| Bill Walter | |

Continued on the next page

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bruce Falconer | Kirk Gibson |
| Cheri Repecko | Larry/Debbie Rapp |
| Chris Maxfield | Leo Starkey |
| Chuck Straehl | Lisa Marie Moncayo |
| Craig Vega | Lynn Thompson |
| Dave Clark | Mathiak Bill |
| Dave Cummings | Mike Moser |
| Dennis Lucas | Neil A. Lofgren |
| Dick Foster | Peggy Fee |
| Don Bruce | Peter Mclaughlin |
| Ed Yarbrough | Ricardo Torres |
| Fred Lewis | Rich McClung |
| Gary L Baura | Richard Black |
| Gary Scott | Richard Cole |
| Gene Kauffman | Richard Foster |
| Greg Phillips | Richard Stutsman |
| Harold Miller | Rick Benner |
| Howard Stokes | Robert Lee Smith |
| Jack Voyles | Sam Wentzel |
| James Ardwan | Stan Harrell |
| James Parker | Steve/Kaylene Fisher Lengel |
| Jeff Rice | Steve Murphy |
| Jim Broyles | Thomas Gould |
| Jim Brown | Tim Grzelka |
| Joe Chetwynd | Tom Forde |
| Joe Picanco | Tom Turner |
| Joe Touchon | Tommy R. Wright |
| John DeCosta | Tony Harley |
| John Repecko Jr | Wade Farnsworth |
| John Toney | WB Wear |
| Jose Zapien | Willie Mack |
| Katrina Chaney Underwood | Zeke Evaro |

Leo a debt of gratitude for undertaking to produce the coins and pocket patches... Attaboy, Leo...!!! He says: Here are the ordering details. The cost per coin is \$17.50. If there is enough interest, I will order another 50 coins. I am only ordering 50 at a time so I do not have to eat or lose that much. Mail a check or cash send payment to:

Leo Starkey
802 W Main St.
Yorktown, TX 78164

(Please contact the unit director if you need Leo's telephone number... I don't want to post it in the clear here).

VII CORPS LRRPS REUNION – MAYBE VETERANS DAY WEEK?

Dick Foster has passed on the info that there will be a VII Corps reunion muster Veterans Day week in Fayetteville.

More info later.

Hasta Luego...

Respectfully,

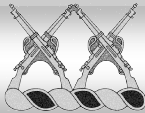
Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director



B75 POCKET PATCHES and B/75 & VII CORPS COINS

Leo Starkey had originally made a run of the pocket patches we used to wear on our dress greens. Now the Mossy Threads website (Ranger-owned and run) has taken over production and has them stocked on their website. Leo has, once again, had a run of B75 and VII Corps coins made, just like the outstanding coins which he produced two years ago. I think we all owe



C/75 - E/20 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOE HAYES



So, we've been somewhat shut in for a month and a half. Some have probably had a harder time of it than others. In some ways, I think, Vietnam was just as confining. We all wanted to get back to "The World" – to what seemed to be some sense of normalcy. I've spent a lot of time over the last few weeks listening to the radio, some news talk and the local oldies station. There's probably a song – every Vietnam Vet most likely has their own – that for four or five minutes (unless we're talking about Iron Butterfly), will put him right back in country. When I hear "Sweet City Woman" I think, "I know where I was when that song came out. I don't particularly like or dislike the song, but I find myself singing along with it. It's just one of those things.

I guess that there were three genres of music in Vietnam: Country, Rock and Soul. On second thought, maybe there was a fourth. If you happened to be listening to something that couldn't be put into one of the three, someone might ask, "What the F%#k is that?" So...I guess that was the fourth category –Country, Rock, Soul, and WTF Is That.

Just to kill time one day not too long ago, I went web surfing to find the songs that were popular through the years '67 – '71. There are a lot of songs, a lot of bands. The top ones seemed to be by The Beatles, CCR, Rolling Stones, and Temptations. The Jackson Five were up there too. Keep in mind that this was not an expert search. One sight named the top five Vietnam songs. They listed Fortunate Son by CCR, War by Edwin Starr, Paint It Black by The Rolling Stones, Steppenwolf's Born To Be Wild, and last but not least Wagner – Ride Of The Valkyries. I don't recall hearing that one in Vietnam. And Charlie didn't surf – BUT BONES DID! One song that seems to have attached itself to Vietnam is CCR's "Run Through The Jungle". It's funny; that was an anti gun song. Who knew – who cared?

I remember a debate between Jack Martin and Dwayne Desmond. It was 1971 in An Khe and a few of the commo guys were sitting at the commo shack waiting for platoon meeting. I can't remember exactly how the conversation got started, but it did get interesting when Desmond said that Jimmy Hendrix was better than Chuck Berry. Jack perked up and defended Berry. He started naming all the tunes and hits that Berry had. Desmond came back with "Hendrix was a genius and that Jack couldn't appreciate that. Jack would come back with something like "Desmond, you're just talking out your dumb a---. Desmond –

your nothing but a motor mouth without a governor." Desmond didn't have too many comebacks and this back and forth went on for at least thirty minutes. The rest of us just sat there and enjoyed the entertainment. I remember thinking, "How can you even compare the two?" In the course of the debate, a couple of guys walked by, listened a bit, cast their vote, and then walked away. Mike Donoho sided with Desmond. He was losing the battle, and I think that he felt better for the support, but Jack was verbally making mince meat out of Dwayne. And on it went. Desmond didn't give up. I give him credit. I think Jack would have made a good standup comic. That guy was very funny. As ridiculous, inane and, as funny as it was, we all got back to reality.



SSgt. Floyd Crenshaw, our platoon sergeant showed up, and wanted to get the platoon meeting going, so Jack and Dwayne had to spend the next couple of minutes each trying to get the last word. To make matters worse, I wanted to get a picture (I carried my Pen-EE just about all the time). So, when you look at the picture, I'm thinking that the look on SSgt. Crenshaw's face accurately captured the moment. What's the saying "A picture is worth a thousand words?" Well you can judge for yourself. From

left to right: Warren Slaughterback, Jack Martin, Dwayne Desmond, SSgt. Floyd Crenshaw, and John Gresko. I am glad that I got that shot as it brings back a good memory.

Was I a Hendrix or a Berry fan? I'm not saying because I don't want to be accused of talking out of my a___. I liked both of them. Who won the debate? If you liked to laugh, then Jack won; but it doesn't really make a difference now. Dwayne passed years ago – so did Hendrix, and in 2017 so did Chuck Berry, but their songs are still being played, so you decide. I don't know what happened to Jack Martin. I hope that he had a good life. As for SSgt. Crenshaw, I'm sure that the scowl on his face would turn to a smile if he remembered that day. It was fun if just for a few minutes.

So just like music helps get us through these days, it helped to get us through those times. "We gotta get out of this place – if it's the last thing we ever do....there's a better life for me and you". Here's to the better life!

See you in August

Joe Hayes

D/151st/LRP/LRS

Unit Director Bob McIntire

More often than not it starts right now and requires your immediate action. This one started the day before, or maybe the week before or hell maybe several years before. For my sake now, let's agree to say it started the day before this time. What am I doing right now? Nothing important, just existing in a strange and distant place that I haven't been back to in decades. It's any morning of the week. Somewhere not too far off a report has come to someone's attention. He, because of an icon on his shirt decides to make something happen. He contacts someone he looks upon as inferior to him because of an icon (only slightly different than the one he wears) forcing him to take an action. This second officer's responsibility is to pass the proposed action down to someone else, and so it goes from officer to officer to NCO to NCO to finally a soldier with boots on the ground. Maybe boots on the ground is too new a term, more likely it is bare feet in a cot or flip-flops headed for the mess hall. He is the one that will have to take the action, see what is going on, make the effort to accomplish what the guy in the Ivory tower has decided should happen but not by him. He, because of his time on the job or an influential relative or because of a favor owed from years ago has progressed through the ranks to this position of making decisions that forces someone else to take action. Don't immediately come to a conclusion that this is a bad thing or even unnecessary. He, (God let's assume and hope) has the intelligence to know and make the right decisions. Does all this matter to me, only in some abstract way? Who am I then? I'm one of those young men or old youths that is aging fast, growing old quickly, changing daily, ignorant of cause and effect and willing to go in harms way because of a duty I have accepted. Maybe even forced into, yelling and screaming that I don't want to be here and don't really understand why I am in this situation, but be that as it may, I keep my mouth shut and trudge on because I am only one of many in this same or similar situation.

I have here arrived in a place far too deep in my brain that I did not intend to come to. I am not ready to open that door to you who cannot understand where or why I am here. What I intended to share is one of the many experiences I had a long time ago



that whether good or bad (or somewhere in between) makes me the person I am now.

The actions start here, today or maybe tomorrow, you see, because my TL (Team Leader) has to now take a ride in a slick known as C&C. He is riding with Major Heckman, Shocker, usually Lt. Kleiber, a Pilot, co-pilot, a crew chief and a door gunner (at least that's the way I picture it). He looks at an area to find where the information came from that the first officer based this action on. He must then figure out where the best (in several ways) place is to verify the information

the first officer feels he needs in order to make another decision forcing another chain of action to occur forcing another soldier with "boots on the ground" to take. My team leader, after seeing the area in question decides on where to observe from, where best to get off of a slick (LZ), where to run to if everything turns to defecation, which non-trails to use to move six soldier, silently, to another area if the first does not prove effective.

On the TL's return to Atterbury East (the encampment we call home for our present tour of duty) he will summon his team of which I am the RTO, for a briefing. He will explain what he saw, what he knows, what he thinks and what he hopes to accomplish. We will discuss the operation order at length. We will ask questions the TL may or may not be able to answer. We need to get these out of the way because once in the field there cannot be any lengthy oral communications. Success will depend on silence and stealth.

Now we are supposed to decide how we, as a specific team member of Team 2-1, can best accomplish our duties and responsibilities. The things we do next will go a long way in deciding if we will achieve the goals of the guy in the officer in Ivory tower and if we will be there for Annie Fanny to extract take back to AE our home. I will, dependent on how long we have before taking that trip to the field, jungle, boonies, play cards, take pictures, drink Mogen David Concord, sleep, chat, and all the time trying to put off the inevitable. All the time thinking of what to pack in and on my ruck and my person. My concerns are supporting the team by preforming my duties to them first and foremost, to take what I will need personally to endure the trip, thirdly to protect myself.

Continued on the next page



It's time to get my poop in order; I have put it off as long as I can. I have made preliminary decisions on what I will need for the operation. I head for the ammo bunker down at the end of our compound, behind a parament that protects the rest of the company area from unintentional detonations. I stand at the open door and peruse what is available and make decisions on how to pack all for the trip. I want to take everything so I can be prepared for anything but a huge concern is weight. How much weight and also size can I realistically transport rapidly and silently where we will be going. These are hard decisions, but it is not the first time I have had to make them. I base my decisions on what I have taken in the past and what I carried unnecessarily, what I carried that I used and what I needed but did not take. All of these are important considerations for me and for team 2-1. Having made my preliminary picks, I haul this to the theatre (the place where all teams prep their gear for trips like this one. Next, I go to the bunker where I stored my Ruck from the last trip. It is depleted of all the things I used up last time and is light and shriveled. It comes back with me to the theatre. Others in my team and other team members from other teams are moving in and out of the area doing much the same as I am doing. There will be more than one incursion taking place, usually two or three at a time in different areas for different purposes. I know them all whether I acknowledge them or not I respect them and ready to help them if requested or if I see a need.

I check my rucksack so I know for sure what I have left from the last trip. I make note of what I have used and must resupply. I discard the item I carried but did not use. I again note the things I did not carry but needed or will need this trip. This is an inaccurate science for obvious reasons, just too many variables. As I begin to replenish and re-supply my ruck I have to think about placement. I need to figure out what I will need in the field if we have no activity and must stay for the full five days, and then I must weigh what I will need immediately if we have contact with the enemy. Maybe the TL will decide to move to a second objective for a better opportunity to get some worthwhile Intel. All of these concerns are dancing around in my brain. If we will be doing a mid-morning insertion most of this will have to happen the day before. If it is an afternoon insertion it will happen the morning of.

Now is the time to gather items to go, but not at hand, or to insure the items required are already there and in the right places. After a contact there is no time to organize, that the time to grab and run, exfil is the primary concern to everyone. No one wants to have to wait on someone, not members of 2-1, not C&C, not Annie Fanny, not the Playboys (our Cobras). It's all hell

bent for election at that point. A list which would have been best on paper, but is probably not would be great and would include maybe not in this order, most of these items; PRC25 (my radio), batteries for my radio, 2 antennas, camel turds and small canteens (normally about 7 or 8 quarts), maybe binoculars, camo sticks, poncho liner (don't shoot up your own poncho liner it won't be replaced, I just had to live and return to the states with an poncho liner full of holes). Mosquito repellant, hat/cap/ bandana, watch, spoon, metal canteen cup for cooking, ammo, pineapple grenades (2-1 won't carry baseball style grenades), belt ammo for m-60, my M-16 with gobs of full magazines, first aid kit, morphine dosages, atropine shots, sharp K-bar knife, map or maps with designations and locations marked and protected with acetate film.

Then I need to consider optional items. These may be necessary on this trip, but may not be on another trip. These may include but not be limited to; camera, cigarettes, tabasco sauce, P-38 can opener, C-ration fruit, LURP's, rope, M-79 grenade launcher and a book or two to read if no other activity occur.



Now that all this is packed and in the right places I need to see if I can lift it. If not, a reconstruction is necessary. If I can lift it and stand up with it hanging on my shoulders. I next must judge how mobile I will be wearing it. Now let me see if I can travel with it, crawl with it, sleep on it, in fact it will become a part of my being during the next few days. When I move or shake or jump (yeah sure) it can't rattle or fall apart. If it passes all the tests it's ready.

Now I go to the firing pit to check my M-16, it has been cleaned, but is it altogether properly so it will be ready to be my savior when and if need be. It works and it is loaded and on safety.

Now back to the theatre for a radio check with the TOC (Tactical Operation Center).

I am as ready to leave as I ever will be, but continue, while we wait for the directive to move to the helicopter pad, to think of anything I might have forgotten. I have taken my malaria pill and my no poop pill. The team moves to the helicopter. When we get the directive, I take my place on the floor with my legs hanging over the edge, like the rest of the team. Nothing more matters, we are soon to be running for a tree line where it is suspected there is enemy activity. The flight is beautiful, but way too short. If we are over a river, sometimes the pilots will get down really low over the water, swinging left and right with the river. We are a string of three slicks speeding to an unseen LZ where team 2-1 will take up residence for up to five days. All thoughts are of what may come next. *Continued next issue*



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROBERT HERNANDEZ

CORONAVIRUS

The past few months have tested us a nation, as we all had our worlds turned upside down by this global pandemic. Nothing is normal, and we've all been forced to make sacrifices. Some things we took for granted and just counted on to be there without question have now sometimes become a luxury.

As scientists around the world continue to seek a solution the federal government is working closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners as well as public health partners to respond to this situation. With a couple of months behind us, we now have a reference point and data on which to evaluate our efforts.

I wanted to check in and hope you and your family is doing well. These are tough times but we, as veterans, have been "here before". However since we are dealing with a different kind of enemy - the Covid-19 virus, I thought I would pass on a couple of my thoughts to you.

During these unfamiliar times things can be overwhelming. I have two concerns; we are at an age that presents serious concerns with Covid-19 and we need to pay attention to the things we can do to limit our exposure to this deadly virus. Older adults and people of any age with certain underlying conditions like lung disease, heart disease, liver disease, asthma or diabetes are at higher risk for developing more serious complications.

Once again I would like to remind you of the symptoms of Covid-19 and tips for preventing or reducing our exposure to the Covid-19 virus.

SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19: These symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure (based on the incubation period of MERS-COV viruses).

1. Fever 83%-99%
2. Cough 59%-82%
3. Fatigue 44%-70%
4. Lack of appetite 40%-84%
5. Shortness of breath 31%-40%
6. Mucus/phlegm 28%-33%
7. Body aches 11%-35%



PERSON-TO-PERSON SPREAD

1. The virus is thought to spread mainly from person to person.
2. Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
3. Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
4. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
5. Some recent studies have suggested that Covid-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.
6. Maintaining good social distance (about 6 feet) is very important in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

TIPS FOR PREVENTION

1. Wash your hands frequently and carefully.
2. Avoid touching your face.
3. Stop shaking hands and hugging people (for now).
4. Don't share personal items.
5. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.
6. Clean and disinfect surfaces.
7. Take social distancing seriously (Stay at least 6 feet from other people).
8. Do not gather in groups.
9. Avoid eating or drinking in public places.
10. Wash fresh groceries.
11. Wear a (homemade) mask.
12. Self-quarantine.

Continued on the next page

OPTIONS WHILE SOCIAL DISTANCING

You have options available while Social Distancing in place. You can call, text, or face time with friends and family. You can go for walks and enjoy being outside. You can tackle that "to do" list you have been putting off or have not had time for.

I want to suggest maybe limiting your intake of the constant news, stories and rumors that are arriving daily. You can allow yourself to check for updates a couple of times a day instead of letting it consume all of your time.

Another concern of mine is the low level anxiety many of us may be feeling. It is kind of like being at Bear Cat, Tan An or Dong Tam back in the 1960s and 70s. We knew the hazards of duty at the time. We knew the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong were watching us and yet we went about our daily activities, duties and missions- day after day without thinking about the low level anxiety and elevated stress levels that we were harboring in our brains. Today we may, again, be experiencing those same stressors, not necessarily for our safety but also for the safety of our families and friends.

Try to remain calm and be assured this will pass, things will get better and we will get through this.

On another note, events are being canceled all around us, and they are being canceled for a good reason- to maintain social distancing- one of the mitigating factors to prevent the spread of this deadly virus.

Due to the pandemic the 2020 Branson Rally has been changed to August 19-23. Please remember that we are still planning to have our "mini" reunion at the same time as the LRRP rally in Branson and I hope to see you there. If you have reservations at the Spinning Wheel or the Twelve Oaks Hotel you don't have to do anything. All reservations have been adjusted to match the August dates. If you are staying at one of the other hotels you will have to contact them and make the adjustments yourself. Don't forget to send in your registration fee for the LRRP rally. The standard registration fee for the rally is \$110, which will become \$85 after applying your LRRP member's code (LR#35613). This fee will cover you, your spouse and any children under the age of 18 for the entire Rally. If you have any other guest or family members over the age of 18 attending with you then each of them must pay a registration fee of \$85 as well. You can find all the information pertaining to the rally and registration fee at LRRP2015.org. Or if you have questions please go to president@lrrp2015.org. There is no registration fee for our mini reunion.

Service for Ed Kulcavage, who passed away on December 23, 2019, will be held on June 4, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. All are invited to attend. Service for Arlan Weiland who passed away on March 29, 2020 is still in the planning stages and may be delayed to June or August.

I will be notified of the final plans and will pass the information on to the unit.

I received my copy of Jim Thayer's book "Tango 1-1" and found it to be a very good read. Jim certainly was a true warrior. His description of the jungle and the Mekong Delta the 9th division LRRP rangers faced on a daily basis certainly brought back memories of my time in Vietnam. If you haven't ordered your copy yet I suggest that you do so now. You won't be disappointed. You can order Jim's book on Amazon.com.

Tom Koontz was kind enough to send me some very important information you might be interested in concerning the very hard to come by toilet paper:

- 1) The first recorded use of toilet paper was in 6th Century China. By the 14th Century, the Chinese government was mass-producing it.
- 2) Packaged toilet paper wasn't sold in the United States until 1857.
- 3) It wasn't until 1935 that a manufacturer was able to promise splinter free toilet paper.
- 4) Americans use an average of 8.6 sheets of toilet paper per trip to the bathroom.
- 5) Other things used before toilet paper include: hay, corn cobs, sticks, stones, moss, hemp, wool, fruit peels, ferns, sponges, seashells, and knotted ropes.
- 6) The most expensive toilet paper in the world is from Portuguese brand Renova, its three-ply, perfumed, costs \$3 per roll and comes in several colors including black, red, blue and green.

Renova Red Label

STAY SAFE

Bob Hernandez

Unit Director

RLTW





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN MCGEE



I hope everyone is healthy and doing well during the Chinese Corona virus mandatory stay at home. I hope that no one has gone too stir crazy and suffered from severe cabin fever. I for one cannot wait until the country gets back to normalcy. Keeping that hope in mind we are going to have our unit off-year reunion in September of this year.

The reunion will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada at the Alexis Park All Suite Resort, 375 East Harmon, Las Vegas, Nevada

www.Alexispark.com. The dates are Sunday 28 September 2020 - Thursday 4 October 2020. Room Rates \$ 82.77 per/night \$ up to 4 person per occupancy. Larger suites are available at higher rates. There is complimentary RV parking, but you must stay at hotel. Airport Shuttle available to the resort. When making Room reservations ask for F Company 75th Ranger Regt. rates. Rates will stay the same if you arrive a couple of days early or want to leave a few days later. Phone # 702 - 796-3300 for reservations. We would like to have as many members of our unit gather and enjoy each other's company and friendship. This is a great time for all you members from the West Coast that cannot make it to the Fort Benning Reunion to meet some of your old and new friends. Let me remind you one more time none of us is getting any younger. Now is the time, Las Vegas is the place. Try to make reservations early hotel would like a head count NLT 28 August 2020. See you there !!!!!

Thinking of not getting any younger. One of the worst parts of being unit director is when I get notified of the loss of one of our family. Many of you know that our unit adopted former Merrill's Marauder Bob Emmett, and through the generosity of our members we were able to fly Bob and his wife Janie to the last Ranger Reunion. Sadly, Bob Emmett passed on March 21st of this year. He was 94 years young.

Bob was as true a hero as this country has ever produced. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Bob enlisted in the Army upon his 17th birthday in 1943. A brave and seemingly fearless man, Bob volunteered for an exceedingly dangerous mission and joined the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional), more commonly known as Merrill's Marauders. Merrill's Marauders was a U.S. Army long range, deep penetration special operations jungle warfare unit that fought behind Japanese enemy lines in China, Burma, and India. The Merrill's Marauders would eventually be merged with the U.S. Army Rangers. In fact, the Rangers Distinctive Unit Crest is based on the 5307th Combat Patch. His many decorations and citations include the WWII

Victory Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and the Good Conduct Medal. He will be missed.

I was also notified this year that we lost William Scheuerell on February 19, 2020. Bill proudly served with the 75th Rangers, Company F, LRRP. He served 2 tours in Vietnam, based in Chu Chi from October 1968 until January 1970. Wounded twice, Bill received two Purple Hearts as well as the Bronze Star. Bill's wife shared with us that he was an avid reader of

Patrolling. She also attached a letter he wrote to his parents. I would imagine that many of us can relate to his words.

The Letter is dated 4/29/69 it reads as follows.

Hi Dad and Mom!

I am fine plus in good health. I am back in the hospital. I came in today. I have an infection in my wound. Nothing to worry about, be out in 4 to 5 days. I received your letter today and it looks like you have been busy. I probably won't recognize you when I get home.

Again, I want to say please don't ask me all those questions, because I hate talking about it. I will let you know how I am. I hope you both understand this war has changed me and that's how I feel. I just don't like to talk about it anymore.

Around the company we are building anew shower and still painting. I.G. Inspection only 14 days away. Otherwise, nothing else now. I hope you and dad are feeling good. Until next time, take care and have a good trip.

p.s. 198 days to go

Love Bill

Our unit has purchased a brick honoring Ranger Bill Scheuerell at the Ranger Memorial Monument.

These two fine warriors were members of our collective family and as we mourn their passing, we should also celebrate the fact that brave men like this lived.

In closing, when we lost our leader Mark Ponzillo (Cpt.P), his granddaughter read a poem that Mark Carried with him everywhere as a reminder of who he was and who he was privileged to know. Here is the poem: *Continued on the next page*

"These Good Men" by Michael Norman

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted their best, men who suffered and sacrificed, who were stripped raw, right down to their humanity.

I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the U.S. Military. But I know them in a way I know no other men. I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another.

I cannot say where we are headed. Ours are not perfect friendships; those are the province of legend and myth. A few of my comrades drift far from me now, sending back only occasional word. I know that one day even these could fall to silence. Some of the men will stay close, a couple, perhaps, always at hand.

As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades.

....such good men.

Please if it is anyway possible try to make it to our reunion. We are your comrades !!!!!

McGee, Out

WEARING MASKS ON VICTORY POND



*A Soldier begins the slide for life on the first day of Benning Phase of Ranger School as a Ranger instructor monitors his process.
(U.S. Army photo by Patrick A. Albright, Maneuver Center of Excellence and Fort Benning Public Affairs)*



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



I was tempted to write something about the COVID-19 virus but I imagine we are all sick (no pun intended) and tired of this and the issues of the resulting quarantine. I decided to relate one of my mission experiences for this issue, something I have not done before. Having just finished Ranger School before deploying to RVN, I felt very fortunate to get picked up by G Company. First of all, I loved being on a Ranger Team. I got to go out on missions with great guys several different team leaders. There was one TL who I believed to be worthless and dangerous and I will leave him unnamed. The others I had the privilege to serve with were first rate and they provided a great learning experience for me and I'm sure for the other members of the team. The two TLs that I went out with and respected the most were Clem Lemke and Leroy Johnson, both top notch guys with completely different personalities.

Leroy was a hulking giant compared to me and could have probably carried me on top of his ruck. He was the TL for Team Moscow operating out of the Da Nang Company area. Quiet, easy-going and professional, Leroy was careful and deliberate in his mission work. He carried an AK-47 and eased through the jungle like a cat. I always admired him. Later, I took over as TL for Moscow and had a great bunch of guys with Frank Svensson as my ATL.

Before I get to my first experience as the TL for Moscow, I have to tell you a little about my time on missions with Clem Lemke. First of all, on a mission and in the pre-mission preparation, Clem was all business. No joking or playing around, Clem was so focused on the mission he could be scary. He expected 100% alertness and total silence in the field. Clem did not have to speak if you did something he did not like, he could just look a hole right through you and you instinctively knew that he might just cut your throat if you screwed up again. He was the consummate professional. I guess it was his German upbringing that made him so strict and detailed about every movement. I don't know about others who served with him but in my case, I was much more afraid of Clem than the enemy. My biggest fear was that I would make a mistake or do something that would disappoint him. Clem, his piercing eyes, professional attitude and attention to detail simply commanded respect. Clem seemed to bring out the best in people while in the field.

When I was a team member, life was good; no worries. Other than fearing the wrath of one of Clem's soul piercing stares that would make you feel a near death experience, I enjoyed the missions and the challenges that we faced even in the slightest movements and what they may reveal. I didn't worry about anything because I trusted Clem to get us out of anything we got into.....and he always did. His sixth sense in the field was uncanny and something I never mastered.



At some point, Clem started grooming me as a Team Leader. He tested me with maintaining our navigation, calling in fire missions, asking me questions in a whisper I could barely hear and compounded by his thick German accent. I don't know if it was his idea or if he was told to do so, and I was too dumb to realize that was what he was doing but I enjoyed the challenges and he never killed me so I guess I passed his muster.

Some time and many missions later, I took over as Team Leader for Moscow and that is when the fun stopped for me. You all probably understand that the TL carries the weight of responsibility for the entire team and despite how good your guys are, their well-being is your responsibility. I was never

smart enough to understand that mental load until it was dropped on me. When I was given my first mission brief as a TL, it seemed the weight of the world was on my shoulders. From talking about and practicing immediate action drills to packing for the mission or assigning the order of march to where everyone would sit in our bird for our insertion, I probably was a pain in the ass. It was no longer fun for me, just business and expectations of professional actions. I believe I morphed into Clem Lemke and became understanding of his focused, serious attitude. I could never be as good as Clem but I just did not want one of my mistakes to result in a bad situation for the team. Frank Svensson and I had been friends in the NCO Academy and Jump School. Frank was my ATL and tail gunner on movement. Frank and I both carried the radios and discussed movements on the mission when necessary. Frank also suffered my short temper brought on by the new found stress created by my responsibility for the team rather than just being a team member. Sorry Frank, I did not even see it coming until later when in retrospect; I realized the weight of the responsibility was an emotional burden. Truth is, I had great guys on the team and really didn't have to worry but I just couldn't convince my psyche of that at the time.

So, on my first mission as a TL, working with a six -man team, me, Frank, John Curtis, Chris Chabot, Pete Cuevas and Dan Barden are inserted into the mountains close to the border with Laos, west of Da Nang. Inserted at daybreak after a couple of false touchdowns, we were in heavy jungle and at times elephant grass probably 8 feet tall. I never liked elephant grass as the movement was difficult and you always left a trail but that is where we were and we did not have to like it. I remember just a few hours into the mission, we found a position obviously used recently by a line infantry unit that was at least a platoon in size or larger. They were obviously a slack group as discarded equipment and trash laid all over the area. Loaded magazines, smoke grenades, C-rats and other items certainly useful to the enemy were simply abandoned to lighten their loads.

Continued on the next page

I was disgusted with the actions of the unknown unit and especially their leaders and I felt fortunate in being in a Ranger Company. I called in the location and recommended that some artillery be called in on the site the next day.

The remainder of the daylight movement went well despite the steep terrain that challenged our progress. I showed Frank a potential LZ on the map that I thought could be a good emergency extraction point should we need it and told him to take one of the guys and scout the area to see if it looked good. After about 45 minutes, Frank returned and advised he did not find the LZ. I'm sure that I was pissed at Frank because he did not find the LZ so I took one of the other guys and started following the trail Frank had blazed through the heavy elephant grass. Of course the movement for me and my cover guy was relatively easy since Frank and his cover had to break trail and all we had to do was follow it. Anyway, we located the LZ and I was much relieved we had a spot to get out if needed.

We set up our NDP for the night, ate, put out claymores and scheduled who had what radio duty at what times for the night watch. All was good for the first day of the mission and I was looking forward to some rest. There is no dark like there is in the mountains. It was cloudy and the blackness of the night cloaked everything. About an hour after dark, while I was still trying to go to sleep, I felt a squeeze on my arm from the guy doing the night watch. I could not see or hear anything for the first few seconds and then there were the distinct sounds of movement in the distance. The noises indicated a much larger force than our paltry 6 guys and I knew there were no friendlies in our box of operations. It was clear by the sounds of movement getting closer that they were searching for something and it had to be us. I quietly moved around waking each team member and whispering "movement" in their ears.

You couldn't drive a straight pin up my ass with 12 pound sledge hammer. All I was thinking about was making use of the LZ scouted earlier in the day. I got on the radio and whispered we had a large enemy group approaching and requested emergency extraction and gunships. I knew that the lift birds were at least a 30-40 minute flight away and I was wondering how long we could last in a firefight. The answer I received on the radio was not what I expected. Da Nang was socked in by weather and nothing was flying. Other than heavy clouds in the mountains, there was no wind or rain. I was blindsided by the information and started thinking of Plan B. I quietly

told each team member not to detonate their claymores until I blew mine. I told them that we would stack our rucks to make our escape easier with just our STABO rigs and instructed the guy carrying our C-4 to rig a short time fuse and activate the fuse when we blew the claymores. We would destroy our heavy rucks except for mine and Franks' since we had the radios and head to the LZ where we would then decide where to go from there. Everyone gave a whispered acknowledgement of our plan and there was just some slight noise of rucks being piled together. All I could think about was why this on my first mission as a TL.

The noise was getting louder and closer and I decided to wait until they were on top of us before blowing the mines. I figured the confusion of the claymores would give us an advantage in getting away. The noise was now only 10 meters or so away and closing and it sounded like a platoon sized group. We had put our claymores only a short distance out, each angled so as to reduce the back blast. I had my clacker in my hand and lowered the safety and tried to bury myself in the dirt to minimize the explosive force I knew was about to happen. It was then that I

heard the first loud "snort," quickly followed by another and then another. It took a few seconds for the 6 Rangers of Team Moscow, all on pins and needles to understand that we were about to be overrun by heard of enemy wild pigs. Of course there were a group of Rangers back in the TOC listening to the radio and anxious to come to our rescue waiting for our SITREP to change to CONTACT!

I don't really remember but I may have laughed out loud with relief when I realized that we were going to survive. It was not like I was the only one who believed we were about to be overrun. All the wind went out on my sails and I felt physically drained after the adrenaline rush that held us for the past 20 minutes. Of course the relief and somewhat embarrassment of making the stand down radio call back to the TOC advising that the enemy were actually wild pigs was better than telling them we were running for our lives.

I later figured that the pigs were smelling the LRRP rations we had that evening and were searching for leftovers. Of course I got a lot of ribbing from the guys in the rear when we returned but certainly not from the guys who were with me sweating it out.

I had many other missions as TL after that one but I will always remember my first.





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—BENNIE GENTRY



Pete Dencker

A few issues ago as I was prepping to get an article turned in, when I ran across some information that mentioned Signal Hill. It was an intri-

guing story. I didn't know a lot about it and felt it deserved more attention as a potential article as E/52nd played such a critical role in establishing the Signal Hill relay station and Signal Hill played such an important role in the A Shau Valley (Operation Delaware) campaign during 1968. After doing some reading (thanks Bob Ankony, Ron Christopher, Bill Carpenter and John Lebrun) and more investigating on the web it became clear that it was important to follow up on this interest. Since then I've been able to talk to a number of Rangers that were part of that mission – Thank you - Bill Hand, Doug Parkinson, Glenn Merritt and Bob Teagle. What I've learned essentially paints a similar story to what has been previously published, but for *Patrolling Magazine* I felt that it was important to get a firsthand picture of what happened from those that were there, honor those who did not make it off Signal Hill alive, and remind all of one of the moments in history that made E/52nd, later H/75th one of the most decorated units of the Vietnam war.

First, I would like to honor the 3 Brothers whose final mission was a critical part of the operation to occupy and man the Signal Hill radio relay station. One of the most heartbreaking stories concerned William Lambert, although born in Jackson County FL; he had lived most of his life in Pensacola. He graduated from Pensacola High School in 1965 where his classmates remember him as quite a talented artist. Bill had 3 brothers, 2 of which were in the military. Bill was days away from his DEROS date and an opportunity to return to the States after spending 2 years in RVN. It had to be a love and concern for



William Lambert



his fellow LRRP's that convinced him to go on one last mission. Bill is buried in Barrancas National Cemetery in Florida. The next is Richard Turbitt. He was born on April 20, 1948 in Waukegan Illinois. He began his tour on June 15th, 1967 and had



Richard Turbitt

achieved the rank of Spec 4. Richard is buried in the Ascension Catholic Cemetery in Libertyville, IL. The last is Robert Noto, Robert hailed from St. Louis Missouri and was born on January 20th, 1948. The records

I could find indicated he was a draftee and began his tour on February 15, 1968. He is buried at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. I must apologize for not being able to find more information about these 3 but after searching the web, newspaper articles, and old obituary postings there was just not much out there.



Robert Noto

The A Shau Valley – a location that today is most likely a place of great beauty and serenity, but for those who found themselves there in 1968 during the Vietnam war, the name typically brings into focus only bad memories of their time there.

The valley itself is just west of the coastal city of Hue and runs generally north and south for about 25 miles along the border of Laos. It is a relatively flat landscape covered with elephant grass and bordered on each side by heavily forested mountains. For many years during the Vietnam War the valley was an entry point off the Ho Chi Minh trail for men and equipment entering Vietnam. In 1966 NVA soldiers overran the last Special Forces camp in the area. That along with the geography, the isolation and weather, kept US forces from initiating any significant offensive activity. This resulted in the valley becoming a major logistics hub for the NVA. The NVA presence was characterized by storage locations utilizing large bunkers and tunnel complexes, and fortified with crew-served and radar guided anti-aircraft weapons.

In January of '68 General Abrams ordered the 1st Cav, the largest and arguably the most mobile

Continued on the next page

American unit at the time, north to support the Marines in I Corps. The Cav was fully engaged during both Tet and at Khe Sanh when General Tolson, (1st Cav commander) was ordered to prepare for operations in the A Shau Valley. Two Brigades would attack from the north end of the valley while another Brigade remained at Khe Sanh providing security around the base as well as the area between the base west to the Laotian border. Because of the terrain and the critical need for communications to manage this attack a radio relay site had to be identified, occupied, and manned to ensure the success of what was now referred to as Operation Delaware.

About midway up the valley stood Dong Re Lao Mountain – it's central location and command of the surrounding landscape made it an ideal site for both communication and fire support. Dong Re Mountain was selected as the site for the radio relay and ultimately became known as Signal Mountain.

It became clear that occupying the top of Signal Mountain would require a specialized unit (with specialized equipment, training, and experience), as there was no LZ or anything close. E Company, 52nd LRRP (specifically Lt. Joe Dilger's 2nd Platoon) was the only viable solution. The plan was for the unit to repel in, and then utilizing explosives, and other equipment, clear a landing zone, and then secure the area without the benefit of artillery or any other typical support. The insertion was initially planned for April 18th but was put on hold until an airstrike could eliminate a 37 mm radar controlled anti-aircraft position in the immediate area. ATL Cpl Bill Hand remembers how convenient this was as on the 18th all they had at the moment were sandbags to protect their hands while repelling. That night Cpt Gooding met with the Sr NCO's to review the next day's plan and remind everyone of the expectation of heavy casualties due to the heavy NVA presence in the area. The next morning on the 19th, the LRRP Platoon along with a few engineers and signal corps types were waiting on the slicks that would be responsible for the insertion. Unfortunately, due to heavy demand, and the number of slicks in need of repair, there were too few birds to move the entire Platoon, so the Platoon was split. Lt Dilger, Sgt Curtis, and Cpl Hand were with the first lift of slicks, while Sgt. Doug Parkinson's team, and the remainder of 2nd Platoon would wait for the 2nd lift. The good news was that by this time gloves were located and provided to those repelling in. It was mid-morning when the first group of lift ships departed for the 20-minute ride to the top of Signal Mountain.

The first group of slicks reached the top of Dong Re Lo and began to hover about 100 feet above the heavy jungle canopy looking to unload the 1st team. The slicks however, because of the altitude and resulting thin air were struggling to maintain control. The result was the first slick with Lt Dilger was unsuccessful and left station to come around and try again. The next slick moved into position to off load the next team. TL Sgt Larry Curtis and ATL Bill Hand were out on the skids ready to repel when that slick lost control and started crashing through the canopy. Curtis and Hand jumped off the skids while they were still 50 feet in the air, falling through the canopy and slamming

into the ground. Cpl Hand as he was falling, remembers the sound of an errant rotor blade passing what seemed to be inches from his head. Upon hitting the ground, they managed to get out of their gear and then get out of the path of the helicopter as it crashed through the trees to the ground and then continued to roll on it's side. The impact knocked the crew and the remaining members of the Team unconscious. Cpl Hand was clear of the immediate site but could not feel his legs. Sgt Curtis was trapped under one of the skids but luckily one of the ends of that skid was caught on a tree so he wasn't crushed. Hand remembers one of the pilots, who was conscious, coming over and asking him if he was OK. Hand said no – but told the pilot he needed to shut down the engine which was still running at what seemed to be maximum RPM and leaking fuel. Hand still not able to feel his legs, was able to pull himself along a tree lying on the ground to get away from the crash site. By this time, Lt Dilger and the remaining members of the first group had been successful in repelling to the ground, and were able to free Sgt Curtis from beneath the skid, move the crew and others on the crashed slick to safety of a bomb crater at the top of the hill, unload the explosives and gear needed to clear an LZ while setting up a hasty perimeter around the crest of the mountain.



Utilizing chain saws, explosives and the rest of the equipment that had been brought in the team began the process of clearing an LZ. By morning they had made progress but not enough for a helicopter to land. As a result, a McGuire Rig was needed to extract Sgt Curtis. A byproduct of the LZ creation process was lots of commotion and noise, which was not lost on the NVA in the area. Somehow NVA soldiers had made the climb up the mountain, which in and of itself was an amazing feat Parkinson commented, because it had to have been at least a four-thousand-foot climb. It was the noise along with the protection of the dense jungle vegetation that enabled the NVA to get close enough to the perimeter and then began sniping at Lt Dilger's teams who had continued to work on the LZ. While some returned fire with weapons and grenades, the balance of the team continued the push to complete an LZ. Bob Teague remembers some members of the Team trapped on one side of the LZ where the fire was particularly heavy. He and another LRRP grabbed an M-60 and some ammo and made it to the trapped LRRPS to help move them to a safer part of the perimeter.

The team called Camp Evans continuously for gunship and med-evac support – but due to the support of the 2 Brigades attacking the valley from the north along with the number of helicopters downed by NVA fire there was no equipment left to support the teams on Signal Hill. The lack of support proved costly.

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At this point there were 2 KIA's (Cpl Dick Turbitt and Pfc Bob Noto), 2 mortally wounded (Sgt William Lambert who later died of his wounds, and combat engineer Pfc James McManus) and 2 additional severely wounded (Cpl Roy Beer and Lt Dilger). Lt Dilger had taken a round through the chest and was close to death. It was late that afternoon when the LZ was operational and one slick was able to get in to remove some of the wounded and the crew from the bird that had crashed. Teague remembers the Air Force dropping lots of napalm on the mountainside outside the perimeter, which quieted the enemy activity. He also remembers the medevac pilot trying to leave without having all the wounded on board. Bob made a convincing argument that ensured all wounded would be on that bird.



During the morning of the next (3rd) day another medevac bird already carrying wounded from the valley below landed to pick up Cpl Hand whose condition by that time had gotten worse. Cpl Hand re-

members his stretcher being below that of a pilot who had been very badly burned. As they stacked the stretchers in the medevac birds, he remembers his face being about 6 inches below the stretcher of the badly burned pilot. Cpl Hand remembers that the pilot's helmet had burned so badly it was fused to his head and he kept screaming for someone to shoot him, as his pain was beyond bearable. Bill later learned that the pilot had died.

Also, on the third morning the Company Commander and First Sergeant arrived along with Doug Parkinson and his team. Parkinson was chosen to lead the first recon outside of the perimeter. After briefing those who remained behind inside the perimeter, Parkinson's team departed. They soon found the remains of the slick that had crashed, and additional evidence that the NVA had been there. They located a fighting position along with ammunition and grenades. They also found a blood trail. They were following that blood trail as best they could, given the steep nature of the terrain. As they moved forward with their Montagnard scout walking point, an NVA soldier stood up to greet him thinking he was another NVA. That was his last mistake. Parkinson's team completed that patrol and continued to patrol around the perimeter with no additional contact.

The LZ remained busy with traffic. An Artillery unit was brought in to support the fighting in the valley, along with other troops necessary to coordinate and run the activities of a radio relay station. The E company contingent remained on Signal Mountain for the next few weeks but things remained relatively quiet for them with the exception of another Helicopter crash that came close to claiming 2 from E company – it did however kill one of

the other troops who was crushed under one of the skids and severely injured 2 other troops on the mountain. Over the last few weeks, those from E Company that did remain had a ring-side seat to the activity that was taking place in the Valley below – everything from artillery fire missions to B-52 strikes. Teague remembers nights where they were able to see the headlights of NVA vehicles down in the valley and being able to call in Artillery and air strikes on those targets.

The bottom line on Operation Delaware seems to be success with some misgivings due to weather. US forces were able to inflict significant casualties and capture lots of equipment and intel – but what was supposed to be a good month



weather wise turned out to be anything but. One of the disappointments was that significant numbers of NVA were able to slip back into Laos. There was no question however that the efforts of E/52nd and the other troops responsible for the establishment and manning of the Signal Hill radio relay was one of the keys to success of Operation Delaware.

“For those who've fought for it – Life has a flavor the protected will never know”

RLTW





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



Hope we all reflected on this Memorial Day for all of our Fallen Brothers - NOTE for us Combat Veterans we all have someone to remember everyday.

The VA and You, The Veteran

By the Unit Director of the F-52 -I/75 1st Infantry Division LRRP/Ranger

One thing all Veterans have in common is confronting the Veterans Administration (aka VA). Many veterans ask the questions should I, could I or would I be entitled to benefits for my service? It doesn't matter whether you served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia, Desert Storm or stationed in Greenland, Korea, the Pacific, Germany or Stateside if you put in 90 days active duty you should see the Veterans Administration to see if you are entitled. Also, if you were in the National Guard or Reserves you should inquire as to potential benefits.

Many Veterans say that the VA is for WWII or Korean War or Vietnam War Veterans. While others feel it is for Airborne, Ranger, and/or Special Forces Veterans. I have talked with Marines, one drove a truck and the other was working with water purification during a War; they were convinced that the VA was for those that were in "front line combat". I experienced almost the same conversation with an Army Ranger standing at a bus stop, in uniform in Dallas, Texas. He was going home after his service in Afghanistan. I asked, are you familiar with your VA benefits? His answer, "I did not get a purple heart; the VA is for those guys- the guys that got blown-up".

"What", I exclaimed! Yes, we have "project transition" today before we leave the military to discover benefits but the information is often ignored because it is just one more bureaucratic card to punch before civilian life. And, today many returning GI's still feel the VA is not a place for them. They feel they have had enough hassle in the military and they just want to go home and get a job.

I started thinking of today's VA. What reception would today's veteran receive? The CoronaVirus 19 is now a worldwide pandemic and it has galvanized many negative thoughts of the Veterans Administration and the VA Medical Centers. My Questions - Where is a sick veteran to go in need of medical care from his/her service injuries? Many of the doctors, nurses, dentists and staff are still receiving government paychecks and logging time for their retirement. The VA has 144 Medical Centers that are like prisons to enter during this present CoronaVirus pandemic. And if you are permitted to enter the likelihood of treatment is often not there. Most if not all of the employees are on premise but not working with patients.



I received hundreds of telephone calls about the Philadelphia VA Medical Center and veterans being rejected from the premise. I personally investigated because I have also heard of good experiences at this facility only to discover that a veteran can be denied treatment, a 100% Disabled Veteran, a Combat Veteran, a Veteran in pain! Me!

Is it time to re-evaluate the mission of the VA Medical Centers? Is the mission to employ more than 60% of the country's medical residents doing research with our veterans, while few if any of the residences are military Veterans? And should questions be asked about present day veterans getting Veterans Preference jobs that have government pensions. The VA boasts one of the highest hiring of veterans but I believe

this should be reviewed on a semi annual basis because I have NOT found it to be true in my experiences. I turned down 2 requests to head the VA through the years and now I wonder if I accepted the Top Position could I have made a difference?

Vietnam hero from Rutgers new VA chief?

By CARLTON SHERWOOD
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — A former Rutgers University law student from the Camden, N.J. campus who twice was given last rites on a Vietnam battlefield but lived to become the most decorated veteran of the Vietnam War is a leading candidate for director of the Veterans Administration.

Gannett News Service has learned that David Christian, 31, of Washington's Crossing, Pa., an outspoken critic of the Carter administration's handling of veterans' affairs, has been endorsed for the top VA post by several Republican leaders including the influential Republican National Committee (RNC) Deputy Chairman Drew Lewis and Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa. A RNC spokesman said that Christian's file has been passed on to the Reagan transition team which is currently screening applicants for administration appointments.

The spokesman said the "enthusiasm" with which Christian has been recommended for the job makes him a "front-running" candidate to succeed time-terminated Max Cleland as the VA director when the new Reagan administration is installed next month.

An Army Green Beret officer in Vietnam during the late 1960s, Christian sustained numerous gunshot and stab wounds and suffered second and third-degree napalm burns over 40 percent of his body.

He served only nine months in Vietnam but during that time was awarded seven Purple Hearts, four Bronze Stars, two Silver Stars and a pair of Distinguished Service Crosses, the country's second-highest award for bravery. His record for decorations is believed to be second only to Audie Murphy's, the late World War II hero-turned-actor. Christian spent nearly two years



DAVID CHRISTIAN
numerous decorations

as a patient at Valley Forge Veterans hospital, where he underwent 13 operations for his wounds. At 21, he was promoted to the rank of captain and medically retired from the Army.

An honors graduate from Pennsylvania's Villanova University, Christian first emerged as a vocal veterans' rights advocate during three stormy years of study at Camden's Rutgers University Law School.

In 1978, he was hired by the Carter administration as a special assistant on veteran employment with the U.S. Department of Labor in Washington.

A year later, Christian was abruptly fired following a series of subtle and occasionally open attacks on what he characterized as the Carter administration's "pathetic record" on veteran employment.

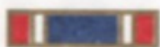
He currently directs the Pennsylvania Veterans Outreach Center, headquartered in Levittown, Pa.

PER SERVING SOUTH JERSEY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1980

COURTIER-POST

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LEGION OF VALOR

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CHARTERED BY ACT OF CONGRESS 1955

April 15, 1981

David A. Christian
National Adjutant
47 Canal Run West
Washington Crossing, PA. 18977

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Reagan,

I am respectfully withdrawing my name from the position of National Administrator of the Veterans Administration. I have worked very hard and long to see you elected President of the United States. However, it saddens me to reflect on the proposed budget cuts by OMB under the direction of David Stockman. I, like you Mr. President, agree that there is fat in every government agency of the United States and the Veterans Administration is no exception. However, I feel it is my patriotic duty to bring to your attention that the trimming and cutting on the Veterans Administration budget are taking place in lean, critical areas that are important to You, Our President, to Our Veterans, and most importantly, to Our Country.

Sir, I must share with you that as we are examining the issues of service to one's country and who will be the next generation to fight and die for America, we must realize how the young brothers and sons of our Vietnam Veterans have seen their family members mistreated and forgotten. I feel that the position of Veterans Administrator is one of the most critical jobs in our country. From this position of leadership we can demonstrate patriotism and loyalty through constructive service to our nation's veterans and their dependants. Service as head of the Veterans Administration is just as important as service to one's country on the battlefields where men defend the lives and limbs of their fellow Americans for in both situations decisions are made which have a direct impact on the families and the lifestyles of Americans.

Sir, approximately 64% of the Vietnam Veteran population voted for you

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for the important position of President of the United States of America. We did this with a feeling of hope. We have had hope and expectations with every administration since our return from Vietnam that we would be treated fairly on issues as simple as employment. However, our hopes, our expectations and our dreams have been shattered in the past. The unemployment rate for disabled veterans is presently 50%. The questions on Agent Orange poisoning of our troops remain unanswered. The social problems have turned into social atrocities as is exemplified by the fact that we've had as many Vietnam Veterans take their own lives in suicides since their return to the United States of America as we lost on the battlefields of Vietnam. These young men are the products of the baby boom from World War II. They were and are patriotic. They loved their country and they were willing to sacrifice their time, their blood and if need be, their lives. I feel it is incumbent upon myself to share with you that these severe problems have not been resolved. More importantly, we cannot have them blocked out under the guise of politics.

Therefore, I am bringing these issues to your attention as the bureaucracies of past Administrations have turned their backs on these problems. We feel that you can help correct these social atrocities that are victimizing the sons of America - the sons that were once the altar boys, the choir boys, and boys that were bar mitzvahed that grew up to be Vietnam Veterans. We believe in you for we know that you want to remedy these social injustices and rekindle the spirit of patriotism to one's country. We agree that we must cut the fat in the Veterans Administration. However, I must share with you that the proposed cutting of the Vietnam Veterans programs are politically and socially wrong.

In light of the upcoming National Vietnam Veterans Day I ask you to reconsider the paring of the budget and how it is affecting the Vietnam Veterans. These budgetary decisions by David Stockman presently have an adverse impact on the health of our nation's Vietnam Veterans and on the strength of our all-volunteer forces. I bring these critical issues to your attention because I believe in you and in America.

I am happy for your speedy physical recovery and I wish you the best. I will do all in my power to work with you and to keep you briefed on these important issues. My heart is heavy as I write this letter, however, I know that you would want to be informed on all issues affecting the past, the present, and the future of America.

Sincerely Yours in Patriotism,

David A. Christian
National Adjutant
Legion of Valor

Ronald Reagan Letter - Note = Ranger David A. Christian was Instrumental in writing today's Agent Orange legislation with presumptive disabilities included. Ranger David was also instrumental in the present Post Traumatic Stress Legislation (PTSD) and he had recommendations that resulted in appointments of seriously disabled veterans to the review boards of both.

(Note- Above research of historic archives by Diane Distler Reitz)

Please every Ranger/LRRP/LRS go to your computer and register with the VAif not for you then for your loved ones.....because I can guarantee that many family members do not know how to get your benefits. There is an old saying "use it or lose it" and if this applies to you then you know it is time.

Continued on the next page

Words from Unit President Dave Flores -

THE CORONA VIRUS AND LOCKDOWN TIME.

Just a few words my friends and Brothers. We have Too much idle time today, like back in Vietnam while waiting for a mission. In Country we did have some idle time, not much, but some. I recall one particular stretch of time. My team leader Michael Sharp came up with an idea to keep everyone in the company occupied. We would have a contest to see which team could decorate their hootch the best. This idea was good for all because it kept us busy (physically and mentally). Then the war heated up again and we got back to the "bush". There were no winners for decorating their respective hootches. However, in retrospect we were all winners because we kept our minds and bodies off of war issues. I want to thank Michael - You Did Good !

My point ; just stay busy - build things - clear out old stuff from offices or garages - do projects with family, telephone your battle buddies and we will beat this Coronavirus Lockdown. Keep Smiling - I miss you all, President, David Flores RLTW/LRRP.

Vice President David Hill - Sorry Frenchy Louisiana Reunion was a casualty of the CoronaVirus and everything fell through but we look forward to Springfield, Illinois. In 2021.

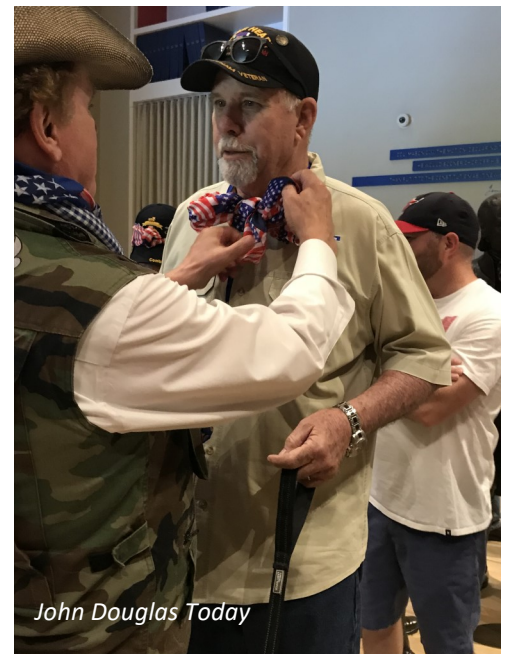
Ronnie Imel - Our Veterans Advocate states that the VA likes picking and choosing what regulations they want to follow. This is the kind of thing Veterans deal with all the time.

Unit Director Note - We are going to try and run a photo of yesterday's individuals from the Unit in Vietnam and a photo of our same Brother today in each issue of Patrolling.

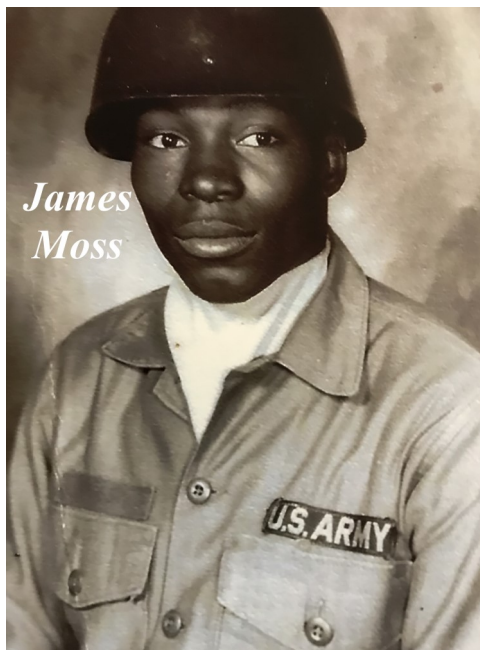


Philadelphia VA

COVID-19 VA Parking Lot



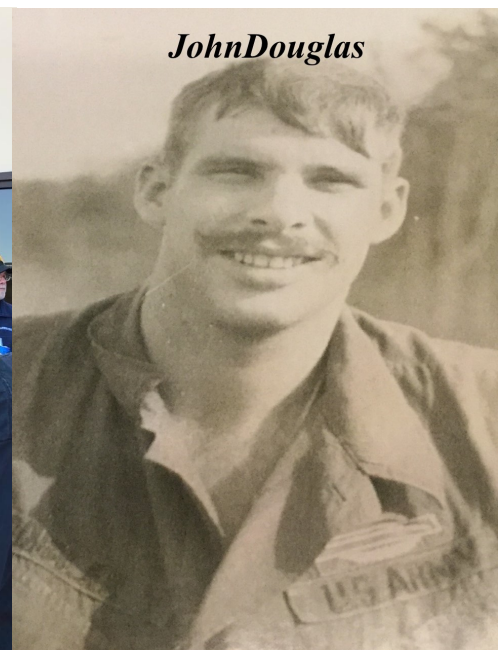
John Douglas Today



James Moss



James Moss Today



John Douglas



K/75 - E58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

Greetings to All,

Okay, so that is a start. I mean really, I have been staring at this blank page for days unable to type the first word. Of course, the deadline is tomorrow but has little effect on my mind. Must be writers block. That is assuming I am a "writer".

I do hope that all my Brothers and their families are well and safe. Most of us are retired so our exposure to the virus is less than our children and grandchildren. I do not need to go into all the various ways that this has affected our lives. Because I am sure if I asked each of you, I would receive similar stories.

In the last issue of Patrolling (March/2020) I included an old Ivy Leaves publication (1969) that had an article about Melvin Jones, 1st brigade LRRP who earned the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions that saved his team (14 Foxtrot) on Feb. 7, 1969. A few days ago I received a phone call from John Morton from Kodiak, Alaska who informed me that he was on the team and was shot five times. Also wounded was Joe (no last name) the team leader and scout Kai. Melvin was not wounded and through herculean effort carried each of his teammates to the rescue chopper.

The next day I received a call from Larry Flanagan who stated that he was the radio relay for 14 Foxtrot on that fateful day. Apparently it was Melvin's first mission so you can imagine his state of mind. Larry states that he was able to calm Melvin and the rest is history as they say. Melvin was initially recommended for the Medal of Honor, but it was downgraded because he was not wounded. Regardless, a hero showed his true colors that day.

John also sent me some pictures in the mail. I have scanned them and will include some here. A couple of the LRRPs are unidentified so if you can help in that regard, I would sure appreciate it. I have also sent all of John's pictures to Wayne Mitsch so

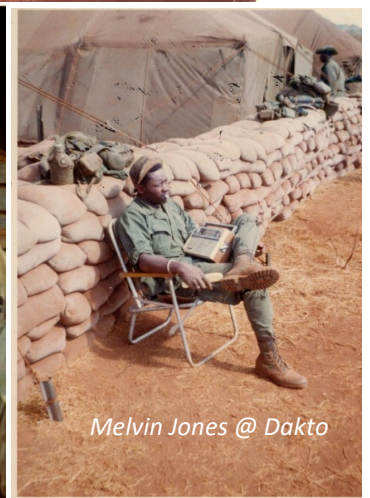
he can post them on our website if you wish to see them along with John's notes.



Unknown Having Lunch →



Unknown LRRP Team Leader



Melvin Jones @ Dakto

If you can identify the unknown guys just let me know so I can give them proper recognition.

Remember the K-CO/4th Division reunion has been moved to August. Go on the 4th website for registration forms and information or call me. RLTW, Roger

Unknown Shake'n Bake



Joe-Team Leader-14 Foxtrot



Melvin Jones

Continued on the next page

MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

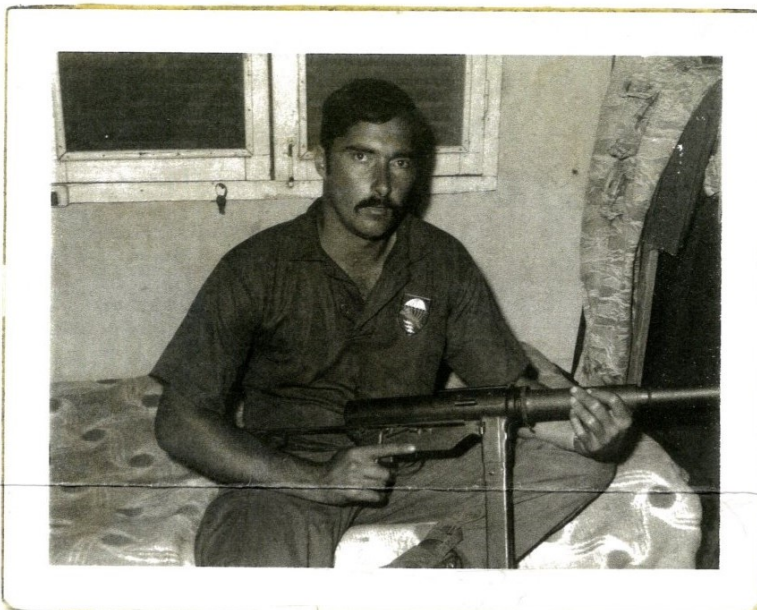
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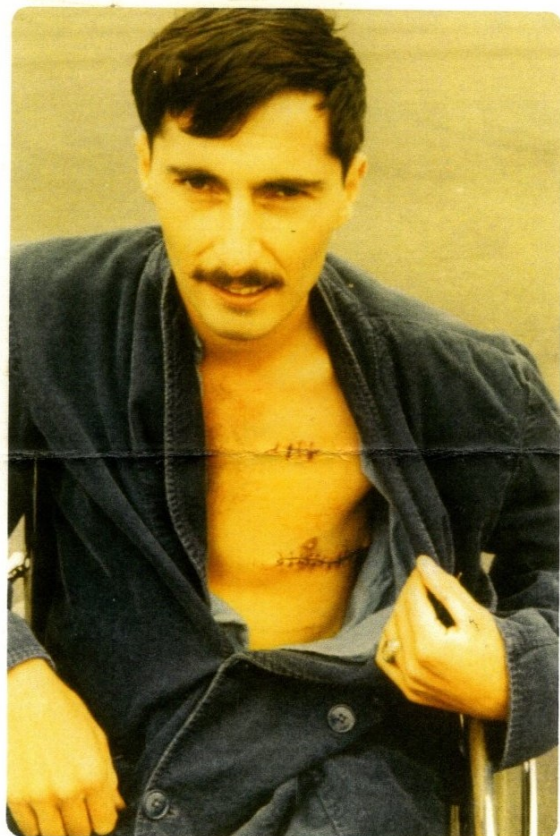
JOHN RILEY MORTON
PO BOX 44
KODIAK, AK 99615



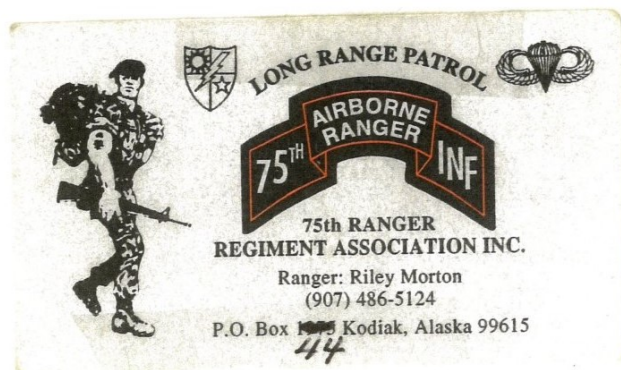
*morton
COW
DANARD
1969*



MORTON - 1972 Scout Pilot No. 10



*MORTON - wounds
Received on 12/23/69
Recon Team LRP*



EXCLUSIVELY FOR COMBAT WOUNDED VETERANS



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JEFF HORNE



Greetings Brother LRRP's, LRP's, and Rangers from the 173d Airborne Brigade (SEP).

The past few months might be described as the "best of times and the worst of times", so I'll start with the BEST of TIMES. Most of us are aware that our Brother First Sergeant David Cummings (USA-RET) has been accepted and inducted into the 2020 Ranger Hall of Fame. The ceremony at Fort Benning was scheduled for 15 July as of this writing. Dave's nomination was submitted by the November Company to the President of the 75th RRA, who then presented and supported the nomination to the committee.

Ranger Cummings served in more Ranger elements and units than any other November Company member (as near as I can figure), and continued to support, counsel, and mentor Rangers throughout his subsequent career at the US Army Infantry School. He hunted NVA in the Central Highlands of RVN with November Company, Rangered in B Co 75th Rangers, a Plank Holder in 2d Ranger Battalion 75th (to include Operation Urgent Fury), Ranger Instructor and First Sergeant at the US Army Ranger School, Fort Benning, Georgia. He continued to enhance the Army after retirement by his work at the Infantry School and with Veteran Support Groups. For those who are not at the induction into the Hall of Fame, the following is his citation:

1SG(R) Cummings is a battle-hardened Ranger combat veteran of both South Viet Nam and Grenada. Ranger Cummings was recruited by N Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry. Conducting Long Range Patrols for the 173d Airborne Brigade in the Central Highlands of Vietnam where he was awarded the Bronze Star for his actions against the enemy in combat. He then served as an Assistant Team Leader with B Company (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the Long Ranger Reconnaissance asset of VII Corps Germany. In 1974 Ranger Cummings served as one of the original members of the new 2nd Ranger Battalion 75th Infantry. As a Squad Leader he contributed to the new Ranger Battalion becoming certified as trained and prepared to assume its role in the total force. After various worldwide assignments Ranger Cummings returned to 2nd Ranger Battalion as a PSG where he led his Platoon on the combat jump into Grenada during Operation Urgent Fury. Ranger Cummings' Platoon was specially selected to enter the gymnasium on the Grand Ansa campus to secure American students and get them loaded on helicopters for evacuation as the remainder of the Battalion conducted the security cordon. Ranger Cummings then served as NCOIC of the Benning Phase of the US Army Ranger School where he set the example for his Ranger Instructors. Supervising the training of 11 Ranger classes, his tough, realistic, demanding standards ensured his Stu-



dents were prepared to assume their role as Rangers and Leaders throughout the Army. He was then selected as a Rifle Company 1SG for the new 10th Mountain Division where once again his leadership was instrumental in the demanding work of getting a new unit certified as trained and combat ready. Following his retirement from the US Army in 1991, Ranger Cummings continued to serve the force as a civilian with the Capabilities Development Integration Directorate at the MCoE until his retirement in 2018. There he contributed materially to the development of the future Infantry force. Ranger Cummings' influence on the Army and the Ranger community remain evident to this day. **RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!**

As I reflect on our brothers who are in the Ranger Hall of Fame and those who Rangered in WW II, Korea, RVN, Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Afghanistan, and the world's hotspots there seems few differences among them as Soldiers. The gear, missions, and theaters have changed but the Soldiers in this elite Brotherhood are uniquely uniform in heart, spirit, and fortitude. So, I would ask each of you, "Were they special before they wore the Scroll or did the Scroll mold them to be special"? I am not sure but each one I've known has been special and committed to each other for life. Congratulations Dave.



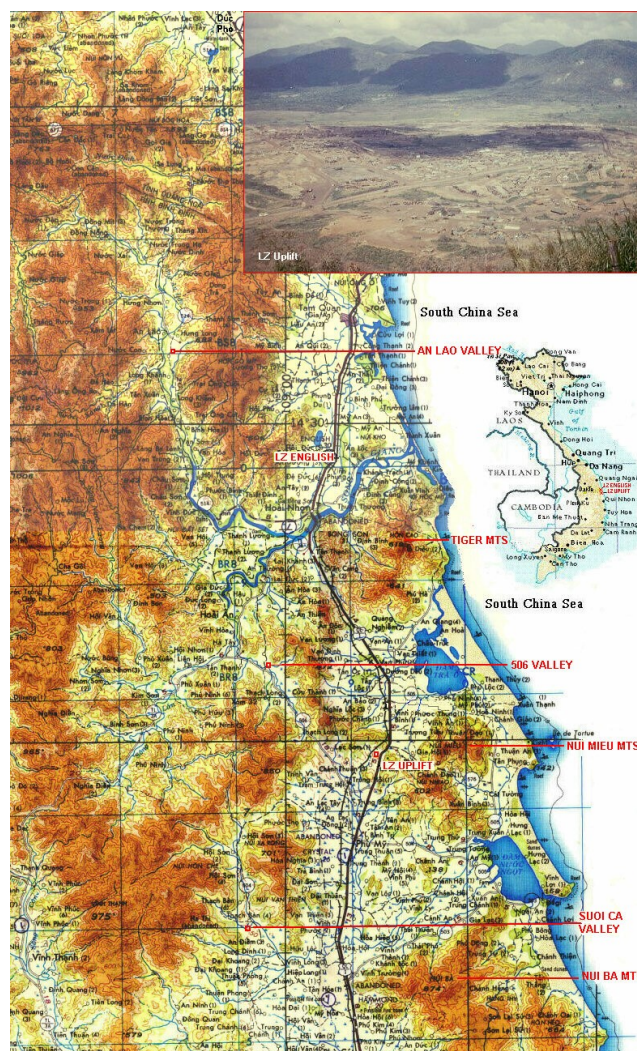
Ranger Dave Cummings, Syd Smith, and Larry Cole at 75th RRA Banquet-2019
Continued on the next page

We have an upcoming reunion and gathering with “Casper” (the 173d Brigade’s Aviation Platoon that inserted and extracted our Teams from the 1st day till the last day of the 173rd’s war in the Republic of Viet Nam. It had been scheduled this Spring but has been postponed till the last week in July. They are a fine group of fellows who demonstrated uncommon courage and valor as they carried teams to and from the fight. We gather in Las Vegas and Casper is a wonderful host. It appears that even with the change of date we will have 15(+) in attendance. If the gathering goes as planned, we will share photos in the next issue.

Our families have had a rough few months since the last issue of Patrolling. Several of our Rangers have lost wives and loved ones. There is no easy way to embrace the sadness of losing a wife or loved one. Several of our Brothers are fighting life threatening medical conditions and we maintain our community of contact and support. God Bless us all.

Memorial Day affords us a day to honor and to remember our fallen. We each reflect on May 30th in different manners, but our sentiments remain the same. When we remember our fallen brothers then they aren’t really gone. Share their stories and never forget. In this respect I remember CPL Joseph Sweeney; we went through Basic, AIT, and Jump School together then deployed to RVN where we both volunteered for N/75th. He became KIA on 29 May on a little foot trail in the Central Highlands as he served as his teams Rear Security. God bless you Joe and I’ll see you in the Tall Grass.

173RD AO MAP →



173d ABN BDE (SEP), Casper Door Gunner/Crew Chief



1971 N Company Welcome Sign



P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—TERRY B. RODERICK

Garry Norton here... First of all let me say that I am temporarily sitting in for our Unit Director Terry Roderick who is now recovering from recent surgery on his left shinbone for a problem he has been having and also some breathing issues as well. We are all wishing him well through cards, emails and texts that he is trying to get to when the time permits. He is in need of a break anyway for all the hard work he puts in for our Papa Company family, not even counting his present health issues. We will all miss your hilarious emails and articles keeping us posted on all current events till you get back on your feet.



To give you all a quick short bio on myself, I was set for the duration of my two-year enlistment in a tour in Germany with the Airborne 8th Division. I soon became thoroughly bored with many inspections and getting drunk every other night and decided to 1049 for Vietnam to see some real action. Shortly after arriving in Cam Ranh Bay I was sent to the 5th Mech and soon was welcomed by Captain Luke Ferguson's pep talk speech looking for volunteers for some P Company Ranger outfit. I was hooked! The rest is history as I ended up as an ATL under SSG Dave Gates on Killer Team 1-2. I completed Recondo School in February 1970 and ended my military career as a trainer for the "new guys" in June of same year. I returned to the States, completed college, and off to the real world I went. I was in the publishing business for 30 some years and at the same time worked as a professional photographer. (I specialized in "Americana and Patriotic" type work other than weddings and have won both National and International awards. Enough of me!

Speaking of SSG Dave Gates. He was recently notified that this year he will be inducted into the prestigious **Ranger Hall of Fame** joining the ranks of our own Duke DuShane. Dave had an illustrious 30-year military career, retiring as the CSM of the 3rd and 1st Infantry Divisions in Germany serving with Major General David Grange as his Senior Enlisted Advisor. Congratulations Dave on this well-deserved honor from all of us in the Papa Company family!! The formal induction ceremony is scheduled for July 15th this year at Fort Benning, GA subject to possible COVID-19 changes. **(2020 RHOF Postponed until July 2021)**

There has been some discussion lately on how Vernon Riley was actually killed. I have this personal write up on this that I gave Terry a few years ago. I was right beside Vernon when he was killed.

April, 28 1970 Mission and Vernon Riley death/Compass Story

On the above date our P Co Ranger team was in the field waiting on the incoming helicopter extraction after a five-day uneventful mission. As the helicopter was nearing our position, we noticed

that its flight was offline and now coming in sideways and that the pilot was probably going to lose control upon touchdown to extract us. Just before this fateful touchdown, our team scattered quickly to get out of the way of the impending crash. As the chopper came in hard sideways, the main rotor blades hit the ground and broke off in shattered pieces, just barely missing me and flying past my back. The tail rotor swung around striking Vernon Riley, killing him instantly. As we all tried to recover from this totally screwed up landing attempt, the pilot was running around looking for his lost Colt 45

pistol, which he lost in the crash. I had picked it up shortly after impact and I told him that if he didn't get the hell away from me, I was going to shoot him with his own 45. Shortly thereafter, our C&C helicopter overhead landed with our XO, 1st Lt. Steve Korenek (now a retired General) aboard. He, another team member, and I, then loaded Vernon's body onto this helicopter and then they departed. This was a totally screwed up landing from what I gathered later was from a recently assigned "cherry" pilot. After all of this, we still needed an exfiltration chopper to pull us out. At this time, I went into the crashed chopper and removed the compass (I later gave this compass to Mike Rice, Vernon's cousin in Ohio after years of protecting it). My assumption was that we were going to leave it and I wanted to destroy important parts. I was then going to place an incendiary grenade onto the engine but was abruptly held up as base command decided to fly in a large Chinook helicopter to salvage the helicopter and take it back to Camp Red Devil in Quang Tri. It was decided to bring out a group of soldiers from one of the 5th Mech infantry battalions to help secure the area as this recovery was going on. (As a side note... these line troops were very concerned when they found out where they were geographically located, inside the DMZ). We were located just south of the Ben Hai River, which separates North and South Vietnam. With the arrival of the Chinook, 3-4 Cobra gunships, and our exfiltration chopper, the NVA soldiers in the area started firing on the Chinook from out of nowhere. There had not been any contact with the enemy up to this time. At this point the Cobras lined up one after the other and started constant gun runs in the area of the enemy fire. As things settled down, the crashed Huey was strapped up, taken away, and we loaded onto our helicopter for the sad ride back to base camp. It was such an unnecessary death for Vernon Riley, who had two small sons and a wife stateside, and only two and a half weeks left to go in country before going home for good. Prior to Vernon's last mission it was decided that Vernon would be needed to fill a vacancy on our team.

Continued on the next page



Vernon Riley KIA Vietnam

With such a short time left to go in country, many were upset that Vernon was being tasked with this mission since it was unusual for someone with such a short time left to be put into such a vulnerable position so close to going home. The reason given was that there was no one else available to fill this void and an experienced Ranger was needed. Such was the life of an Airborne Ranger. We

were again a very somber P Company Ranger unit following this tragic accident. Shortly after this sad loss, we had our usual memorial service in which all company members lined up all the way to the memorial site, as our lost teammates' boots passed by in respect. We then followed with a night of drinking and celebration of our fallen teammate's life. The next day it was business as usual and back to our "Hunter-Killer" missions.

RLTW!! **Ranger Garry Norton**, Vietnam 69-70 (Killer Team 1-2)

Terry Roderick here now..... first of all. Thank you, Garry, for helping me out with my submission this quarter with Patrolling. I've been down and out a bit for about a year now with some cancer and had surgery in mid April with several months recovery time ahead of me. Fortunately it was skin cancer, squamous cell carcinoma, but it was on my left shin of all places and it's taken over a year to get it properly taken care of. 30 shots of radiation didn't kill it and it took a knife to get it off me. I've been thinking of a new tattoo on my forehead that would say in two rows. "Hard to Kill" and "Hard to Heal", Ha! Ha! Of course it would be in red, white, and blue!! I'm getting better every day and I'm dealing with some serious COPD issues as well from my bad behavior for 60 of my nearly 72 years. Many of you have way worse problems than I so I won't whine about it like I'd like to at times.

Like everyone else our reunion this year has been thrown into a mess and we just won't have one probably and put anyone into peril with their health and we are the old folks they refer to on TV and in print, Boys and Girls. We're working with Tim Speece, President of the LRRRA as time goes by to see what will be done this year if anything due to the COVID virus. As you all know, this is some crazy stuff we've never seen before during our lifetimes. I have no idea where this thing will go. It's quite alarming in so many ways. As soon as we can figure something rational out

that won't be a threat to any of us we'll let everyone know but for right now we'll take the safe and cautious approach to a re-union. As you know we planned to do it with the Long Range Reconnaissance Association's Rally (lrra.org) in Branson and we still plan on that if circumstances permit. It's not looking good for 2020 to me right now but we always have next year. All we have to do is stay healthy and stay alive. With that said, and due to space restrictions, I'll save some of my sage musings and cut this article at this point. Thanks again Garry and thank you all for the cards, calls, and texts. It was overwhelming in fact and if I didn't get back to you, I apologize but I appreciated it. I was totally overwhelmed, and it really was a wake up call to me how much a family we truly are even 50 years later. In Ranger brotherhood, Terry



CSM Dave Gates-2020 Ranger Hall of Fame Inductee



2014 Photo— Dave Gates with Duke Dushane

ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

It is with profound sadness that I have to inform you that First Sergeant (retired) Earl A. Singletary peacefully passed away April 7, 2020 at home in Dahlonga, GA surrounded by loved ones. He was predeceased by his son Robert Singletary and his daughter Sudie Ann Peace. He is survived by his wife, Mechelle Singletary, and four children, Melissa Carruth, Rebecca Leaphart, Robyn Ledbetter, and Rachel George and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Earl was an honored retired Army Veteran of 21 years. He was a Ranger Instructor for 7 years and was selected as a Distinguished Member of the Ranger Training Brigade as well as a Distinguished Member of the 502nd Infantry Regiment. He served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal (V) device, Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal (V) device and Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/Palm. He worked in law enforcement from 1980 until he became the Senior Army Instructor and then Deputy Commandant at Riverside Military Academy from 1982-1994. On July 9, 2010, Earl was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, GA.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Dahlonga Funeral Home at a later date. Earl will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery once arrangements have been made.

Feature: (continued)

Death Stalked the Night- Vietnam Rangers and their US Advisors Battle Human Wave Assaults at Thach Tru

By Mike Martin

Blood and Guts

On the night of 21 November, the natural beauty of this coastal region washed by the South China Sea was hidden by adverse weather conditions. It was the height of the monsoon season and continuous rain, wind and fog moved in to plague the Rangers and their American advisors for days. Visibility was poor and radio communication was sporadic, so the Senior Ranger Advisor Captain Ray Celeste, moved to a Ranger outpost occupied by the 2nd Company on a small hilltop called Nui Tho (Long Life Mountain), about 600 meters west of the battalion's defensive position. Rangers SSG Henry McNeal and SP4 Terry Wintermoyer, the RTO, went with him. Captain Celeste wanted to establish radio contact with the US Navy Cruiser, Saint Paul that was to provide naval gunfire for the Rangers if it was needed.

Celeste left the other NCO on the advisory team, SSG Roy Shelnut, with the Battalion Commander, Major Son Thuong, his



headquarters group and the 4th Ranger Company, inside the triangular fort at Thach Tru. Lt. Fred Caristo another team member was in DaNang at the time. Caristo would later become a highly decorated and legendary figure in both Ranger and covert operations in Southeast Asia.

The lush subtropical vegetation hemming the monsoon inundated region, steamed in the darkness and sudden downpours that covered the landscape as Captain Celeste, Sergeant McNeal and Specialist Wintermoyer prepared for a long and wretched night. The Vietnamese Rangers accepted the rain and miserable conditions in stride as they prepared their evening meal and rigged shelters with their sodden poncho--harsh conditions were a way of life for these hardened warriors. Captain Celeste and

SSG McNeal squatted, checking their acetate-covered map. They attempted to shield the call signs and coordinates scribbled in grease pencil from the water trickling off their hats and clothing, but it was futile. It was sometime around 2100 hrs, after the rain slackened, when they finally established radio contact on their jeep mounted VRO-10 with the Saint Paul. The Saint Paul was a CA-73 Class Heavy Cruiser with nine 8 inch guns and twelve 5 inch guns.

Ignoring personal discomforts, the three Ranger advisors functioned as a team: Captain Celeste and SP4 Wintermoyer making radio transmissions as SSG McNeal made target corrections. They had pre-selected fire missions which included likely assembly areas and possible approach routes for any attacking enemy forces.

Celeste had the Saint Paul fire a flare over each of the selected target areas as McNeal "shot an azimuth" to the flare and checked to make sure the incoming rounds would impact on the intended coordinates. However, the rain was coming down once again, making it nearly impossible to spot the flares.

Naval gunfire was used until midnight when the Saint Paul moved off station to support Sa Huynh village the southernmost ARVN fortification in Quang Ngai Province. Celeste then radioed SSG Shelnut saying, "We're staying on the hill until morning. Stay on the net, but try and get some rest." The advisors then bedded down for the remainder of the night, each lost in his own thoughts as they tried to make themselves as comfortable as possible--a talent only a field soldier really acquires.

Sounds filled the night as the advisors dozed off and on in a restless sleep in anticipation of the coming dawn, hoping for a break in the dismal weather. But the coming dawn would not be a peaceful one. At 0400 hrs, the night erupted in the sounds of battle as the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong launched their attack on the Ranger positions *Continued on the next page*

positions both at the fort and on the hilltop. It began with a heavy barrage of 81mm mortars, 57mm and 75mm recoilless rifle fire, B-40 rockets, and a heavy volume of automatic weapons fire. Then, under cover of their supportive fires, the enemy launched a massive ground attack hitting the Rangers from all sides. Daybreak was still a couple of hours away, plenty of time for the superior enemy forces to overrun the ARVN positions.

Captain Celeste immediately grabbed the radio handset and got on the air, informing higher Headquarters of the attack. He then radioed the Saint Paul, requesting that it return to the area to provide much needed fire support. Simultaneously, enemy human assault waves were being cut down near or at the wire surrounding the fort as they sought to penetrate its defenses. The communists had already breached the perimeter in several locations; close-in fighting was taking place everywhere, but the gallant Vietnamese Rangers held their positions.

McNeal had crawled to the edge of the hill to observe the fighting at the fort—it didn't look good! He moved back to the jeep in the darkness and driving rain to give Captain Celeste a situation report. Resigned to the inevitable, the three advisors were determined to fight to the end – surrender or escape never an option for these dedicated Rangers. The fighting continued in the heavy rain of the monsoon. Death was all around them in the stormy darkness as the three men, prostrated in their solitude, fired at muzzle flashes and any movement to their front. The small arms, motor and rocket fire had intensified; Vietnamese rangers were being killed in their foxholes, but they held their positions to the end, inflicting massive casualties on their enemies until they were killed. The advisors were taking heavy fire, too, a round hitting the jeep just as McNeal started it to recharge the battery.

Celeste was under the jeep at the time, which afforded him some cover from the rain and the shrapnel from incoming rounds. He gave continuous updates for artillery support, and called for air support only to be told that it would not be on location until the weather broke. The enemy was making an all-out push at this time, in an attempt to overpower the heroic defenders before dawn arrived. Almost all the fighting now was at point blank range with hand-to-hand fighting mixed in when there was no time to reload.

The Rangers, greatly outnumbered were finally driven into a small pocket inside their perimeter. Out of mortar and grenade launcher rounds, they fought back the human wave assaults with anything that would still fire, even using the weapons of the slain enemy soldiers all around them. But it wasn't enough to keep the enemy from capturing the high point on the eastern side of Nui Tho.

Down at the fort the Commander of the 37th Ranger Battalion, Major Son Thuong moved among his men, inspiring them and directing their defenses. He constantly exposed himself to the intense enemy fire, but miraculously, was never hit. The single American advisor at the fort, SSG Shelnut, was on the radio monitoring all transmissions in and out of the camp. He continually gave assessments to headquarters. Meanwhile, the Rang-

ers two supporting units, the 934th Regional Force Company (RF) and the 2nd Platoon, Battery B of the ARVN 2nd Infantry Division Artillery were giving everything they had to the battered Rangers, while under heavy barrage themselves. Some 232 of 928 105mm howitzer rounds fired that night were directed at point blank range against charging communist attack waves on the outpost and at the fort.

(To be continued)

Quotes:

"Nothing recedes like success."

Walter Winchell, American columnist and broadcaster (1897-1972)

"Great minds discuss ideas, average minds discuss events, and small minds discuss people."

Admiral Hyman G. Rickover, "father" of America's nuclear navy. (1900-1986)

Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director Ranger Advisors



BYLAW BALLOT DIRECTIONS

Choose sending your ballot by enclosed postcard or email

Here is the current wording, in Article XI Officers, Section 6.a:

“All Executive Officers are members of the Board of Directors. All Executive Officers are elected into office during National Reunions for a two-year term. All elected officers may run for a second consecutive term if so nominated, seconded, and receiving most votes cast. No officer may serve a third consecutive term.”

And here is the proposed change, indicated by the underlined words:

“All Executive Officers are members of the Board of Directors. All Executive Officers are elected into office during National Reunions for a two-year term. All elected officers may run for a second consecutive term if so nominated, seconded, and receiving most votes cast. No officer may serve a third consecutive term. This term limitation is not applicable to the offices of Treasurer and Secretary, either of whom may succeed themselves in their respective office for as many terms as the General Membership will allow.”

A returnable postcard ballot is included within this copy of Patrolling. It is addressed to the Secretary, and **requires the member’s name and member number**. However, in strict concurrence with other changes to the bylaws in 2017, this time we will accept email ballots. An email may be completed with a simple vote of **“Approve” or “Disapprove”**, and must accompany the **member’s name and member number** in the email. Ballots may be sent to **Secretary@75rra.com** or **tsove@sbcglobal.net** All ballots will be collected and available for all officers to review. All ballots must be received by August 1st, 2020



Join more than 10,000 Americans for
PATRIOT CHALLENGE – February 2021

“The heart of PATRIOT CHALLENGE is
community.
We are *connecting America to her veterans*
by providing opportunities to work together
for common goals.”

MICHAEL SCHLITZ
PATRIOT CHALLENGE 2021 chairman
14-year U.S. Army Ranger veteran



2020-2021 Title Partners

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Brigadier General
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