

# PATROLLING

September 2020    75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC.    Volume 32 Issue III



*Merrill's Marauder Lester Hollenback August 1924-July 16, 2020—Submitted Photo*

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## Editor's Corner

By Stephen Odin Johnson—Editor

**Front Cover Page—** Merrill's Marauder Lester Hollenback passed away in July leaving the survivors count of Merrill's Marauders at 8. For the latest information on this special group of WW II heroes, check out Jonnie Clasen's article on page 16.

**Apologies—** I am sorry to say that because of limited space, I couldn't put 2 articles in this submission of Patrolling: Ron Roof had sent a current article on Burma, it's history, and the Kachin Ranger/tribesmen who fought alongside the Merrill's Marauders. Marshall Huckaby has another Ice-Chest article appropriate to the pandemic we are having now. Next issue.

**Word Document Reminder—** When you email me a word document, please leave out indentations and the like. Leave it at default. Secondly, do not embed a photo or pdf file within a document; **send each separately**. This issue I had someone insert within their article a pdf file. It took me over an hour to type the pdf file. Had they sent both separately, it would take me a minute to appropriately place them into the Patrolling layouts that I do. Thank you!

**CSM (Ret) Patrick "Tad" Tadina, R.I.P.—** Jeff Horne has written a respectful tribute starting with a photo on the bottom of page 12 and with his article on the next page. Nicely written and we thank you, Jeff.

**"American Veterans Housing Initiative—** Gary Dolan has written for us an article about housing for Veterans that starts on page 9.

**Jill Stephenson Article—** Goldstar Mother Jill Stephenson, shares with us her thoughts on the 10th annual Ben Kopp Memorial Ride (BKMR). And check out her sporting a new leather vest presented to her by the Combat Veteran Motorcycle Association (CVMA). Page 17.

**Mindfulness-Issue 8—** Patrolling Your Health, at least for me, is a full-time job. Mind and body go hand in hand. What you think and do has a direct effect on your physiology and your emotions! Ranger Harrison Jack continues to provide us valuable information and techniques about health interventions that are proven effective without the meds. If you choose to. Page 19.

**Article Submissions—** You are the heartbeat of this magazine which has become the voice of the Greater Ranger Community. Keep the beat going and our faithful readers thank you!

Any suggestions for Patrolling magazine please let me know.

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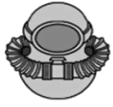
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The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that 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

### Paraguay Ranger.

Greetings Rangers.

I write from Paraguay where my wife and I have been quarantined for five months now. It is difficult to deal with your own government rules and restrictions, much less that of another. But that is our lot for the meanwhile. CSM (retired) Patrick Tadina was memorialized recently at Ft. Bragg. It was tough to see him go down in the last few years. But these frames can only stand so much wear and tear. I considered him a friend. I admired his commitment to the Ranger community and to his nation. He faced death at the hands of a fierce enemy many, many times. But the last enemy he had to face was Death. The Bible records the words of the Apostle Paul in the book of the New Testament called Romans. To whom he writes to explain how God can be just yet justify the ungodly. It took a long time for me to realize that God doesn't expect me to keep his Law. He expects me to recognize that it is my duty to obey. And to come to the end of my efforts to keep something so holy and perfect as the Law of God. To see myself as guilty of failing to love him with my whole heart and soul and mind and strength.

God sees through all of us. He wants to save us but not at the expense of his Justice. So to satisfy the decree that the soul that sins shall die He, being no respecter of persons, sent His only begotten Son into a sin cesspool called Earth to buy mankind back after we had sold ourselves to the Devil for temporary satisfaction of our ego and perverted passions.

Jesus' soul poured out for the ungodly was the only price that could satisfy God the Father. And for the three dread hours on Calvary's Tree, "He who knew no sin, was made sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God, IN HIM!" 2nd Cor. 5:21 Jesus died for sinful men. And since all have sinned and come short of attaining

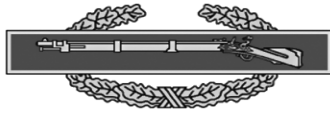
God's Glory, sinless perfection, among other things, The only way for God to maintain his righteous rule over the universe was to condemn His Son to the death due us. Now every one who will appreciate the price paid for us and will trust in the power of God to translate us from the power of Darkness into the Kingdom of His dear Son finds forgiveness of sins and the gift of everlasting life.

I don't know where Tad finds himself today. I believe that he knew enough to make a informed choice. He was a courageous soul who ran the gauntlet for five years in Vietnam walking point and bringing all his men back home. May the God of compassion reward him and each of us, not according to our works, but according to our faith in what the Father sent the Son to finish. His cry on Calvary, "It is finished" was the capstone to the defeat of him who had the power of inflicting death on us. We are delivered by being counted as having died, been buried, and resurrected with Christ. That is why Paul told the Colossian believers that " You are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life shall appear, then shall you also appear with him in glory."

God is far too faithful then to leave us in the mess of our own doing without any way of escape. But His way is the only way. As the old hymn says, " There was no other good enough to pay the price for sin, he only could unlock the door, and let the sinner in." "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. Hebrews 2:9 What He tasted in time, the wicked will choke on forever.

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 75<sup>th</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup>, STB, and MIB Ranger Battalions, successor units, or any additions that are activated and assigned to the 75<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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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Dave Walker  
In Memory

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## FREE MEMBERSHIP- NOT A RENEWAL OFFER

### NEW MEMBERS FREE OFFER\*

The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. is embarking on a membership drive specifically aimed at veterans of the 75<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment is eligible for membership.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY STEPHEN O. JOHNSON

Greeting, Brothers, and the Greater Ranger Community.

**Wellness Check-** Terry Roderick, Dave Regenthal, and Roy Barley are mending as are a host of others that you can find out by reading each unit's report. Staying healthy is not the easiest thing to do, but we can still make good choices for ourselves and encourage others to do the same.



nonprofits who serve the needs of our greater community. Like herding cats! These informational meetings are educational and I would like to see an open forum to share with a greater audience during the 2021 Ranger Rendezvous. Transitioning today's Ranger is far different than what I got leaving G/75<sup>th</sup> in Vietnam. My transition was a plane ticket back home with everything else becoming an uphill

**July Awards 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment HQ-** Congratulations to the following Rangers recognized:

1LT Copeland Whitney: Ralph Puckett Leadership Award

SGT Ryan Alberti: CSM Neal Gentry Creed NCO of the Year Award

SPC Calvin Fante: CSM Gary Carpenter Leadership Soldier of the Year Award



*Awards Ceremony at 75th HQ-Photo/Patrolling SOJ*

battle. Now transitioning takes a whole new perspective and that educational piece is something we need to further explore in order to meet transition needs of today's Ranger!

**Thank You-** Thank you Travis Pheanis for assisting us in getting monies from a grant from a donor that was specifically designated for the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA Family Fund, Scholarship Fund, and the Ranger Legacy Walkway; all to receive \$500 each. A 501 c19 cannot accept a grant, but a 501 c3 can. Thanks Travis and the National Ranger Association, a 501 c3. Rangers helping Rangers!

**New Members-** The majority of those who were given a free one-year membership are renewing their membership. We continue to offer a free one-year initial membership (free application on website and Patrolling on page 5) to those who have served in the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Everyone can help with this by promoting our free membership to those young warriors!

**Bylaw Change-** The resolution on officer term limits passed. Secretary Tom Sove has an article that goes over the specifics. For those that took the time to vote, I thank you. Members have the power to vote. If you don't vote, it gives someone else your power of vote. Yikes!

There were about 20 of us who attended this virtual award ceremony at the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment HQ. Everyone there was social distancing and masked, and screened for COVID-19 prior to entering the building. Nice day at Ft Benning with the air temperature at 100 degrees! The 75<sup>th</sup> RRA provided each recipient an association challenge coin and an embossed, hand made wooden cutting board with our logo. Thanks, Pete Dencker for getting these made!

**Ranger Network Meeting-** Prior to the awards ceremony, CSM (RET) Mike Hall facilitated a Ranger network meeting held at the National Infantry Museum. There were about 8 of us at the meeting with a host of others video conferencing. We shared information about what each association was doing for the Greater Ranger Community. Nothing binding, everyone just provided information. The next Zoom meeting is slated for next month. Thank you, Mike, for gathering all the associations and

**2021 Ranger Rendezvous-** We are still waiting on tentative dates for the next Ranger Rendezvous to go ahead with hotel reservations, the banquet, and everything else that needs to be planned for based on lessons learned from previous reunions. The officers of the association are chomping at the bit with plans in hand, but first we need a target date. I would hope by late spring that we have a vaccine available for COVID 19! Regardless we will move forward. RLTW!



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# SECRETARY REPORT

TOM SOVE

## Secretary Column

August 14, 2020

The bylaw change balloting is complete. The proposal passed by a vote of 92 Approve, 2 Disapprove, with everyone else abstaining. There are about 2,000 of you eligible to vote. Either you all decided the bylaw issue was trivial, or you all hung up your Ranger/LRRP scrolls/tabs and we are becoming a third world nation in terms of participation.

The breakout was 12 – 0 by the email ballots, and 75 – 2 by the post card ballots. No ballots came in after the August 1 deadline. This was the first time the association conducted a vote allowing email ballots. A surprising small number used email; but then, a small number voted overall. Those that did use email strictly adhered to the instructions, providing Name, Member Number, then Approve or Disapprove. I'm proud of you for following instructions.

Speaking of following directions, it's time to bring up our dues reminder envelopes. They haven't changed in many, many years. There's not much room to get everything on the envelope but we did the best we could and we also think the instructions on the envelopes are clear. And they're in red ink so they stand out. But, here are the most common abuses:

Everyone receives a renewal envelope, which is sent for the convenience of paying your dues as well as to make a donation. Not everyone owes current dues, but some appreciate the opportunity to make that donation. So, if you are a life member, please refrain from sending the envelope back and reminding me you are a life member. I know you are a life member and don't owe dues, please read the instructions. If you don't want to donate, no problem, throw the envelope away. Don't send it to me all indignant.

There are five fields to enter a payment: dues, operating fund, family fund, gold star fund, and scholarship fund. The last line is for totaling all above. Many of you don't want to use the total field; you want to give subtotals of each row. Often there is an entry amount in the operating fund field, say \$20, then it is entered again to the right in the family fund field. Did you use the family fund field as a subtotal for that row? Looks to me like two \$20 donations. That's \$40 total, but the payment is only \$20 actual. Now I have to decide where you wanted your money to go (my default choice is always family fund). So, pay attention to where you are entering your payment, and stop adding up the rows.

The fields on the bottom of the envelope are for changes to your name, address, phone, and email addresses. If you have no changes, leave these fields blank! You'll note the part of the envelope you return has all that data on the other side. If that is wrong, then fill out this part. Also on the other side is printed your year of expiration and your member number. If the year is 2021, then you expire June 30, 2021. If it shows 9999, then you are a life member.

Last, these envelopes have terrific glue for sealing the return portion. Plus, you may note the outside 1/16" edges of the return envelope do not have glue. That is to facilitate using a letter opener to open them. In all the years I've been receiving them not one has ever come in unglued. Not one. Ever. Trust the product. STOP TAPING THE DAMN THINGS!

At our last general membership meeting in 2019 we agreed to offer free memberships for one year to veterans of the Regiment. A couple units agreed to fund these new members, most notably E/75. In the last year we have signed up 60 new members under this plan. That's a success, and I hope the trend continues.

However, we also recently established a membership class for the active duty Rangers, titled Special Elite. As long as a Ranger is serving with the Regiment he will receive his membership for free. We have none of these, so we need to get the word out. The XO at 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion suggested we use the resources of the Sergeants Major of the battalions and Regiment. We will do so.

Lastly, 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion now has three females on their roster; one is a platoon leader in one of the companies. She graduated Ranger school and has successfully passed the physical requirements. That's fine, but now I gotta start using he/she!

## Rangers lead the way,

Tom Sove  
Secretary

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

## REVENUE

4000 Program income - DNP

4002 Membership dues  
7,260.00

4004 Life membership 40.00

4010 Coin sales

4012 Bronze 23.95

4013 Nickel Silver 54.40

4014 Silver coins 119.00

**Total 4010 Coin sales 197.35**

4020 Miscellaneous revenue

Association Patch 35.70

Association Sticker 59.50

**Total 4020 Miscellaneous revenue 95.20**

Assoc. Patch Bumper Sticker 5.95

Assoc. Pin 40.00

**Total 4000 Program income - DNP  
7,638.50**

4100 Member donations - DNP

4102 Family fund contributions 5,130.00

4104 Goldstar contributions 760.00

4110 Operations contributions 1,370.00

Legacy Walkway 30.00

Scholarship 665.00

**Total 4100 Member donations - DNP  
7,955.00**

4900 Interest income 54.01

**Total Revenue \$15,647.51****GROSS PROFIT \$15,647.51**

Expenditures

6000 Program expenses - DNP

6020 Website maintenance

Adobe subscription 56.50

**Total 6020 Website maintenance 56.50**

6022 Intuit Subscription

ACH GoPayment 20.00

Quickbooks Online 40.00

**Total 6022 Intuit Subscription 60.00**

Mogadishu Mile Sponsorship 1,500.00

**TREASURER REPORT**

ROGER CRUNK

**Total 6000 Program expenses - DNP  
1,616.50**

6100 Patrolling expense - DNP 350.00

6500 Operations - DNP

6502 Bank and merchant fees 85.11

6514 Office supplies 135.04

Family Fund Transfer 2,650.00

Postage-Secretary 65.03

Treasurer Postage 13.95

**Total 6500 Operations - DNP 2,949.13****Total Expenditures \$4,915.63****NET OPERATING REVENUE \$10,731.88****NET REVENUE \$10,731.88****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL  
POSITION**

## ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

1000 Affinity / Operations 40,205.52

1002 Affinity / Family fund 17,773.24

1030 Affinity / Savings 35,588.25

1040 Benevolent funds MM 40,302.09

1041 Legacy funds MM 4,879.00

1042 Life funds MM 38,868.44

1050 Paypal funds 7,044.54

**Total Bank Accounts \$184,661.08****Total Current Assets \$184,661.08****TOTAL ASSETS \$184,661.08**

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

**Total Liabilities**

Equity

3000 Net Assets - Unrestricted 160,800.64

Net Revenue 23,860.44

**Total Equity \$184,661.08****TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY****\$184,661.08**



OUR MISSION: TO "LEAD THE WAY" IN PROVIDING SAFE, CLEAN, AND COMFORTABLE HOUSING FOR THOSE AMERICAN VETERANS IN NEED.

*"I graduated from West Point, served in Vietnam with Charlie Rangers, a remarkable Ranger Company, and subsequently in 2011 was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame that I have an intense desire and a feeling of responsibility to give back for these blessings bestowed upon me. I have strived to gain knowledge of veterans' affairs, and I am deeply passionate about the mission of the Vet's Quarters Project."* Gary E. Dolan

#### ONCE A DREAM

YEARS AGO, WHILE PRACTICING LAW, I WOULD HOLD MY LAW FIRM'S ANNUAL ST. PATTY'S DAY PARTY IN A MOTEL THAT HAD BEAUTIFUL FACILITIES BUT WAS NOT IN OPERATION. THE 300+ ATTENDEES PROBABLY THOUGHT I WAS A BIG SPENDER BUT WOULD HAVE BEEN SHOCKED AT HOW LITTLE I ACTUALLY SPENT! HOWEVER, IT WAS THEN THAT I THOUGHT HOW TERRIBLE IT WAS THAT THERE WERE SO MANY HOMELESS VETERANS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME THERE WERE A GROWING NUMBER OF AVAILABLE ROOMS IN PRACTICALLY ABANDONED MOTELS AND HOTELS. MY DREAM WAS TO SOMEDAY ACQUIRE AND RENOVATE SIMILAR UNDERUTILIZED ASSETS CONVERTING THEM INTO SAFE, CLEAN, COMFORTABLE HOUSING FOR HOMELESS AMERICAN VETERANS AND TO FILL EACH STAFF POSITION WITH CAPABLE, CARING VETERANS. TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, AVHI WILL ALSO ENDEAVOR TO HIRE AS MANY VETERAN OWNED CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS AS POSSIBLE TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT.

DREAM BIG, BECAUSE DREAMS DO COME TRUE

At the heart of the operation is the new, special purpose entity, AVHI, LLC, that is titled to align with its core mission, the American Veterans Housing Initiative. It will provide safe, clean, comfortable housing for every American Veteran in

need of secure shelter and a healthy environment, either temporary or permanent, with full support including medical, physical and psychological rehabilitation, education and career training. This initiative includes both homeless veterans as well as veterans who do not own a home and may often be forced to live in an uncomfortable family situation due to lack of viable alternatives. Numbers vary widely, but the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that on any given night there are approximately 41,000 veterans living in the streets, doorways, dark alleys or under bridges all across the USA. While veterans comprise only 34% of the adult male population, approximately 40% of homeless men are veterans. Also, there is a disproportionately, unexplained much larger percentage of veterans who are now jobless due to recent Covid-19 related layoffs than non-veterans. Perhaps more than any other group, veterans have sacrificed for their country and in many instances their homelessness or adverse housing situation is an indirect result of a traumatic injury, either physical or mental or both, experienced during their time in service.

We, at AVHI will not allow this condition to continue unabated; therefore, we are launching the most comprehensive housing initiative for veterans ever conceived. Over the next five years, AVHI will acquire between 250-300 existing, operating, shuttered or underperforming hotels and motels, each having between 80-120 rooms. It will initially focus in areas with the highest disadvantaged veteran populations. These properties will then undergo a complete rehabilitation and conversion to meet the needs and requirements of homeless veterans. Repurposing of existing structures does not require special permits, zoning changes or lengthy permitting processes, which will dramatically shorten construction time and be far more efficient than new construction. AVHI is currently reviewing several sites for the first group of facilities. California has approximately 11,000 homeless veterans, constituting 25% of the national total, with Florida and Texas a distant second/third at approximately 2,500 apiece. Also, it is estimated that 3 times as many veterans are currently experiencing adverse living conditions and are seeking viable alternatives which AVHI will offer. Urban areas, such as Los Angeles and Miami, will be the first areas targeted, followed by Texas, New York, Michigan, Wash D.C. and then the less populated states. In addition to first-rate, clean, secure accommodations, every Vet's Quarters facility will include

*Continued on the next page*

a full service dining room, a recreation and community center, training facilities, meeting rooms and offices that provide access to associated professionals providing on site health care, mental health services and employment programs to assist veterans in improving their lives and productivity.

It may seem like a relatively short timeframe to complete such a project, but to a veteran living in the streets it may seem more like an eternity. To ensure expeditious delivery of accommodations, AVHI has divided the country into five separate regions, each of which will have a designated Regional Development Manager as well as a Regional Facilities Operations Manager. Each region's managers will be responsible to the national office but will operate independently and be responsible for their own regional development schedule. Each region will renovate and commission approximately 50 facilities over the 5-year period. There will then be at least 5 contractors for each region so each contractor will, on average, complete 10 facilities over the 5-year period. This is a very realistic timeframe for project completion. The five regions are the Southeast, Northeast, North Central States (including the Midwest), South Central States (including Texas) and Western States where AVHI will initiate its largest operations in California.

The conversion of each facility will not only upgrade the existing building to our required standards but will also construct additional spaces, as necessary, to ensure that every facility will provide all of the intended amenities and services contemplated for each homeless veteran as follows:

A clean, comfortable, fully renovated, air-conditioned room with queen bed, full bath, lounge/reading area, coffee bar with microwave and exterior balcony/patio. Some facilities may have studio apartments as well.

A full-service dining room serving three "squares" a day with beverages and snacks available 24/7. Special menus and offerings will be available for holidays and special events, including weekly sporting events. Where permitted, a "two sided" diner style restaurant would also be open to the public featuring a kitchen that will feed the veterans in a private dining room (one side) and be open to public dining on the other side. While the vets will be allowed to maintain total privacy if they wish, this ar-

range will provide an opportunity for other vets to work in the kitchen or restaurant and interact with the public as part of an occupational training program.

Community rooms with library, reading area, TV viewing, cards and general socializing.

An indoor/outdoor recreational activities area featuring horseshoes, bocce-ball, fitness, basketball, etc.

A suite of offices for on-site use of third-party providers, nurses, doctors, health professionals, and career consultants, etc., supporting the resident veterans.

The target size of between 80 and 120 rooms for a typical facility enables critical mass and economies of scale to provide greater levels of amenities and support services at far less cost per resident.

#### THE DREAM TEAM

After having retired from a successful real estate and corporate law practice in New York, I became focused on real estate development ventures. One of which was a large commercial development project in Wyoming with Paul Quinn and Rob LeFever, now my partners in the Vet's Quarters project. As a supporter, I provided bridge loans to support the project while similar humanitarian project funding was approved and the process completed. Over time I had the opportunity to explain the current national veterans housing dilemma to them along with my dream being the solution. They enthusiastically embraced the concept, and the American Veterans Housing Initiative was born.

The Vet's Quarters project is now blessed to have three very experienced partners forming the development Team having over 115 combined years of experience in all aspects of legal, finance, development, construction and facility operations. This will ensure the successful completion of the contemplated veterans housing projects on time and on budget. Paul has over 40 years experience in all aspects of real estate development as well as a long history of successful development projects including master planned residential communities, major luxury resorts, *Continued on the next page*



retail, office and commercial and heavy industrial applications and Rob and his company, L2 Global Solutions, bring an extensive network of various subject matter experts specializing in mobilization, logistics, engineering, planning, construction and redevelopment. Rob has over 30 years of construction experience including design and site utilization plans for various master plans and resorts, hospitality and commercial developments.

#### BECOME A SUPPORTER OF OUR DREAM

We have received conditional Project Funding Approval from Ryan Project Funding, LLC ("RPF") subject only to placement of required collateral. RPF is based in Washington, D.C. and provides funding for qualified humanitarian projects, the development of which must meet certain job-creation and humanitarian goals. The AVHI veterans housing initiative meets these requirements in several key ways, 1) provides affordable housing, 2) improves the lives of the citizens of an area or region, 3) creates many permanent, well-paying jobs and 4) stimulates the local economies. To proceed with the RPF funding process, a certain amount of collateral must be provided to RPF. To that end, AVHI has reached agreement with a third party to provide the collateral required by RPF. However, we are required to aggregate a minimum of \$2M placed into escrow is required for a period of time to initiate the funding process; Consequently, we are seeking investors/

supporters who would be willing to provide collateral funds essentially as a show of sufficiency. We have set up an Escrow Deposit funding program whereby a certain amount of funds ("Principal Amount") are deposited into an Attorney IOLTA Trust Account ("Escrow Account") which are never deployed or encumbered in any way during the funding process so there is absolutely no risk of loss for the supporter. The Principal Amount will automatically be returned to the supporter by the Escrow Attorney at the end of the agreed upon Term (either 6 or 12 months) per the terms of the "Escrow Agreement." We seek one or more "Supporters" to place the Principal Amount on behalf of the Vet's Quarters. From an investment standpoint, it is totally risk free and pays significant returns monthly. If desired as additional assurance, the Supporter's attorney may also be a signatory to the Attorneys IOLTA Trust Account. If you or someone you know wishes to learn more about the specifics of the AHVI Escrow Deposit Program, please contact me.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Mr. Gary Dolan

[10garyedolan@gmail.com](mailto:10garyedolan@gmail.com)

516-835-4999

Jeff Horne

#### CSM (Ret) Patrick "Tad" Tadina August 16, 1942



LRRPs, LRP, and RVN Rangers Attendees for CSM Tadina/Article on next page

Upon hearing of Command Sergeant Major (R) Patrick Tadina's passing I asked brothers in the 173d LRRP Platoon, The 74<sup>th</sup> LRP, and November Company Rangers who knew and served with him over his consecutive five (5) Combat Tours in Viet Nam to comment on his demeanor, leadership, and their relationship. I asked their commentaries to be specific to his time as a LRP/Ranger. I received many telephone comments and several written submissions. I have consolidated the phone and conversations from his Celebration of Life gathering.

These traits were repeated over and over.

He led from the front and never expected one of his men to do something he would not do.

He was a humble man, quiet and unassuming. He loved the Company stray dog TANGO.

He was fearless in combat, an astute student of the North Vietnamese TTPs, and exemplified "never quit".

He was most proud of never having a KIA on one of his Teams.

He loved his Teammates and his Country.

Don Sexton promptly submitted this:

"Dick Davis just told me that you need stories about Tad. I was fortunate enough to be on his team right after I passed the selection board. You know back in the old days the LRPS ran a selection course which included a grueling board. The board consisted of "Team Leaders Only".

Each Team leader had a specific area that they would cover with questions. Tadina at the time was an E-6. I did not know him from Adam. I could not see the faces of any Team leader because of the way they had the lighting set up. Just like in an old time gangster movie where the cops question a gangster in a small room with a single 60 watt light bulb glowing, pulled down low so you could only see shadows of the Team Leaders sitting



around a large table. It was scary, I thought to myself, "what the hell have I gotten myself into now".

Tad's area of questions was "situational questions." Which there was no pat answer. I remember him asking me, what would I do to about six different questions. I was told before going into the session, "If you don't know something, say "I don't know."

I remember saying "I don't know" to Tad's very first question, I cannot recall the question, but I remember thinking this is not a good way to start off. Tad's reply when I said "I Don't know", "well you better find out if you want to get into this unit" you better come up with an answer cause "I don't know" is not going to cut it.

That was my first encounter with the Legend. I obviously passed the selection, I remember feeling lucky, because 19 people tried to get into the unit that night, only three made it, me being one of them".

"There is nothing that enhances authority like the power"

Paul Beckwith (173d LRRP Platoon, 74<sup>th</sup> LRP and N Co 75<sup>th</sup>) sent this sentiment:

On May 29, 2020, the LRRP/LRP/RANGER community lost a true legend, CSM Pat Tadina. I knew Pat from our time together with the 173rd LRRP platoon, 74th INF DET LRP and N Co 75th ABN RANGER. I cannot relate what my

first meeting with Tad was when I joined the unit in Oct '67 because I do not remember our first meeting. At that time you heard stories about Tad but unless you were on his team he remained in the shadows. I never served on his team or really got to know him until I became a Team Leader. Then through TL meetings, entry boards and the fact his team hootch was next to mine did I get to know him. Every morning when both our teams were not on a mission I would stop by for coffee and sit at the picnic table in the front of the hootch *Continued on next page*



hootch listening and swapping stories, general BS and anything else we would find hilarious. The one characteristic about Tad was when he laughed he would do so with his hand cupped over his mouth. This was because, I surmised, he did not have the straightest teeth (I suffered from the same problem) but it was a picture I would always remember. I had the privilege of working on his team once or twice when my team was short of people and I was invited to join up. In the field he was quite different, totally focused and aware and he would not settle for a half assed attempt at the job! It amazed me how he knew where the active areas were and what trails would have the most traffic.

On what I believe was my last mission in RVN before leaving for home, permanently, our teams were assigned AO's that were literally next to each other. This made no sense and I talked to Tad about hooking up our 2 five man teams on the chopper before insertion and he thought it was a good idea but wanted to wait until we were on the ground and we could evaluate the situation first. It was on this mission that Tad foiled a possible ambush on us and was shot in both legs. He oversaw the positioning of team members until Dust-Off removed him from the AO and the remainder of the teams made their way to a more suitable LZ for extraction. I stopped at B-Med after landing to see how he was doing and there he was sitting on a litter with both calves bandaged up. We talked for a while and he said injuries were not life threatening and then we started busting balls. That was the last time I saw Tad but I will always remember that picture in my mind of him sitting on the litter, legs bandaged, smoking a cigarette and laughing in his way. Many years later I was on the phone with Roy Boatman and asked him what happened to Tad. He said he returned to the unit and remained with it until he was ordered out of RVN after 5 years in country. After we hung up my phone rang, and it was Tad. We talked for hours and he said he wanted me to show up at a reunion so he could remember his teammates in the vertical position. I showed up but unfortunately Tad made another commitment to the security company he worked for. I had a couple of other phone conversations with him but never saw him again. I will always remember Tad sitting on that litter or at that picnic table drinking coffee, not exactly in the vertical position but certainly not in the horizontal position, laughing and always planning on coming back".

Cathy St John (Sister of Ranger John Blake and our Unit), submitted this view of her relationship with Tad:

HELLO – GOODBYE CSM PATRICK GAVIN TADINA (TAD)

How do you say goodbye to someone who you have spent almost two decades searching for? You don't.

Therefore, I'll simply share a short story in finding "Tad" that became a mission in my life after the sudden death of my brother John Blake in 1996. John, a Canadian volunteer became a N/75 Ranger in the United States Army, knew and respected another N/75 Ranger named Tad in Vietnam. I discovered this information from a journal my brother had written while in Vietnam mentioning Tad and later in his life when he travelled to Hawaii in search of this very same Ranger. All my brother found

there was his own death. I had questions that desperately needed answers. My first being who and what is a N/75th Ranger. Plus, does anyone know Tad?

Long story short, I finally found my brother's Ranger unit in 2011 and was briefed on Tad's military history, a well-respected member of the Ranger family. I was introduced to him at a Ranger Rendezvous Reunion in Columbus, Georgia during 2013.

Our first meeting resulted in many hours spent discussing his five tours of duty. The loss of his own brother and how much that death hurt him and his family. He discussed his life after Vietnam and the many assignments that he participated in for the United States Army. Jobs that kept the 'bad' guys under control. (Tad's words).

We shared a bond that is seldom shared with civilians. Tad accepted me and my loss of John as if I was his own sister. This was one of the many facets of a Ranger, I would learn; indicative of the Ranger creed, "Leave no one behind".

Tad spoke of his harrowing experiences that caused him to be wounded several times during the many firefights which he engaged in. And laughed when he had fooled the enemy by sneaking into their camps because his visual appearance looks much like those, he fought against during the Vietnam war. But the pride he held in bringing his 'boys' home safe and sound shone brightly – he never lost a team member to death. It was then I realized and understood that my brother had been searching for his mentor - Tad.

Tad told me of his faith in the American Army, but most important to Tad was his faith in the "Big Ranger" in the sky. He was proud and honored to serve his country and countrymen and women. He never once mentioned to me in all of our many conversations the numerous awards he received for service and honor of duty. He thought of himself as one of the boys. No better, no less than any other Ranger. Yet, I could not help but recognize that he was unique. And in doing so, I recognized that my brother was unique too as are most all Rangers.

Tad's family became his pride and joy. Eventually, I would meet his daughter and grand daughter at a reunion in Las Vegas. Today, we refer to each other as friends.

Tad, made his mark and a difference in this world throughout his lifetime. Like so many who have wondered where the boys are – they are together in the tall grass, walking tall and having a good laugh. The most easterly point in North America secured. Carry on.

Cathy Saint John, Author One For The Boys, St. John's, NL Canada



## Proposed 75<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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.



# 2020 VIRTUAL



Rangers,

On behalf of the Three Rangers Foundation team, I would like to invite you to participate in our upcoming event: The Mogadishu Mile Virtual Event. This is the Three Ranger Foundation's annual commemoration of the heroic actions of Task Force Ranger and remembrance of the fallen warriors of Operation Gothic Serpent, Somalia, October 3, 1993. The daylight operations began the afternoon on October 3 and did not end until the final Ranger element departed the city in a running gun battle now known as the Mogadishu Mile the morning of October 4.

The proceeds from the event ensure we are able to continue to support active duty and former Rangers, their families, and Ranger Gold Star Families from the US Army's 75th Ranger Regiment, to include Veterans of affiliated supporting units. We hope you are able to participate and even create your own local teams as well! The "team" participation can be a 1 mile walk, 5K, our suggested WOD, or even a cup of coffee with a friend, to remember and honor those selfless servants. Those warriors found strength in their team members, we are all stronger and can accomplish more as a team. To sign up visit <https://fragoutcc.com/collections/mogadishu-mile>.

RLTW!

**Michael T. Hall**  
Executive Director  
Three Rangers Foundation



## MISSION

EMPOWERING VETERANS,  
GOLD STAR FAMILIES AND  
AFFILIATES OF THE 75TH  
RANGER REGIMENT TO  
ACHIEVE LIFELONG  
SUCCESS

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
[WWW.THREERANGERSFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.THREERANGERSFOUNDATION.ORG)**

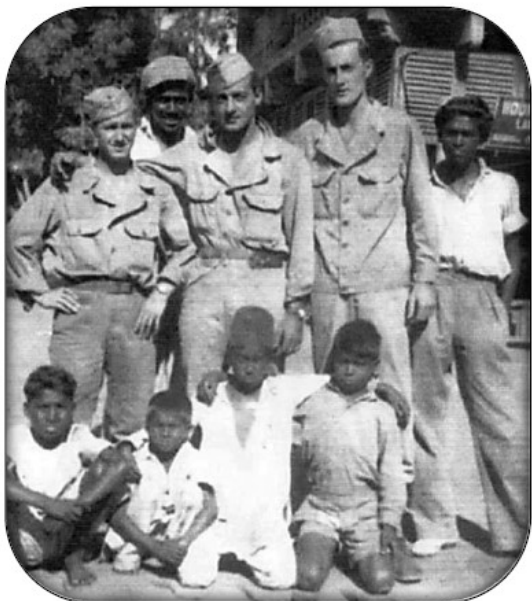


## VISION

PROVIDE THE BEST  
EXPERTS, ADVICE, AND  
ASSISTANCE IN EVERY  
ASPECT OF THE  
TRANSITION JOURNEY;  
SPIRITUAL, BEHAVIORAL,  
CAREER AND  
NETWORKING,  
FINANCIAL, LEGAL,  
FAMILY, AND EDUCATION.



## Only "eight" Merrill's Marauders still living Aug. 10, 2020 -- 76th anniversary of their unit disbanding in Burma --



### Captions

**BOTTOM:** James Collins, 96, FL, in floppy hat, wearing glasses, is 6<sup>th</sup> man in from right, 2<sup>nd</sup> row. The 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion men refused to be in a photo without their mules.

**LEFT COLUMN, TOP:** Gilbert Howland, (tallest) 97, NJ, and two Marauder buddies had their initials tattooed on their arms for identification in case they were killed without their dog tags.

### LEFT COLUMN, CENTER, L to R:

\*\*\* Russell Hamler, 96, PA, fought with 2<sup>nd</sup> BN, Blue Combat Team.

\*\*\* Gabriel Kinney, 99, AL, fought with 2<sup>nd</sup> BN, Blue Combat Team.

\*\*\* James Richardson, 99, TN, fought with 2<sup>nd</sup> BN, Blue Combat Team.

**LEFT COLUMN, 3<sup>RD</sup> ROW, L:** The late Lester Hollenback, 97, FL, kept the mules in horseshoes.  
8-24-22 to 7-16-20

**LEFT COLUMN, 3<sup>RD</sup> ROW, R:** Rocco Deluca, R, 97, CT, and Dan Cipola rest on the Ledo Road.

**RIGHT COLUMN, TOP:** Raleigh Naves, 98 next month, WI, holds his weapon at Stateside post.

**RIGHT COLUMN, BOTTOM:** Bob Passanisi, R, 96, NY, and Edgar Turner rest in February 1944.



**PLEASE PRAY** that Merrill's Marauders  
are awarded  
Congressional Gold Medal in 2020

*created by Jonnie Melillo Clasen*





## GOLD STAR MOM—JILL STEPHENSON

Seeing something in color means you were there, that you got to have the experience for yourself. Nothing can replace being a part of a special event. Nothing can stop the drive for true patriots to honor their own. You can always look at pictures, but they will never replace being there.

The tenth annual Ben Kopp Memorial Ride took place on July 25th. It was one week after the eleventh angel-versary (date of death) of my Ben. For ten years in a row, I have hosted and facilitated (with a lot of help) this event in honor of Ben and those who have selflessly served our country. To date, close to \$300,000 has been raised to help our veterans. Honestly, the success and impact of the BKMR reaches beyond dollar signs. It's personal for many who attend and is a continued ripple effect of Ben's life.

This year we switched from a two-day event to a one-day event in the midst of a pandemic. Reading that line alone would draw me to conclude we would face a serious deficit in attendance. We did not. We welcomed the usual size crowd and had 210 motorcycles participate in the ride. Spirits were high as we gathered to ride, honor and immerse our thirsty souls into some much-needed fellowship with our family of patriots.

The faces in the crowd are storied. As per usual, ninety-five percent of them did not know Ben when he was living. They are former classmates; they are patriots and their families; many of who are veterans, and always a handful of men, like Ben, who served in the 75th Ranger Regiment. We need each other.

The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it. -William James

The Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association became a new fiscal sponsor this year. Their mission and that of the BKMR was a perfect match. The BKMR mission will always be to be a conduit to the brotherhood (and sisters too), to remind those in need that we are never alone.

The men and women I have been fortunate to connect with from the CVMA all have a heart to serve one another. One of the CVMA members and I were having a conversation with a combat veteran and told him about the BKMR. The veteran listened intently as the CVMA member explained to him that riding with fellow combat veterans and patriots was the closest thing there is outside of the military to marching together with your comrades. We need each other.

The Ben Kopp Memorial Ride is a motorcycle ride, however, the



ride is only one part of what takes place at the event. When I tell people about the BKMR for the first time, one of the comments I often receive is, "I don't have a motorcycle." I tell them you don't need one to participate. It's about way more than that. The coming together of like-minded people to support our veterans and honor our fallen is at the top of the list. That support gets paid forward with the monies that are raised and through the hearts that are touched.

In the movie *Dances with Wolves*, one of the Natives he initially encountered was hostile to Kevin Costner's character, John Dunbar. He was an outsider and he made darn sure he knew it. As Dunbar became a part of the tribe, *Wind In His Hair*, began to warm up to him. By the end of the movie, *Wind In His Hair* had

*BKMR at Corporal Benjamin S. Kopp Memorial Bridge*



changed his tune about Dunbar. He saw their similarities and revered him as a brother. As Dunbar and his wife permanently leave the tribe for the safety of all, *Wind In His Hair* declares in a gut-wrenching shout from a high cliff above them, "I am Wind in His Hair. Do you see that I am your friend?" *Continued next page*

Can you see that I will always be your friend"? He repeats this multiple times as he watches his friend solemnly ride away.

Wind In His Hair became Dances with Wolves brother. They were put together through unpleasant circumstances, but over time, came to see they were on the same side and grew to respect each other. Friends. Brothers. One in the same.

Each of our stories matter, this is why I always want to Lead, Motivate and Connect. The BKMR is one of the ways I get to do this. All who show up bring a story. We don't wear them on our foreheads, we don't always talk about them, but they live inside of us. Some good, some not so good. Point is, they are there and we come together with those we know have an understanding, will not judge us and welcome us no matter where we are on our journey. We need each other.



I recently shared an intimate conversation with friends. One of them served in a leadership role with Ben during all three of his deployments. The other is a close friend whose husband is a combat veteran. I had read something to them that I wrote ten years ago to the men of Ben's unit as they prepared to leave on their first deployment after Ben's death. I remained composed while the two of them had tears in their eyes. Dave asked if it was hard for me. I said no. Barb said she didn't believe me. Dave agreed with Barb. I responded by saying this is the life I have lived with for eleven years. I am used to it. Maybe that means I am used to hiding my pain. I can't deny that. We shared a group hug. I need them. I need the ones who understand and feel my pain, more than they know. We all do.

The success of the BKMR is like a well-oiled machine or perhaps a really cool old muscle car. Remember that Johnny Cash song, "One piece at a time?" He obtained the parts to his car one piece at a time by stealing them from his workplace. All the parts came from different makes and models, yet each is essential for the car to run properly. The same can be said of the BKMR. There are many moving parts that make it what it is; the parking lot attendant(s), registration, silent auction, road guards, escorts, ambulance, chase vehicle, bar stop staff, Bogart's staff, AND the hearts of all involved and all who come year after year



to show their support. Each of our stories is weaved into Ben's story, one piece a time. I do see it like a beautiful classic car, many original parts that have kept their luster because of the love and commitment of others to keep Ben's legacy and that of our combat veterans alive and well. I'll call it a 1967 mid-night blue Camaro!

*The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example. -Benjamin Disraeli*

The CVMA made me an honorary family member during the event. It was made official with a vest ← that dons several personalized, hand-sewn patches. I was very touched to become a part of their family. I wore the vest with pride for the rest of the day and will do so for all future BKMR's. You should see it in color!



*BKMR Wood Plaque with 3rd Stanza Ranger Creed*



Related to my last article on Conscious Breathing is mindfulness, they are closely related and support one another.

Mindfulness is defined as moment-by-moment awareness of thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations, and surrounding environment, characterized mainly by "acceptance" - attention to thoughts and feelings without judging whether they are right or wrong. Easy to say, but sometimes not that easy to do when you have your mind going 90 miles an hour as a Veteran who is hyper vigilant or just been triggered. But that's why this topic has been chosen as a Health and Wellness article.

Mind is a wonderful ride, when it is mastered, but a ruthless tyrant when it is allowed to indulge in either past or future events, un-tethered, and with the reins dropped from one's hands. There is an ancient Chinese mural hanging in a monastery with a series of three pictures that says it much better than I, and worth much more than a thousand words. Scene one depicts a forlorn farmer standing on his property which has a run-down house with junk all over, broken fence posts and fence that need repair, a field full of weeds on which you can barely tell any crops are growing and a water buffalo wandering around un-tethered. Scene two shows a sweating farmer walking behind a yoked water buffalo, furrows with crops taking shape, the roof with patches, parts of the fence mended and an obvious effort to clean up the yard. Scene three presents a happy farmer casually riding on his unyoked water buffalo, beautiful rows of crops coming to fruitions, the roof repaired, the fence mended and painted and the yard completely cleaned up. Where is the teaching point in this mural? The water buffalo, or one's mind.

It is only when we have the mind fully yoked and under control that our lives put a smile on our face and we enjoy the journey. The ability to remain in the moment is key to this discipline. It is all a matter of choice. Will we allow mind to take us into past memories where trials, trauma, disappointments, betrayals and pain....have taken place and about which we can do nothing? Will we allow it to run amok in the future with doubts, worries, fears, what if's, most of which will probably never take place anyway? Or, will we focus on the present moment which is the only element of time that we can control? The choice to live in the present moment is one very few people really understand or know how to attain, especially since we live in a fear based society that never lets us enjoy the present moment. We are bombarded with media fear based drama, an image of life and happiness based upon possessions, a self image impossible to attain and aches and pains that are considered normal, the solution to which the pharmaceutical industry has every solution to. If we can be kept out of the present moment, we can be controlled and manipulated; our minds remain open to external influences and are easily "programmed". But if we are mindful of our circumstance and choose to focus on the NOW, chances are we will become much healthier, happier, live a lot longer and will have the opportunity to CHOOSE how we enjoy the PRESENT MOMENT.

The rest of this article focuses upon techniques that will allow

## PATROLLING YOUR HEALTH

you to learn how to become mindful and what it feels like to be in the present moment.

Once you experience this state

you will have a much easier time attaining it whenever you choose, especially during times of stress. The key is to do it a few times, slow down the mental gerbil wheel (un-tethered water buffalo) that most of us have functioning throughout the day, relax and simply enjoy the moment. Done a few times a day, it will soon become a tool at your disposal. And then when you notice the buffalo roaming at will you will recognize it for what it is, stop him in its tracks, get on a ride peacefully.

Here are eight mindfulness exercises that will expose you to the present moment:

### 1. Yawn and stretch for 10 seconds every hour.

Do a fake yawn if you have to. That will trigger real ones. Say "ahh" as you exhale. Notice how a yawn interrupts your thoughts and feelings. This brings you into the present.

Then stretch really, really slowly for at least 10 seconds. Notice any tightness and say "ease" or just say hello to that place (being mindful — noticing without judgment). Take another 20 seconds to notice and then get back to what you were doing.

### 2. Three hugs, three big breaths.

Hug someone tight and take 3 big breaths together. Even if they don't breathe with you, your breathing will ground them.

### 3. Stroke your hands.

Lower or close your eyes. Take the index finger of your right hand and slowly move it up and down on the outside of your fingers. Once you have mindfully stroked your left hand, swap and let your left hand stroke the fingers of your right hand.

### 4. Mindfully eat a raisin.

Take a raisin or a piece of chocolate and mindfully eat it. Slow down, sense it, savor it and smile between bites. Purposefully slow down. Use all your senses to see it, touch it, smell it, and sense it.

Then gently pop it into your mouth and really savor it. Savor its texture, its taste, how it feels in your mouth. Let it linger and then swallow it. After you have swallowed it, let your lips turn up slightly and smile. Do the same thing for each raisin you eat or bite you take.

### 5. Clench your fist and breathe into your fingers.

Position your fingers and thumbs facing down. Now clench your fist tightly. Turn your hand over so your fingers and thumbs are facing up and breathe into your fist. Notice what happens.

### 6. STOP.

Stand up and breathe. Feel your connection to the earth. Tune in to your body. Lower your gaze. Scan your body and notice physical sensations or emotions. Discharge any unpleasant sensations, emotions or feelings on the out breath. Notice any pleasant ones and let them fill you up on the in breath.

*Continued on the next page*

Observe. Lift your eyes and take in your surroundings. Observe something in your environment that is pleasant and be grateful for it and its beauty.

Possibility. Ask yourself what is possible or what is new or what is a forward step.

If you find yourself being reactive, try the following steps:

Pause and take one to three big breaths.

Say "step back." (You don't have to physically step back, you can just do it in your mind.)

Say "clear head."

Say "calm body."

Breathe again. Say "relax," "melt" or "ease."

#### 7. Mindful breathing for one minute.

Lower your eyes and notice where you feel your breath. That might be the air going in and out at your nostrils or the rise and fall of your chest or stomach. If you can't feel anything, place your hand on your stomach and notice how your hand gently rises and falls with your breath. If you like, you can just lengthen the in breath and the out breath or just breathe naturally. Your body knows how to breathe.

Focus on your breath. When your mind wanders, as it will do, just bring your attention back to your breath. You might like to say 'thinking' when you notice your thoughts and just gently shepherd your attention back to your breath.

This can be done for longer than one minute. However, even for one minute it will allow you to pause and be in the moment. Or you might just like to breathe out stress on the out breath and breathe in peace on the in breath.

#### 8. An aspiration.

Decide on an aspiration. Just ask yourself this question: What is my heart's aspiration? Pause for about 20 seconds. Do this a second or third time and write down what comes. Perhaps it is to come from love, or to be kind to yourself or others or to be patient.

Once you decide which aspiration you like best, say that at the beginning of the day. This will set you up for your day and your interactions with others (and even with yourself).

The following are considered the four foundations of Mindfulness:

- Being mindful of the breath,
- Being mindful of walking, sitting, lying down and standing,
- Being aware of the 32 parts of the body,
- Clearly comprehending what is beneficial and not beneficial.

All I can do is share with my fellow Veteran brothers my journey and what has worked for me. Give mindfulness a go. See what happens. I think you will be pleasantly surprised at how you feel and over time experience a possible reduction in high blood pressure meds. Besides, most of us have seen enough water buffaloes in our day. This will be a good way to reframe some less than positive experiences we may have had. Smile at the next one that comes along and tell him you are riding on his cousin's back.

Peace within.



## 1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—RICK MERRITT

Hooah Rangers! Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Rick Merritt. I am honored to be your new 75th RRA Unit Director for our 1st Ranger Battalion as I recently replaced CSM (R) Bill Acebes. I served in the Battalion in the mid 90s as a PSG with 1st Platoon Bravo Company; followed by HHC as the S-2 NCOIC and the Battalion Operations Sergeant; then as the 1SG for Charlie Company until I PCS-ed in the summer of 2002 to Fort Bliss, TX as a student at the USASMA. Now many of my ole Ranger Buddies may say I should have accepted a role as the unit director with 3rd Batt, RSTB, or the RHQ. Yes, I admit, I served many more years at "Fort Beginning" than I did at HAAF but when our 75th RRA President offered some of those positions I chose the Regiment's "Imperial Battalion" here in Savannah. I felt since my family and I live so close by in the Savannah area I could best support the association and our active duty Rangers by representing those closest to my home.... besides, 1st Batt



issued me a wife! My war bride, Elizabeth, an Army Brat, raised in the Ardsley Park neighborhood in Savannah not far from the Battalion Compound. We have a 17 year old senior, Lindsey "Feedtray" Merritt \*(note: when your wife has a C-Section you get to name your baby on the birth certificate!) and our 15 year old daughter, Bonnie Mac Merritt, a sophomore, both attending Richmond Hill, GA High School (Elizabeth had our daughter's name entered on the birth certificate before she was delivered, just in case, otherwise she may have been named

"Darby" if I had the honors again).

I would like to thank Bill and his wife Brenda for the years he served as our unit director, together they have dedicated a lifetime serving our nation and Rangers. They now need to focus on Bill's fight against cancer, please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as he completes his treatments and continues the ongoing battle towards full remission. *Continued on next page*

Bill has been a Soldier and Ranger for Life for 55 years now and I felt it is appropriate that I share his storied biography along with much gratitude to him and his wonderful bride as she assisted him with the administrative duties as our unit director.

Command Sergeant Major (Retired) Acebes was born on 29 August 1945 in Alhambra, California. He entered the Army in May 1965 and completed basic training at Fort Polk, Louisiana, and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He served in every NCO leadership position and retired from the Army on 1 June 1995.

During the course of his career, Command Sergeant Major Acebes graduated from numerous Army schools including the U.S. Army Ranger Course, Special Forces Qualification Course, U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, and the Operations and Intelligence Course.

He was an original cadre of the 1st Battalion (Ranger) 75th Infantry.

He served as the Command Sergeant Major of the following units: 1st Battalion, 64th Armor; 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment; 2nd Infantry Division and retired as the Command Sergeant Major, U.S. Army Infantry Center at Fort Benning, Georgia.

His other units of assignment included the 173rd Airborne Brigade (SEP), Mobile Advisory Team 91 Delta Regional Assistance Command, Republic of Vietnam; 82nd Airborne Division; Berlin Brigade; and the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group Forward.

Command Sergeant Major Acebes' awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (Silver Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Bronze Arrowhead, Army of Occupation Medal (Berlin), Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Expert Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab, Special Forces Tab, and the Jordanian, German and Canadian Parachutist Badges.

After retirement Command Sergeant Major Acebes attended Barry University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resources.

Command Sergeant Major Acebes was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2003 and was selected for the Doughboy Award in 2011.

Bill and Brenda, we SALUTE you both. RLTW!

Now, moving over to news from the Battalion:

LTC (P) Sean McGee relinquished command of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment to LTC Christopher Brawley in a ceremony on June 29<sup>th</sup>. LTC Brawley previously served as the Operations Officer and Battalion XO for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. Most recently, LTC Brawley served as a battalion commander in 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division.

In mid-August, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment returned to Hunter Army Airfield from combat deployments in support of OPERATION FREEDOM'S SENTINIAL & OPERATION INHERENT RESOLVE.

The Battalion is working to preserve the memory of Kevin Barry's Pub by incorporating Kevin Barry's memorabilia into the new design for the barracks courtyard BBQ grill, fire pit, and recreation area. After nearly forty years the doors of our legendary River Street patrol base have closed, as the entire block of the historic warehouse will be developed into hotels. If those walls could talk they would echo the many occasions, events, and endless great times we shared with our war stories, honoring and remembering our fallen, celebrating and singing together. As well, the owner Vic Power provided many wives to our Rangers over the years from his girls serving us pints at the pub, including myself. Vic ensured his manager Faye and I found homes for the many prints, photos of our fallen, their KIA bracelets, and other memorabilia from the "Hall of Heroes" on the second floor. To the best of our ability we returned them back to those who donated them or to their respective military units to be honorable displayed. Myself, Steve Murphy and our wives paid our respects at the farewell dinner, speaking on behalf of our Rangers, thanking Vic and his wife Cheri for all they did for our nation's military and first responders spanning decades. Our Rangers will forever remember Kevin Barry's Pub on River Street.

Please keep our fellow veterans and Ranger Buddies Sam Spears and Steve Cochran in your prayers too. Sam is undergoing cancer treatment and he too continues his bout towards remission. Steve, at the time of this article was in the hospital battling with undisclosed health issues in Hawkinsville, GA.

Our good pal Steve Murphy is back on the Appalachian Trail, moving further and faster than any other ole Ranger ruckin' up and down those mountains! We all should take a lesson out of his play book and enjoy life.

Mike and Nancy Etheridge are experiencing the northeast mild weather at their summer home in Maine. With civil unrest happening in parts our nation and the epidemic ongoing, leave it to Rangers like "Murph" and Steve to find a way to get away from it all.

Our Savannah Ranger Breakfast musters have kicked off again at Perkins Restaurant, at I-95 N and 204W (Abercorn Street). We meet at 0900 the first Saturday morning of each month, come alone, bring your spouse or Ranger Buddy and enjoy the good food and great conversation.

I am sad to report we lost our dear friend and Honorary Ranger, Richard D. Eckburg.

In our Ranger Community, it is not uncommon to find those who are bigger than life. We were fortunate to be introduced to Richard Eckburg by one of our 1/75 Memorial Board Members, Dave Ermer (another larger than life individual).

*Continued on the next page*

Together Dave Ermer and Richard Eckburg were the dynamic duo. Dave made the introduction to our Honorary Member of the 1st Ranger Battalion, Miss Sheila Dudley, around 2005, and the rest is history, the trio was formed.

After serving as a U.S. Army Korean War veteran, Dick worked at United Postal Service for 32 years before retiring as the Vice President for Public Affairs. Upon his retirement, Dick and his wife Judy turned their time, energy and resources to their beloved Savannah community. This included relationships established over the last 22 years with dozens of

community organizations, providing leadership and support to Savannah Technical College, The Lucas Theater and Savannah College of Art and Design among many, many others. Dick and Judy's generosity and love for their community touched countless members of the community in a way that is hard to capture on paper.

Dick devoted a great deal of time and effort supporting first responders, law enforcement and the military communities in the greater Savannah area. Dick served as the honorary race chairman of the Tunnel to Towers 5k for eight years and as a board member on The 200 Club of Coastal Empire, whose efforts supported the families of fallen first responders in the 20 counties surrounding Savannah. His impact was felt greatest on Hunter Army Airfield through his efforts supporting both the Sua Sponte Foundation and Night Stalker Association. As a founding member of the foundation, Dick provided support for the families of our fallen Rangers in times of need.

Dick was involved in every aspect of the build of the Memorial. He brought in contributors whom were as loving and generous as he was, and equally as patriotic. There were days when weather, bad soil, no show of construction personnel threw everyone off track, but him. The consummate professional was on the ground encouraging and problem solving around every turn. He was an influential and integral part of the original 1/75 Memorial Board created for the design, build and upkeep of the Memorial. It was an honor for him to continue as that Board

grew into the 1/75 Sua Sponte Foundation, with a much broader mission of service to our Rangers, past and present, Families and our beloved Gold Stars.



*Bill and Brenda Acebes attending the Doughboy Awards at the National Infantry Museum*

Dick mentored both the young, old and was close to so many Ranger Families. It was not uncommon for him to host Family Readiness Groups at theater, musical, cooking and sporting events, giving opportunities many would not have had otherwise. For a unit at war for two decades, he understood the need to keep morale high. An avid supporter of the arts, Dick made dreams come true for individuals who otherwise could not have attended various important and meaningful events around town.

He was a great philanthropist.

He was also extensively involved in supporting our Ranger families through more than a dozen deployments to combat and intensive training cycles. Dick provided mentorship and support to our young Rangers and their families through some of the toughest times the Battalion has seen in the last 20 years. From sponsoring FRG events to helping spearhead the 1/75 memorial, Dick's contributions to the men of 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion were numerous, meaningful and heartfelt. His love for Rangers was evident; he could be seen at nearly every Change of Command, Change of Responsibility or other significant ceremony that the Battalion held over the years. This sentiment was mutual, as he was made an honorary member of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, and honorary member of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment and inducted into the Order of St. Maurice for his significant contributions to the families of the Battalion.

He will long be remembered for his friendship and dedication. He and his lovely wife, Judy, are responsible for making a difference in so many lives. We will always be grateful for not only what Dick Eckburg gave to the world around him, but also who he was as a person. Dick passed away at his home, Savannah, Georgia, on 1 July 2020.

A special thanks goes out to Miss Sheila Dudley, Ranger Liaison, Sua Sponte Foundation and those who contributed the detailed information for this deserving tribute to Dick.

*(See next page for Shelia Dudley article)*



**Remembrance: Honorary Ranger Richard D. Eckburg**

In our Ranger Community, it is not uncommon to find those who are bigger than life. We (the 1st Ranger Battalion and myself) were fortunate to be introduced to Richard Eckburg by one of our 1/75 Memorial Board Members, Dave Ermer (another larger than life individual). Together Dave Ermer and Richard Eckburg were the dynamic duo. Dave made the introduction to me around 2005 and the trio was formed.

Dick Eckburg was involved in every aspect of the build of the Memorial. He brought in contributors whom were as loving and generous as he was, and equally as patriotic. I can remember many days when weather, bad soil, no show of construction personnel threw everyone off track, but him. The consummate professional was there, encouraging and problem solving around every turn. He was an influential and integral part of the original 1/75 Memorial Board created for the design, build and upkeep of the Memorial. It was an honor for him to continue as that Board grew into the 1/75 Sua Sponte Foundation, with a much broader mission of service to our Rangers, past and present, Families and our beloved Gold Stars.

Dick mentored young and old and he was close to so many Ranger Families. It was not uncommon for him to host Family Readiness Groups at theater, musical, cooking and sporting events, giving opportunities many would not have had otherwise. For a unit at war for two decades, he understood the need to keep morale high. An avid supporter of the arts, Dick made dreams come true for individuals who otherwise could not have attended various important and meaningful events around town. He was a great philanthropist.

Dick Eckburg was inducted as Honorary 1/75, Honorary 75th Ranger Regiment and awarded the Order of Saint Maurice for his two decades of service to his beloved Rangers. He will long be remembered for his friendship and dedication. He and his lovely wife, Judy, are responsible for making a difference in so many lives. We will always be grateful for not only what Dick Eckburg gave to the world around him, but also who he was as a person. Dick passed away at his home, Savannah, Georgia, on 1 July 2020.

Shelia Dudley/Ranger Liaison  
1/75 Sua Sponte Foundation



Submitted Photos

Left: Richard D. Eckburg

Below: 1/75 Memorial  
that Richard Eckburg  
was a member of the  
1/75 Memorial Board  
Member



Dick Eckburg and other "Shakers" undertaking the 1/75 Memorial



## 3rd BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—TONY MAYNE

**Change of Command.** On June 25, 2020, LTC Graham White assumed command of 3d Ranger Battalion from LTC JD Keirse. In true LTC Keirse fashion with assistance from COVID 19 regulations preventing a traditional change of command ceremony, the Ranger leaders passed the colors at the foot of the Downing Mile.



The traditional 5k race in Columbus, Ga. is now a virtual event due to COVID 19. The proceeds of the event raised support Army Ranger Lead The Way Fund and H.O.O.A.H Inc. will directly support the battalion who participate in this event. Participate where you are at by registering at: <https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Columbus/MogadishuMile>.



*LTC Graham White (left) receives the 3d Ranger Battalion colors assuming command of the battalion from LTC JD Keirse (right). Submitted Photo*

**Congratulations.** 3d Ranger Battalion's 1LT Copeland Whitney was selected at 2020 Ralph Puckett Leadership Award (RPLA) recipient on July 17. Copeland previously served in the 173d Airborne Brigade. The RPLA is an addition to the Regiment's annual Soldier of Year and NCO of the Year competitions. Both the Solider and NCO of the Year will compete in the U.S. Army Special Operations Command competition this summer.

A special thank you to the Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment ret. CSM Mike Hall for coordinating Ranger organization efforts to recognize the awardees. If an organization or business would like to support the battalion and/or regiment competitions, please contact Tony Mayne at [tony@gallantfew.org](mailto:tony@gallantfew.org) for more information.

**Virtual Mogadishu Mile events.** There is still time to register for two great October events commemorating the courage and sacrifice of the 27th anniversary of Operation GOTHIC SERPENT's Battle of the Black Sea.

Three Rangers Foundation introduces a Mog Mile Workout as a way to provide 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 and supporting the Regiment's Ranger for Life program. Register for the Mog Mile virtual event at <https://fragoutcc.com/collections/mogadishu-mile>.

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

**In-person Mog Mile event.** 3-75 veterans Lee Garcia and Jesse Regan are hosting a Three Rangers Foundation Mog Mile workout at Foundation Training Facility in Waverly Hall on Sat., October 3. Both Lee and Jesse are ret. MSGs who "grew up" in 3d Ranger Battalion.

Register for the in-person event at Foundation Training Facility's event page on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/805168576896821> or email Lee at [lgarcia2204@gmail.com](mailto:lgarcia2204@gmail.com) for more information.

### 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](https://www.instagram.com/3d_ranger_battalion)

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

*Ranger Jumpmaster: A Ranger Jumpmaster performs safety duties for a MC-130 ramp blast operation as part of a battalion proficiency jump. Submitted Photo*





GallantFew director Karl Monger recently named Ranger Veteran an retired MAJ Tony Mayne as the new director of The Darby Project. Mayne comes to GallantFew after 21 years of service and the completion of a U.S. Special Operations Command Care Coalition transition fellowship designed to assist special operators integrate back into civilian life after their terms of service.

"My family is extremely grateful for the opportunity to remain in the Ranger community as a part of an organization dedicated to the betterment of the active duty and veteran experience for all Ranger," Mayne said.

"The Darby Project exists to assist Rangers in their transition, specifically the initial transition from active duty to civilian life," Mayne stated. "We take a team-based resource approach to assisting each individual in their transition."

Since The Darby Project's establishment by GallantFew in 2015, the organization has reached more than 1,000 Rangers with services tailored to their personal needs.

"The biggest gap between the Department of Defense's Transition Assistance Program and a successful transition is leadership," Mayne said. "Transition is the one period in a Ranger's career where there is not an Army-trained subject matter expert coaching, teaching and mentoring the Ranger. The Darby Project bridges that gap."

Mayne is no stranger to the Ranger community. He enlisted in 1999 after completing college at The Ohio State University. His first assignment was 3d Ranger Battalion.

"Prior to 9-11, there were not a lot of college graduates enlisting. I just wanted to do something exciting and serve my country for a few years," Mayne remembered. "The guys razzed me quite a bit for having a degree and I got the nickname – CID; meaning a few of the boys thought I was a there to report on them for the Criminal Investigation Detachment."

Shortly after graduating Ranger School, Mayne was roughly half-way complete with the Primary Leadership Development Course when 9-11 occurred.

"Our class was receiving a block of instruction on vehicle maintenance when a senior cadre member announced that the World Trade Center buildings had fallen," Mayne reports. "The Rangers immediately requested to be released from the course, and, of course, we were denied."

Upon graduation from PLDC would be escorted from Fort Benning Building 4's Marshall auditorium to Dekkar Strip where the battalion was conducting a rehearsal for the initial airborne assault into Afghanistan on Objective RHINO.

Mayne would participate in the Charlie Company jump into RHI-NO, a second Afghanistan deployment, and the company's combat airborne assault into Charlie DZ followed by 3d Platoon's mission to seize Haditha Dam under the mission command of Bravo Company in Iraq.

After departing 3d Ranger Battalion as a NCO to earn a commission, Mayne served as a platoon leader, company executive officer, and assistant operations officer with 2nd Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment before commanding a rifle company and headquarters company with 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment.

"All I ever wanted to do once I became an officer was take care of my soldiers and get back to Ranger Regiment," Mayne said.

He would serve at the Regimental Headquarters from 2012-2017. In 2014, Mayne faced a medical retirement board due to significant hearing loss. With support of the Regimental commander, COL Christopher Vanek and executive officer, LTC Blake Lackey, Mayne was able to stay in the Army and move from Infantry branch to the Public Affairs functional area.

"I never thought in a million years that I would end up as a PAO, but some things just work out for the right reasons," Mayne remarked.

As the Regimental PAO, Mayne worked to increase contact with Ranger organizations by sharing calendars and contact lists, and increase participation at events such as Ranger Rendezvous.

"It is a tough balance. The Regiment has been deployed every day since 9-11," Mayne said. "Rangers can be gainfully employed each day in bettering their warfighting skills. But, striking a balance with finding the time and means to honor the Rangers that established the tradition of excellence and continue to live the Creed must be a priority as well."

Outside of his work at The Darby Project, Mayne is working with retired CSM Mike Hall to engage all Ranger organizations to participate in the Regiment's Ranger for Life project.

"As the Honorary Sergeant Major of the Regiment, CSM Hall is doing yeoman's work to bring the more than 15 Ranger organizations together to support Ranger for Life," Mayne remarked.

"There is a place for everyone to contribute as a team player for the benefit of our Rangers and their families."

Mayne also serves as the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association's 3d Ranger Battalion Unit Director.

He can be contacted at [tony@gallantfew.org](mailto:tony@gallantfew.org).



*Tony Mayne PAO at the Pentagon/Submitted Photo*



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

BY NOW WE ARE ALL GROWING WEARY OF THIS COVID-19 CRAP. MOST STATES ARE GOING TO A MANDATORY MASK REQUIREMENT IN PUBLIC. THROUGH ALL OF THIS OVER THE PAST 4 MONTHS, I HAVE ONLY PERSONALLY KNOWN ONE PERSON WHO HAS ACTUALLY TESTED POSITIVE AND UNFORTUNATELY IT WAS OUR OWN COMPANY COMMANDER, DOUG NOLEN. HE SPENT A FEW DAYS IN THE HOSPITAL AND RECOVERED WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A VENT, BUT WAS A SCARY FEW DAYS FOR HIM AND TIFFANY.

Update on others. Myself, Cantrell and Bowman have recovered from surgeries and broken bones. Beattie Bailey is out and about again. Just received word that Sgt Spalding was in an auto accident and broke his leg. Steve Thompson checked in, he just went through hip replacement and said when this one heals; he'll be getting the other one done. Sad news on my grandson, Austan. They arrived in Hawaii and were immediately quarantined for 14 days. After that, he had just started in processing when one evening he suffered a seizure and was rushed to the hospital where they found a large tumor on his brain. 8-hour surgery, a month recovery and he was back home on a compassionate re-assignment. He will be undergoing radiation and chemo in the next few weeks. Sadly, his Army days are numbered.

I was able to hold the Mid-Indiana SF/Ranger Breakfast in June and July. June was held at Bob Evans in Kokomo. We had 14 Rangers and 3 family members present. Several LRS, one N Company Ranger and myself, Bowman and VanArsdale represented A Company. We also had the President of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Association. His daughter lives in Kokomo and he saw the posting on Facebook. Then in July we met at the Dutch Café in Peru, IN. Its about 10 miles north of Kokomo and had a better set up for a large group. Unfortunately, we only had four show up. But as Dan Becker, 3<sup>rd</sup> Batt Ranger was coming in he noticed a man entering the restaurant with a 1<sup>st</sup> Bn hat on. He asked him if he was there for the breakfast. The man replied no, he was just passing through and was not aware, but was happy to join us. Turns out he was US Congressman Brian Mast from Florida. He was an EOD specialist and lost both legs and a finger



*This picture of Ralph the Rattlesnake was taken at a full division level parade of the 1st Cavalry Division in 1974. Notice the black tape on Ralph's head!*

from an IED. He had his family with him and was headed back to Florida after vacationing in Michigan. If you want to check it out on Facebook, go to Ranger/SF Breakfast Perpetuating the Ranger Legacy. Look for a breakfast in your neighborhood. Mike Theisen has attended a couple of times in Minnesota. The Indiana group met on August 8<sup>th</sup> with myself, Dan Becker and Ed Pemberton, B 3/75 in attendance.

From Ed Thurman: Ranger Rattlesnake Guidon. One of the more interesting occurrences in the Ranger Company was the participation of our mascot, Ralph the Rattlesnake, in a Division-level formation on the Division Parade Field. The Belton Rattlesnake Rodeo was just a few miles away and as a result several of our Rangers were pretty handy with rattlesnakes. In fact, they trained Ralph with a coat hanger to the point that we could pick him up without holding his head. It appeared that Ranger Ralph even enjoyed being handled on occasion.

Given an opportunity, Rangers will always find or manufacture an occasion to exploit it. Within a very short period of time such an opportunity arose in the form of a Division-level formation that included a full pass in review by the Division Commander and an honored guest. The day of the parade was a particularly beautiful one in 1974. The sun was bright; the sky was blue, and the temperature fairly warm. Clearly, the Big Ranger put all of these conditions in place to facilitate a Ranger adventure—or so our Rangers concluded.

Just prior to our formation, the First Sergeant prepared Ranger Ralph to participate in the ceremony. As a precaution, Ralph had black vinyl electrical tape wrapped around his mouth to ensure he couldn't bite anyone. He was then secured to the

guidon with a white piece of cotton rope meant to preclude his escape and yet make his ride comfortable.

Without further delay, the Company fell into formation and we were headed to the Division parade field. Upon arriving at the parade field, we found that we were positioned at the far end of a line of larger units. This was appropriate in that we were a separate company, while the other units were full battalion and brigade-sized formations. *Continued on the next page*



We marched up to the ready line and on command moved forward to our final position. With that, we went to parade rest while Ranger Ralph perused the whole situation—which most likely was questionable at best in his mind. Soon the Division band began to play and General Shoemaker and the other dignitary moved forward and mounted a specially equipped jeep to conduct a review of the Division. The jeep on which they were riding was specially equipped with a steel bar that General Shoemaker and the dignitary held on to as they stood in the back of the vehicle. This allowed them to salute each formation as they passed it—giving each formation an opportunity to formally acknowledge the reviewing party. As the jeep passed each unit, the aforementioned salute exchange occurred. At this time, the reviewing party looked to their left and simultaneously saluted the Commander of the unit they were passing. Once past each unit, the reviewing party faced back to the front and replaced their hands on the steel bar to prepare for the next unit. The movements were impressive and military to the finest detail.

We were in formation and could see the reviewing party approach from our right flank. Our Company Commander called us to “Attention” and subsequently to “Present Arms” as the reviewing party passed by. I clearly recall both dignitaries whipping a crisp salute and then returning to their forward-looking position as they passed to our front. However, they suddenly and simultaneously whipped back around to check to see if their eyes were playing tricks on them. Had they really seen a rattlesnake tied to a guidon? With both mouths agape, they confirmed their suspicions and then looked at each other in disbelief, but with emerging smiles. What will the Rangers think of next? We did get a follow-on call from the Division staff—they weren’t as amused as we were...Pictures on page 26.

From Jim Savell: In late '60s, I was assigned to 6th Special Forces Group. This was during the period that you came stateside waiting to go back to Nam. Pine cone policing etc. was average. Where the All-American freeway, on smoke bomb hill, is now... Gabriel Demonstration Area was then. It was in the start of John Wayne's movie "Green Berets". There was a small cadre that maintained it. There were different types & sizes of demonstrations & units were tasked to send role players as needed. We would be tasked to report & get a briefing on our job & when needed. I usually dressed up in a plaid shirt, jeans & was a guerrilla soldier. I was tasked to fry sliced potatoes on a 5-gallon metal can (hobo stove). When the show began there would be groups coming down the trail to "ooh & aah". Now to my story because the statute of limitation is up. There was an area that had animals & snakes. This is where the sheds with equip & command center was located. There was a big cement pit they kept the snakes in for "show & tell". Scuttlebutt was, teams were sent out to rattlesnake roundups to keep pit stocked with snakes. A few of us were there & left unattended. We were looking in the pit & one of the biggest rattlers was in there. The cadre was really proud to show off this monster. One guy picked up a long pole & tried to mess with the snake. Being the “expert”, I was, I explained the snake wouldn't hit the

pole.....however.....snakes will strike at heat. During this period real men carried cigarette lighters. Holding court, I heated the pole & then poked at the snake. Yeap...he struck....uh....one problem. He grazed the concrete wall & dislocated his jaw. Immediately we're deassed the AO. We came back later & the cadre were looking at this huge snake with a busted up face. They were very disappointed. & never were the wiser. The International Long Range Recon Patrol School (ILRRPS). Situated in Weingarten, Germany (Southern Germany) near the Bodensee. Barracks on old German Kaserne where Rommel had been a Lt. It wasn't a NATO school but had many countries involved. Had the patrolling section that was run by the British SAS. They had about a dozen there. The other section was Warsaw Pact order of battle & equip recognition mainly run by Belgium's. 10th SFG Bad Tolz was tasked one instructor. 1980 got hurt skiing and was sent to the school as the U S commitment. Wound up staying there TDY for 2 1/2 years. It was 123 miles from Bad Tolz so I did pay jumps as I could. The 200th Falschenspringer unit was in the village. Across into Switzerland, if on active duty, I could jump with the Swiss. On the Bodensee was a French para Bde. I taught Order of battle/recognition. A normal class was a dozen or so from 8-10 different countries. I moved my family there & my children went to the local German school. SAVELL

From Chauntel Bland, Benjamin Bland's son: Military Services were held at 2pm on July 27<sup>th</sup> at Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown PA. Ranger Bland passed away on March 29, 2020. He served in the Army from 1964-1991 retiring with the rank of SFC. During this time, he spent time in Germany, Ft Campbell, Ft Hood, Korea and Ft Benning. He also spent 48 months in Viet Nam. He served with several Airborne Units and A Co 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers, as a Drill Instructor and as a Black Hat Instructor at Jump School. His Awards and Decorations include: CIB, Master Parachute, Ranger Tab, Viet Nam Service Ribbon, Bronze Star, Air Medal and many others. After the military he served as President, Senior Ushers Ministry and President Transportation Ministry at Providence Inspirational Baptist Church in Baltimore MD. He also retired after 21 years with the Postal Service and was a Lifetime member of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> (Horse) Cavalry of the Buffalo Soldiers. Benjamin leaves behind a son, Chauntel and a Daughter, Monica.

That's all for this month. Check on those you have not heard from to make sure all is OK. In these times, things tend to happen too quick. As always, need more stories. RLTW

Stan



## 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!

I hope this finds all of you criminals safe and healthy.

Take care to exercise whatever necessary public-health precautions you need to use to keep yourselves from having to visit the Big Ranger prematurely!

### DIRTY EDDIE

So... Dirty Eddie (White) did surface...

You can say "hey" to Dirt in the B75/VII Corps Group on Facebook, or at his Facebook profile at : Dirty Eddie:

<https://www.facebook.com/Rangerdirt>

Edward White says: John Henry is what we called him. He was in B/75 and C Company, 1/75. He was in S3 in B Company and he was my Platoon Sergeant in Charlie Company. He was a great mentor to me and all the guys in our platoon. One of the best soldiers I ever served with. Thanks for sharing this information. Cheers, Ed White or Dirty Eddie.



John Henry-RVN



**"HURRICANE" PHILLIPS:** Greg & Min Jeong Phillips made it through the (most recent) hurricane, with a little overflow from the not-emptied-enough pool!

### MIKE MOSER:

27 July: Mike Moser has busted Bonnie out of the Nursing Home!

Moser: So look whom we BUSTED out of the Nursing Home. Bonnie is back home for good. She did her tour of duty!!

### IMPROMPTU REUNION

Mike Moser traveled to The El Rancho Dead Armadillo in Tow, Texas in June to meet with a bunch of other thugs and criminals

Esteemed Rangers. In attendance (among others) were: Moser, Jim Broyles, Herbie Baugh, Marty Patterson, and Jim Baggett. I did not steal any of the Facebook photos of the meeting and insert them here because I am trying to make the cutoff for information for the VII Corps Reunion, and because we did not post any information for them in the last issue.

### ARMY OFFICIAL LRRP INFORMATION

There is an official US Army history of LRRP units available online for free download (in PDF format). Approximately 180 pages.

Title: Eyes Behind the Lines: US Army Long-Range Reconnaissance and Surveillance Unit

Major James F. Gebhardt, US Army (Retired)

Combat Studies Institute Press Fort Leavenworth, Kansas

[https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a446131.pdf?fbclid=IwAR17mN8TUsCQgu4yVSZQ64GZwvCifiFAAzdhh\\_7r5F9KxzxnDEdOoguhVg](https://apps.dtic.mil/dtic/tr/fulltext/u2/a446131.pdf?fbclid=IwAR17mN8TUsCQgu4yVSZQ64GZwvCifiFAAzdhh_7r5F9KxzxnDEdOoguhVg)

(Just a thought: The best way to access this link may be to go on the website, find the electronic version of this issue, and click on the link (rather than having to type it all in).

Until next time...

Respectfully,

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

## VII CORPS LRRP REUNION

This year's LRRP reunion (2020) is in Fayetteville NC Veterans' Day week (Nov 9-12). I Say Again: Our 2020 LRRP muster is at Fayetteville NC (Ft Bragg) Nov 9-12, 2020.

## CORRESPONDENCE (in ascending chronological order):

From: Foster: 16 May.

Greetings All.

Foster here. Just got out of hospital after 3 days of CVirus tests. All negative. My Doc there is wife of Joe Callahan. He and his Father are lifer SFers and well acquainted with CSM DLC.

From: Foster: 2 August, 2020.

Good Sunday afternoon LRRPs. I hope all are present and accounted for in good health, Coronavirus notwithstanding.

It seems that today everyone working for the public or private good these days is a hero: the police, firemen, nurses, doctors, hospital employees, grocery workers, etc., all "essential" people, pizza deliverers, ad nauseum. One is NOT a hero for simply having done one's job. Few are as familiar with DUTY as those of us who served honorably. Those workers above made what they do their job, i.e., duty. You don't become a hero for simply doing your duty; to be a hero is to go ABOVE AND BEYOND your duty or job! I resent these mental morons who carelessly throw around praise that is not only unwarranted, but also hackneyed. It denigrates all who truly deserve the hallowed title. Enuff jawboning by me; thanks for listening.

## REUNION

Back to the LRRPs business! Several of you are wondering whether or not there will be a reunion muster in November. I've talked with the hotel and the restaurant and so far they are as much in the dark as we are. Having said that, we are planning to go ahead with our Veterans' Day week (11/9-12) muster in Fayetteville. If something comes up from the NC politicians to affect our plans, I'll get back to you ASAP. Just in case, how does West Virginia sound? Just asking....

Heads up! I intend to order tee shirts for our reunion. This is a nonprofit deal. Buy if you want, go leg and don't. The front will be emblazoned with the wings of the AIRBORNE with LRRP covering the canopy. The back will be the same as last year's --- The battlefield cross and the names of those whose only reason for not reuniting with us this year is because they gave the last full measure of devotion to God and country in Vietnam. They will continue to live within us. They may or may not be heroes, but they surly did their DUTY! Incidentally, Toby Ivey is the only LRRP who has ordered his shirt. Sam Storey has promised a good deal from one of his admirers in Oneida TN.

Just received two calls: Sam found us a deal on tee shirts that are a good modification of our last Tribute tees. We would like your input if you're interested as to short or long- sleeves and sizes. Long sleeves are \$2 extra, as are XXL and XXXLs. (I'll add attachments).

## Reunion T-Shirts

Front



Back



The last person I've gotten a response from is Tom Lake of Cadiz KY if C-19 doesn't sideline his rear. You guys are part of the unprotected class, so continue to eat your Wheaties and broccoli, stop smoking, exercise daily, and stay away from the classless and disrespectful young hooligans. Also heard positively from Ivey, Mathiack, Storey, Vanasse, Evaro, Touchon, Morales, Chetwynd, Gibson, THE Sgt. Major Clark, Kauffman, Fee, Kennedy, and God Knows Who Else, (Fat Back?). The only good thing about C-19 is that some legs with whom Toby is associated, cancelled his trip to Israel, so he won't forsake us at the upcoming muster. I heard from Whup Ass Yarborough the other day. One day after his PAD surgery, he was feeling great and having a beer with his K-9 pal, Brutus. Ya know, Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD), is some dangerous shit! Basically, it involves blood clots in the legs that travel back up to the heart or brain, killing a fellow. It can be avoided for the most part by not sitting for long periods of time. So if you're prone to sit and drink a few too many beers, watch too much TV or just simply sit on your ass too much, get off your ass and walk around the house, vacuum the floor, re-make your bed, walk the dog or wife or wander around. It ain't that hard! Always remember - you're AIRBORNE! Now, "Fall Out". I'm getting off track ("Crank harder Foster, we're losing signal!").

## TAPS: FREDDIE BAILEY:

On a more somber note, I attended Freddie Bailey's Memorial Service in New Smyrna Beach, FL last Sunday (28 June). It was a small affair with mostly family members speaking to their love for a man who gave so much to family and country; 21 years and three tours of duty in Vietnam. He will be remembered for a long time after his death in March by both his family, LRRP Brothers, and those in the Phantom Force (LRRP) of the 3rd Brigade, 327th Airborne Infantry, 101st Airborne Division, who went through so much with him. Notably among those who attended was one of those Phantoms Warriors and one of our Brothers, Ed Dufrene. It was great to meet Ed, because before that he was only a name on our membership rolls to me. Our condolences were given to his wife Sandra and many of his family members. Rest in Peace SFC Bailey. I only regret that the 75th Ranger Regiment Association failed to recognize and accept the

*Continued on the next page*



the Phantom Force as worthy members of the Association. Freddie felt the same way when he attended his first and subsequently, his last reunion at Fort Benning several years ago.

### SICK CALL

So far, everyone who matters seems to be doing okay; no worse, but no better either. The main complaints seem to be sore shoulders and knees, heart stuff, and other miscellaneous aches and pains. Well guys, that's about it for now. Pray for Kennedy up in Washington, with all the nonsense going on out there and now murderous bees, he'll need our prayers! As usual, I'll proof this, but don't hold me accountable for anything herein, except my rambling states of the union.

**"WHUP ASS" YARBOROUGH:** Still waiting to hear from "Whup Ass". The SF association canceled their meeting in Florida's pan-handle for which he reserved rooms. He and I might go fishin' or drink a brew or two if his doc says he can travel with his bum leg. We'll see. If he makes it, y'all are free to come (I think). Old "Whup Ass" Yarborough is still dealing with leg circulation issues, but seems to be improving for now. Yarborough contact numbers are: CONTACT UNIT DIRECTORS.

**JIM JACKSON:** I spoke with Jim Jackson a while back. He's still fighting back the effects of his stroke, but dammit, he knows not the meaning of quit. He won't be at the reunion because he can't drive, but he'll be with us in spirit. I've never seen one man who came back from a stroke as well as Jim did. Just got a call from Jim Jackson. He's doing fairly well except for falling more than usual. However, he's on the path of trying to recover his overall balance issues. He won't be able to attend our meeting for a variety of health problems he and Genny are having. Take a lesson from him, guys; take care of yourself now, or later. If you don't do it now you may not have to do it later. See your doctor regularly. From Poor Richard, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

### A BLAST FROM THE PAST:

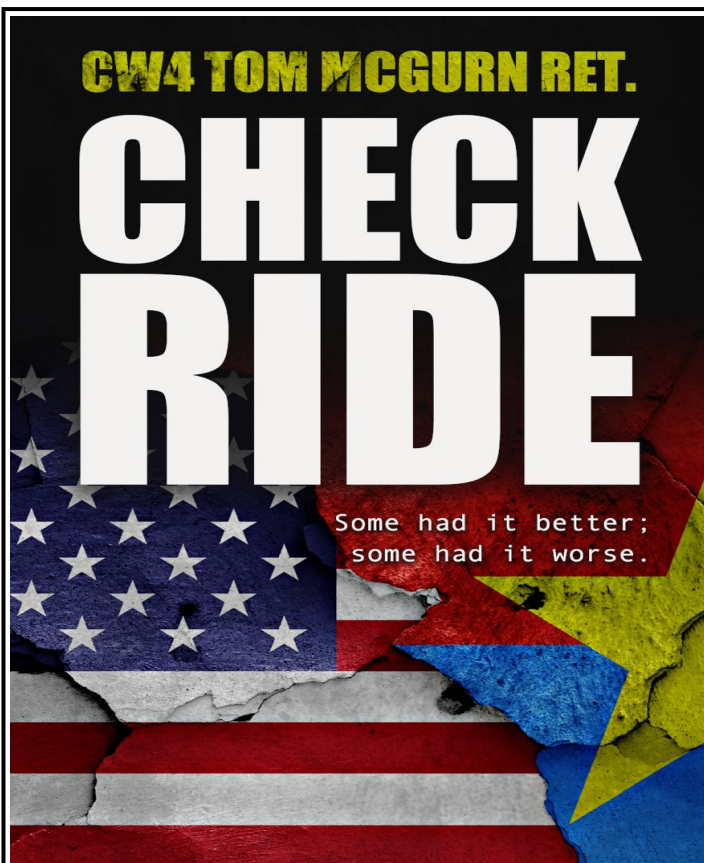
Frank Saentz and Gene Kauffman chuted up in Germany.



Adios mi Hermanos, til manjuana. Be Strong!

Pfc (E-10) El Guapo Foster, Presidente and Head Crankero

United States Army Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Assoc (Airborne)



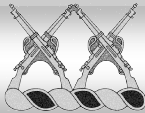
**Check Ride** is the raw, true story of one Army Aviator's time in Vietnam from 1969-1970. While Tom McGurn was only one young pilot, thousands shared his experiences in the Army. In **Check Ride**, he recounts previously undisclosed details of flight missions, giving the reader a taste of the every day flavor of life during those times. From Ranger insertions/extractions to ship-borne 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 2021 Rendezvous 75th RRA Banquet







## C/75 - E/20 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOE HAYES

I was planning to go down to Tower Hill, Ill. to see Jimmy (Warhorse) Purdue July 26<sup>th</sup>, but thought it best to sit tight for a while longer and see what happens with this virus problem. But, I did call him and he's doing ok. He's working on his Vietnam memoirs and I'd like to read the book when he gets it published.

I also talked to Lonnie Dolan. She's doing great at ninety-six. She's living in South Carolina just a little south of Charlotte, NC. Lonnie says Gary's doing a fine job of looking after her, and passes on her best to all of you.

As for Donna and I – well, we postponed a trip down to Virginia Beach. Donna is retiring August 7<sup>th</sup> and it would have been nice to go, but that trip can wait. The beach will still be there when we get ready to go. The best part of the ride is driving through the mountains of West Virginia and Virginia. It's some of the most beautiful country I have seen.

I remember going down to Loyd Robinson's bridge dedication back in June 2011. Bones, Doc Gove, Big O, Luke Bolton and I were there representing Charlie Rangers. Gordon Hockman was there from Co. C 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion, along with a lot of state and local dignitaries. It was quite an event. Bones wrote about it in one of the back issues. After the ceremony, Big O and Doc got into a conversation with a state representative. I remember Doc making the comment that if you didn't know that you were in West Virginia, you could swear that you were in the central highlands of Vietnam. The terrain was very similar. And both the Vietnamese central highlands and Stonewall Jackson State Park in West Virginia were very beautiful scenic landscapes.

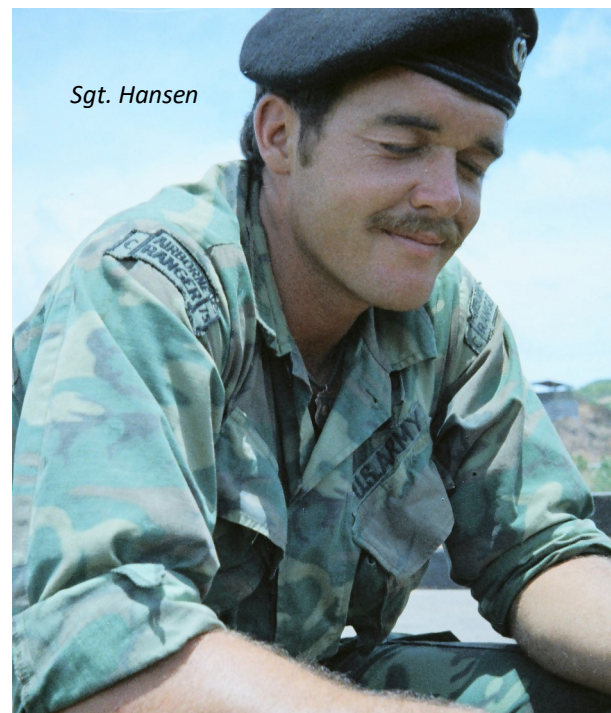
A long time ago, probably more than a couple of decades ago, someone asked me if I would ever like to go back to Vietnam to see what it looked like after the war. Without reflecting on the question I said no. I don't remember being asked why not. My answer would have been that there was so much of the United States that I had not seen including my own state of Michigan. Besides, I was raising a family and surely didn't have any extra cash for an excursion or sightseeing tour of Vietnam. I remember Jim Worth writing an article about going back to Vietnam some years ago. I thought, after reading the article that it might be nice to go back some day. When I think about the question now, I ask myself, if I did go back to Vietnam, outside of the historic and cultural sites to see, why else would I return. I took pictures of everything from G.I.'s to rice paddies, to locals, to Cobra gunships, etc. I guess it would be interesting to try to match some of the photos with what it looks like now. I'm sure that I wouldn't recognize now much of what I took pictures of fifty years ago. Most of my memories are those pictures. Every G.I. who served in Vietnam has memories – the good, the bad, and the ugly. I wouldn't want to travel ten thousand miles chasing a memory



that I couldn't find. However, I do have some fond memories of Vietnam.

One of these memories was of a supply run from An Khe to Pleiku and back to An Khe in late May or early June 1971. If I remember correctly, SFC Voyles drove the deuce and a half, Doc Gove rode shotgun. Sgt (Pappy) Hansen, Ron Fortier, Bob Webster, and I rode in the back of the truck. The cab and cargo areas were uncovered and I got a lot of great pictures. One was a good photo of Sgt. Hansen. As we were going through the Mang Yang Pass, there happened to be a buzzard gliding out over the valley. Those are pretty big birds and from the truck it looked about the size of a large hand. Fortier said that he could shoot the bird out of the sky. I'm going to say that it was between a three to four hundred

foot shot, at a flying bird, from a moving truck. Hansen said, "I'll bet you can't." I don't remember how much the bet was but Ron coaxed Hansen to giving him three shots. He missed all three. Then Hansen took the M 16 and fired once. He missed. The buzzard was still soaring in circles. Hansen took a little more time aiming, and fired. The bird dropped from the sky into the valley. Pappy gave Fortier his gun back and sat down with a little smirk on his face. That's when I took the picture. Hansen could get a little hyper but he was a good guy. I considered myself lucky to have been able to take that day trip. The landscape through the pass was truly beautiful and I got to see the influence of the French in some of the buildings that we passed along the way.



Sgt. Hansen

*Continued on the next page*



*Mag Yang Pass**Vietnamese Kids*

One picture that I took on the way was of five little kids for no other reason that they were cute kids. As a side note, I was going through some of my Dad's WWII pictures, and there was one of a little French girl standing next to a building that his unit passed on their way to Germany. She smiled for the G.I.'s camera. I guess the G.I. likes to take pictures of smiling kids. And, most kids like to smile.

There was one person though, that I would like to see again if I ever went back to Vietnam. Her name was Aimee (picture included). I don't know if that is how she spelled it. She reminded me of my sister Annie because like my sister, Aimee was always joking around. So, I called her Annie, and, Aimee would say either "What you call me?" or "Why you call me?" It was one or the other. But she was easy to laugh and smile, and of all of our hooch maids, I liked her best.

*Aimee*

Sure there are reasons to go back to Vietnam; not that I will ever see those kids or Aimee again. I'll never know what happened to them, or dozens of others who I thought were very kind to us. I'm sure that if I went back I would be treated just as graciously. There would be new generations of laughing kids and smiling young ladies wearing their no'n la' conical hats to take more pictures of - new memories. Sometimes when I look at the old pictures I think that it would be hard to imagine that I was ever in Vietnam if I didn't have them to look at. But it is good to remember.

So Pappy, if you're still alive and reading this, let's go back there and find somebody with a deuce and a half and an M 16. Let's take a ride through the Pass again and find another buzzard circling over the valley and see if you can still make that shot. I sure wouldn't bet against you...On second thought, maybe it's best to let ol' sleeping memories lie.

See you in November Joe Hayes

# D/151st/LRP/LRS

Unit Director Bob McIntire

We were just getting situated over the Hugh-ey's skid in the last episode. If I don't have it now it's too late. I have everything I can carry, but if I am sitting on the ground, I need another team member to help me to my feet. My ruck is somewhere around 180 to 200 pounds. I have enough stuff to last for five days and one contact. Everything I have with me is packed in order of my need for it. That is if everything goes the way I have it planned (yeah right). It never happens that way, but somethings in life must stay fluid, "Charles" is one of those, so I have to anticipate and be as fluid as I can be so I can surprise him in his own back yard. I need to clear up something here, the "I" I speak of here is not me alone it is Team 2-1. As Coach Wooden used to say, "It takes ten hands to make a basket". In this career choice it takes five to six extremely well, trained soldiers to succeed in a contact. Every time team 2-1 makes a trip like this it's like having to win the State Finals on another team's floor.

Be that as it may, our slick is building rpm and we can feel it getting lighter. It starts moving forward across our helicopter pad and the tail boom starts lifting as our forward speed increases. At a certain speed our pilots begin to pull pitch and our slick is over our compound and headed for a destination somewhere in our field of operation. The trip is beautiful, but no matter how long we are in the air it is never long enough. We're usually in a covey of three slick, the other two may or may not have teams on them. Our pilots are in complete control of our destinies during this time. I don't see our cobras but I am certain they are lurking somewhere close. Our C & C Helicopter has already arrived wherever it is we are going and Major Heckman is waiting for the ball games to start. We may be the first or the second or the third team to be dropped off as one slick drops out of formation to seep across an LZ and then joins back in formation without a pause. That is how it's done to confuse Charlie into not being certain which clearing has the uninvited guests. That's what team 2-1 is hoping at least. We are hoping Charlie is not where the pilot tells us to get out.

The pilot, all too soon motions for us to get ready. He may hold up one or two fingers to indicate we are that many minutes out. Those are the shortest minutes we will endure during this trip. Our M-16 are charged, our M-60 is at the ready, we are standing on the skids as our helicopter drops down into one end of a clearing in the jungle. We are zooming across the field only inches above the grass at about 70 knots maybe and while it is



too fast, it is not nearly fast enough. The pilots pull pitch and for an instant we are slow enough and we know it is time to off load. In an instant we are all on the ground and running as fast as we can for the closest cover and concealment we can get to. Our slick is long gone, above the jungle canopy and back in formation with his buddies. Team 2-1 is inserted into enemy territory and nothing moves and there is no sound. We are doing our best to slow our breathing so we will be able to hear a mouse fart 100 yards away. We called that laying dog, as a dog lay perfectly still and still alert to its surrounding. The location

is close to the LZ, but hidden back in the jungle. The team leader has picked the spot with consideration that the whole team can be concealed very close together. This is a very critical time. Let me repeat that, this is a very critical time. We lay dog for just a few minutes or for much longer. Our team leader makes the decision to move and in which direction depending on what he hears, sees and smells. More likely than not there is a little or a lot of intuition and instinct mixed in. He must decide how to keep us alive and how to accomplish the mission we are on. We are each responsible for ourselves and yet we are each responsible for the other four or five team members, but as the saying goes, ultimately the team leader signs the check at the end of the mission.

The team leader informs the point man to move out. He may do this with a touch, a nod, a wink, a silent lip movement or a finger point indicating the direction he wants us to go in. It can be as little as a mental indicator because our point man is expecting it and is ready for it. He has devoted 100 % of his attention to the team's surroundings deciding on the next several inches he will move in what ever direction the TL indicates, he is also devoting 100 % of his attention to the TL so as not to miss any action the TL wants him to take. You



*An Easy Day at the "Office"*

ask your self how can he give 100 percent of his attention to one thing and still give 100 percent of his attention to something else. All I can say is if five of your very best friends are dependent on you doing that, then through time, practice and experience you learn how to do it and might I add you learn to do it perfectly without error. If you notice how close we are if you are in our company this responsibility is one of the reasons. I say one of the reasons because there are several. That is why it can't be explained to someone who has not lived in that position.

*Continued on the next page*



Anyway, all has been quiet for a period of time and the TL has let the Point Man move out. Nothing else needs to be indicated. The team moves as one without being directed. We all know our place in line and more than likely were in order after leaving our Annie Fanny slick. We were probably laying dog in that position. In fact, if we were all in a bar, we would be seated in roughly that same order.

We are moving on all fours quietly, slowly watching the placement of the hand and knee placement of the man to our front and indicating to the man behind us of any hazard we are passing. We are close together, but at a distance. We are aware of everything around us. We are looking for any indication that Charlie was ever where we are. We are not on a trail but far off of anything that might be considered a trail. We

may progress only a few dozen yards before we stop to re-evaluate. How we travel depends on a certain extent on how far it is to our objective. If we have a greater distance to travel we may take to a trail and stand up. Our Point man loves this as his eyes and ears are becoming even more important than they were before. Our Trail Man becomes significantly more important now because he must make sure we have left nothing behind that might indicate to Charlie that we have been there.

I am not trying to indicate that I, as team 2-1's RTO have not been busy. When we were first laying dog I had contacted our aloft (our radio relay plane that is always above us) to let him know we were OK and presumed alone, if we were not I would have explained our circumstances in great detail. When we got ready to move, I contacted Aloft again to tell him we were preparing to move and in what direction our (azimuth) we were heading in. In fact, I would be talking to Aloft all the time, if not verbally, with squelches (keying the microphone for a second a certain number of times indicating a code he would understand). Aloft has a map indicating exactly where each team is that he relaying for is located. He then shares that information with our TOC. Now I know to do that, and to keep my own map updated. The TL has his map that he keeps updated and he knows that I am keeping in communication with Aloft without having to tell me because that is one of my responsibilities. The TL only communicates with the RTO for things out of the ordinary. He knows that if the TOC, Aloft or C&C has information for him or of importance for the whole team that I will keep him a step ahead of all that is going on, but will not bother him with things that he already expects of his RTO. Another thing that I am responsible for is to make sure the man behind me is keeping up and is not having any other problems that might affect the successful completion of our operation. In team 2-1 the M-

60 is usually behind me and in front of Trail. What for us makes the difference between a five or six man team is the presence of a Kit Carson Scout (Chu Hoy). In which case the Scout would take the point and the whole team would move back one position. When we set up for an ambush the TL may decide different positions for us according to the logistics and circumstances then.

We will normally continue to move until we reach our objective. The team TL will then usually move up to the Point and leave the rest of the team behind. The TL and the Point Man will check the objective. Up to this time it has only been a dot on a map or a view of the jungle canopy 1000 feet below C&C. Now he needs to see exactly what the lay of the land is. Is this in fact a good area for our ambush or should he move the

team to a better location or even a second objective that might be more fruitful (more likely for team 2-1 to get a body count) so we can go back to Atterbury East (our "oasis" in the middle of war torn South East Asia)?



*Red, black, brown, white, yellow – only thing that matters is bad to the bone!*

I am calling this the close of installment 2. We are on the ground and have reached our primary objective. Will the TL like what he sees and have us set up or will he decide to move the team to another second objective that might have a more target rich environment?



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROBERT HERNANDEZ

Howard Munn is busy making preparations for the 2021 reunion in Mobile, Alabama. The dates for the reunion will be Monday October 4, 2021 through Saturday October 9. Due to the cancellation of the Branson LRRP Rally and our mini reunion we expect a great turn out for this event. I would like to encourage you all to invite your family members and friends to join us in Mobile.

One special event will be a visit to the USS Alabama planned for Saturday, October 9th. During WW11, the Alabama was deployed to the Pacific for operations against Japan. She served primarily as an escort to protect aircraft carriers from surface and air attacks. In early 1945 she took part in the battle of Okinawa. After the war she assisted in operation Magic Carpet, bringing home some 700 men from the war zone. She was decommissioned in 1947.

After a tour of the ship we have been given special permission to hold our memorial service on the deck of the battleship under the "big guns" weather permitting. If weather does not permit we will hold the ceremony below deck.

The city of Mobile has opened their doors for E company and Howard is planning to visit the local restaurants, museums and tour businesses, to obtain coupons and information for reduced rates. More information will be coming as we get closer to the reunion.

The following message updates us on a couple of interesting projects related to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Angle fire, New Mexico. The message below is from Mr. Chuck Howe, Board president, David Westphall Veterans Foundation is self-explanatory.

Insomuch as two of our members (Doug McCallum and Poncho) have participated significantly in the development of the Memorial and many of us have visited the Memorial over the years, I think it important that we keep its development close to our hearts.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Angle Fire, NM is the Nation's first memorial to recognize veterans of the Vietnam War.  
July 10, 2020

A short newsletter to get everyone up to speed:

We regret to inform you that as the result of health issues our Gift Shop manager, Gayle is no longer able to live at this altitude and is moving to a lower altitude. We have hired Rhonda Gilbreath as the Gift Shop manager. She will be able to serve you.



As a result of COVID 19 the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor's Center remains closed to the public. The grounds and chapel are open seven days a week.

With the uncertainty as to how long the COVID 19 will require social distancing and small groups and the amount of prior planning required, Run for the Wall has canceled the September 5, 2020 bricklaying. Bricklaying has been scheduled for September 4, 2021. We will continue to take orders for bricks to be laid in 2021. We apologize for the inconvenience that we know this causes and wish we could have stayed on schedule.

We hope to have Dr. Steven Trout author of WAR, REMEMBRANCE AND AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY speak during Memorial Day 2021.

The film, ON THIS HALLOWED GROUND: Vietnam Memorial Born From Tragedy has been showing on New Mexico PBS. We are working on getting it shown on national PBS.

If you would like a copy of the video or book call Rhonda and Leanne at 575 377 6900 or go to the website at [www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org](http://www.vietnamveteransmemorial.org) for information or to order items. They are in the office from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday.

Construction of the Angle fire State Rural Veterans's cemetery will be completed in the next few days. We are awaiting notification of the opening date.

Please stay safe and do what you can to help a vet and their families.

Chuck Howe-DWVF-Board President

The recent protests and unrest in the country brings back memories of the protests during the Vietnam War. From 1964 until the U.S. withdrew from South Vietnam there was a growing anti-war movement that weakened the moral of the troops fighting there.

Staff Sargent Elbert Walden served in E company in 1967 while about the same time his brother Staff Sargent Robert Walden, was with the U.S. Marines at Da Nang. While at Bearcat Elbert wrote part of a poem and sent it to his brother, at Da Nang so he could add his thoughts. They were the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Walden, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Their poem fits their reactions to the protest being voiced across the country:

*Continued on the next page*

## TO THE PROTESTERS

As I stand here today at this outpost  
 The one we call freedoms frontier  
 I think of my wife and child  
 And the ones I love so dear

I think of those days that lie a head  
 And my family so far apart  
 I think of the things we used to do  
 And it causes a hurt in my heart

My mind goes back to another time  
 And I think of another land  
 And then my mind returns to now  
 And the job we've got on hand

There are those back in the States  
 That hate our presence here  
 They hate the war and all the things  
 That most of us hold dear

They walk the streets and hold up signs  
 And damn our presence here  
 But when the guns begin to shoot  
 It's protesters to the rear

We're not a bunch of heroes  
 Just ordinary men  
 Stand up to meet the foe  
 of old Ho Chi Minh

And if some day we're bombed in war  
 And their sons are called to go  
 They'll look the other way and say  
 "Son, I didn't know

" I didn't know the Reds would come  
 and hit our mother land  
 I didn't know you'd have to die  
 In California sand "

They won't say they marched the streets  
 And held up protest signs  
 They'll try to think of some way else  
 To hide behind the blinds

They can't say they fought in war  
 To keep the Reds in place  
 They just say they did their best  
 to slow down freedom's pace

Their son's will go and some will die  
 to keep their father free  
 What an awful thought to bear  
 I'm glad it won't be me

If we have another war  
 And I'm too old to go  
 I guess my sons will pack their bags  
 And carry on the show

But I can look them in the eye  
 And never turn aside  
 And I can pat them on the back  
 And try to hide my pride

And in the final moments  
 With a heartache deep inside  
 I can say to both my boys  
 "Son, I really tried."

Memories of our war time experience are important and should never go unappreciated for the sacrifices we made for our country. This past Memorial Day I reached out to our unit chaplain Dave Stone for his thoughts about the Memorial Day holiday but I failed to submit them on time for publication so I would like to share his thoughts with you now:

Memories....We all have them. Some good - some not.

I remember being drafted September 1967, basic training at Fort Knox and my drill instructor, Sargent Downer. Yes Downer was his name. He was not a Nam vet, yet. The next time time I saw Sargent Downer was at the V.A. He suffered a head wound in Nam. The only thing he could do now was push the elevator buttons that you told him to. I will always remember Sargent Downer and that day.

I remember A.I.T., in Fort Gordon Georgia and Jump School at Fort Benning. On my first jump there was this little gray-haired colonel who told us, " Listen boys. We give you two chutes. If the first one doesn't work, use the second one. if that one doesn't work, bring them both back and we'll give you two new ones." I will always remember that day.

I remember the day I arrived in Vietnam, April 10, 1968. I knew the very moment my foot first touched the ground that I was going to come home alive. I will always remember that day.

There is always comfort in God's Holy Word, the Bible. Jeremiah 29:11 tells us, " For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Our memories grow as we get older. A memory we must never forget is the observance, understanding and respect of our national holiday called Memorial Day.

On the last Monday in May we honor and mourn the men and women who paid the ultimate price, while serving in our military. They gave their all so we can have the freedoms and liberties our country stands for. I remember learning about Memorial Day in elementary school, but are schools teaching students the significance and purpose of Memorial Day today? If not, how will they know?

I guess it's up to you and me. Tell them about your relatives, friends, and neighbors who have fought and died defending and protecting our country, precious freedoms and liberties.

Teach them Memorial Day traditions - like visiting cemeteries on Memorial Day and placing of our country's flag at the head of each soldiers grave.

Tell and teach them why we have the Memorial Day parades, community events, and television specials. Tell and teach them so they can one day pass these things on to their children, too. Challenge them to get online and look up Memorial Day, like I did. There is so much more to acknowledge about Memorial Day.

All of us knew someone who sacrificed their all. Maybe it was your grandfather, dad, mom, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, friend, or neighbor. All of them gave their life protecting our country, freedom, and liberties. The protected are those who have never served in our military.

While in Mac-V- Recondo School, I read a poem about the protected that someone had written on a wall. The words will always mean so much to me. It goes like this:

You never lived  
 'til you've almost died.  
 And for those who have fought for it  
 Live has a flavor  
 That the protected will never know

I will always remember that poem and that day.

*Continued on the next page*



This Memorial Day will be like no other. The Covid 19 virus has made life a little more challenging. But, we still must carry on. We will celebrate our fallen - no matter what. We will honor and also mourn them because we will always remember them for what they did and gave. It is what we do as Americans.

We have the greatest military in the world because we have the best men and women serving in it. So every year on the last Monday in May, we steadfastly lower our flag in honor of our country's true heroes and to observe and remember what they did for God, country, and the protected. I will always remember that day.

I pray for you and your families, our country and our leaders. May God bless you and keep you. May His Light shine upon you and give you peace.

David Stone (Stoney )  
Unit Chaplain  
Romans 5:8



BE SAFE

Bob Hernandez  
Unit Director  
E 75th Rangers



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN McGEE

Well here we are, by the time this article is published, probably in month number 7,8 or 9 of 'TWO weeks to flatten the curve'. To say that 2020 has been an interesting year would be an understatement.

Unfortunately due the Chinese Corona Virus we have had to cancel our unit's off year reunion in Las Vegas that was scheduled in late September. Hopefully we can all unmask by next July or August for the Ranger Rendezvous in 2021.

I must regretfully report that we lost another one of our brothers. Frank Dewitt a member of F Company in 1968-69 passed in April of this year due to complications from Covid 19. Our unit will purchase a memorial stone at the Ranger Memorial for Frank's family.

Last issue I asked all of the members of the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA to consider sending any old unit patches to support the Gary Sines Foundation's 'Snowball Express'. The response has been outstanding.

I want to personally thank

everyone who reached out to me and sent patches to support this worthy cause. Unfortunately I have to report that due to you know what, the 'Snowball Express' has been canceled for

2020. I have forwarded all the patches to the Patriot Guard Riders and the Daughters of the American Revolution in order that they may use them hopefully next year.

Lastly this has been a very trying year for all of us. Having lock downs, cancellations of vacations and reunion have added to everyone's frustration. The only thing I can say is that we all stay strong and drive on. Hopefully better days are on the Horizon.

John McGee





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



In this article, I intend to stay away from politics as much as possible. Our country is experiencing turbulent times at the present and there does not seem to be an end in sight. I have heard a number of people say that they have never seen our country this divided or this bad off and depending upon your age, that may be true. However, I was watching a history lesson on one of the educational cable channels recently and the truth is we have been much worse off several times in our history and this too will pass.

The Civil War began in 1861 when our population was approximately 31,000,000. For years, historians estimated deaths during the Civil War at a total of 618,222 or about 20% of the population and mostly the male population. More recent and touted to be more accurate numbers claim that number to be closer to 750,000. That does not take into account seriously disabled soldiers either physically or emotionally. The years of Reconstruction in the South added to the misery for many years after the war ended. Bad times for our country with probably no equal.

Our next bout with bad times came in the way of WWI. The United States military lost 116,516 soldiers during this war and our combat endeavor was less than 18 months. Most of the combat deaths took place in 1918 and about half of the US military deaths are attributed to the Spanish flu which killed a large portion of the world population. The flu was alleged to have started in Spain, thus becoming the Spanish flu but more recent studies indicate that the flu probably started in Kansas and was spread to the world by our soldiers deploying.

Also, an event in Kansas and much of the mid-west were the "Dust Bowl" storms which ruined farms, agriculture and livestock and the livelihood of thousands. The book, "Grapes of Wrath" comes to mind in understanding how devastating an event this was for our country.

In 1929, we suffered the Great Depression which ruined the world economy and put millions of people out of work and on the streets. Soup lines and later federal work programs assisted many in simply staying alive. Then came the horrors of WWII with millions killed either as the result of war or concentration camps. Statistically, Poland lost more lives per capita, but the Chinese lost untold numbers (500,000 in Nanking alone) at the hands of the Japanese. Russia suffered more than any of our allies during the war and that does not even account for those that Stalin had killed in his own country. The allied victories saved the world from the likes of Germany, Japan and Italy and it also restored our economy.

Not too many years after WWII, we ended up fighting North Korea and then there was the Cuban Missile Crisis seemingly taking us to the brink of nuclear war with Russia. Remember the drills



involving crawling under our desks? I imagine most of us remember the Vietnam war or at least a small piece of it. We escalated our involvement in Vietnam which we entered into during the 50's to assist the French as well as the South Vietnamese and in 1963 we arranged the assignation of President Diem which was followed 3 weeks later with the assignation of our own President. The 60's continued with the war, assassinations of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and presidential candidate Robert Kennedy. Protests, race riots, demonstrations, church burnings and turmoil were commonplace throughout the decade, and yet our country survived but not without costs.

On September 11, 2001 our country was attacked yet again and it changed the way we think, fly and handle internal security. A new Department called Homeland Security came in to being at the cost of trillions of tax dollars over the years. We have now been fighting in Afghanistan for 19 years and almost as long in Iraq; actions that are now referred to as the "forever wars."

Our continuing, unwanted change of the way we live, and work has been challenged by a pandemic which has altered everything we do. The impact of the COVID-19 virus is yet to be determined but certainly our grandchildren or great-grandchildren will be paying the price for this event for years to come.

So, you see, while our current turmoil involving riots, protest and calls to de-fund the police is distressing and unfortunate, it is simply one in yet another of many challenges our great nation has faced. Of course, this one is particularly distressing to us because it is happening now, today, as we watch the news each and every day. As a retired career law enforcement officer, I find the violence and lack of action by politicians in enforcing the "Rule of Law" disturbing. What I firmly believe is that this will also pass but not without pain and suffering. This chapter of our nation's history is difficult and challenging and though we will see changes and alternatives to how things are done, our nation will survive, and our Constitution will remain the rule of law.

It has been worse and history shows it will get better.

Just a few weeks ago, LTC (retired) Ted Mataxis Jr. (now EdD), the last commanding officer of "G" Company Rangers, sent me an article about an event in our history that I have not mentioned. Ted is a civilian working for the Center for Lessons Learned for SOCOM at Ft. Bragg (or whatever it may be called in the future). Ted is still a warhorse working and staying in the game. The article he sent specifically deals with veterans during a sad period in our nation's history. It is a good reminder to much worse in the past. Thanks to Ted for sharing this article on the next page.

*Continued on the next page*

Life in the military was not very professional between WWI and WWII. There were approximately 130,000 poorly trained and equipped soldiers, most working in offices, patrolling the Mexican border, or protecting US possessions overseas. Promotions were based solely on seniority and it took 22 years for a captain to be promoted. President Hoover said the troops would "put an end to rioting and defiance of civil authority".

MacArthur deployed to 6th and Pennsylvania linking up with Major Patton's 3rd Cavalry who were mounted with sabers drawn. Behind the Cavalry was a machine gun attachment, troops from the 12th and 13th Engineers, and 34th Infantry followed by 6 tanks. (\*5) At 4:30 twenty thousand workers poured out of the offices and onto the same streets. The Bonus marchers thought this was a parade for their benefit and started to cheer as did the workers coming out of the building.

Everyone was mortified as Patton's Cavalry turned and charged into the crowd. A Baltimore Sun reporter stated that troopers charged without the slightest warning. They rode into thousands of unoffending men, women, and children, striking them down indiscriminately. The Secretary of War's orders stated "every consideration of kindness should be shown to women and children". President Hoover's orders were for the Army to stop at the water's edge, and he sent these orders through multiple sources.

MacArthur mounted heavy machine guns on the bridge and led a column of infantry into the Anacostia camp, burning down the shelters, throwing tear gas, killing two babies, and causing over a hundred casualties. Patton led the last charge with sabers drawn routing the Veteran marchers.

One of the Veterans routed had received the Distinguished Service Cross in September of 1919 for saving the life of a young officer named George S. Patton. (\*6) The day after this attack a Washington Grand jury was told "It is reported that the mob guilty of actual violence included few ex-servicemen and was made up mainly of Communists and other disorderly elements. I hope you will find it is so."

MacArthur had stated that 90% were Communist/criminal elements. It is a shame the administration did not check with the Veteran's Administration who had conducted an exhaustive survey and found that 94% of the bonus marchers had military records, 67% had served overseas, and 20% were disabled. It is absolutely incredible that President Hoover was too busy to meet with the marchers.

This became the first time MacArthur deliberately disobeyed the orders of the President of the United States, but certainly would not be the last time. The Bonus Army disappeared into the two million wandering Americans.

#### APPLICATION

Currently our Command and Nation are undergoing some very difficult and unprecedented times. We are in a transitional period from "the War on Terrorism" to the era of great-power competition. America's national security issues must now be considered through a more complex lens that includes both the competitor's military and economic strength. To stay relevant the Command must take into consideration such things as cyber capabilities, information networks, impact of facial recognition advances, guiding ideas, and political ideologies. Sustainability will require continued selection of personnel, training, and education of our force through application of real world missions and assessments of lessons learned.

\*5 William Manchester, *The Glory and The Dream*, Little & Brown, 1973 Vol. 1 p. 13

\*6 William Manchester, *The Glory and The Dream*, Little & Brown, 1973 Vol 1 p.17



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



Rangers seem to be one of the most used and abused Units in American Military History.

\*Captain Benjamin Church fought the early Indian Wars which was known as "King Philip's War" from around 1670 to the end in 1675 as one of the earliest known Ranger Units. The result of the Ranger Unit success—"Disbanded"

\*In the Mid 1700's Rangers were again organized using the Ranger Tactics of Harassment and interdiction against superior British forces during the French and Indian Wars. These men were unique in survival skills and all interviewed for their right to fight as Rangers under Major Robert Rogers who later published the Rules of the Ranger Code and sought to incorporate Rangers into a permanent fighting force.

The result of his great success in combat was that his Rangers were "Disbanded"

\*The Revolutionary War under General George Washington's command looked at the recent success of Major Robert Roberts when the Continental Congress called for six Companies of expert fighting men skilled in survival, reconnaissance and experts with a rifle to be formed in Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia. (such men were called Rangers)

Their reward - Disbanded after the success of War.

\*Civil War - Rangers were formed on both sides and both sides used the same Ranger Tactics. Small fighting units were used to interrupt supply lines, capture prisoners of war, scout, raid and harass larger elements of opposing Armies. Historic Ranger "Mosby"

The result of either sides Ranger Success - Disbanded

\*ALMOST 80 YEARS RANGERS WERE PUT ON THE SHELF OF MILITARY WARFARE.

AND, then ..... WWII

\*World War II and the Rangers. A Ranger unit (the 5307th Composite Unit Provisional) morphed into the 75th Rangers lineage, Merrill's Marauders were formed to fight from Burma/India and "over the hump" to China constructing roads and railheads onto China. They marched over a thousand miles through dense jungle and engaged numerous small skirmishes and approximately 6 serious battles - again they used the guerrilla tactics of the Rangers of previous wars in harassing the Japanese lines of logistics and at the same time engaging the Japanese enemy numerically superior forces with small US Army Ranger teams with great success.

{this Author's Uncle served in Merrill's Marauders and was awarded the Silver Star- name "Reds Clark" }.

Also in the Asian/Pacific theater, the newly formed 6th Ranger Airborne Battalion under the banner of the 75th Ranger Regiment conducted the largest and most successful raid on a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp and rescued over 500 starving Amer-

ican POWs. This is considered the largest most successful rescue raid in the annals of US Military History.

While at the same time on the other side of the world the 1st, 3rd and 4th battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment operated under the command of Major William Darby who was selected to lead Ranger battalions against the Germans in North Africa where he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his successful operations.

The 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions participated in the D-Day landing of Omaha Beach where the slogan "Rangers Lead the Way" was born. A dear friend of mine 1st Sgt Lenord "Bud" Lommel from Toms River, New Jersey was in the first group of Rangers up the cliff and over the ridge under withering enemy small arms fire. He

won the Distinguished Service Cross and is highlighted in the U.S. Museum in Normandy. It is also to be noted that the Ranger Shoulder Scroll was adopted under Major William O. Darby. He was killed in action fighting in Italy and posthumously promoted to the rank of General.

The result of the great Ranger success against the Japanese and German enemies of WWII resulted in the Rangers again being DISBANDED.

The Korean War and the issue of organizing Rangers came anew. Note - since WWII Rangers were often selected as volunteers from the 82nd Airborne. And, from June 1950 into the Winter of 1951 Rangers again went into battle often being the lead point or reconnaissance unit in front of larger conventional units. They still worked the Ranger magic of harassment and interdiction of the large enemy units.

One interesting note in Korea was the formation of the Buffalo Rangers which was made up entirely of Black Americans. This was the only entirely Black Airborne Ranger unit in US Military history and they were called "Buffalo Rangers." They were given this nickname because their curly black hair was similar to the hair on the heads of the buffalos and they carried their nickname proudly. The unit gallantly received 9 Silver Stars and close to 100 Purple Hearts. There were 18 other Ranger Companies that served as the eyes and ears of the US Army, behind the enemy lines or out in front of Conventional units in Korea.

However, it is to be noted that the Gallantry, sacrifice, blood/guts, honor and Glory from World War II through Korea were again rewarded and recognized by disbanding the Ranger Units. A Ranger Leadership school was established in Ft. Benning where graduates would complete three phases of Ranger survival and tactics. It was originally believed by early Conventional Warfare Commanders that they could send an officer and a senior enlisted man from each infantry company to the Ranger School and this would be a cohesive bond to develop the infantry company tactics.

*Continued on the next page*

This idea remained a conception which never became a reality. After the Korean War, THE RANGER UNITS WERE DISBANDED ALONG WITH THEIR PROFESSIONALISM, PATCHES, BERETS AND SCROLLS. The Army saw no need for a standing Ranger Unit.

\*Next -The Vietnam War and the need for guerilla fighters. The Army again selected volunteer Airborne troopers to serve in teams with the same unique professionalism that had been displayed by all the Rangers of yesteryear. The Long Range Recon Patrols (LRRP), small guerilla fighting teams that would be the eyes and ears of all the conventional fighting units in Vietnam. Morale was high in the LRRP outfits. All of the men were to be Airborne qualified and volunteers to the teams. Some leaders were selected from Special Forces and some went to the Special Forces Recondo School in Country but most earned their Scrolls and Black Berets on the job fighting in small teams often behind enemy lines for extended periods of time. The success of these guerilla fighting teams lead the Pentagon to refocus attention on ground warfare. And like Merrill's Marauders the 14 infantry Company of LRRPs were morphed into the 75th Rangers. They developed the longest sustained combat record in Ranger history. The pyramid of valor was displayed on the chests of men from every LRRP/Ranger unit that fought in Vietnam. Robert D. Law received the first Medal of Honor for a 75th Ranger team with the First Infantry Division.

The war was winding down and questions were now being debated on the potential of future Ranger units.

The debate raged on but the Vietnam War Rangers DISBANDED and again their Recondo pins and patches, their scrolls and black Berets were not welcomed Stateside. However, the sacrifices, the blood-guts and heroism and the utmost professionalism of operating alone as eyes and ears in reconnaissance and strike force as well as snatch and grab against the enemy had won them friends in high places and was not going unnoticed.

"Should we let this professionalism fade away", was a question raised by General Westmoreland to General Alexander Haig? "Should we have a permanent standing Army of Rangers? The painted faces, the camouflage fatigues, the Unit Scrolls, the Recondo Patches, the Black Berets, the success on the battlefield, the Glory, the honor but more importantly the need that military history has taught us that Rangers have had a critical role in military history which dictates that we need a standing, permanent Ranger unit."

Attaching scrolled or tabbed Rangers to infantry units did not work. And one of the reasons for this concept not working was many Conventional infantry units did not have an organizational slot for Recon/Ranger platoons. Westmoreland concluded that the "LRRP/Rangers were one of the best things to come out of the Vietnam War". However, the answer to permanent Rangers Units was going to be in Washington, DC with the White House and Conventional Military Commanders debating alongside the conventional desk jockey warriors and suits at the Pentagon. Conversations were held at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC with General Westmoreland, General Haig, Captain Christian

and General Abrams during the early 1970's - we were determined to bring all aboard to be for or against a small Ranger Unit that could be deployed anywhere in the world on short notice. The world was changing and so were military tactics - it was time to recognize the need for an Army Strike unit to carry the history, legacy and professionalism of Ranger. And General Abrams (a one time opponent to the LRRP/Rangers) was proud to announce in 1974 that the 75th Rangers were going to be a permanent part of the United States Army.

The rest is history with Rangers participating in the following:

Desert One

Grenada

Panama

Desert Storm

Bosnia/Kosovo

Somalia

And they have been deployed as Strike Force around the world as SOCOM saw need.

"Rangers Lead the Way" into the missions in Afghanistan - Yesterday till today!

"Rangers Lead the Way" into Iraq - Yesterday till today!

However, the issue of Tab Rangers and Scroll Rangers is still debated.

The answer of the philosophy of "what makes a modern day Ranger - many written replies are as follows " The thing that makes a Ranger in today's military is Service in the 75th Ranger Regiment. .... As the name implies, Ranger School is a training environment.... Successful completion of Ranger School earns one the tab"..... But a "Scroll" is earned by securing an assignment to the 75th Regiment". (Sept 19, 2019)

Finally, this Author's opinion, we belong to a great fraternity "Army Rangers". Those that complete Ranger School with the Tab and those that fight and serve in the Regiment should both be considered part of the Ranger Family. If you earn the Tab then you can wear it for life on your uniform and it says RANGER. If you earned the Scroll of the Regiment you can only wear it while assigned unless you engaged in Combat with your Ranger Battalion. ( It is important to note that we have members in the Ranger Hall of Fame that have either a Regimental Scroll of 75th or a Tab and we have some with both the Scroll and Tab - additional note if you earned your Scroll in Combat you can wear your Scroll on your right shoulder even if you leave the Ranger Regiment)

A note in parting - Robert's Rangers, Mosby's Rangers, Merrill's Marauders, etc. did not have a tab or a Scroll - Are they not part of our lineage our Ranger Heritage? RLW as we are a Ranger Family!

DaveChristian.com

Unit Commander

*I/75th Photos on the next page*



## K/75 - E58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

Greetings Brothers,

I am late getting this done of course. It seems like every time I say I am going to sit down and write before another excuse pops into my mind. So here I am. Or as we used to say "there it is"

Is it me or is this isolation thing becoming too comfortable? I hate Wal-Mart so that's no problem for me. I could come up with a long list of places that I don't like to go. The problem is it just becomes too easy to stay at home. So I will endeavor to get out more, (in the outback).

Other than that, there is not much news from most guys. Just hunkering down.

It has been several days since I started this article and I am extremely late submitting to the editor. Hope it's not too late.

My Wi-Fi went down so I had to get a new modem. After a couple days of wrestling with it I finally got it up and running. Then, my computer decides to throw a fit. Same scenario. Several days to be back to normal. Well, as normal as it gets around here.

I did receive news that Doug Flowers 2<sup>nd</sup> Bde. LRRP and Francis Olsen 4<sup>th</sup> Div. LRRP have passed away. I am sorry but I have not any further information at this time

It is with sadness that I also report the passing of another of our Brothers.



William Filippini passed away Friday, August 21 after a long illness. He fought a gallant fight, which is a testament to his character.

Bill was CO of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade LRRPs in 1968-1969.

In speaking with several of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade LRRPs over the years, they all to a man had nothing but high praise for his leadership, the care and compassion for the men in his charge.

I had the opportunity to meet Bill at some of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade reunions and found him to be exactly as he was portrayed by the men under his command. Another Brother who will be sorely missed by those who knew and loved him.

I hope to gather more info soon as to services, flowers, memorial donations, etc.

If you wish you can always write a Memorial and have it posted to our Memorial page on the website.

Everyone please stay safe and hopefully we will be able to meet again soon.

Roger





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JEFF HORNE



Greetings Brother LRRP's, LRP's, and Rangers from the 173d Airborne Brigade,

I trust all are weathering the summer whether living in our Nation's Southern States or our North. Here in Northeast Ohio gardens are producing (finally) and the hay is in the barns. Our Unit's Brotherhood remains strong and I have noticed that communication between us has dramatically been on the rise. I attribute it to the "virus lock downs", the fact many of us are retired, and the failing health of some of our teammates.



Above/1971 N-75th Welcome Sign- Below/-Tad 74th Sign



We had only a couple of submissions for this issue of Patrolling, but the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA was kind enough to devote a portion of this issue to the passing of CSM(R) Pat Tadina and the Celebration of Life at Fayetteville, North Carolina (refer to the magazines separate section).

A note on our Scroll and/or LRRP Tab as a Combat Patch. Many of us continued our service in the U.S. Army (from OD fatigues, BDUs, ACUs, and most recently MultiCams/OCP. It seems that many Commands had little issue with our RVN Scrolls or Tabs being worn as Combat patches. The only time mine was in question was when I was standing in line on the tarmac at Phu Cat,



Jimmy Akuna



RVN to board our flight home. A 1LT managing the manifest told me it was not authorized and "take it off or you will stay in Viet Nam". I did not remove it and after several conversations between the LT and my teammates, I reluctantly removed it. That was the first and only time I did not wear it on my right sleeve...in fact when we switched to the "dreaded ACUs", Rudy Teodosio had 5 N/75<sup>th</sup> scrolls made for me in the appropriate subdued colors with Velcro backing and mailed them to me at Ft. Hood before deploying.

SGM(R) Rudy Teodosio shared this scroll account;

"Once during a annual MTT in Thailand, we had the 1st Ranger battalion training nearby for a live fire. I was walking around to ensure that Teams in my Company had what they needed before they head out to meet their counter-parts. A vehicle come roaring into our Base Camp with an injured Ranger and his escort. Our Medical NCO came over with his assistance to check him over, that so happened to be a Grenada Veteran with the 1st Ranger Bn as a Combat Medic, a young Ranger looked up and saw the ancient scroll on his right shoulder and his eyes just widen, then one Team operator came over and he wore a 2d Battalion scroll on his right shoulder, then another SF soldier a Panama Ranger Veteran came walking by.

The Young Ranger made a comment that he never seen so many Ranger Veterans with different scrolls on their right shoulder in one place. The CWO who was observing mentioned, you think that something look at that "old" SGM right shoulder over there, he was wearing a Vietnam Ranger scroll. I turned and just laughed as I saw this young Ranger's mouth dropped as I walked over to check on the progress on the injured Ranger. *next page*

This moment would remind me of the movie of Darby's Rangers on the last scene as Colonel Darby was walking on the beach toward his landing craft to take him to his next assignment. He was in deep in thought as troops were landing on the beach in formation and officers were saluting him as they pass him by and he would return their salute. Then a young soldier in formation would say, "Look at that Ranger Patch" and Darby would arch his back and the next formation the officer would salute he would "snap" back a ramrod salute with a smile of pride". The LRRP Tabs, Ranger Company and LRP Scrolls from Viet Nam are a tremendous source of pride, and justly so. CSM(R) Jim Broyles was the last Active Duty Ranger Company RVN Veteran to retire and wore his till the end. NOTE: He retired 6 months after me and I believe he did so to claim that honor.

I would be remiss for not mentioning the fine job SGM(R) Rudy Teodosio is doing as our Vice Unit Director. When I assumed the Unit Director position I wanted to accomplish several actions;



New Unit enameled Coins specific to the 173d LRRP Platoon, the 74<sup>th</sup> LRRPs, and N/75. We restricted reserving the coin to vetted Unit members and immediate family of those departed. The response has been outstanding, and they should be in your wallet by publication of this Patrolling issue.

A high-quality Polo Shirt with the embroidered patches of all three elements. They have been distributed already.

A thorough review of our unit's EMAIL and contact data.

The first two items are complete, and Rudy ramrodded the endeavor. The third is in progress at 95% but will certainly be completed at the 2021 Ranger Rendezvous. A "Tip of the Beret" to Rudy, thank you.

As most are aware the 173d Casper Aviation PLT's annual gathering is postponed to late March 2021 in Las Vegas. Many of us

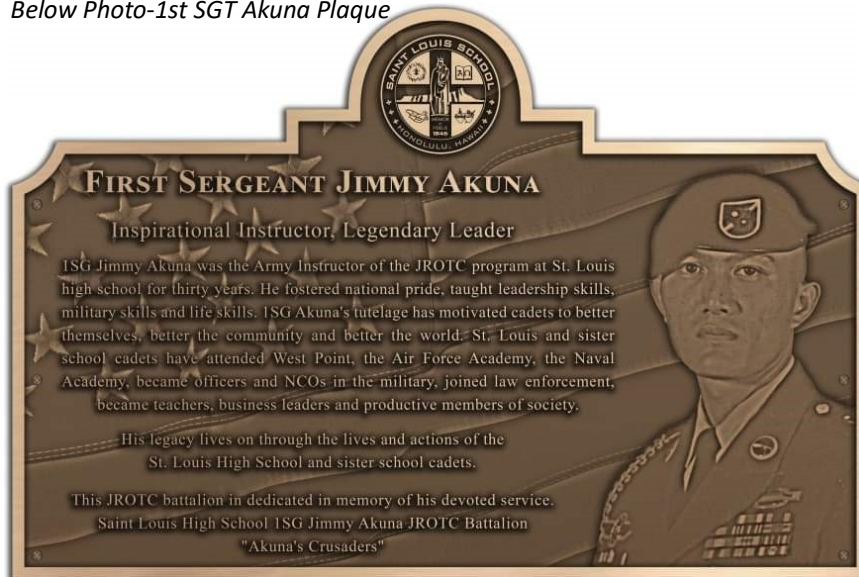
are attending but there are still slots on the manifest to attend, please contact me for the information. 1SG(R) David Cummings was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for 2020 with the formal induction to be held at the 2021 Ranger Rendezvous... Dave we need a picture of the "hawk" the Unit presented you.

Finally, but most disturbing to many of us, First Sergeant (USARV) Jimmy A. Akuna "the Pointman", is seriously ill and fighting cancer as "he prepares to make that journey" (his words). He is the consummate Ranger and a dear friend to all who served

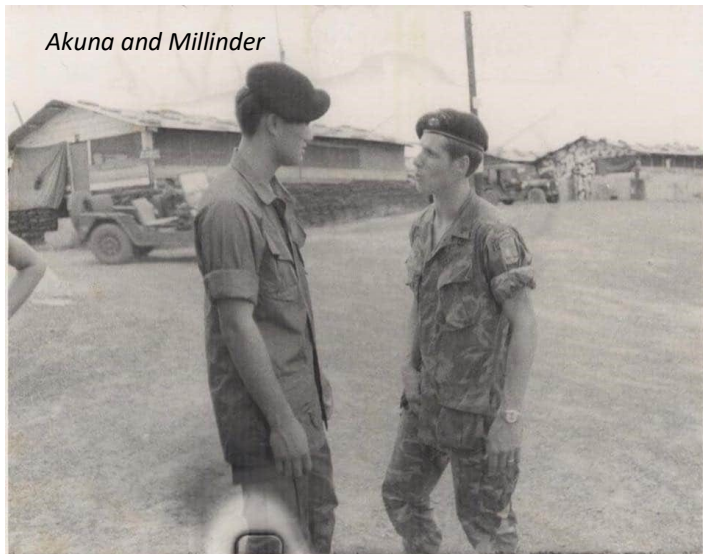
with him. It's a small world we live in...He is the cousin of "CSM(R) Pat Tadina and cut from the same bolt of cloth". His Father and my Father served together in the 11<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division, which we discovered as friends in RVN. His career included two tours with November Company in RVN, a Plank Holder in 3d Ranger Battalion, a Airborne Committee "Black Hat", Ranger Instructor, 509<sup>th</sup> PIR, 1SG in 25<sup>th</sup> ID, Section

Sergeant in D Troop 2/17<sup>th</sup> Cav and finally a JROTC instructor in Hawaii (where he resides). The JROTC Building was named after him in a ceremony on 15 August 2020 conducted by MG Logan. I have gathered many thoughts and comments from those November Rangers that served with Jimmy and flying to Hawaii (17-19 August) to deliver them. He leaves a hole in the hearts of many. See you in the tall grass Jim, and rest easy.

*Below Photo-1st SGT Akuna Plaque*



*Akuna and Millinder*



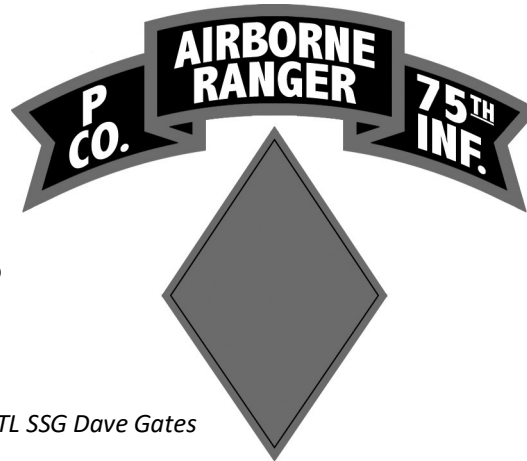
*"SGT Millinder swears he isn't short but was standing downhill"*





## P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—TERRY B. RODERICK



TL SSG Dave Gates



There hasn't been a lot to write about since the last time I submitted an article to Patrolling. We had our Spring and Summer events all cancelled by the Covid-19 virus and everyone has been staying home for the most part until a cure can be found to allow us to move around freely amongst each other. Therefore, there's been little news except for us we got the good news that one of our Papa Company Rangers, Dave Gates, was selected for the Ranger Hall of Fame for the year 2020. The Induction Ceremony scheduled for July 2020 was postponed until 2021, but don't worry, he's been selected and is a member of this prestigious group of Rangers now. We just have to hold off on the blow-out party with Dave buying all the drinks until next July 2021!! Ha! Ha! Some of you didn't serve with Dave, or.... George, or SSG Gates as we called him back in Papa Company in 1969 and 1970. He was probably the most laid back NCO I ever met in the Army. We weren't disrespectful to him in any way, but he was just loved by us lower enlisted guys because he hung out with us and didn't demand we call him by his rank, unless the situation called for it. He was "one of the boys" for us lower enlisted guys and always cheerful and laughing about something. Very easily approachable for all of us and always fun. He told me later in the 1990's when he was a Division CSM stationed in Germany, (when I first became the Papa Company Unit Director around 1994) that just his immediate family called him George. At first I was alarmed and thought he was hiding from the law or someone, but I came to find out later that he was called Dave by nearly everyone I ever ran into that didn't serve with us in Vietnam. That makes us Papa Company Rangers family too I guess, but it just seemed wrong for a few years until I was able to come to grips with it and now it seems normal. Many of us had weird nicknames or alternate names everyone called us in the company. Hopefully they were complimentary!!

Dave took me out on my first mission to the DMZ in 1969 as a member of his team, Killer 1-2 in early November 1969. I came into the company from A/75<sup>th</sup> Ranger at Fort Benning, Georgia at the same time James Dean and Harold Sides arrived. The three of us spent a couple of days in the Transit Hootch before being assigned to teams. Both of them were KIA with Dean being killed with Killer 1-6 in December 1969 and Harold losing his life

as Team Leader of Killer 1-8 in September 1970. I was assigned to SSG Gates a day or two later, missing out on the normal training mission many went through when they arrived in Papa Company and before they were assigned to a team. I was told I'd be the RTO and be going out with SSG Gates and Team 12. I had to go and draw a rucksack, get a PRC-25 radio and begin to pack my gear for the mission. I had no idea how or where to start and Dave found me and had one of the guys on the team assist me and show me what I needed to do. He told me to just watch, observe, and

do as asked and I'd be just fine. His calm demeanor and easy going nature relaxed me right away and took much of the anxiety I had about just what I had gotten myself into away. I don't want this article to be about me, but just want to convey the calming influence he had and the great leadership skill he possessed. Not just in the field but in garrison also. His nearly 30 year career speaks for itself, but read on and you'll see what an outstanding contribution he made to our country and why he's been selected to the RHOF. I'm sure there are others who might deserve this honor and recognition out there in the Ranger world and I don't know how exactly you measure it fairly, but Dave surely has done everything to deserve this honor. His ATL, Garry Norton approached me about nominating him a couple of years ago and he did the heavy lifting to see that the paperwork was done to nominate Dave. This is the fruit of both of their labors. Congratulations, Sergeant Major Gates. Well Done!!

RLTW !!

*Continued on the next page*



**CSM George D. "Dave" Gates Bio**

**CSM(R) George D. "Dave" Gates** was born 6 November 1948 in Manila, Philippine Islands. He graduated Mount Airy Senior High School in Mount Airy, N.C. in 1966 and attended Surry Community College in Dobson, N.C. prior to joining the Army in April 1968. He graduated Basic Combat Training at Ft. Bragg, N.C. and Infantry Advanced Individual Training at Camp Crockett, Ga.

CSM(R) Gates' assignments include: **Team Leader**, Company P. (Ranger) 75th Inf, Quang Tri, RVN; **Weapons Squad Leader**, Company C, 3d Bn, 325 Inf. (ABN), 82d ABN Div., Ft. Bragg, N.C.; **Correctional Custody Supervisor and Shift Leader**, CCF, 82d ABN Div.; **Instructor, 3d Army and 18th ABN Corps NCO Academy**, Ft. Bragg, N.C.; **Drill Sergeant and Senior Field Leader**, C-17-5 and E-8-2 Ft. Jackson, S.C.; **Rifle Platoon Sergeant**, Company C, 3d Bn, 6th IN; **Scout Platoon Sergeant**, Combat Support Company, 3d Bn, 6th IN; **First Sergeant, Combat Support Company**, 2d Bn 6th IN, Berlin Brigade, Berlin, Germany; **Senior Drill Instructor**, Reserve Officer Training Program, Georgia Southwestern College, Americus, Ga.; **Subject Matter Expert, Staff and Faculty**, US Army Sergeants Major Academy, Ft. Bliss, Tx.

**CSM(R) Gates was the first enlisted Company Commander of Company B, Student, Staff and Faculty Battalion, at the US Army Sergeants Major Academy; Readiness Group Sergeant Major**, Readiness Group-St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo.; **Command Sergeant Major, 6th Bn 40th Armor, Berlin Brigade; Command Sergeant Major, US Army Berlin and the Berlin Brigade; Command Sergeant Major, 3d Infantry Division, Wuerzburg, Germany; Command Sergeant Major, 1st Infantry Division, Wuerzburg, Germany.**

CSM(R) Gates' military education includes: Basic and Advanced Airborne School, Air Movement Operations Course, Ranger School, Jungle Operations Training Course, French Commando School. He is a graduate of Class 25 US Army Sergeants Major Academy. CSM(R) Gates awards include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Meritorious Service Medal w/4OLC, Army Commendation

Medal w/silver OLC, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman's Badge. CSM(R) Gates retired in September 1997 and resides in Woodstock, Ga with his wife, Sheryl.

**CSM George D. Gates RHOF Citation**

CSM George D. "Dave" Gates is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for his longtime service of nearly 30 years to this country and especially for his extraordinary service in Vietnam in 1969-1970 as a Team Leader in Co. P (RANGER) 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry. From the time Ranger Gates arrived in Vietnam and his being assigned to the Papa Company Rangers as a fresh and newly tabbed Ranger, he displayed a knack for leadership and the skills required to lead six man "hunter-killer" teams into the belly of the beast in

Vietnam. The Demilitarized Zone in northern I Corps in his case. Due to a lack of veteran NCO's to lead these teams in Vietnam, many were graduates of the U.S. Army Infantry NCO Academy and some also attended Airborne and Ranger training to enhance their tactical and leadership skills. They were then sent straight to Vietnam to fill these leadership slots and Ranger Gates was one of the best. Ranger Gates and other Ranger School graduates came into their first combat situations and led from the front. The job was dangerous and the responsibility for the lives they led was enormous. He was highly respected by all and he set an example for everyone to follow. His jovial nature and obsession to teach was contagious in a difficult situation. His team was one everyone wanted to serve on and he displayed a genuine affection and caring for anyone he led into battle.

After Vietnam, Ranger Gates served in a variety of leadership positions throughout the Army to include the ROTC program at Georgia Southwestern College in Americus, Georgia, where he

was the Senior Drill Instructor. After leaving Fort Bragg and the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, Ranger Gates became a Drill Instructor and Senior Field Leader at Fort Jackson, S.C. before attending the Sergeants Major Academy, where he later was the first enlisted soldier to become the Company Commander of B Company, Student, Staff, and Faculty Battalion. He later was assigned to Germany, where he served in a variety of positions to include CSM of the Berlin Brigade, and later the CSM of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division and the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division in Würzburg, Germany, where he retired from active duty in 1997.

Ranger Gates' awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Drill Sergeant Badge, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (3<sup>rd</sup>

OLC), Bronze Star, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal (5<sup>th</sup> OLC), Army Achievement Medal (1<sup>st</sup> OLC), Good Conduct Medal (9<sup>th</sup> award), NATO Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, and the Army of Occupation Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> award), and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/palm to name a few.

Ranger Gates has served as a mentor and teacher to thousands of soldiers over his illustrious career. He has left a legacy to be envied and continued to make our Army stronger, smarter, and more fit. Ranger Gates is known as a Soldier's Soldier and a Ranger's Ranger. For these and many other deserved reasons, he is being inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

*Continued on the next page*





*Sheryl and Dave Gates*



*The Lovely Mary Rossi*

In closing, Mary Rossi has moved to Wheeling, WV from her long-time home in Niles, Ohio, where she lived for years with our deceased brother, Mike Rossi. She tells me she's settled in and close to her grandbabies and family unit. Retired CSM Patrick Tadina, RHOF and N/75<sup>th</sup> Ranger, had his memorial service in Fayetteville, NC recently and we had many P/75<sup>th</sup> Rangers who were unable to attend and honor him due to the Caronavirus. We considered him a Brother due to relationships several of us had with him and Roy Boatman over the years and we send along our condolences to him and his family and our Brothers from N/75<sup>th</sup> Ranger. I wish I had more to say, but until next time, that's all folks!!

Rangers Lead the Way!!

In Ranger brotherhood,

Terry Roderick



*Dave Gates and Garry Norton*



# ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

It is with profound sadness that I have to inform you once again of the passing of several of our Ranger brothers since the last Patrolling magazine. Ranger Doug Perry (Ranger advisor to the 44<sup>th</sup> VN Ranger Bn and is buried at the cemetery at Camp Merrill. Doug is in the Ranger Hall of Fame.

Ranger Warde "Skip) Chittenden of Midland, Ga. Ranger Advisor to the 41<sup>st</sup> VN Ranger Group. Skip is in the Ranger Hall of Fame.

Ranger R. J. Farris of Orlando, Fl Ranger Advisor to the 32<sup>nd</sup> VN Ranger Bn

Also, Ranger Burt Eddy (88years) of Forston, GA has been placed in a Memory Home. Burt was a Ranger Advisor to the 52nd VN Ranger Bn.

Rest in peace!

Feature

First, I have to apologize to you all who are waiting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final story of the battle of Thach Tru. In cleaning up some files I have misplaced the article. I am searching for it; therefore I have another feature to share.

Tet 1968 By Bob Reitz

The 35<sup>th</sup> Ranger Battalion, Army of the Republic of Vietnam, a III Corp reserve battalion, was called into Saigon/Cholon on 2 February 1968. Immediately on touch down we were in contact with enemy forces at Tan San Nhut airbase. For the next eleven days we fought all through the city, primarily Cholon. I was the Senior advisor to the Battalion Commander who had eight years combat experience and the executive officer who had eleven years combat experience (originally with the Viet Minh fighting French occupiers). I on the other hand had a whopping six months combat experience none of which was in urban fighting. We had just left War Zone D and jungle patrolling.

About the 6<sup>th</sup> of February the whole battalion, now beaten down to about 250 Rangers was sent to an area two blocks north of the Cholon PX with a mission to clear the area of enemy forces. Later we learned it was the 5<sup>th</sup> Local Force Battalion. On this day we entered into a courtyard surrounded by 6 or 7 story apartments. Just to the left were about 30-50 Vietnamese civilians sitting on the floor of the courtyard. As we approached that group, we took effective fire from high up the interior of the complex. Exposed, we retreated through an alley back to the street. I was standing about midway in the alley when something caused me to look to my right. I saw a woman in an open

window drop a chicom grenade at my feet (potato masher type). To my good fortune it did not go off. I ran to get away, back into the courtyard. Several Rangers took my dash back to the courtyard as what they had to do, and the bunch of us fired everything we had. A huge enemy soldier fell from about 5 stories up. We later determined he was a Chinese Advisor. Our charge in seemed to quiet the area, but still a shot rang out followed by burst of 2 or 3. I heard shouting so I rushed back to see the Rangers bringing a woman (the grenade dropper) out to the street. They twisted her arms behind her back while another Ranger reached into her blouse and pulled out two US Army baseball grenades.

CBS News was hounding us all through our fights, and they caught the Ranger putting his hand in her blouse. Later, this footage was shown in the CBS "Atrocities of War."

So back to the courtyard the civilians were angrily pointing and shouting at a male in black trousers and a blue grey shirt. Rangers jerked him up and put him on a table. He denied being a Viet Cong. My counterpart took charge of the situation, pulled his pistol and spreading the man's legs fired a shot just below his groin. The VC began to talk and told us where the rest of the force was located in the buildings around us. A sniper shot into the civilians hitting a pregnant woman. Needless to say we rushed her to the hospital. But, that was the type of people were fighting, and I would add that this incident motivated our Rangers to go get the bad guys. I wish to this day to know whether she and her baby lived.

When it all died down we put the Chinese guy on the hood of a jeep and carried him back to 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct HQ's. There the Vietnamese press took a photo of him and wrote a story about the Chinese being in the fight. As I recall no US photos or stories were put out.

I don't envy current Rangers in their house-to-house fighting. God Bless them All.

Quote: "Let the world know you as you are."

Fanny Brice

Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director Ranger Advisors







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