

# PATROLLING

June 2021 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC.

Volume 33 Issue II



*2021 Best Ranger Competition*

*Photo-Patrolling-SOJ*

CHINA—BURMA—INDIA—KOREA—VIETNAM—IRAN—GRENADA—PANAMA—IRAQ—SOMALIA—AFGHANISTAN





# CHASE THE HORIZON

Learn more at [H-D.com](https://www.harley-davidson.com). It's time to ride.



## 75th RRA-Leads the Way

### *Of Our Own Accord!*

The 75th Ranger Regiment Association leads by example and supports the Ranger Community; all Rangers from the past, present, and into the future through working together with those that share the burden of responsibility, 100% and then some. RLTW!

*Stephen Odin Johnson, President 75th RRA*



#### 75th Ranger Regiment Association

PO Box 2200  
Orangevale, CA 95662  
www.75thrra.org

#### President

Stephen O Johnson  
218.333.1541  
president@75thrra.org

#### First Vice President

Roy Barley  
716.496.8803  
1vp@75thrra.org

#### Second Vice President

Pete Dencker  
615.202.4804  
2vp@75thrra.org

#### Secretary

Tom Sove  
PO Box 2200  
Orangevale, CA 95662  
C: 209.404.6394  
H: 916.838.6720  
secretary@75thrra.com

#### Treasurer

Roger Crunk  
970.858.4579  
treasurer@75thrra.com

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

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

Advertisements for products or services do not constitute an endorsement by the Association. Manuscripts, photographs, and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics.

The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that is in bad taste, offensive, or 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:  
Patrolling  
PO Box 2200  
Orangevale, CA 95662

**Riding to Honor.  
Riding to Remember.**

*Riding for*  
**RANGERS**

Onpoint 1-1 GallantFew

**REGISTER  
NOW!**

**September 1-30, 2021**

Ride on the roads, trails, or stationary in honor of a fallen Ranger while supporting initiatives designated by their Gold Star families.

CPT Connor Bednarzyk, 3/75 - Five Foundation

SFC Kristoffer Domeij, 2/75 - GallantFew Rangers

SGT Ronald Kubik, 3/75 - SGT Ronald Kubik Memorial Scholarship

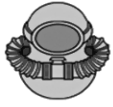
SGT Dominick Pilla, 3/75 - Three Rangers Foundation

SGT Alessandro Plutino, 1/75 - Honoring Sandrino's Sacrifice Fund

SGT Joshua Rodgers, 3/75 - SGT Joshua Rodgers Memorial Fund



**WWW.RIDINGFORRANGERS.ORG**



## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Greetings Rangers, as Memorial Day approaches, I think it appropriate to mention what just came into my hands from Steve Johnson. I also have been recently watching a YouTube History of the Merrill's Marauders, whose exploits the US Army Rangers has taken as forerunners for our service to the Nation.

On January 29, 2020, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) identified the remains of Private First-Class James Wilmer White, missing from World War II.

Private First-Class White, who entered the U.S. Army from Ohio, served with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional). He was an infantry member supporting the 5307th Composite Unit (also referred to Task Force Galahad or Merrill's Maurader's), as it advanced south against Japanese forces in Myitkyina, Myanmar (formerly Burma). PFC White was killed during this advance on July 2, 1944, somewhere along the 2nd Battalion's battle lines between Radhapur and Mankrin. His remains were not recovered or identified at the time. Eventually, as part of an ongoing disinterment project, DPAA reviewed one set of remains that had been recovered from a temporary Myitkyina cemetery and buried as an unknown at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii. In 2018, this unknown set of remains was disinterred and accessioned into the DPAA laboratory where it was identified as PFC White.

This man was drafted into the Army in WWII, as were many, 66% of our fathers and grandfathers. He volunteered for the 3,000 strong force known then as Task Force Galahad. 2,750 of them started a trek through the Burmese and Chinese jungles to reopen the Lido road and capture the Myitkyina Airport, the only all-weather landing strip in that region. The 28th Japanese Division stood in their way and offered fierce resistance. At the end of the six months long mission only 150 or so of the original group were left. They were incorporated into the Mars Task Force.

Why are these details important to those of us who have worn the Ranger Shield. Because the Burmese Sun and the Chinese Star divided by a lightning Bolt are cool? Not really. We honor those brave men who of their own accord were willing to fight for, and if necessary, to die for the freedom of others to live without overt oppression. They spent their last energies in a conflict between good and evil. PFC White left a wife, parents, and other relatives to mourn him. He was twenty-one years of age at his decease.

As the Chaplain of several Airborne and Ranger associations I have attended, and participated in, various funerals over the years. My brother from Vietnam. My Uncle from Korea. My Father from WWII. Some of dear friends who I served with. Some of friends I came to know after my service. And some of the more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Some survived

and lived to become old. Most were cut down in their prime. But those whom we have lost remain impressed on our memories. Those of us who have lost our friends and brothers on far flung battlefields remember the circumstances of their departure from this world to the next.

But what does God remember? In the Book of the Bible that Solomon wrote he, having asked for and received of God wisdom to judge Israel, God's chosen people, also contemplated life and death. In Chapter Nine from verse one to six he writes from the perspective of one 'under the sun', from a human perspective. As verse five and six relates,

"For the living know that they shall die but the dead know not anything, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also, their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion forever in anything that is done under the sun."

But a man is not just a body that can be destroyed and then returns to the earth, to become dust again. We have a soul that lives on. As men and women, we leave an impact while we live. But at the moment of death. Our love, hatred, and envy cease.

In this part of Scripture, we also read in Verse One,

For all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works are in the hand of God... In other words. God takes care of His own.

Contrast this with verse three,

"...Also, the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead."

Two places, two destinies. Man, with a heart full of evil and madness who finally goes to the place of the dead.

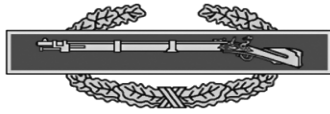
Or man who honors the One who gave him life and receives the gift of eternal life offered by God through faith in the Sent One, Jesus Christ. Who willingly gave His life, that of a perfect man, a sacrifice for a silly soul such as I. So that I might have a certainty that death is not the end. But a beginning of a life without end, based not on what I did, but made righteous by God, on the basis of what Jesus did for me.

As we remember our honored dead may we also remember our Creator. Who made us to be remembered, and not forgotten.

RLTW

Joe Marquez, C/1/503rd,'69 N/75th, Juliet,'70 A/2/503rd,'70 Chaplain of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Facetime 864 525 6941 Paraguay Cell/Whatsapp +595-971-147600 Serving those who served. 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.



# Unit Directors

## HQ. 75th RANGER HHC

We Need a Volunteer UD

## 75TH RANGER SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION

We Need a Volunteer UD

## 75TH RANGER MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

We Need a Volunteer UD

## 1ST BN, 75TH RANGER RGT

Rick Merritt  
11 Brookshire Dr  
Richmond Hill, GA 31324  
912.332.6692  
remerritt75@outlook.com

## 2ND BN, 75TH RANGER RGT

Kevin R. Ingraham  
PO Box 1911  
Binghamton, NY 13902-1911  
607-771-0399  
oldscroll275@gmail.com

## 3RD BN, 75TH RANGER RGT

Tony Mayne  
16126 Starling Crossing  
Lithia, FL 33547  
813-981-3840  
tony.mayne@gmail.com

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

Stan Jones  
2192 S 500 West  
Tipton, IN 46072  
Stan6542@yahoo.com  
317.966.0645

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

Marc L. Thompson  
80 Rock Ridge Road  
Morgantown, PA 19543  
H: 610.913.8183  
C: 610.763.2756  
mthomp@ptd.net

## C/75-E/20 LRP

Joe Hayes  
1574 Mansfield Road  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
248.646.4590  
joehayes@prodigy.net

## D/75

Richard "Herd" Nelson  
3302 Dragoon Place  
Orlando, FL 32818  
407.601.2801  
rnelson134@cfl.rr.com

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

Robert Hernandez  
4424 Rock Island Dr  
Antioch, CA 94509  
925.437.5058  
Irrprangerdirector@gmail.com

## F/75-F/50-25thDIV LRRP

John McGee  
Irishlrrp@tampabay.rr.com  
352.346.2141

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

Al Stewart  
307 Jordan Crossing Ave.  
Jamestown, NC 27282  
336.423.8960  
aliniraq@yahoo.com

## H/75-E/52 LRP-1st CAV LRRP

Bennie Gentry  
1347 20th Street  
Tell City, IN 47586  
812-547-4830  
macv49soglrp@sbcglobal.net

## I/75-F/52 LRP-1stDIV LRRP

David A. Christian  
47 Canal Run West  
Washington Crossing, PA 18977  
267.884.5802  
combatwriter@aol.com

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

Roger T. Crunk  
1159 19 Road  
Fruita, CO 81521  
H: 970.858.4579  
C: 970.640.3815  
rogercrunk@msn.com

## L/75-F/58 LRP-1/101st LRRP

Charles "Chuck"  
Reilly 436 21st Place  
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266  
424.408.9894  
charles.reilly.mol@gmail.com

## M/75-71st LRP-199th LRRP

Lyle Webster  
Lylwebster@gmail.com  
805.824.2133

## N/75-74th LRP-173rd LRRP

Jeff Horne  
5289 US Route 322 West  
Windsor, OH 44099-9708  
440.897.9312  
csm.jhorne@gmail.com

## O/75-78th LRP

We Need a Volunteer UD

## P/75-79th LRP

Jay Lutz  
382 Hermosita Drive  
St Pete Beach, FL 33706-2804  
Rgr.JLutz@Outlook.com  
C: 727.744.7506  
H: 727.360.5913

## ARVN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Bill Miller  
1090 Brightwood Drive  
Aiken, SC 29803  
H: 803.641.9504  
C: 803.292.2571  
bietdongquan@yahoo.com

## LRRP DETACHMENT-3rd ID

Mike McClintock  
1411 Northview Court  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274-8761  
415.203.9097  
oldlrrp62@aol.com

## D/151 LRP/RANGER

Bob McIntire  
529 E. Jackson Street  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
765.349.2960  
r.mcintire6f@gmail.com

## F/51 LRP

Russell Dillon  
39 Pearl Street  
Wakeman, OH 44889  
440.839.2607  
russlrrp51@gmail.com

The following individuals are appointed by the President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association to their respective positions in order to facilitate the day-to-day operation of the Association.

## Gold Star Family Advocates

Jill Stephenson  
612-868.7446  
iambenkoppsmother@gmail.com

Dianne Hammond  
rgmom175@gmail.com  
609.230.9511

## State Coordinator

Marshall Huckaby  
158 Fairway Oaks Drive  
Perry, GA 31069  
770.658.8159  
nationalcoordinator@75thrra.com

## Health Advocate

Harrison Jack  
101 Monte Vista Drive  
Woodland CA 95695  
530.867.7071  
hjackson@wavecable.com

## Chaplain

Joseph Marquez  
118 Sycamore Drive  
Greenville, SC 29607  
864.525.6941  
chaplain@75thrra.com

## Association Artist

Dave Walker  
In Memory

## Patrolling

Stephen Johnson  
10433 Juneberry Rd. NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
218.333.1541  
patrolling@75thrra.com  
towerg75th@yahoo.com

## Website

Justin Stay  
7344 Ness Rd NW  
Bemidji MN 56601  
218.766.5886  
Jackpine@paulbunyan.net



**“WORKING COPY” 2021 RANGER RENDEZVOUS SCHEDULE**

<b>Monday, July 19</b>	<b>Tuesday, July 20</b>	<b>Wednesday, July 21</b>	<b>Thursday, July 22</b>	<b>Friday, July 23</b>
0900-1600 Registration Open	0600 RPAT Honor Field/ 0630 Endurathon- Fort Benning	0900-1200 & 1400- 1600 Registration Open	0800 Phalanx-Ranger for Life Breakfast Phenix Marriott	0900 Ranger Regiment Change of Command Ceremony National Inf. Museum
1200 Fryar Drop Zone- Static Display	0730 Breakfast ARTB Briefing- Double Tree 5351 Sidney Simons Blvd, Columbus	0930 RHOF 2020 Marshall Auditorium	0900 VA Information Phenix Marriott	1030-1130 New President, Officers, UD Meeting.
1400 Fryar Drop Zone- Airborne Assault	0800 Stress Shoot- Farnsworth Ranger	1200-2300 Hospitality Suite	0900-1200 & 2200- 1600 Registration Open	1130-1300 Registration Open
1200-2300 Hospitality Suite	0900-1600 Registration Open	1330 RHOF 2021 Marshall Auditorium	1000-Ladies Tour Luncheon Event TBD	1200-2300 Hospitality Suite
	0900 State of the Regiment-Marshall Distinguished and Honorary Members of the Regiment	1630 UD Meeting Registration Room Phenix Marriott with President and Officers	1030 75 <sup>th</sup> RRA General Membership Meeting Phenix Marriott	Opening Firing Range USARA sponsored bring your own weapon and ammunition-BBQ provided at site and must be prepaid
	1200-2300 Hospitality Suite	Time-TBD Meet and Greet Current Serving Rangers During Ranger Appreciation Night/1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Cornhole Tournament Chattabrewchee (Ranger owned) Downtown Columbus 75 <sup>th</sup> RRA and USARA sponsored.	1200-2300 Hospitality Suite	1800-2300 Joint Banquet 75 <sup>th</sup> RRA & USARA Iron Works Convention Center Downtown Columbus
	1300 Team Sports Stewart Watson/ Smith Gym		1300 Team Sports Stewart Watson/ Smith Gym	
	1700 RHOF Dinner Location TBD		1530 Boxing and Combative Finals Smith Gym	
	Casino Night USARA Double Tree		1700 No Host BBQ Location TBD	
			2130 Auction-Raffle Phenix City Marriott	

**FORT BENNING GATE PASS REQUEST– USE SPECIAL EVENT (NOT AVAILABLE AT TIME OF PRINTING *PATROLLING*)**

By requesting a pass, you are agreeing to a background check, which uses the National Crime Information Center Interstate Identification Index (NCIC-III), a Federal Bureau of Investigation database that provides criminal histories from all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Be aware that all individuals 18 and older in the vehicle are required to have a background check and pass before being allowed to unescorted access to the installation. Pass Request using online pre-registration:

Visit <https://visit.gvt.us?b=usa&i=benning&t=v>

**(Microsoft Edge, Firefox, Google Chrome, and Safari browser recommended).** Internet explorer may be outdated on your PC.

Complete all pre-registration requirements on the secure site, being sure to select "Reason for Visit" This process takes less than two minutes. If other installations are shown, please ensure you select FORT BENNING.

Applicants should receive an SMS (text message) within minutes (and no later than 24 hours later) with notification on whether the request for a Fort Benning Pass is approved.

Special Events may have online pre-registration links specific to that event. If you are coming for an event, it is recommended you use the Special Event Link and/or code for that event.

Those with approved passes will be able to pick up their pass at the Lindsey Creek Visitor Control Center kiosk (open 24 hours) or the Contractor Visitor Control Center kiosk located on 8th Division Road at Harmony Church (open Monday to Friday 6 am to 2 pm). You will need the DL/ID that you used during pre-registration. Pass will not be available for pick up until the start date requested. **Some Special Events may direct you to a specific gate for initial entry to Fort Benning.**

Please see the YouTube link below showing the kiosk process to retrieve your pass at a Visitor Control Center:



Print this Registration and mail to Secretary  
Tom Sove OR register online found on our  
home page: <https://www.75thrra.org>



**NOTICE: All Pre-registrations** VIA snail  
mail or online, Must be in Tom Sove's hands by July  
12. Anything after that, you can stand in line and regis-  
ter at the host hotel. You know, hurry up and wait!

75<sup>th</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.  
2021 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM  
18-23 JULY, 2021

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_ MBR # \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR SHIRT SIZE \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST SHIRT SIZE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY \_\_\_\_\_ GUESTS. PLEASE LIST THEIR NAME FOR BADGES:

NAME

SHIRT SIZE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES**

REGISTRATION \$40 PER PERSON: NUMBER OF PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$40 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET \$45 PER PERSON: NUMBER OF PERSONS \_\_\_\_\_ x \$45 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BANQUET \$20 FOR YOUTH 11-17/CHILDREN UNDER 10 ARE FREE

NUMBER OF YOUTH \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **(Dinner on Friday 23 July 2021)**

TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES: HOSPITALITY ROOM SNACKS AND DRINKS,  
REUNION T-SHIRT, LADIES TOUR, LUNCH AND TRANSPORTATION.

DO YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING: ABN OPNS, FRYER DZ(Mon) \_\_\_\_\_

LADIES DAY OUTING \_\_\_\_\_ BANQUET \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 75<sup>TH</sup> RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.  
MAIL TO: PO BOX 2200, ORANGEVALE, CA 95662

COMMENTS:

Greetings to our Members and all other Patriots of the Ranger Community!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY STEPHEN O. JOHNSON

This 2021 Ranger Rendezvous is like a breath of fresh air after choosing to become a masked Lone Ranger for too long, like so many of you have also. The officers of the 75th RRA welcome you to share time with comrades with whom we did the mission.

There are some events that many of our members, who are either retired military and have or will file a claim against the VA, you better show up Thursday morning at the Phenix Marriott hospitality room for a VA Program. Also prior to the VA program, information about a special Phalanx Program and Ranger For Life Program. Read on. We are sponsors of a buffet breakfast that morning for participants only. Sign Up!

Please pay attention to this year's "working copy itinerary."

### Ranger Hall of Fame

Congratulations to the sixteen 2021 inductees who along with the 2020 RHOF Class will receive their recognition on Wednesday July 21 at the Marshall Auditorium; the 2020 class at 0930 and the 2021 class starts at 1330. Those selected to this year's RHOF Class are:

LTG Michael Ferriter	* Nominated by
LTG Robert Wagner	the 75th RRA
MG Jeffery Bannister	
COL Harvey Cook	
COL Jack Donovan	
COL Clarence Matsuda	
COL William Powell	
LTC Mark Ponzilla*	
CSM Ralph Borja	
CSM Mark Collazos	
CSM Richard L. Davis	
CSM Carl Dedrick	
SGM Clem Lemke	
CSM Hugh A. Roberts	
SGT Stephen Crabtree*	
HON: Jonnie Clasen*	

### 75th RRA Rendezvous Auction-Raffle

This year we hope to raise monies for our **Benevolent Fund** by having a combination of an auction and raffle, including a 50-50 nightly raffle. **Please bring something** for that and leave it with our volunteer host located in the hospitality room at the Phenix (yes, that's how you spell Phoenix in Alabama) Marriott Courtyard. Upon a request, a receipt for you donation will be provided

by the 75th RRA. If you will not be attending this year's Rendezvous and would like to mail your Rembrandt or any other

gift, the address is:



President-75th Ranger Regiment Association  
C/O Amanda McGill  
1400 Whitewater Ave  
Phenix City, AL  
36867

### \*IMPORTANT TO NOTE\*

All winning raffle prizes or winning auctioned items not claimed or picked up by 1000 hrs Saturday morning July 24th 2021 at the Phenix Marriott hospitality room, becomes sole property of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

### Volunteers Needed during the Rendezvous

In order for the 75th RRA to run an efficient reunion, **we are asking that members sign up as a volunteer**. This is not an all day commitment. Your job assignment might be for the auction-affle as a runner or spotter. Items for the auction at the banquet will have to be transported from the hotel to the Iron Works. We need supervision during the open hours of the hospitality room; getting beverages and snacks; filling coolers; light cleaning; information; valet service; and the list goes on. If everyone helps just a little bit, **no more than two hours**, this would be greatly appreciated! You can sign up during registration at the hotel or you can contact my better-half, Pam, with an email or phone call-text. Her email is [ssponte@paulbunyan.net](mailto:ssponte@paulbunyan.net) and her cell # is 218-766-9349. Thank you all stepping up and doing just that!

### Patrolling Page 5 "Working Copy" Itinerary

For those who regularly attend the Ranger Rendezvous, the daily events listed should look somewhat familiar with a few new additions.

*Those wanting a special event pass*, the Rendezvous event was not provided to us at this point of printing, however, as soon as we get the "code" for that, we will post that on our website. At the bottom of page 5, there is a link that you can use to access Benning ahead of time.

### During the Rendezvous Week

The Ranger Battalion Competitions are within the weekly schedule intertwined with special programs held daily, especially those that you will want to attend. Monday's jump schedule is always a good camera and spectator opportunity at the Fryar Drop Zone.

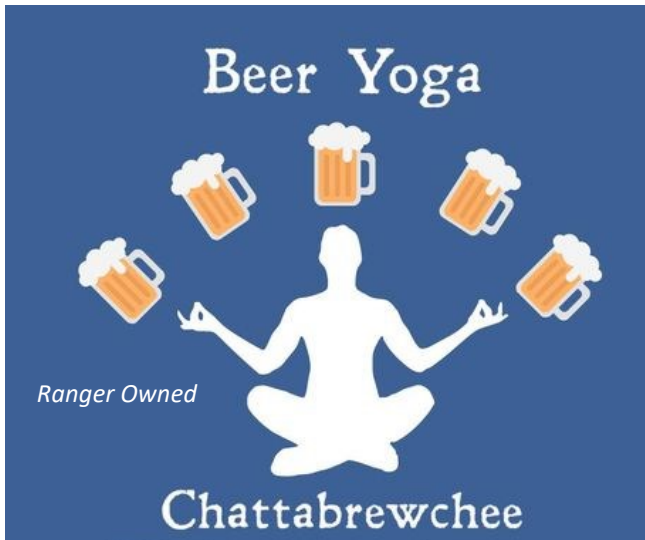
On Tuesday, I will be at the ARTB Briefing at 0730 hrs, served with a hot breakfast and hosted by USARA at the Doubletree in Columbus. Soon after that, the Regiment Distinguished and Honorary Members of the 75th Regiment program is at the Marshall Auditorium.

*Continued on the next page*



The "Casino Night" held on Tuesday at the Doubletree will entertain a host of participants, including "snake-eyes" Tom Sove!

Wednesday, two special RHOF classes will be inducted with one in the morning and the other in the early afternoon. A new special event is being held at the Ranger-owned, Chattabrewchee Pub in downtown Columbus where a 1st annual cornhole tournament, sponsored by the 75th RRA and USARA, will take place featuring current, serving Rangers of the Regiment. Meeting and Greeting these warriors is something that should generate a lot of fun! Pam enjoys Yoga and I like my beer. A date for sure!



Thursday is another busy slate of events starting out with a breakfast served at the Phenix Marriott for the attendees of the 0800 hrs **Phalanx and Ranger for Life Program**, featuring MSG Barnett from the 75th Regiment, Honorary Regiment Sergeant Major Mike Hall, and Major (Ret) Tony Mayne who is the 3rd Ranger Battalion UD, and director of the GallentFew Program.

#### 0900 Micro Mentorship VA

Kristi McNichol, Three Ranger Foundation Board Member & Jennifer Solum, Veteran Affairs Benefit Expert. Kristi and Jennifer will be presenting on Micro-Mentorship. Micro-Mentorship happens during the 1:1 conversations Rangers have with each other while sharing individual situations and concerns. Kristi & Jen will focus on information to share with new Ranger veterans and those that are more seasoned in civilian life. **Topics will include secrets to a successful service-connected claim and how to maximize retirement benefits.**

#### 1030 hrs 75th RRA General Membership Meeting

Only those that have a current paid membership can vote. If you are not sure of your paid membership status, contact Secretary Tom Sove **before** the meeting. Thank you.

#### Marriott Hotel Information

There is free parking at both hotels. At the Phenix Marriot, it's a golf ball throw away from the hotel. At the downtown Marriot, free parking is a 4 iron shot. Should you want to park in the main lot on hotel property, the daily rate is \$7 at the Phenix and \$10

in Columbus; your call. For those that would have difficulty walking to the hotel from free parking at the Phenix host hotel, free valet parking will be provided by a 75th RRA *volunteer* who can be located in the hospitality room during open hours. At the host hotel, by parking across the street, allows more parking spaces for hospitality guests not staying at the Phenix Marriott.

#### Merrill's Marauders

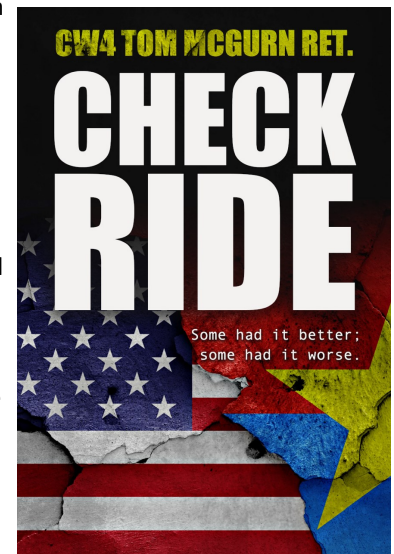
The 75th RRA is honored to have two surviving Merrill's Marauders stay with us at the host hotel: Bob Passanisi and Gil Howland. We will also share half the artwork and photo display of the Marauders in our hospitality room. The other half of the Marauder display is at the Doubletree.

The hotel will provide free coffee in the morning with the urn located in or just outside the hospitality room. The 75th RRA will also have rolls for you in the morning at the same location. There are a number of breakfast sites nearby and reasonably priced. Those locations will be provided in your registration bag when you check in.

#### 75th RRA Banquet

Our guest speaker, CW4 Tom McGurn, is our featured speaker who has flown helicopter missions in both Vietnam and in Iraq. *Check Ride* is an informative, interesting book with parts that he will share with his audience including insertions and extractions of Ranger teams in Vietnam.

The Iron Works is our venue and everything is set in place with a great way to end a wonderful 2021 Ranger Rendezvous!



#### Parting President's Thoughts

I will give my thanks at the banquet to the officers with whom I served with these last two years. A job well done and I truly thank you all!

When I took on the huge task as president of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, it was both an honor with a ton of responsibility. The voice that I heard when elected said let's move forward, connect with younger Rangers, and hand over the reins. We need everyone's support to do that within our existing Association.

Now's the time to vote. There is an election of our executive officers on July 22nd. Art "Doc" Attaway, has made a commitment to run for the office of president (the only one). Art is connected to the Ranger programs with boots on the ground; who is at Fort Benning at least once a month; at every Ranger class graduation; at every major Ranger event; has proven leadership on boards and associations; and the list goes on.

Vote forward! Stephen Johnson/President 75th RRA

Here we are a short time away from our reunion that occurs every other year. Thinking back to the dark ages we used to hold the reunion on the even numbered years and then the units could have a reunion in the odd years, and this worked fine for us. What caused the change. The ranger regiment changed its change of command to the odd years. So, trying to accommodate the Regiment we changed out time for our reunion also. I never could figure this out as very few of us attended the Change of Command. So, we just went ahead and did it.

Things change and with time and now it does not seem like that big a deal but at the time it was our demonstration of wanting to stay connected with the regiment. We often have used raffles in the past to fund our activities and it has worked quite well. We are going in a different direction this year with an auction. We do need stuff to auction off. Please gather what these old-time rangers would

## 1st VP REPORT

ROY BARLEY



like and bring it with you. When Harley pulled out it put a big dent on the income side of the ledger, but they will be back. Auctions can be a lot of

fun so open the wallets and enjoy. Let any of the officers know what you are bringing and we will let you know where we can have the items dropped off, etc.

This organization has come a long way in only a couple of years and a lot of the credit goes to Steve Johnson. We went from an organization of one having not put out a newsletter over a period of several years to one that puts *Patrolling out* quarterly. These things do not happen over night and it takes hard work. With my leaving office due to health issues, I hope the organization does not just fall back to its bad past habits and keeps its eye on the horizon. I believe that Pete Dencker is our best option for the office of President. Pete has been the 2<sup>nd</sup> VP and certainly has a working knowledge of the organization and its people. Happy Trails.

## TREASURER REPORT

ROGER CRUNK

Greetings,

I do not normally write anything in this space other than submit the financial reports. I have been entirely too busy the last couple of months so I am way behind in getting everything recorded in QuickBooks so I will just submit the account totals as of 5-13-21. I should have it up to date for the next issue or for the reunion business meeting.

Operations- \$12,343.58

Operations Savings- \$71,961.68

Benevolent- \$12,948.18

Benevolent Savings- \$42,680.22

Life Funds- \$27,307.59: The membership voted a few years ago to transfer these funds to operations at 10% per year over ten years. I have been transferring it to operational savings account.

Legacy Walkway- \$7,708.43

**We are in good financial shape and have no outstanding obligations as of this date.**

## MISSION

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

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT  
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.



Rangers,

I am more of a man of actions than words and feel my actions in the Ranger community speak for themselves over the past decade, and back when I was an active-duty soldier in 1/75, but feel a short response to Roy's article in the last edition of Patrolling Magazine warrants a written response. I was among the earliest members of the 1st BN and take great pride in my service then. I also take pride in the recent job I have been doing in the Ranger community, and it has been an honor and privilege to actively work as a volunteer in the Ranger community, including USARA, the National Ranger Foundation, and in direct support of Gallant Few and the Darby Project. My dedication is to the Ranger community at large, and not singularly USARA or any other individual organization. I act with integrity to complete the mission of the organization I am involved with.

Regarding USARA, I have already turned in my resignation and will no longer be involved in leadership in that organization by the time the 75th RRA election is held. My focus and dedication will be to the 75th RRA. That being said, what Roy had to say about a "rival" organization miffs me, and he is referring to far distant past history from the early 1990's. Travis West, Rick Barela, Steve Johnson, Tony Mayne, Duke Durkin, Mike Hall, and myself have worked for almost 6 years to bring ALL the Ranger organizations into a cooperative position and support each other, and the Ranger community. I also take pride in this effort. I really do not understand what Roy is talking about here but respect his opinion regardless. USARA has, for decades, recognized and accepted the Rangers Roy says were denied in the early 90's.

Regarding the "treasury", that is not really the way it works. No single individual has unilateral control over this aspect of the

association. What qualifies me for the position is exactly what I have done for the past 7 years, as an active leader and member of several Ranger organizations. With my residence in Dahlonega, Ga I am able to attend all activities at Ft. Benning and Hunter AAF, easily and affordably, increasing the awareness of the organization's presence in the community. Additionally, I dedicate the time required to execute the mission 100%, and then some. The current cross population of the 75th Regiment and the ARTB (Training Brigade) includes active-duty leadership that have served many years in both units, back and forth. I was trained by the best, NCO's and Officers that had served many tours in Vietnam as Rangers and came to standup the 1st Ranger Bn in 1974. Now the active-duty leaders have served in combat deployed areas for almost 20 years, and when they are not deployed, they are in pre-deployment training for the next rollout. It has been a blessing for me to be able to be involved in this community, active and no-active Rangers.

I do believe that an existing leader in the organization would make a good President also, but they must step up and dedicate the actual "on the ground" time to execute the mission. Many qualified individuals do not have that additional time in their busy schedules. I will support and accept whatever the membership decides and am hopeful I will be supported, but if not, I will still be there to support the 75th RRA, All The Way! HOOAH.

Doc Attaway

**Art "Doc" Attaway**

### ***Dianne Hammond-Gold Star Mom***

I wanted in print is the fact that Cory Remsburg is in the hospital for a few months (he Missed our event) and he can only get one visitor a day-- but maybe sending him a card or ??? may help him pass the time--same hospital he was in after incident occurred 01oct2009

Tampa VA Polytrauma Hospital

ATTN Cory Remsburg

13000 Bruce Downs Blvd

Bldg #38 Room#205

Tampa, Florida 33612

### ***Sandrino's Sacrifice Golf Outing***

We had a great turnout including Rangers from Multi eras-- some pics-- bright sunshine-- no masks-- just beer, cigars, golf and lots of smiles and loud laughter 😊🎸🎱, Ciao, Dianne



### ***Sandrino's Sacrifice Golf Outing***



For the last two years my father and I have watched the television show American Idol together. We have a weekly ritual of popping a bowl of popcorn and getting to know the contestants week after week.

As they are introduced, we learn their personal stories and how they came to be on the show. Everyone has a story. Many are young folks whose parents share their pride in the obstacles and adversities that were overcome to get there. As the contestants make the cut towards the top twenty, top ten, etc, my heart swells learning the details of their stories as they unfold. They are all someone's child, many of whose parents are included in the show's footage. They share messages of hope and perseverance and beam about their child's drive and pursuit of their dreams.

I feel their sense of pride when they talk about their children, often with tears of joy in their eyes or ear to ear smiles. It resonates with me, and it breaks my heart, because my son became what he was meant to be by dying. He pursued without giving up, his wanting desire to serve in the military and defend his country. By the age of 21, he fulfilled his purpose, by dying.

When I share Ben's story, I often talk about the declaration he made at the age of thirteen to join the military and become an Army Ranger. At such a tender age, he knew what he wanted to be when he grew up. Becoming an Army Ranger became his *true north*. He never took his eye off that goal.

I was proud of Ben before he joined the military. One month after he graduated from high school, he was on his way to train with the Infantry of the United States Army. Seven short months later he had completed the training required to become a Ranger and was assigned to the Third Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment at Ft. Benning, GA. With hard work, and equal parts of blood, sweat and tears, the declaration he made at thirteen became real. Mission accomplished - almost. All the while Ben was in the Army, my pride soared to a level I never imagined.

His three years of active service brought even more pride. Being twenty years older than Ben, I still wasn't sure what I wanted to become, yet, here he was reaching beyond what he had hoped to accomplish. In that third year of service, on his third deployment, the source of my pride ceased to physically exist when a Taliban sniper sent Ben into the Heavenly realm. Strange as it sounds, Ben's death elevated my pride to a space I still (almost twelve years later) have a hard time wrapping my head around. In the battle that would cost him his life, he saved six of his fellow Rangers. Upon his death, with the donation of his organs, bone, skin and tissue, he directly saved the lives of four people and enhanced fifty-five more. That is something. He also immediately became a legacy to all who knew him and to scores of others who never would. Ben's life has had an incredible ripple effect. He physically lives on in those who received his organs,



bone, skin and tissue. His spirit lives on in the hearts of all who knew him and in those who learned of his heroism after the fact. The ripple has reached the families of the men he saved on the battlefield and to those who still breathe because of his gifts of life. A child will have a grandfather because of Ben. A twenty-two year old Ranger became a husband and father because of Ben.

We don't get to be here long, our time on earth is short. Even if we live one hundred years, it will pass in the blink of an eye. In twenty-one years, Ben lived a full life. He accomplished his dreams and touched lives in a way that most of us never will. His legacy has reached beyond the grave and has continued to inspire and motivate adults and children alike. A Ranger that served with Ben recently reached out to me and sent photos of his seven year old son on his four wheeler that he has been racing. Memorial stickers in honor of Ben adorn the machine. The child has been taught about Ben through his father. A young man currently serving in the same battalion as Ben, sent me a message a couple weeks ago telling me how Ben's legacy inspired him to get through some difficult training. He tells Ben's story to the men he trains to motivate them to fight harder to achieve their goals. May 24th marks the eleventh birthday Ben's heart recipient will celebrate with **his** heart marching on inside her chest.

I don't think Ben had a clue the life he was living would affect people the way it has after he was gone. I don't think he knew he would be gone after twenty-one years. I don't think he knew he would be an inspiration and a motivating source to multiple generations. What I do know is that Ben lived a life worth living. I know that his true north in a way became mine. What he refused to take his eyes off of, is what I endeavor to reach: to not lose focus on what I am here to do and to fulfill my purpose. Ben's life and what he stood for is my true north.

Ben achieved his mission at twenty-one. I am grateful I got a last opportunity to hug him and tell him how much I loved him and how proud I was of him. It may not have happened on a show about his singing career in front of cameras, but his triumphs have outlasted his life and my pride in that as his mother stretches all the way to the Heavens. You truly never know what part of your story will become someone else's inspiration. As Nelson Henderson stated, "The True meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

Wishing you all a peace-filled summer and the very best that God has to offer. Rangers Lead The Way!



GallantFew's Ranger program, formerly known as The Darby Project, continues to assist active duty Rangers in their transition from military service to civilian life. We nest our efforts with Three Rangers Foundation to best serve our Rangers now and in the future in concert with the principles outlined in the Ranger Regiment's Phalanx and Ranger for Life programs.

**Ranger Outreach Center Grand Opening:** Kickoff Ranger Rendezvous 2021 at the grand opening of the Ranger Outreach Center at Saint Luke Columbus at 9 a.m. on Monday, July 19, 2021.

The ROC is a one-of-a-kind military incubator for the Fort Benning and Chattahoochee Valley located in the heart of the Ranger community. The ROC serves as the home office for Saint Luke's military ministry, GallantFew's Ranger transition program, Cru Military ministry, and offices for veteran entrepreneurs and their spouses. The event will begin with an outdoor celebration and ribbon-cutting followed by an open house of Columbus' home of the brave.

Recommended dress is business casual.

Secure your tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ranger-outreach-center-grand-opening-tickets-155516462927> or visit our GallantFew Rangers Facebook events page for the link.

**Riding for Rangers:** GallantFew's Ranger program and OnPoint 1-1 are humbled to announce the six fallen Rangers selected for remembrance as part of September's Riding for Rangers.

100% of the proceeds from the event will benefit the Ranger memorial or support initiative selected by the Rangers' families. This September 1 through 30, we ride for the following Rangers (pictured left to right):

CPT Connor Bednarzyk, 3/75 - Five Foundation

SFC Kristoffer Domeij, 2/75 - GallantFew Rangers

SGT Ronald Kubik, 3/75 - SGT Ronald Kubik Memorial Scholarship

SGT Dominick Pilla, 3/75 - Three Rangers Foundation

SGT Alessandro Plutino, 1/75 - Honoring Sandrino's Sacrifice Fund

SGT Joshua Rodgers, 3/75 - SGT Joshua Rodgers Memorial Fund

You can register for the fitness and fundraising challenge online at <https://ridingforrangers.org>.

We are excited to announce the city of Dahlonega's annual Six Gap Century Race occurring on Sunday, September 26 is supporting Riding for Rangers. The 2,000 cyclist field will be able to select a Ranger to ride in memory of during the race. We thank Ranger veteran Robb Nichols for making Six Gap home to this worthy endeavor.

In preparation for Six Gap and to bring together the Ranger community in Dahlonega, Ranger veteran Art Attaway is arranging weekly Saturday road and mountain bike rides beginning September 4. Tony Mayne will do the same in Columbus, Ga.

Get involved with Riding for Rangers by visiting the website and registering. Contact Art Attaway or Tony Mayne to organize a local event or volunteer at Six Gap.

Riding to Honor. Riding to Remember. Riding for Rangers.

**ROC Grand Opening:** Nicole Mayne, GallantFew's project manager and Saint Luke Columbus Military Ministry leader, stands outside The ROC in Columbus, Ga.



**Riding for Rangers:** Six fallen Rangers will be honored this fall as part of GallantFew and OnPoint 1-1's Riding for Rangers. Registration is open now for the September 2021 event benefiting Ranger memorial and support initiatives.



There is a small, red, aromatic cedar box stuffed under my desk in my office that I often caress gently with a mixture of love and sadness. The contents are an assortment of memorabilia from the life of my father, who passed in 2010 from a car accident. He spent 33 years of his life in the US Army and by doing so, influenced my life and my children's lives through his legacy.

As we celebrate Memorial Day this year let us look at our lives through the lens of creating legacy. This holiday had its beginning as Decoration Day, when General James Garfield invited over 5,000 observers to honor the graves of the 20,000 Civil War soldiers buried in Arlington Cemetery. Since the 1860's there have been many different forms of the celebration that is now recognized as Memorial Day. Today, Firemen and Policemen who have died in service are sometimes included in the celebration of Memorial Day.

For those who work intimately in those occupations, the observance of this day is personal, as well as social. We honor those that fought and died in service to others, or in helping to create a better world for those left behind. We celebrate formally together, and privately in our own homes. We open our cedar boxes and post pictures of our loved ones and honor those who died protecting the values outlined by our constitution.

Having faith that we have made a positive impact in the world is one way that people gain a sense of purpose and meaning in their lives (Grant & Wade-Benzoni, 2009, Wade-Benzoni, 003). It is almost as if we can deny death by creating legacies that live on generationally and that they surpass physical existence into a realm of heritage (Wade-Benzoni, Sondak, Galinsky 2010).

*"I used to post the names of all my fallen soldiers that I served with in Afghanistan, but that list has gotten too long. Now when I talk with my friends from the CIA, FBI, and police, we all have similar stories, but no one ever tells their story with regret, they share it as a reminder of the importance of what we all do (since this is a professional network). I personally try to go to DC and Virginia to visit the bigger memorial sites. Always honor those you lost by what you do..." M.Morgan, Major., US Army*

We have a need for some perception of purpose, some sense of belonging to something bigger than the 'self' (Bauman 1992).

*"America has been successful because the backup plan was never an option. We are a nation, unique in world history, that is built upon purpose rather than geography or ethnicity. America exists because a proposition about the humankind—that our nature is not to be forcefully molded by government, but instead that gov-*

*ernment exists to protect our inalienable rights. In exchange, we expect our citizens to live dutifully, morally, and responsibly. That purpose has informed us and our national destiny throughout our existence."*

*Fortitude, Hachette Book Group 2020, Dan Crenshaw, pg. 76*

On Memorial Day, the flag of the United States will be lowered to the half-staff position. At noon it will be raised to full staff, to signify that those that gave the greatest sacrifice for their country are raised up by the living who resolve that their sacrifice not be in vain.

Today, I honor those that gave all so that I might enjoy the freedoms that I have received and continue to receive daily. The music, parades, and decorations are just part of how I feel about their sacrifice. Our National Anthem will play, and the words will float through my mind reminding me of those that gave their lives and continue to protect my freedom. Hearts will stir and passions will emerge, and volunteers will take oaths to defend our nation against enemies, foreign and domestic. This is the greatest form of respect for those fallen, to follow in their footsteps and be willing to give the greatest gift...

What is your legacy? How do you want to be remembered? Write down your stories, record your memories and pass on your legacy.





As mentioned in my previous article, stroke can be prevented and minimized. Here are four techniques that may be of benefit to some of you. Check with your personal Doctor to ensure their timeliness, safety and value for your personal condition.

I credit Peter G. Levine and his Stronger After Stroke, 2018 with all content for the following four modalities.

**Treadmill Training:** A treadmill is an effective recovery tool for folks who have had a stroke, as long as it is safe. Treadmill training can improve the quality, speed and confidence of one's walking ability around the house or in the community. It also serves as a visual reminder of doing something every day for recovery success. I was told that walking was the single best therapy I could do on a regular basis to facilitate recovery by virtually all of my therapists.

- Cardiovascular fitness (important in preventing and reducing risk of another stroke).
- Muscle strength (important for overall fitness & maintaining optimum weight)
- Balance (important in reducing the risk of falls)

**Coordination** (important in reducing the amount of energy it takes to walk, which give you the ability to walk faster and further).

Also has the advantage of:

- Providing a safe, straight, flat and never-ending path on which to walk.
- Providing handles, offering stability and security during recovery, especially when learning to walk again and taking one's first few steps.
- Allows for long-distance walking in a comfortable indoor setting any time of day or night.
- Allows for gradation of speed and incline, measureable factors key to recording success.
- Allows for detailed measurement of progress.
- The convenience of no travel, no traffic, no time lost
- You control the complete environment, including the music.
- Flexibility to exercise whenever you are in the mood.

Ease of readout – large digital letters.

Also provides an opportunity to:

- Look down at your feet while walking (something that shouldn't be done if outside).
- Place a mirror at the front of the tread surface so you can observe the quality of your gate.

Better evaluate your overall posture and carriage by "walking

towards the mirror".

Recovery Calendar

Recovery is a discipline. The more disciplined and organized a person is at the beginning of recovery, the more likely he is to succeed in its accomplishment. It is basically an appointment schedule with your-self. Sound funny, not so. One of the most difficult things I have to come to realize is that as disciplined as I was while in uniform, the circumstances were different, now. I didn't have someone who was leading me. I didn't have a team to motivate me. I didn't have standards that I knew were essential to maintaining my proficiency - I was all alone with my wife. The sooner I had a calendar with personal appointments with myself, the sooner I fell into a groove of daily activities that were fixed and non-negotiable. The calendar became my leader and motivator, all in one. It soon began to "own me" and my recovery life, one day at a time – the secret to recovery or any type. It must be read and worked daily to become effective.

A workout calendar soon becomes a "daily bible" that is focused on saving your soul through a schedule of daily exercise.

Keep track of success and failures

- Helps establish what works and what doesn't
- Helps spot positive and negative trends in one's quest for personal recovery
- Helps to identify effective therapies from lemons
- Helps measure progress by providing an accessible arc of recovery- comparison of one day/week/month to another
- Record progress, which is essential to defining and achieving goals.
- Helps to increase adherence to goals
- Provides an accurate record of accomplishment upon which to reflect
- Provides a visual and regular sense of accomplishment as goals are met
- Provides others, doctors and therapists, a valuable record of accomplishment

Your recovery calendar only requires three elements:

1. A row for dates
2. A column for the interventions, exercises or modalities
3. Boxes, intersections of rows /columns to record data.

Suggestion: Use a pencil for recording data to allow for mistakes, changes and altered plans.

Let Recovery Flow

Everyone is most motivated by the things they love. There is a natural tendency to focus upon, practice and pursue activities that one loves. When stroke survivors work on things they are passionate about, it is no longer work, rehabilitation or exercise. Recovery becomes play. *Continued on the next page*

They are “in the flow”, lose track of time, are in an eternal NOW of play, doing what they love. You can use this same process in recovery by finding those things are loved and at the same time therapeutic. For example, I love to work on old outboard motors, the vintage type. I found someone to guide me through my lack of knowledge since I’m a novice at this particular passion. Since it involves everything from manual dexterity in dealing with small parts, to cognitive abilities of planning and remembering relationships of engine parts to strength in moving motors from one location to another, I derive a three-fold benefit from working on my motors and it all contributes to my recovery.

Being in the flow of recovery:

- Eliminates self-doubt and self-consciousness
- Allows you to focus on recovery almost instinctively or intuitively
- Allows you to focus on nothing but recovery
- Makes recovery actually enjoyable
- Makes time stand still
- Reduces any aches and pains associated with recovery
- Makes recovery addictive because the feeling of being in the flow is addictive.

An important part concept in stroke recovery is that necessity drives recovery. Define what is essential in your life.

- Identity (work, family, spirit, values,)
- Passions (hobbies, art work, sports,)
- Happiness (grandchildren, attending church, gardening, out of doors)
- Life (cooking, cleaning, grooming)
- Independence (walking, reading, doing puzzles)

Research studies show that when stroke survivors focus on meaningful activities they get better faster. “Meaningful” connotes an emotional component is involved. If there is no emotional attachment to what you are attempting to recover from, chances are you won’t see the activity as meaningful and will probably lose interest. When meaning is lost, recovery will dwindle, decline and eventually stop.

### Feeling Recovery

Human beings separate themselves from the rest of the animal kingdom through their ability to repetitively practice specific ranges of behaviors; animals can do only a limited range of survival skills. Humans can repetitively practice a combination of

complex events over and over, from throwing to climbing and from tennis to kickboxing. We have another skill set that animals lack, the ability to choose and focus our behavior. We are able to practice to the point of attaining excellence. Accompanying the development of excellence is usually that of feeling. Attaining high degrees of performance is directly associated with the sensation of feeling. We use feelings to guide us in our development of skills; it also works in reverse, developing skills is also accompanied with the development of feeling.

The recovery of movement and sensation go hand in hand: repetition and practice are necessary to recover feelings. That is, if you feel something over and over, the portion of the brain that listens to that feeling expands. If a sensation is delivered to the brain repeatedly, over time that sensation is felt by the brain more strongly. Sensation follows the same rules of neuroplasticity as movement; the two are inextricably linked.

There are two types of sensation that most impact stroke recovery.

- Proprioception: The ability to know where parts of your body are without looking at them. Proprioception is essential to normal movement of the human body. Some stroke victims have great movement but lack proprioception, called apraxia.
- Tactile sensation: The feeling of pressure on the skin; the sense of touch

Repetitive practice of movement makes the movement better. The reason this works is that every time you attempt to make the motion, the brain grows in both sensation and muscle memory, the essence of neuroplasticity.

That’s about it for now fellow RANGERS. I hope some of you benefit from the content of this article, even if it later in life when you yourself become a stroke survivor. Until then, RANGERS lead the way, have for generations and will continue to do so for generations to come.

Harrison U. Jack

Aka “Flip”, Lt Jack, DUC PHO



**T/SGT David Richardson will be 31<sup>st</sup> Merrill's Marauder RHOE inductee**



War Correspondent David B. Richardson, who shot both his camera and gun as he trekked every step of the 1944 Marauder mission, will be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in July. His stories and images for "Yank" magazine about the men of the 5307<sup>th</sup> Composite Unit Provisional captivated the public. "Richardson is believed to be the most highly decorated correspondent in uniform during World War II, having received the Legion of Merit, two Bronze Stars, two Presidential Unit Citations and the Combat Infantryman's Badge," wrote Matt Schudel in his 2005 "Washington Post" obituary. "He missed receiving a Purple Heart in New Guinea because he refused to stay overnight in a hospital for treatment of a wound near his eye. Instead, he returned to action wearing an eye patch." Since the RHOE program began in 1992, there have been 30 Marauders and one 5307<sup>th</sup> CUP replacement selected. Five are triple Combat Infantryman Badge recipients and three are double CIB recipients. LTG "Sam" Wilson and Marauder Nisei MSGT Roy Matsumoto are also Military Intelligence Hall of Fame inductees.

**RHOE Marauders will attend 2021 Ranger Rendezvous**

Two of the seven surviving Marauders, "Bob" Passanisi, 96, and "Gil" Howland, 98, will attend all of 2021 Ranger Rendezvous at Ft. Benning July 19-23. The widow, Anne, of 2020 inductee Dave Richardson will accept the RHOE medallion for her husband. There is a possibility that Marauder "Gabe" Kinney, who recently turned 100, could attend some functions.



**Marauder Nisei will be honored on new postage stamp**



Merrill's Marauder's 14 Nisei will be among 33,000 Japanese Americans who served during WW II who will be honored by a new "Go for Broke" postage stamp. The first-day issue of the U.S. Postal Service stamp will be June 3, 2021. The first city of issue is Los Angeles.

That's where three Japanese American women started a "Stamp our Story" campaign in 2005. Those women and other Japanese Americans were placed in internment camps during WW II. The Marauder Nisei were Howard H. Furumoto, Henry Goshu, Grant J. Hirabayashi, Robert Y. Honda, Calvin T. Kobata, Russell K. Kono, Roy H. Matsumoto, Edward Mitsukado, Herbert Y. Miyasaki, Roy K. Nakada, Ben S. Sugata, Thomas K. Tsubota, Jimmie Yamaguchi and Akiji Yoshimura. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. William A. Laffin, whose mother was Japanese, was the Nisei's leader. Laffin was KIA in Burma. The stamp shows PFC Shiroku "Whitey" Yamamoto, who fought with the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe. The 442nd is the most decorated unit for its size in U.S. military history.

**5307<sup>th</sup> CUP replacement James W. White's remains will be laid to rest June 12, 2021, in Ohio**



It's been almost 77 years since PFC James W. White, 21, was killed July 2, 1944, fighting to hold Burma's Myitkyina airfield and capture the town of Myitkyina. His remains were identified in January 2020 but Covid-19 prevented them from being sent home for burial. Members of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment along with other active and retired Rangers will attend his June 12, 2021, funeral in Long Bottom, Ohio. White was one of about 2,500 replacements flown into the Myitkyina airfield between late May into July 1944. The 5307<sup>th</sup> CUP disbanded Aug. 10, 1944. The number of living replacements, which is higher than the seven living Marauders, is not known.

**Update on Congressional Gold Medal design**

Members of the Marauder advisory committee have reviewed 18 proposed designs by various U.S. Mint artists and narrowed them into three designs that will again be resubmitted for review. A final set of front and back designs will be reviewed June 15, 2021, by the Citizens Advisory Coinage Committee along with the Marauder committee. That will be followed by a review between the Commission on Fine Arts with the advisory group. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen will make a final approval. The approved design then goes to engravers, and is projected to be finished in late 2021.

**Your donations will help the WW II Foundation complete its Merrill's Marauder documentary in 2021**



Award-winning PBS documentary filmmaker Tim Gray has managed to keep production moving forward on the Merrill's Marauder documentary despite a slow-down in the contributions necessary for its completion by the end of 2021. The goal is to complete the documentary by the time the Marauder Congressional Gold medal design is finished at the end of 2021. Your help is crucial!!!! PLEASE google **WW II Foundation** to make a donation. **Be sure to specify Merrill's Marauders.**

**TO THE RIGHT** are two **Merrill's Marauder** challenge coins that **OnPoint 1-1**, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit dedicated to raising funds for Ranger veteran programs, hopes will raise money for both its organization & the WW II Marauder documentary.



The coins will be sold at both Ranger host hotels during Ranger Rendezvous. For each coin sold, the purchaser will receive a photo signed by both RHOE Marauders "Bob" Passanisi and "Gil" Howland. - AND - **A donation will be made to the WW II Foundation!!**



submitted by Jonnie Melillo Clasen





## 2nd BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—Kevin Ingraham

My hiatus from RRA participation is over. For reasons I will not go into, I just needed to step away for awhile. Firstly, a tip of the beret to Ranger Yates for his reflections on two Ranger leaders whose leadership styles and examples influenced many of our lives.

Our Rangers are working hard through the pandemic as best as health safety measures allow but know this—they are training just as hard as always while as a group, they remain largely inside the 2/75 bubble. No reason to lose a warrior to microbes by being stupid. Adapt and overcome!

Congratulations to PFC Lopez, 2/75, for Distinguished Honor Graduate of Ranger Class 11-20. Fellow Old Scrolls please note that these Rangers do not receive the automatic promotion our '70s generation did. Well done, Ranger Lopez!

What makes a Ranger Batt warrior?

In the first decade of the post-9/11 wars, our Regiment established itself as a dynamic and innovative organization that leads the way for the army in many forms and functions. One area that required adaptation was the selection and preparation of volunteers for service in the Rangers. It rapidly became clear that the method of holding a short selection course and relying on the unit to train newly assigned rangers up to standard was not workable with the intense deployment schedule and short time available for individual training at unit level. The three weeks of RIP provided the battalions with physically fit and motivated newbies, but it did not necessarily produce the most suitable prospects into the unit. The first upgrade was to add an additional week for detailed weapons and marksmanship training. Then in January 2010, an entirely new program was introduced. RASP, the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program was eight weeks long and consists of two phases. The first phase primarily serves the same purpose as the old RIP—to select out the weak and unmotivated and strengthen those who remain. This phase “front ends” attrition so that Phase 2 can concentrate on teaching the remaining candidates the unique basic skills required to function in a ranger line platoon. This program means new Rangers are more rapidly integrated into their squads or sections and allows the battalions to concentrate on training for the next deployment.

Concurrent with the implementation of RASP, the Ranger Orientation Program (ROP 1 and ROP 2) was developed to prepare promotion-eligible Ranger NCOs and officers for the next higher leadership or staff position. Newly selected leaders (“imports”) and former members returning from ‘Big Army’ must also attend to ensure they are fit enough to lead Rangers and to be up to date in Regiment TTPs and standards



Coinciding with developing RASP/ROP; Regiment assessed just what type of person makes for a good scroll-bearing Ranger. Issues such as the high attrition rates of newly assigned rangers and the infamous 2006 Tacoma bank robbery and its consequences resulted in studies to determine what the “right” candidate looks like, morally as well as intellectually and physically. By selecting the candidate with the most appropriate qualities to begin with means time and resources are

spent training those likeliest to be successful in RASP and their battalion. This extra in-depth effort has paid off. The first RASP classes graduated around 40%. From 2011 to around 2015 (the last year I have numbers for) accession rates ran around 65%. The greater numbers do not mean lower standards; they reflect the fact that more suitable applicants were admitted to RASP and that those candidates are learning more and are better at mastering the skills. More on what the present-day battalion is like will appear in future issues.

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

Ranger Taft Yates

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

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

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

*Continued on the next page*

The BN was sending A Co under the command of CPT Kernan to Petawawa Canada to train with the Canadian Commandos. One rare clear morning I was driving LTC Downing to the machine gun range when the Colonel brought up the upcoming trip for A Co. He said there would be an additional PLT going with A Co. When we arrived at the range the guns were singing. I got to get a little trigger time. As the LTC and I were headed back to the vehicle he told me I had a choice. He told me I had to decide if I wanted to remain his driver or go back on my MG and go with my PLT and A Co to Canada. I told him I wanted to go to Canada. In a couple of days I was back in 3<sup>rd</sup> PLT C Co and on my GUN! Soon after that we were on our way to Canada under the command of CPT Kernan to train with the Commandos. It was quite an experience. We made a night combat equipment mass tac out of C-130s. Akios were loaded and placed on the ramp of the C-130s. The Akios were dropped and we jumped from the doors, following them. A full rucksack, snowshoes, and my M-60. There was a full moon that night. We jumped on a frozen lake. There was supposed to be a couple feet of snow, however by the time we jumped the snow had been blown away, so we hit on solid ice. One of the Akios did burn in and was sticking out of the ice like a yard dart. All in all, we had a great time in Canada.

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

In October '84 Alpha companies 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger BNs were at Ft Benning GA to activate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ranger BN and Ranger Regiment HQ. Colonel Downing became promotable to Brigadier General. He invited me to his pre-promotion party along with all PSGs and up.

Fast forward to 1989. I was again back in 2/75. This time I was the 1<sup>st</sup> PLT 'Vatos Locos' PSG. General Downing was the JSOC commanding general and Colonel Kernan was the Ranger Regimental commander. We were all primed and rigged for Opera-

tion Just Cause. Col Kernan gave those of us at Lawson Army Airfield a Hooah talk before we boarded our aircraft for the combat night mass tac into Panama. Around day 3 of OJC I was returning from a platoon night ambush. I observed a small contingent of HMMVs near my sector. I saw a number of soldiers wearing rag tops. I told the squad leaders to get the boys back to the platoon AO and I would check on the vehicles in our AO. As I approached the group, I saw one bald kevlar helmet in the group. I saw a bunch of CSMs, LTCs and other brass. The person sporting the bald helmet turns out to be LTG Downing. He walks toward me then grabs me and gives me a hug calling me Old Ranger buddy, I'm glad you are here.

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

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

Two of many great Ranger commanders. Timing could not have been better. General Downing to be the third commander of the Ranger Regiment; making him the commander for the largest Ranger element since D day. General Kernan commanding the Ranger Regiment for the largest combat jump since WWII and the largest combat jump for any Ranger unit. RLTW!

### Ranger C. Palacios



I first met CSM Louis C. Palacios in early November 1975. He was a SSG squad leader in 3<sup>rd</sup> PLT C Co 2/75 Ranger BN. He was a professional in every way. He was quiet, firm but fair and had great warrior skill sets. From field crafts to tactics and the art of hand-to-hand combat. He mentored younger Rangers to be able to take over in the case of his absence whatever the situation might be.

I would like to share some of my fondest memories. Keep in mind when I first arrived in 3<sup>rd</sup> PLT C Co 2/75 Ranger BN I had not been to Airborne school so things were even a bit tougher for me and a few other Rangers in the same boat as me.

*Continued on the next page*

We all called him SSG "P". I remember when the BN flew to Dugway Utah for the BNs first ARTEP. Those of us which were not Airborne qualified we did not go on this mission as the rest of the BN was to conduct a night combat equipment mass tactical airborne operation. Well the weather in Utah was all blizzards. Unbeknownst to us back at Ft Lewis a number of the aircraft did not make the drop. All of us back at Ft Lewis did know that in a few days we would be making link up with the rest of the BN when they jumped back into Ft Lewis. A few of us went to the PX to get a few things. When we returned to the barracks, I saw the whites of 2 eyes on a green face peering at me through the little window on the front door of our barracks. The door opened and there was the smiling face of SSG P. I thought I was going to get a butt chewing instead I got a bit of wise knowledge from SSG P. He explained to us why some of the BN had returned early and we would be leaving out to link up later that night.

About day break on 1 Jan 1976, after a night of me and Ranger brothers celebrating the new year, I hear a knock on my room door. A voice on the other side of the door saying "Ranger Yates, it's SSG P". I open the door and he asked me to go fishing with him. Man, I was ready fast. I loved fishing and had not been fishing on almost a year. SSG P said he was making a dinner for some of the command element of our BN. We arrived at a marina on Puget Sound. We met up with 2 of SSG Ps buddies which I did not know. We got into a small motor boat. I do not remember how many fish we caught. I know I caught a sea cucumber and a small duck. SSG P took me to his quarters and I met his wife Cyndy. I got to warm up and eat while SSG P began preparing the fish. He let me sample a small amount and it was awesome.

A short time later prior to the BN deploying to Alaska SSG P was in the company supply room getting a hair cut from the supply SGT. There were a few of us needing some items. A few of the guys that had already been to airborne school began to razz on me because I had not been to airborne school yet. (Had not had the chance). SSG P calmly said Ranger Yates is going to make it as a Ranger. That sure made me feel good and has stuck with me all of my life.

I went to airborne school in Feb 76! In June of 76 was the BN deployment to Panama for jungle training. SSG P sure schooled us up. Snorkeling, crabbing, climbing coconut trees and survival. I remember we were out in the bush and we saw SSG P walking toward us carrying a whole bunch of fresh bananas on his shoulder which he gave out to us. We sure were thankful to him.

I remember the only time I ever saw SSG P really chew anyone out. We were deep in South Rainer Training area. We had been wandering for several days. When we set in our patrol base it was getting dark. The Platoon Leader lit up a cigarette. SSG P took him a little bit away and man he lit the Platoon leader up. I can tell you the LT remembered the chewing forever. I know

because I worked with him when he was an LTC and he was wondering if I had brought SSG P to chew him out again. He and I did reminisce and laugh a bit. He said he had learned his lesson.

We were not excited when He was selected to go to A co to be a PSG we wanted for him to stay and remain our PSG.

In 1982 I arrived back in Bn. I was a squad leader in 3<sup>rd</sup> PLT A co. Now here we are again. SSG P was now our ISG. It sure was great to be back with him. In Oct 1983 we executed Operation Urgent Fury on the island of Grenada. ISG P was sitting next to me on the Black Hawk when we crashed 3 of our 4 choppers on our last mission. Later in 1984 ISG P was selected for a new job at the Ranger Regiment Headquarters.

The next time I was fortunate to see now CSM P was in 1994. I was on FT Benning at 4<sup>th</sup> RTB and he was the CSM of the Mountain Ranger camp.

I had the great fortune to work with (now both of us retired) Lou in Kuwait in 2006 and again in 2010. Millions of warriors greatly benefitted from the knowledge which was imparted on them from my Ranger buddy, my mentor, my friend and leader. CSM Luis Palacios. You will forever be with us. 12/18/2020 is the date a great Ranger left for the final objective. Rest in Eternal Peace. Rangers Lead the Way!

CSM(R) Luis Palacios, a <2> plank holder, was moved to hospice Monday, 30 November. He battled Stage 4 lung cancer for several years (compliments of Agent Orange). It metastized from his lungs to his bones.

CSM Palacios was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 2011.



From his RHoF induction: Command Sergeant Major Luis Palacios, United States Army, retired, is inducted into the Ranger Hall Of Fame after 30 years of service. He deployed to and conducted combat operations in Vietnam and Grenada. During his esteemed career, CSM Palacios served from Private to Command Sergeant Major, and held every enlisted leadership position from rifle team leader to Battalion CSM. For his service in peacetime and at war he received a multitude of awards, some of

which include the Legion of Merit, Army Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Army Commendation Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters. CSM Palacios was hand-selected to stand up the 2nd Ranger Battalion, where he served as one of the original Platoon Sergeants. He was the Company First Sergeant of two Ranger Companies, and Command Sergeant Major of three Battalions. Of his 30 years of service, 19 years were spent on airborne status, and 18 years in Ranger units. He continues to care and support Soldiers by deploying overseas to train our Soldiers for combat, and helps our veterans through multiple charity organizations. CSM Luis C. Palacios lives the Ranger Creed and is an inspiration to all Rangers, past, present, and future.





## **USARA PROUDLY WELCOMES ALL MEMBERS OF THE RANGER COMMUNITY**

This year's ARM will occur from July 19-23, 2021, and will be hosted at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Columbus, Georgia. Events will take place throughout the Columbus-Ft. Benning area. Active duty Rangers, veterans, families, and Ranger supporters are all welcome, including members of our sister Ranger organizations such as the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Worldwide Army Rangers, US Mountain Ranger Association, Sons of Mosby Motorcycle Association, and Killer Mans Sons Motorcycle Club. Many of this year's events will be held jointly with the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS & REGISTRATION**

USARA and the 75th RRA invite you to attend their co-hosted events like the Ranger for Life Briefing and Breakfast followed by a VA presentation on Thursday, July 22 and the President's Banquet on Friday, July 23. To register and learn more about the week's events visit [www.ranger.org/annualrangermuster](http://www.ranger.org/annualrangermuster). We look forward to being together once again.





# 3rd BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—TONY MAYNE

## 3rd Ranger Battalion Report

May 2021

**Mogadishu Mile Virtual Workout.** No announcement has been made on the annual Mogadishu Mile 5k in Columbus, Ga. at the time of publishing. But, the Three Rangers Foundation virtual Mogadishu Mile workout is a go for 2021!



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

Uncommon Athlete in downtown Columbus will host an in-person workout on Saturday morning, October 2. Look for event announcements on Facebook and contact Tony Mayne at [tony@gallantfew.org](mailto:tony@gallantfew.org) for more information on the Columbus, Ga. event.

**COMCAM:** Photo from the Regiment’s Facebook page.

Order your even shirt at <https://fragoutcc.com/collections/mogadishu-mile> and plan a workout with a Ranger buddy.

**Honor and fitness.** The Battalion posts memorial workouts for each of our fallen 3/75 Rangers. Go to the unit’s Facebook or Instagram page to find the workout that honors your Ranger buddy.

**Congratulations** to SPC Mitchell Gibbs and SPC Landon Carter, Combat Documentation/ Production Specialists with the 75th Ranger Regiment's Public Affairs office for winning the SPC Hilda I. Clayton Best ComCam Competition!

This is the first time in Regimental history that a team has competed in this competition. In addition to winning, the Best ComCam Competition, Spc. Gibbs and Spc. Carter are graduates of the U.S. Army Ranger Course and both recently earned the Expert Soldier Badge.

The Specialist Hilda I. Clayton Best ComCam Competition, hosted by the 55th Signal Company, was designed to assess the physical fitness, technical expertise, and tactical proficiency of visual information professionals.

### Connect

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

3d Ranger Battalion’s official Instagram account at [@3d\\_ranger\\_battalion](https://www.instagram.com/@3d_ranger_battalion).





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

## WARNING ORDER:

WHO: Alpha Company 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Rangers, D/17 INF. LRP; V Corps LRRP, 3779 LRRP

WHAT: Rendezvous in Waco

WHERE: Waco and Woodway, Texas

WHEN: March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> 2022

WHY: To carry on the Ranger traditions, comraderies, and friendships made while serving our country.

The dates are set. Working on a home base hotel and hospitality room similar to 2019. Jim Savell said he is planning a Saturday afternoon catered lunch. There will be a Saturday Remembrance Ceremony at 2pm, led by Rangers Bill Bowman and Eddie Alexander with bagpipes and bugles. Jim said there will be no admission costs, but donations are always welcome. Eddie Alexander has set up a site to accept donations. If you have a PayPal account, enter: 404-545-6533 as a friend or family. Or you can mail a check to Eddie Alexander at: 235 Weoka Ct. Ellijay, GA. 30540. Then follow up with an email to: [alexanderej@bellsouth.net](mailto:alexanderej@bellsouth.net) and copy Roy Bissey at: [rbissey@yahoo.com](mailto:rbissey@yahoo.com) telling what you sent and how. This will allow for accountability and tracking. I know it's still about 10 months out, but time seems to slip by a little faster each year and we'll be in Waco before you know it. If there is something you would like to see or have at the reunion, sound off and we'll try and make it happen.

Last article seemed to be filled with bad news. This time, so far, no bad news to report. I did finally give in and had my right knee replaced. Three weeks and a day and I was walking without a cane and cleared to drive. While doing physical therapy and attempting to do a modified knee bend, the therapist said, "What's that noise?", I said, "Its my other knee, so it may get done late this year in order to be healed for Waco."

From Jim Savell: Lookin' for trouble

The climate in Vietnam is very humid. Everything either rots, rusts or mildews. I had left Recon Company & was with the EF (Exploitation Force) Company. We had been inserted across the "fence" & were moving as a Company (hundred or so SCU & about 10 US). I really don't remember what mode was used to put us in. To get the air medal you have to record 100 hours. There are a few extra times you can accumulate. Troop movement is straight time. Insertion is 2 hours & a "hot" (Shootin') is 4. Then an exfil is 2 hours & "hot" exfil is 4. Going on operations I racked up hours quickly. We were lookin' for "Cong" to kill on a "dry hole" (no enemy contact) AO (area operation).

We were kinda "socked in" (fog). The terrain was very user unfriendly. You would be moving & get to a ravine. About 6 feet



was the other side. You would climb down about 100', take one step & climb up 100' to be on the other side. This is in jungle terrain with about 60-100 lbs. of gear. The 1st in the formation had solid footing & vines etc. to grab. It became muddy, slick & nothing to grab for support for the tail end of the company. This could take an hour or longer to move an entire company. One of the nights I thought I was gonna freeze it got so cold in the mountains. The command realized we were not gonna hit anything, so we were told to clear an LZ (landing zone).

We cleared a few trees with demolitions & were pretty happy. The SCU were happier. It was foggy but it was clear at low altitude. There is a sound that is like the most beautiful music...the sound of a helicopter prop. Well...3 helicopters landed & started kicking off cases of rations. The US had to immediately go into action cause the SCU were aiming their rifles to shoot the helicopters. I went over to the lead bird to question the pilot. He said we were to force march out to another area to be exfilled. This was another 3 days. Just before he lifted off, he handed me a bottle of brandy. "Here's something to keep you warm". When I was exfilled 3 days later, the bottle of warmth had done its magic. Maybe some Viet has found that empty bottle & wondered how it got there.

Received an email passed on from Gene Gilsdorf relaying the news that he had just won the National Masters Weightlifting Championship in Orlando. He won in his age group, 65-69 and weight category. This information off the National Masters website for day one results. What a STUD and this is the 30th time he's won, just two times away from the record of 32 times. Congratulations Ranger Gilsdorf: Age Group M65 Weight Category 61; Lot 316; Name GILSDORF Robert; Team MISSOU; Body Wt. 60.60; Age 68; snatch 1st 2nd 3<sup>rd</sup> 40 45 50; clean and jerk; 1st 2nd 3<sup>rd</sup>: 60 65 70; Total: 120 SMF; 308.840; TOTAL: 1ST place; SNATCH: 1ST place; CLEAN AND JERK: 1ST place

From Roy Bissey: Just looked through my pictures from Terry Roderick's celebration of life. There were no remarkable photographs, just a collection of faces present. It was a very good celebration, well attended by folks from all over. I counted 130 plus in attendance at Saturday's event in a park in Melbourne, Florida. I guess if you wanted to mention it you could just say that Alpha company was represented by Ted Tilson who also served in Papa company, and me. Rh

I will add that Robin accompanied Roy. Thanks for representing A Company. Terry was a part of A Company at Ft Benning and a big part of the early success of the 75<sup>th</sup> Association.

*Continued on the next page*



From Tom Brizendine: 1968, north of Chu Lai, in a place called Que Son Valley or Dragon Valley, our company was on a sweep and hit heavy contact. Captain Jessup called for an air strike. I saw the jets come in so low, I saw the pilot as he was firing his guns. I saw the expended rounds dropping from the plane. Later as he was dropping bombs, you could see the fins of the bombs open up dropping down into the jungle and napalm bombs going off so close you could feel the heat and the blast go by and the air get sucked back in. Our radio operator was eating and a mortar round blew up a tree stump, exploding and sending shrapnel

into the air. It knocked the RTO over, spilled his canteen of hot chocolate, broke his jaw. The shrapnel tore through his mouth and knocked out some teeth and came the other side. He was mad because it spilled his canteen cup full of hot chocolate.

That's it for this time. Send me some stories. Even if they are mostly true, we'll print 'em. I'm calling Mike Theisen out. He has promised he would send me a story, but I'm getting old and gray waiting. Ross has also said he would start typing again. So, send them my way: [stan6542@yahoo.com](mailto:stan6542@yahoo.com).



## 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!

Stay safe... stay healthy...

#### TAPS

FROM: Ranger Voyles, Ranger Ed White, and Others...

I was called and texted by RV, Dirt, and others on 15 April to inform me that Ranger Bob Lund's wife, Garnet, passed away from a sudden massive and unexpected stroke. Bob reports that they were high school sweethearts, had been together for 58 years, were married for 54 years, and resided in Chehalis, WA. Bob says that she loved everything Ranger, and loved the Rangers. Garnet is survived by Bob, his 3 living sons (some of whom live in the same area and work with Bob), 10 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandson (Benjamin). They had a son and daughter who have since passed away. The memorial service held in Olympia was limited in attendance due to COVID restrictions. Garnet is temporarily interred at Mount Tahoma National Cemetery, awaiting Bob's eventual arrival, after which they will be buried together. All of their sons and grandsons are also Rangers (their youngest grandson is currently in the Ranger course and just transitioned to the Mountain Phase. His brother is a First Lieutenant company XO in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division). Garnet and Bob's oldest son served in First Batt, and eventually retired from First Special Forces Group. Please ask the unit director if you would like contact information for Bob (he is also on my friends list on Facebook).

BTW... Bob reports that he talked to Jerry Roberts yesterday, who still lives in Texas and reports that he is doing well, but he is suffering the effects of age on his eyesight (as are we all?).

#### REVERSAL ON ERRONEOUS PREVIOUS TAPS REPORT

Minus 25 (x2) for the Unit Director. Your unit director was seriously deficient and erroneously submitted an inaccurate casualty report in the last issue.



I failed to thoroughly check the raw submitted intelligence.

I am, however, more than happy to be reporting good news on that front, for a change

We reported in the February submission that Doc Jeans (Terrenz Jeans) had passed away.

My bad. Doc Jeans is very much alive, and kicking!

There is an opt-repeated story about Mr. Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain).

According to a widely-repeated legend, one major American newspaper actually printed his obituary and, when Twain was questioned about this by a reporter, he quipped:

“The reports of my death are greatly exaggerated.”

Another common variation of the line uses the words “The reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated.”

Doc's wife Teresa called me, snatched me up by the stacking swivel, and very kindly and politely acquainted me with the fact that he has not yet journeyed to meet the Big Ranger, and was in fact ensconced in the easy chair right next to her, thoroughly enjoying (I am certain) my discomfort.

Since one Ranger isn't supposed to lie to another Ranger (let alone the entire unit), she also politely neglected to point out that I was deficient in passing along incorrect information.

I have a follow-up call pending to try to get more information on Doc's activities in the intervening years, and hope to report back in the next issue. Please get in touch with me if you want for contact info for Doc and Teresa (they live in the Tacoma, WA, area).

#### FROM: TIM LEADBEATER - POWERLIFTING

From Tim on 17 April:

Today it was 285 pounds and a little harder than expected. I've got 20 days until 30 April, 2021, my 70th birthday, to make my 300 pound bench press goal. *Continued on the next page*

Sorry you can't see Barb the spotter's face. I'll fix that next time. This is an 18 MB video file so if it doesn't download that's why. Hopefully, I'll have another video to share before Barb takes me down to Key West for my birthday at the end of the month.

SECOND EMAIL:

13 days ahead of my goal to do 300 pounds by my 70th birthday.

It's been 20 years since I benched 315 pounds so this moment felt good. There are two 45 pound plates, one 35 pound plate and one 10 pound plate on each side of the Olympic bar (which weighs 45 pounds). Kudos to the amazing spotter. She's taking me to Key West for my birthday at the end of this month.

NOTE: attachment was mp4 file. I was not able to capture a still to include in this article. CONGRATULATIONS, TIM !!!

### HEALTH AND WELFARE

As far as I can determine, the rest of you rascals (and the families who put up with you) seem to be doing relatively well.

If there is anything you would like to report, either for yourself or others, please do not hesitate to give me a call or drop me an email.

**JIM JACKSON:** I received an email with some garbled info and photos from Jim Jackson, so will try to get that unscrambled, and posted into the next issue.

**TIM LEADBEATER:** If I am able to capture a photo of Tim Leadbeater's powerlift, will post that the next time also.

In addition...

**MIKE MOSER'S BARN:** Mike was building a new barn (with a 22-year old helper). He has obviously been eating his Wheaties ! Am going to try to get some in progress /completion photos of that also.

**BILL WALTER:** Appears to continue to do well with his recovery from various effects of cancer. Hang in there, Bud !

**RANGER VOYLES** Reports that his wife Jane will be having hip surgery in July, so best wishes, Jane!

### RANGER RENDEZVOUS / REUNION

I'm sure you'll see all the announcements for the bi-annual Ranger Rendezvous (July 19-23) elsewhere in this edition. I will probably be unable to attend. If someone is going and would like to provide the unit director with an after-action report, please let me know.

### MEMORIAL DAY

It seems that these annual demarcations carrying their reminders of our thinning ranks sneak up on us way too quickly.

The list of those who have passed always starts seeming to be longer than the list of those still present (although that is, perhaps, a mistaken impression).

A recent article stated that the average age at passing for someone in our ancient and creaking condition in the general population was 79, but that the equivalent average age for those in the

Vietnam-era veterans age group was 69.

So... if you are over 69, you already beat the odds!

Let's celebrate Memorial Day by taking a knee (actual or figurative) for all those who have journeyed through the tall grass the meet the Big Ranger in person. R.I.P. RLW.

### VII CORPS LRRPS

I am trying to leave room for Dick Foster to add his report for the VII Corps LRRPS.

He has been dealing with his own health inconveniences in the recent past, and will be submitting his separate report directly.

Dick did inform me that the tentative plan under consideration to gather in Tennessee to visit and support Sam Storey is canceled. Sam and his wife are not up to that yet. So any get-together this year will occur at the usual Ranger Rendezvous (look for info elsewhere in this edition, or on the RRA website).

Until next time...

High Speed, Low drag...

V/R...

Marc L. Thompson-Unit Director

### VII CORPS LRRPS REPORT

Well, it's now official: We can stop wearing masks even though General Fauci suggests we not stop. Uber General Delaware Joe Obama suggested "maybe", depending on where one is, who they're with, vaccinations, variants, or if you're in California or New York. What a Great country we're not becoming, after all, "...where seldom is heard a discouraging word, and the sky is not cloudy or gray. Home, home on the range...."

Not to make light, but the sky in our little corner of the world is a tad gray. Let me see if I can recollect salient points of concern: Sam Storey is still in trouble after his fall and subsequent broken neck. He's survived the operation, but still can't move his legs or arms. He's been moved from a UT rehab facility to a much better one closer to home and the people who know and love him like us (Oneida TN).

He still has a long row to hoe but with wife Donna and family, and his old LRRP brothers solidly behind him, he'll get better; not perfect, but better. I say that because, as you know, Sam parachuted out of an L-20 one dark night and hit the ground with a still unopened parachute attached. It's a story only he can truthfully tell. Considered dead or unable to be saved he was packed off to the hospital morgue hallway to finish the dying process alone. But he wasn't! The Lord was with Sam and sent an aging nurse to realize that he was still breathing and interceded, as only the Lord can, with a determined Saint Nurse. Suffice it to say, Sam was made stable and shipped off to Walter Reed in Washington for the next three years to be rehabbed. He was, and he'll be the first to tell you that God gave him the courage and Tennessee and Airborne guts to fight the good fight. To this day he thanks God every day for all that He has given him.

*Continued on the next page*

Now Sam is in another long and arduous fight not unlike that jump one night. He can't take calls now and perhaps for the next couple of days, but his Angel Wife thinks that with our prayers and support, he'll beat this. She has encouraged me to stress upon us all to shower him with love and encouragement to win this battle. DO NOT drop the ball guys; I believe! I'll stay in touch much better than I have to date. He won't be able to talk or answer, but he'll know!

His address is 760 Fire Tower Rd, Robbins, TN 37852 (no phone calls; neither he nor Donna can handle it all yet): Phone 423-215-2566, email him at: s\_storey100@yahoo.com. Cards and/or letters would be better. He still cannot hold a phone. Aside from too much pain medication, he's RELATIVELY well.

On another disheartening note, Gene Kauffman's wife has passed away after a long and painful and lengthy illness. Tom Forde has done a tremendous job of expressing all our concerns for him and the family. Great job, Tom; and Gene, know that we're with you ALL THE WAY. I talked with Marc Thompson today (hence this timely update); without his deadline reminder, we'd still be waiting on my sometimes sorry rear to get in gear. Marc is still fighting non-Hodgkins lymphoma rehab and a messed up thyroid. I wouldn't be surprised if wasn't Agent Orange related, but he's as strong as Warriors come. The struggle ain't over for you, Marc, until we of VII Corps LRRPs and B Company Rangers say it is!

That's about it guys. I just want to thank all of you for your calls and updates. I wouldn't have anything to say were it not for you all. Thanks Touchon, Gibson, Evaro, Mr Clark, Donna, Mathiak, Kauffman, Ivey, and Chetwynd, especially, from Donna, Chetwynd. Joe has been nothing short of spectacular getting in touch with Sam's family and any who might be able to help them. You're a good man Joe, in spite of what the Democrats

say about ya. To those I have yet to get back to, please give me a little more time. The older I gets, the lazier and sorrier I gets; life's a bitch until ya die. So watch what ya eat (no processed foods), get a good night's sleep (keep your conscience clean), stop smoking (sitting too much and sugar are the new devil sticks, and EXERCISE a little MORE each day. It doesn't take much!

Ranger Reunion 2021 update: In the meantime, we went back and forth between attending it as usual meeting as a LRRP group in or near Sam's Grassy Mountain home. Since talking with Donna, she doesn't think this would be a good time to visit him because of the many uncertainties for us and him. We will, therefore, (as much as individually possible) meet in Columbus with the 75th Ranger Association. I will check with the hotel headquarters to get more info out to you anon. we may have to get our own, so any solid suggestions are welcomed. We don't want to experience Comfort Inn Fayetteville again!

Till next time, BE STRONG, watch after each other and loved ones, keep your eyes on the prize; aim and squeeze, mi Amigos.

Adios! Lead The Way and don't forget Sam Overdo it if you feel it.

Pfc (E-10) Foster, El Guapo Presidente

USA aka VII Corps LRRP Association (AIRBORNE)

IMPORTANT PS: After too damn long, Whup Ass Yarbrough finally realized that he changed his email address and forgot to tell anyone. Imagine that! Captain, what if they called for a war and nobody came. ("Where have all the soldiers gone? Long time passing. Gone to grave yards every one. When will they ever learn?) Can't count on Marxists and Antifi-WOKE dumb asses! Captain's new email: Brokenhippie@icloud.com

## HISTORICAL OCCURRENCES

OF  
THE LRRP/RANGERS  
OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> CAVALRY DIVISION  
DURING THE VIETNAM WAR



AN ANTHOLOGY OF FIRST-PERSON STORIES  
ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR

WRITTEN BY AND FOR THE MEN WHO LIVED IT

THE BOOK IS AVAILABLE FROM THE 1CDA SOUVINIER SHOP,

THE PUBLISHER AUTHOR HOUSE

AND SEVERAL ONLINE WEB PAGES.

Join us for

**12 WEEKS**

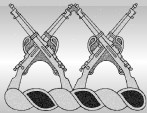
FOCUSED ON **HEALING** FROM  
**SERVICE-RELATED TRAUMA**

**REBOOT Combat Recovery** is a course—not a support group—providing practical help for **service members, veterans, and families** dealing with the moral and spiritual wounds from combat trauma. You won't find shortcuts or easy answers, but instead you'll find **solutions that last.**

STARTING **START DATE** *Check us out-website below*

REGISTER NOW AT **REBOOTRECOVERY.COM**





# C/75 - E/20 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOE HAYES

## Remembering Jack Cochran

After the last article was submitted, Mike Daukus called to tell me that Jack (Corky) Cochran had passed on Feb 8<sup>th</sup>. Jack had some health problems over the last few years and when both Jack and Susan, his wife of fifty years, both contracted the virus, Jack told Susan that if he had to go on a respirator, he doubted that he'd make it. Susan struggled through and recovered.

Mike sent some pictures that maybe I could use in an article. I like photos. I think folks like seeing them in this magazine. A fifty-three-year-old photograph captures a moment in time in a way that the written word can, at best, only hope to do. In 1967 maybe not all Americans could find Vietnam on a map but we, especially high school grade twelve guys, knew that thousands of young American G. I's were dying there. The image of body bags being carried to the choppers by helmet and flack jacketed soldiers, consumed the nightly news, and the KIA list was growing in numbers that touched just about every community in the United States.



Jack Cochran, born December 1948, spent part of his youth living with his Grandparents in Nixon, Texas. You can find it at the crossroads of US 87 and State Highway 80. There's a Circle K on the southwest corner. If you want an ice cream cone, the Dairy Queen is on the northeast corner. It's a small town; about seven city employees. If you blink a couple of times while driving through at the posted speed

limit, you will find yourself in the next community. Yes, it is small in size but big, just like everything else in Texas, in pride. He was a kid who, like just about every other kid of that era, looked up to our Dads, uncles, and neighbors who served in WWII. They kept the world free. They were our heroes. We wanted to be just like them. Nobody portrayed them better on the big screen than John Wayne. In 1963 TV gave us the show "Combat". There wasn't any confusion to us kids who the bad guys were. Americans were ALWAYS the good guys. Just like young Jack, we'd "play army". Before the game started, it had to be decided who was going to be Sgt. Saunders or Kirby, Cajé, Little John, Doc or Lt. Hanley. Everybody else had to be the bad guys – TOUGH LUCK! - if they wanted to play. And then it was



time to "move out" for the rest of the afternoon. Who figured that we'd be in a real combat zone in a few years? But I think that most of us were at least half prepared. John Wayne and Sgt. Saunders taught us well.

Corky eventually moved to Seguin, Texas with his Dad, and attended Seguin High School. Susan recalls that Jack was a charismatic guy who had lots of friends and loved sports. He ran track and played football. In a recent conversation she recalled that he and his good friend Mike Daukus would text back and forth during a televised sports event like the Bears and the Cowboys – each taking his jabs at the other, one in Texas and the other in Chicago.

"It was a good friendship", said Susan. She

appreciated it because like a lot of us, Jack didn't talk to her about Vietnam and at least he had Mike to talk to.

In June of 1967 Jack Cochran graduated from Seguin High School. Uncle Sam was drafting, and Jack's draft number was one. Susan remembers that Jack always said that he was going to enlist, and that is exactly what he did. In my conversation with Susan, I was reminded of a passage in Bob Stein's book "Ghost Warriors". Steve Woodson, one of the original E/20 LRP guys of team 4-1 wrote; "While I was in high school it seemed there was one of two ways of thinking about the war: You were either ready to join or you weren't. You were for it or against it. There was no middle ground". That's the way Jack felt. He volunteered to enlist because to him, that was the right thing to do. And whereas it was not a popular choice or way to think among a lot of teenagers back then, I'm sure that Jack could not have cared less what anyone else thought. He made it through Special Forces initial training but declined extended training to volunteer for a tour in Vietnam. When he got in country Jack volunteered for a relatively new kind of unit; E Company (LRP)/ 20<sup>th</sup> Inf. (Abn). was recruiting. Jack didn't hesitate. He volunteered again. He'd probably say that that decision was one he would never regret. He wanted to serve with the best.

Back home in 1969 GM is cranking out new muscle cars; the Pontiac Firebird got a facelift and they called it the Trans Am. Armstrong came back from walking on the moon, Nixon was the president, and the anti-Vietnam gang was ramping up the protests. Ho Chi Minh would be dead in September but In the Central Highlands of Vietnam, guys like Jack were doing their part to stem the tide of the NVA and Viet Cong further south. E/20 LRP was designed for this mission, and E/20 LRP teams were exceptionally effective. Corky served on a team until the unit became C/75 Rangers under the Combat Arms Regimental System (CARS) early in 1969.

*Continued on the next page*

*Corky and Wimpy McCoy*

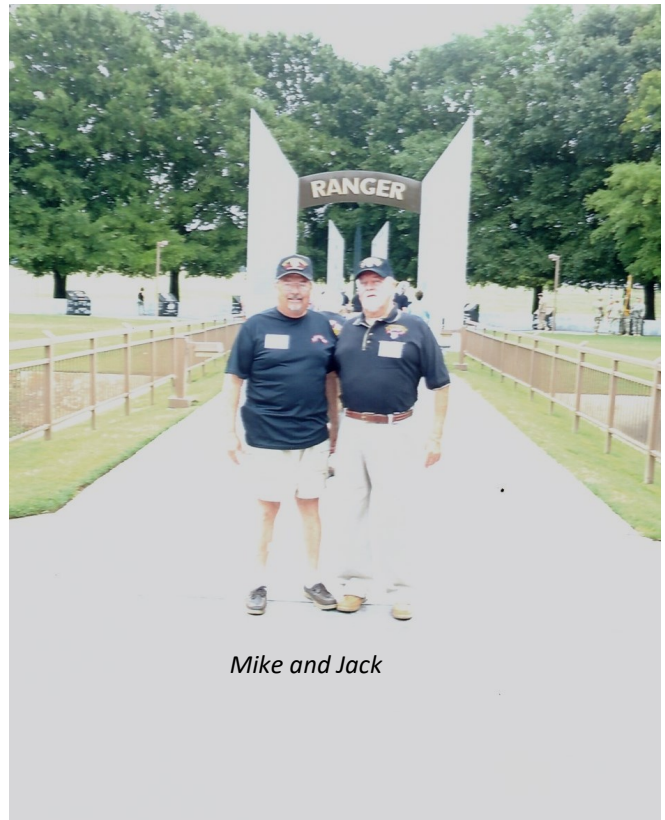
grandkids came. “But”, Susan fondly told me, “Jack wasn’t cut out to be a babysitter”. So, he went back to work part time for Soechting Motors where he shined at customer service. And, for forty-five years, Jack was a member of Cross Church in Seaguin, Texas, serving as a member of the Mission Committee. He liked to come to the reunions at Benning. Mike Daukus and Jack are pictured at the Ranger memorial in 2015. Friends, Susan and Jack, and Sharon and Mike, had a chance to spend time together on trips to St. Simon Island, GA, Niagara Falls, and Corpus Christi, TX. And Mike was happy that Susan and Jack got a chance to visit Chicago and stay at their home. “Jack”, Mike said, “was a Proud Texan and a Proud Ranger. I will miss him dearly”.

I remember seeing Jack at one of the reunions. When Mike sent the picture of the both of them at the Ranger Memorial, I remembered his face right away. He looked like a kind, happy, and honest man. I am sad now that I didn’t meet him. I think that I would have liked to have gotten to know him. I’m just speculating but he probably would have said somewhere in the conversation: “I’ve got no regrets. I have had more than a good life. I have wonderful sons and grand children. For fifty years I have had the most beautiful woman as my wife. God has truly blessed me”. Susan Cochran would say the same about her husband. It is that kind of love and respect, one for the other, that gets the gold. So, to you Mrs. Cochran, your sons Jason and Chad, your daughters in law and grandchildren, and all of your family: May the Lord continue to bless and keep you and shine His face on you. May the Lord give you peace.

Jack...We’ll see you on the other side.

Jack went to the “Combat Commo” platoon where he met Mike Daukus who would become his lifelong friend. In Vietnam, a friendship like that was a life saver. A guy they called “Wimpy” McCoy was also in commo and now it was the three good friends. One of the pictures shows Jack on the left and Wimpy on the right getting ready to go out on an X-Ray. In the picture, sitting on the sandbag perimeter in Bong Son, Jack is in the middle and on the right is Mike Daukus with the rifle. “One nice memory that I have of Jack”, Mike told me, “was that he and I had a day off and got to go into Bong Son. We went into a little bar/restaurant run by a Momma San. We sat in the back of the room telling jokes, eating a water buffalo steak, drinking Ban Ne Ba beers, and listening to Glen Cambell on Mamma San’s record player. For a little while, home didn’t seem so far away listening to the Wichita Lineman sing his songs. It was a good afternoon. It’s like it was yesterday...”

Jack left Vietnam to serve out the rest of his enlistment in an Armor unit driving for a captain. On Sunday June 7, 1970, I attended my high school graduation ceremony; Jack Cochran married Susan Reiley. They were blessed with two sons, Jason and Chad, and seven grand children. Jack was one of those guys who came back home and picked up where he left off. It was time for him to be a loving husband, “Papa”, and a good friend to many. After earning a degree in computer science, Corky became the director of human resources for both Tyson Foods, and Alamo Iron Works. When Jack retired in 2011, it was their intension of to travel and, duty called once again when the

*Mike and Jack*





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROBERT HERNANDEZ

We have just over four months to go so it is now time to make your hotel reservations for the E Company Reunion this October in Mobile Alabama. Howard and Liz Munn host the reunion; the dates are October 4-9, 2021 at the Holiday Inn, 301 Government Street in downtown Mobile. The hotel is conveniently located in the Downtown Entertainment district, which offers a host of unique restaurants, theaters, and museums for you to enjoy.

The number to call for your hotel reservations is (215) 544-4337. Be sure to mention "Rangers" to get the discount rate. The discount rate is guaranteed until September 4, 2021. In other words, all reservations need to be in by that date to get the rate. The rate can be used 3 days prior and 3 days after.

Room Rates - There are two room rates 1) King or double \$116 plus tax and includes a breakfast buffet for two. 2) King or double \$102 without breakfast.

If you would like to have the \$102 rate without breakfast you must first make the reservation at the \$116 rate, then call the Director of Sales, Aron Watz and he will make the adjustment to \$102 without the breakfast. His number is (252) 644 0100. Again be sure to mention the "Rangers."

Due to the Covid 19 virus, some of the previous made plans for the daily activities still have to be adjusted and more information will be sent out when they are complete. There will also be a sign up sheet for those interested in playing a little golf or going deep-sea fishing.

Reunion Registration - The registration fee is \$65 per person and will cover the hospitality room and banquet dinner. Please send checks payable to: Howard Munn, P.O. Box 585, Wilmer, Alabama, 36587

Reunion shirts - The reunion shirts designed by "Tess" will be \$35 each for small, medium and large. The larger size shirts will be \$40 each, and that includes extra large, 2 x-large and 3x large. You can pick up your shirt in Mobile when you register. A limited number of shirts will be printed so please order your shirt as early as possible. The cut off date to order your shirt is September 15, 2021. Please make checks payable to: Robert Hernandez, 4424 Rock Island Dr., Antioch, CA 94509.

Unit Roster- As if planning for our 2021 Mobile reunion is not enough hard work; Howard Munn has taken it one step further. In an effort to invite as many of our unit members as possible to the reunion, Howard his wife, Liz, along with Dave Stone (Stony) and his wife, Pattie, have taken on the daunting task of updating our unit roster. It seems that over the years people have just not taken the time to update their contact information.



Howard and Stony divided the current list in half and with the help of their wives made an attempt to contact everyone on their half of the list. One by one they sent out e-mails and waited for an answer to see if the e-mail was still good. If there was no response they called the listed phone numbers to see if it was still good. Determined to locate everyone they could they even searched the obituaries. Widows and family members were also contacted and encouraged to stay in touch and attend our reunions. Stony had a few conversations with some of the widows and family members and they were happy to hear from him.

Not only has the list been updated but also new names are being added. The guys were very grateful to hear from someone from the unit and get the information for the Mobile reunion.

Once the roster is complete everyone will be sent a copy to print out or if you don't have a printer we can send you a paper copy. The roster will also include the years served in country. Widows and family members will be listed in a manner that will match up the LRRP or Ranger they are connected with.

The purpose of the unit roster is for person-to-person contact only. We provide this information to you so we can all stay in touch with one another. The Unit Director must approve all group postings before being sent to the group. This is to ensure that we stay within the guidelines of the 75th Ranger Regiment bylaws.

One of the Rangers I spoke with was John Vitullo. He served in 1970 and is now fighting stage 4 cancer from the effects of Agent Orange. He hopes to live long enough to attend the Mobile reunion. All things considered he is in good spirits, and would like to hear from anyone that would like to spend a little time reminiscing about the old days. His number (703) 765-1398. I am sending him a shirt, hat and challenge coin to help pick up his spirits.

Branson Rally - The Branson Rally is just around the corner and a large crowd is expected. The various vaccines are beginning to open up the country. The dates for the Rally are June 9th -13th. The Spinning Wheel Inn and Twelve Oaks Inn are filled up but the Dutton Inn still had rooms available. Their number is (417) 332 - 2772.

Ranger Hall of Fame - I am excited to announce that Colonel Clancy Matsuda (Ret) has been inducted in the Ranger Hall of Fame in Fort Benning. It is well deserved and long over due. Clancy will not be able to attend the ceremony for health reasons, so his son Matt will give his acceptance speech.

*Continued on the next page*



The Ranger Hall of Fame ceremony will be held at Fort Benning on Wednesday July 21, 2021 in the auditorium at Meginnis Wickham Hall. Let's all be sure to come out and join us to support Clancy for all that he has done for the Ranger family.

Lest we forget - Jesse Deleon who passed away on 3 April, 2021. Jesse served in the unit in 1968. He served as ATL on many missions with Poncho's team but preferred to walk fourth position and carry the M-79. Jesse, like so many of our brothers, passed away from the effects of Agent Orange. He fought hard but lost the final battle and is no longer in pain. We will remember Jesse in a moment of silence at the Mobile reunion. I thank Poncho for the two photographs of Jesse.



STAY SAFE!

Photos of Jesse Deleon

Bob Hernandez

E 50/E 75th

LRRPs Led The Way

Rangers Lead The Way



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN MCGEE

Today as I write this article, we are a little over two months away from the 2021 Ranger Rendezvous at good old Fort Benning (Hopefully the Army doesn't decide to change it's the name) in July 18-24, 2021. Company F members have an extra special reason to attend this year's reunion. This man, who was tasked to build a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Company for the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, out of thin air, back in 1966. Lieutenant Colonel Mark Ponzillo (Captain P) will be inducted into the United States Army Ranger Hall of Fame.

The induction ceremony will take place on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 1300 hours at Building #4 (You know it used to be called Infantry Hall, before we let the Tread Heads and Cav Pukes take up residence out at Harmony Church) in the Marshall auditorium. I believe that we are going to have an excellent showing from the guys in our unit. Many of our members that have never attended a reunion before are telling us that they will attend to honor Mark and his family.

I am not going to post the entire nomination packet in this article, but I am going to give you a short biography of Mark and an abbreviated look at his accomplishments.

LTC Mark Ponzillo. Born January 15, 1942 in New York. Enlisted in the United States Army in 1960. Commissioned Second Lieutenant Infantry on December 18, 1962. His assignments during



his long and distinguished career included: Detachment Commander, Company C 10<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces, Bad Tolz, Germany. Company Commander 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (LRRP), Cu Chi, Vietnam. Company Commander, 5th special Forces Group Alpha. (MACV-SOG) Duc Co, Vietnam. , Company Commander, Headquarters Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 325<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. S-3 Operations Officer 5 Special Forces Group Alpha, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Forces, Long Tran, Vietnam. Commander, Airborne Tower Committee, United States Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia. Deputy Inspector General, United States Army Forces Command, Fort McPhearson, Georgia.

His awards included: The Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Overseas Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman's Badge, Master Parachutist, Badge.

Why does he deserve to be in the Ranger Hall of Fame?

*Continued on the next page*

Well, in March 1966 a young Army Special Forces Captain arrived in Vietnam. To his surprise he was sent to the 25th Infantry Division, Cu Chi Vietnam instead of the 5th Special Forces in Nha Trang. Upon arrival he was met by the Division Commander who informed him that he was going to command the 25th Division's Recon company. The young Captain asked the Major General where the outfit was located. The General's reply was there was no Recon Company. The captain's job was to form it. He learned He had no personnel, no equipment and not even a place to live. In order to get people, he took an 8 1/2x 11 white sheet of paper and in grease pencil wrote 'Volunteers needed for hazardous duty' pinned it to the inside of the replacement tent. He had 48 volunteers in 40 hours. Once he found a home in the 3/4 Cavalry area near the latrines. He commenced to writing a plan on how to train and operate long-range recon patrol unit. A 5-man team was the basic unit, their job was to locate the enemy, observe their actions and pray that they were not discovered. They were not assassins, not there to snatch prisoners or ambush the enemy. They would work as a unit and trust each other. They were writing the manual as they were going along; How to camouflage, what to wear in the jungle, how to prepare your equipment, how to operate in enemy territory without being discovered. Recon Operations currently taking place in South West Asia today employ many of the tactics that he developed back in Vietnam. The unit he formed out of thin air. The 25th ID LRRPs was provisional, meaning, they were not authorized by the Army at that time. This unit was so successful that the Army authorized its existence in February of 1968. They changed the unit's designation to Company F 50th Infantry (Airborne) Long Range Patrol. Then in February of 1969 they were designated Company F 75th Infantry RANGER. This young Captain was given an almost unconceivable task, to form a Long-Range Reconnaissance Company in a combat theater



Ponzillo

with no personnel, equipment or support. He did not surrender. He accepted the task and gave more than 100 percent to create an elite combat unit and one of the building blocks of the modern Ranger Regiment. His name was Captain Mark Ponzillo.

I want to thank everyone who helped get the information needed to make the induction happen, especially Marshall Huckaby, David Dunlap and of course the lovely Mrs. Jo Ponzillo and her daughter Kerri Ponzillo-Knight.

Additionally, huge thank you's to the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA President Steve Johnson and former President Rick Barela for their guidance and assistance during the nomination process.

I would be remiss writing this article if I did not mention the passing of the torch in our unit. Bill Mrkvicka, one of the founders and driving forces in our unit transferred all of our organization's historical information to Tim Walsh for safe keeping and posterity. Our members owe a great deal of gratitude to Bill. Most of us will always remember the day you got a letter or a phone call from Bill

stating, "I think we might have served in Vietnam together".

The early 'Point Man', reunions, and e-mail lists driven by Bill Mrkvicka. Thank you, Bill, for everything you have done to make Company F 25<sup>th</sup> ID LRRP, 50<sup>th</sup> INF. LRP, 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers happen!!!!

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.

Respectively Submitted,

John McGee



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

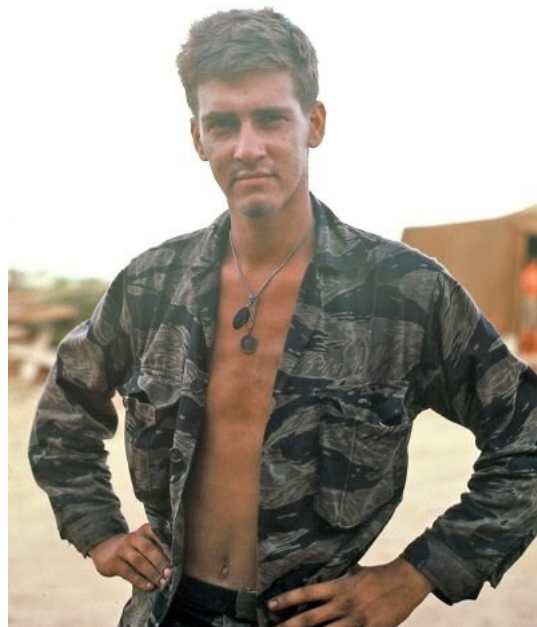
UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



In representing G/75<sup>th</sup>-E/51 LRP-196<sup>th</sup> LRRP, as the Unit Director (I direct nothing, I write a few letters each year and try not to embarrass myself) I often struggle with what to write until I am inspired by something. This issue is no different and I begin with the old adage of “good news-bad news”. I will begin with the bad news. One of our hardest working members passed away a few days ago.

While the passing of Tom Nash is bad news, his life on this earth was exemplary. I did not serve during the same time period in Vietnam as did Tom, but I did come to know he and his wonderful wife Dianne, while attending our various reunions and other Ranger events. Tom was a mover and shaker within our organization and got things done. He took on leadership responsibilities and never hesitated to step up to the plate when things needed attention. One of Tom’s passions was to ensure that every member of our organization had a brick at the Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning. In talking with Frank Svensson about Tom after learning of his death, Frank used the word “relentless” in describing Tom’s quest for remembering members of our organization after they had passed on by having a brick placed at the Ranger Memorial in their honor. Many of our members, for whatever reason, do not have a brick at the Memorial and Tom took it upon himself to “relentlessly” pursue all efforts necessary to raise funds for this honorable and thoughtful and selfless task. Tom was a Patriot, a gentleman and a benefactor in his service to our organization and certainly many others. Thanks to you Dianne for sharing Tom with us these many years and supporting him in his “relentless” work representing and honoring our members. Tom will be missed but never forgotten.

Tom Nash



Now on to some good news. Our G/75-E/51LRP-196<sup>th</sup> LRRP Association will have two additional members added to our already impressive list of members in the Ranger Hall of Fame. The first I will celebrate is that of Steve Crabtree. “Crabs” has been a highly visible, outspoken member of the Ranger commu-



nity for many years. A leader in our organization and other Ranger organizations, through good times and times of sorrow, Steve and Lori have been stalwart members and made us all better in our journey. Steve led the Ranger Regiment Association years ago and had great success in the funding of the Ranger Memorial. Steve was good at cajoling and twisting arms when necessary to obtain funding for bricks and the construction of the Memorial. Steve can be hard-headed and opinionated but, in the end, win or lose in his arguments, he is true to our organization and our members. Steve made a lot of friends in high places in the active-duty military Ranger community and was respected in his leadership roles. When something needed to be done but was not going well, Steve always had the ability to reach out to the right person and make things happen. The respect he has earned in various leadership positions has paid off many times in favors and bending of rules when necessary. We congratulate Steve and Lori in yet another recognition of jobs well done and a life well lived.

Our second new member in the Ranger Hall of Fame is far less known and less visible for good reason. I served with Clem Lemke in G Company and describe him as a mentor and “tormentor” as well. Clem attended several of our early “G” Company/E-51st events.

He was at the first Washington DC reunion that I recall was in 1990. I know he was in New Orleans as well and was responsible for my being horribly over-served in a bar but he was generally “unavailable” after that. While I had great respect and admiration for Clem and went on missions with him, I did not consider myself as a “friend of Clem.” .” I was too busy trying to avoid any action or inaction that would earn me the Lemke “Glare of death.” His stoic German background revealed itself constantly in his insistence of precision, performance, total silence and instant obedience of orders.

*Continued on the next page*



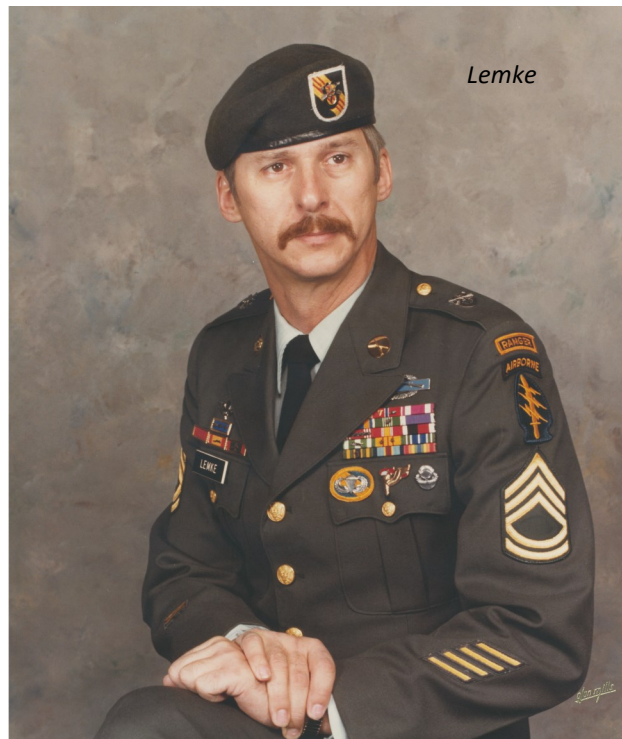
His peers, command staff and underlings (me included) always described Clem as “good in the woods,” which I learned was a high complement.

At the Washington reunion, I saw Clem for the first time in about 20 years. I think I even saw him smile once although it could have just been gas. We spent time together that long weekend and he told me he was retired and had a business raising rare tropical fish. The basement at his home was filled with fish tanks and I remember him wearing a coat and tie one evening although I suspected his tie had been used as a garrote for some unsuspecting person(s). After spending some time with he and his beautiful wife Dottie and seeing that Dottie had no fear of him what so ever, just the opposite....she was in charge, my police instinct’s began to kick in. I smelled a rat and at some point I challenged him and accused him of being a spook. His “glare of death,” surfaced and I knew the fishy fish business was a front. Clem was not retired but was involved in covert action and that was his cover. His covert action business with the military prevented him from attending our reunions. Later I actually attended his “real” retirement ceremony and was the only speaker at the event that roasted him. All others praised him and went on about his daring-do and exploits in his dark world. I am certain they were all still afraid of him. By then, I was nor longer afraid of him, but I still had a healthy fear and respect of Dottie.

After his “official” retirement came the CIA and he continued to live and thrive in the darkness. We met numerous times and I often would get a late night call telling me that he was going on a “trip” and to lookout for Dottie. While I was at the FBI Academy, just a few miles from Clem and Dottie’s residence, Clem was off playing spook and he had me cutting his grass every week so Dottie would not be burdened with that task. The day before my graduation, I was summoned to the Academy Director’s office. I figured someone had died or even more likely, that I had screwed something up. I was directed to an office where I met with “the” FBI Director, Louis Freeh. Before I could even speak, the Director cautioned me and explained that he had a classified message



Crabtree



Lemke

that I would probably recognize but he could not reveal the source. The message asked simply if the FBI could keep me at the Academy through the leaf raking season.

Later on, during a long and involved covert mission, brains were needed so Dottie was recruited into the mix to provide the brains. Once, while I was working in Lebanon, the pair showed up in Beirut where I was stationed. While Clem was probably sleeping or drinking, I posed as Dottie’s husband and accompanied her to doctor’s appointments and hair appointments.... important stuff I knew I could handle. I will never forget the surprised look on the female staff’s collective faces at the doctor’s office when Dottie pulled out her credit card to pay for the visit. The young Lebanese girls thought that it was wonderful that I allowed my “wife” to have her own credit card. Ahh, the good old days.

So, after 28 years in the Army, much of it working covert missions in at least 19 different countries and then working for “The Company” for over 16 years, SGM (Ret) Clemens E. Lemke (and Dottie) have come out of the darkness and into the light of retirement.

After Clem’s official retirement from the Army in 1996, I got Dottie to give me a copy of all of his impressive military paperwork telling her that I was going to nominate him for the Ranger Hall of Fame. I had to sit on this paperwork for years waiting for him to “get out of the game” knowing

that he could not be nominated while being “active” in the covert community. Now it is done, and it is time to recognize Clem (and Dottie) Lemke for their faithful service to our Country. Adding his name to the Ranger Hall of Fame has been a long time coming and is well deserved.

Al Stewart

RLTW!



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—BENNIE GENTRY



Pete Dencker

H Company Brothers,  
 A few reminders to start off this issue's posting. First - the H Company annual reunion will be held in conjunction with the 73<sup>rd</sup> annual 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association reunion. Dates are Wednesday Sept 22 through Sunday Sept 26<sup>th</sup> and the location is Killeen TX. There was a registration sheet included with the last Company newsletter if you have that - or you can sign up on the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav website. I also want to remind everyone about the Ranger Rendezvous that will be held at Ft Benning, July 19<sup>th</sup> – July 23<sup>rd</sup>. To sign up and/or see the schedule of events visit the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association site at [www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org).



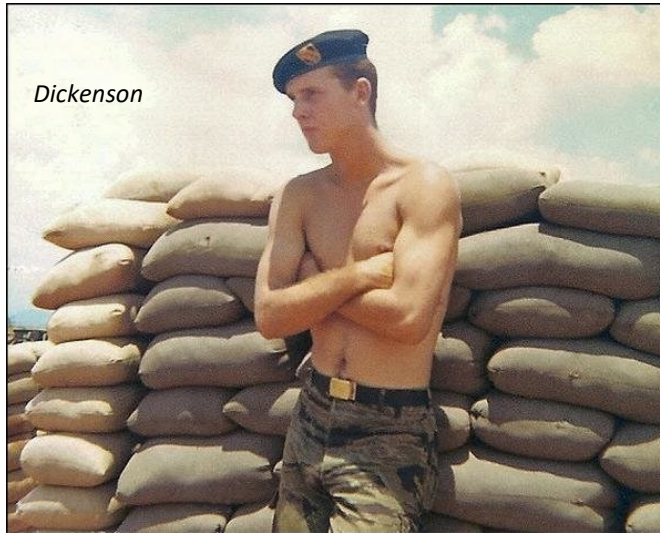
Also, one from Doc Gilchrest (RIP) - Friend and team medic, China spring, TX., 76633, USA From our first day, on the hill, until our last mission together, in the mountains above Dalat, You were my friend and my mentor. It was you, that made the names, of LRRPS and RECONDOS stand out, above the rest. From Underdog, to Tom Terrific there were none, better than you. Your face shines, as brightly in my memory today, as it did then. My mourning has turned to pride, and I pray, that it will never dim with age. Monday, May 22, 2006

I tried reaching out to David's family but was unable to connect although I did find something from his sister Garnet.

My brother David always gave everything he did in life 150%. In Little League football, he acquired a knee injury that kept him from being a paratrooper, which was his first desire. He fought in the Golden Gloves for a short time and his trainer told me that he was one of the best he ever worked with.

This issue commemorates David Thomas Dickenson. David was born on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1948 in Colorado. David joined and began his service in the Army in 1966 and was deployed to Vietnam on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1967. I had asked for some input from those that served with David and was overwhelmed with the response – **Thanks to all who responded.** David was obviously a professional, great at his job and well like by all. I've included some of the comments here:

Dickenson



Skeeter Pettibone '67 and '68. I met Dave Dickinson in Vietnam @ LRRP's An Khe Hill. I remember that we hit it off immediately. I really can't remember how many missions we pulled together; it was not many. He was quite intelligent & had a great personality. He asked me if I would be interested in pulling a 2 man mission & I responded affirmatively. It sounded intriguing. He was in the Command center by then & I was on a Team. I don't know if he ever spoke with Cpt James about the idea but very soon thereafter David was killed in that Jeep that hit a mine. I remember attending a memorial for him, but I don't remember where it was. I just remember that he was a Great guy, a damn good soldier & a Leader. He was my friend & I will never forget him. I wish I could recall more but time & memory have eroded my recall. Whatever it is that you are putting together for Dave, I hope you will keep me informed as he made a huge impact on my life for having only known one another for such a short period of time.

After finishing boot camp, David received orders in early 1967 to go to Germany. He requested his orders be changed, he wanted to go to Vietnam, he was set on that. His orders were changed, and he was home on leave the first part of April, then off to Vietnam. David called home when he was on R&R in Australia in late October. He said he had already arranged to do a second tour in Nam and was not sure if he would be able to come home in between the two tours. In December, God had other plans for David.

He was such a caring member of our family, always willing to go the extra mile. I have 5 daughters, and they loved their Uncle Davy dearly. He was one of the best friends I had throughout my life and he is missed tremendously.

I have been told by several of the men he served with that he was a highly effective soldier, and they would trust him with their lives anytime.

He is and always will be a true hero to me, my daughters, and our entire family.

Garnet Dickenson – sister

David Thomas Dickenson - RIP

*Continued on the next page*

The rest of this issue's post looks at the birth of HHC-LRRP, 191<sup>st</sup> MI which later became E/52<sup>nd</sup> and ultimately H/75<sup>th</sup>.

### The Beginning.

I would first like to thank Col (R) Jim James for taking an inordinate amount of his time to walk me through his experiences building the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's LRRP unit. I realize there have been times when all of us have questioned the Army's decision-making process, but this was one time they hit the nail on the head. Jim was unquestionably the right man for the job. It is interesting to note that many of the practices and procedures Jim instituted early in the Unit's history were still standard operating procedure during my time with H Company from Dec 1970 through the summer of 1972.

I must admit I've become addicted to learning about the history of H Company, its earlier designations – and the LRRPs/ Rangers who created that history prior to my arrival. My hope is that the "young" Rangers 70-72 will also want to learn about the amazing history their predecessors (66-69) created and similarly hope that the "older" LRRPs/Rangers will come to learn and appreciate how the young guys picked up the banner and carried it proudly to the finish line. Together it's an amazing story of courage, dedication, and sacrifice. For those interested, there are a number of books out there that cover the topic - but for those who want to read about this piece of early history in detail, read Gregg Jorgenson's book - *The Ghosts of the Highlands* – (which I've read about 8 times now) and which provides a detailed look at Jim James, the "James Gang" and the amazing story of "the beginning".

A little history. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution in 1965 marked the beginning of a buildup of American troops in Vietnam. This buildup was escalated by the extensive bombing campaign of North Vietnam which caused the conflict to further escalate. At this time there were only 2 Divisions that were operating as "airmobile" units - the 11<sup>th</sup> Air Assault Division – which was replaced by the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division which had been reorganized like the Cav with 3 Battalions of Rotary wing aircraft and a fixed wing company. Later in July the announcement was made that the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav was being sent to Vietnam. In August, the advance elements began arriving and established a temporary base camp near An Khe – a short distance from Qui Nhon on the coast. These advance elements including the 8<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion began working on the largest helipad known to man, and the accompanying defense perimeter and encampment which would become known as Camp Radcliff.

Note - Major Donald Radcliff was a member of the advance

team from the Cav who was tasked to identify the ideal location for the camp that would later be named in his honor. While conducting this search he volunteered to fly a support mission for local Marine units who were launching an attack against a VC Regiment at Chu Lai. Radcliff provided close support for the Marine troop carriers and as a result of his quick reaction to the numerous threats during this contact saved countless Marine lives. Unfortunately, he was mortally wounded during the battle and became the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav's first casualty.

It was 28 September 1965 before the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav officially assumed complete control and responsibility for the defense of An Khe and the surrounding Tactical Area of Responsibility. Over the next year there were numerous operations designed to implement the relatively new "airmobile" concept of attacking the local VC and NVA forces in this area of operations. Silver Bayonet, Shiny Bayonet, Long Reach, LZ X-Ray, Matador, Masher, White Wing, Lewis and Clark, Davy Crockett Crazy Horse, Paul Revere, Thayer, Irving, to name some of the operations that were undertaken.

It was now November 1966; the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav was still operating out of Camp Radcliff/An Khe in II Corps. The current Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav, Gen Norton recognized the success that air mobility had created but also recognized the need for a new and different way to supplement the Air Mobile concept. This new "economy of force" strategy was in the form of long range reconnaissance patrols. The 1/9<sup>th</sup> along with Battalion recon teams, and of course SF Teams had already demonstrated a level of success utilizing these tactics and the thought of having a dedicated unit responsible to the Division G-2 was even more intriguing to Norton.

General Norton and his G-2 Col. Ray began a search to identify a leader that had the capabilities and experience necessary to build and run such a unit. A number of highly thought of candidates were interviewed and ultimately Cpt Jim James was selected. Jim was a seasoned line officer who was about halfway through his tour and to this point had served as a Company Commander with the 1/8<sup>th</sup> Cav. Jim was also SF qualified and had previously served as an A Team Leader in Ethiopia during the conflict with Somalia. He had also served as a Recon Platoon Leader with the 1<sup>st</sup> Aviation Combat Team in Varna Italy. He was a perfect fit for the challenge ahead.

Once selected the challenges began immediately. Not only was he the only "asset" of this new unit – but there was no money or equipment available and at that point no means to even locate anything that was needed to get things started. It was clear from the start that the term "midnight requisition" would become an important part of his vocabulary going forward.

*Continued on the next page*



From the personnel side of things, he also knew that he would become a thorn in the side of any Battalion, or Brigade Commander who recognized that his intent was to steal their best NCO's. An auspicious start to say the least. His first hires would be critical to his success so he looked to resources he was familiar with and that he knew could get the job done - experienced NCO's and particularly NCO's who had SF experience or who had worked in the Ranger Department at Benning. Recruiting was the task at hand which became "a very interesting process." For Jim it was all about picking the right people. His first hires were 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt Frederick Kelly, followed by Staff Sgt Joe Kline. These 2 had the right background to help Jim get his rear area organized and the new unit moving in the right direction. Once the rear was established and somewhat under control it was time to see what other units who had utilized long range reconnaissance methods were doing with regard to tactics – and probably more important - how these units were staffed – what did these soldiers resume's look like. The Cav hierarchy recognizing Jim would need transportation to get around and visit units that were stationed throughout RVN, provided a helicopter and crew "on loan".

Jim's first stops were with the 101<sup>st</sup> followed by the 173<sup>rd</sup>, both of which had already employed the long range patrol concept as part of Division operations. The next stop was with 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group. Because of Jim's background as a Team Leader with SF, and his understanding of Delta Team operations, he was aware that more than any other unit, 5<sup>th</sup> Group had a clear understanding of how small unit reconnaissance groups should train and work. Their unique training process was ever evolving and eventually grew into a more formal training regimen that became known as Recondo training - used for quite some time by LRRP units and other "special troops". After his visit to 5<sup>th</sup> Group Jim headed to meet with the Australian SAS group. They had been in Vietnam since the early 60's initially in an advisory capacity but as time went on their involvement moved to more of a combat role. Jim was impressed in general with the quality of "soldier" he encountered there, the high level of training, and the quality and effectiveness of their leadership and support functions. They seemed to have it all. His "on the ground" education complete it was now time to put to use the valuable lessons that he had learned.

Knowing he would need leadership support as he started the recruiting process in earnest Jim selected Ron Hall as his Executive Officer. Ron had been a PL with the 1/7<sup>th</sup> Cav and had a great reputation as a capable and hard charging officer. They started recruiting immediately – focusing on Non Commissioned officers – especially those that had experience as RI's at the

Ranger School at Ft Benning. Over the next few weeks Jim made additional selections - Patrick O'Brien who was a squad leader with the 2/8<sup>th</sup> and had been an RI before Vietnam. Staff Sgt Ron Christopher came from another line unit, and from the 2/8<sup>th</sup> James selected Sgt John Simones who had served with a Marine Force Recon unit before his time in the Army. Jim also began filling in positions to handle operations, communications, and other support functions. Things were beginning to take shape. Jim began presenting to groups of incoming soldiers offering them the opportunity to serve with a LRRP unit. At the same time Lt Hall was recruiting Montagnard's and special Vietnamese scouts that would eventually form an indigenous platoon. Later they would work individually as members of the LRRP Teams. This was a seasoned, battle hardened group that would provide invaluable help to the Teams in the field.

For a period of time the training process included successfully completing the Recondo school. The first graduates provided the foundation for building operating teams and the necessary support functions – Rudy Torres would head up comms, Tom Campbell – operations while Ross, Guerrero, Simones, Biddle, Fletcher, Spina, and Lopez would work with Team Leaders O'Brien and Christopher establishing the first 2 Teams. By February of '67 the Teams were ready to deploy.

One of the challenges James recalled was to ensure that the Teams understood that their mission was reconnaissance – a concept that for some was difficult to embrace. Another challenge came as a direct result of the initial success of the Teams – which did not go unnoticed. For a period of time the Brigades were able to convince Division that the Teams could be better utilized if they were on loan to the individual Brigades. something that did not sit well with Cpt. James.

As we talked it became clear that some of the other problems experienced by the early LRRP Teams in MR II and later MR I remained problems in later years – particularly communication. The Cav's ultimate relocation to MR III and the resulting change in topography compared to the mountainous terrain of MR I and II, was a huge help as the Company was able to utilize radio relay stations that were maintained on 1 or 2 mountaintops that for the most part kept teams throughout the entire MR III in regular communication with the Company TOC. In cases where communicating with the radio relay stations was questionable Teams were able to rely on Air Force forward air control aircraft which were in the air almost 24/7 – but to the end – and because at the time we worked the entirety of MR III, communication was always a concern.

*Continued on the next page*

The mission changed to a degree, but the primary function remained the same - reconnaissance – Initially working for the G-2 in the mountainous areas of MR II and then MR I where previously the VC/NVA had free reign to move around as they pleased. Teams would identify enemy activity and the Cav would react company or battalion size units in response. In later years the Company would review soft intelligence with the G-2 and later the Brigade S-2 after the Cav standdown. The process involved plotting agent reports, unidentified radio stations, SLAR (Side looking Airborne radar), Sniffer readings (helicopters fitted with devices that identified areas of high ammonia contents), reports from other Teams that indicated enemy activity on a map. Once plotted it was easy to identify areas of concentration. At this point in the evolution of our involvement in RVN – “blade time” was at a premium – so rather than react a Company or Battalion to these concentrations or “soft intelligence”, the Division/Brigade would identify an AO, then react a Ranger Team to verify what was there. In the later years it was not uncommon to blow and ambush on the way out.

Back to 1967 – the battle rages on, it’s clear the VC/NVA who had been used to operating in this area almost uncontested for a long time, were aware of the deployment of LRRP teams however they struggled trying to combat the small, well trained units that the LRRP challenge presented. Interestingly a very similar scenario to what US forces experienced during our initial involvement and occupation of RVN.

It was still relatively early in the year when Gen. John Tolson took over command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. Tolson was the former commander of the Army’s Aviation school so it was clear that he had good working knowledge of the airmobility concept – but it also became clear that he also had an appreciation for how LRRP operations could be complimentary to Division operations. As such Gen. Tolson made the decision to increase the size of the LRRP detachment to Company size. James recalled that he only learned of the change when he returned from R&R. Although James was happy with how the development of the LRRP unit had progressed, as well as the lack of casualties – he realized this new directive would mean a new and larger recruiting effort. James was concerned but insistent about maintaining the quality of the new recruits as well as ensuring that the new recruits would be as well trained as the existing LRRPs. One of the immediate results was the need for developing a home-grown training program as the Recondo school didn’t have the capacity to handle this new challenge.

It was also at this point when the Montagnard’s and Vietnamese scouts were integrated into the Team structure. As expected, the integration worked especially well. This was another policy

that carried forward to later years with great results.

In April of ‘67 Sgt Simmones’ Team was on a mission north of An Khe in search of a VC battalion that was thought to be working in that area. Once the Team was on the ground things started out normally although Simmones’ experience had his “6<sup>th</sup> sense” working overtime. Accompanying TL Simmones was his ATL Doug Fletcher, along with Geoff Kooper, David Allen Ives, Allen Carpenter and Art Guerrero. All were experienced LRRPs except for Ives who was on his first mission. After moving off the LZ they found a good location to spend the night and after performing a “buttonhook” maneuver which would take the Team in a wide arch around the proposed NDP to ensure they weren’t being followed, they settled in for the night. The next morning – before dawn – Ives asked one of his Teammates to cover him while he left the Team perimeter to empty his bladder. As soon as he left the perimeter the Team could hear and see movement and at that point the VC engaged Ives and the Team. Ives was killed and Kooper, Carpenter and Guerrero were wounded. The battle raged on with the surviving members of the team, doing what they could for the wounded and holding the VC at bay until gunships/support arrived and they could finally be extracted. The LRRP’s had suffered their first loss.

We honored David Allen Ives in a previous edition of *Patrolling* as the unit’s first casualty and hope to cover some of the incredible missions that took place during the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the unit’s existence in subsequent issues of *Patrolling*, but this piece is about Cpt. Jim James whose time in country was coming to a close. The Cav had identified Captain David Tucker to be Jim’s replacement. Jim remembers that it was tough to think about letting go of the unit that he had literally birthed – the unit that had grown to be a formidable piece of the puzzle in the fight against the VC and NVA in and around An Khe, Camp Radcliff and the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav’s area of operations. There was an awards ceremony prior to his leaving where he was awarded a Bronze Star w/V device for his efforts responding to a Team in contact.

While attempting to extract the team their helicopter was hit and incapacitated. James and the Team remained on the ground in contact with the enemy for the remainder of that day and overnight .... finally getting extracted the following day. Some suggested that his effort and bravery warranted more than a Bronze Star and could not understand how the award process evolved. (After reading about this experience, the actions of Cpt James, and the Team were impressive, and I will hopefully be able to highlight that mission in an upcoming issue). At this point however, it was almost time for James to go home.

*Continued on the next page*

Jim was enjoying himself relaxing in a swimsuit and catching some rays in the Company area passing the last few hours before he would be catching a “freedom bird” back home when he noticed some activity near the TOC. James went over to see what the activity was about. There was a Team in contact - The XO was at G-2 and Cpt Tucker was in Da Nang trying to “requisition” some needed communication equipment and interviewing potential recruits. Because no one else was available, and due to the nature of the contact, Jim made a decision that the Team would have to be extracted. Not wasting any time Jim jumped on the extraction helicopter and to the amusement of flight crew, was still in his swimsuit and sunglasses. As they arrived on station, they could see the gunships firing in support of the Team. As the Team made its way to the LZ and the extraction bird started its short final – they started taking fire. Regardless the pilot guided his helicopter down to the hot LZ and as the door gunners hammered the tree line the Team was able to board the slick. While continuing to take fire the pilot then maneuvered the helicopter up and away from the LZ. The team was elated and particularly impressed with Cpt James uniform – or lack thereof. They were wondering why he was there to begin with, and he answered, “I still have a few hours to go”.

The next chapter in the Unit’s history was a bit confusing. I spent

some time talking to Mike Gooding about this transition and will put together another article that covers the transition and Cpt Gooding’s tenure in an upcoming issue. Although Tucker was now the CO there was serious questioning on the part of the Division staff whether or not to keep or disband the unit. Cpt. Mike Gooding who had an MI background and at that point on Division staff, was given the task of developing an assessment that was ultimately used in making the determination that - yes - there was a significant need for the unit to continue its mission. That report and the fact that Cpt Tucker was offered another command at a higher rank resulted in the G-2 placing Cpt Gooding in command of the unit. Gooding took the job with the conditions that the unit would be afforded the necessary supplies and equipment necessary to complete their mission and that the unit would operate as a separate unit not piecemealed out to the Brigades. Unfortunately, soon thereafter Cpt Tucker was a passenger in a helicopter that was engaged by enemy fire and Cpt Tucker was hit and killed.

Until next issue

For those who’ve fought for it – life has a flavor the protected will never know.

RLTW

**HEROES OF AMERICA MARATHON**

**NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM COLUMBUS, GA NOVEMBER 19 & 20, 2021 MARATHON, HALF MARATHON, & 5K**

**BOSTON MARATHON QUALIFIER!**

**EXPO! PASTA DINNER! SPEAKER JEFF GALLOWAY!**

**TEAM CHALLENGE WITH AWARDS. MAKE UP YOUR OWN TEAM & PLACE INDIVIDUALLY.**

**[HTTPS://HEROESOFAMERICAMARATHON.ORG](https://heroesofamericamarathon.org)**

**START YOUR RACE ON THE INSPIRATIONAL HERITAGE WALK! THIS FAMILIAR COURSE IS REASONABLY FLAT WITH ONE HILL AND A FEW SHORT INCLINES.**

**NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM & SOLDIER CENTER**





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



## People, Places and Things

I have heard these words many times from Veterans and active military that were seeking help from Alcohol and Drugs. This is our guide to a clean life one veteran who had recently attended an Narcotics Anonymous meeting explained to me.

The phrase made me ponder life and I wondered about everyday life and different issues such as happiness. Could we apply People, Places and things philosophy to our everyday existence? I often viewed life as a diamond with many facets, and like a diamond we see possible flaws in our existence, while other facets seem brilliant or flawless.

I asked a newly minted Ranger if he could describe his young years as a diamond, "What would be his most brilliant facet of his young life?" And, he reflected " Graduating from every phase of Ranger Training and Jump School !

I smiled and later found myself at home in Pennsylvania bringing in the mail. The most recent issue of The Special Forces Association "The Drop" was part of the day's mail. I placed all of the mail in the designated area and went about my business. That evening I returned home and looked to glance through the magazine and found an interesting article on "Stone Soldier" a memorial about "people, place and things" for the Vietnam War and Southeast Asia.

I started asking myself the traditional questions I ask myself while writing, Who, What, Why, When, Where and How. After deep thought, I was discovering answers, good answers about many a soldier and civilian lives. We all seek happiness and we search for it as Ponce De Leon searched for the fountain of youth. I wanted to look at a common area affecting military history and why people would find happiness in the strangest People, Places and Things ?

The first question that came to mind is Why do we have memorials, grave markers, etc. To remember people and places? Yes, I said to myself. But sacrifices - Blood and Guts - Suffering - Cold - Heat - Disease - Killing - Wounding all needed to be recapitulated in remembering. But on reflection, I feel these issues are related to seeking peace or happiness and I applied my personal diamond with multiple facets to this understanding.

As a personal example, I pull out from my memory bank a memory of myself addressing a large crowd at the Philadelphia Civic Center before the building of the Vietnam Memorial could



begin. We needed to raise money, Big Money, Millions of Dollars and the Vietnam Memorial that we see in DC, the concept came under attack ! The crowd was dressed in casual clothes, while wearing something camouflage, many holding signs saying that we don't need a memorial for a pigeon shit we need social programs for jobs, housing, education, etc. There seemed to be little or no happiness in the crowd.

We were to receive a large donation that day from Sun Energy. Jan Scruggs , one of the founders of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington DC asked if I would speak first and calm the crowd. Sure, I replied and was introduced as a local boy who was fighting daily for

Veterans rights and the Memorial.

As I approached the podium, I could hear the rumblings of the many former warriors in the audience. I thanked Jan for the introduction and asked the crowd "In these trying times when Veterans are being denied and rejected by society do we need a monument for pigeon shit?

The crowd answered a loud "NO"!

Then I asked do we need social programs today for Veterans and broken soldiers? The crowd was torn with answers Yes & No! Finally, I said in this great country - the United States of America (speaking slowly) can we not have both - social programs and a memorial to reflect our Service, Honor, Valor and Sacrifices?

The room erupted in Veterans standing And chanting Yes! Yes! Yes! The crowd understood and the program went on that day and the Vietnam Veterans ended completing the memorial in Washington DC . (And, I polished a flawed facet of a diamond with the People, Places and Things.)

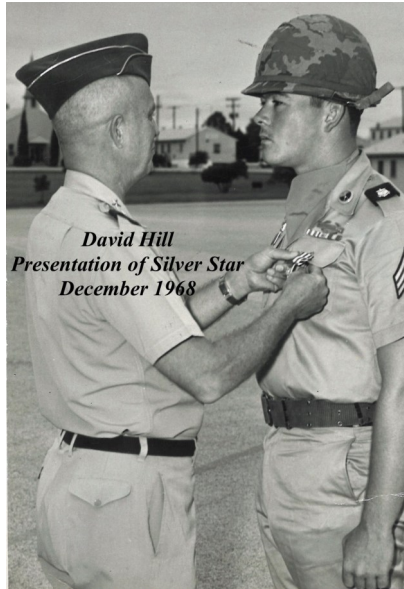
Yes, the Vietnam Veterans need facets polished on their diamonds of life.

As I reflect on that event and day, I think about other people and other facets of life. I think about the young ranger and his being awarded his ranger scroll

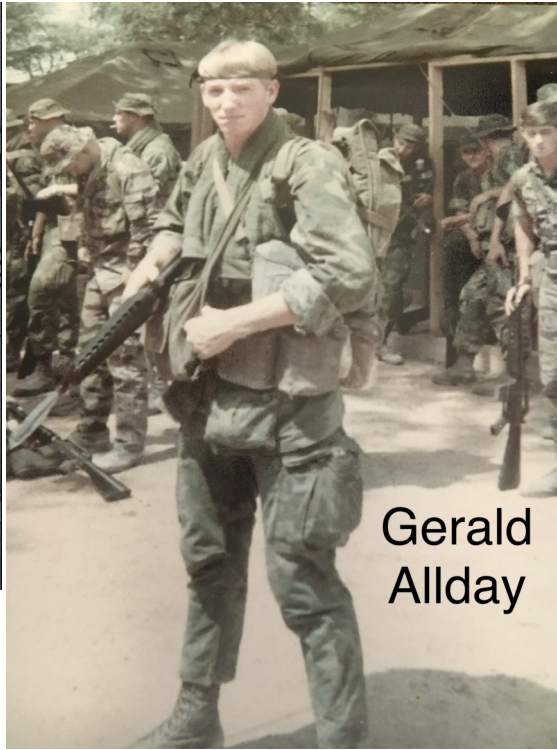
I think about military veterans that I met in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, they all are diamonds and they all have facets that shine and with flaws. I interpret their flaws to be people, places and things in life - important to many because of different reasons - possibly leaving childhood & life & death through the eyes of a young man.

*Continued on the next page*

Then my thoughts went to the millions of people worldwide that build Memorials or visit memorials. Why do people take trips to the battlefields - reunions with military friends?



David Hill  
Presentation of Silver Star  
December 1968



Gerald  
Allday

Why? Why? Why? When, When, Where, Where and How? When do these visits take places like Pearl Harbor, Normandy France, Berlin to name a few iconic tourist destinations. For many that have had life and death experiences at locations, the trips never take place to avoid emotional pain. But aside from the Warrior, there are millions of people that never wore a military uniform that are the backbone of visitors to cemeteries. Why travel to Punch Bowl in the Pacific, Cemeteries in Luxembourg and France? Why? Battlefields that are centuries old from the original 13 colonies against England or travel to military forts dotting the globe or walk the plains where US Soldiers and the American Indians fought. (Wounded Knee for example).

Why are we organizing flights to go back to Vietnam to walk the Ho Chi Minh trail? Crawl the tunnels of Cu Chi, Why?

And yes, some day in the future there will be visitors to Afghanistan and Iraq by veterans and everyday civilians . Additionally ,today you can tour Grenada, Bosnia, Kosovo, Gettysburg and other countries/places where distant foreign armies fought, Why? Why do people visit memo-

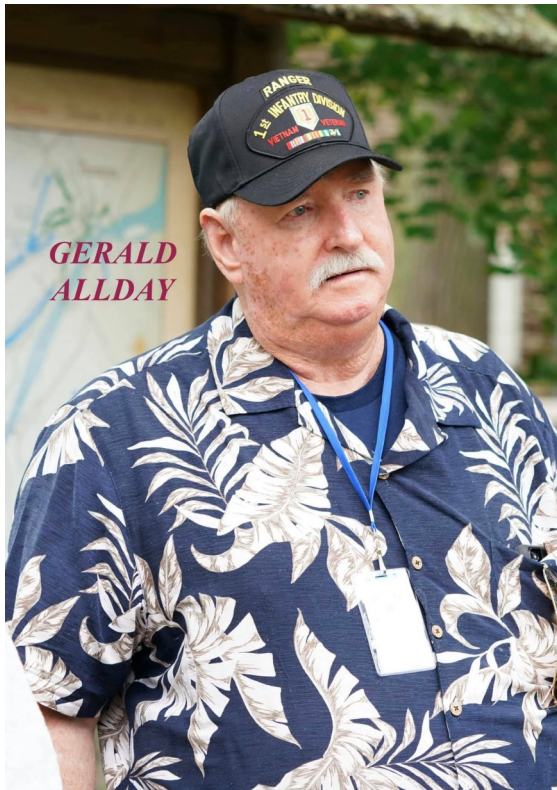
rials from wars they fought and why do people visit memorials that they never heard or read that exist throughout the world. Why the memorials in Washington DC and across the United States, Soldier Stone Memorial tucked into the Rocky Mountains, The Vietnam Memorial, The Korean War Memorial and the World War II Memorial? What is the attraction and why? Is it a catharsis, a connection to the honored warriors that sacrificed from both sides? There are memorials on every continent, some traditions and ceremonies but what is the attraction? I ask these questions and establish my own conclusion and personal answer . Do I seek an understanding of history or peace of mind and soul? I must answer yes to both. But who else goes to these places of war or memorials?

I now realize that war and art are similar in the fact that everyone has different opinions and reasons for after the fact actions. I encountered and talked with anti war demonstrators at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, DC. They were fascinated by the Korean War Memorial. They all said they felt a connection with the men that fought the War but knew little to nothing about the War. Art like War ?

During the past two years I visited the U.N. Cemetery in Korea, the Memorial of where the atomic bomb was dropped in Nagasaki, the cliffs of Normandy, I felt a connection to the people that suffered and died during the wars because I have experienced the "sting of battle".

But people with no connection to wearing a military uniform were also visiting the historic sites. Why? Because they needed to visit and I needed to - and I will go to the Ranger Reunion to meet and greet fellow warriors and visit memorials around Springfield, Illinois because I, we need to do so. It is our Diamond of Life and my People, Places and Things.

Sick Call- Ranger Brother James Moss could use some prayers.



GERALD  
ALLDAY

Reunion information for Springfield IL July 14-17th 2021.  
Block of rooms is listed under 75th Ranger Regiment. Rooms need to be booked by April 15, 2021 [Hotel Details](#)





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

Greetings to all,

I have been so busy the last couple of months so once again I am up against the deadline. Of course there are days when I'm just lazy. There is not much of "new" news to report. John Dubois has had some cardiac issues so you might keep him in your thoughts and prayers. I guess at our age we all have medical issues of one kind or another so keep all your Brothers in mind. Just a call to say hello goes a long way in making someone's day.

Remember the reunion is approaching fast so



if you have not made your arrangements now would be the time to get it done. It is always a blessing to see old comrades again so I hope as many as possible can make it this year.

Here are some pictures for a stroll down memory lane. I seem to do that a lot lately.

Best Regards,

Roger



T-5974



Old Friends



Old friends telling it like it was



Harry Phair



Posing with Blackjack nose art



Hello from LZ Hardtimes 1970





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—CHARLES “CHUCK” REILLY



Greetings fellow Rangers and LRRPs: I am happy to report that the Rangers of “L” Company gathered in Moline, Illinois, for a reunion (April 21-25) and it was a great success. As many of you know, the reunion also coincided with the ferocious fight on Hill 809 exactly 50 years ago to the day (April 22-25, 1971). This battle has been chronicled in more than one book and most of the Rangers and LRRPs who were with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division are familiar with it. I will not go into details of the battle. Suffice to say that nearly every member of “L” Company was involved in it, one way or another. But because of the nature of the battle, we were not the only participants. The Rangers received plenty of support during that very trying time and members of the 2/502<sup>nd</sup> were honored guests at this reunion. We were grateful to have these gentlemen in attendance and all welcomed their presence. John Perez, a longtime resident of Moline, was the main organizer of the reunion and to say that he did an outstanding job would be an understatement. The hotel accommodations at the Hyatt Place were first-class all the way and the weather was mild with only a slight sprinkling of rain on the last day (Sunday). Most of the Rangers arrived on Thursday and I am proud to say that it was well attended. Upon our arrival, Chuck Rupe provided all former Rangers with a CD loaded with pictures of everyone in “L” Company from the 1970-71-time frame. Mr. Rupe put a lot of time and energy into this project and his entire fellow Rangers appreciated his efforts. Two of our officers with “L” Company in 1971, Bob Suchke and Jim Montano, both expressed regrets in being unable to attend the reunion and sent their best regards to all.

Here is a list of the attendees and their guests: Roy Aguero and his wife Diana, Chuck Rupe and his wife Kelli, Fred Karnes and his wife Barbara, Randy White and his wife Jennifer, John Perez and his wife Caroline, Jim Donat and his wife Darise, Danny Dominguez and his wife Vivian, Fred Behrens, Bobby Badeaux, Louis Distretti, Al Parada, Marvin Duren and his son Wesley, Dale “Pugsly” Hardy and his grandson Jarod, Dave McLaughlin (son of



Ranger Jim “Speedy” McLaughlin), Larry Ackley and his wife Nancy, Jim “Sgt. Ski” Kwasniewski and his wife Pauline, Steve Barr, Dave Quigley and his wife Alina, Dave “Muldoon” Rothwell, Gib Halverson, James King, Randy Kirkpatrick and his wife Angel, Dave Culp, Jim “Paul Bunyan” Suomela, Jimmy Sheppard, Herb Owens, and Billy Nix. As I stated earlier, there were a number of members of the 2/502<sup>nd</sup> who were invited guests and who contributed mightily to supporting the Rangers during the fight on Hill 809. They included John Hartel, John Cluett, Mr. Cluett’s daughter Laura and her husband John Sacco, William Walker and his wife Teresa, and Al “Doc” Cooley and his wife Ivie. My wife Ilene and I were also in attendance and I must say that a great time was had by all.

On Friday night, the entire group took a nice leisurely ride on the Mississippi river aboard the “Celebration Belle” paddlewheel boat. This excursion included fine dining (prime rib and chicken entrée) and dancing to the music of a very eclectic family band. The service was excellent and extremely friendly and everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. At the end of the evening, it seemed that everyone was on the dance floor. A group of Rangers and their wives also took a day trip to nearby Silvis, Illinois. It’s a small town in the Quad Cities area and well-known for its “Hero Street.” This is an entire street dedicated to the local men of the area who served in wars during the 20<sup>th</sup> Century who were mainly of Mexican origin. In fact, the entire area has a fairly large Mexican-American population, including Moline. There are also many other nationalities represented on Hero Street and it was an honor to visit this landmark and see first-hand how much the citizens of the region respect their veterans and their service and sacrifice. You will not find anything like it in any other city across the United States. On Saturday night, John Perez catered a Mexican-style dinner provided by his own local restaurant (Adolph’s) and the food was fantastic and enjoyed by everyone (second helpings were followed by thirds and fourths). On Sunday, we all said our goodbyes and parted once again with great memories and the promise of meeting up together again in two years.

*Continued on the next page*

This reunion was also noteworthy for the number of Ranger wives who attended, most for the first time, and their presence added greatly to the event.

I have included a number of photos from the event in this issue. One group photo was taken at the Hyatt Place hotel and in front

Rupe, Rangers in Moline



of our "L" Company Rangers banner and another was taken on Hero Street in nearby Silvis, Illinois. The next picture was taken in the Hyatt lounge and included Danny Dominguez and Jim "Paul Bunyan" Suomela (second and third from the left) who both somehow missed being in the group photos. Others in the photo are Louie Distretti, Jim "Sgt. Ski" Kwasniewski, Randy Kirkpatrick, John Perez and Dave "Muldoon" Rothwell seated on the far right. The next picture is of the Ranger wives lined up on the Celebration Belle dance floor. They're all looking great. Another



photo of Rangers in the Hyatt hospitality room included L-R, Chuck Rupe, Dave Culp, Randy Kirkpatrick and John Perez. The last photo was taken of Roy Aguero and his wife Diana aboard

Rangers in lounge-Dominguez and Bunyan.



the top deck of the Celebration Belle. Of course, there were many more photos taken during the reunion, but I couldn't squeeze in any more for this issue.



I have been in touch with one of our company's lieutenants from mid to late 1970, Bill Brownsberger. He sends his best regards to all the Rangers and in our correspondence; he recognized many names and events from that time period. I think I convinced him to come to our next reunion. I also heard from James Jackson, another lieutenant in the company who served in the unit when it was part of "F" Company of the 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He resides near Fort Benning now and wanted to wish all his fellow LRRPs and Rangers the best. Lastly, I heard from Mark Morrow who was in the company from January to May of 1970. He now lives in upstate New York and mentioned a number of Rangers he served with including Jim "Lobo" Bates and the late "Jungle Jim" Rodarte. It was great hearing from all these gentlemen and hopefully we'll all be seeing them again. On a sad note, Ranger Frank Favale from the Boston area passed away several months ago and we just now heard the news. He was in "L" Company in 1970-71. I'm sure that everyone who was in the company during that time period remembers him. *Next Page*





Roy and Diana Aguero



Rupe, Culp, Kirkpatrick and Perez

years). It is a credit to all former members and exemplifies the bond we always had--whether we knew it existed or not. Back in 1970, if someone had mentioned how we would all be attending company reunions fifty years later, he would probably have gotten a good laugh from anyone within earshot. Yet that's the way our unit has evolved, and at this late date, we can only hope that more of our fellow Rangers will see fit to come to the next reunion and take part in what is now a real brotherhood.

As always, Rangers lead the way!

I think we can all be proud of the fact that our unit has tried to stay intact as much as humanly possible after all these years and that we have these reunions, now biennially (i.e., every two



**NEW  
CHALLENGE  
COINS  
@  
75THRRA.ORG**





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JEFF HORNE



This issue is a collection of mini biographies of our earliest LRRPs. I thought it befitting for the readers of PATROLLING to have a glimpse of the early days of the men who ran missions “by the seat of their pants and with strength of stout hearts.” I simply asked them to answer, “Why you joined the Army, volunteered for Airborne and the LRRP Platoon, and how those decisions molded your youth”? In their own words, “They remain my heroes.”

VLADIMIR “JAKE” JAKOVENKO:

Came to USA from DP camp in Germany 1950 I was 10 years old, struggled through grade school graduated in 1956 never went to high school only thing I accomplished in Jersey City, NJ. Was spending time in reform school for gang fights and stealing pigeons on rooftops of people who liked to race them. Went before a very familiar judge who said, " You are now 17 and looks like your deterrent to go to prison and it's a far cry from reform school.... I suggest since you like to fight to join the U.S. Army, he said he served in WW-II with the 101st Airborne Division..

I went to the recruiting station but could not join I was not an American citizen, but with Mothers consent I could volunteer for the Draft, started my basic training at Fort Dix, NJ, 16 January 1958 Draft number US 51412546 and volunteered for Airborne.... Went out front gate to Wrightstown while drinking decided to get an Airborne tattoo didn't want to look like a newbby in jump school... During the physical exam found I had a problem with my right eye that gave me a 2 profile and knocked me out of Airborne school only choice I had after basic was clerk, cook or truck driver I picked MOS 640/42 light/heavy truck driver after graduation went to France June 1958 to 1960 Honorable Discharge as PFC and became American Citizen in November 1961 and working at General Motors had to pick a reserve unit... Some of the guys I worked on the assembly line with said you speaking those foreign languages they have an Army Reserve Unit that's looking for people who speak foreign language, it was B Company 11th Special Forces at Camp Kilmore. To join I had to be Airborne qualified, so they sent me to Ft. Benning, GA. for jump school, some told me I may have a hard time going through jump school with an Airborne tattoo, so before I left I put an ace bandage to hide the tattoo.... First week in ground training a Black Hat came



over and said I notice you doing lots of pushups and chin ups and have an ace bandage on your forearm, I said pulled muscle Sergeant! He said I don't think so, I bet you have an Airborne tattoo! I became number 192 " Mr. Airborne " and ground week became hell week for me, Black Hats would say that tattoo you got is like throwing bag of shit in our face or we just give jump wings away in cracker jack box's... Smoke they brought on me around those 300-foot towers turned into a fog elevation went down and brown spots upreared where grass died from my sweat, blood and tears... I made it with tears in my eyes when they pinned those silver wings on my chest, and Black Hats shook my hand and said they never heard of someone graduating jump school having an Airborne tattoo...

I went back in the Army 1962 during the Cuban crisis volunteered for 82nd Airborne Division assigned to C Company 2nd Battle Group 501st Infantry, got busted to E-4 for being drunk and knocking out 2 leg 503rd MP's. Got a Battle Group Article-15 with 2 weeks of hard labor and 30 day restriction to the barracks... Company Commander Knew I was married and had 2 sons, 1 slot came down for Ranger school they had a list of NCO's on it, back than you had to be an NCO to attend Ranger school, but Army could give a waiver in some cases. CO and 1st Sgt got all applicants for Ranger school and asked if I could have the slot to go to Ranger school and if I graduated DA would promote me to Sgt-E-5, I graduated May 1964 with a Ranger Tab and hard E-5 stripes, out of class of around 156, 60 graduated...



Jakovenko

1965 got to Vietnam 173rd Airborne Brigade sitting on my duffle bag waiting to get assigned, someone says better hide that Ranger Tab here comes jungle man, I want to say all called him Doc he was SFC and had a pet monkey he was with 173rd Airborne Brigade, 17th Cavalry that had what they called Long Range Patrol { LRP } for whatever reason I ended up on a LRP Team my Team leader was SSgt Palacat { RIP he died in parachute accident when he worked as HALO instructor in Special Forces } We did not do much LRP missions but pulled lots of 17th Cav. details... I believe I left LRP around Jan or Feb 1966 and got assigned to C Company 2nd Battalion 503rd Infantry Squad leader of 2nd Squad 4th Platoon... *Continued on the next page*

June 1966 had to report to Captain Palmer for interview, evidently, he screened 201 Files at Brigade for Ranger qualified NCO's, I left a trail of scratch marks from 2nd Battalion to 173rd Brigade HQ. I told him not interested, so he said write me 500 or less words explanation why an NCO wearing a Ranger Tab and refuses to do what he was trained to do, if you remember CPT Palmer? I came back to what it was now called Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol {LRRP} I had Team number 4... I never went to RECONDO school when CPT Palmer took the first group to Nah Trang, Brigade wanted 3 Teams to go into War Zone-D to recon before they deployed one of the Battalions on Search and Destroy Mission, you can say I went OJT but not to RECONDO school...

Reed was later on Team 4 as ATL we had our first friendly KIA, SP-5 Hudson, DZ we jumped on was named DZ Hudson, I remember our Team setting up an LZ for A/2/ 503rd, they came we authenticated they said mark smoke, we put smoke out, they kept going another 1000 meters A company Commander thought we were not in proper location we called for emergency extraction A Company landed on an NVA Regiment, something like 30 dead and wounded out of 3rd Platoon, one Squad Leader got the Congressional Medal Of Honor, Capt. Palmer runs in the latrine I was washing of camouflage he says come on Jake we got to get the wounded out no LZ we have to use our extraction helicopters, ropes stokes litter and smoke jumper suit to bring them out of the jungle, I used a 4 letter word did they worry about compromising us ? But did go with CPT to pull out the wounded... Most hairy firefight is still on getting dark as we hover throwing ropes { McQuire Rig } down or lowering stocks litter or smoke jump suits, tracers lightning up the night sky we finished around 2200 hrs., next day we had to fly again into the area hovered and brought out the dead to an LZ to put the body bags inside the helicopters...

I left in a blaze of glory Team fighting for their life's we were in the middle of maybe an NVA Company and trying to move out of the area broke a dry bamboo branch put NVA on our ass, breaking contact and putting a claymore mine out, telling all to go to extraction LZ helicopters were coming did not realize Reed stayed to cover me a blast from an M-16 and seeing an NVA with an AK-47 falling it was Reed he stayed to pull me out of hell and saved my life was it worth the Silver Star or DSC to me it was, I wrote him up but it was lost in a shuffle of me leaving and not pursuing it later I have to live with it...

The biggest IOU I thought after coming to United States is how do you repay what America has done for me, It was to serve her and I did for 30 years United States Army and meeting so many especially those during Vietnam War we still stay in touch still their if America needs us, we are truly a Band Of Brothers...

LARRY COLE

I was a complete screw up in high school! I was in trouble with the law a lot, so much so that a judge sentenced me to the California Youth Authority until I was 21....I was 17 years old. He let me join the service, suspended the sentence and I was off to the Army. The Army was in complete disarray , I ended up with two MOSs, 63B (wheeled vehicle mechanic) and 71A (clerk typist). I

never went through the typist school (and still can't type) they just gave me the MOS. Then, there I was getting my "Blood Wings" slammed into my chest on Fryar DZ! I was off to the 173rd Airborne in Viet Nam and assigned to Headquarters Co, 173rd Support Battalion as PFCIC of their SMALL motor pool. What a dreary job!!!!

I was craving some excitement when Tony Dapello, a clerk buddy of mine came running into our tent at lunch time, all jazzed about the LRRPs were accepting volunteers and you did not have to have a combat MOS! After he explained to me what the LRRPs were we headed over to the 17th Cav for the interview board. Tony and I were both on the list of those who'd passed (it had never occurred to me that they wouldn't want an 18-year-old "killer mechanic") and we were congratulating each other when all of the NCOs came out and started looking for men.

One of the meanest looking men I've ever seen made a beeline for me! "Cole huh, I'm Sgt. Jakovenko....Jake to you! You're going to be on my Team! Go get your stuff packed, I'll be over to get you in a little while!" Welcome to the LRRPs...lol. In our luxurious new quarters (GP Medium circus tent) Jake introduced the Team members and we began school! The first thing we learned is we had a lot to learn in a very short time and if we couldn't keep up we'd be gone....I didn't know the Army could fire you! After much lecture schooling and a few overnight practice missions close to the Base Camp in Bien Hoa, I found myself in the jungles. In the most heavily infested area of Hard Core VC in South Viet Nam.....War Zone D !!!!!

Jake drew VC like a magnet! Our first real mission and I got to see my first enemy kill. But we were no longer six individuals...we were a TEAM, much more than the sum of its parts! Jake even congratulated us on "busting our cherries!" As with most teams, members were moved around but we were still a TEAM! The 173rd LRRPs became an actual unit on June 1,1966. We were now the 173rd Airborne Brigade Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, PROVISIONAL. We still, being provisional, were not a TO&E unit which meant most of the things we acquired were from barter or theft. NO PROBLEM....lol. Missions continued and Jake kept drawing VC like bee's to honey. With quite a bit of luck and a ton of great training and experience.....and great leadership....we never had a man wounded, even though we had plenty of opportunity!

We had some REALLY hairy missions....we shot a lone VC only to see the NVA Platoon behind him and had to outrun them to an LZ. . We got surrounded by about 65 VC. They sat up for the night all around us and didn't know we were there but thanks to Lt Vencill (who courageously saved our lives) we made it out OK. We had a few others missions almost as bad but I don't want to give the impression that it was all blood and guts pitched battles. Early in our Teams history we were set up head-to-head for the night. It was "last light" and I was on guard. Suddenly I noticed a figure on the ground near my feet. Being that time between "can see and can't see" I could not make out what it was....it could be a VC or maybe not! If I shot it and it was nothing Jake would kill me but if I did nothing and it as a VC we could all be dead.

Finally, an idea struck me! I picked up my M16 by the pistol grip and JAMMED the barrel into whatever it was !!!! The monkey SCREAMED and went thrashing off through the jungle. Jake flipped over and growled, "Cole, leave them monkeys alone. What's wrong with you?"

We were in the rear area with some down time and got told to put on our Tigers and all our gear, including our "war paint", we were flying down to the newly arrived 4th ID and talk to their LRRPs. COOL !!!!! We found their LRRP headquarters soon after we on the ground. Jake went in to talk to their CO and we waited outside. In just a minute or so Jake came out and screamed to get back on the chopper, we're leaving! It seems they hadn't requested any help which they felt they neither needed or wanted since they were going to follow the Australians SAS and run 4-man Teams with strictly Recon. I've never seen Jake so mad! Not long before Christmas, Jake went home after a disagreement with our CO, CPT Phillips, when we were surrounded. Reed Cundiff took over as Team Leader but they were shy about sending us out with Reed. Sgt Cundiff had been a finance clerk before coming to us. He was a nerdy looking dude with "birth control" glasses that looked like the bottom of peanut butter jars. By looks, not one to inspire confidence as a Team leader! Reed's training consisted of a degree in Physics and graduating MACV Recondo school in Nha Trang! They needn't have worried; Reed has the heart of a lion and was just as big a VC magnet as Jake. In fact, he turned out to be just as good a Team Leader as Jake, just with a different style. Where Jake led from the gut, Reed's leadership was more cerebral. In fact, he scared me a few times when I felt he was treating our missions like lab experiment rather than life or death, but he too never got a man wounded, and usually had the situation under control !!!!!

Late in January of '67 (I'm embarrassed that I don't remember the date) my best friend ever, "Wild" Bill Collins was KIA..I went a little crazier after that. So much so that I don't remember much of what happened after that. Suffice it to say I performed well on missions but didn't want much social interactions. I DEROSed in mid-March of '67 and still miss Bill to this day!

#### REED CUNDIFF

Most of the men I knew as a child had served in World War II. My Dad was career Navy and one uncle was career Army and Air Force. Another uncle served in Navy in 1920s and signed up again in 1942. The only uncle that did not serve had three small kids, was missing two fingers from childhood accident, and was an engineer at Hughes Aircraft. I felt I should serve but did not have eyesight for Naval Academy or Naval ROTC. I looked at Air Force ROTC while I was undergraduate at UNM but eyesight would leave me only support roles. I had several friends who did Marine Corps Platoon Leader Course and investigated the program when I started graduate school. I walked into office with Marine recruiter and he immediately asked me what my eyesight was. I told him it was 800/20 and he retorted "Son, you're 4F, the Marine Corps ain't that desperate yet." About then, I was recruited to be a Peace Corps Training and Development Officer at the Peace Corps Outward Bound Camps in Puerto Rico. I was a bit tired of school, wanted to do something different, and

could do with some savings. Pay was GS-5, room and board, Spanish language instruction, and travel in the Caribbean. Job was great and the Peace Corps Volunteers were great to work with. Job consisted of physical training and instruction in rock climbing, rappelling, map and compass, jungle survival, and drown proofing (open water survival aka not drowning). Some of the skills proved useful in LRRP. I received draft notice and was told to transfer to local draft board in Arecibo, Puerto Rico. I told the Arecibo board that I would like a three-month extension to study Spanish customs and culture. They said this could be done but needed release from Albuquerque board. Got the release; unfortunately, they were one short for next draft and that I would be leaving in two weeks. I decided to return to Albuquerque where I went to the draft board and spoke with a little old blue-haired lady and said I wanted a three-month extension. I explained I wanted to take a motor-cycle trip through Mexico. She stood up glaring, "because of assholes like you who have had multiple graduate school exemptions, we are drafting 18-year-old children." I decided I had lost that discussion. I whined to friends about having been drafted and they all pulled out their miniaturized photocopied and laminated DD 214s and let me know it was my turn, the inconsiderate bastards. I needed a new circle of friends and my friends and neighbors had just arranged for this to happen. I showed up at 201 South Broadway in Albuquerque at 7:30 in the morning of 19 November, 1964. The examining doctor said, "no need to retake exam since you took the same physical for Peace Corps five months ago, but has your eyesight gotten any worse?" "No" I said in an injudicious moment having forgotten about my discussion with Marine Corps recruiter. We were still in civilian clothes and hair at arrival at Basic Training Company and I thought that I recognized a friend from college but doubted that we could have been drafted together. Two days later we realized that had been drafted together when we saw each other's name tags. Basic was pretty much fun. Platoon Sergeant was SSgt Fernando Manzanal and was the best mentor I could have had. He wore 2 ID combat patch and showed up in Class A for a parade: CIB, BS, PH, 3rd award of PUC etc. Someone asked what the Presidential Unit Citation was. "Got first award when they kicked our ass back to Pusan, 2nd award when we kicked their ass to Yalu, and the 3rd award they kicked our ass back to Osan. I had enjoyed pugil stick training but did not do well at grenade toss in PT. Manzanal told me in farewell, "If you ever get in close combat, fix bayonet, you'll kill your own men with grenades!" He would have been great to have as a platoon sergeant in Viet Nam. Platoon would have "kicked ass!" The Army took care of engineers, mathematicians, and scientists. All of us from our basic training company with these degrees were sent to Army laboratories and commodity commands as Technical Assistants. I was sent to Army's Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) in Hanover, New Hampshire. My boss was an excellent engineer, and the project was Whiteout Dispersion (remote sensing). We went out whenever it snowed to capture and preserve snowflakes for study and to measure light transmission through snowfall and fog. We were to spend the summer at Camp Century on Greenland Ice Cap. This was a small facility set 40' under the glacier surface at 6000'. *Continued on the next page*



Residents get to spend two days R&R each month at Thule, Greenland. The Laboratory wanted S&E volunteers to spend the following winter in Antarctica (Antarctic summer). No one else wanted to go, so I was accepted for summer and possible winter over. However, as a second injudicious decision I decided to go Airborne since I wanted to go through SF Medic Course. Got to jump school and they had stopped taking draftees into SF three weeks before. Along with half of jump class, I was sent to 101 st ABN which had no use for an O1F2P (parachute qualified physical science assistant) and I was turned into a pay clerk. I was later informed that a request had come down for me to be assigned to a heliborne topographical mapping project in Panama but 101 st would not approve transfer. Applied for Infantry OCS. I apparently did well at the board but had to take another physical, and then another. I was finally sent before the Fourth Army Ophthalmological Examiner.

He put my glasses on refractor and snidely asked "trying to get out on an eyesight physical trooper?" I told him I was applying for Infantry OCS. "Son, you're 4F, you want out?" My trail of injudicious decisions continued. A month later I had to see Company Commander for pep talk on staying in. He said he was sorry about the OCS particularly since he had seen the positive OCS board recommendations. He said the 101st was having to turn back Ranger slots and were desperate to fill them. He would promote me to E4 to attend if I could determine how to obtain orders through off post schools. Orders came down for E4 "Cundiss" but CO had been sent to 1st CAV as an infantry company commander. LTC in charge of Finance wanted to give me an Article 15 for this but fortunately the Operations Sergeant remembered the circumstances. The COL in charge of Support Brigade loved said that anyone who already had a Secret Clearance (from Cold Regions Lab job) and the OCS board recommendations I had obtained should go as soon as they got promoted. I was in a Catch 22. I had to be E4 to go but Finance was not about to promote a qualified clerk just to lose them. For injudicious decision number four, I put in a 1049 for Viet Nam and was sent down to 1/501 the day before they became 4/503. I was immediately promoted to E4 but was on movement orders. I was their pay clerk. Did manage to go to the indoor shooting range almost every day for the last 4 weeks before battalion shipped out. They provided 100 rounds of .22 LR and a pistol or rifle plus expert instruction. My marksmanship greatly improved. We took the SS Polk from San Francisco to Vung Tau. Made friends with Rudy Richter (Death Watch photo) and László Rabel (posthumous MOHO). Got to know a bunch of machine gunners and they urged me to stick with them and stay with the battalion. I managed to see battalion XO and was told, "I have a battalion of trained machine gunners and I have one pay clerk the men trust, you remain a pay clerk." I was transferred immediately to 173rd Administration Company. Did my job diligently but wanted to do something else. It talked to the Cowboys helicopter company about being a door gunner. They were desperate and said yes. Glasses were not a problem since they said a door gunner is basically firing a machinegun from an unstable platform at indeterminate targets. In country training would be a few weeks at Vung Tau. Pay clerks were higher priority. Start-

ed teaching English to school kids at night after work as part of S-5 program. Got accepted into S-5 as they were also desperate. However, pay clerks were higher priority. Found out about LRRP and went before board. Was asked about eyesight. Told them I would have extra pairs. Was then asked what I would do if I lost all of them. Gave them a BS answer they liked "will be able to do hand to hand combat at night." The only reason I was one of 6 out of 20 accepted is that as Vladimir Jakovenko told me 35 years later when he was being inducted into RHOF "I needed a smart ATL and you looked like a refugee from the Geek Squad." LRRP was higher priority but had to extend five months past ETS to get in. I became an Enlisted Reservist ordered to active duty on 19 November 1966. Major in charge of finance thought I had made an injudicious decision and said he had planned to promote me to Spec 5 if I extended for finance. He thought for a second and said, "Proud of what you're doing, I am promoting you anyway."

Trained for three weeks in platoon and went to LRRP Class 03 with our Platoon Sergeant Harold Kaiama, Ray Hill, John "Country Boy" Davis, John Beasley, and John Kelsey. Kai had fallen from rope climb in Recondo Class 00, been hospitalized for 4 weeks, and looked a bit pale when we first got to the school. He led us well.

We were the first ones to arrive and were put to work digging the hole for an outhouse. Two Marine Fleet Force guys showed up. Corporal Bob Bright and Sergeant Manary. Bright was immediately on Kaiama's case since Kai's patches were still multi-color: 173 rd patch, Ranger, 101 st Recondo, Jungle Expert, jump wings, and CIB. Bright asked Kai "Sgt where is your extension cord?" "What the hell do you mean Marine?" "All those bright colored patches! They must light up." Kai pointed to Bright's golden Marine Corps parachute wings. Where you get those lovely Indonesian wings Marine?" Turns out they look almost exactly alike. Things went great between us after that. Marines still used M14s but Bright and Manary had M16s they had "found" when they had been used on helicopter recovery mission. They did not have cleaning rods, bayonets, or bipods so we gave them ours. They were supposed to ship us strobe lights but never did. There were extenuating circumstances, Manary was KIA a few months later and widow received Navy Cross. Bright was pulled from Division to work with three letter agency and retired as an LTC.

The qualifying run was the first thing the next day and it washed out a third of the class including Beasley and a Marine Staff Sergeant from a recon battalion. The only folks that kept up with the instructor by the third mile were four of us, a guy from the 101st, and the two Recon Marines. The rest were 100 meters or more behind. We were all wearing our baseball caps with the LRRP parachute background, the oval red over white slash of the 17th Cavalry with an infantry blue border. The instructor turned around and noted the parachute background and asked, "who the hell are you guys?" Kai answered and the instructor said something that was complementary.

*Continued on next page*

Country Boy Davis came in first, I was about 20 yards behind with Ray Hill and Bright a bit behind me. The Australian SAS Platoon Sergeant watching was impressed and Colour Sergeant "Curly" Curleson was our instructor for the next three weeks. The final patrol was in beautiful country halfway up La Grande Sommet. All we saw or heard was a large troop of Gibbons who were not that happy with our being in their territory. They were extremely rude and discourteous. Curleson asked me if I knew where we were at a break. I had taught topography at Peace Corps camps and had just idly made back azimuths on two villages 500' lower and three miles away. It agreed with his computations. It was rough terrain with numerous mountain streams with several overhanging waterfalls. Ray, Davis, and I had to take a late flight that went to Tan Son Nhut and had to spend night in Saigon. We ran into Manary and Bright and we wandered around a bit. We kept our weapons and gear as we played tourist and the MPs ignored us. Kai had entrusted our Recondo certificates to me and they were stolen from hotel room. I do not think he ever forgave me but still put me in for ATL upon return and then TL a month later. I thought I would be a junior scout for my entire time with LRRP but found I was to replace Bill Ricca as Jakovenko's ATL. Teams 4 (Jakovenko) and 5 (Evans) were dispatched by CH-47 to Bearcat (4 ID former base) to work in Special Zone X as reconnaissance support of 9 ID moving up National Road 2 from Vung Tau to Mekong. 173 rd ABN, 11 th ACR, and 1 st ID provided infantry covering support to this movement. Insertion was unimpeded but we did hear a Tiger roar that night. We found a trail paralleling a long dry marshland (aka excellent battalion or larger LZ) and Jake set us in a hide in moderate brush about 100 m from the dry marsh. He was to rear with RTO, Roger Bumgardner and Manuel Moya were left security, while Larry Cole and I were right security. The traffic on the trail was extensive. One guy and lovely young woman with M1 carbines wandered by. Larry and I decided to move further off trail since we were perhaps only 4 or 5 yards of.

Then a fast patter of feet as Mr. Third Man Out caught up with companions. A young kid came up trail with carbine looking like Alan Ladd with two older guys carrying Mosins. Larry and I moved a bit further off. It is good to be prudently circumspect. An hour later there was a lot of chattering and an older guy with a Mosin walked forlornly down trail followed by seven brightly dressed middle aged women carrying huge packs and conversing cheerily. It was probably a laundry run from a VC base camp. We moved further back. A bit later we heard several shots and two strongly built six footers carrying AK-47s walked by arguing loudly. Larry and I moved further back. Jake was chastised at debrief for not taking out these two since MI though these were two mainland Chinese advisors known to be in area. Jake said that we were told not to get into a fight. Around 4 pm, 25 or so noticeably quiet black clad VC came by. They had a .50 Browning on a pole, one 81 mm and two 60 mm mortars, and at least two 1919A6s. They disappeared behind a bamboo clump about 30 m away. They were followed several minutes later by another 20 or so carrying packs and obsolescent weapons. We were relieved to see them go but it got noisy as the platoon set up camp about 50 m from us. Folks were busy unpacking pots and then

cooking food, someone was playing a harmonica with a few singing along, one clot was wandering about with a butterfly net, and one brave lad was hitting up on a lovely black clad lass who was packing a pistol. He was going down in flames. It looked like a lively party. Let us open a case of 33 Biere, hold hands and sing Kumbaya. One of the 1919A6 teams moved out and set up as security about 30 m from Moya and Bumgardner. They pulled out their marijuana and lit up. Moya said it had to be "Uncle Ho's private stash." We were inside their perimeter. The RTO came up to us to tell us Jake wanted us to pull back for exfiltration. The VC were still having their picnic party, but we must have made suspicious sounds as the noise stopped suddenly. Jake set us just inside wood line as we waited for exfiltration. We saw quite a bit of surreptitious movement but the VC were uncertain as to who or what might be in their AO. At least five gunships showed up and Jake asked for fire support since VC were probably within 30 m. The command ship requested smoke. Jake told them the VC were too close. The flight commander said, "No smoke, no support or lift ship", a non-negotiable request. The gunships came and fired up the wood line on either side of us with machinegun fire, rockets, and 40 mm grenades. The lift ship from the Cowboys landed and we left the tree line for front of helicopter. We had a lot of tracers going through the grass and Moya and Bumgardner went down, and then I tripped over same vine. Turned around and our friends with 1919A6 had come out to cut us off. Jake was about 20 yards from me and they nearly ran into him. They were trying to engage helicopter and did not see him. Larry and I engaged the two and they dropped at Jake's feet where he dispatched them. Larry and I were at about 90 degrees to each other from Jake and the VC. Our tracers went past him to his front and side. He initially thought Larry or I had traversed him in a burst of fire. I ran back toward helicopter but it had hopped 20' forward and the right door gunner had a steady stream of tracers between me and the door so I decided to run around back, a bad idea. The others resolved dilemma by running towards door gunner position and ducking under the gunfire. I remembered there was a reason not to go too far around the back since there is a very rapidly spinning meat cleaver at the back. I dove under rear fuselage and nearly got blasted from M60 by the irate crew chief; nearly turned to chutney by prop and then hamburger by M60 in two seconds.

Moya was point and made the count: "one, two, three, four, five, Jake we are one short, we have to go back?" "Did you count yourself?" "Six, we're OK." USAF F100s and VNAF T28s were diving in as we took off and they plastered the place. Some of the pilots came over to brief brigade headquarters and our CO told us that the pilots had never seen so many secondary explosions. Team 5 was only 2 or 3 km to west of us and heard the noise and followed the radio traffic. They had spotted a large group headed our way earlier in the day which was probably the same one that set up camp near us. They were able to monitor the fight on radio as well as hear the firing. They heard crying wounded being pulled out for hours. They were attacked the next morning.

Mike Potter was hit and had to be carried out. His Randall 18 was lost and 55 years later he is still annoyed. Tony Dapello lost the Mk I trench knife his uncle had carried in Italy in a Ranger battalion. He was panicked "I can't go back to the states and face my uncle without it." Our CO had the team go back in for a battle assessment the next day. Tony found his knife but not Potter's.

There had not been much happening that day and MG Smith met us and was at debriefing. The patrol was written up in both Stars and Stripes and Army Times. Our XO, Carl Vencill, had reason to visit a National Guard helicopter unit in Nashville while still with Special Forces. A senior NCO or CWO saw his 173rd patch and they started talking. The Guardsman pulled out the Army Times article and told Carl about the asshole whom he very nearly blew away. Carl said he knew that asshole. Things could have gone worse: we could have inadvertently and impolitely crashed the VC picnic party as unbidden guests, I had not shot myself or anyone else on team, and I had not disabled a helicopter on a hot LZ by destroying the tail rotor. This would have been a most expensive Government Property Lost or De-

stroyed (DD Form 200 as I remember). I did run into the XO of 4/503 rd a few days later since he was now Brigade S-3. He asked if I were at forward base as part of AG Forward (Administration would send a team to forward bases to resolve immediate issues). I said, "No sir, I am an ATL in LRRP." He looked bemused if not stunned and said "Cundiff, if you ever want to get back to work at a real job and get back into the real Army, I have a slot for you as an operations clerk at Brigade S-3." Sic transit gloria mundi.

He continued, "I was just talking to MG Dean. Major General Dean assumed command three days previously and had seen some LRRPs hanging about in hammocks while wearing shower shoes and shorts made from cutoff fatigues. He wondered who the hell you guys were. Someone told him that they were from his LRRP platoon. Dean asked me "how the hell do I get into LRRP, I am sick and tired of breaking starch twice a day in this damned hot and humid weather."

That's all and next Issue will feature three more from our Brotherhood. God bless us All.



## P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JAY LUTZ

It was Terry's wishes that we give more information on Riley Miller's life achievements, which were many, and I could not mention all of them in this article.

Riley graduated from high school in Lodi, WI in 1966, attended the University of Texas – Arlington before being drafted. Riley came into our brotherhood of Papa Company Rangers 1970 through 1971, after being drafted into the United States Army on August 22, 1969. He was a graduate of Ranger School and after graduation, he was sent to Vietnam. He served two tours of duty in Vietnam. Originally planning to complete his initial tour of duty and leave the army, he found out that he loved the life of an infantryman and the camaraderie he made with his men. He re-enlisted. Riley spent nearly half of his career in Ranger units and achieved the rank of Command Sergeant Major and retired from the Army after serving more than 30 years of active duty.

Other than the Army, Riley's greatest passion was masonry. He was raised a mason at Fort Benning Masonic Lodge #579 in 1975 and he joined the local lodge wherever the army assigned him. After retirement, Riley became an active member in several area lodges and considered the New Braunfels Masonic Lodge #1109 his home. One of his biggest joys was educating young men about masonry. His knowledge will be greatly missed.

Now for Duke Dushane, or as he is known to us ALL as Papa Duke! He has set the bar even higher for ALL of us. At 85 he has in April of this year, 2021, made his mind up and taken Connie Dawson's hand in marriage! We ALL wish Connie and Duke a happy life together!!



This next one will be a little tough. The Terry B. Roderick Celebration started on Friday, April 30<sup>th</sup> and for me and many others will last our lifetime. Sheryl & Dave Gates, Eddie Johnson and his family along with others got there on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Cindy and Brandy, Terry's daughters, picked a great location for us to stay – the Holiday Inn in Melbourne, centrally located for us all and just down the street from the zoo (what a trip!). Many thanks for setting that up.

Friday evening at 17:00 (5pm) we all met up at Pineda Inn Bar & Grill founded in 1947, located on the Indian River lagoon, on their gorgeous outdoor-patio. Terry's daughters again picked a great place for us! They had a great first band and the second one was even better! We all mingled and got reconnected, drank, laughed, and some even cried when seeing old Ranger brothers. We had about 100 people there, friends of the family, family members, neighbors of Terry's and people he worked with at Cape Canaveral, like Jack & Lynn Fergusm who told stories of Terry from their working days.

The next day, Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Roderick family arranged a barbeque at Wickham Park at the Regional Pavilion 11am to 3pm. I got there at 8am and Kevin Tolbert, Cindy's better half, was there already setting up his electronics. This park was BIG – they had an RV park, basketball courts, and a riding stable where you could have your own horse – I was very impressed by it all.

*Continued on the next page*

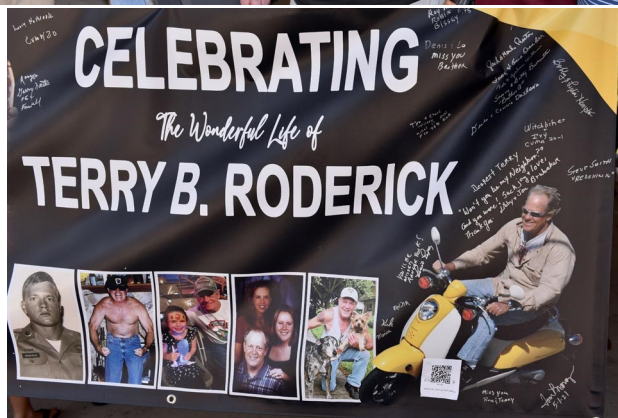




The pavilion must have had 250 large picnic tables all under cover, thank GOD because we all would have melted under the sun. About 130 people attended. About 20 bikers that Terry rode with, neighbors, best friends he grew up with and us Ranger brothers. Some of the noted Rangers were: Command Sergeant Rick Merrit, retired, and his wife; Ranger Mercer; Smokey Wells and from Ranger Company A – Roy and Robin Bissey (I believe they came from Wyoming or Montana).



We had a great lunch of BBQ, beans, etc. After lunch they showed a video that Kevin Tolbert expertly put together. You can watch the video on You Tube (<https://youtu.be/RzTTpi-487w>). It is well worth it to see Terry's life story!!



# ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Part II Feature:

1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Group-Lam Son 719 Operation

The 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Group was an I Corps unit based in Da Nang

Upon arrival by Huey, the majors found dedicated advisors whose morale was low, probably because of the constant NVA artillery fire, the relief of two senior advisors, and low supplies. Schumaker's wife had just sent him two large jars of Taster's Choice instant coffee, which he shared with all the US personnel who had been without coffee for some time, a great initial morale boost. The majors found out that communications with I Corps Forward were routinely interrupted because of shrapnel cuts to the 292 radio antenna cables. Requests for more cables became routine.

At some point, a 5<sup>th</sup> Mech Division Huey arrived at the upper helipad to deliver supplies, and while the majors were chatting with the huey pilots, an NVA soldier made the luckiest shot of his life when an RPG round he fired from hundreds of yards away hit the Huey in the engine right behind the left side door gunner. The Huey crew exited the helicopter, except for the door gunner. The majors acted quickly to pull him from the blazing Huey, but unfortunately he suffered massive wounds to his back and died shortly after he was pulled from the Huey. The Huey burned to the ground. At this point the upper helipad was closed to all aircraft.

In early March, the advisor command post was informed that tanks were heard advancing up the ridge from the direction of Khe Sanh. Schumaker and the other ranger advisors went out to find out what was going on. They met a US Army Captain in a jeep followed by a quad 50 tracked vehicle, two 175mm tracked guns, and several 5 ton support vehicles. They had come from Khe Sanh through no man's land. The guns were set up in defilade near the Phu Loc base. They proved to be ineffective so the unit soon withdrew.

In mid March, the Viet Nam I Corps commander deemed the operation a success and ordered the ARVN forces to begin returning from Laos over the objections of the senior US commanders.

The Ranger Group received orders to prepare to vacate Phu Loc. A new base was constructed several kilometers down the ridge toward Khe Sanh. A resourceful ARVN engineer used a D2 tractor to wrestle the two 105 howitzers out to a point they could be airlifted out of the area. Despite his best efforts the D2 wasn't strong enough to pull out the 155's and preparations were made to destroy them in place. All this time the arrival of any



helicopter would be met with a barrage of mortar fire. The lower helipad was also closed to all aircraft.

Shortly after the rangers and advisors began planning for demolition for the 155's, a radio call came from two CH-54 helicopter pilots that they were inbound to retrieve the 155's. The ranger advisors were directed to check previously rigging and prepare the guns for extraction. Despite repeated warnings from the ranger advisors, the CH-54 pilots insisted that they had to complete their mission and directed ranger advisor personnel to on top of the 155's ready to hook them up. How they made it in and out safely remains a mystery because they were greeted by a hail of mortar fire. They made it in

and Schumaker and another advisor managed to hook up the guns and away they flew, unharmed.

FB Phu Loc was often obscured by heavy fog in the mornings. Hueys with the Black Cat call sign from Marble Mountain Base near Da Nang often landed at Phu Loc to deliver supplies, mainly food and commo parts. On one occasion, after both helipads had been closed by the advisors, a black cat pilot call to report they were inbound for Phu Loc and since they were familiar with the fire base would land at the fogged-in lower pad. Ranger radio advised them of the closed status of the Phu Loc Helipads. Black Cat acknowledged the information but insisted that they needed to land because they were delivering critical commo parts and were determined to land on the lower pad despite the fog. Black Cat insisted that ranger advisor personnel be at the pad to receive the cargo. On cue the Huey poked into the fog, turned for departure, and dropped off two cases of cold beer, but no commo supplies and quickly departed. What a morale boost.

As the rangers left Phu Loc to man the new base to their rear, equipment such as generators and the RTT van were destroyed in place with Thermite grenades.

After PB Phu Loc was vacated, a Signal Corps 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt arrived from REMF unit by Huey with instructions to determine the cause of the frequent requests for commo equipment with a hint that something was awry. Schumaker escorted the Lt, against his will, back up to the vacated Phu Loc to examine the FB. While crawling through the trenches, he was subjected to a short mortar barrage by the NVA. The Lt was in awe at the level of devastation and coils of ruined 292 cables he saw at Phu Loc. As the Lt was about to depart he made the comment to Schumaker that any soldiers at Phu Loc should be awarded the Medal of Honor. No medals for combat bravery were awarded to any ranger advisor. The rangers stayed at the new FB for only a short time and then were airlifted out ending the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Group participation in Lam Son 719.

*Continued on the next page*



The Ranger Officer’s and enlisted advisors served with courage and distinction through out the occupation of FB Phu Loc. Unfortunately, because of the passage of time, the names of these Ranger advisors have been lost to the author of this article except for reason, SP Dave Harpold, a radio operator. Perhaps because he was the star of the show when the three hole latrine outside the advisor’s command bunker was ruined by a mortar while Dave was using it and came stumbling down into the bunker with his pants around his knees cursing “they got the Sh----er, they got the sh---er. Fortunately he was not injured.

In regard to Major Jeffrey’s activities, the Vietnamese Group commander, a political appointee, had his bunker dug much deeper than the other bunkers. He very rarely came out of the bunker and insisted that Major Jeffrey stay with him at all times, Major Jeffrey was rarely permitted to enjoy the activities top-side.

In Memorium:

I am sad to report the passing of Col (RET) Robert C. Murphy. Bob had a distinguished 28-year career serving in Airborne, Special Forces and Ranger units. He served three combat tours in Vietnam. While serving with the 502<sup>nd</sup> Infantry he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and Bronze Star. On his second tour he served as an Advisor to the Vietnamese Airborne Division and then volunteered to serve with the Biet Dong Quan (Vietnamese Rangers) . As Senior Advisor to the 34<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalion he was awarded three Bronze Stars (one for Valor). On his third tour he trained and deployed Special Forces and Ranger units for combat operations throughout Vietnam and Cambodia.

Ranger Murphy resided at 4947 Island Lane, Amelia Island, FL 32034 with his wife Chong for those wishing to send a card.

Quote:

“The past is an old armchair in the attic, the present an ominous ticking sound, and future is anybody’s guess.”

--James Thurber

References:

Operation Lam Son 719 Wikipedia from the internet 6/22/2020

Operation Lam Son 719 in 1971 Colonel Hoang Tich Thong printed from the internet 6/27/2020

Personal recollections (June 2020) of Major John R. Schumaker, Deputy SA 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Group, SA 21<sup>st</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalion.

Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director

### DELUXE LADIES TOUR EVENT

9:00 AM- Hotel Pickup for the Columbus Museum from the Doubletree Columbus, Phenix City Marriott Courtyard, and the Marriott Downtown Columbus. First 53 REGISTERED are guaranteed a bus ride; others will have to provide your own transportation.

- 10:00 AM Tour Columbus Museum (currently masks required)
- 11:30 AM-NOON Travel Time to Naval Museum
- 12:00 PM- 3:00 PM Light Lunch– Victorian Tea with keepsake cup and saucer, tour, (currently masks are not required)
- 3:00 PM Depart to Hotels arriving by 4:00 PM







Warren and Ellen Porter  
 281-747-7394  
 wporter@dreamvacations.com  
 www.wporter.dreamvacations.com



Travel ... it's coming back!  
 We Make YOUR Memories Happen!



 **VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESS**

Member 75<sup>th</sup> RRA



## PLAN TO SUCCEED

Take the Ranger Investment Planning initial assessment. Speak with a professional finance professional. Plan to succeed, it is not just a motto, it is our call to action.

### STEP 1:

Take the Initial Self-Assessment.

### STEP 2:

Meet one on one with a financial advisor.

### STEP 3:

Plan to Succeed

**RANGER INVESTMENT PLANNING**  
[www.RangerInvestmentPlanning.com](http://www.RangerInvestmentPlanning.com)  
 833-Plan-RIP  
[info@rangerinvestmentplanning.com](mailto:info@rangerinvestmentplanning.com)



SCAN ME 

Ranger Investment Planning is a service of Rockport Wealth, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor registered with the Ohio Department of Commerce Division of Securities. Please call or email to receive a copy of our ADV disclosure document. Rockport Wealth, LLC does not provide legal or accounting advice.



75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

PO Box 2200

Orangevale, CA 95662

Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MAILED FROM  
ZIP CODE 56601  
PERMIT NO. 71

**THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
WELCOMES YOU TO TO THE 2021 RANGER  
RENDEZVOUS**

Phoenix City Marriott

75th RRA Hospitality Room



**Ranger Special Programs and Events**

**[www.75thRRA.org](http://www.75thRRA.org)**