

PATROLLING

June 2022 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC. Volume 34 Issue II

Five remaining WW II Merrill's Marauders
presented Congressional Gold Medal in April 2022



Russell Hamler
98, June 24, 2022
Pennsylvania



Robert "Bob" Passanisi
July 24, 1924 – April 26, 2022
New York



Gilbert "Gil" H. Howland,
April 12, 1923 – May 19, 2022
New Jersey



Raleigh E. Naves
Sept. 8, 1922 – April 21, 2022
Wisconsin



Gabriel "Gabe" B. Kinney, 101
Alabama

created by Jonnie Melillo Clasen

Graphics by Jonnie Melillo Clasen

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



Editor's Corner

2022 RHOF members who were nominated by the RHOF Board Selection Committee on April 30, 2022! Like many others, I will be in attendance at the 2022 RHOF Ceremony in Benning this July and clap for each of you. Kudos!

Secondly, I would also thank the board for their contributions this year and into the past, as well. Kudos!

As past president of the 75th RRA, I was honored to sit in as a RHOF voting member with responsibilities of *fairly* voting, often referencing to the criteria set forth by the bylaws of the RHOF. Reading them is part of it, “fully” understanding its expectations and processing that information is more difficult, and a duty that all those voting must also adhere to in order for *fairness* to prevail.

Have all the voting members read the bylaws? *I would say yes, obviously.*

Do all the voting members have a true understanding of those bylaws, especially Articles II and III? *I would opine and guess more than likely.*

Do all the voting members scores, with their numerical 0-5 ratings, reflect the bylaw criteria, are they set forth within the packet? *“Dunno”.*

The point is, if a packet submitted by an individual or an association, and the several criteria stated within Article II are not mentioned or expanded on, what are those packets doing in the voting arena in the first place.

You be the judge. But, beforehand, read and familiarize yourself with the established, written RHOF bylaws at: <https://www.benning.army.mil/Infantry/ARTB/content/PDF/RHOF%20Bylaws.pdf?2022>

The bylaws, among other things, explains the scoring total that determines who gets into the RHOF. Numbers don't lie. *But, how can we be assured that each candidate had met the merit and spirit of Article II before voting?*

ARTICLE II - MISSION Section 1. *To honor and preserve the influences of the most extraordinary U.S. Rangers and civilians in American history who have given a life of selfless service and contributions to the Ranger community. To identify and highlight individuals as role models for current era Rangers and to educate the public on the culture of the U.S. Army Rangers.*

Most know of one Ranger in mind from this year or the past, who was not selected by the RHOF voting members. A Ranger who met all and exceeded by example all the criteria mentioned above. Did the others selected emulate all criteria?

Have all candidates selected met **all** the criteria as suggested by Article II— given a life of **selfless service**? Noted contributions to the **Ranger Community** in terms of **measurable** frequency, duration, and intensity? Or has the candidate a demonstrated that he is a **role model** for current Rangers that is specific and countable. Demonstrated that he has *educated* the public with recorded documentation.

Today's board is professional and respectful, to say the least. But how can we improve the reliability and show better transparency of our RHOF selections? By following the directives of Articles II and III when writing the packets. Otherwise change the bylaws or ditch them; don't ignore them. Let's talk about this, only after we reread the bylaws.

Stephen Johnson—Patrolling Editor

First of all, I would like to congratulate the

75th Ranger Regiment Association

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

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

POSTMASTER

Send address corrections to:
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Greeting Rangers.

I trust that those who read these lines will be encouraged by them. Over the last decade or so we have had modern 'scholars' want to re-write our American history. But as Phillip Scharf has commented in his 'History of the Christian Church', "It is not the business of the historian to construct a history from preconceived notions and to adjust it to his own liking, but to reproduce it from the best evidence and to let it speak for itself."

The Bible has been attacked for many historical inaccuracies. But over and over has been proved to be very, very precise in the story of God's redemption as it relates to the human condition. Archeology especially has provided many proofs of Biblical accounts. Places, persons, and things in the Middle East to establish it as indeed being the cradle of civilization.

I have been reading in the Gospel account written by Luke, a trained physician of that day and a careful historian who penned both Luke and the Book of the Acts.

Guided doubtless by the Holy Spirit of God who inspired the many prophets to write both the events of their day and the visions of as yet future occurrences, Luke took the challenge to relate was in part interviews of those that lived in the moment and also his personal experiences as companion to the Apostle Paul, the man hand picked to explain God's way of dealing with the problem we all face. That of rebellion against Heaven and Heaven's God. So his introduction to his first Book, that bears his name we read this.

Luke 1:1-4 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word; It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus, That thou might know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

This was written from one educated man to another an ordered account of the events surrounding the way in which God would introduce His solution into the stream of humanity. That the second person of the Godhead would humble himself to be found in fashion as a man, veiling his essential glory while taking a body prepared for him by the miraculous conception in the womb of a young believing woman. A virgin chosen to bear the being that at once had God for his father, and a daughter of Eve for his mother. This too had been prophesied in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. 7:14, "...Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. " Emmanuel means 'God with us. He manifested his kind, compassionate character in doing good, using his power to heal mankind's ills yet walking uncontaminat-

ed through a world that, in the main rejected his right to rule what he had created.

The crime for which he was unjustly accused was to have stated that he was the king that God had chosen to rule, not only the sons of Israel according to the promise given to Abraham, but being of the royal line of David, to reign over the entire world. But to be the king of the world he must fight our battles. As the people told Samuel in asking for a king. But morally he must take upon himself the chastening due every one of our sinful thoughts and deeds. So Isaiah tells us, Isaiah 53:4-7 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace *was* upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.

Here the story would have ended were it not that God, responding to the injustice of killing the most innocent man who ever lived, showed His power in raising him from out of the dead. Jesus born as a man could be killed, Jesus was killed in the sense that he left the frame for three days. But even in the tomb his body could not decompose. His divine nature touching human flesh changed it into an incorruptible thing. So, the third day having liberated believing souls in Hades, he rose in triumph, leading a multitude of those who had died believing that God would send a deliverer. Raised to heaven's heights, he ever lives to represent his own.

May we have a settled confidence that the Biblical account of the birth, life, death and Resurrection of Jesus the Christ is absolutely true. And through faith in him and the One who sent him, we too might obtain a life without end in the presence of Him who loved us and gave himself for us.

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



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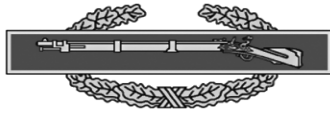
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WHO WE ARE: The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc., is a registered 501©19 corporation, registered in the state of Georgia. We were founded in 1986 by a group of veterans of F Co 58th, (LRP) and L Co 75 (Ranger) Inf. The first meeting was held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

OUR MISSION:

1. To identify and offer membership to all eligible members of the 75th Infantry Rangers and those who served in the Long-Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Companies, Long-Range Patrol (LRP) Companies and Detachments, Vietnamese Ranger Advisors of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ). Also eligible are those members of LRSU units that trace their lineage to Long Range Patrol Companies that were attached to Brigade or larger units during the Vietnam War and the members of the 75th Ranger Regiment.

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

3. To assist, when possible, those active units and their members who bear the colors and lineage of the 5307th Composite Provisional Unit (CPU), 475th Infantry Regiment, 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies (Merrill's Marauders), 1st and 2nd Battalions (Ranger) 75th Infantry, the 75th Ranger Regiment, consisting of Regimental Headquarters 1st, 2nd, 3rd, STB, and MIB Ranger Battalions, successor units, or any additions that are activated and assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

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

Section 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

Co F (LRP) 52nd Infantry
Co C (LRP) 58th Infantry
Co E (LRP) 58th Infantry
Co F (LRP) 58th Infantry
70th Infantry DET (LRP)
71st Infantry DET (LRP)
74th Infantry DET (LRP)
78th Infantry DET (LRP)
79th Infantry DET (LRP)
Co. D (LRP) 151st Infantry
Co A (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co B (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co C (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co D (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co E (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co F (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co G (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co H (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co I (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co K (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co L (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co M (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co N (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co O (RANGER) 75th Inf.
Co P (RANGER) 75th Inf.



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

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

Presidents

1986-1988	Bob Gilbert
1988-1990	Billy Nix
1990-1992	Bob Gilbert
1992-1994	Roy Nelson (resigned) Milton Lockett (resigned) Duke Dushane (selected by Directors)
1994-1996	Roy Barley
1996-1998	Rick Ehrler
1998-2000	Terry Roderick
2000-2002	Emmett Hiltibrand
2002-2004	Dana McGrath
2004-2005	Emmet Hiltibrand
2005-2007	Stephen Crabtree
2007-2009	William Bullen
2009-2011	John Chester
2011-2013	Joe Little
2013-2015	Bill Anton
2015-2019	Richard Barela
2019- 2021	Stephen Johnson
2021-	Art "Doc" Attaway

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.

President's Message

Rangers, it has been busy the last few months with the

Ranger Hall of Fame Voting Board, the Best Ranger Competition, the Merrill's Marauders documentary premier, CGM presentations, a Ranger Ball, the Distinguished Member of the Brigade ceremony at the Ranger Hall of Fame, and the final push to get the WW II Rangers awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Some of it has been bittersweet.

The good news is in May 2022 Congress approved the bill presented by Senator Jonnie Ernst of Iowa to award the WW II Ranger Battalions the CGM, and it is now waiting for a Presidential signature. The 75th Ranger Regiment teams took place 1, 2, 3, and 4, and 7. The Ranger Training Brigade also had 2 teams make the 15 teams that finished, out of 52 team starts. We were able to have an active-duty Ranger present the CGM to the 5 surviving Merrill's Marauders,

More good news is that the effort to obtain the Merrill's Marauders the CGM taught us a lot about how to deal with Congress, and we were able to obtain the WW II Rangers CGM in only 4 years, while the Merrill's Marauders effort took 10 years. This should pave the way for us to focus on other Ranger Warrior Units and get the proper recognition they deserve without it taking 78 years. It is almost unbelievable it took this long and was a fight all the way.

Unfortunately, some bad news is that since we began the Merrill's Marauders CGM presentations, just over a month ago, 3 of those men went to the Ranger in the Sky after they received their CGM's. When Congress passed the bill almost 2 years ago, there were still 14 Marauders alive.

We also had 2 of our RHOF selections that were not selected by the Board. Our selection committee, Chairman Rick Barela, Past President \Steve Johnson, and RRA Vice President CSM (Ret) Rick Merritt, were all surprised our nominees were not selected. More lessons learned about package preparation and information sharing with other voting organizations about our nominees. Next year we need to get an early start on package preparation so there is plenty of time to scrub them before we have to submit them.

The 75th RRA was at the front of all of these actions and events, and we were well represented at each turn. It was my honor to be able to represent the Association and Lead the Way. CSM Rick Merritt and I were able to attend all of these events and represent the Association.

I won't elaborate any more than this as we have specific

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ART "DOC" ATTAWAY



Patrolling so each member could be well informed.

Thanks to all who stepped in!

Warning Order - Keep an eye on the dates of 18-22JUL22 as there will be an off-year Ranger Rendezvous surrounding the RCSM Change of Command ceremony for the 75th Ranger Regiment.

We are waiting on the Regiment to provide a solid schedule for events then we will broadcast an email to members with details. Our hotel will be the Marriott downtown and a room block already exists if you want to book now. All cancellations up to 72 hours before arrival are fully refundable.

Some behind the scenes we have been working on are making amendments to the RHOF BY-LAWS, selecting a Ranger scholarship fund to donate to, and revising the management protocols of the RHOF presentation ceremony, and Best Ranger.

We are also working on enhancing our participation in the Ranger for Life program and reenergizing our Gold Star Family program. Additionally, we are redoing our website to bring us up to speed with current technology.

For those of you who usually attend the RHOF ceremony, the dates are still in flux, but now scheduled for the week before the Rendezvous. We will keep you posted so look out for newsletters on your email accounts.

rangersbreakfast@75thrra.org

The above email address is a direct line of communication to Sherry Klein, Brenda Acebes, and Karen Murphy that will have for you information on where and when Ranger and Special Forces breakfasts are held across the country each month.

There is an active Facebook page that you can post your breakfast photos and catch up on Ranger/SF groups throughout the U.S. Use the email address to find out how. RLTW

TREASURER'S REPORT

BY ROGER CRUNK

75th Ranger Regiment Association
Statement of Activity
January - March, 2022
Cash Basis Monday, May 16, 2022 09:17 AM GMT-06:00 1/2
TOTAL

Revenue
4000 Program income - DNP
4002 Membership dues 960.00
4010 Coin sales
4012 Bronze 89.60
4013 Nickel Silver 28.70
Total 4010 Coin sales 118.30
4020 Miscellaneous revenue
4021 Association Patch 17.85
4022 Association Sticker 35.70
Total 4020 Miscellaneous revenue 53.55
4052 Assoc. Pin 70.00
4065 Operations Transfer/Paypal - DNP 1,000.00
Total 4000 Program income - DNP 2,201.85
4100 Member donations - DNP
4102 Family fund contributions 635.00
4104 Goldstar contributions 110.00
4110 Operations contributions 130.00
4115 Legacy Walkway 150.00
4120 Scholarship 10.00
Total 4100 Member donations - DNP 1,035.00
4900 Interest income 101.98
Total Revenue \$3,338.83
GROSS PROFIT \$3,338.83
Expenditures
6000 Program expenses - DNP
6002 Cash awards & grants - Battalions 1,000.00
6020 Website maintenance
6021 Constant Contact 135.00
Ecwid Subscription 150.00
Total 6020 Website maintenance 285.00
6025 Intuit Subscription
6026 Go Payment 60.00
6027 Quickbooks Online 150.00
Total 6025 Intuit Subscription 210.00
Paypal Transfer -Operations 1,000.00
RHOF 500.00
Total 6000 Program expenses - DNP 2,995.00

75th Ranger Regiment Association
Statement of Activity
January - March, 2022
Cash Basis Monday, May 16, 2022 09:17 AM GMT-06:00 2/2
TOTAL
6100 Patrolling expense - DNP
6102 Patrolling printing 5,832.76
6104 Patrolling postage 2,083.85
Total 6100 Patrolling expense - DNP 7,916.61
6500 Operations - DNP
6502 Bank and merchant fees 52.93
6504 Business registration fees 50.00

6510 Insurance - D&O liability 590.00
6514 Office supplies 42.10
6540 Postage-Secretary 163.27
6552 Treasurer Postage 49.97
Total 6500 Operations - DNP 948.27
6560 Uncategorized Expenditure - DNP 1,000.00
Total Expenditures \$12,859.88
NET OPERATING REVENUE \$ -9,521.05
NET REVENUE \$ -9,521.05

75th Ranger Regiment Association
Statement of Financial Position
As of March 31, 2022
Cash Basis Monday, May 16, 2022 09:15 AM GMT-06:00 1/1
TOTAL
ASSETS
Current Assets
Bank Accounts
1000 Affinity / Operations 23,096.10
Paypal legacy Transfer 200.00
Total 1000 Affinity / Operations 23,296.10
1002 Affinity / Family fund 15,757.26
1030 Affinity / Savings 69,871.56
1040 Benevolent funds MM 57,508.62
1041 Legacy funds MM 8,811.45
1042 Life funds MM 24,684.38
1050 Paypal funds 948.35
Total Bank Accounts \$200,877.72
Total Current Assets \$200,877.72
TOTAL ASSETS \$200,877.72
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY
Liabilities
Total Liabilities
Equity
3000 Net Assets - Unrestricted 210,398.77
Net Revenue -9,521.05
Total Equity \$200,877.72
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$200,877



The 5th Ranger Training Battalion (Dahlonega, GA) hosted their annual Mountain Ranger Ball at L.L. Farms in Clermont, GA on 22 April 2022. The Ball was the first since 2019 and served as a celebration for the members of the unit and a remembrance of the unit's history. We were lucky to celebrate with members of the community in the Chamber of Commerce, with the guest speaker being Mr. Robb Nichols who serves as the chamber's Executive Director. The event could not have been made possible without significant financial contributions from the Camp Frank Merrill Non-Commissioned Officers' Association, the US Mountain Ranger Association, and the Dahlonega-Lumpkin Country Chamber of Commerce.



CPT Blake Bucknam (crow whiskey and moonshine)
 1SG Jeffery Williams (red wine)
 1SG Daniel Ryan (Soju)
 CPT James Frederick (Rice Wine)
 1SG Jeremy Miller (Brown Sugar)
 SSG Christopher Mills (dirty sock)

Open House

The 5th RTB also hosted an Open House for the community for the first time since 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented the unit from

opening the Camp to the general public for the previous two years. The event consisted of a multitude of demonstrations to show the types of training done on Camp Merrill and within the Chattahoochee National Forest. The demonstrations consisted



Key Personnel

Lead Planner: Ms. Jillian Ryan, wife of 1SG Daniel Ryan from A CO
 Master of Ceremonies: CPT John Gaffney
 Chaplain: CPT Joseph Kumor
 NCOIC of Color Guard: SSG Isaac Redmond
 Battalion Commander: LTC Chris Green
 Battalion Command Sergeant Major: CSM Joey Blacksher

Toasts, in order of speaking:

1SG Jeremy Miller (to the USA)

1SG Daniel Ryan (To the president)

1SG Jared Poindexter (to the Army)

1SG Jeffrey Williams (to the 5th RTB)

Grog participants, in order of speaking:

1SG Jared Poindexter (port wine)



of mountaineering, hand to hand combat, weapons static displays, and culminated with a "Ranger in Action" demonstration. The Ranger in Action showed the public the complex operations our instructors train the students on to ensure they are proficient in Ranger Operations.

Water Jump

The 5th RTB completed their busy month of April by conducting an Airborne Operation

into Lake Lanier in Dawsonville. The unit assembled at War Hill Park and utilized UH-60s to jump into the Lake! Although an infrequent occurrence, Rangers need to be prepared to conduct a water landing while executing Airborne Operations. This yearly training event ensures our Rangers are ready for any challenge they will face.

LTC Green: "CPT Gaffney, commence the grog bowl ceremony."

CPT Gaffney: "Yes, Sir. Since its inception, in 1676, Ranger cider has become entrenched as a glorious tradition and is enjoyed by Rangers of the United States Army. Ranger Cider is a substantive brew of proven medicinal value. It will cure what ails you, or it will at least ensure that you don't care. We carry it in our camel-backs to ward off the winter's chill on the TVD and it has proven to be extremely effective as a fuel for our vehicles."

CPT Gaffney: 1SG Poindexter from Bravo Company will add the first ingredient to the grog bowl."

1SG Poindexter: For the first ingredient I will now pour in Port Wine which signifies the hard fought battles during the Revolutionary War and the lives lost of the first organized US Army Rangers, Knowlton's Rangers."

CPT Gaffney: CPT Bucknam, also from Bravo Company will add the second ingredient to the grog."

CPT Bucknam: Slowly at first and then rapidly, our nation hurled towards civil war. Diplomacy and politics failed and then Ranger units from the north and from the south were called forward to fight each other in the War between the States. This war was an unmeasurable tragedy for our nation, millions suffered. For the brave Rangers on both sides of this terrible conflict we add old crow whiskey and moonshine signifying the rough battles between the North and South.

CPT Gaffney: 1SG Williams from Charlie Company will add the third ingredient to the grog."

1SG Williams: I will add some red wine from France, signifying the blood that the 5th Ranger Battalion lost while landing on dog white sector on Omaha beach, which resulted in the destruction of German gun batteries. The 23 remaining members of the 5th Ranger Battalion won the presidential unit citation for being the "furthest combat unit behind enemy lines on D-Day".

CPT Gaffney: 1SG Ryan from Alpha company will add the fourth ingredient to the grog."

1SG Ryan: I will add the soju. This represents the spirit of Puckett's Rangers and the multiple Ranger companies that performed "outfront" work such as scouting, patrolling, raids and ambushes during the Korean War."

CPT Gaffney: CPT Frederick from alpha company will add the fifth ingredient to the grog."

CPT Frederick: I will now add rice wine, which represents all of the Rangers who battled against the Communists and Vietcong, fighting in the jungles of Vietnam to free prisoners of war and destroy enemy positions."

CPT Gaffney: 1SG Miller from Headquarters Company will add

the sixth and final ingredient to the grog."

1SG Miller: I will now add the sand from Afghanistan and Iraq (brown sugar). This sand travels all the way from the Middle East, as Rangers deployed to destroy al-Qaeda and the Taliban insurgency as a result of the September 11 attacks and then overthrow a ruthless dictator in Saddam Hussein, and continue to fight a ruthless enemy in Isis."

CSM Blacksher: *takes a walking stick, stirs the cider, sips, and states*: This punch is not quite right. Something is missing! Gentlemen, we have clearly forgotten an ingredient?"

Note: at this moment the missing ingredient soldier, SSG Mills, barges into the dining area from outside.

CPT Gaffney-shouting: "what is the meaning of this?" what is the nature of your request?"

SSG Mills: I believe I have the missing ingredient."

CPT Gaffney: SSG Mills, step forward and add the missing ingredient to this outrageous hooch."

SSG Mills: I have traveled the whole world over, looking for the missing ingredient. I have searched the frontier fields of early America, the cliffs at Point du Hoc, the 24 mile trek to Cabanatuan prison in the Philippines, and the mountains of Korea. I have scoured the Ho Chi Min trail in Vietnam, the hills of Grenada, and president Noriega's house in Panama. I have been to such places as the deserts of southwest Asia. Hell, I ran the Mogadishu mile twice, and was welcomed into Haiti. I have looked long and hard. But this, (pulls an old, dusty sock from his pocket saying): "this is the missing ingredient. This old sock with all the sweat, blood and chewed up skin, Represents the Rangers of the past, present and future, without whom no mission anywhere could be accomplished."

Note: the designated missing ingredient soldier deposits the sock into the punch bowl and then returns to their seat. (make sure sock is a brand new).

CSM Blacksher

Note: stirs the cider one final time.

"I believe that did it. But now we need someone to sample it. So, Sir, I would like to call on the newest Rangers and most expendable member of the mess to come forward and give us his expert opinion."

LTC Green: It is so ordered."

CPT Gaffney: SPC Janz and SGT Case, will now come forward and sample our grog."

XXXXXXX (does not readily come forward)

CPT Gaffney- Janz and Case, come forward.

1SG Miller comes forward sampling the grog

LTC Green: "CPT Gaffney, serve the grog!"

Friday the 13th of May, the 11th Annual HSSF (Honoring Sandrino's Sacrifice Fund) Golf Outing started off a little wet, but the AM golfers were all in!! After a few words from the pro and the playing of the National Anthem they were off, 146 strong. Ranger Chuck Cosenza, old school, was in the group and 2/75 was represented as well with Kevin Facemeyer and Jake Sidwa.. Lunch followed where Facemeyer reunited with Tony Mayne. The two had met in Afghanistan. Small world!



The PM had a dry start but soon got very wet—one no one came in, they just kept playing. The sun eventually came out as they finished the round and a great dinner followed. It is hard to explain what this event means to me, but 11 years after the death of my son, Sandrino, having men around who knew him and worked with him come to remember him, is balm to a mother's bruised heart. I cannot thank you all enough.



Ethan Killeen 1/75, unknown, Tony Mayne 3/75, Justin Glaubitz 1/75, Matt Connell 1/75, Thaddeus Cain 1/75, /Bryan Jensen 1/75, Everett Katzenberger, Josh Eilers 1/75, Nick Lehr 1/75, Josh Hunt 1/75, Joe Callahan 1/75, Mike Foster 1/75, Mike Rodgers 1/75



Jake Sidwa and Kevin Facemeyer



For me it was a GREAT day, a big surprise when Mike Foster (no rank here) who was in town showed up. Colleen and Everett Katzenberger were also in attendance. The whole gang certainly made the round interesting.

Speaking from my Gold Star world—no one takes care and remembers

their Gold Stars like the Regiment does and I will be forever grateful.



As I write this in mid May there are a number of things on my mind; memories, milestones and things to look forward to. I celebrated Mother's Day last week. This holiday is always tough.

It was the last time my Ben was home thirteen years ago. He gave me the nicest card he had ever given me and we spent a long weekend together before he went back to Ft. Benning to prepare for his final deployment. It's a bittersweet day, always. A week or so following Mother's Day comes my birthday. I am turning 55 - double nickels! In my mind I am still 17 longing for life to hurry up and bring me my dreams. If I only knew then what I know now. It's also bittersweet to celebrate my birthdays without Ben.

We always made a big deal out of them. Parties, cake, ice cream and presents were the norm. I have counted them differently since Ben was called back to serve in God's army. I count the years as being closer to seeing him again. The mirror tells me I have aged more so in the last two years than I've noticed in all of the last thirteen. It was bound to happen. A week or so after my birthday comes Memorial Day.

This is another bittersweet holiday. To be the mother of a fallen soldier is an honor in one sense, but one that came at a high cost. Memorial Day honors the tens of thousands of men and women who have laid down their lives to defend our freedom and liberties. Ceremonies take place all over the country. It's also a weekend that has been commercialized as the kick off to summer and the best time of year to buy a mattress or a car (ugggh)! May is a triple whammy. Mother's Day, my birthday and Memorial Day all give me much to be grateful for and remind me that Ben is not here. However, I am often reminded by others of the impact Ben made on their lives and on mine.

Two weeks ago, Josh, one of Ben's childhood friends, was in an accident on his bicycle and died a short time later at the hospital. Richard, one of his other friends, informed me of this sad news. He also told me that Josh was being prepared to be an organ donor. I commented that him saving lives as an organ donor takes away some of the sting of his death. Richard then said, "Jill we all became organ donors because of Ben." I couldn't help but ponder that. Josh was going to save lives because of Ben. The people who will live because of Josh's gifts of life, can draw a line back to Ben. I have often said that organ donation has an infinite effect because it can be paid forward for generations. This time it was thirteen years forward.

Who knows how far it will go from each of those people? I had kept in touch with Josh, he referred to me as Mama Jill. We last exchanged texts about five weeks before he died. He wanted to make sure I was okay after hearing that the area where I live had been hit by a tornado (no damage at my house). I always told him I was grateful we were still in contact. He had some health issues and had recently been hospitalized. I was checking to see if he was okay too. If I had only known that would be our last exchange. In a way it wasn't because his gift of life to others paid homage to Ben and was an acknowledgement of the impact Ben had on him. For Memorial Day I will be traveling to my home state of Minnesota. My mother and stepfather have sold the

house they have lived in for forty years and are moving out of state to be close to my niece and her children. I am going to see them in their house for the last time. While I am there I will spend Memorial Day at Fort Snelling National Cemetery with my friend Patricia at her husband Don's grave. Don died a year ago on Mother's Day. He was a Vietnam veteran and is buried very close to my grandfather. Patricia and Don spent several years with me at Arlington sitting with Ben on Memorial Day. This year I am going to sit with her at Don's place. Although he was not killed in action, I want to honor him as he has honored Ben.

Moving ahead to July, I have the twelfth annual Ben Kopp Memorial Ride in Minnesota. It is the tenth year at the current location. It is a well attended event that has had repeat guests from all over the country each year, some of them are RANGERS! The BKMR raises money for veterans in the state of Minnesota. To date, that total is close to \$400,000. I couldn't count all the tangibles, but can say with certainty that it has made an impact on the well being of many veterans and their families. It may be time to shake up the matrix and do something different. Not sure what that looks like, only that I will continue to honor Ben and support our veterans.

Two weeks before the BKMR, I am heading to Alaska to spend six days with several other Gold Star Ranger families. Our primary purpose is to climb Gold Star Peak. The mission and vision of Gold Star Peak is as follows and can be found on their website: <https://www.goldstarpeak.org/>

Mission: To bring Veterans and Survivors together in nature to remember and honor the fallen and bring healing to all.

Vision: To improve the wellbeing of military Veterans and the Gold Star Families of service members who have given their lives in time of war, through education, support and advocacy.

WHAT WE KNOW, AND HAVE EXPERIENCED FIRST-HAND, IS THESE MOUNTAINS HEAL.

Words can't describe how excited I am to spend time with fellow Gold Star Ranger family members doing something so awesome together in honor of our loved ones. The day I arrive in Alaska will be July 10th, the day that Ben was shot thirteen years ago and forever changed me. You can't tell me he didn't have something to do with orchestrating this. Alaska will also be my 50th state! I intended to go in my 50th year, but it clearly wasn't meant to be until my 55th. To cross this off the list during this week of the year makes the trip extra special!

As I have reminisced on birthdays, Mother's Days and Memorial Day's past, I can look ahead to honoring Ben's life in all that I do. Since July 10th, 2009, every awesome thing I have and will be participating in is done because Ben lived. He has given me so much and has shown no sign of slowing down. I will honor his service and sacrifice by honoring his memory in all that I do, until I see him again.

I wish all of you a blessed summer and pray for good health and long lasting friendships. I am grateful for each of you and do hope our paths will cross. RLW!



Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association
Chapter 48-7
& Bogarts Entertainment
Center present the 12th annual
Ben Kopp Memorial Ride

SATURDAY, JULY 23RD

9AM-?PM

Registration 9AM-10:30AM

Kickstands up at 11am

Bogarts Entertainment Center
14917 Garrett Ave. Apple Valley, MN

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GUEST SPEAKER & BOOK SIGNING

Heart of a Ranger

BY: AUTHOR BILL LUNN

**EVERYONE WELCOME
& OPEN TO PUBLIC**

MOTORCYCLE RIDE,
SILENT AUCTION,
RAFFLES, & DINNER



PRE-REGISTER online at www.cvma48-7.org

\$25 per person

All proceeds benefit our Minnesota veterans





Three Merrill's Marauders die within 29 days

Raleigh Naves, 99, Wisconsin
 "Bob" Passanisi, 97, New York
 Gilbert Howland, 99, New Jersey
 See Gilbert Howland obituary – Pg 19



Raleigh E. Naves
 Sept. 8, 1922 – April 21, 2022



Robert "Bob" Passanisi
 July 24, 1924 – April 26, 2022

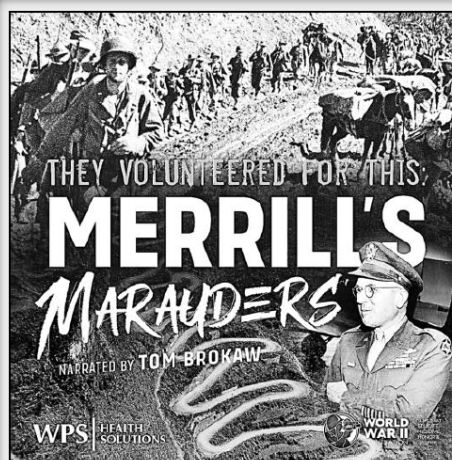
Merrill's Marauders Raleigh Naves, 99, WI and "Bob" Passanisi, 97, from New York died six days apart after receiving the Congressional Gold Medal in April. Both were among about 130 Marauders "still fit" to continue fighting when the unit disbanded in Burma. They became part of the 475th Infantry. Both were on White Combat Team, 1st BN. Naves died in Chippewa Falls, WI the day after receiving the Congressional Gold Medal. Passanisi was one of three Marauders at the March 3rd premiere in Dahlonega, GA of the Marauder documentary, which features him. He died April 26th at his Lindenhurst home. He was the Marauder spokesman, historian, former "Burman News" editor and a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame. He regularly attended Ft. Benning Ranger events. SFC Jeremy Kieilan and SGT Ernest Case did military honors for Naves. SFC Kyle Ward, SSG Jacob Livengood and SGT Brandon Janz were Passanisi's honor detail. All were Camp Frank D. Merrill Rangers.



Raleigh Naves



Bob Passanisi



Tears flowed freely from the faces of combat veterans watching the March 3, 2022, premier of producer Tim Gray's Merrill's Marauder documentary hosted by the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega. Three Merrill's Marauders featured in the documentary attended the premiere: Gilbert Howland, 99, NJ; Bob Passanisi, 97, NY; and Gabriel Kinney, 101, AL. The three took part in a "Q & A" March 4th breakfast with the university's military cadets. Gold Star widow Eleanor Stark, 97, GA attended for her husband Luther "Buck" Bagley, a 5307th CUP replacement killed July 25, 1944, in Burma. He is still MIA. An overflowing crowd filled several rooms plus the main auditorium. Family members of 27 deceased Marauders or replacements attended from multiple states, making it the largest gathering of family members in years. It is currently being aired nationally on PBS stations.



March 3, 2022
 Merrill's Marauder
 Documentary Premiere
 hosted by
 University of North Georgia
 Military College of Georgia
 produced by
 WWII Foundation
 narrated by Tom Brokaw



Eleanor Stark



Gilbert Howland



Bob Passanisi



Gabriel Kinney

Marauders Winslow Stevens & Gabriel Kinney to be inducted in 2022 RHOF



Winslow Stevens



Gabriel Kinney

The late Winslow Stevens, a Silver Star recipient from Florida, plus the current oldest Army Ranger, Merrill's Marauder Gabriel Kinney, 101, from Alabama are among 17 selected for induction this year into Ranger Hall of Fame July 13, 2022, at Ft. Benning. Anyone is welcome to attend the 1 PM ceremony at McGinnis-Wickam Hall.

THE TWO REMAINING MERRILL'S MARAUDERS ARE:

Russell Hamler -- 98 in June, from Pennsylvania
Gabriel Kinney -- 101, from Alabama

created by Jonnie Melillo Clasen

Although we share the same basic human needs, we differ in the amount of each need we require. For example, while some people have a high need for social connections, (love & belonging), others are more driven by the need to achieve (competency, or power), the need to play (fun), the need for independence (freedom), or the need to be healthy and/or financially secure (survival).

HOW TO USE THIS CHART:

1. In the "WANT" column for each need, place an "W" in the box corresponding to the strength you believe you hold for that need in relation to the other needs. For example, you may have an "X" in the 9 box for Love and Belonging, in the "7" box for Power, in the 5 box for Freedom, and in the 6 box for Fun. That, then, would be your needs profile.
2. In the "HAVE" column for each need, place an "H" to represent how much of that need you think you are currently getting in your life.
3. In the "ENERGY" column, place an "E" to represent the amount of time and energy you are currently expending to satisfy that need

	SURVIVAL (health or financial security)			LOVE & BELONGING (social connections)			COMPETENCY/POWER (achievement)			FUN (play)			FREEDOM (independence)		
	ARE YOU: Conservative, Cautious, Predictable, A Long-term planner, Prepared for emergencies, Concerned about finances, A Saver, Organized, Punctual, Responsible, Loyal, Dependable DO YOU: Value tradition, Focus on safety, Have a disaster plan in place, Invest wisely, Know self defense, Exercise daily, Get routine physicals, Get adequate rest, Have long-term relationships			ARE YOU: Social, Genuine, Contributing, Generous, Helpful, Compassionate, Caring, Kind, Hospitable, Family Oriented, Affectionate, Cooperative, Outgoing, Empathic, Diplomatic, Collaborative, Trustworthy, Team Player DO YOU: Join groups, Participate, Communicate clearly, Listen, Share			ARE YOU: Achievement oriented, Driven by success, Committed, Persistent, Purposeful, Competent, Competitive, Confident, Decisive, Determined DO YOU: Enjoy competition, Desire approval, Seek regard from others, Seek proficiency, Value recognition, Seek attention/fame, Must win, Challenge yourself, Set high standards/goals			ARE YOU: Joyful, Witty, Spontaneous, Playful, Cheerful, Positive, Spirited, Enthusiastic, Engaging, Amusing, Innovative, Light-Hearted, Creative, Adventurous, Never bored, Curious, Open-Minded DO YOU: Celebrate Life, Laugh frequently, Seek novelty & variety, Play games, Watch/Attend/Participate in sports events, Enjoy art & music, Love learning, Enjoy parties, Hike, explore nature			ARE YOU: Independent, Self-reliant, Liberated, Autonomous, Energized, Excitable, Flexible, Creative, Peaceful, Adventurous, Not time-constricted, Courageous DO YOU: Question Rules, Take risks, Seek alternatives, Welcome change, Resist restraints		
(HIGH)															
10															
9															
8															
7															
6															
5															
4															
3															
2															
1															
(LOW)															
	WANT	HAVE	ENERGY	WANT	HAVE	ENERGY	WANT	HAVE	ENERGY	WANT	HAVE	ENERGY	WANT	HAVE	ENERGY



Powerful Questions

Part Two

Our Basic Needs

*Dr Glasser taught us that we have five basic needs, **Survival, Love & Belonging, Power** (Achievement or Competency), **Fun**, and **Freedom**. In addition, he emphasized that all behavior is purposeful and*

Survival: Have: 5, Want: 7, Energy: 4

L&B: Have: 7, Want: 9, Energy: 9

Power: Have 6, Want: 6, Energy: 6

Fun: Have: 4, Want: 7, Energy: 4

Freedom: Have: 9, Want: 9, Energy: 9

Dr. Janet Morgan

I look for a need that I want to improve (L&B) because I *Want* a higher number than I *Have* and am willing to put *Energy* into that need. Now comes

the important part! HOW?

What is my picture of Love and Belonging? What does it look like to me? What is my inner picture of a perfect Love and Belonging Life? If I had a 10 in Love and Belonging, what would that look like to me?

What one thing can I do today that will get me closer to actualizing that picture I have of a perfect Love and Belonging?

And that is what I *Want*. It brings us back to the first Powerful Question: What do you Want?

Dr Janet Morgan, LPC, NCC, CT/RT, EMDR, MFLC, BC-TMH

<https://drjanetmorgan.com/>

706-892-8583

that we always trying (our best) to meet those needs.

The importance of meeting these needs cannot be stressed enough. What are your strongest needs? The Basic Needs Assessment included in the first part of this series could help you determine your strongest Basic Needs.

The directions ask you to determine how much you 'Want', or 'identify' with that need, how much you already 'Have' of each need, and how much 'Energy' you are willing to spend to 'satisfy' that need. There are numbers and 'x's' that give you a picture of what your strongest Basic Need is and how much energy you are willing to meet it. There are no wrong answers. Our needs are specific to ourselves and no one else. It is possible that you have more than one strongest need, maybe even three.

My personal Basic Needs Assessment looks like this:



MEET THE RANGER FOR LIFE COUNSELORS



Three Rangers Foundation's Ranger for Life counselors provide assistance with every step of the transition process. Each counselor is located at the battalion level as a direct point of contact for transitioning Rangers. This program is powered by Wounded Warrior Project® to honor and empower post-9/11 injured service members, veterans, and their families.



James McGuffey, 1/75



Ned Longoria, 2/75

Tony Mayne, 3/75,
RSTB, RMIB, RHHC



Congressional Gold Medal

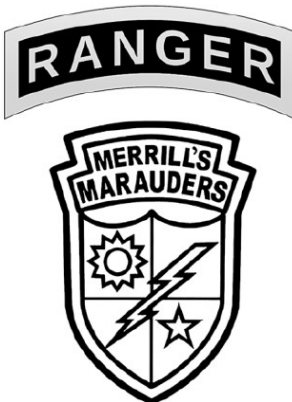
presented to five remaining Merrill's Marauders
by Camp Frank D. Merrill Rangers
during April 2022



created by Jonnie Melillo Clasen



A journey that began almost 12 years ago in 2010 became a reality in April when a Congressional Gold Medal was presented to five elderly Merrill's Marauders – all that remained from their “expendable” 1944 top-secret, commando mission in Burma. Rangers from Camp Frank D. Merrill – named after their unit's commander – traveled from Dahlonega, GA to the states where each lived to present the medal. Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office included videos of those presentations in the official Merrill's Marauder virtual CGM ceremony, aired May 25 on C-Span. Ages of the men made it possible to obtain special permission from the U.S. Mint for the medals to be presented early. Sadly **Raleigh Nayes, 99, WI, (ABOVE-CTR)** died April 21, the day after his medal was presented by 1SG Daniel Ryan. LTC Chris Green, Camp Merrill commander, presented the first CGM to Marauder spokesman and historian, “**Bob**” **Passanisi, 97, NY (TOP-L)** on April 3rd. Passanisi died April 26th. Camp Merrill CSM Joey Blacksher presented the CGM to triple CIB Marauder **Gilbert Howland (LEFT) April 12th, his 99th birthday, in New Jersey.** He died May 19th. SFC Nathan Springs presented the CGM in Pennsylvania April 24th to **Russell Hamler, 98 in June, (TOP-R).** The oldest Marauder, **Gabriel Kinney, 101, AL (BOTTOM-L-INSET)** received his CGM April 29th from Rangers SFC Justin McCarty (L) from Camp Merrill and COL Dan Vogel, Fort Bragg. **(Bottom-R)** LTC Green (CTR) and (L-R) CSM Blacksher and 1SG Ryan hold photos of their Marauders in front of a Marauder panel at the annual Camp Merrill Ranger Ball April 22nd.



HQ 75th RANGER HHC

UNIT DIRECTOR—Tom Maier



Fellow Rangers.

Good day from the center of the universe here at Fayetteville/Fort

Bragg, NC. I would like

to introduce myself, I'm Tom Maier. I started my journey in uniform graduating Ranger Class 7-80 and off to duty with 2nd Battalion, 31st Infantry at Ft. Ord, CA. After serving for a year, I had the opportunity to attend ROP and be assigned to B Co, 1st Battalion (Ranger), 75th Infantry as a PL and XO. After completing my tour there, I had the opportunity to command C Co., 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, Firebase 4P1 in the Republic of Korea.

After a year of training to include graduating the "Q" Course, I was assigned as the detachment commander to ODA 781 (HALO), B Co, 3rd Battalion, 7th SFG(A) in Ft. Davis, Panama. Returning to the states I served in both 4th Battalion as a company

commander and 5th Battalion as the XO of the Ranger Training Brigade at Ft. Benning, GA and Camp Merrill in Dahlgren, GA. I returned to Ft. Benning to serve in RHQ of the 75th Ranger Regiment as a LNO and the RS4. Completing service at the Regiment I was then selected and assigned to the Joint Special Operations Command. After com-

pleting service there, I returned to the 2nd Infantry Division at Camp Casey to serve as a Brigade Executive Officer. Returning stateside to Ft. Lewis, WA with the opportunity to command the Headquarters Battalion, I Corps. After command, I served on the Corps staff until retirement.

Concluding my uniformed service, I was then hired as a Department of Defense civilian at the Joint Special Operations Command as the Chief of the Deployment & Distribution Enterprise. The true joy of this position was the opportunity to still serve the Regiment both CONUS and deployed. After 18 + years, I retired at the end of last year.

I look forward to serving as the Unit Director for the Regimental Headquarters and engaging the organization. A shout out to my Ranger Buddy Rick Merritt, Art Attaway, and the rest of the 75th RRA executive officers and unit directors, as they educate me in my duties and responsibilities.



**Triple CIB Marauder
Gilbert "Gil" H. Howland
dies May 19, 2022
"Always a soldier"
"Always a Family Man"**



Merrill's Marauder Gilbert "Gil" H. Howland, 99, died May 19, 2022, in New Jersey – the third Marauder within 29 days to make his "final roll call," following Raleigh Naves and "Bob" Passanisi after each received a Congressional Gold Medal. He fought on Green Combat Team, 2nd BN. A RHOF inductee, Howland was a WW II, Korea and two combat tours in Vietnam veteran. His son, Bob, said, "Dad was blessed with four families. His mother and three siblings were forced to live apart during the Great Depression. The Daughters of the American Revolution sponsored him and his younger brother, Vernon, at the Hillside School for Boys where he lived from age 7 to 15. The Army was his second family from 1941-1971. He raised two more families with wives Andreina and Jean." He was buried June 2, 2022, at Newtown Cemetery in Newtown, PA following visitation 15 miles away at Buklad Merlino Funeral Home in Yardville, NJ. The family requested in lieu of flowers that donations be sent to **Hillside School; ATTN: Rich Meyer; 404 Robin Hill St; Marlborough, MA 01752 in memory of Gil Howland, Class of 1939.**

by Jonnie Melillo Clasen



1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—RICK MERRITT

Greeting from Savannah and the 1st Ranger BN!

As summer closes in it was great to see the Batt marching during the St. Patty's parade in Savannah.

We hope to see y'all at the upcoming Ranger Rendezvous at Fort Benning as RSM Donaldson changes out with CSM Johnson on 21 July at Fort Benning, both are 1/75 Veterans and served many years within the Regimental footprint.

As noted below in this article we have two candidates nominated as Honorary & Distinguished Members of the Regiment and Mr. Vic Power (owner of Kevin Barry's Pub for 39 years) being inducted into the Honorary Ranger Hall of Fame.

How about the Best Ranger Competition! The Regiment made a clean sweep this year with the top 4 teams as we won the competition.



CPT Joshua Corson (Left) and CPT Tymothy Boyle (Right) 2022 Best Ranger Competition winners

Over in Hawaii we have MG Ryan & CSM Haynie as the command team for 25th INF DIV. In USARPAC MG McFarlane is the DCG & BG Bartholomees is serving as their G3. Over on the Korean Peninsula in the ROK GEN LaCamera is serving as the USKF CDR.

Over the last few months, the 1st Ranger Battalion has continued to deploy in support of contingency operations and focus on the improvement of the Battalion's training and support infrastructure. All those supporting us have continuously made these



projects shape into an honorable remembrance for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

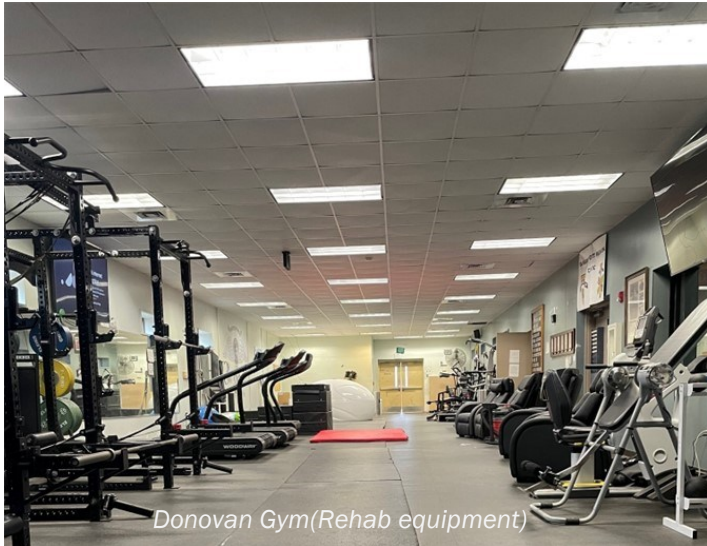
Below are some updates to BN HQ (RLTW pin lettering), CRTF Gym (Tab Scroll DUI emblem), Intestinal Fortitude Gym (overhang installed), and the Donovan Gym (Rehab equipment).



CRTF Gym (Tab Scroll DUI emblem)

Continued next page

Intestinal Fortitude Gym(overhang installed)



Donovan Gym(Rehab equipment)

1st Ranger Battalion nominations for Honorary and Distinguished members of the Ranger Regiment: Angela Grobman and Jeff McCall.



Above– Angela Grobman– Honorary and Distinguished Member

Below-Jeff McCall-Honorary and Distinguished Member



St Patrick's Day Parade: 1st Ranger Battalion was honored to participate in the 2022 Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Savannah. Below Photo



SGT Tanner S. Higgins Remembrance: On the morning of 14 APR 2022, Rangers across the formation gathered to execute SGT Higgins' Memorial Workout. In addition, current and former Rangers gathered in Sulphur Spring TX to take part in the Tanner Higgins Warrior Run. Below Photo



Current and former Rangers gather in Sulphur Springs Texas on 09 APR to take part in the last Tanner Higgins Warrior Run 1/75 Rangers rather to remember and celebrate SGT Higgins by executing the "Higgins" Workout Of the Day

LTG Sidney Weinstein Award for Excellence in Military Intelligence: The 1st Ranger Battalion S2, CPT Leo Matthews won the LTG Sidney Weinstein Award, which is awarded to an Army CPT within the Intelligence community who embodies the values of Duty, Honor and Country. Continued on next page

Below- Family Readiness Group:
120 B CO Rangers and Family members attended Savannah Bananas Baseball Game



Below- SFC Johansen graduates MLC as the Distinguished Honor Graduate



Below-Emory Executive Education: Select leaders from Delta Company, participated in the two-day leadership course at Emory University from 13-14 APR.



D/1/75 Rangers attend the two day Leading and Inspiring Change course hosted by Emory University Master Leader's Course (MLC) Distinguished Honor Graduate: SFC Gregory Johansen's exemplary performance at MLC, graduating with as the course's Distinguished Honor Graduate

Below- Sniper Competitions: From 04-06 APR, the 1st Ranger Battalion's Sniper Observation Team Rangers SGT Corcoran and SGT Gingrich, along with SGT Mark Senio from 3rd Ranger Battalion, competed in the International Sniper Competition. Their team finished 6th out of 30 teams from the U.S. and around the world, and won the team pistol competition held on Day 1. From 21-25 MAR, SGT Purinton competed in the USASOC Sniper Competition held at Ft Bragg, NC. SGT Purinton's team finished 3rd out of 24 teams.





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

It is with great sadness, that I must report the passing of a great Ranger. Raymond Douglas Nolen passed away on Thursday, May 5th. In Tiffany's words "My Traveling Soldier was called home today at 2:40p local time. With love, Tiff'.



We knew him as Captain Nolen, Company Commander of Alpha 75. But in the years since then, we have come to call him Doug.

Derek, Doug's son posted this on Facebook "Dad was proud of many things, but I know that he was most proud of leading A Company, 75th Infantry Airborne Ranger while in Ft. Hood.

To this day, the bond with his men remains strong and is such a source of pride". At the reunion in Waco this past March, Roy Adams III was doing personal interviews to be available for later times. This is the link for Doug's interview. <https://sites.google.com/chairsofhonor.com/alphaatpoint/home/messages-from-the-front?authuser=0>

Doug was a great influence on both the battle hardened warriors



just back from Viet Nam and the new "kids" just out of basic or jump/Ranger Schools and formed many friendships that have lasted almost 50 years. Few units in the military can claim such a record. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers go out to the Nolen Family but especially to Tiffany, Doug's wife. She attended both of the Waco reunions and at least one 75th Regiment Rendezvous at Ft Benning. Recognizing that she "volunteered" to be a Ranger's wife, knowing full well

the hazards of that life, Tiffany undertook the role with Honor and Respect and did everything she could to help Doug look after his Rangers. Ranger Nolen you will be missed but never forgotten. Rangers Lead The Way!

Gentlemen (and Ladies),

This AAR (prepared and submitted by Roy Bissey) should appear in the next issue of Patrolling magazine, a publication of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. When it does you can read the



magazine online at the 75th RRA web-site, [http://](http://www.75thrra.org)

www.75thrra.org regardless of your membership status.

The main event on Saturday at the Savell compound began at 0915 with posting of the colors by members of the ROTC unit from University High School followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation delivered by Ranger EJ Alexander. The Savell barn had been transformed into an auditorium and a spectacular mural designed and painted by Jason Savell served as the backdrop for the



stage. Speakers included Roy Adams, Jr. (former A Co XO), Roy Adams III (retired LTC) who described the making of his bourbon cabinet and the purpose of his non-profit organization "Chairs of Honor" (chairsofhonor.com). We were honored with the presence of Tawnya Blair, widow of Chuck Blair, Elizabeth Smith, widow of Bain Smith and Danielle Sedillo, niece of Daniel Sedillo. Dan died of cancer in 1974 while a member of A/75. Each of the three ladies addressed the gathering, speaking eloquently and emotionally of the loss of their Rangers and how they have come to know what the Ranger Brotherhood means to us and to them. Marty Martinez presented lapel pins and challenge coins to the Vietnam veterans present and then to those of us who served during the Vietnam Era but did not make the trip to Southeast Asia. Roy Barree rendered his presentation "If Glory Could Speak". Juan Padilla paid tribute to his hero Bob Allchin. Following that, Bob, Rich Luczak and Bob Roth entertained us with some familiar Jody cadence and then a fine rendition of "Blood on the Risers". Wiry Gene Gilsdorf, 31-time world champion weightlifter, gave us a physical fitness pep talk. DJ DeJarnett completed the morning program with a short lecture on firearm safety and then some words on the importance of hearing aids to continued marital bliss. Continued Next Page

The bar was opened, beer du jour: Three Rangers Brewing Company "Door Kicker IPA". Lunch was served at 1200 hours, tacos with a (secret) Filipina flair and all the fixin's expertly prepared by Jennifer Savell and her friend. At precisely 1400 hours Ranger Bill Bowman began the memorial service with some words about 'stories' and a recitation of "In Flanders Fields" in remembrance of 72 of our known deceased Brothers. Ranger EJ Alexander assisted in reading the names and one of the ROTC cadets rang the bell once for each man. Jim Savell's grandson Brandon played taps. Following the service, fellowship continued into the evening as groups gathered in and around the poolside bar. Sunday morning began the homeward journey to California, Florida, North Carolina, Wyoming and all points between. Handshakes, manly hugs and promises to meet again in 2024 put the finishing touches on the weekend. If you pass by Clever, Missouri stop in and see Ron Witte who won the custom Bourbon Cabinet. He will undoubtedly need help with the four included bottles of fine bourbon.



Custom Bourbon Cabinet



Blood on the Risers

My wife, Michelle, accompanied me this time and really enjoyed herself. She had met a couple of them before, but seeing everyone together, I think she now has a better understanding of the Ranger Brotherhood. Happy to say, she is already talking about going back in 2024. She had made a few stained glass Crest panels and could now put the name to a face. We continued on from Waco to McAllen, TX and drove her mom and dad back to Indiana. They spend the winter there and decided that at 94, he

didn't want to drive back without help. We had a good trip home with a few minor hiccups. We were about an hour from Waco when I realized I had left some items in the room, so back we went. Then just south of San Antonio, a rock flew up and cracked the windshield. Oh yeah, did I mention we were in a rental. After starting home, I got a call from a friend of ours that was staying with our dog. Seems it was time to pump out the septic tank. So, after a few phone calls, got that taken care of. The rest of the trip was rather uneventful.

From Jim Savell: Working in a "grey" environment (part 2): Very few soldiers are involved in actual "combat". The Army has a logistic tail/chain that was 11:1 in my days. For every set of "boots" on the ground there are 11 support soldiers. There are 3 main areas. Combat personnel.... infantry etc. (the supported), Combat support.... engineers etc. & service/support.... clerks etc. SOG was divided into 3 main camps Called "Command & Control". C & C North was tasked with Laos, C & C Central with Laos/ Cambodia & C & C South with Cambodia. At these camps were a lot of people but only a handful ever were involved in actual on the ground thingies. There were manned launch sites near the borders. There was togetherness but no one knew what the other was doing. The team leaders (U S) would be alerted of a mission. Then there would be 2/3 less people & no one said anything. You were allowed to quit anytime you wanted. Every time I rode in on an infil I swore I was gonna quit when/if I survived. When a small gaggle of SCU & US armed to the teeth were walking to the "choppers"....everyone knew where you are going. If you are one of the gaggle & your buds are giving you the thumbs up....there is no way you could quit. Teams would move to these launch sites & change into their sterile thingies. At these sites during the day there were unmarked aircraft on station any time Recon Teams were across the fence. They Launched teams (infil) & retrieved them (exfil). They would return to the C & C camp for the night....uh...if anything happens in the night....uh...you were all alone. During the day a small, fixed wing plane would kind of float around & was able to receive/retransmit commo. Communications was always a concern. I was assigned to CCS at Ban Me Thout. The town had a military base with helicopter airfield. The small CCS camp was a few miles out of town & we had an airstrip that could land fixed wing aircraft next to us. Our helicopter support was parked inside the camp perimeter when not at launch sites. My initial duty was in Recon Company on RT Auger. The U S started downsizing & almost all the U S teams were turned over to the Viets. Those that had a short time in country could move to CCC or CCN. I was in the long category so stayed at CCS. I moved over to the Exploitation Force (EF) Company & ran a platoon of Cambodians. This is where my story will start...uh...in a day or so...

Working in a grey environment (part 3): I was in the EF Company HQ & a call came in on the field phone from the Camp HQ. A 1LT had reported in & someone needs to pick him up. There are never any Privates around when you need one. Hey Savell, go get the "new man". I walked over where our vehicles were parked & picked out a jeep. I drove over to the "head shed", loaded him & his baggage in the jeep & drove over to the officers' billets.

Continued on the next page



There was an empty cubicle with the old metal bunk. We then drove over to the Supply room (S-4) where he was given his equipment. He also was given a weapon with ammo grenades etc. cause we were in a combat footing. Needless to say we worked up a sweat lugging his gear. I mentioned we should drive into town & get a cold beer. He agreed. Then I realized I didn't have any money with me. He said, "no problem" & loaned me \$20. In Ban Me Thout is a large military camp (with PX). Across the street from the main gate is a Viet bar. It was still early & nothing on CCS would open til later. After a few beers we returned to camp. I dropped him off at his billets & told him I was gonna park the vehicle & would come over later & help him set up his field gear. SOG used very sophisticated harnesses & he would need assistance rigging up. I had parked the jeep & about 15 minutes later I heard a "krrump". This was an unmistakable sound of a frag grenade "going off". Everyone headed to the

officers' billets.....

Attached in the article on the previous two pages are some of the pictures from the reunion. The bourbon cabinet Roy Adams III made. Jason Savell, Jim's son painted a mural on the entire end of the barn. Jason was in the 82nd and involved in the Green Ramp incident. Also a picture of Rick Luczak, Bob Allchin and Bob Roth singing Blood on the Risers, a group picture on this page and on page one, Nolen when he was CO of A Co. and addressing the group.

That's all I have for this time. Send me some stories

Until next time

RLTW

Stan

RSF Raises \$28,500

2022 Ranger Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament

CSM (RET) Walker, RSF Golf Tournament Coordinator- \$28,500 was raised for Ranger scholarship recipients to be awarded at a ceremony held sometime during the week of July 18-21 held at the 75th RR HQ. 75th Ranger Regiment Association members and other Rangers participated. Next year during the 2023 Best Ranger Competition, be sure and sign up for this worthy event!



ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Sad News:

I am sad to report the passing of Major Raymond “Doug” Nolen passed May 5, 2022 at the age of 77. Doug was the Senior Advisor to the 43rd ARVN Ranger Battalion in 1970. Doug was nominated for induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame. God Speed, Doug. I am proud to have called Doug my friend.

Feature:

On to Nui NHAN

Continued excerpt “Even the Dust Cried Tears”

By: Stephen A Nahay Jr.

The battalion commander planned and coordinated H&I (Harassment and Interdiction) artillery fire for the night. He also planned close-in fires for out defense. Lastly, he setup artillery illumination rounds over and around our position to be fired at random times during the night. The Rangers maintained a 50% awake and 50% sleep status for the night, due to our previous contact with the enemy earlier that day. Don and I stayed awake but catnapped frequently.

After dark, the artillery illumination rounds started to fire. We first heard a boom far off coming from the vicinity of Dat Do. Next, we heard a loud popping sound overhead and the illumination round burst open, launching a parachute with an attached flare giving illumination to the ground below. As the flare floated slowly downward, shadows moved around fixed objects on the ground, giving off the appearance of apparitions from the beyond. I closed one eye to maintain some night vision as I looked about the ground downhill from my location. Good Army training once again came to my rescue. The illumination round floated for about a minute before reaching the ground and burning out. Again, the terrain around us turned into the darkest dark.

Around midnight, another illumination round burst overhead. Almost simultaneously, I heard a Vietnamese Ranger cry out, “Ahhhh!” The sound he made cut right through me. His foxhole was located a short distance from mine. Don and I climbed out of our hole and walked in the direction of the scream. We found the Ranger already being treated by a medic who was applying a tourniquet around his left arm while another Ranger held a combat dressing against the stump that, moments before, had a hand and wrist attached to it.

When the illumination round burst directly overhead, a circular steel plate was also ejected. The plate fell to the ground and cut the Ranger’s hand and wrist clean off his arm. As I watched the medic finish his first aid, I noticed that the Ranger grimaced in



pain from time to time. However, he mostly had a smile on his face and appeared to be happy. As we waited for the arrival of a medivac helicopter, I asked him in Vietnamese, “Why are you smiling after such a terrible wound? Tai sao (Why)? He looked at me and replied, “I can now go home and don’t have to fight anymore!”

The soldier had been in the Rangers for years, including the campaign in Quang Tri Province. He would now be released from military service, free to live his life away from combat. Unlike American soldiers, South Vietnamese served for the duration of the war. They did not serve one-year tours like the

Americans and other Allier. The South Vietnamese, like their communist opponents, served until they were killed or wounded seriously.

Soon, I heard the Wop, Wop, Wop of the approaching Evac helicopter. The Rangers had secured a part of the road for the landing zone. Medics placed the wounded Ranger on a stretcher and took him to the helicopter. They loaded him onboard, and it took off as soon as he was secured inside the cabin. We waved goodbye to the wounded Ranger as the Evac helicopter lifted into the dark night to fly him to a military hospital. As they flew west, I thought, Lucky Bastard. What irony! A man loses a hand, and I consider it lucky.

Well before dawn the next day, on the 16th of June, the battalion stood to, all Rangers awake and ready for possible enemy mischief. After stand to, Don and I did our morning field soldier ablutions—face, teeth, crotch, feet—all with a quarter canteen cup of water! I used shampoo liquid because it came in a small plastic bottle and was less messy than bar soap. We made some coffee and consumed some canned rations for breakfast.

We left the RF/PF compound to continue our road-clearing mission with the road now pointing to the northeast. Once again, the battalion deployed the same as the day before, two companies north and one company south of the road with the combat engineers sweeping the road for bombs and mines. Walking at a tactically slow pace, the battalion maintained a 360-degree security posture. The enemy was in the neighborhood, location unknown.

At about 11am the lead company in front made contact with the enemy. Small arms firing grew louder and louder, heavier and heavier, until we could hear bullets whizzing over our heads. Phet! Phet! We instinctively crouched lower. The command group stopped in a copse of trees with an old rice paddy dike providing cover to our front (northeast), toward the enemy.

Continued on the next page

The area in front of us was an abandoned rice field about 35 meters in length with trees at the other end. We were about 75 to 100 meters from our forward units. SFC Schommer and I settled into an area that was slightly hollowed out, giving us good cover from direct fire from the enemy.

The battalion commander ordered the company to the rear of our lead company to maneuver to the lead company's left (northwest) and come up in line with it to return fire on the enemy positions, doubling our volume of fire. He also ordered the company on the other side of the road to hold its position and be prepared to support the other companies in contact with the enemy either by firing or movement. This company, in fact, became the battalion reserve, reinforced by the combat engineers who had joined it. The company periodically brought fire on the enemy when NVA appeared in the open, especially when he appeared on the road or tried to cross over to the south side of the road. All agreed that we had made contact with an enemy NVA company at a minimum, based upon the volume of fire coming from his position in the northeast.

I coordinated air support with the battalion commander as SFC Schommer talked on the radio, relaying my instructions back to Major Teel or to a FAC flying overhead. Additionally, the battalion commander called in 105mm field artillery fire on the enemy position and to the enemy's rear.

Fire intensified to our front as US Air Force and Navy F4's and Crusaders, flying a southeast to northwest track to avoid hitting friendly positions, dropped HE bombs on the enemy positions. I did not request Napalm because our forward companies were in close contact with the enemy, eyeball to eyeball.

The company commanders to the front reported they were up against a well-established line of fighting positions. The battalion commander ordered the companies to keep the enemy pinned down with small arms, machine guns, 60mm mortars, and LAWS. Firing continued at a steady pace as I called in more tactical air strikes. More artillery fire fell on the enemy positions. The noise was chaotic and loud. My ears ringed with pain. The intensity of fire from both sides was non-stop until mid-afternoon. Eventually, we heard a slight lull in the firing from the enemy side. What was he up to?

Out of nowhere, an NVA team of eight soldiers appeared through the tree line. They were moving in our direction, no more than 25 meters from us. Don and I hit the dirt as bullets flew close overhead. As we dove for cover, Don bumped into me, knocking off my helmet and dislodging my Army issue cabled-stem glasses. As I was myopic, I need those glasses to be able to clearly see the NVA soldiers fast approaching us. I nervously cursed and groped for the glasses in the dusty dirt around me until I found them. We waited to defend ourselves from the approaching enemy infantry. Fortunately, the security element of the battalion command group spotted the enemy soldiers, opened fire on them, gunned them down in the rice field, and killing them all. Don and I relaxed a bit, but we felt the surge of adrenaline flowing in our bodies. All our senses were magnified.

With that danger removed, we continued our routine of calling in tactical air strikes. All totaled, we coordinated about 37 air sorties onto the enemy positions. This did not include a late afternoon attack by US Army Cobra gunships, which we also coordinated and controlled. The Cobras fired rockets and minigun rounds in the enemy positions.

Gradually, by late afternoon, enemy force got weaker but remained steady. We suspected they were disengaging forces a few at a time. Finally, all firing stopped along the front. The enemy had withdrawn. Our Rangers moved into the former enemy positions. Clearly, we had inflicted significant damage to the enemy force, counting 52 dead NVA soldiers. Our Rangers also observed abundant blood trails all around the former enemy positions. We captured one 81mm mortar, one 61mm mortar, two B40 rocket launchers, and twelve AK47's.

The NVA positions were solidly built fighting bunkers with excellent overhead cover. To prevent the enemy from using the bunkers again, our soldiers planted CS power bags attached to C4 explosive charges inside each bunker and detonated them. This impregnated the bunkers with CS powder. Anyone who entered would disturb the powder and become incapacitated from its effects. This was an expedient measure taken by field soldiers when it was impossible to physically destroy enemy bunkers.

We sustained some casualties too. After the fight was over, we evacuated our wounded and killed by helicopter. Later, Intelligence at III Corps headquarters believed we had run into an NVA infantry battalion that was taking R&R when we crashed their party.

The Ranger battalion received orders to return to our base north of Long Dien, and it uneventfully marched back on the 18th of June. Our road clearing operation was cancelled. However, the Group did complete the mission to clear the road to Nui Nhan with another battalion, the Province Chief failed to establish the firebase. Moreover, the 5th Vietnamese Ranger Group was alerted to get ready for a new mission in another area in III Corps. The III Corp commander believed that the 5th Vietnamese Ranger Group was now ready to conduct more difficult missions, fitting for a Ranger Group.

During the period 14 to 28 June, the 5th Vietnamese Ranger Group had the following results: friendly casualties-26 KIA, 113 WIA, enemy casualties 87 KIA, three VC suspects captured. Captured enemy equipment one 81 mm Mortar, one 61mm Mortar, 4 B-40 rockets, 20 AK47 rifles. Most of the above enemy results; I believe was due to the 30th Ranger Battalion's road clearing operation.

Next Issue: A submittal by Lt. Col (ret) Keith Nightingale

Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—MARC L. THOMPSON

VII CORPS, C/58 LRP, B/75

Greetings and Salutations fellow LRRPs, Rangers, and Jayhawks...

Please stay safe, and stay healthy.

NEWS FROM MEMBERS:

Bob Lund: ...called with news from Tony Richardson, RV Voyles, Curt Christopherson, and Bill Walter.

Tim Leadbeater:

Subject: 5 hours Solo Cross Country Complete

Tue, 5 Apr 2022

In my journey to my private pilot's license, I just completed my required 5 hours of cross-country solo. I did 2.9 hours Sunday morning and 2.2 hours yesterday morning. I'm getting acquainted with south Alabama flying out of Crestview, Florida. Hoping to take my checkride in about a month. Then I roll into instrument training (for IFR flying).

Cheers!

P.S. This has been an amazing experience for me. I should have done this sooner when I was 40-50 years younger.

P.P.S. The Cirrus SR-22 is scheduled for delivery in September. Key West and beyond, here we come! Dogs included.

Subject: 10 Night Landings, a Night Cross Country and More

Wed, 13 Apr 2022

Sunday night I did 6 of the required 10 night landings following night maneuver training (steep turns and stalls). Flying is more adrenaline producing at night...at least at my student level.

Monday night I did a night cross-country to two small un-towered airports in Alabama where I also did two of my 10 required full stop night landings. Then it was back to Bob Sikes Airport in Crestview, Florida where I did my final two night landings. Interestingly and unexpectedly, night landings are easier and smoother for me than daytime landings..., which are also pretty good now after about two hundred of them. "Good" landings were the hardest part of learning to fly for me.

Did you know that the runway lights at un-towered airports at night are controlled (turned-on) by the pilot pressing the airport frequency transmission button as he/she flies the approach to the airport? Seven clicks, five clicks or three clicks turns them on...seven clicks gets you the brightest lights, three the least bright. This is very helpful if you're trying to find the runway on a dark, moonless night.

Next week I start my "check ride" preparation for the private



pilot oral and practical (flying) exam.

Cheers!

P.S. Learning to fly has been a major investment of my time and energy.

Soon, I hope to get back to some of my other activities which I've neglected including motorcycling.

In September I bought a new 2022 Ducati V4 S Multistrada which presently has less than 400 miles on it. That has to change!

Kim Maxin: DELTA PARK PROJECT (for MG Eldon Bargewell)

Kim Maxin provides us with the following information regarding the MG Eldon

Bargewell Delta Park Challenge Coins (a fundraiser for the Delta Park Project honoring for MG Eldon Bargewell):

The SOG group minted another 100 Eldon challenge coins. I can send the link once it is posted. Cost \$20 with \$15 going to Delta Park.

The fundraiser has matching funds this month (April?) up to \$50,000.

Even if people have donated, a small donation will be doubled. Everyone who donated will receive a VIP plus-one seat at the dedication, which should be May 20, 2023.

[Your unit director was not aware of the matching funds effort... so let's get the word out!]

The fastest way to purchase just a coin (?):

<https://sogsite.com/tag/mg-eldon-bargewell-delta-park-challenge-coin-fundraiser/>

If anyone wants to contribute more toward the completion of the Delta Park Project, you can do so at the website for MG Bargewell:

<https://eldonbargewell.org/>

Or online at:

<https://www.gh-cf.org/online-donation/>

NOTE: You must select "Eldon Bargewell Memorial Fund" in the Donations Options box.

Delta Park: The goal of the MG Eldon Bargewell Foundation is to raise \$300,000 to create a park honoring MG Eldon Bargewell. The park will be located in Hoquiam, Washington, Eldon's hometown.

Kim further reports: I have been home for the most part (during COVID).

Continued on the next page

Did make it out west to ride horses with John Sanders and Curt Moore. Curt was at Carson and Lewis with us. John joined us in 1973 when we got to Lewis.



*Eldon
Bargewell Del-
ta Park Chal-
lenge Coin*

LEO STARKEY: B/75 & VII CORPS COINS

Leo Starkey had another run of B/75-VII Corps LRRP coins made. He has 42 available as of 5/15/2022.

These coins feature the B75 Scroll on one side, and the "Eyes Behind The Lines"/VII Corps/C-58 logo on the obverse:



*B/75 & VII
Corps
Coin. Pho-
to by Leo
Starkey*

The cost is \$20 per coin (which covers what Leo paid) plus postage to you.

Through Zellepay: send to rgr3969@hotmail.com.

Through USPS send payment to:

Leo Starkey

802 W Main St.

Yorktown, TX 78164

NOTE: CONTACT U.D. for telephone number.

As soon as Leo receives payment and address, he will ship the coin(s).

HEARD FROM: (alphabetically only, by first name): Al Gonyea, Andrew Pancho, Anthony Lorren Roberts, Beth Ryan, Bill Walter, Bill Waterhouse, Bob Lund, Bob Woolstrum, Chris Maxfield, Chuck Straehl, Curtis Christopherson, David Cummings, Debbie (Larry) Rapp, Dick Foster, Don Bruce, Don Carroll, Donald Bruce, Ed Yarbrough, Frank Reda, Gary L Baura, Gary Scott, Gene Kauffman, Greg Phillips, Harold Miller, Howard Stokes, Jack Voyles, James W Ardwan, Jeff Rice, Jim Reynolds, Joe Chetwynd, Joe Picanco, Joe Touchon, John DeCosta, John Repecko Jr, Kathy Sobitz, Katrina Chaney Underwood, Kaylene Fisher/Steve Lengel, Kim Maxin, Leo B Starkey, Michael Henry Moser, Mike Herrin, Neil A. Lofgren, Paul Carlisle Sr., Ricardo Torres, Richard R. Cole,

Robert Lee Smith, Ron McElliott, Sally/Kirk Gibson, Sam Wentzel, Scott E Sherwood, Stan Harrell, Steve Murphy, Tim Grzelka, Tom Forde, Tom Turner, Tony Harley, WB Wear, Willie Mack, Zeke Evaro. My apologies if I missed anyone.

Until next time... High Speed, Low Drag...

V/R:

Marc L. Thompson, Unit Director

VII Corps LRRP Association

REUNION June 14-17, 2022: LRRP Reunion; Nashville, TN

TRAFFIC FROM VII CORPS

PREVIOUS TRAFFIC:

DATE: Mon, 2 May

The wheels have been set in motion thanks to our point man, Bob Vanasse. Date and place is as follows:

June 14-17, 2022.

Nashville TN Holiday Inn Express downtown (no parking, free breakfast).

Hotel #: 877-666-3243

Contact; Jessica Peterson

Group rate code: 58LRP/Rangers

Accommodation: 10 rooms + 2 handicapped (3days)

NOTE: SEE EMAILS or U.D. For phone numbers of unit members.

Point Man: Bob Vanasse. Alternate: Dick Foster.

Here are the necessities. Make your reservations ASAP!

Ivey+1, Vanasse+1, Lengel+1 have already secured their rooms. I'm having some trouble getting through to Jessica but keep trying if necessary. I found website confusing. Bob negotiated a low \$150+ rate, free breakfast, no parking on site.

We have no set itinerary. Make your own plans with whomever and wherever, with lots of choices within walking distance. Bring appropriate shoes. Set your own reservations if you plan to stay longer.

If you have a more complete and up to date list, it would probably be a good idea to forward this brief. Thanks, in advance. Hope to see all of you there. If that happens, bring a shelter half or whole and stake out homeless grounds.

Til then, and perhaps again, I remain...

Pfc E-10 Dick Foster, El Guapo y El Presidente

OLDEST TRAFFIC: 31 Mar 2022

Just talked re reservations at Holiday Inn!

3 double bed rooms left. MUST let me know now to reserve place; 2 king bedrooms. All 5 at \$150+ per night.

I've also reserved, in addition, 2 suites at \$320 each per nite.

One of which will be meeting room. *Continued on the next page*

Call me and leave a message if you want one of them. First come, first claim.

FOSTER SENDS.

LATEST UPDATE: 11 MAY 2022

G'Day Mein LRRP and Ranger Brothers!

Hopefully, I'm getting my Presidential act together and getting this out to Patrolling. I hope this finds you all in reasonably good health.

Our LRRP Unit Reunion scheduled for June 14-17 in Nashville is on, as of now. We will meet at the Downtown Nashville Holiday Inn. Rent is \$150 per night + \$30 parking. Pick up Ranger hitchhikers, if you can, to share all gas and room receipts. Use your phones to contact each other. All 10 rooms are registered in my name, so you must contact me to reserve one. Indicate room type and mate to me. If I don't hear from you by June 10 you'll have to make your own arrangements.

Off the top of my head the following have committed to attending and have reserved rooms: Bob Vanasse+wife, Toby Ivey+wife, Larry Fee+ relative, Steve Lengel+wife, and I, Foster. Others who might attend, God willing, are Joe Chetwynd, Kirk Gibson, and Zeke Evaro. Get in touch with me if I've forgotten you or if you failed to notify me so far.

Worry not! You get there and we'll pass the plate to assure that you'll have a pillow upon which to lay your tired, lying heads.

Touchon, Forde, and Mathiak are definite no-shows due to impending ailments and dollars, or just plain sorryness. I've been in touch with Touchon (he's got a girlfriend - at 82 years!!), Yarbrough, Fat Forde having hip replacement. The rest of you are too challenged to use your body parts to touch base.

Just got back from the Mountain Rangers Critter Cookout in Dahlonge, Georgia. Lengel and I attended and his lovely wife let me stay the nights. In typical commo rat fashion Steve took me on the shortcut (22 miles) back to his crib instead of the less scenic Interstate. We left the cookout about 6:30 PM and should have been back to Cartersville about 8:30; we finally made it back about 11PM. I tried to tell him to shoot an azimuth for the best way. Master Sergeant outranks common sense, so we went up, down, and around a hundred mountains. In the dark, beautiful scenery is an oxymoron, of sorts. But we had a good time visiting so in the end all was forgiven.

SICK CALL

Sam Storey continues to mend slowly. Of course everything he does is slow, so don't expect a speedy recovery from his fall; but recover, he will.

Bill Mathiak is hobbling around the house when he can get out of his power chair. A bad set of knees has slowed him down so much that he does not anticipate making our 2022 Rendezvous in Nashville.

WhupAss Yarbrough is still plagued with leg problems. He's a hard person to connect with (just like he says of Fatback).

Al Moncayo called. He's gonna try to make the reunion. He survived Covid long time ago and last week, had brain strokes that led to a brain aneurism. Happy to report that he's on the mend, so we'll have to wait and see.

RRA REUNION RAFFLE

We are (I am) sponsoring a Rifle Raffle at the next 75th RRA reunion (2023). I have plans on how I want it designated, but I don't know if the Board will agree. I want to NAME it the Maj Edward Maltese Tribute Rifle #1, hoping other units will follow suit at future reunions with their own designations. The rifle is a Henry 22 Golden Boy H004. It will be raffled off.

As usual, I'm running out of things to say... Guess I need another beer. If I remember anything of importance or of interest, I'll get back to you. Remember these wise words of Major Roberts of Ranger fame: "Keep your balls clean, your powder dry, and your hatchet sharp to kill the enemy should he get too close."



LRP/LRRP/LRS Memorial Stone in Dahlonge. Photo by

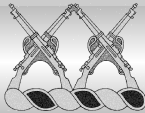
Dick Foster

Good night, Boys...

See ya in the by and by!

Pfc E-10 Dick Foster

USA LRRP Assoc (VII Corps), President



C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director—Darryl "Bones" Benton

Chapter 5, *Starlight Patrol*, is shared with *Patrolling* from the book *Ghost Warriors* by LT Bob Stein, one of the original members of E/20th LRP. E/20th became C/75th Rangers in early 1969. From the book ad, *Ghost Warriors* takes you into the jungles of Vietnam in late 1967 to accompany the brave men of E-Company's twenty-eight Long Range Patrol teams, later re-designated as Army Rangers. While 2,600,000 U.S. military served in Vietnam, only 5,300 saw action as Army Long Range Patrol, Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, or Rangers. No forces in Vietnam had more close-up enemy contact. Accompany teenage paratroopers as they are inserted by helicopter, Navy boats, or parachute into triple-canopy jungle, and then rely on their survival and fighting skills to provide reconnaissance for the U.S. Army's 1st Field Force.

CHAPTER 5 PART ONE

Nothing is more exhilarating than to be shot at without result.

Winston Churchill

STARLIGHT PATROL

The NVA were looking for us—they knew we were there. Their lanterns glowed through the jungle's triple canopy. We held our position. If they were to take us out, so be it, but it would not be before we first took some of them down. In this moment we became brothers, not a brotherhood that just anyone knows, but one that is known only by those in it.

Let me explain. I am Sgt. Oscar Caraway, LRP team leader of the 4th Platoon's Team 4-5. After Tet (beginning January 31, 1968), I was a member of Team 4-4 and was tasked with the mission of developing intelligence on the strengths, intentions, and capabilities of the North Vietnamese army from the west of Pleiku and into Cambodia. Our team's mission on February 19, 1968 had decimated our entire five-man patrol. (Every team member received a Purple Heart with two men needing nearly a year to recuperate in U.S. military hospitals.)

It was the middle of March and I had just been released from the ICU unit in Pleiku. I entered Lt. Stein's headquarters tent to report back to duty. The lieutenant was having a heated conversation with Sgt. Randy Mills, leader of Team 4-5. Randy had only four days until he rotated back to the States and the lieutenant was telling him he must lead his last mission unless he found his replacement. I walked in and Randy pointed at me, saying, "There's your leader; he'll do it."

My 4th Platoon had been in Camp Enari and Ban Me Thuot during the Tet Offensive. Three weeks later, we were still using Enari as a base to launch patrols so we could discover the ene-



my's military intentions near the Cambodian border. Gen. Weyland of II Corps and the 4th Infantry Division requested this reconnaissance. We were ordered to determine enemy strength and intentions in a specific mountainous area adjacent to a river serving as the border between Vietnam and Cambodia.

I had the honor of being an assistant to Sgt. Bob Johnston so I was trained by the best. He taught me the most important objectives: 1) accomplish the mission and 2) stay alive—in that order. I was ready to serve again in mind and heart, even if still recovering from a head wound suffered on my last mission with Sgt. Johnston, and not quite "all there." Still, I was as well-prepared as any young man could be for what was about to happen.

In Camp Enari I was awarded my own team; I faced all new men and all new missions. The team included Sgt. Haney (assistant team leader), Milt Hendrickson (point), John Higgins (slack), Bob Shaffer (RTO), and me. This team was solid, tough, and ready to fight, but I was the new man on this already established team. My question was: how do I prove myself and gain their respect?

As the team leader, I knew I had to be very confident and show them I was someone they could trust and follow, just as I had felt about my team leader Sgt. Bob Johnston. I had all the credentials I needed, but the only way to build team confidence is during action. Having as many missions under my belt as any other team leader, I was primed for my next encounter with the NVA.

I loved the jungle. I loved moving through it undetected, proving I had what it took to stay alive. It was time to revenge the Chipergate mission four weeks earlier and deal it out in spades to the NVA. The platoon calling card I left on enemy bodies conveyed my motto: *We kill for fun in the true Airborne tradition*. That motto is *not* politically correct today—and perhaps wasn't in 1968 either.

This was an especially solemn time. My mentor, Sgt. Johnston, the man I looked up to, the man I saw as invincible, I now *thought* was dead. We didn't know each other's fate, which was not unusual. That's was how it was—you get up and keep going with no looking back, but could I live up to Sgt. Johnston's expectations? Could I make him proud and honor him? Everything he taught me would now be on the line. Success on the next mission was in my hands and I would not allow myself to fail.

My orders meant life or death for myself and the men under me. There would be no time to panic or time to think. You had to *do* what you were told and *know* what you were supposed to do. That's how day-to-day life was in the LRP. I was ready and would proudly lead the way.

Continued on the next page

These men would follow me and, if necessary, obey orders to fight and die. There would be no questions asked and no quarter given.

When we'd been together about a week, we started to bond and Team 4-5 was born. On the firing range and during practice drills, we had the chance to see each other and appreciate the strengths of our team. Overseeing our practice was Lt. Stein. He was responsible for coordinating teams and we answered to him. He was the judge and would assign us to teams. He would evaluate our skills and abilities and was in control of our immediate future missions. Lt. Stein was the backbone of all the teams and we looked to him with utmost respect and trust.

How good was my team? Sgt. Haney was an excellent assistant team leader and I knew he would lead if I went down. Shaffer was big, muscular and tough, a good RTO. Higgens had our backs and was the right man to cover our rear security. What about our point man, Milt Hendrickson? This was the most important position so I needed to be sure he was well qualified.

I questioned other team leaders and found out that Milt was *one* of the best, if not our *best* point man. His experience in combat was solid; he was a man's man, mature in action and a man to follow in and out of the jungle. Even though our team was a group of young men, all around eighteen to nineteen years of age, (the average age of our NVA enemy was twenty-three), our time in battle proved us to be seasoned veterans. With the team strong in all aspects, it was time to go hunting NVA.

Our first mission as Team 4-5 was forming in the jungle outside Ban Me Thuot. The 33rd NVA Regiment had begun grouping and was causing pain and death for farmers, the townspeople and any South Vietnamese they would encounter. Not only were they looting, torturing, burning, attacking, and killing them, but they were also killing our own brothers, U.S. troops, at any and every chance they could. The 4th Infantry needed us to gather information. We needed to be their eyes on the ground beyond the enemy lines.

This would not be easy. Five separate teams had been shot out of the jungle immediately after insertion into that particular AO. Their touchdown point had been compromised as soon as they hit the ground. Daylight insertions did not work, so we devised a new plan. The Airborne LRPs would be the only ones qualified for a mission this dangerous.

Lt. Stein was at LRP mission control headquarters. He would be the one to finalize the mission and make all the technical decisions. He was our only lifeline if anything went wrong. The stakes were high and everyone knew it. If we called for help and Lt. Stein didn't make the right call, we would all die on the ground. We never had any doubts. We knew he would protect our team; he was our protection from the sky. My team and all teams of the 4th Platoon appreciated everything he did for us. Lt. Stein always held strong under extreme pressure and had our backs.

I received the call to go to headquarters for a briefing; it was hot

and sticky with a heavy air of anticipation for the "what ifs" of the day. After the briefing, the message was clear—this was a different day and this mission was going to be different. We were going to be spotting the enemy at night in the dark and we would be executing a night insertion, the most dangerous patrol technique known at the time. This would give the team no chance to retreat, no assistance, no gunships, no one. We knew this: if our team were seen going in, we'd be found and eliminated. We knew the risks, and although we had reservations, we would go willingly. We had been trained and we had confidence in each other and ourselves. We were Team 4-5 Airborne Rangers. We led the way and we were one.

Our only question was this: how would we see at night? Getting in would be one thing. Watching the NVA and gathering information in the dark was another. Headquarters had the answer: the eight pound, handheld AN/PVS-1 Starlight Scope. It was top secret. It gathered light from where there seemed to be none, and the scope's advanced technology allowed it to intensify light up to 30,000 times. Although images tended to blur and ghost if someone moved the scope, it was a remarkable device. For centuries darkness ended an army's battle, but an army that's able to see at night has a tremendous tactical advantage over an enemy enveloped in darkness. Our enemy usually used oil lanterns or flashlights while moving at night and was easy to spot.

This mission was now even more exciting than we'd imagined. We had a plan and we were ready to deploy. Everything had been set in motion. The day before this mission, Sgt. Haney and I did a chopper over-flight of the patrol zone of operation. We selected a suitable landing zone, alternative LZs, and finally the extraction LZ. We briefed the patrol and let them know that we were to be inserted at last light the following day. The morning of the mission, the team tested our weapons and checked all equipment, including our new secret weapon the Starlight Scope. We practiced immediate action drills and camoed up. Milt made sure everyone was ready; he checked and double-checked all the equipment and our team. He was very aware of the dangers that lay before us and would not allow any oversights. I knew then why he was ranked the top LRP point man.

It was approximately 1930 hours—just before dark, and time to go. Platoon leader Stein was at the tarmac when we arrived. We were nervous, but ready. Lt. Stein was going to fly in the CC (Command and Control) ship. He would manage the load-up and insertion. We took off with four slicks and two gunships. We needed to confuse the enemy, so we were going to land slicks all over the countryside to cover our actual touchdown. My team thought this tactic would work. We had to get in without detection and then we needed time to disappear into the thick foliage.

As we were descending toward the LZ, I saw Milt looking forward. He would be first out and he knew if things went wrong he was the NVA's first target. Milt didn't look afraid; he looked strong and ready to face anything. As soon as I was out of the slick, my feet hit the ground and I was running and maneuvering through the branches heading for the thick jungle canopy.

Continued on the next page

We needed to lay dog, listen to the jungle noises and let them tell us our next move, so we did. We listened about ten minutes, communicating only by hand signals. We'd done it! We were on the ground and undetected. After a quick commo check with Lt. Stein, our mission began.

Milt turned and looked at me. I signaled him forward and he knew exactly what to do. Our team would follow him. As we began moving up the side of a mountain on steep, treacherous terrain, I went forward with all my gear and the Starlight Scope loaded on my back. The scope I held was invaluable. It would be our eyes at night and during daylight hours we would lay dog. This was the plan: we would be there three days and then Lt. Stein would come to take us "home," our mission completed.

Milt was moving slowly up the mountainside and we were following, each of us as quiet and stealthy as the man in front of us. Our goal was to secure a position near a trail or opening so we could observe the NVA as they moved at night. We needed to gather information on their weapons, strength, and anything else we could glean from their movements. Milt was trying to find cover so we could recon the area and set up a perimeter. It was almost completely dark now as we moved through the Kun-ai grass under first double, then triple canopy of tree cover.

About three quarters up the mountainside and to our dog site, Milt froze. When his feet stopped, ours stopped, too. He signaled the team and we all dropped down. With every one of my senses surging, I moved ever so carefully to Milt. He very quietly told me he'd heard voices directly in front of us about ten feet away. It was dark now and the area was thick with overgrowth. We couldn't see them—we just listened. Then, these voices were not only in front of us; they were to the right—and to the left. I immediately had the team reverse. This was *not* where we wanted to be. We were way too close to the enemy.

We'd walked right into a group of NVA soldiers. As we were moving carefully back down the hill, I was trying to call in a situation report, but using only whispers I couldn't be sure anyone heard me. However, I was positive Lt. Stein was listening for *any* communication. At this point, I didn't know if my team's location was compromised, and I had no choice but to assume the NVA knew we were on that mountain. There could be no mistakes, no wrong moves, not one fall; even the crack of a stick under our feet could bring NVA troops on top of us.

We kept moving down and to the side of the hill since it was too dark to see below us. I knew there was still a chance we could find a safe location. We just needed a little time to develop a new plan, but the enemy wouldn't let up. We were being pursued—they were hunting for us. We had no other option but to find cover and stop moving. Milt reached a large tree that was encircled by thick brush. We immediately became one with the ground and invisible forming a 360-degree perimeter around the tree so we could make our stand and hold our ground. If we were going to be taken out, we would face the enemy and take some of them with us. Team 4-5 was in position.

Milt had his weapon pointed in the direction of the enemy. We all had each other's back, the sweat dripping down the sides of

our faces and our adrenaline pumping. I could hear my heart beat again, but this time it signified something very different. I was convinced that if this were it, we would fight and protect each other until the last heartbeat. We were brothers. We all felt it and we all knew it.

What we didn't know was the extent of the danger we were in. Because of the darkness, we were not aware that we'd crossed a high-speed trail (one that allowed two or three soldiers to walk abreast and move miles in a short period of time) and were located right beside it. All we knew was we had to be 100 percent alert and we were. We waited without even looking at each other, our eyes focused and straining to see into the pitch-black night. My Starlight Scope was of no use because of the thick vegetation surrounding the team.

About thirty minutes passed and we heard the NVA coming toward us. We could see lights, oil lanterns, and flashlights. We all held our breath and didn't move. We could hear them passing not more than five feet away and we counted at least seventy-five enemy lights in the initial group on the trail. They were so close I could smell them. It was now completely obvious; the entire area was full of NVA. They were not only looking for us on the mountainside, but this was a main thoroughfare.

The night was long. We saw and heard more troops and more lights. The hills were covered with the enemy. The hardcore NVA was also on a mission—to find us and kill us if they could. We knew each of us had a bounty on our heads since we were the hated Long Range Patrol.

The NVA's noise and equipment discipline was excellent, but not as good as ours. We were right there and they didn't know it. This gave me a sense of pride and determination, and it reminded me who I was, where I was from, and not only the things I'd been taught, but the men who taught me. I held onto these facts, but faced another. Daylight was coming and when the sun came up they would find us. In daylight, Team 4-5 had no chance. The NVA were looking for us; every one of them had weapons and there were so many of them. The jungle crawled with them. In my mind, I could see their dark eyes—I still can. It was time to make a decision and I was in charge; before first light we would be moving out. We could take a stand in the night, but I would not allow us to be sitting ducks come morning. Men's lives were in my hands and I would not let them down.

The plan was simple: drop rucks and all unnecessary gear and keep only weapons, ammo, and the radio. We would try to get past and through the enemy. Milt thought he could punch a hole in the jungle and through the NVA. We would follow, giving him our complete trust.

As I began unloading my gear, I hesitated. What about the Starlight Scope? It had been entrusted to me. It was top secret and our officers expected it to return with us, but it was heavy and bulky and our lives were worth more. I could not take it with us; it had to stay. I was sure survival was possible, but I knew our chances were slim. Still, I had survived odds like this before.

This ends part 1 of this story and will be continued next issue.

D/151st/LRP/LRS

Unit Director Bob McIntire

What to do on Easter, 1969, in the Republic of South Vietnam? First, pack up all your bullets, grenades, and weapons and go for a walk in an unfamiliar place where there are people that don't like you. Holidays in a combat zone are of little consequence to a combat soldier. The only holidays that mattered to the politicians were the Vietnamese holidays. Maybe because our political policy makers (I use the term loosely) wanted to suck up to the enemy. Whatever advantage those politicians hoped to achieve I don't think it worked well for the guys that had their boots on the ground. The good times partying never materialized for us.

"No fire" holidays were a one-way street for combatants. For the most part those no fire directives were largely ignored by the men in the field. We didn't trust Charlie not to shoot if he spotted us and it is common knowledge that he who shoots first has a decided advantage. As already stated this particular operation was during the Easter weekend. We were inserted late afternoon or early evening on Saturday the day before Easter Sunday. A late day insertion was a definite LRP *no no*, but who is paying any attention to that, sometimes you just have to adapt. We did a lot of adapting, as I am certain you did too. II Field Force always knew what was best for us dirt eaters. The information we had was that we were going into a high activity area that an earlier team had been kicked out of. I think we were supposed to see if Charlie was still operating in the area and how large a force he had. My name is Donnie Holland and for this operation I am Assistant Team Leader of the heavy (12 man team). Billy Waters is the Team Leader as I remember it. As far as other members, I think Duane Robinson, Richard Edgell and Phil Alexander are also members. Tau is our Kit Carson Scout and we are a First Platoon Team. We have at least one machine gun or more than likely two.

As luck would have it, on short final a VC spotter was observed running into the wood line, so we knew we had been seen, our presence now known to the enemy. It is not good to lose the element of surprise this early in an operation. We went ahead and off loaded our slick and ran for the wood line. From there we moved into a position between two trails. Not the best choice, but it worked out for us this time. Both trails appeared to be recently used. A good perspective for an early return to base camp at Atterbury East. It is getting dark now and we are hearing, way off in the distance, a commotion not yet recognizable. We could tell it was gradually getting closer but still not clear what the racket was. We thought they were beating the jungle vegetation with sticks or maybe machetes. We hunkered down and waited. As time went by the sound seemed to be a large number of unfriendlies, online and beating the ground. We prophesied they were looking for us. As you will remember a



spotter was observed when we were inserted. It seemed to be a large number as the sound extended to our right and left for some distance. As they closed the distance between them, and us it had developed into a full and dark night.

I was taking this opportunity to pray they didn't find us, as we were ill equipped to engage an enemy of this size. You know the old saying "there are no atheists in the fox holes", at this moment I was looking for help from any source I could call on and there were not a lot of options. We had decided we would not engage the ene-

my unless conditions deteriorated to the point we had no choice, in which case we felt it would be suicidal. By now they had advanced to a position between us and our claymores, but low and behold they decided to stop and talk it over. Needless to say I had stopped breathing at that point for fear of being heard. Charlie was within four feet of me, two more steps and he would have tripped over me. I, quite possibly, could hear myself sweat. I could not understand their chatter but for the will of God, Charlie turned and started beating the brush in the direction from which they had come. "Thank you Lord!" Charlie retreated beyond our hearing range and we settled in for the night. For some reason I dreamed that I was in church and not being an overly religious person, the dream seemed a little unusual. My dreaming was interrupted by the sound of voices whispering around me. As I slowly gained full consciousness, complete unconsciousness is frowned on in this kind of situation; I realized my team was preparing to engage an enemy.

Three VC had been spotted walking on one of the trails we were set up on and were obviously unaware of our presence. Perhaps they thought the area had been cleared the night before. They were very close to finding out how wrong they could be. We initiated contact with them as we called in that action to Aloft (our radio relay). Everything went well for our side and a sweep revealed that at least two of the three VC would not be returning home. The Team Leader and myself found two dead VC, but were unable to locate the third VC. We had either missed him during the contact or he had escaped, wounded probably. In either case we were unable to continue our search, because of an order from Major Heckman in the C and C helicopter. We were advised the team needed to immediately grab what we had and head for our LZ to be extracted. We were told, a large element of enemy soldiers were moving rapidly in our direction. Without wasting any time we packed up and headed for our extraction point. Our Scout also advised us there was a large element of the enemy approaching us. We had not needed two such warnings, after the first warning we were in full get out of Dodge mode. As we neared the clearing, we let C and C know we were about to enter the LZ. *Continued on the next page*

Major Heckman made it clear, our taxi was inbound and to make all haste possible. Our ride was on the ground only moments before we got to their location. We piled in as fast as possible slinging our equipment and bodies on the floor of that huey. With us barely on board, our pilots were lifting off. I looked back and saw several VC appear out of the wood line, rifles pointed in the direction of our slick and flashes coming from their barrels. Our door gunners were laying out a stream of bullets on both sides of the huey and we joined them with all we had left. Our slick was gaining momentum, rapidly crossing the opening that was our LZ. We were using all our firepower, blasting away in an effort to deter Charlie as best we could. Gaining enough forward speed, our pilots pulled pitch and with a boisterous whap, whap, whap from our spinning wings above, we lifted gloriously over the trees at the far end of the clearing. Up we went, out of danger and a welcome sigh of relief. At the direction of Major Heckman, our cobra gunships were making runs on the wood line as a further deterrent for Charlie to retreat while we escaped. Our engagement was over, but the VC still had to deal with our cobras and probably a barrage of artillery after the cobras expended their ordnance. We had succeeded in our goal. We had found the VC still in the area and in significant strength. It is impossible for us to know what kind of body count we had caused. Tau guess-timated there to be a hundred Charlies after us. How he came to that number I have no idea, but who am I to contradict him? I do feel the Lord was watching over our side that Sunday afternoon, 1969 in a far off place while our families back home were listening to a preacher talk about God's resurrection, but those of us on that heavy knew exactly where God was that Easter.

I cannot say enough about our good training, smooth coordination, cobra pilots, huey pilots and crew, aloft and our command helicopter crew. The whole operation, no matter how chaotic it may seem to outsiders, was like a well-oiled machine. Did we suffer because of our operations and experiences in combat? Does the proverbial bear defecate in the woods? Night mares, PTSD, alcoholism, suicides, divorce, fights substance abuse, illness, agent orange, loneliness, low self esteem, homelessness, unemployability, fear, paranoia, pain... and the list goes on and on. I must also relate a few of the positive experiences gained from combat like honor, success, confidence, friendship, satisfaction, respect, appreciation, pride and forgiveness. No one knows how combat is going to affect each individual soldier. Luckily some receive help from the VA, ministers, priests, rabbis, relatives and brothers in arms, but far too many don't have those luxuries or are unable to accept the help afforded and available.

The contact that I shared with you here, my friends, brothers, relatives and strangers was one of the more harrowing of the tour I spent with my brothers in Company D 151st infantry, Ranger LRP. The facts may be distorted because the event happened fifty plus years ago and my memory has developed ripples. Know that my only intent is to tell this contact as accurately as I remember it some fifty-three years after the fact and with a seventy seven year old brain. If you were there and have a different perspective of the experience, I apologize. Any glaring mistakes you can blame on McIntire in his second hand writing of my story. I want to lastly thank all of my warrior brothers and my own sibling blood brother for being my brothers and accepting my faults.

Ranger Breakfast: May 14th at the LTC James K. Waters Memorial Monthly RANGER-SF Breakfast in the National Capital Region. Come join us again in the second Saturday of each month (11 JUN 2022 is next) at American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave, Springfield, VA 22150 at 0800 Hours! DON'T FORGET NOTHING! **Trying to find a Ranger/SF Breakfast? Email** rangersfbreakfast@75thrra.org





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROBERT HERNANDEZ

Rangers, Family and Friends;

Dahlonega, Georgia

E Company had a great turn out to honor Thomas Hodge at the Fallen Ranger Memorial in Dahlonega, Georgia. Each year the U.S. Mountain Ranger Association has the honor of placing the names of Fallen Rangers on a road sign at the bridge that crosses the Etowah River on Camp Frank D, Merrill. This year Thomas Wayne Hodge, KIA January 24, 1968, was nominated by Roy Barley and the following turned out to honor Hodge: Dave and Pattie Stone, Roy and Sharon Barley, Judy and C.R. Mathis, Tess, Poncho, John Berg, Ken McConkey, Doug MacCallum. and Dennis Lastine and yours truly. We were joined with members of the Hodge family including his sister Maria and her nephew Ron



teered for the Army and the Long Range Patrol. A young man who shouldered his own weight and was committed to the unit and the men he served with.

Roy drew the attention of everyone in the crowd as he described the mission point by point, when Hodge was KIA. The crowd was silent and glued to Roy's every word, especially those in uniform. As Roy finished his talk we rendered a slow salute. It was a very touching moment and we received several comments on how E Company honored Hodge.

Following the ceremony, I presented Maria with a fifty-year anniversary challenge coin and Tess presented her with his canvas artwork of the cover of "Bonding Of Warriors".



with his wife Beth. The latter two are retired from the U.S. Air Force.

The memorial was scheduled for early evening on April 29th so we drove to the city of Helen, which is about an hour drive from Dahlonega. Helen is a two square mile Alpine Village with German styled restaurants, shops, wineries, bars and beautiful scenery. After a brief tour of the village we returned to Dahlonega to attend the ceremony and the Critter Cookout.

It was a simple ceremony with the representative of each nominee reading a citation for their nominee. Hodge was the fourth to be honored and as Roy Barley prepared to read the citation for Hodge, Marie, Hodge's sister was seated in front of the small stage and E Company Rangers flanked Barley on both sides. Standing at attention with their black berets and tan shirts Barley went off script and did not read the prepared citation. Instead he spoke of Hodge as a young man from Illinois that volun-

Memorial Day May 30, 2022

Once again E Company will "Lead the Way" and display a patriotic wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day in Washington D.C., Brent Gulick will once again take the lead to honor all Vietnam LRRPs and Rangers that served in Vietnam. Thanks Brent, well done!

Branson Missouri

Only a few short weeks for the LRRP Rally and once again E Company expects a great turn out for this event. The Rally is scheduled for June 8-12, 2022. There are three hotels to call for reservations: the Spinning Wheel, (800 215 7746), The Twelve Oaks, (888 336 7340) and the Dutton Inn, (417 332 2772). See-you there!

Bob Hernandez—Unit Director

E50/E75 LRRP/Rangers

LRRPs Led The Way/Rangers Lead The Way

Heroes of America Raffle is a chance to win great prizes while supporting all of America's Heroes.



Prizes:

Boston Marathon Trip

Hotel: Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel

606 Congress Street

Boston, MA 02210

Room with King bed, breakfast included

Car and Airfare

Dates of Stay: April 16 – April 18, 2023 - **\$3000**



Rifle – Daniel Defense M4A1 - \$2200

Rifle Scope – Leupold 5 -25 x 56 – Up to 20 ounces lighter than other scopes on the market in its class, the Leupold Mark 5 5-25x56 M5C3 171774 was built to maximize the performance of the latest long-range rifles and ammo. The Leupold Mark 5 5-25x56 M5C3 features a large 56mm scratch-resistant objective lens. **\$2600**

Pistol FN 509 – 9MM European made semi-automatic – The FN 509 is a polymer frame striker-fired semi-automatic pistol manufactured in Columbia, South Carolina, by FN America, a division of FN Herstal. It is chambered in 9x19mm Parabellum featuring double-action operation and a Picatinny rail located forward of the trigger guard. Tactical, midsize, and compact variants have also been made available. **\$500**

AR Platform Pistol – Palmetto Armory AR Platform Pistol – The Palmetto State Armory AR-V is a 9mm pistol AR. It is a great personal protection firearm thanks to its reliable and easy to operate design. **\$500**

Victorinox Swiss Army Watch – I.N.O.X Impact Neutralizing Object for the X-tremes, demonstrates a level of robustness never before achieved in watchmaking. Designed to withstand unusual stress, it has passed a ruthless battery of 130 strength tests.

Custom Flag – Wooden American Flag, 40"x 28" custom made – **\$250**

Custom Knife – ASHARPE Knives custom made knife – **\$400**

Custom Hawk – ASHARPE custom made tomahawk – **\$270**

We will conduct an online raffle that is drawn on July 4th, 2022, and it features a trip to Boston for the 2023 Boston Marathon, including hotel, air, and car rental. Other major prizes are a Daniel Defense M4 rifle and a high end Leupold rifle scope. Other prizes include a 9MM pistol and other custom edged weapons, patriotic wooden flag, etc.

Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100

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<https://heroesofamerica.charityraffles.org/>



ENTER





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN McGEE

The opinions expressed in this article are mine and mine alone and do not reflect the opinions of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

I was reading about Merrill's Marauders and how famous they had become during and after World War II. So I thought I would give my perception on where the early divisional LRRP /LRP/ Ranger companies that were in Vietnam stand in the Army's history

Please understand I am not trying to take away anything from the soldiers of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional). They are truly legendary in their performance as warriors and beyond reproach. I am just using them as a yardstick for comparison.

The 5307 Composite was a Provisional unit, so were the Divisional LRRP /LRP units.

The 5307th was a long range penetration special operations jungle warfare unit, which fought in the South-East Asian theatre of World War II. I think the same could be said of the Divisional LRRP/LRP units

The 5307th unit became famous for its deep-penetration missions behind enemy lines, often engaging Japanese forces superior in number. Anyone think that just might be another similarity with Vietnam LRRP/LRPs.

The 5307th Composite consisted of 3000 soldiers. Composed of three battalions equivalent to a regimental-size units that were further broken down into six combat teams, two per battalion.

The 5307th was only in existence for 10 months from October of 1943 until August 1944. They were engaged in combat for slightly longer than 5 months from March 1944 through August 1944. They gained their fame and recognition for fighting through some of the harshest jungle terrain in the world, engaged in combat with the Japanese Army on thirty-two separate occasions. Battling Japanese soldiers, hunger, fevers, and disease, they traversed more jungle terrain on their long-range missions than any other U.S. Army formation during World War II.

The Merrill's Marauders enjoyed the rare distinction of having

each soldier awarded the Bronze Star. Additionally, if they were awarded a Combat Infantryman's Badge, they were qualified to wear the Ranger Tab.



So, in comparison the Divisional LRRP/LRP teams existed for roughly 6 years from 1966-1972. The exact number of soldiers is difficult to determine due to the loss of reports and information of the early provisional LRRPs. It is estimated that fewer than 5000 men saw action as LRRPs/LRP/Rangers. There were never more than 1600 in country at one time.

FM 31-18 states the primary mission of Long-Range Reconnaissance Company is to enter specified areas within enemy-held territory to observe and report enemy disposition, installations, and activities. Additionally, their mission included closing and destroying the enemy. Appears once again to be very similar to the mission of the 5307th Composite Unit.

I would contend that the triple canopy jungle terrain in Vietnam was equal to or greater than that of the China-Burma theater. The LRRP/LRP units engaged in combat with the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army slightly more than 32 times. They also endured fevers, hunger and of course had that little extra gift of being exposed to one of the deadliest toxins known to mankind being employed by their own government.

I am positive that not every early LRRP/LRP was awarded the Bronze Star and we all know too well the Ranger Tab situation.

While the units are not exactly alike there are multiple similarities

in where they fought and their respective missions. One unit, Merrill's Marauders, is held extremely high in the Army's pantheon of combat units while the other not so much. I have my own theory on why. I might be way off base, but I believe it is because the United States Army has never gotten over Vietnam and less said about it the better.

Historically they will

focus on the modern Ranger history of Grenada, Panama, Iraq, and Afghanistan. They will never give the Vietnam LRRPs/LRP units the respect they deserve.

Don't forget our upcoming F. Company reunion in Las Vegas this October



F/50th-F75th Unit Reunion (Sunday) 9-14 October, 2022 (Friday)

We have a block under FCO75TH
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G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



Our E/51st-G/75th organization was designed to cease in existence at some point in time. At our Sacramento reunion, there was discussion as to

what to do with our funds when our organization shuts down. As I understand it, legally, we must transfer our funds to a 501 (c) 3 organization. This issue did not go far in discussion as there were quickly 3 additional reunions suggested and planned which quickly turned the tide of the plans from disbanding to continuing the mission; at least into 2024. That is good news. As an organization, our numbers are dwindling, as expected and as is the inevitable of an organization without renewable resources. We are not alone in this battle with the passage of time. The other "letter" Ranger companies from our era are facing extinction as well. The Regimental Rangers of today should last into the unforeseen future and hopefully, continue in time.

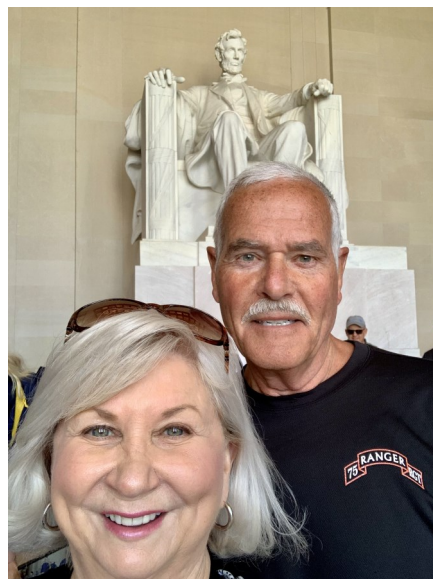
I recently read an article stating the American Legion Posts and VFW Posts are dying out and closing down. Just as they flourished after WWII, they are now closing down as the generations change. I read a book in the 90's called, "Bowling Alone," which charted the rise in social and civic organizations after WWII, and the predicted demise of these same organizations starting in the mid 1960's and continuing. Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, Odd Fellows and similar civic organizations are barely holding on. Kids who used to play little league baseball now fill their time house bound, playing with computer games and rarely see the sun. Wearing their "Star Wars" or "Call to Duty" T-shirts, they have become "Walter Mitty" champions of the world living in a make-believe universe sitting in a chair pushing buttons and destroying alien invaders. Of course, they may be of some use to the Air Force, sitting in air-conditioned rooms, flying drones 12,000 miles away from a war and likely getting hazardous duty pay for their efforts. "Times they are a-changing" and I am just an old guy very happy that I grew up middle class in the 1950's and have lived the life I have. It is a different world now and I will adjust in some ways and in others, I won't.

The fencing around the Capital Building is gone but there are still repairs being done to this magnificent structure done by misguided people or insurrectionist, depending on your point of view. While some may have simply gotten caught up in the moment as is often the case in collective behavior events. As an old, retired cop, my view is that it was an illegal event that deserves punishment.



I have headed up a local Veterans organization for the past nine years. This organization was started around 1990 by a group of WWII and Korean Vets sitting around a breakfast table at a Country Club. They started having breakfast meetings every few months, had speakers and built a local memorial: <https://gcveteransmemorial.org> Meetings were well attended, and services were held at our memorial on Memorial Day and Veterans Day each year. Sadly, this coming Memorial Day ceremony will likely be our last event. COVID killed the breakfast meetings and the ageing of our interested participants have done the rest. Our Secretary/Treasurer is calling it quits in June and we have no one that wants to take over. Another sign of the changing times predicted by "Bowling Alone." The generation of new Veterans is simply not signing on.

Now, on a more positive note, my wife and I just returned from a trip to Washington D.C. I had not seen the WWII Memorial and



I also wanted to return to the Vietnam Memorial and the Korean Memorial, which is my favorite. My first time seeing the Korean War Memorial was at night, during a snowstorm and the impact of the snow-covered soldiers seemingly walking through the night burdened with their combat gear created an amazing site I will always remember.

On this trip the Cherry trees were in bloom and the weather was perfect.

Every Memorial was

crowded with people who respectfully and quietly recognized the costs paid by others to ensure our freedom. Of course, there are changes. People are riding rental Lime bikes and small scooters available on the grounds of the monuments that silently whisk by. It is not really a distraction and certainly allows for more viewing time and not so much walking time. The Memorial grounds are a great place to take children...of all ages and there is more than you can do and see in a weekend. There is a lot of traffic and some of the museums require reservations for entry so plan your trip in advance. Stay outside Washington and take the Metro. Prioritize what you want to see because you will never get it done over a weekend and probably not in a week. Take your grandkids...or great grandkids and show them what freedom looks like.

Short Timer - My Last Mission 17-19 May 1969

By SGM (Ret) Paul W. Reynolds (*Coyote*) – Team Leader-Team
OKLAHOMA, Co. G Ranger 75th INF, RVN

It was late in May 1969; I was close to departing (DEROS-Date End Return Overseas Service) from the Republic of Viet Nam (RVN) and ETS (Estimated Time of Separation) from the Army on 10 June 69. Captain (CPT) McWilliams (Whip) had assigned me a short timer's job as lifeguard on the Boxcar/Ranger beach as per his Short Timers Company Policy. Lifeguard on the beach was mostly a boring detail. Much of the time the beach was empty except for me sitting in the lifeguard chair wearing my bikini trunks, bush hat, and whistle, watching for sharks. The pavilion was nice, decorated with picnic tables and a barbecue grill (half of a 55 gallon drum). Teams on stand down would come over; bring something to BBQ and beer, or maybe just the BEER. The sunburn/tan was getting me ready to return home.

On one of the boring days, nothing going on, George Merkel (*LIGHTNING*, the Company Clerk) approached the lifeguard stand. He said, "CPT Mac wants to see you". I asked, "What does he want"? Lightning responds, "I don't know, but he wants to see you right now"! I followed *LIGHTNING* into the orderly room. 1SG Slaughter (*Old Ranger*) said to knock on the door three times, the usual procedure, and enter CPT Mac's office when he says to come in. I entered his office, in my beach uniform, came to attention and saluted. He returned my salute and said, "At Ease. SSG Reynolds, I need you to take out, one more team. Your replacement is in the Combat Center and will finish on Friday. He is a graduate of the NCO School (an Instant NCO) and was the Honor Graduate of his class. He also graduated from Ranger School". My 5-man team was still intact, my job was to take the new Team Leader (TL) out on the patrol, observe him and his performance. I was already tired of lifeguard duty, and I figured it was only one more mission, so I agreed to take the team out.

I went to the Ranger Tactical Operations Center (TOC) for a briefing. Our area of operation (AO) was very close to the Laos border. Tm Oklahoma would communicate thru a Radio Relay Team on Hill 707 manned by SGT Fritzinger (*Kraut*) and SGT Wolch (*Dutchman/Roach*). The mission was beyond artillery range. 155mm howitzers on high angle couldn't reach the area; Gunships and slicks were on call, if we got in trouble. The new TL was still at the Combat Center and did not go on the overflight. On the overflight, we observed the entire area had been bombed heavily, probably by B52's. This area had not been visited in a very long time, if ever by GI's. The Americal wanted to know what was coming into their area. Large trees were laying everywhere. I asked the pilot, "Can you land Team Oklahoma in that location"? He stated that spot was good for him. I selected an alternate location and returned to Ranger basecamp at Chu Lai to continue mission preparation.

The new TL would arrive the next day, 17 May 1969 after 1200

hours. We were scheduled to arrive at the helipad at 1400 hours and insertion shortly after. The team packed the rucksack, laid out a new set of camouflage fatigues, weapon, webgear, and all necessary Ranger equipment for the new guy. CPT Mac must have been desperate. This was like taking a new guy with almost one year of service, no combat experience, and throwing him into a fire with a 5 gallon can of gas. To my knowledge, the only new guys that traveled with a team before attending our Americal Recondo School were in-country volunteers with combat experience.

Knock, knock, knock on Team Hooch 13 (Team Oklahoma). I said come in and the new TL entered and introduced himself. "I'm SSG Roger Peet (*Gunn/Sod*) and I just signed into the company". I informed him, we are going to the field at 1400 hours, and you are the Team Leader! I briefed him on the mission and told him he would carry my rucksack (approximately 80 lbs.) and I would carry his (approximately 35 lbs.) His maps were identical to mine and ATL Sgt David Smith's (*Doe*). If we get into trouble, you and I switch rucks and I'll take charge and get us out. SSG Peet asked if he could observe me for a day or two and then take over the team. I thought that was a very reasonable request and wound up with my heavy rucksack. In the dry season, I always carried 5 gallons of water (8 lbs./gal).

Murphy's Law: If anything can go wrong, it will, is always in a Ranger's thoughts. On 17 May 1969, we loaded the Huey, took off, and flew west toward Hill 707. We had to stop and drop off rations, radio batteries, and of course mail to Fritzinger and Wolch on Hill 707. They looked like they hadn't taken a bath in a month, their fatigues were nasty, and they hadn't shaved in a while. Two-man radio relay team was tough duty and our life support. Back in the air, the cool air at altitude felt good. I looked at a river below between two mountains. We had just left maximum artillery range and were now in the gunships on call area.

Nearing the LZ in God's Country, the pilot says he can't land, the LZ is too small (**Murphy's Law**). I directed the pilot to fly north on the ridgeline and find a spot. He selected a spot which was over the steep downward slope, east side of the mountain. Three of us were to go out each door; I jumped first, with my 80 lb. ruck. The steep slope sent me rolling down the hill (**Murphy's Law**). The remainder of Team Oklahoma exited the left door. As they went out the left door they had to turn right and move toward the nose of the Huey. The rotor blade was very close to the ground out the left door. Fortunately, no one got decapitated. The Huey departed. When I finally stopped rolling, I saw the last Tm Oklahoma member disappear into the wood line.

In the woodline, we laid dog in a good hide that was well covered. Ten minutes passed when we spotted the first enemy soldier wearing Kakis (**Murphy's Law**). He was uphill 50 meters away looking in our direction but saw nothing. I called in a report to the Radio Relay Team on Hill 707 while observing the soldier. He turned and went back up the hill and disappeared into the woodline near the top of the hill.

Continued on next page

After 20 more minutes, Tm Oklahoma moved westward up the hill, crossing the open hillside. Soon, we were near the top of the hill. The trees had thinned out a little. There were large rocks all around. On the east side of the rocks, we walked past three graves side by side with small ceremonial teacups on top. On the north side of the large rocks, we found a major trail recently used. We set up in the rocks, 10 feet from the trail. Our Claymore Mines were deployed for ambush. Enemy troops, indigenous women and kids moved northeast down the trail in front of us. Eight to twelve were in each group. The trail was so hard the sandals and boots didn't make noise as they passed. All groups moved northeast. On the morning of the third day, I called the Radio Relay Team and informed them that we plan to blow the claymores on the first Enemy Soldiers passing on the trail. The first group was women and children. We let them go. We spotted two indigenous Montagnards moving in a southerly direction on the west side of our position (**Murphy's Law**). They stopped and stared in our direction. After a couple of minutes, they turned and returned to the direction they came from. Called the relay team and reported that we have been spotted and need an extraction ASAP (choppers on call). Our PZ was 20 meters from our position. The chopper would have to hover five feet above the ground because of fallen trees on the PZ.

Time seemed to go into slow motion. The two Montagnards returned. This time they carried AK47's (**Murphy's Law**). They stopped and looked toward our position. One split off and walked south a short distance and disappeared among the fallen trees. I signaled to engage the solo Montagnard. The Montagnard fell where he stood. The second Montagnard opened fire on our position. A member of our team was hit in the head and died instantly. Another team member signaled, two were moving in toward our position on the north side of the trail in front of our ambush position. Radio Relay was notified Team Oklahoma was in contact with 1 KIA. Huey's and Gunships were launched. It took another 30 minutes before the Choppers arrived. Without artillery support, we held off an unknown enemy force for over an hour and a half. The choppers arrived on station and my radio spoke my call sign. I answered the pilot, telling him that the PZ was hot, and one VC was on the LZ to their left front and don't come in until we blow the claymores. I told Frank Cole (Heat), my pointman, to blow the claymores. The two enemy soldiers on the north side of the trail disappeared into the smoke. Unfortunately for them, they had knelt down right in front of our camouflaged claymores. **KABOOOM!**

I gave orders for SSG Peet (Gunn/Sod) and Sp4 Larson (Carpetbagger) to take care of our KIA. ATL SGT David Smith and SP4 Frank Cole (Heat) were assigned to clear the LZ. I covered our position and picked up the equipment and weapon of our KIA brother. I fired a couple magazines before my weapon jammed. I fired another magazine with the KIA brothers' weapon until it jammed. I pulled out my 45-cal pistol and heard the Huey crew and Tm Oklahoma yelling for me to get on board. The right-side door gunner grabbed my pack and pulled me into the Huey. He pulled with so much force; I landed with my head between the pilot seats. I gave them a thumb up signal and the Huey lunged forward. Suddenly, all the lights on the center con-

sole turned red. My first thought was, this Huey is going down (**Murphy's Law**)!!! We were still flying and slowly one by one the lights went out.

The return trip to Chu Lai was silent; I don't remember anyone saying a word. The pilots requested a direct flight to the helipad. The Huey was damaged; four AK rounds went past the left seat pilot's head and thru the plexiglass above him. Three or four rounds hit one of the rotor blades, and three rounds hit the doorframe above Frank Cole's head. The left door gunner and Frank Cole fired on the enemy soldier's position on the PZ. I'm sure the Montagnard didn't survive.

An ambulance was waiting at the helipad. We offloaded men and equipment and got out of the way so the medics could do their job. CPT Mac and MAJ Dom (Americal Division G-2) met us at the helipad. We watched the ambulance drive off with our team member KIA. SGT Smith and Team Oklahoma got in the deuce and a half and returned to the Company area. CPT Mac told me to get in his jeep. I briefed him and MAJ Dom on the mission before arriving at the company area.

17-19 MAY 1969 - MISSION RESULT

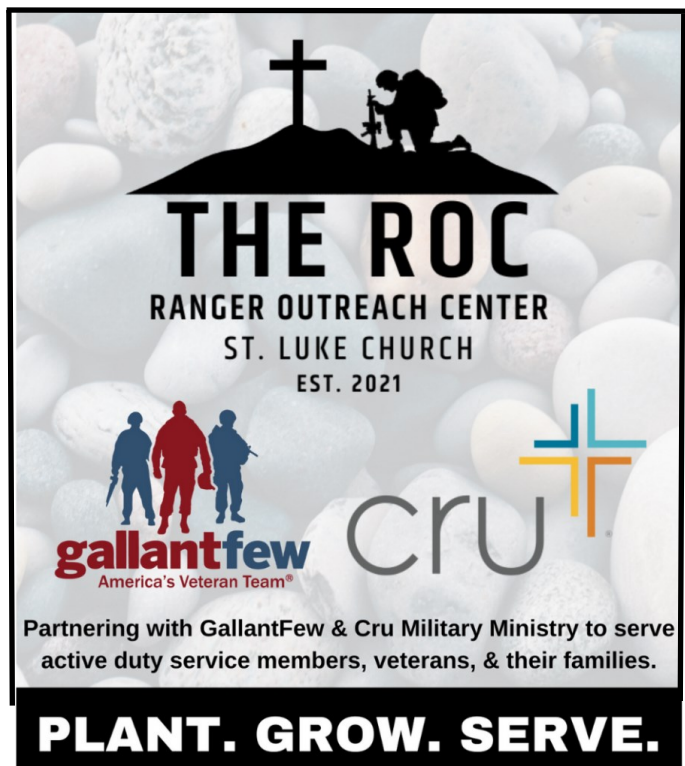
Counted 78 NVA/VC using the trail moving east into Americal Division area of operation.

Length of mission: 43 ½ hours
KIA, 4 enemy soldiers KIA

Casualties: 1 Ranger

Damage: Helicopter 10/12 AK47 hits

Findings: A small village or rest area northwest of the ambush site was established by NVA/VC and groups of 10/12 passed thru using the trail.



Honoring the Service of US Army LRRP, LRP, LRS by Marshall Huckaby

The LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE ASSOCIATION (LRRA) will add a new memorial in recognition of the service of LRP, LRRP, and LRS Veterans service and dedication to our Nation. The memorial will be placed in Branson, MO at the College of the Ozarks Patriots Park and be dedicated on June 11, 2022 during the 2022 LRRP, LRP, and LRS Rally In Branson.



Branson Memorial

The memorial itself is black granite, and has the inscription of "Dedicated to the Men who served this Great Nation in Long Range Patrol (LRP), Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP), and Long Range Surveillance (LRS) Units." Directly below this inscription are the various areas where these units operated in peace and in combat "Germany, Vietnam, Korea, Somalia, Kosovo, Bosnia, Albania, Macedonia, Iraq, Afghanistan".

On the face and at the top of the memorial are four, 5-inch diameter, ceramic discs emblazoned with the LRRA Logo, the RECONDO Patch, the LRS Eye, and the combined LRS Eye and Scroll. Centered in this line of ceramic discs is the LRP, LRRP, and LRS scroll itself. Between the line of ceramic discs and the inscription is "Long Range Reconnaissance Association".



NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM Bench

The LRRA has undertaken the mission of recognizing the service of LRRP, LRP, LRS personnel and units by placing Memorials and Benches at the NATIONAL RANGER MEMORIAL, NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM, and in the City of Branson, MO.

Pavers have been placed at the US Army Mountain Ranger Camp and at the New ARMY HISTORY MUSEUM.



NATIONAL INFANTRY MUSEUM Bench Plate

Funding for these Memorials, Benches, and Pavers is solely from LRRA Member's donations. The LRRA will continue to fund and place benches and memorials to honor the service of LRRP, LRP, LRS men and their units at appropriate locations as funds permit.



For more about the LONG RANGE RECONNAISSANCE ASSOCIATION (LRRA) and its mission to honor the service of LRRP, LRP, LRS men and their units, visit:

[HTTPS://:lrra2015.org](https://lrra2015.org)

Marshall Huckaby
25th ID LRRP, 1966-1967



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—BENNIE GENTRY



Pete Dencker

This issue I'd like to start by honoring Felix Leon. Felix was born on June 6th, 1948, in Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico. As mentioned previously – getting harder to find information from 50-60 years ago. I did find a

post from Felix's best friend growing up which

in conjunction with a great piece written by Scott Hancock seems to sum up who Felix Leon was.

"Felix Leon Jr. was a charismatic young man of noble character and spiritual sensitivity. He was my best friend and one of the few positive male role models that I would encounter in my life. He encouraged me to reach my potential and to pursue my dreams of becoming a doctor. He insisted that I meet a girl called Ileana Diaz (Nana) because he recognized in her a kindred noble spirit and he was convinced that he had found the perfect girl for me. He wrote me that if he were to die in Vietnam that then he would ask God to allow him to be my guardian angel. I owe Felix much and I wish he could have seen the fruit of his encouragement and matchmaking. Nana is today my wife of 35 years, the mother of our three children and my life-long best friend. I became a doctor and a practicing pediatrician for the past 37 years. Thank you, Felix, for being my friend. Your life was exemplary, your death courageous. I will never forget you and I will meet you soon at our heavenly mansion."

It's been a long time since I first thought about my need to write about the exploits and accomplishments of the heroic men (actually many were still teenagers) I had the honor to serve with and lead in Vietnam. I was always amazed at their fearlessness, selflessness, their sacrifices for our Country, for our way of life, the Vietnamese people, and most importantly the love and respect we had for one another. I've thought and continue to think that the drill of putting things down on paper might exorcise the demons that still exist for me and the more I connect with Brother Rangers I see that same need for many who lived the hell on earth that was Vietnam. In the last issue I talked about the strong bond that existed between the Rangers and our aviation support – the 1/9th in particular. In this issue I want to provide an example of the bond that existed – and continues to exist, between the members of E/52nd/H Company (and I'm sure other Ranger units) and felt the best way to do that was to include a note from Ranger/Brother Scott Hancock about Ranger/Brother Felix Leon who never made it back.

"During a period spanning 1967-1968 I was in Viet Nam. I was a soldier with and doing missions for the 1st Air Cav Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol. I got to know a number of fine folks by



working those missions with them. When you are just six men dropped off in hostile territory for weeks at a time with the task surreptitiously traveling around spying out the land, you learn a lot about each other very quickly. Your lives are very much in each other's hands.

One of those fine individuals was Felix Leon, and once, while on a mission, Felix and I sat and quietly talked at great length about the war, how we each came to be sitting together on that Central Highlands hillside. He told me all about his family, and of an older brother, and how he had joined because he wanted his family to be so proud of him, especially his older brother of whom he himself was very proud (his brother had been accepted into the Catholic priesthood I think).

We then spoke of this dangerous place and our separate decisions that resulted in us sitting together there in the hills of a country that was so far from our respective homes - hills where death stalked. Felix turned to me then and told me that our team, code named One Delta, our Long-Range Patrol Team, and each person on it, were as close to him, and were as important to him now, as his own brother and family was to him back home. We were his family here in Nam and that he knew each of us would do whatever was called for, take any action regardless of risk, to protect the rest of the team members, - because we were brothers in battle. He told me he had heard of such a thing before, but had never really understood it, never appreciated what it meant, till he had come to Viet Nam. And then he turned to me and made me swear, that as a brother, should he ever fall, that I should see his family be told three things.

First, I should tell them that he loved them and that he would be looking at them with love from Heaven, and the second thing was that they should not dwell too sorrowfully on his death but see it as a good thing. That his death was not a waste or tragedy for he had come to Vietnam by his own decision, had found brothers here for which he gladly fought and risked all to protect. And the third thing I was to tell them, the third thing was the truth...that I should tell them that he had lived and died with honor, and that they had great reason to be proud of what he had done.

I was to see to it his family was told these three things - but I never have.

And then we also agreed that should one of us fall and the other survive, that one day the survivor would visit the grave of his fallen brother and lay a single rose upon it. That lead to a lot of kidding about what color the rose should be. I first suggested a red rose, but he said maybe not as red roses were a symbol of passion, and although he knew we cared a great deal for each other, it wasn't in 'that' way. *Continued on next page*

He didn't want anyone to get the wrong idea, to which I told him, passion yes, but a passion and a love for doing and fighting for the right things. Then he suggested a yellow rose, as he said he liked the song, and he started singing it, but then he stopped and said no, that was a lot about passion too, but he said that since I had grown up in Texas that a yellow rose might be alright. And then I suggested a white rose, since white roses symbolized purity, and that I thought he was so pure in intentions and spirit that perhaps white might be best. And at that he got a bit embarrassed and said he wasn't that pure in spirit, adding that his family might be able to tell me about some of the escapades he had gotten into back in his hometown of San Juan. We kidded each other a bit further about whether it should be a red rose, a yellow rose, or a white rose, but we never came to choosing one over the other.

I made these promises to Felix back in Vietnam and not long after he was shot and killed by a sniper while running a mission with another team. Shot in the head by a sniper. I wasn't there to protect him or cover his back, and I will always feel guilty about that even though I had no control over who went on which mission with whom. And I've put off visiting the grave for decades, so you'd think I've had plenty of time to plan it out, but every time I've thought of him, I'd get choked up and I'd find a reason to put off again and at the same time making definite future plans to travel to Puerto Rico, telling myself, next month maybe, then it was next spring or next fall. Years passed and decades passed. I've grown older, and other friends are ailing or have passed away, and the promises made so long ago to my friend who now lay in a grave in a far-away cemetery, began looming large in my heart. I knew I could not pass away myself - without at least saying goodbye to him as I promised him I would. And so, we took a cruise recently, and one of the stops on that cruise had us spending a few hours docking in San Juan. I found myself standing at his gravesite, mid-morning of 6 February 2022. A Sunday. That seemed fitting. As I had not known if I would be able to acquire three roses of those particular colors on my way to the Cemetery and so I brought with me three artificial roses I purchased before beginning my travel. Real roses would have been better, but I did not think Felix would mind.

I had a communication that I had thought contained Leon's home address once, which later turned out to be wrong, as I had once planned to travel to his home in Puerto Rico after I left Nam myself. I was going to take the message to his family as promised. I had even commissioned at some expense a very large ornate Bible, in Spanish, with a commemorative flyleaf page in it, honoring Leon. I was going to deliver it in person to his brother. I wanted it to become their family bible so that generations later, Leon would still be remembered. But -- I never did. Life got in the way. There was always something a bit more important to do it seemed than to travel to Puerto Rico just then. I carted that giant Bible around for decades, till one day a Mexican American lady visiting our home saw it, was greatly impressed and enamored of it and asked about it, and in the end, I realized I had lost Leon's address and it seemed increasingly impossible I would ever travel there, so impulsively I gave

that Bible to my visitor instead of seeing it get to where it should have gone. And now I wished I had not given it away, for who knows, I might find members of his family yet. But I was in San Juan for only a few hours.

Thanks to VA's on-line gravesite locator at http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1

I learned that Leon is buried in Site 97, Section E of the Puerto Rico National Cemetery at Bayamon, in Puerto Rico. I would have liked to try to find his family when I was there, but I will only be in Puerto Rico only a few short

hours. One day though I would still like to deliver my message to his family, if I can just find them.

And to you, you who have read this, this far... know this well - that we all, every one of us, lost a true treasure when Leon was killed. Those who were lucky to have met him quickly came to recognize his great kind heart (he drove us crazy asking us to write home asking for our families to send us children's toys which he then collected from us and carried to an orphanage not far from our fire base there in Vietnam), and most all who knew him found themselves somewhat in awe of his shining soul of honor. And all those who knew him, miss him still."

Continued on next page

L to R, Rangers Ramey, Leon, Easter, and Hancock



Scott Hancock ---

Strawberry Fields Forever

Thanks Scott - for capturing the commitment we had for one another back in the day – and for ensuring that the bond that existed then – continues to be meaningful after all the time that has passed.

After the Tet offensive of 1969, US forces were successful in repelling attacks causing the NVA/VC to retreat into Cambodia and Laos – the one exception was in the north in the area of Hue which fell in the AO of the 1st Cav, and the Rangers (at the time E/52nd). Early in March Sgt Rick Tedder was notified that his team was in line for another mission although they had just come in from the field a few days prior. Tedders Team consisted of himself as TL – and Rangers Belfiglio, Kurth, Leon, Olsen and Holcomb.



Felix Leon— RIP

After insertion they moved to a night defensive perimeter in an area where the cover/ concealment was minimal. Late that evening they had movement and significant gunfire, which resulted in the team blowing their claymores and being extracted. The next day they had to repack and were re-inserted in generally the same AO – this time they encountered significant contact resulting in the death of Leon and with Holcomb being seriously wounded. I would like to expand the story of this mission, which I will save for the next issue.

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

RLTW



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

This year's ARM will occur from July 18-21, 2022, and will be hosted at the Marriott in downtown 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.

USARA invites you to attend our events like Soldier Meet and Greet, a showing of the 2022 documentary "They Volunteered for This: Merrill's Marauders," and the President's Banquet on Thursday, July 21. To register and learn more about the week's events, visit www.ranger.org. We look forward to being together once again.



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



Jennings, Louisiana is a small city that could seem like a "Truck Stop" yet it is the parish seat of Jefferson Davis Parish and located near Lake Charles, Louisiana. It has a motto of "Cradle of Louisiana Oil ". Some people look at Louisiana as a "boot" while describing its shape and if you are one of those people you would have to say that Jennings is located in the heel of the boot.

I flew into Lafayette airport, Louisiana and was given a ride to Jennings by one of the most dependable LRRP/Rangers Dave Hill.

As we approached the sign in the middle of the highway saying "Jennings", I stated to Dave Hill that we could possibly go downtown as I needed to get some batteries for my electronic equipment. Dave laughed and replied that we are presently in downtown Jennings. We both laughed. However, he did indicate that there was a Walmart located behind the hotel where we were staying for our "2022 LRRP/Ranger Reunion". The activities of the reunion were mostly taking place about ten miles from the hotel at the "Lodge" that would graciously be shared with our

members during the reunion. The teams- team leaders and wives were mostly gathered in the hotel lobby as I checked into the hotel. Everyone exchanged hugs, handshakes and registered for Reunion 2022.

Thursday Morning and all were to gather in the hotel lobby after a breakfast that came with your room and then the caravan of



LRRP/Rangers was off to the "lodge". The ride was interesting as we passed rice paddies that brought back memories of Vietnam to many of the Rangers. But the most interesting sight was Louisiana's crawfish farming. Our host "Frenchy" stated that there are probably a couple thousand crawfish farms throughout Louisiana.

They called them crawfish ponds and some farmers use their



crawfish ponds for growing rice at different times of the year. And, who would have known we were going to be treated to the largest crawfish I ever ate. No joke - some of the crawfish were the size of lobsters. The "Lodge" was going to be the site of true Louisiana hospitality for the next three days. Dancing, singing, cooking and eating the Best of Cajun Cooking Louisiana style. Yes, the head chef was Frenchy.

Who would have thought when we were breaking the jungle, walking the dikes of rice pad-

dies and struggling through Romplough in Vietnam that we would be sitting in Bayou Country eating a feast for Royalty ? The LRRP/Rangers and loved ones would assist Frenchy when and where he directed.

We experienced Country/ Cajun music; we danced; we shared memories of reunions past; talked about family/mutual friends and conversation about the many different teams and experiences still with us from our War Days in Vietnam.



Libation and food were plentiful from early day and into the night. And the highlight was the opportunity to see and fly on a Louisiana State Helicopter flown by Frenchy's nephew Pilot Dean Levergrene.

Continued on next page



The reunion seemed to be over too soon as one and all had a terrific time !

Status Report -

Ron Crews said he is going to win his battle and all our prayers are with him

Many family photos of LRRP/Ranger grandchildren graduating



The beautiful "chopper" brought tears to some eyes as it navigated onto the grounds of the Lodge. Everyone was excited.

from College are posted on social media.

James Moss - have had telephone conversations through the year - he was unable to make reunion this year

Tom McCan from New York could not make the reunion but sent his best - see you next year.



NEW CHALLENGE COINS

@ 75THRA.ORG



K/75 - E58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

Greetings to my Brothers of the LRRPs and Rangers of the 4th Infantry Division,

It is with sadness that I report the passing of our friend and Brother Ranger Mark Estopare on March 12, 2022. Mark and I began our friendship in the Fall of 1969 in 4th ID replacement depot when we volunteered for K-Co. Rangers. After Recondo school, we were assigned to different platoons so never ran any missions together but always seemed to find each other between missions and continued that friendship for fifty-plus years. If you knew Mark you also know that he always had a smile on his face for everyone. He is sorely missed by those of us who knew him.



Mark Estopare

Charlie Elkins passed away on 7-21-2021 as reported in a previous issue. A memorial service will be held in his hometown of Rolla Mo. on July 7, 2022. 4:30-6:30 at the Rolla Lions Club. If you are in the area and would like to attend the address is: Hwy 635/1601 Bishop Ave. Rolla, Mo. 65401

I will repeat the reunion information here. Everything is still a go. No changes at this time although

most of our block of rooms are reserved but have no fear, the hotel will add more as needed. **The cutoff date for reservations is Aug. 8, 2022 so get it done.**

Date: Sept. 7-10 checkout Sept. 11

Room Rate: 139.00+ taxes. Included is a hot breakfast from the menu in the Burger Bar restaurant. We have a block of 20 rooms but more can be added if needed, double queens or kings. Handicap accessible is also available.

The reservation Number is the hotel direct line (so we don't have to hassle with an 800 number). (1-719-380-8516) Just say you are with K-Company. The address is 1855 Aeroplaza Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80916.

The hotel will comp our hospitality suite, a suite for the Blue Bucket Bar, and the banquet room is also comped. We just pay



the cost of the meal. Those details will be worked out later but the cost should be \$35-\$40. We are in great financial shape so K-Co LRRP/Rangers will pay for the banquet.

There are lots of activities in and around the area. Pikes Peak, Garden of the Gods, Flying W Ranch, Royal Gorge Bridge (if you're not afraid of heights), Air Force Academy, Cripple Creek (an old mining town) where you can gamble if you so choose.

Wayne Mitsch reports that the new website project is almost complete and by the time you read this it should be up and running. Thank you Wayne!

Bill Grimes submitted this photo of his team Romeo-3 from October 1970. Thanks Bill, a great piece of our history.

Below, From left to right is: Marvin Duren (sniper), Mike Apodaca, Steve Gamble, Bill Grimes (Team Leader), Ron Grguric (Asst. Team Leader) and Lee Sanders.



Remember guys, if you have photos or a story you would like to see here get it to me. I will be happy to include it.

That's it for now. Looking forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs. Keep your Brothers in your thoughts and prayers. Call them, text them, e-mail them, or even snail mail them.

Roger



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—CHARLES “CHUCK” REILLY



Once again, I hate to be the harbinger of bad news to start off this article, but Louie Distretti and Ron Moeller, who both served with “L”



Louie Distretti

Company Rangers in 1970 and 1971, have died. After a long battle with pancreatic cancer, Louie finally succumbed to the disease in



Ron Moeller

on many missions in the usual bad places. In the last issue of Patrolling Magazine, I included a story about Louie when he was involved in a harrowing mission to capture NVA weapons. Louie was a long-time resident of Germantown, Tennessee and attended Memphis State in his younger years. After Vietnam, Louie became a fireman and remained on the job for 39 years, ending his career as a battalion chief. I have included several pictures of Louie, one of which includes his wife, Cathy.

Ron Moeller came to “L” Company from “K” Company Rangers of the 4th Infantry Division when that unit left Vietnam in De-



April. He leaves his wife Cathy and three grown children. Louie was a much-welcomed presence at all of our “L” Company reunions and get-togethers. Like nearly all of the Rangers in the company, he spent most of his time out in the field in harm’s

way and participated

“forestalling the inevitable.” I have been informed, more times than I care to remember, that exercise and regular doctor visits help immensely. But this is not an “Advice Column” and all I can say is that I hope all my fellow Rangers and LURPS stay as healthy as they can---and with any regimen that works for them. We have a legacy to uphold and keeping alive for as long as possible is the best way to maintain it. In fact, it’s the only way.

cember of 1970. Ron had suffered from Stage 4 lung cancer and passed away in February of this year. He served more than one tour in Vietnam and after the war, he stayed in the army for 20 years, ending up as a 1st Sergeant. Many of you may remember that Ron was a qualified sniper when he served with “K” Company. He was able to make the smooth transition to “L” Company and participated on many missions in the I Corps province. After his army days ended, he worked for the U. S. Post Office for many years. He is survived by his wife Linda, two grown children, and a grandson. Ron lived in New Albany, Indiana. Both Ron and Louie were longtime members of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. I was able to locate several photos of Ron, one showing him playing the guitar with fellow Ranger Roy Aguero as his audience. It’s sad, but as the years pass by now, we are losing more and more of our former comrades-in-arms to the inevitable ravages of time as we all come to the end of our earthly existence. There’s nothing anyone can do about it except try and stay healthy for as long as one can. Call it



Roy Aguero and Ron Moeller

Continued on next page



Louie Distretti and his wife Cathy

As for our other Ranger brothers who have been under the weather lately, Marvin Duren is having another stent inserted and Dave Quigley may be going back into the hospital for a major operation. I am hoping for the best results for both men. Recently I heard from James Jackson who lives in the Columbus, Georgia area. He was a lieutenant when the company changed over from LRRPs to Rangers and I'm sure he would like to hear from any of his former comrades. If any of you would like to contact him, please give me a call (424) 408-9894 and I will pass along his information.

Mike "Poet" Monfrooe sent me an interesting piece written many years ago from an unknown source. It describes how to treat a Combat Vietnam Veteran when he arrives back in "The World." I have amended it because of its length for this issue:

Dear Family, friends, Civilians and Draft Dodgers:
In the very near future, the undersigned individual will once again be in your midst, dehydrated but happy, to resume his place in "The World." In making your joyous preparations to welcome him back into organized society, you might take certain steps to make allowances for the tropical environment, which has been his home for the past twelve months. In other words, he might be a little Asiatic from the *Vietnamesitis* and *Over-seasitis* and should be handled with extreme care. A little time back in the Land of the Big PX will cure this, however. Therefore, show no surprise if he looks around for his steel pot when offered a chair, insists on carrying his canteen to the dinner table, or wakes up in the middle of the night for guard duty. Take it with a smile when he insists on digging up the garden to fill sandbags for the bunker he is building.
Above all, keep in mind that beneath that tanned and rugged exterior, there is a heart of gold. Treat him with kindness, tolerance and tender loving care, and you will find him to be the happy-go-lucky guy you know and love. As he arrives home, bring hugs, kisses and tears. Bring beaucoup chow and a few questions. How do you explain a year in Vietnam? Last but not least, send no more mail to the APO address. Fill the refrigerator, get the civvies out of the mothballs and fill the car with gas. Because THE KID IS COMING HOME!!

It's been a long time since that exact day when most of us arrived back in the "The World." I remember it well, but I'm not going elaborate on the circumstances. Suffice to say that my parents and soon-to-be ex-girlfriend picked me up at Logan Airport in Boston, Massachusetts. It didn't take long before she and I found out that we got along a lot better when we were 10,000 miles apart. But as Shakespeare wrote many centuries ago, "All's Well That Ends Well." For those of us still alive and kicking, that quote speaks volumes. If any of my fellow LRRPs and Rangers have any news of the day regarding any and all issues, feel free to contact me on my mobile number (424) 408-9894 or my email address which is listed in the Patrolling directory. Hope all is well, my brothers. Have a great summer!

WW II-Omaha Beach Survivor-5th Ranger Battalion-Obituary

Rene' Gerald Kepperling, age 96, a resident of Brownsville, TN, departed this life on Monday, February 14, 2022, at the Jackson-Madison County General Hospital in Jackson, TN. Rene' was born in Tours, France on July 24, 1925, to Frank Hupert Kepperling and Gabrielle Louise Drouard Kepperling, both who preceded him in death. He worked as a Senior Safety Loss Control Engineer for Aetna Insurance Company. He was a true patriot and loved serving his country. He was very proud to be an Army Ranger from World II and was the last living Army Ranger in Tennessee. He loved travelling across the country in his motorhome. He also enjoyed fixing things, fishing, drawing, and loving his dog. Family was important to him, and he found great joy and fulfillment in spending time with his grandchildren. He is survived by his daughter, Pollyanna Lisa Hintz (James) of Brownsville, TN and three grandchildren, Ashley Gabrielle Bopp, Dana Marie Bopp, and Sara Malaine Bopp. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years, Irene Malaine Kepperling and one brother, Frank Kepperling. The family has honored his wishes for cremation and had a memorial service held on May 15th in Wisconsin. A quote by Ranger Kepperling has a familiar ring, "I want people to know that freedom is not free. People died for freedom." He was just 18 years old as he headed into battle on Omaha Beach, Normandy, France. Kepperling served as an Army Ranger in the 5th Ranger Battalion. He worked as an interpreter and sniper.





N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—RUDY TEODOSIO



NEVER SHALL I FAIL MY COMRADES I WILL ALWAYS KEEP MYSELF MENTALLY ALERT, PHYSICALLY STRONG, AND MORALLY STRAIGHT AND I WILL SHOULDERS MORE THAN MY SHARE OF THE TASK WHATEVER IT MAY BE, ONE HUNDRED PERCENT AND THEN SOME.

ON 11 MARCH 2022 RANGER JOE TOMPKIN OF MELROSE MA, SCOUT ON RANGER TEAM ALPHA HAS CROSSED OVER AND WILL BE POSITIONED ON A OVER WATCH LOCATION ON THE HIGH GROUND FOR US TO FOLLOW. MAY GOD BLESS HIS SOUL ON HIS ETERNAL JOURNEY HOME. MAY GOD BE WITH YOU UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN. 25 MAY 1951-11 MARCH 2022

Joe Tompkin photos below



AIRBORNE RANGER

I WAS THAT WHICH OTHERS COULD NOT BE. I WENT WHERE OTHERS FEARED TO GO, AND DID WHAT OTHERS FAILED TO DO.

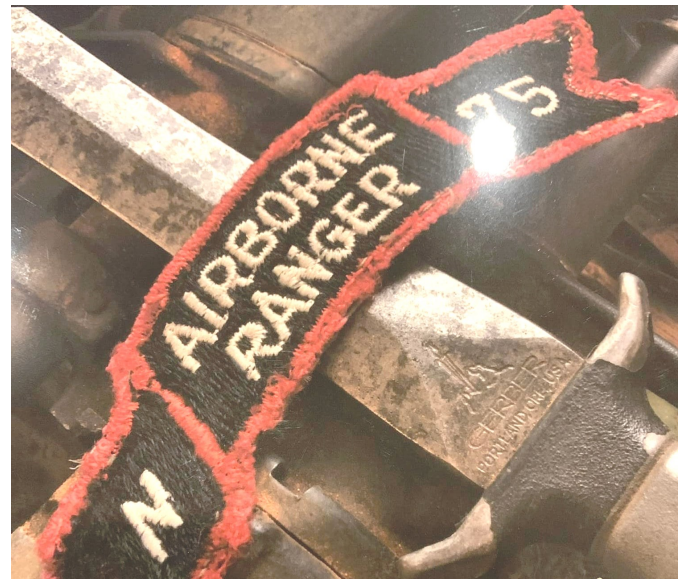
I ASKED NOTHING FROM THOSE WHO GAVE NOTHING, AND READILY ACCEPTED THE THOUGHT OF ETERNAL LONELINESS....SHOULD I FAIL.

I HAVE SEEN THE FACE OF TERROR; FELT THE STINGING COLD OF FEAR; AND ENJOYED THE SWEET TASTE OF A MOMENT'S LOVE.

I HAVE CRIED, PAINED, AND HOPED....BUT MOST OF ALL, I HAVE LIVED TIMES OTHERS WOULD SAY WERE BEST FORGOTTEN.

AT LEAST SOMEDAY I WILL BE ABLE TO SAY THAT I WAS PROUD OF WHAT I WAS.... AN AIRBORNE RANGER

-RICHARD D. GREENWAY-



CASPER AVIATION PLATOON OF THE 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE

27 MARCH – 1 APRIL 2022

LAS VEGAS, NV

WE HAD THE HONOR TO ATTEND THIS REUNION WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE FROM 1965-71.

TO BOND WITH THESE AVIATORS AND CREW MEMBERS ONCE AGAIN THAT FLEW US IN AND OUT OF HARMS WAY.

Continued next page

Casper Reunion



Best Ranger Competition



Best Ranger Competition—Continued



These Old Men—Contiued



These Old Men





P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JERRY YONKO

Greetings to all my Papa Company Brothers, Sisters and Friends, I hope you are doing well.

At this writing we are getting close to our upcoming Papa Company reunion and LRRP rally in Branson MO June 8-12. I have no doubt that we will have a great time and I will report on it with an AAR following the event. I can give you the same now for the 2022 Mountain Ranger 2022 Critter Cookout April 29-30. To sum it up, it was a blast. I arrived on Thursday the 28th and left Saturday afternoon after enjoying the best party I can imagine. I have heard from others that the Mountain School is the best-kept secret in the Army and from the crowd's reactions to the food, refreshments, and friendships, I can believe it.

Being that I am a Vietnam veteran and never attended ranger school, I have a deep appreciation for the process of turning soldiers into Rangers. You hear the stories of their struggle to complete the training cycles and from those who do, it is usually a turning point in their lives and military careers. It's rare that you ever see a top level general who did not complete the school, so the impact of the abilities and esprit de corps of the current standing Ranger Battalions are top flight and not lost by someone who never participated. Watching as these young men, (they all seem so young, could we have ever been the same) work to attain the coveted Ranger tab, it reminds me of the training I received in the 60's while being prepared to go to Vietnam. I knew where I was going but none of us have any idea where these troops will be sent. One thing that I do know is that they will bring the same spirit of determination and mission accomplishment that we carried with us as we pounded the ground in the various Ranger Companies we were honored to be a member of. I have no doubt the Ranger doctrine will be with us for a long time.

Back to the Cookout, Thursday night was a time to relax and enjoy reacquainting ourselves after last year's event in the sun where we camped and cooked on the old landfill behind the



church, and it was hot as it can be in July. This year in April, in the original location by the stream near the overhang it was cool as can be. We had two tents to choose from for sleeping and they put them up on the grass instead of the volleyball court for once. We had to wait while some recycles cut down the poison ivy and blew off the piles of leaves before we could start to set up the cooking area. They finished the job and we moved in and got to work. This year there was myself, Tom Perry and Teddy Tilson from

Papa Company assisting with duties in the cooking area while the wild hogs were prepared and smoked. I have never had wild hog before so it was a treat for me to not only consume the critters, but to learn the cooking process as utilized in Georgia. (The hogs were captured and butchered there at Camp Merrill) It took all day to complete the process but WOW, was it worth it. The usual tables of meat, casseroles and this year, jambalaya were cleaned to the last crumb.



Different from previous years, there was not a fish fry on Friday and the cookout on Saturday; rather the cookout was on Friday for the staff and families from the school. We estimated that 300 dinners were served breaking all previous records. In conclusion, it was a great party, dinner and a chance to catch up on what and where everyone is now, a renewing of friendships and a chance to meet new friends. If you missed it this year, you should really try to make it next year. Terry Roderick insisted that it was the best of all the yearly functions he attended as president of the Ranger Association and I'm a believer.

We are all growing older by the day and it is a part of the process to have ailments and medical issues that we did not expect. I have been blessed health wise and count my lucky stars for it. I was talking about this subject with a couple of the guys at Camp Merrill and it occurred to me that I have had just as many medical situations as others but I have not yet suffered to the point where I was not likely to recover from it.

Continued on the next page

We, in our Papa Company tribe have some folks currently who are not as lucky as I. These past couples of months there have been several of us who are fighting the good fight and I have spoken with those I am aware of and asked if they wished for me to send out an e-mail of notification to the others of their infirmaries which out of respect for confidentiality I would never do without the go ahead of those concerned. I ask from everyone to please keep me in the loop on situations and issues, both medical and personal that concern us all so I can keep the rest of us informed. Terry was really good keeping us up to date with the VA and its changes but I am not as attuned to this subject as was he. If there is something new with the VA that might

affect us in any manner, be it positive or negative; please tell me so I can send it out to all for us to make use of if applicable to our personal situations.

The summer is here to stay so enjoy the sun but protect yourselves. If in your travels you should ever come through Mississippi, please look me up. I would love to host you or at least get together and break bread. When we return from Branson I have but one more road trip planned for the year and that is to the Ranger Rendezvous in July 18-22 and my meeting with the Ranger Regiment association. I hope to see some of you there and I am sure there will be. Until next quarter, In Ranger Brotherhood....Jerry Yonko

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IMPACT REVIEW

With the support of volunteers and donors, here's a look at what we have been able to accomplish since last year.

186

Supported 186 Rangers and their families in areas such as transitioning plans, networking, college assistance, and veterans benefits.

105

Assisted 105 Rangers into careers.

11

Hosted 11 children of fallen Rangers and affiliated Ranger Regiment supporting units for the Gold Star Youth Hunts.

14

Provided guidance to 14 Rangers with legal issues.

2

Onboarded 2 Three Rangers Foundation Ranger for Life Counselors at the battalion level.

15

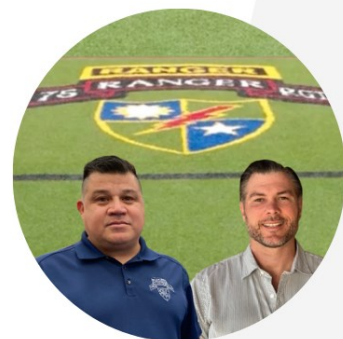
Guided 15 Rangers in the VA Benefits appeals process. Each received the necessary compensation and accommodations.

20

Aided 20 Rangers with the MBA or doctorate enrollment process, and all were admitted into the program of their choice.

334

Presented resources and opportunities to 334 1/75 and 3/75 Rangers at the Ranger for Life Primers.



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75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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