

PATROLLING

December 2022

75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC.

Volume 34 Issue IV



LTG Grange Gathering at the Ranger Memorial– Submitted Photo

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



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1982- The Annual "David E. Grange Jr. Best Ranger Competition" Was Founded



LTG Grange was born on April 9, 1925, in Richmond Hill, New York, New York City, and grew up in Lake Ronkonkoma, New York. He joined the United States Army in June 1943 and served as an enlisted parachute infantryman in Europe, taking part in the Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe Campaigns as a member of the 517th Parachute Infantry Regiment. In 1949, he departed the 82d Airborne Division to attend Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned a second lieutenant of Infantry in 1950, with an initial assignment with the 187th Airborne Infantry Regiment in Korea.

Grange was a graduate of the Strategic Intelligence Course, the Russian language course at the Defense Language Institute, the Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College. He held a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from the University of Omaha and has attended the Advanced Management Course for Executives at the University of Pittsburgh.

Grange served in a variety of assignments, including: two tours in Korea as a Rifle Platoon Leader (1950–51) and Rifle Company Commander (1952–53); Ranger Instructor; Staff Officer, Department of the Army Staff, Pentagon; 10th Special Forces Group, Germany (1957–60); Advisor in the Republic of Vietnam (1st tour) (1963–64); AcofS, G1, 82nd Airborne Division; Commander 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry (Vietnam) (2nd tour) (1967–68); Commander, DISCOM, 101st Airborne Division (Vietnam) (3rd tour) (1970–71); Commander, 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Vietnam) (3rd tour) (1970–71); Director, Ranger Department, United States Army Infantry School; Assistant Division Commander (Support), 4th Infantry Division; Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver), 4th Infantry Division; Chief of Staff, I Corps (ROK/US Group), Korea.

Toward the end of his career, Grange served in a variety of high level command assignments including Commanding General, United States Army Readiness and Mobilization Region VIII (1976–78); Commanding General, 2nd Infantry Division, Korea (1978–79); Commanding General, United States Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia (1979–81); and, finally, Commanding General, Sixth United States Army (1981–84). Grange retired in June 1984, after 41 years of service.

Grange is among the few paratroopers in United States Army history to make three combat jumps—one during World War II (Southern France) and two in Korea (the Battle of Yongju and Operation Tomahawk). His other distinctions include three awards each of the Combat Infantryman Badge (for World War II, Korea and Vietnam) and the Silver Star for heroism in combat.

Editor's Corner

Stephen Odin Johnson

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On the front cover is LTG David E. Grange who was born on April 9, 1925 and recently passed away April 9, 2022. We salute you, Sir, and we hope to meet you again in Valhalla with all the other great warriors in the sky. RIP.

Patrolling, welcomes Kurt Buchta, newly appointed 3rd Battalion Unit UD. Thank you, Rick Merritt, for doing such a great job recruiting another top-notch Ranger.

Stan Jones, unit director for A/75, had a real complimentary statement about the contributors for *Patrolling* found on page 25, "I would like to start off this issue with kudos to all the Units Director's submissions in the last issue. I thought it was one of the best issues yet. I read it cover to cover."

Page 4— Officer reports, starting with President Art Attaway with an announcement of this year's general membership meeting dates at Ft. Lewis. Yes, Ft Lewis.

Page 7— Joe Marquez shares thoughts including..."May we enjoy that peace and happiness, comfort, and joy as we consider all that the Lord has done, and the good will shown towards all who have gone astray from the Good Shepherd."

Page 8— Antelope Island Memorial 30 years later on October 29, 2022.

Page 11— Teri Wise shares a story about Layka, a special dog, indeed.

Page 13, Janet Morgan talks about the difficult topic in the room...Suicide, and the importance of *connecting to others*.

Page 14— Gold Star Mom Jill Stephenson shares information and a photo about a baby boy named in honor of two-fallen Rangers, plus Veteran Day activities.

Page 16— Paul Reynolds article, *Murphy's Law Part 2, is a story* about Hill 1362, an important radio relay location for G 75th. Often *manned* by two Ranger teams for a week at a time, then rotated off the mountain for another mission. Easy pickings for the NVA should they want to mess with "The Men With Painted Faces."



Team Georgia extracted from 1362. Photo/ George "Jaw" Olsen-KIA March 1970

Page 20— Jonnie Clausen has news in her Merrill's Marauder page, including the presentation of Congressional Unit Gold Medals to honor three Marauders.

Page 21— Unit Reports

Thank You, Contributors and Readers, and have a Happy Holiday!

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

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

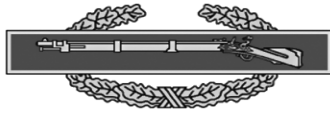
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The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that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

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

POSTMASTER

Send address corrections to:
Patrolling
PO Box 2200
Orangevale, CA 95662



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.

Unit Directors

75TH RANGER SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION

75TH RANGER MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

HQ/75th RANGER HHC

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2ND BN, 75TH RANGER RGT

We Need A New 2nd Battalion
Unit Director
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3RD BN, 75TH RANGER RGT

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O/75-78th LRP

We Need A New O/75-78th LRP
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The following individuals are appointed by the President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association to their respective positions in order to facilitate the day-to-day operation of the Association.

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Dave Walker
In Memory

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ART "DOC" ATTAWAY

Rangers, let me start by saying that I hope you had a blessed Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. I will you all a wonderful Holiday Season and a very Merry Christmas!

2022 has been a whirlwind of activity on many fronts, and our efforts continue to improve the association and make it the very best it can be for our members and potential new members.

Before the end of the year, we will have a new website and membership management program to help improve member communications, recruiting, and overall efficiency of the administration requirements. This will include an expansion of our Social Media platforms to more immediate information sharing.

We also continue to work on the **Congressional Gold Medal** for the VN LRRP Companies. Unfortunately, the recent Congressional election cycle delayed any progress for us as all of the support structure we need was unavailable. Rest assured this is a targeted focus and efforts will continue.

The new **Ranger Hall of Fame** nominees are now being solicited, and we have a plan to better present our packets and communicate with the voting committee about the quality of our candidates. If you have someone you want to nominate, get your information in for review ASAP. Nominees are to be submitted to the 75th RRA RHOF Committee Chair, Rick Barela at: rangerlogspt@hotmail.com.

UD meetings are now being held every quarter, and the next one is this December. If you have ideas or suggestions, please get with your UD in early December.

On 29OCT22 there was a memorial service held at **Antelope Island, Utah**, in recognition of the Rangers, AFSOC, and 160th Aviation soldiers killed in Utah 30 years ago. In all, 12 Special Operations soldiers were killed. There is a monument/memorial on the site and it is undergoing a restoration project. For more information use this link: <https://www.prweb.com/releases/2022/10/prweb18947409.htm>

2023 will be a very busy year with the 50th anniversaries of the 1st and 2nd Battalion, RHOF Inductions, and the planning of a 2nd Batt location for our summer event as there will be no Rendezvous at Ft. Benning in 2023. Instead, the next Rendezvous will be in 2024. The Association may still obtain a block of rooms for its members surrounding the RHOF inductions, and for those units that may want to have their Unit meetings in Columbus.



More information will be forthcoming on all of these plans and events.

The Officer's and I have a number of initiatives we are working on, and I will continue to report on these as they are further developed.

Our membership communication efforts seem to be lacking and we do not feel we are able to reach our

entire membership population effectively. Please make sure the 75th RRA Secretary, Tom Sove, has accurate, current address and contact information on you. Make sure he has a good address, phone number, and email address please. Contact Tom at tsove75@gmail.com.

The following information was given after deadlines for Patrolling-Latest 75th RRA Update

2023 General Membership Meeting Announcement

By Tom Sove/75th RRA Secretary

Dates; June 26 Monday

July 1 Saturday

Hotel: tbd

Place: Joint Base Lewis/McChord

2nd Ranger Battalion

The change of command for the 75th Ranger Regiment will not occur in the summer of 2023 in accordance with the regular cycle. They will extend the current command one additional year to 2024. Consequently, the regiment will not be able to host the normal complement of Ranger Rendezvous activities. The decision was made recently, and released to us. Meanwhile, the cycle of the terms of the officers of the 75th RRA remain unchanged and our bylaws require a General Membership meeting to be convened for elections. This means we will have a normal bi-annual reunion to accommodate that requirement in 2023. The officers considered alternative choices to hold the reunion and the first place contacted was the 2nd Ranger Battalion at Ft. Lewis, Washington. They enthusiastically agreed to host us. We will be making preparations for the reunion in an accelerated manner and will get the word out to our membership of hotel, events, and schedules as soon as practical. We look forward to seeing everyone again and to get reacquainted with the 2nd Battalion in 2023.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

BY TOM SOVE

Our scholarship program has been totally revamped. We used to engage with the National Ranger Foundation (NRF) where we would donate annually to them, and they would include our funds in their overall scholarship pot. The NRF oversees their own scholarship program; however, their primary function has been the continuing maintenance of the Ranger Monument at Ft. Benning. Depending on the amount of money available, they were not able to offer scholarships every year.

Starting this past Spring we are now partnering with the Ranger Scholarship Fund (RSF). This is a Ranger-driven non-profit corporation that exists solely to administer scholarships. They have a board of eleven, consisting primarily of Ranger veterans of the Regiment, who make the scholarship decisions, allowing for successorship if someone goes away (dies), as well as continuity of decision making. They do not commingle funds; all goes towards scholarships.

Eligibility is exclusively for the immediate family and progeny of current and past Rangers who served in the Regiment, or a unit of its heraldry. Note the Ranger himself is not eligible, nor are solely tabbed Rangers. The qualifying Ranger must have served in the Regiment.

Their awards are merit based, using GPA, essay, levels of community participation and volunteer work. A variety of educational institutions are eligible, ranging from technical schools to undergraduate, postgraduate, etc. They average giving 90 awards a year, every year, ranging generally around \$1,000 each.

The 75th RRA designates three scholarships a year, and we provide funds in the amount of \$1,500 each. The RSF awards scholarships in the name of deceased Regimental Rangers; however, our scholarships will all be in the name of a KIA LRRP/Ranger from the Vietnam War.

The RSF administers all aspects of the scholarships, from providing forms to the selection of the recipients. Their web site is all-inclusive, with applications and criteria. In May of each year the RSF will select five applicants to be sent to the 75th RRA. They will be anonymous. We will select the three that will receive our designated scholarships (the two not selected will still receive scholarships, just not ours). All scholarship recipients will be

announced in June by the RSF and they will receive their scholarships in July at Ft. Benning with a photo op if they are able to attend. The funds will be sent to their schools before the start of the Fall term.

We are proud to share the names of our scholarship recipients for 2022.

Ethan Ong, Sophomore (graduates 2025), University of Michigan, Industrial & Operations Engineering Major. Enrolled in Navy ROTC with plans to be commissioned in the Navy upon graduation. In the

name of SPC Clifford W. Leathers, JR, N/75, KIA 6-21-67.

Madison Perez, Sophomore (graduates 2025), Duke University, Evolutionary Anthropology/Pre-med major. Plans on medical school and service as a doctor in the Army. In the name of PFC Bradley K. Watts, G/75, KIA 9-15-68.

Johnathan Veeneman, Sophomore (graduates 2025), The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Biology/Pre-med major. Plans to work as a doctor specializing in orthopedic surgery. In the name of SPC Johnnie R. Sly, L/75, KIA 4-24-71.

The accompanying photo is from the scholarship ceremony in July, 2022 and includes the RSF board and many of the Scholars who were able to attend.

Tom Sove
Secretary



TREASURER'S REPORT

BY ROGER CRUNK

75th Ranger Regiment Association

Statement of Activity

July - September, 2022

Cash Basis Monday, November 14, 2022 01:08 PM GMT-07:00

1/2

TOTAL

Revenue

4000 Program income - DNP

4002 Membership dues 18,335.00

4010 Coin sales 499.70

4012 Bronze 30.45

Total 4010 Coin sales 530.15

4020 Miscellaneous revenue

4022 Association Sticker 29.75

Total 4020 Miscellaneous revenue 29.75

4052 Assoc. Pin 20.00

Total 4000 Program income - DNP 18,914.90

4100 Member donations - DNP

4102 Family fund contributions 5,430.00

4104 Goldstar contributions 2,135.00

4110 Operations contributions 3,926.00

4115 Legacy Walkway 150.00

4120 Scholarship 3,495.00

Total 4100 Member donations - DNP 15,136.00

4900 Interest income 107.49

Total Revenue \$34,158.39

GROSS PROFIT \$34,158.39

Expenditures

6000 Program expenses - DNP

6019 Regiment promotional 1,000.00

6020 Website maintenance 1,000.00

6021 Constant Contact 135.00

6022 Network Solutions/Domain 72.97

Total 6020 Website maintenance 1,207.97

6025 Intuit Subscription

6026 Go Payment 60.00

6027 Quickbooks Online 165.00

Total 6025 Intuit Subscription 225.00

Benevolent Contributions 1,689.67

EIG powerweb 466.20

Ranger Scholarship Fund 4,500.00

Total 6000 Program expenses - DNP 9,088.84

6100 Patrolling expense - DNP

6104 Patrolling postage 1,344.22

Total 6100 Patrolling expense - DNP 1,344.22

75th Ranger Regiment Association

Statement of Activity

July - September, 2022

Cash Basis Monday, November 14, 2022 01:08 PM GMT-07:00

2/2

TOTAL

6500 Operations - DNP

6502 Bank and merchant fees 208.96

6510 Insurance - D&O liability 1,263.00

6514 Office supplies 318.61

6516 Postage and mailing service 1,265.31

6540 Postage-Secretary 115.76

6552 Treasurer Postage 30.07

Total 6500 Operations - DNP 3,201.71

Total Expenditures \$13,634.77

NET OPERATING REVENUE **\$20,523.62**

NET REVENUE **\$20,523.62**

Statement of Financial Position

As of September 30, 2022

Accrual Basis Monday, November 14, 2022 01:12 PM GMT-07:00

1/1

TOTAL

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

1000 Affinity / Operations 31,865.87

Paypal legacy Transfer 50.00

Total 1000 Affinity / Operations 31,915.87

1002 Affinity / Family fund 14,458.59

1030 Affinity / Savings 70,277.17

1040 Benevolent funds MM 52,871.62

1041 Legacy funds MM 8,807.38

1042 Life funds MM 24,715.34

1050 Paypal funds 1,793.49

Total Bank Accounts \$204,839.46

Accounts Receivable

1100 Accounts receivable 0.00

Total Accounts Receivable \$0.00

Total Current Assets \$204,839.46

TOTAL ASSETS \$204,839.46

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Total Liabilities

Equity

3000 Net Assets - Unrestricted 197,535.61

Net Revenue 7,303.85

Total Equity \$204,839.46

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$204,839.46



Greeting Rangers.

God rest you merry, Gentlemen, So goes the first line of a Christmas Carol I learned as a small child.

The Carol continues, "...Let nothing you dismay. Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day. To save poor souls from Satan's power, when we were gone astray, Oh, tidings of comfort and joy, comfort, and joy, oh tidings of comfort and joy." Circa 1833

Now the English language has changed over the centuries. But the sense is this, "The historic meaning of the phrase *God rest you merry* is 'may God grant you peace and happiness'; the Oxford English Dictionary records uses of this phrase from 1534 onwards." Wikipedia

But why should we experience peace and happiness in such a strife-torn world as this? Because we are to remember that Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day. Probably not on December 25th, but He came onto the world and that day marked, whether BC Before Christ, and AD, Anno Domini, the year of our Lord, or BCE Before Current Era, or CE, Current Era. It still points to the profound difference that the coming of Jesus Christ had on humanity.

So those shepherds who were feeding their flocks that wondrous night were visited by Angels, who announced those tidings of comfort and joy to those vigilant for the animals under their care. Those of us who have stood guard duty before night vision goggles know the feeling of listening for things beyond our ability to see. Yet to those simple men was given the privilege to see and to hear such a great message from on high. It is recorded for us in Luke's Gospel, Chapter two verses 8 to 14, And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to-ward men.

So, the Savior of men was cradled in a manger. The Creator found no place in the inn, but among the animals he had de-

signed, and whom he had made for the service of man. Good tidings, good news indeed. The Son of the highest coming as a tiny child, to later save us from Satan's power, that bewitching ability to make evil desirable and good to be abhorrent to us, and so lead us astray.

Another portion of a hymn states, "...and lower still to death to go, that I might never judgment know. It wasn't enough to enter the strong man's domain, to save us he must submit himself to him who had the power to inflict death on mortal men. To be bound to a tree, made a cruel instrument of torture and execution by men moved by Satanic rage and hate. There to die for all of us who had been led astray, and by dying to pay the price for our true liberty. Not just a measure of freedom for a time here on earth, but freedom from the fear and power of death, God's sword wielded by hate incarnate, the old dragon, He who also took the form of flesh, that of a serpent, in order to seduce our first mother, and cause our first father to disobey his Father, and so usurp his God given right to rule on earth.



While Adam fell, the last Adam, Jesus Christ, withstood all the wiles of the devil. Being faithful to his Father, even to the death. He died a martyr but being at once the Son of man and the prince of life, he beguiled the beguiler into thinking he could destroy once and forever the Christ made flesh. His head was crushed beneath the feet nailed to that cross. And the blood that was shed by the Romans, incited by the Jews, became the ransom for whosoever will believe those tidings of great joy.

What gifts were bought at the cost of grief and sorrow of one? The Man of Sorrows, slain by men, but raised from the dead by God, the final Judge.

May we enjoy that peace and happiness, comfort, and joy as we consider all that the Lord has done, and the good will shown towards all who have gone astray from the Good Shepherd.

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.

Editor's Note- Several weeks ago, I got a phone call from Tom Sove, secretary of the 75th RRA, and he asked me if I could put a story together about the Antelope Island Rededication Ceremony held on October 29 this year. Tom had attended as a 75th RRA representative. I then contacted CSM (RET) Mike Hall and Colonel (RET) Steven Berry for scripts and scripture, respectively, and got those overnight!

Mike Hall was the emcee, Steven Berry read the invocation and benediction, while Major Bradley Kattelman, the 75th Ranger Regiment Chaplain, read the names of the fallen.

I really don't normally attempt to do a story "second-hand", not being at an event and reporting on it, but soon realized no one else had. I saved 3 pages and could have used 8, so here goes, many parts missing; the rest is in "segments":

If the reader wants to get the "full brevity" of the dedication ceremony, a link is provided by ABC Channel 4 news (as a courtesy) filming the entire event. Likewise, pictures can be accessed with another link below.

Below is a link for all the photographs of the rededication

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ups5qdqwr7jkqk/AAB4O87kzaJJxS-kM6RY0ghpa?dl=0>

Link for the ceremony "Courtesy of ABC4 News" https://drive.google.com/file/d/1eH_PXOjezPkYa0UpHFI9ooUoe_Oxw4HG/view?usp=share_link

30 years ago, over the rainy skies of Utah on October 29, 1992, a tragedy occurred, resulting in twelve servicemen losing their lives, their aircraft crashing into the Great Salt Lake. 300 feet from the impact, a memorial was built, but time and weather had eroded the monument and the pictures of the fallen. This last October 29, 30 years after the tragedy, a rededication and remembrance ceremony was held 30 years to the day after the fateful October 1992 loss of life, attended by family members, friends, military personnel, and patriots from different parts of our great country, close and far.

The 30-year Remembrance and Rededication Ceremony started with a welcoming, national anthem, opening prayer, recognizing



Family and Friends of Fallen

family members present, description of the operation with USAF MG Brad Webb as guest speaker, unveiling of new pictures, reading names of the fallen, 21-gun-salute, taps with a bugler, bagpipe, benediction, and a social. AND more!

CSM (RET) Mike Hall-

"Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Operation Embryo Stage, Antelope Island, 30 year Remembrance and re-dedication Ceremony.

Honoring the **extraordinary** Special Operations Rangers, and Airmen, that gave their lives in courageous service to our nation.

I'm Mike Hall, I was the acting Senior Enlisted Leader for the 1st Ranger Bn during the operation. Please forgive any mispronunciations, stumbles and anyone we failed to recognize..

On Thursday, 29 October 1992, four MH-60 helicopters, two USAF MH60 Pave hawk helicopters assigned to the 55th Special Operations Squadron from Eglin AFB Florida and two Army MH60 Blackhawk helicopters assigned to 1st Battalion, 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment, Ft Campbell, Kentucky. departed from Hill AFB, Utah as part of a large special operation joint training exercise, enroute to Michael Army Airfield, Dugway, Utah.

The mission was to provide a tactical insertion of operators from 1st Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Georgia and the 24th Special Tactics Squadron, Pope AFB, Fayetteville, North Carolina into the target area to control a follow-on parachute insertion of forces from the 1st Ranger Battalion and 24th Special Tactics Squadron.

The mishap aircraft, USAF Pave Hawk, callsign Merit 84 was the number 4 aircraft in the formation with 4 crew members and 9 operators on board. Flying under rainy conditions the formation was enroute to Dugway for the insertion.

Seven minutes after departing from Hill AFB, Merit 84 impacted the Great Salt Lake, just 300 meters North from where we are standing today. Three crew members and all nine of the operators were killed instantly. The only survivor was USAF Pilot Major Stephan Laushine from Eglin AFB. *Continued on the next page*

He was rescued by three US Army Rangers who were aboard one of the other helicopters in the formation. After the accident, they were dropped off on Antelope Island where they started coordinating the initial rescue efforts. Chief Warrant Officer William "Doc" Donovan, Sergeant First Class **Arthur** McCann III and Sergeant First Class Kenneth Turner. These men pulled a small



CSM (RET) Mike Hall

rescue raft off their helicopter and paddled over a kilometer in choppy waters, through a rain and sleet storm with flames burning on the water all around them. Fighting exhaustion, hypothermia, and the very real risk of drowning in the freezing water, they continued efforts to rescue survivors, for which they were awarded the Soldier's Medal for Heroism. In total there were over 100 people who participated in rescue and recovery efforts from 11 military and civilian organizations.

The last body of the 12 service members killed was recovered 14 hours after the crash. Their willingness to risk their own lives in order to bring everyone home to their families deserve the highest recognition for their bravery and heroism. CSM, Retired Arthur McCann is here today. CSM, would you please stand to be recognized. I think we have a few others here that participated in that effort, would you stand or wave.

This Memorial was created to serve as a fitting location for honoring and recognizing the sacrifices of these men. The driving force, being the late, Frank Mishak, father of Fallen Army Ranger Blain Mishak. The elements took **its** toll on the memorial over the last 30 years and through the lead efforts of the Combat Controller Foundation, a total restoration will be unveiled

today. We'd like to thank and recognize Susan Hogan Orifici from Precious Stones Monument's Restoration, for the great work you are about to see. The restoration included stripping of all fallen personal plates on ground, reinking with all the seals and protectants. All logos and monuments stripped and re-inked and enhanced with seal and protectant. All of the fallen personnel 5x7 colored picture plates have been reset in the stone. Additionally, flush-mounted receptacles have been emplaced into the ground along the walkway in order to accommodate memorial flowers and flags. When I got out here yesterday. I was amazed, it looked absolutely brand new!!! We extend a **very special ...and heart-felt welcome** to the families of the fallen, and the veterans and friends here today. The ceremony is being video recorded and will be available on line and thru the Combat Controller Foundation (page 8)."



Colonel (RET) Steven Berry

Opening thoughts and Invocation-Chaplain Colonel (RET) Steven Berry-

"It is nothing less than the solemn observance of the 30th anniversary of the OPERATION EMBYO STAGE tragedy that has caused us to make the journey to Antelope Island on this October day. By doing do, we are agreed to turn aside from festivity in favor of fellowship of a much more sober sort.

To focus our thoughts today, I would like to borrow from the words of a Ranger chaplain -- a much younger version of the man that I am today -- who sought to express the inexpressible in a tribute worthy of the fallen.

"What manner of men were these? I will tell you what these men were not.

Continued on the next page

They were not supermen; not members of some super race. They were not perfect. They wore no halos. They were not bereft of fear. They performed no miracles. And, while they waded through and flew over much of it, they never walked on water.

Who were these men? They were husbands. They were fathers. They were sons. They were Brothers. They were Friends. And, to some, they were the whole world. They were men. They were men of ordinary flesh and bone. But they were men of extraordinary heart, of extraordinary grit, of extraordinary courage, and of extraordinary determination, who had made extraordinary commitments.

These were men who answered a call to arms in the name of freedom, liberty, and justice. They were valorous men who rallied to a call to embrace discipline; a call to 'set the example for others to follow.' These were men who stood shoulder-to-shoulder as modern-day Spartans, gallant before every foe. And, together with their Brothers, they caused the earth to shake."

"Almighty and Ever-living God, who makes the nations to rise and fall and Who is the Lord over life and death, on this sacred spot, we remember with highest esteem, devoted respect, and still-wounded hearts, the men who fell here on a dark and forbidding night thirty years ago.

Lord, today, unchanged by three decades, they remain to us frozen in time: forever young and full of vibrant life. Our memories of them, their noble spirits, their unquestionable dedication, and their quest for honor remain, for us, an enduring well-spring of inspiration. Today, refresh our hearts and renew in us a passionate understanding that these men who died in the service of this American Republic *will not – cannot, must not --* fade away and that time will neither dim nor tarnish the glory of their deeds nor the sting of their loss.

With bitter-sweet tears of thanksgiving, we purpose to re-dedicate this memorial monument to the noblest purposes of freedom and in memory of the brave and tenacious spirits of the men whose sacrifice has caused it to stand. May their legacy, together with this memorial monument of mortar and steel, stand in mute testimony to their gallant souls, who served and who suffered loss to keep us free.

Lead us to embrace fully the legacy of valor, duty, and sacrifice of these quiet heroes, who have caused our flag to fly high and with honor. Compel us and empower us to take up the light of Liberty for which they gave all, so that, on our watch, it may remain undimmed.

This is our fervent hope, and, therefore, it is for this."

Major Brad Kattlemann, Chaplain 75th Ranger Regiment read the names of the fallen.

The fallen heroes from the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment:
Specialist 4th Class. Jeremy Byron Bird,
Sergeant. Blaine A. Mishak

Sergeant First Class. Harvey Lee Moore Jr.

Lt Col. Kenneth W. Stauss,

The fallen hero from the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment:

Col. John Thomas Keneally

The fallen heroes from the 55th Special Operations Squadron:

Sgt. Philip A. Kesler

Staff Sgt. Steven W. Kelley

Lt. Col. Roland E. Peixotto Jr.

The fallen hero from the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron:

Senior Airman Derek C. Hughes

The fallen heroes from the 24th Special Tactics Squadron:

Sgt. Mark G. Lee

Tech. Sgt. Mark Scholl

Capt. Michael Nazionale

Chaplain Berry's: Benediction

"Go into the world to preserve peace. Remember the wisdom that you have learned, and be courageous. Pursue excellence in all things, and cling to that which is good. Resist evil always. Strengthen the fainthearted. Lift up the oppressed. Defend the helpless. Honor God. Fear no man. Above all, love and serve the Lord. Amen."

Mike Hall- Thank you to so many that helped put this all together, represented by:

John Glowacki, Elsa Trojan, David.Guernsey, Brad Lentz, Gina Cubero, of the Combat Controller Foundation..

Steven Berry

Shelley Woodworth and the Air Commando Association

Karl Monger of Gallant Few

1LT Victor Reyes, 24th SOW

Geoff Hitchcock

Jeff Wright and the US Army Ranger Association.

Mike Hall and Caroline White of the threerangersfoundation

Art Attaway of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association

Shelia Dudley of Sua Sponte Foundation

Duke Durkan and the Hard Rock Charlie Foundation

Ranger Buddy Mike McKinney



MPC Layka, the first dog awarded the medal of heroism since WWII, will be honored with a statue, summer of 2023.

The statue will be donated to the 1st Ranger Battalion Sua Sponte Foundation for placement at the future Heritage Center adjacent to the Memorial Garden in Savannah, Georgia. Scott's Wish "Duco Project" will donate the bronze sculpture by acclaimed sculptor, Lena Toritch.

About Layka

MPC Layka saved the lives of U.S. troops in Afghanistan after she was gravely shot and wounded. The first dog to receive the Medal of Heroism since WWII, MPC Layka saved the life of her handler, U.S. Army Ranger Julian McDonald, and those of his teammates during a gunfight with an enemy combatant in Afghanistan.

Layka's team was assaulting an enemy compound in an Afghan village, receiving direct rifle fire from the compound. Helicopters were brought in to help. Layka worked to search for injured or live combatants and explosives. She engaged and subdued the enemy while taking four rounds from an AK-47 to her right shoulder.

Even while wounded, Layka stayed focused making sure her handler and his teammates were safe.

Layka was then transported to a base in Germany where she underwent additional surgery to remove and repair her shoulder and triceps, then to Texas to Lackland Air Force Base for recovery. Medically retired in August of 2012, Layka went to live in Florida with her handler, Trent McDonald, both being Purple Heart recipients.

Layka has been featured on the cover of National Geographic, appeared in an HBO documentary called "War Dog: A Soldier's Best Friend," and most recently credited as inspiration to the movie, "DOG", featuring Channing Tatum.

About the Project

This project is a collaboration, spearheaded by Teri Wise, to give MPC Layka, representing all Ranger Dogs of War, a permanent presence standing guard at 1st Ranger Battalion Heritage Center. "Our war dogs save countless lives and provide our Soldiers a valuable resource of skill set and determination that is second to

none. They give without question; they deserve to be represented in such a capacity as to stand guard over their fellow Rangers at the 1st Ranger Battalion Heritage Center." Teri went on to say that the project was catapulted into action when Layka's handler, Julian, orchestrated the collaboration with Scott's Wish Duco Project, who generously offered to commission and donate the statue to the 1st Ranger Battalion Sua Sponte Founda-

tion for placement. "Without the donation of the statue from this organization, we would not be able to move forward in such an expedient manner. Lena Toritch has graciously rearranged her schedule with other projects to begin sculpting, Sua Sponte Foundation's Shelia Dudley worked to get official approval for placement, and now we are in full swing of making this project come to fruition. There are many moving parts to make this a reality. For everyone who touches the project in whatever capacity, I am grateful. We want Layka to be at the unveiling, we are pressing forward to make this happen as soon as possible.

In addition to collaborating the donation of the statue, Teri is working with the 1st Ranger Battalion Sua Sponte Foundation to raise additional funds to place and unveil the statue.

About the Artist

Lena Toritch is a sculptor with Young Fine Art Studio, Inc. in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Toritch received her Master of Fine Arts degree at the Academy of Fine Arts in St. Petersburg, Russia. Having studied drawing, sculpture, architecture and art history, her training gives her the skills to adopt any style of sculpture into art work complementing custom locations. Since moving to the United

States, Toritch has been working at Young Fine Art Studio as a project sculptor and the company's Vice President.

Lena has deep respect and gratitude for our hero soldiers, both human and K9, who sacrifice their lives for our freedom. She believes that it is her calling to depict their likenesses, so they are never forgotten. MPC Layka is certainly one of those K9 heroes.

The statue will be based on MPC Layka's iconic photo on the cover of The National Geographic magazine.

Continued on the next page



*MPC Layka Photo Courtesy of: Julian McDonald
Photographer: Martin Schoeller*

Shown with a medical brace on her leg and a Medal of Heroism around her neck, the bronze likeness of MPC Layka will honor and represent all our brave K9s and their sacrifice.

Donations and Project Support

Scott's Wish Duco Project:

29-year US Army Special Operations combat veteran Rick Hogg partnered with Scott's Wish to keep combat assault dog Duco's memory alive and ensure no SOF K9 handler has to make a medical decision for their beloved partner based on finances. MPC Layka has been a recipient of the Duco Project and it was only fitting for us to get involved to honor this Ranger dog of war, said Hogg, a Scott's Wish board member. Hogg went on to ask that donations for the commissioned statue be made through their website, ScottsWish.org/mpc-layka-statue-fund. Funds raised over the amount will go to the Duco Project to help with future war dog medical expenses.

1st Ranger Battalion Sua Sponte Foundation

Funds are being collected through Sua Sponte Foundation for placement and ceremony of the statue. To make a tax-deductible donation, go to suaspontefoundation.org. It is a must to indicate "DONATION FOR LAYKA" in the IN HONOR OF capacity. Funds raised over the projected amount will go directly to the 1st Ranger Battalion Sua Sponte Foundation for the Heritage

Center.

Teri Wise can be contacted by email at whitney.teri@gmail.com for more information.

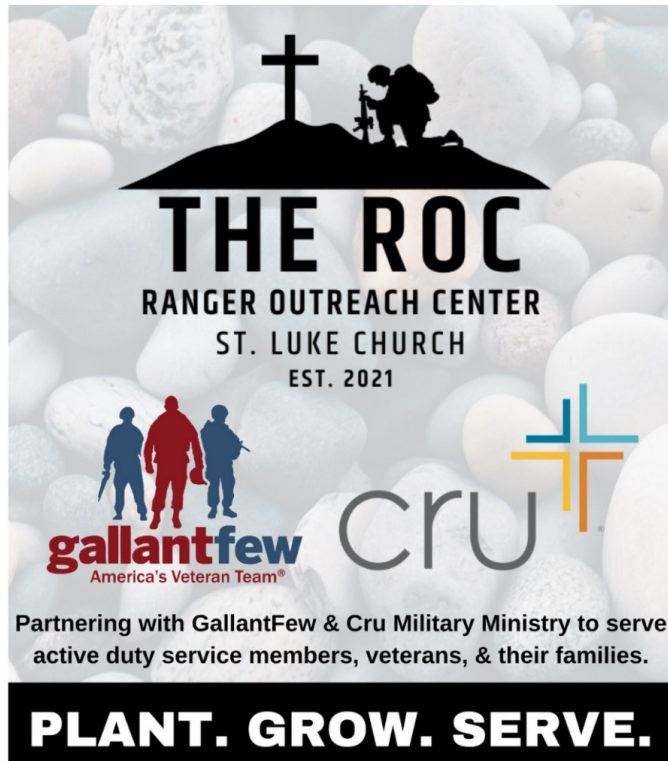
RLTW!

Accompanying Photo: MPC Layka

Photo Courtesy of: Julian McDonald

Photographer: Martin Schoeller

Article: Teri Wise



Ranger Outreach Center—Director- Tony Mayne-
tony@gallantfew.org

The Difficult topic in the room...Suicide...

Demographics give us information but not always the full story. Research shows that the US Military (and some foreign military branches) have a higher-than-normal number of suicides than the general population (CDC: Preventing Suicide Requires a Comprehensive Approach, 2022). Some recent (2021) data posits that more young, active-duty service members have committed suicide in contrast to previous years where older adult veterans were more at risk of dying by suicide (Department of Defense releases the Annual Report on Suicide in the Military: Calendar Year 2021, October 2022). The US Department of Veterans Affairs has made Suicide Identification and Prevention a top priority and have released the National Suicide Annual Prevention Report, September 2022 to generate a wholistic approach to identification and prevention within the Veteran population. As noted, two distinct populations are considered, Active-Duty and Veterans. Demographics of those that commit suicide are conflicting.

As concerned citizens, we hear the stories and can read the reports but what do we do as a community to reach out to those that need our help? How do we recognize that we need help ourselves? Doctors, mental health counselors, nurses, and caretakers in general will tell you that we do well at giving advice but sometimes do not take our own advice!

Key Points to Good mental Health

Strong Relationships (Basic Need of Love & Belonging)
 Good Nutrition (Basic Need of Survival)
 Physical Activity (Basic Need of Survival and Fun)
 Healthy Sleep (Basic Need of Survival)
 Autonomy (Basic Need of Freedom)

Connecting to others may be the single, best thing you can do for your mental health. Are you connecting with family and friends? Do not wait for them to connect with you. It does not work like that in the real world. Take charge of your relationships and reach out to others. No friends or family? Make some!! Join some groups until you find the place that works for you. Connect. Volunteer somewhere and connect with others that have similar interests. Join a church, synagogue, rock club or a community arts council, whatever thrills you or piques your interest.

<https://psyche.co/guides/how-to-make-new-friends-when-youre-busy-with-adulthood>
<https://www.thecut.com/article/how-to-make-friends-as-an-adult.html>

There are studies that have shown that a **twenty second hug** reduces the harmful physical effects of stress, including its impact on your blood pressure and heart rate. That is because prolonged **hugging** releases oxytocin, a powerful hormone in the brain that is only found in mammals.
<https://www.healthline.com/health/hugging-benefits#1>



Dr. Janet Morgan

Not eating well? There is much evidence connecting food and mental attitude.

<https://www.healthline.com/health/best-diets-for-mental-health#1>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2908269/>
<https://www.verywellmind.com/foods-for-a-better-mood-89889>
<https://www.marthastewart.com/1512169/foods-help-beat-anxiety-and-conquer-stress>
<https://www.everydayhealth.com/columns/therese-borchard-sanity-break/nutritional-deficiencies-that-may-cause-depression/>

Exercise? It can be a pleasant walk during your day! Breathing fresh air and being outside can change your physiology for the better!

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4061837/>
<https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/how-to-increase-dopamine>
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/the-compass-pleasure/201104/exercise-pleasure-and-the-brain>
<https://brainmd.com/blog/7-ways-to-boost-dopamine-focus-and-energy/>

Not getting enough Sleep? Are you getting too much sleep? Waking up miserable? Below are some resources that you may find helpful.

<https://www.sleepdiplomat.com/>
<https://www.sleepdiplomat.com/podcast>
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/1471-2458-11-66>
<https://academic.oup.com/sleep/article/36/7/1019/2453860>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4651462/>
<https://psycnet.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2F0882-7974.22.1.18>
<https://www.nature.com/articles/srep21480.pdf?origin=ppub>
https://youtu.be/IRp5AC9W_F8

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

<https://drjanetmorgan.com/>

706-892-8583

Hello Ranger family!

As I write this, we have just turned the calendar past Veterans Day. So, to all of you reading this, I hope you enjoyed a Happy Veterans Day and received the gratitude you earned (and deserve!) for your service to our country. I had the privilege to speak in person at the ConocoPhillips headquarters in Houston the day before and to a video audience at Prime Therapeutics in Eagan, Minnesota in the eleventh hour on the eleventh. I have spoken on Veterans Day for many of the past twelve years which makes me feel a little funny because my story is more in line with one you would hear for Memorial Day. Then I recall that it was my grandfather, a WWII veteran, that first influenced my Ben to join the military. Then I recall how many veterans continued to influence Ben after my grandfather's death. Then I recall how many veterans have, and still are, influencing my life today, which, of course, includes Ben. It adds up to a lot of veterans, which allows me to see how I can authentically speak about the importance of Veterans Day.

This has become one of my favorite quotes as it reminds me of the legacy Ben inherited from his great grandfather. It also reminds me of the many men, mostly Rangers, whom Ben regarded as heroes. It was initially because of my grandfather that Ben grew to admire the men who served our country, which created his respect and admiration for the Infantry. It was his reading of the book *Blackhawk Down* that made him want to become a Ranger. I think I can say with certainty that while my grandfather was fighting off the enemy in North Africa during WWII, he didn't imagine having a great grandson that would follow in his footsteps some sixty years later. To this day, Ben remains the only offspring of my grandfather's six children, twenty-one grandchildren and seven great grandchildren that joined the military.

At the United Network for Organ Sharing headquarters in Richmond, Virginia, there is a memorial garden to honor those who donated their organs to save the lives of people they would never meet. It's a large water feature garden and is sustained by one drop of water. A faucet sits above a sizable bowl and gets filled one drip at a time. The bowl then spills over into a pool which spills out into the rest of the garden. It's a beautiful visual



of what a ripple effect can do. How has your military service rippled into your community? Whose lives have you influenced or touched because you served? Don't let death be when people find out what your convictions are. Live them out loud with the time you have left - so that they outlive you and create a positive ripple on all those whose lives you have touched.

In Tim O'Brien's book, *The Things They Carried*, he talks about the weight of the things carried by the men who served in Vietnam. It wasn't just literal, but also figurative. O'Brien shared his own burdens and said: "I carry the memories of the ghosts of a place called Vietnam - the people of that country and my fellow soldiers. More importantly, I carry the weight of responsibility."

In Sebastian Junger's book titled, *Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging* he asks,

"What would you risk dying for—and for whom?" This is perhaps the most profound question a person can ask themselves. The vast majority of people in modern society are able to pass their whole lives without ever having to answer that question, which is both an enormous blessing and a significant loss. He goes on to say, "If you want to make a society work, then you don't keep underscoring the places where you're different, you underscore your shared humanity."

More so than any vocation I can think of at any given moment, veterans excel at this. I believe it is safe to say that on the battlefield no one is asking the person next to them what their religious or political views are.

I was recently contacted by a woman whose husband served in the 2/75 a few years ago. Here is a paraphrase of what she wrote to me in a message through social media.

"I just wanted to let you know that our son, Benjamin Kristoffer, was born on 1/7/22. He was named after your son, Benjamin Kopp, and Kristoffer Domeij. My husband Jason did not know your Ben, but he holds great respect and esteem for the sacrifice he made. I just figured you might like to know that Ben's legacy is living on through new life! If you ever want to see a picture of our Ben, please let me know."

Continued on the next page



For those of you that don't know, Kristoffer Domeij was a 2/75 Ranger who was killed in action during his FOURTEENTH deployment at the age of twenty-nine in 2011. I am confident that little boy will always know the legacy of the heroes he was named for.



Baby Ben from Megan Tady

Never throughout history has a man who lived a life of ease left a name worth remembering.

-Theodore Roosevelt

Freedom doesn't require permission. As a citizen of our beautiful America, it is already yours. It has come at a high cost, bought and paid for by men like yourselves who asked not or cared not the race, religion or political views of those they've defended, and, who did so out of love of country. You are all heroes in my book. I am a grateful American, not just on Veterans Day, but every day of every year - and will be until my last breath.

On another note, after twelve years of facilitating the Ben Kopp Memorial Ride, I made the decision to pull the plug on this event



BKMR wood plaque with 3rd stance of Ranger Creed

in Minnesota. It became too difficult with my boots not being on the ground there any longer. I may take a year off from doing an event, and I may not. I am in the process of creating my own non-profit and have already received several offers to help me bring the BKMR to Arkansas. Stay tuned!

Wishing you all a blessed holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!

My love to all ~ RLTW!

After briefing CPT Mac and MAJ Dom on 19 May 1969, CPT Mac told me to do the after-action report tomorrow morning at the TOC. I returned to Hooch 13 and cleaned my equipment, then myself. The rest of the day is a blank. I did remember that we had to turn our departed teammate's personal things to the supply sergeant. Tm Oklahoma was used to provide fillers for other teams. SSG Peet (Gunn/Sod) and SP4 Frank Cole (Heat) were assigned to new teams immediately. SGT David Smith (Doe/Smitty) and SP4 Bob Larson (Carpetbagger) waited for assignment to another team. I returned to my lifeguard perch and duties on the beach with lots of time to think about the last mission. Tm Oklahoma had logged **six Murphy's** in 43 ½ hours and LUCKY to survive without more casualties. Several more Murphy's could be logged but won't be discussed at this time.

Memorial services were scheduled for May 23rd. 1SG Slaughter (Old Ranger) asked me to prepare the Memorial display. I polished a pair of boots to a high shine, cleaned Sp4 Joel Forrester's weapon and bayonet thoroughly, and prepared his Beret for display.

On the 22nd of May, the South China Sea was calm, I returned to my short timer duty station on the beach. Someone was approaching from the company area. It was George Merkel (LIGHTNING, the Company Clerk). 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." Seems like I've been down this road before!!! Again, 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, again, came to attention and saluted. He returned my salute and said, "At Ease. SSG Reynolds, I need you to take out, one more team"! The mission is to open Hill 1362 and establish a Radio Relay Site". I replied, "Sir, I'm short and due to ETS in less than 19 days, I'd rather not go". CPT Mac told me to go to the Tactical Operation Center and get a briefing on the mission and after the briefing come back to see him!

I saluted, he returned the salute, and I left his office. As I walked toward Hooch 13, I thought it proper to get in an appropriate uniform, fatigues, boots, and beret. In uniform, I headed for the TOC. 1LT Henry (Ferret) was waiting for me. He began his briefing by stating, 'for two weeks, Marine and Air Force Fighters had been directed to drop all unused ordinance on Hill 1362 before landing at Chu Lai. Tm Oklahoma and Tm Hawaii are going in as a heavy team. One team will be a security team; the other will be the radio relay team. Each of your teams will be assigned three new Americal Recondo School graduates. First team in will rappel in and the second team will insert by rope ladder after the LZ is secure.

"SSG Reynolds, you have choice of team duties, which do you want? My first thought was Murphy was on both shoulders for this mission. I said, I am *short* and I don't want to go on this one." He offered another solution. SSG Reynolds, I'll go out as Team Leader, and you can be my ATL! The rest of this conversation is not repeatable.

I left the TOC heading for CPT Mac's office. Same routine, knock, knock, knock, enter, salute, SSG Reynolds reporting as ordered Sir, CPT Mac salutes, at ease. Part of our conversation isn't repeatable either. The final decision was I would take out Tm Oklahoma one last time. Teammates from Tm Oklahoma, SGT David Smith (Doe/Smitty) were my ATL and SP4 Bob Larson (Carpetbagger) would join me for MY LAST MISSION!!! The three newbies' to be named later. I returned to Hooch 13 and found Smitty and Carpetbagger already there talking to the newbies. Introductions were made and a short welcome to team Oklahoma speech. I gave Smitty some guidance for him and Carpetbagger to get the newbies ready to go.

I went looking for SGT Henry Tabalno (*Pineapple*), Team Leader of Tm Hawaii. I found him in his hooch. We walked outside for privacy. We shared the same concerns. First the area was unknown and could be a hot LZ. Once committed to the rappel, all six would have to go. On the ground three newbies with no combat experience could be a real problem. I told Pineapple I had an idea. If we combine our teams and take the six most experienced Rangers on the rappel ship, we will have a very strong team if we run into trouble. If the LZ is cold, we secure it, and the newbies climb down the rope ladders. We will use the doublewide, steel cable, aluminum strut ladder.

Once we get on the ground, we split up into our original teams. Pineapple agreed, and we altered the plan. Next day, Pineapple and Coyote went on the overflight. While flying over Hill 1362, it became very clear that someone forgot to tell the Marine and Air Force Fighter Pilots to concentrate their bombs right on the very top of Hill 1362 (**Murphy's Law**). Bomb craters were everywhere. We selected a location about 100 meters from the very top of Hill 1362 where two craters were close. We would have to deal with the downed trees and the down slope of the hill. We returned to the Ranger Hooches on the beach, briefed the teams, and continued the preparation for the mission. The Americal RECONDO School Commandant, SSG Doug Odom (Tiger) was tasked to install the rope ladder in the second Huey, control the newbies, the ladder insertion, and return to Chu Lai.

23 May 1969 Memorial Services for SP4 Joel Wayne Forrester (Woodsmen) were held in the Chapel on the beach, one block south of Ranger Headquarters. I prepared the memorial display of Camouflaged Poncho Liner, highly shined Jungle Boots, M-16 with Bayonet, and Ranger Beret. The Chaplain presented the Christian Funeral Services and CPT McWilliams presented the Eulogy. Everyone in Co G Ranger 75th Infantry attended that were in Chu Lai.

DAY 1 - 25 May 1969 Mission Day, the Rappel Team loaded into the "H" model Huey with rappel ropes already rigged. We were told the chase ship was an old "C" Model and couldn't carry the load of the rope ladder team. The Rappel Team would have to go in, the Aviation Team would return to Chu Lai, refuel, rig the rope ladder, and return to insert the newbies. Meanwhile, the rappel team must secure the LZ until the Chopper's return (**Murphy's Law**)!!! I estimated at least an hour delay before the Aviation Team could return. *Continued on the next page*

I'm not sure what my rappel teamie's were thinking, but I think an *aw sh*— was in there somewhere. Flying toward the hill, Hill 1362 stood tall and appeared threatening. We flew over the ridge and pointed at our selected LZ. The Huey came to a hover; we threw out the weighted sandbags tied to the six rappel ropes. The ropes came out of the sandbags holding the coiled ropes. Tm Oklahoma was to rappel out the right door and Tm Hawaii the left door. We attached our D-rings to the rappel ropes. Tabalno and I moved out on the skids. When I moved out on the skid, I noticed more rope came out of the coiled rope bag. Fritzinger and Gentry yelled, Tabalno fell. I pulled the slack out of the bag, another foot of rope came out, and both Team Hawaii veterans rappelled to help their Team Leader. I rappelled followed by my experienced teammates. The chopper continued to hover. Tabalno was seriously injured, possible broken back and paralyzed. He was unable to move. I told team Hawaii to rig two ropes for McGuire Rig extraction. I told Gentry to ride the McGuire Rig with Tabalno and hold him, so he doesn't fall. The chopper lifted off, cleared the trees, and disappeared over the top of Hill 1362 (**Murphy's Law**). SGT Smith and Sp4 Larson provided security while all this was going on. Tabalno had lost his grip on the rappel rope and fell 90 feet landing on a jagged tree stump. His rucksack absorbed most of the impact, which probably saved his life. Gentry received a Soldier's Medal for providing medical attention, rigging the McGuire Rigs, and protecting SSG Talbano during the McGuire Rig extraction. Twenty-four years later, at a Ranger Reunion, I learned the helicopter landed in an open field and the crew and Gentry moved Tabalno into the chopper for the remainder of the ride to the evacuation hospital.

Our focus turned to our current situation. We had to secure the LZ with four Rangers. I assigned positions so everyone could see each other. We had four radios, which allowed us to spread out and observe the trail running north and south along the ridge. We were able to see both sides of the mountain east and west. I figured with all the noise we made on top of that hill during the rappel and McGuire Rig extraction, a visit from some NVA/VC was likely. Our TOC was not providing any information as to how long it would be before the ladder infiltration arrived. If everything had happened as scheduled, I had estimated 1-½ hours. "Stand by, we are evaluating the situation," did not reassure this short timer right in the middle of this SNAFU. Over two hours passed, and Headquarters hadn't provided any guidance. Another hour goes by, no visitors. I could hear a chopper approaching from the north. As the bird got closer, I could see something below the helicopter. I finally identified, two soldiers in a McGuire Rig and two chainsaws below them. They were wearing, Jungle Fatigues. They were not Rangers. I went to the bomb crater LZ; the two Jungle Fatigued soldiers were set down in the crater with their chainsaws. I asked the E-7, "Who are you guys"? He responded, "we are Combat Engineers, we are here to clear the LZ. We have to get out of the way, the gunners are going to kick out the dynamite." I asked, "Where are the blasting caps"? He pointed to his shirt pocket. I pointed to the trail above us. We barely got out of the crater when the first 50 lb. box of 300 lbs. of dynamite, two 5-gallon cans of gas, and another 5-gallon can of oil landed in the crater, followed by five more box-

es of dynamite, a 90-foot drop (**Murphy's Law**).

It is Day 1, so far, all of this occurred, and it wasn't noon, yet! The two Engineers carried an M16 and a bandoleer of magazines over their shoulders. A pistol belt with two canteens of water was around their waist. They did not bring food with them. Fortunately, we had Tabalno and Gentry's rucksacks with all the necessary Ranger camping equipment. I got the impression they expected to be off of Hill 1362 before dark.

The Engineers were ready to go to work, but they needed to go 100 meters south on the trail to get to the top of Hill 1362. I assigned SGT Smith to watch the trail approach to the north and the steep approach from the east. SP4 Larson went west down the hill to observe the west and northwest approach. Smith and Larson also guarded the dynamite. I put Fritzinger on point heading south on the trail; I followed him and carried the second can of gas. The Engineers followed in line behind me with chainsaws. One of the engineers carried a 5-gal can of gas; the other carried the can of oil. That was a hard climb uphill on the trail with my heavy rucksack, and that 5-gallon can of gas. I took up a position to observe the south trail approach and the steep easterly approach. The Engineers followed Fritzinger west to where they wanted to start work. Fritzinger went down the hill to watch the southwest and west approach. They fired up both chainsaws and went to work. They worked steadily, and very noisily for three hours. No interested visitors were observed. The senior engineer came to my position to let me know an area was cleared large enough for the aluminum ladder insertion. Sure enough, the area was big enough, and an aluminum ladder insertion, should be no problem. Having four, one-man observation posts 100 meters apart was not a good scenario for a Ranger Team.

I picked up the handset, called the TOC with the news. Finally, the remainder of the Radio Relay/Security Team was on the way. My three Rangers were monitoring, and relieved the New Rangers were on the way. F Troop 8th Cavalry was approaching with our cargo. The Gunships were circling as the H Model Huey moved to a position looking at the tree line in front of them. The pilot hovered over the fallen trees, 25 feet below. SSG Odom (*Tiger*) rolled out from both doors, the steel cable, aluminum strut ladder. The first New Ranger was on his way down; two more had begun the journey. The first New Ranger was on the ground, two on the ladder, (**Murphy's Law**), **KABOOOM**, the engine blows on the Huey. The pilot immediately turned the Huey left; the tail rotor hit a tree and broke off, now the bird was in a continuous left counterclockwise rotation. I spoke in the handset, "Chopper going down, get me a Medivac"! I picked up my weapon and ran after the aircraft. The second New Ranger jumped off the ladder, the third New Ranger was knocked off when he collided with a tree stump next to a bomb crater. The remainder of the New Rangers and Tiger stayed with the aircraft.

The first person I found was 1LT Sebastian, the F Troop 8th Cav Aircraft Commander, followed by a door gunner. He said, "Everyone is out, they are moving up the hill."

Continued on the next page

Get away from it, it's going to blow"! We went back to the top of the hill. I got on the radio and made a report. One broken tooth, several minor cuts, and bruises. 1LT Sebastian had the worst injury, he was recently returned to flight status after knee surgery. This was his first mission, he told me he attempted to autorotate to the valley below, when the tail rotor was knocked off, and autorotation was no longer an option. The ladder caught on a stump and pulled the bird down (**Murphy's Law**). The nose hit a broken tree trunk shoving the dash back into his left knee, reinjuring his left knee. The tree trunk stopped inside the cabin between the two pilots. The chopper didn't explode.

One thing about an aircraft crash in a combat zone, when a crash occurs, every flying aircraft within 100 miles must come to the aid of the downed aircraft. That must be a written rule in all military aviation manuals. In a very short time, I looked up, gunships were circling, lots of slicks, including medevacs, fixed wing FAC, Army Birddogs, LOH, CH-47 Chinooks. I needed an Air Traffic Controller. I heard my callsign over the radio. I did not recognize the callsign. It had to be someone in the flying circus. I answered the call. The caller said, "I'm your Higher, Higher and I want everyone off that hill"!!! I thought for a few seconds and realized that was the Assistant Americal Division Commander. I looked up and saw a Huey flying 10,000 feet above us, staying out of everybody's way. I answered the call; "It will be impossible to get everyone off of the hill tonight. The sun is going down behind the mountain and it will be dark in an hour. I will get all Aviation personnel out and any injured. I have an aircraft down and I need to retrieve the machineguns and ammunition from the wreckage. I also must move 300 lbs. of dynamite to consolidate our location. We will be lucky to get this completed by 2200 hours". He didn't call back.

The Aviation Commander decided to use a CH-47 Chinook to extract the aviators and other personnel. A Chinook has so much power; it can hover a very long time. The big bird came in hovered and lowered the winch cable. The Rangers tied Swiss Seats on the evacuees. The first evacuee went up solo. The winch was slower than slow. We sent two at a time after that. SSG Odom and a New Ranger returned to Chu Lai. Six total went back.

It's now dark, and we still had to consolidate the equipment. I divided our force into two groups. One group had to move the dynamite and extra rucksacks to the top of the hill. The second group moved the machine guns and ammunition to the top of the hill. The two M60 Machineguns were set up and ready for use on the north and south trails. I manned the radio. We finished up after 2200 hrs. Nine Rangers and two Combat Engineers spent the night on Hill 1362. We pulled radio watch and two security guards rotating every hour. I let the Engineers sleep; they worked hard all day cutting the new LZ. We expected somebody to check us out.

DAY 2 – 26 May 1969 The night was quiet and uneventful. I woke everyone before sunrise to prepare for an attack. The morning was quiet and uneventful. A resupply chopper, a C-Model Huey delivered gas for the chainsaws, food, water, lots of sandbags, and some entrenching tools. The original Rangers occupied their OP/security positions, the engineers started cutting

up trees on the new LZ, and the New Rangers used the logs to improve their fighting positions and began filling sandbags.

TOC called and said F Troop 8th Cav wants the Identification Plate from the downed helicopter. They will build a new Huey around the Identification plate with new parts and Charlie Mike (Continue the Mission). I grabbed my web gear and M-16 with Starlight Scope and cautiously walked down to the wreckage. The Huey didn't want to give up the identification plate. It took some work with my survival knife, and eventually it came loose. I put it in my pocket and returned to the LZ. As I entered the area, the beginning of a level sandbag helipad was taking shape. The Engineers were cutting a helicopter exit path thru the trees on the east side of the trail.

So far, no enemy activity had been observed. Prominent trails ran through the area. Our priority was to establish a Radio Relay Site on Hill 1362. The LZ was an afterthought. Communicating with LZ Baldy to the north and Duc Pho to the south should be workable. Around 2100 hours, I heard soldiers talking on our frequency, mostly *bullsh__* talk. I asked them, "What are you doing on my frequency"? We talked for a short time, and I informed them my team is on top of a hill in South Viet Nam. I asked them, for their unit and location. They responded, "We are a Reconnaissance Company on bivouac at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii." That verified the communication issue. Viet Nam to Hawaii is 6,273 miles. That's very good for a PRC-25 with a long-range antenna.

Commo checks, every hour on the hour, negative sitreps all night. Engineers slept well; I'm thinking of making them "Honorary Rangers." By the end of their tour on Hill 1362, they may need a R & R. Another quiet night with no activity.

DAY 3 – 27 May 1969 The Combat Engineers were back to work trying to improve the Radio Relay site defensive positions. So far, their unit hadn't contacted us about getting them out. Completing the helipad will be priority today. Needs more sandbags.

The C Model hovered long enough to drop resupplies. No activity from the enemy during the day. I walked around the new LZ/Ranger camp, inspecting our handiwork. I looked up at the trees in the area where the tail rotor hit. The rotor blade had split the tree and the entire bright red blade was wedged tightly in its grasp.

1SG Slaughter sent a message for me to come back on the next resupply ship, my DEROS (Date End Return Over Seas) orders were in the orderly room, and I had to start out-processing. The helipad was finished, and ready for the first landing.

Day 4 – 28 MAY 1968 The resupply chopper will drop off three Ranger replacements, supplies, and pick up SSG Reynolds (Coyote), and two New Rangers with minor injuries (broken tooth and infected cut) from the crash.

I left my medical supplies, map, claymore mine, hand grenades, smoke grenades, food, and extra bandoleer of M-16 magazines loaded with ammo with SGT Smith. With all the extra equipment, people, and crashed helicopter, we had accumulated a lot of stuff. Hill 1362 was now a defensive position. *Next page*

Late morning, the C Model resupply bird, notified us, they were inbound. It flew around the mountain to make final approach from the west. The pilot maneuvered over the helipad and set it down. SFC Patrick Thiele (Blondie), and two replacements began offloading supplies with our help. SFC Thiele was now NCOIC of Hill 1362.

Three of us got on board and sat down. The pilot increased power and began to hover, then lowered back to the helipad, when it set down, the chopper moved back about a foot. The pilot said, "the engine is weak, the air is too thin, someone would have to get off, we are too heavy. I selected the New Ranger with the broken tooth. The pilot tried again with the same results, and another foot backwards. (**Murphy's Law**). The New Ranger with the infected cut got off. The balance point is getting close to the back edge of the helipad, if we don't make it this attempt and back up one more time, the balance point would be off the sandbag helipad and flip the helicopter backward off of the helipad. The pilot increased power, came to a hover, the tail came up, and the nose went down. We moved forward clearing the helipad and gaining speed. The rest of the flight back was uneventful. We landed; I got off and walked over to CPT Mac's jeep. MAJ Dom from Division G2 was with him. I set my rucksack in the backseat and hopped in. He said, "congratulations on your last mission"! I briefed them on the mission on the ride back. CPT Mac informed me that Tabalno was being shipped to Japan and he is stable. I told CPT Mac, "I think Hill 1362 should be named **LZ Pineapple** for the first G Company Ranger on the hill.

Before I started my Boxcar/Ranger Beach Lifeguard Detail, I attended CPT Mac's reenlistment talk. He said, if I reenlisted for four years with six months extended duty in RVN, I could go home on a 30-day leave, collect a \$10,000 Enlisted Reenlistment bonus Tax Free, and he would put me in for a Direct Commission to 2LT. I liked the Army, I enjoyed the work, and I liked Viet Nam. I seriously considered his proposal. After the two Short Timer missions, I changed my mind about reenlistment. During out-processing, I met with CPT Mac, informing him I wasn't going to reenlist, I was going back to the University of Oklahoma and get my degree.

At the company, I dropped my gear in Hooch 13, secured my weapon in the wall locker, and headed for the orderly room to see 1SG Slaughter. The 1SG gave me a handful of papers with a checklist to be completed by 2 Jun 69. I finished clearing in five days and waited for my final orders and departure date for Cam Ranh Bay to catch the Freedom Bird to the States. My last night in Chu Lai, six Rangers went to the Combat Center NCO Club to say our Goodbyes. The Ranger Club was out of Alcohol. In attendance was SSG Paul Reynolds (Coyote), SGT Richard Wolch (Dutchman/Roach), SGT William Caldwell (Pigpen/Willie), SGT David Smith (Doe/Smitty), SGT David Moncada (Apricot/Chief), and SGT George Beach (Fuzz). We left when our tanks were full and made the short walk back to our Ranger Hooches.

Next morning, I put on clean set of fatigues for travel. It had all

the correct patches in the correct places, lots of starch, and ironed. I put on my Beret, grabbed my duffle bag, and headed to the orderly room to sign out, and get a ride to the Chu Lai Airport. CPT Mac's driver pulled up in the Jeep, I put the Duffle Bag in the back seat, sat in the passenger seat and, away we go. The Terminal was a table and chair inside a hanger. An Army Liaison (SGT) takes a copy of your orders and adds your name on a clipboard based on your destination. Take a seat and wait, a C-130 lands, and your name is called, grab your bag, and your gone. Finally, I land in Cam Ranh Bay.

Next day, I put on my khaki uniform with all my pretty ribbons and badges. My Corcoran boots were highly shined, and I put on my black Beret. I grabbed my duffle bag, cleared the MP bag check, and got on a Capital Airlines flight heading to Seattle/McCord AFB, Washington. End of mission!

25-28 MAY 1969 – MISSION RESULTS

No enemy activity observed on Hill 1362. Well-used trails are on the mountain.

Length of mission: 3 ½ Days

Casualties: 1 Ranger with broken back, 2 Rangers with minor injuries, 1 Pilot reinjured left knee in UH1H crash.

Lessons Learned: Due to the heat, thin air at elevation on Hill 1362, the length of time hovering was too much stress for the first UH1H. The same UH1H was used on the rappel insertion, the McGuire Rig extraction, the McGuire Rig insertion, and the ladder insertion. The engine blew up, the tail rotor broke off, and the helicopter was destroyed. Two UH1H should have been used on the initial insertion, with both teams inserted one behind the other on the same LZ location per the plan. Stick to the plan. Ten Rangers would have been on the ground in less than an hour to provide Security and Communications for Hill 1362. Someone in the rear area changed the mission after Tabalno was injured without consulting the Team Leader on the ground.

The Engineers with unknown combat experience were not part of the initial plan. They were inadequately armed, M16's with a bandoleer of eight magazines, and chainsaws. They could have come out later to start clearing Hill 1362. The initial four Rangers were in a severe disadvantage situation manning one-man Observation Post's for six hours providing security for the Engineers making noise with chainsaws.

The UH1C engines did not have enough power to support this resupply mission on Hill 1362 and should not have been used at all. The UH1C should have been designated for missions below 1,000 feet (?) only.

LRRP/RANGER teaching doctrine states that the Team Leader is the best person to make decisions based on the ground situation. In my final two missions, the mission plan was changed without communicating with the Team Leader. The results were disastrous.

ADDENDUM: After five months as a civilian, I received a package from Co. G Ranger 75th Inf. *Continued bottom page 26*



Russell "Huck" Hamler Veterans Memorial dedicated Oct. 2, 2022, in Pennsylvania

Marauder Russell Hamler, 98, was honored Oct. 1, 2022, by Baldwin Township, PA when the Russell "Huck" Hamler Veterans Memorial was dedicated outside the Baldwin Township Municipal Building, which sits on land that was once a farm where "Huck" worked and took care of horses from age nine to 11. He and Marauder Gabriel Kinney, 101, AL are the last two surviving Marauders out of almost 3,000 volunteers.



WW II Gold Star widow & Rosie the Riveter Eleanor Stark is a Disney World "rock star" at age 98

What does a tiny 98-year-old woman do at Disney World?????

EVERYTHING!!!! Eleanor Stark was a "people magnet" when she and two of her daughters, Gail and Ty, camped there during Halloween week. People flocked to her Rosie the Riveter and Merrill's Marauder display honoring her husband, Luther "Buck" Bagley, killed July 25, 1944, in Burma & is still MIA. Visitor Tonya Price called her "a little giant of a woman." When she wasn't sharing WW II histories, she was "shooting" the Kali River Rapids, riding roller coasters and taking the Avatar "Flight of Passage." She is believed to be not only the last living "Rosie" from the Savannah shipyards but also the last WW II Gold Star widow with a husband still ...

MISSING IN ACTION



Congressional Gold Medal ceremonies honor three Merrill's Marauders

Widow Ludmilla "Millie" Tedford was presented with a Congressional Gold Medal Sept. 27, 2022, in Clarks, NE honoring her late husband, Spencer Tedford, 97 when he died in 2019. It was her 88th birthday. Marauder Rocco DeLuca, 99 at his 2021 death, was honored Nov. 9, 2022, at Easter Seals - Rally Point in Norwich, CT, where his daughter, Joyce Horey, accepted a Congressional Gold Medal in his honor. In Corpus Christi, TX, Matthew Nolan and his sister, Fredda Christine Nolan Martin, received a Congressional Gold Medal Nov. 25, 2022, honoring their Dad, Frederick C. Nolan, also a Solomon Islands campaign veteran of Guadalcanal and Bougainville. Only 15 when he enlisted, Nolan was 97 when he died in 2021.



Ft. Benning's Donovan Research Library showcases Merrill's Marauders "Veterans Day 2022" throughout December.

Chippewa Falls Manor honored Marauder Raleigh Naves on Veterans Day

He died at age 99 on April 21, 2022, the day after being presented with a Congressional Gold Medal in Wisconsin.



created by Jonnie Melillo Clasen



1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—RICK MERRITT

As we recently recognized and honored our Rangers on Veterans Day we also mourned from the loss of Ranger CSM (R) MIKE FERRUSI, killed in an accident.



Training, he was assigned to A Company 1-509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. During this assignment, he served as Rifleman, SAW Gunner, Machine Gunner, RTO, Rifle Team and Squad Leader, and Recon Squad Leader. His next assignment came in 1996, when CSM Ferrusi was assigned to Bravo Company, 3rd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning GA. Here he served as a RSOV Squad Leader, Weapons Squad Leader, and Platoon Sergeant. CSM Ferrusi then transferred to the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 75th Ranger Regiment, in 2001, where he served as the Assistant Operations Sergeant and Liaison Operations NCO. During this assignment, he participated in combat operations during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

In April 2002, CSM Ferrusi was re-assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment where he served as the Intelligence Operations Sergeant and then First Sergeant for Charlie Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company. During these assignments, he again participated in various combat operations in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In July of 2005, CSM Ferrusi attended and graduated from the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. Following his assignment to the Academy, in 2006 CSM Ferrusi was assigned to the Asymmetric Warfare Group at Fort Meade, Maryland. With the AWG, CSM Ferrusi was the First Group Operations Sergeant Major and the First Command Sergeant Major of Accessions and Selection. In August of 2007, CSM Ferrusi was assigned to 1-11th IN, 199th IN BDE, Fort Benning, Georgia. CSM Ferrusi then moved to 2-503rd, ABN IN, "The Rock", 173rd BCT (ABN), in November of 2009. In this assignment, he deployed twice for combat operations in

In 1987, CSM Ferrusi, from Niagara Falls, NY enlisted as an infantryman at Fort Benning, Georgia. After completing Basic

Parachutist Badge, Order of St. Maurice; Centurion, Parachutist Badge, Ranger Tab, Air Assault Badge, Pathfinder Badge
16 Oct 2022 - Passed away due to a bicycle accident; may you rest in eternal peace Ranger Buddy.

Operation Enduring Freedom. In May 2013, CSM Ferrusi was selected as the interim 173rd BCT (ABN) BDE CSM until April 2014. CSM Ferrusi then served as the Command Sergeant Major of 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division; then selected as the Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) for the 82nd Airborne Division and a follow-on assignment as he was selected as the CSEL, I Corps, JBLM.

Awards: Combat Infantryman Badge, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Master

OPERATION URGENT FURY

This is the 39th anniversary of the parachute assault into Grenada during Operation Urgent Fury, the early morning of 25 October 1983.

The U.S. forces had 19 killed, of which eight, were from our Ranger Battalions, and 116 were injured in the fighting. Grenada suffered 45 military and at least 24 civilian deaths, along with 358 soldiers wounded. Cuba had 25 killed in action, with 59 wounded and 638 taken prisoner.

1st BN KIA:

SGT Randy E Cline
PFC Marlin R Maynard
SGT Mark A Rademacher
PFC Russell L Robinson
SPC Mark A Yamane

2nd BN KIA:

SPC Philip S Grenier
SGT Kevin S Lannon
SGT Stephen E Slater

ANTELOPE ISLAND MEMORIAL ON THE GREAT SALT LAKE

An effort to raise funds for the repair and upkeep to the memorial of the fatal crash into the Great Salt Lake on October 29, 1992, was a success.

Thanks to several Veteran nonprofits and individuals, the Memorial was revitalized to its former state.

Continued on the next page



Friends and Family Members at Antelope Island Memorial

Rangers killed that tragic night are:

LTC Kenneth Stauss 1/75

1SG Harvey Moore 1/75

SGT Blaine Mishak 1/75

SPC Jeremy Bird 1/75

LTC John Keneally 3/75

May these Rangers rest in eternal peace with their USAF SOF Comrades.

News from our Rangers on HAAF

Our Rangers are back home off their well-deserved block leave to ensure we remain safe as they "STAND READY"!



1/75 inducted Mrs. Angela Grobman as an Honorary Member of the Regiment. Mrs. Grobman served her country for 30 years in the National Guard and spent the past eight years as the Budget Technician. Her selfless service, genuine care for our Rangers, and unwavering attention to detail play a central role in our success.

Left-Mrs. Angela Grobman

Chaplain Henricks provided the invocation and support at a mortgage free home for the family of Garrett Briggs, a former 1/75 Ranger who died by suicide after leaving the service. Miranda and Essex Briggs received the home from Operation Finally Home. Miranda leads a non-profit organization "Fight the War Within" and serves as the outreach coordinator for the Steven Cohen Clinic in Hinesville, GA.

Miranda and Essex Briggs



1st Ranger Battalion conducted a Change of Responsibility late summer. We celebrated the service of CSM James Spencer and his family while also welcoming CSM Phil Paquette and his family back to the Battalion. Good to have you return home to your Regiment Phil.

The ceremony highlighted CSM Spencer's efforts to modernize and innovate within the Battalion directly impacting how we train and fight throughout the 75th Ranger Regiment and SOCOM.

James spent most of his career and many deployments in combat during the GWOT within the 75th Ranger Regiment. He and his Family are currently in retirement transition and plan to stay in the Savannah area.

Congratulations to CSM Spencer and his Family. I look forward to spending time with my neighbor and Ranger Brother for Life; it's time James joins me to trade old stories from war to new fishing stories!



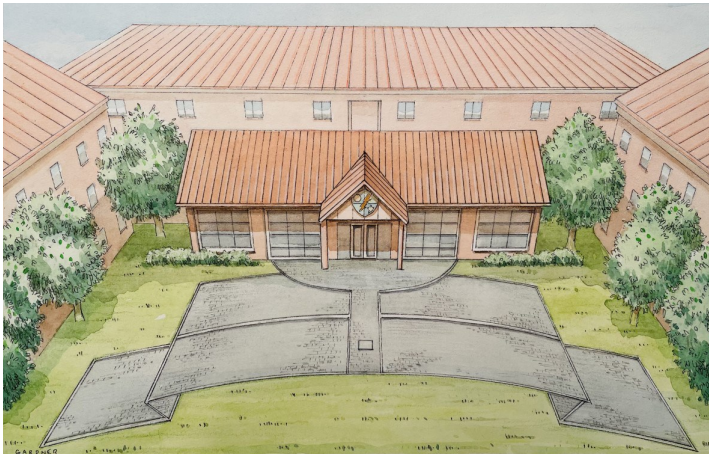
Go figure! As I attended the annual AUSA Army 10 Mile Run & Conference in October that was the talk of the town as Rangers Led The Way!

Our very own Rangers from Charlie Company won the Regimental and USASOC Best Squad Competition and went on to win the 2022 US Army Best Squad of the Year. The week-long competition assessed each squad on their technical and tactical proficiency, as well as their ability to work as a disciplined and cohesive team.

Continued on the next page

The competition featured a multitude of different fitness and combat related events ranging from the Army Combat Fitness Test and various weapons lanes to a strenuous 12-mile foot march and detailed individual warrior tasks and squad battle drills. The top four teams of the week traveled to Washington, D.C. for a board-style interview that tested their knowledge and professionalism in front of top Army leaders. Winning this prestigious competition reflects great credit upon the professionalism and training of the 1st Ranger Battalion.

Other topics and announcements



Heritage Center

A proposal has been offered to build a Heritage Center on the 1/75 Compound, across from the Memorial. Upon approval, the 4000 Square foot building will be used for recreation, meetings, outdoor cooking, and games. Funding for this project will be provided by 1/75 Sua Sponte Foundation and our patriotic supporters. Hopefully, completion and ribbon cutting, and use will coincide with our 50th Anniversary Celebration in summer 2024.



The Hero's Invitational Golf Tournament held at the Georgia Club in Statham, near Athens, GA raised \$150,000 towards construction of the Heritage Center.

In the above photo, are our Ranger golfers who played very well & supporters from the SSF who participated in the combined efforts. A special thanks goes to our sponsors, the Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, and the Georgia Club.



Gold Star Mom
Dianne Hammond

In my last submission to the Patrolling Magazine I mistakenly referred to our Gold Star Mom, Dianne Hammond, Mother of SGT Alessandro L. Plutino "Sandrino," 3rd PLT B CO 1/75 KIA 8 AUG 2011 in Pakiya Providence, AFG, as another of our Gold Star Mothers, Sue Peney. I had just completed speaking at a ceremony and had her Son, Jonathan "Doc" Peney, D CO 1/75 KIA 1 JUN 2010 in Kandahar Province, AFG, on my mind as I was traveling for a speaking engagement at a military event. You can find Dianne these days greeting you at the Savannah International Airport, look for the ID tag photo of Ranger Sandrino and her black bracket honoring his sacrifice. Both Moms are a Ranger's angel, or I like to refer to our Gold Star Families, our **"RANGELS"**, I apologize Ladies and beg forgiveness.



Our monthly Ranger Breakfasts are held at Perkins Restaurant the first Saturday of each month. Start one in your community! Contact me for more information to add it to our information board.

Continued on the next page



Check out this 400 pound plus, black bear, killed by Jeff Dawson, Ranger EOD, WIA & awarded the DSC & PH during a combat raid in AFG. This photo was taken during a recent Bear Hunt in Maine during a Special Operations Wounded Warriors (SOWW) Bear Hunt supported by Rangers Ben Carpenter & Jesse Ragan from the SOWW. Also, a shout out to Jon Walker who just joined their board with these RANGERS FOR LIFE.

We owe a special thanks to the entire team from the hunting lodge who took great care of our Veterans!

Our website overhaul is moving towards completion with improved design capabilities to pay dues online; message boards; news; photos/ videos; links to supporting military organizations; group pages for separate Ranger units & chat rooms. Share any feedback with me as our association “stands up” our improved website.

1/75 Museum artifacts are requested by the Battalion to add to the HQs & Company COFs; to those who have already donated artifacts and historic photos, thank you!

Keep your annual dues paid up to our 75th RRA so you can continue as active members! This is your association & we want to keep you abreast of our brotherhood!

If any of you are interested in becoming mentors to our Rangers transitioning into the civilian sector contact myself and I will get you I contact with their 1/75 Counselor, CSM (R) McGuffy, aka, Ranger Muggs.

Thanks to my old Ranger Buddy & Best Ranger Competitor MAJ (R) & (former SFC) Kurt Buchta, for stepping up to volunteer as the 3/75 Unit Director (UD).

Although we are retired and he out-ranked me he still follows my orders as I was his old Team & Squad Leader so he jumped right up when I “Volun-told” him to become the UD. THANKS SIR!

Anyone else out there? We have a couple of prospects for the 2/75 UD and as we did with Kurt as I did here, we prefer if we could have someone who lives nearby to frequently attend events & capable of responding to the unit quickly but we are open to anyone across the nation.



Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

V/R,
Rick

rangersbreakfast@75thrra.org

Looking for a Ranger/Special Forces breakfast nearby?

Get the latest information by emailing the people in the know!



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

I would like to start off this issue with kudos to all the Units Director's submissions in the last issue. I thought it was one of the best issues yet. I read it cover to cover. Sad thing is, at my age, I don't remember most of it. The story by Hotel Company, 1st Cav's Viet Nam LRRP/Rangers was interesting on how they went about putting the unit together. I'm sure all the other LRRP Units went through the same thing in their early days in country.

Don Worthington checked in with me. He was in A Co at Benning and a member of D/151 LRRP.

Asked for a story but haven't got it yet. Also noticed on Facebook a Steve Makarsky, he's on the A Co roster, said he was there in '74 until the end. Also, a Jim Snapp, says he was in the company but not on any of the rosters. Ronnie Suggs sent me a picture of his membership certificate to the 75thRRA. Told him I was jealous because all I got was a membership card. I guess I'm always in the wrong place when they pass out those things. Several A Co members have shown me a copy of their A Company certificate that they got when they left. I never got one, guess it's because we were in the field at Bullis when I left for Berlin. When I left Berlin, again, I missed out on the certificate. That one might be due to the 1sgt at the time. We were in company formation one day and he said anyone wanting to transfer to a unit in the Zone (West Germany), fall in behind me. JONES, fall in. So off I went to a little place called Schwabstadt. I did get a certificate when I left there, but my dog chewed it up a few years later.

Not a whole lot going on in this issue. I am happy to report that Tiffany, Doug Nolen's wife has made a trip to Germany, where I was told they held a Memorial Service for Doug for all his friends and colleagues who could not attend his funeral. Chris (KID) and Janie Rivers made a trek to the northern regions of the earth and spent a few days with Roy and Robin Bissey in Sheridan, Wyoming, including a short hike up to Black Mountain Lookout, 9,500 above their home on the Gulf Coast in lower Alabama.

From Jim Savell: Travel to Italy for parachuting. In early '80s, I was an instructor at the International LRRP School in Weingarten, Germany. I was the only U S assigned. The Belgium Captain wrangled a visit to Livorno, Italy, where the Italian Airborne was stationed. The school is in southern Germany near lake Constance (Bodensee). Austria & Switzerland blocked a direct flight. We had a small executive-type plane from the Belgium military. Myself, a German, Italian & 2 Belgium's were passengers. We had to fly to Lyon, France (Lee-on) for refueling & circumvent Swiss airspace. Taking off from Lyon, we flew down the Mediterranean Sea coast to Livorno. The pilot requested landing instructions.... uh.... we didn't have permission to land. Seems there was bad coordination & we were not expected. The



pilot started flying around over the Sea for a while.... then he declared "Mayday"...low fuel. We were allowed to land. It was dark by this time. Needless to say, we were all put under arrest. Finally, it was straightened out & the Italian Army sent a truck. By this time, it was really late. We drove around this island to "Sea Base". This is the barracks/training site of the "Green Berets" of the Italian army. The other daytime entrance was only accessible by boat. At night, this gate was shut & there was no entering. At this time there were terrorist groups.... Badder-Meinhof in Germany & the Red Brigade in Italy. We arrived about 0200

hrs & showed to our accommodations. This was a real adventure.... but not as tense as getting back home to Germany. The flight to Livorno, Italy from Weingarten, Germany in early '80 was over. The base we stayed on was kind of like a peninsula. There was a canal/body of water that separated "Sea Base" from Livorno. There was a large iron gate that was heavily guarded. Across the water from this gate was a boat dock. A pole had a night light that could be turned on with a switch. A person wanting entry to the "Base" turned on the light & stood under it. If they were authorized entry.... the gate opened.... & a boat came over to pick them up. On the "Bow (front) was a soldier with a mounted MG trained on you. To leave was the opposite. The gate was secured because of the terrorist "Red Brigade" threat. After a certain time at night there wasn't a shuttle.... this is when you curled up on the ground & waited for morning....of course if you had been downtown drinking....you didn't know the difference....not that I will divulge anymore. I have already written a story of parachuting with the Italians. Would like to relate my stay of a few days before my trip home to Germany....in a few days.... Parachuting in Italy (Part 3) The Italian on the trip was assigned to this unit & sent to the ILLRP School as an instructor/liaison for Italy. His wife & daughter lived in Livorno. The 2 Belgium's kinda hung together & me & the German officer became pals. The Italians gave us a grand tour of "Sea Base". The Italian Army has an Airborne Brigade. The "El Amein" Battalion was stationed in Livorno. We were driven over to their compound. At the entry gate was a small guard bldg. When we entered & got out of the vehicleabout 10 yards/meters from the entrance was a MG with a soldier sitting behind it.... aimed at the gate. This MG position was walled in with bullet proof glass. The Italians gave us a tour of the unit & we ate in their mess hall. I was obliged to pay my respects to the commandant of the Battalion.

One of the days we were taken out to sea in one of their patrol boats. I have pictures somewhere. The Italian went home the Belgium Captain went his way. The Belgium sergeant brought his "mistress" there for vacation. The German & I wanted to get back home to Germany. Uh....did I mention the Belgium plane had left.

Continued on the next page

To get home was by train through Austria & Switzerland. I didn't have a passport to cross the Swiss & Austria borders. The train trip back is funny now. At the time it was tense. The German would hide me & once I hid in the "Water Closet" (bathroom) when the customs people were checking people. I received my Italian parachutist badge on this trip. It was more important to get the proof of jumping to my unit in Germany for "jump pay". Maybe I should expound on why I didn't have a passport.....in a few days. A Machine Gun Wedding: On this date, 12th of April 1974, A/75th Rangers at Ft Hood, TX were scheduled for .50 Cal. Machine Gun range firing, I was the primary instructor. It had rained the night before. The company & machine guns were transported to the range. I had the head space & timing bar with me. While the company is unloading & forming up, a few of my fellow S F weapons experts are setting up the MGs. Modesty keeps me from telling you how great of a weapons expert I was. MGs set up, head space & timing set. I loaded the linked round & closed the cover. Bang, one shot...jammed. Opened it up, cleared it, reloaded, bang it jammed. Rechecked head space & timing, bang it jammed. Now all the S F weapons experts were involved. Someone had heard of feeding from the right. I re-linked ammo & fed from the right, bang it jammed. Modesty keeps from telling you how great weapons experts they were. A SP4 came over to us. Uh...Sergeant Savell, Tank .50 cal's fire electronically & use different links. We checked the cans...wrong ammo. The company loaded up & went back to the barracks. I had red mud up to my shirt pockets & it matched my red face. I jumped into my V W Beetle & drove to the County Courthouse in Belton. Standing on the steps was this beautiful lady in a pleated dress. We went inside to the Justice of the Peace. He had gone home for lunch. His secretary phoned him. A few minutes later a Motorcycle drove up. In walks this tall man with one pants leg tucked in his boot, wearing a bolo tie & 10-gallon hat. The secretary was the witness of our marriage. Connie looked around at the scene after the wedding & couldn't control

her laughter. She was beautifully attired, I was in Camouflage jungle fatigues that were muddy & a tall Texan JP. We are still laughing 48 years later. In the next issue, I will pass along Jim's stories of "Earning the Green Beret."

As you read this, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving are behind us, and the Christmas/New Years holidays are in front of us. Check on your buddies. The Christmas Holiday season can be a rough time for some. Reach out and say "hey"

The American Legion has rolled out a program called "Be the One." Be the One to step up and help someone in need to prevent that suicide. We are still losing too many Veterans to suicide every day. Maybe all some of them need is a helping hand.

If you have not checked into a [Ranger/SF Breakfast - Perpetuating the Great Ranger Legacy](#) breakfast yet, look them up on Facebook, email rangersfbreakfast@75thrra.org or call me and I'll see if there is one in your area. If you can't find one in your area, start one. You might be surprised who or how many will show up. These breakfasts are gaining momentum and getting bigger across the country. It is a great way to reach out and stay in touch with other Ranger/SF guys in your area, from all eras. Mid-Indiana group meets at the Bob Evans in Kokomo on the 1st Saturday of every month at 10am. Sometimes we have 3 or 4 and sometimes 10 or more. Families are welcome too. One of my grandsons and my great granddaughter come occasionally. If you still live near one of the Battalions, they always have a great turn out.

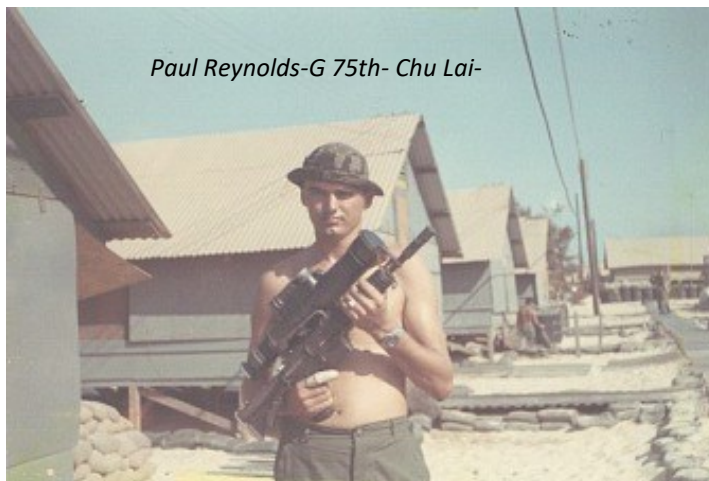
Ok, that's it for this time. Send me some stories.

Stan
RLTW

SM (RET) Paul Reynolds

LZ Pineapple- AKA- HT 1362- AKA- Mad Mac's Mt

Two awards were in the package; the first one I opened was an Army Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service on Hill 1362, 25-29 May 69. The second was a Bronze Star with "V" Device for action near the Laos border on 19 May 1969. A note accompanied the award. "Thought you would like one of these, CPT Mac."



ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Once again, I have to ask for your support to help me keep our submissions for the Patrolling magazine interesting. I cannot do my job without your help. Please write an article about your time as a Ranger Advisor. It does not have to be a lengthy article and it does not have to be a combat article. Just something of interest. I know for a fact that a lot of the members of other 75thRRA units like to hear what it was like to be an advisor. So come on, send me something I can use.



LTG McFerren said the plaque has been very well maintained which I know is appreciated by all. Thanks Freddy for providing me with this information. (He prefers to be addressed as Freddy)

Update your contact information:

Please update your contact information if you have moved, changed phone number, or changed your email address. Also please stay a member of the Association and pay your dues.

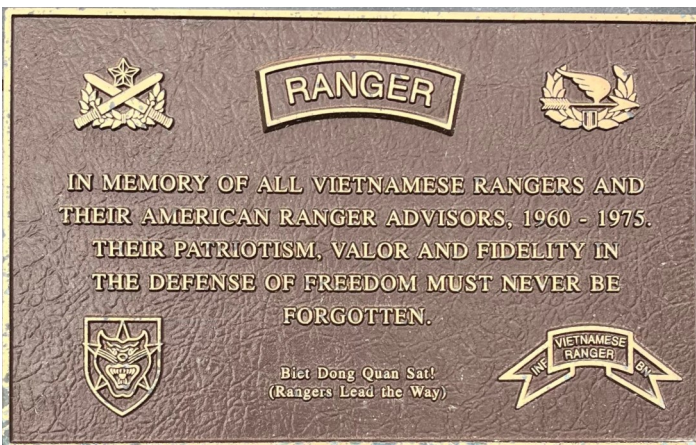
I am contemplating trying to hold a reunion in either Phoenix or Houston as there are large contingents of BDQ in each city. If you



Washington DC, 2022

Recently Lt. Gen (ret) Freddy McFarren was in Washington and visited Arlington National Cemetery. While there he paid a visit to the BDQ Plaque that was dedicated in (1995 or 1996)

On this page, you will find one photo of the plaque and a photo of those Ranger Advisors in attendance along with several Vietnamese Rangers.



have a preference, please send me an email. This reunion would be in late spring 2023.

I will leave you with a few quotes:

Quotes:

"Good judgement comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgement."

"There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves."

"There are two theories to arguing with a woman.

Neither works."

Will Rogers

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.

This article will be submitted near Memorial Day. It is, therefore, most appropriate that we begin with a tribute to B/75 Ranger Gary Butt (KIA), with information provided by Jerry Laviano:

GARY BUTT, KIA

Gary Butt; Co. B (RGR), 75th Inf. (ABN), Ft. Carson (1969-1970).

KIA in Vietnam 03 April 1971.

I was reading the 173rd Airborne Association this weekend and ran across Gary Butt. He was in 1st platoon, and was from Canada. We used to kid him: "Why are you here...? We wanted to go home."



Found pictures on the wall. *NOTE: Contact unit director for Jerry Laviano's email address.*

GARY BUTT is honored on Panel 4W, Row 103 of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. GARY BUTT is from CANADA, ZZ and served as a SSGT in the US ARMY.

<https://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/7204/GARY-BUTT/>

SICK CALL: RANGER VOYLES



Received text messages from Ranger Voyles that he suffered a stroke, and was scheduled for carotid artery cleanout on 17 November. Text follows:

Ranger Thompson, I'm giving you a sitrep of Ranger Voyles. On 30 October he was going off to church, had a stroke at 0930, and got dusted off to Madigan Army Hospital. I am scheduled right now to have a roto-rooter of my carotid artery on 17 November. I've got a lot of doctors appointments going on right now but I'm doing halfway decent. We love you all, keep your head down, tomahawk sharp, and your powder dry. Rangers Lead the Way. RV.

We were unable to connect via telephone, but... Tony Richardson interrupted his elk hunt and managed to speak with John Henry on the phone. He reports that RV and Jayne are at home, doing as well as can be expected, and they have someone checking on them. RV has about 70-75% functionality, with some remaining issues with speech and memory that are improving.

A/75 – REUNION & INVITATION

SUBJECT: INVITATION TO JOIN A/75 FOR 50 YEAR PARTY

Date: Mon, 24 Oct 2022

From: Roy Bissey; To: Marc L. Thompson, Richard Foster

Gentlemen:

As you well know 2024 will mark the 50th year since Alpha and Bravo 75th Ranger companies were stood down, the last two Ranger companies of the Vietnam era. Alpha company gathered in 2019 and again in March of 2022, the first large scale reunion efforts since 1974 and we had a ball. Jim Savell and

his son Jason (and their families) hosted our parties at their place near Waco, Texas and just days after the March reunion was over, volunteered to do it one more time in 2024. It has been proposed and is supported by the Savell's and the rest of our planning group that we invite Bravo company to join us for this 50-year commemoration (that is Bravo Company and its predecessor units, C/58 LRP and VII Corps LRRP). Family members are welcome as well. MSG Savell picked 7 to 9 November 2024 as the dates for the gathering. *Continued on the next page*

Typically, we begin by arriving in Waco on Thursday, continuing with festivities at our host hotel on Friday and then the all-day party with a mid-day meal at Savell's on Saturday. We have used a Springhill Suites in Woodway, TX as the headquarters for both of the past reunions and they have been very accommodating of our every need. There is a bar in the hotel and they allowed us the use of a big meeting room for all three days at no charge. We held raffles on Friday and Saturday with some very nice items donated by members of the company as well as some outside our group. It is still two years out and things like the hotel we use may change but our planning group will stay on top of things and ensure that this last bash will be a success. We would very much like to share this experience with any of your men and their families who might be interested in joining us. If you will throw this idea out for consideration among your membership to judge interest we would appreciate it. You can view videos of the 2019 and 2022 reunions on YouTube by searching A/75 Ranger. If you have questions or suggestions I am the point of contact and can find answers. RLW!

Roy Bissey: A/75 1972-1974; 307-752-6428;
r_bissey@yahoo.com

DAVE CLARK: FORT BRAGG EMPLOYEE SERVES 70 YEARS WITH ARMY & SPECIAL FORCES

<https://www.fayobserver.com/story/news/military/2022/09/01/fort-bragg-employee-serves-70-years-army-and-special-forces/7903064001/>

"SOLDIER ON" "Special Forces Recognizes Long-Time Fort Bragg Veteran, Employee" By Rachael Riley

Fayetteville Observer; Fayetteville, NC; 01 September, 2022.

This is a wonderful article about our own First Sergeant David L Clark, whose military career has been a lifetime mission, instilled in his heart and mind at age 12, when he saw his first WW II era paratrooper and said to himself, "I want to be just like him", and then he did just that... and more.

We will always remember Dave Clark when he "ruled the roost" at VII Corps LRRP Co (ABN) in Nellingen, Germany as our company's third First Sergeant in the early 1960's. We will always remember and honor him as the best First Sergeant a young paratrooper could ever have dared hope for, let alone actually have.

From the attached newspaper article, it would appear that wherever Dave Clark humped his ruck and stowed his duffle bag, and also left his own deep footprints on many a DZ., he also instilled his no nonsense, indelible, warrior ethos in the hearts and minds of many a novice paratrooper, be they either a feisty young-buck private or a maturing major general, as well as with his many, many civilian co-workers, friends, acquaintances, and, of course, his own family (including his grandson: "like grandfather, like grandson"), who is also a Christian Warrior in that same mold. I hope nobody tries to break that mold. America needs more Dave Clarks, and never more so than now. Dave Clark is the very personification of the motto, "AIRBORNE ALL THE WAY".

We JayHawk LRRPs were (then) and are still (today), very proud, honored and blessed to have served with Dave in our own "formative" years. We would most likely not be the men we have become without his very "special fatherly mentorship," his "saintly patience," and his "boundless compassion," most especially when we sometimes "exceeded certain norms of otherwise good soldierly behavior" and went slightly (and sometimes, royally) askew.

BTW: Because of some obvious and unfortunate oversight on behalf of the U.S. Army, many of us never received our "Good Conduct Medals," an injustice that has never been reconciled to this day... Can you believe that? J.T. CHETWYND

FROM JOE CHETWYND: SUBJECT: THE FILTHY THIRTEEN

As we have all recently observed and do solidly affirm to, "there are no coincidences." Yet another "Hand O' God" incident happened to me just this morning. I had stopped into a local donut shop to pick up a cup of coffee while on my way to my appointment at the Brockton VA. As I was waiting for my coffee, another customer near me, seeing my Boston Patriots original logo "PAT PATRIOT" hat with my jump wings attached, asked me which Airborne Division I had served with. I, of course, told him I did not serve in any of the divisions, but, rather, in a small company-sized unit.

He then told me that his ex-wife's grandfather served with the 101st Airborne and had jumped into France on D-Day. When I asked him for the trooper's name, he told me it was Robert Cone. I immediately replied, "He served with the infamous "Filthy Thirteen," a "suicide mission" Demolition Platoon. This platoon was made up of the Army's most irreverent and ram-bunctious bunch of renegades who decided amongst themselves who did or did not "qualify" for this "elite membership." Many men volunteered, but very few were ever chosen. Nobody wore rank insignia, officers were not addressed as "sir," and nobody ever saluted an officer, or even stood at attention during any military ceremonies to which they might be exposed. Several men were more than frequent visitors to the post stockades, and more than a few were promoted one day and busted the very next day, time after time. As a result of their slovenly appearance (they seldom changed their uniforms from week to week) they well earned their distinguished reputations as the "Filthy Thirteen" (the core contingent of leaders).

What made them even more recognizable was that many of these rascals shaved their heads except for a center line of plumage, that was called a "Mohawk cut" that was one of their hallmarks. The other was the painting of stripes or circles on their faces, mimicking Indian War Paint, using the white lead paint used to mark the C-47 aircraft with three stripes on their wings and fuselage, distinguishing them as "allied aircraft" to the itchy fingered, novice naval gunners lying nervously offshore, hungry to score a direct hit on an "enemy target".

Having read several books about this "Elite" company of "irregular soldiers," I immediately recognized the name of Robert Cone. He lived in the Hull section of Nantasket, MA after the war, and he died 01 July, 2010. *Continued on the next page*

He is buried in the Jewish Cemetery in Sharon, MA.

Shortly after landing in France on 06 June, 1944, along with his unit, (the Demolition Platoon of the 506th PIR), Sgt. Cone was captured by German forces and spent the rest of the war in a Polish POW camp, being finally released at the end of the war. It was not until he attended his first and only reunion, sixty-four years later, on 7 November, 2008, at an award ceremony being held at The American Veterans Conference Center, in Washington, DC, that he finally met two of his fellow surviving "Filthy Thirteen" members: Jake McNeice and Jack Womer.

Womer was earlier a member of the newly formed 29th Ranger Bn., then training in Scotland with British Commandos, as did the Darby's Rangers two years earlier, and which 29th Rgr. Bn. was suddenly deactivated several months prior to D-Day. Many of these men came ashore on Omaha Beach as infantrymen, but Womer, instead, immediately volunteered to join the airborne, quickly won his wings while still in England, and then joined the 101st just weeks prior to D-Day.

What also happened just four days earlier is even more than "coincidental." I happened to stop at a book sale at my town library (my "drug of choice"). As I found a few books of interest, I was just on my way to the checkout table when my eye caught the view of the spine of a book hiding in a cardboard box under a table. All I could read were the words "--LTHY THIRTEEN" and also "Ranger and Paratrooper." I grabbed the book and could not believe my incredible "luck," scoring this very rare book, by pure and simple Divine Intervention.

The full title is "FIGHTING WITH THE FILTHY THIRTEEN," written by Jack Womer and Stephen C. Devito. It is the story of Jack Womer. I know the book well as I read it several years earlier. I had also read about Robert Cone in another book about this legendary, suicidal platoon. Most people have never heard of these "oddball" heroes, even many who have more than a passing interest in WWII history. Decades ago, Hollywood made a movie that starred actor Lee Marvin and a cast of well known "tough hombres" who made up the cast of a very popular movie: "The Dirty Dozen". Unfortunately, as Hollywood is prone to doing, they took the real-life heroics of the "Filthy Thirteen", and concocted a story line that was more comedy than reality, never bothering to include either the names of the true war heroes or the title of their elite demolition platoon from which they tried to "steal their valor" to sell tickets and pay themselves obscene bundles of cash, for a fool's gold fantasy.

I am hoping that I will get to meet some of the Cone family members who, I am told, have kept a scrapbook about their humble, genuine, family-loving hero, father, grandfather, and local plumber, the late Bob Cone.

AATW, RLTW, God Bless America - Joe

EDITOR'S NOTE: Available at bookstores and Amazon, among other places:

Fighting with the Filthy Thirteen: The World War II Story of Jack Womer, Ranger and Paratrooper

Book by Jack Womer and Stephen C. DeVito

MEMORIAL DAY: FROM COL. JENTZ

SUBJECT: THIS DAY-

Dear Joe and Fellow Vets,

Yesterday was a very emotional one as I switched between TV presentations of "Band of Brothers", "The Pacific", and "Taking Chance". Then the widow of a dear friend called me and wanted to send her hugs to all vets... she dearly misses her husband. When we were in SOG he was shot down in a Viet FAC and dragged the wounded pilot to a large tree. He told us not to come in on a rescue, as the NVA were all around him. We went in at first light and there were many dead NVA around him. He had fired all his CAR-15 ammo including that of the pilot and had only a few rounds left in his 45 cal.

He couldn't pass by a fishing rod sale!

I dearly loved him as I do all of you. You can send this to the lads...

God Bless us all. Ed Jentz

FROM: JOE CHETWYND

Thank you, Colonel. I will certainly do that.

God Bless you and Maura, and also your dear friend who lost her husband in the jungles of Vietnam. You never fail to keep it real for all of us who did not serve in Vietnam, but we all are blessed to know and have known men, like yourself and your heroic friend, who did. Sua Sponte!

Sincerely, Joe.

GENTLEMEN AND LADIES,

Colonel Ed Jentz (U.S. Army SF (Ret.); former CO., 3rd Infantry Division LRRP Co. (1960's)) has kindly asked that his very personal remembrance for a fallen brother in arms during the Vietnam war be sent out to you all on this 104th memorial (armistice) day commemoration (11 November 2022), and, also, on this, the 40th anniversary of the commemoration of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, DC.

We all likely know at least one person whose name is on that wall, and many of us know the eighteen former VII Corps LRRP brothers whose names are also on that wall. I am quite sure that Colonel Ed Jentz could recite by heart the names of dozens more men he either knew personally and/or with whom he served proudly in Vietnam, and whose names are also on that wall. Thank you, Colonel Jentz, for sharing this intimacy of that war with us all.

It never ceases to amaze me to simply look at that beautiful, elegant, muted, evocative, reflective and healing Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall of graduated, descending, then ascending polished black granite panels, incised with the names of the (now) 58,318 American heroes, including those of six women nurses, and several hundred more of men and women who have since taken their own lives as a result of their PTSD wounds, or died as a result of either lifelong suffering or from the deadly hazards of Agent Orange, all of which *Continued on next page*

eventually caused their ultimate demise. And then I picture all those mostly young bucks and some matured men, and those young women nurses, filling a college football stadium on a sunny and cold November Saturday, cheering on their favorite team, choking down burgers and hot dogs and washing them down with cold beers, and then all of them going home that night and getting up early Sunday morning to cook breakfast for the family, or heading off to church to give thanks for the wonderful life that are enjoying, ...just like the rest of their fellow brothers and sisters in arms who actually did "come home", and just QUIETLY get on with life, if they were were able to.

SAINT CRISPIN'S DAY SPEECH:

EARL OF WESTMORLAND:

O that we now had here But one ten thousand of those men in England That do no work today!

KING HENRY THE FIFTH:

What's he that wishes so? My cousin Westmorland? No, my fair cousin.

If we are mark'd to die, we are enow To do our country loss; and if to live, The fewer men, the greater share of honor. God's will, I pray thee wish not one man more.

...

But if it be a sin to covet honor, I am the most offending soul alive.

...

This day is call'd the feast of Crispian: He that outlives this day, and comes safe home, Will stand a' tiptoe when this day is named, And rouse him at the name of Crispian. He that shall see this day, and live old age, Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbors, And say, "Tomorrow is Saint Crispian."

Then will he strip his sleeve and show his scars, And say, "These wounds I had on Crispin's day."

...

From this day to the ending of the world, But we in it shall be remembered—

We few, we happy few, we band of brothers;
For he today that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother;
be he ne'er so vile, This day shall gentle his condition;

And gentlemen in England, now a-bed, Shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here; And hold their manhoods cheap whiles any speaks That fought with us upon Saint Crispin's day.

...

Play entitled "HENRY V"; William Shakespeare; Ca. 1600; Act IV, Scene III, 18-67; Excerpted.

Speech delivered on the eve of the famous Battle of Agincourt, in which King Henry V rallies his lesser-manned English army to do honourable battle the following morning with a much larger French army, asking them to imagine the glory and immortality that would be theirs if they were victorious.

"Welcome Home"... "Ye Band of Brothers", and Sisters. Amen, and AMEN!!!

I pray this pleases all of "The Bard's" critics.

J.T. CHETWYND

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

V/R:

Marc L. Thompson, Unit Director

At the Ft. Benning Ranger for Life Symposium...

5

Ranger Regiment Programs (Retention, Education Counselors, Military Family Counselors, SFRG Leaders, Phalanx)

4

on-post agencies

3

Ranger organizations (Three Rangers Foundation, GallantFew Rangers, US Army Ranger Association)

1

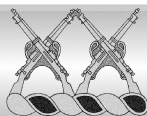
Wounded Warrior Project Benefits Counselor

9

Three Rangers Foundation mentors

shared valuable resources with **130** transitioning Rangers.





C/75 - E/20 LRP

Unit Director—Darryl "Bones" Benton

I would like to start this off by paying my respects to the Memory of LTG David E. Grange, JR. who passed away September 11, 2022. Thank you, Sir, for all you did to establish and promote the Best Ranger Competition. You will be missed but never forgotten.

We survived the hurricane here in Central Florida, Cocoa Beach. We got some rain and wind, but our part of the coast was lucky. God Bless those folks in Southwest Florida who were hit so hard.

My understanding is there is no changing of command or 75th regiment gathering this next summer at Ft. Benning. Consequently E/20 – C/75 members need to find a place to have our every two-year gathering. Two locations have come up as I have talked with various members. One was Nashville the other was Savannah as possible locations. Savannah seems to be the most asked for location, however we are thinking to push it to September rather than July. Maybe it will be a little cooler at that time. Milt and I will work on getting the word out after the Holiday season.

Speaking of Savannah, below is a picture of last time we were in Savannah 2018



That is all from here “talk” again in the New Year, have a safe Holiday Season.

Darryl Benton

Below Photo-E/20th LRP – C/75th Association picture from 2017, Ft. Benning



Top L/R Milton Hendrickson, Tom Workman, Ray Bohrer, John Wisheart, Ron Causey, Del Ayers, seated L/R Jerry Shankle, Bob Stein, James Worth all are the original members of E/20th Lrps., all came out of the 101st. Ray Bohrer came back for a second tour as C/75th.





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROBERT HERNANDEZ

Rangers, Family, and Friends,

Ed Garrison - I am happy to report that I have located Ed Garrison, one of the two lieutenants along with Rick Stetson, hand picked to form the Long Range Reconnaissance Detachment in the fall of 1966. Ed was excited to be back in touch with the unit and hopes to attend the next reunion in Green Bay.

Two Rangers Down - By now you probable heard that Clancy Matsuda had a stroke on October 26, 2022 and was at the Sanford hospital until November 1, when he was placed in a rehab facility just 2 miles from his home. He is making good progress in his recovery.

"Old Sarge Walden" was in and out of the the hospital for a few days recovering from a bout of cellulites but is home now and in good spirits.

We wish them both a speedy and full recover.

2023 Green Bay Reunion - Dan Stouffer and son-in-law Joe Moehle report that the dates are tentatively planned for October 5-10, 2023. They are stressing the tentative part right now as they will not have dates locked in until the 2023 NFL schedule comes out. We are locked in with the hotel and they are working with us and allowing the flexibility to shift a week to the left or right once the schedule does come out, we are going to avoid having the reunion during home games because then the price of things is more than double. Please be a little flexible in the event that we do have to shift a week to the left or right.

The focus of the reunion is leaving a "Legacy". We are urging all members to start planting the seed and asking their families to join them at this reunion (Spouse, Kids, Grandkids). We think the best way to leave a legacy is to share your story so it will not



be forgotten, and when you invite your family they can hear of the proud history of the brave warriors from the unit we will be a closer tight knit family.

The majority of the events that are being planned for the reunion are all geared towards doing things as a group and highly encouraged to have everyone participate and stay together to build on building our bonds and family. Some of the things we are planning are a Lambeau Field tour, a day out at the range, visiting the Railroad Museum and setting up a tour of a cheese plant. There are many fun things being planned for this reunion and we will put more information out as

we get closer, We can't wait to see everyone in Green Bay.

Final Salute - Least We Forget - It's hard to believe that another year has gone by so quickly but at the same time it has been a long and difficult time with the lost of Dennis Marble, Nhan, Rick Stetson and our honorary member Ray Qusenberry. (Ray was the brother in law of Terry Leishman and served as a LT Colonel during Iraq and Desert Storm). They all served our country with honor and dignity and we shall never forget them.

It is important to notify me when a Ranger passes so that we have a chance to let the unit know and have a chance to attend their service, send flowers or make a contribution to their favorite charity in their honor. We must continue to honor our own!

With the Green Bay reunion next October we will be asking for an emergency contact name and number on the registration form so that they can contact us in the event of an emergency or in the event we somehow lose their information. More information will be provided soon.

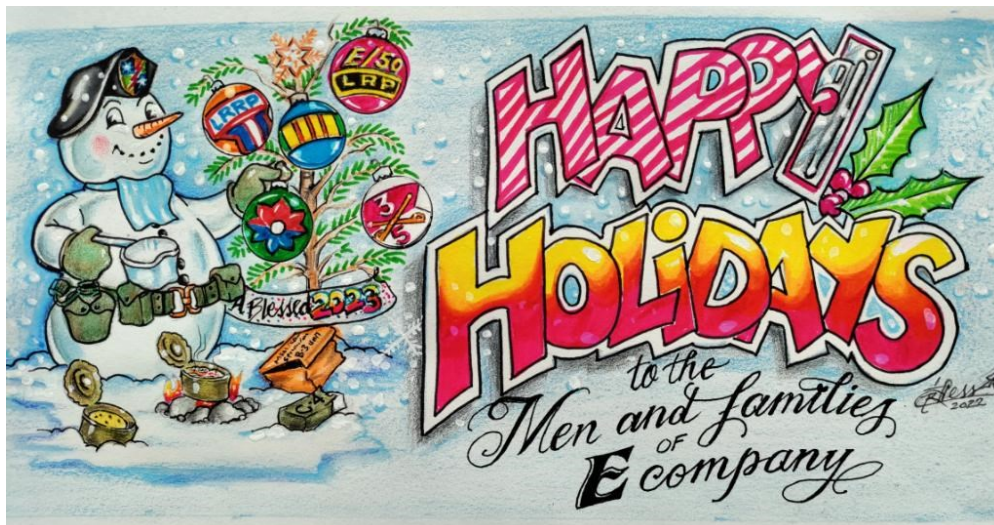
In closing, I would like to give Tess, our company artist a big 'ATTA BOY' for donating his time and talent to send everyone some Christmas cheer with this card.

Bob Hernandez

Unit Director

E50/E75 LRRP/Rangers

LRRPs LED the Way/ Rangers Lead the Way



On the occasion of the 2022 reunion of Task Force 116 of the Game Wardens of Vietnam Association, Inc. former USA 1st LT. Prescott Smith and myself were invited to attend the association's reunion in San Diego, California on September 15th – 18th, 2022. We were hosted by Task Force 116 members Mr. Doug Bomarito (Vietnam 1969 – 1970) and Mr. James D. Davey (CMC/USN/RET) National President of Task Force 116, Game Wardens of Vietnam Association, Inc.

The veterans of the Game Wardens Association, the oldest, continuously-operating Brown Water Navy veterans group in the United States represents the men who served Naval Task Force 116.

As a matter of background, Prescott and I served together in Vietnam with E Company 50th Infantry, Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol, 9th Infantry Division in 1968.

In 2010 we returned to Vietnam as civilians and were fortunate to reconnect with our PRU compatriots, Keit, Nhan and Bao as we visited our former bases at Nha Be, Dong Tam, Tan An and others in the Mekong Delta. The trip is documented in the 2011 Spring Issue of Patrolling Magazine.

As TLs of LRRP teams we depended on the Brown Water Navy's PBRs and sailors and the Sea Wolves' Hueys and aircrews to accomplish our secretive missions.



In today's vernacular, the naval assets were our "ubers" of the day – we called them for a ride to the war and they accommodated us; we called for an extraction, and again they returned faithfully – sometimes into the jaws of hell – as the 5 man LRRP team might be pinned down by the NVA or VC on the bank of the river or canal.

While we have very few war-time regrets, one that always came to mind is never having an opportunity to personally thank the Brown Water Navy sailors before our tours of duty ended.

The 2022 reunion was our opportunity to take care of business. It was a moment 54 years in the making and included a reunion pilgrimage to an icon of the war in the Mekong Delta, a restored Patrol Boat, River (PBR), and a solemn memorial service that reunited the army and naval veterans.



We spent three days amongst the former members of TF116 and thanked many of them. Some remembered inserting and/or extracting LRRP teams. But as we talked, we soon realized that there were too many missions, too many extractions, too many nights and too many canals for an accurate accounting of our mutual war time experiences. Suffice it to say, we came away with a strong, mutual respect for each other and the jobs we were charged with accomplishing.

At the banquet, former 1st LT. Smith said with a matter-of-fact voice "You risked your lives to save our lives," as he greeted the former TF116 veterans.



Smith summed up his comments saying, "The PBR sailors, like the air crews, who flew the Hueys, performed their duties to the point of legend in the minds of many former LRRPs."

Special, heartfelt thanks to Messrs. James D. Davey and Doug Bomarito for making it happen.

Duane L. "Poncho" Alire



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN McGEE

Company F, 25th ID LRRP Patrolling Article

Most of you know that I live in Florida about an hour North of Tampa on the gulf coast. So, if you have been following the Weather channel you know we have had an exciting late summer /early fall. Fortunately, we have missed both Hurricanes, but we sure have had a huge amount of rain.

That being said, I want to report that our Company F off-year-reunion was a huge success. Phil Davis who graciously volunteered to be the Point man on this mission did an outstanding job planning, coordinating, and executing this mission.

We had forty-eight members of our unit, and their families make it to Vegas. We, several *first-timers*, and every one of them commented on how great it was to be welcomed and treated as family. The great thing about the people who make up this unit both the men who served and their wives and family members is that all though we may only see each other once a year it is like we are at home with each other immediately.

I am truly in awe of the people in this family and believe me it is a family. I just hope that we get to come together this June or July to celebrate one of our family members being inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

I am writing this article a couple of days after Veterans Day, and I believe that it is fitting that I submit a little history that Rick Elison posted on Facebook just a few days ago.

"On the 8th of November we were given a warning order for a point recon of a high-speed trail west of Tay Ninh. On the 9th of November Leo Miller, Dave Stanfield and I did an overflight to select our landing zones and pick a hide site. On the 10th of November we inserted. I should add that the full team that inserted included the folks mentioned above plus Sam Wright and Dutche Lane.

The helicopter put us in the wrong landing zone and we moved directly into our hide sight. Normally we would have spent the 1st night out of the hide side and observe it before entering but the close lz precluded that. We noticed fresh dirt from newly prepared fighting positions as we moved in.

The following morning, we noted a lot of traffic and as time wore on, we noticed we were seeing some of the same people moving around. About 3 hours after daylight a Vietnamese wearing the traditional black shirt, but also khaki trousers came near the hide site gathering wood. We were not positive that we had been



compromised but we were pretty sure and attempted to take him prisoner. Instead of surrendering he raised his machete and charged towards us. He only made it a few steps but with the gunfire we were positive we were compromised so we decided to abort the mission and call for extraction. About that time all hell broke loose. As we moved towards our extraction point people started popping up from fighting positions all around us.

We had set up inside the perimeter of a NVA battalion and later found out there were elements of the Regimental headquarters there.

To be quite honest it was like a turkey shoot

initially. Restricted in their ability to fire because they would be shooting across us and into their own men. Kind of a circular firing squad.

They were able to fire rifle grenades and mortars at us, but we had moved into a rice paddy and most of the explosions just threw mud and water at us. Then one guy got lucky and put a rifle grenade about three feet from me. I never heard it but felt it. When I got up and I tried to return fire but could not focus on my sights. My body felt like it was on fire.

At the time the SOP was for the team to continue on and finish the mission, the rule was never lose a team for one man. They did not do that. They hunkered down in that rice paddy using the dikes for cover. Sam Wright was with me and I managed to keep at least one of our M16s functioning and loaded and we went toe to toe with a NVA battalion for almost 2 hours.

It seems some paper shuffler at division had sent our extraction helicopter on an ice-cream run. Then, Mike Squires flew his butt right into that rice paddy and scooped us up. It was probably the slowest extraction under fire that was ever made.

The team had to carry (and drag) my big ass to the helicopter. Every year I like to thank those four heroes on my team and Mike Squires for breaking the rules and saving my ass.

I got a nice vacation at the hospital in Vung Tau to heal and a later visit to the hospital at Ft Dix where they did scar revision to give me back my upper lip. Metal count for the mission 3 Purple Hearts, 2 Bronze stars with V, 3 Army Commendation Medals with V, and a Distinguished Flying Cross for my favorite pilot."

F/25 UD

John McGee



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



In September of this year, the E/51st-G/75th Association celebrated our 34th (I am told) reunion in Niagara Falls, NY. Frankly, even though we have two future reunions on the books, I thought this would be our last reunion due to the fact we have lost so many of our brothers over the years, and additionally, we have a significant number who can no longer travel. I was surprised and pleased that we had in excess of 20 healthy, energetic members in attendance with even more spouses, friends, and family members. We also had a couple of first-time reunion attendees. Thinking this could be our last chance to get together as a group, I reached out to a number of the guys I served with who were with G Company when it was shut down. Several of them came and some did not but we had a great time renewing friendships.

We had great accommodations at our host hotel with a casino across the street and just a short walk to the Niagara Fall's State Park. The park is a beautiful place and the power of the falls and areas around the falls are beautiful. Many of us took the Maid of the Mist boat trip to get close, personal, and wet witnessing the power of the falls. Crossing over to the Canadian side was also a favorite for many either by walking across the bridge or driving.

Since I write these articles, I often take liberties to mention personal issues or events that I deem important. If any of you want

to take my place as Unit Director so you can express your own interest, the job can be yours. Until someone steps up, I will continue to dominate these articles as I please. I mentioned reaching out to others to attend. We ALL should be reaching out to



brothers to attend our next reunion in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in 2023. Every "next" reunion may be our last.

At our Niagara Falls event, there were seven of us, along with our spouses, who closed down the 196th Ranger Platoon after the Americal Division cased its Colors in September 1971. The 196th Ranger Platoon continued to operate in Da Nang until late December 1971. Captain Ted Mataxis (written about in a previous article) was the last commander of G Company and now retired LTC Mataxis, Jr. and his wonderful wife, Kirby made our most recent trip. In addition to our G Company Commander, Team Leader and RHoF inductee and retired spook, Clem Lemke attended with his bride and boss. Frank Svensson, who has only missed a couple of our reunions over the years was there along with his handler. Bruce Blevins, Rafael Davila, Keith Cunningham, and I along with our wives made up

the rest of our motley (men only) crew. It was wonderful to see everyone happy, healthy, and generally retired enjoying life. My wife stunned me a little in one of her observations of this crowd. Nicki was talking about our group in glowing terms about how much she enjoyed meeting them and especially their wives. She stated she was so impressed and pleased by the guys and their wives in the group. She seemed to connect with them all and raved about how nice and kind



-The Western New York National Cemetery was the site of our G/75th Memorial Service where we honored our fallen Brothers who gave all during the Vietnam War-

and successful everyone one was. She then unloaded on me by saying, "I was afraid they would all be assholes like you." I'm not quite sure what she meant by that, but I will take that as a complement. Anyway, our group are all talking about going to our next reunion.

Continued on the next page

During and after our reunion, the new strain of COVID raised its ugly side and hit at least a dozen of our crowd. Most felt only minor effects, but some suffered more serious symptoms. Fortunately, everyone recovered in due time. Just a reminder for us all to take the necessary precautions of choosing to prevent or lessen the impact of this ever-mutating virus.

Having trained with Frank Svensson in the NCO Academy, Jump School and Recondo School, I thought I knew him very well. At some point in time, I found out that Frank, Code name "Swede" was from Denmark and was not a US citizen. I remember thinking how terrible it was to be fighting a war in our Army and not being a citizen. I remember going to an officer in our unit and asking how this could be and how he should automatically be given citizenship. I was told that this could be adequately handled on return to CONUS, and it was not something that could be done in Vietnam.

While at our reunion, I made a point to ask Keith Cunningham how he ended up in Vietnam. I knew that he was from Canada and his code name "Canuck" was a constant reminder of his heritage. Keith explained that he moved to the US and was living with relatives and working in a factory when

he received his letter announcing "Greetings" and welcome to the US Army after being drafted. It makes me wonder how many foreign nationals our country drafted during the Vietnam War and the wars prior. Hopefully, after serving the US during times of war, it was a simple process for gaining citizenship after service, if they desired becoming US citizens. Sadly, I don't know what hoops had to be negotiated, but it should have been an easy door to open for those who served honorably.

All-in-all, we had a great reunion (except for that COVID thing) in Niagara Falls and hopefully we and more of us will make our next visit in Pigeon Forge. Don't

wait to start reaching out to those you would like to see. A call to

a brother is always welcomed even if time has not been kind to health or happiness. Your call may be just the balm needed to make someone's day just a little better. It always makes you feel better to reach out to an old friend, (unless you owe them money) that you haven't spoken with in a long time. When you are contemplating your service and the many friends it provided you who you would have never otherwise met on Veterans Day, make a list of those you should contact. Our time is getting

shorter on this earth every year.

Make the best of it.



Getting Wet at Niagara Falls



Our Last "Team" of LRRP-Rangers in the 196th AO-Da Nang RVN



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—BENNIE GENTRY



Pete Dencker

I wanted to start out by providing a “shout out” to Mike Hall and the Three Ranger Foundation, supported locally in the Franklin/Brentwood TN area by the 75th Ranger Regiment Assn and SOS –

Construction Services for the annual commemora-

tion of the gallant men of Task Force Ranger and the original “Mogadishu Mile,” or simply, “The MOG MILE.” We had a great turnout on October 4th, and all proceeds went directly toward enabling Three Rangers Foundation to assist Ranger veterans, who are transitioning from life in the 75th Ranger Regiment – to civilian life as valuable and productive citizens; citizens who will bear the same unwavering commitment to excellence in their new AO.



society after military service. There were lots of free giveaways for everyone who attended. Each year the O.P. Veterans group chooses a unit to honor, and this year, the LRRPs in Vietnam were chosen. All names with a Texas address were contacted and 9 LRRPs from across Texas attended the event. The chief financial officer for Vet Fest, Kimberly Thorngate, had an uncle, David T Dickenson, who was a member of E52nd/H75th when he was killed on December 6th, 1967, in Vietnam. She suggested that the LRRPS and all Combat Veterans should be welcomed home properly. The 9 LRRPS who sat in front of the stage to be welcomed home by the crowd were: Pat Blewitt, 67-68 Patrick Lyons, 67-68 Charlie Ochoa 69-71 Dan Roberts 69-70 Alvino Deimes 1970 Oscar Martinez 71-72 John David Floyd 71-72 Roland Garza 71-72

Bruce Cain 67-69 All these amazing heroes received a bag with 2 t-shirts and a plaque made of the same kind of shells used during the Vietnam War, with the LRRP emblem on top of the shells. Family and friends and a nice size crowd finally were able to welcome home these soldiers. Special thanks go to: Kimberly Thorngate for suggesting that the LRRPS be honored. Dara Wydler and Tina Wilgeroth, Executive Director, and Program Director for the Saber newspaper for the 1st Cavalry Division Association for putting the flyer in the paper to invite all veterans to the event. Pete Dencker, 1st Vice President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Assn for adding the flyer to the last issue of Patrolling Magazine to remind everyone that all Ranger veterans were invited to attend, And – a special thanks to The 1st Cavalry Division for bringing their beautiful horses as the Color Guard.



Former Rangers leading the Mog Mile walk in Franklin TN

I would also like to thank Anita and Pat Lyons for their support of VetFest that was held on October 22, 2022, in Round Rock TX. Members of the H Co. LRRP Rangers, along with Rangers from other Lettered Companies from the Vietnam era were finally welcomed home in a ceremony in their honor by the O.P. Veteran Organization (each year VetFest selects a different unit/group to honor). VetFest was founded 6 years ago to help all veterans “lighten their rucks” and to continue the mission of “Watching Over Our Own.” All veterans were invited to the event held in Old Settlers Park in Round Rock, Texas, where there were over 140 veteran owned companies and vendors set up to offer services and information about veterans’ groups to help every veteran find the support he or she needs to assimilate back into



L to R, Andy Janda, President Vietnam Veterans of America, Pat Blewett (LRRP 67-68), Frank White, VFW Commander Weimar TX, Patrick Lyons (LRRP 67-68), Charlie Ochoa (LRRP 69-71), Kimberly Thorngate, Finance Officer, OP VetFest, Dan Roberts, (LRRP 69-70), Alvino Deimes (LRRP 70), Oscar Martinez (LRRP 71072), John David Floyd (LRRP 71-72, Roland Garza (LRRP 71-72), Bruce Cain (LRRP 67-59)

Continued on the next page

As we approach the Christmas Season – I was thinking back about 52 years to my first Christmas in Vietnam. Like most who spent time in SE Asia, or other theaters – this was the first time I was unable to spend time at home with my family and coming from a large Italian family I was unsure how that would all play out, emotionally and practically. Yes, there was supposedly a cease fire in place for the day – but then not everyone played by the rules. Anyway – thought it would be interesting to get some other thoughts and feelings about Christmas in Vietnam. My guess is that these thoughts and feelings were/are very similar regardless of which war or which environment. So, I asked for some input from the H Company Brotherhood. Names here are not included to protect the “innocent”.

(From a Ranger) My right arm was in a cast that started just below my fingertips and ended just below my elbow. Couldn't go to the field, so I was Sargent of the guard on Christmas Eve, which included driving a Jeep along the Green Line at frequent intervals during the night to check on a section of the guard towers along Phouc Vinh perimeter. The guards assigned to the towers had been warned that any celebratory pyrotechnics were strictly forbidden and that there would be dire consequences for any violation. So, of course, about midnight the sky light up like, well, like a Christmas tree. That display was exceeded only a week later on New Year's Eve when the sky was lit up like an exploding fireworks factory.

My other memory was the food. Christmas dinner was great, it was perfectly cooked turkey mashed potatoes made from real potatoes, tasty gravy, and all the other traditional Christmas trimmings. This was in stark contrast to the usual fare, which was poorly cooked and tasteless. Then our mess hall burned and First Sargent Price addressed the issue in our next morning formation: “By now you all know that someone burned our mess hall last night, so we will be using the mess hall over by the MP's. I don't know who set that fire. There was nothing wrong with that mess hall. It was a perfectly good mess hall. Whoever it was, he made a mistake. He should have burned the cooks! “Company, attention! Dismissed!”

(From a Pilot that worked lots of Ranger missions) I arrived in Vietnam on 6 December. The prospects for a merry Christmas seemed a little grim ... poor me! My wife and I learned three weeks earlier that she was expecting our second child. Up until then, I had been pretty excited about a tour in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot. I had pretty much justified in my own mind being separated from my family for a year. My wife was very supportive, even though she knew I wouldn't be there to help with our toddler son. Then, as we say in aviation, we learned that we now had “one on the ramp, and one in the hangar.” On the long flight to Vietnam, I had plenty of time to think about the coming Christmas season. I began to feel a little guilty about leaving Sonja in her delicate condition, about not being there for my two-year old-son, and the fact that I had volunteered (sort of) to go away for a year.

My little bout with self-pity didn't last long. My Christmas season in 1966 was a busy time. As a brand-new Huey pilot, I had to fly

“ash & trash” missions until I learned the Area of Operations. That involved hauling supplies, including hot chow, to troops in the field. As Christmas neared, I learned that we would be taking a special Christmas dinner to the units in the boondocks. I scrounged a Santa Claus suit, but our company commander wouldn't let me wear it to the boonies. I whined enough to get a slight compromise ... he let me tape the hat to my flight helmet. So, there I was flying around most of the day with a bright red hat on my head. The reaction from the troops was good ... lots of smiles, and even a few photos. I was having a pretty good Christmas, after all!

Then two hours after the “truce” ended at midnight, all hell broke loose at Landing Zone Bird. That was my “baptism of fire,” and I really got a good dunking! I wasn't scheduled for combat missions for another few days, but that night we needed all the crews and aircraft we could muster. I don't know how many sorties we flew on that mission, but we flew reinforcements into the fray, and the wounded out with each sortie. I don't know it for a fact, but I suspect that most of our aircraft were hit that night.

On our last trip out of LZ Bird, we transported the last of the wounded. One was a baby-faced buck sergeant whose arm was in a bloody sling. When we landed, he leaned forward, patted my shoulder, and yelled “Merry Christmas, Santa, and thanks.” It was then that I realized that the red hat was still taped to my helmet!

In retrospect, my self-pity disappeared shortly after I saw the hardships and misery endured by our ground troops. What a lesson for me!

Then there was always some humor - (From a Ranger) I was there for Christmas 1968. My dad was quite the joker. While I watched my hooch mates open the things received from home I waited until everyone else was done to open mine since it was a rather large box. When it was finally my turn, I opened it and found another box inside. I opened that box then another and essentially opened box after box until I reached what proved to be the last box. It had a note attached saying, “I know you'll enjoy this because I hear there is a great shortage of this over there.” Upon opening the last box, we found a box of Uncle Bens rice! Nothing else!!!

Back to me – again, being from a large Italian family where all the aunts, uncles, and cousins lived within 4 blocks of each other – every holiday was a family affair. Christmas was a family affair on steroids starting with a get together on Christmas eve. I remember that all the kids were ferried off to the local theatre to give the adults time to wrap and arrange all the family exchange gifts. The dinner and party started when we got back – Kids were wired, adults feeling much better as they had by now - enjoyed a quantity of homemade wine while we were in the movies – the entire 2 days of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day were straight out of a story book.

Continued on the next page

Not quite the same in SE Asia. Earlier in '70 I had been a grunt platoon leader for 6 months and spent most of that time out in the bush - our breaks consisted of a week back on battalion fire base once a month. Thanks to Col Anthony Labrozze (1/7th Battalion Commander, who was later inducted into the RHOF), for finding a way to get a hot Thanksgiving dinner in mermite containers out to my platoon in the middle of nowhere - don't know if he was aware of how much that meant to us grunts when our typical meals were the old c-rations in cans. By December I had been reassigned to H Company and I remember hoping that my guys that were still out "humping the bush" received the same treatment from the 1/7th chain of command on Christmas Day - and that it was a day of no contact.

Although relatively new at H Company - it was an interesting

few days. I know most were thinking about wives, children, mothers and fathers and family in general - I don't remember there being any Teams in the field, and in our rear area things were quiet except for the usual fireworks (friendly) and everyone enjoying the "Ranger club". There was a real sense of Family, and that although new to H Company, the guys made me feel like I belonged - a feeling that continued to grow over the next almost 2 years while I was with H Company - and a feeling that is still there today.

So, to all my E52nd/H75th Brothers.... and all of you - have a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas season!

RLTW



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



Another day, another report on our Unit of Long Range Recon Patrol/Rangers. Much has transpired since the last edition. Veterans Day, The loss of Team Members to Vahalla. Wives and Family members are often telephoning during the year and asking about their benefits after a Veteran or loved one has passed, etc.

It was just yesterday that we were celebrating our unit's Spring 2005 biennial reunion in Branson, Mo. and at the time Dave Hill was Unit Director who talked about his extraction on the skids of a Cobra, because of the courage of Cobra Pilot, Larry Taylor. We had photos of Paul Elsner, Bill Cohn, Dave Hill, Tom McMahon, and John Pool from Lai Khe in 1968. Team Members talked about how young and tough the members looked. Now looking back, we see some of the events that our Unit participated in since leaving Vietnam. We had the reunion for Ranger Robert Roossien (KIA 1969) which we shared with Mother Roossien and her daughters.

Another reunion with the family of team member Bill Cohn from Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania. It was said that he died from lung cancer which today could be diagnosed as Agent Orange. As we look through the years, we can reflect back on great reunions Hall of Fame members and visits to many wonderful cities, towns, and villages. While at the same time we can see many of our Battle buddies have been called by the Lord and are no longer in our photos. Just this year alone we have lost two or possibly three wonderful LRRP/Ranger Brothers. Respectfully, team member Robert Busby- team member Ron Crews -and I have not heard back from the many messages left with team member James Moss' family after he told me he was sick?



Family Legacy -

Write a log of your actions as a Veteran and capture with a pen or computer the peaks and valleys of living a life as a Veteran. This combined with your oral history will help preserve your legacy for children, grandchildren, and future generations in perpetuity. Note - The LRRP/Rangers were the foundation of today's standing Rangers. They used Rangers in every war since the American Revolution and disbanded them until they (Department of Defense) realized that they were discarding some of the most skilled combatants. However, because of the success of the LRRP/Rangers in Vietnam War and many negotiations after the Vietnam War, we now have

standing Ranger units. Save this American History for your children!

IN CLOSING SHARED MEMORIES IN PHOTOS:

I went to the Louisiana reunion because I felt that I may not see some of my brothers next year. The lord was calling; however, I did not realize that he was also knocking on my door.

Thank God at times for bad hearing and I did not get the call. Had breakfast and I said my good-byes to all in attendance at breakfast time. I then rushed to my room to grab my gear for my flight home. I was catching a ride with Dave Hill and Ronnie Immel. Rushing around the room, I accidentally banged the inside of my knee on an open drawer in my hotel room. I have been restricted from flying since Louisiana because I developed blood clots in my right leg?

I am on serious medication and hope to be given a full clearance after Christmas. In the meantime, I missed the funeral of Ron Crews and Robert Busby. And it is my opinion that both Battle buddies were taken from this earth because of experiences while fighting the War in Vietnam. *Continued on the next page*

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A VERY HAPPY, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2023 REUNION NEWS

Gary and Wendy Hund - have coordinated the next reunion

<http://www.f52i75.org/>

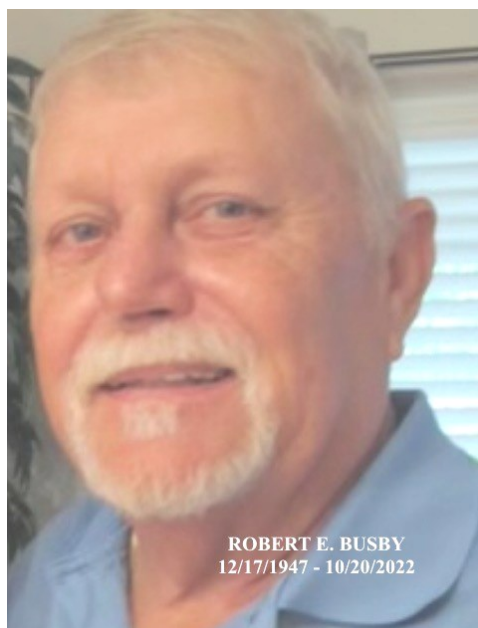
Who - Reservation Desk - 941-637-6770 book under "I" Company Ranger Block or Code IC 1554

When - APRIL 26- 30TH OF APRIL, 2023 - Reserve by April 5, 2023

This is the cut off date.

Where - FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON PUNTA GORDA

\$139 per night (includes use of hospitality room and \$10 breakfast fee)



ROBERT E. BUSBY
12/17/1947 - 10/20/2022



Ron Crews
5/4/1947- 10/22/2022



We fought at different times and on different teams from 1965 to 1970, during the War only to become LEGENDS and BROTHERS FOR LIFE.



REBOOT

COMBAT RECOVERY

REGISTER NOW
FOR OUR UPCOMING COURSE

REBOOTRECOVERY.COM

The poster features a dark, textured background with a yellow border. The word "REBOOT" is in large white letters, and "COMBAT RECOVERY" is in yellow letters on a black background. Below this is a yellow chevron symbol. The text "REGISTER NOW FOR OUR UPCOMING COURSE" is in white, and the website "REBOOTRECOVERY.COM" is in yellow letters on a black background.



NEW CHALLENGE COINS

@ 75THHRA.ORG



K/75 - E58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

As always please contact any of your Brothers who are experiencing hard times whether it is physical or mental. If it's only to touch base the call is always appreciated. Sometimes that all it takes to brighten a Brothers day.

It's been over fifty years in a land far away (as they say) that we experienced a year or more (some less than that) the hardships of war in an unforgiving atmosphere of chaos. But it was and still is my greatest honor to stand beside the bravest and most honorable men who stepped forward to take on the most dangerous missions of the Vietnam War. Being so young we did not realize it until some historians told us many years later. All we have left are some mementos, physical and mental injuries, and the memories of the time we shared with our Brothers. They are my memories, and your memories. Together they tell a story that few understand. But that's okay, they are ours be they good or bad and we cherish each one.

Seems like the older we get these memories come more often. We don't wish to live in the past but as the years have passed, most of us have come to the realization that forming these memories and the love of our Brothers, it was one of the most precious times of our lives.

I received the news recently that LT. William Joseph Miller of the 1st Brigade LRRPs has passed away. As of this writing there are



LT Miller-1st Brigade LRRPs-Passes Away

no details other than a couple of pictures that I can share at this time. I did receive a picture from his hometown newspaper about his award of the Bronze Star for actions with an infantry unit before he came to the 1st Brigade LRRPS. Unfortunately, the article is in a glass case so I don't think it will be readable due to the reflection and blurriness.

The following is from previous publications, but I thought worth repeating to remind us of the Heroes we stood with. An interesting and inspirational read I pulled from the August 10, 1969 Ivy Leaves about Melvin Jones, 1st Brigade LRRP award of the Distinguished Service Cross.

CAMP ENARI-In ceremonies at the Basecamp Theater, two Famous Fighting Fourth Division soldiers received the Distinguished Service Cross (DSC) in recognition of their extraordinary courage and gallantry in action.

General Creighton Abrams, commanding general of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam," presented the awards to Specialist 4 Melvin E. Jones, a member of a patrol from Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade and Platoon Sergeant James M. McBee of 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry who had received a Silver "Star during a previous tour in Vietnam.

Specialist Jones received the DSC for his actions on February 7 in "VC Valley." In the encounter, three members of his team were wounded by enemy fire and it was up to Specialist Jones to hold off the hostile force and remove his injured comrades to safety.

After firing several well-aimed volleys at the enemy, Specialist Jones administered first aid and radioed for help. He then directed gunships on the enemy positions and finally made three trips through withering hostile fire to carry his wounded comrades to a rescue helicopter 100 meters away.

Specialist Jones, was born in London, England, but was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. James Holland of Kansas City, Mo., when he was seven years old. *Continued next page*



LT William Joseph Miller-1st Brigade LRRPs

Since then, Kansas City has been his home. The soldier's wife of seven years, Betty, also lives in Kansas—City with their four children who range in age from 18 months to six years.

The father of four doesn't hesitate to admit he was frightened during the action in VC Valley, but there were more important things on his mind at the time.

"There were two men with severe wounds," he recalled. "I was scared, I know, but I didn't really think about it. I just thought about getting those men out."

And this from two who were there:

In the last issue of Patrolling (Winter/2020) I included an old Ivy Leaves publication (1969) that had an article about Melvin Jones, 1st brigade LRRP who earned the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions that saved his team (14 Foxtrot) on Feb. 7, 1969.

I received a phone call from John Morton from Kodiak, Alaska who informed me that he was on the team and was shot five times. Also wounded was Joe (no last name) the team leader and scout Kai. Melvin was not wounded and through herculean effort carried each of his teammates to the rescue chopper.

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

In old news: The reunion in Colorado Springs back in September went off without a hitch and was enjoyed by all in attendance. One of the highlights was our visit to Camp Kilo which is the 4th Div. Pre-Ranger course named in honor of the 4th Div. LRRPS and Rangers of the Vietnam war. The following is an article by Tyler Brock of the Public Affairs Office.

FORT CARSON, CO, UNITED STATES
09.16.2022

Story by Spc. Tyler Brock

4th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

FORT CARSON, Colo. - Veterans formerly assigned to K Company, 4th Infantry Division, attended a reunion at Fort Carson, Colorado, Sept. 8, 2022. While here, they were welcomed and given a tour by the Pre-Ranger team.

During the Vietnam War era, these Veterans were part of an elite group of Rangers called Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol teams. These teams moved deep into enemy lines, gathered intelligence, and reported to their commander.

"They normally moved out in small teams of six elements, and they would move far out before the rest of the 4th Inf. Div.

would move," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Davis, a senior tactics advisor and counselor for the Pre-Ranger course, assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 4th Inf. Div. Such high-risk missions required each Soldier to depend on the men to his left and right. Oftentimes, communication was reduced to hand signals and trusting that each other knew what the other was doing.

"At no time did we think about what the other guy was going to do," said James Burke, a former radio operator assigned to the LRRP, 4th Inf. Div. "All of us had the same mindset." Soldiers like Burke said they set the example for the 4th Inf. Div. by showing how they believed in each other by their dedication. A legacy marked by dedication and commitment remains the standard for any Ivy Soldier to this day.

"If we can get more Soldiers in the 4th Inf. Div. Ranger qualified, we can keep creating this culture Maj. Gen. Hodne is trying to get at, where 'I believe in myself, I believe in my team and I believe in my leaders,'" said Davis.

Today, anyone who attempts to go through Ranger training at Fort Benning, Georgia is taught strategies derived from LRRP teams in Vietnam. These maneuvers, even though they were used in the years of 1969-1970, still help Rangers gain superiority on the modern-day battlefield.

"All of Ranger School's tactics are basically Vietnam tactics," said Davis. "Everything they did in Vietnam and brought back to the force is what we do now when we go to Ranger School and how we are trained. It brings it full circle."

The reunion concluded Sept. 10, 2022, as Veterans and current Ivy Soldiers sat around tables, exchanging stories during a banquet. Among those attending was Command Sgt. Maj. Adam Nash, senior enlisted leader of 4th Inf. Div. and Fort Carson. During a speech, Nash praised the men for their bravery and concluded the night by extending words of gratitude.

"You went and you braved the jungles and completed your mission every time," said Nash. "The spirit you created is still alive today in your division."

The dedication these LRRP Soldiers displayed during their time of service was marked by honor.

"For a young man, 20 years old, who came over from Ireland and went into the U.S. Army, it was an adventure," said Burke. "If I had another opportunity to do it again, I would be right there doing it."

I need to thank MSG Monse Gardea and the rest of the cadre of Camp Kilo for hosting and honoring us. They do a great job preparing 4th Div. soldiers for their admission to Ranger school.

Also, thanks to 4th Div. CSGM Adam Nash (Ranger) for honoring us as our guest speaker.

Continued on the next page

Camp Kilo Day



Front Row Kneeling: L-R

Larry Massoletti, Rick Noble, Willie Williams

Second Row: L-R

James Burke, David Bristol, Wayne Mitsch, Bob Fraser, Tom Sove, Tim Niemi

Third Row: L-R

Robert White, Butch Franscoviak, Pat Navarro, Roger Crunk, Herb Riechel

Back Row: L-R

Darryl Beals, Steve Lockard

In closing I need to thank Tom Sove and Wayne Mitsch for helping me put it all together. RLTW

Poem by Mike Monfroee— L/75th

"Sometimes at night I go back in time
when I was gifted to an all-expense paid
trip to a tropical land.

It included fun in the sun, nature
hikes and playing Hide go Seek with a guy
named Charlie.

Pay was low but the nightly show of red
and green fireworks made it worth it.

Mail was free and many of us were comforted
in knowing that...
some guys named Jody provided shoulders
for our girls and wives to lean on.

Bless his soul.

Didn't have a cat or hamster but we had
leeches...in places I didn't know I had. Skin
care wasn't a priority but we did get jungle
rot... which I still have.

We didn't have last names, we had
*Short Round, Chief, Pineapple, Country
Boy*, and the self-explanatory *Newbie* and
FNG.

People back home supported us by riots,
protests and burning certain documents...
though burning bras...
seemed like a great deal.

Back home, short-shorts a new fad and
young men going to Canada...

not so popular.

Name calling and insults in lieu of hand-
shakes and parades.

I will never
forget those that I
served with...always
with pride."





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—CHARLES “CHUCK” REILLY



Another reunion is coming up on us faster than you think. This one will be down in Bayou Country (near Lafayette, Louisiana) and all Rangers and LRRPs from “L” Company and “F” Company and 1/101st LRRP are encouraged to sign on. Former “L” Company Ranger Bobby Badeaux will be the host of this event and it appears like it will be a very special occasion for all who decide to attend. For those of you who want to be there, the reunion will be held from April 20 -23, 2023 in Scott, Louisiana. The nearest airport is in Lafayette, Louisiana. Bobby has reserved rooms at the Holiday Inn Express and Suites located at 736 1-10 South Frontage Road, Scott, Louisiana 70583. The hotel phone number is: (337) 232-6845. If you need to contact Bobby, his email address is: badeauxb1@gmail.com His phone number is: (337) 739-3233. He will have information regarding the reunion, hotel accommodations, T-shirts etc. for the event. If any girlfriends or wives are interested in purchasing a T-Shirt prior to the reunion, please contact Vivian Dominguez at (719) 221-1462. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with Vivian, she is Ranger Danny Dominguez’s wife.

Ranger Gary Linderer has also informed me that the LRRPS of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrolling Association are also having their 8th annual reunion on June 6 -11, 2023 in Branson, Missouri. Registration for this event will begin in January 2023. I will report more information regarding who to contact to make reservations in the next issue of Patrolling.

On a sad note, Captain Ken Eklund, the last company commander of F/58th LRP and the first company commander when the unit switched over to become “L” Company 75th Rangers, has died. He took command on August 1, 1968 and was with the company when its designation was changed to Rangers on February 1, 1969. He left “L” Company several weeks later. He had previously served a tour in Vietnam as a platoon leader with the 1/327th 101st Airborne Division. Captain Eklund was a West Point graduate of the Class of 1964. He died in DeSoto, Texas at the age of 83 last August. Unfortunately, I was not able to dig up an old photo of him from the archives and the picture of him on the Internet from his obituary was obscured and did not do him justice. If possible, I will try and find one before the next issue of this magazine.

Former Ranger Infantry Sergeant David “Muldoon” Rothwell was kind enough to send me some details regarding a mission he was on during the LAM SON 719 Invasion into Laos in early 1971. This was a specialized operation with one short-handed Ranger team (four men) assigned to accompany the 1st ARVN Division’s



David “Muldoon” Rothwell

“HAC BAO” Ranger company for an offensive mission near the Laotian/South Vietnam border due west of the A Shau Valley.



Hac Boa mission

The “L” Company Ranger commanding officer, Captain David Ohle, chose Rothwell, SP4 John Perez, Sgt. Jim “Ski” Kwasniewski and SSG James “Speedy” McLaughlin for the assignment. All of these men were highly experienced Rangers and perfect for the job. Because of their English language skills and familiarity with the communication devices (a nice way of saying that they’d be carrying the PRC-25 radios) the four Rangers would be indispensable to their Hac Bao allies. In other words, they would be the men who got the Hac Baos in and who would later get them out.

During the pre-mission briefing, the Hac Bao commanding officer informed the Rangers that he and his men would all die before anything bad happened to them. *Continued on the next page*

They would be very well-protected, to say the least. Neither would the Rangers have to carry any food or water. Those supplies would all be humped for them by the Hac Baos. Rothwell and his teammates merely had to carry their own weapons, ammunition, and the radios. A few months before this mission was conceived, the Rangers of "L" Company had trained the Hac Baos in tactics and in basic jungle insertions including rappelling from Hueys. They had become kind of an offshoot of "L" Company and had gained the respect of everyone. This new mission was one of the only times, however, that the two groups were involved in a joint venture. All four platoons of the ARVN Hac Baos would be deployed and they took off from the helipad at the 2/17th Cavalry with 12 Hueys in tow to do the heavy lifting. After about a 40-minute flight, the entire group crossed over the borderline into Laos and were unofficially declared Missing-in-Action by the 101st Airborne's Division Intelligence. Despite that designation, they would be in constant communication with Division Intelligence back at Camp Eagle. Whether this deception fooled the NVA to any degree will never be known. It was at least an attempt to cover their tracks.

Once on the ground, the Hac Baos immediately went to work like a ferocious group of Bengal Tigers looking for their next prey. With lightening speed, they covered as much ground as they could. A few straggling NVA soldiers wandered into the area and were dispatched forthwith by the Hac Baos. After thoroughly reconning the area for any additional enemy soldiers, the Hac Baos formed a perimeter and took a break for lunch. The Rangers from "L" Company felt very protected as they were allowed to sit in the middle of the perimeter in their own makeshift Command Post and not have to worry about being on guard. The exact mission of the Hac Baos was to scour the surrounding area which had been recently bombarded by artillery and air strikes and find out if anything of note had been hit or destroyed. Their mere presence was certainly enough to pique the interest of any NVA in the area, and that's what the Hac Baos were hoping for. They continued their reconnaissance after the lunch break but did not run into any more NVA. As the daylight hours passed, the group set up a very secure Night Defensive Position (NDP) and waited alertly for any probing by the NVA. As a



Perez



Sgt. Jim Kwasniewski



SSG James McLaughlin

matter of fact, a number of NVA did probe the perimeter that night. The Hac Baos made sure that was all they did. Unfortunately, one of their own men decided to relieve himself outside the perimeter without informing his comrades. This was strictly against their rigid code of conduct and the poor fellow was summarily executed by a few short blasts from Hac Bao machine guns before he could return to his position. The incident kept Rothwell and his Ranger teammates up all night. They understood what happened and why, but weren't happy that it ended in someone's death. After a mostly sleepless night, the Hac Baos continued to scour the area for any NVA still poking around, but it seems they had now vacated the area. In the afternoon of the second day, the Rangers were given the word that their mission was over and that they would be returning to Camp Eagle. Rothwell, Sgt. Ski, Speedy and Perez were relieved. When all was said and done, Rothwell stated that it had been a great honor to work with the Hac Baos. They were exceptional soldiers, but he always wondered what happened to them after the fall of Saigon in 1975. It's a good question and the answer will probably never be known. Hopefully, they survived.

I have included a picture of the Rangers before the mission, fully equipped and ready to go. Also, individual photos of the men have also been included. I had difficulty finding a singular picture of Dave Rothwell in Vietnam, so his photo is from a recent reunion. Unfortunately, SSG James "Speedy" McLaughlin was killed on a platoon-sized mission in the A Shau Valley in April of 1971. As many of you remember, Lt. Paul Sawtelle was also a KIA on that mission. The other Rangers from the Hac Bao mission, Rothwell, Jim Kwasniewski, and John Perez, are all alive and well and enjoying life. I'm positive that they will all be down in Scott, Louisiana at our next company reunion. I have also added a rare photo of SSG McLaughlin on a deserted firebase somewhere in I Corps with two other Rangers, the late Scott Whitmore and Gib Halverson. What they are doing there is anyone's guess. Well, that's all I have to report for now. I hope you all have a great Holiday Season with your family and friends.

As always, RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!!



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—RUDY TEODOSIO



ENERGETICALLY WILL I
MEET THE ENEMIES OF MY
COUNTRY,

I SHALL DEFEAT THEM ON
THE FIELD OF BATTLE FOR I
AM BETTER TRAINED AND
WILL FIGHT WITH ALL MY
MIGHT. SURRENDER IS NOT

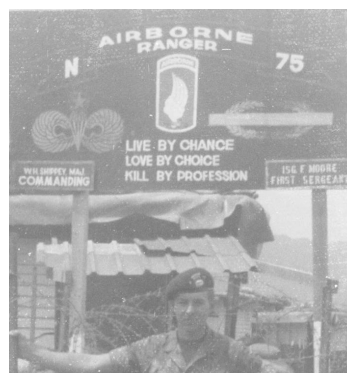
A RANGER WORD.

I WILL NEVER LEAVE A FALLEN COMRADE TO
FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE ENEMY AND
UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL I EVER EM-
BARRASS MY COUNTRY.

RANGER Johnny Vaught (Las Vegas NV) has
crossed over on 8th of May 2021 has been laid
to rest on the Wednesday 9th of November
2022 at Arlington National Cemetery.



Right-Two
Teams all
sporting black
berets who
served for N/75



May Johnny be granted the
peace he seek at the Mansion
of the Lord with the rest of the
Unit await his arrival with the
advance party of Rang-
ers.

Top Left-Johnny Vaught
(Dress Greens),

Top Right-Maria Vaught
(w/ Flag),

Right-Maria Vaught
with Rudy Teodosio



Continued on the next page

**173RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE REUNION 2023**

Sheraton Music City

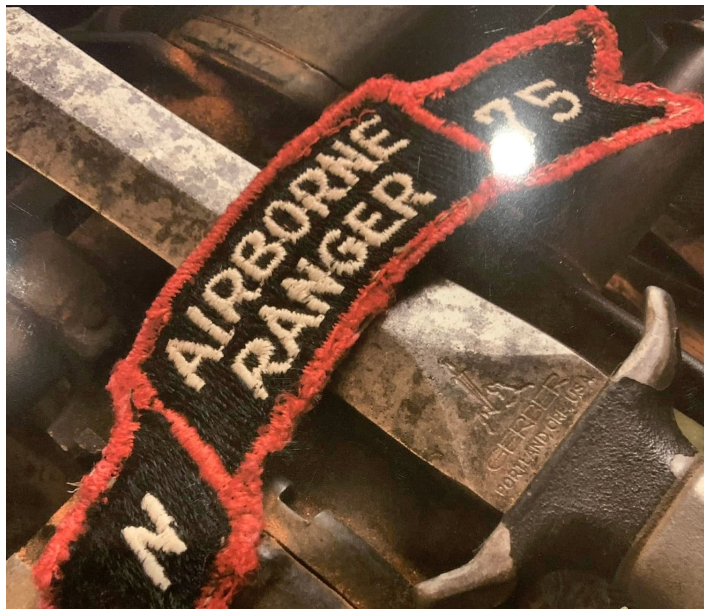
777 McGavock Pike

Nashville TN 37214

31 May – 4 June 2023

"BEWARE THE QUIET MAN WHILE OTHERS SPEAK, HE WATCHES
AND WHILE THEY ACT, HE PLANS, AND WHEN THEY FINALLY
REST,..HE STRIKE."

ANONYMOUS



IF A MAN WERE TO KNOW THE END OF THIS DAY BUSINESS ERE
IT COMES, BUT SUFFICES THAT THE DAY WILL ENDS, AND THE
END BE KNOWN.

IF WE MEET AGAIN, THEN WE'LL SMILE. IF NOT.... WELL THEN,
THIS PARTING WAS WELL MADE.

JULIUS CAESAR

*Continued on the next page*



TO ALL MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS AS ANOTHER YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE, AND ON BEHALF OF THE LRRPS AND RANGERS WE WISH YOU ALL TO STRIVE TO BE HEALTHY AND BRING HARMONY WITH YOUR OWN SPIRIT TO YOU AND YOURS.

HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR (2023)

MAY GOD BLESS Y'ALL



P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JERRY YONKO

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

This past week we celebrated the life of our good friend and Brother Tom Perry when we buried him at the National Military cemetery in Canton Georgia. There were six of us in attendance as you will see in the photograph. I had never before been to a military funeral and it was impressive to me. Tom received a 9-gun salute and taps was played. After the service we all went to the country club near Tom and Jeannie Perry's home for a wonderful lunch and celebration of life. We were able to meet the family and friends, all who held Tom in very high regards. I got up and delivered a few remarks and introduced those of us Papa Rangers who were there. I also told the story of the night of the rock apes.

It was spring of 71 and Papa Company teams were exploring the Khe Sahn plains prior to Lom Sam 719 which kicked off shortly after this episode. My team (killer 1-1) was performing an x-ray mission relaying radio signals for another team which were out of range from the base camp. We were dropped off on a precipitous hill smack in the middle of the DaKrong valley that had obviously been occupied sometime in the past as there were fighting positions still existing on top. We set up hoping for a quiet mission. We relaxed and prepared for our first night on the



hilltop, but we started to hear voices coming from the bottom of the hill just out of sight, because of the darkness in the early shadows just before total darkness. We could hear them but couldn't really understand exactly what was being said but as you could assume, we couldn't sleep at all and made plans for an attack at the crack of dawn, extraction if possible. That was one of the longest nights in my lifetime and just as the sun was coming up, we were directed to look again and make sure

exactly where the group was located so the flight of Cobra Gun-

ships already in the air would know where to direct their fire. As we again carefully looked over the edge of the hill, we were amazed to see that the NVA soldiers whom we had listened to all night were in fact a troop of rock apes. I swear we heard them talking but we could not



understand what they were saying but then again, they were Vietnamese apes. That same mission and I believe the same morning I witnessed one of the most beautiful sights I have ever seen. The DaKrong valley had filled up with clouds and we watched as the sun came up and wind blew the clouds from the east to the west exposing both sides and the river on the bottom. I know I was rejoicing still being alive, but I have never forgotten either episode. For the record, my brother Rangers never let us forget that we almost lit up a troop of monkeys.

Continued on the next page

The abuse was well taken and shared back to us by the Brigade staffs who also never let us forget.

On a personal note, Tom was a friend, brother and teammate and they are all precious to me. I remember Tom in the past few years drinking Coors light and cooking at the critter cookout. He never failed to help the cooking staff if it only meant stirring the pot. He was very good at that for sure. I will miss him and will remember with fondness each time I think of him.

I had a really good time being with Pat Stegall and Steve Nash, both of whom I knew from the past, but have not had time to just sit with and become reacquainted. We enjoyed talking Papa Company with both Dave and Duke too. It always amazes me when the old company teams speak of what they did during their tour. My time in the company always seems tame after hearing their stories. I am sure they were not embellished either. Pat and Steve have both recently moved from Illinois to the Nashville area and I cajoled them each into hopefully becoming Critter Cook Off attendees, so I will not have to be the only one from Papa Company there. I am hoping to continue the tradition of a good showing from our group.

We are still putting the final touches to Terry Roderick's internship, now tentatively (not confirmed yet but I will notify every-

one when we know for sure) scheduled for early May. If it is as expected, Terry will be laid to rest in Arlington on a Monday morning. I am going to see about getting together in Crystal City for a day or so of sightseeing and if we can swing it, a mini reunion for everyone like me who wanted to be there for Terry and also just a good excuse to meet up again. I have never been to Washington DC, and I would like to visit the Vietnam Memorial and just see what the fuss is all about.

I reached out to Jay Lutz but spoke instead to Marcia who told me they are hanging tough but are both feeling the effects of age. Marcia says her cancer is gone but the pain and debilitation will always be with her. Jay himself is also having issues with sleep and pain, so please remember them both in your prayers. David Marchbank survived a cancerous kidney removal and is back with a full head of steam. I heard from Rick Chitwood who told me that his cancer treatments seem to be working and that he has returned to work at his projects in Miami.

Dave says he would like to help set up and host a Papa Company reunion in DuBois Wyoming near Yellowstone. I have also had interest in doing the next one in Wisconsin and or the Nashville area. We will take our time and make sure that the next full-fledged reunion is a doozy.



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