

PATROLLING

December 2023

75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC.

Volume 35 Issue IV



Tony Mayne, USA Ret.

Photo courtesy of Davis Anderson

Ranger Outreach Center

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



Editor's Corner

Hello and happy holidays! My name is Mandy Neet and I would like to introduce myself as the new editor of *Patrolling*! I am extremely excited to partner with everyone who contributes not only to this publication but also to the 75th Ranger Regimental Association. As I have the opportunity to meet with you one by one, I look forward to partnering with you as we continue to keep the legacy of the 75th alive and thriving. Here are a few facts about me to help us get better acquainted



Marine Corps Ball, 2012

with each other. While I am not a direct member of the 75th brotherhood, I am a veteran myself. I proudly served with the United States Marine Corps for seven years. I enlisted and was trained in Public Affairs. I was attached to a unit at MCAS Miramar in sunny San Diego, California. I worked with the wing for about a year and then changed my MOS to work with an all-male grunt unit specializing in heavy weapons at Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, California. I worked in the rear as an Administration Clerk with my

Marines as they were sent on various deployments helping to ensure they were squared away for their upcoming deployments and as they transitioned back into our company from that deployment. I had the honor of maintaining my public affairs training and managed Weapons Company's monthly newsletter as well. I currently reside in the eastern suburbs outside of Dallas, Texas with my husband and our five children. While my husband is not a veteran himself, he is a Senior Detective for the Ventura County Sheriff's Office and works as a Crew Chief on the Ventura County Aviation Unit. We currently have a German Shepard, an Arabian horse, a Jersey bull (Bo Jackson) to keep the horse company, and two house cats who are named for famous battles in Marine Corps history: "Belleau Wood" and "Normandy."

A great man once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction" and I firmly believe it is up to those on the home front to preserve the rich history of the past as we live in the present and look forward to the future. As I step into this new role as editor and learn all about the legacy encompassing the ethos of the 75th Ranger Regimental Association, I hope to honor all of you in my efforts. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity and please do not hesitate to reach out to me as we partner together!

Mandy Neet

75th Ranger Regiment Association

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

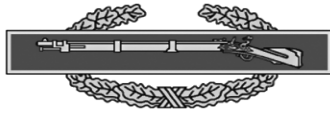
Advertisements for products or services do not constitute an endorsement by the Association. Manuscripts, photographs, and drawings are submitted at the risk of the individual submitting the material. Captions must be submitted with any photographs or graphics.

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

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

OUR MISSION:

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

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

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

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

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

Section 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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



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

We hold biennial reunions (in conjunction with the 75th Ranger Regiment Rendezvous) and business meetings. The association officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer), are elected at the biennial association business meeting. This reunion is held at Columbus/Fort Moore, 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

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75TH RANGER MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

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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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In Memory

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Website



Ranger Outreach Center

- A Mission of St. Luke Church Military Ministry -



BIG 5 for the Ranger Community

1 - DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Our third year of existence is coming to a close. It is amazing to see the hand of God working and growing the impact of the mission to serve Rangers and Veterans in the Fort Moore area. We now average more than 150 engagements a week. The key to success? Letting go and bringing in talented local Veteran leaders to share the work. GallantFew, 75RRA, USARA, and Cru Military have been here since the beginning. We now host All About Fitness Family, Warriors Set Free Georgia, Warriors Veteran Hockey, and Drexel Hamilton. We do more together. RLTW! - Tony Mayne

2 - FREE MEETING SPACE

The ROC is a wonderful resource for active duty, veterans, and Christian organizations needing meeting space for routine get-togethers and events. Let the ROC be a blessing to your ministry by providing a meeting space free of charge! Contact Candice at candice@gallantfew.org for room availability.

3 - TRANSITION COUNSELING

The ROC offers professional, one-on-one assistance to active-duty Rangers. Every Ranger receives an Individual Transition Plan, with customized action items for a Ranger to attack and win at transition. Schedule a meeting with Tony at calendly.com/tonyatgallantfew.

4 - HARVEST ON 3RD - COMMUNITY TRUNK OR TREAT

Thank you to the Plummer Home for bringing their vintage Army truck, "The Colonel", to join with the ROC for a fantastic "Harvest on 3rd" community trunk or treat event on Sunday, Oct. 22. St. Luke, First Baptist, and Holy Family churches came together to serve the kids in a safe, secure environment. We loved seeing our military families out and about in uptown Columbus.

5 - CHRISTIAN VETERAN LEADERS - THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

The ROC is hosting the inaugural Christian Veterans Leaders of Columbus breakfast on Thursday, Jan. 18, beginning at 7 a.m. We are excited for Jeff Bearden to discuss Cru Military's ministry impact on Fort Moore. Breakfast is provided for all attendees. Reserve your seat with Tony Mayne at tony@gallantfew.org.



The Ranger Outreach Center recruits, trains, and deploys disciples of Christ through a team of veteran support organizations dedicated to enriching the lives of the Chattahoochee Valley military community.

RECRUITING. Participating in events and creating partnerships to share the love of Christ with the community.
TRAINING. Providing Biblically-based education programs to share God's truth and strengthen believers' faith.
DEPLOYING. Exhibiting the love of Christ through service and discipleship activities.



@rangeroutreachcenter

Stop by and visit us at 1022 2nd ave., Columbus, GA 31901

www.rangeroutreachcenter.org

First, I want to wish each of you and your families and loved ones a blessed and loving holiday. May the Airborne Ranger in the sky bless and keep all of us as we celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, and just brotherly love for our Ranger brotherhood. May God bless and keep you and yours and Godspeed. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

RHOF

It is that time of year again. Packages for the 2024 RHOF inductions are due by 15DEC23, and the dates for selection will be in April. The induction will take place in July. If your unit wants to put forth a candidate, these dates must be met. The association has a committee, with Rick Barela as the chair, and Steve Johnson and Rick Merritt as the other members. They are here to ensure our packages and selections are the best we can put forth. We recently proposed some by-law changes to the RHOF Committee and will keep you posted. Again, the deadline for submitting your package to the 75TH RRA Committee is 15DEC23. Please send packages to rangerlogspt@hotmail.com.

MOG Mile

I had the opportunity to participate in one of the annual MOG Mile events that take place across the country. We acknowledge the memory of the fallen during this event. It has become a nationwide "virtual event" as well, and everyone is urged to have a local gathering of some kind to remember the black day in Somalia. I went to Gulf Shores, AL/Orange Beach, FL to the Floar-bama, a historical and legendary location on the Emerald Coast of the Gulf of Mexico. This is now owned by a Ranger, and hosts the monthly gathering of Ranger Base Kinney, named in honor of a Merrill's Marauder that died last year at the age of 101 years. At least 125 people were in attendance and I would like to refer you to the summary article within this publication.

VAUSA

I am happy to announce the association now has some long-needed administrative support through a company named VAUSA. This is a company that supplies "virtual assistants" on a part time and affordable basis across the country, and like our store and website development company, is Ranger owned. Welcome to Amanda Neet and we look forward to you getting us organized and keeping us in line. Look for better ongoing communications and information sent monthly about events and activities, rather than once a quarter.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ART "DOC" ATTAWAY



Store

Amanda will now start providing information on a regular basis about our new online store, which offers a vastly larger product selection than we were able to do before. ([75th Ranger Regiment Association - American Trigger Pullers](#))

75th Unit Tribute Invite at Army History Museum

On 15DEC2023 the 75th Ranger Regiment will receive tribute and the permanent installation of a plaque, in

the Army History Museum, 1775 Liberty Drive, Ft. Belvoir, VA. ([75th Ranger Regiment Unit Tribute Ceremony — Three Rangers Foundation](#))

Black and Tan

In January 2024 at the annual SHOT SHOW in Las Vegas, there will be a large gathering of Rangers. This year the location and date/times are listed on the 75th RRA website. Here is the [registration link for Black and Tan](#).

50th 1/75

The 50th anniversary of the 1st Ranger Battalion event dates are 6MAR24 to 10MAR24. The 1st Ranger Battalion has led to what is now known as the 75th Ranger Regiment. The anniversary will be celebrated on 9MAR24, in conjunction with the 1/75 annual ball. For details go to ([1st Ranger Battalion 50th Anniversary Celebration — Three Rangers Foundation](#))

National Ranger Monument

The National Ranger Memorial Foundation manages the National Ranger Monument at Ranger Field, near building 4, on what has been Ft Benning for 85 years. It has now been renamed Ft. Moore, after VN Major that led the newly formed "Air Assault" into the I Chang Valley, Vietnam in 1967. The afore-mentioned Ft. Benning was named after a solid soldier, commander, and true leader. You can purchase an engraved stone as a qualified Ranger at the National Ranger Foundation website (www.rangermemorial.org) and leave your name in history passing down a legacy for future years to come.



RLTW!

Statement of Activity

July - September, 2023

Accrual Basis Wednesday, November 15, 2023

TOTAL

Revenue

4000 Program income - DNP

4002 Membership dues 17,400.00

4006 Reunion income 3,474.85

4010 Coin sales

4013 Nickel Silver 30.45

4014 Silver coins 113.00

Total 4010 Coin sales 143.45

4020 Miscellaneous revenue 9.00

4021 Association Patch 41.65

4022 Association Sticker 29.85

Total 4020 Miscellaneous revenue 80.50

4052 Assoc. Pin 90.00

Gold 141.75

Total 4000 Program income - DNP 21,330.55

4100 Member donations - DNP 100.00

4102 Family fund contributions 3,451.00

4104 Goldstar contributions 1,461.00

4106 Member fund contributions 225.00

4110 Operations contributions 3,571.00

4120 Scholarship 3,781.00

Total 4100 Member donations - DNP 12,589.00

4900 Interest income 347.58

Total Revenue \$34,267.13

GROSS PROFIT \$34,267.13

Expenditures

6000 Program expenses - DNP

6002 Cash awards & grants - Battalions 2,000.00

6005 Cash awards & grants - Members 2,000.00

6012 Other costs 24.00

6016 Reunion costs 14,110.95

6018 Reunion supplies 77.81

6020 Website maintenance 900.00

6021 Constant Contact 135.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

6022 Network Solutions/Domain 72.97

Total 6020 Website maintenance 1,107.97

6025 Intuit Subscription

6026 Go Payment 60.00

6027 Quickbooks Online 175.00

Total 6025 Intuit Subscription 235.00

Google Suites 32.40

Statement of Activity

July - September, 2023

Accrual Basis Wednesday, November 15, 2023

TOTAL

Website Subscription 50.00

Total 6000 Program expenses - DNP 19,638.13

6100 Patrolling expense - DNP

6102 Patrolling printing 5,436.09

6104 Patrolling postage 1,185.21

Total 6100 Patrolling expense - DNP 6,621.30

6500 Operations - DNP

6502 Bank and merchant fees 327.78

6516 Postage and mailing service 79.51

6540 Postage-Secretary 120.82

6552 Treasurer Postage 45.03

6555 Chargeback Affinipay Refund 400.00

Office Supplies Secretary 248.32

Operations NSF 40.00

Virtual Assistant 1,000.00

Total 6500 Operations - DNP 2,261.46

Total Expenditures \$28,520.89

NET OPERATING REVENUE \$5,746.24

NET REVENUE \$5,746.24

VIETNAM LRRP/75th Infantry CHALLENGE COIN



Antique Bronze Challenge coin with scroll to engrave Name or Unit.
Coins are \$20 each which includes mailing.

If interested, contact email: rvnlrrp@aol.com



SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

HEROES OF AMERICA MARATHON

5K RUN, HALF & RELAY MARATHON

START: WOODHUFF PARK COLUMBUS, GA
(WEST 10TH STREET & BAY AVE)

3/22/24 - Packet Pickup at 11:00am
3/23/24 - Day of Registration at 6:00 am
3/23/24 - Start of Marathon at 8:00am

FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

www.heroesofamericamarathon.org

FEELINGS

How are you feeling? Are you aware of the physiology that your body is presenting? Are your feelings, or emotions, aligning with your physiology? Our bodies give us signals that all is not right in the world. It could be an upset stomach, difficulty breathing, a persistent headache, or exhaustion that lands us in bed at 7:30PM. Whatever the signal, or symptom, it's our bodies giving us clues that something is not right. Our bodies inform us, and our brains listen intently.

In 2018 - 2022 suicide rates were the highest in the months of October, November, and December. These months of weather change and instability may have something to do with the increase in suicide. Just knowing that this time of year suicide rates will increase should help us focus, be more alert, and aware of people's emotions and feelings around us, as well as our own emotions and feelings.

What can we do?

First, Recognize the signals in yourself and others:

Persistent Sadness or Low Mood: Feeling sad, down, or hopeless most of the time.

Loss of Interest or Pleasure: Losing interest in activities that were once enjoyable.

Changes in Sleep Patterns: Insomnia (difficulty sleeping) or hypersomnia (excessive sleeping).

Changes in Appetite or Weight: Significant changes in appetite or weight, either an increase or decrease.

Fatigue or Loss of Energy: Feeling consistently tired or lacking the energy to carry out daily activities.

Feelings of Worthlessness or Guilt: Having persistent negative thoughts about oneself or feeling guilty without apparent reason.

Difficulty Concentrating or Making Decisions: Trouble focusing, making decisions, or remembering things.

Physical Symptoms: Unexplained aches or pains, headaches, or digestive issues.

Social Withdrawal: Withdrawing from friends, family, or social activities.

Irritability or Agitation: Feeling easily irritated or restless.

Thoughts of Death or Suicide: Persistent thoughts about death, dying, or suicide. If you or someone you know is experiencing

- **Mental health conditions that can promote self-harm can include:**

- Depression

- Substance use problems. These could be prescription drug abuse as well as illegal drug use.

- Bipolar disorder

- Schizophrenia

- Personality traits of aggression or mood changes

- Recent loss of a relationship

- Poor Relationships or lack of connectedness with others

- Conduct disorder

- Anxiety disorders

- Prolonged stress

- Harassment or Bullying

- Unemployment

- Rejection

- Divorce

- Financial crisis

- Loss

- Critical Life Transitions

- Serious physical health conditions, including chronic pain.

- Traumatic brain injury

Warning Signs and Risk Factors

Something to look out for when concerned that a person may be suicidal is a change in behavior or the presence of entirely new behaviors. This is of sharpest concern if the new or changed behavior is related to a painful event, loss, or change. Most people who take their lives exhibit one or more warning signs, either through what they say or what they do. Risk factors may include a previous Suicide attempt, family history of suicide and a history of child abuse or neglect.

People may talk about killing themselves or being a burden to others, feeling hopeless, or lonely. No matter how uncomfortable it may be to hear those things, take them seriously and help the person get help.

What next?

(ER) Emergency Room Visit

If a person is suicidal, even yourself, the first step is an (ER) emergency room visit or a Quick Care Clinic. Don't take a chance to wait the feeling, emotion, or thought out. Medical help is the first best step, the **ONLY** first step.

Professional Help:

A licensed mental health provider can help with screening and diagnosing along with counseling and therapy. Appointments are difficult to schedule right now. If the signals are prevalent, book the appointment immediately. The professional mental health care provider can help determine the risk.

Self-Care:

Be realistic about your signals. How are you taking care of yourself? What can you control? How is your diet? Do you exercise? Diet and exercise have proven to have a large impact on mental health. Do you have friends that you interact with, **in person**! When was the last time you had a physical checkup? Did they do a CBC, check for vitamin D and B levels, and check your hormone balance? Are you taking vitamins? When was the last time you had fun? What were you doing when you were having fun? Are you seeing a counselor? Do you meditate or practice relaxation techniques? Do you feel safe at home? Do you have a friend that you confide in or talk to on a regular basis?

Dial 988 for the Suicide and Crisis helpline.

<https://news.va.gov/vetresources/>

https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/suicide_prevention/

Dr Janet Morgan, NCC, LPC, CT/RT, EMDR

US Army Veteran

<https://janet-morgan.clientsecure.me/>

10K Cast Regiment Ring

RAFFLE

Drawing will be held:
February 20, 2024
at 12:00
Tickets \$20 each or 6 for \$100

Size 11
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Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Hoping this has been a blessed holiday season for each of you.

This is Sandee Markwell Rouse, Gold Star mom of 1/75 Ranger Medic Jim Markwell (kia 20 December 1989) and your original Gold Star advocate. I have been out of my Gold Star work for 10 years. It is good to be back among my wonderful Ranger veterans.

For those of you that do not know let me give you an overview of how your organization came to be the very first veterans group to reach out to embrace your Ranger Gold Star Families.

Remember, this was way back in 2001.

It started with a trip to Washington DC to try to save the Black Beret in March of 2001. I was privileged to be part of a group of Rangers consisting of Bing Evans, Darbys CSM; Bob Black, Vietnam Ranger and Ranger History Author; CSM retired Emmett Hildibrant, Vietnam Ranger and at that time President of the 75th RRA and John Chester, Vice President of the 75th RRA. We were there lobbying Congressmen and Senators to stop this insane decision made by the then Army Chief of Staff General Shinseki. After a day of meetings, we were riding back to the hotel when Emmett pointed out we were passing the National headquarter of the American Gold Star Mothers. I then told him about my experience when I contacted them 11 years after Jim died which was not a good one. Please make note I believe this is a wonderful organization and has a rich history of serving. This was My personal experience, which looking back I know had to happen for my God mission to take place.

About 3 days after we returned, Emmett called and said, "Sandee, our conversation in Washington about your experience with the Gold Star Mothers has been weighing on me. I spoke to the board, and we have decided we want you to be our Gold Star Advocate. We want better than that for our Ranger families." After some conversation in which I questioned if he was drinking (LOL), I told him there were many people with walls of certificates who were more qualified than I. He told me indefatigability "No, there were not." He told me I had walked through the fire of loss and was the one they wanted. After a lot of family discussion and prayer, I agreed to do my best for them. Especially not knowing where this journey would lead just six months later when we were attacked on 9/11.

Over the course of the next 14 years I was privileged to be a part of the 75th RRA as I watched this Association "Lead The Way" in caring and generosity for our Rangers and their families. You gave with open arms and hearts to any and all requests that



were made by me and you always ALWAYS had my back. Especially in starting the current 75th Ranger Regiment Gold Star page where our families can be in touch. It was without a doubt a God thing and happened in His time.

A special mention to two people, who without their love and encouragement, this would have not happened:

Colonel Chris Vanek . He watched me fight for a way for our families to know they were not alone. When he became the Regimental Commander within two hours of him taking command, he had five of us Gold Star families in his conference room with his staff. By the end of the meeting, the connection of the Facebook page was in the works and the connecting person in each battalion would be the chaplains.

They say you save the best for last and I did! Her name is Sheila Dudley. For those of you that know her this is all I need to say. For those of you that don't, I will explain. Sheila was the 1/75 Secretary/Mother/Angel. When our family arrived in January of 1990 at 1/75, Sheila was there. I could not have known this was going to be such a God send for my family and especially for me. When I needed help, Sheila was there. When I needed direction in the Ranger way, Sheila was there. When I needed straight "frank in your face" talk, Sheila was there. When I need to laugh, Sheila is there. When I just need to know I am loved and have a forever friend, Sheila is there.

This is pretty much the bio on the 75th RRA Gold Star program. I will close with this: they say the biggest form of flattery is when you are copied. And boy have you been! Some of the newer organizations and foundations probably don't even know their roots trace back to you. You were the first veteran's organization to have their own Gold Star program and for that I thank you for allowing me to be apart of you and at the same time quietly honoring my Ranger. RLW all the way always! I am so looking forward to the new and innovative things we will be doing in the future.

This 12/20 is the 34 anniversary of the death of my Ranger. It is my hope that I am honoring him as I love and honor each of you and our Gold Star families.

Happy Blessed New Year, dear ones!



MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

80 years ago almost 3,000 Infantrymen answered President Roosevelt's 1943 "call" for a "dangerous and hazardous" mission and became known as Merrill's Marauders ... only one remains alive - Russell Hamler, 99, Pennsylvania



Russell Hamler, (R next to elephant) looking younger than his 19 years, recovers in India during Spring 1944 from being shot in the hip at the battle of Nhpum ga,

In 1943, almost 3,000 men from Panama and Trinidad in the Caribbean, plus Stateside and the South Pacific volunteered for an unknown mission few – if any – were expected to survive. Code-named "Galahad," the unit was originally under command of Lord Louis Mountbatten's British Southeast Asia Command. The oldest was a WW I veteran of the Canadian Black Watch Highlanders. One of the youngest was Russell Hamler from Pennsylvania. Last year, he was one of only five living Marauders presented with a Congressional Gold Medal by Camp Frank D. Merrill Rangers. Now the last living Marauder, he is seen here (R) with his son, Jeffrey, who lives with him in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



Roosevelt's Little White House in Warm Springs, GA has a Christmas tree where visitors can hang names & photos of their veteran. This photo of Marauder Vincent Melillo & his wife, Frankie, has been hung every year since the program began.



5307th CUP MIA Luther "Buck" Bagley inducted Nov. 4, 2023, into Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame



Luther "Buck" Bagley, one of the first 5307th CUP replacements flown into the Myitkyina airfield after the Marauders seized it May 17, 1944, has been inducted into 2023 Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame For Valor. "Buck" was only 22 when he was KIA July 25, 1944, just eight days before the town of Myitkyina was captured. The Army – almost 80 years later – is still searching for his remains. His widow, Eleanor Stark, 99, and their son, "Woody" visit (L) with state Senator Ed "Hop" Harbison who presented the GMVHOF medallion to Eleanor. A young Eleanor sits with "Buck" holding baby "Woody" (R) before he was shipped off to his unknown battle location of Myitkyina, Burma.



National Ranger Monument Ft. Benning, GA - ORNAMENT

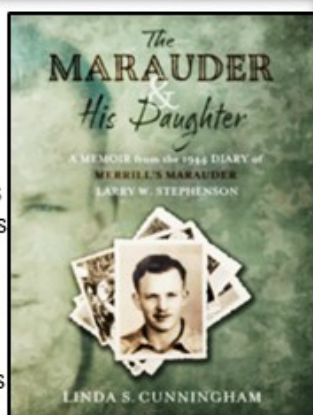
"This 3-D, one-of-a-kind, metal ornament is only available in the Infantry Gifts Store or our website," said owner Jill Hooser. Order online for the 3.5 by 2.5 inch ornament at:

<https://infantrygifts.com/rangers-lead-the-way/>

"The Marauder & His Daughter" by Linda S. Cunningham now available on Amazon

Linda S. Cunningham's book, "The Marauder & his Daughter," written from her father Larry W. Stephenson's secret 1944 diary and family interviews can now be purchased on Amazon.

Linda's book, which took years in the making, is a window into the horror of the Marauder campaign as seen from her Dad's eyes.



Irish author Kevin Johnston's long-awaited book on Father James Stuart will include his life in Burma

Author Kevin Johnston's book on Catholic missionary Father James Stuart's life will be the most comprehensive account written about the priest who worked with Kachins and advised both the OSS and Merrill's Marauders. Kevin and his author wife, Maura, a family friend of Father Stuart, live in his hometown of Moneymore, N. Ireland.



Family deaths and health issues have slowed Kevin's work, but Maura keeps the book in motion.



75th RANGER MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

UNIT DIRECTOR—LEE GARCIA

After four years of planning, collaboration, design, and renovation, the U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment cut the ribbon on the Domeij Fires Center on November 2, 2023, marking its grand opening.

"Today, we stand on hallowed ground," said Master Sgt. Ian Pletch, the 75th Ranger Regimental Fires Noncommissioned Officer. "Not just because of the bricks and mortar that shape the structure behind me, but because of the legacy it represents. We are here to honor a man whose journey was truly the stuff of legends."

The center is named after Sgt. 1st Class Kristoffer Domeij, who served as the Fires Support Non-commissioned Officer for 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, when he was killed during combat operations, October 22, 2011, in Afghanistan.

It was his 14th combat deployment.

THE MAN
Domeij was a fire supporter of legendary proportions within the Ranger Regiment, whose incredible career laid the groundwork for what would become Ranger Fires Support as it exists today.

"[Domeij] walked amongst us during one of the toughest periods in Ranger history," said Col. J.D. Keirsej, Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment. "Back-to-back deployments in the places that others feared to tread. This was an important time in Ranger history."

"The rest of the joint force was on the ropes," Keirsej said, "and needed Rangers to track down the leaders and high-level facilitators of the enemy. Kris did it each and every night."

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Reynolds, a forward observer with the 75th Ranger Regiment, who had never met the man in person, told the story of Domeij with reverence and awe.



"[Domeij] came to Ranger Regiment pre-9/11," Reynolds said. "In a world where things were changing, capabilities were being delegated down, he oversaw all of it. He led the way. He was a man who could layer effects and layer fires in a way that was kind of next level."

Domeij earned the distinction of becoming one of the first Joint Terminal Attack Controller qualified members in the U.S. Army at the time.



Rangers Fires Supporters with the 75th Ranger Regiment unveil the sign for the Domeij Fires Center.

PHOTO BY SGT. DAVID SOFLIN / 75TH RANGER REGIMENT
FORT MOORE, GA

It is a distinction that has rippled across time and left a permanent mark on the Regiment. Now, Ranger Fire Supporters are required to become JTAC qualified when they become NCO's.

"Not only are we good Rangers," said Sgt. Jack Masterson, a forward observer with the 75th Ranger Regiment, "but we're also really good fires guys. It's not one or the other. They go hand in hand. And [Domeij] was really the first to show that

we can do that."

Reynolds hammering the breadth of Domeij's influence on the Ranger Regiment home by bridging the past with the present.

"We look back at our history," said Reynolds. "We look at WWII and the Rangers who climbed Point du Hoc on D-Day ... I personally didn't climb Point du Hoc. You know what I mean? And so, I ask myself: how do I carry forward, and how can I be the guy who climbs Point du Hoc ... when MY Point du Hoc comes around?"

"Kris Domeij showed us how," he said.

THE DOMEIJ FIRES CENTER

The Center's inception began when retired Chief Warrant Officer 3 Gregory Funk, former Fires Officer for the 75th Ranger Regi-

-ment, recognized the need to accelerate its lethal effects capabilities in the special operations forces environment.

"When you look at the training path of fire supporters and special operators that are JTACs, there's a lot that goes into it," Funk said. "If you look at the SOF Truths, these skills can't be easily replicated, and mass produced. It's a unique skill that requires detailed training. It's not a hobby. It is a very serious skill set that can either make or break a mission."

Building on a history, dating back to then Secretary of the Army, Gen. Creighton Abrams' Charter to the Regiment in 1974, which charged the elite special operations unit to "be better with their hands and weapons than anyone," the 75th Ranger Regiment set out to bridge the significant gaps that exist in the Army's fires capabilities by building a physical representation of groundbreaking technology coupled with the unmatched fighting spirit of the Rangers.

"The problem was that getting the actual training reps in relied too heavily on factors outside of the unit's control," said Funk. "Bad weather rolls in, training can't happen. Aircraft malfunctions, training can't happen. Even when things go perfectly, the amount of time between iterations for the lanes to reset means that individual Fire Supporters and JTACs may only get one or two reps in during the exercise."

There is a cosmic divide that exists between simply having proficiency in a skill set and having mastery of it, and it's a divide the Domeij Fires Center aims to close.

Here they will get the reps necessary to gain true mastery of their craft. The center offers a dynamic space where Ranger and partner Forward Observers can experience tough battlefield problems and solutions firsthand and envision applications within their own operations.

"It's designed for the next generation of fires Rangers and Soldiers," Master-son said. "I think that it's probably honestly going to revolutionize things, not only for forward observers, but also Army JTACs."

It is a \$2.2 million fires training facility, unrivaled in all the Army, that exemplifies cutting-edge fires technology in both the special operations realm and beyond.

It is a total immersion simulator, able to not only replicate the most complex combat scenarios that a forward observer could face in the real world, but also to capture real time data that

Ranger forward observers can use to gain a profound understanding of their equipment, technology, tactics, and perhaps most importantly, themselves, in order to meet the ever-evolving challenges facing the Army and the Nation. Spanning more than 1,500 square feet, the Domeij Center combines a joint operations center and individual virtual training simulators to provide the greatest training benefit possible to every fire supporter in Regiment and beyond. The deliberate inclusion of the latest fires technologies and equipment underlines the 75th Ranger Regiment's commitment to continual, realistic, and exhausting training as it strives to build and field the best possible fire supporters in the Army.

"The infantry owns the last 100 yards of the battlefield, no question," Reynolds said. "But they're not going to get that close without substantial amounts of fire support."

That, at its core, is what the Domeij Fires Center is all about. Setting the conditions necessary for Rangers to continue to dominate any mission they are called upon to fight. This center embodies a steadfast commitment to actively contribute to advancing solutions in the battle space and setting new Army standards.

"This building is the arena," Pletch said. "This building is the crucible where Ranger Fires professionals are built. Forged through fire, led by Ranger NCOs who give you the opportunity to fail forward; to get 1% better every day. This building represents the Ranger spirit of Sgt. 1st Class Kristoffer Domeij. His legacy lives on. It is our turn now to do for others ... what he did for us."

Rangers Lead The Way



Sgt. 1st Class Kristoffer Domeij's mother, Scoti Domeij, cuts the ceremonial ribbon, held by the 75th Ranger Regimental Command team, to officially open the Domeij Fires Center on Nov. 2, 2023.

PHOTO BY SGT. DAVID SOFLIN / 75TH RANGER REGIMENT
FORT MOORE, GA



1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—RICK MERRITT

SSG Jeremy Katzenberger Triathlon: Members of Bravo Company traveled to Weatherby Lake, Missouri from 25-28 AUG in support of the 13th Annual Jeremy Katzenberger Memorial Triathlon. Hosted by multiple family and friends of the Katzenberger's, Rangers were able to socialize and partake in family events throughout the weekend in remembrance of our fallen Ranger. The event was wildly successful, raising \$33,500 in support of the Sua Sponte Foundation (the highest total in the event's history) and continued to tie this generation of B Co Rangers to those that came before us.



EUCOM Recruiting Trip: 1/75 Rangers conducted a series of small unit exchanges in Europe. Thirty Soldiers from the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and 173rd IBCT(A) benefited from rifle and pistol marksmanship courses taught by 1st Battalion's Training and Innovation Cell NCOs, as well as a series of briefings regarding UAS capabilities. Additionally, our E Co focused on the recruitment of LDMOS and conducted 20x cumulative briefs that reached over 140 Soldiers. The trip forged new relationships and introduced over one hundred potential candidates to the 75th Ranger Regiment.



(LEFT) SSG Clarke crosses the finish line after anchoring his team's effort.

(CENTER) B CO Rangers pose with the Katzenberger Family and the incredible people of Weatherby Lake that hosted the company during the event.

(RIGHT) CPT Cole Manhart poses after receiving first place award for fastest time on the short course in the 30-39 Age group

Building Future Leaders: In August, Bravo Company hosted 5x ROTC cadets for a three-week training period and provided them with an immersive experience during their time in the footprint. B Co Leaders provided the cadets with counseling and LPDs, and integrated them into the execution of multiple training events.



(TOP LEFT) 1/75 Recruiting Team completes the Monte Berico run while conducting PT with 173D Sky Soldiers.

(TOP RIGHT) CPT Roper and SSG Boggs conduct low density manning recruitment briefs on the 173D footprint

(BOTTOM) Members from B5TIC conduct Rifle Pro 1 with soldiers from 2CR and the 173D while conducting SUE/recruitment

13th ANNUAL HEROES INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT: On 2 OCT, members of 1/75 participated in the Heroes Golf Tournament successfully raising \$150,000 for the Sua Sponte Foundation.



(LEFT) ROTC cadets observe SGT Kernodle as he conducts a daytime FMP in preparation for his JTAC evaluation.

(RIGHT) ROTC cadets receive a weapons familiarization on the 60mm mortar system prior to LFX training



Junior Officer Development Course: In August, 1st Ranger Battalion invested in its Junior Officers through classroom and hands-on instruction centered around the profession of arms. Intent was to ensure a baseline knowledge across the formation regarding live fires, accountability procedures, resourcing, targeting, mission planning, and SOPs. The Branch-Qualified (BQ) CPT population was responsible for many of the classes, and did not disappoint. LTG(R) Beaudette provided leader professional development (LPD) in a brief on the responsibility officers have to the profession, and the challenges of post GWOT Army as it goes through a Prodigal Soldiers era. His most salient point was to reinforce to our Rangers that “they joined to BE something, not to just DO something.”



(Left) 1/75 Officers and NCOs conducted team-building PT in downtown Savannah

(Right) LTG(R) Beaudette speaks with 1/75 Officers at the Hunter Club

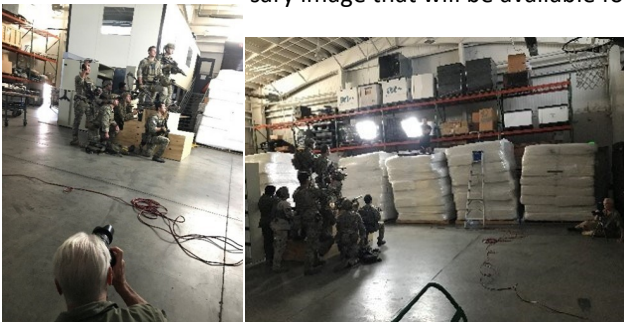
LAYKA STATUE DEDICATION AND 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION URGENT FURY:

On 25 OCT, members the First Ranger Battalion hosted over 140 former Rangers and their families to memorialize K9 Layka and honor the 40th Anniversary of Operation Urgent Fury with a static display and formal ceremony.



1/75 50th Anniversary Dietz

Photoshoot: On 1 NOV, members of 1/75 conducted a photoshoot with Jim Dietz for the 50th Anniversary Print. Jim Dietz was commissioned to paint a 50 year anniversary image that will be available for limited sales in 2024.



BN Trunk or Treat: On 27 OCT, members of 1/75 and the SFRG hosted the BNs Halloween Event. Ranger families were able to participate in a trunk or treat, a costume contest, a best trunk contest, and enjoy interactions with the local fire department. A special thanks to the Sua Sponte Foundation and Lead the Way Fund for supporting the event.



(Above) 1/75 Soldiers and Families participate in BN Trunk or Treat Event

1/75 Assumption of Responsibility: On 3 NOV, 1/75 welcomed CSM Michael Wagner and his family to the Battalion. CSM Wagner proudly serves as the Command Sergeant Major of 1st Ranger Battalion.



(Above) 1/75 Assumption on Responsibility Ceremony

Sad to share that we lost SMA Glen Edward Morrell; the first CSM of 1st Batt as we were deactivated 49 years ago.

Glen was born to Charles and Bessie Morrell in Wick, West Virginia in 1936, and died at home on 26 October 2023 surrounded by friends and family at his home in Cocoa, FL.



He joined the Army in 1953 and held every noncommissioned officer position culminating as being selected as the 7th Sergeant Major of the Army (SMA) in 1983 from which he retired in July 1987.

At the age of 41, SMA Morrell attended the US Army Ranger School and was the Distinguished Honor Graduate of his class. He then volunteered to be the Command Sergeant Major of the 1st Ranger Battalion at Fort Stewart, GA.

After assignment as the Command Sergeant Major (CSM) of the 1st Ranger Battalion, SMA Morrell went on to be the CSM of 10th Special Forces Group (Europe), CSM of US Army Recruiting Command, CSM of Forces Command, before being selected as the 7th Sergeant Major of the Army.

There was (and maybe still is) a photo of him in the Pentagon during Ranger School, with a twenty-something year old on his shoulder who just couldn't make it any further. Despite being twice his age, Sergeant Major Morrell would leave no soldier behind.

The US Army Recruiting Command established the Glen E. Morrell Award for Recruiting Excellence in his honor. This medallion is the ultimate award under the Recruiting Incentive Awards Program.

SMA Morrell was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame in 1993. His love of Rangers and dedication to mentor and promote the Warriors of the 75th Ranger Regiment never diminished. His service to this Nation is legendary and he will forever be remembered and treasured.

His many duty assignments include three combat tours with the

Special Forces in Vietnam, two tours with the Special Forces in Panama, two tours in Germany, many military assignments in the United States to include the 82d Airborne Division, and the 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, and Reserve Officer Training Corps instructor with Saint John's University, Minnesota.

His many awards include: Combat Infantryman Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, Master Parachutist Badge, Army Staff Identification Badge, Silver Recruiter Badge, Expert Marksman Badge, Vietnam Parachutist Badge, Distinguished Service Medal, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Presidential Unit Citation with three oak leaf clusters, Good Conduct Medal (ten awards), Army of Occupation Medal, National Defense Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three campaign stars, Presidential Unit Citation with three oak leaf clusters, NCO Professional Education Ribbon with bronze award numeral V, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon with award numeral I, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal Unit Citation, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and ten service stripes.

After retirement, Glen moved to Cocoa, Florida where he enjoyed fishing, volunteering at Christ Central Church of which he was a member, and hosting friends and family. His cookouts were epic! SMA Morrell was preceded in death by his parents, his six siblings, his grandson, Jay Morrell, and his granddaughter, Lauren Morrell. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Karen Morrell, his son Glen Edward Morrell II, and his daughters Dawn Morrell and Angela Morrell.

SMA Morrell was laid to rest on 7 November 2023 at Cape Canaveral National Cemetery; resting in eternal peace with the "Big Ranger in the Sky".



2nd BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—HUGH ROBERTS



War Story:

AIRFIELD SEIZURE GONE WRONG

One of the Ranger priority missions is the airfield seizure, an airfield seizure is a complexed mission that can involve units from every branch of the military

The planning sessions for this type of mission are painfully detailed with every contingency rehearsed.

This is the story of an airfield seizure gone wrong, described by MSG (ret) Bryan Dinsmore who was on that fateful Aircraft.

Hooah Rangers

I hope this edition of Patrolling finds all of you well and ready for the holidays.

First, sad news, we just lost another 2/75 Ranger, Gary Lee Presson, Gary was a member of Bco 3rd platoon he died after a long battle with cancer his wife Janine is planning on having Gary interred in Arlington. RIP Ranger Buddy.

The 2/75 50th Anniversary October 1-3 2024, is in the planning stages I have attached a tentative schedule of events, this will be a great time for all us old bat boys to get together I will continue to provide quarterly updates. If you have specific questions feel free to shoot me an email.




I was a member of A Company, 2nd Ranger BN, 75th Infantry, and I was in a C-130 plane crash on September 21, 1981. It was a battalion night training exercise, during which seven Army personnel were killed, six of them were Rangers and friends of mine. The Rangers were staging out of Ft. Campbell, KY, and flying to an area near Indian Springs AFB in Nevada, where they would be practicing airfield seizures.

I was the Chalk 5 Leader for our plane that night, with a number of key leaders on board including the Battalion Commander LTC Powell. We were flying in blackout mode without lights on, inside or out, being as tactical as possible. It was a battalion-sized exercise with cross-loading on several C-130s, with ours being the lead aircraft.

Our time on target was midnight. The plane was coming in fast, and we did not know we were about to crash until we did. There was no alert warning or other signals. At first, I thought it was just a hard landing, but the plane split on the undercarriage and started rolling to its right side as it slid after impact, filling the front cargo section of the plane with desert dirt. Afterward, I was told that we had slid for several hundred yards.

When we hit the ground, I was sitting on the tailgate as the Chalk Leader. The mission was to open the tailgate after landing for a quick exit, unloading motorcycles, jeeps, and helicopters quickly, as was necessary for the mission. We did not all have seats since the plane carried a little bird fully loaded with a rocket pod and a mini-gun for air support on the runway. We had gun jeeps loaded with mortars and ammo, as well as Kawasaki 175 scout bikes for roving patrols and backup support. Everyone was loaded up with live ammunition, blocks of C4, star clusters, LAW rockets, flares, smoke grenades, and more. We were ready for a huge live-fire exercise. After impact, we had only a moment to be stunned because everything in our world turned chaotic.

There was JP4 jet fuel spraying inside the plane. Many of us had fuel on us along with pockets and packs filled with ammo and pyrotechnics. Fire caused thick smoke from burning materials




Save the date!

2nd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment
50th Anniversary Celebration
October 1-3 2024, JBLM, WA

Tentative schedule of events:

- Tuesday – October 1
 - Meet and greet / registration
 - State of the Battalion
 - Battalion tour sign ups
 - Static Displays
 - Golf Scramble
 - Food Trucks
- Wednesday – October 2
 - Banner day events
 - Football, tug of war, shooting comp, team RPAT
 - Battalion Tour
 - Company get togethers
- Thursday – October 3
 - Tribute to the fallen
 - 50th Anniversary closing ceremony
 - Battalion BBQ w/ live music

Please scan the below code to be added to the 2/75 contact list. This is not an RSVP. The registration link and hotel information will be sent out at a later date. If you have any questions, please email 2drangerbattalion@gmail.com.



like plastics and fuel. I remember throwing chem lights throughout the back section of the plane because the lights were out. It was hard to recognize individuals in the dark, smoke-filled plane, but there were many acts of heroism happening all at once. CPT Gardner and SSG Bynum were the medics on board and were taking care of the wounded throughout the plane they continued to treat Rangers before succumbing to the smoke and heat. I knew LTC Powell and his RTO SP4 Critselous were up in the front, but I could not see anything more than about ten to fifteen feet away, and that was decreasing fast. Wounded Rangers were helping other wounded Rangers all around.

I don't think a civilian flight of this nature would have had any survivors. The Rangers on that plane were acting fast and working together, helping each other as best as they could to get outside.

When I think about all the safety briefs I have had before boarding almost every flight before or since that night, they always give you directions on what to do from your seat. Counting how many steps to the nearest exit or which exit is closer to your seat all changes when things go bad. What is not considered is that your seat will not be in the same orientation when things go wrong. The roof may be on the side or underneath, or the left side door may be on the ceiling, as it was on our flight after sliding across the desert.

I got out through the back, which was now a side exit on what was the ceiling of the tail section. A couple of guys I could not see clearly were assisting Rangers up to an open hatch with a sling rope. I don't remember how I got to the ground, but we started moving people out into the desert, away from the range of small arms and mortars. After we got out, the munitions started to ignite and explode even more.

By the end of the night, the plane was completely burned to nothing, except for the tail fin. It had been burning for four hours with intermittent explosions from ammo, pyrotechnics, and fuel. I had my roster of who was on board, which helped in getting a head count. We were flown by helicopter to Nellis AFB hospital where the more seriously injured were looked after. Those of us who were among the walking wounded were flown back to the exercise staging area at Ft. Campbell before being transported back to Ft. Lewis, WA. I never was checked out by a medic; there was too much chaos at the hospital, and by the time we got home a few days later, it seemed like a minor thing compared to the much more severe injuries and the loss of life.

I knew all six of the Rangers who died, three from my company and three from headquarters company. Those Rangers we lost that night were:

1. Lt. Col. William T. Powell, age 42, from Annandale, VA.
2. Captain Gregory E. Gardner, age 34, from Huntsville, AL.
3. Staff Sergeant Jimmie D. Bynum, age 34, from Waxahachie, TX.
4. Specialist 4 John P. Critselous, age 20, from Knoxville, TN.

5. PFC Lonnie J. Furr, age 22, from Rixeyville, VA.

6. Private Kevin E. Langley, age 19, from Pampa, TX.

There was another killed that I didn't know and only spoke to briefly as we were loading his fully loaded helicopter on board before take-off. He was an Army helicopter pilot from the 160th Task Force, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Class John Williams, age 32, from Yelm, WA.

I never heard the official reason for the crash, but since we were flying in blackout mode with the pilots wearing night vision goggles, it is always a risk when doing special ops missions while trying to maintain as much stealth as possible. Not to sound flip-pant, but it is the nature of the beast.

Still, it is very hard to understand and accept the loss of life during training. When we got the unit back to our camp, we had a formation and paid respects to our fallen comrades. We concluded by reciting the Ranger creed, but this time was different. We didn't finish with shouts and flexing and the loudest Hooah's we could scream,

This time we said the Ranger creed

slowly and with deeper thought into the words of fallen comrades and

commitment to the mission.

I raise a toast every anniversary since that night in memory of those who lost

their lives and to those who were there.



Left LTC Powell with MSG (ret) Dinsmore

Let me know if you have a war story you would like to share.

. Captain Gregory E. Gardner, age 34, from Huntsville, AL



LRRP DETACHMENT-3RD ID Unit

R.I.P. Michael McClintock



R.I.P. Michael McClintock. 3RD ID LRRP

Mike McClintock, the long-time Unit Director for the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment, passed away recently.

We are submitting this entry to *Patrolling* to honor both him, and Col. Edward Jentz (Ret.) his Commanding Officer in the 3rd ID LRRP Detachment.

We will try to post a longer memorial for Mike, himself, in the next issue of *Patrolling*.

Submitted on behalf of 3RD ID LRRP Detachment, Respectfully,

Marc Thompson – U.D. B/75, C/58, VII Corps LRRPs

R.I.P. Col. Edward M. Jentz- Col. Edward M. Jentz Obituary



Col. Edward M. Jentz (Ret.). Photo by Richmond Times-Dispatch

JENTZ, COL. (Ret.) Edward Michael, a veteran of the Vietnam War and longtime resident of Charles City, VA passed away on July 3rd. Ed, Eddie, Uncle Ed or "War Daddy", are just some of the names he went by, was born May 24, 1935 to Edward and Mary (Molly) Jentz of Woodside, Queens, New York and attended Regis High School before attending Fordham University on a ROTC Scholarship.

COL. Jentz was a member of Pershing Rifles Company D-8 and was among the top-rated ROTC cadets. In his senior year, he was a Distinguished Military Student. He graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate and offered a Regular Army Commission. Throughout his public career, Col. Jentz maintained close contact with the Fordham ROTC Program and participated in numerous Cadet events. In 2006, he was inducted into the Ford-



ham ROTC Hall of Fame. He would later be the recipient of the Colonel Ronald P. Bernasconi award for his dedicated service as a Fordham ROTC and Pershing Rifles Alumni.

Upon graduation in 1957, he was commissioned into the U.S. Army as a 2nd Lieutenant, Infantry. He spent 26 years on continuous active duty, including two tours in Vietnam, serving and loved every

minute of it, retiring in 1983. The majority of Colonel Jentz's assignments were in parachute or special operations units, where he commanded three companies, a battalion and was deputy commander of a Special Forces (Green Berets) Group. He was commanding officer of the 3rd Infantry Division LRRP (Long Range Recon Patrol) Detachment 1961-1962. He is a graduate of the Army's Ranger School, the Command and General Staff College, the Foreign Area Specialist Program and NATO Senior Officer School.

The U.S. Army recognized Ed for his honorable service with a Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachute Wings, Ranger Tab, Legion of Merit (2), Bronze Star Medal (3), Air Medal, DoD Meritorious Service Medal, Army Meritorious Service Medal (2), Army Commendation Medal (2), and the Conspicuous Service Cross - State of Delaware. None of which he ever boasted about, but his family is proud to share.

After retirement, Colonel Jentz completed a M.A. in Management from Central Michigan University. For 8 years he was the Asst. Principal at St. John the Beloved Elementary School in Wilmington, DE. He has presented seminars on the "Vietnam Experience" at USMA, West Point and to more than 60,000 students and faculty at the junior high school, high school and university levels in Delaware, Pennsylvania and New York. In 1989, the Governor of Delaware appointed him Chairman of the State's Commission of Veterans Affairs. He also chaired the committee, which established the first Veterans cemetery in Delaware.

He's survived by his beloved wife Maura, daughter Kathleen (Fred) Tucholka, son Edward (Julie) Michael Jentz III, grandsons Thomas and Ryan Tucholka. He will be laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Published by Richmond Times-Dispatch on Aug. 20, 2023.

IN MEMORIAM:

I am so grateful for Col Jentz teaching my husband Michael McClintock how to be a soldier and a Ranger while stationed in Germany and being a life long 3rd ID friend. Prayers for you and your family.

Gloria McClintock - August 26, 2023

Today may be one of the saddest days of my life, learning of the

passing of Ed. Ed was my C.O. as one of the first group of volunteers to form the 3rd. Division LRRP Detachment. He was a soldier's soldier and a leader you would follow to hell and back. And now, some 60 years later he is still both a great friend and "My C.O.". To Ed's family and Maura whom he loved so much, my thoughts and prayers will always be with you. As we Irish say, may the Good Lord hold you in the palm of his hand and watch over you always. I will always love DFB. Kathleen knows!

James R Hardy - September 29, 2023

INFO FROM JENTZ FAMILY ABOUT COL. JENTZ MEMORIAL SERVICE

From Mrs Kathleen (Jentz) Tucholka:

Thank you Joe! Just checking in on dad's e-mail and saw your kind message. Arlington National Cemetery has scheduled Dad's **Old Post Chapel service for December 12, 2023 at 10:45am.**

God Bless, Kathleen

FROM: Joe Chetwynd; Past President - VII Corps LRRP Co (AIRBORNE) Association

Dear fellow Rangers and LRRPs, I have just received the above mail from Mrs Kathleen (Jentz) Tucholka regarding the burial of her late father, Colonel (Ret) Edward Michael Jentz (1935 - 2023), of Virginia City, VA. His burial with full military honors will be held on 12 December 2023 at 1045 Hrs at Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, DC.

This morning I contacted Ranger Tom Sove, Secretary of the 75th RRA, and informed him of Colonel Jentz's passing and of his scheduled burial in December. I requested that the 75th RRA obtain a copy of his lengthy obituary, published on August 20th in the Richmond (VA) Times newspaper, and asked if they could be sure to include information about this "soldier's soldier's" passing and his illustrious service career (1957-1983) that included his being a Green Beret, Ranger, LRRP, and combat commander in Vietnam (2 tours).

Unfortunately, the 3rd Infantry Div. LRRP Det. Unit Director, Mike McClintock, who served under the then-Captain Ed Jentz in Wildflecken, Germany in the early 60's, passed away over a year ago and apparently nobody has replaced him in that capacity. It is my intent that the passing of this wonderful, old LRRP will be memorialized in the next possible issue of PATROLLING Magazine. He was, notably, one of the first commanders of the early, provisional LRRP units in Germany, when the greatest fear was a nuclear war with Russia and the awesome prospect of Russia invading Western Europe through the northern German Plains and the southern Fulda Gap. At that time there were only three LRRP units in Germany:

- the V Corps in Wildflecken,
- the VII Corps in Nellingen,

the 3rd Inf Div LRRPs in Bad Kissingen.

Another early LRRP unit was formed, stationed somewhere in the Italian Alps.

I am also CCing Col. Jentz's daughter, Mrs. Kathleen Tuchola, in this email, (sent to Ed Jentz's old Email address - I have no other contact info for her) and I would expect that she would be more than willing to assist the 75th RRA in composing any appropriate tribute to her late father for the purpose of remembering her dad to the Ranger / LRRP / SF brotherhood (at her convenience, of course). The VII Corps LRRP Association will be sending a memorial wreath to the family, or we will be making a donation to any charity that "uncle Ed" might have favored. May God rest his soldier's heart and his ever-faithful soul.

Many of us "JayHawk LRRPs" have had the pleasure and honor to have met Ed at 75th RRA reunions, and several of us have had the pleasure to exchange "COMMO" with him over the past decade. As always, he shared some of his most hilarious moments, and a few of his more serious memories, of his long and distinguished military career with us, and, in return, he was especially appreciative of the many somewhat well-argued and passionately articulated discussions and observations of some very contentious matters. He also enjoyed the comical, farcical, and sometimes brutal honesty that was sent his way. He was a pure and simple treasure of a man, and of a soldier/officer who likely made even better men out of already good men, and, I suspect, engaged with a select few who needed some "personal guidance" from time to time, to allow them to achieve their own God-given potential.

Ed, be sure to make a good PLF when you land on the Great DZ in the sky. There will be lots of old troopers watching you, so don't disappoint them. They are some awful critics.

R.I.P. Colonel Ed Jentz.

Sua Sponte, Rangers Lead The Way, Airborne All The Way,

Thank you, All,

Joe Chetwynd (Past President; VII Corps LRRP Co (AIRBORNE) Association)

Pembroke, MA

Respectfully submitted for the 75th RRA,

Marc Thompson (U.D. B/75, C/58 LRP, VII Corps LRRP)

HISTORY: 3rd ID LRRP & 3rd ID LRS HISTORY

Long Range Reconnaissance (LRRP) Detachment, 3rd Infantry Division

This is an abbreviated history of the 3rd Infantry Division Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Detachment during the period of its existence from 20 November 1961 to 14 August 1964. This history also includes reference to a predecessor unit, the provisional V Corps Long Range Patrol Co. established in October 1960.

The history of U.S. Army's Long Range Recon Patrols in Germany evolved from NATO's development of the concept in the late 1950s. This concept was influenced by the British Special Air Service's (SAS) successful use of small independently operating deep reconnaissance patrols. Among the first such U.S. Army

units to be activated in Germany was USAREUR's (U.S. Army Europe) V Corps Long Range Patrol. This unit was initially a TDY unit comprised of highly motivated volunteers from various units of the 3rd Infantry Division and the 3rd Armored Division. The unit was organized in October 1960 for the specific purpose of providing Corps level long-range intelligence from behind enemy lines. The upcoming Wintershield II maneuvers were to provide both a test of the feasibility of the concept and to evaluate its effectiveness. The success of this unit in the Wintershield II exercises led to the formal establishment of the V Corps (ABN) LRRP Co. at Wildflecken on 15 July 1961. This unit ultimately became Company A (Airborne Ranger), 75th Infantry.

The 3rd Infantry Division LRRP Detachment had its roots in the provisional V Corps LRRP Co. formed for the Wintershield II operation and the Division's Battle Group (Battalion) level LRRP units. Among these were LRRP detachments from the 2d BG, 4th Infantry and the 1st BG, 15th Infantry stationed at Warner Kaserne in Bamberg. The members of these units formed the nucleus for the first division-level LRRP detachment in the U.S. Army, and, as with the British SAS, were all volunteers and were "returned to unit" if found unsuited for duty in a special operations environment.

The 3rd Infantry Division Long Range Recon Patrol (LRRP) Detachment was formed on 20 November 1961 with 1LT Edward M. Jentz as Detachment Commander. 1LT Jentz was an Airborne Ranger from the 1st Battle Group, 30th Infantry in Schweinfurt. The Detachment's Operations Officer was 1LT John H. Peyton from the 3rd Infantry Division's Security Platoon in Wurzburg. 1LT Peyton was also an Airborne Ranger.

The unit's First Sergeant was SFC Gerald M. "Mike" Tardif. SFC Tardif was also an Airborne Ranger who had served previously with the Canadian Army. The unit's operations NCO was SSG Robert H. Schroeder. SSG Schroeder ("Red Dog") was a master parachutist and instructor at the Army's Ranger School at Fort Benning for nine years prior to being sent to Germany. Bob Schroeder had jumped into Nijmegen, Holland on D-Day 1944 with the 82d Airborne Division and had served in the Korean War. His experiences as both a combat veteran and as a Ranger instructor set very high standards for the unit. Other Airborne Rangers forming part of the initial detachment were SGTs Clifford N. Mize, Bobby Freeman, and SFC Bobby McMeans. SGT Mize was a hand-to-hand combat instructor from the Ranger School and was later killed in Vietnam. SFC McMeans had served with the 10th Mountain Division. SGT Freeman had also served with the provisional V Corps LRRP Co. and returned to that unit in 1962.

The 3rd Inf. Div. LRRP Detachment was based at Daley Barracks in the Northern Bavarian resort town of Bad Kissingen, approximately 60 miles east of Frankfurt and about 20 miles from the E. German border. It was attached to the 10th Engineer Battalion in Wurzburg for logistical and administrative support. The unit was originally billeted with troops of the 2d Squadron of the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The Cav troops weren't sure who these crazy "Lurps" were, who got up and ran several miles every day regardless of the weather, even in deep snow. The

fact that the unit wore distinctive German Army camouflage uniforms and carried rucksacks instead of standard issue web gear only heightened the Cav's interest. The unit also wore a distinctive, but unauthorized "Long Range Patrol" scroll on its headgear.

The Berlin Wall had gone up in August of 1961, and international tensions were quite high. It was a time of great danger between NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and everyone knew that if the Russians started World War III, the unit's chances of survival were slim to none. Hence, everyone concentrated on learning everything they needed to know to enhance their chances of survival. As a result, the men's confidence grew and they took pride in being a part of an elite unit. This pride was reflected in the detachment's motto:

"May the fires of Hell forever crackle and smell with the meat and the bones of a thing called a man who says, I can't!"

As a consequence of this esprit de corps, the unit was extremely cohesive, and in this regard would have been a good subject for a case study in small unit leadership, i.e., unit members were motivated to accomplish the mission because of positive, as opposed to negative stimuli. In other words, the men were motivated to get the job done with the highest degree of efficiency because they wanted to, not because they were coerced or forced.

The unit's training reflected its mission: to act as the eyes and ears of the Division behind enemy lines and to observe enemy movements, pinpoint targets, and report back to Division Intelligence. In addition to its rigorous physical training program, the unit practiced patrolling (both day and night), map reading and land navigation, forward observer techniques, cover and concealment, explosives and demolitions, rock climbing and rappelling, escape and evasion, path finding and helicopter operations, hand-to-hand combat, CBR, first aid, and the recognition and identification of Soviet Bloc uniforms and equipment. The unit also underwent 6 weeks of intensive radio and morse code (CW) training at the 123d Signal Battalion's radio school in Wurzburg. During the course the detachment was taught how to operate CW (Morse Code) on the AN/GRC-9, AN/GRC-41, and AN/GRC-26 radios. The students also learned defense against jamming, communications security, and field radio maintenance procedures. The men also learned how to set up the radios in the field and how to orient and string the "long wire" antenna.

At the height of its proficiency, the detachment lost Captain Jentz and 1LT Peyton to the 10th Special Forces Group in Bad Tolz. This was just before the detachment was scheduled to deploy on its first major field training exercise. SSG Bob Schroeder was the NCOIC of the detachment during this interim period and directed the unit's deployment on the FTX. The exercise was a huge success, with the Lurps providing real time intelligence on "enemy" troop movements and concentrations for the first time in the Division's recent history.

The unit's second commanding officer was 1LT Wilbur G. Bowersox. 1LT Bowersox was also an Airborne Ranger who was assigned to the unit in late-1962. During 1LT Bowersox's tenure as

CO, the detachment continued its rigorous training schedule and participated in numerous FTXs and war games, often playing the role of aggressors or guerrillas. Most of these missions involved helicopter insertions behind “enemy” lines with 3-4 man patrols.

These patrols typically consisted of a patrol leader, radio operator, asst. radio operator, and a scout observer. On a 3-man patrol, the patrol leader usually acted as the radio operator (as the assistant had to hand-crank the AN/GRC-9’s generator). Early on, the patrol leaders were all E-6s and E-7s, but as these career soldiers “derossed,” SP/4s and PFCs became patrol leaders. These young EM were also experienced soldiers, many with over two years time in grade, but who were passed over for promotion by their TO&E units because of their detached duty status. Many top notch soldiers went home as E-3s because they chose to remain with the detachment. Such was the level of pride and camaraderie among the LRRPs of the 3rd Infantry Division. It was also during this period that the unit’s name was changed to the “Marne Scouts Recon Patrol (MSRP).” No one really cared for this name, but the unit bore it proudly knowing all the while they were still Lurps!

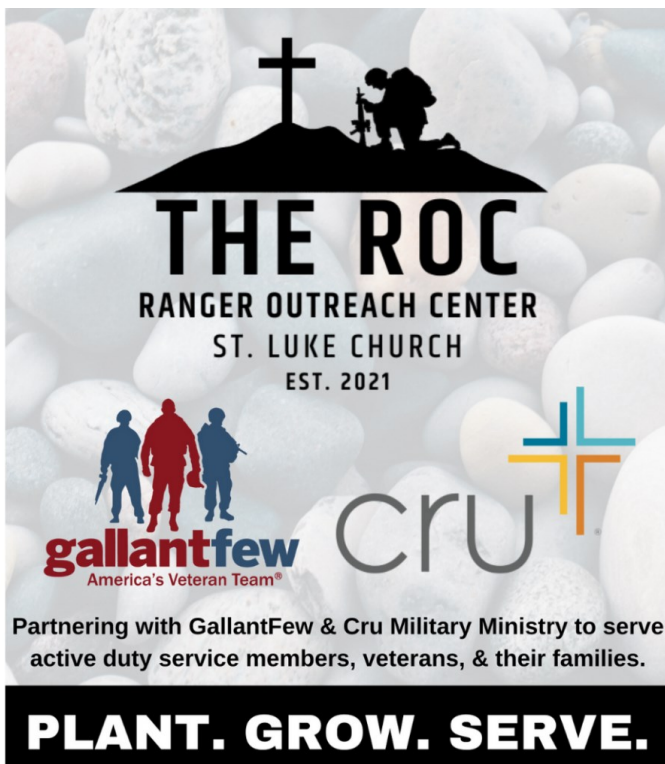
In late 1963 both 1LT Bowersox and SSG Schroeder rotated back to the States. SSG Schroeder was sorely missed by the remaining members of the detachment. His replacement as First Sergeant was a SSG Turner who was assigned to the unit from Division HQ. SSG Turner was a good soldier, but was not Airborne or Ranger qualified, and the unit’s training activities and field operations diminished accordingly.

The detachment’s third and last CO, 2LT John A. Walden joined the unit at the end of 1963. 2LT Walden was an Airborne Ranger, but by this time the Division had other plans for the unit. The Year 1964 was spent mostly in garrison duty, with only some opportunities for LRRP actions, most notably along the E. German Border with the 14th AC. In June 1964, the detachment participated in a 100-mile march to Nijmegen, Holland to commemorate the 20th anniversary of D-Day. The unit also led the Division in the Expert Infantry Badge (EIB) competition, with most of the detachment earning the coveted award. SGT Dalton Naill achieved the highest overall score in the Division, and was awarded a large trophy in addition to the EIB. SSG Don Rampanelli scored second highest in the Division and also received an award.

On August 14, 1964 the 3rd Infantry Division Long Range Recon Patrol was disbanded and its troops returned to their TO&E units. Several men offered to extend their tours for duty with the V Corps and VII Corps LRRP Companies, but were turned down by their TO&E unit commanders as being too valuable to be let go.

Although the 3rd Infantry Division LRRP Detachment never served in combat, it nonetheless trained hard, often in extreme weather conditions, and was arguably one of the finest units in the U.S. Army of its era. Even though it was disbanded over 33 years ago, the unit still exists today in the hearts and memories of the 100 or so men who served with it during its short existence. Among those memories is that of the unit’s disbandment party, which, even by Lurp standards, was one hell of a party!

And that’s the way it was in the 3rd Infantry Division LRRPs.



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UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

This edition will come out around or after Christmas, so I hope everyone has/had a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Not much to report as far as Association news. The Rendezvous in Washington was a success. There will be other articles in the magazine about that so I will move on.

Mike Cantrell's wife, Michelle, is doing better. They had quite a scare after her battle with cancer earlier this year. She developed pneumonia and spent a couple of weeks in the hospital. She is back home and doing better. Last minute update on Michelle before I send this, as of Nov 9th, she is back in the hospital with pneumonia and *Pseudomonas Aeruginosa*. A very difficult infection to kill. Mike said they put in a chest tube and that gave some relief. They are going to try and send her home by Monday and then have a home health care nurse come in and help. They are going to hold off on her chemo treatments until she gets her strength back. Keep her and Mike in your prayers.

Still no word on Mark Ross. Roy Baree called this week to ask about the request from the Association about donating Ranger memorabilia to the Infantry Museum at Benning. He wanted to know if it was for real and if I was going to send anything. I said its real but I didn't have anything to add. If you remember at the Waco reunion, he was having quite the time with his neck and he wore that brace with his arm stuck out and gave a wild story about it. Well, he's going to have more surgery on it, still not moving like it should. He's not sure what or when.

From Roy Bissey : On August 26th 2023 my wife Robin accompanied me to Artesia, New Mexico to attend the memorial service for Ranger Tom Wier who died 01 Jul 2023 and his wife Patti who died 04 Dec 2018. We were joined there by Ranger Bob Keehu who traveled from El Paso, TX. We were prepared to conduct the Once An Eagle ceremony to honor Ranger Wier, unfortunately, with only two Rangers present it was not practical. The service was well attended, mostly by family members and local friends. It was a pleasure meeting Tom's son Zach, brother Bill, their wives and some of Tom's friends going all the way back to childhood. One of those friends, Ronnie Letcher, officiated and related many stories about growing up with Tom in Loco Hills, NM. Brother Bill also shared a list of his memories and some of the things he learned, good and sometimes not so good, from his big brother. Baseball was a passion for Tom in his school years and up until the time of his death he could recall statistics and players from seasons long past. The following story demonstrates how Tom went from recalcitrant college student to reluctant National Guardsman to volunteer for Airborne and Ranger training and become a hard charging member of the Army's elite Company 'A' 75th Infantry. How did Tom Wier end up in the ar-



my? This story was shared with family and friends assembled at Tom's memorial service by his childhood friend Ronnie Letcher. Tom graduated from Artesia High School in 1970, a time when the Vietnam War and the Draft were still very much a reality. Everyone had draft numbers, Tom had a LOW number so he enrolled at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, NM. Tom soon proved to be an excellent student of art...the art of partying. Not so much at academics and his grades suffered accordingly. One school day as Tom and his friend Tom Wood, also a student at ENMU, drove around town Mr. Wood pointed at the vehicle next

to them and said "that looks like your dad". Dad was gesturing and saying "meet me at the administration building". Tom was promptly dis-enrolled from college and soon found himself back home in Loco Hills working in the oil patch. In those days few ways existed to delay using up that low draft number and winning an all expense paid trip to Vietnam. One was to be in college and another was to enlist in the military. So, Tom enlisted in the New Mexico Army National Guard and continued working his oilfield job. Sidebar: Tom was capable of most anything but if he did not want to do something no amount of coercion, talk or convincing could make him do it. One Sunday morning, a drill day, Mom Wier answered the telephone and the National Guard sergeant asked her if Tom was home. "No, he went to drill". "Well OK, he's not here, maybe he had a flat tire or something, we'll wait a while" said Sarge. After church Mrs. Wier again answered the phone and heard the same question, "is Tom there"? "No, I don't think so but I'll check". Mom found Tom in bed, asleep, so she woke him and said the Guard wanted to talk to him. One side of that conversation went something like this: "Yes, I'm OK". "No, I'm not coming today". "No, I'm not sick I'm just not coming to drill today". "No, I QUIT". Shortly following this exchange Tom found himself on active duty in the real Army. RIP Ranger Weir. I have attached a picture of Tom at the Waco reunion in 2019 and a picture of Tom at the hilltop sometime in the early 2000's

Ron Kiser, V Corps LRRP called me to say he had lost his 75th RRA membership card and would like a replacement if possible and his son, a veteran of F/51 LRS had not been receiving his magazine. This short conversation turned into about a 30 minute history lesson of V Corps in Germany. Always interested in hearing stories of our lineage. He shared several stories, and I was trying to take notes as he talked. Ron, IF I messed up, I apologize, but my shorthanded arthritic fingers don't scribble as fast as they used to. Story 1. Ron said when he first got to V corps LRRPs, the first order of business was to meet his platoon sergeant and was told he needed a haircut, so off he went and got his first of three haircuts before being accepted. He finally asked how short it needed to be since he was mostly bald already and sarge took of his hat to show a completely bald head. Ron described the Com-

-pany as having less than 100 members.

2. Bob Murphy (Ret. Colonel), was a member of the company, also flew Otters. He would “check out” a plane and the company would go have some jumps. One jump he remembers that the ground had notified Murphy that the wind had picked up but everyone on the plane said jump anyway. 100% injuries of some type.

3. On another jump, Leon Roy found the only tree, that being an apple tree, in the DZ and broke his leg. Years later he shared with Ron, he was pissed because he got shot in the same leg later in VN..

4. At a LRRP party that might have gotten out of hand, an MP shot Stump. Ron could not remember his real name. Jerry “Mad Dog” Shriver pulled out his dirty snot rag and tried to stop the bleeding. Ron told some other stories, but like I said, I couldn’t write fast enough to get it all straight and it sounded a lot funnier when he told it than as I type it. I asked Ron about submitting the stories and he is like so many of our “senior” members, he doesn’t use a computer. We did discuss the importance of the printed magazine, just for that reason. I told him that every time it comes up for discussion in UD meetings, I voice my thoughts on the need for keeping the printed version for years to come.

After years of “hearing The Duke was Dead”, I found two links to Duke, one at “Special Forces Roll of Honor Webpage (specialforcesroh.com) and this article from the Lynden Tribune in Lynden Washington: When the *Tribune* reached Vietnam-era veteran Ernie Snider on the phone asking for a Veterans Day interview, he at first deferred. A story had already been written about him, he said. It was in January 1968, he noted — almost 55 years ago. Time for an update. Back during the holidays 1967-68, Ernie “Duke” Snider was on leave at home in Sumas, a stopover between his tough special-forces Vietnam duty and reassignment at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Today, he and his wife, Betty, live south of Everson on a private drive with neighbors who look after one another. At age 86, the former soldier says he is doing pretty well, considering everything in the march of time. Let his old U.S. Army uniform be the test: “I can still fit into it, just barely in places,” he quips. He has held all the officer positions in American Legion Post 212 of Sumas and is currently sergeant-at-arms. Until this year, he was still in the color guard of the post that conducts services in four cemeteries each Memorial Day, an exhausting job. Now one of his chosen duties is to drive his red roadster in public carrying another senior ex-serviceman from the Sumas and Everson area. Lorrin Coleman, 96, is the only remaining World War II veteran in the post. Both Ernie and Betty, nee Iverson, are 1954 graduates of Nooksack Valley High School. In fact, they can make another unlikely claim together: they were born in the two different hospitals in Sumas at the time. “He was born in one and I was born in the other,” Betty said. He worked at the Ford dealership in downtown Lynden for a few years before he decided to enlist in the army in December 1956. “Everybody was going to get drafted anyway,” Ernie said of the era when Korea was already a hotspot and Vi-

etnam was heating up. After basic training at Fort Ord, California, Ernie was on a troop train cross-country to Fort Bragg for deployment into the army’s airborne division for paratroopers. “He was a farm kid and so he was pretty physically fit and up for a challenge,” said Betty. The couple was married in 1961 and soon had their first child, Scott. The Sniders ended up being at seven American bases as Ernie served his decorated 26-year military career. Betty chose to stay stateside when he went overseas, which included two years in Germany. She appreciated that the Army would fully pay for her to travel back to Sumas and be amongst family and in familiar territory. In Vietnam Ernie became the leader of a small mobile guerilla force that “operated where nobody else did,” he said. These hardened soldiers did reconnaissance patrols in cooperation with indigenous Cambodians aiding the South Vietnamese against the Vietcong of the North. “We went looking for a fight, and we usually found one,” Snider said. “We were in their back yard.” The Green Beret group was in constant danger, and Snider had one buddy die in his arms. A medic with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) when Snider was in Vietnam was James C. Donahue, who would go on to write three books about the combat and gallantry he witnessed. The book “Blackjack-33” gives this account of what Snider and the others were involved in: “Armed with silencer-equipped MK-II British Sten guns, M-16s, M-79s and M-60 machine guns, the men of the Mobile Guerrilla Force operated in the steamy, triple canopy jungle owned by the North Vietnamese Army and the Vietcong, destroying base camps, ambushing patrols, and gathering the intelligence that General Westmoreland desperately needed.” Snider was wounded in Vietnam in August 1967, spent two weeks in a field hospital and then rejoined his unit for the rest of his tour of duty. For his back and leg injuries in battle he received the Purple Heart award. When Snider was home at Sumas by year’s end and the *Tribune* reporter asked his opinion of the war in Vietnam, he said with a shrug, “We are there because we have been asked to help. There is a job to do and we are doing it.” He and buddies once went 45 straight days with no bath or change of clothes and just packaged rice and fish to eat, he said for that Jan. 1, 1968 paper. Snider won a passel of other military awards and decorations as well: Silver Star, Presidential Unit Citation, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, Combat Infantryman’s Badge and Master Parachute Badge. Snider would return to Southeast Asia in 1970 and then again in 1973 to help with the end-of-war Joint Casualty Resolution Center based in Thailand. Later, he was sent as a military adviser to Liberia, Africa, aiding the army there, what was supposed to be 30 days becoming 10 months instead. He can say he has been on all the continents except Antarctica. And Snider did selection and training of special forces — an aspect that some soldiers would remember and tell of many years later at reunions of military units. “I was called a lot of things, much of it not very nice,” Snider says. “I trained them like I would want them to be on my team.” After his retirement from the U.S. military in 1983 Snider had a second 19-year career as an immigrations inspector at the Point Roberts, Blaine and Sumas ports of entry from Canada, retiring just a month after 9/11 in 2001.

The couple's three children, Scott, Randall and Sharyl, and a pair of grandchildren all live in Whatcom County. "He is my hero," said Sharyl of her dad. Ranger Black called and talked with Duke shortly after I put this on Facebook. He is doing well and may try to attend Waco in 2024.

Appalachian Trail update from Bill Bowman: Joshua finished his 2,200 Appalachian Trail adventure on October 11. Here is the sequence of events that led to his pick-up. I left Indianapolis on Tuesday afternoon and arrived in Buffalo (500-mile drive) at 10 PM. Wednesday, I had a couple of business calls and drove to Millinocket, ME (750-mile drive) arriving at 10 PM. On Thursday morning, we had breakfast with the guys he hiked with. We then drove 625 miles to Syracuse and arrived at 10 PM. On Friday we drove the remaining 625 miles to Indianapolis and arrived at 10 PM. The 10 PM arrivals at each destination were not planned.

The hike changed Joshua in many ways. In addition to the physical changes (extreme fitness, loss of 45 lbs. etc.), he changed in other obvious ways. He and his brother are not talkative during long drives. We never felt the need to talk to enjoy each other's company. This trip was different in that from the time he got in the car, Joshua enthralled me with his diverse and colorful stories. I think we talked more in two days than we did in the past 42 years combined.

I told him to write the stories while they are fresh and later, he can stitch them together and form a great book. Those stories could help others contemplating a similar adventure. He faced

dangers even up to the last days. A few days before they were expecting to complete the hike, a tropical storm dumped torrential rain on them. One small stream they had to cross became a raging river. They exercised good judgment by waiting a day before trying to cross. They built a fire and took a "zero day". Their discipline for safety overcame "get-home-it is" that occurs near the end of a long journey. Another lesson learned. Of all the stories he told me, here is the most impressive. Acting like a father, I asked if he had flossed his teeth during the trip. He responded laconically, "Every night."

I saw this guy on Facebook, he was looking for a Ranger Breakfast.: My name is Doug Johnson I now live in Savage, Minnesota...I am a C/75 Airborne Ranger from Nam...I served from Feb. 70—to May 71, mainly in the central highlands and Cambodia...I would like to come to your breakfast and meet other rangers who were over there....would someone please let me know when and where you meet....rltw.....rangerdoug49@yahoo.com. Thx.

Also got an email from Merri (Hemgen) McNamara. He dad, Stephen Hemgen had served in the LRRP's in Germany and Viet Nam, but not sure which units. She sent a lengthy email he had sent to his sister shortly before he passed away in 2009. In his story, he mentioned Bob Murphy, so he may have been in V Corps LRRPs. I will forward to anyone want to read.

Time to get this sent in. Hope there is room for it all. Stay safe. Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year! - Stan



CSM Wagner Assumption of Duties

On 3 NOV 23 CSM Wagner assumed duties as the CSM of 1st Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment in a ceremony at the 1/75 Ranger Memorial on Hunter Army Airfield, GA in Savannah.

Mike was born and raised in Carmel, NY. He initially served in the 3rd INF DIV before volunteering to serve the Regiment in 2004. After RIP, his first assignment was with 3/75 in positions ranging from Rifleman to Squad Leader. In 2010, he served in the 75th Ranger Regimental Special Troops Battalion (RSTB) as Cadre for the Ranger Assessment & Selection Program (RASP I) then in 2012 returned to 3rd Batt serving as a PSG in Alpha Company.

His next assignment was to the 75th RHQ/HHC serving in the Regimental Staff. In

2016 CSM Wagner assumed responsibility as the 1SG for C/3/75 and following that assignment returned to the 75th RSTB as the 1SG of the Regimental Selection & Training Company (RSTC). As a Sergeant Major he served as the RSTB Operations SGM & then went back to the 75th RHQ as our Regimental Operations SGM. After being selected as a Command Sergeant Major by the Army he became the 75th RSTB CSM and on 3 NOV 23 assumed duties as our new CSM for 1/75.

We welcome you and your family Mike, congratulations!



ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Possible Reunion Update

Well, we are not getting any younger and our numbers have decreased significantly. Therefore, I am going to talk with the "Counterparts" organization and see if we can piggyback on their 2024 reunion at Fort Moore (formally Fort Benning). Their reunion is scheduled for April 24 through April 28, 2024.

The DoubleTree Hotel will be hosting. 5351 Sidney Simons Blvd, Columbus, GA. The hotel has free parking and a free Airport Shuttle. The room rate is \$120 per night.

As I work this out, I will provide more information.



Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director

Articles

I still need your help with stories so I can have them published in our "Patrolling" magazine.

New Member

Kenneth Pliskie

38th BN

Welcome aboard!!



RANGER FOR LIFE RANGERS HELPING RANGERS

1 Ranger for Life Counselor at each 75th Ranger Regiment location

1,030+ Ranger Mentors

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109 Ranger-Owned Businesses

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800 Rangers (& their families) assisted in areas like networking, continuing education, credentialing, VA integration and benefits, financial literacy, & holistic strength training

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www.75thrra.org—December Issue-2023



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—MARC L. THOMPSON

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

Greetings and Salutations fellow LRRPs, Rangers, and Jayhawks... Please stay safe, and stay healthy.

A/75 – REUNION & INVITATION – REMINDER – START PLANNING

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

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. 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. RLTW! Roy Bissey: A/75 1972-1974;

UD NOTE: PLEASE CHECK FB GROUPS or contact U.D. for contact phone and email.



R.I.P. LARRY FEE

Lawrence Alfred Fee Jr. of Mablevale, AR (August 23, 1942 - May 19, 2023). Larry Fee was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, on August 23, 1942, to Lawrence Alfred Fee, Sr. and Ruby Lee Hayes Fee. He was proud to be a paratrooper in the army and was part of the LRRP (long-range reconnaissance patrol). He enjoyed being a commercial deep-sea diver, snow skiing, water skiing, surfing and many other sports. Most of all he was a family man and the rock of the family. He was the "go to" guy for everyone. He was preceded in death by his father, Lawrence A. Fee, Sr., his mother, Ruby Lee Fee, his oldest son, Lawrence Fee, III, 2 brothers, John Fee and Jack Fee and his nephew, Daniel Fee. He is sur-

vived by his wife, Peggy Fee, his daughter, Katrina Perry (Joe Perry), 4 sons, Joe Fee (Erika Fee) Matthew Fee (Danika Fee), Mikel Woodall (Tiffany Woodall) and Anthony Woodall. He is further survived by his sister, Toy Jackson (Ralph Jackson), and his youngest brother, Terry Fee, 16 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.



Lawrence Alfred Fee Jr.

Richard Foster wrote: It is with a heavy heart that I convey to you, especially those who knew or served with Larry in the early

years of the LRRP company (1961-62). I received word from Larry and Peg's son Matt, that he passed away several hours ago from liver failure. At 80 years old, he was a Paratrooper cut from the old WWII types and we were privileged to have him in our LRRP unit. I still remember the day after he and Gmyrick came back to the barracks with bandaged heads and bruises after taking on a bar full of Legs and baton-wielding MPs. He made us proud! So rest in peace Larry, We'll see you again when we all fall out for formation to get our asses chewed out, be it heaven or hell-----WE ARE THE AIRBORNE, THE LRRPS, WITHOUT EQUAL!

LARRY FEE MEMORIAL - FROM JOE CHETWYND:

Very sad news, indeed. Larry was just one of the "hell-bent-for-leather" pioneer LRRPs that Maj. Maltese sought out to fill the ranks with. Although we all wore shiny black leather Corcoran jump boots, Ed Maltese was of the old "Brown Shoe" army. Larry Fee was also in that mold. He was fearless in any situation he found himself in, and all those who were fellow "misfits" everywhere else in a post-WWII and post-Korean War era army. Larry, and his many fellow volunteers, have all left an indelible mark on the LRRPs and on what an outstanding "provisional" unit they would later become.

Unfortunately for myself and other "cruddy-leg-newby-maggots", Fee had already left the company before we got there (I arrived in January '63) but us wannabee paratroopers were already hearing stories about that "freshman class" of rene-gades and roughnecks. Thankfully we still have men like Foster and Forde, Touchon and Gibson who can still bear witness to those early "pilgrims". I only got to meet Fee at several of our reunions, and loved hearing him talk about the "early years" of the LRRPs, and he loved regaling us all with stories that made us some of us "youngun's" heads spin.

Larry was also a wonderful, kind, generous and loving husband, father and family man. He oftentimes brought his son and his wife, Peg, with him and he was never without some huge truck that he used to trailer other vehicles across the countryside with. He also dabbled in the problematic to very difficult home restoration projects as a general contractor. He was a man of unbounded energy and loved challenges that others cautiously fled from. He was also a tremendously kind and generous man who readily shared his own good fortune with others less fortunate than himself. He was a "Salt of the earth", God fearing, honest man. We were blessed to have known him and we are all sincerely proud to have been, and will remain, his LRRP brothers.

Sincerest condolences to Mrs Peggy Fee and the entire Fee family, from your LRRP family, on your (and our) great loss.

At some time in our lives we will all get to make our last leap of faith into the heavens. May God Rest Larry Fee's "Airborne" soul and comfort those whom he has left behind, and may he also be reunited with his fellow LRRP paratroopers who preceded him on their own last patrol, on the great DZ above.

On behalf of the VII Corps LRRP Co (Airborne) Association: R.I.P. Trooper Larry Fee. Sincerely: Joe Chetwynd

THE ABRAMS CHARTER, GENERAL DUPUY & THE B/75 FT. CARSON/ FT. LEWIS CONNECTION

William Eugene DePuy was a United States Army general, the CO of the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam, and the first commander of the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command. He was also the man detailed by General Creighton Abrams to lead the post-Vietnam effort to analyze and recommend the best way to rebuild the U.S. Army.

B Company Rangers was coincidentally, at that time, stationed in Fort Carson, CO, despite being assigned as the long-range reconnaissance unit for the US Army's VII Corps (stationed in Europe).

Since the unit had developed and been redesignated from the original VII Corps LRRPs, returned to the US (Ft. Riley, KS) as C/58 LRP, and then moved to Fort Carson and redesignated, once again, as Company B (RGR) 75th Infantry (ABN).

B/75 participated in the REFORGER (Return of Forces to Germany) exercises, traveling as a company to Germany, participating in the exercises, and returning to the States.

There had been a long-standing and active discussion among the officers and senior NCO's in the Company about the deficiencies of trying to train reconnaissance teams in the Colorado countryside for their European mission, rather than in a more European-like damp and wooded environment. Given the potential options of the major US bases capable of hosting such training, the most acceptable was Ft. Lewis, WA.

General Dupuy, during his investigations of the best way to rebuild the Army, traveled to Fort Carson with his investigative team, and during the trip, met the members of the unit. The General had not shared with anyone in the company (or the wider Army) that a key part of the Army's plan to rejuvenate the force was to use the core personnel in both A/75 and B/75 to form the cadre of two new Ranger battalions, and use those battalions as the beginning of an entire Ranger Regiment which would become the core of the effort to rebuild the Army (see: Abrams Charter).

However, not wanting to let an opportunity go wanting, both the CO of B/75 (Captain Wentzel) and one of the senior NCO's (SFC Voyles) decided to take advantage of this propitious turn of events to "lobby" the General with their plan.

General Dupuy visited the Officer's Club, and was met by Captain Wentzel and all the officers of the Company, who presented their argument that the better location for B/75 to be stationed was in the more European-similar environment of Fort Lewis. Simultaneously, Ranger Voyles rounded up the E4's and above, suited them up in their dress greens, and traveled to the NCO Club to likewise lobby the General for a move to Lewis.

The General would not tell anyone at B/75 of his opinion of the efficacy of moving the unit, and departed to continue his fact-finding tours. Within two weeks after General Dupuy's departure, the Company received orders marked SECRET instructing that the entire Company and all equipment was to be relocated to Fort Lewis, effective immediately. Once we were relocated,

we were housed with the 3/5 CAV, and also running the ROTC summer camp for the Post. It has been remarked that since “We did not play well with the CAV”, we were therefore relocated to the North Fort area of the post (in the old WWII barracks areas). And then... The Abrams Charter was announced. and the Battalions were formed.

SITREPS:

GEORGE CONRAD: RV reports that Don Bruce contacted him, and Ranger Conrad has had to have a pacemaker installed. He is recovering at home in Las Vegas. Either RV or Don are points of contact.

RANGER VOYLES: RV is doing better after being somewhat stove up following an unfortunate vehicular experience. The last time I talked to him he was grilling bacon, and providing a report on the status of the troops.

LRRP HISTORY - FROM: VII Corp Long Range Recon Group

FROM: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/342419532463411/>

THE LRRP COMPANIES AND DETACHMENTS

As early as 1958, the Seventh Army in Europe published a Training Circular 20-1 that directed that each Division maintain Long Range Patrols. In February 1958, the first Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol evaluation tests using Provisional Units were conducted in FTX “SABRE HAWK”.

“They assembled a group of personnel. They were given two or three weeks training and were then sent to the field. There was one problem with all the Provisional Units, they failed to establish satisfactory communications!” —Major Hunt

After initial testing using Provisional Units, a Table of Distribution was approved and issued on 15 July 1961 and under TOE 7-157 the Corps LRRP Companies in the Seventh Army were activated. With DOA approval, Major Maltese proceeded to set up the VII Corps LRRP Company (ABN), APO 46. Major Maltese became, at his request, the first Commanding Officer and Paddy

Flynn was selected to be the company’s 1SGT. The new company’s designation would be “USA LRRP Co (ABN) 3780”.

A search of the VII Corps area for suitable quarters for the new company was found at Nelligen Barracks located southeast of Stuttgart, Germany. SP/4 Louis Durnavich, of the 558th ORD Company, recalls the day in 1961 when Major Maltese and 1Sgt Flynn walked in with orders to take over their barracks. Louis’ recollections of this day can be found in a document in the LRRP CD.

With the takeover of these barracks, the pre-WWII building was now the new home of the VII Corps LRRP Company.

Major Maltese and 1Sgt Flynn now began the search for suitable personnel, and a call went out for volunteers. Many of those who responded were veterans of WWII and/or the Korean conflict. Some had already served in the Army’s Special Forces. Others were American or German Ranger qualified. Still others were veterans of other US armed forces; a few had served in foreign armies or had been born and raised overseas and were fluent in other languages. Many of these men were former Army Paratroopers who saw an opportunity to get back on jump status by volunteering for the new company of LRRPs.

The “Assignments NCO” at VII Corps would give Major Maltese a call once a month and say, “I’ve got a list of people you might be interested in.” Major Maltese would go over the list and pick out the ones he wanted.

“We had a full company - it really filled up well. We got permission to recruit - most of them came from the “505”. I remember old Herb something from B Co 505, he tried to discourage them, called us a bunch of candy-asses, so I went up there - hell, I’m about forty-one years old, but in pretty good shape, and I said, “I’ll take you out and we’ll see who comes back.”

“That was the end of that discussion.” —Col. Maltese

Until next time... V/R:

Marc L. Thompson, Unit Director

POW Rescue Mission, March 4, 1968 (A Member Submission)

By: Bob Wheeler

On January 23, 1968, two Puerto Ricans were released in a propaganda move from an American POW camp in Quang Nam Province numbered ST18. Agosto-Santos was captured when his unit was overrun in Quang Nam Province on May 12, 1967. Seriously wounded in the stomach and back, and left for dead, Jose was found by the Viet Cong and nursed back to health in a cave before being sent to the POW camp.

On December 17, 1966, Ortiz-Rivera Army unit was overrun in Binh Dinh Province several miles north of the city of Phu Cat.

The Release of Santos and Rivera from the POW camp ST18 in Quang Nam Province provided the intelligence necessary for our POW rescue mission.

It was the worst Prison Camp of the Vietnam War. Lodged deep in the jungle west of Tam Key, the camp was not easily imagined by a generation that had grown up watching World War II movies. There were no guard towers, no searchlights, no barbed wire. Instead, the camp consisted of a muddy clearing hacked out of the jungle where sunlight barely penetrated the interlocking layers of branches and vines. A thatched hut served as the prisoner’s shelter, a bamboo platform as their communal bed. The POW’s barefoot, on the verge of starvation, were forced to gather their own food, sometimes poisoned by U.S. spray planes. They lived under the constant threat of being bombed by their own forces.

Twelve of the thirty-two prisoners of war who entered the camp died, five were freed for propaganda purposes and one defected. Bobby Garwood, a Marine Jeep driver was captured near Da Nang on September 28, 1965. Garwood, a controversial POW figure allegedly defected and became a gun carrying Vietcong. He returned to the U.S. in 1979 and was eventually tried and convicted of acting as a collaborator with the enemy. There are books and movies about Garwood's ordeal.

The remaining twelve American survivors, plus two German nurses, were probably saved only by the North Vietnamese decision to send them on a forced march up the Ho Chi Minh Trail to Hanoi in 1971.

Frank Anton, a Warrant Officer stationed in Chu Lai was a frequent LRRP team Pilot with the radio call sign Rattler. Frank had been shot down twice before his capture on January 5, 1968. Frank authored a book after his release "Why Didn't You Get Me Out." He was upset that the US Government knew where he was imprisoned in South Vietnam but failed to get him out.

This article is a response to Frank Anton that an Americal LRRP team did attempt to rescue him and all the POW prisoners in the camp located in Quang Nam Province, in March 1968.

The Tet Offensive, a series of surprise attacks by the North Vietnamese forces and the Viet Cong against South Vietnamese and American targets during the Vietnam War, began on January 30, 1968. The offensive coincided with the Vietnamese New Year, known as Tet, which is a significant holiday in Vietnam.

The Tet offensive lasted until around September 23, 1968.

In February 1968, most E51st LRRP teams were in the field and rotation from a mission was just a few days if that. Capitan Bjork our Commanding Office announced that we had an important mission to rescue American POW's. Two prisoners had recently been released and we had actionable intelligence on the location of the POW camp.

A decision was made to assemble two 12-man killer teams, however there was not enough personnel available, so we settled for two 9-man LRRP teams. Team Helen would be inserted first as the strike force and Team Sandy would be the backup reactionary force. We scrambled to find the necessary headcount which included some short timers and some new recruits.

Team Helen (strike force) included Toomy (Team Leader) Williams, Davidson, Torres, Fischer, Guthmiller, Olivas, Sharp and Johnson

Team Sandy (reactionary force) included Simpson (Team Leader), Ohm, Wheeler, Jonsson, Allen, Lentz, Hernandez, Campau, and Guntrum

Our insertion would be a walk in from Hill 579 which was a 196th Infantry artillery outpost. We first moved to Tam Key and on February 27, 1968, then moved to Hill 579. Team Helen would go first, and Team Sandy would remain 1 km behind.

Our Radio Relay team was Falcon 40.

The first night out for both teams was uneventful. We set up defensive positions along a trail with fox holes and the ability to spring an ambush if there was enemy movement on the trail.

The following morning February 29 both teams had health issues and team members needed extraction. On Team Helen Toomey had stepped on a bungee stake and his foot was seriously infected. I cannot remember the name or reason why the other team member had to be extracted. On Team Sandy Simpson came down with a high fever and we were still close enough to Hill 579 that Doc and Clayton walked out to pick up Simpson and take him back to the fire base.

Once the extractions were completed, both teams moved out towards our objective, and team Sandy stayed in the same location as Team Helen the evening before. Team Helen had moved at a much quicker pace and were now 2 km ahead of Team Sandy, which was not ideal if there was contact.

On the third evening Team Sandy set up an ambush along a trail and we broke up into smaller groups along the trail naming them Alpha, Bravo and Charlie. We set up claymores, and then settled in for the night. We were spread out, so each sub team had to support its own guard duty schedule. During the night there was movement and it felt like we were being probed. Three claymores were set off during the night and Ohm called in illumination rounds and we did not see any activity. It was a stressful and sleepless night. There was collective relief to experience the morning sun rise.

On Day four Team Helen and Sandy rendezvous. There was a trail system and we decided to set up two OP's to see if we could observe the activity in the area. In the early afternoon, a group of Women, children and unarmed men passed on the trail. It was foggy and wet, so we let them pass and took no action. In the late afternoon there were two VCs with weapons, and Williams decided to spring an ambush. Both VCs were killed and Williams grabbed the weapons and documents they were carrying in their cloths.

At this point, the mission should have been cancelled because our presence had been compromised. Instead, we received instructions that we were to remain in the area at least two more days and we would be resupplied. We found a hilltop that we believed we could secure. Ohm, Davidson, and Wheeler did a Recon of the trails around the hilltop. The trails were well used and there was a River nearby. We knew we had to be close to the POW camp. We were looking forward to setting up several small team recon probs to locate the camp.

The choppers with water and Lurp rations arrived around 16:00 hours. Sharp, who had a fever, went back with the resupply chopper.

We are in the middle of Tet, on a POW rescue mission that requires us to remain stealth, and our team strength was now 14. There was collective concern that the orders to stay and continue the mission were wrongheaded. We had not yet located the POW camp and we had lost the element of surprise.

The hilltop was quite big, so we had to decide how best to set up our defensive positions. We set up a wall of claymores and provided strategic coordinates for artillery. Given our location and the weather we were having intermittent communication issues with Falcon 40.

To establish a secure perimeter, we broke up into three-man groups with some small gaps to cover the size of the hilltop. As the evening darkness approached thick fog and drizzly rain set in.

Jonsson, Davidson and Ohm were short timers and didn't have to go on this mission but volunteered anyway. Jonsson was so happy that he would soon connect up with the love of his life, Mary, and excited about his next duty station Fort Ord.

The night remained thick with fog and the rain would give cover to any noise of grass or broken branches.

On March 4, 1968, at around 5:00 AM, all hell broke loose. Grenades were tossed into our positions and automatic AK47 fire raked the hilltop from three positions. We sprang into action to return fire and it felt like the VC were standing on top of us firing their AK 47's. The initial assault was devastating. We returned fire with our M16's, M79 grenade launchers, and hand grenades. This exchange

went on for some time then it appeared we had thwarted the initial assault, and with the momentary silence we could hear the moans and cries of those who had been hit. Torres was begging for someone to finish him off. It appears Jonsson, Allen and Hernandez were killed instantly.

A second assault was initiated, but this time we were prepared to lay down fire and quickly beat back the assault, but it still inflicted damage, with Guntrum receiving a bullet through his shoulder. It was nearly impossible to move around and administer any first aid, because any movement would draw fire.

A third assault started, and we feared this time they would overrun our position, but we fought back, with everything we had and fortunately our preset Artillery locations were doing their job, and we could hear gunships in the air, but it was impossible to see through the fog. The mere presence of the gunships may have discouraged further assault as VC muzzle flashes would compromise their locations.

Finally, the VC or NVA seemed to retreat but only lay in waiting for the rescue helicopters to arrive. They fired on the choppers but were beaten back by the door gunners.

Ohm had to use strobe lights to guide in the choppers. It took three choppers over a period of about 30 to 45 minutes to clear the hilltop. The dead and wounded went out first and each chopper was a sea of blood and moaning bodies. In the chaos of the evacuation, we left behind backpacks, rations, and some weapons. In our diminished state, getting out was more important than team possessions.

KIA – Lentz, Allen, Hernandez, Jonsson, Davidson and Torres

Wounded – Williams, Guntrum, Olivas, Campau, and Wheeler

Ohm, not wounded, took quick command with communications, artillery, and evacuation. He was a real hero on March 4, 1968. Ohm who was a short timer on the mission, extended and was later killed on July 20, 1968.

My reply to Frank Anton a POW in camp ST18 who wrote the book "Why didn't You Get Me Out?". On March 4, 1968, E51st LRRP team was preparing to locate the POW camp and "get you out" In all fairness to Frank, I am sure he had no idea of our mission.

This was a noble mission; few had such a clear objective.

When the call of duty came in,

we emptied the hooch's and the volunteers that stepped forward were veteran LRRPs, short timers and newbies. The opportunity to rescue the POWs united Team Helen and Sandy to risk all.

Instead of rescue, we narrowly avoided adding to the population of POW camp ST18.

We had a Memorial service on the beach in Chu Lai for all those killed in action.

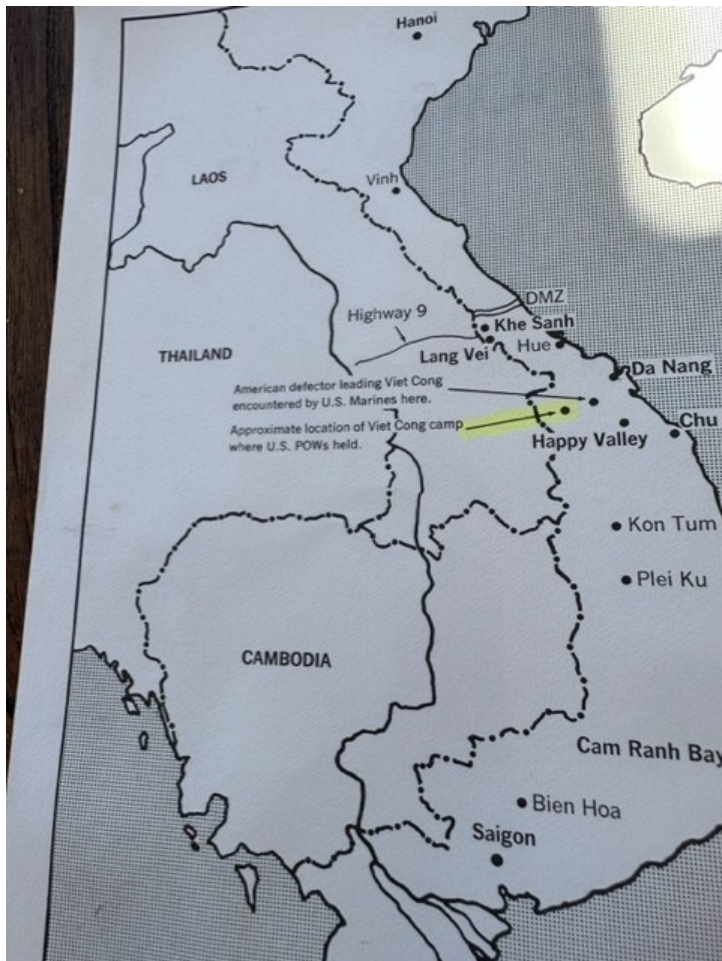
I salute, and I am proud of all our team members who stepped up in the finest of the LRRP Ranger tradition.

Credits:

Notes – Personal notes memorialized after the mission.

Book – Survivors by Zalin Grant

Book – Why Didn't You Get Me Out? by Frank Anton





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DUANE L. ALIRE

My name is Duane L. Alire aka “Poncho” and I have the honor, again, of being elected Unit Director of 9th ID E50 LRRP/E75 Rangers by the men who attended our reunion in Green Bay, Wisconsin in October. I was deployed to Vietnam from January 1968 until January 1969 and served most of my tour-of-duty as team leader of LRRP team 11 with E Company, 50th Infantry (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol), 9th ID. Ten years ago I was elected E50 Unit Director at our reunion in Louisville, KY. As unit director, I set three goals for my term in office and beyond. In the intervening years I and others have pursued them - pushing, pulling, cajoling and networking - to make them a reality. Last week I dusted them off, refreshed them and, evaluated our efforts to bring them to fruition.

SETTING THE STAGE

When we returned home from Vietnam, we each had our own story. In the 9th ID, we returned to Dong Tam to turn in our equipment and check out - followed by a helicopter flight to Bien Hoa - and an airplane ride to the United States. With a single airplane ride, we transitioned from “combat veterans” to “veterans with combat experience”. Today as veterans with combat experience, I believe we have three responsibilities as we continue to define, honor and preserve **Our Legacy As Vietnam Veterans Of The Elite E50 LRRPS And E75 Rangers**. Our responsibilities are:

(1) To preserve the memory of our men who fell on the battlefields in Vietnam and whose names are immortalized on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. We lost 27 men from E50/E75 in Vietnam. In the mid-1990s we began honoring them at our reunions with a memorial service wherein we say their names aloud. The memorial service is simple and honors not only our 26 KIAs and 1 LRRP who died from his wounds after the war, but also the men who established the memorial service, who have conducted it over the years and/or who have served as Unit Chaplain. At our most recent reunions – 2021 in Mobile and 2023 in Green Bay - we added a second memorial service to remember and honor the more than 170 men who survived the war, returned home and who have died since 1970. These men served honorably and we accept the responsibility of acknowledging them and the sacrifices of their families. Thanks to the dedicated service Dave Stone (1968 – 1969), our Unit Chaplain and his wife, Patti, we have an updateable membership directory which lists the names and contact information of most of the men who served in E50/E75 from 1966 – 1970. Dave and Patti have also masterfully conducted our memorial services at our last two reunions.

(2) To celebrate the men and women who, today, volunteer for



military service and “solemnly swear (or affirm) that they will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that they will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that they will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed ...” While many of us did not volunteer for service in the U.S. Army, as they do today, many of us volunteered for duty with the LRRPs and Rangers. At the 2022 and 2023 Branson Rallies, we invited members of the 9th ID E60 Long Range Surveillance, a brother unit of specialized, elite soldiers, to attend our reunion. Nine of them attended in Green Bay. These guys and a wife of one of them, who is an army veteran, fully supported our reunion and stepped up when needed to actively participate in our memorial services. The effort is intended to join the older guys with the younger guys and our combined families and friends to preserve our shared legacies into the foreseeable future. Thanks to Dan Stouffer (1969 – 1970) and his son-in-law, Joe Moehle, for making this bi-unit collaboration happen.



Dan (left) and Joe (right)

(3) To honor ourselves as veterans who survived the war. In 2015 the unit authorized the creation of the Unit Director’s Award For Exemplary Service to E50/E75. Thanks to Tom Koontz (1967 – 1968) for creating the original template of the award in 2014. Today the award has been presented to thirteen members who have supported our informal, volunteer, post Vietnam War unit with their time, talent and treasure. In 2019 the unit authorized the creation of the Matsuda/Nelson Award. The award is named for our former Company Commander Captain Clancy Matsuda (1967 – 1968) (now Col. Ret) (deceased) and former E50 LRRP First Sergeant Roy D. Nelson (1967) (deceased). Both men were highly motivated and decorated combat soldiers who led E50 from its infancy as a LRRP platoon to a fully functioning long range reconnaissance patrol

company in 1967-1968. The award is the highest recognition the unit can bestow upon an individual who has taken up the difficult but honorable cause of dedicating his or her life to the service of others and to the ideals that sustain the enduring legacy of the United States Army Rangers. At the Montana Reunion in 2019, the first Matsuda/Nelson Award was presented to former 1st LT Winslow (Rick) Stetson (1966 – 1968) (deceased).



Old Sarge Walden (left) & Stetson (right)

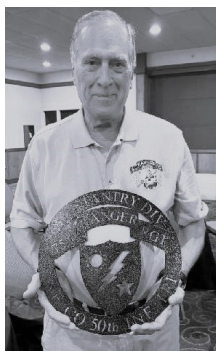
REUNION HIGHLIGHTS

My first order of business is to thank outgoing Unit Director Robert Hernandez for four years of service. He was tireless in pursuing our legacy. Additionally, I thank the two men who sponsored and coordinated the 2023 Green Bay Reunion - Dan Stouffer and his son-in-law and US Army veteran, Joe Moehle. The reunion was a resounding success! The reunion theme was “Leaving Our Legacy” and included 2 medical break-out sessions (sleep apnea) and (chiropractic/chronic pain) and a day spent “smelling gun smoke” on a local firing range which included a few brave souls firing the Armalite AR-50A1 .50 BMG Single Shot 50 Cal. Bolt Action weapon. On Friday the reunion team held an emotional “Welcome Home” celebration for us with flags waving, family and friends cheering and lots of expressions of gratitude for our service. The hospitality room was spacious and offered space for small groups to visit and, of course, food and beverages.

UNIT MEETING

Unit Director Hernandez began the unit meeting promptly at 09:00 with a call to order and with a call for a motion to recognize all the non-members present as nonvoting unit members for the purposes of the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Treasurer’s Report: He called for a report from the Unit Treasurer Roy Barley. Barley reported the “a few weeks ago the unit fund had \$13,000 and now has \$8,000.”

Wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.: Brent Gulick **Led The Way** by volunteering to place a floral wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day 2022 and 2023. The wreath honors all LRRPs and Rangers. Following Brent’s lead, the unit took an additional step by authorizing \$500.00 annually toward the purchase of the wreath, thus institutionalizing the annual placement the floral wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Me



Brent Gulick

morial. Bob presented the Unit Director’s Award For Exemplary Service to E50/E75 to Brent Gulick (1970) for **Leading The Way** when he voluntarily honored all LRRPs and Rangers by placing a floral wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day in 2022 and 2023.

REUNION FASAT FACTS

The 2023 Unit Reunion marked the 30th year since our first reunion in 1993. - Attendance include: 19 unit members, 21 unit members’ family and friends and 10th invited guest from the 9 ID LRS.

At 87 years old, Old Sarge Walden (1967 – 1968), was the oldest attendee. - We had two 1st Timers – Paul Fitzsimons (1969 – 1970) & Dennis McNally (1968 – 1969) - attending their first unit reunion.



Old Sarge Walden (Above)
Jacob Moehle & Old Sarge
Walden (Below)

At 10 years old, Jacob Moehle, son of Joe and Sara Moehle, was the youngest attendee. - The call for collage boards, photographs and memorabilia resulted in 10 poster displays and 4 guys who brought their photograph albums. These visual displays were of particular interest to the families, friends and guests. They brought memories of bygone days, affirmed who we are today and provided a little levity comparing then and now photographs.



Pursuing our reunion theme of Leaving Our Legacy, we placed a brick outside the Associated Bank Gate at Lambeau Field Stadium. The brick memorializes our reunion and legacy. - Wisconsin VVA Chapter 351 brought its travelling Vietnam War display to the reunion. The display is contained in numerous, large shipping containers which convert to display cases. The display was impressive, educational and comprehensive and enjoyed by everyone.



We closed out the reunion with banquet featuring guest speaker, Brian Eisch US Army LRS veteran, and a live auction. The live auction with “Old Sarge Walden” - Elbert Walden – commanding from the podium raised more than \$4,200.00 for the unit fund. I salute Tom and Bev Koontz, Dave and Patti Stone, Dan Stouffer, Joe Moehle and his family, Elbert Walden, Sharon Barley, Ron Tessonsohn and Bob Hernandez for **Leading The Way** with humility and gratitude above self as they performed their duties.

LRRPs Led The Way; Rangers Lead The Way.



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN MCGEE

By the time this issue is published we will be well into the Holiday Season. So to all my Brothers and their families the McGee family wished each and everyone of you A Happy "EAT the BIRD DAY" and remember that the first Thanksgiving was celebrated just south of Boston Massachusetts and they did not think that they spoke with a funny accent. Just because some people in our little family think that their favorite YANKEE Unit Directors does, (You know who you are T-BYRD), It doesn't make true. Additionally Merry Christmas and Mele Kalikimaka and Happy New Year!!!

Speaking of the upcoming New Year our OFF-year reunion will be in Branson Missouri June 4- 9, 2024. in Conjunction with the LRRP Annual rally. We are in the process of negotiating with hotels in the area. More info to follow.

The following is a copy of a Facebook article by Rick Ellison about a mission that had a great impact on his life:

"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 included the folks mentioned above plus Sam Wright and Dutchey 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 site and observed 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 the 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 their 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 move into a rice paddy



and most of the explosions just threw mud and water at us. Mud and water! Then one guy got lucky and put a rifle grenade about three feet from me. I never heard it but it felt it. When I got up, 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 hour. 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.

Thank you, guys."

9TH ANNUAL
BLACK & TAN
nationalgrassassociation.com/black-and-tan

Highlights

- Free Parking
- Finger Foods
- Beverages
- Networking



Fashion Mall - Las Vegas Strip - Suite 2640

JAN 23rd 2024

Presented By





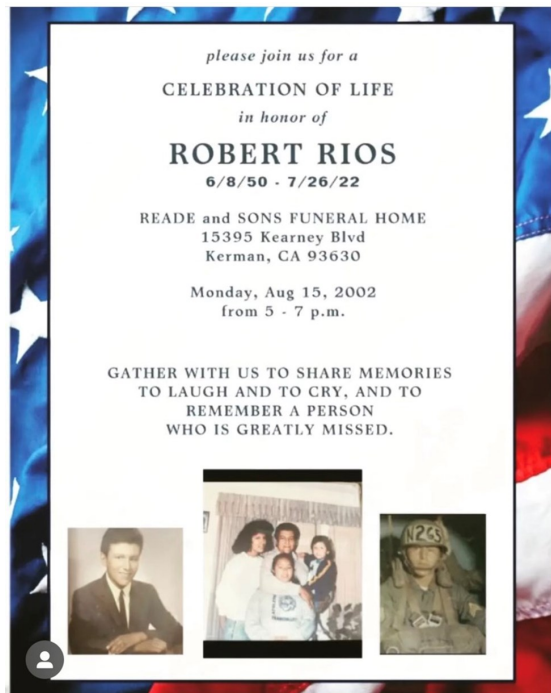
G/75 - E/51 LRP - 196TH LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



As with most of our Patrolling articles, we start off with information of one of our brothers deceased. Ranger Robert Rios passed away in 2022 and I just received this information from his younger brother.

We will all make this transition at some point. Make sure your loved ones know how to contact our association for notification.



fella hits the ground running off into the jungle with the damn chute still open flopping in the wind. Never saw that monkey again.

Moral of the story: Airborne all the way and NO more monkey poop in our hooch!

Sgt Mike (Bones) Miller



A Motley crew if there ever was one. (Above)

January 1970 Company D (Below)



Chu Lai



Our protectors, friends, family, nurses, counselors, partners, caretakers, and angels who can tell every old war story better than the men because they have heard them so many, many times. They can also probably tell you if there is any truth to them.

Bien Hoa

So we're on a mission and we find this Macaque monkey and decided to bring it back to our compound as a pet. Now that little bugger was cute but nosey as hell and would poop all over our hooch. We had some down time just a lazy day sitting under a parachute canopy drinking Falstaff and talking. We realized there was one member in our company who was not airborne – yup you guessed it, our new pet. So Sergeant Vandy cuts a piece of canopy, makes a harness and suits up our little monkey. Now we had a few beers so we convince our Huey pilot to fly over the compound at approximately 200-300 ft and we drop the little bugger. Well, the chute opens up to a perfect PLF and that little

So, my day off and I'm hanging out on the beach, and I see this Navy warship maybe 2-3 miles off shore, not sure what type. I look over and see a 4-man inflatable raft and thought – Why not! So, I grab 3 volunteers and we paddle out to the ship. Well, we did not get the warm welcome we were expecting and all we wanted to do was just say hi. We come up to the ship and there are 6 sailors with M-16's and the captain on deck has a bull horn and shouts, "Stop, turn around or we'll shoot". "This is the one and only warning you're gonna get." We were probably maybe 100 yards from the ship.

So, no problem we paddle back to the beach. Well, the problem wasn't the M-16's or the death threat it was 1st Sgt Williams who was waiting for us on the beach with his arms crossed! Now I have to preface this by saying that I wasn't #1 on his hit parade. I was the only one to report to the orderly room and he reams me a good one – "No surprise Miller you are a pain in my ass!". I was a short one-digit midget. But he said, "This is the 3rd time with you, and I should bust you but you're going home so get out of my face". Whew! Thank God!

Sgt Mike (Bones) Miller



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—BENNIE GENTRY



Pete Dencker

I would like to begin this article honoring two of our Brothers who did not make it back from RVN. Donald Miller, and Juan Angel Elias. SGT Juan A. Elias and CPL Donald Miller were members of E

Company (LRRP), 52nd

Infantry, 1st Cavalry Division when on May 21, 1968, their team was rigging a grenade as a booby trap on an enemy trail in Thua Thien Province, RVN. During this process the grenade accidentally exploded, fatally injuring PFC Miller and seriously wounding SGT Elias. Elias was evacuated to a naval hospital ship where he succumbed to his wounds on May 29, 1968. A third member of the team, SGT Larry Curtis, lost an eye in the incident. Donald Miller was posthumously promoted to corporal by the Army.



course. Platoon depicts two soldiers from 2nd Platoon, Company E, 52nd Infantry (LRP), specifically, S/Sgt. John Barnes portrayed by Tom Berenger and Sgt. Juan Angel Elias portrayed by Willem Dafoe.

A note from Juan's Daughter...

"On a cool November morning, I stood before the Wall, then to a stage to speak from my heart of you. My hands shook, but not my voice, for my voice is yours. As I scanned the crowd, your eyes I found, in every man who stood to listen. Yes, Father they even cheered, but I could not find the tears that waited and watched as well. Angel Until this moment I never understood... but now I do. You are always with me, and I am never alone, and in the cold dark of that November night, the

tears that waited came, and with them the soul of every name upon that Wall. Father your name is seared into my heart and soul, and I Thank you for going back a third time, so that another daughter, could stand at this Wall, and know too the sacrifice this child had made. You are not held by this Wall nor the wind nor rain, just as you lived know that I carry you with me, for I am you, on a cool November morning. You held me on a cool November morning as I came to this world, as I hold you each and every day. I remember all too well the last time you held me another November day, looking into your eyes I held the world as I do now. Yes, I do remember... Father a new day has come, and yet you are never gone simply a breath away.

Your Loving Daughter
"Whiteraven"

RIP Brothers...."

DONALD MILLER

Donald Miller is a graduate of Pompton Lakes High School in New Jersey and is buried in Laurel Grove Memorial Park Passaic County NJ. A note from one of his Classmates. "Donnie, Just a note to let you know that I am thinking about you & your family at this Christmas season 2005. You were always a great friend in school & I miss ya brother. My prayers are for you and all my fellow combat



soldiers who unfortunately didn't make it out of the jungle. The Lord spared my life while in Vietnam and brought me home because I believe He has work left for me to complete. I think of you often and will say a prayer in your honor. That time in-country will never go away. God Bless, Bob"

JUAN ANGEL ELIAS

Juan Angel Elias was a full-blooded White Mountain Apache from Tucson AZ, Juan is memorialized at Holy Hope Cemetery and Mausoleum in Tucson. Juan was an inspiration to Oliver Stone when developing his movie Platoon (1986) which was based partially on his experiences in our unit. Stone served as a rifleman



in both the 25th Infantry Division and the 1st Cavalry Division. In March 1968 Oliver Stone and Gair Anderson volunteered for the 1st Cavalry Division's Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol training, but Stone was dropped from the unit after completing the

BILL CARPENTER

I wanted to dedicate the rest of this article to our Brother Bill Carpenter, who recently passed away. Bill had a unique experience with H Company as he was in RVN for only a short time but there's no question that his time was "fully loaded". Over the years however, Bill became indispensable to the Unit as the publisher of the Company Newsletter, as well as the Co-Author with John Lebrun of "Historical occurrences of the LRRP/Rangers of the 1st Cav during the Vietnam War". As the Board and I are finding out now – planning for and collecting the articles/input, and submissions needed to put a newsletter together presents quite a challenge and clearly one of the many ways that we will miss his presence and experience. I don't have time to do interviews and attempt to write something prolific – but wanted to honor Bill for his service to the H Company Organization so I thought the next best thing would be to use Bill's own words and describe his one and only mission with the Company.

Bill arrived “in country” on March 20th, 1967, and was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division. While in the replacement depot – he listens to Cpt Jim James give a presentation on the LRRP unit - and Bill thinks why not – at least I’ll be with some good troops that will keep me out of trouble. Military rule #1, never volunteer. Why did I volunteer? – seems like the thing to do at the time. Bill is initially assigned to the 1/8th but one month later is reassigned to the Division LRRP Company. Bill was one of six that reported that day and once they complete training, they will become Team 3. The idea of pulling a mission with 5 other new guys scares him. The next few weeks are filled with intense training with SFC Kelly and Lt Hall, which is tough, but he makes it through. Toward the end of April 8-10 new guys arrive to start training for Team 4 (also, around the 2nd week in April the unit is redesignated H Co, 75th). The following is Bill’s recall of his 1st mission.

Team 1 is down to four members, so at the end of training, Bill Carpenter and David Ives join Team 1. Dave’s MOS is communication. John Simones is the team leader and Doug Fletcher the ATL. The other team members are Art Guerrero and Geoff Koper, a medic.

John had been in the Marine Force Recon before coming over to the Army. Doug had been with the 2/8th Cav before LRRP and had earned a Silver Star in the An Lao Valley. Art had been with the 1/7th Cav, Custer’s old outfit and also had a Silver Star from the An Lao Valley. Geoff is a combat medic. All of them had been in country for several months before coming to LRRP Company. They have pulled about 10 missions as a team, they will take care of this newbie.

Team 1, four old pros with two new guys, is inserted at dusk on Thursday 20 April 1967. We are put in close to the head of a stream. We are to more or less, follow this stream and see what we could see. See what you see, hear what you hear, smell what you smell, but think before you act. The stream runs to the southwest. The closest US Army troops are at An Khe about 15 kilometers south of us. The nearest friendlies are at Kan Nak some 7-8 km away. Kan Nak is where the stream we are on empties into the Song Ba. The Green Berets had a base there at one time, but there is only an irregular force there now, who may even be VC. Don’t depend on them. Our E&E plan is to head for Kan Nak.

We are outside of artillery cover. Because of the mountains, radio contact is difficult and there are no radio relay points. We are to report in each morning and evening. Most of the time base has to put a chopper in the air for radio contact.

This is not going to be like hunting back home, the squirrels shoot back.

On Friday, we go through a lot of elephant grass, 7-8 feet tall. The word “leach” takes on a whole new meaning for me. The elephant grass is loaded with them. Walk, pick off six or eight leaches, walk, pick off six or eight leaches. We hear someone cutting wood, nothing out of line. I hear a hen cackling, and am told that they run wild in the jungle. This is not West Virginia; chickens do not mean people.

On Saturday morning, we move from some open timber to some pretty thick new-growth jungle. We go slow to keep quiet; we can’t see more than 10-15 feet in any direction. We stop to eat. We are low on water, so Art and I take the canteens down to the stream to fill them. The stream is about 20 meters away.

Art and I encounter a major trail, a “high speed runner”. The tall timber keeps the trail well hidden from aircraft. You had to be on the ground to see it. Finding things like this is a LRRP’s job. This trail is wide enough and smooth enough to drive a jeep on. This means this trail has a lot of foot traffic, not just someone going to grandma’s house.

There is a little hooch set on low stilts by the trail. The trail goes close to the hooch and curves around the hill below it. There are several firing positions in an arch on the downhill side of the hooch, overlooking the trail. The opening door to the hooch is on the uphill side. We don’t see any people around.

Art decides to check the hooch out. His web gear makes him about 3 feet wide. We have left our packs with the rest of the team. Art sees some paper on a shelf inside the hooch. I pull security while he goes after the papers. He gets stuck in the door. I hear voices, not in English from the other side of the hooch, about 10 feet away. I let Art know we have company. He is stuck in the door, he finally gets free, soundlessly. He motions for me to take off while he pulls rear security. The high-speed trail is between us and the cover of the jungle.

“Think before you act”. Not this time, I have a split-second mental lapse that will be fatal for David Ives. I take off too fast and hit the brush too hard. This, by a guy who spent his life in the woods and knows how to not spook wild animals. Art is watching the people: he says later that there was a woman and some men; the woman had something in her hand. When I hit the brush, she screams and throws the item in the air.

Everyone knows what happens when you make a woman mad. She turns to the men in her life, husband, father, brothers, uncles, etc. and says “what are you going to do about it? I always tell everyone that the reason I was wounded is that I got a woman mad at me. Never make a woman mad, she will get even.

We get back to the other four guys. There is the 20 questions situation on why it took us so long to go 20 meters to get some water. We call in a sitrep.

We are on the NW side of the stream. There is a clearing on the hillside across the stream from us. It is big enough to get a chopper in. John decides to move over beside the field and set up for the night. We can hear someone following us as we move we have a "trailer". When we get over the field, we button hook to see if we can pick up our trailer. We sat in the ambush for a awhile, but see nothing. It is getting late by now anyway. When it is darker we move about 30 meters to a different position that John had checked out before we button hooked. We are in a little cove with open timber on one side and the open field up the hill from us. There is heavy brush on the other two sides.

We can hear them getting into position during the night. Or is it a wild boar out there? Better to think it is Charlie and be ready. It now seems strange, but I sleep well that night, knowing the Charlie was out there and could hit us at any time. You get tired humping 80 lbs. through the jungle all day. I don't know how Geoff does it – he weighs about 150 lbs.

Will Charlie try to crawl up on us during the night? I'm wondering what it will be like to kill a man with a knife in hand-to-hand combat. I feel inadequately trained. Today I realize a person can be trained on how to kill, but the cannot be trained to kill – Just do it.

It is Sunday, April 23, 1967. David and I have the 57 am shift. I am not a morning person; I never have been a morning person. I sit up against my pack which is in turn leaning against a tree. Don't sit up, it's easier to see you, too much target, but if I lay down I may go to sleep. Why do all of the Hollywood battles begin at dawn.

There is another problem. Either the LRRP rations, or the malaria pills have given me diarrhea – this is a quandary.

It's now about 6:00 am, the sun is just coming up. I tell Dave, pick up my rifle and some toilet paper and walk far enough away from the other guys and take care of the diarrhea. It is LRRP policy to not initiate contact. Perhaps all we have is a trailer. If I see someone, will I shoot before they do?

No problem, I don't see anyone, but I don't look too hard either – we know they are there, why look. I go back to sitting against my pack while the other guys stir a little, ready to start another day. The next thing I know, I am lying about 8 feet down the hill from my pack. A hand grenade has blown me down the hill. I have become the LRRP's first WIA – I feel no pain, but I am dazed and knew I have been hit.

Shrapnel has chewed up my face and left arm. Dave, my pack and the tree have taken most of the blast.

I crawl back up the hill to my weapon, ammunition and pack. As I get to the pack, a burst from an automatic weapon hits the ground in front of me. A lot of dirt and rocks kick up into my face. I think – Wow – just like in the movies. Weeks later I realize that one of the rocks was really a .45 caliber round which bound-

ed off the ground, went up through my lower left jaw, through the roof of my mouth and stops about ½ inch from my brain. It breaks my jaw, along with taking out about 10 teeth. The nerve to my left ear is severed along with several nerves to my left cheek.

The impact of the bullet knocks me out. After this, events are flashes of consciousness a few seconds long. I do not know in what order they occur.

I am trying to cover my sector and return fire but I cannot see. I feel a lump under my left eye. If I put a little pressure on the lump, I get a little dizzy but for a moment I can see some. I think with the right pressure I will be able to see to return fire. Months later I realized that the lump is what is left of my eye and lower eyelid.

I try to raise my rifle to return fire but my left hand is too weak to support it. I realize that a lot of the muscles of my left forearm are hanging in shreds. So I take my right hand and shove the muscles back where they belong. Do I think they would stay there? I don't know. It doesn't work, so I prop up my left arm, and rifle with my right hand, but when I move my right hand to the trigger the rifle sinks, I need three hands.

Dave and I share a poncho to sleep on. We are literally shoulder-to-shoulder. The grenade exploded beside Dave, Some time in there I realize that Dave is dead. I guess it is because he is lying there on his back, not moving. I do not see any wounds on him. Geoff said later that Dave lived long enough to get the radio operational. Art said later that Dave was shot through the head. I don't know maybe the grenade didn't get him and he was shot while working with the radio. I just know that Dave is dead.

I am passing in and out of consciousness. Art reached up and yanks on my foot to wake me. The nerve damage from the bullet and the grenade concussion has almost deafened me, but I heard Art tell me to get the radio to him. I tell him I can't see to return fire. He said he knows that, so get the radio. I say Dave's dead. He said he knows that, that is why I need to get the radio to him.

Dave's pack with the radio in it is on the other side of Dave. So I crawl on top of Dave to reach his pack. This pack, with the radio weights 80-90 pounds. I am lying on my chest – I reach out with my right hand and grab the pack to drag it down to Art. Gee, I can't pick it up. So, I grab the pack and try to slide it down to Art. Try lying on your chest then reach out with one hand and move an 80-pound canvas container. I do not get it all the way to Art.

I know that both Art and Geoff have been wounded. How do I know this? John and Doug are down the hill from me, I assume they are OK. Don't worry about what is going on behind you; take care of your sector. I made that mistake on a training maneuver at Ft Myers, know better now. Training helps.

Where is the fear; No time for that, do your job, the other guys' lives depend on you.

At least two times during this it could have been more, I try to raise up to do something, anything.

Each time I have the sensation of being hit on the back of the head. It was not painful but felt very forceful. The sensation was as if something was shoving my head down. Was my head/brain just rebelling to being moved the wrong way too quickly? Was God shoving me out of harm's way?

Art had been shot through the leg by the enemy behind us and through the left shoulder but he was still able to use "JoJo" the sawed of M-79 chucker. Art told me later that the enemy had tried a human wave assault. He fired an M-79 HE round into the line. It hit a woman in the chest. The head went up, the arms went out, the legs kept running and the trunk disappeared in a red cloud. Try living with that memory.

I come to – Doug is carrying me to the chopper. He has me in his arms like a baby. Wait a minute, I weigh about 220, Doug is about 6'2" and 210 or so but not big enough to carry me alone. But he is doing it. John is walking beside him. Is he carrying someone too? I don't know, I don't care it's over.

Wait a minute; I have my rifle in my left hand. My right side is toward Doug. The rifle is dangling down. Is the weapon on safe? What if the trigger catches a branch and a bullet hits someone? I'd better check the safety. I can't lift my left arm, so I move my right hand to check the rifle. Doug says "it's ok, it's over, it's over" His voice is so calm, like a father comforting a child with a bad dream. I don't remember actually being loaded on the chopper.

I come to; it is so cool. I lift my head and see my blood on the chopper floor. Hey, if I can see my own blood, I am going to make it, I am alive. I look out the side of the chopper at the forest below; so green, so quiet, so calm just like my West Virginia hills. It would be fun to walk in the woods to watch the squirrels play in the trees. Maybe I can take the dog out this weekend and let him fun a coon.

I see feet to my left; there is a pool of blood around the feet. Someone is sitting on the bench. It is Art, he says "It's ok, it's over it's over, lay back down" At some time I raise my head and look to my right I see another pair of feet, no blood I try to lift my head to see a face, I can't. Somehow, I know this is Geoff. Where is John, Doug and Dave? I guess they are taking another chopper. They would not leave Dave.

I come to again; they are taking me off the chopper. They pull me out and put me on a stretcher lying on the ground. A female captain in OD green fatigues with short curly red hair and freck-

les bends over me. She smiles and I think I smile back. She is talking, but not to me. I think Little Orphan Annie is in the Army. It's ok, it's over, it's over.

I come to again – they are using scissors to cut my clothes off of me. Don't take my boots, I want to keep my boots, only guys who have "been there" have jungle boots

I come to again, they are putting me on an X-ray table. They lay me on my chest and extend my head forward. They then rest my chin on the table. PAIN, "You stupid SOB, the jaw is broken, this really hurts, pad my jaw someway>" this is the first time I have felt any Pain. I don't care who this private is talking to or what their rank is. They padded my chin to do the X-ray.

I come to, Cpt James and Lt Hall are standing by my bed. Privates salute officers, I sit up and salute them. Apparently, John was with them but I don't see him. I come to again and say "Hi sir" and go back to sleep. I think the Captain visits me several times.

Soon I'm put on a plane to Japan and Camp Zama – and on May 20th I'm waiting for a plane back to the States and Geoff walks up to say hello – he's headed home as well. On May 23rd, 1967 – My Birthday – my plane lands in Denver.

Like many of us Bill didn't attend his first reunion until long after he returned - it was 2002. But over the years via the Newsletter, he was really the "glue" that held our organization together between reunions. Once again thanks to John – and Bill, for allowing me to use this article from Historical Occurrence.

RIP Ranger Bill Carpenter

Until next time – RLW

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

Pete Dencker | Chairman/Founder

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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



FOG OF WAR - FOR CONSPICUOUS SERVICE "ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL"

Over half a century I have watched life make a complete circle. From June 1968 until the culmination of Captain Larry Taylor's Medal of Honor Ceremonies in Washington, DC the world witnessed Sgt Dave Hill of the 1st Infantry Division LRRP/Rangers lead the charge to correct history,

Dave Hill fought to have a Silver Star justly upgraded to the Medal of Honor

Dave Hill formed and became a member of a committee with fellow Ranger Ron Imel

Dave Hill made many physical trips back to Chattanooga, Tennessee to right an oversight

Dave Hill as the last living survivor befriended Larry Taylor and made the MOH personal

Dave Hill was one of the first to discover that Larry Taylor was to be awarded the MOH.

Dave Hill is now in the "Presidential Records" as the President acknowledged the Rangers.

Dave Hill was asked to speak for Larry Taylor because of trust and loyalty.

Dave Hill spoke of the rescue of the LRRP/Rangers in June 1968.

Dave Hill's words are now enshrined in the US Army Museum because of the trust of Larry.

Dave Hill went on to Chattanooga, Tennessee and represented Larry Taylor in their homecoming parade honoring Larry Taylor.

Dave Hill was captured on National and International TV while speaking at Ceremonies.

Dave Hill received Americas 3rd highest Medal for Valor in Combat - The Silver Star

Dave Hill invited LRRP/Ranger families and Unit Officers to celebrate at the White House.



Dave Hill is the Unit President of the LRRP/Rangers F Company 52nd inf and 75th Rangers.

Dave Hill believes in the credo "Mission First" and he made MOH his personal mission:

Captain (then Lieutenant) Larry Taylor received the Nation's Highest award for Valor by distinguishing himself by acts of gallantry and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty while serving with Troop D (Air), 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 1st Infantry Division, on 18 June 1968 near the village of Ap Go Cong, Republic of Vietnam in rescuing the LRRP team that Dave Hill was attached.

Larry Taylor was an ROTC Commissioned Officer from the University of Tennessee and was first assigned to the Armored Cavalry. But after a quick assessment of tanks on the ground he decided to become a helicopter pilot. And he was not just any chopper pilot but a Cobra helicopter gunship pilot. Larry said at the time of MOH firefight that there were only nine cobras assigned to the Division.

Captain Larry Taylor, recalling the Medal of Honor incident stated "He heard the emergency Mission horn siren the night of 18 June and he responded with his trained professionalism to whatever the mission may be. He was briefed on the ground and in the air that he was to support a trapped LRRP team and given the coordinates of their location. This was to be a routine mission for him -he thought. As he said the LRRP/Wildcat call sign team joined radio frequencies and the first words he heard was, "We're surrounded, Wildcat 2, Over".

First Lieutenant Taylor took a deep breath and asked the team to light up their position so that he could provide coverage with protective rockets and machine gun fire until a rescue helicopter could arrive. Forty-five minutes passed and Larry had fired thousands of rounds of rockets and bullets. He was getting low on fuel and ordered to return to base. His response to his superiors was "get off my frequency" because he just found out that there would be no rescue helicopter. He then devised a plan to rescue the four men of Wildcat 2 LRRPS.

The enemy did not know of his depletion of ammunition, and he

shared with the team that he would fly low using his landing lights while informing the team that there was a pick-up point within a short distance of their location. "Now the LRRPS and the Cobra were out of ammunition except for a few hand grenades and the enemy was in full pursuit of the Chopper and the WildCat 2 team.

Larry Taylor ordered the LRRP team to grab onto the skids as the Cobra was a two-man helicopter and not equipped to take on passengers. He said I will give you 10 seconds and then we are off - Dave Hill stated that it only took two seconds for the four men to wrap their bodies onto the Cobra skids and the two rocket pods and they slapped the aircraft signaling "take off".

The pick-up and take-off of the Aircraft with the Wildcat 2 team clinging to the outside were under constant enemy rocket propelled grenade and automatic weapon fire, from the North Vietnamese Army weapons. The aircraft received sixteen bullet rounds that penetrated the chopper's skin that night.

Pilot Taylor realized he could not fly high out of range without the LRRPS freezing at a high altitude, so he flew at risk with a wounded aircraft low to no fuel to a friendly water treatment plant. The team members jumped from their precarious positions on the Cobra and ran to an enclosed fence turning and saluting first Lieutenant Taylor and his Co-Pilot as they flew into the dark night.

Over three decades later members of the Wildcat Team discovered that Larry Taylor only received a Silver Star for his perilous rescue on that June 18th night in 1968. And that is when Dave Hill started his new mission to correct and upgrade the combat action to the Medal of Honor for 'Extraordinary Heroism and Conspicuous Service Above and Beyond the Call of Duty.'



Next Step - Dave Hill informs LRRP/Rangers that the President of the United States telephoned Captain Larry Taylor and informed him that

he was to receive the Medal of Honor and Larry's response was "I thought you had to do something to receive the Medal of Honor."



THE WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY

Dave Hill requested that all members of the Rangers attending wear a Blue Sport Jacket, white shirt, and Tan Slacks. He wanted all unit members in attendance to be uniform in dress and stand out with tan berets supplied by Ronnie Immel. We were located at two hotels in Northern Virginia but all logistics for all ceremonies had pick-up and drop off at the Sheraton Hotel off Columbia Pike in Arlington, Virginia. Dave should have booked his room at the Sheraton because he seemed to spend more time there adjusting to the specifics of the ceremonies - He was asked personally by Larry Taylor to speak on his behalf on different occasions at different locations.

We boarded buses after going through security clearance to the White House. The streets were blocked to all other traffic to and from our destination. This was a first for almost everyone associated with our Unit. The word exciting is an understatement. We traveled to the back side of the White House; passed through security multiple times and entered the White House. History was everywhere - everyone was smiling - a once in a lifetime experience. There were military band members playing pianos and Violins in one of the hallways which led to a hall with a small orchestra playing. We walked past the President's Office and down into the Ceremony Room. The Rangers were given prominent seats next to the stage and then we all stood as President Biden and Captain Taylor entered to the music "Hail to the Chief."



Once in a lifetime moment - Historic and many of the 75th Rangers and families were there supporting Captain Larry Taylor but, in our hearts, also supporting Dave Hill. The General Order Citation establishing the Medal of Honor heroics of Captain Taylor were read by a Senior Army Officer as the President placed the ribbon around Larry's neck with the actual Medal resting on his chest. People could see that life had taken its toll on Larry, but he stood tall and represented all in the White House that day and the room erupted in applause.

The President departed and the seats emptied into a reception hall at the White House. Generals and Colonels were in abundance including the Commanding General of the First Infantry Division and his senior staff. Horderves were the finest along with champagne and soft drinks. The five Rangers in attendance from Dave Hills Unit in Vietnam were treated like celebrities. Thousands of pictures were taken of Larry Taylor, of Dave Hill, and of the team from Chattanooga, Tennessee that helped correct a half century injustice in having Larry Taylor properly recognized. The wives and family in attendance also felt the love, warmth and understood better the sacrifice of their men.

Larry Taylor changed History that day by saving lives and creating a legacy and family life for the men he rescued - Salute! And he rightly received one of the most beautiful Ceremonies of a Medal of Honor recipient.

MUSEUM

The next day Dave Hill ushered Larry Taylor into the Museum of the United States Army with his eloquent words that captured the events of his fellow teammates that are no longer alive. Dave Hill was the only survivor of that eventful harrowing night; therefore, it was only proper that he brought his whole family,

including his new grandchild to witness War History and History in the making from a grateful Nation.

ON TO TENNESSEE

The city of Chattanooga rolled out the red carpet with a parade and speeches for Larry Taylor (a native son) receiving the Medal of Honor. The First Infantry Division showed support with the commanding General and Senior Staff and the Division marching band.

Chattanooga has a Medal of Honor Museum, and the story of Larry Taylor and Dave Hill's LRRP/Ranger team story will be enshrined in perpetuity.



A footnote- Dave Hill was the first-generation son of legal immigrants that were naturalized Citizens, and I am proposing that he be the next inductee from our unit into the Ranger Hall of Fame.



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K/75 - E58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

My Brothers,

I apologize for my absence in the last two issues. I might have a good excuse but still disappointed that I was unable to fulfill my duties.

To say the least it has been a difficult year for my wife and me medically. In April I started having severe abdominal pain and bloating. It has happened occasionally since 2018 and had gone to the VA emergency room. It got so bad they took X Rays and said they found nothing. It took two doses for the pain to ease. So, on this occasion I thought what the point is in going to the ER again. In the past episodes it only lasted a couple of days but this time it went on for a week with no let up. This time it started on a Monday and the following Sunday I had a heart attack. My wife took me to the outside hospital ER. The doctor confirmed the heart attack but reported it was minor and no permanent damage. An angiogram confirmed one artery was 50% blocked. The cardiologist said that artery would not have caused the attack. It was determined that the severe abdominal pain and bloating put pressure on my heart and caused the heart attack. A new MRI and x-ray confirmed after liver test and image that I had a spot on my pancreas. A study of past VA reports and images confirmed that the spot was there (2018* when I went to the ER for the previous episodes and went untreated. The hospitalist told me I had pancreatic cancer and needed an endoscopic ultrasound which was not available locally. My gastroenterologist said I needed to Go to University of Colorado or VA Denver to make a definitive diagnosis. The VA was able to get me in the following week which was a pleasant surprise since they had told my daughter that it could be 30-60 days. My wife and daughter had pushed pretty hard on both hospitals to make it happen soonest. As it turned out the specialist worked at both hospitals. In asking around it was revealed that he is one of best in the US. After the test he reported that I do not have cancer and did not know what the others were seeing except maybe fluid around the pancreas which prevented an accurate diagnosis.

My wife and daughter had tried to convince my Primary care Physician that my abdominal issues were classic gall bladder symptoms which the specialist in Denver agreed was the case. A month later my gall bladder was removed. No GI issues since. Mid July I started having severe back pain. It worsened until I was unable to walk. I've Been In a wheel since then so suffering with the pain as the VA did not subscribe any pain meds. Again, I had to wade through the VA road blocks but was finally able to get an appointment with an outside Neurosurgeon.

An MRI showed nerve impingement, at two vertebrae, bulging discs and lots of arthritis which narrows the spinal canal. I'm scheduled for surgery Dec 20th which can be performed tele-



scopically and means small incision and quick recovery time.

Overall, I have been able to find competent doctors who care. By the way, I fired my PC at the VA and have a new one who seems to be up on my case and is sympathetic with Veterans who have to suffer through the morass of the VA medical system. I do have to say myself and many others have received good care through the VA, but my Local hospital and my primary have ignored me for the last five or six years.

That's enough, maybe too much about me because I know that there are many of our brothers and families who are going through hard times medically and I know that all of us have them in our thoughts and prayers.

Here is the current info about our K-Co reunion in April of 2024: It looks like the 2024 reunion in **Oklahoma City** next April is going to be well attended – we hope that you will be able to join us. I have some updated information and a tentative itinerary so please read this information all the way to the end.

DATES: Thursday April 11th, 2024 to Saturday April 13th, 2024 (departing on Sunday).

HOTEL, RESERVATIONS & RATES: Springhill Suites by Marriott in Oklahoma City/Downtown/Bricktown 600 East Sheridan Avenue Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. King bedroom rates are \$120 and queen bedrooms are \$135. The parking fees are not applicable to our reunion. These rates are good for one day before to one day after the reunion. **404.308.5262**. The last day to book is Thursday March 21, 2024.

You should use the reservation link that Wayne sent out or the link on our website and on Facebook. Apparently the hotel did not set up a local reservation phone number for those who do not use computers. We are attempting to get that resolved, "hopefully soon". If we get the number we will send out a mass e-mail, post in on our website, and on Facebook. **In the meantime you may call Wayne at (404.308.5262.) Or Roger at (970-640-3815. We will be able to make your reservation for you.**

ITINERARY (for now): Thursday – check in; Hospitality room (hours TBD).

Friday - Individual sightseeing, Hospitality room

Saturday – Individual sightseeing, Hospitality room, Banquet catered by Earl's BBQ, guest speaker will be the state governor Frank Keating.

Sunday – Depart for home.

RSVP: If you have replied to my previous email – Thank you! However, please reply to me by email with T-Shirt sizes for you and your guest and the number attending.

ACTIVITIES: A list of suggested activities during the reunion is attached.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: There might be a small reunion reservation charge to help cover costs of the hospitality room, snacks, T-shirts, banquet etc. We are very aware that financial difficulties are real and we are doing our best to keep costs down. As always, several in this generous group of brothers have offered donations to help defray these costs. If you want to contribute, please let me know and I'll get back to you on ways to do this.

Please plan to attend – none of us are getting any younger and we need to keep the tradition going. I hope each of you have a great and relaxing day. It's your day – enjoy it!

On behalf of Roger Crunk, Tom Sove, Jack Werner, Tom Schadegg & myself, Wayne Mitsch.

FYI. If you have not seen it yet there is a YouTube video interview of Gary Heald about his time in K-Co.

Vietnam veteran Gary Heald served as a Lrrp with K Co 75th RGR, of the Fourth Infantry Division, based at Camp Enari and An Khe. In this interview, he discusses the ins and outs of patrolling in Pleiku, and mentions two other members of his team, Bob Holman and Billy Powers. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R70aON3kRDM>.)

There is also one of Eric Dalke's interview..

"After enlisting in the Army in 1968, Eric Dalke volunteered for Long-Range Reconnaissance and served with Company K (Ranger)/75th Infantry in Vietnam. He survived 33 missions behind enemy lines with LRRP and received a Bronze Star with "V" device for valor." (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXqhD7Gg3YY>)

The following is an article written by Mike Lapolla, the first CO of 2nd Brigade LRRPs. He is loved and respected by those served with him. Thank you Mike.

ALASKA AIRLINES



"Thank you for your service" is a two-way street. Veterans should also thank the Americans who support them in both military and civilian life. In this spirit, we thank Alaska Airlines for its ongoing service to veterans when dignity and sincerity matters most.

Last July, my wife and I were invited guests at a joint tribal/military ceremony in Kodiak, Alaska. The Kodiak Armory was being renamed for a brave soldier from my unit who was killed in Vietnam. His name was Daniel Harmon. His Russian Orthodox gravesite is on an uninhabited island in Chiniak Bay.

After the ceremony, three veterans were buried with him. They were his two brothers, Paul and Maurice; and Ron Coon, the soldier whose life he saved in 1967. The remains of these three veterans were transported to Kodiak via Alaska Airlines. A Harmon family niece, Lisa Monroe, would be transporting the ashes and military medals.

Monroe called Alaska Airlines for guidance in navigating the rules and regulations for the airline and the airport. She was asked, "Are the men veterans?" When she said yes, her world changed. Good things happened fast.

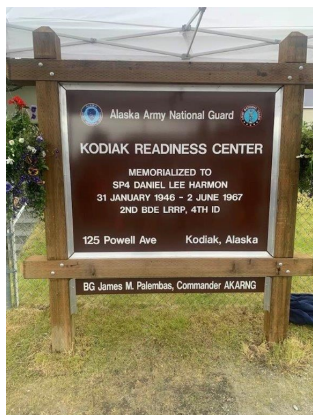
She was immediately plugged into Alaska Airlines' Fallen Soldier Program. Kevin Kruse was assigned to assist the family in Seattle. Background information on the veterans was gathered. Plans were made to fast track the family through the airport and then to the Alaska Airline Lounge. It was there when Kruse showed them the aircraft that Alaska Airlines put into service to transport the three veterans to Kodiak.

It was special Fallen Soldier plane — called a "livery" by the company. The plane had the most patriotic and stunning paint color scheme in the global aviation industry. "Honoring Those Who Serve" was painted on the fuselage and included American flags on the winglets.

When recalling being shown the aircraft, Monroe said, "My Uncle Danny was the war hero in the family. But my Uncles Paul and Maurice also served in the Army and Navy and were respected members our family. They recently passed away and wanted to be buried with their brother. When I realized this plane was for Paul and Maurice, I just cried in appreciation."

In Anchorage, the family and ashes of Ron Coon joined the flight to Kodiak. Alaska Airlines ensured that families were first to board and exit the flight. They were individually welcomed by the entire flight crew. En route to Kodiak, the pilot introduced the passengers to the families and read the story of the three veterans. All passengers were silently saying, "Thank you for your service." The pilot then invited all on board to our Kodiak ceremony. We have since learned this incredible program was started by three Alaska Airlines mechanics 12 years ago: Kevin Kruse, Brian Bowden and Brett Megran. Yes, he is the same Kevin Kruse that escorted the family last July.

don't ask the question, the answer is always no. I got involved in the Fallen Soldier Program in its infancy and we knew, as an airline, we could make a difference in a big way. The program has grown bigger than we ever imagined, and the gratitude we are given from families and military escorts is deeply heartfelt. If you have a passion for something and a vision for it, present a case to your leadership. You never know where it may go."



The following was submitted by John Dubois. Thank you John.

My Honor Flight Story

Over two years ago, my wife, Anne, put my name in for the Southeast Florida Veterans Honor flight to Washington, DC. I had no idea she had done this until I received a call this August, telling me I had been selected for their flight on September 16th. This came as a complete surprise!

The experience was incredible. We had a chartered flight from Palm Beach to Reagan National airport in Arlington, VA. We started boarding at about 0500 and took off at 0600. Each Veteran was assigned a "Guardian", a volunteer who had paid their own way to make sure every veteran was taken care of. If a wheelchair or anything else was needed, they were there to make it happen.

When we arrived at the airport in Washington, there was a crowd cheering for us as we got off the plane. It was the first of many welcomes that we received throughout the day. We boarded charter buses and were escorted to Arlington National Cemetery where we watched the Changing of the Guard ceremony. Our buses then took us to lunch, hosted by the Arlington

Knights of Columbus. Ironically, my bus passed right by the home I lived in for a few years as a teenager with my father, stepmother and her daughters.

The Knights of Columbus had a large group of volunteers greeting us and serving us lunch. Young High Schoolers from the area went around to each table and introduced themselves; it was genuine and uplifting to see young people acknowledging our service.

From Arlington, we went across the Memorial Bridge into Washington, DC, where we were given a couple of hours to walk around and view the various memorials. I went directly to the Vietnam Memorial with 15 names of men who had died while I was there. Some of them I knew, some I didn't. I began with the man I replaced in the 2nd Brigade LRRPS in Sep 1969, Raymond "Page" Johnson, who was killed by a tiger while out on a patrol. His death was listed as a "Non-Hostile Action" rather than KIA. I can't think of anything more hostile than being dragged off by a tiger. Even though I didn't know him, his death always affected me, and I wanted to spend a moment with him at the Wall.

My time there was very personal. The sheer magnitude of the memorial and all the names was overwhelming in many ways. I felt better having done it.

On the way home, the Honor Flight did a "Mail Call". Behind the scenes the families and friends of the Veterans had written cards and letters expressing appreciation for our service and sacrifice. I saw some of the guys tearing up when they started reading their mail, so I decided to wait until I got home to open mine.

We arrived home at about 2030, a long day but inspiring for everyone. We were given a hero's welcome upon our arrival back in West Palm Beach. The Fire Department had trucks spraying down our plane as we taxied in. They had arranged for an Honor Guard and Bagpipers to lead the way as we walked down the Concourse to rejoin our families. A band was playing and there were hundreds of people there to greet us.

It was truly the homecoming that so many of us never got when we returned from Vietnam. I will always remember that day and believe it has helped give me a new outlook on my service and life.

I'm writing this because I hope every one of my fellow LRRPS, Rangers and Veterans can take advantage of this program while you are still able. Honor Flights is a national organization that has hubs throughout the country. Here is a link to find the one nearest you: [Find A Hub - Honor Flight Network](https://www.honorflight.org/).

I would not have done this for myself. My wife deserves those thanks. In retrospect, it was one of the greatest gifts I've ever been given. You won't regret it!

John DuBois
West Palm Beach, FL

2nd Brigade LRRP, K/75 Ranger - 1969



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—CHARLES “CHUCK” REILLY



The Great Ranger in the sky has yet again accepted another soul into his house. It is with sadness that I report that Harold “Neb” Schmitt has passed away after a year long battle with ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), better known as “Lou Gehrig’s disease.” Neb spent nearly a year with “L” Company Rangers and was a friend to all in the company. Neb had enlisted in the army when he found out that he was about to be drafted (his draft number turned out to be “NUMBER ONE”). He ended up a sergeant during his tour-of-duty in Vietnam and was honorably discharged in early 1972. Originally from Ontario, Oregon, he enrolled at Treasure Valley Community College (TVCC) and met his future wife there, Linda Richel. They were soon married in September of 1972 and so began their 50-year love affair. Neb worked as a commercial fisherman off the Oregon coast, dragging for shrimp, and logged in both Oregon and Idaho before moving permanently to Alaska in 1979. He worked as a Property Management Developer and later became Construction Superintendent of Industrials projects. His final position was as a Project Manager for the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation before retiring in 2018. He was held in such high regard on the north slope that the natives gave him an Eskimo name --- Oogruk (i.e., “bearded seal”). Neb was an avid hunter and fisherman, but his best times were with his family and friends. His family was his life’s blood and he was especially close to his three daughters and his ten grandchildren. Neb was a lifetime member of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association and also a lifetime member of American Legion Post 33 in Peters Creek, Alaska. I last spoke to Neb six months ago when his disease was just starting to get progressively worse, and I’m glad that I had the opportunity then to wish him the best. He will be missed by his Ranger buddies from “L” Company. He was a unique man and accomplished much in his life. May he rest in peace. I have included three pictures of Neb for this publication. One from his early U.S. Army years. Another from later in his life and, lastly, a photo from one of his successful hunts.

Gary Linderer was kind enough to send over a story by one of the men who was both a LRRP and Ranger, Larry Saenz. He was with the LRRPs when the company was still “F” Company of the 58th Infantry. The big change-over was in February of 1969 and the story takes place in May of 1969 when “F” Company had recently become “L” Company Rangers. I have taken the liberty to abridge the story due to issues of space for this publication, but I have tried my best to keep all the main points and its continuity. I have also written it in “third person” but will try to include Larry’s quotes and keep it in the spirit of his own narrative.



THE LAST RANGER MISSION

In early May of 1969, Larry Saenz was on Team 23 when he got a warning order for a mission late in his tour which turned out to be his final one. The team met in the company TOC (Tactical Operations Center) for a pre-mission briefing and listened to what sounded like a suicide mission. They were to be inserted deep into the Rong Rong Valley to reconnaissance enemy troop movement, but that was just for openers. They were also instructed to search for a missing Special Forces Team and a missing First Air Cavalry LRRP team that were both presumed somewhere in the area. Longtime LRRP and Ranger Kenn Miller was the team leader and after the briefing assigned Larry to watch over a fellow named Keith Hammond. He had around 10 days left in-country, and what he was doing on this mission was anyone’s guess. He had literally no experience in the bush and had spent all his time in the

rear area. Apparently, Hammond had volunteered because he wanted to find out what it was like out in the bush before he returned stateside. “Well, you sure picked one heck of a mission to come out on,” said Saenz to his new teammate.

The team lifted off early the next morning and headed southwest into the Rong Rong Valley. After landing, they hid in some high bushes and waited about an hour before attempting to move. This was a standard procedure. Not hearing any enemy activity in the area, the six-man team moved on and came upon a trail which was about two to three feet wide. It appeared to be a “high-speed” trail and the Rangers soon noticed directional arrows carved into trees. That was always a sure sign of enemy activity. As they walked further down the trail, the team’s point man stopped and pointed towards the ground. He was literally standing atop an enemy bunker. Team leader Miller called back to the TOC on his PRC-25 radio and informed them that they were on what appeared to be the outskirts of an NVA base camp. He was told to keep the team nearby, inspect the bunker and wait for further orders. The bunker was empty as was an enemy hootch in close proximity. The team was now told to head east on the trail as Saenz pulled rear security duty. As they proceeded, Saenz noticed out of the corner of his eye a dark silhouette of a man. At 0020, his other teammates had moved off the trail for a temporary break. The dark silhouette turned out to be an NVA soldier, complete with pith helmet and khaki fatigues. Saenz opened up on him, but his weapon jammed after only one round was fired. The round had hit the enemy soldier, however, and Saenz yelled “CONTACT!!” to his teammates. One of them, Bob Glasser, now jumped in front of him and sprayed the area with a full magazine from his M-16.

As they headed back to the team's position off the trail, Saenz told everyone to put their gas masks on as he was going to fire several CS grenades into the area of the enemy soldier. Miller tapped him on the soldier and said, "Let's get a prisoner and get the hell out of here." Miller called back to the rear and found out that the Ready Reaction Force of the 2/17th Cavalry was unavailable to assist them due to another Ranger team in trouble. Calling in artillery into the base camp was also nixed as the team was sitting on the gun/target line. With few options now, Miller informed his CO that he was terminating the mission. "There's an enemy base camp up this trail and there's no way I'm going back up there with only six men. We'd be wiped out in seconds."

Miller decided the best course of action would be for the team to head in the opposite direction. After humping for a while, they pulled into a thick wooded area with plenty of tall grass and weeds for cover. Saenz whispered to Miller, "If we don't get out of here now, there might not be a tomorrow. They know where we are and they are damn well coming to get us tonight." The team settled into their overnight position and placed claymores all around them. As night fell, it became pitch black and a violent thunderstorm permeated the area, drenching the soldiers and making their lives even more miserable. Meanwhile, the NVA probed their position all night long. Glasser was certain he saw an NVA soldier directly in front of him. Miller's sit reps became more infrequent as the night progressed. The enemy movement was so close to their position that Miller turned his radio completely off so that they could keep absolute noise discipline. As the early morning hours arrived, the enemy movement ceased, and Miller directed his men to move east up the trail about 500 meters. A helicopter was slated to extract the team and the team had to reach an area where that would be possible. Unfortunately, there wasn't a decent LZ in the entire region. The vegetation (mostly bamboo) was too thick for a helicopter to land, so Miller dispersed the men in different directions to chop as much of it down as they could, even if the noise would alert the enemy. Saenz provided security about 50 meters from the makeshift LZ as the Rangers continued chopping up the bamboo. He soon noticed enemy soldiers moving towards their position from a nearby tree-line and prayed that the chopper was on its way. It was, but Miller was informed that, despite their best efforts, the LZ was still too small and they would have to climb up ladders to get aboard. Ranger Larry Chambers was flying bellyman in the Huey now circling above them with two Cobra gunships on standby. Soon the ladders were lowered and the Rangers began to scramble up. When Saenz got inside, he heard loud cracking sounds and didn't know whether it was the bamboo or the enemy shooting at them. Bob Glasse and Keith Hammond were already sitting in the chopper with their feet on the skids. Everyone was now in the chopper except for Ranger Bob Dearing. He was still on the ladder when the whole ship began to vibrate violently and shake, then shot upwards. They were above the tree line when the bellyman screamed into his headset, "MAYDAY!! MAYDAY!! We're going down!!" Right then, Saenz said "I lost it and starting to yell JUMP, JUMP!!" The ship began to rotate counter-clockwise and made a hard bank to the left. Saenz's body lifted off the floor of

the Huey and was thrown out the left door headfirst. It was a near miracle that he survived the fall to the ground, but he was now unconscious. When he came to, Saenz checked himself to see if he was all in one piece. He was. Then someone started yelling "THE SHIP'S GOING TO BLOW!! THE SHIP'S GOING TO BLOW!!" Saenz now saw that he was lying right next to the crashed Huey and that jet fuel was flowing underneath his own body. He jumped to his feet and staggered in the same direction as Miller and another Ranger (McCann). The three men got behind a large tree and waited for the chopper to explode, but it never did. It just belched smoke and died there. Miraculously, the downed pilots and their crew had also survived the crash and they were all huddled together nearby. Saenz took the lead as he and the Rangers moved towards the downed helicopter and to his horror, he saw poor Keith Hammond lying motionless. His head had been crushed by one of the rotors. "Tears began welling up in my eyes as I drew nearer," he said. "I got a terrible lump in my throat. It was the man I was responsible for while we were on patrol. Why did he have to die like this? He only had ten days to go." He heard McCann report on the PRC-25 that they had one KIA and one MIA. Hammond was the confirmed KIA and no one knew if Dearing was alive or dead or his whereabouts. Then McCann directed the Cobras that were now orbiting their area to fire into the ridgeline nearby. The NVA immediately responded with .51 caliber machine gun fire and RPGs. One of the rockets hit the tail boom of one of the Cobras, but luckily it did not take it down. The other Cobra fired into the ridgeline and that seemed to discourage the NVA from any further activity. The pilot radioed the team to inform them that he would remain in the area and had enough fuel to hold off any more NVA. The other Cobra, damaged but still airborne, limped back to Camp Eagle. Suddenly, the remaining Rangers heard a rustling sound in the nearby brush that got louder and louder. It turned out to be the missing Dearing. "Thank God, you're all alive," he said. "I didn't want to be left out here all by myself." Saenz then told him that Hammond was dead.

Later, a medevac headed to the area. A body basket was lowered for Hammond's body. As it lifted his body, Saenz noticed a large gaping hole in the back of his head and cerebral fluid was still dripping down from it. As the crew chief pulled the body inside, Saenz thought to himself, "This is the last time I would ever see Keith again." Finally, it was time for everyone else to be extracted. Unfortunately, the men had to climb on top of the downed helicopter to reach the rescue helicopter and the slope of the ridge was so steep, only two men could be evacuated at one time. Naturally, the pilots and their crew went first. Then another rainstorm hit the area and time became a factor. It was already starting to get dark and the rain was making it impossible to continue the rescue mission. Saenz was able to get aboard one of the last rescue attempts, but it looked like Miller and McCann would be left behind. Saenz related that when he got to the rear, he was immediately informed that the last helicopter flying that day had picked up Miller and McCann just before the rain made it impossible to fly. He was greatly relieved. Saenz related what happened next. "I threw my weapon on the floor and sobbed uncontrollably," he said. "I looked at my pla-

-toon what happened next. "I threw my weapon on the floor and sobbed uncontrollably," he said. "I looked at my platoon sergeant, SFC Milton Lockett and yelled at him. Why did Hammond have to die like that? I can't do this anymore. This stinking country is not worth the life of one single American soldier." Sergeant Lockett put a hand on his shoulder and told him that his time in the field was over. "Your orders just came down from Headquarters," he related. "You're going home in 20 days. You can spend the next two weeks on Radio Relay, then your last week clearing country. The war is over for you." And that's how the war ended for Larry Saenz---on a very sad note.

I have included two pictures of Saenz for this publication. One of them has Larry in the rear with Rick Lawhorn walking point followed by William "Raider" Lang, an unknown obscured Ranger, and Marvel McCann in front of Larry. I have also included a picture of Keith Hammond. I hope I have done justice to Larry's story about his last mission. It was definitely a tough one for everyone involved. These are the kinds of memories that are etched in our minds forever and there's no way to forget them even as the years pass by. And maybe we shouldn't.

I hope you all have pleasant Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Once again, any and all stories from the past about our company are welcome and I'm always available to give them a place in this publication.

As always, RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!

Charles Reilly



Update!

1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment
50th Anniversary Celebration

****NEW DATE: March 6-10, Savannah, GA****

We changed the date of the celebration and some of the activities based on your feedback. Thank you for weighing in on this milestone event!

To register, mail your \$25 (per person) check to Sua Sponte Foundation, P.O. Box 60281, Savannah, GA 31420 or visit the Sua Sponte Foundation "Donate" page at <https://suaspontefoundation.org/memorial/donate/>. In the "Name of Ranger or Ranger Family receiving donation tribute" section indicate: 50th Anniversary Registration.

Email your name, email address, and names of those in your party to: Sheliadudley175@gmail.com and copy m.hall@threerangersfoundation.org. Your registration will be acknowledged by return email, along with a schedule of events and list of hotels offering group rates.

Schedule of Events:

- Wednesday, 6 March - Meet and Greet/Registration/Mixer
- Thursday, 7 March - Banner Day; BBQ
- Friday, 8 March - Ranger Ball (Convention Center)
- Saturday, 9 March - Outdoor Concert; Food Trucks
- Sunday, 10 March - Open or possible Shooting Activity



www.suaspontefoundation.org

1/75 50th Anniversary Schedule

(since reactivation in 1974)

6-9 MARCH 2024

6 March - Wednesday:

- 1400-2100 (T): Icebreaker
- 1400-2000 Registration opens. American Legion Post 184, 3003 Rowland Avenue, Thunderbolt
- S5 Store located @ American Legion Post 184.

7 March - Thursday:

- 1000-1500 - Banner Day Events
- Open House-Tours-Static Display of equipment- 1/75
- 1200-1400-BBQ Lunch in BN area
- 1600- 2400 Hospitality - (Tentative) Tailgate Sports Bar and Grill, 11215 Abercorn St #2, Savannah, GA 31419/ American Legion Post 184, 3003 Rowland Avenue, Thunderbolt, Ga
- Open night Veterans - Company Events
- S5 Store open during Bn events

8 March - Friday

- Golf: Ranger Buddies coordinate with each other to set up tee times. Please let your unit rep know if interested in golf.
- Weapons Firing as CSM (Ret) Rick Merritt will set up an event off post if there is enough interest. Please let your unit rep know if interested in weapons firing.
- (T) 1730-Until End Ranger Ball (50th Anniversary Ceremony highlighting unique accomplishments. The ball and ceremony will be held at the Savannah Convention Center. Guest Speaker TBA

Saturday, 9 March:

- 0900-1500 Open Time/(T) Tours
- 1700-2300: Outdoor concert at (Family Field across from Bn HQs). Talent from the local area. This is a great time to have Rangers from all eras to get together and have some fun. Lawn chairs and blankets on the ground; best to bring your own.



contracts are completed later this week.

The Fairfield Inn& Suites Marriott. Midtown on Abercorn- Rates: Rate between \$164.00 - 194.00 + taxes. \$12 per night for parking.

Code: RBRS

(888)-236-2427

Room Block Dates: March 6-10, 2024

Cutoff Date to Book: 6 Feb 2024

They will block off 30 rooms for us. Rates will vary depending on the type of room (King vs 2 x Queen).

IHG HAAF - Rate: Retiree rate at \$139 plus tax per night.

Code: Ranger's Reunion. The cutoff date to book these rooms is being updated and more to follow. Guests should make their reservation with the front desk by dialing 912-355-1060 x 0, which is available 24/7. Point of Contact is Juli

Westin is doing rooms only for Friday and Saturday.

Rate: 265.00 + tax

Code: 50th Anniversary Ranger Group

(912)201-2000

Note: This is near to where the Savannah Convention Center and Ranger Ball will be held

Saturday, 9 March Continued:

- 1700-2200 - Food Trucks/ Leopolds Ice Cream
- 1700-1900 - Chain Reaction Band
- 1900-2300 - Michael Stacey Band

Hotel Information and Room rates:

We will have updated contracts with the following hotels and POCs when contracts are completed later this week.

Hilton Garden West Bay Street -

Rates: Wed & Thur 6-7 Mar: \$239.00 + taxes.

Fri and Sat 8-9 Mar: \$319.00+ taxes.

Valet charge each night is \$45. No self-parking is available for this property.

Code: To make reservations, call (912) 790-7000 and mention Group Name: 1st Ranger Battalion or Group Code: FRB.

NOTE: Best to book here for Wed and Thursday and move to Weston Hotel for Fri and Saturday due to rates.

Leader/Coordinators:

Here are the company POCs to contact if planning on attending. Please contact them so we can have an accurate number and if planning on staying for the banquet.

A Co

Rick Barela rangerlogspt@hotmail.com

Dave Weinberg weinburg.david@me.com

Ben Stolbab stolba2000@yahoo.com

B Co

Bryan Staggs bstaggs175@gmail.com

C Co

James Spencer james.r.spencer@gmail.com

Marty Martinson mattmattinson75@gmail.com

Mike Wagers mikew31907@yahoo.com

Duke Durkan j.durkan@gmail.com

Jim Griffing jgriff70@aol.com

HHC

Joe Davis davidjoe1109@aol.com

Ken Turner kennethturner@comcast.com

Richard Negreter negrete75@gmail.com

*This itinerary is a preliminary itinerary and more events may be added



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—RUDY TEODOSIO



VETERAN DAY ACTIVITIES
LAKE EUSTIS, FL
11 NOVEMBER 2023

TO REPRESENT OUR UNIT AS RANGERS WAS BIG DAVE CUMMING AND RUDY TEODOSIO CONDUCTED A PARACHUTE WATER JUMP INTO LAKE EUSTIS FL WITH OUR BROTHER RANGERS THAT MEMBERS OF SONS OF MOSBY MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION THAT CONSIST OF US ARMY RANGERS AND LRRPs, WITH OTHER BROTHERS IN SPECIAL FORCES AND PARATROOPERS FROM OTHER AIRBORNE UNITS FROM ALL ERA.



LTC(R) DICK JAMES INDUCTED INTO THE RANGER HALL OF FAME 2023.

THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US AS WELL THE CLOSING OF THIS YEAR. AS UNIT DIRECTOR I WISH YOU ALL HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND A MERRY MERRY CHRISTMAS AS WELL A HAPPY 2024 NEW YEAR.

AS EVERY WE HAVE BROTHERS THAT HAS CROSSED OVER TO THEIR NEW BASE CAMP THE MANSION OF THE LORD. ONLY THROUGH US DO THEY KEEP THEIR SPIRIT ALIVE FOR WE ARE THE WITNESSES OF HOW THEY LIVE AND FOUGHT IN OUR TIME. DO KEEP OUR BROTHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR OWN PERSONAL PRAYERS AS WE CONTINUE TO GO FORWARD INTO THE NEW YEAR OF 2024.

MAY GOD BLESS YOU ALL.
RANGER RODOLFO "RUDY" TEODOSIO
UNIT DIRECTOR



MY PART OF THE STORY BY DOC KIRK 74TH LRP

I went to Vietnam from Panama. I was in Panama from 1966 to 1967 while in the 82nd Airborne. I believed I was to be there for the rest of my tour. I had requested in writing to stay in Panama. Then about 2 months later I received a "special request" for my services as a medic (by this time I was an E-5). A 3 man levy came down to go to Vietnam (out of 1500 men!), I felt pretty "special" 😊 I arrived in Cam Ranh Bay and eventually arrived in Ahn Kay where I started my tour. We came under fire by the V.C. at our training camp with mortars – it was about 3 am and it kept up until about 5 am. Because I was an E-5, they selected me to be the personal assistant to a 4th division Colonel. It was for only about 3 weeks that I drove for him. As I was still getting used to the sleeping schedule, I heard a lot of exploding in my dreams when I realized what was going on – I bounded out of bed looking for the Colonel but he had already gone to a shelter which I found also. I was eventually transferred back to my Airborne unit and put in the headquarters company aid station where they assigned me to do medical and paper work. The E-6 Sergeant got in trouble and was busted down to an E-1 so they put me in charge of the Headquarters Company Aid Station where I was to get ready for the I-G inspection and that is when I knew I was in trouble! At that time in my life I was not into paperwork so I started looking around for more "adventurous" work. I asked around if anyone knew of any "special units" and I was told that there was a place on the hill called the "17th Cav" but they said you would probably get killed since they went out in small teams to recon the enemy. It was dangerous work! I found out that they were a Long Range Patrol, a gorilla fighting outfit that did RECON. So I applied with 3 others the next day. When it came to my test they asked me a basic question – "What is this pill?" and I said, "It's a Darvon." To which they said, "That's right, you're in!" So began my adventure! They told me I would have to change to Infantry, which was great with me. They let me train while I took medical care of the outfit in the "17th Cav". That is where I developed my riflery skills – I could keep a can hopping in the air without touching the ground with an M-16. Then I received my 1st assignment. I went with Bravo team as their medic and RTO. I was scared but I was going! I was told our "Cowboys" – an elite helicopter unit, couldn't be used because their choppers were shot up, so we had to use a "leg" (those who weren't Airborne) pilot. They were more skittish than our guys. I had packed about a 100 lbs in my V.C. rucksack; my medical pack, my RTO, my food (C-rations, because the AirForce guys stole our LRRP rations (All you added was Hot/Cold water) when they came in by plane because they tasted great!), my AK 47, Ammo, and 8 Grenades. Before we got to the DZ the TL (Team Leader) said, "If one of us goes out, we all go out!" We were in the hills, so the chopper didn't set down. He was about 6 feet off the ground when the 1st guy went out and about 10 feet when the 2nd guy went out and about 20 to 25 feet when I went out and the TL was right on top of me when I went out. As I was traveling down I could see the chopper off to my left circling to my front. Under me I could see 2 rocks underneath me and when I did my PLF (parachute landing fall) landing those rocks were about 6-7 feet tall. I checked my legs to see how I was doing but couldn't feel anything. The chopper was still flying around and the first 2 guys asked me how I was doing, and I said, "Okay, but everytime I try to get up something happens and I fall down." I asked how the TL was doing and found out he landed on the other side of the hill. When they got the TL and myself back on the chopper the TL asked the "leg pilot", "Why did you take off?", He said, "I thought I was getting shot at." As far as I know that was the first 2 man mission that we had heard of because the 1st 2 guys completed the mission. That mission landed me in the 85th Evac hospital for about 2 weeks. The TL went back to the States - he broke his leg in 3 places and crushed his femur into his hip bone. He was a tough guy being a Bull rider in the Rodeo in the States. Both my ankles were dislocated and I had to do exercises to correct them. I had a couple of our leaders come to the hospital to tell me they needed me and asked if I could get out and get back to the outfit. So I asked the Doctor and he said not for a while until I was healed up better. I told him I could at least walk, though slowly. He said if I wanted to go I would have to sign myself out, but against his orders. So I said I would do that...so he gave me exercises to do when I was back at my unit. They didn't put me on any missions for a month or so. So I got steadily better... I love the LRP's we were all crossed trained in each other's speciality! One of the TL's asked me if I would join his team and I said, "Yes". After all of my preparation was done I hoped on the chopper and we flew about 30-45 minutes from LZ Uplift into the hills. We surveyed the area and set down on top of a hill. Our assignment was to arrive 3 days before the 4th Division went up through the valley below us and make sure no V.C. or N.V.A. slipped around them on either side, or behind them when they went up the valley. We only had about 10 - 15 feet in a circle that we stayed in. We all pulled guard duty for 5 nights and "whispered" in our talk to each other all the time we were there so the enemy, if around, would not hear us. No smoking and no fires. The TL and I snuck down off the hill to get water in the rice patties for us all. After we got the water, while the 2 of us were there, we both, one at a time pulled guard duty while the other summgerged himself in the rice paddy to get cooled off, then we scrambled up through the tangled weeds, never walking on any kind of a trail - the TL didn't want to get ambushed and was what the LRP's regularly practiced. The day came and we watched the valley very closely and saw that no one snuck around the sides or behind the 4th Division, then we stayed for another 3 days. The night before we were to leave, I was prompted by the Lord to tell these guys about knowing Jesus as their Lord. I was more frightened

about telling them about about Jesus than I was about the mission itself. However, I told the guys that I wanted to talk to them about Heaven and how to get there according to what the Bible said. I told them:

God loves each one of us and has a great plan for us: Just that there are physical laws that govern the physical universe so there are spiritual laws that govern your relationship with God.

God's love is to us in John 3:16 – “for God so loved the world that He gave His One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

God's plan – John 10:10 – “I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly”

Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life.

Man is sinful – Romans 3:23 – “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”

Man is separated – Romans 6:23 – The wages (payment) for sin is death”

Then I told them Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.

He died in our place – Romans 5:8 “God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us”

He rose from the dead – I Corinthians 15:3-6 “Christ died for our sins... He was buried...He was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures...”

He is the only way to God – John 14:6 “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.’”

Then I told them that we must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of our lives; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives.

We must Receive Christ – John 1:12 - “As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe on His name”

We receive Christ through faith – Ephesians 2:8-9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works that no one should boast”

When we receive Christ, we experience a New Birth Read John 3:1-8

We receive Christ through personal invitation (Christ is speaking) Revelation 3:20 “Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him” If you want Jesus to get rid of all your sins, and you mean it, just say:

“Lord Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Savior and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the control center of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Amen”

We all talked about that after I finished.

When we got up the next morning we prepared for the chopper and it came right on time. We were ready so I was going to guide the chopper in but the TL said he would do it so the rest of us pulled perimeter security. When the chopper was about 5 feet off the ground, off to our right, there was a sudden explosion and a rush of hot air and blood and pieces of flesh roared by me and got hung up in the scrub trees and brush. The chopper wavered for a couple of seconds and then took off, straight up and I said in my head, “Lord this is it!” and I was ready for the battle, but no more mortars or explosions happened! The chopper flew around us for about a half hour. My legs were blown out from under me and they wouldn't move and I didn't feel a thing – it just smelled like death in the air. One of the guys said, “Are you guys all right?”, and I said “I don't know” then he said, “Where is Sergeant Rock?!” and I said (just knowing inside)... “Sergeant Rock isn't with us anymore...” One of my team mates had shrapnel tunnel in his left forearm, the other team mate had his hands covering his face with blood flowing out through his fingers (he must have been facing the blast) and he was saying nothing and had to be led to the chopper. When I was lifted on they put the left leg of our TL on with me, that's all they could find. Eventually they found what was left of him (His trunk) about 50 feet away, down the hill on another clean up trip. We supposed it was a bouncing betty that was set off by the pressure of the TL standing on it. We were all protected by God for 5 days as we slept, walked and sat on it until it was His time for us to be evacuated. I found out later that I had pieces of shrapnel, sprinkled like pepper, in both my legs. What did me the most damage was pieces of shrapnel in my peroneal nerve on my left foot which resulted in “drop foot” for the rest of my life. I went to Okinawa, Japan then to Madigan General Hospital at Fort Lewis where I was eventually discharged. I Thank You Lord Jesus for protecting me all the time and even now!



P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JERRY YONKO

A HOLIDAY IN QUANG TRI

Not a place I would ever want to go back to for celebrating a major holiday, but most emphatically a place I would like to remember as an important part of my life where I was a part of something much bigger than myself. We laugh among ourselves about how austere the conditions were and about how we never seemed to get the same supplies as the units south of us but we never let this issue get in the way of a good time. Yes, there were good times and as I look back I realize that I remember those more so than the times where we were not really happy. I spent the holidays (I'm including Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years) during 1970 and into 1971 in the Papa Company area and enjoyed the fellowship of my brothers while we continued to perform missions for the Brigade. I can remember being inserted into the Rocket Pocket Southwest of Camp Red devil and performing rocket suppression missions to help keep track of and to eliminate if possible enemy fire missions into our base. My team was fed a great holiday meal and then inserted on Christmas day, replacing another team that looked miserable when they left for us to Charlie Mike in their stead. It was raining and cold and I don't think I have ever been more miserable in my life. I can remember trying to sleep and the rain would gather under my body, seeping through to every inch of my skin and there was just no way to stay dry. After a while you just gave up and accepted that you were going to be wet and relaxed. I am sure that when we were relieved on New Year's Day, we had the same surly look and attitude as the team we had replaced. That being said, I was grateful to get a warm shower and cold beer at the club.

One of the stories that I have told about Holidays was from Thanksgiving 1970. I had the pleasure of driving Captain Johnson around occasionally and as such I kept the jeep filled with petro. (Just as a side note, I still remember the bumper number which I had to record each time I entered the POL dump 02BH6969) I can't remember to take my medications but for some reason this number has remained fresh in my mind. As I was in line to fill up a vehicle in front of me caught fire and the ground being saturated with gas and diesel fuel started to spread the fire rapidly heading toward the fuel containers. It seemed almost an afterthought for those in



line as we all moved our vehicles away from the flames and then immediately turned our attention to the big fire extinguishers that were on wheels and suppressed the flames. None of us had ever been trained to do so but it was the right thing to do and we did it. I think that as soon as we realized that there was not going to be a big explosion we all relaxed and took care of the business at hand and then continued to refill our vehicles. I just remembered and was always proud of how these soldiers worked together to get the job done.

I still remember the Mess Hall being fancied up for the meals and the good food they provided for our enjoyment. Say what you want to about the chow we were served, but considering the conditions and the fact that we were on the very end of the supply line, I take my hat off to all of the fellows who were there for us in that capacity. If you want to complain about the food, don't do it with your mouth full. Many years later as I served as a contractor in Iraq, I found that the same attention to detail and abundance concerning the holiday meals is alive and well. Thank you Dining Facility Workers.

As I like to do, I asked for holiday comments from our group and Terry Bishop shared the following:

Christmas 1969

Christmas 1969 was overshadowed by the loss of Thomas Dowd and four other members of Killer 1-6.

On December 21st their insertion Huey was shot down while carrying them into an active AO. As everyone in the Papa Company Family knows, only Ranger Larry Smith and one door gunner survived. I have some vivid memories of the tragedy and the days that followed. The only other memory of that Christmas comes from the photo, "Christmas on the DMZ", which Terry Roderick shared with us some years back. The photo of several of us in the club with Christmas decorations behind the bar is the total of my memories of the Holiday. All other recollections are related to losing Killer 1-6. Those memories are missing occurrences of days leading up to that mission and the few days that followed. I would appreciate it if others with more information would fill in some of those blanks. I will share what I remember.

The first memory of the mission is that the area that the team was to be inserted into had a lot of enemy activity. I remember seeing SSG Dowd in the company area with an M-60 slung over his shoulder. The next recollection is of being pulled out of the field. Captain Ferguson brought everyone in from the

field after the team went down. I am not sure if it was on December 21st or the next day. I also don't remember how or when I first heard that 1-6 was lost. Once back in the company area I saw their rucksacks and other field gear in a pile near the formation area. The next thing I remember is the funeral that we had at the little chapel near the mess hall. Someone who knew how to honor lost Airborne soldiers arranged a funeral procession. I had never seen an Airborne Funeral before that day. Stationed along both sides of the road from Camp Carter to the chapel were Papa Company Rangers dressed in our best duty uniforms. Five Papa company Rangers were designated to carry a pair of highly polished jump boots on a square platter covered with pieces of camouflaged poncho liner. The five Rangers each carrying a pair of jump boots were spaced several meters apart and walked down the center of the road as the remainder of the company stood

At attention along the road. I believe Gary Norton carried the boots of SSG Dowd.

My last memory of this time was of Captain Ferguson debating when to return the teams to the field. I don't remember how much time had elapsed after December 21st, but he asked the team leaders for our opinion and decided correctly to send us out right away. Maybe someone remembers if it was before Christmas Day. If so, were we pulled out again on the 25th?

As I said at the beginning, there are many blanks in my recollection of the days between December 21 st and Christmas 1969, and I would appreciate anyone filling in those blanks. My overriding memory of that Christmas is that it was a sad week for Papa Company and for the families of Team 1-6.

Terry Bishop

Christmas on the DMZ



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