

# PATROLLING

March 2025 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC. Volume 37 Issue I



*2025 Cabanatuan POW Ranger Raid  
Reenactment 80 years later*



1945

Top photo: Cabanatuan reenactment January 2025 Feature Article. Bottom photo. 1945 6th Ranger Battalion POW Rescue.

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



## SUA SPONTE: YOUR 2025 MISSION STARTS NOW

No matter where you stand, Three Rangers Foundation is here to provide the support and tools you need to excel in 2025. Below we've outlined key areas where we can assist, offering resources and guidance to help you lead the way and live the Ranger Creed!

### FINANCIAL WELLNESS

- Goal: Develop and stick to a monthly budget. Invest in savings or retirement accounts.
- Action: Visit our Financial Wellness page for advice and resources. Use our TRF Financial Wellness Tool to plan for your future and take control of your finances.

### CAREER & NETWORKING

- Goal: Refine your resume and LinkedIn profile. Attend at least one networking event.
- 1. Action: Leverage the TRF Mentorship Program and explore resources tailored to advancing your career. Complete our brief intake form to get started. It does not matter how long you've been out or if you're already a TRF Mentor- we are here to lend a hand. Visit our TRF Calendar and Ranger-Friendly Career page to find upcoming events and potential career opportunities.

### PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Goal: Read one book each month to broaden your perspective and spark new ideas. Stay connected to the Ranger community.
- Action: Explore the Ranger Reading List for books related to or written by Rangers. Call or visit a Ranger Buddy.



Scan this code for more details and links to all the webpages referenced.

### FAMILY CONNECTIONS

- Goal: Dedicate time to meaningful activities with your spouse/significant other and children. Focus on communication and building trust in your relationships.
- Action: Explore our Family & Spouse Resource page. Consider attending our annual marriage retreat to strengthen your partnership and reconnect. Email [d.knight@threerangersfoundation.org](mailto:d.knight@threerangersfoundation.org) to learn more.

### OVERALL HEALTH

- Goal: Take steps to address mental health challenges. Ensure you're receiving the benefits and support you've earned.
- Action: Explore our Spiritual Fitness Resource page for total fitness advice and a list of PTSD, TBI, and Mental Health resources. Visit our VA Benefits page to get expert help with filing and reviewing claims through our partners, Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP).

### FITNESS

- Goal: Create a structured workout routine. Train for and complete a challenging endurance event.
- Action: Explore Wounded Warrior Project® (WWP)'s Physical Health & Wellness page for coaching, nutritional education, tips, and tools to stay mission-ready. Reach out to us for a list of veteran Rangers in the fitness industry who provide personalized training services.

## Editor's Corner

Stephen Odin Johnson

### 75th Ranger Regiment Association

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All,

I would like to thank all of those who contribute to Patrolling and also to the greater Ranger community. To some, the Ranger community has definitive fence posts in some minds. I would like to challenge mindsets of that thought to take it to the next level; extending current Ranger ongoings to your neighborhood **and beyond**, wherever that might be. We've earned that right as Rangers so a challenge would be to share with strangers, too.

Educating the public is our responsibility sharing our past Ranger history, the ongoing Ranger life events like current involvement global assignments in the world, and Ranger vision into the future. An ongoing process.

I have, and still do, share what's happening with current Rangers amongst the people I associate with in northern Minnesota and beyond through articles, conversations, and more. Often there will be exhibits or events that welcomes contributions of Rangers and I, like others, make sure we are represented.

When I travel to events like the Best Ranger Competition, I take pictures, make notes, and share with Patrolling readers and beyond just that, and I especially try and inform the greater public of our Rangers as well.

Contributions of Rangers just doesn't stop at the military gates near Columbus, GA, Seattle WA, and Savannah, GA, nor the ARTB training site communities.

Rangers are global warriors, wherever and whenever needed. We need to make sure their legacy is told to all, and then some!

Secondly, I need to apologize to COL(RET) Bob Reitz for not replying to his kind letter he sent to me. Whenever I get correspondence that I need to address, I set those on my desktop. In a short while, that pile compares to Mt Fuji. And of course my wife, Pam, feels its her duty to sort-file things away for me after an avalanche or two. But, I can *always* find what I needed on the foot hills of Fuji. Regardless, I remember Bob sharing a snake story after reading George Beach's article on his pet python "Claymore." Most importantly he was impressed with the contributed stories to Patrolling magazine and wanted to thank everyone for that. So am I, and the articles within this March Patrolling demonstrate just that.



*Recent Ranger Breakfast in Fargo, ND.*

Hugh Roberts, 2nd Ranger Battalion UD, introduces our feature article on the 80th anniversary of the Cabanatuan Raid. Hugh and nearly 40 other Rangers and Special Forces reenacted portions of that raid as told through Ted Kennedy. Job well done, and then some.

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

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

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

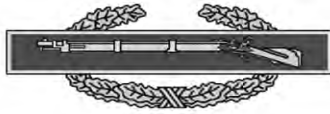
The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that is in bad taste, offensive, or discredits unnecessarily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

Deadlines are the 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  
Orangevale, CA 95662



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

**OUR MISSION:**

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

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

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

**WHO IS ELIGI**

**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.  
 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

**Section 4:** 75th Infantry Ranger Companies  
 Co A (RANGER) 75th Inf.  
 Co B (RANGER) 75th Inf.  
 Co C (RANGER) 75th Inf.  
 Co D (RANGER) 151st 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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## **O/75-78th LRP**

We Need A New O/75-78th LRP  
Unit Director  
Please Contact Art "Doc" Attaway  
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## **P/75-79th LRP**

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## **LRRP DETACHMENT-3rd ID**

Vacant

## **Company D (Ranger) 151st Air- borne / 151st LRS INF Det / Co C 152nd LRS**

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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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## **Chaplain**

Vacant

## **Association Artist**

Dave Walker  
In Memory

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**Hurricane Helene Relief –**

Again, thank you all for contributing to this effort. I was able to deliver \$6,200 to Samaritan’s Purse and Edward Graham (grandson of Billy Graham, son of Franklin Graham, and 75<sup>th</sup> Regimental Ranger for many years during GWOT), in December of 2024. Please see the June issue Patrolling edition about Samaritan’s Purse and Edward Graham and continue to support this excellent non-profit. We will be working with SP to introduce programs for separating Rangers to become involved. Rick Merritt and I will be visiting Boone, NC (SP HQ) again during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2025 and begin structuring these programs.

We were able to assist both separated/retired Rangers and Gold Star families in need in the amount of \$3,167.55.

**RHOF packages –**

We are finished and submitted. Final selections will be made by the RHOF committee in late April, and inductees will be announced by the end of April. Please see the detailed review later in this edition.

**By-Laws changes –**

The proposed changes all passed, and we will begin implementing these changes immediately. Please see the section on this later in the issue.

**Biannual meeting (info) Savannah –**

Much thanks to Rick Merritt and Shelia Dudley for squaring us away in Savannah for our upcoming bi-annual Membership meeting in May 2025. Registration and the week’s agenda will be distributed in the very near future via newsletter, including multiple hotel links offering a good variety of locations to stay. Please see the details later in this edition.

**BRC –**

<https://www.bestrangercompetition.com> The annual Best Ranger Competition will be held in April, 2025 at Fort Moore (Fort Benning), Georgia. The dates are 11-13APR25. The hotel link is <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/csgtdt-brr-35d5be6a-ec1c-4c6a-9b19-04584610d0fa/>

This link is also in the February Newsletter if it’s easier for you to just click it there. The Association has this block of rooms for our members who want to attend the competition, but no specific planned functions are in the works as of now. The competition provides all the activities needed that week.

# PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

BY ART “DOC” ATTAWAY

**Dates: 11-13APR25**

**Officer elections –**

Due to the by-laws change only 3 offices will be up for election this year. If anyone wants to openly run for and hold office, please RUN. The criteria is being detailed later in this edition, but this is how elections should work. Everyone votes for the best candidates. Lead the way!

**RHOF dates:**

The RHOF induction ceremony will be at 1300, 25JUN25, in Building 4, on Fort Moore. Our Association hotel block will be out soon for all members who want to attend. The Association biannual meeting is in Savannah, so we have no formal agenda here but will host a social event one of the nights we are there. Our plan is Wednesday, 25JUN25 at 1900 at the downtown Marriott in Columbus, Georgia. We will participate in all Rendezvous events as usual. The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment is the sponsor of Rendezvous and provides that agenda. We will broadcast this as soon as we have details, but book hotels early as the rooms disappear early!



Ranger Edward Graham receives check from 75th RRA presented by Art Attaway



edwardbgraham • Follow



edwardbgraham I am thankful for the generosity of Mr. Art Attaway of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association for their donation to @SamaritansPurse and for trusting us with their resources in aiding in the Hurricane Helene response. Please pray that the Lord would continue to use @SamaritansPurse to love and serve the many people who have faced so much loss during this season. I was a proud member

... sor of Rendezvous and provides that agenda. We will broadcast this as soon as we have details, but book hotels early as the rooms disappear early!

**Black and Tan –**

The Association was one of several coproducers of this event, with the lead being taken by Brian Halstead, the USARA President. About 125-150 Rangers attended this event that was held during Shot Show in Las Vegas. Thanks to our Sponsor, Blue Force Gear.

**Ranger History Book –**

The final deadline for individual submittal of bio’s and photos is March 31. Please send your info by that time. The majority of submittals so far is from the 60’s, so please represent 1970 to 2023 Rangers. The book covers Robert Rogers through GWOT. Lead the way and help make this the best Ranger History book to date. Contact me personally if you have questions.

**Newsletters –**

I hope our monthly newsletters have been well received. Please provide feedback as to your thoughts on improvement!

**Attack the year!**

**Godspeed, Doc.**

My Ranger Brothers,

My health has deteriorated over the past two years. My eye-sight is one of several issues. I never wanted to be that crippled old Veteran hobbling around at the VA hospital, but guess what? Here I am. As a consequence, I have decided not to stand for election for another term. I've been at this since 2011, so it is time to bring in someone younger. The Board has appointed Joseph Posato as interim Treasurer. In our upcoming elections he will stand for election as the new Treasurer. In my conversations with Joe as we worked on the new budget, QuickBooks, etc. I am confident that he will do the job well. I must emphasize that my opinion does not preclude any other member from putting their name in the hat. I'm sure there are others who are quite capable of taking on the task.

I am grateful for the confidence you have in me. It has been a distinct honor to have served my Brother Rangers.

Roger Crunk (Sua Sponte)

Statement of Activity

January - December 2024

TOTAL

Revenue

4000 Program income - DNP

4002 Membership dues 33,475.00

4008 Patrolling ads 550.00

4015 Quartermaster sales 2,184.18

4020 Miscellaneous revenue 1,248.90

4060 General Donations 300.00

RifleRaffle 11,283.64

State Farm Refund 180.00

Stop Payment Return 2,500.00

**Total 4000 Program income - DNP 51,721.72**

4100 Member donations - DNP

4102 Family fund contributions 2,129.00

4103 Unit Donation 4,700.00

**Total 4102 Family fund contributions 6,829.00**

4104 Goldstar contributions 1,311.62

4106 Member fund contributions 370.00

4110 Operations contributions 130,579.38

4112 Benevolent Fund 3,896.80

4120 Scholarship 5,144.00

Hurricane Relief 7,307.46

**Total 4100 Member donations - DNP 155,438.26**

4900 Interest income 2,458.89

**Total Revenue \$209,618.87**

GROSS PROFIT **\$209,618.87**

Expenditures

6000 Program expenses - DNP

6002 Cash awards & grants - Battalions 9,052.97

6004 Cash awards & grants - Goldstar 1,750.00

6005 Cash awards & grants - Members 3,417.55

6014 President's travel 8,336.69

6016 Reunion costs 402.63

6019 Regiment promotional 2,925.56

6020 Website maintenance 200.00

6022 Network Solutions/Domain 447.06

Ecwid Subscription 169.00

Vimeo 84.00

**Total 6020 Website maintenance 900.06**

6025 Intuit Subscription

6026 Go Payment 180.00

6027 Quickbooks Online 685.00

**Total 6025 Intuit Subscription 865.00**

6030 Advertising/Promotional 130.00

Rifle Raffle 1,275.14

**Total 6030 Advertising/Promotional 1,405.14**

American Trigger Pullers/Store 117.00

Charitable Awards/Not RRA 6,200.00

Expense Goldstar 116.13

Google Suites 517.52

National Ranger Assoc. 4,000.00

New Website Development 550.00

Ranger Scholarship Fund 6,500.00

Reimbursement 283.39

RRA Promotion 1,948.92

RRA Promotions 1,885.00

Shopify Account Subscription 39.00

Website Subscription 550.00

**Total 6000 Program expenses - DNP 51,762.56**

6100 Patrolling expense - DNP

6102 Patrolling printing 11,937.80

6104 Patrolling postage 7,260.40

6106 Adobe subscription 239.88

*Continue to the next page*

Total 6100 Patrolling expense - DNP 19,438.08

Statement of Financial Position

6500 Operations - DNP

As of January 13, 2025

6502 Bank and merchant fees 1,016.69

TOTAL ASSETS

6510 Insurance - D&O liability 2,056.00

Current Assets

6512 Legal and accounting fees 975.00

Bank Accounts

6516 Postage and mailing service 249.82

1000 Affinity / Operations 12,343.82

Postage and mailing serviceDue 1,726.17

Paypal legacy Transfer 0.00

Total 6516 Postage and mailing service 1,975.99

Total 1000 Affinity / Operations 12,343.82

6518 Printing and copying 223.95

1002 Affinity / Family fund 13,891.79

6540 Postage-Secretary 1,820.30

1030 Affinity / Savings 177,405.57

6542 Promotions 610.63

1040 Benevolent funds MM 48,784.38

6550 Treasurer Supplies 177.63

1041 Legacy funds MM 0.00

6552 Treasurer Postage 99.27

1042 Life funds MM 18,218.43

Debit Card Creditit Card Usage Mistake 300.29

1050 Paypal funds 10,023.28

Office Supplies Secretary 158.19

Total Bank Accounts \$280,667.27

Other Business Expenses 2,500.00

Total Current Assets \$280,667.27

Virtual Assistant 18,036.00

TOTAL ASSETS \$280,667.27

Total 6500 Operations - DNP 29,949.94

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

6560 Uncategorized Expenditure - DNP

Liabilities

Treasurers computer security 119.99

Total Liabilities

Total 6560 Uncategorized Expenditure - DNP 119.99

Equity

Total Expenditures \$101,270.57

3000 Net Assets - Unrestricted 280,667.27

NET OPERATING REVENUE \$108,348.30

Net Revenue

NET REVENUE \$108,348.30

Total Equity \$280,667.27

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$280,667.27

## CALL FOR OFFICER ELECTION NOMINATIONS

The officer positions of President, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, and Treasurer are up for election this Spring. Here are the deadlines for the election.

**MARCH 23, 2025 DEADLINE FOR CANDIDATE STATEMENTS TO BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY**

**APRIL 7, 2025 BALLOTS WILL BE SENT – REGULAR MAIL AND ELECTRONIC EMAIL**

**MAY 12, 2025 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ALL BALLOTS**

**MAY 23, 2025 RELEASE OF ELECTION RESULTS**



Rangers, I hope the holidays treated you and your family right and the New Year is working in your favor, despite the bad weather that hit across the country. We look forward to this year and what the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA is doing to move our Association forward.

The 75<sup>th</sup> RRA sent out notices to all elected officers and Unit Directors regarding the Ranger Hall of Fame with the required dates, the approved blank packets and RHOF By-Laws. The selection process started when all packets were received by our board. We commenced our review in December, and this went on through 24 Jan 2025. We made our selection on all packages submitted. We submitted to the RHOF selection board our 3 best packages on 27 Jan 2025.

The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association is proud to announce the following Ranger packages were selected to go to the full selection for nominees for induction into the 2025 Ranger Hall of Fame:

- Ranger Al Stewart of G Co
- Ranger Robert Foti of N Co
- Ranger Thomas Sove of K Co

All of these rangers are Viet Nam era rangers, and we look forward to seeing them once selection by the full Ranger Hall of Fame board which meets on 25 April 2025. I will be sitting as our voting member from the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA. Inducted.

The members of the RHOF voting board consists of the following. For each Ranger association identified below, the RHOF voting board member shall be the current president of the Ranger association, if qualified, or a representative designated by the president of the Ranger association.

- President, Ranger Hall of Fame (non-voting member)
- Ranger Hall of Fame Coordinator (non-voting member)
- Senior Available Officer, 75th Ranger Regiment
- Senior Available Non-Commissioned Officer, 75th Ranger Regiment
- Senior Available Officer, Airborne, and Ranger Training Brigade
- Senior Available Non-Commissioned Officer, Airborne, and Ranger Training Brigade
- President, The 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. (75RRA)
- President, The United States Army Ranger Association, Inc. (USARA)
- President, World-Wide Army Rangers, Inc. (WAR)
- President, United States Mountain Ranger Association (USMRA)

Each voting member of the board will record a numerical score on a scale of 0 to 5 on their ballot for each nominee (0 being the lowest score and 5 the highest). Once voting is complete, the RHOF Coordinator will generate an order of merit list, beginning with the nominee who received the highest total score and ending with the nominee who achieved the lowest total score. Any voting board member that gives a candidate a "0" shall orally provide his or her reason prior to the voting being completed.

Up to fifteen nominations per RHOF year can be selected for induction into the Hall of Fame, including Emergency Induction, but not including Honorary Inductions or Medal of Honor recipients who meet the eligibility criteria. There is no minimum number of nominees that may be inducted each year. Neither Honorary nominations nor Medal of Honor recipient nominations will count towards a nominating party's yearly quota.

Once the board has made the selection the RHOF Coordinator will notify all those who were selected for their induction for the 2025 ceremony with information following the RHOF dinner on 24 Jun 2025. (by invitation only). The induction ceremony will take place on 25 Jun 2025 at the Marshall Auditorium Building 4, Fort Moore GA. and induction ceremony.

Rangers Lead the Way!!



**Ranger Hall of Fame Members and Their Write-Ups**

**Staff Sergeant LAZLO RABEL** - Staff Sergeant Laszlo Rabel is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for conspicuous gallantry and indomitable courage as a Ranger leader. On November 13, 1968, Sergeant Rabel was leader

of Team Delta, 74th Infantry Detachment Long Range Patrol. While in a patrol base on hill 819 in the Binh Dinh Province, Republic of South Vietnam, Sergeant Rabel's Team was suddenly compromised. While preparing for a counter-reconnaissance mission, a hand grenade was thrown into the perimeter. In a final act of courage, and without hesitation, Sergeant Rabel threw himself on the grenade, absorbing the full blast, thus saving his team from death or injury. Sergeant Rabel's gallant actions and disregard for his own safety earned him the Medal of Honor, posthumously. Sergeant Rabel paid the ultimate sacrifice to his nation and clearly illustrates that no matter how severe the consequences a Ranger never fails his comrades.

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Ranger Hall of Fame Members and Their Write-Ups

Specialist Four ROBERT D. LAW - Specialist Four Robert D. Law is inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame for extraordinary courage and gallantry in action as a Ranger qualified soldier. Specialist Law is the first U.S. Army Ranger to be awarded the Medal of Honor while assigned to a U.S. Army Ranger unit. On February 22, 1969, while on a long-range reconnaissance patrol from Company I, (Ranger) 75th Infantry at Think Phuoc Thanh Province Vietnam, Specialist Law and his team engaged the enemy in a firefight. Attempting to disengage from the Ranger Team, the enemy threw gas grenades. Noting the Team's ammunition supply was low, Specialist Law rose to flank

the enemy and exposed himself to enemy fire. He placed effective suppressive fires on the enemy, which forced them to throw a hand grenade to break contact with the Rangers. Instead of diving rearward to save his own life, Specialist Law threw himself on the grenade, absorbing the full blast, thus saving his teammates. Specialist Law's heroic actions illustrate the many sacrifices Rangers have made for their country, their unit, and their fellow Rangers.

The RHOF induction ceremony will be at 1300, 25JUN25, in Building 4, on Fort Moore.

Tom Sove-Secretary

BYLAW CHANGES ALL PASS

The bylaw changes votes have been tabulated. All propositions were approved and take effect immediately. The vote results by proposition are shown below. Thank you to all who voted.

Here is a summary of the changes.

Proposition 1, the 4th Special Troops Battalion and the 5th Military Intelligence Battalion will be added as official Regimental battalions, and thus their Unit Directors are officially authorized. Percentage passed 97.30 % 217 yes 5 no 1 abstain

Proposition 2, the Active Duty class of membership is deleted. The existing members of this class shall be grandfathered in until their eligibility expires through leaving the Regiment. Percentage passed 81.60 % 182 yes 39 no 2 abstain

Proposition 3, future bylaw changes shall be made at any time other than during the General Membership Meeting at National Reunions. Ballots shall be sent by regular mail and electronically. They shall be returned to an impartial service for tabulation, with a deadline of at least 45 days, and not more than 60 days, from the date of distribution. Percentage passed 94.60 % 211 yes 10 no 2 abstain

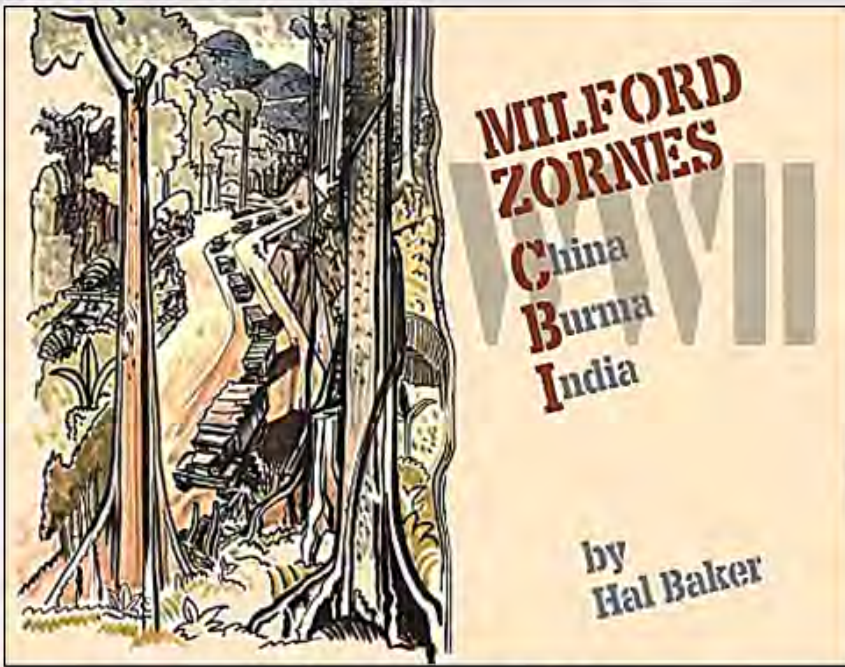
Proposition 4, the President's annual travel stipend shall be increased to \$6,500, with a provision of an additional \$3,500 available if justified by the Executive Board. Any other officer or Regular member is eligible for a similar travel stipend, if pre-approved by the Executive Board, subject to an annual maximum of \$1,500 per person, and a \$5,000 annual cap for all reimbursements. Percentage passed 86.99 % 194 yes 28 no 1 abstain

Proposition 5, election of officers shall no longer be conducted at General Membership Meetings during National Reunions. They shall now be conducted in the months leading up to the scheduled date of the General Membership Meeting. Candidates are required to provide the secretary with their candidate statements no less than 90 days prior to the scheduled Meeting date. Mail and electronic ballots shall be distributed no less than 45 days, and not more than 60 days, prior to the Meeting date. Ballots shall be returned to an impartial service with a deadline of no less than 10 days prior to the Meeting date. Percentage passed 89.68 200 yes 12 no 1 abstain

Proposition 6, the election cycle of officers shall be changed. The President, 2nd Vice President, and Treasurer shall stand for election prior to the General Membership Meeting at National Reunions in odd years, starting in 2025. The 1st Vice President and Secretary shall stand for election prior to July 1, in even years, starting in 2026. Percentage passed 95.51% 213 yes 8 no 2 abstain

Proposition 7, the term limits for officers shall be extended. The President and two Vice Presidents may now serve for 3 consecutive two-year terms, totaling 6 consecutive years. The Secretary and Treasurer may now serve for 4 consecutive two-year terms, totaling 8 consecutive years. Percentage passed 92.82 % 207 yes 15 no 1 abstain

Proposition 8, the \$750 limit on non-budgeted expenses without approval for the Treasurer, and the corresponding limit for the President's approval, shall be increased to \$1,500. Percentage passed 92.37 % 206 yes 16 no 1 abstain



Merrill's Marauder documentary producer Tim Gray presented with poster signed by triple CIB Gilbert Howland

Award-winning documentary filmmaker Tim Gray at his WW II Foundation's International WW II Museum in South Kingstown, RI received a copy of the poster, "They Volunteered For This: Merrill's Marauders," signed by MSGT Gilbert Howland, a WW II, Korea and two-combat tour Vietnam veteran who fought on Green Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> BN. His son, Bob (R.), documentary executive producer, presented the poster during a Nov. 12, 2024, discussion Gray held about documentary production. Legendary newsman Tom Brokaw narrated the 2022 documentary, premiered at the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega. Howland, then 98 from New Jersey, attended along with two of the five still-living Marauders, Bob Passanisi, 97 from New York, and Gabriel Kinney, 101 from Alabama. The remaining two Marauders were Raleigh Naves, 99 from Wisconsin and Russell "Huck" Hamler, 98 from Pennsylvania, the last Marauder when he died Dec. 26, 2023, at age 99.



Syd Greenberg photo

**New book about WW II Army artist > Milford Zornes < released December 2024**

Milford Zornes, one of only 23 artists in the entire WW II Army, sketched and painted in LTG "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell's China Burma India Theater where Merrill's Marauders, Kachins, other tribes, landscapes plus the Burma and Ledo roads were his topics. His son-in-law Hal Baker's most recent illustrated book about Zornes was released last December by the Sasse Museum in California.

**Massachusetts Legislature passes measure naming Hopkinton bridge after WW II Hometown Hero Major General Frank Dow Merrill**

WW II Merrill's Marauder commander MG Frank D. Merrill was honored in January when the Massachusetts Legislature enacted legislation designating the Fruit Street Bridge in his hometown of Hopkinton as the **Major General Frank D. Merrill Memorial Bridge**. The 1929 West Point graduate was recognized for "outstanding courage and leadership" as commander of the top-secret 5307<sup>th</sup> Composite Unit Provisional, nicknamed Merrill's Marauders, in Burma. LTG "Vinegar Joe" Stillwell, China Burma India Theater commander, selected Merrill to lead almost 3,000 "expendable" volunteers on their history-making march of around 1,000 miles to seize northern Burma's Myitkyina airfield. Controlling Myitkyina's airspace enabled critical supplies to be flown in over the Himalayans so the Ledo and Burma roads could be connected and a pathway forged into the Allied country of China. Today's mountain phase of Army Ranger training takes place at Camp Frank D. Merrill in Dahlonega, GA. Merrill, who died in 1955, is a 1992 Ranger Hall of Fame inductee.



MG Frank D. Merrill goes over 1944 Burma battle strategies with two of the 14 Marauder Japanese or Nisei interpreters (L to R) Herbert Miyazaki and Akiji Yoshimura

created by Jonnie Melillo Clasen

## Flora-Bama Base Kinney

The Gabriel Kinney Ranger Base in Pensacola, Florida, near the Flora-Bama line, was born out of chance encounters among Rangers who didn't initially know each other but kept running into one another at local watering holes like the old Triggers, Hub Stacey's, and even the grocery store. Each time, a Ranger ball cap, T-shirt, or some other sign of their shared brotherhood would spark recognition and conversation.

the bravery of Merrill's Marauders. On April 2, 2022 Ranger Base Kinney was officially recognized by USARA as a USARA Ranger Base and received the official USARA guidon for Ranger Base Kinney. On April 29, 2022, Colonel Dan Vogel, USA presented the Congressional Gold Medal to Gabe Kinney in a ceremony attended by a packed house on stage at The Flora-Bama. Kinney is also a member of the Ranger Hall of Fame, and the Alabama Military Hall of Honor.



Since then, the Ranger Base has hosted the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary for the United States Army Ranger Association, attended by several founding members of USARA and Ranger Hall of Fame members. Monthly meetings on average from 15 up to 50. Special events will increase into the hundreds. The Ranger Base also participates in the Annual Special Operations Warrior Foundation 5k Run/Walk in March, and the

What started as casual exchanged comments, nods, and shared stories eventually evolved into an informal but strong network, bringing together Rangers in the area and laying the foundation for what became the USARA, Gabriel Kinney Ranger Base. With the assistance of Ranger Cameron Price, (one of the owners at Flora-Bama) ten Rangers and their wives and girlfriends met on 02-01-2020 at the Flora-Bama Lounge and Package store, a renowned venue comprised of several bars, live music stages, restaurants and beach on the Gulf of Mexico (Or Gulf of America). It is named after Gabriel Kinney, a World War II U.S. Army Ranger who was part of the famous Merrill's Marauders. Kinney and his unit undertook a hazardous mission to capture Myitkyina Airfield in Northern Burma during the war. The base meets at high noon on the first Saturday of each month at the Flora-Bama Lounge in Perdido Key, Florida.

Gabriel Kinney celebrated his 101st birthday at the Flora-Bama in February 2022, surrounded by approximately 180 fellow Rangers and family. The base continues to honor his legacy and

Annual Mogadishu Mile held the first weekend in October. Additionally, Ranger Base Kinney sponsors The Gabe Kinney Scholarship.

Most importantly, Ranger Base Kinney offers a venue where Rangers, and other members of the special operations community can come together and relax, spend time with like-minded individuals and enhance their lives. The Ranger base is active in many events throughout the community across the country. They support the National Ranger Memorial Foundation, The National Infantry Association, Three Rangers Foundation, USARA, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association and participate in annual events such as Ranger reunions, Hardrock Charlie Foundation, Black and Tan, (just to name a few).

You are always welcome at Flora- Bama Ranger Base Kinney!

Many 75<sup>th</sup> RRA members from the Vietnam days may have attended the three-week MACV RECONDO SCHOOL taught by the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in Nha Trang, RVN.

When the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group cased the RECONDO School guidon on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1970, 3,357 students had graduated out of 5395 who started. USARV ran the school until it closed in February 1971.

In the post-Vietnam years, there was no Army-wide RECONDO type course, although some divisions and Units conducted similar training. Reconnaissance “specific” courses were not available, and The Ranger Course training focused on Combat patrolling versus Reconnaissance patrolling.

The Long Range Surveillance Leader course, based at Fort Benning, was established in 1986 when the Long Range Surveillance Units (LRSU) began to be activated. The LRSU course POI included lessons learned from LRRP, LRP, and 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Ranger) operations in Vietnam.

The Long Range Surveillance Leaders course was renamed the RECONNAISSANCE and SURVEILLANCE LEADERS COURSE (RSLC) in 2002 and was taught by the 4<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion. RSLC is now located at Camp Cornett on Fort Moore, GA and is under the 4<sup>th</sup> Ranger Training Battalion.

The Commander of RSLC invites MACV RECONDO School Graduates and other personnel with LRRP, LRP, LRS experience to visit the school and to address class graduations.

I have had the pleasure of visiting RSLC and to address graduating classes. When I meet these highly qualified Officers and NCOs from the Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force, it is not difficult to say... “*man I wish we could have had this level of training and equipment!*” It is very educational to interact with the RSLC Staff and Students.

In 1966 MACV RECONDO School was intense and had the best Instructors and equipment available, but upon returning to our parent units as LRRPs, we still had a long way to go to prove to Commanders that these separate and provisional units were a positive asset. The unit I was with was provisional, had no MTOE or equipment and we remained assigned to the unit from which we were volunteered. We were attached to a Cav Aviation Troop for “messing and lodging.” We had the TA-50 we



were issued from our Parent unit but had to scrounge or “acquire” any other supplies.

Personnel reporting to RSLC are already highly skilled and many have had combat deployments, most are RANGER and some HALO qualified. RSLC provides the tools to “master” the fundamentals of reconnaissance and surveillance planning, target acquisition, vehicle identification, and reconnaissance patrolling.

Students are expected to report with the appropriate clothing and equipment as well as being in good physical condition.

During the 26-day RSLC three phase training, student’s skills in Land Navigation, communi-

cations, movement, camouflage, site selection and concealment, weapons familiarization, and airborne operations are continually assessed.

In **Phase 1 (Foundations)**, students are provided with training on the Army’s equipment and how to maximize its use. Students learn the capabilities of the Army’s communications equipment. They learn to use High Frequency (HF), Very High Frequency (VHF) and Ultra High Frequency (UHF) radios. Students use this equipment to transmit messages, reports, and photos to support their mission objectives. This phase concludes with students moving fully loaded on a cross-country land navigation course, students are provided training in proper cover and concealment, site selection, and use of special equipment such as cameras, optical devices, and thermal devices.

**Phase 2 (Techniques)**, provides the students with the opportunity to learn small unit tactics, movement techniques around and on the recon objective, insertion/extraction considerations, evasion and recovery/survival, mission planning, and execution of an airborne proficiency jump into a cadre-assisted STX scenario. Students will develop operations orders, coordinate fire and support, plan movement routes, rally points, escape and evasion routes, and insertion LZs and extraction PZs. They conduct a 24-hour exercise under simulated combat conditions. The exercise is critiqued, reports made, and After-Action Reports (AARs) are reviewed. During the exercise, students are observed by RSLC Instructors who provide assistance and allow the students to ask questions. They also receive training in insertion/extraction techniques using Fast Rope Insertion/Extraction (FRIES) and Special Purpose Insertion/Extraction Systems (SPIES).

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**Phase 3 (Execution),**

evaluates the students in their ability to demonstrate proficiency and comprehension of all training they have received. Students are evaluated on their mission planning and during their patrols as either the Team Leader, Assistant Team Leader, and/or the RTO. Students will insert into the first FTX (Woodland) via airborne insertion with full combat gear where they will conduct two patrols across a 48-hour timeframe. Following extraction from FTX 1, students will conduct another round of mission planning for FTX 2 (Urban) in which students will conduct a FRIES insertion before moving to observe their urban objective from the surrounding woodland terrain for 24 hours. At the conclusion of this patrol, students exercise leave-behind operations where they construct an Urban surveillance and hide site from within the Urban area focused on an Urban objective for another 24 hours. Students end this patrol by exercising their compromise plan, evasion, and recovery, concluding with a SPIES extraction back to base.



An instructor shows students the construction of a proper sub-surface hide-site during Phase 1 of RSLC's first overseas course in [Lithuania](#), circa 2016



Students practice configuring their radios prior to communications exam during Phase 2 of RSLC

In the Vietnam MACV RECONDO School, successful completion of the course included an actual combat patrol in the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group area of operation, earning it the nickname "The deadliest school on Earth"! Some of these patrols suffered casualties.

RSLC has a similar requirement where students plan and conduct a Field Training Exercise (FTX) which is graded by their RSLC instructors. They are expected to successfully use all their skills during the exercise and demonstrate their ability to conduct a reconnaissance mission.



A student uses an optical [rangefinder](#) to observe an urban environment during Phase 3

Upon completion of the RECONNAISSANCE and LEADERS COURSE, graduates are awarded the additional skill identifier, Six Bravo (6B) and return to their units to provide commanders with a viable reconnaissance asset.

Like the MACV RECONDO Course, not all students will complete RSLC. The average class starts with 54 students, but not all will graduate. The failure rate is approximately 50%. Only 181 Army, Marine, Navy, and Air Force personnel graduated from RSLC during fiscal year 2024.

It has been many years since the Army MACV RECONDO School provided commanders with trained reconnaissance personnel. The battlefield has evolved and the enemy is different, but there remains the need to field personnel skilled in reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition.

The United States Army Reconnaissance and Surveillance Leaders Course (RSLC) at Fort Moore, GA has the Officers and NCOs who are capable of providing the Army with those personnel.

(75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association PATROLLING Magazine Article by

Marshall Huckaby  
25<sup>th</sup> ID LRRPs.

CPT Adrian A. Guajardo  
Commanding RSLC, 4RTBn, ARTB

## Navigating Grief as an Army Ranger: Using Choice Theory and Reality Therapy to Stay Mission-Ready

Grief is an unavoidable part of life, but for an Army Ranger, the stakes are different. Whether mourning a fallen teammate or dealing with loss at home while on deployment, the challenge isn't just coping—it's processing grief without losing mission focus. In a profession where lives depend on clarity, hesitation can mean failure. This is where Choice Theory and Reality Therapy become essential tools for managing emotions, staying grounded, and honoring loss through purposeful action.

### Understanding Grief in a High-Stakes Environment

Unlike civilians, Rangers don't always have the luxury of stepping away from responsibility to grieve. The loss of a brother-in-arms must be processed in real-time, often in combat. News of a death in the family might come when there's no way to return home. The mental and emotional weight of grief must be managed without compromising discipline, leadership, or readiness.

William Glasser's Choice Theory teaches that while pain is inevitable, suffering is a choice. Reality Therapy applies this concept by helping individuals take control of their emotions through intentional actions and structured thinking. By embracing these frameworks, a Ranger can navigate grief while maintaining the level of focus their mission demands.

### Reality Therapy: Staying Mission-Ready

#### 1. Acknowledge Loss Without Losing Direction

Grief cannot be ignored, it demands to be felt. But in a high-performance environment, it must be processed in a way that doesn't interfere with operational effectiveness. Reality Therapy emphasizes structured acknowledgment, meaning:

Taking intentional moments to recognize the pain.

Allowing time to reflect during downtime.

Accepting emotions without letting them dictate behavior.

This approach prevents suppressed emotions from resurfacing at the worst possible moments.

#### 2. Ask the Right Questions

Reality Therapy is solution-focused, shifting thought patterns from "Why did this happen?" to "What can I do right now?" This change in mindset prevents emotional paralysis and reinforces control. Questions like:

"How can I honor them while staying focused?"

"What would they expect of me in this moment?"

"How do I maintain discipline while carrying this loss?"

These questions ensure grief is acknowledged but does not override duty.

#### 3. Align Actions with Core Values

Rangers operate by a creed: discipline, loyalty, and resilience. When grief threatens clarity, grounding oneself in these core values provides stability. Daily mission tasks—checking gear, leading teammates, training—become not just responsibilities

but ways to honor those who have been lost.

#### 4. Take Purposeful Action

Grief can make a Ranger feel powerless, but action restores control. Reality Therapy emphasizes behaviors that reinforce stability:

Maintaining discipline in physical training and mental readiness. Committing to excellence as a way to honor fallen brothers and sisters.

Finding outlets for grief, whether through writing, conversations, or personal reflection.

By focusing on intentional, controllable actions, Rangers can process grief without becoming overwhelmed by it.

One of Reality Therapy's core principles is the importance of relationships. For a Ranger, this means:

Checking in with teammates who may be grieving too.

Relying on trusted brothers for support.

Recognizing that the team itself is a stabilizing force.

No Ranger fights alone, and no Ranger grieves alone.

When Grief Happens at Home, but the Mission Comes First  
Perhaps the hardest test of mental resilience is receiving devastating news from home while being unable to leave the mission. The guilt of not being there for family is heavy, but Choice Theory teaches that even in these moments, control comes from within.

1. Control What You Can, Accept What You Can't  
Rangers thrive in environments of control, but grief often stems from events beyond reach. The key is to recognize the difference between what is controllable and what is not. What is within control?

How emotions are managed.

Whether grief becomes a distraction or a source of motivation.

How to stay mentally and physically locked in.

Acceptance doesn't mean apathy—it means focusing energy where it matters most.

#### 2. Give Grief a Defined Space

Ignoring grief doesn't work, but neither does letting it consume focus at critical moments. Reality Therapy encourages structured emotional processing. This could mean:

Setting time aside to reflect after mission tasks.

Using a mental or written journal to process emotions.

Engaging in personal rituals—prayer, deep breathing, or silence—to acknowledge grief without losing discipline.

#### 3. Reframe Guilt into Purpose

Guilt is a common emotion when a Ranger can't be there for family. But guilt is misplaced energy—it serves no purpose unless channeled into something productive. Instead of dwelling on what cannot be changed, the mindset should shift to:

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“How can I be the best version of myself for them?”

“What actions can I take to carry their legacy forward?”

“How can I stay mission-ready to ensure my brothers come home safe?”

This shift in perspective turns grief from a burden into a form of fuel.

#### 4. Stay Connected, Even from Afar

When possible, even small gestures—a written letter, recorded messages, or a moment of reflection—create a bridge between duty and home. When communication isn’t an option, maintaining a ritual of remembering keeps the bond intact.

#### 5. Rely on the Team

A Ranger’s team isn’t just a unit—it’s a second family. Checking in with a trusted teammate, speaking with a leader, or even just knowing someone is aware of the struggle can lessen the weight of grief. This is not about weakness—it’s about ensuring no Ranger fights or grieves alone.

Conclusion: Honor Through Action

Grief is inevitable, but it doesn’t have to break focus. Choice Theory and Reality Therapy offer a roadmap for Rangers to process loss without losing themselves. By accepting what is out of their control, structuring grief in a way that maintains mission readiness, reframing pain into purpose, and relying on their team, Rangers can navigate even the deepest losses with clarity and strength.

In the end, honoring the fallen, supporting those at home, and staying committed to the mission are not separate ideas—they are all connected. The best way to honor loss is not through despair but through unwavering excellence, discipline, and purpose.

A Ranger leads the way, even through grief.

Dr Janet Morgan, NCC, LPC, CT/RT, EMDR, BC-TMH, is in Private practice and can be reached at [DrJanetMorgan@gmail.com](mailto:DrJanetMorgan@gmail.com) or <https://janet-morgan.clientsecure.me/>

Dr Morgan is a US Army Reserves Veteran and practices Choice Theory and Reality Therapy with Trauma, Grief and Loss, Military Family Issues, EMS, Medical Profession Issues, and Veteran Concerns

### INTO THE LIONS’ DEN by LARRY SAENZ

*The emotional wounds of war are something time cannot erase.*

“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” (Psalm 23:1-6)

During the Vietnam War in 1968, in the I corps region of South Vietnam, Sgt. Gordon “Snuffy” Smith was to lead a six-man reconnaissance mission into the deep dark jungles around the Southern edge of the A Shau Valley. This area was closely held by the enemy. The code name was “Tango 20”. I was a member of that Lurp Team, and this is my story.

The Tactical Operations Center received information from Aerial Reconnaissance that there was heavy enemy movement in a particular area of The A Shau Valley. T.O.C. believed that the infamous Six N.V.A. regiment was preparing for a possible major offensive in the near future. The enemy was operating somewhere on the southern edge of the valley. The team’s objective was to locate, monitor, collect intelligence, and try to capture a prisoner if possible. These seasoned soldiers of the 6th N.V.A. regiment fought in the battle of Hue during the Tet Offensive of January 31st, 1968. At that time, the area between Hue, Phu Bai, and the A Shau Valley was the 1st U.S. Marine Division, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry’s area of responsibility. During the Tet Offensive the U.S. 1st Marines engaged a large enemy force across the Perfume River. The Viet Cong, along with the 6th. N.V.A., Regi-

ment, were held up in Hue’s historic Old Imperial Capital. The 1st Marine Division received numerous casualties during that conflict. The 6th. N.V.A. Regiment engaged in fierce fighting and held off the 1st marine assault for days. It was made up of skilled veteran fighters, who held their ground in Hue. Now it was our responsibility to go out and locate the whereabouts of this Regiment.

This was a dangerous mission to go on for a small Lurp Team of only six men, if we made contact with a large enemy force, we would only have 15 minutes to fight before our ammo ran out, but that was our job, and we did it well. Team 20 was scheduled to lift off by helicopter at first light around 0600 hrs. the following morning. The Kingsman from the 101st Aviation Battalion, a helicopter assault group that was assigned to Team 20, was to fly us out on this mission. The pilot that was flying us in was Warrant Officer W.T. Grant. Every Lurp in our company knew and respected him, He was well known for his bravery and courage. He would not hesitate to put his life on the line to come and get our teams out of a hot L.Z. We also had two Cobra attack helicopters called the Lancers at our disposal that were to escort us into the A Shau Valley. The Cobra gun ships were equipped with Minnie Guns, rockets, and a forty m.m. grenade launcher. The two Cobras were assigned to us from B Troop, 2nd. Squadron, 17th Cavalry. The Cobras could bring down heavy firepower if we got into trouble during our insertion. Also assigned to us was a stand-by air rifle platoon that would serve as our reactionary force. They would be waiting in reserve in case we made contact with the enemy.

The next day, at first light, Team 20 headed down to the acid pad at Camp Eagle. *Turn to next page*



We had our faces and arms painted in camouflage. We also wore tiger stripes or camouflage fatigues to disguise and conceal ourselves while out in the jungle. Our ruck sacks, and equipment weighed around 75, to 80 pounds per man. The chopper was already there waiting for us on the acid pad. The door gunner, Juan, alias Sugar Bear, gave us the thumbs up as we climbed into the port side of the helicopter. The pilot pulled pitch, and the helicopter lifted off the ground, then banked sharply to the left and headed north toward Hue City. I sat and watched as Camp Eagle disappeared into the distance as we ascended into the air. It was going to be another hot one today. I was already sweating from the heat. W.T. Grant swooped down toward the Perfume River.

He then opened full throttle at around 100 knots while the skids of the helicopter were only a few feet off the river. He was laughing while he was low level flying to show us his helicopter jockey skills while the rest of us were *scared shitless*. He then lifted the helicopter up over the treetops, flying south of Eagle's Nest, a fire support base, and headed toward the southern end of the A Shau Valley. It was beautiful looking down at the lush green tropical jungle, and the hill tops and valleys below. As the terrain passed under us, all you could see were miles, and miles of dense jungle. Then the team leader put up his hand and opened and closed his fist. He yelled out, "Lock and load. We are zero five mikes out." I chambered a round, and flipped my selector switch to fully automatic on my Car 15 commando rifle. I laid my weapon at port arms across my lap. I hated this part of the mission because we were being inserted into enemy held territory, and you never know what dangers lie ahead. Was the enemy there already waiting for us in ambush, or could there be booby traps hidden in the trees? W.T. Grant flew his slick In between two high hills down toward a gravel bar next to a shallow dry riverbank.

He then started to make his vertical descent on to the gravel bar near the creek bed. That is where he inserted the small team. W.T. Grant was to make two more fake insertions along the river before he left for Camp Eagle. Team 20 then started to scramble to the west side of the riverbank for cover. We laid dog in some thick vegetation under two huge trees for about an hour. We listened intently for any movement nearby, or for a warning shot by the enemy. The team leader motioned for us to get up and move out. Before we left, Ken Munoz called in a sitrep report. He told the C.O. it was a cold insertion. We looked up at the rugged mountainous terrain. It looked like one hell of a climb, and the side of the high hill was very steep, almost vertical.

David Biedron was walking point for the team. The sun was beating down on us as we ascended up the steep hill. The tall trees had a collection of vines hanging down their sides. Thick green moss, and broad leaves grew all over the ground. I looked up, and the hill seemed to go straight up for about 900 feet or more. It was so steep we had to hang on to the trees and vines for support. Our boots kept slipping under the moist green moss below our feet. I soon felt my camouflage fatigues getting soaked from my perspiration. My breathing became rapid, and

heavy as we climbed. The point man held up his fist to halt the team. I thought, "Oh don't tell me we made contact with the enemy already!" Just then Biedron unbuckled his pants and dropped them to his angles. His butt was hanging out with five large land leeches attached to his legs sucking his blood! Sgt. Smitty looked at the team and rolled his eyes as he said to the point man, "Xin loi man make sure you blouse your fatigues in your boots next time! You scared the hack out of us. We thought you spotted the enemy, or something." The team continued its ascend upwards without incident. We soon found ourselves under double canopy jungle. The sun was fading so the team leader decided to set up our night defense position. We placed our claymores out above us and below us behind the trees for protection. The hill was so steep we had to lean on the trunks of the trees or put our feet on the bark of the trees for support.

We sat down and had some L.U.R.P. rations to eat before retiring for the night. We got our guard shift schedules. Each of us had to take turns staying awake for one hour during the night. The rest of us fell asleep from exhaustion, because of climbing the hill all day in the hot sun. The next morning Smitty woke us up and said, "Where the hell is Munoz (our senior R.T.O.)? I cannot find him anywhere." The five of us got up and started looking for Munoz. Doc Proctor found him about 30 meters down the hill still sound asleep. Munoz must have slid down the hill while he was fast asleep sometime during the night. The hilarious part of it all was that he slid down the hill and never woke up. We all got a chuckle out of that one! Sgt. Smith asked one of the team members to go wake sleeping beauty up. The team leader motioned for us to ruck up; were moving out in 0 5 mikes. I looked up at the steep hill we were on and still couldn't see the top of it. If it were not for the trees to support us, we would have a terrible time getting to the top.

We started to ascend the hill once again at 0:730 hours. The red/orange sun was already scorching down on us through the double canopy jungle. We had another blistering day ahead of us. I could feel the sweat start to pour down my face already. After an hour we finally reached the crest of the hill. On top, the hill was obliterated by a 500-hundred-pound bomb. There was a 4-foot-deep crater with a 10 ft. diameter hole in it. It was huge. The trees and vegetation were completely vaporized around it. We found some small saplings, high grass, and broadleaf plants to conceal ourselves in about 15 feet away from the crater. We took off our rucksacks, and grabbed some Lurp rations to eat. It was dehydrated food in a plastic bag. The chili and spaghetti mix together with some tobacco sauce were my favorite. If you couldn't heat up your canteen cup of water, it tasted terrible. After we ate, we started to set up our night defense position. Each of us put our claymore mines in a circle around our position. I set my claymore mine directly in front of the bomb crater. There were more small trees, thick bushes, and vegetation behind us.

When it got dark, Smitty motioned for me to come with him. We left our weapons and rucksacks behind. We crawled into the bomb crater, and made our way up the side, which was facing in the direction of the valley beneath us. *Turn to the next page*

It was pitch black out as we stuck our heads slowly above the top of the bomb crater to take a better look. We looked way down below us toward the valley floor, and to our surprise, the 6th N.V.A. regiment could be seen meandering through the jungle like a large snake. Every 5th man was carrying a lantern, and the line of enemy soldiers seemed to go on for miles through the valley. There must have been hundreds of them down there. It sent chills down our spines as we gasped at the site. What we just witnessed made us feel very vulnerable with only six Lurps against them. We hurried to get back to the rest of the small team. Smitty said, "We've got beaucoup movement in the valley. They're down there all right, all of them."

The Team Leader called in a situation report on the horn and told T.O.C. that we had made visual contact with the enemy. We had dinks moving on the valley floor in our A.O. The team leader then called in and confirmed our grid coordinates, and N.D.P. position, along with our arty pre-plots. It was standard procedure. If we got into a fire fight during the night we would have only fifteen minutes before we ran out of ammo, and that would be all she wrote for us if that happened. Sgt. Smitty said, "I want all of you to be on high alert. Keep your weapons by your side at all times. I am going to place a claymore mine in the middle of our perimeter with a fifteen second delay fuse on it in case we have to *di di* in a hurry. Each of you remember the escape and evasion route in case we get separated from each other. We will meet down by the river at our designated area. I think we are in a really hairy situation here, and definitely anything can happen tonight. If you can't stay awake during your guard shift, take a dextroamphetamine tablet to stay awake." As we were settling in, a blinding intense white light flashed out of nowhere somewhere off on one of the mountain tops. It lit up the entire sky. It was as though someone turned the lights on and off in the dark. Everyone shook their heads in amazement. Was that some kind of communication network? Smitty said, "Whatever that was it's too late to worry about it now." As we settled in for the night Doc. Proctor had first watch.

Around 0300 hours, I was frantically awakened by loud crackling, rustling noises coming right in front of me. My eyes darted wide open with horror. Something, or someone was shaking the bushes directly in front of my position. I didn't know what it was. I thought it might be a wild animal. I moved my head slowly around to see if any of the other team members were awake, but they all seemed to be sound asleep. I was afraid to reach for my weapon because it would make too much noise. I slowly and carefully pulled my knife out of its sheath while pointing the blade out towards the bushes. If whatever it was broke through the undergrowth it would surely fall right on top of me. Just then something caught my eye in the direction of the bomb crater. I slowly turned my head to the left to see what it was. My heart started beating out of my chest. My hair stood up on the back of my neck. It was an N.V.A. soldier standing only 15 feet away from where I was laying. I could only see the silhouette of the soldier. He was wearing a khaki uniform, and a pith helmet. He was holding a flashlight in his right hand. His arm was stretched out waving the flashlight slowly from left to right in my direction. Thank God his batteries were low which kept me from being detected. There also was a slightly eerie fog that was hovering just above the ground all around the small team's night position. It was like a scene out of a horror movie. To my dismay the enemy soldier was standing inches away right in front of my claymore mine. I didn't dare move, or I would give my position away. All I could do was lay there in silence.

Then I realized that the bushes were being shaken on purpose by two or three enemy soldiers trying desperately to get our attention. Total fear took over my entire body. I was literally shaking on the ground thinking we were going to die or be captured by the enemy. How the hell did they know we were up here? There were hundreds of them in the valley. How many of them were up on top of this hill with us? I

knew Hanoi had placed a bounty on our heads. It was about a year's pay if anybody captured a Lurp dead, or alive. Lurps were hated by the enemy because we were away from where we weren't supposed to be. We had all kinds of fire power at our disposal. With only one phone call the Lurps could make the enemies' life a living hell. I laid there motionless as sweat ran down my face to the back of my neck. Tears began to swell up around my eyes as I started to pray. "Please God keep us safe and protect us." We were completely at the mercy of the enemy. All I could do was to lay there and listen, and hope we weren't detected. Some time had gone by when I slowly turned my head to the left again. The N.V.A. soldier with the flashlight was gone. The bushes in front of me were silent.

When I woke up the next morning the rest of the team was already sitting up awake. These guys didn't even have a clue what had happened last night. They didn't even know we were seconds away from being captured. I walked over to where the team leader was sitting. I explained to him what had happened during the night. Also, one of the guys fell asleep on his guard shift. He let the enemy walk right up on us. Sgt. Smitty looked at me dumbfounded and shook his head in disbelief. I took him over to where the enemy soldier was standing the night before, and you could see enemy footprints all over the bomb crater. Smitty asked me, "What do you think we should do?" I said, "The team is definitely compromised. The enemy knows we're here, and I think they know who we are." Sgt. Smitty called our C.O. and told him the situation, and that our mission was compromised. The Company Commander, Captain Eklund told us to get off the top of the hill ASAP. There were *Gooks* all over the area. We had teams in contact with the enemy as he spoke. Smitty gave the order to ruck up and move out. The team started heading back down the steep treacherous hill again in a different direction. We were about 20 minutes down from the crest of the hill when we heard the first projectile loudly crackling and ripping through the air directly over our heads. We turned to each other and said, "What the hell was that?"

The Team Leader ordered us to get down and take cover as another projectile crackled in the sky above us. He immediately called T.O.C. and asked if any friendlies were firing artillery in our A.O. A few minutes later the radio squawked, and the person on the other end said, "Negative. There is no friendly's firing in your A.O." That meant the enemy was firing their 122 m.m. rockets, compliments from the Soviet Union, on top of the hill that we were just on. Loud thundering explosions that shook the ground could be heard as the enemy fired another volley of rockets over our heads hitting the hilltop. You could see clouds of smoke billowing from the top of the hill. If we would have stayed on the hill top any longer, they would be picking up pieces of our bodies off of the trees. I was the senior scout as we once again started heading downwards towards our location. I was covering the team's back as we inched our way down towards the river. I was walking a few feet away from the rest of the team when I heard a twig snap behind me. Then I heard a crunching sound. So, I pulled off into a thicket to my left and silently waited for more sounds. A second later I heard another twig snap.

Now I knew we were definitely being followed by Charlie. I hurried back to where the rest of the team was just as they were heading into some very high thick elephant grass along the riverbank for concealment. When I reached the team, I climbed on top of a large rock and looked about 100 meters away from our location. I saw the tops of elephant grass wildly swaying from side to side. The enemy moved in next to our position. I grabbed the team leader's arm, and whispered, "We've got company." The enemy knows we're here. They have been following us all the way down the hill. They're right over there hiding in the elephant grass." I pointed in the direction of the enemy. *To page 33*

# HQ 75th RANGER HHC

UNIT DIRECTOR—Tom Maier



*Command Sgt. Maj. Curt Donaldson, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Greg Birch, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Hall, and retired Brig. Gen. James C. Nixon participated in a leadership panel Oct. 1, 2024, at Fort Moore, Georgia as part of the 40-year anniversary and celebration of the activation of the RHQ. Former Regimental Commanders*

*In the photo are (left to right):*

*Retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal, retired Lt. Gen. John Vines, retired*

*and Command Sergeants Major came together for a two-part leader panel discussing the evolution of the modern-day Ranger. (Photo by U.S. Army Ranger Staff Sgt. Jonathan C. Bryson, Visual Information Specialist, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Public Affairs.)*





# 1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—RICK MERRITT

Ranger Brothers,  
Ranger Merritt reporting for duty:

Spring has sprung here in Savannah after our once every decade winter-storm with 4 inches of snow; this one was our biggest since the white Christmas of 1989!

I hope to see y'all at Savannah's annual St Patty's Day celebration as our Rangers plan to march this year. Join us in Forsythe Park as HHC holds their Change of Command Ceremony at the park before the Battalion steps off on the parade route.

If you can't make it then maybe join us at the annual US ARMY Best Ranger Competition, 11-13 April, which also now includes the Army's Best Sniper & Mortar Competitions during the week. I anticipate a clean sweep by our Regiment!

Hard Rock Charlie Foundation, led by Duke Durkan, have their annual muster and water jump on 2-3 MAY at Kay Larkin Field, Palatka, FL 32177. See their website for more details.

Our 75th RRA annual reunion is scheduled MON-FRI 19-23 MAY in Savannah (19th & 23rd are travel days, no events scheduled). It is being held in conjunction with the A Co 1/75 Annual Reunion & MSG Andy Fernandez Memorial.

To note, CSM Don Purdy is our guest speaker this year at our banquet held on Hunter Army Airfield in the Hunter Club on THUR 22 May: the evening after the 1/75 Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony. It is open to the public & our honored attendees are our Gold Star Families.

We are planning other events with the Battalion, such as golfing; shooting, open house tours; static displays; perhaps a banner day, etc., more to follow. I have a meeting (21 FEB), a week after the suspended date of getting this article to our Publisher, with the Battalion Leadership to finalize the events. We will post the detailed schedule on our 75thRRA.org website.

Hats off to our own HRSM Mike Hall, Joe Clark & all the other Batt Boys who honored the 80th Anniversary of the "Greatest Raid" (read the book or watch the movie). Over 40 Regimental Rangers traveled all the way to the CABANATUAN POW CAMP in the Philippines and "rucked" the 48 Kilometer infiltration route taken by the men from the 6th Ranger Battalion in WWII to liberate over 500 allied prisoners in January 1945.

You are invited to "break biscuits" at our Ranger Breakfast in Savannah.; now held at "HENRY'S" (actually in nearby Pooler) at 9AM on the first Saturday of each month. Check online for a



Ranger Breakfast near you and if it's too far away then start one of your own!

Send me some war stories, photos, or news to share in the next edition as this is your magazine.

Enjoy all the photos and storylines for this quarter from our active-duty Rangers & Godspeed to those deployed in harm's way. 🙏

Thanks to each and every one of y'all for all you have done in your life to Keep America Great!  
RLTW!

V/R,  
Rick  
RFL

USASOC Civilian of the Year: 1/75 MED section civilian Mr. Lee was recognized as the USASOC Civilian of the Year at ceremonies at FLNC and HAAF. Mr. Lee has 37 years of federal service (between active duty and supporting 1/75). We thank Mr. Lee and his family for their hard work and dedication to our country.



*Mr. Lee and family at the 1/75 Battalion Memorial*

SSG Pape Hero WOD: SSG Pape gave the ultimate sacrifice on 15 November 2010 during combat operations in the Kunar Province, Afghanistan while assigned to 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Charlie Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion. The workout consisted of 6 rounds of 800 meter run, 30 burpee pull-ups, and 1 rope climb.



Rope climb and Charlie Company Rangers honoring SSG Pape

Turkey Bowl 24: On 27 November Rangers participated in the annual Turkey Bowl at Forsyth Park, Savannah GA. The NCOs once again defeated the Officers in a game of Flag Football.



Family Day Field Obstacle Course: 1/75 installed a sprint obstacle course on family day field less than 50 meters from its Human Performance facilities. The course includes 11 obstacles.



35<sup>th</sup> Panama Reunion: On 19 December 1/75 hosted the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Operation Just Cause at the BN Memorial. Multiple participants of the operation were in attendance to honor their fallen.



CSM Wagner, Maj Baer, and LT Stansbury after testing the equipment seen below



BN Christmas Event: On 19 December 1/75 hosted its annual BN Christmas Party on the BN footprint



**E Co Crew Gunnery:** Echo Company Rangers executed a Crew Gunnery tables I-VI IAW TC 3-20.31 with M2 and 240B for eight crews at Fort Stewart, GA. The training began at the Vehicle Convoy Simulator at Fort Stewart, GA and culminated with the execution of a TBL VI maneuver live fire. Throughout the Gunnery progression, Echo Company Rangers conducted static live fire engagements, maneuver blank fires, and maneuver live fires from GMV 1.1s.



L/C) Rangers at the Vehicle Convoy Simulator. (R) Rangers conduct Crew Gunnery



**Javelin Trainer Course:** Fifteen Rangers from throughout the Battalion took part in the Javelin Trainer Course run by SFC Kouba of the B5TIC. Participants practiced with CLU system, the Basic Skills Trainer procured from the TAS-C, and conducted thirteen scenarios as the gunner, identifying and engaging stationary or moving targets out to a distance of 1500m.

**1/75 Ministry Team Ski Trip:** 1/75 Unit Ministry Team held a Ski Resiliency Trip for 25 Single Rangers on January 9<sup>th</sup> through the 11<sup>th</sup>. These Rangers had the opportunity to either ski or snowboard on Sugar Mountain in North Carolina. This single Ranger retreat heavily focused on training to develop our young Ranger leaders to be resilient men of character with high morals and capable of ethical decision making. Benchmark Adventure Ministries assisted by providing outdoor-based moral and emotional resiliency training.



**HHC MED SECTION RMAV:** 1/75 medical section conducted Ranger Medic Assessment and Validation 06-16 January 2025 at HAAF. Over a two week duration, medics from 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger BN and the SOCOM community were assessed and validated on the knowledge base, scope, and practice expected from a Special Operations Combat medic.

**Cold Weather and Survival Training:** D Co Rangers travelled to Stockholm, Sweden to conduct extreme cold weather expeditionary and survival training with both Swedish and UK SOF elements.



The exercise focused on long-range ski patrols, improvised shelter builds, and prolonged sustainment in a cold weather environment.



# 2nd BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—HUGH ROBERTS



## CSM RAKOW

I regret to inform you of the passing of RSM Walter Rakow.

CSM Rakow completed Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO and Advanced Individual Training and Airborne School at Fort Benning, GA. He served in every enlisted leadership position from rifle team leader to Brigade Command Sergeant Major. He served as a Gunner, Rifleman, Automatic Rifleman and Team Leader while assigned to C. Co (Airborne) 4/23 INF, Fort Richardson, AK. He served as a Team Leader, Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, and performed duties as a Platoon Leader while assigned to 2nd Ranger BN. He served as a Ranger Instructor for the Light Leaders Course, Long Range Surveillance Leaders Course, and the Desert Phase of Ranger School. He served as a Platoon Sergeant in 3rd Ranger BN, Fort Benning, GA. He served as a First Sergeant for A. Co. and Headquarters & Headquarters Company, 2nd Ranger BN, Fort Lewis, WA. He served as the BN CSM for 2/11 INF (Infantry Officer Basic Course); 5/87 INF, Republic of Panama; and the 1st Ranger BN, 75th Ranger Regiment, Hunter Army Airfield, GA. His Ranger career culminated in his appointment as the 8th Regimental Command Sergeant Major of the 75th Ranger Regiment, Fort Benning, GA.

He retired from active duty as the CSM of the 181st Infantry Brigade at Fort McCoy, WI. His military education includes all levels of NCOES, culminating in successful completion of the Sergeants Major Academy and the Command Sergeant Major Course; Airborne

School, Ranger School, HALO, Pathfinder, Jumpmaster, SERE, and Jungle Warfare School. His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Oak Leaf Cluster), the Army Commendation Medal (3rd OLC), Army Achievement Medal (4th OLC), Army Good Conduct Medal (10th Award), National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (3rd award with combat



jump identifier), Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon (4th award), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (2nd Award), Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge with combat identifier, and Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge. He was also awarded the Humanitarian Service Award as a Department of the Army Civilian for his

role in Operation Allies Welcome. He participated in multiple combat operations, including Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada), Operation Just Cause (Panama), Operation Uphold Democracy (Haiti), and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan). In Operation Just Cause, he participated in the low-level Airborne Assault on Rio Hato Airfield, Republic of Panama. He retired from the United States Army in 2007 after more than 30 years of exceptionally meritorious, dedicated service to his country.



Above, 1945 photo of the Cabanatuan Raid— Front Cover 2025 photo

Known throughout the 75th Ranger Regiment, and the Army, for his “dynamic” personality and direct approach to leadership, he inspired countless generations of soldiers and leaders through his unwavering commitment to the Army, the mission, and to those with whom he served. Following his retirement, he continued to serve the 181st Infantry Brigade as a federal civilian, mentoring the next generation of Army leaders.

Celebration of life and burial for CSM Rakow will be held on Saturday 3 May 2025 at 13:00 hrs at the Torkelson Funeral Home in Tomah, Wisconsin located at 2224 Superior Ave, Tomah, WI 54660

**80 year anniversary of the Cabanatuan Raid-** On the 23 of February 2025 22 Rangers and SOF personnel traveled to Philippines to commemorate the 80 year anniversary of the Cabanatuan Raid. These Rangers walked 30 Miles along the same route that the 6th Rangers BN took. The story of the march was written by Ted Kennedy former 2/75 Ranger and coordinator for this commemoration. **Feature article next page**

The smell of a rural village always takes me back, back to some distant memory of war as all small villages around the world smell more or less the same. Just a hint of burning charcoal or a hardwood fire preparing a hot meal, gathered animal dung mixed with human excrement for the crops, piles of rotting garbage gathered in stagnant pools or ditches, the slight hint of death from some dead animal or other. The morning was already hot and very humid, even in the shade of our Guimba village assembly area, we definitely knew we were in the tropics of the Pacific. The agonizing heat wrapped its arms around us and welcomed our small force to the misery that awaited us during the long day's march. Many of us had prepared for this moment for much of the past 9 months but how could one prepare for this heat in upstate Michigan or central Pennsylvania's harsh winter? There was little we could do to escape the punishing heat and we knew it would only get worse as we walked across the paddies and the sun passed higher into the cloudless Philippine sky. All of us were deep in our own thoughts as we stepped into these harsh conditions; the smells, the clatter of rural farm life, and the exotic sing-song voices of the locals all mixed and then hung thick in the hot humid air of the Central Philippine Island of Luzon.

As we took in the new sights and sounds of this small farming village, we noticed one thing above all others. The rice paddies; paddies went in all directions for as far as the eye could see, stretching to the horizons on most sides of the village. The slight breeze slowly moved the long emerald rice stalks from side to side causing the appearance of a vast rolling green ocean in the shadow of Mount Arayat. During our long march, we would never leave the rice paddies completely nor the somber stare of the now dormant volcano visible across much of Central Luzon. The paddies were brilliant in their deep natural color and somehow comforting as we started this great undertaking. The fields here seemed far greener than the forests where many of us had been only days prior as the first harsh winter storm of the new year hit America. As it had been for hundreds of years in Nueva Ecija Province, the morning sun brought the village to life and locals were only now stirring to begin their long work day. On this morning, the villagers were drawn from beds not only by the morning's first light but by the roar of diesel engines straining to push heavily armored transports into very tight parking places. Tailgates slammed down and armed troops moved quickly into place for the day's mission. The tranquility around each small hut was interrupted as metal slammed against metal and jungle boots hit the ground moving quickly to gain security over our immediate surroundings. The unmistakable clatter of armed warriors moving through the little village caused many dogs to bark an alarm and chickens to cackle in fear as all reacted to the suddenness of our arrival. The startled little farmers watched with caution from the false safety of their bamboo huts and thatched roof shacks. Soon they would know why we were here and the atmosphere would change dramatically.

The arrival of the Operation Cabanatuan Ranger Force was not by chance or by accident on the 28th day of January 2025. Unbeknownst to the villagers, the massing warriors had planned and prepared for many months to be here at this very moment

in time. The event now unfolding in this tiny village on Luzon was a well-planned military operation and it was now being executed as such. The group of warriors showed few emotions as they moved among the villagers and around the rural huts taking care of the morning's immediate needs and ensuring the area was clear. They were all well trained for this and practiced to the point of being nearly automated in the eyes of an outsider. The young Scout Rangers and the old Veterans all acted with a smoothness only demonstrated by the most seasoned and well-trained professionals as they prepared to execute the mission of a lifetime. How many missions like this had the old Ranger Veterans participated in? How many more missions like this lay ahead for the young Scout Rangers? No one dwelt on such questions as other more pressing matters were at hand.

The organized chaos and gagged mass of troops caused by the first moments of arrival evolved into recognizable teams, squads, and platoons. Many of the warriors stood ready, patiently waiting in silence for the order to advance toward our day's objective. A few final discussions between leaders, each ending with a stern handshake showing an agreement had been reached, and then a smile for a newfound comrade sealed the deal. Some of these warriors, unlike the villagers or small-statured Filipino Scout-Rangers, had already been on the move for many hours and we knew we still had many hours and many miles ahead of us before reaching our far-off objective for the first day's movement. Then, as suddenly as we had arrived, our little task force started moving to start the mission. No word was given to move, it was almost spontaneous. With practiced ease, assault packs were shouldered, magazines locked, and rifles slung, as we stepped into movement formation to begin the last portion of our long journey to Cabanatuan.

We were ready, ready to fight should the Communist New People's Army (NPA) suddenly appear to disrupt their advance. Most thought an attack was unlikely because the scattered communist forces feared these heavily armed and well-trained men from the First Scout Ranger Regiment. It was possible though and we all knew we were in a warzone; always in the backs of our minds. The old warriors, seasoned veterans of the 75th Ranger Regiment, felt like men on top of the world, men in the place they were meant to be and it felt good. We felt nothing could stop us, and we felt at home in far off places like Guimba. Most of us even missed this feeling. It had been years for some since retirement or separation from military service and our attempted transition into a more mundane life as a civilian. We were seizing the moment, nothing could take this feeling away, not the communists, the Islamists, intestinal problems that left us dehydrated and some still in pain, nothing. Many had old war injuries sustained over numerous combat deployments or the aches and pains from one too many hard landings on "The Rock" or "Moses Lake" or "Lawson Army" to name a few notorious drop zones across the Ranger Regiment's inventory. Not least was the 90-degree tropical heat and humidity we faced this first day. None of this could deter the veterans and all felt nothing could stop us now as we moved forward to celebrate one of the Ranger Regiment's greatest missions; the Raid on Cabanatuan.

*Continue to the next page*



With a last glance at a watch, the check of a folded map sheet now wrapped in plastic against rain, a quick iPhone selfie with a buddy, and a long drink of lukewarm water, all knew the time had come, we knew the mission must begin, the Rangers must form up in columns, then depart the safety of Guimba village. Ahead of us, a walk of at least 15 miles to reach their first objective, and we were wasting time standing around the start point. Some of the men, US Ranger Veterans, obvious foreigners in this Asian-Pacific land, were far larger than the villagers and the seriousness of the moment made our weathered faces seem stern and unwelcoming to the small groups of villagers now gathered to watch our progress. The old warriors scared the small children, few of the little ones had ever seen such a sight. The old Vets, some with thickly bearded faces, most weather-beaten from years in deserts and the tropics, some with long salt and pepper hair, and all silent as they went about final preparations for the coming mission. Men made hard by America's long wars of recent years and earlier conflicts scattered back decades. We were certainly not from here in the Philippines, anyone could see that. We caused a noticeable unease among the little rice farmers and rural villagers who were still waking and slowly emerging to see what had caused this disruption to their otherwise uneventful lives.

The children were the first to be approached by the large rough men. The towering warriors moved to the children and the frightened little ones scurried back to the safety of their equally nervous parents. Some ran the short distance back to the safety of their shabby hovels. These towering hard men, warriors from another universe, undeterred by this futile retreat followed, no one stood in their way, nor could anyone stand in their way, as what could the diminutive and unarmed villagers do to stop such machines of war? They were men driven by a single mission, come many thousands of miles, with one thought in their mind. Having no chance in a fight and at the limits of their flight, the children froze and waited for their fates, some of the youngest trembled in fear.

What the children got was not what they ever could have expected. They quickly learned the large strange American Ranger Vets were not to be feared, but came in peace, and in friendship and with something no child could resist. The great warriors carried no weapons of war, not rifles or machine guns, nor swords or spears, and as fearsome as some of these large men seemed to the little Filipino village children, they were unarmed except for the occasional walking stick to fend off feral dogs or help steady a crippled leg.

These strange men were veterans of the US Army's famed 75th Ranger Regiment, also a few Green Berets, and a handful of Special Mission Unit veterans. All had candy, and now their bearded, weather-beaten old faces, had large smiles for the little ones to see and it brought out masses of happy laughing children for a piece of candy. Men whose hearts had often been cold and full of malice in other far-off lands were this morning warm and smiling toward these little children as each old warrior passed out his precious candy carried over thousands of miles for just

this moment. The children of Guimba village were now learning what countless children, in France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and other war zones where these Rangers, and men like them, had served America in times of war for far too many generations. Children around the world had learned that a US GI, with a smile normally had a rifle in one hand and candy in the out-reached other. The candy was for the children of the nation where these men found themselves at some point in history. These old veterans of the 75th Rangers were not here for violence, they came in peace, they came to honor the Filipino people, and to remember a friendship formed so many years prior during the final dark days of WW2 in the Pacific. They came to honor a mission that had occurred before any present was born. These old Rangers came many thousands of miles to celebrate a brotherhood of warriors, one that had formed for something very special in war, a mission that had the primary goal to save and not to kill. In late January 1945, exactly 80 years earlier to the hour, and in the final months of the most terrible war in recorded human experience, World War Two, an unbeatable team of US Soldiers and Filipino Guerrillas and villagers came together to save lives.

In 2025, our group of Americans came to the Philippines to refresh the bond that had existed then, and to show it was as strong this day as it had been 80 years before. A day when American Rangers and Alamo Scouts, along with hundreds of local Filipino Guerrillas and possibly thousands of villagers infiltrated over 35 miles from Guimba village, where our small force now stood, through 1000s of Japanese soldiers, along many miles of dirt track and countless rice paddy dikes, across hundreds of thousands of acres of rice fields, to save over 500 helpless POWs who had been interned in a makeshift camp for nearly 4 horrible years at a place called Cabanatuan. If they weren't rescued in January 1945, they could soon find a horrible death at the hands of the Japanese Army of Occupation as others had in recent weeks. We, the Veterans of the 75th Ranger Regiment, came thousands of miles to celebrate their accomplishment and remember them as examples and role models.

On 28 January 2025, Operation Cabanatuan Ranger 25 commenced. Exactly 80 years to the day from the original mission on 28 January 1945, we set out to remember them and what they did so long ago as a team of teams. We were on our way, after seven months of planning, discussing, arguing, changing the plan, arguing, discussing, and then replanning, and a little more arguing, we were here to do what we had set out so long ago to do; walk the 6th Ranger's route to Cabanatuan and remember the Great Raid.

All this effort, our preparations, our training, and the long trip over from the US, had brought us to this very moment at the very place they set out from so long ago. Some 80 years on, 28 January 2025, a force of 20 US Army 75th Ranger veterans, coming from several eras of the Ranger Regiment's history, a few very brave wives, a small professional and dedicated camera team hoping to record our adventure *Continue to next page*

so others could share in the experience, an irreplaceable forward support crew of generous American expats and family members, a few intrepid US Vets from the Angeles area, and over 50 active-duty Filipino Scout Rangers would start our mission of remembrance. We would walk the 35 miles across Luzon's central plain to remember the greatest Ranger raid of all, the raid on Camp Pangatian POW camp, now known to most as "The Great Raid at Cabanatuan."

With the skirl of the pipes, played by Piper Jim Q, a former 2/75 Ranger complete with kilt and 2nd Batt Ranger t-shirt, and the cheers and cries of the local villagers, we set off on our 35-plus mile journey to Cabanatuan. How surreal the scene was, bagpipes, old US Rangers, young Filipino Scout Rangers, small Asian villagers, barking stay dogs, the unconcerned yet mildly interested caribou, and a festive mood that would not have been present 80 years ago when our forefathers under LTC Mucci and CPT Bob Prince set out on this life-or-death mission. We set off with only the fear of not making the march in our minds and failure for us was not the death of 500 POWs but the loss of face to our Ranger brothers. There was a long list of worse things like being hit by a car but none compared to the weight carried by the 6th Rangers when they set off from Guimba knowing so many lives hung in the balance of their mission.

Our journey took us across the rice paddies of Central Luzon south toward the town of Cabanatuan. Over the coming day, we would cross the most fertile farmland in the Philippines and the rice bowl of Asia in many ways. As we walked, we saw sights that would not have changed much in 80 years, and in our own minds, we imagined that the 6th Rangers saw the same sights we were seeing 80 years later. A water buffalo (caribou) pulling a cart or plow, young men and women in the fields planting rice by hand, the vivid colors that no WW2 photo could have ever captured were spectacular as we saw them on day one of our walk. We were living the dream of any Ranger historian, making the long walk to Cabanatuan just as our predecessors had so many decades prior. A check I never thought my bucket list would receive and even as I stepped off from Guimba it seemed only a dream.

As minutes led to hours and footsteps to miles, one question arose many times. "How much farther?" The answer, as must as a joke, became either, "Three more kilometers," or the more serious response, "As many as it takes to get there." As with any Ranger unit, the Ranger that can tell jokes no matter the circumstances, is worth their weight in Copenhagen. We had a few with us as we walked to Cabanatuan. They told jokes and made light of the heat, the humidity, the rabid feral dogs, huge farm beasts tethered by a shoelace, and the crazy drivers, and then they started over again, keeping us all in good humor as we walked in the sun toward our far-off first objective; The Danes.

The Danes is a small "rice field view" resort used by locals in the town of Talavera for weddings and birthday parties. It just happened to offer much of what we needed for a first night's rest; a place to recover, a place to eat, a cold beer, and it was nearly halfway to Cabanatuan from Guimba. We had worked out a deal

with them and got a roast pig, a Lechon, to boot and it was the centerpiece of that night's meal. When we arrived, most were too tired to drink and party like we would have 30 years prior but we tried our best to represent. Most needed to get in one of the cool swimming pools or to lay down and get in an afternoon nap. The heat took its toll and some were in pretty bad states but none quit or put the group at risk of failure. The long trip over, the intestinal problems, the heat, and the distance of the first day all caught up to us and we crashed. The worst, we all knew we had another day to walk, and the "movement leg" on our second day was longer and harder than this first day's walk. As we crashed into an exhaustion-fueled sleep, none of us concerned ourselves too much about what was to come. We celebrated what we had accomplished to be here and left it at that.

The next morning was hard. Hard to get up and hard to get going especially knowing what lay ahead. We all wanted coffee and then breakfast in that order. Like the seasoned old Vets were are, we knew we had to just get up, get going, and put one foot in front of the other. Soon, our aching muscles and sore feet had us going and the desire to accomplish what we had set out to do was stronger now as we drew closer to our final objective. The distance today, in possibly hotter and harsher conditions, was 17 miles. We all knew, at the end of today's walk, awaited our prize. The goal of so many months of planning, preparation, training, and dreaming. We would walk the distance and arrive at the POW camp at Cabanatuan. Along the way, we had to cross several rivers. The one we all anticipated with great expectation was the Pampanga River just north of Cabanatuan City. The 6th Rangers had crossed this river in daylight 80 years prior and an iconic photo came from their crossing. We hoped to replicate that photo in color and with our modern task force of Americans and Filipinos. Once across the river, we knew it wasn't far but the question, "How much farther" still got the reply, "Three more clicks" and this kept us all moving forward.

The second day was grueling. Hotter and more humid, we were not as fresh as we had been the first day. As we drew nearer to Cabanatuan, the traffic grew worse and not we had dust and exhaust from vehicles to deal with as well as the risk of being hit by a car or motorcycle. This only added to the stress of the conditions. Onward we walked, each member of the team in his, or her, own deepest thoughts. "What the hell was I thinking", seemed to fill most heads as mile after mile passed. It was hard to keep enough water as the temperature increased as the sun passed over. More of us felt the pain of intestinal issues and more vomiting and worse struck the small force. Even the much younger and fitter Filipino Rangers seemed to be dragging on day two. This was truly our crucible and the part that set us well above normal tourists. We were actually feeling a small bit of what they must have felt 80 years ago. The heat, the pain, the thirst, and many other conditions and emotions that no tourist ever really gets to experience. This was truly a "Ranger Holiday."

Suddenly, word came back through the formation, "One more mile." I knew where we were and I knew this to be true and told those around me as much.

*Continue to next page*

By Ted Kennedy

## 80 year anniversary of the Cabanatuan Raid

A few doubted the distance and made the normal Ranger cat calls about the navigator's ancestry or his state's public education system, a comment about the battalion the paceman served in, and then silence once again overtook our worn and haggard group of marchers as onward we went. As suddenly as a missed exit passes the traveler, the turn into the Cabanatuan monument appears to us, suddenly and almost unexpectedly. When walking down the main road that passes the monument, someone approaching does not know they are at the monument until they are literally at the monument. We had arrived and the skirl of the pipes welcomed us as Piper Jim Q was already there. There were many handshakes and as many hugs between brothers at our accomplishment. We had done it. Most of us walked alone and in silence the last couple hundred meters to the monument. Reflecting on what this accomplishment meant to each of us as individuals. We all knew we had done something historic, and a great show of respect to our Ranger ancestors, and we all wanted the feeling to last as once it was gone, it was gone and just a memory would remain. The soreness of many miles seemed to vanish as we stood in the shadow of the monument and under the flapping flags of our two great nations. It was a moment none of us will ever forget.

The monument, is as all WW2 American monuments are, grand and beautiful and a tribute to a nearly gone generation of warri-

ors. The most striking feature of the Cabanatuan monument is the wall containing the names of the over 6000 POWs who died

in an area the size of a high school football stadium. So much tragedy and trauma in such a small area is almost unperceivable, certainly to modern Americans even those of us that have seen war and its horrors. The wall also has the names of two Americans from the 6th Rangers who were killed during the raid which prevented

the addition of 511 more names to those who died in the camp from disease, exhaustion, infection, and not least, the brutality of the Japanese. One of the ironies of the march was most of us found a deceased POW with our family name. No relation, or none that was mentioned, but it made being at the camp, seeing the names of so many dead, in some small way, very personal. We had come all this way to honor the 80th anniversary of The Great Raid, to honor their memory, and to celebrate the legacy of accomplishment we all shared in the 75th Ranger Regiment and it was a powerful moment. We all felt very good to be here, to be here with Ranger brothers, new friends, and our Filipino allies, and to feel success from what

we had come to the Philippines to do. Something more than a few had told us was foolish or reckless yet here we were celebrating our accomplishment and toasting the fallen with some 3 Rangers rye whiskey. Remember the Great Raid, remember the fallen, remember what the 6th Rangers did, and hope to see you at the 90th anniversary. Rangers Lead the Way.



2025- 22 Rangers and SOF personnel traveled to Philippines to commemorate the 80 year anniversary of the Cabanatuan Raid



2/75 Rangers pay tribute to CPL Roy Sweezy, 6th Ranger Battalion, who was KIA during the rescue mission



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

Well, as I send this in, Christmas and New Years has come and gone, by the time this hits the printer and your mailbox, #47 will be in office and well on his way to MAGA. Hopefully, we have 4 years of prosperity and cheaper gas. Not the place for politics, so enough said.

If I missed anything in the Sit-Rep from the reunion, I hope you have sent me updates or corrections. Some ideas on where and when to hold the next reunion have been tossed around. Maybe in two years, no more than 3 since we are getting longer in the tooth every year. Ranger Black has offered his ranch just west of Dallas. Also, Branson was suggested. It is a very veteran friendly town and except for the Texas travelers, it is more centrally located. Fred Stuckey has been to several unit reunions there and the LRRP association hold theirs there also. Even Dennis said (from EJ) Branson might be a better location since there is more to do locally than at his place. Anyone with thoughts or ideas, please let any one of the reunion committee members know. Roy Bissey, EJ Alexander, Ed Thurman, Bill Bowman, and Stan Jones. And don't forget to check out all the videos Ed Thurman has posted on YouTube. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/@A75-Rangers> and check out videos and pictures from the past up to present day. If you have any pictures you would like to share with the group, send them to Ed at [ethurman01@gmail.com](mailto:ethurman01@gmail.com)

Nothing much new to report from Indiana. We did get Mark Ross moved to a nursing facility, 1<sup>st</sup> in Greenwood, where he got bedbugs. Then Corey moved him to one on the south side of Indy, a much nicer facility where he developed pneumonia and a trip to VA / ER. I did get to visit Mark once, but then my wife came down with either colitis or diverticulitis, either of which ruined her holidays, but she is on the mend with a yet to be determined diet change. Corey has been able to visit with Mark almost every day, and Cantrell and I talk to him on the phone several times a week. His number is 541-670-1035 and the best way to talk to him is using Facetime.

**From Paul Akscin:** Born august 1953; Family were dirt farmers. (Father was a dirt farmer, Mother was an active RN. Worked at local hospital) Yep, they had them on Long Island NY. Went to a local community College for 2 semesters. I just didn't feel college was for me at that time. Out of 5 kids, I was the only one who considered going into the military. In 1972 went into the army at FT Dix NJ. Went through basic there and AIT; trained as a Field Wireman. Finished AIT then went on to Airborne School at Fort Benning. (Don't care what people call it now, it will always be FT. Benning GA. to me). Completed Airborne School, then was sent to FT. Hood TX. When I signed into Ft Hood, the processing center told me because I was Jump qualified, I could only go to 1 company. A Company Rangers.



When I 1st arrived at the company, 1SG told me since I was commo, I would be working in a 'Rat' rig. (Looked like a small Connex container). I told 1SG I was not trained for that. I also didn't want to work there. He told me OK. Then immediately sent me back to processing! When I got back to the processing center, NCOIC wanted to know why I was back there. Told him and he stated 1SG didn't have a choice, since I was Airborne qualified and the only airborne unit on post was A Co. Ranger company. Got back to Ranger company and was sent to SFC Carpenter's Plt. I had a great time in

the unit. Did OJT for 11B. Then I got a slot to go to Ranger school. Was one of the "fortunate" ones - made it through 1st time. When unit was notified about the deactivation, I came down with orders for 509th ABCT in Italy. Stayed 1 yr then got out. I stayed out for 1 year trying to find a job. Nothing but minimum wage. So reenlisted into the army again. Signed up for the Old Guard in DC. I wanted to go to college. Found out at that time in the army, sports was everything. Education came in a far second to sports. Oh well. Life moves on.

Spent 2 years in B Co. Then switched to A Co—called Commander-in-Chief's Guard (CINC Guard). I didn't like having to wear tight pants and wig of colonial uniform but I did it. I got interested in muskets anyway. Being in the old Guard, I Got really tired of spit shine 24 hrs. / 7 days a week / 365 days a year. I ended up becoming a MP (Military Police). PCS'd to Germany and ended up being stationed in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. This was one of the 3 Armed Forces Recreational centers in Europe. Worked the road for short time, then was told once I was promoted to SSG, I would only be a desk Sargeant. Boring. Looked around for something else.

Long story short, in 1984 ended up going through SF Qualifications Course. Got assigned to 1st Bn B Co, 5th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, NC. Stayed with the unit when in 1986 it moved to Fort Campbell, Ky. In 1989 I got selected for a classified unit. As usual, I didn't know who, what, where or what unit did. Great assignment. 1990 desert storm came about along with the Berlin Wall coming down physically. Our unit was sent again to the 4 winds. I just returned to 5th grp where I retired from. In 2014 the classified unit was declassified. The unit's name was called Physical Security Support Element, which was actually the 410 Special Forces Detachment stationed in Berlin Germany. PSSE was the unit that replaced the honored Det-A, (39th Special Forces Detachment, Berlin Germany) **Retirement and Legacy.** After retiring from the Army, Paul's life remained one of service and dedication to the mission. In 2014, his classified unit was declassified, and the details of the 410th Special Forces Detachment's work came to light.

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This unit played a significant role in the post-Cold War era, working to ensure the security of the newly reunited Germany.

Paul's military career, spanning from his enlistment in 1972 to his retirement, stands as a testament to his dedication, courage, and resilience. His experiences—from the tough training in the Rangers to serving in Special Forces and participating in historic events like the fall of the Berlin Wall and Desert Storm—form a rich legacy that continues to inspire others. Today, Paul's story serves as an inspiration for anyone considering a career in the military. His journey demonstrates that success in the Army is not only about physical toughness but also about adaptability, perseverance, and a deep commitment to serving a greater cause.

**From Eddie Alexander:** As a young man, I knew my grandfather was in WWI. I knew my father was in WWII. Through grammar school, we learned patriotism by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing the National Anthem and other patriotic songs.

Through high school I learned American History. Studying the Minute Men made a tremendous impact on me. These men kept 3 days of rations, ammo, powder, and their rifles by the door. At a moment's notice, these men would kiss their loved ones goodbye, grab their gear and head out — not knowing if they would come back. Many did not come back. We learned about how this nation was formed through the many battles and events like the Boston Massacre, the Boston Tea Party, Lexington, Camden, Bunker Hill, and Yorktown, just to mention a few. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. "John 15:13. Stop and think about that for a minute. I mean really think about that. Put yourself in that position. Would you do it?

Now, think about most every military draftee or volunteer that stood up to the plate and considered that very thing. What an incredible thought. Could I do it, would I do it? Many reading this right now did that very thing. Maybe some of you did not. Again, could you, would you? Is this country and all that encompasses worth it? Is it worth your life? Is it worth the possibility of coming back without a limb, all your limbs, your eyesight, your hearing, and/or your mind? Many have said, "yes!" "People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf." George Orwell. Again, those thoughts and questions impacted me and burned in me to my core. I had to ask myself, could I do that? Would I do that? Is this country, my friends, my classmates, my family, people I don't even know worth it?

I gave this a lot of thought long before I was old enough to make that decision. Born in 1954, I was too young to make that decision when the war in Vietnam started or during the height of that era. During those years, I watched the news, saw the combat correspondents reporting on it, I saw the devastation, the lives lost, and the cost paid by those that made those decisions. Some were drafted and did not have a choice, some volun-

teered. I also saw the decision made by some to burn their draft card, move to Canada or elsewhere to avoid serving. Some went to college. I very distinctly remember an old man that made national news. He was 75 years old. He showed up at an induction center trying to volunteer. They stuck a mic in his face and asked him why. He said someone had to do it. That also made a very profound impact on me and that burned me to my core. It was during these years I watched John Wayne in "The Green Beret" and "Billy Jack." I also had a good friend whose older cousin was home on leave. He was in the Special Forces, and I was impressed by him. I distinctly remember sitting in 7th grade class (1967) when one of my classmate's older brother walked in the room. He was home from fighting in Vietnam and surprised his little sister. It was very emotional for everyone. All these experiences lead me to make a decision as I got closer to graduating high school (1972). I knew I had to "do my part" and I knew if I was going to go to war, I wanted to be highly trained and I knew that I wanted to be with highly trained men. I set my sights on volunteering to join the US Army Special Forces.

At the age of 17, my parents signed off for me to join the Army. Right after I graduated, I went to enlist, only to be told there was no enlistment option for Special Forces. I later found out there was that option. I never knew if my recruiter was ignorant of that fact or malicious. I have speculated that there was a push for filling the ranks of Airborne RANGERS for the coming of the RANGER Battalions (1974) because he told me, if I could make it through Airborne RANGER schools, they (Special Forces) would take me in a minute! I said, "Well, sign me up!" For reasons I never understood, I joined under the "delayed entry program" and went in September 25, 1972.

Vietnam was still going on and I assumed I would be going. I made it through Basic, Advanced Infantry Training (AIT), Airborne School and then on to RANGER School. I went in at the same time another hometown guy went in. We both went in under the RANGER Enlistment Option. During Basic, I never took weekend leave, he did. While he was drinking and having a good time in town, I was running and doing calisthenics, including pull-ups. I had learned what it would take to pass the Airborne PT test including 7 pull-ups. When that day came, I was ready and easily passed, he did not. During Basic, on one of those weekends, I was the only one in our bay, sitting on my bunk spit shining my dress shoes. Our head Drill Sergeant came through. He stopped, looked at me, and said he had read my file. "So, you want to be a RANGER?" "YES, DRILL SERGEANT!" He looked at me and showing no emotion, he said, "You won't make it!" As he walked off, I thought, I WILL make it! I think back on that from time to time. Had he tried, had he failed, did he know good men that had failed or was he trying to motivate me? I still wonder. Another very distinct memory, was during AIT. It was in February of 1973. There was a mass formation of the entire base. They announced to us that no one else was being sent to Vietnam. I can't say I was relieved or disappointed. I just accepted it. I had not joined because I wanted to kill anyone. I was not a warmonger. I simply wanted to do my part.

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By the time I finished Jump School, the RANGER PT test was a breeze, and I was on my way to see if I could earn that coveted RANGER TAB. I distinctly remember that first formation. We were instructed on how we would do pushups. Your feet had to be higher than your head. We were assigned RANGER Buddies whose purpose was to look after one another and to hold your boots up higher than your head for those pushups. If he was not available, you were to improvise by using a tree or whatever was available to elevate your feet higher than your head. The other thing we were told was if we got caught with pogeys, it would be minus 25 pts. This would be a very severe punishment because if you didn't have enough points at the end of RANGER School, you would not graduate. He also set the tone of what a resourceful RANGER was by telling us if we could secure said pogeys without detection, he would be proud of us. RANGERS are known for their stealth and resourcefulness. One last thing we were told. Our commander told us the only thing he hated worse than a Ranger student was two Ranger students. As schooling progressed, I learned more than techniques and tactics, I learned that I could tolerate much more than I ever dreamed possible, that a small team of highly trained and highly motivated men is a deadly weapon and that "accomplish the mission" surely spawned this saying, "The maximum effective range of an M-16 is 460 meters. The maximum effective range of an excuse is 0 meters". I trained, lived, ate, traveled, and served with the very best of the best. My time in RANGER School and serving in A Co. 75th Infantry RANGERS has influenced my life ever since in a most profound and positive way. I know many of you can relate. We are all brothers, then and now.

After graduating, I went to a Special Forces Liaison office. I told them I had just graduated from RANGER School and I wanted to sign up for Special Forces. I'll never forget their reaction. I got a very enthusiastic, "Sure, we'd love to have you, just sign right here." They wanted me to re-enlist for 6 more years. I thought for a moment and told them, I have orders to go to a RANGER Co. in Ft Hood, Tx. I think I'll check that out and get back to you. I really wasn't sure enough to make that commitment. Looking

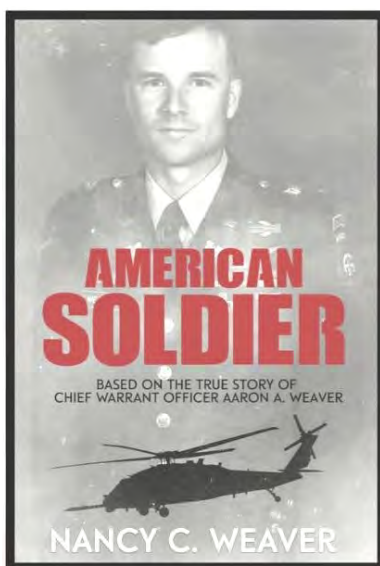
back, I regret that decision. I regret that I did not finish my quest to be a Green Beret. I sometimes regret that I did not stay in and make a career in the Army in special operations. However, having served in A Co. 75th RANGERS more than compensates for that regret. I am proud to have served with the men of A Co. before it disbanded in 1974 as the Army moved to the RANGER Battalion concept. I put in my three years and got out, went to college on the G. I. Bill. Things worked out and I'm retired now. I keep in touch with many of my RANGER Buddies and have been to several A Co. Reunions. There is a bond there that some never know or experience. I consider it a great honor to have served with the best of the best and to always be part of that brotherhood. A fellow RANGER once told me of a man he ran across in some backwoods somewhere. As they talked, they learned they were both RANGERS. He said he went through RANGER school and never got over it..... Neither have I. All because, "I wanted to be a RANGER!"

From the Unit Directors meeting on Feb 2nd: The Reunion this year will be in Savannah, GA, May 19-23, hotel info to come later. They are still looking for stories from your time in the Rangers for the book. The book is scheduled to go to print in August this year. Roger Crunk, longtime Treasurer for the Association, has retired. If you see him, tell him thanks. American Trigger Pullers is the Association Quartermaster and will be working on individual Company logos. They will be raffling off a Daniel Defense pistol, a wooden flag, scope, and a Fairbairn Dagger. More info to come in other pages of Patrolling.

I don't have anything else for this time. Don't forget to take a minute and do a buddy check. That simple phone call just might make the difference in someone's day.

Send me some stories, even if they are not 100% true and accurate.

RLTW  
Stan Jones



### AARON WEAVER – AMERICAN SOLDIER by Nancy C. Weaver

You may remember the Patrolling cover photo of Aaron Weaver's daughter at his tombstone in Arlington.

There is now a new book (AMERICAN SOLDIER) by his widow Nancy Weaver dedicated to his memory.

The eBook AND paperback versions are now available on AMAZON by clicking this link:

<https://a.co/d/08m6as26>

"A poignant tribute to a real-life hero, Nancy Weaver's AMERICAN SOLDIER is a powerful story of love, war and the true price of our freedom. Weaver's sparkling prose forever immortalizes one incredible soldier's legacy in this must-read book that grabs your heartstrings and doesn't let go." ~*Dylan Newton, bestselling author of Change of Plans.*



# B/75 – C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—MARC L. THOMPSON

## B/75 – C/58 LRP - VII CORPS LRRP

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

### TAPS:

**BILL WALTER – MORE COMPLETE INFO NEXT TIME (From RV, Tony Richardson, and Don Bruce).**

From Don Bruce: 8 DECEMBER 2024

Ranger Buds another of old B/75 has gone to Vahalla. Bill Walter has passed away from a battle with Cancer.

Bill got to B/75 in 1972 and went on to 2nd/75th when it stood up. The last time I saw Bill was in 1979/80 at 2<sup>nd</sup>/75<sup>th</sup>, we were both PSG's, me A Co, Bill B Co.

He was a great Ranger Bud, RIP RLTW

Stan Harrell: May he rest in peace

Joe M Zapien: Rest in peace RB, RLTW

James Parker: RIP, Bill you earned it

### JIM JACKSON (From: Stan Harrell):

I have some sad news for the members of VII Corp LRRP: I don't know how many of you remember Jim Jackson from the old company, he was my best man at my wedding, I just found out that he passed away on November 25, 2023 at Ft Benning. Condolences go out to the family.

### IN MEMORIAM: JAMES R. JACKSON

21 October 1937-25 November 2023 (86 years old).

Jim was born in Springfield, Tennessee to James L. and Mildred Strange Jackson. They moved to Peoria, Illinois in 1952. There he married Genevieve Wilhelm in February 1956.

He is survived by his wife, Genevieve, and four daughters:

Kimberly Allen (Bryan); Bren Molitoris (Eric); Tammy Hall (Robert); Vicky Ham (Harold).



His parents preceeded him in death, as did one grandchild (Annabelle Ham).

### FROM JIM:

My wife, Genevieve, and I were happily married for 68 years. My wife and I have four wonderful daughters, fourteen grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. I am proud of my family. I am proud to have served in the United States Army. I am proud to have been a LRRP, a Combat Ranger and a Combat Pathfinder in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), and the share in the Brotherhood of the Band Of Brothers & Airborne Rangers.

After retiring from the Army in 1978, Jim went back to school and obtained his Realtor's License. He further obtained his Broker's License in 1981, and worked as a realtor in Columbus, Georgia for 35 years.

### DECORATIONS AND AWARDS:

NDSM; Good Conduct (6<sup>th</sup> Award); Army Commendation Medal (w/OLC); Bronze Star Medal (w/OLC); Bronze Star w/"V"; Vietnam Service Medal w/Silver & Bronze Star; Vietnam Campaign Medal w/60 Device; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/Palm (2<sup>nd</sup> Award); 6 Overseas Service Bars, Air Medal w/"V" device (w/OLC); US Army Ranger Tab, Expert Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist, Jungle Expert Badge, Scuba Shield, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, German Parachute Badge, Meritorious Service Medal, Pathfinder Torch.

### SCHOOLS & TRAINING:

Basic/ AIT/ Basic Airborne, Pathfinder Course, Demolition Training I, Advanced Weapons Tng, Solvate Weapons Training, Ranger School, Demolition Training II, Scuba Training, Jumpmaster Course, German Parachutist School, Demolition Training III & IV (Underwater Demo), NCO School, Mountain Training, Ski Training (cross-country and downhill), Jungle Warfare School, Infantry Officer Candidate School, MACV Recondo, MACV Advisor Course, Infantry Officer Advanced Course



James R. Jackson

Turn to next page

**UNITS (1958-1978):**

Illinois National Guard (2-1/2 years), THEN: Basic/AIT/ 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Ft. Benning), C/2/504 PIR, 82<sup>nd</sup> ABN, Co.C 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (Korea); Ranger Instructor, US Army Ranger School (Eglin AFB); 2<sup>nd</sup> Bn./30<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Germany); VII Corps LRRP (ABN); Infantry OCS (FT. Benning); Jungle Warfare School (Panama Canal Zone); 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne, Lima Company Rangers (75 Inf.) (RVN); Division Pathfinders, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne (RVN); CO Airborne Company (Ft. Benning, GA); Senior District Advisor, MACV (Republic of Vietnam); 1/30 Infantry, 2<sup>nd</sup> INF (Korea); Ft, Benning.

**EDUCATION:**

University of Maryland (Associates in Business Management); Graduate - Realtors Institute; Real Estate Brokers Course; Certified Residential Specialist Course.

John DeCosta: He put me out the door on my cherry jump.

Willie Mack: I saw him last at one of the reunions. Heaven bound!

**AARON WEAVER – AMERICAN SOLDIER**

You may remember the Patrolling cover photo of Aaron Weaver's daughter at his tombstone in Arlington.

There is now a new book (AMERICAN SOLDIER) by his widow Nancy Weaver dedicated to his memory.

The eBook AND paperback versions are now available on AMAZON by clicking this link:

<https://a.co/d/08m6as26>

"A poignant tribute to a real-life hero, Nancy Weaver's AMERICAN SOLDIER is a powerful story of love, war and the true price of our freedom. Weaver's sparkling prose forever immortalizes one incredible soldier's legacy in this must-read book that grabs your heartstrings and doesn't let go." ~*Dylan Newton, bestselling author of Change of Plans.*

**CHARACTER GUIDANCE**

Bill Mathiak:

Found this old note that 'Sam Story' sent way back when. Stories of the good old days!

Sam Story: While I was there, don't recall a man of the cloth ever showing up at the company. You fellas scared him away. Shame on you.

Theo Knack: There used to be regular meetings for character guidance once a month. It could well be decided that there was no character to guide in the whole bunch.

There was a rumor that the last class was held in the theater next to the PX. Other units on Post were invited. The LRRP Company was in the first three rows. The Chaplain (a Major) thought to start the class with a joke. He started by saying that he was glad to have seen a member from the LRP company in Chapel last Sunday.

This brought a laugh from the audience. Than a shout rang out

from somewhere in the first three rows...

"Who was the son-of-a-bitch? We'll get him!"

That was the end of the class, and the end of "character guidance".

Stan Harrell: I remember that day and how funny it was.

Bill Mathiak: Stan, I was also there. Brought the house down, with laughter. It was Great being a LRP. Still miss those days. I remember that day and how funny it was.

**SITREPS, TAPS & SICK CALL:****DAVE CLARK**

Regarding the burial of CSM David L Clark, at Arlington National Cemetery, we still DO NOT have any confirmation of a date and time certain, nor do we know how much lead time they will provide to inform family, friends, etc. We are in touch with Dave's church in Fayetteville, NC who appreciate that we all want to be in attendance, if at all humanly possible. As soon as we know that date, we will inform you all and arrange a proper rendezvous point and overnight (or longer) stay and LRRP Reunion announcement.

**TIM LEADBEATER**

In late June this year, I started seeing a neurologist to see if he could figure out how to get my right hand and fingers working. Two years earlier I had an anterior cervical dissection fusion (ACDF) of C5, C6, and C7 because of pain radiating down my right arm to my hand which seemed to be connected to a "pinched nerve" in my back. Even more concerning was the fact that I was rapidly losing grip strength, tactile acuity and the fine motor skills in my right hand including my fingers.

Tim had surgery which addressed and relieved the radiating pain issue but not the right hand and finger issues. Presently, I have about 20 pounds of grip strength in my right hand (I'm right handed) and 120 pounds of grip strength in my left hand. I now write like a two-year old because of the loss of fine motor skills in the fingers of my right hand.

So I visited a neurologist for an overall neurological exam followed by nerve tests on all four of my limbs. I also had to get new MRIs with contrast and extensive blood tests. He is renowned as a very thorough neurologist. He is also afflicted with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the white blood cells. He has survived this cancer longer than most and is understandably frail but cognitively sharp as he continues to see patients.

July 16 my wife received a call from this neurologist on her cell phone and after some pleasantries asked if he could speak to me. And so the journey through the valley of the shadow began innocuously on my wife's cell phone. When I asked him how he was doing he said "not so good" and asked if I could put the phone on speaker so Barb could hear. My neurologist then ominously told the two of us that this was a call he dreaded making. He then proceeded to tell us that based on his examination and review of the blood tests he had ordered for me, he believed I had multiple myeloma and that

*Turn to next page*



I had had it for a few years already and that it was the underlying cause of the nerve issues I had been experiencing. Multiple myeloma will destroy your bones. Remember, this bleak news was coming from a medical doctor afflicted with multiple myeloma.

Following this call, we did our best to process the news and decided to keep this information to ourselves at least until I saw the oncologist and we determined my prognosis and what, if any, treatment options I had available. So began my eight day (July 16-24) expedition where I “walked in the valley of the shadow” and “lived like I was dying”. As much as possible, we did everything we normally would do including our three mile walks together on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning, my daily weight training, church on Sunday including our community group on Sunday evening. Monday morning after my weight training I flew our Cirrus SR22 for a couple of hours. I think I did well focusing on all the positive aspects of being given the opportunity to prepare for a departure from this world sooner than expected. I also did a reasonably good job of minimizing the distractions that can accompany a cancer diagnosis. No tears were shed as I waited for Wednesday mornings appointment with the hematology oncologist. The moments I experienced as Wednesday moved inexorably towards me became more granular, more vivid and more precious.

Between the evening of July 16 through to the morning of July 24 and beyond I absorbed a large amount of information about multiple myeloma and cancer in general including the genetic theory of cancer treatment (aka the “standard of care” practiced in virtually all cancer clinics) and the mitochondrial metabolic approach to the prevention and treatment of cancer and other chronic disorders such as diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease. Consistent with the metabolic approach to cancer treatment (which can be done alongside “standard of care” protocols) I quickly changed my diet to reduce my glucose (blood sugar) levels and raise my ketones in an effort to starve the cancer cells. I’ve lost about 15 pounds since July 16 and feel great regardless of how well or poorly the cancer cells are doing as I try to starve them. Apparently, we all have cancer cells in our bodies...some more than others.

More than ever, since July 16, I’ve come appreciate that it is indeed the quality of our lives on which we should focus not the quantity or length of it. However, by focusing on quality, it is likely we will get the quantity or length of life we need. One long term cancer survivor I listened to put it this way: “if we strive to be metabolically, physically, and mentally elite (I would add spiritually elite to the list) even while battling a chronic disease like cancer, the quality of our lives will be optimized for whatever length of time we have.”

Wednesday morning, July 24 finally arrived. I waited in the oncologists exam room for doctor and the coming diagnosis and prognosis. In a sense it would be a relief to get some closure as to my path forward. I girded myself for wherever that path would take me and I was at peace. If the path was short and rocky, I would strive to optimize the quality of that short path knowing that its end is just the beginning of an infinitely more

glorious one.

The hematology oncologist, Dr. XXX, entered the exam room where I waited and simply asked “why are you here?” He had obviously looked at all my blood work. The simply answer was the obvious one, I was there because my neurologist believed I had multiple myeloma based on a marker in one of the blood samples I had given pursuant to a series of blood tests he had ordered for me. Dr. XXX and I discussed my nerve issues including my right hand issues which was why I was seeing the neurologist. Dr. XXX examined me and then calmly told me “I am quite certain you DO NOT HAVE MULTIPLE MYELOMA!”

He said the marker in my blood indicting multiple myeloma shouldn’t be there. He also said it was possible I had MGUS which is a precursor indicator that could develop into multiple myeloma. However MGUS is easily monitored and controlled with only 1% of cases ever developing into full-blown multiple myeloma. At 73, I can handle those odds. This assessment by the oncologist was pleasantly unexpected. Once the doctor left the exam room, I quickly called Barb to let her know what I was just told. Like the initial (incorrect) “sentence” of multiple myeloma by my neurologist, our response to the oncologist’s “pardon” was calm and measured. We didn’t overreact in either situation although we were obviously quite happy with Dr. XXX’s “pardon”. For all its benefits, I can recommend a few days (7-8 days may be optimal) of “living like you’re dying” with an unexpected “pardon” like we experienced. It will forever change you.

I’ve attached the link to Tim McGraw’s song “Live Like You Were Dying” which was the theme song for the 2008 movie “The Bucket List” featuring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson. Both the song and the movie are very good.

Cheers !



*Tim Relaxing. Photo by Tim Leadbeater*

Stay warm, stay safe, stay healthy... To Absent Friends:

Until next time... V/R:

Marc L. Thompson, Unit Director

# ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

## Fellow Rangers and Co Vans

It is with great sadness that I am announcing the passing of another of our great rangers. Willard J. Langdon, Sept 16, 1936-January 30, 2025.

Willard J. Langdon, 88, was called to his heavenly home on Thursday January 30, 2025. He was born on September 16, 1936, to the late Vadie Adams Langdon and Willard Vance Langdon.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 37 years, Margaret Keley Langdon; daughter Jan (Brad); sons Curtis Kesler (Angie) and Kevin Kesler (Ryse); Grandchildren Bradley Sosebee (Liz), Kristopher Sosebee (Kacie), Brittany Kesler, Ellie (Matt) Miller, Grace Kesler, and Matt Kesler (Victoria); great grandchildren, Bradley Anson, Marcus, and Liam Sosebee; Carson and Austin Sosebee; MJ and Darla Kesler; and many beloved sisters-in-law, and brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews.

Willard was preceded in death by his sisters. Lois Langdon Crumpler and Annie Jean Phelps, as well as his aunt Bessie S. Langdon Johnson.

He was known for his storytelling, unmistakable laugh, and generous spirit. He took any opportunity to brag about those he loved, especially his grandkids. He loved being "Papa."

Willard was proud to have served as an Army Ranger and Pathfinder, retired as a Master Sergeant, and was a distinguished Member of the Ranger Training Brigade.

In his service to his country, he was awarded the following: The Republic Of Vietnam Campaign Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palm, The Meritorious Service Medal, The Ranger Tab, The Master Parachutist Badge, the Armed Forces Meritorious Service Medal, The Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and Oak leaf Cluster.



Throughout his life he was conscientious, motivated, and devoted leader. In peacetime, his career took him to Germany and Korea, where he gained professional experience; he was a Platoon Sergeant in the initial forced entry unit into the Dominican Republic, leading a "green" platoon into harm's way. In 1968 he was the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the 37<sup>th</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalion during the siege of Khe Sanh. He set the standard for self-discipline and courage under fire.

Later while serving as Platoon and First Sergeant with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade, 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Airmobile), he led his troops into combat around Fire Base Veghel.

In every assignment, his professional competence came to the forefront. At Mountain Ranger Camp, he served two tours as a member of the Patrolling Committee: followed by his selection of NCOIC of the Mountaineering Committee. Six months later he became the initial Ranger-Qualified First Sergeant of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ranger Company.

Upon his retirement he embarked on a new career in Law Enforcement, serving as a Deputy Sheriff and State Probation Officer. Willard is a founding member of the Mountain Ranger Camp and served as its chaplain. He authored the books "Law Enforcement in Hall County, 1818-1980" and "Law Enforcement in Hall County 1818-2010."

A bit of a Renaissance man, Willard had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. He was a



*Willard J. Langdon*

pilot and a guitarist, a proud family and church man, and a firm believer in self-reflection. He often spoke of how he felt to be invited to Mountain View Baptist Church, where he grew in love with his savior, Jesus Christ, and his beautiful, devoted wife Margaret.

Together Willard and Margaret made an industrious and formidably knowledgeable team in the community with their music, creativity, service, and generosity. Many people have been blessed to hear them lead worship with Margaret singing and Willard strumming the guitar.

Willard was an eager teacher, excited to share his expertise, especially with his nieces and nephews, with whom he spent many hours teaching guitar. A passionate communicator, he would discuss God, politics and whatever he was researching with whomever was up to the task. Willard was great at connecting with people, letting them know how very proud he was to know them, and never missed an opportunity to cheer others on or challenge them to a high standard.

For a man who rode many of the waves of significant change over the last eight decades in our great nation, he didn't let the difficulties keep him down. While we will miss his big grin, appreciative laugh, and love, we are blessed to hold Willard's legacy of learning, resilience, community, and faith.

The family wishes to thank those who provided in-home care, as well as the dear ladies at Golden Corral who have been so kind to lavish care and kindness to Willard over the years.

He loved God; he loved his family; He loved his country; He was a giver and a good provider.

Funeral Services were held February 4, 2025, and an interment will be at Memorial Park Cemetery.

For those wishing to make a gift in memoriam, please consider contributing to:

Flat Creek Baptist Church Building Fund (Gainesville) or Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research.

It was an honor and privilege to have served with Willard and above all to call him a friend.

Bill

#### New Address:

My wife and I have finally downsized. Could not pay to heat and cool three rooms that we never used; So, the new address is; 8080 Snelling Drive, Aiken, SC 29803.

#### Quotes:

Hear are some quotes from Bob Hope a great supporter of the U.S. Military

#### On turning 70

"I still chase women, but only downhill."

#### On Golf

"Golf is my profession. Show business is just to pay the green fees."

#### On Presidents

"I have performed for 12 presidents but entertained only six."

#### On his early failures

"I would not have had anything to eat if it wasn't for the stuff the audience threw at me."

Biet Dong Quan Sat!

Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director

#### Continued Sanez story from page 16

I think there might have been four to five N.V.A. soldiers on our left flank. Sgt. Smith motioned for the team to sit down, and don't move. He put his index finger to his lips warning us not to make a sound. As the team leader grabbed the radio from Munoz to call in a situation report that is when all hell broke loose across the river. We could hear loud noises like, *boom, boom, rat ta ta ta, bam, bam* along with loud explosions from another team across the river that just made contact with an unknown enemy force. We heard small arms fire going off all at once in the distance. Cobra gunships were firing their 7.62 m.m. mini guns, 40 m.m. grenade launchers, and rockets.

What happened was a U.S. Recon Team was sitting down taking a break when N.V.A. soldiers walked right into their position. Unexpectedly Sgt. Smitty grabbed for the horn, and with fear in his voice told Windy Guard six, Captain Eklund, our Company Commander to be advised "Tango 20 has been compromised." He said, "We've got little people in our A.O. We need immediate extraction A.S.A.P. This is URGENT, repeat URGENT!" A few seconds later Squelch broke on the radio. The voice on the other end said, "Negative tango 20. The reactionary force is assigned to another team in contact with a large group of N.V.A. All of our

helicopter support units are engaged in extracting other teams out of the field right now. We understand your dire situation. You are to sit tight in place until we can get to you. Give us your grid ordinance, and do not move. Hang in there, and we will get back to you shortly." I stood up on the big boulder once again looking in the direction of the enemy to our left flank. I stood there for 2 to 3 minutes hoping desperately to see the elephant grass moved, but it didn't.

Now I' am not sure if they were still there, or not. We sat there for hours listening to the sound of the river's current pass us by. Wondering what the hell is going to happen next. It was getting dark as the sun was sitting on the horizon. It was a nice relief from the hot sun beating down on us all day. We were still waiting as it became pitch black out. When the hell are they going to call? I was still wondering if the enemy was still hiding, and waiting for us in the elephant grass, Smitty had turned the radio down so low we almost missed our transmission. The team leader grabbed the handset. The voice on the radio belonged to W.T. Grant as he said, "Tango 20. This is the Kingsman 1-8 on station. Be advised we are enroute to your location at this time. Over. Be advised all lights on the helicopter will be tuned off for our protection. We are coming in blind. We will need one of you to stand in the middle of the river holding up a flashing strobe light so *Continue to page 45*



# D/151st/LRP/LRS

Unit Director C. Larry Rhodes



Larry Rhodes spring 69

## In Memorial of Our Deceased Brothers

### Breakfast Schedules

Southern Indiana Rangers meet the last Friday of each month at the

Carousel Restaurant, 5115 Monroe Ave, Evansville IN 47715. Gather time is 9:00 AM CST.

Central Indiana Rangers meet the third Thursday of each month at Lincoln Square Pancake House, 118 W Main St, Greenfield IN 46140. Gather time is 9:00 AM EST.

## I REMEMBER (SHORT STORIES)

### *Snake on my back*

For this mission, unbeknownst to the team prior to insertion, the trail we were to monitor was in an area that had been sprayed with Agent Orange, everything was brown, and we were dressed in green camouflage; hard to hide. We found a thick bamboo thicket. Set up in the middle of it to get our bearings. After a few minutes, the team leader pointed his M-16 at me, and whispered "don't move"! I didn't! I thought there was a gook behind me, but out of the conner of my eye, I saw a small bamboo viper crawling off my rucksack. We moved immediately back into the green part of the jungle for the rest of the mission. Larry Rhodes Team 26.

### *Happiness is a belt fed weapon*

I carried the M-60 machine gun. I made a box out of a metal ammo box to mount on the side that would hold 100 rounds. I carried 800 rounds, and 4 other guys carried 200 rounds apiece for me.

Went out in the field 34 times and had contact 13 times.1600 rounds worked out pretty well and the M 60 it never quit on me once. I liked it because every fifth round was a tracer. You could see where you were firing without aiming.

The only bad thing is I am left-handed and before you started firing it you want to make sure you had the top button of your shirt buttoned up so none of those hot shell casings would go down your shirt. When you had it rockin and rolling, it made you feel like you had a lot of power. Like my Ranger Buddy Phil Cravens always said, "Happiness is a belt fed weapon."

Chuck Wallace Team 33



## WHAT WAS THE INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD DOING IN VIETNAM?

On 11 April 1968, in an effort to show strength in Vietnam after the February TET Offensive, President Lyndon B. Johnson mobilized a small portion of the National Guard; about 13,000. Of those, about 7000 were deployed to Vietnam.

On May 13, 1968, **Company D (LRRP) 151st Infantry Airborne**, departed Indianapolis, Indiana, with 8 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 195 enlisted men and convoyed or flew to Fort

Benning, Georgia. Upon reaching Fort Benning, Company D was attached to **5th Battalion, 31st Infantry, 197th Infantry Brigade**, and stationed at Kelly Hill. Each member was already **Airborne qualified** and recent graduates of the Army's **Jungle School** at Ft Sherman Panama. The company underwent 26 more weeks of intense unit and individual training, including the Army's Ranger, Pathfinder, Jump Master, Radio School, and other specialized training. In addition to the training at Fort Benning, Company D received additional training from British and Australian Special Air Service personnel at Eglin Air Force Base, Florida, where the Indiana Guardsmen learned advanced patrolling and tracking techniques. The entire company spent one week each at the three different Ranger school locations.

On December 20, 1968, an advance team of 6 men departed Ft Benning to set up Company D's new home, Camp Atterbury (EAST), located adjacent to the 199th Infantry's Camp Frenzell-Jones, in Long Binh, a ward in Biên Hòa, Đồng Nai Province, Republic of Vietnam. On December 28, 1968, the remainder of the company, left Fort Benning's Lawson Army Airfield on C-141A Starlifters in three groups and arrived in Vietnam on December 30, 1968.

Once in country, D-151st received a one-week orientation course that included rigorous physical training and heat acclimation with the 199th Infantry Brigade. Starting in early January 1969, Company D began four more weeks of intensive, mission-specific training with members of **Company F (LRP), 51st Infantry (Airborne)**, which had been reluctantly deactivated. Several men (thankfully) of F 51st were transferred to D 151st to serve out the remainder of their 12-month tours.

February 1, 1969, the company was deemed fit and operational for patrol. *Continued on the next page*

At this time, the commander of F 51st Major George M. Heckman, a West Point Graduate, former Special Forces instructor and executive officer of the Military Assistance Command Recondo School at Nha Trang, took command of Company D. Over the next months, several members attended the elite three-week Recondo School course training in the art of long-range reconnaissance patrolling.

Also on February 1, 1969, all thirteen LRRP companies in Vietnam were disengaged as Ranger Companies of the 75th Ranger Regiment. The exception was that the fourteenth company, D 151st, would be designated as the 151st Rangers. After that, patrols went from Recon to Capture/Kill missions in areas of the southern War Zone D in the Long Khanh and Bien Hoa Provinces. They also conducted patrols along the trails adjacent to the Song Dong Ngai and Song Be Rivers and ran patrols through the area known as the Iron Triangle. The main mission was to be the eyes and ears of areas on the northern approaches to the world's busiest airport at Bien Hoa. The AO encompassed approximately 125 square miles in portions of the Bien Hoa, Binh Duong, Phuoc Long, Long Khanh and Hau Nghia provinces.

Company D worked closely with members of the **117th Assault Helicopter Company**, nicknamed the "**Annie Fannys**." The **117th Huey's** assisted with the insertion and extraction of D 151 and often did so under heavy fire. Company D was also supported by the **Cobras** of the **334th Armed Helicopter Company**, aka "**Playboys**". Both companies were part of the **145th Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade**.

The relay of communications back to D 151 tactical operations center in Long Binh was accomplished with the help of single engine Cessna's of the **74th Reconnaissance Aviation Company**. The men of the 74th were the first to know of any problems with the patrols and if they made contact with the enemy. The brave men in all three aviation units contributed to the outstanding record held by the Indiana Rangers during their tour in Vietnam; much of the work done by D 151st could not have been accomplished without the help of these units.

During D 151st time in Vietnam, it conducted 974 patrols, killed over 200 enemy combatants. We lost seven men, four were KIA, one drowned in training, and two perished in a helicopter crash. In addition, four men of the 117th also died in the helicopter crash, along with a II Field Force Artillery officer.

On November 20, 1969, the remaining 74 National Guard members of D 151st were shipped from their base camp at Long Binh to Bien Hoa to begin preparations for the company's return to Indiana. On the same day, the Army activated **Company D, 75th Infantry (Ranger)**, to replace it and assume D 151st missions in

South Vietnam. In celebration of the company's return home, Indiana Governor Edgar G. Whitcomb declared November 26, 1969, as "Unity Day" and ordered that all state and county offices be closed in recognition of Company D's return home. A ceremony celebrating their arrival was held at the Indianapolis Indiana Tyndall Armory that same afternoon, and Company D was awarded a key to the city by Indianapolis Mayor Richard Lugar.

The men of **Company D (Ranger), 151st Infantry (Airborne)**, exited the Vietnam War having been decorated 538 times, more than any other Army infantry company during anyone-year period in Vietnam. Their awards and decorations included: 19 Silver Stars, 1 Soldiers Medal, 123 Bronze Stars (88 with "V" device for valor), 101 Purple Hearts, 111 Air Medals, and 183 Army Commendation Medals (29 with "V" device). Company D also received credit for the following campaigns: Counteroffensive Phase VI, Tet 69/Counteroffensive, Winter-Spring 1969, and Summer-Fall 1969

**MEMORIAL LIST OF D COMPANY (RANGER) AIRBORNE  
151ST INF**

**GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

**\* KIA Vietnam    \*\* Before Vietnam    \*\*\* After Vietnam**

Charles Klarkins*	1969 Feb 11
Robert T Smith*	1969 Apr 12
Peter F Fegatelli*	1969 May 10
Bishop Skip Baranowski*	1969 Jul 08
George LKleiber*	1969 Sep 04
Kenneth Thomas Cummings*	1969 Sep 04
"Iron Mike Reitz* and Crew	1969 Sep 04
Layne Connevey* (Crew)	1969 Sep 04
John Klingen* (Crew)	1969 Sep 04
Richard Stanley* (Crew)	1969 Sep 04
Reginald Begnoche* (Crew)	1969 Sep 04
Antonio "Tony" Garza*	1969 Oct 03



*D 151 members in training at Ft Benning in fall of 1968. Notice the M-14 rifle stack.*

*Next Page*

## MEMORIAL LIST - Continued \* KIA Vietnam \*\* Before Vietnam \*\*\*After Vietnam

UD- C. Larry Rhodes

Company D (Ranger) 151st Airborne / 151st LRS INF Det / Co C 152nd LRS

Marvin D Tucker**	1969 Jan 17	Max E Anderson***	2010 Dec 15
James Merritt***	1974 July	Brian Brady***	2011 Apr 13
Kenneth D Jackson***	1978 Oct 05	David M. Capik***	2011 Aug 15
Carl D DeLong***	1983 Feb 24	David W Drysdale***	2011 Aug 30
Dennis E Schmitt***	1992 Jul 27	Richard A Rayburn***	2012 Aug 27
Kenneth W Himsel**	1992 Nov 12	John E Mason***	2012 Sep 13
Cordell Moore***	1996 May 05	Charles V Eads***	2012 Nov 04
Marc G Cunningham***	1996 Aug 18	King C "KC" Thompson***	2012 Dec 20
Gene Hooker***	1996 Oct 21	LeRoy Richardson***	2013 Feb 04
Robert Janiszkeski***	1997 Jan 29	Marvin E Carey***	2013 Jun 23
Glynn R Barber***	1998 Nov 13	Leon L Moore***	2013 Aug 12
Richard D Kingen***	1999 Jun 11	Bruce R Bennett***	2013 Aug 29
Philip L Alexander***	1999 Aug 08	Jimmy E Smithee***	2014 Jul 05
Travis L Smith***	2000 May 07	Darrell C Holder***	2014 Jul 27
Jimmy Worley***	2001 Sep 07	William J "Bill" Schoettmer***	2014 Sep 25
Randy F Kuhn***	2001 Dec 16	Jerry D Gooding***	2015 Jan 12
James R Hunt***	2002 Oct 25	Walter S Hasty***	2015 Mar 31
Terry A Avery***	2003 Mar 04	Edwin E. Mercer***	2 015 May 08
Dale L Riley***	2003 Jun 02	Michael W Bronnenberg***	2015 May 18
Rusty Hawk***	2004 Dec 15	Darrell Ray Embry***	2 015 Dec 03
Peter Trepak***	2006 Jan 30	Jerome R "Jerry" Bedel***	2016 Feb 06
Everett H "Bubba" Grant***	2006 May 28	Gene Hendricks***	2016 Nov 08
Harry D Moschel***	2006 July 20	James H Wicks***	2016 Nov 15
Roger A Hayden***	2007 Feb 06	Philip G Cravens***	2016 Dec 21
Daniel W. Shaw***	2007 May 06	David L Mallory***	2017 Feb 01
William E Butler***	2007 July 09	Thomas E Winstead, Sr.***	2017 May 28
Noble M Cox***	2007 Dec 05	Richard A Marks***	2017 Jun 14
Danny Crownover***	2008 Jan 02	Thomas D Harte***	2017 Aug 14
Daniel J Humphries***	2008 Mar 17	Dickey Lee Myers***	2018 Mar 14
Roger R Mohr***	2008 Aug 16	James H Webb***	2018 Apr 11
Gerald E Brantley***	2009 Dec 12	Lawrence E "Ed" Kelle***	2018 Oct 11
Thomas L Razor***	2010 Jan 13	Joseph Wayne Phelps***	2018 Nov 23
James M Agnew***	2010 Jan 22	Charles Ray Keeney***	2019 Jan 03
Harold L (Bud) Hargrave***	2010 Feb 20		
Stephen R Thompson***	2010 Mar 01		
Vincent Accardy***	2010 Sep 19		
Robert W "Bob" Ramey***	2010 Oct 17		
Charles D Eickleberry***	2010 Nov 18		

List Continued on the next page



Jim Wicks with M-60

Thomas C Bailey***	2023 Dec 21
Charles E Hawhee***	2024 Jan 24
David Edward Bowling***	2024 Feb 23
Ronald E Himsel***	2024 Nov 22
Curtis E Hester ***	2024 Dec 01
Lynn LaVon Shultz***	2024 Oct 17
Ronald E Himsel***	2024 Nov 22
Curtis Eugene Hester***	2024 Dec 01
James Lee Bohanan***	2024 Dec 08
Jack Blarvis***	2024 Dec 30
David Michael Cates***	2025 Jan 17

James B Rawlinson***	2019 Jan 23
Larry M Bruce***	2019 Mar 30
Robert L "Butch" Lewis***	2019 Apr 07
Thomas J Worthington***	2019 Jun 03
Ronald J Kegel***	2019 Jun 08
Harry Eugene Thompson***	2019 Jul 14
Michael D Lee***	2019 Sep 19
William F. "Pappy" Hayes***	2020 Jan 10
William W. "Billy" Waters***	2021 Mar 07
Ronnie K. Terrell***	2021 Apr 10
Jack E. Lloyd***	2021 Apr 25
Michael Wayne Hart***	2021 May 05
Jimmie Lee Boykins***	2021 Nov 06
Keith Otto "Lurch" Morris***	2021 Nov 11
Charles Edmund "Sonny" Schott***	2022 Jan 04
James E Johnson***	2022 Jan 22
Kaiser Thomas Sterbinsky***	2022 Jun 08
Thomas R Blandford***	2022 Jul 17
Bernardus GM "Ben" Vanderlinden***	2022 Dec 24
Eugene Robert Cunniff***	2023 Jan 19
Richard "Bear" Papp***	2023 Jan 22
Joe Bennett Gentry***	2023 Mar 19
Donald Fredrick Burnham***	2023 Mar 20
Robert DMcIntire***	2023 Jun 12
William "Bill" Glenn Austin***	2023 Dec 01
Richard Leonard Lowes***	2023 Jun 13

LRS		
Christopher A	Bowden**	1994 Oct 14
Christian A.	Robinson**	1995 Sep 03
Robert Michael	Torres-Reid**	2003 Jan 03
Jeffrey Allen	McLochlin*	2006 Jul 05
	* KIA Afghanistan	



D 151 members in training in first two weeks in Vietnam with M-16 rifles and new ruck sacks.



Notice strap added to 60 for convenient carrying and firing.

Left- Chuck Wallace who wrote Happiness is a belt fed weapon.



February 1968, all members of D 151 attended this school in Panama Canal Zone



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DUANE ALIRE

This list may not be complete due to my record keeping errors or the fact that we were not informed of the passing of a member. We encourage families to let us know of the passing of any of our members and to share their photographs and stories with us.

**From Our Archives** – Former 1LT Prescott Smith (Smitty) remembers Ray Michael Gallardo (March 25, 1949 - February 8, 1972) (S SGT, BSM, PH) in our June 2000 unit newsletter. Gallardo was wounded in late December 1968 and died, we believe, from complications from his wounds in 1972. Smitty's, gently edited, letter in his own words to Hilan Jones, then editor, of our newsletter dated June 2000 reads: "Thanks for the note and information on our unit's KIA roster. Their birthdates and the day that we lost them serve as a sober reminder of the supreme sacrifice that they paid.



(L to R) Ray Gallardo and Poncho 1968



I also, visited Ray Gallardo in the hospital in Dong Tam. I had a unique relationship with him, in that we attended MACV RECONDO School together in March of '68. He was a brash, confident, intelligent kid who was fearless and loved life. I was actually with him when the doctor told him that they would have to take his leg. I'll never forget that moment and the emotion that I felt.

I pretended to be strong and tried to draw some kind of spiritual meaning from what had happened. We talked about our families and expressed the love that we felt. We both admitted our fears and doubts. He told me about differ-

ences he and his father had experienced when he was growing up and admitted how much he loved his Dad.

When I returned to the States from Viet Nam in January '69, I went to Letterman Hospital in San Francisco to see Ray. He told me that most of the people in the hospital were sitting around feeling sorry for themselves and he didn't intend to be that way. He was scheduled to be fitted for his new leg and be released the next week.

Because he was from the San Francisco Bay area, a steady stream of visitors had been by to see him in the three plus weeks he had been at Letterman. He told me that he could tell that everyone who had come by to see him acted like they felt sorry for him and that made him feel angry.

The next week I had dinner at Ray's house in Lafayette, California and met his parents for the first time. They were very nice. His father was a Professor at San Francisco State University and was not at all like Ray had described him. He was very quiet and easy to be around. You could tell how very proud he was of Ray. That evening is one that I will never forget and strangely enough is the last time that I ever saw Ray or communicated with him.

For the next ten years of my life, I tried to forget Viet Nam. I did not communicate with anyone I had served with and did not talk about the war. Many years later, as I began to revisit the experiences of Viet Nam and discovered that I had no phone numbers or addresses, so I couldn't find anyone. The Internet changed all that as I began my search to rediscover myself. It wasn't until I found Duane "Poncho" Alire in 1996, that I discovered that Ray had passed away in the early 70'. The feeling that I had when Poncho told me that was very depressing. I thought of all the years of self-appointed exile and how much of a selfish waste it all was.





(L to R) Poncho, Mike O'Day and 1Lt Smith FSB David 1968

The reunions I've attended in the past few years with E Company and the Rangers have changed all that. I wish we could have been there for each other more over the past thirty years.

But the important thing now is that because of the efforts of you, Jonesy, and others we are there for each other now. Thanks again for the note. Prescott

We were attached to D Troop, 3/5 CAV which was under the command of Major William Kahier. The 3/5 CAV was organized as a division reconnaissance unit and referred to informally as a "bastard unit", meaning unassigned to anyone officially but helped out everywhere". They (we) had to get our supplies from anywhere we could find them. Captain James Tedrick took command of the LRRPs in December 1966.

We deployed to Vietnam in two groups. I was in the first group. I remember Mike Patrick, Don Ferraro, Tom Kloack, Lonnie Johnson, Ed Kulcavage and Dave Moss. We traveled on an Air Force C-141. The plane was windowless with canvas seats that faced backwards. We were given a blanket to keep warm because there was no heat on the plane, and we put cigarette filters in our ears to try and dampen the noise. After several stops en route, the plane landed at Tan Son Nhut Air Base on January 3, 1967. Stepping out of the plane into the heat was like a punch in the face especially after freezing in the airplane for a couple of days. We were met by First Sergeant Phillip Ponsarella and Sergeant E-5 Lynn Miles\*. They transported the group to Camp Bearcat, our home base, in a couple of two and half ton trucks. We were housed in tents with dirt floors and given WW11 era C-rations for dinner.

The next day we were on our way to Nha Trang to attend the MACV RECONDO School - said to be the toughest school in the army at that time. It was very difficult and challenging. I passed the physical test but flunked the map test. I was immediately returned to Bearcat.

**Historical Reflection by E50 LRRP, Robert Hernandez.** I joined the army on May 3, 1966, and after basic and AIT, was sent to the newly reactivated 9<sup>th</sup> ID at Fort Riley, KA. One day I saw a sign on the bulletin board asking for volunteers for a newly formed unit called the long-range reconnaissance patrol. No other information was given so I asked my platoon sergeant what that was all about and he told me not to volunteer because I would be killed for sure in Vietnam. Without hesitation I went to the first sergeant and volunteered. About a week later on November 14, 1966, I returned from being on bivouac with B Company 2/47- still in dirty fatigues when my first sergeant told me there were two officers who wanted to interview me for the LRRPs. They were 2Lt Rick Stetson and 2Lt Edwin Garrison.

The following night after chow a jeep showed up to take me to join the LRRPs. I arrived at about 1900 at their barracks with about 18-25 guys inside but no one to report to. Edward Kulcavage showed me to a bunk at the end of the old WWII barracks where I met Fred Jenkins and Lonnie Johnson.

In the morning 2Lt Stetson and 2Lt Garrison came to me and welcomed me into the unit and we then did PT in the snow.

After breakfast we were told to prepare to go to the Jungle Warfare School in Panama and left on the night of November 16, 1966. I didn't have much time to meet the other guys because at that point we were comingled with the guys from the aero-rifle platoon - D Troop 3/5 Cavalry who were also going to train in Panama. I do remember two staff sergeants Meeks, and Pitts who remained in the unit for a short time in Vietnam.

The Jungle Warfare School was a 2-week course but the LRRPs stayed an extra week to train. We returned to Fort Riley and were given two weeks' leave for Christmas.



Hernandez in Washington DC May 20

Later, I was sent back to RECONDO School a second time and upon successful completion of the course was flunked again for *lacking confidence* in myself while on the combat mission and for questioning an instructor about his actions on the mission.



Hernandez in Vietnam 1967

Editor's Notes: \*SGT Lynn Leroy Miles was KIA on January 29, 1967. Bob Hernandez served as E50/E75 Unit Director from 2019 - 2023 and currently serves as Deputy E50/E75 UD.



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN MCGEE

## Company F Patrolling

This issue will be quick and easy.

Ranger reunion is being held in Savannah, Ga. From 19-23 May, they have arranged a room blockage at the Hilton Garden Inn, Savannah Mid-Town and the IHG Army Inn at Hunter Army Airfield.



Please make your room reservations before April 20, 2025, to secure the special rate. The Number for the IHG Army Inn is 912-355-1060.

This is a chance to be with old friends. None of us is getting any younger so these reunions become more and more important. I hope to see you there.

John McGee



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



UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART

Most of us depend on the Veterans Administration for our health care. I don't know how the rest of our military generation would rate the VA as far as health care goes, and it this is based upon only my experiences, and it has changed from my perspective, but my care has been first rate after a few bumps in the road.

I started my VA experience sometime around 1973 when I learned I could get some dental care since there was no opportunity while in the Army. I was clueless regarding VA health services and years later I discovered I could get health care. My first experience was not good as my first primary care physician did not seem to care about my care and if I had seen him 10 days in a row, he would not recognize me. My father-in-law, a WWII Vet was a regular at the VA and I often took him to his VA appointments. I saw a completely different experience with his primary care doc and saw that he was a caring, highly competent professional who took excellent care of my father-in-law. In talking with my father-in-law's doctor, I mentioned my disappointment with my primary care doc and he immediately told me that I was now his patient and that was the beginning of great health care.

Since my primary care physician change, I have had excellent VA treatment. Like most older folks (that is us), I have more health issues than I had a few years ago. My most recent health issue started on August 1, 2024. During my visit with my kidney doc, she said all is well and then she said, let me listen to your heart before you leave. After listening to my heart, she said I had AFIB and called a Cardiac Physician to her office and my life became a little more complicated. I had never heard of "AFIB," so I did not have a clue as to what was going on. Five months later, I had a heart Ablation that corrected my issue. After 5 months of a lot of medical appointments and a lot of meds, I no longer have AFIB



and the surgery "fixed" my issue. Throughout the entire process, everyone with the VA was great and interested in my health issues and I was treated very well.

I know that many of you have had medical issues with VA care, and I hope your experiences were as good as mine. Everyone I was dealing with was kind, considerate, and patient in explaining what needed to be done. My experiences with VA care have been very positive and I greatly appreciate our VA Health care.

**Taps:**

**Joseph Edward Cope**

August 15, 1947 - January 28, 2025



Joseph Edward Cope, 77, of Manchester, MD, formerly of Beltsville, MD, passed away on January 28, 2025, at Carroll Hospital Center in Westminster, MD. Born August 15, 1947, in Detroit, MI, he was the son of the late Jesse Cope and Pauline Henrietta Kuhn Cope. He was the beloved husband of 53 years to Marilyn Frances Cope.

Joseph was a proud veteran of the United States Army and served in the Vietnam War. He retired from working in secure communications for the Secretary of Treasury in 2002. He was a jack of all trades and a very hard worker. Joseph built the family house many years ago and was an all-around build-it and fix-it type of man.

*Next page*

Surviving him in addition to his wife are children: Shellene Cope and husband William Dennis, and Bryan Cope, grandchildren: Wesley Cope, Brandon Murphy, and Cadin Cope, and brother: Dave Cope.

A memorial gathering was held on Wednesday, February 5, from 12-1 pm, at the ECKHARDT FUNERAL CHAPEL, P.A., 3296 Charmil Drive, Manchester, MD, where a memorial service began at 1 pm.

Interment was private.

Joe served with E Co. 51st Inf of the 196th in Vietnam during the period of June 67 to June 68. They were based out of Chu Lai.

**Richard Scott Corkan Sr**, age 79, departed this area of operations (AO) for the last time on February 4, 2025, in Columbia, MO. He was born on July 17, 1945, in White Bluff, TN.



Richard leaves behind the love of his life, Dr. JoJo Corkan of Success, MO. They met and married in 1978, embarking on a remarkable journey together, their shared sense of adventure and curiosity took them across the United States and Europe, including several years living in Germany before returning

home. Richard was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, shaping the lives of five children, multiple grandchildren, and great grandchildren; all of whom knew him as "Dad" or "Opa." In geographical order, among his loved ones are Dale Noey and Lisa Noey of Success, MO; Robbie Teague Hoy of Fayetteville, AR; Jeff and Scarlett Doby and their daughters, Haley and Riley (deceased) of Oxford, AL; Katrina and Richard Scott Corkan Jr. and their children of Centerville, TN; Kenneth Scott Hoelscher of Charolette, NC; Adrian and Jamie Rose Frank of Havelock, NC; and Roseann and Emmitt Neal Noey of Maine, along with their three children, Crystal Dawn, Trisha Renee, and Matthew Noey, as well as their spouses and children.

Richard lived an extraordinary life, beginning as the beloved only

son of Rubie Martin Corkan and John Thomas "Jack" Corkan of White Bluff, TN. His father preceded him in death in 2017.

Richard was blessed with three sisters, and he will likely be greeted in Heaven by his sister, Carol Corkan Thompson. Carol's husband, Bren, remains in White Bluff, TN, as does Richard's sister, Peggy Corkan Heath. His sister, Kaye Corkan Wilkerson, resides in Nashville, TN with her husband, Ed. Richard also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews who will forever cherish his memory.

Though Richard had no biological brothers, he found brotherhood in the U.S. Army. He began his Army career as a tank mechanic, radar tech. As a private E-1 in Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD. He then PCS'd to Alaska where he qualified as Airborne and enjoyed skydiving in his off time. His Airborne status followed in his father's footsteps as a WWII paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne. His next assignment was to Korea where he chose to volunteer for Vietnam in 1969. In country, he voluntarily attended the Chu Lai Ranger school. As an Airborne Ranger, his mission was to gather intelligence for the Americal Division. As a team leader he ran six-man patrols behind enemy lines for 22 months, before PSC'ing to Fort Polk, LA, where he trained troops preparing them to deploy to Vietnam. He continued his Army career with assignments to Fort Bliss, Panama, Fort Campbell, and then to Germany.

Out of 20 years of service, he spent 13 of them overseas. Among his fellow Airborne brothers, he was known by his nicknames, "Corky" and "Boots." Richard earned a Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star with Second Oak leaf cluster, Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Palm and numerous other medals, honors and awards; a testament to his bravery and dedication.

He retired as a Sergeant First Class, E-7 and then earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from Jacksonville State University. He continued his service as a GS civilian, teaching marijuana eradication and booby trap techniques to law enforcement agencies nationwide before retiring from civil service. In retirement, Richard remained engaged with the E Co 75th Ranger Association and the LRRP Ranger Association, and was an active member of Palace Union Church in Plato, MO.

Richard would not have wanted anyone to mourn his passing with sorrow. Instead, he would have reminded us that, "The Big Ranger in the Sky said it was my time." His legacy of love, strength, and service will live on in the hearts of all who knew him. The Ranger motto, "Sua Sponte" (Of Their Own Accord), served him well.

A visitation was held for Richard at Palace Union Church on February 10, 2025, from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. A funeral service followed at 11:30. Richard will be buried at the Missouri Veterans Cemetery at Fort Leonard Wood with full military honors. Funeral arrangements are under the care of Evans Funeral Home of Houston, MO. Online condolences may be left at [evanf.com](http://evanf.com).



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—BENNIE GENTRY



Pete Dencker

Most of you have heard about Mike Echterling's situation – here's a note from our current Chapter President...

## TRIBUTE TO MIKE ECHTERLING

We have just learned that Mike's cancer has

advanced to the stage that no further treatment will be administered. Mike is a cofounder of our group and served as our first president after organizing as a chapter. He and his wife, Bonnie, spent many hours locating and attempting to locate those who served in our units in Vietnam.

They were very successful as the extent of our roster exemplifies. They also originated our newsletter to include typing and mailing. Bonnie deserves credit for much of the "legwork" involved. We pray that Mike is spared from as much suffering as possible and know that our thoughts and prayers are with Bonnie as well. Thank you, Mike, and Bonnie.

I would also like to thank all E/H Company brothers who sent notes and greetings – I will try to get all of those in the Newsletter which should be out in the next few weeks. Without Mike and Bonnie this organization would never have become what it is today – and may never have even started. Thanks to the both of them for having the drive – the vision - for investing the time, energy, and effort to keep us together as a group that's played an important part of our lives post-Vietnam.

### The Prayer of a Ranger

"Great God as a Ranger I am called upon in combat to complete difficult and demanding tasks requiring the full commitment of mind and strength. May my performance of these important duties be a reflection of my devotion to you and my dependence on you.

As I and my fellow Rangers continually condition our bodies, sharpen our reactions, and quicken our reflexes, and as we train to fulfill our assigned missions let us train in our religious lives as well that we continue our growth to being men of full dimension.

Oh Lord! May I know you as my comrade whether I'm in the AO, at the base camp, (and throughout my life) be the unseen member of my Ranger Team when we are inserted in hazardous and hostile areas and when we live with Danger. Speak to me through the stillness ending any loneliness or fear I may have. Be



there beside me, my Master, and when I know the relief of being extracted from the AO and flown away to safety, or when my last mission on this earth is complete, may my heart fill with gratitude and thankfulness in knowing again your mercy and care.

Give me an awareness of my Ranger buddies around me that I might not live just for myself but that each Rangers need and concern may become a challenge for me to meet and supply.

O Lord! Watch over the men of E/52<sup>nd</sup>/H75th Rangers here in Vietnam and throughout life as we "Lead the Way" in fulfillment of our motto, and may we also follow the one who said, "I am the way".

Great God! Hear this prayer of a Ranger who knows that of all my challenges, being your son is the greatest challenge, responsibility, and privilege of all.

Hear this my prayer, I a Ranger In my Master's name - Amen

Also wanted to remind everyone about our upcoming H Company reunion which will be held in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry reunion in Reno.

The First Cavalry Division Association invites you to join the rest of the First Team Family in Reno, Nevada for the 77th Annual Reunion of the 1st Cavalry Division Association from 11-15 June 2025. All Life and Associate Members are welcome to attend this special event. Gold Star Families and Widows of our members are always welcome to attend.

Please register early to assist us in coordinating the best reunion possible. Some events have limited seating available due to the size of available rooms. All members of the Association must register and pay the \$40 Registration Fee except for our Active-Duty Troopers who pay \$20 to register. Family members attending with an Association member, Widows of 1st Cavalry Division Troopers, and Gold Star Family members that attend do not have to pay a registration fee. *The registration fee will no longer be refundable regardless of when a member cancels.*

Online registration opens 1 October 2024; the Reunion registration form will be included in the Saber from November '24 through April '25. Those sending in registrations post-marked after 1 May 2025 must pay a late registration fee of \$50.

The Association will be providing our guests with transportation to the Truckee River Walk on Thursday 12 June 2025 (0900-1800) at a cost of \$10 per person. *Continue to next page*

Bus tickets can be purchased when you initially register, either by mail-in or on-line, or at the Walk-in Registration area.

Usually the First Cav Division Association (1CDA) relies on the chapter in the state where the reunion is being held for volunteers to assist with the activities related to the successful functions of the reunion. There is no Cav chapter in Nevada.

**As a result, 1CDA is asking for volunteers from within all 1CDA members. I encourage everyone to participate in some way. Our chapter members as well as our family members can volunteer.** I have summarized the areas and times when personnel are needed. Be careful to consider activities you may be attending:

Registration Desk: Hand out packets and tickets: Wed-Sat 9:00-12:00 & 1:00-3:00, Wed & Fri-3:00-6:00, Thur-3:00-5:00.

Silent Auction Monitor: Set up tables each morning and secure items at the end of the day.

Times: When the registration desk opens and closes.

Banquet Seating: Assign seating. Collect tickets.

1CDA Hospitality Room: Police trash from tables, check name badges, ensure things run smoothly. Wed-Sat: 9:00-2:00, 2:00-7:00, 7:00-12:00. 1SG (Ret) Dara Wydler  
Executive Director, 1st Cavalry Division Association  
Office: 254.547.6537  
Email: [firstcav@1cda.org](mailto:firstcav@1cda.org)

Bus Monitor Details: For trip to Truckee Riverwalk District. Keep accountability-count numbers of people getting on/off buses. 9:00-6:00 Buses will run continuously.

Veterans Briefing: Thursday 2:30-3:30 Need Master of Ceremonies/Point of Contact.

Legacy Breakfast Details: Friday-7:30-9:00 Read long roll muster script for each war at the memorial service. WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, OIF/OEF.

Purple Heart Breakfast: Saturday 7:30-8:45

Unit Luncheon Details: Sat 12:00-2:00. Ensure lunch runs smoothly. Collect tickets & ensure attendees are at the correct luncheon.

Gift Shop Details: Ensure customers do not enter with drinks or bags; assist customers as needed. Wed-Fri 3 volunteers needed for each time slot: 9:00-12:00, 1:00-3:00, 3:00-6:00. Sat 2 volunteers needed for each time slot: 9:00-12:00, 1:00-4:00.

Contact Dara Wydler OR Howard Shute:  
1SG (Ret) Dara Wydler  
Executive Director, 1st Cavalry Division Association  
Office: 254.547.6537

Email: [firstcav@1cda.org](mailto:firstcav@1cda.org)

Howard Shute: [howard.shute@hotmail.com](mailto:howard.shute@hotmail.com) Phone: 412-215-1556

(FYI: Chapter Board of Governors meeting: Saturday June 14 10:00-10:30; Chapter membership meeting June 14 10:30-11:30.)

I've included a signup sheet and any updated regarding the reunion with the Spring Newsletter -

We will be utilizing the Grand Sierra Resort (GSR) and Casino for all our events. The GSR room fees will vary because this is a resort. Reservations made Sunday-Thursday are \$79 and Friday-Saturday are \$189. Resort fees and guestroom taxes will apply. Make sure that you identify yourself as attending the 1st Cavalry Division Association Reunion. The hotel does provide a free shuttle service from the Reno-Tahoe International Airport and rental cars are available at the airport.

### Grand Sierra Resort



1-800-648-5080 reference code: **FCD25**  
2500 E 2nd St  
Reno, NV 89595

Signup sheets will be sent along with the Newsletter.

RLTW



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



We begin 2025 looking forward to our reunion in Louisiana. Also, we have the Chattanooga Museum unveiling Larry Taylor's Helicopter hanging from the ceiling with life-like LRRP/Ranger figures hanging onto the rocket pods and skids. All sounds great with some members suggesting a reunion in Chattanooga to enjoy the historic and patriotic region.

We have had some members on sick call and some members passing. I added the obituaries of our two most recent losses. Some of you may have stayed in Contact with Diane since the Philadelphia reunion - she is on sick call and would appreciate your prayers.

I have not heard much from the west coast membership so hoping that means all is well.

There is a saying that if you wake up and don't have any aches or pains then you have problems.

During the year, the unit director had the most contact with Dave Hill and the Allday Family. Always remember that Patrolling Magazine is a place where we can share experiences with other Rangers as well as our own Ranger Unit.

We have received two obituaries about the recent passing of Ranger Brothers And the information is in this edition.

**MSgt Steve Mattoon** was one of our finest Team Leaders. He was "Giant" Hildebrandt's and Dave Flores's Team Leader in F Co./52nd Inf. (LRP) and later was a Team Leader and Platoon Sergeant at 1st Cavalry Div. H Co/75th Inf. (Airborne-Ranger). He was eventually 1st Sergeant of Bravo Co./2nd Bn, 75th Rangers at Ft. Lewis, Washington. He was revered by his men and fellow officers and enlisted men wherever he served. Attached is a link to his memorial site. There were few like him and none better! RIP <https://everloved.com/life-of/steven-mattoon/>

**Larry Bourland** served in Vietnam from June 1968 through June 1969 with honor and distinction. He was a member of F Company, 52nd Infantry Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP), later I Company, 75th Infantry Rangers. The



U.S. Army recognized Larry for his honorable service by awarding him the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Air, National Defense Service, Vietnam Service, and Vietnam Campaign Medals, in addition to Combat Infantryman and Parachutist Badges. After he was honorably discharged from the U.S. He returned to his hometown of Henderson, KY.

MSgt Steven "Boom Boom" Dale Mattoon, 82, passed away peacefully surrounded by family in Casper, Wyoming on January 20, 2025. Steve was a decorated Veteran of the Vietnam War. He started his Career with F Company 52nd Inf of the First Infantry division (LRRP, Long Range Recon Patrol), He was awarded the Bronze Star for Valor while serving with the LRRP/Rangers and began

interest in Martial Arts while spending his life Working and teaching Military and Law enforcement around the world. Steve's passing was brought to the attention of his Life Long Best Friend Command Sgt Major Larry Jordan, a Brother in Martial Arts. Larry best described Steve as a Legend among the Special

Operation Communities and most people that knew Steve in his colorful life would agree "A Legend."

Reunion: March 19 - March 23rd.

Hotel: Days Inn

Address: 603 Holiday Drive

Jennings, LA 70546

Reservation phone number: 337-824-5280 (if you need assistance, please speak to Samatha.)

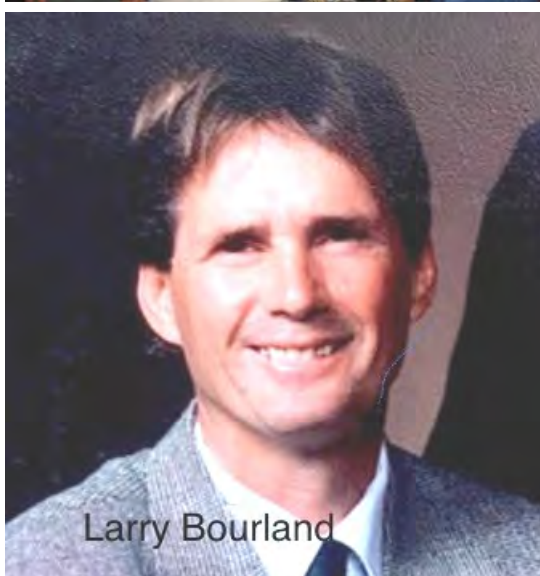
Rooms are under I Co Rangers - Shyron has reserved a block of rooms, King Room @ \$80.00 plus tax and 2 Queen Room \$100 plus tax.

Shyron and Harry are planning another exciting reunion. They have planned helicopter rides with Dean Levergne from the Louisiana State Police Air Support Unit. Dean is a relative of Harry's who most of y'all have met already. Also, on Saturday, a huge crawfish boils at the Lodge with music by the Crochet Family. We sure hope everyone can attend.

*Link to Taylor exhibit next page, top*



MSGT  
Mattoon



Larry Bourland

# SAVE THE DATE



The Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center invites you to the grand opening of the

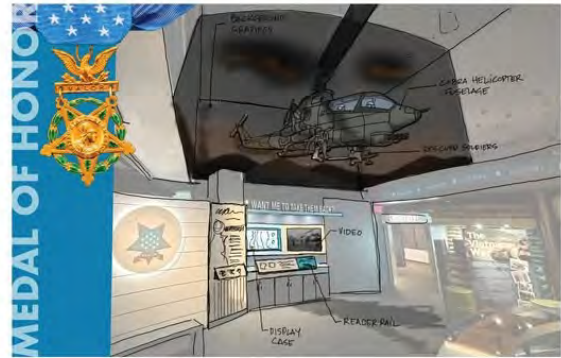
# CAPTAIN LARRY L. TAYLOR EXHIBIT

MARCH 29, 2025

Coolidge National Medal of Honor Heritage Center  
2 W Aquarium Way Suite 104, Chattanooga, TN 37402



## PREVIEW THE CAPTAIN LARRY L. TAYLOR EXHIBIT



### Continued Sanez story from page 33

I can get a fix on your location. Do you copy?" The team leader told us he had to go out into the middle of the river with his strobe light so the pilot could see us.

Sgt. Smitty started to silently slip into the river as I grabbed his sleeve. I looked at him, and said, "You're not going into the river by yourself. I am going with you to watch your back just in case Charley is still around." I slipped into the river with Smitty. The water was cold but felt good. When we reached the middle of the river it was waist deep, and the current was strong. Smitty said, "Well, here goes nothing." He reached in his pocket, and pulled out his strobe light, turned it on and held it high over his head. We were back-to-back in the middle of the river in pitch black darkness. Every time the strobe light blinked; it lit up the area around us. Sgt. Smith said, "Nothing like putting a bullseye right on your forehead." All I could say was, "God save us!" I thought for sure Charlie was going to open up on us as soon as he saw the first flash from the strobe light. Sweat was dripping off the end of my nose as I turned my selector switch on my car 15 to fully automatic and pointed it in the direction of the enemy in the elephant grass. I had my finger on the trigger. I was going to try and take as many as I could with me. My knees were shaking so badly I thought I was going to lose my footing and fall right into the river. I was frightened to death and anticipated the worst to happen. Then it occurred to me Charlie was waiting for the helicopter to come in. Smitty whispered, "The slick is coming." I listened quietly, and could hear the distinct sound, whop, whop, whop, of the helicopter blades cutting through the night air, off in the distance. A couple of minutes later, the chopper was hovering above our heads.

The pilot was getting ready to make his vertical decent. I looked up, and all I could see was a small red light inside the cockpit. The pilot pulled up on the collective control to bring the Huey to a hover. The helicopter was slowly descending downwards. The pilot was trying to hold the helicopter steady as it came through the treetops. I could feel small bits of leaves, and twigs hitting my face. The helicopter blades must be slightly hitting the trees on both sides of the riverbank. Smitty yelled to me, "Saenz get ready, you're the first man in the ship." Lieutenant Williams was flying as bellman on this mission. He was on all fours leaning out the cargo door, guiding and directing the pilot of the helicopter down closer toward us. I watched the helicopter descend in the air until the skids of the ship were at my eye level. I quickly moved out of the

### INTO THE LION' DEN

way as the skids of the helicopter stopped about two feet above the water. Lt. William's eyes were as big as saucer cups while he violently tried to grab my L.B.E. harness and literally yanked my body into the ship. He pulled me so hard I almost fell out the portside of the chopper back into the river. Luckily, I grabbed the structural support post of the ship with my left hand. That stopped my fall. I looked into the cockpit to see who was flying the helicopter while the rest of the team got in. Sure, enough it was Warren Officer W.T. Grant, and his crew members. W.T. Grant was a true hero, normally helicopters can't fly at night, and this Officer had the courage to fly out in enemy held territory to rescue us. That takes guts, and nerves of steel to do what this chopper pilot did. While I was waiting inside the ship it was dead silent, and extremely dark. I was scared the enemy was still out there somewhere waiting to make his move.

My heart was racing. All I could think about was waiting for an R.P.G. round to come flying through the cockpit window and literally tearing us to shreds. Charlie loved to play games, and that's what I thought he was doing. I knew the helicopter was mostly made out of fiberglass and had a corrugated aluminum floor. The fuselage held J.B. 4 fuel which was 40 times more powerful than gasoline, and if penetrated by an A.K. 47 bullet, or an R.P.G. Grenade. This ship would go up in flames like a rag doll. W.T. Grant was frantically holding on to the cyclic control trying to maintain balance of the Huey. The ship was groaning, and shaking as it hovered inches above the water while the last man crawled in. The belly man talked into his microphone. "Sir we have all the men inside!" As soon as W.T. Grant heard the message, he quickly increased power and lowered the nose of the ship, and at full speed darted through the treetops just missing the branches as it gained altitude upwards into the air. Mr. Grant suddenly pulled pitch, and the bird banked a sharp left and swooped behind the safety of the jungle trees. I looked out the starboard side of the ship to see if the enemy was going to open up on us, but to my surprise they let us go. Something down there must have been very important to the N.V.A that they wanted to keep secret in that region. Warrant Officer Grant had the chopper at full throttle as we headed back to Camp Eagle. I looked out over the side of the chopper as we whisked past the tops of the trees at full speed. I could see lights shining from the hootches from Camp Eagle far off in the distance. Now finally I was able to relax.

I took a deep breath, and thanked God, we make it through another mission.



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

Greetings Brothers,

I hope this finds all of you well (considering our age.) All of us have our own health issues but as LRRPs/Rangers the only direction we know is forward even if it's one slow step at a time. Hmm, didn't we do that in the jungle? We were sneaking and peeking right? So, I figure we're still on a mission. At least that's my story. Speaking of stories, here's one by Spike Mellinger:

A photograph was taken right after I returned from the bloodiest mission of my tour in Vietnam's, **we were four kids** on a long-range reconnaissance mission in the thick jungles of Vietnam. I was the new guy on the team so I walked point. I was supposed to keep a keen eye ahead and listen to sounds that didn't belong in the jungle. Our mission on this day was to find the base camp, of a Viet Cong platoon who were harassing neighboring villages. As Rangers our job was just to find them. Someone else would come in and do the dirty work of eliminating them later.

Besides dealing with the sweltering heat, menacing mosquitoes and the constant threat of hungry tigers, we had another problem today. We were hopelessly lost in triple canopy of the jungle. We knew which way north and which way was south, but didn't know where we were. Shumate, our team leader, decided to bump up a high hill to see if I could find some kind of landmark, then shoot an azimuth. He told us to stay put. We idly watched him quietly trudge up the hill. At the top, he suddenly dropped flat on the ground. Now alert we dropped down just as he spotted something on the other side of the hill. Soon he signaled us to join him. At the top we gazed down into a beautiful valley, complete with a little waterfall spilling over a rock bluff. Scattered around were bamboo huts and tables. Deep bunkers had been dug into the hillsides. We had stumbled upon the base camp we were sent out to find. We whispered our ideas and suggestions to one another, then made a plan. Shumate, Soverien and I would sneak in and take pictures. Bell would stay behind on the hill and stand guard. We didn't waste any time, we were in and out in less than five minutes. Lurking within the walls of a Viet Cong Camp made us all edgy. None of us were as brave as we pretended. We all flinched and swung around ready to fire, at the sound of a breeze in the trees or a bird squawking.

Still lost, we decided to follow Charlie's trail out of the valley. Our next mission was to determine our location and find a clearing large enough (or a chopper to land in and lift us out). Carefully, we walked the trail afraid of booby traps or an ambush. Every few minutes I stopped the team and scanned our surroundings, listening to voices, searching for movement. An hour later, the trail brought us to



an opening into a rice paddy. Shumate found the rice paddy on the map; we could now radio in our location.

The trail made a half-circle around the paddy. Following it we saw tall thick grass just off the water. A perfect place to hide and wait for the chopper. We crawled in and sat a few feet from one another. Shumate radioed in our location. He reported we had found the VC base camp and were ready for extraction. The choppers would be there in about thirty minutes.

Shumate stowed the radio and said. "Mell, place a claymore twenty yards up the trail, just in case they come our way."

I argued back. "The choppers will be here soon, and I'll have to wrap them up just when I've got them unwrapped. What can happen in thirty minutes?"

He gave in and we leaned into the tall grass and waited. I studied Shumate and thought of the nine-millimeter bullet he wore around his neck. Everyone knows in Vietnam; it doesn't matter how big you are, how smart you are or how strong you are. Over here what really matters is luck. Are you lucky enough to see Charlie before he sees you? Shumate was lucky the day a young Viet Cong officer pointed a pistol at his head and pulled the trigger. The young officer wasn't so lucky when his pistol didn't fire. He should have cleaned the packing grease from his new weapon before taking it into the jungle. We were lucky today, I thought, as we waited.

Just when the choppers were supposed to arrive, we heard the sounds of metal on metal and the sound of rifle butts slapping against canteens like the pots and pans in the mess hall in the morning. Charlie was making a heck of a racket coming down the trail. Looking over Shumate's head, I saw a line of about twenty Viet Cong rambling down the trail, where I should have placed a claymore mine! I should have listened to Shumate. No one could see anything but me. I mouthed to Shumate, "Gooks." He brought his hands to the M-16 resting in his lap. My eyes darted to my M-16, out of reach, resting against a tree. Stupid, I think. Bell switches his weapon to fully automatic. Soverien doesn't move.

Their point man stops the VC platoon and checks the trail. He looks to the ground, then looks up to his left and right, again and again. It suddenly hits me; he sees our boot prints! His eyes then fixed on Shumate. His arm turned and pointed to our team leader. Shumate doesn't hesitate. He brings up his M-16, over my head and fires a small burst. The point man drops on the trail. Instinctively, I lunge for my weapon. Bell stands up and holds back the trigger of his thirty-round clip. *Next Page*



In front of him six VC fall to the ground. He drops his clip and begins to reload. With a weapon in hand, I stare into the surprised eyes of a young Viet Cong soldier, no more than ten yards from me. His face is hot and sweaty, he's wearing a red bandana, and I see a stream of yellow mucus from his nose. There is panic in his face. He couldn't have been more than fifteen.

I remember the rice paddy incident as clearly today, as I did that day thirty years ago. So frightened. I couldn't get my rifle selector off safety. Nervously, I fiddled with the switch as I watched this boy. We both stood there, just two frightened kids. Everything happened so fast, yet it seemed like we were players in a slow-motion picture. I watched him drop his right shoulder and grasp the sling of his Russian S.K.S. into his left hand. Just as his rifle slid off his shoulder and into his hands, my switch clicked to semiautomatic. I pointed and fired three times. *Pff:Pff:Pff*: the bullets blew dust off his uniform. His face wrenched with pain as he spun around and landed face down.

Shumate stopped firing. Bell was reloaded and Soverien still watched. Laying in front of us were about eight Viet Cong. The other dozen or so had fled to the jungle. We were still outnumbered and knew they could easily flank us. We had nowhere to run but into the open rice paddy. Just then, a Huey helicopter flew directly over us at tree top level. Shumate radioed that we were in heavy contact. In a heartbeat two Cobra gunships, escorting the Huey. He reported the Viet Cong were heading back our way.

"Get out of the way," the pilot ordered. "we're going to use the guns." The only place to go was into the open rice paddy. We jumped up and ran. Running across the muddy paddy felt like running through thick glue. I kept waiting for an AK-47 to open upon us, leaving us face down in the murky water. We reached the other side and dove over a mound of mud and slid around just in time to watch the Cobra's pepper the jungle with bullets. Soon the jungle was quiet. The pilot radioed Shumate to hustle to the center of the paddy. We all ran to the Huey, door gunners pulled us hurrying us along, as the pilot quickly flew out.

Hearts pounding, we stared down at the paddy, as the helicopter circled for the last time. I counted at least twenty bodies laying perfectly still. Some on their backs, some on their stomachs, some rested on trees. Their black uniforms were stained with red blood. Today we were lucky, we saw them before they saw us.

As we flew out of the deadly jungle my thoughts drifted. I put the day behind me and concentrated on the leeches on my legs. I thought of tomorrow and my mother. Tomorrow was my nineteenth birthday, and I was going to be lucky enough to see it.

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Here is another written by 1stSGT Don Keller about his take on the POW Camp raid and his thoughts about his kids as he called us. My love and respect for Top Keller is as strong as ever.

### POW Camp Raid

There's more to this saga; there's 219 other stories that could all be part and parcel. Individuals that have personal views of that day, and the days leading up to it and even months before. This represents my personal "touch". What has to be told is the story from the beginning—many months before the raid. It all began with the evolution of Company K (Airborne) 75th Ranger Regiment. In February of 1969 Company E, 58th Infantry was redesignated as Company K (Airborne) 75th Ranger Regiment. Company K became one of thirteen companies of Rangers assigned to other major units in RVN. With this reorganization and redesignation came a proud and unique heritage from the history of war. The Rangers were once again reborn. The very type of war had changed in RVN, changed dramatically different from the Ranger units of WWII and Korea. A different tactical concept had to be employed, and the helicopter played a dramatic role in all of this. The Ranger units from RVN gave birth to the Rangers of today. Now, once again, the Rangers would proudly live on.

From February to June 69, CPT Siverling was the Company Commander, and operations were 4–6-man teams. But CI Siverling had "lit" the spark in the hearts and minds of these fine young men—the finest men who would ever walk the jungles of RVN. That spark glowed brightly at 0100 hours, 7 June 69, when NVA decided they wanted to take on these Rangers who were now "roaming" on the perimeter of this sprawling base near Pleiku called Camp Enari. The NVA penetrated the rows of outer defensive wires thinking perhaps, they would get as far in as the flight line. Although the NVA was able to make a small dent in the armor of the Rangers they were repelled. The rebuilding began at sunrise. Every single Ranger worked hard and long but still conducted assigned missions. In two weeks, the Company was "up and running again". The Company HQ and Company Operations were now housed in one common building which became a place to visit, (as long as the First Sgt wasn't there"). The young Rangers were proud, proud to be a part of and to be called "Ranger." Permission was given for the men to place a sign of sort, atop the HQ building as long as it was in good taste. The sign was made of sandbags, painted yellow and read: "Ranger Sir". The very day the sign was completed the Div CG, MG Pepke, flew over the company area. Within minutes the General's aide called and said the General wanted him to pass on that he liked the sign very much and that he saluted the Rangers, one and all.

During the Jun-Jul 69 time frame, Company K moved from the operational control of the 4th Div G2 to Div G3. This was a very critical step because of the types of missions the Rangers could/would be called upon now to execute. In addition to Intelligence gathering, there were hunter-killer, ambushes, directing artillery fire, close-air support, bomb damage assessments, POW snatches, and general combat patrols. These missions widened the combat role of Company K greatly.

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To meet these growing missions, they had to step up recruiting efforts at the 4th Div Replacement Company. Those efforts had always been fruitful in the past and were again. The unit strength increased accordingly. The new emphasis on the Ranger's use was profound. The 4th Inf Div now had a Company of Rangers with long range capabilities and also a strike force prepared to fight anywhere at any time.

The 4th Div Commander, MG Pepke, was always complimentary of the Ranger's activities and the results. He often had Ranger Teams go to Div HQS for impact awards and other awards for mission accomplishment. Often at the Div CDR's Conference he would remark that "if it were not for the Rangers, Div would not have a daily sitrep to higher HQs". It is important to note that Company K's area of operation--11 Corps Tactical Zone --was the largest of any Ranger or LRRP unit in RVN. It covered thousands of square miles, most of it mountainous and triple canopy jungle... The size of the area and new missions ... had Ranger teams moving. Company K would be quickly called to task. The Rangers were ordered to increase their activities in the Central Highlands to the west, where the enemy had been increasing their strength and activities. The Ranger missions there provided the Div with timely and quality intelligence resulting in heavy enemy losses and undoubtedly saving many American and South Vietnamese lives.

The increased emphasis on Ranger activities drew some criticism from the rest of the Division. Most come from the Infantry units. Many things that the Rangers were allowed, such as "Cowboy hats", no steel helmets, camouflage fatigues, and the wearing of the Company K Ranger scroll as a unit patch rather than the 4th Division patch. The not wearing of the steel helmet was often of concern for line unit COs. These, and others, were solved by the Div CG-his solution "leave it be"-and it was.

During the Nov-Dec 69 time frame, the Div CG ordered the three Inf Brigades to combine their LRRP personnel with Company K. Once the LRRPs arrived, Company strength jumped to 220. The LRRPs had been operating at the Brigades and were trained, thus making Company K ready for the extra missions more rapidly. This combination created a capable and powerful Ranger force. The company would also gain a new company commander at this time--Cpt Kim Olmstead.

The new organization had three platoons with 12 teams each consisting of 4 to 6 men. Even then, the Company was faced with losses due to rotations, burn-out, and casualties. The loss of Team Leaders was a constant problem. This problem was countered by making team leaders of the most experienced, and with the most missions. Often E4s were team leaders with E5s and E6s as team members until they got 'time in the bush' and were deemed ready for the job. Recon and Ranger school graduates were available to fill openings, but not as often as needed.

In Nov 69, MG Walker took command of the 4th Div and he

decided to turn the Rangers loose on the NVA by employing retaliatory raids. Company K's Rangers were ready. Moral jumped sky high. New camouflage uniforms and equipment, not available to the rest of the division, aided the Rangers' moral as well. With the advent of increased missions for the Rangers, Div assets like helicopter pilots and crews, artillery units, and the CG experienced a renewal of efforts which had a profound effect on all. Thus, the future picture for American Military Operations was formed in RVN by these small, highly skilled, and heroic men, who by their actions and deeds changed the very nature of the war. Is it not true, as we see today, with more emphasis on Special Operations Forces and the effort to take the war to the terrorists.

All the events outlined were most probably the reason that a company size raid would be conducted by Company K, in Feb 1970. Somewhere, unknown to most, an event was taking place that would once again change history and Company K (Airborne) 75th Ranger Regiment would lead the way.

However, other events were facing the company, the three Infantry Brigades LRRPs were now preparing to take their places. The Company was also preparing to pack up bags and baggage, and every piece of equipment for movement to their new camp at Camp Radcliff near An Khe. The Pleiku base was being closed out in the near future. But now, along with all this, the company received orders to prepare for a company size raid. Information provided by a POW, that a compound was suspected of holding American POWs and that an American collaborator was aiding the enemy. Several fly-overs were made by Div, of the suspected area. Because of those flyovers, Div imposed a two week hold on the mission to allow a "cooling off" of the area. However, it was felt that some harm was already done, and the mission might have been compromised.

During the month of January 1970, all teams were pulled from in-progress missions, and the entire company was refitted and trained as fire teams, squads, and platoons. Company K was training as a Ranger Company for operational deployment. Many classes were conducted on basic and advanced infantry unit tactics including individual fire and movement, fire and maneuver between fire teams, squads, and platoons. Preparing for an assault, setting down a base of fire, sweeping and securing the objective. Hour after hour of classes, hour after hour of practice, continuously to "get it right". Men getting to know and working with men other than team members. Men getting to know who would be on their right and left. Range firing that would be done over and over again for understanding and getting the proper sight picture, the proper "grip" of their individual weapons and "squeezing" off rounds instead of "full rock and roll". Everyday there was training going on in addition to packing. Physical training also had its place along with everything else. The days were tiring, hot, and long-but necessary. But they were Rangers!!!

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The name of the operation was -Wayne Stab II. and coincided with operations being conducted within the area of operation by other Div assets. The operational plan was being developed by the Operations Officer (LI Alderson) and CPT Olmstead. Per instructions, when the plan was ready--Div was called. The Div CG and G3 stood at the large sand table that depicted the objective area. They listened, nodded, and at the end posed a few questions. They both gave a "thumbs up" without any changes. The operational plan was ready. Questions about logistical support were covered but given a hold until Div "touched base" with lift units to see if they could provide the required number of aircraft. Assurances were made that the airlift would be made available. Div stood ready to assist in any way possible.

Company K was trucked to An Khe and subsequently set up "housekeeping" and awaited the order to "launch." An Khe was selected as the "launch" site because of proximity to the operational area. The "strip" there was able to "fit" the air support mission. Additionally, the terrain nearby provided landscape similar to the objective site. Approximately 19 "lift birds" plus gunships would be required. That long awaited day was upon the Rangers. Men camouflaged their faces, gear, and gathered their equipment under the watchful eyes of Pit LDRs and PSGs. They were readying to take that step into history. Checks and more checks were made of men, weapons, ammo, and the "light" amount of equipment needed for the "RAID". THE RANGERS WERE READY!!!! Still there was that lingering feeling caused by the two week "hold" and the over-flights, and the ultimate question; "Did the POW provide the necessary truths???"

The concept of the operation was simple and straight forward. The Rangers, now totalling 198, were to initially insert one platoon of Rangers just south of the north/south ridgeline, on which the POW compound was located. After the insertion was accomplished, this platoon of Rangers. would move quickly up the ridgeline. The two remaining platoons were to be inserted just slightly to the west and in the valley, move quickly toward the ridge line and set up and be prepared to move on order. That order would cause them to either reenforce or counterattack. Additionally, they had to cover avenues of egress that might serve as escape routes for the enemy. The "lift birds" were arriving and shortly came the gunships. The Rangers were ready--all that remained was the "go" and final coordination between the Rangers and the lift crews. "SADDLE UP" had the Rangers on the move. The tension/anticipation was strong but that eased as the blades began to turn, spirits jumped, yells sounded, and the mission was in the air and history had a new chapter. SUA SPONTE

After the insertion, the first platoon formed and moved quickly toward the objective area up ahead. First, they encountered a "blueline" and an individual dressed in black pajamas. He was quickly taken under control and interrogated by the accompanying interrupter. He said that he had just come down to the stream for water. He said that he was a cook at the compound and that everyone had left last night or the night before. All that was left were those expected to "keep up" the compound.

There were a lot of footprints on the trail which were indicators that he might be truthful. To the right/ left of the trail were punji stakes, set about ankle high. A simple but effective measure to cause any invader to use the trail--a trail that could be well covered from up the hill near the compound. Nervously believing the detainee's confession, it was decided to chance the trail and move quicker but with caution. Shortly a brief halt was called, and a recon team was sent forward to take a quick look. The team reported that no people nor sounds could be seen or heard from the compound. The terrain had tall trees, 30-40 feet high, and void of any lower limbs. The area around the compound, out to about 75 yards, was cleared of any brush. The compound was in plain view. Overhead a Ranger helicopter hovered, clearly visible from the ground and the compound. It had not drawn any fire." Was everyone Gone???"

The trail the Rangers were on paralleled the long axis of the compound and would serve as the jumping offline for the assault. There was that "itching" feeling among the Rangers, wanting, and waiting for something to happen. One squad was sent out to the left and positioned themselves where they could place a base of fire at the compound. But they would only fire on order. Two machine gun crews were positioned to cover the approaches from up and down the trail into the area. to prevent a surprise attack. The Rangers were ready to "jump off. A final reminder "They were there to free not kill!!!"

Suddenly there was movement from the far end of the compound and a shot was fired, hitting one. Any additional firing was halted--again the Rangers were there to free the POWs not kill them in the process. As was observed, the four individuals had few clothes and no weapons and were there to "maintain the compound." Pursuit was not reasonable since the trail on either side had punji stakes and could very well lead followers into an ambush. Also, prior information from the detainee at the river indicated "villagers" were up there to make some money.

The entire movement of the Rangers up to the compound had been a surprise to the few "stay behinds." The mission continued with security being placed out and clearing of the area of booby traps was accomplished before the huts could be searched. There were five small huts and one large one. In front of the large hut was a good-sized hole, deep enough that the POWs could have been restrained in there. There was no wire or fence of any kind around the area. Every structure was given a careful going over and the searches yielded absolutely nothing. No "spider holes" nor any kind of holes other than the large one was found. It had been swept clean. Destruction of the compound was ordered and accomplished. Company HQs was informed, and withdrawal was ordered. The Rangers withdrew, assembled, and moved to link up with the remainder of the Company in the valley.

Although there had been quiet and reserve before, there seemed to be a different quiet now, shoulders slump a little and heads were not as high, there was a letdown. The Rangers remained alert, but their individual actions yelled out--THEY HAD MISSED THE PRIZE!! Another let down still faced the Rangers. The very quickness of the mission and the gathering of the Rangers for extraction was not anticipated. Extraction could not be supported because Div had no air assets available. The Rangers would have to remain until the next day or longer. The company was ordered to set up defensive positions and to "dig in". This brought a realization--these rangers were now "grunts". Of course, there's nothing wrong with being a "grunt" except they were Rangers.

So, there were some grumbles-- but no matter, the Rangers began their defensive position preparation. At this point, the training prior to the insertion, now provided the Rangers with knowledge of what they had to do. One, they had to get over the disappointment at the POW compound and get on with the task at hand. However, the disappointment ran even higher for the others that stayed in the valley--they only waited. Their roles could have been great if called upon to employ them. However, tonight all would prepare defensive positions, send out LPs, set up OPs, and maintain 50% alert. Thoughts were, 'Hell', Rangers don't dig foxholes but this night they would and no matter what, they would be prepared to live and die another day.

What the Rangers did not know was that Div was trying to "find" something for them to do IF the "lift birds" were not available for the next day. However, the lack of identifiable objectives within the area and concern that the entire company had been compromised, all considerations were aborted, and the extraction was on, a few men at a time. The return gave everyone an opportunity to reflect, relax and view the jungle below. Off in the distance was a beautiful waterfall, gently cascading down the mountain side, wandering in one direction and then another, and shining brightly in the warm sun, as it plunged into the stream below. It offered life to all who used it and a new life as well. But to its right or left, the jungle canopy served as a sanctuary for an elusive enemy with a goal to take life--any life. What a contrast and what a contradiction to life!!!

Once back at Base Camp, the Rangers took up their routine 4- and 6-man recon patrols or one of the other missions that were directed by Div. All of these missions were always performed with honor and excellence. This brought great credit upon this unique organization and equally unique breed of young soldiers. It has to be remembered that more than 90% of these young men were draftees who volunteered to be part of this and like Ranger units throughout RVN. Respect for the Rangers now ran high, from the Commanding General down to the lowest man within the Division.

As the First Sergeant of Company K, from May 69 until May of 70, I have always been proud to have had the great opportunity to serve with this fine group of young men. I was proud to have

moved with the platoon of young Rangers that went into the compound, and I have no doubt that the mission would have been accomplished. I was the oldest man in the company (10 years or more) than most of them and viewed a lot of things differently than those younger, but they were "all my men", to include the officers. But every single day they amazed me with their bravery, tenacity, and willingness to do and to "stick it out" no matter what it took, no matter the odds. I can remember many events that stand out but that's another story and well worth telling about these young men.

The one that is always foremost in my mind is about a young, freckled, and fair complexioned, red headed, team leader that stood in front of me crying one morning, crying to go to the field with his team. "They need me," he said, "and I need to be with them." He had been grounded because he had had 47 boils over his body. But this day all were about healed and the "medics" gave him the "OK". How was I or anyone else going to deny this gallant young man his desire?? He was all of nineteen, if that. Not I !! Not I !!! What was it that made young men like these?? Stories like this, 219 of them, in fact, in Company K (Airborne), 75th Ranger Regiment, RVN. Stories of young men, barely out of school who were given "adequate tools of the trade" that would carry teams of three, five, sometimes eight into hostile lands to face the unknown. Young men who, needed to, wanted to, and had to, day after day, seven days a week, conducting tasks beyond human comprehension and endurance. Ready to stay for *as long as it took*, to get their mission accomplished.

A group of unsung heroes stood with these men as they prepared for their missions; watched them pack, food, clothing, water, and ammunition, and inserted them into their assigned areas of operation. Then extracted these same teams, as necessary, often under extreme weather and combat conditions, putting themselves and the air crews in harm's way, but taking care of their men. Not just one time but many times, ready seven days a week, night, or day, often times doing the "impossible". Officers like Reubin Siverling, Kim Olmstead, Hank Alderson, Tom Martin, Bill Postelnic, and Joel Douglas. NCOs like Bob Mott, Harry Sweeny, Tom Farnsworth, and J, Gates. NCOs like Bob Walsak (Supply Sgt) and M. Lyons (Commo SGT) kept everyone supplied and communications equipment in operational order, must not be forgotten. What a collection of great young men--great American soldiers. Rangers Lead The Way!

It took everyone, working as a bigger team, to make Company K what was and is today--the absolute best, that cohesiveness, and lasting friendships still exist... But there's another group of young Rangers that are no longer with us, who gave their lives doing what they had to do. They are remembered with sadness and heavy hearts, but their names are etched in stone--least we forget and their fellow Rangers will never forget them, These young men now rest in the hands of their maker--for eternity.

SUA SPONTE



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—CHARLES “CHUCK” REILLY



Greeting fellow Rangers and Lurps.

We have a new U.S president (he’s actually re-  
turning to his previous job) and without straining  
the political limitations of this periodical, I will say  
that I believe (opinion) members of this organiza-  
tion are all wishing him well and the best of luck.  
No more needs to be said, and in actuality, no  
more can be said for a variety of reasons. Out  
here in the Los Angeles area, you’re probably  
aware of the wildfires that have ripped through  
several communities and destroyed thousands of  
homes, some of them being owned by famous  
celebrities. These were in the Pacific Palisades  
area of Los Angeles where most of the homes are  
worth (at a minimum) \$4-5 Million on the market.  
The Pasadena/Altadena area was also ravaged,  
but since those houses were more in the middle-  
class range, they weren’t given as much publicity.  
In general, the fires dominated the national news  
cycle and Hurricane Milton which lashed North  
Carolina and other southern states, was pushed to the back-  
burner. Personally, I knew several very lucky friends in the  
“burn zone” of the Palisades whose houses were untouched by  
the fire. How this happened is a miracle since most of the  
homes around them were totally destroyed. As for the cause of  
all this destruction and grief, Global Warming was thrown out by  
some; arson was also discussed. Of course, if one lost his house,  
it was all a moot point. In the end, it was a tragedy of epic pro-  
portions for the folks who lost everything. Right now, the  
“Blame Game” has started, and who knows where that will  
lead?

The Company “L” Ranger reunion is almost upon us and proba-  
bly will be going full blast by the time this magazine hits your  
mailbox. Since it’s in Las Vegas, Nevada, they’ll be plenty of  
time for extra-curricular activities  
besides getting reacquainted with  
one’s Ranger buddies. A good  
time should be had by all. Most  
of the men now bring their wives  
and/or other family members. At  
the last reunion “Rangerette”  
shirts were handed out and they  
were a big hit.

A photo of the wonderful Ranger-  
ettes has been included in this  
article. But time is not on our side  
anymore regarding attending  
these events. Coming to these  
reunions gets more imperative  
and certainly has more meaning  
for the participants as the years



Left, Gary  
Linderer with  
Ron Rucker,  
far right

pass by now. My own Ranger team has been cut  
in half over the years. Time is the greatest killer  
of them all. What was once six men is now three.  
Phil Vogelsang, Don Sellner and Scott Whitmore  
have all passed. That leaves “Fido” Vodden, Dave  
“Muldoon” Rothwell, and myself. Luckily, the  
three of us usually make it to reunions---and I  
hope it stays that way for a long while. At our last  
reunion down in Scott, Louisiana, Ron “Mother”  
Rucker graced us with his presence, and it had  
been quite a while since one of the original “foul  
dudes” from F Company (58<sup>th</sup> Infantry) had  
attended our get-together.



I’m sure he had a good time as the town of Scott and its city  
officials went out of their way to give us all a great welcome. I’d  
like to see more of the LRRPs attend “L” Company reunions be-  
cause I firmly believe that we are all one and the same. I know  
most of the LRRPs usually attend the Branson rally, but it could-  
n’t hurt for some of them to show up at both events. Converse-  
ly, the 1970-71 Rangers could also make a concerted effort to  
show up at the Branson event---all in the name of the brother-  
hood of the unit. I have included a picture from the 2015 Bran-  
son rally which included both  
Rangers and LRRPs. In the  
front row L-R are Mike Knap-  
pen, Dave Weeks, and Gib  
Halverson. In the back: L-R  
the late Riley Cox, Jim Bacon,  
Gary Linderer, Harris Streeter,  
Ron Rucker, Larry Saenz,  
someone identified as “CW,”  
Bobby Glasser and Bob Dear-  
ring. If anyone knows who  
CW is, please let me know. I  
have also included a few pho-  
tos of Mr. Rucker and one  
from the distant past where  
he’s next to his fellow LRRP,  
Billy Walkabout.



Rangerettes

Next page



*Billy Walkabout*

who served in both the LURPS and Rangers, and he informed me that he has another book hitting the market sometime in 2025. Considering his other literary works, I'm sure this one will be a big hit and garner plenty of attention. I know he's written at least five other books about Vietnam, and they've all been well-received. This one should do just as well or better. The publisher is based in England and is called Pen and Sword Books Ltd. They are one of the largest military publishers in the world and have thousands of titles in print. Amazingly, books about the Vietnam War do far better in the United Kingdom than they do over here in the good old U.S.A. And why is that? Maybe the reason is not that difficult to comprehend if one thinks about it for a while. We have had other authors who served in our company including Kenn Miller, Larry Chambers, Reynal Martinez, and Frank Johnson. If I am missing anyone else, my apologies. The bottom line in this is that these gentlemen have all had a hand in keeping the history of our unit alive and in front of the general public. I, for one, am grateful for their efforts and hopefully more of their literary works are forthcoming in the future. God bless them all.

Well, that's it for now. There's a lot happening in the world and in our country right now. I would like to comment on it, but.... The reunion in Las Vegas should be a "happening" event, just so long as nobody loses their life savings at the blackjack tables or slots. I'll keep my fingers crossed. As always, RANGERS LEAD THE WAY!!



*L-R, Billy Walkabout with Ron Rucker*

There is also a photo of Rucker with Gary Linderer and an unidentified fellow with them (*previous page*). Mr. Walkabout is considered the highest decorated Native American during the Vietnam War and was a legend in his own time. Unfortunately, Walkabout suffered from kidney disease and died at an early age (57) in 2007, most likely from exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange. He is well-remembered by all members of this unit and has become somewhat of a national figure in regard to the history of the Vietnam conflict. I have also included a photo of him from his later years for this article.



Charles Reilly  
Unit Director

I have been in touch with Gary Linderer, our Hall of Fame Ranger



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—RUDY TEODOSIO



Rangers / LRRPs,

Another New Year (2025) rolled in, as every year a few of the Unit members have crossed over to the eternal base camp, we all call home.

As we close ranks and the roster gets reduced in numbers, I wish to express to stay connected with your Teammates members, touch bases, and if possible, drop on by for a sitrep.

I hope to see y'all that can make it to the next Rendezvous or link up points in the incoming year and a God Bless to y'all in health and spirit.

Sua Sponte

Rudy Teodosio

N-75 Unit Director

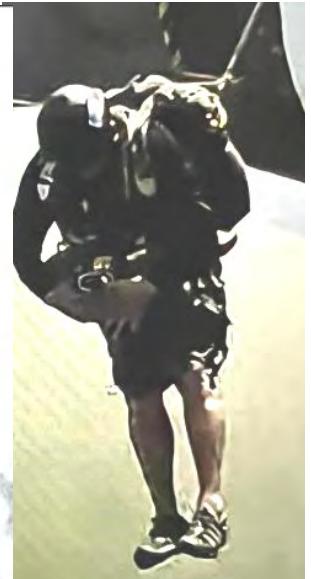


Right photo: GROUP PICTURES N-75 POW RAIDERS 1970 Company Rangers from this Raid later in their individual career became members of the newly formed Ranger Battalions.

Standing Far Left: PSG Pierce (C 2-75)

Far Right End: CSM Caro (HQ 1-75)

Sitting 1<sup>st</sup> Row on the Far-Right End: 1SG Akuna (A 3 -75)



NOTE: All three Rangers has crossed over to a higher calling and went home. From the ranks not pictures were number of former November Rangers joined the newly formed Ranger Battalions and at least one jump into Grenada. We have one LRRP that was a Son Tay Raider, two from the Company Rangers were early members SFOD-Delta and some became members of other Special Operation Units and partake in every operation since the Vietnam War to Global War Against Terrorism. From our ranks we have sons and young family members that wear the Ranger scroll on both sides of their shoulders as well. Special Operation Units patches to carry on the family business and kept the vows that we took so many decades ago for our nation.

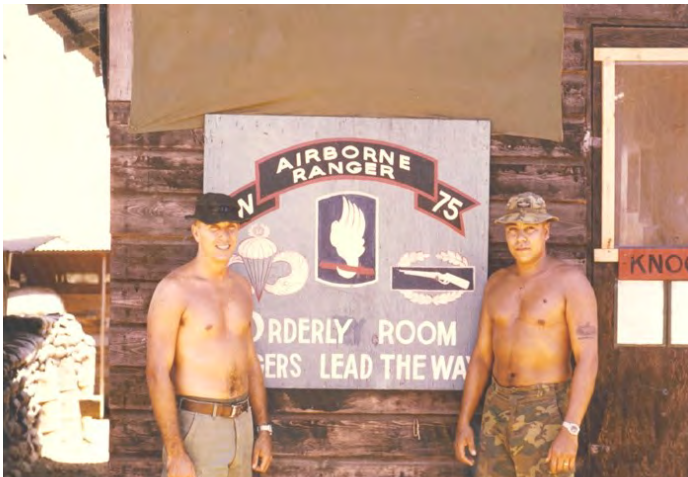




Home, be it ever so humble. Hotel Team hooch



The office



The boss, CPT Green and 1SG Caro



Heading to the Job Site





En Memoriam  
Corporal Joshua Blaney



Once again, we are reminded of the cost of freedom. Once again, we lay a loved one to rest. Once again, the ache of parting touches all of us who have seen the untimely death of a friend or a loved one. We who have fought in other wars feel the loss, as we felt it then. The promise of a young life, which will never know fulfillment. The question is why? That has no definitive answer. Yes, we can speak of yet another offering on the altar of freedom. But the comfort of that thought is often very small as the reality of our loss sinks in. In the midst of our tears and the ache of our hearts, looms the apparent finality of it all. It is then that the heart turns from the monotony of daily concerns to pondering eternal realities.

When we lose one of our own, whether it be in a sandy desert, in a triple canopy jungle, or in a hospital room, we know that that life has left this plane of existence. Many speculate as to what happens when we die. But to those of us who believe the Biblical record, we understand that a man's destiny is fixed in time, for eternity. It is not on the other side that one's happiness or horror is decided, but here and now, while we live and have use of our reason. We know that we are not just made for time. Our Creator wrote that in our beings while we were still in the womb. But it is as we grow to personal responsibility to discern between good and evil that we must choose. To forget God and to live our life as if it were our own, only to have it finally taken from us. Or to remember God and live our life as a loan, to be accounted for before our Maker.

The question posed by the ancient prophet Job was, "... if a man die, will he live again?" But that question came after the desire of Job's heart was expressed in these words found in Job, Chapter fourteen, Verse thirteen. "O... That you would appoint a set time and remember me. So, then it is not so important that those who come after me will remember me, but that my Creator, and Redeemer consider me worth remembering. Because if

He remembers me, then I will live again.

Before going to the tomb of Lazarus the Lord Jesus said this, "...I am the Resurrection and the Life! He who believes in Me, though he die, yet he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this? The same question can be asked of each of us here today. Do you believe Jesus' statement? There the Lord lays down the means of acceptance, not of works done, good or bad. But of a confidence placed in his own person. The babe in a manger grew to become a man who paid a ransom for all on the Cross. He bought the right for all of us to live again by his death. Whether we will or not depends on our willingness to receive as a gift what we could never earn by our own efforts.

We are grateful for the willingness of Joshua to serve our country, even at the cost of his own life. As a chaplain of Chapter Thirty of the 173rd Airborne Brigade here in South Carolina, I speak both on behalf of our membership, and for all of us here, members past and present of his Unit. And as a father, whose son is a Marine in harm's way in Iraq, we offer our sincerest condolences to Joshua's family and friends. He was a man who served with honor, may his memory among men be long cherished. And may God grant him, and each of us, a place among those whom He remembers.

JWM

*Cpl. Blaney, 25, stationed with 173rd Airborne in Vicenza, Italy passed away Dec. 12, 2007, serving his country in Afghanistan as a result of his convoy being hit by an IED. Joshua was born Sept. 15, 1982 in Charlotte, N.C., the son of Dianne B. Massey and Charles Edward Blaney. Josh graduated from Butler High School in 2002. Joshua was an exceptional young man with a compassionate and loving heart for his family and those that were fortunate enough to know him were his friends for life. Cpl. Blaney made the combat jump into Northern Iraq on March 26, 2003 for which he received the Parachutist Badge with Bronze Service Star which opened the northern front and ultimate success of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In Iraq, he was wounded on Dec. 12, 2003 for which he received a Purple Heart. Cpl. Blaney also served in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from February 2005 to February 2006. He was deployed to Afghanistan for a second tour in May 2007 and paid the ultimate sacrifice on Dec. 12, 2007, receiving the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Josh received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, NATO Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge for Iraq and Afghanistan. Funeral services to celebrate Joshua's life were held at 2 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21, 2007, at Hickory Grove Baptist Church, officiated by the Reverend Arnold Kessler. RIP*



# P/75 - 79TH LRP

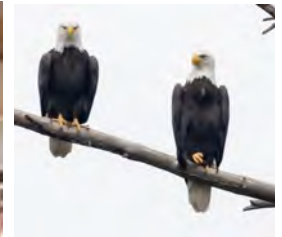
UNIT DIRECTOR—TOM JONES

LRRPs, Rangers, LRSUs and Ladies. On December 13 – 15<sup>th</sup> we had the annual Christmas Party of Sons of Mosby Motorcycle Association (SOMMA) Darby Chapter at Mountain Harbor Resort in Mount Ida, Arkansas. For those not familiar with SOMMA is a group of Rangers that ride motorcycles together. In attendance were members from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalions, two letter companies Bravo Co and PaPa Company and LRSU Rangers. Friday night we started off with a Spaghetti supper and tall tales around Ranger TV. Saturday we had Sliders for lunch and Grandpa's Chicken and Brisket with all the trimmings for supper followed by a White Elephant gift exchange that brought a lot of laughs and copious amounts of adult beverages. Sunday saw all of us returning to base camp. It was a great time and fun for everyone.

I spoke with Jerry; he sounded in good spirits. The chemotherapy is kicking his butt but he is fighting the good fight. His doctors say he is showing good results and they expect positive

develops in the future. He's sorry he won't make Critter Cookout and he asked that everyone think of him and keep him in our prayers.

I have contacted Mountain Harbor Resort in Mount Ida, Arkansas to host our reunion next year 1 – 4 May 2025 and I need to know if this will work for most of us. Please check out this website and get back to me by the 18<sup>th</sup> of January if you can make it <https://mountainharborresort.com> where you can check out the rooms and the regular pricing. I need to know so I can block rooms or cabins for us, you can then call Mt Harbor (870) 867-2191 and make your reservation. There is a lot to do in the area and it is very relaxing there. The owner is a dear friend of mine and has offered us some very great rates if you can make it. All rates per night plus tax. Cabanas A1 & A2 \$75.00, Cabins C1-3 \$105.00, 4-6 \$95.00, Rooms 2-9, 10-14 & 16 \$45.00, Studios SU1, 13, 15 \$60.00 you can see them all on their website.



Our national bird at Mt Ida, February 2025



Below: This is the boat that we rented





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