

# PATROLLING

December 2019

75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC.

Volume 31 Issue IV



PFC James W Markwell



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PFC John M Price



SSG Larry Barnard  
PFC Roy D Brown JR

## OPERATION JUST CAUSE-12/20/1989



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## Editor's Corner

By Stephen Odin Johnson—Editor

Hello Patriots!

Photo Cover: Operation Just Cause 30 years ago on December 20, 1989.

Brotherhood. That's what Jill Stephenson titles her submission for this issue. As a matter of fact, that theme, "Brotherhood", can be called a strand tie in from start to finish of Patrolling articles and I think that makes a pretty strong fabric for cohesiveness within. Thanks, Jill, for taking the lead on this and it looks like the rest of our Brothers have your back, too, like you have ours! It was a pleasure seeing you at our Brother's, Rick Polski, funeral.

Harrison Jack continues to lead the way for proven, effective alternative approaches for your health by providing valuable information. Harrison has an "open door" policy to answer any of your questions. [hjack@wavecable.com](mailto:hjack@wavecable.com)

*So, how do Naturopathic, Homeopathic, Allopathic and Energetic treatment differ from one another, and why should Veterans care?* Read Harrison's article to find out.

Pete Dencker (2nd VP 75th RRA) continues to write feature articles about the men he served with while in Vietnam with H Company. This H Company Commander takes us on a mission of sorts to Cambodia and brings to life those heroes who gave all. Threads of Valor; Brotherhood.

Thank you all for your submission to Patrolling and continuing the thread.

Below is a picture that Terry Roderick sent in but we ran out of space in the P/75 pages, so here it is. Rick Polski's Brothers and Sister.

Stephen Odin Johnson-Editor



*Witkowski, Whaley, King, Karres, Gold Star Mom Jill Stephenson, Cassidy, Gates, Roderick, Lutz, Steve Johnson*

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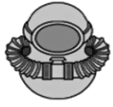
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The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that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

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

#### POSTMASTER

Send address corrections to:  
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Orangevale, CA 95662



## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

BY JOE MARQUEZ

Greetings Rangers.

There is a question that has been asked by one of the troopers on one of the websites that I sometimes post on. It is this, "What is this Bible s\*\*t on the website for?" My motivation for speaking of the things of God that I have learned from reading the Bible with an open mind. And then listening to the many and varied criticisms leveled against its teachings over the past four and a half decades. I suppose that I just can't find a better explanation for what I see around me than the fact that God created this planet and all in it for His own glory and our good.

I was just hunting with my son the Marine on the Marine Base at Quantico VA. As I waited for an animal to, as they say now, 'harvest'. I had the opportunity to observe the caution that these deer use before and after they come out to feed. I marveled at the way they had been equipped by their Creator to make a life in the woods. Their coloring, the size and shape of eyes and ears, the keenness of their sight, hearing and smell made it difficult to get close enough to them for a shot. Yet I had a scoped modern muzzleloader also designed to overcome the abilities of the secretive deer and bring them down from over a hundred yards away

I recognize that in a world like this some things must die so that others may live. The Bible references the fact that after the flood God gave all the creatures on earth to man for his sustenance. The deer being cloven footed were considered clean animals to the Jew. As my son and I went about the process of gutting, skinning and butchering the animal into meat, I was again impressed with the digestive and circulatory systems that moved the nutrients contained the grass the deer ate into muscle and bone. The sinews, which wrapped each group of muscles and then attached them to the skeleton so that the animal could function, so perfectly attuned to its environment, designed to thrive there. Yet my son and I brought that life to an end. For what? For the joy of destroying such a noble example of God's creative genius? No, but to provide food, protein for his growing family.

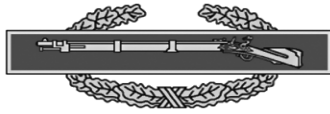
Fifty years ago I was with a rifle company in Vietnam, in the business of hunting two legged beings that also hunted us. Neither was hunting for food. But to fulfill the political desires of their respective governments. That is war. The military accepts the fact that in an armed conflict some will die. Each side's effort is to make, as Patton so colorfully described it, the other die for his country. But earthly conflict mirrors the greater one in Heavenly places. Peace and rest is not to be attained by force of arms but by force of will. It is as we align our wills with Gods that we

come to appreciate what our 'call' is. He has called for all to repent and believe the Good News that Christ Jesus came into the world, this artificial cosmos designed around the concept of creature will worship. To free us from the way in which this world works, by the stronger dominating and taking from the weaker. God's way is to respect the rights of all and to so work that we become lovers of God, of the others of mankind and take care to use the elements provided us wisely.

One of the euphemisms that we used to use referring to killing the enemy was to 'waste' them. God hates to waste anything. A man is far too precious a being to waste. But depending on a man's state when his time comes to die will determine whether or not his life is 'wasted'. The Lord Jesus spoke of the grain being gathered into the barn to be preserved while the chaff was to be gathered to be burned. What a tragedy when provision has been made for all to be preserved. Only the refusal to believe the truth that Christ died not for our sins only, (that of the Christians) but for the sins of the whole world will frustrate the design of God that we be saved. So many will disqualify themselves from being redeemed to God by the work of His Son by unbelief. Yet it need not be so. There is a way to get out of here alive. Maybe not physically alive but certainly spiritually alive. "He that hears my words, and believes on Him that sent me, has everlasting life and will not come into condemnation, but is passed from death into life." The words of Jesus Christ recorded in the Gospel of John, 5:24 He that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this? John 11:26 Jesus asked Mary the sister of Lazarus this question and then proceeded to raise her brother from the dead. Why because he wanted to show them, and us His power over death. Because he loved them. He loves us as well.

The death of those deer could not be stopped by anything they did. Spiritual death for any human can be stopped by the simple, yet profound step of hearing what God has said and responding in faith to the One who has surrounded us with such marvels as we see daily all around us. What is this Bible s\*\*t that we speak of? You must decide if it is refuse to be discarded, or riches to be treasured.

Joe Marquez, C/1/503rd,'69 N/75th, Juliet,'70 A/2/503rd,'70 Chaplain: SC Chapter 30, 173rd Airborne Brigade and the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Serving those who served. 864-467-0424 Cell 864-525-6941 Our lives are but for a moment, while what we do or leave undone will echo down through eternity.



**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 ELIGIBLE**

**SECTION 2:** Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

**SECTION 3:** Long Range Patrol

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

**Section 4:** 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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

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

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

**Presidents**

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

**SECTION 5:** Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)

**SECTION 6:** 75th Ranger Regiment

- 1st Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1974
- 2nd Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1974
- 3rd Battalion (RANGER) 75th Inf., activated in 1984
- 75th Ranger Regiment HHC Company, activated in 1984
- 75th Ranger Special Troops Battalion, activated in 2007
- 75th Ranger Military Intelligence Battalion, activated in 2017

**SECTION 7:** Long Range Surveillance: Any Long Range Surveillance Company or Detachment that can trace its lineage to, or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element, that was deployed to Vietnam as listed in section 2, 3, or 4.



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In Memory

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Greeting, Brothers, and the Greater Ranger Community.

### 45th Anniversary 1st Batt

My wife, Pam, and I recently returned from the Gala event celebrating the 45th anniversary of the 1st Ranger Battalion that was held in Savannah, Georgia. Even though it rained "sideways" during our stay, the spirit and friendship bolstered old and new comradery alike. For some reason there was a shortage of umbrellas in Savannah. We were quick enough by buying two and brought them home with us.

Kevin Barry's pub in the historical section of Savannah is always a place to hang out. Restaurants are plentiful within walking distance of the hotel. Other events like the indoor picnic and the outside 1st Battalion Memorial Service, to mention a few, kept us involved and focused during our stay. A well organized event and a big thank you all for that.

The 1st Battalion Gala was outstanding and was well attended by past and current serving Rangers and their guests. The Savannah Convention Center was the venue for this event and we certainly enjoyed ourselves, even in formal attire.

### 30th Anniversary Operation Just Cause

The front cover of *Patrolling* is in honor of the mission that took place in Panama from December 20, 1989-January 31, 1990. 20,000 troops were involved in a well orchestrated insertion that resulted in keeping the Americans in Panama safe and ousting Noriega, among other things. All three battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment were involved in a combat jump and captured 1,000 prisoners of war and over 18,000 weapons. But five Rangers were killed in action, one from the 1st Battalion and two each from the 2nd and 3rd. Those fallen heroes are recognized on the front cover. 20-some American lives were lost in Operation Just Cause. I have been reading several books on this while many of you were there. Rangers Lead The Way!

### Event Dates: Best Ranger and Camp Merrill Critter Cookout

Mark your calendars for upcoming 2020 events. The Best Ranger Competition is schedule for April 16th through the 19th. The events information can be found on page 11. The Ranger Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament has my wife's attention. In the next issue we will include hotel accommodations information for you in *Patrolling*.

The Camp Merrill Critter Cookout event is going to be starting on Friday April 24th with the fish fry and the 5th RTB Open House will be on Saturday, April 25th. This is an event that is well attended so start making travel plans soon. If you are traveling by car to Dahlonga and you see fresh critter roadkill, ice it down and cook it up as a serving.

### Constant Contact Email

Many of us have changed email servers recently and some have just recently started using email. In order for you to receive im-

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY STEPHEN O. JOHNSON



and email contact info to Tom Sove, 75th RRA secretary via his email:

secretary@75thrra.org

At present, we only have about 500 email addresses on constant contact and we should have, minimum, over 2,000. Update or register now, please! Be informed.

### 75th RRA 2020 Ranger Hall of Fame Packets

The last day to submit 2020 Ranger Hall of Packets to me was December 1st. That information was sent out to all UD's twice and also was posted in the September's issue of the president's column in *Patrolling*. That timeline gives the executive board two months to suggest revisions to the units making a submission and then resubmitting until all packets are completed to an acceptable high standard.

Next, the executive board will rate each packet using the same criteria which the 2020 Ranger Hall of Fame Selection Committee will be using. In February, the top 3 packets (the 75th RRA is allowed to submit 3) will be forwarded to Tracy Bailey, secretary for the RHOF Selection Committee.

The Ranger Hall of Fame Selection Committee will receive hard copies of all submitted packets prior to meeting at Ft Benning on April 24. RHOF members selected will be notified shortly after and the RHOF Ceremony will be held in July in Fort Benning.

### BYLAW Update

We are presently tabling any bylaw ballots, additions, or amendments until a further, ongoing study can be completed.

### Initial New Memberships; Not a Renewal

We can't stress the importance of recruiting those who qualify for a free initial membership. This would be for anyone who is presently or has been scolded by the 75th Ranger Regiment. You can print off information by accessing page 6 of this issue (membership application). Doing this will make our fraternal base a younger one. Just imagine, if everyone of us could recruit a new member, what kind of an impact that would have on assuring our legacy to live on as the 75th Ranger Regiment Association!

### Holiday Thanks to Those Serving

On behalf of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. our thoughts and prayers are with those who are presently serving in harm's way. The majority of us can remember the emotions brought about by not being with our loved ones back home, especially during the holidays. When you experience that, the pictures of those eventful times are there, yet the mission goes on in a foreign land. And in a literal sense, for a very long time. Regardless, we are with you!

RLTW!

**FREE MEMBERSHIP- NOT A RENEWAL OFFER**

**NEW MEMBERS FREE OFFER\***

The 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Inc. is embarking on a membership drive specifically aimed at veterans of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. The 75thRRA is offering free one-year memberships to those who qualify as a Regular Member as defined in Article VIII-Section 2 of our By-Laws, and only to those who served in a qualifying unit as defined by Article V-Sections 6 & 7. Our goal is to acquire 500 new Regiment members, and the offer will expire only when that goal is reached. \*

**ARTICLE VIII-SECTION 2:** Regular membership

Regular membership is afforded to any individual who served honorably in any of the predecessor or successor units, or who is presently serving in a current or successor unit listed in ARTICLE V of these Bylaws. Regular active members enjoy the full rights and privileges of membership, to include the responsibility and the right to vote on all issues and matters presented to the membership, which include elections of all Executive Board Officers of the Association and changes to these Bylaws. Only members afforded Regular membership status may hold National level Association office of Executive Board of Officers. Applications for Regular membership, along with the prescribed supporting documentation, shall be submitted to the Association Secretary.

**ARTICLE V-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



**COMPLETE ALL FORMS AND SEND TO:**

**75th RRA  
PO Box 2200  
Orangevale, CA 95662**

**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 of Article V of our by-laws

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	MI
STREET ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
PRIMARY PHONE	SECONDARY PHONE	
EMAIL ADDRESS		

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**UNITS**

FROM (DATE) TO (DATE)                      UNIT (Company or Battalion)                      NAMES OR ORDERS


REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP CONTINGENT UPON PROOF OF SERVICE AS REQUIRED BY OUR BYLAWS:** orders, or have two current members provide testimony of your service in an eligible unit as designated by our Bylaws. We are not just a Vietnam era veteran's organization. Service in all units of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment is eligible for membership.



# 1st VP MESSAGE

ROY BARLEY



Well, the snow is flying, and we are headed into an early winter. As we enter into this cold and snowy time of year, we have to vocalize the thought that maybe we should have settled in a warmer climate. Taking a walk into the woods and you realize that the beauty of this time of year. It is so silent in the woods that it seems like you can hear the snowflakes hitting the trees, and the ground. I've been told that snow is God's way of covering all of man's mistakes. I just wish he would not cover it so thickly.

Looking back on this year it has seen lots of change for the 75<sup>th</sup>. Patrolling has been published on time for the past couple of years, A quality magazine, and now the members get something for their dues.

We are still in a partnership with Harley-Davidson and hope to do another raffle in 2021. I cannot say enough good about Harley.

Since the last issue I got an e-mail from a former Ranger who has a job placement firm and is for combat arms and primarily for Rangers leaving the service. The service is called Silent Professionals and has a very good job placement rate. There is no charge to the veteran for the service as the employers pay as this company provides only quality candidates. They have an

84% job placement success rate. Check them out at:

<https://silentprofessionals.org>. This is an example of what is possible with a mentoring program. There are various opportunities for helping our young Rangers. Again, just listening is a service that we can all offer.

We do need to be proactive in responding to our young men. Those of us who returned to college after service can certainly respond and answer questions from those who chose this route and all we need do is make ourselves available.

This upcoming year will provide events to attend that have participation with Rangers ie: Best Ranger Competition and a chance to hook up with old friends and some new ones at the LRRR reunion in Branson.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know that is politically incorrect but hell, I never was one for political correctness.

Wishing everyone good health; happiness and joy in the new year!

Roy Barley

# TREASURER'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER CRUNK

I apologize for not getting the accounting completed in time for this issue. I have been on the road a lot and busy with everyday life but the account balances are:

Operation-----	27,741.72
Benevolent-----	10,971.36
Benevolent Money Market-	37,483.66
Savings-----	35,481.55
Life Funds Money Market---	38,693.78
Legacy Walkway -----	3,759.26
PayPal-----	6,280.26
<b>Total-----</b>	<b>\$160,411.59</b>

## BROTHERHOOD—JILL STEPHENSON

They asked if they could be present at my son's funeral. They were the Midwest All Airborne Alliance. I had no clue who they were. They sounded dignified, and it hardly felt right to not allow them to be there when all they wanted to do was honor my son's service and sacrifice. They came in their jumpsuits, their Airborne jumpsuits from Vietnam. They were Rangers, and they came to pay homage to my son, their brother. More than forty years separated them by age, but the brotherhood does not make age a separation of due honor. A brother is a brother.

I only remember two of them from that day. They introduced themselves to me. There were seven hundred people in that room, but they stood out. One was a Ranger who served in Korea and Vietnam, and one of the earliest instructors at Ranger School in

Dahlongega, Georgia dating back to 1953. The other, an "N" Company Ranger who served in Vietnam. I would get to know and love the two of them dearly over the next several years (I still do).

In the time following Ben's funeral I was invited to events held by the Midwest All Airborne Alliance in the Twin Cities. One of the first events was a Veterans Day ceremony. It was held on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in St. Paul.

There was a lunch afterwards at a local restaurant. About 20 of the men who were at the ceremony came to the lunch. After settling in, somebody announced that it was time for "the toast." All who were present formed a circle and I watched as some sort of receptacle was filled with champagne (high quality I might add) and started a trip around the room. Each man took a



cup, made a toast and passed it onto the person next to him. It was explained to me that the receptacle was a prop blaster that someone had welded a bottom and gold handles onto. It was brought home from Vietnam and now paid homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.



Some choked back tears as they said their brother's names out loud. They recalled the last day of life with them on the battlefield as 20-somethings, the memories permanently burned into their minds. Some dated back fifty years. I also choked back tears witnessing this. I imagined these now 60, 70 and 80 year old men as my 21 year-old son and his brothers in arms. Would they do something similar forty or fifty years from now? I was honored and overwhelmed to make a toast to

Ben and be included in the ceremonial passing of this prop blaster, now a revered chalice.

I recently attended the funeral of a local Vietnam Ranger. I was contacted by one of the men the deceased had served with. He knew who I was from reading my articles and blog in *Patrolling* magazine. He wanted me to reach out to the local Rangers I knew in hopes they could attend the funeral.



He was flying in from Virginia. He recounted the day his brother (the deceased) saved his life - fifty years ago! When this was mentioned during the funeral, he outwardly sobbed. Brothers never forget.

*Continued on the next page*

## BROTHERHOOD

There were about ten Rangers who attended this funeral. Two came from Florida, one from Georgia, and another rode his

motorcycle from Arizona. Another local gentlemen had very minimal interaction with any of these brothers over the last fifty years. He had kept in touch via newsletters and such, but had not seen any of them. He decided it was time. He was a team leader to one of the other men. Despite the circumstance of the gathering, these men, these brothers for so many years, had a wonderful reunion.

The only thing that makes battle psychologically tolerable is the brotherhood among soldiers. You need each other to get by. - Sebastian Junger

The gentleman who died is survived by one son. A young man very close in age to my son Ben. He would get to see first hand how strong the bond was between his father and the men he served with. He also came to know the depth of meaning in the bond that is felt amongst those people we come to know and love as family, that are not blood related. I warned him that just as I lost my son, but gained many more, he now had at least ten more fathers who would think of him as their own.

The week before the funeral, I received a phone call from a Vietnam Ranger named Brian. He said he had something that he wanted to send me. I had never met him or spoke to him. He used his own resources to find my number. I

asked him a few questions. When did he serve? Where did he live? How did he know who I was? He had known about me for several years and has been reading my articles in *Patrolling* magazine. He was inspired by Ben's sacrifice and our story.

The night I returned home from the Ranger funeral, I received the package from Brian. I have come to call these sort of things, "Benergy": when there is no logical explanation for something, and know, without any uncertainty, that perfect timing only exists in God's world.

(I don't believe in coincidence, only providence.) I opened the package to find a ring just my size, custom designed in the shape of a heart with the Ranger Distinguished Unit Insignia across the center. I immediately began to cry. The tears came from a mixed bag of emotions; sadness and loss, yet joy and gratitude for the

love that was shared amongst my Ranger family over the course of the day and every moment that led

to today.

I called Brian the next day to thank him for the ring. He asked if I was going to wear it. I promised I would and would do so with an enormous sense of love and pride. Somehow it fits both of my ring fingers perfectly. He said he felt compelled to make it for me in honor of Ben and all that I have sacrificed. Brian's service and Ben's service, connected only by the brotherhood, gifted me something I will cherish forever.

In Mark Batterson's (one of my favorite authors) latest book entitled, "Double Blessing", he says, "Legacy isn't measured by what we accomplish in our lifetimes. It's measured by our coaching tree, our mentoring chain. It's measured by the fruit

we grow on other people's trees (read that again). It's measured by the investments we make in others that are still earning compound interest twenty years later. It is measured by every blessing we bestow".

The things we do for others may not seem like a blessing at the time, but they very well can become one later, to that person or to someone else. I challenge you to think of this with every person you encounter and every action you take. How will it affect others? Would you want this to be associated with the fruit you leave behind? The gentleman whose funeral I attended

was a blessing to his brothers and to his son, who is now reaping the love shared between them for more than fifty years. My son is a blessing to those whose lives he saved and so many more who still think of him and the difference he made.

Brotherhood doesn't begin and end on the battlefield. When the fighting is over, life becomes the battlefield. In the blessings and losses, in the places where souls are poured out and meld together like spilled mercury, iron-clad bonds remain, and serve them to their final breath.

Life brings sorrows and joys alike. It is what a man does with them - not what they do to him - that is the true test of his mettle. - Theodore Roosevelt



## PATROLLING YOUR HEALTH

On August 14, 2019, the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians (AANP) reported a success in their 5-year cam-

campaign to get the Veterans Health Administration to authorize naturopathic care for veterans. They announced, "A Naturopathic Clinic in Washington has signed what is believed to be the first ever contract with a benefits administrator of the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to provide services to veterans." They claim the use of naturopathic physicians will improve outcomes, reduce cost, improve disease prevention, and increase patient satisfaction.

Licensed Naturopathic Doctors in the VA

One of the AANP's major public policy goals is to convince the VA to hire licensed naturopathic doctors (NDs) so they can begin treating veterans at VA facilities. Licensed NDs are rigorously trained in natural, non-toxic, and non-addictive treatments that can serve as an excellent alternative to prescription drugs. Such medications often have numerous side effects— as opioids do, for example, in the treatment of chronic pain.

Veterans themselves assert they would prefer a doctor who prescribes natural therapies *before* considering drugs or surgery. Furthermore, veterans state they would be very interested in seeing a naturopathic doctor if one were on staff at a nearby VA facility.

This webpage offers insights and resources aimed at enabling licensed NDs to be credentialed in the VA.

Resources:

NDs in the VA: FAQs

National Survey of Veterans and Naturopathic Care

Congressional Letter Delivered to the VA

AANP White Paper Supplied to the VA

Campaign Petition

Campaign Flyer

Letter Campaign

The AANP appreciates your interest and support to help us attain this worthwhile public policy goal. If you would like to assist in any other way, please email [advocacy@naturopathic.org](mailto:advocacy@naturopathic.org) or call 202-237-8150.

So, how do Naturopathic, Homeopathic, Allopathic and Energetic treatment differ from one another, and why should Veterans care? Allopathic medicine touts being evidence-based and scientifically proven with regard to the use of drugs to treat a patient's symptoms, not the cause, as the most modern form of medical treatment. It basically arrived on the scene with the pharmaceutical industry and is drug based; very little attention is given to the study of diet, nutrition or other outside influences that can assist a patient. It is ideally suited to ER treatment and technology related applications of medicine. Homeopathic medicine offers that "like cures like", the same principle as that of a vaccination. Small remedies of a "diseased" solution are insert-

ed into the body with the understanding that the body is capable of resisting such and will fight it off on its own. Naturopathic medicine believes that the body can heal itself if given the chance and proper environment, like clean air, water, sunshine and nature. It also incorporates the study of nutrition, psychology, and complementary therapies such as herbal medicine and homeopathy that have proven to effectively heal over centuries of application. It focuses upon identifying the cause of a health problem, solving it and then organizing a plan to prevent its recurrence. Energetic medicine believes that the human body is a complex entanglement of up to six different energy bodies of different frequencies that all need to be balanced to maintain health & wellness. Any number of means from sound, light, color, meditation, visualization and technologies are employed to re-balance the body. A medical intuitive is a person who can sense these energetic imbalances even before they manifest as disease and is often working side by side an Allopathic physician to diagnose.

The above introduction is a simple overview of only four types of treatment that are available in this country. If you travel to other countries in the world, drugs are not even available, much less a desired treatment for ones aches and pains. The fact that the VA has now acknowledged a second type of treatment for Veterans is critical. Since naturopathy has been recognized by the VA, a Veteran may ask for such services in lieu of treatment by drugs. As referenced in the above questionnaire, 64% of the Veterans interviewed expressed a desire to NOT USE MEDICATION as a first form of treatment. Personal experience with hundreds of Veterans over the past ten years has supported these statistics because of the short term physical consequences and the potential of multiple drug complications and even long term addiction of opioids for chronic pain. Congress has even mandated the VA to come up with alternatives to opioids to deal with chronic pain as the Veteran suicide rate has not come down from 21 Vets per day now for years.

The down side of this issue is that the VA has not worked out all the bugs in making Naturopathic care available to Veterans. Some states do not recognize Naturopathic medical treatment and as such may not have Naturopaths available through the Mission Act to service Veterans in a particular state or VISN. Another factor is that at the moment the bugs have not been worked out regarding the working relationship between Naturopathic services and the Veteran i.e. the paper work trail through insurance and other factors. So, once again we are guinea pigs roasting on the spit of change. Compared to previous generations of Veterans, however, I think we should be grateful that so much change has in fact taken place within the VA over the past ten years. If enough Vets ask to see a Naturopathic physician, the bugs will get worked out that much more quickly.

So why should you ask to see a Naturopath? 1) TO GET A SECOND OPINION before getting drugged into submission by another physician who simply looks up your presenting condition(s) in his PDR (Physician's Desk Reference) and fills out another prescription form to be filled *Continued on the next page*

at your VA pharmacy because it was quick and easy and he met the time limit now imposed upon VA physicians. 2) Drugs are poisonous and contribute to increasing toxicity in your system, all which are accumulative and could result in additional symptoms to be treated by even more drugs. 3) Drugs don't cure; they simply provide temporary relief to presenting conditions. Ask a VA physician how long you will have to take them and his response will almost always be, "We don't know the cause, probably the rest of your life". 4) Naturopathic physicians treat each patient by taking into account individual physical, mental, emotional, genetic, environmental, social, and other factors. A Naturopath will usually take your entire medical history and presenting conditions into consideration, triage your situation and then address you as a total individual. 5) Utilize methods and medicinal substances which minimize the risk of harmful side effects, using the least force necessary to diagnose and treat. 6) They focus on long-term health & wellness and chronic disease prevention, avoiding the suppression of symptoms. 7) They are an ideal compliment to allopathic treatment services. 8) You owe it to yourself to find out how to heal yourself as naturally as possible.

Naturopathic practice includes the following diagnostic and therapeutic modalities: clinical and laboratory diagnostic testing, nutritional medicine, botanical medicine, naturopathic physical medicine (including naturopathic manipulative therapy), public health measures, hygiene, counseling, minor surgery, homeopathy, acupuncture, prescription medication, intravenous and injection therapy, and naturopathic obstetrics (natural childbirth).

Given the benefits of naturopathy and the expansion of services that are now available within the VA at much less risk to Veterans since August of this year, I felt it was incumbent upon me to provide a little background and insight into this field. I encourage each of you to address it with your primary care physician so they know you are interested and aware of its existence; it will probably not become evident to most Veterans that it is even available since most VA doctors are allopathic by study and training. Expect a little push back because it is threatening to most physicians to be challenged, especially when they may not have the background to discuss prevention or cause with you. When it comes to my health, I defer to no one until they can prove to me they have my best interests at heart and are more knowledgeable than I am. I encourage you to do the same.

Harrison Jack

# 2020 Best Ranger Competition

**16 APRIL 2020**  
**DAY 0 EVENTS:**  
 1000 DMOB Induction Ceremony (Ranger Hall of Fame)  
 1300 Ranger Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament (Maple Ridge)  
 1800 On the Tap and Chatabrewchee Pre-BRC Downtown

**17 APRIL 2020**  
**DAY 1 EVENTS:**  
 0545 Opening Ceremony (Camp Rogers)  
 0730 Ranges (Dixie Road)  
 1200 Events Begin Downtown  
 1900 Icebreaker (Columbus Ironworks)

**18 APRIL 2020**  
**DAY 2 EVENTS:**  
 0800 Day Stakes (Todd Field)  
 1700 Cocktail Hour (Ranger Hall of Fame)  
 1800 Best Ranger Competition Donor Social (Whetten Hall)

**19 APRIL 2020**  
**DAY 3 EVENTS:**  
 1430 Final Buddy Run (Camp Rogers)  
 1500 Finish Line  
 1600 Best Ranger Competition Super Supper (Whetten Hall)

**20 APRIL 2020**  
**AWARDS DAY:**  
 1000 Awards Ceremony ( Marshall Auditorium)  
 1300 Cadre Picnic (Whetten Hall)

The Best Ranger Competition is a US Army event and supported by The National Ranger Association, Inc. (501 c-3: 58-2023357). The Association was formed in 1998 to establish and recognize distinguished members in the Ranger community and to promote the values established in the Ranger Creed. The National Ranger Association helps to raise funds to support events surrounding The Best Ranger Competition, The Ranger Hall of Fame and the Distinguished Members of the Brigade. Contact Travis Pheanis E: ohranger78@gmail.com or C: (706)-718-0300 for more information on how you can contribute to The National Ranger Association.

For years, Army Rangers have nicknamed the declining number of Merrill's Marauders attending Ft. Benning military functions as "rock stars" since there's usually a group of young Rangers trailing behind them.

The October 23<sup>rd</sup> one-day visit to Congress by Merrill's Marauders "Bob" Passanisi, 95, from New York and Gilbert Howland, 96, from New Jersey "drove home" why that is an apt description. The two, part of only nine still living, were in Washington to gain support for S. 743 and H.R. 906 to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the 5307<sup>th</sup> Composite Unit Provisional, their unit's official name.

# MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

By Jonnie Clasen



There are enough Senators to pass S. 743.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Jonnie Melillo Clasen

Merrill's Marauder liaison officer

Daughter, Merrill's Marauder & Korean War veteran  
Vincent Melillo

706 689-0153 H

828 230-8724 C – NO TEXTS



**Merrill's Marauders enthusiastically greeted Oct. 23, 2019, in Congress**  
as they seek support for S. 743 and H.R. 906 Congressional Gold Medal Act

**Top row (L-R)** California Senator Dianne Feinstein visits with Merrill's Marauders Gilbert Howland and Bob Passanisi; Utah Senator Mitt Romney shakes hands with Gilbert Howland and Bob Passanisi as Jason Maynard, Congressional Defense Fellow for Senator Johnny Isakson, looks on.

**Center Row (L-R)** Montana Senator Jon Tester laughs with Howland. Pennsylvania Senator Bob Casey, shakes hands with Howland. Maine Senator Susan Collins talks with Passanisi. Oklahoma Senator Jim Inhofe visits with Passanisi. Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow shakes hands with Passanisi and Howland.

**Bottom Row (L-R)** Iowa Senator Joni Ernst visits with Howland and Passanisi as former Nebraska Senator and Navy Seal Bob Kerrey, Medal of Honor recipient, visits in background. New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand laughs with Passanisi and Howland. Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar stands behind Virginia Senator Tim Kaine, seated between Howland and Passanisi. Levar Armstrong, Georgia Congressman Sanford Bishop's military liaison, with Passanisi. Mimi Blair, Ohio Congressman Steve Stivers' legislative aide, with Passanisi and Howland.



















# FEATURE ARTICLE-CAMBODIA MISSION



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—BENNIE GENTRY



Pete Dencker-Writer

The memorial space for this article honors Jaime Pacheco who served with H Company from October of 1971 until he was killed in action on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1972. Jaime was born on March 1,

1952, in Hobbs, New Mexico. He enlisted in the Army in 1970 and prior to his arrival in RVN had completed training as a Combat Engineer, Medic, and was a Ranger School graduate. At the time of his death Jaime had a wife and an 18-month old son, Michael. Jaime was buried at the Memory Gardens Cemetery in Hobbs, New Mexico – he was awarded The Silver Star for his actions on May 25<sup>th</sup>. The story doesn't really end there. On a prior mission Jaime's team was accompanied by Doug Sterner, a combat engineer who was finishing his 2<sup>nd</sup> tour in Vietnam as a media person for the Cav. Jaime and Doug became close friends prior to Doug returning to the states. It was Jaime's wife that notified Doug of his death and the following 20 years left Doug wondering what happened to Jaime's family in particular, his son Michael. In 1998 – over 20 years later, a picture of Jaime and Doug was randomly selected as the cover of the Cav calendar – it was this calendar that put Jaime's wife back in touch with Doug. Additionally, it was this event that also put Jaime's son Michael in touch with Doug to finally hear about their friendship and his father's Vietnam experience. Doug also happens to run an organization Home of Heroes. One of the focuses of his organization is fighting the issue of "stolen valor". In 2005 a man in California took Jaime's Silver Star certificate and put his name on it. The fraud was finally outed thanks to organizations like Home of Hero's. Doug's story about Jaime with a foreword from Michael Pacheco can be found at [www.homeofheroes.com](http://www.homeofheroes.com) (search for



Jaime's Story in the search box). It's a great story and a must read.

This issue highlights Team "Hard Rider 74" and one of their missions in Cambodia. It was written by Lou Bruchey, with help from Darrell Smith and edited by Pete Dencker.

On May 1, 1970, the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division, supported by other U.S. ground forces and ARVN units in Vietnam invaded Cambodia by launching a multi-pronged attack along the border in MR III. Spearheading the assault were the five-man, long range patrol teams (LRRP) from H Co (Ranger), 75<sup>th</sup> Inf (ABN). The LRRPs had traditionally been the "eyes and ears" of the 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Division, and their mission, which did not change for the

Cambodia operation, was to provide vital intelligence on the identification, location, and movement of enemy troops.

The week following the initiation of the Cambodian incursion Ranger team Hard Rider 74 flew from its home base at Phuoc Vinh to the 3rd Brigade HQ that had temporarily moved to Quon Loi in support of the invasion. From there, the team proceeded across the border to newly established Fire Support Base David, the 1<sup>st</sup>. Cavalry Division's most northern outpost in Cambodia. Team members were Team Leader Sgt. Bill Abbott (TL); Assistant Team Leader (ATL), Sgt. Johnny Rodriguez, Radio Operator (RTO), PFC Darrell Smith, Medic, PFC Carl Laker; and Rear Scout PFC Lou Bruchey (RS). After arriving at FSB David, the Team attended the Commander's operations briefing, where they learned they were to be inserted into



an AO (area of operation) deep into Cambodia and close to the intersection of three branches of the Ho Chi Minh trail. With multiple trails, a nearby river and bridge, this AO was targeted for being a major staging area for supplies as well a consolidation point for communist forces prior to their crossing the border into Vietnam.

*Continued on the next page*

## FEATURE CAMBODIA MISSION CONTINUED

Soon after the briefing, the Team lifted off from FSB. David and began the long flight west to the designated AO in Cambodia. The team sat silently on the floor of the Huey, leaning back against their packs - legs dangling out the door - all the time thinking about the insertion and all that could go right or wrong. Beneath, the land rose and fell, typical of the rolling hills of the central highlands. Once entering Cambodia, the Team noticed a marked change in the landscape. All previous missions in Vietnam had been characterized by bomb scarred, triple canopied jungle where there were no roads, buildings, or cultivated fields. Since entering Cambodia, the Team passed over dirt roads, cultivated land, and occasional clusters of huts. At this point everyone realized "this is going to be different."

As with all missions, Rangers operated in a "free fire zone." No "friendlylies" were supposed to be in the designated area of operation, so anyone found in the AO was considered to be an enemy combatant.

Once the Team was on short final, the chopper dropped steeply onto the slope of a large grassy area. Seconds from touchdown, Team 74 jumped from the chopper skids and moved across the open area toward the jungle which capped the high ground of a ridge. About ten meters from the edge of the jungle, we stepped over a well used trail that ran paralleled to a tree line. TL Abbott led the team into the jungle where they soon paused, each man crouched with his weapon in the ready position, each man scanning his area of responsibility, each man watching and listening. Whether moving, halting, investigating a trail or bunker, or setting up an overnight position, every Ranger had an assigned area of responsibility to monitor so that the team always had eyes and ears covering 360 degrees around their position. In the distance, the staccato whomp of the chopper faded away until the world became silent maze of vines, bamboo, scrub brush and bugs.

After a few minutes, Abbott removed his pack and quietly placed it on the ground. In turn, he directed each man to a position. In a typical overnight halt, the rangers set up in a circle with packs in the center and each man facing out. The LRRPs sat on the ground with legs extended like the spokes of a wheel with their packs in the center, serving as a back rest. The Team could see the open area and the trail, but the jungle vegetation provided just enough concealment to prevent the Team from being seen from the trail. After establishing commo, the Team provided a location as best they could.

"Did you see the boot marks?" whispered Abbot to the rest of the team. Everyone nodded. "Stay alert. We're staying here." It was late afternoon and there was much that needed to be accomplished before nightfall.



In turn, each man very quietly cleared an area just long and wide enough for sleeping. His pack would be his pillow, his web gear laid along his right side. The RTO removed the radio from his pack and placed it in the center of our position. When everyone was settled in, Abbott whispered for the Claymores. Each man carried two Claymore anti-personnel mines and several lengths of detonation cord with blasting caps attached to each end so the Claymores could be daisy-chained together. Abbott and Rodriguez gathered the claymores; then, cautiously, Abbott, Rodriguez, Laker, and Bruchey moved out into the open area. Laker covered one end of the trail, Bruchey covered the other end as

Abbott and Rodriguez strategically placed the Claymores along the path. After the claymores were in place and connected, Abbott unrolled a spool of electrical wire (used to detonate the mines) and created a path for the wire back to the clacker and our overnight position. Then without any sound, the Team all moved back into the jungle to their ambush site. The ambush was set.

The team sat quietly throughout the afternoon. No one moved from his spot on the ground, and no one spoke. Each man scanned the area in front of him. Each man was lost in his own thoughts and alert with anticipation of what was ahead. Everyone had seen the tracks on the hardpack. There were plenty of them - and they looked fresh. Although eager for the opportunity to ambush the enemy, everyone was also wary of the situation and location they occupied. There was some thought about a previous mission in Cambodia that emphasized the reality that anything was possible in the field. In that instance, the team had searched through heavy jungle the entire the day without finding a trace of the enemy prior to stopping for an overnight halt. While resting under the protection of triple canopy jungle, a large truck motor started up and remained idling close to their position. The team reacted with bewilderment and surprise. A truck in the middle of a jungle with no roads? How was that possible? How did we not see it? What kind of truck? Troop transport? If so, how many men? Supply truck? Were we close to a camp? Was it even a truck? Maybe it was armor. One thing for sure, it wasn't a Volkswagen Beetle. The team called for a pink team (consisting of a Cobra gunship & a Light Observation Helicopter to their location for backup and to find the truck and any personnel that might be present. After arriving on station, the LOH buzzed the treetops, but was unable to spot the vehicle. The Cobra made repeated strafing runs close to the team's position and in the direction of the truck noise, but the results were unknown as the team now compromised and was extracted after the Cobra had expended its ordinance.

Suddenly, there was movement on the trail....everyone was alert and the adrenalin was pumping. *Continued on the next page*



About fifty meters away to the right front, the team watched in amazement as a column of NVA soldiers streamed out of a draw onto the trail and moved toward the ambush position. Everyone became extra quiet and tried to become one with the ground beneath them.

Hearts were pounding as the long line of NVA approached the team's position. The NVA were heavily armed with AK47s, machine guns, ammo belts, and B-40 rocket propelled grenade launchers. Some wore the familiar NVA green uniform with pith helmet, while others wore black pajama like pants and shirts. Each man carried a large pack. Some of the soldiers looked very scruffy, even wild, with long hair and dirty uniforms. It was obvious these were not new recruits, rather veteran troops who had been in the field a long time. Despite their heavy load, the men walked quickly. Several times we heard men speak harshly as if urging the others to move quicker, or maybe it was just someone bitching like all soldiers do about harsh conditions, a forced march, or the task at hand. Their voices were sharp and abrupt. The Team was mentally trying to determine who these guys were. They had probably all lived in the field under tough conditions for months at a time, constantly dealing with air attacks, having enough to eat, lack of medical care, destined to fight an endless war against a superior force until they were either maimed or killed. They looked dedicated to their cause however, and despite the fact they looked battle worn they still looked tough.

The Team was amazed as the seemingly endless column passed by. Minutes earlier the team was sitting quietly in the jungle. Within seconds, they were suddenly within a few yards of hundreds of enemy soldiers who had no idea that the team was within spitting distance. True, the team was camouflaged head to toe and concealed in the jungle, but barely. The location was not in heavy, thick, triple canopy jungle. It was more like a shrub brush, vines, and a thinly treed forest. The other concern at this point other than adequate concealment, was the fact that there was no real cover. There were no large trees, rocks, sandbags, bunkers, buildings, or even fox holes for protection. The entire team's position was no more than a few yards wide. A long burst from one enemy AK47 could take out the entire team. The

## FEATURE CAMBODIA MISSION CONTINUED



*Lou Bruchey on left and Darrell Smith on right*

only hope was to remain silent and invisible. No cover and very little concealment did not make for a good situation.

The team was so close to the trail and therefore the enemy... that everyone was concentrating on remaining absolutely quiet - controlling their breathing as best they could. No one could move as ants and other insects crawled over their bodies. There were five members on the team and certainly a clear realization by all that if anyone moved, coughed, spoke, or made any kind of sound, the entire team would most likely die. Although the team was highly trained, everyone knew the score - don't panic - don't shoot - don't set off the claymores because even the well-placed anti-personnel mines wouldn't kill them all. The reality was the Team had no clue how many more were behind the element in front of them.

What about the claymores - the claymores had been set up along the trail -if even one NVA saw them, the situation would become immediately hectic and deadly. Even though the team was careful in setting and camouflaging the mines, were they completely hidden from view? Was the det cord properly hidden because in the open area there wasn't much ground cover and the grass was relatively thin and low. During in country Ranger training the team had listened to stories from veteran LRRPs about enemy soldiers who had actually seen improperly hidden claymores before they were detonated - stories of claymores that were set too low and when detonated didn't kill the enemy but just blew their legs off - stories of claymores that didn't detonate. Everyone was silently hoping that the claymores they set were both hidden well enough to not be seen and set correctly so they were effective.

The radio was another real concern. A squelch break or a crackle of a radio transmission could alert the enemy. Everyone was still. Everyone was quiet. Every eye was riveted on the line of enemy soldiers moving past our position and hoping that nothing would give away the Team's position, luckily the radio was quiet as well.

Finally, the long enemy column had moved past the Team's position. RTO Smith put the radio handset to his ear and quietly alerted FSB. David with a situation report.

*Continued on the next page*

## FEATURE CAMBODIA MISSION CONTINUED

SOP for stealth purposes, was that all comms was accomplished with barely audible squelch breaks, except during insertions, extractions, and contact. One squelch break meant “yes,” two squelch breaks meant “no.” After the mission, and during the after-action report, the Team learned what transpired on the radio.

From the tactical operation center at the firebase: “Hard Rider 74, do you have movement?”

Squelch

“Are you in contact?”

Squelch. Squelch.

“For every 3 packs (enemy soldiers), give me one squelch break.”

Smith repeatedly broke squelch without really counting the number. At this point, the exact number was immaterial. When he stopped, the relay operator at FSB David hesitated as if he misunderstood, and then asked, “Understand 40 packs?”

Smith replied with two squelches.

“Understand 120 packs?”

Smith replied with a squelch. Yes.

Within minutes the Team was told that a pink team was not immediately available, but artillery was, and they were standing by for a firing mission.

No sooner had the first column passed the team and they were able to breathe somewhat normally – the team was shocked to hear more Vietnamese voices and the sound of troops on the march. Unbelievably, the team saw another line of NVA emerge along the trail heading toward their position. Once again – for several minutes, enemy soldiers shuffled past the Team’s position, not in one long, evenly spaced column, but in smaller, platoon sized groups.

Darrell Smith, the RTO, recalled his experience that night.

“At dusk on our first night, we watched – as I remember- 200-300 bad guys walk swiftly uphill in a long, broken line through a scrubby draw to pass within 10 meters or so of our position. The NVA were extremely close. Too close! We hugged the ground completely motionless. I remember lots of black pajamas, oth-



ers in green with flop hats and some had pith helmets. They carried AK47s,

magazine fed machine guns, rocket propelled grenades, and a few had rakes and shovels. When we talked later, someone said one of them had a bugle strapped to his pack.

No one got an accurate count because the sheer number of them challenged our primitive Ranger arithmetic. We had to lie absolutely still and completely concealed with our faces and bodies as close to ground as possible. I didn’t even want to show the whites of my eyes. It took them many long minutes to walk by us in numerous drawn out groups. They were talking and coughing and occasionally yelling at each other. I was hoping none of them would stop and pee on us.

After all the groups had passed, we thought some of enemy had halted a

couple hundred meters beyond us at the end of the finger of hilltop jungle. We called in artillery (Redleg), on them. Within minutes, 105s howitzers from David began lobbing high explosive rounds into the path of the NVA. The shells exploded in the distance, then seemed to get closer. Several rounds landed way too close. Were the coordinates correct? Now, we could hear shouting and movement from the NVA, and we quickly realized some of them were moving into the jungle and back toward us to avoid the incoming artillery. Between the exploding rounds, I finally called in a cease fire.”

Within minutes the guns stopped firing and an eerie calm settled over the area. The team lay motionless, frozen to the ground, M-16s ready, claymore clackers in hand, silently absorbing everything that had just taken place. The Team waited for more enemy movement, but the trail was empty, and the jungle was silent. Still, they remained in their position, alert for any enemy voices or movement. The primary goal for the mission was to find the enemy, and the Team had exceeded that goal beyond their wildest imagination.

*Continued on the next page*

## FEATURE CAMBODIA MISSION

Finally, Abbott and Smith were able to quietly call in a sit rep to FSB David. When the higher ups at the firebase grasped our situation, they decided to extract the Team as soon as possible. A pink team and Huey were dispatched, and the Team prepared to move out onto the LZ. Because the Team had no idea when or if more NVA would be on the trail, the plan was to wait until the lift ship was on station, blow the claymores to clear a path then move across the trail, out into the open area for the quick extraction.

As darkness closed in, the Team finally heard the distant sound of the approaching Huey. The extraction went without incident. Upon returning to FSB David, Abbott and Rodriguez hurried in to debrief the commanding officer and his staff, who at this point were concerned about the very large number of enemy troops in the area creating the possibility of the firebase being attacked. Tensions were high throughout the night, but nothing materialized.

The following morning, extensive aerial reconnaissance failed to locate the NVA. Because of the pace of their march, they could have been miles from where the Team had encountered

them, and the winding trails could have taken them in any direction. However, at 0230 on June 14, 1970, FSB David was attacked by an estimated reinforced company of NVA. In a fierce battle that lasted till nearly dawn, the enemy failed to overrun the base, but left twenty-eight dead in and around the perimeter. The Americans suffered thirty-three wounded by mortars, grenades, and small arms fire. It seems very likely that the enemy troops that walked past Team 74 that night were part of the assault on FSB David.

## 2020 REUNION INFORMATION

H Company Brothers - please check the Company newsletter for information on the upcoming reunion being held (In conjunction with the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav) in Louisville. Dates are 10-14 June and the Hotel is the Crown Plaza Louisville Airport. More detailed information will be in Bill's upcoming newsletter – Hope to see you there!

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

RLTW

## National Ranger Foundation

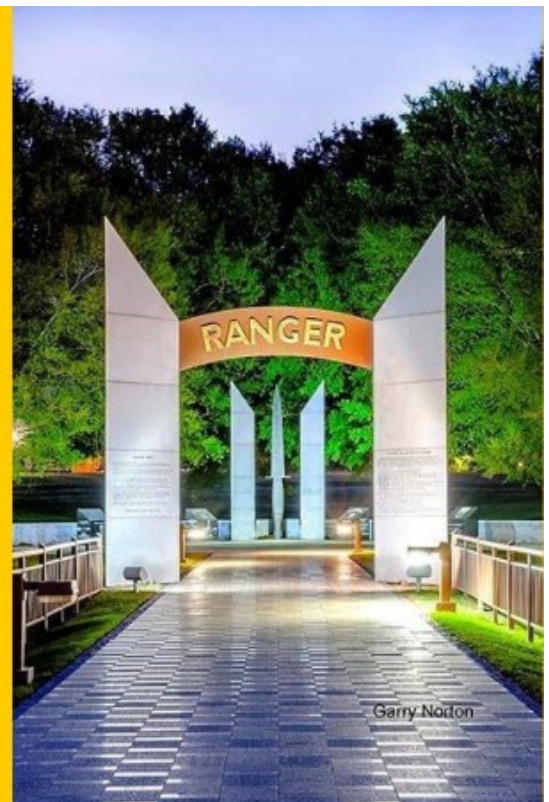
### THE RANGER MONUMENT

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Garry Norton



# 1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL ACEBES

By the time you receive this copy of Patrolling; the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Reactivation of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion will be in the history books.

From Dave McGilvray: Back in August, Abby and I visited the Commando Monument and Museum at Spean Bridge located in Inver-shire Scotland. The museum is a single room in the Spean Bridge Hotel. It is jammed pack with memorabilia from the British Commandos and units that trained in Achnacarry at the beginning of WW2. Some of the documents show LTC Darby and members of the newly formed A Company 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion coming there to be trained with the British Commando's at the CBTC in Achnacarry a few clicks north. These men were the first to fight in Europe during the raid on Deippe in 1942. Later they expanded to a Battalion. In 1943 members of the 29th Ranger BN trained there also, but they were soon disbanded and sent to regular units. Tried to get up to the Achnacarry site but it is a private estate and nobody was home 😞 There are more pics and info at [www. commandovetrans.org](http://www.commandovetrans.org) – Attached picture is the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge. The statue is of British Commandos. (Below Photo)



12 August CSM Eric J. Buonopane; assumed responsibility as ARTB CSM and Senior En-listed Leader. CSM Buonopane is a former member of 1/75.

Objective Berlin Reunion – Dahlke/Hario - 29Aug-1 Sep Jeff Coughlin organized/Sua Sponte paid for Low Country Boil and drinks.

Thank you Jeff Coughlin for organizing and Sua Sponte for stepping up (again). It was a great weekend; lots of stories and memories.

(BELOW PHOTO of Dahlke/Hario Team Members)



From Jeff Coughlin: “I would like to thank both the Dahlke and Hario families for attending. Rest assured that both Jason and Eric's legacies will live on at 1/75 and throughout the Ranger community. Thank you to Andy Davis, Ben Stolba, Travis Elkins, Dom Anecchini, Brett Baker, Jordan Whitlow, and Tim Brumit. You provided me with sound advice and picked up on the ground where I left off. SFC Hardy, the 1/75 S5 NCO supported this event from the beginning and set up the Battalion area. This event would not have happened without the generous support from the Sua Sponte Foundation. Dave Weinberg, Bruce Rock, and Jay Hansen went above and beyond and I am grateful for their support.”

Dave Weinberg hosts an annual A Co. reunion every year in the beginning of August.

September 19TH: Thank you to everyone at Oglethorpe Power, Georgia Transmission, Georgia System Operations and the

*Continued on the next page*

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the EMCs of Georgia. We appreciate your patriotism and support for our Rangers. They raised \$130,000 for Sua Sponte today.

## 1st BN, 75th Ranger Regiment

my first Ranger Buddy. He recently passed on

Gathering at Gene Peters Ranch; 20-23 September – Steve Murphy reports: Had a great time at Gene Peters Ranger get together. Good food, good music, fireworks, and great people. I missed it this year; maybe next year!

7 October: Change of command for the XVIII Airborne Corps from GEN Paul J. LaCamera to LTG Michael E. Kurilla. Reviewing officer was GEN Michael X. Garrett, United States Forces Command. GEN LaCamera is headed to US Army Pacific Command. GEN LaCamera served as a Platoon Leader, Support Platoon Leader, and Assistant Logistics Officer and Executive Officer, 1st Ranger Battalion. Proud of you sir!

From: Eric Kurzyniec on Facebook: Remembering Shannon White. When I got to Hardrock C Company in 1988, White was

after complications with Legionnaires disease.... You will NOT be forgotten...

31 October - Retirement of John Edmunds. John helped stand up 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion back in 1974. I will miss his knowledge and expertise at ARTB. Congratulations John!

CSM Rick Merritt retiring after 36 years (November 15<sup>th</sup>) – Congratulations!

Poker runs by both Killer Man Sons and Night Stalker MC; to donate monies to Sua Sponte and Night Stalker Funds.

Ranger Breakfasts everywhere – If there is not one where you are; start one.

Until the next time; keep your head down; your powder dry; your hatchet sharp, and I'll see you on the high ground.

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### A LETTER TO: All Atlanta VA Regional Office Employees

As a young man decades ago, one year of my time in Vietnam I served as a medic crewmember on a DUSTOFF helicopter. During a normal one-year tour each crew medevac'd approximately 2500 wounded, injured, and sick from the paddies and jungles of Vietnam.

Pick em up, work on em, drop em off, go on to the next...never knowing who they were or what became of them.

Often DUSTOFF crews were referred to as Angels or Unsung Heroes, never receiving the medals or notoriety many said they deserved, it was just our job.

For the last 10+ years or so I have been fortunate to be able to continue serving Veterans throughout the nation. Not patching up their bullet holes or traumatic amputations, but rather assisting with what many consider to be the complicated maze of the Department of Veterans Affairs for benefits they justly deserve.

It seems the only time we hear anything about the VA it's bad press. And many Veterans advocates I communicate with nationwide share that sentiment about their RO's.

I always respond that the folks of the Atl RO always bend over backwards to assist their Vets and that Georgia Vets are truly blessed to have such a dedicated team supporting and caring for their needs.

Often when unloading patients at the hospital helipad we'd get a 'squeeze of a hand' or a whispered "thank you", but never knowing their outcome or what became of their lives always left us guessing.

Likewise, you now serve these Veterans, then move on to the next never knowing what becomes of their lives. Fortunately, I'm able to see some of them and can report that thru your efforts you have changed their lives dramatically for the better.

I just returned from a trip to Vietnam and Korea and thoughts were of battlefields past and present.

On behalf of all Veterans you serve...Please accept this small token as a symbolic 'hand squeeze' or a whispered "thank you" for the difference you make in Veterans' lives every day. *You truly are our Unsung Heroes.*

A Grateful Veteran

RVN 7/68 – 7/72

DUSTOFF Medic

Combat Medic



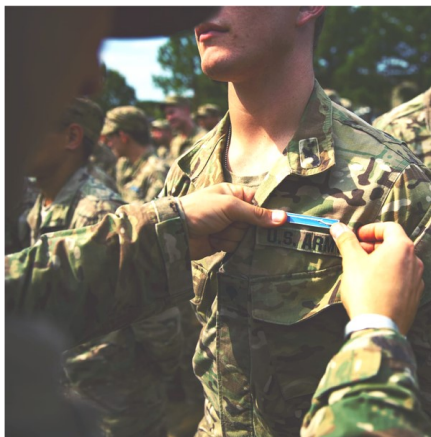
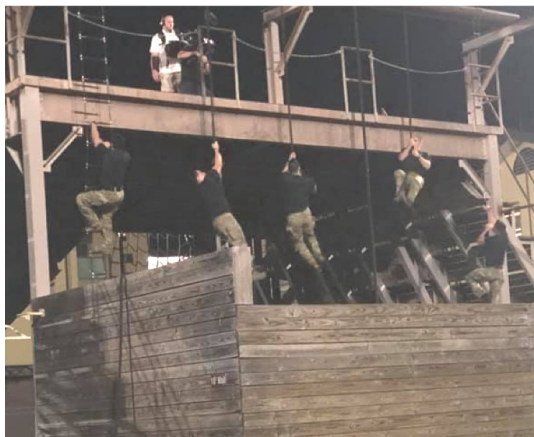
## 3rd BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—TONY MAYNE

3d Ranger Battalion is preparing for yet another deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Battalion's training cycle began with Expert Infantryman's Badge testing. On Sep. 13, the Battalion awarded 172 candidates the EIB with 107 earning the honor of True Blue.



Climbing Gym this year. More than 180 Ranger families have taken part in climbing events in 2019. Check out The Darby Project's event page on Facebook for future offerings: <https://www.facebook.com/pg/TheDarbyProject/events>



**Upcoming Events** Rangers veterans are coming together for a trip to Panama in remembrance of the 30th anniversary of Operation JUST CAUSE. Find out more information about the event here, <https://justcausereunion.com>.

**Correction:** Col. Michael Kloepper was incorrectly listed as attending the Army War College after relinquishing command of 3d Ranger Battalion in July. Col. Kloepper is currently serving as the 75th Ranger Regiment Deputy Commander-Support.

**Event Highlights** More than 30 Rangers and their spouses attended the Benning Black and Tan Ranger Linkup on Monday, September 9 at the National Infantry Museum's Fife and Drum restaurant. As a jumpstart to the Maneuver Warfighter Conference, the Ranger linkup provided an introduction for active duty Rangers to Ranger veterans in the defense industry.

**Connect** 3d Ranger Battalion's official Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/3dRangerBattalion/>

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

The 26th anniversary of the Operation Gothic Serpent and the Battle of the Black Sea was commemorated with the Mogadishu Mile 5K in uptown Columbus on Saturday, October 5. The event raised funds for Rangers wounded or killed during the Global War on Terror. Thank you to all those that came out to the Columbus race or participated virtually.

On Sunday, October 27, more than 60 Ranger families attended Saint Luke United Methodist Church's Harvest Fest. The church opened its doors and the streets of Columbus for a fantastic trunk or treat with carnival rides and games.

The Darby Project has sponsored five Ranger Family Climbing Days and Parents Night Out events at Treadstone (Photo page 21)



*Continued on the next page*

## 3rd BN, 75th Ranger Regiment



Treadstone



**2020  
BEST RANGER  
COMPETITION**

April 17-19, 2020 • Fort Benning Georgia  
[bestrangercompetition.com](http://bestrangercompetition.com)

### Constant Contact Update

For those of you who have a new email address and want to be included on up-to-date affairs that affect the Greater Ranger Community and its members, stop what you are doing now and shoot an email to our secretary Tom Sove:

[Secretary@75thrra.org](mailto:Secretary@75thrra.org)

OR

[Secretary@75thrra.net](mailto:Secretary@75thrra.net)



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

Jim and Connie Savell and their son and daughter-in-law Jason and Jennifer Savell graciously opened their home and their hearts for the A Co, D 17, V Corps reunion in Waco TX on September 14<sup>th</sup> of this year. It was attended by 57 Rangers with 36 wives and family. MSG Jim Savell (Ret.) gave a talk on the history of the Airborne and Ranger units. He had many from displays about every unit ever listed as Airborne, Ranger, LRRP, LRP, LRS, LRSD and some history on SF units. Jim spent most of his time in SF but found us at Ft Hood for a short time. Boy we're glad he did. For the hard-trained SF killer that he

was, he has developed quite the skill in needle-work. Not knowing all the finer names of stitchery, I will suffice to say that he made flags, guidons, quilts, afghans and more. He also made red rose corsages for the wives present and a white corsage for Elizabeth Smith, Bain's wife. (I also contacted Jim after the reunion to get a white corsage for Marie Carlisle; she was unable to attend due to a prior commitment). More about Bain later. Headquarters for the

reunion was Spring Hill Suites in Woodway, a suburb of Waco. They did an outstanding job of meeting our needs. We hung banners in their lobby, had a "large" hospitality room and all the amenities we needed and the hotel was only 10 minutes from the Savell Ranch. Jason and Jennifer own the ranch and live in the main house. Jim and Connie have made a home in one end of the huge pole barn they use for their workshop. Jim and Jason have a home remodeling business to keep them busy. You can see the talents of Jim and Jason in the quality of work in Jim and Connie's home. Jim spent 15 years as an JROTC Instructor and was able to get some of the Cadets to come out and help with parking cars, picking up trash, set up, clean up and much more. We held a Reunion meeting in the pole barn at 10am where Jim shared his stories and several others got up and commented on their time and travels with the unit and beyond. Roy Adams shared the story of John Keneally's passing. He promised to send me the story, so I'll save it for later. Jim



had a catered Texas BBQ for lunch; there was a pool, which surprisingly no one was thrown into, a large covered patio, Cabana and a room addition in progress that provided relief from the sun. True to September Texas, the temps reach 100deg. both days we were there. Jim had ordered 2 cakes, one with the A Co guidon and one with the D 17 LRRP guidon. There was a full bar including a bartender. She did an outstanding job of making sure nobody went dry. Jim told me she made over \$400 in tips. Eddie Alexander opened the Memorial Service with a prayer, talked a little about a Rangers life using scriptures as a comparison,

followed with a Roll Call of known missing Members, 43 in all, while a JROTC Cadet rang the Bell after each name, then Taps on a Bugle and Amazing Grace on bagpipes were played; very moving and well done. Needless to say, the beer was cold and I couldn't begin to tell the stories told over the weekend. It was fun watching the handshakes and hugs of friends from so long ago, but it was as if it were yesterday after a couple of words. Some looked like they did 45 years ago while some you had to think about it for a minute or two. We did have nametags, but some didn't get them. Wayne Cummings with his long blond hair or Jim Ducharme looking like Father Time had us guessing! Attached to the article is a group picture with most in attendance, a couple of pictures of the meeting area, the pool area and the coins that were missed in the last article.

*Continued on next page*



*Waco TX on September 14<sup>th</sup> of this year. It was attended by 57 Rangers with 36 wives and family*



*MSG Jim Savell (Ret.)*



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

I have posted most of the pictures on our A Co Facebook Page and on our A CO server page. Ed Thurman solicited (politely put, hounded would be the better choice) pictures from many and presented two CD's to everyone in attendance and will provide upon your request, over 1,000 pictures of the history of our Company from its inception in Germany and it's travels to Ft. Benning and Ft. Hood. Thank You Ed for this tremendous effort. Anyone who wants the CD's or if you want to send him some for future reference, contact Ed @ [ethurman01@gmail.com](mailto:ethurman01@gmail.com). Jim even arranged for a Resolution from the State of Texas and the State Representative, Charles Anderson, for the area "extending sincere and best wishes for a meaningful and memorable experience", picture attached. A HUGE THANK YOU to Roy and Robin Bissey and Jim, Connie, Jason and Jennifer Savell for putting on this great reunion. Jim said ya'll come back in March of 2022 for a repeat. Jim thought that waiting another 45 years might be testing the attendance a little so he went with 3 years. If you missed this one, don't miss the next one.

Bain Smith passed away unexpectedly on August 1<sup>st</sup>, just one day shy of his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday and just a month before the Waco event. Elizabeth had said all he was talking about was making the reunion in Waco. Elizabeth came and we are so glad she did. Bain had recently hooked up with Wade Peterson and had been going to Wade's for range "therapy". Wade has a fair size collection of toys and a place to shoot on his property. Bain started his career in A Company in 1972 right out of basic. He went to jump school and Ranger school while in A Co. and then went to 1<sup>st</sup> Batt in '74. Bain also served in 2<sup>nd</sup> Batt, did some time as an RI in the Mountain Ranger Camp and was a member of 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry, the "Old Guard" at Ft Myer VA. Wade Peterson gave the Eulogy and Doug Nolen called the final roll call. His wife Elizabeth, daughters Candace and Lindsay, son Bain II, stepchildren Denise, and Mathew Almaraz and many others survive Bain. SFC (ret.) Bain Boyd Smith was buried in Ft Sam Houston National Cemetery with full military honors. In attendance from A Co. were Doug



*Bain Smith and Sgt. Olsen*



*EJ and Memorial Service*

Nolen, Wade Peterson, Norm Thomas, Doug Hallmark, Jim Ducharme, Tom Weir, and Roy Bissey. There were also a couple of RI's from the Mountain Ranger Camp and one from the "Old Guard" in attendance. Comments passed around on emails and text messages about Bain summed up his life. Chris (Kid) Rivers said "WOW! Just hard to accept, Bain was one of the Strong and Drive On to the Objective kinda Ranger... he was A great Guy and a hell of a Ranger, Rest In Peace Brother, God Bless you and your Loved ones. Doug Nolen commented "One of the very best Rangers. Too young to be gone. Rest in peace Brother". Jeff Ellis said "...so sorry to hear about Bain. I remember him well. He was a super Ranger...a natural leader. Please pass on my condolences and I'll try to reach out to his wife as well. We're all better Rangers due to him and others like him that we served with". And all ended their comments with "RLTW".

Submitted by Michael Pachullo (Pooch): Went to Camp Bullis with A Co. in the summer of 1973. I drove down from Ft. Hood driving a smooth riding deuce and a half and I am pretty sure Tony Roman rode shotgun with me. After we arrived at the billeting area and were assigned our tin-roofed, screened-in hut, we noticed two snakes curled up on one of the bunks.

*Continued on the next page*



*Challenge Coin*

I do not mind snakes and took that bunk. We just put our gear down and went about our business and the snakes pretty much ignored us. Sometime later in the day I carefully picked up each Eastern Coachwhip snake one at a time and gently put them outside without the least aggressive protest from either snake as they slowly slithered away. Awakening the next day, I felt something at the bottom of my bunk and was surprised to see that both snakes had returned to their favorite sleeping spot and were willing to share it with me. Later that next morning I escorted them outside once again. They did not return after that nor did we see them any more in the area. Later in the week while riding my motorcycle along one of the many dirt trails I came across a snake in the road. I stopped and as I approached it reared its head up and fanned its neck like a cobra. A telltale sign that it was really a hognose snake which you can easily see even with it moving its head around trying to scare off the unsuspecting person. If that scare tactic does not work it rolls over a plays dead which was next on its defensive checklist and he executed it very well. Since I had on my camo jungle fatigues, I picked up the limp actor of a snake and put him in the right leg pocket to take back to camp. On arrival I spotted a group of Rangers and thought I would share the story of my interesting snake encounter. I received an incredulous response of disbelief following which I reached down and pulled that snake out of my pocket. I soon found myself standing alone with just the snake and several dust trails of the only time I have seen Rangers hastily retreat. After the training exercise concluded we were in formation eager to board the buses to return to Fort Hood. In the speed and confusion, I collided foreheads with someone and as I boarded the bus someone said, "Pooch your head is bleeding." The impact split the skin just below my left eyebrow. Doc fixed me up until I could get back for sick call and get 5 stitches for actions in a training zone

From Chris Rivers: White Sands Missile Range & Fort Bliss, we had a company movement to the airfield to be picked up by CH-47 Chinook helicopters with the destination for a night parachute drop into White Sands Missile Range to be the OPFOR for the 82nd ABN Division. We had a refueling stop over somewhere in West Texas and resumed the second leg of our flight. In route the drop zone we did in flight rigging. Drop time was 0330 hrs. and we dropped into the desert night. By morning we were in our 5-man LRRP team awaiting our airborne adversaries. Right on schedule at dawn 5 Air Force C-141 Starlifter aircraft appeared approaching from the West in an in line formation. Just before sunrise as BMNT lit the picturesque vastness of the desert, the outlines of deploying parachutes appeared and gently floated below each aircraft. American paratroopers coming to the ground in one of the most spectacular military scenes I have ever witnessed. Since we watched them arrive it was easy to move in their direction to do a little recon work. Their trail was easy to find as whole companies of infantry walked pretty much in two files through the desert. Plus, the heat of the day was wearing on the young soldiers as they discarded field jackets and sleeping bags as they marched consid-

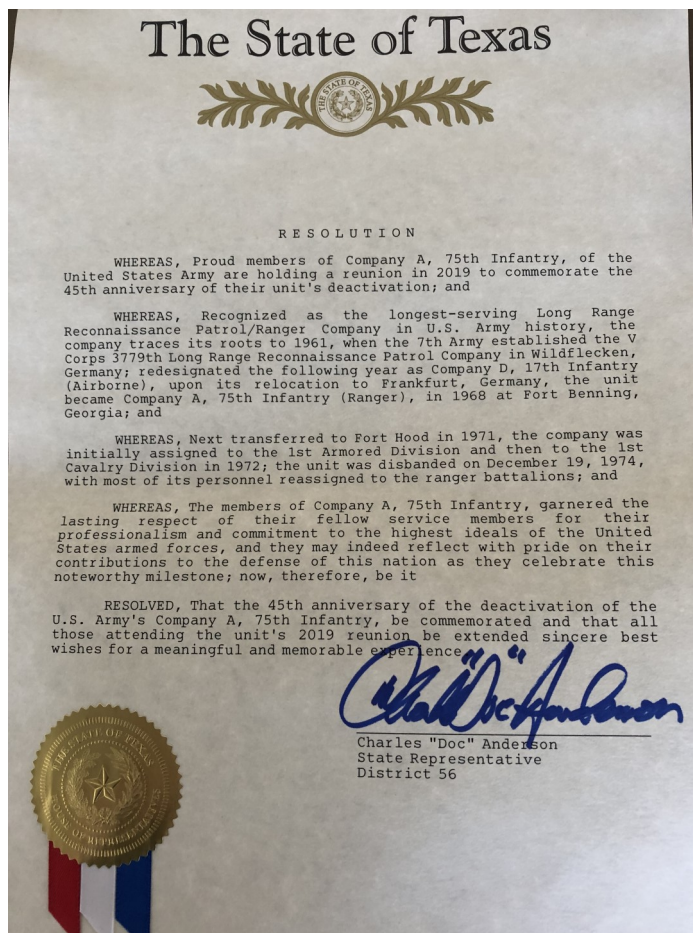
## A/75 - D/17 LRP - LRP - V CORPS LRRP

ering them unnecessary burdens. I wonder if they still felt that way after nightfall. As we found it easy to find the paratroopers of the 82nd from their trails, cavalry troops from the vantage points flying low in Hueys easily discovered our position and swooped down and captured our team. Since the training exercise had not officially started did not matter because even in training POWs have few appeal opportunities. I remember being questioned by a young First Lieutenant Long. Even if he is a general by now, we will have words about that night's experience. He knew more about my unit than I did for the exercise. Not willing to give up any information, hey, I watched a lot of John Wayne movies growing up and I did incur his wrath. I was stripped down to my underwear, handcuffed behind my back, placed in the inverted crab crawl position with a horn bush under my fourth point of contact and questioned from midnight until 0500. I was then allowed to dress, was blindfolded, given a C-ration to eat with water and then returned to our unit barracks area.

This will arrive around the end of the year, so hope all have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year's.

I have a few stories for the next couple of editions, but keep them coming. This is your/our history. If we don't tell it no one will know it.

Stan Jones





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—MARC L. THOMPSON

VII CORPS, C/58 LRP, B/75

Greetings and Salutations:

Hello again, fellow Rangers, LRRPs, and Jayhawks.

VETERAN'S DAY:

This issue is being submitted to the editor immediately following Veteran's Day. We hope everyone had the opportunity to receive thanks for their service, and contacted and were contacted by their old friends.

We all know some veteran who is having a less fortunate time than we are, so if the mood strikes you, or you have the opportunity, take them out for a meal, refer them to an appropriate place for assistance, or just find some time to shoot the breeze. They usually appreciate it.

B/75 & VII CORPS COINS - LEO STARKEY

Leo Starkey has, once again, had a run of B75 and VII Corps coins made, just like the outstanding coins which he produced two years ago. I think we all owe Leo a debt of gratitude for undertaking to produce the coins and pocket patches... Attaboy, Leo...!!! He says: Here are the ordering details. The cost per coin is \$17.50. If there is enough interest I will order another 50 coins. I am only ordering 50 at a time so I do not have to eat or lose that much. Mail a check or cash send payment to:

Leo Starkey

802 W Main St.

Yorktown, TX 78164

(Please contact the unit director if you need Leo's telephone number... I don't want to post it in the clear here). I enclosed a photo of the coins from the last run...



B75 POCKET PATCHES

Leo Starkey had originally made a run of the pocket patches we used to wear on our dress greens. Now the Mossy Threads website (Ranger-owned and run) has taken over production and has them stocked on their website. These are reproductions in full color: B Company Color Pocket Patch, 75th Ranger. Size: 3 7/8 inch x 3 1/8 inch.

Here is a screenshot of the MossyThreads.com pocket patch. He only charges \$5.75 each which is half of what Leo would have to charge if he was still doing that himself.



<https://mossythreads.com/shop?olsPage=products/b-company-pocket-patch-color>

MOSER'S NOVEMBER RANGER OUTING

A bunch of the boys are getting together at Moser's Pheasant Creek from November 15th to the 26th for a little recreation, deer hunting, probably pheasant shoots, fishing on the Missouri River, and general tomfoolery.

Reports are that there will probably be adult beverages involved, but (probably) not while hunting or shooting. I don't doubt that for one minute.

If you're looking for a Ranger-owned and run facility to do some hunting, hold business conferences or retreats, and to enjoy nature's beauty, you can't beat Mike's place. His center can accommodate up to 80 people, and he has a bunkhouse with shower facilities and a kitchen which accommodates up to 11 people.

*Continued on the next page*

He has a listing on Facebook, or his website at : [http://](http://www.moserspheasantcreek.com/)

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

Current: Richard has had some medical struggles with the diabetes and Park-

[www.moserspheasantcreek.com/](http://www.moserspheasantcreek.com/).

I would have attended, but have prior commitments which prevented me traveling to Missouri right now, so I'll be thinking of all you criminals out there!

45TH ANNIVERSARY 1ST BATTALION...

Also occurring as we approach the deadline for article submissions is the 45th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the First Ranger Battalion, to be held, again, in Savannah. Yours truly will be absent due to prior unbreakable commitments, but have seen some of the Facebook postings of the get-together, and it looks like a good time is being had by all. I'll see you guys at the 50th, and am sure that there will be follow-up articles authored by some of the attendees.

B75 SWEATSHIRTS & T-SHIRTS

This photo from Jose Zapien of the sweatshirts we used to wear for PT appeared in the closed group. Included some of the comment stream from the group below, as well as the place online where you can find reproductions.

COMMENTS: Leo B Starkey: WB Wear you can get one at MossyThreads.com.

[NOTE: Search for: official-rangers-pt-shirt-early-70s-reproduction]. [This is a reproduction of the official Rangers PT Shirt early 70s. This is printed on Gildan 50/50 DryBlend t-shirts. Note: Special Thanks to Steve Foote Jr. (AKA Steve Weiss).]

NAME CHANGE

Stan Harrell got hacked, along with Joe Touchon. He had to jump through a million hoops, and change a bunch of stuff, and wants everyone to know his new Facebook ID is: Eure Airborne.

Stan wanted me to remind everyone to secure all their online accounts (even the VA accounts) with strong password encryption, and monitor all of them regularly for any unusual activity.

LARRY RAPP & RICK BENNER

From: Ricardo Torres (12 October): Spoke to Rapp today. Larry will be checking in to this site. Rapp has heard from Rick Benner. Benner is remarried and doing missionary work in Zimbawa. Rapp thought Benner had a year on his tour left. You can contact Rapp through his wife Debbie (Username Debbie Rapp on FB). Larry has a Birthday next week So let's wish him Happy Birthday.

RANGER STUTSMAN

From before: Richard had called and sent me a "crazy" card... what else would you expect from one of us maniacs? I wanted to include the card in the next issue, but my scanner is now temporarily out of commission, so that ain't happening.



RANGER VOYLES

John Henry and his wife Jayne continue to hang in there through their various medical challenges. They are still attending military support functions and meetings in the Lake-wood/Tacoma area.

TONY HARLEY

We previously reported on Tony's knee replacement, which looks like it's going fine, since I saw a photo today of him attending the First Battalion Anniversary in Savannah. Hang in there, Tony!

BILL WALTER

Is out and about attending various functions and posting on Facebook as he continues to recover. We wish him and his wife Karon the best during this season and the coming year.

HEARD FROM:

(in no particular order):

Leo B Starkey, Gary Scott, Bill Mathiak, Howard Stokes, John Toney, Neil A. Lofgren, Bill Waterhouse, Dennis Lucas, Lynn Thompson, Greg Phillips, WB Wear, Joe Touchon, Chuck Straehl, David Cummings, Ricardo Torres, Jose Zapien, Tommy R. Wright, Larry Rapp, Jim Broyles, Donald Bruce, Tom Turner, James Parker, Alfredo Moncayo Sr., Tony Harley, Chuck Simpson, Tom Forde, Gene Kauffman, Bill Graham, Richard R. Cole, Sam Wentzel, Anthony Lorren Roberts, Larry Fee, Mike Moser.

Until next time...

Respectfully,

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

*Continued next page*

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

### VII CORPS LRRP REPORT

Fall in, LRRPs!

No pun intended, but recognized the irony as I typed. So, welcome to the Autumn edition that you'll receive as the Winter edition of *Patrolling*. I hope you have (had) a memorable Thanksgiving. Take a moment or two to think of our soul Brothers who never returned or who have since passed on to a better realm.

As is usual in this dormant part of the year, I have nothing to report of substance; unless you adhere to the "No news is good news" adage. I've heard from or spoken with Vanasse, Storey, Evaro, Touchon, Mathiak, and maybe Kennedy. Speaking of Kennedy, he's supposed to recon Las Vegas for our LRRP reunion next year. But we'll jump on that in the coming days/months. Planned date will be sometime between Oct 15-Nov 15, 2020. I'll try to be more exact in the coming days. Any suggestions within those parameters are most welcomed, spec places to R & R.

Re the troops and sick call: Bob was supposed to send me an abbreviated account of his unknown illness, but for some reason I've not received it. The great news is that one of his Physicians who thought outside the box, discovered blocked arteries to his GI tract, opened the blockages. Waking up out of the death throes of a coma the next day, Bob has continued to improve with significant weight gains and mobility. Zeke is running into heart problems, as is Sam Storey, but both are keeping soldier-

ing on. Giving up is obviously not in our LRRP vocabulary. Touchon and Yarbrough are doing as well as expected, though I still encourage them to abandon their cancer sticks. Mathiak is doing well; fortunately he has Donna and his toy cars to keep himself busy. In fact, we'll (I'll) need him to relay this to all concerned, since my different PC is unable to transfer our original address list.

Nothing else to pass on, guys. I'll assume everyone is relatively well or they want us to keep believing they're supermen. Fat chance! Just remember Brothers --- an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Take the necessary steps to address your ailments now, so that you won't have to depend on the health care system later.

PS: Billy Mathiak: Can you pass this on to those I might have missed? Thanks.

A final note. I think the 75th RRA Assoc and the USARA (United States Army Ranger Assoc) are looking at merging down the road. Just my forward thinking LRRP mind at work, absolutely nothing official, but I've already signed on as a Life Member of the latter, as I have with our LRRPs and the 75th RRA. Ya can't belong to too many good groups. Just sayin'....

Until next time, have a great Thanksgiving and Holiday Season.

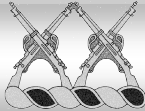
Pfc (E-10) Foster, Pres

VII Corps LRRP Association

USA Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Co (AIRBORNE)



## NEW CHALLENGE COINS @ 75THRRA.ORG



# C/75 - E/20 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOE HAYES

I begin with the sad news that Jimmy (JP) Purdue's wife, Rosa passed away on Sept 9. I had the pleasure of meeting her first in 2015 when I went down to visit Jim. She was truly a woman of faith and it was a joy to be in her presence. There are at least two guys that she had a big effect on straightening out their lives. One was JP and the other was Pop Carter. Jimmy will surely attest to that fact. When Jim called to tell me the news he said, "She's in a better place." I believe that.

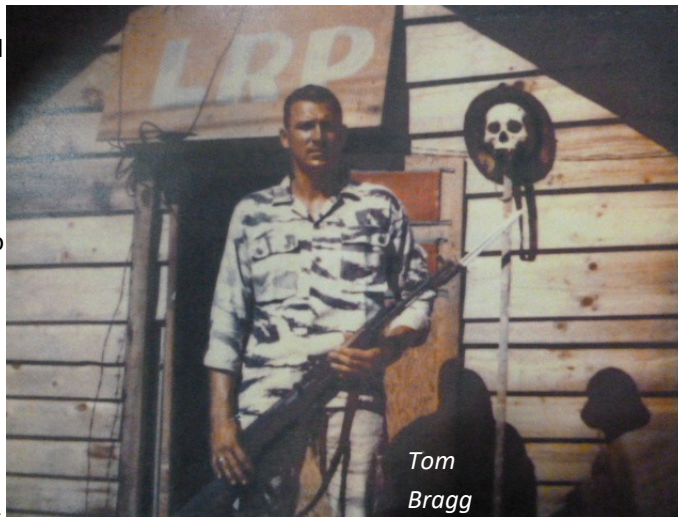
To anyone who may read this article; to you I recommend reading the book Nankipoo Ranger. It is one Ranger's story, a life journey, really, written by a man who never, as a dirt poor boy living in 1940's Georgia, could ever have imagined that he would have seen the things he saw, and experienced the life that he lived. But then, what boy does. It is only to the old man looking back on his life, to which this power has been granted. And, if one chooses to write about his life experience, it doesn't hurt to be blessed with a good wit and humor, but most of all, humbleness. Then, I think, the work becomes wonderful; or maybe even magical, if I can use that word. Thomas A Bragg did that in Nankipoo Ranger

I first met Tom in 2013 at the reunion at Benning. I liked him right off. To me he was a big, tall, friendly southern boy from Georgia. At the 2015 reunion, I got Tom's book and read it as soon as I got back home. It is on my keeper shelf. That isn't a very big shelf. In 2016 I visited Jimmy Purdue down in Tower Hill, IL. And in the course of conversation different names pop up. I remember telling Jim that he ought to read Tom's book. Jimmy said to me: "You know what they say about Tommy Tucker...he's one bad M\$ %#@&@ \*(#^%\$R!" Jim was just joking around and I figured that he and Tom maybe had been friends in the past. But when JP, who hadn't read the book, said that, I remembered a part in Tom's book. It is on page 154. Tom had just become a Ranger instructor at the Mountain Ranger Camp in Dahlonega. Tom



wrote that as he got out of his car at the cantina, where the camp road ends – he narrates the greeting that he got from a Sgt. Doug Perry: "There's Tommy Tucker, the chicken plucker...the mean so and so..." I think that Tom cleaned it up for the book. He continues that a Sgt. Blackwater, another instructor, told Tom that he wanted to see how bad he was. Tom writes – "I told him I wasn't really that bad, just a hand-to-hand instructor. He told me to get ready because he was going to take me to town tonight." So, what happened? I guess you'll have to read the book.

At the reunion this last July, we were asking for stories for Patrolling. Tom wrote his



Tom Bragg

address down. I wrote to him in September and asked for a story. He sent Tab E, the proposed citation for Tom's RHOF induction in 2013. The part that put in parentheses that he said, "You may be able to put something together – if not OK." Were three lines. Ya know – I should have become a dentist! I told him that I could improvise because I had his book. I didn't have to improvise on those three lines. The story is on page 126 of Nankipoo Ranger. Tom

was instrumental in establishing the first LRRP platoon in Vietnam in 1967. Part of what he did was to build a training rappelling tower at Camp Enari near Pleiku. He got it built and training began. At 10:30 October 26, 1967, Tom fell forty feet to the ground. He got lucky. Cpt. J.P. Morse M.C. wrote him up – Fracture, compressed, anterior superior right hip, no artery or nerve involvement! L.O.D.: Yes. C.O. and Surgeon agree. Tom had a couple of broken disks in his back, but I guess he figured that since he was so tall, God gave him a couple of extras and that he'd be alright. So after seven days in bed Tom "grabbed some clothes and left the hospital in great pain to go back to my unit." I'll tell you what – If I was a nineteen year old kid in Vietnam (and I was), and I saw this twenty nine year old man come back after a fall like that – that sure would have been an inspiration to me.

*Continued on the next page*

## C/75 - E/20 LRP

Fifty-two years have gone by since that fall, and yet another eleven years before that when Tom had to leave home because he was seventeen years old and his mother told him that she couldn't feed him and his five younger brothers and sisters. Tom did what he had to do. He packed a lunch and start-

ed walking to Columbus. Tom's story, as he tells it, just flows on from page to page like a winding stream. It's a good story.

There's a lot of life in this book... I will read it again

But there's more to the story. In 2010 Tom was elected to serve as a Pierce County Georgia Election Board Member. For a time he served as the chairman of the Board. In 2013, Tom Bragg was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame. In March of 2016 Tom was recognized by the Pierce County Georgia Chamber of Commerce as Pierce County's Citizen of the Year. As a member of Rotary International, Thomas A Bragg is a Paul Harris Fellow. That is quite an honor.

I mentioned in the last article that I admired how Tom could give an invocation. Well...He has taught Sunday school at Blackshear First Baptist Church and has served as an Army chaplain. In his book Tom writes about looking for work in Columbus, when he had to leave home. Tom ended up at the Army recruiter. The story is in the book. It brought tears to my eyes as I read it because I could imagine that this seventeen-year-old kid was almost as low as you can get when he walked into the recruiter station after having been rejected for work everywhere that he tried. Tom writes what he told the recruiter: "If you let me stay in the Army, I'll make the best soldier you ever saw." As the recruiting officer was staring



down at his desk, probably thinking whether or not to give Tom, who could barely read, a chance, Tommy said that he heard the words pass in his mind – "He will never leave you of forsake you. Never." Then Tom writes; "I think that may have been the first time that I realized God Almighty stepped in to

help me, because that officer didn't have to let me in the Army.

When Tom received his Citizen of the Year award, he said; "Coming from just about nothing, God has blessed me. He's blessed me so much. Thank you so much."

Well Tom, you've passed your blessings on. It is a pleasure to have met you and to have spent a few moments talking to you at the reunions over the years. As Bob Hope used to say – "Thanks for the memories." Thanks for writing them down. They have been an inspiration to me. My wish for you and Marji is happiness, joy and peace all the days of your life. Just do me a favor – Stay away from rappelling towers!

See you in February – Joe Hayes

# D/151st/LRP/LRS

Unit Director Bob McIntire

Doug liked that I mentioned his name in the last article, so now I have made him happy. It will not be the last time his name comes up. I do not write these all at once, so depending on how my emotions and attitudes are running is what you get to read, like, think about, hate or throw away.

We may not have the greatest country in the world, but I know of none better. I want to say, "Happy Birthday, United States", on this 2019 Independence Day. I just watched the USA's Women's Soccer Team become the big *numero uno*. Those girls are awesome. Now I'm catching up on NASCAR's race at Daytona Beach, Florida. Chuck Wallace and I and my wife went to that event a few years back. The race was great, but waiting for a bus to take us back to Chuck's car sucked. Oh well, hurry up and wait, that's the Army way.

The ground is shaking under the great state of California. Some think it's getting ready to slide into the Pacific Ocean. Wonderful Texas is getting a wall to attempt to hold entry down to only the legal limit. A lot of us are becoming bilingual out of necessity and because we want to. I think that is a good thing. I should have paid more attention in high school, but I was having too much fun. We have politicians that want the USA to become more socialistic. I was told, socialism has never succeeded anywhere well, I don't know, maybe we will all find out after the next election.

Tornados are becoming more frequent. The carbon footprint continues to grow. Hurricanes are becoming more severe and more often. Donald Sutherland, Shirley MacLaine, and the mother of them all, Hanoi Jane Fonda are still walking around free. We are scolded for ranting and raving about things that



Eugene Conniff



should not be included on our Co. D Facebook page. The list of our brothers that have passed away continues to grow at an alarming rate, while our mailing list of brothers continues to diminish. Most young Americans can point to Afghanistan on a world map but can't find Vietnam in Southeast Asia, or know what significance it had to a few of their grandparents. The same people that usually show up for reunions, campouts, memorial services and other important Co. D events continue to participate by making that extra effort (with a few exceptions). Hey, does all this mean that I am in a negative mood on this beautiful July 4th, 2019 weekend? Thinking about our brothers in arms on the first list I mentioned always does that for me. I guess the good thing for me is

that I am still on the second list (and attempting to stay as long as I possibly can). We lost Ron Kegel a while back along with Tom Worthington and Butch Lewis and other brothers before them. Sorry for your families loss Ron, Tom, and Butch. They seemed like great loving families and we love you all too, brothers. We will all be joining you some day.

We have brothers suffering in silence. Billy Waters seems house ridden with COPD and Roscoe Scott is fighting infection as a result of a hospital procedure. Steve Justus is on a lengthy trail to recovery from serious back surgery, Chuck Wallace is heading slowly to recovery from a gallbladder removal and Larry Pauley lost his house due to a tornado. We wish you all a speedy recovery and getting back to normal. Those are the ones I know about. To those I am unaware of, my prayers are with all brothers and sisters.

*Continued on the next page*



On the other hand, Dave Cates is back on his feet after knee surgery, HOOAH!! Gary Tichner is almost back to 100% after back surgery. Practice that swing, Gary; that green jacket is only a few less swings away. I'm cheering for you.

Chuck Wallace is back on the well rig, not 100% but getting closer, watch your step brother, it's a long way to the ground and longer with every year that passes. Loren Dixon has a new home that he and his wife had built. Mike Jaussuad (which we

are as always, (borrowing from our USMC (semper fi Brothers) "the few, the proud" the Indiana Rangers including several states with our beloved US and RA Brothers. You are always included in our thoughts and prayers. We are always a Brotherhood!

We still have several Brothers that we can't locate. Some are probably deceased, but I know in my heart there are some still alive and kicking that would benefit from our friendship and

## D/151st/LRP/LRS



*Robinson Campground Gathering*

know also includes his wife) is the newly elected association president, bringing with him some fresh ideas and new enthusiasm.

On one side of the coin, my heart goes out to the friends and families of those brothers from Charlie Larkins to Ron Kegel (50 years and counting). On the other side of the coin my heart warms to know we still have 190 or so brothers on this side of the coin. I feel that "Pappy" Hayes is our model to emulate as he has always been. Thank you, Pappy, for caring for us all. We

support. Some of those because of PTSD and other problems still would not want to come see us but we would love to know how to get in touch with you or your families and let you know we are here for you to lend a hand or a shoulder. Chuck Wallace and I tried to locate Jim Adams at an old address we had in Florida, but no one was around and the house was empty and in a state of disrepair. If you're out there Jim or if some of you know Jim's whereabouts, please contact us with what is happening with them.

*Continued on the next page*

Steve Finn is another Brother we have lost track of. James Isaccson

was in New Mexico but have no news from him. Some think he may be deceased, but not for sure and we hope he is alive and well and gets back to us. Kurt Hester was keeping a low profile for a long time but he is back now, in full force and we are glad to have him back. Thanks, Kurt.

“BIG” John Ellis, is another. He was my Sergeant at Arms when I was president of the Association and my patrol leader at Fort Benning during LRP training. I know John is alive and we have his address so, John come back and participate or at least come back and socialize with us, we miss your wit and wisdom. Please, family, friends and Brothers, try to keep us informed.

We all get down sometimes or have a bad run of luck and sometimes a telephone call or a letter of encouragement is all it takes to put us back on our feet or on the path to recovery. It wouldn't hurt to try since you've nothing to lose. We would be able to, at the very least, have an address to send the “IN CONTACT” to. It's a publication where you or they could send stories or information to, and would be a format to Communicate with other Brothers. For example, I got the opportunity to talk with Phil Cravens' daughter, Shannon, at the Greenwood American Legion, always good to see and talk to you.

The traveling Wall will be (and by this time already has) at Greenfield, Indiana. Co. D had a large presence at that event. If you didn't know about this, it won't help you be in attendance; it's long over with. Here is what went on. The same 12 to 20 Brothers showed up plus, praise the Lord, a few others that we haven't seen for years. Mike Riseman and Diane, Alan Brown, Chuck Wallace, “Jumpin'” Jack Jarvis, Gary Bussell and Connie our Assoc. Treasurers, Tom Hugel our Assoc. Quartermaster, Dave Bradley, for years I thought his first name was “Omar”, Don Worthington, (mister friendly and brother of Tom Worthington), H.C. Cross, the grenade thrower supreme, David Beaver, quiet timber cutter, Dean Fields, Lt.(back in the day) Jim Johnson, Tom Blanford, Charles Manis, Gary Angrick, Ron Blevins, Ted Dunn, Vince Tucher, “The Great Doug Hagan, always “Ernie” to most of us and our “IN CONTACT” magazine editor, Frank Hayes, always and forever Pappy”, (our long time guardian angel)” Don Blevins, Lt. (back in the day) Mike Jaussaud, Friend, and Brother of Larry George Klieber, Wes Klieber,

Kurt Hester, Larry Pauley (always looking over his shoulder for tornadoes), Bob Cross, Bob Peru, Kent Brown, (our Assoc. photographer), and last but certainly not least, a special friend of

## D/151st/LRP/LRS

our assoc. and every military person that exist or ever did, Billy Jay! He

brought Co. D shirts for all present. He was also a close friend of Roger Mohr and put several of Roger's Vietnam pictures on a DVD with music. Thank you Billy for all your kindness and thoughtfulness. We all appreciate you and you lovely wife. To all Brothers, wives, families and friends that attended, THANK YOU!!!

I was able to meet three Brothers that I don't think I have seen since 1969. That was a huge treat. For some of our brothers it's a big challenge and requires a great deal of courage to face old ghosts.

The Association and myself, thank you for your presence. Bob Cross, Mike Lee and Bob Pelew, your efforts to be in attendance did not go unnoticed, I applaud you, not just for your attendance but also for your courage to face “The Wall,” *Nothing to be Taken Lightly*, is a daunting reminder of things we all may have buried for decades. I look forward to seeing you again at the 2020 reunion if at all possible.

Michael Lee, the last Ranger I was privileged to meet before heading for the VFW and some comradeship. I would like to say how sorry I am for not recognizing you and I am glad you introduced yourself to me. Mike Jaussaud will be getting in touch with you soon if he hasn't already. I can only blame my antiquated memory for all those kind of slips. I really do my best to mention all our Brothers in attendance, because, I love you all!

Mac.

Robert McIntire

529 E. Jackson St.

Martinsville, IN 46151

812 821 7323



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROBERT HERNANDEZ

Once again I would like to thank Terry and his team Dorothy Leishman, Ray and Glenna Quesenberry for planning and executing a great reunion in Kalispell, Montana. It was a fun week of site seeing and exploring and reconnecting with old friends. Thanks to all that pitched in, attended, participated in, and donated to the event.

## Unit Business Meeting

The unit business meeting was held on Saturday and insomuch as Jeff was unable to attend the reunion, former Unit Directors Rick Stetson and Poncho took the lead in pulling together an agenda. Pending our official election of the next unit director, I helped with coordination and took care of some of the "gofer duties".

Poncho opened the meeting and we reported on and discussed the following subjects:

## New Business

Introduction: Rick introduced Rich Archbold and Dan Stouffer as "first timers" - the guys who are attending their first E50/75 reunion.

He also reminded us of the passing of Dave Moss, one of the original volunteers who joined the LRP platoon at Fort Riley Kansas and Alan Myers. Alan was a Vietnam veteran but not a LRRP. His wife, Rebecca, is the sister of Robert L. Bryan who was KIA on July 13, 1970. Alan was a frequent guest at our reunions. More recently, Sgt Major Robert A. Press passed away on October 1st, 2019 after complications of heart disease. He was a great man and he will be missed.

He also reminded us of the upcoming raffle and called for our support of the event and described the two handmade quilts to be auctioned off at the Friday evening banquet. One of the



quilts was made by Terry Leishman's wife Dorothy and the other was made by my sister, Monica Selby.

Closing his introductory comments, he said that former company commander Clancy Matsuda sent his regards and best wishes for a successful and joyful "reunion of a unit of elite warriors".

Finally, he mentioned that our own Roy Barley was elected 1st Vice President of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. He previously served as President and 2nd Vice President. Congratulations to Roy. Rick also thanked Sal for managing the unit's Facebook and web site accounts. If you are not on them, you should be. A lot of valuable information is communicated via these accounts.

## Old Business

Treasure's report: I reported that I did not know the balance but I know that there was \$6000 plus in the unit fund. I also reassured the guys that after we pay the bills incurred to fund this reunion we would be adding more to the unit fund.

## Photos and stories

for the unit history: Once again I called for stories and photographs to update and continue to build the unit history. I volunteered to act as the unit historian at the last reunion and over the last two years I have collected over 200 pictures, several magazine articles and poems.

Locating guys and inviting them to reunions: this action was brought up again, and we decided that the unit director would establish a work group to address this action.

*Continued on the next page*



Keeping the unit informed:

I led the discussion on the need to keep the unit informed when one of our members dies. At this time it is happenstance that we learn of the passing of one of our members. We have the capacity to respond in support of a grieving family or to have our unit represented with a floral arrangement or to make a donation to a designated organization. We just need to be brought into the loop. This was tabled without action.

Poncho reminded the guys to update their contact information on the roster sheet that was floating around the hospitality room.

Stipend for the Unit Director: Terry Leishman introduced the idea of providing a stipend to the Unit Director to cover some of the costs incurred in the course of a two-year term. After a discussion and a vote, they approved a \$500 stipend for the Unit Director. The Unit Director will work with the Treasurer to establish and implement the stipend.

Unit Chaplin: Tony Hanlon resigned after many years as Unit Chaplin and Dave Stone volunteered to serve as the new Unit Chaplin.

Wood Plaque: I presented the wood plaque that had been designed and created by Ken McCarn. It was presented to Roy Nelson at one of our past reunions and intended to be passed down to "the last man standing". However, the unit never established a process for this to happen. I learned that the plaque was part of Top Nelson's personal effects and arranged to have it returned to the unit. The question now was what to do with it until we decide on a process for its continued movement to the "last man standing". After some discussion, Poncho suggested that the guys consider placing it on loan at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park in Angle Fire, New Mexico until such time as we decide what we want done with it. We voted to approve Poncho's proposal. He will safeguard it and discuss the matter with the park manager.

Next Reunion: Rick led the discussion and vote on the site for the next reunion. We had a lively discussion about the possibility of a mid-west mini-reunion and the 1 or 2 year cycle for our reunions. We voted to meet informally at the LRRP-LRS-Rally in Branson, MO. in the off years and continue with the 2 year cycle for our larger, formal reunions. Howard Munn proposed hosting the

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

2021 reunion in Mobile Alabama and after

some discussion, we voted to accept his offer.

After some discussion the guys approved unanimously to authorize the creation of the Matsuda-Nelson award. The prestigious award was to honor the first E Company Commander, C.G. (Clancy), Matsuda, Colonel, US Army (retired) and E Company's initial First Sargent Roy D. Nelson (deceased) for their outstanding leadership.

Election of the Unit Director:

Rick led the discussion. He thanked Jeff again for his service. He then called for candidates for the next unit director. Following Roberts Rules of Order, Bob Hernandez was nominated and a call for other candidates was made. Having no other candidates, the nominations were closed and a vote was held. Bob was unanimously elected Unit Director.

Awards at the banquet: I recapped two significant events that would take place at the banquet - one is an award to be presented by the Warrior Women and the second was the auction of the quilts.

Ron Bird who is a Blackfeet Indian and recently inducted into the Montana Indian Hall of fame, arranged to have the colors presented by the Blackfeet honor guard and the Blackfeet Chief "Earl Old Person" deliver the comments at the memorial service.

Memorial Service: Tony Hanlon started the memorial service by lighting candles at the POW / MIA table. The table is set in honor of missing or imprisoned military personal. The colors were presented by the Blackfeet Honor Guard in traditional Indian head-dress followed by words of inspiration from Chief "Earl Old Person".



The service continued with "Roll Call" as Rick called the names of our KIA's, one at a time, one member of the unit stood and answered "Here Sir". He would then step forward with a long stem rose and slowly lift it toward the heavens before placing it in a vase. While at attention and with a very slow and

respectful salute he would exit to the side and the next name was called and the presentation of the rose was continued until all names were called. The service was concluded with the playing of "Taps".

*Continued on the next page*

Banquet: Friday night's banquet was a fitting end to a great reunion. At the banquet we were treated to a delicious meal which was made very special by the fact we were served by a group of 4H members from the "Country Cousins" of Kalispell. The meal was served buffet style which allowed the guys to interact with the young 4H kids ages ranging from about 6 to 16. As an expression of gratitude, the guys made a substantial donation to the kids.

"Old Sarge" Walden did an excellent job as auctioneer as he masterly presented the two quilts donated for auction. The beautiful quilt made and donated by Dorothy Leishman was auction off to Joe Florio for the great price of \$1250. The bidding was also hot and heavy for the quilt made and donated by my sister, Monica Selby, but Bob and Cathy Copeland made the final bid at \$1100. I can't thank you guys enough for bidding on these two great works of art.



Warrior Women: Sharon Green, representing the Warrior Women, recognized Glenna Quesenberry with a beautiful bouquet of flowers for her service as the reunion's on site, go to person. She seemed to be "everywhere-all the time". But then what would you expect from "a hard headed Montana Woman" (her words not mine)!

Unit Director's Award for Distinguished Service: I presented the award to Gerald Cody for his "specialized" service at almost all of our reunions. He is the guy (with help from others) who is always on hand to restock and tidy up the hospitality room. Thank

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

you, Cody, for a great job over the years.

Madsuda-Nelson Award- I called Poncho to the podium and he in turn asked Brad Runge forward (Brad is the husband of Kathy, "Old Sarges" daughter) and asked Brad to read the following letter:

June 30, 2019

Rick Stetson

Dear Rick,

On behalf of the elite warriors of E Co. 50th LRP/75th Rangers, 9th Infantry Division,

I am honored to write this special open letter to pay tribute to a remarkable operations officer, soldier and role model. We salute you for your service to our Nation and the legacy you left our unit.

In 1966 you were one of the two Airborne/Rangers qualified 2LTs selected by the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas to form a long range patrol platoon, and after the platoon began operations in Vietnam in 1967, you served with distinction as the unit's operations officer until early 1968.

As operations officer, you possessed an outstanding ability in developing rapport with the pilots of D Troop, 5th Cavalry. The result was outmatching the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese oppositions. The missions were not easy. You collected intelligence and analyzed it brilliantly. The Division G-2 staff was impressed with your ability highlighting your findings in the briefings to the Commanding General.

You were a president troop-oriented warrior. You faced danger with courage and honor and played a significant role in the bonding of our warriors, like brothers, during the Vietnam War.

After the war, you served with distinction as the Unit Director of E50 LRRP/E75 Rangers for two terms.

Your Legacy as a leader is secure, in perpetually, by the excellent article you co-wrote for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association's magazine, *Patrolling*. By helping the two soldiers tell their story you enshrined your place as a leader in a band of gallant warriors who contributed some of their finest hours to our country.

We salute you for your magnificent achievements. God Bless you.

Signed

C. G. (Clancy) Matsuda

Colonel, U.S. Army, Retired

*Continued next page*

With the reading of the letter, Rick Stetson became the first recipient of the prestigious Matsuda-Nelson Award. I presented him with the framed certificate and an engraved letter opener. Poncho presented him the original letter. The award came as a complete surprise to Stetson.

I close the Kalispell reunion sit-rep with a list of the names of the guys from E50 LRRP / Rangers who honorably served in Vietnam in the United States Army between 1966 and 1970 and participated in the 2019 Reunion. They are listed by the year they arrived in Vietnam; Class of 1966: Don Naughton and Howard Munn; Class of 1967: Joe Florio, John Berg, Ed Kucavage, Lon Johnson, Elbert Walden, Rick Stetson, Tony Hanlon, Jim Godbolt, Bob Hernandez, Hilan Jones, Tryrone Muse, Greg Forman, and Ray Davis; Class of 1968: Jim Martens, Rick Archbolt, Marshall Larsen, Bruce Lessig, Ron Bird, Ken McConkey, Bill Christiansen, Gerald Cody, Duane L Alire, Class of 1969: Dave Stone, Dan Stouffer, Rebecca Myers (sister of Robert L Bryan, KIA 07/13/70), Bob Copeland, Ron Tessensohn, Bob Wallace, Paul Newmen and Terry Leishman; 1970 Greg Whitson. We include Ray Quesenberry on this list because he is one of us by marriage, friendship, service and call of duty.

#### Mini ice fishing reunion

Dennis Lastine, John Henry Berg and Ken McConkey would like to invite all those interested to an ice fishing reunion in Minnesota. The dates have been changed from the original post by

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

Dennis on Facebook post due to the Super Bowl. Instead the dates will be from February 10 thru the 15th. Details for this event are not confirmed yet pending number of responses. The schedule would look something like this:

- 1) Monday (FEB.10): arrive in Minnesota and check into a hotel.
- 2) Tuesday (FEB 11): meet for breakfast and go on planning outing. (TBD)
- 3) Wednesday (Feb 12): check out of hotel and meet for breakfast than organize equipment and transportation to lake. (transportation will be provided). Check into icehouse at 1 PM and spend the night on the lake fishing. The icehouse is set up with bunks, heating and kitchen for cooking.
- 4) Thur. (FEB 13) Spend another night fishing or playing cards.
- 5) Fri. (FEB 14) Check out of the ice house at 11 AM and return to hotel or those that are leaving can be dropped off at the airport.

Please contact Dennis by e-mail at [Dlastine@Q.com](mailto:Dlastine@Q.com) if you are interested.

Respectfully, Bob Hernandez

Unit Director, E50 LRRP/Rangers

RLTW



**\$1500**

**Alternative Options:**  
10 karat - \$1150  
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*Contact*  
**Roger Crunk**  
[treasurer@75thrra.com](mailto:treasurer@75thrra.com)



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN MCGEE

I want to apologize to our members about not having an Article for the last edition of *Patrolling*. There was a technical glitch and our article didn't make it into the last issue.

Here are some of the highlights that were going to be in the last issue. The article was to be about the great time we had at the recent Ranger Rendezvous. I was extremely pleased that we in Company F had 48 of our members and their families come together at Fort Benning. The Hampton Inn supplied us with our own hospitality room and let me tell you that room was filled every night. It was outstanding to see brothers in arms come together and enjoy each other's company and friendship. We were also honored to have sponsored one of the remaining Merrill's Marauders, Bob Emmett and his lovely wife to attend the Ranger Rendezvous. Bob rapidly became a member of our unit as he shared some of his wartime experiences with us. It was Company F's distinct honor and pleasure to have this hero join us in celebrating Ranger History.

The Company F wives better known as the 'RANGELS' presented each member of our unit that was present with a commemorative key chain and lapel pin. Those members who could not attend will receive their key chains in the mail soon. This was a truly outstanding gesture and once again proves that these women truly are RANGELS. A big Aloha and Mahalo to Mona from Kona and Ta-Ta.

As always one of the true highlights of the reunion is when Captain P, Mark Ponzillo and his lovely bride Jo arrived. The most frequently asked question by our members is, when is Captain P getting here. Mark and Jo arrived on Wednesday and stayed through the end of the Rendezvous.

Mark was with his guys and was having a great time being with those men who revered and loved him. Sadly however, we lost Mark on the Sunday following the Rendezvous.

Mark Ponzillo, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) United States Army. LTC. Ponzillo served three tours in Vietnam. His first tour was with a Special Forces "A" team. His second tour he was assigned to the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division and was tasked by the Commanding General to form Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP) Company out of thin air. He was able to convince young soldiers to



volunteer to be sent deep into hostile jungle territory in six-man teams and look for the enemy. He accomplished this mission and molded this unit into one of the finest fighting units in the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. This unit, and others like it in the Army, became the Long-Range Patrol Companies and later the 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry Rangers. They were the forerunner of today's Army Rangers. His third and last tour he spent with Military Assist Command Vietnam-Studies and Observation Group (MACV-SOG) as Commander of a B-53 element. These units were the forerunners of today's Special Forces Operation Delta commonly known as Delta Force. He never considered himself as anything special and he was truly surprised at how successful he was in the Army. He nearly resigned

his commission several times, then, the Army would do something crazy and promote him. He was a soldier but to the members of Company F 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division LRRPs/50<sup>th</sup> Inf LRP/ 75<sup>th</sup> Rangers he was our leader. We are heartbroken that he is gone, but some of us were fortunate enough to spend his last few days with him at the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Rendezvous. He will be missed.

There was, of course great discussions about having an off-year reunion. Marshall Huckaby supplied everyone with the information about the 3/4. Cav. Association in Washington D.C. 2020 REUNION NORTHERN VIRGINIA SEPTEMBER 25 – 29, 2020 The hotel will be the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon, Virginia, 20171. The room rate is \$122.08 per night, inclusive of taxes, good 3 days prior to and 3 days after the reunion and includes a buffet breakfast Thursday through Sunday in our hospitality room. To reserve your room, you may call 800-445-8667. Reference the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Association.

Lastly and the least important thing to come out of the Rendezvous is that I will continue to serve as unit director and Tim Walsh has graciously agreed to stay on as unit treasurer.

McGee Out



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



Steve Johnson dutifully sends out a reminder to all the LRRP/Ranger Unit Representatives 30 days prior to the deadline for *Patrolling Magazine* in order that each article will be sent in time to make the publishing deadline. Normally, I have my article written prior to Steve's faithful reminder and simply send it in as soon as I receive the notification. Generally, I am inspired by an event or perhaps something I read or an issue that seems to fit for an article in *Patrolling*.

I sometimes get a little philosophical when I write the E/51<sup>st</sup>-G/75<sup>th</sup> component for our magazine. I rarely delve into an article specific to one of our members since aside from our reunions, I don't hear much about our members except when we receive yet another notice about the passing of one of our own. When this happens, it is often someone I do not personally know due to the time frames we all experienced in our tours. Lately, the chatter coming from our Board of Directors has pertained to our 2020 reunion in Northern California, the specific dates and the hotel chosen. All of this is important and pertinent information but it has not been something that inspired me to write. Steve's reminder a couple of days ago was basically a "holy crap," moment for this "Type A" guy who is generally ahead of the game in getting things done. So, sometimes inspiration comes in the form of an event and sometimes it is simply in the form of a pending deadline.....so here we go.

I live in North Carolina, a Veteran friendly State. While we don't have much of a Navy presence in our State, we do have a strong presence in Army, Marines and Air Force personnel with Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune, Cherry Point Marine Air Station and Seymour-Johnson Air Force Base along with Pope Air Force Base, which adjoins Fort Bragg. We even have a couple of Coast Guard Stations due to our coastline with the Atlantic. As a result of this strong military presence, we have a significant number of military retirees in our State. The last numbers I could find in doing a little research for my lack of true inspiration, showed a Veteran population of 9.6 percent of our total State population.

One of the benefits of having a large Veteran population is that we celebrate the hell out of Veterans Day. Maybe this is not particularly unique to North Carolina but it is the only state I have held a permanent residence and therefore it represents the entire expanse of my experience. In NC, we don't just celebrate Veterans Day on November 11<sup>th</sup>. This year I have had invitations



for events on November 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Parades, breakfast celebrations at two universities, football games, dinners, Memorial services at monuments, church services and Charter School events, all within a short drive of my home. I can think of at least five significant Veterans Memorials within a 20-minute drive. Two of my favorite are the Triad Field of Honor and the Guilford County Veterans Memorial, built upon the hallowed ground where the Battle of Guilford Courthouse was fought during the Revolutionary War. <https://gcveteransmemorial.org/>

We are proud of our Veterans in NC and hopefully, it is the same in your community. While the sales will go on and there will be free Veterans meals at selected restaurants and maybe a free haircut somewhere, take a few minutes of your schedule and visit one of your local Memorials. While you are there, thank a Vet for his/her service. Sometimes a simple "thanks" goes a long way in making someone's day a little brighter.

Now these recommendations also apply to Memorial Day, a more somber day of remembrance rather than a celebratory cause, as is Veterans Day. Also, this article will likely be published after Veterans Day but will be just as applicable in 2020 and years after. Think back a few years and remember the old guys wearing ball caps with their unit or ship insignias we used to see at events, groceries stores or ball games. We are now those old guys. As Vietnam Veterans, we share an obligation to those who served after us. An obligation to thank them for their service and make sure that they are welcomed and recognized and to ensure they are not treated badly as were Veterans of our generation. Less than .5% of our population now carries the honor and burden of providing for the safety of our Nation. I firmly believe that after the first Gulf War, people understood how many blamed the Vietnam Veterans unfairly rather than placing the blame on the politicians who deserved to suffer the blame for their actions. Now we fight unending wars with a smaller, all voluntary force. It is our responsibility as Vietnam Veterans to make sure that our active military and Veterans who served after the Viet Nam War are treated with honor, appreciated and thanked for their service.

Al Stewart

G/75th UD





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



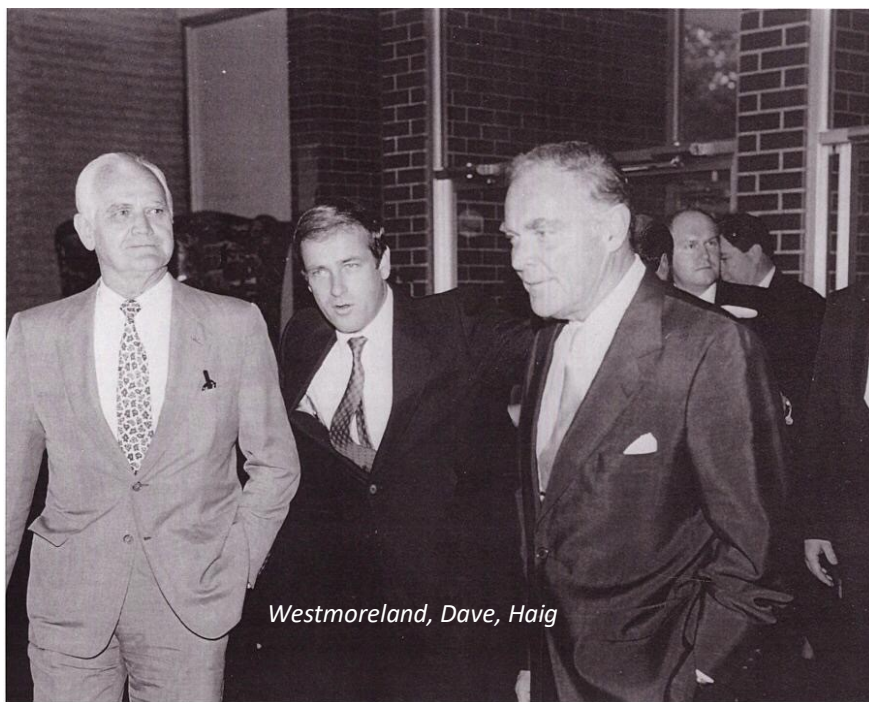
In the mid 1980s, while discussing the War in Vietnam in a Hotel in Pennsylvania with Generals William C. Westmoreland, Alexander Haig and myself, the topic of Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol/Rangers developed. General Westmoreland, aka “Westy” was first to address this subject. “One of the greatest things to come out of the Vietnam War was the understanding of the need for a Full Time Standing Guerrilla Unit known today as the Rangers” stated Westy. “The advent of the Long Range Recon Patrol aka “LRRP” were organized and attached to each Division in the War Zone. They were trained by or led by Special Forces Soldiers “Green Berets”. They had some of the highest morale in the Vietnam War - they knew their missions and dangers. The LRRP units became the Enemies’ deadliest nightmare. The “painted face” LRRP teams would employ the intelligence gathered by air, land and sea units. The Rangers would then be dropped behind enemy lines for extended periods of time to confirm said intelligence and return from missions with new detailed intelligence. This intelligence often involved Convoys of North Vietnamese troops traveling the Ho

Chi Minh (HCM) trail from North Vietnam. LRRPs were also confirming enemy base camps, anti-aircraft weapons, mortars, 122 mm Rockets. Weapons caches, food and logistics, maps, books, enemy hospitals, kitchens, everything... just verified everything so that we could move into action with more conventional units. The LRRP Rangers of every unit were all voluntary and Airborne qualified. Every Division knew that their LRRP Unit was special - often going to battle in “tiger fatigues with painted faces”. LRRP/Rangers operated in all the “Hot Spots” of the War to include

Hue, the DMZ, Khe Sanh as well as Cambodia and Laos although originally classified. The LRRP/Rangers often led the way for some of the largest battles of the Vietnam”.

General Haig and I listened to Westy’s enthusiasm about the LRRP teams. “Their Recon training or Special Forces training in small unit warfare made all LRRP teams aware of the weapon of Stealth”! They fought gallantly from the DMZ in I Corp to the Delta in IV Corp then down and along the HCM trail to III Corp. They LRRP/Rangers were our best weapons to come out of the war in my opinion.” Westy exclaimed.

General Haig said, “Christian was a LRRP/



Westmoreland, Dave, Haig

Ranger and he also served in my battalion in the 1st Infantry Division in 1968. So, what are your thoughts Dave? Wait before you answer. I remember that you also lead a study group of an unconventional/guerrilla war Recon team and trained them to operate as LRRP team - Right or Wrong? “

“Yes,” I answered, “to the LRRP assignment. And yes, to being an officer with Recon 1/26 of the 1st Infantry

Division Recon study on unconventional warfare.”

“Ha!”, said Haig, “ I knew it you son of a gun - I read your Officer Efficiency Report from those hazy 1/26 operations - you came to Vietnam a year after me. I left in 1967 and you arrived in 1968 in my battalion !”

“Yes,” I again stated. “Why didn’t you stay in Vietnam, maybe I could have been assigned to Germany?” I asked General Haig.

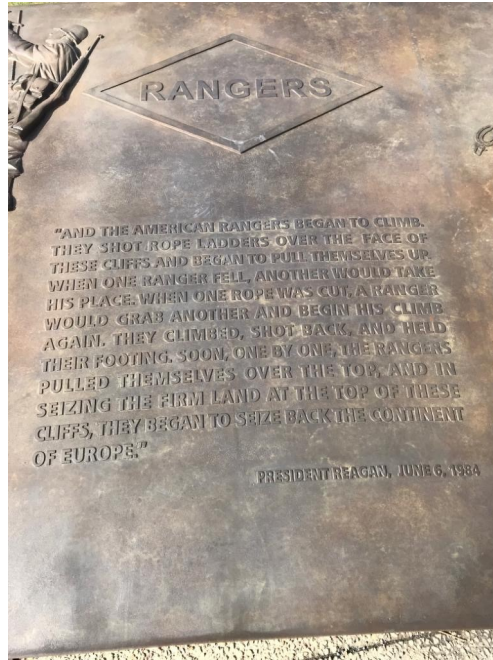
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## I/75 - F/52 LRP - 1ST DIV LRRP

"Dave, I loved serving with the Big Red One in Combat. It conditioned me for the politics of Washington, DC. " General Haig said with a big smile. (pause) We all laughed.

"I know all about you General Haig. We both were inducted into the Legion of Valor together but you got the front cover of the Legion of Valor Magazine. "I say with a touch of sarcasm. "However, let us get back to the LRRP/Ranger Legacy."

"Well", Westy continues, "Our Combat LRRP members were transferring home after their year in combat and flying into the States or going on R&R and they were being told to remove their "black cap berets" and get rid of the unauthorized Recondo patches/pins. Some of the guys that had experienced the sting of battle refused and were written up. Some were facing disciplinary problems that could hurt any chance of a career in the United States Army because they refused to remove their War identities of Black Berets and Recondo patches. The Military Police were correct in that there was no Recondo/LRRP/Ranger unit in the formal United States Military in the 1960's and 70ties. However, in every War we developed guerilla fighters called Rangers. Pre-revolutionary war tactics used successfully by Robert Roberts during the French/Indian war, to Francis Marion's famous Swamp Fox of the American Revolution were Rangers. And Darby's Rangers of D-Day WWII fame at Pointe du Hoc and Omaha Beach. At the same time in the Asia/Pacific Theater of WWII we had Merrill's Marauders and also the 6th Ranger Battalion rescuing POWs in the Philippines. Korea brought us Ranger units. Vietnam developed the formation of the Long Range Recon Patrol (LRRP) Rangers. But and I mean a big But, the tragic thing is that all the Ranger units mentioned were disbanded after every war. However, the leaders that experienced combat in Vietnam were bound and determined to see Rangers formed permanently. Debate was heated in the Halls of Congress and the Pentagon in late 69 and early 1970s as the Vietnam War was drawing to a political end. The Pentagon desk jockeys argued that there was a Ranger School and anyone that qualified could attend if accepted - they would receive a Tab for graduating in Ft. Benning, Georgia. The Generals of Vietnam felt that was not good enough. We collectively argued and made the case that Rangers proved themselves throughout American military history and that we could not face another war without Rangers. General



Abrams, myself and other military leaders realized we needed a permanent Ranger unit. The Pentagon acquiesced in 1973 establishing the 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions and after Grenada in 1983 the 3rd Ranger Battalion and Regimental Headquarters was formed. I was glad to see the US Military learned from Vietnam, we needed more than just a Ranger School. I was glad to see a permanent Ranger unit formed and accepted by the pentagon in my lifetime. But, unfortunately we needed Vietnam to save the Ranger Legacy. Some of the Ranger unit's battle streamers of Vietnam passed onto newly formed Ranger battalions - an example is Company H 52nd Infantry Rangers of Vietnam was the last Ranger unit to serve in Vietnam and their War colors were passed onto the 2nd Ranger battalion 75th Ranger regiment in 1974. The 1st Infantry Division LRRP/Ranger colors went onto Ranger Headquarters and museum in Ft. Benning, Georgia. These are just a couple of Ranger legacy examples, Westy said with certainty.

At that very moment we (General Haig, General Westmoreland and myself) were abruptly interrupted and informed that our presence was required for a meeting with dignitaries.

As I reflect back I was very moved that day in that hotel outside of Philadelphia listening to Ranger Military History from General Westmoreland. I was proud to have served the First Infantry Division's LRRP and "I" Co 75th Rangers in Vietnam. Recently, I experienced our 50th unit reunion of the 1st Infantry Division LRRP/Rangers in 2019, uniquely in Philadelphia.

All Rangers have bragging rights but many in the military only know of the lore and stories handed down through the years. Yes, there are many valor citations from the Medal of Honor all the way down the pyramid of valor. And, there are Combat Infantry Badges, Purple Hearts and Air Medals that could all trace the Ranger History of Vietnam. But, the "painted face warriors of the Vietnam LRRP/Rangers are proudest to be a giant link in developing the modern day Ranger unit.

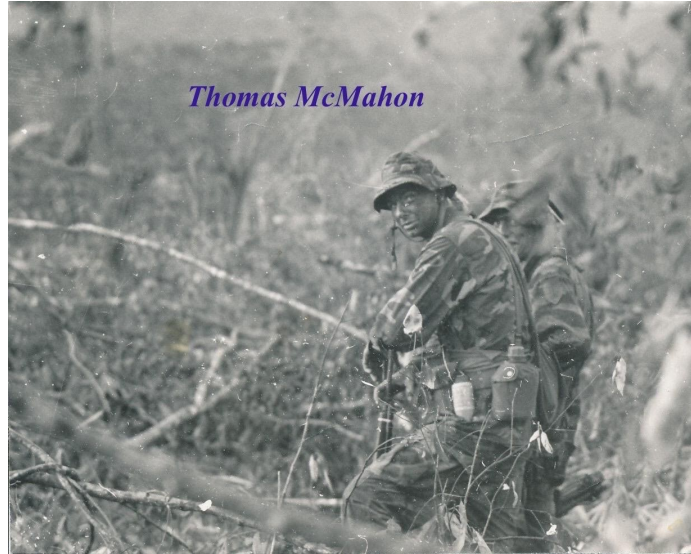
Finally, I would like to conclude I had the opportunity this year to be with the Rangers at the 75 year reunion at Pointe Du Hoc and Omaha Beach (Normandy) where Rangers established the motto of "Rangers Lead the Way" after they successfully climbed the 90' cliffs in Normandy and went *Continued on the next page*

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

to the aid of the 1st Infantry Division that had taken 4k casualties on the Beach. Note- Omaha was one of the bloodiest landings of D-Day in WWII. I was traveling with a group from the Union League of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and got emotional as I said a few words on behalf of the sacrifices of all Rangers and placed a 1st Infantry custom made Ranger Coin into the sandy cliffs of Normandy overlooking Omaha, Beach.

CONUS LRRP/Ranger Updates

F Co 52 INF LRRP/Ranger



*Thomas McMahan*

Back in America the Rangers of our Unit have been checking in to the Unit with updates on personal and Veteran related issues.

Lieutenant Jerry Davis (the longest serving LRRP/Ranger Commander) reports through social media that all is well with family and posts many great photos of new Grandchildren. Salute him on his expanding family.

Dave Flores, the New Unit President hopes that all members enjoyed a Happy Veterans Day and he looks forward to seeing all at the "mini reunion" which will be held the 15th to 19th of April in Lake Arthur, Louisiana. More details to follow on our unit's web page and also in Patrolling Magazine. We chatted a little about LRRP patrolling in Quan Loi, Vietnam and experiences with Team Leaders Matoon and Sharp (note - we couldn't leave out remembering Sergeant Morton from Lai Khe). Finally our Unit President wants to wish all Ranger/LRRPS and Veterans a "Merry Christmas"!

Ron Crews reported that he is still enjoying traveling the highways and by-ways of the 48 States after he finished completing his bucket list quest of visiting all CONUS and Canada by vehicle this past Spring/Summer. Note - he made his final journey with his RV before and after the Philadelphia Ranger Reunion as he visited New England and Canada and hopped-scotched across the United States back to Oklahoma. We talked on Veterans Day weekend and he was in Gatlinburg, Tennessee (he is going to post photos of his November visit on Facebook).

However, he wants all to know that he still spends 24/7 keeping the Veterans Administration in line on treatment and benefits to fellow Veterans.

Ranger Denny Wiggins is on sick call and going through his second round of treatment of Chemo for Agent Orange related illness. Prayers appreciated.

← LRRP/Ranger Tom McMahan (New Unit Secretary) talked about his recent trip to Chuma, New Mexico as well as other city/towns in the state. Spoke of traveling at 7,000 feet along cliffs via train and visiting the Governor Mansion where a Governor was killed by local Indians (Great stories surrounding this event). Reported on the difference in geography and

buildings of Adobe houses as compared to his geography and home in upstate New York. Felt it was important to inform fellow Rangers that Santa Fe, New Mexico is great but the tourist dollars are developing California Prices. Food is important even on vacation and the Coyote Cafe gets 5 Stars from Tom, "as the place to eat in Santa Fe". If one has not been to Los Alamos, Ranger Tom suggests you put it on your bucket list. It is where the first Atomic Bomb was built and is still a unique US Government research and development center. A wonderful museum but security is still a very important issue as he was told not to use his mobile telephone or camera in certain locations of Los Alamos because he was being observed. Our Conversation drifted over to serving together on patrols and struggling through the "roam-plough" surrounding the base camps "it was tougher than fighting the enemy", Tom reflected.

Finally and most important Tom reports his health is good as he works out daily at his local gym. "See you in Lake Arthur" he concludes.

Ranger Jim Savage of the Washingtons DC/Northern Virginia area called in to the Unit Director and we went over a speech that he was going to deliver to local high school students in his area about being a Vietnam War Veteran and service to his country. His advice to all is don't lend people money because it may be difficult to get back.

Placed a telephone call to Ranger James Moss as I wanted to congratulate him on being the best dressed at the Philadelphia reunion dinner. We talked that night about being in the field together in the Michelin Rubber Plantation.

*Continued on the next page*

A good thing being a Commissioned Officer was that I had a chance to serve in Combat with a number of different teams and Ranger Moss brought back memories. (I am sure Lt. Jerry Davis would agree)

Dave Hill our Unit Vice President must be on the golf course because cell phone reception was blanked out. It may also be due to the many fires that we experienced in Northern California and Nevada ?

LRRP/Ranger William "Mike" Wise hopes all had a wonderful Veterans Day and wants all to know he is continually working on our Units web page. He wants to emphasize to all that plan to attend the mini reunion to make reservations for the date of April 15 to 19, 2020. He has already made his reservation at the Hampton Inn of Jennings, Louisiana. See Unit Website for more detailed information.

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



Ronnie Immel continues to work tirelessly on all Veterans issues. He is often on social media helping strengthen his American Legion Post # 53, working on much needed Veterans legislation and riding with his Veteran Biker Buddies.

Note - article written by Unit Director of "I" Company 75th LRRP/Ranger, First Infantry Division

David A. Christian, Esq.

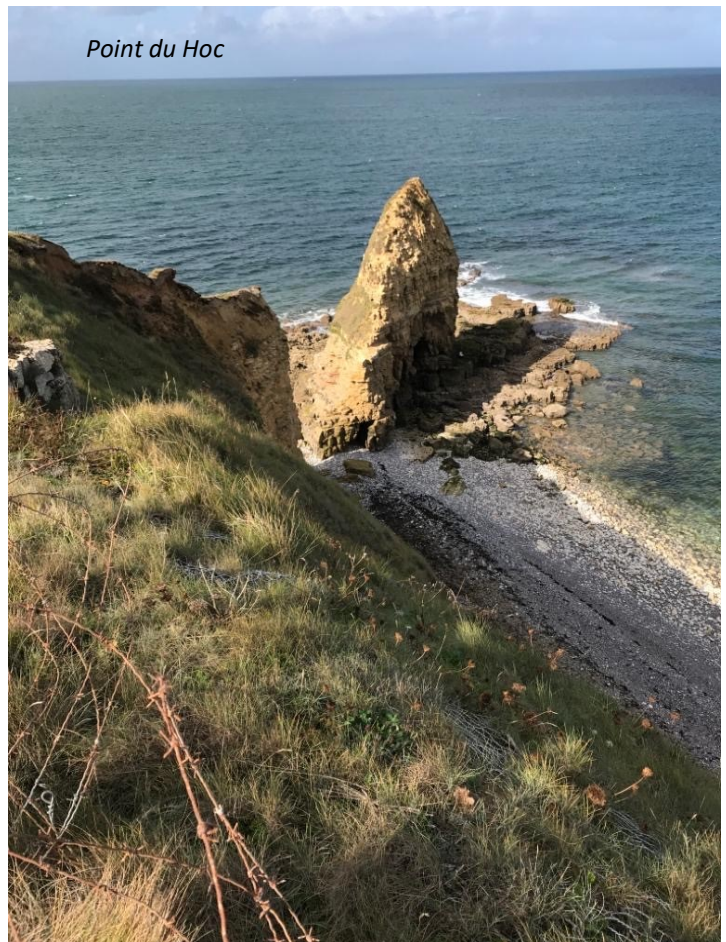
Elected Officers of 1/75-F/52- 1st ID LRRP/Ranger 2019-2020

Unit President- David Flores

Unit Vice President - David Hill

Unit Treasure -John Condiloro

Unit Secretary -Tom McMahan





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

Greetings to all,

Just a couple of items that I need to bring to your attention:

The first is our 2020 Colorado Springs reunion.

The reunion will be held in conjunction with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Assoc. reunion June 22-28. They were kind enough to invite us to join them. It sure saves me a lot of work as they have done all the legwork: daily activity schedule, hotel etc. All of the info is included here. You can go to their website to find the registration form. Please call the hotel to make your reservations.

The schedule does not preclude us from planning activities just for our group. There are lots of things to see and do that are not on the schedule. I know there are some who do not use computers so let me know and I can mail you a copy of the registration form.

The 4<sup>th</sup> ID Long Range Surveillance group has expressed interest in meeting with us during the reunion also. Hopefully their schedule permits.

We have also been in discussions with Master Sargent Kevin Padilla who oversees the Pre-Ranger course at Ft Carson. He has expressed interest in our history and would like to name their camp after our unit, possibly "Camp Kilo". They will give out a couple of awards for each cycle and would like to name them after someone from our unit. I feel strongly that one of the awards should be named after our MIA Dickey Wayne Finley. So, in the meantime be thinking about this project and pass along suggestions or names of individuals who you think might be deserving in this regard. We are early on in this discussion and nothing is set in concrete yet.

This is a high honor for our Unit, and I appreciate that MSG Padilla has reached out to us for our input.

**Standard Single/Double Room Rates are \$139 / Night plus tax. Rate includes:** Daily Breakfast for two, Free Wi-Fi, Business & Fitness Center access, Free Parking, Courtesy COS Airport shuttle service and within three miles of the hotel.

Premiere level rooms are available for an additional \$35.00 for single/double occupancy. Indoor and Outdoor Poolside Rooms are also available for \$10.00 additional to the Standard rate.



Individual sleeping room reservations should be guaranteed for late arrival with a credit card by calling **800-981-4012 by Friday, May 22, 2020**. Members should mention the 4th Infantry Division Association Reunion or reference Group #2373169 to receive the Group Room Rate and Group amenities. **Room reservations may also be made by using the direct Link to the Hotel Eleganté on the Association's website.** An early departure fee may be charged. To avoid this fee Individuals must

advise the Hotel at or before check-in of any change in the scheduled length of stay. **Secure your hotel reservations early; they can always be cancelled without penalty up to 24 hours before your arrival date. Hotel Reservation Cut-off is Friday May 22, 2020**

Note there are **Two Registration forms** – One for **Veteran's and Guests** and a separate one for **Active Duty Attendees**. **On Tuesday June 23<sup>rd</sup>** we will be offering golf at the Cheyenne Shadows Golf Course, an 18-hole championship golf course situated at the base of Cheyenne Mountain. The course offers dramatic scenery, a full-service pro shop and Mulligan's Grill. Attendees wanting to golf on Tuesday should indicate that on their Registration form and they will be contacted by Richard Bolin, the Golf Chairman about the details, tees times, etc. Golfers will pay individually at the club. Rental clubs are available for an extra fee.

**On Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup>** we will be running a shuttle from the Hotel Eleganté to the 4th Infantry Division Museum at Ft Carson. You can take the shuttle and return at your convenience during the day. The Iron Horse Chapter will host a Pizza Party in the Hospitality Room between 5 and 7 PM.

**On Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup>** we will be spending the day on post with the Division. Events for the day will include visits with the Soldiers, demonstrations, tour of the training area, and lunch on your own during a stop at the Dining Facilities. Cash payment (currently \$5.60/PP) with the Correct Change is appreciated, Credit cards are also accepted.

*Continued on the next page*

All participants for this tour must ride on the tour Buses and

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

each must provide with their completed registration forms - Full Name as shown on their government issued Photo ID and their Driver's License Number and State of issue or an alternate ID (Passport / DoD) and ID number and have that ID with them on the tour. Use the form published in the Ivy Leaves or download from the website.

**On Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> we will hold our first Business Meeting, the Ladies Luncheon, and in the evening have our R&R reception, buffet dinner and dance. The Ladies Luncheon will feature 3 Entrée Options: Chicken Chasseur, Grilled Chicken Breast, Tomatoes, Pearl Onions, Peppers, Wild Mushrooms, Essence of Sage or Three Cheese Manicotti Stuffed with Italian Cheeses, Pomodoro Sauce, or the Asian Stir Fry, Tofu, Asian Vegetables, Steamed Rice, with Mandarin Ginger Sesame Reduction. On Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> we will hold our final Business Meeting and, in the evening, have our Flames of Remembrance Banquet. It will also feature the Ralph E Lingert Service Award presentation and the Annual Educational Scholarship winners will be announced.**

(719) 576-5900 [www.hotelegante.com](http://www.hotelegante.com)



Quilt Raffle

We will also hold the annual Quilt Raffle on Saturday night to benefit the Fort Carson New Parent Support Program (formerly the Layette Program). This year's beautiful 88" square quilt is made by Jane Ratliff of the Redlegs Chapter.

Quilt Raffle Tickets are available by mail and at the Reunion registration desk for a (\$5) donation per ticket. You do not have to be present to win. To request Tickets by mail, send your donation check to: Don Kelby - National 4th Infantry (IVY) Division Association - P.O. Box 1914 - St. Peters, MO 63376-0035. Make your donation payable to: 4ID Association, write 2020 Quilt donation in the memo line. Make sure to include your name, address, phone, email, and the number of raffle tickets (\$5 each) you wish to purchase. Colorado Springs offer many exciting activities to pursue on your own. Visit [www.visitcos.com](http://www.visitcos.com) for more information.

### 2020 National Convention Schedule of Events

**June 21 – June 28, 2020**

**Sunday – June 21, 2020 Hotel**

**Eleganté**

Early Arrivals – On Your Own

Activities

### **Monday – June 22, 2020 Hotel Eleganté**

Arrivals – On Your Own Activities

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM – Registration

1:00 PM – Late PM – Hospitality

5:00 PM – Late PM – Committee / Chapter Meetings

### **Tuesday – June 23, 2020 Hotel Eleganté**

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Registration

9:00 AM – Late PM – Hospitality

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Golf at Cheyenne Shadows Golf Course

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM – E-Board Meeting

7:00 PM – Late PM – Committee / Chapter Meetings

### **Wednesday – June 24, 2020 Hotel Eleganté**

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Registration

9:00 AM – Late PM – Hospitality (5:30 PM Pizza Party)

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Visit the 4th Infantry Division Museum

7:00 PM – Late PM – Committee / Chapter Meetings

### **Thursday – June 25, 2020 Hotel Eleganté**

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM – Registration

5:00 PM – Late PM – Hospitality

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM – Check In and Bus Loading for Fort Carson Tour

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Fort Carson Tour with Lunch at a Dining Facility (**Photo ID required**)

7:00 PM – Late PM – Committee / Chapter Meetings

### **Friday – June 26, 2020 Hotel Eleganté**

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Registration

9:00 AM – Late PM – Hospitality

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM - First Business Meeting

11:00AM – 2:00 PM – The Ladies Luncheon

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM – R&R Reception with a Cash Bar, Memory Book Group and Individual Photos

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM – The R&R Buffet Dinner & Dance

8:00 PM – Raffle drawing winners can pick up items from the Hospitality room

### **Saturday – June 27, 2020 Hotel Eleganté**

9:00 AM – 5:00 PM – Registration

9:00 AM – Late PM – Hospitality

9:00 AM – 11:30 AM - Final Business Meeting

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM – Banquet Reception with Cash Bar, Memory Book Group and Individual Photos

6:00 PM – 10:00 PM – The Flames of Remembrance Banquet

### **Sunday – June 28, 2020 Hotel Eleganté**

Departure Day - On Your Own Activities



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—CSM (RET) JEFF HORNE



Our celebration of Veteran’s Day and the Up-coming holidays have prompted much commu- nication among our Company of 173d LRP’s, LRRP’s, and Rangers. Many of our team headed to Georgia to celebrate the activation of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion while others shared stories of Autumn’s arrival, shared stories with fellow Veterans, hunting seasons, and family gather- ings. I’ve tried to cover a little of each. I’ll start with Reed Cundiff’s attendance at an LRP/173d ABN BDE Memorial.

In Reed’s own words; The ceremony in Clayton. Clayton’s main claim to fame is that it is where Black Jack Ketchum was hanged in 1901 for robbing a train. It was determined after the hanging that train robbery was not a capital offense. They did not calculate the length of rope properly and Jack’s head was ripped off.

Don Wade, 7 May 1968

An Australian Air Force fighter pilot, Major Richard Brougham, was looking through the 2/503<sup>rd</sup> PIR newsletter and saw a photo of Russ Holland who was killed serv- ing with 4/503<sup>rd</sup> in 1969. Russ looked just like his own son and he quickly found the tight rela- tionship between the 173<sup>rd</sup> Air- borne and the Australian Army.

Major Brougham became inter- ested and found that Russ was from the small NE New Mexico town of Clayton. He discovered that three young men from this town fell as infantrymen in 1968-69. These were Russ Holland of 4/503<sup>rd</sup> PIR, Don Waide of 74<sup>th</sup> Inf (LRP), and Robert Fulkerson of 17<sup>th</sup> Armored Cavalry.

Major Brougham was able to contact people who served with these young men in Viet Nam and we had folks fly or drive from Virginia, Texas, New Mexico, and elsewhere. Major Brougham’s wife urged him to use his accumulated leave so they could spend a month in the US and attend the ceremonies. She was a delight and a sparkplug for and during the ceremonies.



The town had a day long ceremony on 7 September, 2019 to honor their young men. The city council issued a proclamation that 7<sup>th</sup> of Sep- tember would be forever observed as Hollalnd-Waide-Fulkerson Day. Mar (Mary) Dacy-Oney was a high school classmate of Don and she made the arrangements in town and arranged a garden party at her home on the out- skirts of Clayton. Many friends and fami- ly of the three forever young men attended. Both brothers, nieces, and friends of Holland attended. Friends of Don and Robert attended as well.

Half the town attended the ceremony at the cemetery. The Fire De- partment, American Le- gion, and VFW participated with giant flags and honor guards. Everyone then went to the Clayton muse- um for lunch and a cerem- ony. “Bugs” Moran, Jim Crouch of 74<sup>th</sup> LRRP, and I were able to give presenta- tions on the unit and about Don. Dewey of the 4/503<sup>rd</sup> and friend of Holland pre- sented a 173d Airborne flag donated by the



Jim Coucher, Irvin “Bugs” Moran, Reed Cundiff, Maj. Brougham

173d Airborne Association. Major Brougham brought an Aussie “Slouch Hat” donated by the Australian Army to the museum. All out of town guests stayed at the historic Eklund Hotel which is run by a RVN veteran.

Almost everyone went to a sponsored dinner at the VFW . There, a talented Marine, another Vietnam Vet and mem- ber of that VFW, sang all the verses of “Waltzing Matilda” to honor Major Brougham.

This was a beautiful lesson for all of America on how to HONOR the fallen young men who gave their lives for a cause they felt was worthy; so that we might live in Freedom.

*Continued on the next page*

Paul Beckwith (LRRP and Ranger), shared the following with Frank Stetka 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger BN,

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

Mountain RI, and 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain), at our Luncheon get together. It is his memory of his first mission. In Paul's own words.

"In the fall of 1967, I found myself walking across the tarmac of the DakTo airstrip going from one aircraft to another in order to join my new unit. I had recently transferred from a transportation/support company and was trying to hook up with the LRRP platoon of the E/17 Cav. It was not my first time to DakTo. When the 173<sup>rd</sup> had initially been deployed to DakTo I had the honor of being assigned to B-Med as a driver. Upon returning to CS&T I learned of the LRRP's from a heavy duty operator that had been accepted and transferred. Shortly after that I had to sneak over to the LRRP platoon area at DakTo in order to be interviewed by the selection board of the unit. About a month after the interview my platoon Sergeant told me to pack my gear, that transfer orders had come through and I moved as fast as I could, from one base to another, to clear the support company before they changed their mind. Upon arrival at DakTo again, I was greeted by the platoon sergeant of the LRRP platoon and told to get on the plane for a flight to TuyHoa.

TuyHoa is on the coast of Vietnam and if it wasn't for the fact that people were trying to kill each other, it would make for a very nice beach resort, which it has become. After the platoon set up tents and the obligatory sandbag ritual was performed, I was assigned as an RTO on my new team. I had no clue what duties an RTO performed, coupled with the fact that I had no idea what a real radio looked like. Members of the team were extremely helpful in giving me a quick lesson on how to use the radio, the code book and preparing my gear for the upcoming mission. The position did have some benefits like keeping me and the radio dry while other members of the team had to paddle alongside a rubber raft during a river crossing. My job as RTO would be very helpful in later months when I eventually became an assistant and a team leader. The team conducted a walk thru so that the "new guys" knew what was expected of them. In later months, members coming into the unit would be better prepared for their first mission than we were. On the day of the mission we were assembled, inspected and questioned as to our responsibilities with me getting extra special treatment. Once the pre-mission inspection was completed it was off to the chopper pad.

Our chopper approached the LZ and as it started to flare the team was already exiting the bird and I was thinking to myself, "Christ, aren't these guys going to wait for it to stop?" I would find out later that the less time the bird spent on the LZ, the less

chance of being spotted or compromised, except in this case. As we moved into the

wood line and the noise of the chopper had departed, I noticed how eerily quiet and still it was. As we moved further into the jungle and set up security, the rear security came forward to the TL and whispered that there had been a welcoming party of two on the LZ. The TL contacted the command chopper and informed them that there was a possibility we may have been compromised. but we would continue. The response was typical for that time in the unit's history, teams were to avoid any sort of contact and if they weren't sending tracers in your direction, continue with the mission. Your job was to gather intelligence without being seen and then come out when scheduled. It was about this time in the mission that I started to realize being an RTO didn't necessarily mean I had to know how to operate a radio, just carry it for a three- or four-day missions and be close to the TL. The team continued to move further into the jungle, and I couldn't help but notice how quietly they moved and also how the leeches were balancing on leaves and moving in our direction, getting closer as each man passed. It was almost like a dinner bell sounded and they wanted to be the first at the table. We moved a bit further and then set up to make sure we were not being followed. The sun was beginning to set and several of the experienced team members relayed that they had heard and seen movement around our position.

The team leader was on the horn with the base telling them that it would probably be a good idea to extract us since we had movement above and below us and it appeared whoever was looking hadn't found us yet. Movement by a team after nightfall would not be a sound tactic because the brush was thick and if we moved chances would be our pursuers wouldn't need to see us, they would hear us. The movement continued getting closer and it was apparent that if we waited much longer it would be too late for an emergency extraction. Eventually, the CO relented, and choppers were in the air as the team managed to slither closer to the LZ without being discovered. When the chopper landed, the team loaded just about as fast as they originally offloaded. Upon arrival at the base and after the debriefing the team leader and his assistant made a point of telling me and the other new guy that we had done a very good job and we could look forward to another mission in a couple of days. This puzzled me as I didn't see anyone, I hardly spoke on the radio and I wasn't sure what the hell I was doing for the three hours we were in the bush. I was assured I would get better with experience and the fact I didn't panic was a big plus.

*Continued on the next page*



Several weeks and a couple of missions later, I and four other lucky individuals were preparing

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

for our three-week vacation in Nha Trang where we would enjoy a thing called Recondo School. My team leader called me and the other new guy on the team over for a quick team meeting before we departed. He then presented the both of us with our OD Berets. To be given your beret meant the team leader, the team and the platoon had accepted you into the unit and had confidence in your abilities to perform as a member of a team. In my eyes, that OD Beret was a symbol of acceptance to an exclusive club where every member depended on the other and those outside of the club don't quite understand. Now, I just needed to survive and complete Recondo School. Oh, and I still have the Beret".

Finally, we have some stories of Rudy Teodosio travels with "Sons of Moseby" as he tries to figure out what to do with his time as a fully Retired Ranger and Special Forces Survivor.

I trust all are well and closing with a statement from MSG Leroy Petry (USA-RET) when he

spoke at our Veteran's Day gathering in Chardon, Ohio. He said the reason he enlisted and served was because " he wanted future generations of Americans to have and enjoy the same FREEDOMS he grew-up with". God bless us all. Jeff Horne



Rudy and Dave



SGM(R) Rudy Teodosio, CSM(R) Jeff Horne, Ben Moye, MSG(R) Mike Potter, 1SG(R) Ron Thomas



## P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—TERRY B. RODERICK

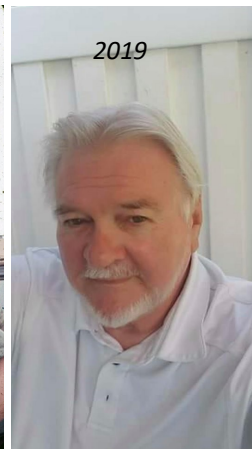
First off, I'd like to say thanks to those Papa Company Rangers who shared in honoring and sending Rick Polski off Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I'm sure Rick would have loved being honored in such a wonderful way. Jay Lutz, Roger Cassidy, Scott Whaley, Dave Gates, Rick King and Linvel "Sgt. K" Karres, and myself represented our Company. In addition, Steve Johnson, the President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association, Carl Witkowski and Kevin Beck of the Long Ranger Reconnaissance Association, who we will be sharing time with at our reunion in June in Branson, and last but not mostly importantly, Jill Stephenson, Gold Star Mom and mother of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Ranger Ben Kopp, of nearby Rosemont, Minnesota, who graced us with her presence. I'd be remiss if I didn't add that N/75<sup>th</sup> Ranger, Tom Eckhoff, who lives in the area arranged a meal at his local American Legion after the service for us all, (along with Rick's niece, Lynda Bergeson) and the Honor Guard and military ceremony at the gravesite for us too. For those who may not remember, Tom and his brothers from that same Legion Post, stood guard and provided the same honors for our own Kevin "Rocky" Mayer years ago when he passed in Minnesota too. He's been a P/75<sup>th</sup> ally for many years since I first met him while hanging out with our N/75<sup>th</sup> Ranger brother, Roy Boatman years ago. Jay Lutz provided the Memorial Display he put together a few years ago, and has been used by several of our deceased brothers since, and who has always been one of the first to show up and step up and honor our brothers who pass or are sick and facing tough times. What a jewel Jay is and always trying to deflect any credit he truly deserves. Most of you have no idea how essential he has been to us all over the years and especially to myself. Thank you so much Jay for caring and honoring our brothers so many times over the years. It's a beautiful display though its use signals a loss for us. He and his wife, Marcia, drove up from St. Pete Beach, Florida. Rick King who drove his Harley in from Arizona, Dave Gates who despite some physical restrictions that he continues to conquer every day and continues living his life that most of us cannot imagine, flew in from Woodstock, Georgia, and Roger Cassidy who flew in from King William, Virginia. Scott Whaley who lives in Minnesota but took



*Rick Polski*



1970



2019

out the time to honor a guy he didn't serve with directly in Papa Company, and last but certainly not least, Linvel Karres, one of our best ever Team Leaders who has been absent for 50 years or so for his own personal reasons. It was a great group and enhanced by the two men from the LRRR, and Jill Stephenson, one of the classiest and wonderful ladies you could ever hope to meet, who suffered a loss most cannot ever fathom. SSG Karres was very influential on my life as I spent some real quality time on his team in Vietnam and I adored him as a Team Leader. It was great seeing him and Dave Gates talking together at Psycho Suzie's Motor Lodge, where we all met up to enjoy some brotherhood and good food the night before the services. As Team Leaders in our company, I'm not sure we all appreciated the responsibility that was thrust upon those guys back when we were all so young and serving in one of the most dangerous jobs and areas in Vietnam at the time. And they were so young too and not having the advantage of being 2<sup>nd</sup> tour leaders as some others were in our company. Sitting here thinking about it, it amazes me at how well they performed in leading us, teaching us, mentoring us, and getting us back home alive. For those who have asked about him over the years, he looks good, has aged nicely, seems healthy as can be expected, and seems to have a good life going up there in Minnesota. Rick's son, Kevin, and the entire Polski clan were great hosts for all of us in every way. Rick's other niece, Diane, provided a place for Roger, Dave, and I to stay and she couldn't have been a better hostess. Gave us all a real homey feel being with her. Rick was lucky to have such a great family and it was obvious how much they loved Rick and looked up to him. At Psycho's Suzie's Wednesday night, Sgt. K asked me if I knew it was supposed to snow Saturday and Sunday there? That scared the hell out of me but I knew I was flying out on Friday afternoon, so I felt somewhat safe. Waking up Friday morning after the services, it was 31 degrees outside and I have to admit, I was sorta happy to be getting out of town and back to the warm 80's here in Paradise. Add to that, there were very light snow flurries during the day and while I sat on the tarmac on my flight home, I felt very fortunate indeed!! Ha! Ha! I don't know how you Yankees do it up there all winter and for the next 4-5 months. I gotta have my sunshine and warm temps.

*Continued on the next page*

## P/75-79th LRP Continued

Being graced by Ranger Ben Kopp's Mom, Jill Stephenson, who I've met a few times over the years was especially special to me. She's always been so graceful and hiding her pain that I cannot even describe what being in her presence is like. We enjoyed laughs, good food, and good times together and I'll always remember that too. Usually I see her for a few glancing moments as her time is usually taken up by more important things she does when I see her. This trip has surely changed our relationship and her relationship with our Ranger company and I cannot wait to see her again. She mentioned to us over dinner on Thursday night, that the Vietnam Ranger/LRP community has been one of the most important groups to reach out to comfort and support her over the years since the loss of her son, Ben, in Afghanistan, in 2009. Can't say enough about Kevin, Diane, and Lynda's treatment of us all while there and hope to see them again in the future. Tom Eckhoff, 'nuff said, Brother. You're a real asset and ally to us in Papa Company. I'll never forget what you've done for us, not just once, but twice now and I hope we don't need you again for along time!! Carl Witkowski and Kevin Beck, again, thank you younger brothers. You represented your LRRR well and we appreciated it. I'll see you again in June and hope many of my Ranger family will join me in enjoying the brotherhood we all have together. If I'm being redundant, so be it. It's important to me to recognize and thank these folks. I'll leave it at that for now, but just wanted to let you all know what a memorable experience it was honoring our brother, Richard Polski.

The week and weekend of November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, found me in Savannah, Georgia for the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion's 45<sup>th</sup> birthday and the festivities associated with that milestone. They have certainly carried on traditions and the warrior mentality we displayed in Vietnam over the years and become the most lethal fighting force and light Infantry in the world today. Continually serving our country with the Regiment deployed continuously since the GWOT began so many years ago. I got a chance to see many Rangers I've met over the years and had a good meal at their banquet on Friday night, the 15<sup>th</sup> of November. I might add I ran into our President and his lovely wife again in Savannah, as he attended and represented our Association again as he always does. He's one of the most traveled Presidents we've ever had and there is no doubt he's dedicated to the job. He lives in upstate Minnesota but he's at every Ranger event I've been to recently, and folks, that's a lot of them. Thank you, Steve Johnson, for all the time, effort, and expense you put into being potentially one of the best President's the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment has ever had. Your dedication is not going unnoticed. That in addition to also

handling the duties of Editor of our Patrolling magazine and getting it out promptly to our members. The turn around is the quickest and best it's ever been.

Another reason I was in Savannah was for the retirement ceremony for a Ranger Buddy of mine for over 27 years now. I first met (ret.) CSM Rick Merritt in the hospitality room at the Airport Sheraton in Columbus, Georgia at the Ranger Rendezvous in 1992. He was a newly minted SSG at the time and a member of B/3/75<sup>th</sup>. Since 1992, I've met up with Rick Merritt nearly every year and for about 10 years while he was stationed at Fort Benning, I stayed with him and his family when I visited and he let me bring my dog with me. He always put the P/75<sup>th</sup> guidon up outside his quarters any time he knew a Papa Company Ranger was on post to honor us. He's been a friend, mentor, and inspiration to me and hundreds of others, perhaps thousands, over

the 35 plus years he served this country. 26 of them in the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. He's become a brother in every sense of the word and his family has graciously allowed me to enter into their clan and I've gotten to know his sizable, patriotic family, from Lucasville, Ohio. I have even driven up there to stay with his Mom and Dad and spent a weekend watching football with his Dad, Ralph. His Mom is my girlfriend from Ohio and a lady I love dearly and a wonderful human being and true patriot. I could go on and on about Mr. Merritt, his new title, but it would take pages I don't think I have in this publication. Perhaps a book later would be appropriate. Anyway, thank you Sgt. Major Merritt for your long career of representing Rangers and this great country. I'm honored and privileged to meet a man of your character and passion for your

job. I hope you enjoy your retirement as much as you did leading Rangers. You're a legend and iconic figure in the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment and I'm anxious to see where your civilian life takes you and your family. That being the lovely Elizabeth Merritt and your two great kids, Lindsey, 16, and Bonnie, 14 years of age.

The Papa Company Ranger will be piggybacking our 2020 Reunion with the LRRR Rally, June 3-7, 2020, in Branson, Missouri. Any details may be found at the website: [LRRR2015.org](http://LRRR2015.org). Here you'll find hotel information and the itinerary for the festivities. By now the hotels are probably full, but call the hotels listed and they will direct you to rooms in the area you may use. The sooner the better. Registration will take place in the January 2020 timeframe and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I'm probably running out of my allotted space in this publication so I'm pulling pitch now. There will be more information in the next edition of Patrolling. In Ranger brotherhood, Terry Roderick



Merritt Family

# ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

In Memorium:

I regret to inform you that Ranger Wayne Parker has passed this October and has gone to meet Ranger in the sky. Wayne was the Senior Advisor to the 41<sup>st</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalion.

Highlights of 2019:

February, May, August and November saw me working on submittals for the Patrolling magazine.

April found me at the open house in Dahlonga representing the BDQ.

May I addressed Aiken High School and Saint Mary Help of Christians regarding the role of the BDQ advisors during the Vietnam War.

July found me at Fort Benning for the Ranger Rendezvous and the induction ceremony at the Ranger Hall of Fame of Col. (Ret) Bob Reitz. Also in attendance was LTG (Ret) Freddy McFarren (22<sup>nd</sup> BN 1968-1969)

In August I visited LTG Burton Patrick at his home in Thomson, GA.

In September I spoke to members of American Legion Post 26 In Aiken, SC about the role of the American Advisors to the BDQ. No one in attendance had ever heard of Biet Dong Quan and the Advisors.

Feature:

Odyssey Of Camaraderie-BDQS

By Mike Martin

General of the Army, Douglas Mac Arthur stated in his last emotional speech before the U. S. Congress "Old soldiers never die. They just fade away". But for the vast majority of the Vietnamese servicemen at the end of the war, age was of little consequence. Most were young in years, even though many suffered physical afflictions from years of fighting and the harsh living conditions they had endured.

These soldiers who had received very little recognition from the



media and the U.S. Government for their heroic struggle against the communist invaders and an overall lack of support from their own government did not have the luxury of just "fading away". They had lives to rebuild, families to support and for many resettlement in a foreign country.

For the soldiers who fought as members of the elite Vietnamese Rangers (Biet Dong Quan) they would suffer more than most; interned in the communist reeducation camps they were denied the privilege of the normal healing experience that most soldiers go through; e.g. Professional counseling, religious support programs, government and veteran assistance, and the daily care and love of a family

For the Vietnamese Ranger, his first period of trauma and transformation as a veteran of the war would be his attempt to survive the confinement of the prison camps and the treatment of his communist captors. Theirs was the sequestration, helplessness and embitterment of captivity for un-specified periods. Rangers remained in these infamous camps on an average from four to seven years. General Do-Ke-Giai, the last commander of the Vietnamese Rangers was released after seventeen years of imprisonment.

But the hatred toward their enemy and "will to survive" burned like smoldering embers of the soul; these men were brothers of the battlefields and the communist could no more defeat them in their servitude than they could in combat.

These warriors of the maroon beret (Mu-Nau) began their healing from within the heart, they bonded together in brotherhood and the spirit of the Biet Dong Quan (Ranger) cloaked them with its ardor and strength. No...they did not "fade away" but rather emerged as the fabled "Phoenix from the ashes" to begin an "odyssey of Camaraderie" that has grown stronger through the passing years and which is the foundation for the ultimate reunification of all former Vietnamese Rangers and their families and the freedom from the yoke of communism.

With the collapse of the South Vietnamese government in 1975, more than 130,000 Vietnamese were able to resettle in the United States.

*Continued on the next page*

For most Rangers the opportunity for them and their families to leave the country of their birth would only

come years later after their release from the communist camps. Even then, there were those who perished as sea-Boat people who tried to escape illegally. For those sponsored, there was the inundated bureaucracy (red tape) of the governments involved for legal immigration. (An emotional and long drawn-out process that is still on going) And there was the trauma and anxiety for all caused by the prolonged family separations.

The migration of Rangers to such countries as Australia, Canada, Germany and the United States would have an unforeseen impact on them and their families. The children would adapt more readily to the new culture and language than they would.

A lack of understanding would develop between the parents and the children in many rangers' homes. The young did not relish the old ways; displaying a lack of respect they manifested an uncaring attitude with minimum knowledge of the war, the Biet-Dong-Quan and the courage of their fathers. Much of this was due to their exposure of the media bombardment through movies, television and publications portraying the Vietnamese Military as an army unwilling to fight for the country and its freedom.

In retrospect, much of this came about because most Americans shared a deep feeling of resentment toward the Vietnam War, the people of Vietnam and their own impotence in coping with the suffering and death of such an unpopular conflict, also because of the biased journalistic proclamations of a lost war—no herald victories as in the pat.

But the mettle of the Vietnamese Rangers (BDQ) was tested in countless battles. They had shed their blood and many their lives, from the rice fields of the South to the highland of the North, their indomitable warrior spirit always prevailing.

Most have succeeded in their new homelands, becoming pillars of their communities. They have become successful in a varied field of occupations: medicine, law and advance technology, to name a few. Many have become a reckoning force in the local and national politics of their locale. And to the pride and perseverance of the ranger families, their children have come of age through a painful—at time—"rite of passage", regaining their national heritage, their identity as Vietnamese and a renewed perspective of their parents accomplishments, and too the fighting ability of one of the most respected combat units in Vietnam—The Vietnamese Rangers!

## ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

The liberty and privileges most Rangers enjoy in their adopted homelands are not taken lightly;

still as the seasons come and go and the reflections of the mind slip gently across the nostalgic journeys of time, memories cloud the present and bring forth recollections of the past: ancestral images, boyhood, family gatherings, traditional festivals and the shadowy faintness of tones and lyrics of poetry and songs written long, long ago, coupled with thoughts that recall cool evening walks, a soup and noodles breakfast, thatched huts and jars filled with fish paste near the winding Mekong river, Buddhist lanterns glowing in the darkness, foot high rice shoots, greenish fish ponds sprinkled with water lilies, the bluish haze of charcoal fires, steamy monsoon showers, the heat and humidity of the delta summers, the autumn breezes which sweep over the forested hills and hazy mountains of the North, and the golden rice fields awaiting harvest: crystalline images that jump and dance within the mind like water against the rocks of a mountain stream.

These pleasurable glances at the past are often veiled by sorrow as abrupt visions vividly appear of days as cadet at Dalat, training at Duc-My, the first taste of combat, fallen comrades periodic family visits at the camps while in captivity and tarnish dreams that pained the heart during moments of unguarded contemplation.

These Indochina combatants do not boast or exaggerate their deeds; why should they? When all of Vietnam was falling and others ran away, these brothers of the "Black Tiger" shouldered the burden and held back the enemy with little more than their warrior's rage. The echo of war is like distant thunder and forgotten artillery fire, but not the spirit of the soul. It is a "way of life" for all Rangers; it is a part of their "Odyssey of Camaraderie".

We have sometimes been weak and sometimes powerful, but at No time have we suffered from a lack of heroes.

Vietnamese Emperor Le-Loi, 1428

Let us now praise forgotten men....

And some there be,

Which have no memorial;

Who are perished, as though

They had never been.

Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director

Ranger Advisors

**REGULAR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

To prevent lapses in your memberships, please send dues and any ADDRESS CHANGES to:

**75th RRA  
PO Box 2200  
Orangevale, CA 95662**

With our Benevolent fund, the Association supports the Family Fund, Gold Star Fund, and the Scholarship Fund which awards scholarships working collaboratively with the Ranger Memorial Foundation. We support the Best Ranger Competition and other events the officers regard as beneficial in promoting the 75th RRA ethos within the Greater Ranger Community. If you wish to help out, anytime is the right time. Especially right now! If you wish to pay with one check for any combination of dues and funds, please specify how much is to go to each. Thank you!

**75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 2200  
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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

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SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**UNITS**

FROM (DATE) TO (DATE)                      UNIT (Company or Battalion)                      NAMES OR ORDERS

FROM (DATE) TO (DATE)	UNIT (Company or Battalion)	NAMES OR ORDERS

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

VISA OR MASTERCARD \_\_\_\_\_

EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_ 3 DIGIT SEC CODE \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK ONE                      NEW APPLICATION                       RENEWAL                       SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER

**MEMBERSHIP CONTINGENT UPON PROOF OF SERVICE AS REQUIRED BY OUR BYLAWS:** orders, or have two current members provide testimony of your service in an eligible unit as designated by our Bylaws. We are not just a Vietnam era veteran's organization. Service in all units of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment is eligible for membership.

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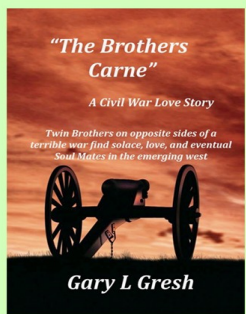
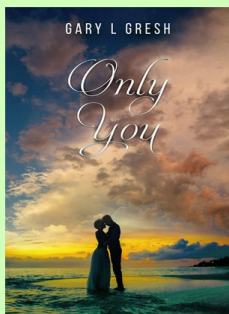
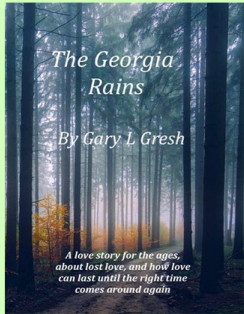
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**Gary L. Gresh**  
Flat Rock, NC Resident  
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