

PATROLLING

Spring 2019 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC. Volume 31 Issue II



*Merrill's Marauder and Point du Hoc
Vets start the BRC/Photo-SOJ Patrolling*



Grenade Toss/Photo-SOJ Patrolling



At the Finish Line/Photo-Patrick Albright MCoE

FREE [ER] TO RUN

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Harley-Davidson Motor Company
3700 West Juneau Ave., PO Box 653, Milwaukee, WI 53201

May 22, 2019

75th Ranger RGT Association, Inc.
PO Box 348360
Sacramento, CA 95834

RE: Ranger Rendezvous 2019

75th Ranger Regiment,

On behalf of everyone at Harley-Davidson, I'd like you to know that we are honored to support the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

Harley-Davidson's roots of military support run deep, going as far back as 1916, when we made our first sale to Army General John "Blackjack" Pershing. Blackjack Pershing was an advocate of new technologies and he liked the fact that motorcycles were agile, easy to use and durable. He bought 12 of them that first year. From that first sale, Harley-Davidson motorcycles played an important role in supporting the military. During World War I, nearly one-third of Harley-Davidson motorcycle production went to the U.S. Army. During WWII, over 70,000 WLA motorcycles were built for the war effort. For more than 80 years, Harley-Davidson produced motorcycles for the military.

Our commitment and respect for the military and those who have served has, and continues to be, an important part of our history and brand values. Today, many of our employees, dealers and customers are veterans who share a common passion for the road and for personal freedom.

Over the years, we have been privileged to support several organizations dedicated to meeting the needs of those who have served and their families.

Again, it is our honor to extend our support to the 2019 Ranger Rendezvous.

Thank you for your service and all that you do.

Sincerely,

Tim Budzien
Harley-Davidson Motor Company
U.S. Military Lead
Tim.budzien@harley-davidson.com
414-530-0117

Editor's Corner

By Stephen Odin Johnson—Editor

Hello Patriots!

On the front cover of *Patrolling*, a Merrill's Marauder and Point du Hoc 2nd Battalion Ranger got the Best Ranger Competition underway with each firing a blank round from a 45. Job well done!

I enjoyed the articles and photos and being able to do the layouts from start to finish.

Congrats to the team representing the 101st who won Best Ranger!

Enjoy your read and I'm just going to insert photos that represent the good times we have enjoying Ranger events! A picture equates to a thousand words.

Stephen



Above, 2019 Best Ranger Social/Photos: *Patrolling*-SOJ

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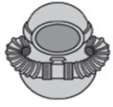
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The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that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

Deadlines are the 15th of February, May, August, and November for the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter Issues respectively.

POSTMASTER

Send address corrections to:
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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

BY JOE MARQUEZ

Greetings Rangers,

As I write from our home in Valle Pucu, Paraguay, I am considering the many years we have been here, over thirty years off and on. I enjoy the slower pace, but with that is the constant stress of driving on bad roads with crazy drivers. So trying to miss the potholes and ruts and those who cut you off while watching out for motorcyclists who have no qualms about passing on the left makes for a great day. But having chosen to leave the loved and known for other parts of this great world, one accepts the challenges of missionary activity.

I have been thinking of the number of friends who have finished their earthly course. What was before them they had to deal with or be overcome by it. I have found that Rangers are generally determined to do or die trying. One second generation Ranger whom I met while on a trout fishing trip put on by Healing Waters told of being sent to reinforce a team that had been hit hard by some Afghans, all were wounded. On insertion all but two of the reinforcing team were also injured. So this man and one other took the 240 Golf and drew the enemy off the wounded so they could be extracted. The two played cat and mouse for two or three days with a superior force. He ended up with shrapnel injuries to his spleen. When I met him he was out of service and pursuing successfully an earned doctorate in social work, as I recall. He had taken seriously the ideal of continuing the mission though being, in this case one of two able bodied men.

One has to admire the physical and mental courage displayed by these men. Yet so often the sheer grit of those who so serve their country can become a hindrance to realizing that there are things that we cannot overcome no matter how hard we try. Our self-reliance and can do attitude enables us to overcome great obstacles in life. But when it comes to the salvation of our immortal souls we find ourselves in the same boat. We need someone to help us find the way to life. Someone who was determined to help get us, wounded and surrounded by deadly enemies, out of our predicament.

That One was a man named Jesus. He came from above, sent by his Father to save mankind who were being destroyed by an implacable enemy. Satan and his minions had taken advantage of our first fathers and set their descendants on a course that must end in destruction of both body and soul. He, as the Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost. To do so He had to live in such a way as to please God completely. He earned the right to live by fulfilling all that the Holy Law of God required. Then He in grace and compassion, laid his life down as an acceptable sacrifice to the Judge of all. God the Father gave his only begotten Son, in expiation, the life of the God-man, for the lives of mortal men. And not only so but as the last Adam engendered a race of beings that would be transformed from hell bound sinners into heaven bound saints. No man could conceive such a thing, much less accomplish

it. But that is exactly what God did.

Now He commands that all repent, come to a change of mind that results in a change of action, and quit resisting the will of God, who will have all men to be saved and to come to realize once for all who really seeks their welfare. It is the acknowledging of the truth that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whosoever believes in him should not perish the miserable death of a rebel but have everlasting life.

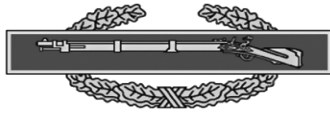
Good men have gone to their graves testifying that this is the grace of God that everyone needs to hear. Those of us who remain can accept the responsibility to fill the ranks and also testify concerning the Grace of God and His good will towards men.

Recently a missionary colleague, Wayne Goddard, was shot in his yard in a part of Paraguay that my wife's parents worked in over fifty years ago. He later died of his injuries. We were recently in the same area with Ramona's brother who had also worked in the area in the eighties. Wayne worked with the same group of indigenous folk Pai Tavy Tera, Guarani speaking folk that my in laws had helped to reach so many years ago. Three generations of the Goddards have worked in the region for six decades. My oldest son Jonathan and I spent a week helping out Wayne's Dad, Bob Goddard junior for a week back in the mid-nineties. Drug runners don't like the missionaries teaching the indigenous folk so that they don't need to work cultivating Marijuana, but can find better work so have tried to get them to withdraw from the area. A Christian man, who guided us and is also a policeman, pointed out to us marijuana fields across a valley in areas set apart for jungle reserves. A firefight between law enforcement and the bad guys in the same area less than a month ago cost five of them their lives as they tried to escape. What a waste!

There are things worth dying for. Some will die for things that have no eternal value, while others give their lives for the welfare of others. What are we giving our lives for?

Later,

Joe Marquez, C/1/503rd,'69 N/75th, Juliet,'70 A/2/503rd,'70 Chaplain: SC Chapter 30; and the National 173rd Airborne Brigade 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 *fel- lowship of the Special Operations ranger community by re- cruitment and encouragement of active duty and recently separated Rangers to become members. The association pro- vides a special "No Cost Membership" to all personnel while assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment.*

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

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

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

Section 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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

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

We hold biennial reunions (in conjunction with the 75th Rang- er Regiment Rendezvous) and business meetings. The associ- ation officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secre- tary, and Treasurer), are elected at the biennial association business meeting. This reunion is held at Columbus/Fort Benning, GA
Subordinate unit hold off-year reunions at various locations across the United States per there 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 Erlher
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-	Richard Barela

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 de- ployed to Vietnam as listed in section 2, 3, or 4.

Unit Directors

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N/75-74th LRP-173rd LRRP

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O/75-78th LRP

Vacant

P/75-79th LRP

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75thrra Rendezvous: The time is near; the 2019 Ranger Rendezvous is just around the corner and this will be a big event. For one thing we have a major sponsor for this year's event. We are proud to announce through the 75th RRA Board's hard work we have signed an agreement with Harley-Davidson as our Association sponsor for this year's event.

Harley-Davidson has graciously donated 2019 Soft Tail-Slim Line motorcycle to the Association for our raffle grand raffle. There is a limited amount of tickets that will be sold. This allows someone to have a good chance of winning the grand prize. Tickets are \$20.00 each.

There are some caveats for the winner:

The winner of the motorcycle is responsible for all state and local taxes in your state of residence.

The association will pay up to \$1,000.00 in transportation costs, anything over the amount is the responsibility of the winner.

The association will issue the winner a 1099 form as required by law.

We will also be celebrating the 3 events during the Rendezvous:

75th Anniversary of Merrill's Marauders

75th Anniversary of the 2nd Ranger Battalion scaling the cliffs of Point du Hoc on 6 Jun 1944

Finally, the 50th Anniversary of the activation of the U.S. Army Ranger designation to all LRP, LRRP companies

I have had the pleasure and honor of serving with our Guest Speaker for this year's dinner; LTG P. K. "Ken" Keen, who is the current president of the Ranger Hall of Fame Board. LTG Keen has commanded Light Airborne Infantry, Ranger, Special Forces, Military Group and Army Component units. His commands included a Special Forces Detachment (SCUBA) in 3rd Bn, 7th SFGA; Company. His Ranger career is very wide as he was the Assistant RS-3 for the regiment during the Panama Invasion. He was selected as the Commander for 1st Bn, 75th Ranger Regiment and the 11th Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment. After retirement, LTG Keen continues to serve as a professor and the Associate Dean of Leadership Department at Emory University's Goizueta School of Business in Atlanta, Georgia.

Ranger Hall of Fame Nominations: The Ranger Hall of Fame board met on 4 May 2019 at the 75th Ranger Regiment Conference Room. There was a total of 31 packages submitted to the RHOE Executive Committee. After the Executive Committee initial review there were 22 packages submitted to the RHOE voting members for possible induction into the RHOE with one additional packet for Honorary Membership.

The 75th RRA submitted our 3 best packages this year. These packages which made the final cut to the number of 22 were for:

Col (Ret) Robert Reitz, BDQ, Viet Nam

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICHARD S. BARELA



Abn Rangers, Viet Nam

The Association had two of the three packets approved for induction into the RHOE Class of 2019:

Col Reitz and SGM Lamb. Please congratulate all those who were inducted.

Sadly, SGT Nash did not make the cut this time, but we will resubmit in the future.

Please congratulate all those who were made it to the voting board and a very special congrats to the Class of 2019, (See below)

MSG Joey A. Carpenter

MAJ Garry E. Curtis

COL Paris Davis

CW3 Ronald Johnson

LTC J.D. Kirby

SGM Alfred J. Lamb – 75th Ranger Regiment Association

SGM William Lubbers

CSM Arthur J. McCann

HON Ryan McCarthy

COL Robert Reitz – 75th Ranger Regiment Association

MSG Eric Stebner

CSM Dennis Smith

TSGT Russell G. Wellman

SFC Wilton White

CPT Albert Zimmerman

Honorary Member: Ms. Sheila Dudley

I am again reiterating my previous statement, the selection processing is getting harder each year. We need to be realistic and objective in our selection process. We can't select someone based on friendships. Section 1 of the RHOE By-Laws are very clear in what we are looking at for induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame.

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

Continued on the next page

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

"We need to look at the person as a whole".

My personal observation, especially sitting on the board for the last 5 years is the criteria has gotten much more restrictive. Not only at his military career but what has he done as a role model in the community to promote the Ranger Ethos.

Has he supported the Associations?

Has he promoted the values of a Ranger to the current and future Rangers?

Does he work with veterans and veteran organizations?

Does he communicate a positive and professional image of a Ranger to all?

Sadly, sometimes we look at only a small part of the person. Please look at the whole person when submitting your packages. If you need assistance, please feel free to reach out to me and I will assist where I can. Please note I can't work miracles, but the information needs to be accurate and something that can be verified. The packages are screened by us and then by the RHOF executive committee prior to going to the board. We the 75th Ranger Regiment Association want top quality packages moving forward from the Association to be submitted and have a greater chance to be inducted.

Elected Officers: I may be preaching to the choir but each issue I ask for nominations for the Elected Officer positions. We need our younger members to take the lead and help move the Association forward. We don't want to go the way of Merrill's Marauders and the Korean War Rangers. These Associations no longer exist. Our Association is founded on our Viet Nam era brothers, and they have done a good job bringing us this far. Now is the time for you who have served in the Battalions and Regiment to "Lead the Way" and step and take a leadership role in the Association. END OF STATEMENT!!

This will be my last message as president of the great Association. After the rendezvous you will have a new president and hopefully some new officers leading the way.

This has been a great honor and privilege, I know that I have done some things that membership hasn't agreed with, but I was looking at this as whole. We have taken some giant steps forward, i.e.

Donating to the Best Ranger Competition and supporting those who participate.

Donating to the National Ranger Scholarship Foundation to issue 2 scholarships on behalf of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association

Donating to the widows of our fallen Rangers during their time of distress.

Tunnels to Towers Foundation in Memory of Christopher Hill, Deputy U.S. Marshall and former 3rd Bn Ranger 1st Bn Ranger Ball

Donations to Ranger members in financial hardship

Closing Comment:

This year we will be holding a joint dinner at the Ironworks Convention Center, downtown Columbus on 12 Jul 2019.

Yes, I said joint. I have been working with USARA for the last 3 years to move forward and combine our forces to keep costs down and have a really big dinner event. Costs have gone up a bit for hall rentals and catering but a joint dinner on Friday will allow those in the regiment to attend and also give us the ability bring the Associations together as most of us are members of both. We can sit and tell war stories with old and new friends and have a glass of cheer. Don't forget we will also have our Fallen Ranger Table set up and perform this ceremony as in the past.

Lastly: I am saving my closing comments for the General Membership meeting with special thanks for those who have been instrumental in making my two-terms a success. See you in July. Remember register early and buy raffle tickets for a chance at the H-D motorcycle.

Rangers Lead the Way – All the Way!!!

Buy tickets online at: 75thrra.org

Or at the Rendezvous up to July 12 at our banquet.



Richard (Rick) S. Barela, President
75th Ranger Regiment Assn., Inc.
(509) 440-1126

Between Rick Barela and Roy Barley I sit. Since I am the editor, I put my comments in last.

1st VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STEPHEN ODIN JOHNSON

Like Rick mentioned in his column, I too, would like to encourage younger Rangers who can commit to becoming an officer of the 75th RRA to do just that! Nominations can come from the floor during our General Business Meeting.

We are fortunate to have a special health advocate resource person, Terry Zumwalt, MD. She will provide individual Rangers useful information on PTSD and other medical concerns for you at the Ranger Rendezvous.

See Page 22 for more information.

Terry collaborates with Harrison Jack, "Patrolling Your Health" writer for us. She will be at the Best Western and if you have any questions, contact her there.



Hint: Our Association tees will commemorate the 75th anniversary of Point du Hoc, Merrill's Marauders, and the 50th year of the 75th Rangers while in Vietnam.

The officers of the 75th RRA have organized this year's Rendezvous from suggestions from its members and this will continue; only with your help.

When at the Rendezvous, be sure and give outgoing President Rick Barela a great big thank you! He's been a tremendous role model for me and has made positive changes proactively. He will continue to contribute to the 75th RRA like a lot of you do!

See everyone at the Rendezvous!

Harley-Davidson, as per Roy's comments, will provide a free t-shirt with your registration fee. **And the Association will have a surprise t-shirt!**

It is June and our reunion is almost here and we have been working hard to make this one a reunion to remember.

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROY E. BARLEY

Thanks to Walter "Sunshine" Buchanan who approached a Major manufacturer to sponsor us. When Walter called me and asked me if we would be interested in having a major sponsor of our reunion, I almost fell off my chair. When he told me who it was, I again had a hard time grasping what was going on. Walter (C/75) wanted to know if we would accept Harley Davidson as a sponsor and I fell over myself saying yes. I immediately thought of Harley and their number 1 symbol and the fact it was a perfect fit. After all aren't the Rangers number 1 in the military and haven't they been that way for well over 200 years. After discussing with Walter the benefits that both parties will enjoy it seemed like a go. I e-mailed the officers and suggested that we explore the option. I was given the honor of representing the Association in the negotiations. The people I worked with at Harley-Davidson were simply great to deal with. I met and worked with Tim Budzien, the US Military lead; Donald Sticker; Becky Druch and George Petropoulos, all of whom were a pleasure to work with. Working out the contract took a little time but it was a pleasure at all times. We are receiving a 2019 Harley-Davidson Softail Slim to raffle off to benefit our benevolent fund. This fund is used for all sorts of good works, like giving two scholarships through the Ranger Memorial foundation; supporting the Darby Project; Best Ranger Competition; Goldstar mothers; Families of



\$20 each and limited to 2,000 tickets.

In addition to this wonderful prize Harley has donated shirts for the reunion (Photo on page 39). Banners for the 4 hotels and dinner; Bags for swag and other good things. The t-shirts from Harley (see page 39) are to be given to the registered members at the reunion and are NOT for sale.

While a lot of work went into this project there will be other surprises that you have to attend to benefit from.

This is a win-win for both organizations and it is hopeful that this will continue into the future.

Everyone should have Rooms reserved by now and if you haven't it would be a smart thing to do. The Best Western is sold out and the Hampton Inn is close to being so. The Holiday Inn and the Hyatt still have rooms but they are sure to go fast. There is now a path from the Best Western to the other three hotels that will lessen the walk time.

This has been an exciting two years of progress. Patrolling is now out on time; financially we are a solid and we can look forward to the future as a solid part of the Ranger Community.

See you at the Reunion.

Rangers who are wounded or deceased and many other good causes. The tickets for this Bike are

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER CRUNK

1,628.30

Accrual Basis Wednesday, May 8, 2019 08:08 AM GMT-7 1/2

75th Ranger Regiment Association

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

April 2019

TOTAL

Revenue

4000 Program income - DNP

4002 Membership dues 950.00

4006 Reunion income 3,695.00

4010 Coin sales

Silver Coin 56.50

Total 4010 Coin sales 56.50

4012 Quartermaster sales

Assoc. Sticker 23.80

Total 4012 Quartermaster sales 23.80

Assoc. Patch 17.85

Assoc. Pin 50.00

Savings Transfer 15,000.00

Total 4000 Program income - DNP 19,793.15

4100 Member donations - DNP

4102 Family fund contributions 195.00

4110 Operations contributions 1.00

Total 4100 Member donations - DNP 196.00

4900 Interest income 41.37

Total Revenue \$20,030.52

GROSS PROFIT **\$20,030.52**

Expenditures

6000 Program expenses - DNP

6002 Cash awards & grants - Battalions 1,000.00

6014 President's travel 420.84

6016 Reunion costs 95.96

6020 Website maintenance

Adobe subscriptionbe Creative 56.50

Total 6020 Website maintenance 56.50

6022 Intuit Subscription

ACH GoPayment 20.00

6500 Operations - DNP

6502 Bank and merchant fees 73.79

6506 Computer software 99.99

6514 Office supplies 2,324.54

Postage-Secretary 72.53

Treasurer Postage 43.42

Total 6500 Operations - DNP 2,614.27

Total Expenditures \$4,242.57

Accrual Basis Wednesday, May 8, 2019 08:08 AM GMT-7 2/2

TOTAL

NET OPERATING REVENUE **\$15,787.95**

NET REVENUE **\$15,787.95**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of April 30, 2019

TOTAL

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

1000 Affinity / Operations 22,324.21

1002 Affinity / Family fund 14,028.98

1030 Affinity / Savings 45,412.28

1040 Benevolent funds MM 17,419.65

1041 Legacy funds MM 4,649.36

1042 Life funds MM 38,596.21

1050 Paypal funds 4,332.43

Total Bank Accounts \$146,763.12

Accounts Receivable

1100 Accounts receivable 0.00

Total Accounts Receivable \$0.00

Total Current Assets \$146,763.12

TOTAL ASSETS \$146,763.12

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

2019 RENDEZVOUS REGISTRATION

75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

2019 REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

8-13 JULY, 2019

NAME _____ UNIT _____ MBR # _____

YOUR SHIRT SIZE _____

STREET _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

I WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY _____ GUESTS. PLEASE LIST THEIR NAME FOR BADGES:

NAME

SHIRT SIZE

NAME	SHIRT SIZE
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

REGISTRATION FEES

REGISTRATION \$40 PER PERSON: NUMBER OF PERSONS _____ x \$40 = \$ _____

BANQUET \$45 PER PERSON: NUMBER OF PERSONS _____ x \$45 = \$ _____

BANQUET \$20 FOR YOUTH 11-17/CHILDREN UNDER 10 ARE FREE

TOTAL = \$ _____ **(Dinner on Friday, 12 Jul 2019)**

REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES: HOSPITALITY ROOM SNACKS AND DRINKS, REUNION T-SHIRT, LADIES TOUR, LUNCH AND TRANSPORTATION.

DO YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING:

ABN OPNS, FRYER DZ(Mon) _____ VA BRIEFING(Tue) _____ DARBY PROJ BRIEFING(Tue) _____ ABN RGR TRNG
BDE OVERVIEW(Tue) _____ LADIES DAY OUTING(Wed) _____ RANGE FIRING(Fri) _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

MAIL TO: PO BOX 348360, SACRAMENTO, CA 95835

4 Hotels that you can choose from for the 2019 Ranger Rendezvous
Call Now for Reservations

2019 Ranger Rendezvous

Book Now!

This very cold winter long behind us and we can hardly wait to experience a Georgia summer! Hard to believe it was 50 years ago the 75th Rangers of Vietnam were formed. Also it's the 75th Anniversary of Merrill's Marauders and the Pointe du Hoc ascent by the 2nd Ranger Battalion. A lot of us had a chance to experience the Best Ranger, Critter Feed, and now the 2019 Ranger Rendezvous. **Reunion dates are July 8th through July 12th , 2019.**

2019 reunion will be different from last year and probably from all other reunions. Usually we stay in one hotel and have all our activities coordinated out of that hotel. This reunion will use 4 hotels with one of them being the headquarters. All are 300 meters distance of each other and there are plenty of restaurants in the area catering to different tastes. This will allow for each unit to be able to have their own reunions in conjunction with the 75th. All hotels offer a hot breakfast as part of their rates.

The primary hotel and HQ will be the **Best Western Plus**, 4027 Veterans Court, Columbus, GA. This hotel will be where you will sign in; where our membership meeting will occur and where you will pick up your Registration packet. The quartermaster will be located here along with other vendors. If you want to stay there you must make your reservation by calling the hotel direct at **706-507-1111** and mention that you are with the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. They have 40 rooms set aside for us at \$99.00 per night, plus tax and fees. Check in time is 3:00pm and check out is at 11:00 am. Reservations must be made by June 3, 2019.

Another hotel is the **Hyatt Place** at 2974 N Lake Parkway, Columbus, GA. The hotel is holding 50 rooms for us at \$93.00 plus tax and fees. Reservations are to be made by calling the hotel at **706-507-5003** and mention that you are with the 75th Ranger Regiment Association.

The **Hampton Inn** at 7390 Bear Lane, Columbus, GA is also holding 50 rooms for us at \$99.00 plus tax and fees. Contact the hotel to make reservations at **706-256-2222** and again mention you are with the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. Cut off for reservations is May 24, 2019.

The **Holiday Inn Express** and Suites at 7336 Bear Lane, Columbus, GA is our 4th hotel. They have 30 Rooms reserved for us at \$104.00 plus tax and fees. Reservations must be made by calling **706-507-7200** and mention the 75th Ranger Regiment Association. The cut off for a reservation is June 10, 2019.

The reunion information is in this June edition of Patrolling and our 75th RRA website with more information as it becomes available.

RENDEZVOUS HOTEL DATES-JULY 8-12 WITH CHECKOUTS SATURDAY 13 JULY

TENTATIVE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS FOR 75TH RRA RENDEZVOUS AS OF MAY 20

Sunday 7 Jul 2019

Officers Arrive and Set up for Registration Area at the Best Western Hotel

1400 – 1600: Early Registration for those arriving early

Monday 8 Jul 2019

0900 – 1500: Open Registration

1000 – 2400: Hospitality Room Open 1st Floor Conference Room, Best Western Hotel

0900 – Rangers You are on your own: perform your own Recons

1000 – 1300: Unit Directors to Establish Unit Meeting time If Needed (Hyatt Hotel Conference Room)

1000 – 2400: Hospitality Room Open (Best Western Hotel)

Tuesday 9 Jul 2019

0900 – 1500: Open Registration

TBD – ARTB Briefing (Joint Event with USARA)

TBD – Veterans Administration Briefing (Best Western Conference Room - Joint Event with USARA)

TBD – Darby Project Presentation Optional (Joint Event with USARA)

1000 – 2400: Hospitality Room Open (Best Western Hotel)

1130 – Until Complete: Static Display Fryar Drop Zone

1300 – Until Complete: Airborne Assault, Fryar Drop Zone

Wednesday 10 Jul 2019

0900 – 1000: Open Registration

1000 – 2400: Hospitality Room Open (Hospitality Room will be closed during General Membership Meeting) 0900 – 1630: Ladies: Outing Bus departs at 1000 hrs. from the hotel - Joint Event with the USARA Ladies o 10 AM - 11: 30 AM- Tour FDR Little White House o 11:30 AM- Depart o 11:45 AM - 1:30 PM- Lunch and shopping at the Bulloch House Restaurant/Warm Springs, GA o 1:30 PM- Depart o 1:50 PM- 3:00 PM- Wine Tasting and tour at Fitzgerald Fruit Farms - includes commemorative glass o 3:00 PM- Depart o 4:00 PM- Return to hotel

1000-1230: 75th Ranger Regiment Association General Membership Meeting (Best Western Hotel) o Presentation by all Officers o Voting of New Officers for period of 2019 – 2021 o Installation of the Newly Elected Officers

1300-1600: Ranger Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony McGinnis-Wickham Hall, Marshall Auditorium Fort Benning GA

Thursday 11 Jul 2019

1000 – 1300: Hospitality Room Open

1300 – 1630: Team Sports/Boxing Combative Finals: Stewart Watson Field and Smith Gym, Fort Benning Ga

1700 – 2000: TBD - No Host Bar-B-Q: Sponsored by the 75th Ranger Regiment Freedom Hall Lawson Field: Price \$4.85 per person (No Change may be available) Bring a \$5 dollar bill is our suggestion per ticket

Friday 12 Jul 2019

0900 – 1030: 75th Ranger Regiment Change of Command Ceremony: National Infantry Museum

0900 – 1000: New Officers Meeting (T) Based on Incoming President and Officers Direction

TBD – Open Firing Range Day Sponsored by USARA – Bring your own Weapon Some weapons available.

1800 – 2300: 75th RRA Banquet/Ranger Appreciation Dinner: (Iron Works Convention Center. Joint Event with USARA) o Guest Speaker - Gen Ken Keen (See Bio on Web Site) o USARA President Comments o Outgoing Presidents Final Comments and the Introduction of 2019-2021 Officers

Raffle Give Away Drawings



Saturday 13 Jul 2019

0930 – New Officers meeting for All 75th RRA Elected Officers and Unit Directors at the Best Western Hospitality Room. Checkout and Good Byes.

FINAL DINNER BUFFET-SOUTHERN LOVIN

The Buffets includes one Salad selection, two Entrees selections, three Side Dishes, and two Desserts selections. They will provide Iced Water, Iced Tea, and Freshly Brewed Coffee.

Salad Selections

Caesar Salad with Crisp Romaine, Croutons and Parmesan Cheese

Southern Lovin'

Lemon Pepper Chicken

Marinated Beef Tips w/Homestyle Vegetables

Side Dishes

Sautéed Summer Vegetables

Green Beans Amandine and Scalloped Potatoes

Assorted Desserts

Chocolate Layer Cake or Peach Cobbler

Gratuity is included with the purchase of your meal.

Wine on Table

- We will have 2 bottles of wine on each table one red and one white.
- We are also requesting ice water and tea on each table
- Coffee should be served at the end or made available for all who desire. Being late in the evening not all will want coffee

Room Requirements

- Guests to enter dining area
- Room setup with Rounds of 10 people.
- Center Aisle need to be clear for the posting and retirement of colors
- 2 ea. Straight Head Tables for 12 people each – One for 75th RRA officers and Guest Speaker and one for USARSA officers
- Sweet Tea and Water. Unsweet Tea available upon request.

Time Line for Evening Event

- Guest to arrive at 1800 till 1900 hrs for Cocktail hour
- Welcome, Post Colors and Invocation by Chaplin at 1915hrs
- Dinner service to commence at 1930 hrs.
- We will also require a lone table for the Lost Ranger Memorial.

Harley-Davidson raffle will take place as a finale of our banquet. Some lucky person will be the proud owner of a 2019 H-D Soft Tail-Slimline (see page 52)

Fallen Ranger's Table

Items provided are as listed: Small 40-inch table, white table linen, empty chair, dinner plate, salad plate, slice of lemon, salt, inverted wine glass, fork and knife, crystal vase with yellow ribbon and Red rose.

BEVERAGE

Time: 6:00 PM Qty: 2 Premium Cash Bar Service

NOTE: Bartender fees: A bar setup fee of \$125.00 does apply for each bar. We are requesting that each fee is waived at the conclusion of event if \$250.00 in Liquor, Beer and Wine is purchased.

A BOND FORGED BY WAR LASTS A LIFE TIME

By LTC Rick Stetson (Ret), 9th Infantry Division, Long Range Patrol
As told by Prescott "Smitty" Smith and Duane "Poncho" Alire.

This narrative is dedicated to the E50 LRRPs/E75 Rangers who were killed in action in Vietnam between 1967 and 1971 and speaks to the "bonding of warriors" that today unites the men on the 50th anniversary of their military service.

Duty Calls

In 1968, during the Vietnam War, Prescott "Smitty" Smith and Duane "Poncho" Alire served in the same U. S. Army unit, "E" Company, 50th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division, Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol (LRRP).

Smith and Alire had very different birth places, family backgrounds and personalities, but in the real life or death setting of war – the two men bonded and were blessed with leadership qualities, skills and responsibilities that ultimately led to their becoming life-long friends.

Alire, from Monte Vista, Colorado, was drafted and promptly inducted into the Army in Denver, Colorado in July 1967. He was assigned to Fort Campbell, Kentucky for basic training. Shortly after his arrival at Fort Campbell, while undergoing initial processing from civilian to military life, Alire made, what he thought at the time, a simple helpful suggestion. While moving folded bunk beds into an empty barracks, Alire noticed two trainee soldiers struggling to fit a bunk bed through an open doorway. Seeing their dilemma, he suggested that if they turned the folded bed 90 degrees it would fit easily.

As he walked away from the barracks, a drill sergeant (DI) stopped him and asked, "What is your name?" Alire, still not dressed in a U. S. Army uniform, knew instinctively after several days of being hollered at and ordered around like an undisciplined child by men dressed as this DI was dressed, the man was not to be trifled with. He quickly responded, "My name is Alire", and slowly spelled out his Hispanic last name - one letter at a time. He was summarily dismissed.

The next morning at 05:30, the man with the distinctive flat brimmed campaign hat now stood on the steps in front of the newly outfitted barracks with a clip board in hand. He began explaining the way things were going to be for the next several months. After a few minutes, he asked everyone to take a step back and then announced, "These are my trainee squad leaders. You will follow their orders because they are essentially my orders." He then turned to a subordinate DI and asked, "Where's the short Mexican?"

Alire, who had earlier sequestered himself in back of the 40 or so trainees, scrunched down, hoping not to be noticed.

The young DI walked around looking up and down the rows of young men and then announced, "Here he is" and placed his

hand on Alire's shoulder. The senior DI asked him to bring Alire forward before saying, "You are my first squad leader.

You are responsible for the 10 men in your squad. They screw up, it's your

fault". Thereafter he selected an additional 3 trainee squad leaders and a single trainee platoon leader. Alire served as the trainee first squad leader for the entire training cycle. Unbeknownst to Alire at the time, his suggestion to his fellow trainees cast a die that would lead him to the LRRPs.

In September 1967, Alire completed the Army's Basic Combat Training at Fort Campbell and was assigned to Fort Polk, Louisiana for Advanced Individual Training (RVN oriented). By December he was home on leave with orders to report to a transit station in Oakland, California on January 3, 1968 for deployment to Vietnam.

Smith, from Sacramento, California, was a college graduate and after being drafted in mid-March 1966, was ordered to Fort Ord, California. At Fort Ord he volunteered for Officer Candidate School (OCS), selected infantry for his OCS specialty, and was ordered to Fort Dix, New Jersey for the Army's Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training.

Smith recalls his decision to volunteer for OCS in his book titled, *Last Light With The Boys*, when one of the other potential OCS candidates said to him,

"So what are you going to do, buddy?"

Smith responded, "I think I'm going to take that test and see if I can go to OCS." The other man froze for a split second as the room became quiet.

"You're making a big mistake, I hope you know that." the man replied "You'll be in Vietnam in less than two years and get your ass shot off."

Smith replied, "I don't need you worrying about my ass. I don't know you, I don't like you, and in two more days I probably will never see you again." The man, according to Smith, seemed shocked at his response.

Unbeknownst to Smith at the time, his response to the man and his decision to go to OCS cast a die that would lead him to the LRRPs.

Smith completed the Army's Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training (RVN oriented). He graduated from OCS, earned his airborne "jump wings" and completed the Army's Pathfinder School. He was prepared to insert into a combat operational area by parachuting from an aircraft or by repelling from a helicopter. He was also trained to plan and execute pathfinder missions and to escape and evade, if necessary.

Continued on the next page

In January 1968, the young men were in Vietnam. They were fully trained, confident and highly motivated, and they were both assigned to the 90th Replacement Battalion at Long Binh. One was an officer - the other a private first class. It was here their paths diverged - officers went one way and enlisted men another - only to re-converge later.

Following an orientation to Vietnam both men were assigned to the 9th Infantry Division's ("Old Reliables") Reception Center at Bear Cat, the division's basecamp until it was later moved to Dong Tam near My Tho.

At Bear Cat, Smith was assigned to the 9th Pathfinder Detachment of the 9th Aviation Battalion. During this assignment, Smith trained soldiers of the Royal Thai Regiment (The Queen's Cobra) in airmobile operations. He was awarded Thai Jump Wings when he made a friendship jump with the Thai soldiers.



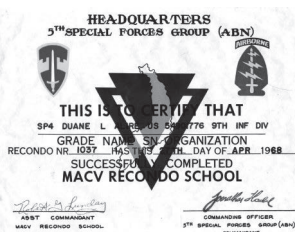
Photograph caption: Alire, right, and teammate Ray Gallardo, before a mission northeast of Bear Cat.

Alire volunteered for duty with "E" Company, 50th Infantry (LRRP). He began his formal orientation and training to become a member of a 5-man long range reconnaissance patrol team. After successfully completing the training program, he would serve as a LRRP patrol member, point man and team leader.

On January 30, 1968, the armed forces of the Viet Cong (VC) and North Vietnamese People's Army of Vietnam (NVA) launched the Tet Offensive. It was one of the largest military campaigns of the Vietnam War. The offensive was a series of surprise and sustained attacks by the NVA and VC against U. S. and allied military and civilian command and control centers throughout South Vietnam. January 31, 1968 was the single most lethal day of the war for American troops when 246 personnel were killed or mortally wounded.

Alire recalls, "Tet exploded around me as beautifully as any 4th of July fireworks display back home", adding later, "Now this was a real shooting war".

By the first of February, both men found their respective units fully engaged in the Tet Offensive.



002 In mid-February Smith departed Bear Cat by helicopter for Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base near Saigon. From there he travelled to the MACV 5th Special Forces Group's Recon Do School at Nha Trang and

BONDING—FEATURE CONTINUED

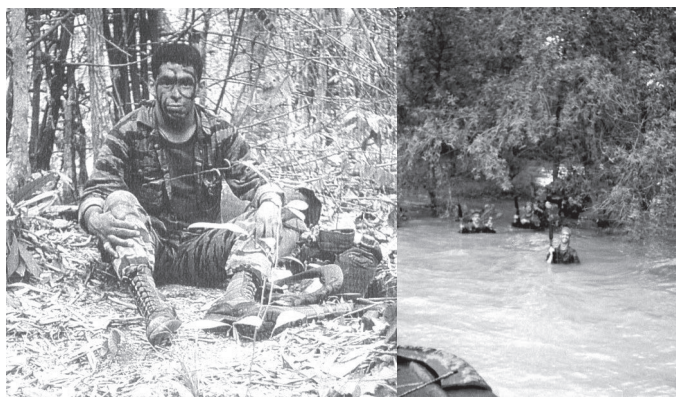
completed the rigorous Recon Do School in March. Soon thereafter, Smith volunteered for duty with

"E" Company, 50th Infantry (LRRP).

In March Alire, shortly before he was to report to the MACV 5th Special Forces Group's Recon Do School, was promoted to a LRRP team leader position - more responsibility - same pay.

Both soldiers would command LRRP teams. Sometimes the teams consisted of 5 soldiers; other times, as with Hunter-Killer missions, the teams expanded to 10 or more soldiers.

The LRRPs' principal mission was to locate NVA and VC units and their infrastructure, i.e., base camps, staging areas, trails and supply routes and then to report their locations to the 9th Division's G2 and G3. They were essentially the 9th Division's eyes and ears in the field with "boots on the ground".



They patrolled in Vietnam's dense triple canopy jungle in III Corps and in the Mekong Delta's swampy mud flats, rivers and canals in IV Corps.



Continued on the next page

Teams were inserted into their prioritized areas of operation (AO) by helicopter, ASBPs, PBRs,

BONDING—FEATURE CONTINUED

panic man with a thick mustache moving toward me. As he moved closer to me, he blurted out, 'I'm

Alire, who the hell are you?'"

Although Smith was somewhat shocked by the greeting, he couldn't help but smile as he instantly knew that this soldier had his shit together.

'I heard we had a new officer in the unit, you must be him,' Alire continued.

By this time, all the members of Alire's LRRP team were at the tent and as he continued to look at me, Alire began to introduce them to me; not by rank, but by their last names.

'There's Bien, Smith, Bellwood, Pegram and Monroe and you can just call me Poncho.'

I didn't realize it at the time, but I had just met Duane Alire from Monte Vista, Colorado, who would end up being one of my closest friends from my time in Vietnam.

'I'm Lt. Smith. I've been in the unit a little over a month. I transferred from the 9th Pathfinders.'

'Hell, we have two Smiths in the unit now,' Poncho continued, as he pointed toward Specialist Richard Smith, who he had just introduced to me, and then added, 'We'll call you Smitty'.

As I look back on that introduction, I can remember vividly the uniqueness of that first meeting and the impression it had on me. Poncho was a no-nonsense guy, who called it exactly the way he saw it and his leadership style certainly demonstrated that point. In the six months I served in the LRRPs, Poncho never once called me Sir and it didn't bother me at all. From the very beginning of our association, Poncho and I developed a relationship based on trust and confidence in one another.



Company long range patrol members at FSB David. Prescott Smith (far right) and Duane Alire (third from right).

Continued on the next page



APCs, "stay behinds" from infantry units and occasionally, they walked out of a base camp through its defensive perimeter.

At times the teams deployed off the USS Benewah. The USS Benewah was a self-propelled barracks ship built on an LST class 542 hull. LST class ships were named after counties in the United States. The Benewah's namesake was Benewah County, Idaho. The ship served as a mobile base camp and changed its position on the Mekong River frequently.

The teams also conducted recon missions from the 9th Division's base camp at Dong Tam and the division's outlier bases at Nha Be, Tan An, Can Tho, Bear Cat and various other Fire Support Bases



However, by mid-1968 "mission creep" began to erode the LRRPs primary focus from reconnaissance missions toward missions that would result in an increase in enemy "body counts". Many of the LRRPs believed the shift in their mission was a misuse of the highly

trained and skilled reconnaissance teams.

It wasn't until mid-June that Smith and Alire actually met each other. Their fateful meeting occurred at Fire Support Base David, a camp approximately 400 meters square with artillery cannons strategically stationed at various locations throughout the camp.

The misuse of LRRP teams when they were farmed out to units within the 9th Division's AO had become problematic. One such misuse resulted in a full blown kerfuffle at FSB David when Poncho's LRRP team was ordered to "listening post" duty. Lt. Smith was dispatched to FSB David to resolve the misunderstanding. Smith writes in his book,

... the LRRPs in the tent didn't seem to know who I was, but quickly the silence was broken as one of the men stepped forward and introduced himself. 'Sir, I'm Specialist Bien,' as he gave me a sharp salute. As I returned his salute, Bien turned and in a strong voice said, 'Poncho, there's a LRRP lieutenant here to see you.' As I looked on the other side of the tent, I saw a short His-

After Smith left the LRRP tent area, Alire turned to his team mates and said, "That's an officer we can trust. You guys pay attention to him."

Smith's book also describes examples of how the 9th Division LRRPs operated and their unique support needs. He points out there were some higher-level commanders who did not know how to properly utilize the LRRPs while others understood how LRRPs could provide valuable "boots on the ground" intelligence.

One such officer who had the backs of the LRRPs was the 1st Brigade commander, Col. John Geraci. Smith described a time when a LRRP team was in contact about 10 clicks northeast of Fire Support Base Moore. The LRRPs managed to break enemy contact around 0200 hours and the team leader called the TOC and requested an immediate extraction. As Smith describes it in his book,

The assistant S-3 on duty in the TOC refused the request for extraction, stating that an extraction at night would be too dangerous and the team would have to wait until daylight for extraction. Poncho, who was the LRRP in the TOC monitoring the team's radio transmissions, got into a heated argument with the assistant S-3 and threatened to kick his ass if an extraction helicopter was not sent to get the team immediately.

As the argument continued, Col. Geraci, who had been at Fire Support Base Moore earlier in the day inspecting troops, happened to walk into the TOC. When he asked what was going on, Alire informed Geraci that a LRRP team was in contact and the assistant S-3 would not approve an extraction helicopter.

Col. Geraci went ballistic and fired the assistant S-3 on the spot. He then got on the radio and using his call sign, 'Mal Hombre', he ordered an immediate extraction.

This brief exchange resulted in Col. Geraci achieving legendary status with the LRRPs. It also speaks to the personal relationships LRRPs, like the one Smith and Alire nurtured - without regard to rank - had with army commanders who understood and supported LRRP operations.

After The War

Both Alire and Smith maintained contact with each other over the years and shared many long distance telephone conversations. In 2009 one of their conversations culminated, as Poncho describes it, "two old warriors agreeing to meet in Washington D.C. for a week of sightseeing". On that visit they agreed to plan a return trip to Vietnam - this time as tourists.

BONDING—FEATURE CONTINUED



In April 2010 they travelled to Vietnam. As they departed from the San Francisco International

Airport, Smitty reminded Poncho, "No regrets and no apologies. We were soldiers following orders".

Landing in Ho Chi Minh City, aka "Saigon", they were met by 5 former South Vietnamese Rangers who served with "E" Company, 50th Infantry until the 9th Division rotated back to the United States in 1971.

Beginning in early April 2010, and for the next three weeks, the five former South Vietnamese Rangers served again as hosts, translators and guides – just as they had in 1968.

Alire characterized their experience in the war saying "What we did as LRRPs in Vietnam was very dangerous work. We were very good at it and lucky."

Jointly they summarized their war time experience saying, "We were tested and lived through the worst the war could throw at us and came home."

After the war, Smith and Alire successfully pursued meaningful careers - Smitty as a highly regarded, celebrated college basketball coach and Poncho as a national park ranger and park superintendent. The two friends "led the way" both as Rangers during the Vietnam War and in their civilian lives after separating from the military. They nurtured a fledgling friendship formed long ago in a distant land into *A Bond Forged By War That Lasted A Life Time*.

Acknowledgements

This article was a cooperative effort and several individuals deserve thanks for providing information, answering questions and proof reading. I am especially indebted to Prescott Smith and Duane Alire for sharing their written words and their oral memories of their war time experiences, to Poncho for sharing his historic photographs and to Karen J. Purnell for her deft editorial touch and suggestions for clarity, continuity and readability.

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About The Author

Rick Stetson was one of two Airborne/Ranger qualified 2LTs selected by the 9th Infantry Division at Fort Riley, Kansas in 1966 to form a long range patrol platoon. After the platoon began operations in Vietnam in 1967, it expanded in size to become E Company 50th Infantry (LRRP) and in early 1969, E Company 75th Rangers. Stetson served as the unit's operations officer and got to know Smith and Alire after the war at E Company reunions.

HOW'S YOUR RED, WHITE, AND BLUE ?—JILL STEPHENSON

What is the American Flag? I am the American flag, the American flag is Me.

(deep breathe, exhale 1-2-3)

Red, white and blue are 3 words I never thought I would use to describe myself. At 8 years old, I unknowingly became the definition of the American flag. I woke up to find out my father had passed away during the night. I was sad, confused and wanted to not believe everyone around me. I wanted to run from the truth. My Mom held me tight and promised me everything would be eventually ok. (deep breathe, exhale 1-2-3)

We are all born with our white stripes, innocence and purity. My white stripes were threatened when I lost my father. Valor and hardiness are humbling words to define myself but these are my red stripes. My red stripes protected my white when they were under attack. The red held strong, bold and fearless when everything should have fallen apart. I am red, I am white.

Finally, blue filled my heart and soul when I realized my life was still ok. I persevered, held strong and paid attention. I saw what my life was about; the 50 stars represent the people in my life that protect, define and love me. They all have names and are all equally important in my future. I may have seen bombs bursting and perilous fights fought but with the colors and truths held close inside me, I knew my flag was still there. I am red, I am white, I am blue. (deep breath, exhale 1-2-3)

In this country, we have freedom and choice. I choose to wave my stars and stripes proudly, as they are proof of who I am; I am Paris Anahlee Peterson, one person who will always stand proudly with my red, white and blue.

Ms. Paris Anahlee Peterson recently wrote this for an oratory competition entitled "God, Flag & Country," sponsored by a chapter of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in her home state of Ohio. One of the purposes cited by the FOE for the contest says, "We believe the young should know and appreciate the advantage of democracy, possess a real love for their country and desire to take an active, intelligent part in its operation." Paris came away with the win for her age group and received a very nice engraved plaque. She now moves on to the District competition. Two more wins would bring her to the state competition and a chance at winning \$2,000.

In her speech Paris mentions that her father passed away. What she doesn't say is that he died by suicide and that she is now ten years old. It has only been two years since she woke up to learn



this life changing news. Only two years since she had to learn the hard way where our stripes come from. Paris' mother is a friend and shared this with me. I told her I know few adults who can express themselves as well as Paris did.

Heidi came home from a class she was taking to find her husband dead by asphyxiation in their garage. Their four children lay sleeping steps away clueless of what had transpired after they were tucked in. She contemplated whether or not to tell



I Am Paris Anahlee Peterson

them the truth. She decided to be honest so they could face the issue of suicide head on, as a family. Some disagreed with her decision and threw harsh judgements at her. She has endured. Two years later, Heidi and her children are the epitome of survival. Paris' speech is evident of this. She speaks with a fluid maturity that can only be learned by adversity and the gentle love and guidance of a mother who hasn't "sugar-coated" life.

I speak and write often of how I earned my stripes and what I have learned from them. It is not easy to express the lessons, the emotions and the feelings in a way that others can understand. Having an authentic voice cannot be taught. You have to earn the stripes. When Heidi sent me Paris' speech, my eyes welled up. When she sent me the

picture of her with the winning plaque, I had tears. Heidi's pride was off the charts, so was mine, for both of them.

The first time I met Paris she was a sweet toddler covered in melted popsicle, chasing her brother at a steamy mid-summer picnic. She was a beautifully innocent little girl. She still is, however, life has matured her in a way I wish to God it wouldn't have. Her father's suicide robbed her of a measure of innocence she should still be enjoying. She has learned that life doesn't slow down or stop and wait for you to catch up. If you want to keep up, you have to keep going. You have to know where your stripes came from.

As Paris stated, "In this country, we have freedom and choice. I choose to wave my stars and stripes proudly, as they are proof of who I am; I am Paris Anahlee Peterson, one person who will always stand proudly with my red, white and blue."

At the tender age of ten, this young lady is a shining example of what it means to take an active and intelligent role in what this great country has to offer. I have no doubt Paris can continue her winning streak as she speaks of how she earned her red, white and blue. I will be cheering for her, not only to win the competitions, but to keep winning at life, meeting adversity head on and waving her stars and stripes proudly. Her mama taught her well and is a friend I am honored to know.

RANGERS RECEIVE AWARDS FOR VALOR

By Steve Hart—(Submitted by Tracy Bailey)

Hunter Army Airfield Public Affairs Officer

Fourteen Rangers from the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment received awards for valor and three were presented Purple Heart medals in a ceremony on Hunter Army Airfield on Mar. 8.

“We are here to recognize extraordinary Rangers who have gone above and beyond what was expected of them,” said Army Maj. Gen. Mark Schwartz, Deputy Commanding General, Joint Special Operations Command, who presented the awards.

Schwartz said the First Ranger Battalion has deployed 22 times in support of the Global War on Terrorism. He quantified the impact the battalion had during their most recent deployment by saying they conducted 198 combat operations that resulted in the killing or capturing of 1,900 terrorists. He attributed JSOC’s operational tempo as being responsible for “the ongoing dialogue with the Taliban.”

Master Sgt. Phillip Paquette was awarded a Silver Star, the nation’s third highest honor for battlefield valor, during the ceremony. As the ground force commander of a joint task force in Afghanistan, his unit engaged the enemy April 25, 2018. According to his award citation, Paquette selflessly and with little regard for his own personal safety, exposed himself to enemy fire several times in order to re-



trieve a casualty, suppress the enemy by direct fire and delivered several danger close aerial munitions.” Paquette’s actions enabled the assault force to eliminate the enemy and safely maneuver the unit to the helicopter landing zone for exfiltration.

Paquette, who has 17 years of Army service, all with the 75th Ranger Regiment.

“Though the award is an individual award, it’s all about the men serving with me,” Paquette said with humility. “We won’t leave anyone behind. We do what we do for the person to the left and to the right wearing tan berets and scrolls on our left and right sleeves. Serving as a Ranger is a lifelong relationship.”

Paquette is currently attending the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy at Fort Bliss, Texas.



Eight-year-old Shannon Celiz, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Celiz, who gave his life during the deployment

Eight Bronze Star Medals for Valor were also presented during the ceremony, including two to Staff Sgt. Nicolas Volk-Perez and one to the eight-year-old Shannon Celiz, daughter of Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Celiz, who gave his life during the deployment.

Five Rangers received Joint Service Commendation Medals for Valor and three were presented Purple Heart medals.

“It is truly an honor to serve with men like you,” Schwartz said to the award recipients.



Master Sgt. Phillip Paquette was awarded a Silver Star

PATROLLING YOUR HEALTH

I've received some nice feedback from my previous two articles, which I appreciate, but I've been waiting to get into the meat of RANGER Health & Wellness on an individual level. I might as well address the "Big C" issue up front since it looms in front of each one of us on a daily basis, either through friends, family or perhaps personal condition. As un-popular and unsettling as my forthcoming comments may be to some, I can only present what I have found to be true personally. In the case of cancer, it is the number one money maker in the health industry today. The AMA cannot afford to let cancer be "cured" publicly, although many doctors are in fact treating it successfully at both personal and professional risk. I use the word "cured" because each one of us has cancer cells, as well as many other disease cells, latent within our bodies. What that means is that given certain conditions, those cells may begin to activate for a variety of reasons. You don't "get cancer" out of the blue like "winning" the lottery, you create it and I'll discuss how later. You are not a victim of it, you have, over the years created a set of bodily conditions which activate cancer cells as a last line of defense that is actually trying to protect and sustain your life according to author Andreas Moritz. The fact that cancer was shown to be curable over a hundred years ago through various health practices and technologies is a matter of record. Those treatment "cures" have subsequently been discredited through a variety of means, which only goes to show the duplicitous nature of the Health Industry at large. Unfortunately, greed and profitability drive health services in our country; healthy people are simply not profitable. You receive by way of treatment only that which has been proven to be profitable in one form or another, not what makes you healthier. The term evidence-based medicine is the lie that has been sold to the public as good science, truth and in your best interests. Well, guess what, if science doesn't conduct the research on real cancer cures or preventive measures, nothing exists that is evidence based in these areas – a self-fulfilling prophecy. You are getting what Pharmaceutical science has shown to temporarily reduce a symptom, which means you have to keep taking the prescription in order to keep the symptoms at bay. Does the Pharmaceutical industry combined with the AMA and other health lobbies have any say as to who receives university and private medical research grants? Who writes the grants to begin with? Is there any pure research practiced within our university system that addresses medical cures over symptom reduction? Who are the major contributors to university research coffers these days? Follow the money readers, you will find everything I've just presented confirmed in spades.

Now that I hopefully have your attention and probably torqued off a few folks who may not completely believe how the health-sickness industry in our country runs, or who may have family members in it, here is the good news: **CANCER CANNOT EXIST IN AN ALKALINE OXYGEN ENRICHED ENVIRONMENT.** Cancer requires an acidic, oxygen-deprived environment in which to thrive. I have personally spoken with physicians who, on a regular basis, successfully treat stage four cancer patients with Ozone therapy – that's a special form of oxygen that is intrave-

nously injected. I am not in the treating business, don't have the credentials and never had a desire to obtain

them. I am in the personal health and wellness business every day of my life. I have owned a water ionizer/purifier for over ten years that is capable of generating highly alkaline water that is saturated with oxygen for obvious reasons. The first line of defense for patients in many Japanese and European hospitals is to put their patients on oxygen/alkaline water. I've also added a magnet to charge the water even further and enhance cellular function. I'm 72, never smoked, refuse to take medication, do not take health supplements, haven't had a cold or the flu for years, never take flu shots (more on that later), blend vegetables/fruit/greens regularly, avoid junk food, exercise regularly but enjoy wine/liquor from time to time. Sweets are my downfall, however, love good desserts. My blood pressure has always remained in a healthy range of 120-130/60-70. I have blips from time to time like right now as I'm writing this article.

About three months ago I was diagnosed with Polycythemia Vera (PV), a rare form of thickening of the blood, along with the risk of clots and of course possible cancer down the road. The VA prescribed the following: Hydroxyurea (drug); phlebotomy (blood letting, like they used to do with leeches – got that one for free over in Vietnam a couple of times); and baby aspirin. I asked the doc what the side effects of the Hydroxyurea were and got what I considered a BS response so I looked it up myself and then checked with four other certified medical personnel. Not only did I find out that it was an actual form of cancer treatment that killed cells as a way of reducing blood count, the side effects of the drug were far worse than the symptoms that were being treated – lab data that was simply "out of range". Two RN personal friends WARNED me not to take the Hydroxyurea as it was in fact a form of cancer treatment. When I confronted the doc with my personal findings, she was a little chagrined to have to admit that what I found out was true even though she persisted in relating that it was only a blood thinner which would prevent clots, the real risk at hand. I asked how much of a risk? She related that I was slightly outside the acceptable range on my Hematocrits, but that the real risk was future blood clots. I persisted even further with regard to risk calculation but could not get an answer that I could relate to. I then asked, "If I start taking Hydroxyurea, will I have to stay on it for the rest of my life?" Her response was the anticipated YES. I said no thanks doc, I'll do the baby aspirin and phlebotomy for a while and check in with you later. Since then I've found a Naturopath and continue my search for effective self-treatments. I am suffering none of the side effects of thick blood – sluggishness, loss of energy, excessive sleep requirements,.... My numbers are coming down slowly, but surely.

I'll keep you updated on my situation but it is fairly typical from what I can tell. The immediate medical approach to virtually any condition is to "pill it" so the symptoms no longer exist. Once the symptoms are gone, the condition is "under control" and the docs have done their job – nothing more needs to be done on their part.

Continued on the next page

What a BS cycle! When I asked my VA doctor what the cause of PV was, "no one knows" was her response. Every time I ask a doctor about cause, the answer is always the same, "no one knows". Isn't it amazing how we understand the intricacies of electricity, rocket propulsion, nuclear fusion,but we just haven't gotten around to knowing how the human body works yet? Or, maybe we do understand how it works quite well but just can't make any money off a body that becomes and remains healthy throughout its lifetime. Billions of dollars in profits are made knowing how to reduce symptoms, but not a single dollar appears to be made on learning how to prevent the condition in the first place. The situation that really irks me is that multiple symptoms are treated with multiple medications, none of which a doctor can be held accountable for the interaction thereof – and 22+ Vets a day are dying, many deaths linked to prescribed opiates and medication complications. What I have also learned is that most doctors enter their profession/specialty with the good intention of serving their future patients and improving their health. Medical school, however, has become the indoctrination of bright minds for the purpose of promoting pharmaceuticals to reduce symptoms, not cure the people who have contracted them - "only the patient can cure himself" is the medical mantra, we just treat them – how's that one for getting the monkey off their back. The average Veteran is worth between \$1.2 – \$1.5M to the pharmaceutical industry over his lifetime association with the VA.

Back to "Big C". What can each of us do for ourselves to face this alleged "threat"? The best thing, in my experience, is to learn about how our bodies work. Why do we "get sick" in the first place? How can we prevent affliction and disease? How can we manage our physical being to become and remain healthy through old age? One of my favorite wellness authors is Andreas Moritz. He was a European who struggled through numerous childhood maladies that became the basis for his focus upon bodily health, disease prevention and self-cure. Unfortunately, his efforts were so successful and popular that he created a significant global following that enjoyed the wellness benefits of his works along with sufficient enemies that his life was "unexpectedly cut short". One of his primary works, Cancer is not a Disease, (it's a survival mechanism) addresses core issues of this affliction that approximately 50% of American society contracts while found to be almost non-existent in the more rural areas of the planet. After successfully treating thousands of patients (malaria, AIDS symptoms, asthma, colds, flu, food poisoning, tuberculosis and many others) over three decades, his findings and real success lie not in getting rid of cancer cells but in preventing their growth and tumor formation to start with, or reversing their development after detection. Here is a digest of his findings:

All cancers have three things in common:

- The immune system is weak and depleted.
 - The body is overwhelmed with toxins and waste matter.
- There is a massive presence of pathogens (infecting agents) inside and around the cancer cells.
- The solution to all cancers:

- Neutralize the toxins and poisons that weaken the immune system and feed or attract the pathogens
- Strengthen the immune system to remove all pathogens and keep them at bay.

While detoxifying, kill off all harmful parasites, viruses, bacteria, fungi, molds, and yeast and eliminate them from the body – all at the same time.

How to do this all at the same time:

- "Miracle Mineral Supplement (MMS) combined with a small amount of citric acid (lemon or lime juice) produces chlorine dioxide which instantly oxidizes the harmful substances previously mentioned within a matter of hours while simultaneously boosting the immune system tenfold".

Reference: Breakthrough....the Miracle Mineral Supplement of the 21st Century, by Jim Humble.

"The drastic reduction or shutdown of vital nutrient supplies to the cells of an organ is not primarily a consequence of a cancerous tumor, but actually its biggest cause."

"Cancer is a survival mechanism that occurs only when all other protective measures have failed"

"Numerous epidemiological studies have shown the high correlation of red and processed meat consumption posing the greatest risk of contracting cancer."

"Feeding the body exclusively with manufactured foods is simply suicidal."

Rather than focus exclusively upon Moritz' findings with regard to successful cancer/disease treatment and sustained bodily health, I'd like to share the following as well:

Ojibwa Herbal Tea (8 Herb Essiac): This herbal concoction dates back to the 1700's when the Ojibwa Indian medicine society created a remedy to survive the smallpox genocide introduced by European settlers. It is available today through commercial channels with similar effectiveness and applicable to numerous maladies such as: all types of cancers, Type I/II diabetes, liver infections, arthritis, tumors, gout, asthma, high blood pressure, fibromyalgia,...

Marine Phytoplankton: "Considered to be one of the most powerful foods on Earth because it is loaded with high-energy super anti-oxidants, vitamins, minerals and proteins in microscopic form. It is a tiny little plant about the size of a red blood cell that grows in the ocean at the bottom of the food chain. It is responsible for over 70% of the planet's oxygen and because of its nutritional properties and microscopic size able to penetrate the cellular level of the body." Its treatment value stems from its ability to quickly restore nutritional support to bodily organs and systems directly, not being dependent upon digestive processes to restore wellness.

Again, quoting from Moritz' work, here is a list of other treatment modalities that he found to have significant positive results for cancer patients without the negative consequences that more aggressive western medical interventions may result in.

Continued on the next page

PATROLLING YOUR HEALTH

The key is not to wait until a formal diagnosis of cancer/disease is made when the body is already in a compromised weakened condition, but to take proactive measures to prevent such beforehand by getting healthy and staying that way. They include:

Ayurveda Pancha Karma Hydrazine Sulfate	Yoga
Antinoplaston therapy treatment	Acupunc- ture Bioelectric therapy
Bioresonance therapy Gerson therapy	Royal Rife Machine therapy
Hoxsey therapy Oxygen therapy	Homeopathy
Live Cell therapy DMSO therapy	Chelation therapy
Intravenous Hydrogen Peroxide Red Clover Tea	Dr. Clark's cleanses

The main reason I have listed these alternative treatments is to expand the reader's choice of options (20) should he be confronted with a disease condition. I'll be expanding upon the prevention side of disease in future issues. Suffice it to say, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". I hope I have challenged some of the cancer myths that some of you may currently believe in. Unfortunately, each of us has to research on

our own to find alternatives outside mainstream medical media to address disease related issues. Currently,

I'm working with a Naturopath in the Sacramento area to address my Polycythemia Vera, a condition which over the last three months has begun to continually improve, without taking the rather aggressive drug Hydroxyurea, which simply kills off excess red blood cells so other complications are minimized. Simultaneously, I just completed my annual liver cleanse according to Hulda Clark. Yesterday I watched a You Tube video that highlighted our human body was designed to last at least 120 years; the only reason we don't live that long is because we physically abuse ourselves, overload our systems with toxins which never get released and don't believe that it is possible because the "infirmities of old age are inevitable".

So, is the "Big C" manageable? The answer in my opinion is a BIG YES! Can it be prevented? Again, a BIG YES. Does that mean that each of us may be responsible in some form or fashion for the BIG C condition? Unfortunately, or fortunately for that matter, the answer is an overwhelming YES. What more could we ask for than to be in control of our own health throughout the duration of our life? Just think about how enjoyable, and less expensive, our "golden years" would be if we simply understood why we aged and got sick in the first place. My next article will begin to address specific preventive measures that each reader will be able to incorporate into their lives. Until then, relax, laugh and enjoy family!

PATROLLING YOUR HEALTH AT RENDEZVOOUS 2019



Terry Zumwalt MD, FACOG, Navy vet of ODS (CDR/MC/USNR) shares her goal with all combat veterans, "My goal is self empowerment of the warriors." She will be at the Rendezvous for you!

Information for You as an Individual or Group

Negative ions, sources of, role in sustaining LIFE; EARTHING PADS, FAR HEALING/negative ion mats.

Role of 'microtubules' in causing muscle memory reactive flash back behavior and the use of "PEP" energy to simply remove the memory. [Meridian tapping and breathing, TAPAS head hold and breathing, and BAUD sound wave unit; all are simple self-control behaviors for PTSD.]

I Can present the use of Hyperbaric oxygen to treat acute and chronic TBI, as the most effective treatment so far. The US Navy has much experience in HBOT.

Terry has worked extensively with combat veterans including Seals, Marines, Special Forces, and will lend information that leaves Pharma out of the picture with emphasis at the 2019 Rendezvous for Rangers of all eras.

Terry will be at the host hotel, Best Western. Come meet her. RLTW!!!

If you haven't been to a Mountain Ranger Camp Open House, You Might Ask Yourself, Why Not?

As you are, or maybe not aware, the Mountain Ranger Camp in Dahlonega, Ga has an open house each year and the US Army Mountain Ranger Association (USMRA) puts on quite a spread to feed all those hungry visitors.



Colin Hall, 25th ID LRRP/F Co 75th Inf (Rgr) Vietnam Found the chow line

Ranger Instructors conduct a number of demonstrations and displays to provide an overview of the training the Camp provides and of the capabilities of today's US Army Rangers.

This year's open house was on Saturday April 27th. On Friday night guests were treated to fresh, delicious Rainbow Trout with French Fries. The Department of Georgia Department of Natural Resources provided over 300 lbs. of trout fresh from their hatchery on Mt. Yonah.

The big meal was on Saturday...and the title "Critter Cookout" certainly describes the array of food the team of cooks labored over for hours. The selection included, Wild Hog, Bear, Venison, Fish, Pork, Beef, Vegetables, Deep fried Quail, 12 Gallons of Brunswick stew, and some of Brenda Acebes' delicious Home-made Cakes.

The chow line is usually a long one, but worth the wait



The Critter Cookout cooks are all volunteers, including the Head Family who are local neighbors and always willing to help out, Army Veterans, Friends and Family, and (oh yeah), that one Navy Guy who shows up but will work for food!

There is a "jar" for donations to help defray the cost of the Cookout to the USAMRA, but the cooks usually absorb their own expenses, and The Cooks provide their own cook-

CRITTER COOKOUT 2019

BY MARSHALL HUCKABY



"Critter Cookout Alligator Jambalaya" was prepared for the cooking crew's lunch. Either it was tasty... or they were very hungry, because it was gone in about 20 Minutes. The only thing that went faster was the Deep Fried Quail provided by Michelle and Bob Head!

ing implements, utensils, cookers, etc.

The cooking crew is "guided" by 1st Air Calvary/H Co., 75th Inf (Rgr) Vietnam LRRP and USMRA Member, Chuck Windham.

Below, Chuck Windham taking much needed, but rare break



25th ID Vietnam LRRP Marshall Huckaby preparing the Jambalaya (Recipe on the next page)

CRITTER COOKOUT CONTINUED

CAMP MERRILL OPEN HOUSE

“Critter Cookout Alligator Jambalaya”

One package (16 oz.) alligator fillets (Publix has them);

One Cup “Holy Trinity (diced bell pepper, celery; & onion);

Two large chicken breast, cubed;

One “Big Ol” can of peeled, diced, tomatoes;

Two Cups of Rice (paella type is better);

“BANG!”..Creole seasoning of your choice, salt & pepper to taste.

A little cooking oil (I use Lard)

This Ain’t Weight Watchers).

Calories and Nutrition: *Who cares...this is a Cookout!*

Heat up your pot (I like cast iron because it holds the heat), put in lard and Holy Trinity, sauté until onions are translucent. Add alligator and chicken (which has been preseason with Creole seasoning). Cook, stirring to prevent sticking, until meat is “about” done. Add the “Big Ol” can of tomatoes, continue string until the tomatoes are cooked.

Your mixture should be a bit soupy...so put in the rice and stir. Lower heat with just a slight bubble. Keep stirring until the rice is done and has absorbed most of the liquid.

Now the hard part....with a very large mess hall spoon drive away hungry folks, (*because by now it smells goooood!*) until the Jambalaya has time to blend all those flavors. This should feed about 40 regular folks, or about 25 of those who have been “supervising” your cooking skills.

If you want to wait to try it for yourself...see you at the **2020 Open House and Critter Cookout!**

Marshall Huckaby
25th ID LRRPs, RVN 66-67



Photos-Patrolling/SOJ

Below are excerpts and paraphrasing describing Easter Sunday 1944 from British author Gavin Mortimer's 2013 book, "Merrill's Marauders, the untold story of Unit Galahad and the toughest special forces mission of World War II."

MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

By Jonnie Clasen



Marauder George Rose with 2nd Battalion had his machine gun pointed to movement in the undergrowth and was waiting for a banzai charge, when 2nd Lt. Winslow Stevens' 3rd Battalion Orange Combat Team patrol broke through the undergrowth.

"I had witnessed some horrible sights at the back of my machine gun," recalled Rose. "That morning before noon, April 9, Easter Sunday, I witnessed the most wonderful sight I have ever seen."

For a moment, neither man spoke. Stevens stood and stared at the four pitiful figures in front of him, their fatigues coated in red from the village clay. Rose spoke first, "Being Easter Sunday and all," he said. "I wasn't quite sure whether you were the Second Coming or not. But you sure look good to me."

"3rd Battalion broke through 1200," wrote Col. George McGee, commander of 2nd Battalion. "Boy, good to see them."

Throughout the afternoon of Sunday, April 9, and into Monday, the

1st and 3rd battalions trekked up the trail leading ... to Nphum ga. They wished to see for themselves the site of their comrades' magnificent stand. Charlton Ogburn, leader of the 1st Battalion communication platoon, thought the landscape surrounding the last thousand yards resembled a forest flattened by a tornado.

To others, the desolation put them in mind of photographs of No Man's Land they had seen from the First World War battlefields.

Nphum ga was a small circle of hell. "The first thing I saw when I got in there was all these dead mules and horses ...," recalled Capt. James Hopkins.

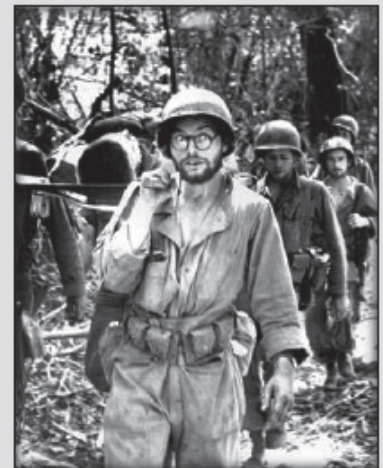
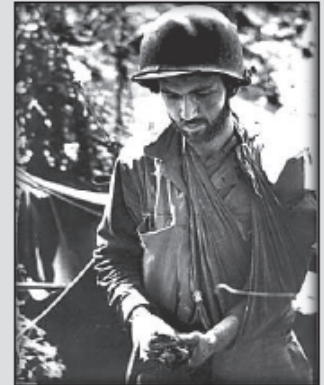
The survivors rose from their holes in the ground like the living dead. Ogburn remembered that they "looked at us out of red-rimmed eyes that were unnaturally round and dark, with death in them."

Lt. Logan Weston, known to his men as the "Fightin' Preacher," conducted a memorial service over each 3rd Battalion grave, where bamboo crosses were placed. "Tears streamed down the faces of those battle-weary, rugged men," he recalled, as he read from Job 14: 1-7, which ended thus: "For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease."



The nearly two-week siege of Nphum ga nicknamed "Maggot Hill"

The three battalions -- although in communication with each other -- operated independently and were together as a unit only a few times, including when the 3rd and 1st battalions rescued the 2nd Battalion after it had been surrounded almost two weeks at the battle of Nphum ga. The 2nd Battalion was rescued Easter Sunday 1944. Fried chicken and bread were airdropped to the starving men. Battalion chaplain, Father Thomas Barrett, prepares to say mass.





1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL ACEBES

Ranger Breakfast in Lake Havasu City, AZ, 7 February; with Merrill's Marauder Bob Emmett and Janie Emmett. Those that could join us were Pat and Kitty Carr, Anton and Sandra Jones, Rob McCain, Bob Gerickie, and Joe Little. (Photo Below)



Ron McCracken (1974 Original, A Company) passed away February.

Awards ceremony held 8 March, at the Ranger Memorial. Awards presented were one Silver Star, nine Bronze Star Medal for Valor, five Joint Service Commendation Medal for Valor,

and three Purple heart. The daughter of SFC Christopher Celiz received the Bronze Star Medal for Valor awarded to her dad posthumously. Heroes all!

General Michael Garrett, Platoon Leader in Charlie Company in the early 1980s, was promoted to his current rank and assumed command of FORSCOM on 21 March. (Then) 2LT Michael Garrett was seen several times mowing the 24th Division CSM's lawn back in the day! (His dad, CSM Ed Garrett was 24th Division CSM at the time). Congratulations General Garrett – 1st Battalion is proud of you!

General Richard D. Clarke, former 1st Battalion Commander, was promoted to that rank and assumed duties as USSOCOM Commander on 29 March in a change of command ceremony with General Tony Thomas (who was retired that day). General Joe Votel retired on 28 March. Congratulations to all.

Tim Bratcher (1974 Original, B Company) passed away in April.

Attended Best Ranger festivities in April – Congratulations to the winning team! While there, saw the sign honoring CSM (R) John Edmunds for his service to the Ranger Community. John was a 1974 1st Battalion original. (Photo Lower Right).

Was able to travel to Dhalonega for the Mountain Ranger Camp Open House and Critter Cookout. Saw lots of 'former' 1st Battalion soldiers there. One of note was COL Ed Chamberlain and



Marianne and two grandchildren. (Then) CPT Chamberlain was my Company Commander, Charlie Company (1978).

For the Fallen Ranger Memorial, several 1st Battalion soldiers were honored. (Photo Top Right). COL Albert R. Brownfield III was S-3 in 1st Battalion, CSM Neal Gentry was the first CSM of our Battalion and wrote the Ranger Creed, and SSG Charles W. Keith was a sniper in Company C. Thank you Mountain Ranger Camp for honoring our fallen heroes. If you have not attended one of Camp Merrill's Open Houses, you are really missing out.

COL Christopher Vanek retired on 26 April after 30 years of service. COL Vanek served in 1st Battalion as the S4, Company Commander and Battalion XO, and went on to serve as the 18th Colonel of the Regiment. Congratulations!

Hope to see everybody at the Ranger Rendezvous in July!

1st Battalion is holding a 45th Anniversary celebration 13-16 November. Make sure you keep an eye out on Facebook or other social media for hotel information, schedule of activities, etc.

Ranger breakfasts everywhere – Look for one in your area. If there is not one, start one!

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



NATIONAL COORDINATOR

OUR UNSUNG HEROES

By Marshall Huckaby

The US Army Reconnaissance, Leadership, Surveillance Course (RLSC) at Ft. Benning, GA, awards ...the **Unsung Hero**

Award in each graduating class, to an individual who can always be counted on to support his team, his unit, and the mission.

Unsung Heroes....what are they, and where do you find them? Unsung heroes are everywhere...the guy you frequently see at the local convenience store, who served in Vietnam...the Lady who delivers your mail, who was in Kuwait, your automobile repair shop guy who jumped into Grenada, your neighbor who stormed the beaches of Normandy...and your buddy, who served with you in Panama. They live among us, yet unrecognized, but why? Maybe it is because they don't "toot their own horn" or maybe it is because no one has made an effort to get them the recognition they deserve.

Sometimes thinking about it is not enough, you have to take action! That is how the **GEORGIA MILITARY VETERANS HALL OF FAME (GMVHOF)** came to be formed.

In 2012 Col (Ret) Paul Longgrear, Vietnam and SF Veteran was inducted into the Arkansas Military Veterans Hall Of Fame. On his return trip to his home in Georgia, Col Longgrear wondered if Georgia had a Hall Of Fame...if not, then why not! Being a man who takes action, when action is needed, Col Longgrear began to work on getting an organization established that would recognize some of Georgia's over 770,000 military veterans. 30 of these veterans had been awarded the Medal Of Honor and their deeds had been recognized, but so many more veterans' deeds of **VALOR, ACHIEVEMENT, or SERVICE** has not been recognized.

Col Longgrear's diligence resulted in the **GEORGIA MILITARY VETERANS HALL OF FAME (GMVHOF)** receiving a Proclamation from the Georgia Senate.

In 2013, the first class of 20 Nominations were inducted in that year. The GMVHOF continued to recognize Georgia's "Unsung Heroes" and on November 3, 2018 another 20 Georgia Veterans were inducted, to bring the total to 100 Members.

Veterans are nominated for **VALOR, ACHIEVEMENT, or SERVICE**. Nominations come from their families, their former "battle buddies", neighbors, and friends.

Through a process, an Independent Selection Committee (ISC), composed of independently chosen persons, evaluates the nominations and provides their recommendations for a new class of inductees. None of the Independent Selection Committee members know each other, not does the GMVHOF

Board Members know the committee members identities, and none of the nominees know any of the committee

members.

The **GEORGIA MILITARY VETERANS HALL OF FAME** is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization which operates on donations. 100% of donations are applied to the mission of honoring Georgia Veterans.

In the GMVHOF Induction Ceremony, Inductees are presented with a Citation and a GMVHOF Medallion.

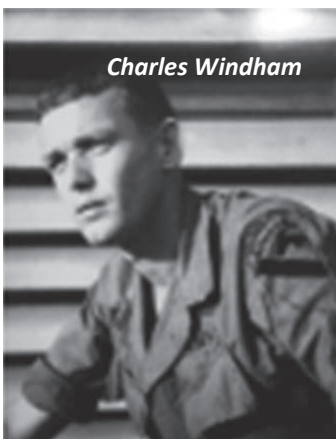
GEORGIA MILITARY VETERAN HALL OF FAME MEDALLION

Georgia is only one of a number of States, in which Halls of Fame can be found,

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania also have Halls of Fame or similar organizations.



The **75th Ranger Regiment Association (RRA)** has members who have been inducted into some these Halls of Fame. **Arizona (Joe Little);...Arkansas (Col (Ret) Paul Longgrear and Danny Jacks);... Georgia (Charles Windham, and Marshall Huckaby); ... Kentucky (CSM Gary Littrell); and ...Ohio (Stephen Chaney).**



PTO

OUR UNSUNG HEROES

If your State does not have a Hall of Fame, what can you, as an individual do? Do like Col Longgrear did...start one! Or do what 75th RRA and Ranger Hall of Fame Member, Gary Linderer is doing in his home state of Missouri...contact people and lay the ground work to get one established!

I have been fortunate to have met many great "unsung heroes" at Ranger Rendezvous, 75th RRA Reunions, Unit Reunions, andat the Waffle House. I have listened to their stories, and to stories being told about them. Unfortunately, when the gathering breaks up,...those stories are once again "filed" into our memories.

As time passes...so do these great people and the memory of their deeds. There are only 13 Original Merrill's Marauders remaining. Many of their stories have been recorded. But what about others...Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Iraq, Afghanistan.... but combat operations is not the only place that these people can be found!

There are many things Veterans do that merit being known....such as Joe Little did .working with his fellow Veterans in Arizona,....or maybe serving as Regional or State Commander of the VFW or American Legion. How many times have we seen members of the Patriot Guard Riders accompanying or honoring our fallen Heroes.....they are out there!

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of Merrill's Marauders, the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the Vietnam LRRP Units into the 75th Infantry (Ranger) Companies, and the 45th Anniversary of the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. Just imagine how many stories are there about these men and their "unsung Heroes"!

If we...(you and I)...don't become a catalyst to get something... such as a Halls of Fame, started, then their acts of **VALOR, ACHIEVEMENT, or SERVICE** will go unrecognized. If you are reading this magazine...the **75th RRA PATROLING MAGAZINE**, ... then you are in fact, in the company of "unsung Heroes". Look around you, listen to their stories...and do something!

Each state has its own criteria, but information about the **GEORGIA MILITARY VETERANS HALL OF FAME** can be found at: <http://www.GMVHOF.org>.

Marshall Huckaby
25th ID LRRPs, F Company 75th Inf (Rgr)
Life Member 75th RRA

A Company Ranger Reunion 2019

Calling all former 75th Ranger and units of its COMPANY, V CORPS LRRP; 45th anniversary of the stand-with some of its members and 2nd Ranger Battalions of mum participation is re-rate this occasion. Saturday, and 280 Possums End,



members of Company 'A' ancestry, 3779 RECON PATROL and D/17 LRPS. 2019 will be the down of Alpha Company in 1974 going on to form the present 1st the 75th Ranger Regiment. Maxiquested at a rally to commemorate 14 September 2019 is the date Woodway, Texas is the place.

Woodway is a short distance southwest of Waco, TX. Contact Roy Bissey at 307-752-6428 or by email at r_bissey@yahoo.com for details and to let us know you are still alive. You can also contact Eddie (EJ) Alexander by email at alexanderej@bellsouth.net. Make your plans now to attend this important event!



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

Well we are headed into summer and hope all survived the winter. Talked with Mike Theisen in early April, he was whining because it was still snowing in Minneapolis. Mike and I both retired from the Postal Service, I was a maintenance manager and Mike was a carrier supervisor. We had a stretch of cold weather in February this year with temps in the 10 below zero range with 20-30 mph winds for several days. Mail delivery was canceled for 2 days. I did not remember the mail being canceled since the blizzard of '78, so I called Mike and he said they cancel it all the time in Minnesota, because the vehicles break down too much. I talked with our Rural carrier a few days after that and found out that Rural carriers get paid whether they deliver or not, but the city carriers had to take a vacation day to get paid. Just found that interesting.

A couple of short stories shared by Jim Savell: Someone came up with the idea of job skills operations. Seems we were rappelling & clerks had to rappel with their typewriters. The most unbelievable was....The next jump was going to be wearing gas masks. Seems we could get into history because no unit had ever parachuted

with gas masks on. As soon as the jumpmasters of the company were given notice it quietly went away. I remember telling the CO that I would refuse the jumpmaster check approval to anyone not wearing a chin strap. Uh...you can't get a chin strap over the gas mask. The Day Ralph joined A/75. I can't remember why I was in the 1SG's office, but while I was there, he received a phone call. Seems worker were building/repairing culverts & had captured a big snake. Someone had suggested contacting A/75 because several in the company had snakes as pets.. The 1SG sent someone to locate a footlocker. Word spread & the office was packed with the curious. The civilian engineer came in with a cloth bag. He started pouring out "snake" & "more snake" & grins & "wow that is one BFS etc." began coursing through the packed room. Well, finally the bag was empty. I remember with much humor what happened next. The snake hit the bottom of the footlocker & almost immediately started coming out. The grins turned to panic/horror as this big snake was loose. People



Gary Carpenter at the desk and Mike Fisher holding the snake

were trying to get out the door, climb the walls etc. sheer panic. I was near the box & was trying to get on the 1SG desk. I don't know who the adult in the room was....but....someone kicked the lid shut & save our lives; dignity. Can't remember who gave the moniker of "Ralph" to the rattle-snake. SAVELL. A picture of Ralph on Sgt. Carpenter's desk with Mike Fisher holding his head.

From Roy Bissey: In the absence of "war stories" and in the interest of keeping the A/75 pages from being mute, the following is submitted by Roy Bissey. Equal parts fact, speculation and gratitude this is the recollection of one, but likely the sentiment of many. There were LRRP's, LRP's and RANGERS that predated Alpha Company 75th Infantry, from 7th Army and V Corps to the 197th Infantry Brigade and then 1st Armored Division. The men of these units have unique stories to tell of their own time and place in history. This is the story from my own impressions and experiences from late 1972 to late 1974.

The A/75 of 1972-1974 was a rich mixture of combat veterans recently returned from Ranger companies, Special Forces and Airborne Infantry units of the Vietnam War. Young men and, by military standards, old men in their thirties who had "been there and done that" as volunteers to elite fighting forces, men who had a wealth of knowledge of the arts of war. Clyde Bayless, Ernest "Duke" Snider, Bob Allchin, Doug Nolen, Bonifacio Romo and Gary Carpenter are some of the names we all remember. That same A/75 was also a mixture of 'kids'. Teenagers born in 1951-1955, volunteers also and eager to learn what men like Dan Olson, Fred Stuckey, Wiley Nobles, Dan Sedillo and Jim Garrett had to teach. Reconnaissance and intelligence gathering deep in enemy territory, ambushes, demolition, rappelling, radio communications and the importance of breaking contact just before the MP's showed up at the Crossroads EM Club. Young men with hearts like bulls and the spirit of lions and names like Drumheller, whose father was a 5th battalion Ranger of WWII, Carlisle, Alexander, Degel, Quattrucci, Barree and Thomas.

Continued on the next page

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The instruction took place on a daily basis in places like Rapido and Antelope DZ's, Belton Lake, North Fort Hood, Fort Polk, Camp Bullis and Fort Bliss. From the open doors of C-130 and UH1H aircraft we followed the experts willingly by parachute to insert on our missions. A deployment to West Germany on operation REFORGER provided real world experience operating as five man recon teams and an introduction to REAL beer. The old hands led by example, the unfledged worked to develop the skills that would make them warriors. Warriors like Moreno, Dillon, Brizendine, Clason, Savell and Keneally. Some of the young came to the company Airborne and Ranger qualified, some already buck sergeants at the ripe old age of 19 to almost 20 with a year's time in service. Others were fresh out of high school, basic and AIT. All were there voluntarily, clay waiting to be shaped on the potter's wheel of those men practiced in the warrior's art. Bowman, Maxwell, Jaeger, Boyd, Baird, Cantrell, Kampas and Rivers. On the sports fields and courts, A/75 reigned supreme, Post championship trophies proved it. Veterans of war and greenhorns alike gave all they had to hold the only Airborne and Ranger unit on Fort Hood head and shoulders above the rest in football, basketball, boxing and weightlifting. Diehl, Doornbos, Hall, Nolen and many others. Many of these then young students went on to rise to the top of Army leadership ranks. Sergeants Major, Chief Warrant Officers, First Sergeants and Colonels. Smith, Herman, Scott, Cantrell, DeJarnett, Hancock, Rodriguez and Roberson to name a few. Others moved on from "light weapons infantryman" 11B to jobs like helicopter pilot, electronics technician, helicopter maintenance and probably even supply specialist. Many of the Rangers from A/75 went on to form the cadre of the newly re-formed First and Second Ranger Battalions. Several served as instructors at the three phases of Ranger School. The Army careers of many were limited to 3-6 years from which they moved on to civilian jobs as postal workers, truck drivers, educators, civil servants,

bar owners, electrical engineers, doctors, lawyers and farmers. Jones, Theisen, Fisher, Sanders, Moreau, Rothrock and others too numerous to name here. Speaking strictly for myself, the nearly two years I spent with A/75 were the most instructive and eye opening of my young life. I was granted the opportunity to learn from the most highly trained and experienced, fiercely dedicated and patriotic soldiers in the US Army. Men who today would be referred to as "special operators". I learned more about my personal strengths and weaknesses, physical and mental limitations and capabilities, and about other people than at any other time of my life. The lessons learned then remain with me to this day. Much of my success in the four and a half decades since A/75 is a direct result of the things learned at the hands of the masters, teachers....warriors of Alpha Company 75th Infantry.

In the past few months I have engaged in a search for others from those days in the early '70's. The hunt has been moderately successful, having turned up many of the 220 plus men named on the company roster from December 1973 (courtesy of Doug Nolen). I remember that many of those with whom I have made contact, enlisted and officers alike, have commented positively about their time with the Ranger Company and its lasting effect on their lives and careers. We are, at this writing, just long of 4 months from a reunion in Waco, Texas scheduled for 14 September 2019, nearly 45 years since Alpha Company went into the annals of history. This reunion will likely be a one-time opportunity to re-establish contact and relationships with those who proudly served in A/75 as well as its predecessor units: 3779 LRRP, V Corps LRRP and D/17 LRP from 1961 to 1974. All are welcome. Jim Savell is working hard to bring together an event we can all enjoy and make new memories from. Please bring pictures and stories and join us. Roy Bissey AKA RH1H

NOTICE FOR VOTING MEMBERS

75th Ranger Regiment Association General Membership Meeting is 1000 –1230 hours at the Best Western Wednesday July 10

The following officers of the 75th Ranger Regiment will be seeking terms of office 2019-2021

Stephen Johnson, presently serving as 1st VP, will be seeking the office as President of the 75th RRA.

Roy Barley, presently serving as 2nd VP, will be seeking the office as 1st VP of the 75th RRA.

Tom Sove, presently serving as Secretary, will be seeking another term as Secretary of the 75th RRA.

Roger Crunk, presently serving as Treasurer, will be seeking another term as Treasurer of the 75th RRA.

Please feel free to seek an office if you so desire. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at our General Membership Meeting



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—MARC L. THOMPSON

Greetings and Salutations:

Hello again, fellow Rangers, LRRPs, and Jayhawks.

BARGEWELL

It must be fitting that if we have the unfortunate responsibility of announcing the passing of MG Eldon Bargewell, it would be in the edition of *Patrolling* submitted near Memorial Day.

I remember the first day he took the report from our platoon sergeant, Daddy Haugh, and then rendered his report to the Company CO (Tom Harris). That was the best-led platoon in the Army.

NOTE: We stole the Wiki article about Eldon, but edited it to correct his real first assignment.



Delta Force, Bargewell participated in Operation Acid Gambit during the invasion of Panama, including the rescue of American citizen Curt Muse from the Modelo prison. He commanded a Delta Force Squadron during Operation Desert Storm in western Iraq.

In 1998 Bargewell became Commanding General of Special Operations Command Europe, followed by assistant chief of staff for SFOR military operations in Sarajevo. Bargewell returned to the continental United States and served as director of the center of operations, plans, and policies of United States Special Operations Command. In 2005, Bargewell became Director of Strategic Operations at Multinational Force Iraq. While serving as the Operations Officer Bargewell pursued an outside administrative investigation as to how knowledge of the Had-

itha incident in Iraq passed up the Marine chain of command and whether or not any commanders lied in their reports. The informal investigation, pursuant to Army regulation AR 15-6, began on March 19, 2006 and was expected to examine how servicemembers and their commanders were trained in the rules of engagement. The completed report was sent to Army Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, the second-ranked US commander in Iraq, on the morning of June 15, 2006. This was separate from a criminal investigation being conducted by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Distinguished Service Cross citation

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918 (amended by act of July 25, 1963), takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Staff Sergeant Eldon A. Bargewell, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam, while serving with Command and Control (North), Task Force 1, Studies and Observations Group, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces, attached to U.S. Army Vietnam Training Advisory Group (TF1AE), U.S. Army Vietnam Training Support Headquarters. Staff Sergeant Bargewell distinguished himself on 27 September 1971 while serving as a member of a long range reconnaissance team operating deep in enemy territory. On that date, his team came under attack by an estimated 75 to 100 man enemy force. Staff Sergeant Bargewell suffered multiple fragmentation wounds from an exploding B-40 rocket in the initial assault, but despite the serious wounds, placed a deadly volume of machine gun fire on the enemy line. As the enemy advanced, he succeeded in breaking the assault and forced them to withdraw with numerous casualties. When the enemy regrouped, they resumed their assault on the beleaguered team, placing a heavy volume of small arms and automatic weapons fire on Staff Sergeant Bargewell's sector of the defensive perimeter. Again he exposed himself to the enemy fire in order to hold his position and prevent the enemy from overrunning the small team. After breaking the enemy assault, the team withdrew to a nearby guard.

Continued on the next page



SSG Eldon Bargewell. MACV-SOG

Eldon Arthur Bargewell (13 August, 1947 – 29 April, 2019) was an officer in the United States Army. He served as a commander of the U.S. Army's Delta Force unit.

Early life and education

Bargewell graduated from Officer Candidate School and received his commission in 1973. In addition, he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in resource management at Troy State University.

Bargewell's first assignment was as Platoon Leader, 3rd Platoon, Co. B (Ranger), 75th Inf.(ABN), at Fort Lewis, Washington. When B/75 was dissolved to form the cadre of the new First and Second Ranger Battalions, he became a member of the 2nd Battalion 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Lewis, Washington, where he later served as rifle platoon leader and executive officer. As a captain, Bargewell was assigned as Rifle Company Commander with 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry. In 1981 Bargewell volunteered for, and completed, a specialized selection course for assignment to Delta Force where he would serve as Operations Officer, Squadron Executive Officer, Troop commander, Squadron Commander (twice), Deputy Commander and unit commander from July 1996 to July 1998. While in

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At the landing zone, Staff sergeant Bargewell refused medical treatment in order to defend a sector of the perimeter, and insured the safe extraction of his team. Staff Sergeant Bargewell's extraordinary heroism and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army.

General Orders: Headquarters, U.S. Army, Vietnam, General Orders No. 3391 (November 30, 1971)

Action Date: 27-Sep-71. Service: Army. Rank: Staff Sergeant [sic]. Company: Command and Control (North), TF 1, SOG. Regiment: 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne). Division: 1st Special Forces

[Bargewell: Awards and Decorations:].

Combat Infantryman Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Military Free Fall Parachutist Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger tab, Airborne Tab, United States Special Operations Command Combat Service Identification Badge, Army Special Forces Command Distinctive Unit Insignia, Overseas Service Bars, Army Distinguished Service Cross, Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Army Distinguished Service Medal (Bronze oak leaf cluster) Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with "V" device and silver oak leaf cluster, Purple Heart with three oak leaf clusters, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal "V" device, Army Commendation Medal with "V" device and oak leaf cluster, Army Presidential Unit Citation, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, Army Meritorious Unit Commendation, Army Outstanding Civilian Service Award, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal with two bronze service stars, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with Arrowhead device and service star, Vietnam Service Medal with six service stars, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, NCO Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Army Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal for the former Yugoslavia, French commemorative medal, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Medal Unit Citation, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait).

Death

MG (Ret.) Bargewell died after his lawnmower rolled over an embankment behind his home.

MACV-SOG

It is fitting to include this anniversary announcement here, since so many members of Ranger units were cross-pollinated to and from Special Forces through the years, and so many members of SOG helped form the core of the original Ranger Battalions.

U.S. Army Special Operations Command

24 January

Today marks the 55th anniversary of the activation of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, Studies and Observations Group (MACV-SOG) in the Republic of Vietnam.

MACV-SOG was organized and functioned as the first true joint special operations task force (JSOTF).

Formed during the Vietnam War, the unit conducted special opera-

tions, to include providing intelligence, psychological operations, and personnel recovery, in support of the theater campaign plan.

BARGEWELL TRIBUTES/COMMENTS

Greg Phillips: A one in a million Soldier, NCO, Officer, Leader, Mentor, Warrior, Boss, Friend and Brother. I would not be where I am today without you in my life for the past 46 + years! Thanks for all you've done for us all Eldon. The world will surely be a bit emptier without you in it. You will forever live on in my thoughts and in my heart my brother. He has 46 years of his fingerprints all over me. I was blessed to have served with him; my boss, my mentor, my friend and my brother. Rest In Peace Eldon, you will live on forever in my thoughts and in my heart. RLTW / DOL.

Tony Harley: Oh No... me and Don Bruce were just telling the young Rangers about him at our Las Vegas get-together. My first Ranger Platoon Leader. RIP.

Bob Kraus: At B/75 he changed the trajectory of my army career and therefore my life.

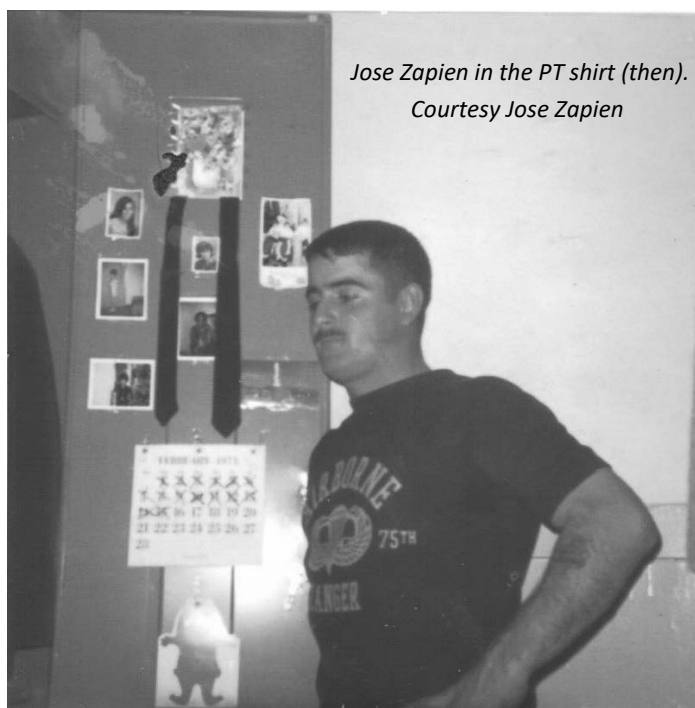
KEITH THOMPSON

From Lynn Thompson:

I would like to announce the passing of my brother CW4 Keith A. Thompson, April 16, 2019. Keith retired after 30 years from the US Army Special Forces. After retirement he instructed Special Forces and Delta Medics at Ft Bragg under Government contract for 10 years. Burial will be at Sandhills Cemetery on Ft Bragg on May 1st at 12:00 noon.

B75 SWEATSHIRTS & T-SHIRTS

This photo of Jose Zapien in the t-shirts 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.



*Jose Zapien in the PT shirt (then).
Courtesy Jose Zapien*

Continued on the next page

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Comments on PT shirts:

Gary Scott: I still have mine, but it doesn't fit anymore. Lol

Greg Phillips: Gary, I think they used cheap materials back then. It's seems that all of our shirts shrank in the closets over the years.

Dennis Lucas: Greg Phillips LOL!!!! You are so right.

Leo B Starkey: I know that Greg has the correct answer.

WB Wear:....wish I still had one of these !!!

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).]

BILL WALTER

After a very tough year medically Bill Walter and I can finally breathe. He is doing awesome and getting Stronger by the day!! This strong ole Ranger...Always with his beer and cigar? Thank you ALL for your many prayers and Love . We are looking forward to a restful and beautiful Spring and Summer and hopefully seeing some of you!. God has truly Blessed us. [Karon Walter. 28 March]

RANGER STUTSMAN

Richard called and sent me a "crazy" card... what else would you expect from one of us maniacs? I will include the card in the next issue... don't want it to get "cut" due to lack of space after the information about Eldon. Richard is still vertical!

RANGER VOYLES

John Henry called to report on Bill Walter, since he ran into him at the VA dispensary. RV and Jane are struggling some with medical issues, but still with us.

Until next time...

Respectfully,

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

Patrolling: Summer 2019 submission (5/15/2019)

VII Corps LRRP Association

Airborne! LRRP / Ranger Brothers,

I hope this finds you all in good spirits and looking forward to Summer vacations and our 75th Ranger Rendezvous at Ft Benning this coming July. Most of you attending know that our Base Station will be at the Best Western Plus with 3 nearby hotels as back up. If you need any further details, contact me (352-281-0983).

I don't have a complete head count, so this mustering list is up for amending for obvious reasons: Foster, Forde, Storey, Hathaway, Vanasse, Lengel, Fisher, Evaro, Clark, Yarbrough, Smith, Harrell, Chetwynd, Kauffman, Mathiak, Fee, Straehl, Ivey, and Touchon. I

get mixed messages from some of you regarding who will show or not. As it stands, Zeke will probably be unable to make it. I've also heard that Mr. Clark may not (Capt Whup Ass). I just got off the phone with Bill Mathiak. He tells me that Bob Vanasse is questionable. If there are any others that are questionable, please let me know.

Bob is back in the hospital in Intensive Care. They are trying to repair whatever it is that has plagued him for the last year. If you recall, Doctors at University of Tennessee and the VA have been unable to make a sound diagnosis of his condition. He has been on a yoyo course of severe weight loss with occasional gains. His situation is dire. For those of you with righteous access, please start a prayer request circle for a man who has served his time in hell. Bob served two tours in 'Nam and may have been exposed in some way with jungle crap or Agent Orange. Seems to me, as I've said before, mysterious illnesses that hit our guys who served "in country" probably have some connection to herbicides and should be considered. Bob, we're praying for you and Carol and the Family that all will work out for the better. If Bob is unable to make the reunion, he's already reserved a room at Best Western that will open up.

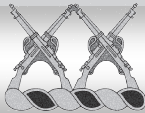
You may recall that I, with Mathiak's help, had planned a Memorial at the Airborne Chapel for the 17 LRRPs with whom we served that were Killed In Action in Vietnam. Events beyond our control have led us to cancel that Memorial at the Chapel, Instead Bill and I will arrange a suitable tribute at the Rendezvous.



That's it for now guys. Remember: Sitting on your ass too much is the new smoking too much. Get up and move, eat right, and see your Doctor at least once a year. Staying healthy, like staying unhealthy is a choice, except for that over which we have no control, Sua Sponte and Lead the Way LRRPs!

PFC Richard Foster, President

VII Corps LRRP Association



C/75 - E/20 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOE HAYES

The E/20 LRP – C/75th Ranger reunion will be at Ft. Benning from July 10 to July 13. We will be staying at the La Quinta Hotel on Rollins Way in Columbus, Ga. It will be good to be with old friends again. I know that as the years go by, it becomes harder for some of us to make the trip. But, the good Lord willing, I hope that many will be able to be there.

And so we are heading into yet another political season. I'm remembering the 2007 race. I had not been an avid political follower. I tried to stay on top of the issues, but I didn't pay too much attention to all of the who's who in politics. One night after work, I was half listening to a new talk station and the host was interviewing a guy named Duncan Hunter. Duncan Hunter (?)! I thought - Is that the same Duncan Hunter that...? Yup – that's the same Duncan Hunter. So I listened, more attentive now, to the interview. The next day I wrote him a letter of support. I told him that he probably wouldn't remember me – that we served together in Vietnam – etc. I addressed the envelope to Lt. Hunter, and to whatever the campaign headquarters was, put a stamp on it and dropped it in the mailbox.

At that time I worked for the Birmingham, Michigan school district as a building engineer. A couple of weeks after I sent the letter, when I was dropping the district van back at the school maintenance yard, a fellow worker said. "Sue (the coordinator) wants to see you. She says, "Someone from Washington is trying to get a hold of you. He called twice but didn't leave a name." A little after I got home the phone rang and I just as soon as I had picked it up and said, "Hello," it was a voice that I distinctly remembered from the past, said, "Is this Joe Hayes?" I said, "Doc Godwin??" I hadn't seen nor heard from him since leaving Vietnam. He said, "I haven't been called that in over thirty years."

Well, it turned out that Bill Godwin went to work for Duncan Hunter when he went to congress. We talked for a while – wife –kids – what we did with our lives, and the like. He told me that Duncan appreciated the letter and that he'd like me to give him a call. I said ok, maybe I will sometime. So Doc gave me Duncan Hunter's cell phone number and told me that he was going to be at a rally that evening (I forget where it was), and to call him around eight o'clock that evening. I told Bill that I'd feel funny doing that and that I really didn't want to bother the Congressman in the middle of a campaign. But Doc assured me that it was OK and that Duncan would be glad to hear from me. So, I called around eight. And, after a few rings, Duncan Hunter answered. He remembered me. He told me that he had to think about the Lt. Hunter in the address on the envelope, but he



laughed about it. We talked for about ten minutes – a little about Vietnam. Some names came up: Pop Carter (if I remember correctly, Lt. Hunter was the third platoon leader, and Pop was the platoon Sergeant), Maj. Hudson, Lt. Bill McKean, and others who I couldn't remember. He talked about how his campaign was going. It was early in the debate season and I remember him sounding very upbeat. I told Duncan that once he got elected, if he needed a good pilot to fly Air Force One, that my brother Pat is a good Air Force Pilot who'd love to have the job. He laughed and said that he'd keep that in mind but that he had a long way to go. I wished him the best of luck and he thanked me for calling him. That was the extent of the call. It was a big kick for me: How many people get to talk to a presidential candidate on his personal cell phone, in the middle of a presidential campaign

rally? Well – It was a first for me! I'd forgotten some of the names he ran against – McCain, Giuliani, Huckabee, Paul, Romney, Keys, and Thompson. I was kind of sad when he withdrew from the race in January 2008 due to a lack of support. I think that Congressman Hunter would have made a good President of the United States.

Some months later, Mrs. Lynn Hunter sent Donna and me and invitation to a reception and portrait unveiling in Washington, honoring Duncan Hunter for his twenty seven years of service as a U.S. Congressman, three of which as the head of the House Armed Service Committee. We could not go. I thanked Congressman and Mrs. Hunter for remembering us.

It's peculiar how sometimes the past slips into the present. What I remember about Congressman Hunter is what a considerate and concerned officer that Lt. Hunter was so many years ago in Vietnam. As a radio operator in the commo platoon, I worked for all the platoons. Every time we were getting ready to go out on an X-ray, Lt. Hunter would come up to the commo conex and talk to us. He'd personally ask me: "Are you ok – Do you have everything that you need?" It was not just something that he did; that was who he was. Later in life - life after Vietnam - I found myself asking the people either working with me or under me the same thing, and for an instant, I'd think about Lt. Hunter. It really is the little things that make a difference. I liked him a lot. I wish that he'd make it to a reunion sometime. It would be nice to see him. So, in closing, I'll say "Thank You Lt. Hunter. You served us well."

See you in August- Joe Hayes



D/75

UNIT DIRECTOR—RICHARD “HERD” NELSON

Good morning all, I hope this spring day finds you well and enjoying the day. After I dropped my grandson off at school this morning I turned on the 60s on Sirius XM and I was back in the sixties, back again in Vietnam in Company D Rangers, not to bad actually. I was thinking about an older brother, figuratively speaking, I was there with who was the most encouraging person at the time I had ever met, Ken Dern. Ken was a little older than the other guys we hung out with so I looked up to Ken as someone who tried to put a good spin on our down time; he always had a big smile and something good say about what was going on. He taught us younger guys how to play poker, he would remind me from time to time that it cost something to learn, and I was willing to pay to learn, but Ken was the winner most of the time, kind of like playing cards with a reincarnated Doc Holiday. We still enjoyed sitting at the Footlocker table, playing cards with our buddies and giving our hard-earned money to our friend Ken Dern. It never occurred to me that every time we went out on a mission could be the last time we would ever see each other again in this life.

Thankfully, that never happened; at least not in Ken’s case. We did lose sight of rangers in our platoon who were seriously wounded and left country without ever having the opportunity of saying goodbye like our brothers Bill Fitzgerald, Bear Papp, Herd Nelson, Wally Hawkins, and also Ken Dern who broke his foot on our company’s last mission in late March 1970. Some of those rangers like Fitz, went home, others recovered enough to fight another day, like Herd and Ken, but for some the war was over, at least in Vietnam. I was thinking about all that in my morning drive, and how much I miss seeing my brothers in arms and the times we shared fifty springs ago.

If you back up another 25 summers to June 6, 1944, there were some other rangers who scaled the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc at Normandy on D Day. Without the rangers knocking out the artillery on the high ground at Pointe du Hoc the landings at Omaha and Utah beaches would have been a disaster and the Germans could have won the day. The mission to knock out the German artillery battery on top of those 100-foot cliffs would make the landings at Omaha and Utah beaches possible. The rangers of the 2nd and 5th Ranger Battalions completed the mission and prevented what could have been mass casualties to the Americans at Omaha and Utah beaches.

Of the 225 rangers in action, 135 were killed with only 90 able to continue the mission after two days including 1 SGT Edward Sowa and Capt Joseph Rafferty both from 2nd Ranger Bn, both killed on June 6, 1944 on the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc.

With Memorial Day and D Day remembrance coming up soon, I thought it would be good to remember these good men, these veterans who gave their last full measure that helped make possible the freedoms we enjoy today.



Tom and Janice have had to battle the rain to go fishing. It seems that the eastern part of the US has had a lot of rain or snow this spring, depending on where you live. Hope to see you at the reunion.

Richard Lowes is doing well, also dealing with the rain. Richard also reports that Onicia Mercer is doing much better since her husband Ed passed away. Richard and Ed were best friends in Vietnam

Psycho is doing better after an ATV turned over on him while trying to help a buddy. Psycho related that the accident actually helped his back, just be careful buddy.



Fitz spent 26 days in ICU, respiratory and kidney issues. I am happy to report, he is doing much better. It’s hard to keep an old ranger down. Keep up the good fight Fitz, you’re in our prayers.

Ken and Linda went to Texas on Easter weekend to attend their 28 year-old grandson’s wedding. He married a 25 year-old woman who is a Texas State Trooper. Ken and Linda are doing well, good people to grow old with. Ken was a big brother to me in Vietnam, I’ll never forget that buddy.

Ed and Janice are doing as well as can be expected. Janice is finishing her last week of chemotherapy and is responding well to the treatments. Janice you are in our prayer, keep up the good fight. Ed has been turkey hunting but hasn’t put food on the table yet. If I know Ed it’s just a matter of time before he and Janice will be dining on fresh turkey breast, doesn’t get any better! Ed and Janice have been staying at their cabin but had to cut the trip short for Janice’s treatment. Hang in there, Janice.

Frank Park is well. Frank has been to the “Crittter Cookout” at Dhlonega, Georgia with his son, a retired ranger. Frank’s girlfriend, Sue, is still having trouble walking and hasn’t gone back to California since the reunion at South Dakota. I like those kind of cookouts, makes you appreciate our forefathers hunting skills.

Mike and Vicky Jaussaud are doing well and plan on being at the reunion. You meet the best at the reunion.

Continued on the next page

Carl is doing well. Just hearing that from Herd makes me feel good. Carl is back in Arizona with Barbara from North Carolina. Carl and Barbara go back and forth from Arizona to North Carolina, sharing the time. Carl has been spending time with his son Mike in Arizona. Take care buddy.

Mike and Sharon will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on June 7th, the day the fighting stopped at Pointe du Hoc. Married less than 4 months before going to Vietnam, Mike and Sharon have weathered many storms to be able to say that life together has been good, again very thankful to be here. I think about the men who have died in the wars we talk about who never got to grow old with their families, let's never forget their sacrifice and what they gave up for our freedom.

Moe and Cindy are doing well, but they don't know if they will be able to attend the reunion this year. Moe is waiting to find out which of the contracts he has bid on will be awarded to them.

Vic Viccarro is doing well after a trip to Indiana for a funeral. I asked how his daughter Coleen was doing and he said she was doing well now. Several of us met her and two of her sons at the South Dakota reunion.

As far as Herd goes, I am having a lot of trouble falling down and reinjuring my knees. My knees keep collapsing and down I go. I am hoping that VA doesn't put me in a nursing home. Barring that I will be at the reunion at Benning.

On behalf of Herd and I we hope to see you at the reunion and reunite our lifetime friendships and remember the experiences we shared so many years ago when we wore the markings of rangers.

We also want to say how good it is to hear from each of you and how everything is going in your lives, family to the end.

RLTW

Mike Warren and Herd



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN MCGEE

This will be my last report as Unit Director. I will be stepping down at this year's Ranger Rendezvous. I would like to say that it has been my distinct honor and pleasure to serve as Unit Director for F Company. I hope that I have represented our unit honorably and efficiently. I would like to thank everyone for their input, guidance, and assistance over the last several years.

A special thanks to Tim Walsh for not only staying on as unit Treasurer but for being a great source of knowledge and guidance. I hope that we will have a good turn-out for the upcoming Rendezvous so that I can personally thank as many friends as possible for their support.

I leave you with this thought. None of us are getting any younger and as time passes if we (Vietnam LRRPS/LRPS/RGRs) fail to pass on the history of our unit, our mission, and who we were, we risk falling between the pages of history. I live in North Central Florida and I am involved in multiple local veterans' organizations. I have been asked to speak at various veterans and civic functions.

I cannot tell you how many times I have asked other Vietnam Veterans, Desert Shield, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and civil-



ians the question 'Do you know what a LRRP was?' The sad truth is that most of them have no clue what I am talking about.

The vets may understand the Ranger concept but what LRRPs were, and what our mission was, most had no idea we existed.

I tell you this to say, TELL YOUR STORY. I get it, parts of the story hurt. PTSD sucks but you whether you want to admit it or not you were part of an extremely unique and extraordinary organization. 2.9 million service men participated in Vietnam. Less than 5000 can ever be called a LRRP.

The units were only in existence less than 5 years. I believe you owe it to yourselves and to our friends and brothers who did not make it home to keep our history alive. Father Time has never lost a race TELL YOUR STORY wherever you can whenever you can.

McGee Out.



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—C."JEFF" WEBB JR.

Summer Greetings to all LRP, LRRP, RANGERS and our Warrior Women

2019 Kalispell Montana Reunion
July 14 through July 21, 2019.

From Terry Leishman, E50/E75 Reunion Coordinator. The unit reunion is on track. Kalispell and Glacier National Park are two of America's most spectacular places to visit and feature many places for both group and individual activities.

Reunion Hotel: Fair Bridge Inn and Suites,
1701 Highway 93 South, Kalispell Montana.

Hotel Telephone Number: (406) 755-6100.

Hotel Room Rates: \$139 Sunday thru Thursday and \$159 Saturday and Sunday. When calling ask for E50/E75 Ranger Reunion. The block of rooms will be released 30 days prior to reunion. However, you may still get rooms, if available, at the regular rates. So plan accordingly.

Reunion Itinerary:

Monday: Visit the bison range and a historic Old Mission Church. Interestingly, one of the brothers was an artist and decorated the church with some beautiful murals. We will have a late lunch at the Nine Pipes Restaurant.

Tuesday and Wednesday: These days are set aside to visit the Glacier National Park. (Don't forget your National Parks & Federal Lands Pass to enter without charges)



Thursday: We have a couple of options for this day: Option No. 1: river rafting the Middle Fork of the Flathead River. Half day prices are \$61 for adults and \$50 for children under 12 and take between 2-3.5 hours depending on water volume. The full day trip, \$85 for adults and \$68 for children under 12 takes approximately 3-4.5 hours and includes a BBQ. Option No. 2: Zip lining and gondola adventure at the Big Mountain Ski Resort

Friday: We will have the Reunion Memorial Service, Business Meeting in the morning and the Banquet in the evening. Currently the banquet price is \$45 - \$50 which Terry is working on reducing.

Saturday: This day is open for socializing, or, if desired, folks in groups or individually can explore Kalispell and the Glacier National Park on their own.

Please contact Terry and indicate what activities you're interested in and how many will be attending each event. Also, please let Terry know if you are driving or flying to the reunion? This info is needed to plan transportation needs. As usual, with any planned public event, the itinerary is "tentative and flexible" and subject to change.

Contact Terry Leishman at: leishman4@gmail.com or cell # 406-253-0738

Over & out

Jeff Webb – Unit Director

Ranger Breakfast During Best Ranger-100 Plus



Best Ranger Competitors Resting When They Can



Photos/ Patrolling-SOJ



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



Most of us have attended Memorial services for our fallen while in theater. Quick services with boots and often a helmet atop an inverted rifle stuck into the ground with a bayonet. These rudimentary services, minus the body of the lost soldier(s) are meaningful but often ring hollow without the ability to tell the family or loved ones how much we cared for their son(s). These ceremonies have not changed much over the years; conducted by an unknown Chaplain or a Commanding Officer (also charged with writing the family), they often seem to be without any true closure as the dead are here and alive one day and gone quickly, seen by only a few who carry them to a waiting chopper, never to be seen again by those serving with them.

I have experienced these services in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, and while they are necessary and a part of a military ritual, there always seems to be something missing. The most recent I attended of these in-theatre ceremonies was much like the first except for the First Sergeant or Sergeant Major calling the name of the deceased three times in a ritual and commanding loud and clear voice noting the absence of the lost soul. At the end of the event, soldiers walked up one at a time to touch the dog tags hanging from the weapon and saying a few private words of goodbye. Touching and sad, those living soldiers move on to perform their duties or go on their next mission. There is little time to grieve.

On February 27th, I attended the funeral of a good friend at Arlington National Ceremony. Jeff and I were close friends in High School, playing sports together and generally hanging out. Jeff knew what he wanted as a career and was a member of our school Air Force Junior ROTC unit. Graduating college, Jeff joined the Air Force and flew planes. KC-135's at first and later C-130's which was his passion. He was qualified in many different aircraft and had in excess of 20,000 hours of flight time. Retiring from the Air Force, Jeff continued to work flying different contract services in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In March of 2018, Jeff died after a long flight returning from overseas. He had a traditional service and at 66 years young, filled a Chapel with friends and family mourning his unexpected death. Jeff was cremated and his wife began the process to have his remains interned at Arlington. A great guy, a great friend and a true Patriot.

Jeff's service was the only one I have ever attended at Arlington. It was truly an impressive experience as long as you discount the traffic issues in the DC area. First, I was notified by Jeff's wife of the schedule of the service. Everything works on a strict schedule in order that each service happens on time and within the allotted time frame. Arlington can handle as many as 32 funeral services a day so keeping a schedule is critical.

I was told to arrive at the main gate at Arlington between 1200-



1210. You can't arrive earlier than scheduled and if you do, you are turned away. I arrived at a prompt 1203 and showed ID to the security guard and told him what service I was attending. He directed me to the next guide for a left-turn into a parking area that had lighted signs specific to the correct service. The signs have the name of the deceased on the sign so you can't go wrong. Parking is such that when you park, there is no backing up necessary when you proceed to the gravesite area. They have this down to a science and it makes it simple for everyone.

Once parked, you are then directed into a large building which has "family rooms" specific to the individual services. The room was comfortable with seating and a rest room. At approximately 1215, our "Arlington Lady" (assigned to guide us through the entire process) arrived. I heard that the Arlington Ladies are all volunteers and you must be asked to join the ranks of an Arlington Lady and can't simply volunteer. She did an excellent job in giving us a detailed briefing of what would take place and there was little to be discussed when she finished as she covered each and every detail. After the briefing, she advised that she would return in 15 minutes and for everyone to use the restroom if needed as we would be leaving when she returned. Exactly 15 minutes later she returned and told everyone to go to their cars and to follow her to the staging area. All cars have to go so they can use the lanes, parking area and family room for the next service.

We drove to a staging area where the caisson and mounted troops were standing by. This was an Air Force service but the Army still handles the caisson and mounted soldiers. The caisson has a flag covered casket even though this was a burial for cremated remains. The faux casket looks real but has two small doors; one at the rear and the other on the side. Inside of one door are the urn with the remains and the other door is for the folded flag. The detail with the animals and caisson started moving and you had the choice of walking behind the detail or following in vehicles. All cars however had to be driven to the burial site. I walked with the family and my wife (Nicki) drove our car.

It was a 5-minute walk and of course, along the way, the horses did what horses will do. Walking directly behind Jeff's widow, I could not resist whispering to her that the horses don't shit during an Army service. We stopped on the road along side a small family shelter with seating for the family. The remains and folded flag were ceremoniously removed from the casket and carried to the shelter. The Air Force burial unit consisted of a platoon of Airmen caring what appeared to be M-14's with bayonets fixed. Surely the weapons and bayonets were borrowed from the Army. I doubt the bayonets are TO&E to the Air Force. There was also a Color Guard, a Band, a firing detail, a Flag folding detail and a Chaplain. *Continued on the next page*

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In all, I would estimate a total of 65 to 70 Air Force personnel were involved, a very impressive group for the service.

The folded flag was unfolded and the typical flag folding ceremony was conducted. All Air Force personnel performed with expected military precision. Of course there were words by the Chaplain and a presentation of the Flag and the spent cartridges by the firing detail to Jeff's widow. "Taps" was played to end the formal ceremony. Photographs were allowed and the entire service was orchestrated with precision and purpose. The remains were to be buried after the ceremony was completed so there was no graveside event. Our Arlington Lady was there throughout and we were allowed to stay as long as desired.

It was a cold, windy day so no one lingered long after the service. There were pictures taken and hugs were exchanged but when it was over, people returned to their vehicles rather quickly.

Now I mentioned it was cold....and windy. I have to say that I was surprised to see that each of Air Force personnel in the detail (except for the Chaplain) was wearing issued Air Force blue ear muffs as part of their uniform. Bayonets and earmuffs simply don't go together. I have to commend the Air Force for a job well done. Still, earmuffs?

Arlington Cemetery is a very large place. What they don't have

anywhere are exit signs and your GPS seems lost as well. It reminded me of the Eagles Hotel California song; once you check in you can never leave. That is almost as true for the living as for the deceased.

Did I mention the Washington area traffic? No need to hurry.

I would have preferred to see a ceremony conducted by the Army but the Air Force was impressive. They did Jeff proud. One of the Chaplain's comments that I will never forget was; "Jeff honored our flag all of his life. It is now our flag's time to honor Jeff."

At some time, I intend to return to Arlington to take a tour. Meanwhile, I am looking forward to spending time with the living at our reunion in Columbus this summer. We will honor our dead there as well.

While we are talking about end of life and funeral issues, do your family a favor and discuss your final wishes. Have a plan, write it down, have a will and make their lives easier before you take your final breath. In the past 4 years, I have dealt with the deaths of 6 friends and family. Some had everything taken care of in advance and it made it easy on everyone. Others died quickly and unexpectedly and had no plan, no final wishes noted and sorting things out was difficult and costly. Face it. It is going to happen. Make it easy for your loved ones and friends.

WIN ME! Harley-Davidson Soft Tail Slim-See Page 52



Those paying the \$40 registration fee to the 75th RRA, you will get this bonus t-shirt from Harley Davidson **and** this year's 75th RRA t-shirt. 2 t-shirts!

Harley-Davidson has donated to the 75th RRA a 2019 Soft Tail Slim with proceeds going to our benevolent fund. **BUY A RAFFLE TICKET!**



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

PATROLLING WRITER— PETE DENCKER



Fellow Rangers and H Company Brothers,

This issue's memorial is for Monty "Bull" Durham who served with the Unit in 68-69.

It's amazing how sometimes in life and

death things come full circle. We probably have our own stories but for Monty Durham the beginning of his "life circle" took place Tulsa OK and Central High School where he graduated in 1967.

Monty grew up on the West side of Tulsa, born to a seamstress and a father who enjoyed building things – amazing treehouses in particular. While at Central High School Monty demonstrated great potential in the classroom but also gifted in numerous other activities. He was an aspiring actor with dreams of performing on Broadway. With 2 other Tulsans they spent a summer at the Northwestern University Institute of Drama where they were competing with aspiring young actors from all over the US. The kids from Tulsa were constantly recognized for their award-winning performances. While at Central Monty demonstrated many other talents; President of Central's Latin Club, he played saxophone and bassoon in the marching band and orchestra, and naturally he was a member of the Thespian club.

After Graduating from Central, Monty put his dreams aside and enlisted in the Army. After his basic training Monty reported to duty in Vietnam and was recruited by - and ultimately assigned to E Co, 52nd LRRP which during his tenure became H Co, 75th Infantry. The transition from Monty Durham to "Bull" Durham was taking place. His experience and leadership ability during his time in the field became apparent and ultimately lead him to the role of Team Leader. Bull was awarded his first Purple Heart in August of 1968. Bull's last mission was on 10 April, 1969 just a few weeks prior to his DEROS date. His team encountered a very large enemy force immediately after their insertion. In the ensuing heavy firefight, Bull and one other member of Team 36 were KIA and another wounded. For his actions that day Bull was awarded The Silver Star.

Fast forward - In 2013 almost 45 years after Monty graduated



from Central, one of the Vice Principals found an old box in a storage locker that contained a series of brass plates with the names of Central High graduates that had died in Vietnam. The box had apparently been misplaced and then forgotten. A major effort was made to verify the names, finish and dedicate the plaque that displayed all of the brass plates. Following a military ceremony the completed plaque was dedicated and continues to reside at Central High School memorializing those who paid the ultimate price for our freedom – and completing the circle for Monty Durham.

At this year's reunion another aspect of Monty's life will come full circle – this year as we have in all of the years past – those in attendance will sing a song written by Monty, "Bull" Durham honoring our time in Vietnam, and particularly those who did not return.



A plaque unveiled Monday at Central High School honors alumni who were killed in the Vietnam War. Photos by MATT BARNARD/Tulsa World

There were so many great comments and memories that were provided by Monty's daughter Stephania, as well as members of H Company....I've included one that seems to represent all...

My memory of Bull still inspires me to this day. Any time I am feeling down or like giving up, I think of Bull. Like the one coun-

selor said, giving up on life is an insult to Bull and the others that never came home... I will never forget Bull. Even though I only knew him for a very short time, he had and still has a major impact on my life. RIP Brother

Mission highlight for this issue - Team 71, 3-5 September, 1971

Members of Team 71 were TL, James Faulkner, ATL John Sellens, Danny Svoboda, James Dickman, and Kit Carson Scout, Thac Dane.

The Team's mission was to conduct reconnaissance and surveillance to determine the density and direction of enemy activity with an emphasis on unit identification, capturing documents/ other intel and contact when advantageous.

Prior to insertion, intelligence pointed toward heavy activity in the proposed AO. SLAR, Red Haze, Sniffer, URS, VR, essentially "soft intel", along with firsthand information from another Team from H Company that had recently operated in the area led to the conclusion that enemy activity *Continued on the next page*

activity in that area had increased significantly. In their pre-mission briefing with the

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Brigade S-2 the Team was provided with more specific information. Pink Teams working in the area had observed bunkers being built and that once on the ground the Team should find trail networks to the north and south that were primarily being used for logistical supply – moving ordinance into that area of MR 3. They could also expect to find movement to the east and west consisting of 2-4-man teams carrying information from headquarters to locations in Binh Tuy and Long Khan Provinces. Their AO, assigned by the S-2 would put them in close proximity to 2 NVA Battalions – the 1st Battalion, 33rd NVA Regiment which consisted of approximately 300 individuals and included 3 Infantry Companies and a Heavy weapons Company along with the 2nd Battalion, 33rd NVA Regiment of similar configuration that was estimated to be approximately 260 individuals.

Once their S-2 briefing was completed, Ranger Team 71 boarded their UH-1H which would take them to their assigned AO. They arrived at their LZ at 1240 on 3 September 1971. The insertion was supported by D/229th. After finding an area where the Huey could hover down to about 5-6 feet – the team jumped to the ground and immediately moved north about 30 Meters to a location with better cover. Here they stopped to establish communication with the Ranger relay on Nui Chau Chan and to their good fortune communication was established with the mountain top radio relay station. After establishing commo and confirming his location TL Faulkner then moved his Team north to locate the trail that was identified in their briefing.

The Team moved approximately 75 meters and found the E-W trail which showed only light use over the past few days. It was then approximately 1530 hours and the team made the decision to follow the trail to the northeast. After following the trail for approximately 500 meters the trail turned North and came to a fork.

The time was now nearly 1800 hours and TL Faulkner call for a halt so the Team could determine which branch of the fork look most promising. After positioning his team off the trail - west of the fork, Faulkner reconned the trail branching North while ATL Sellens reconned the trail branching NE. Both Trails indicated some movement, but it was the trail which branched North that showed heavy recent use. It was now after 1800 hrs., and with darkness approaching TL Faulkner called for a night halt and put his team in a position to monitor trail through the night. The night passed without activity.

The following morning (4 September) the team moved out on the trail leading North where the previous evening Faulkner had determined there had been more recent and heavier use. After moving about 600 meters the trail disappeared into a marshy area. The Team began a search around the marshy area which resulted in locating a hard-packed trail showing heavy recent use by 30-40 individuals.

Exercising considerable caution, the Team moved off the trail to a day halt where they could eat lunch while continuing to moni-

tor the trail. The break lasted about an hour and the Team once again continued following

the trail. Soon after they began moving, they noticed a series of signs pointing off in an easterly direction. These signs were comprised of a series of sticks placed deliberately and pointing in an easterly direction and were also a good sign that the enemy was nearby. Again, demonstrating an abundance of caution TL Faulkner moved his Team off the trail to a good cover spot. Faulkner then felt that it would be more effective to take a 3-man recon patrol forward to check out the area immediately ahead of their position. They moved up the trail a few hundred meters without seeing any activity. To avoid creating any significant separation from the rest of the Team, the recon group returned to the location where the balance of the Team was waiting for them and the entire team then moved up to the spot where the recon team had previously stopped. Once again TL Faulkner positioned the “stay behind” Team in a good cover position while the 3-man recon team moved forward a few hundred meters along the trail, and once again there was no activity. Continuing to maintain a high degree of caution due to the heavy recent use on the trail this process was repeated a third time. This time the 3-man recon team came to an intermittent stream a few feet wide and a few inches deep. Initially they heard or saw nothing and started to cross the stream. Just as they were about to cross, TL Faulkner stopped as he heard palmetto palm being cut. At this point no individuals could be seen but Faulkner estimated that the work was going on approximately 25 meters away. The recon team slowly backed away and rejoined the rest of Team 71.

Once the entire Team was reunited, they decided to find good cover for the 2 “stay behind” members of the Team and get better organized prior to the 3-man recon Team moving forward again to determine the cause of the cutting sounds. TL Faulkner was certain they had not yet been observed, so at that point the RTO and Medic were positioned about 20 meters off the trail in a good cover and well protected location behind some fallen logs. It was now about 1400 hours and prior to the 3-man recon team returning to the stream Faulkner requested a pink team to support the potential outcome of the upcoming recon. After augmenting their normal load of grenades and ammunition the recon Team consisting of TL Faulkner, ATL Sellens and KC Scout Dane again moved up the trail to the stream. At this point there was still no indication that the enemy knew they were in the area, so the Team carefully crossed the stream. Not seeing anyone and no longer hearing any cutting and with Faulkner in the lead they continued very slowly along the trail. The trail turned and twisted until it abruptly turned 90 degrees to the East along another small stream. They had moved approximately 100 meters from the 2 members of the stay behind team at the point where the trail then turned to cross the new small stream. As Faulkner stepped out into the water to cross, he was able to see 8-10 individuals about 20 feet away. They did not see him, and Faulkner quickly moved back to the near side of the stream.

Continued on the next page

As quietly as they had moved forward the Recon team

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

moved back a safe distance from the stream. The enemy soldiers that Faulkner spotted were wearing black pajamas and chest web gear, but there were no weapons visible. 4 individuals were squatting and appeared to be eating, while the others where engaged in what appeared to be a dart game. The area where the individuals were located appeared to be the possible entrance to a bunker complex with a fairly open area extending beyond the stream. The overhead cover was excellent. Now that the recon team was at a safe distance, a call was radioed to the H Company TOC and directed to the Brigade S-2 explaining the situation that had been observed, and a proposed plan of action. At this point Faulkner was notified that the Pink Team had arrived on station. A request was made for an additional section of "Blue Max", Cobra Gunship support. Once the necessary support was either on station or requested - the 3-man recon team moved back into position and prepared to initiate contact. It was now 1415 hours and with all of his support in place Faulkner gave the signal to open fire and contact was initiated. Sellens was firing his grenade launcher while Faulkner and Dane used both their individual weapons and hand grenades, the combination placed a heavy and consistent volume of fire on the enemy position. Almost immediately the team began receiving return fire from almost 180 degrees across the front of their position noticed movement across the same front. The team continued their heavy volume of fire until they began to run low on ammunition. The enemy fire by that time also diminished as they began to evade the contact area. The Pink Team and multiple Cobra gunships began their assault on the area in and around the bunker complex. They continued to work the contact area until all contact was broken approximately 15 minutes later.

As things were now quiet Faulkner sent Sellens back to get the stay behind group and bring them up to rejoin the rest of Team 71. After the team was back together and a recon by fire of the bunker complex complete, the team then entered the contact area at approximately 1500 hours. The Pink Team remained on station in the event additional support would be needed.

In the area where Faulkner had first seen the 8-10 individuals, they found a number of blood trails and two or three heavy drag trails leading NNE. As the team moved into the complex and began a bunker by bunker search, an enemy soldier jumped out one of the bunkers and was shot by Faulkner before the enemy soldier could get off a shot. That was the last contact of the day and the focus now shifted toward the recovery of intel. It didn't take long to realize that they had found a gold mine of information. It started with the discovery of 40-50- rucksacks, 30 pistol belts, a K-54 pistol, 80-90 mortar rounds (both 60MM and 82MM), 30 B-40 rounds, medical supplies, food supplies and at least 10 lbs of documents. The bunker complex itself contained wells and cooking areas and by all appearances had just been re-occupied by 30-40 individuals.

Extraction of the cache of equipment and intel became an issue due to the lack of availability of aircraft. A Blue Platoon was in-

serted to help the process, but by 1900 and with no additional

air support available, the Team and the Blue Platoon were instructed to take all documents, leave the rest and, move to an extraction site. Upon returning to 3rd Brigade HQ for debriefing, coordination was made for the 1/21st Artillery to provide suppressive fire on the area throughout the night to preclude the enemy from returning to the bunker complex to retrieve any of the remaining equipment.

On the morning of 5 September after a weather hold, TL Faulkner and ATL Sellens were again inserted near the bunker complex where they linked up with B 2/5th Cav who had also been air lifted to the area of the bunker complex. Once linked up, a recon of the complex revealed that all equipment had been left in tact through the night. This equipment was logged and then evacuated to 1st Cav HQ at Bien Hoa. The documents captured were able to confirm that the enemy elements engaged the previous day belonged to the 1st Battalion of the 33rd NVA Regiment and the C16 Mortar Company, 33rd NVA Regiment.

Two weeks later an enemy soldier captured by B Company 2/5th who remained in the AO to exploit the contact lead them to 20 gravesites belonging to fellow members of the 33rd NVA Regiment that were killed on 4 September by Team 71. Team 71 was credited with 21 KIA for their contact on September 4th.

Statement by Brigadier General Jonathan Burton after this mission;

In the beginning there were the Rangers. Ever since the start of modern warfare, someone has had the job of reconnaissance deep behind enemy lines. Of these brave men, we can be proud, We, in the 3rd Brigade (Separate), 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) are especially proud of our Rangers (Company H, 75th Infantry) because of the exceptional professionalism in accomplishing their assigned missions, their high Esprit de Corps and the overwhelming willingness to initiate new missions, Because of the Workhorse attitude, recognition is in order. Ranger Team 71 in is just one of many teams performing such countless missions for the First Team daily.

Jonathan H. Burton

Brigadier General, USA

3rd Bde (Separate), 1st Cavalry Division

Commanding



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



Pennsylvania is ready to Welcome 75th “I” Company Ranger Regiment. This year is the 50th Anniversary of the “Lettered” LRRP/ Rangers that carried the Legacy “Rangers Lead The Way” for today’s modern day 75th Active Duty Rangers.

The Itinerary for the Reunion is packed with celebration and recognition for the visiting Rangers, their friends and families.. The week includes a Chartered Bus escorted by police and the Warriors Watch Ride to Philadelphia on June 14th for the “Stars and Stripes Festival”.

The 75th Rangers of “I” Company an important part of the festivities. Upon arrival at the National Convention Center, Rangers and their guests will tour “Signers’ Hall”. Rangers and their guests then gather for the raising of Our Flag. Rangers process to Independence Hall for Ceremonies. This historical ceremony includes swearing in of new army recruits, celebrating the 244th Birthday of the US Army, and Recognition of the 75th Rangers Regiment “I” Company.

Rangers will be presented with a Resolution from Philadelphia City Councilman by David Oh, Councilman at Large. Your Unit Director, David Christian will address the crowd on your behalf. This event is scheduled to be televised live on FOX and FRIENDS. Lunch for all will be hosted, courtesy of Mission BBQ at the Convention Center as Team Fastrax parachutes from the sky.

Later, Rangers and their guest attend the Naturalization of 13 new citizens at the Betsy Ross House as David welcomes them. LRRP Rangers board the bus and make a stop at the Philadelphia Art Museum for photos of the group on the steps and a photo-op with “Rocky”. Saturday, June 15th events at PARX Racing and Casino includes a Race named in Honor of the 75th Ranger Regiment and a ceremonial dinner.

Your comrades are booking rooms at the Holiday Inn located in Bensalem-Philadelphia, Pa., some as early as June 11th and through the 15th. Accommodations at the hotel include spacious rooms, breakfast and a hospitality room for gathering. The rate of \$94 plus tax and fees are valid for your entire stay, come early, leave late for the same rate. You may make reservations by calling 855-373-2544 75th Ranger Regiment Reunion/or online using code RRR for discounted rate. Booking Link: 75th Ranger Regiment Reunion My assistant is Diane, she may be contacted via email drreitz1@msn.com.



Philadelphia

City of Brotherly Love-RLTW!





K/75 - E58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

Greetings to my Brothers,

This will be a short article for this issue. I have been struggling to find something to pass along. The most important news is several of our brothers or Family members have been dealing with serious medical issues. Your thoughts and prayers are needed. Most of us like our privacy so I will not mention any names unless given permission.

Thanks to Wayne Mitsch and Chuck Harubin for their continuing work on finding info about our KIA's and those who have passed away since we were in Vietnam.

The 1st Brigade guys are hosting a reunion in Memphis June 20-23. I will try to attend with info and maybe pictures for the next issue. Hope to see old friends there.

The 75th RRA has been working diligently arranging the Ranger Rendezvous July 8-12. There should be an updated schedule



elsewhere in this issue or on the website. Those who have not made their arrangements should get that done. The hotels are filling up fast. Hope to see a big turnout. The USARA is also in town for their reunion and the banquet will be a joint effort by both associations.

Harley Davidson is sponsoring the 75th RRA at the Rendezvous this year and will be making a cash donation to The Benevolent fund. The big item is their donation of a Harley Davidson 2019 Soft Tail Slim. It will be raffled off during the reunion with all the proceeds going to the 75th RRA Benevolent Fund.

Tickets are available on the 75thRRA website or at the Reunion. There are a limited number of tickets available so you better get yours. Remember you do not have to be present to win. My best wishes and prayers to all, Roger.

CAMP MERRILL OPEN HOUSE-RANGER DEMONSTRATION



PHOTO-SOJ PATROLLING



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

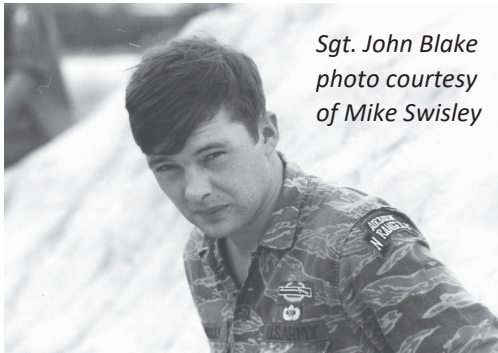
UNIT DIRECTOR—ROBERT "TWIN" HENRIKSEN



"One For The Boys"

Written by Cathy Saint John

How a Canadian Vietnam Veteran sacrificed all in order to win greater respect for his brothers in arms.



*Sgt. John Blake
photo courtesy
of Mike Swisley*

Sgt. John W. Blake volunteered with the United States Army to fight in Vietnam.

He was a young Newfoundlander and a patriotic Canadian who volunteered with the United States Army to fight in Vietnam at a time when thousands of young Americans were fleeing to Canada to avoid the draft.

He served with distinction during his two tours, spending eighteen months as an elite Special Forces soldier. And, like many other Vietnam veterans, he was scorned upon his return from Vietnam by a misinformed, angry public.

Haunted by the memories of the war and by the traumatic reception he received, he realized that many of his fellow soldier-brothers were also struggling after their return from the war. In 1982, he launched a cross-America walk to raise awareness of Vietnam veterans.



His name was Sergeant John W. Blake, US Special N/75th Ranger, of the 173rd Airborne Regiment - and he was my brother.

In 1968, John W. Blake made the decision to enlist in the American Army.

I'll never forget that day in 1968 when my brothers, John, then nineteen, and



David, then seventeen, said they were going to enlist.

Canada was not at war with Vietnam, but it did support the United States and South Vietnam by providing military supplies, material, and so on. Both John and David believed deeply in the need to stop the growing Communist threat in Asia.

Their decision to enlist would change our family forever. Our mother retreated into a depression for three days before finally surfacing from her bedroom.

During that time, we all felt a cloud of sadness hovering over our little home. But it was tempered with pride, because our boys were about to do just as our deceased father, a

Great War veteran, had done - journey to a faraway land to fight in a war that was intended to free the oppressed.

David trained and served as a mechanic, working on helicopters in Vietnam, but John - he was a warrior. He spent his time in the war zone, doing extremely dangerous work that brought him in direct contact with the enemy and the many atrocities of war.

John lost far too many good friends in Vietnam. A gifted writer, he used his poetry and journal to memorialize the lives of his fellow soldiers. Thoughts of those brave men followed John every day of his life.

In 1972, John, like many others soldiers, returned home suffering from undiagnosed post-traumatic disorder (PTSD). He moved to the United State in 1976 and quickly realized that his fellow veterans were suffering, too. The general public had little sympathy for the Vietnam veterans who struggled with PTSD, until they began to fill American emergency rooms. All of them were suffering from the same symptoms. By 1982 - the year that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall was unveiled in Washington, D.C. - John had had enough.



*Sgt. John Blake. (photo courtesy
of Ron Whelan)*

He headed to Seattle, where he launched a one-man march across America to raise awareness of Vietnam veterans prior to the unveiling of the "Wall".

Continued on the next page

Sgt. John W. Blake launched the first ever Vietnam veteran national "awareness" walk with the American flag across the United States and he was Canadian.

N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Carrying the American flag and dressed in authentic combat gear, he set out on the more than 3200 miles journey to the U.S. east coast. At first, John's appearance along the highway of America seemed to confuse people. Why is he doing this? But with every conversation, and with each visit to a new town, John won over more and more supporters.

Soon, the media was interviewing him. They called him "The Walker" and his path can be traced today by the newspaper coverage that followed his journey. For seven months he walked alone, without an entourage, relying instead on the kindness of strangers, and on his Ranger skills, remembering his unit's famous motto: "Rangers Lead The Way".

John's journey was the first-ever "awareness" walk with the American flag. Following the completion of this mission, he became a veterans' advocate, volunteered tirelessly for the rights of his fellow Vietnam veterans.

Throughout this time, our family knew that John was struggling with his own PTSD. We also knew that John wanted to come home and to grow old on a mountain overlooking the ocean; but he needed to stay in the U.S., where he could access medical intervention for his PTSD.

On February 13, 1996, the call we had all dreaded finally came. A voice over the phone from Hilo, Hawaii, informed me that our brother had died. After years of struggling with his PTSD, he had died by his own hand.

We were devastated, but we were not entirely surprised, because John had prepared us somewhat for the end of his life's journey. But nothing prepared us for the devastation that occurred when we brought his remains home to Newfoundland, Canada for a military burial, which was his final request.

In *One For The Boys*, Cathy Saint John writes about the Canadians government's rejections of Sgt. John W. Blake's wish to be buried in the only military cemetery in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Available on Amazon.com in paperback and eBook

That story - a government's brutal rejection of John Blake's wish to be buried in the only military cemetery in St. John's New-

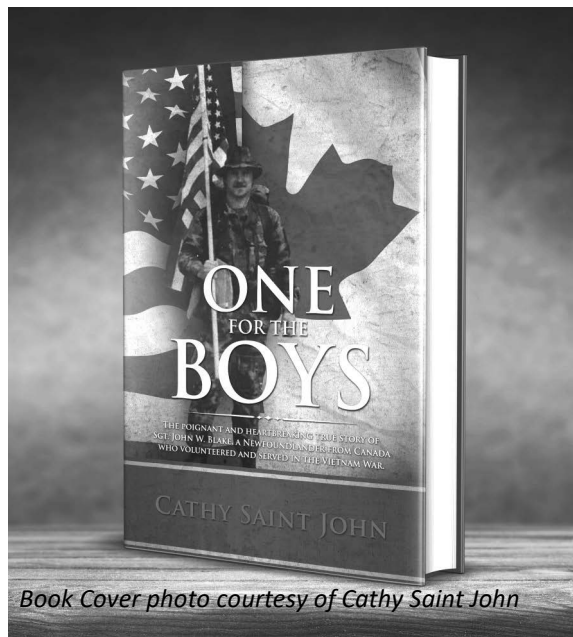
foundland, the Field of Honor within Mount Pleasant Cemetery - is told in full in my new book, *One For The Boys*.

We never dreamt that a simple request of burial would trigger an emotional five-year fight with the Department of Veterans Affairs. It was inconceivable to our family that John, an honorable discharged and decorated Vietnam veteran, a Canadian, and the son of a First World War veteran, would be denied burial in a Canadian military cemetery. But it happened, and it was a cruel injustice.

Fast forward to now, twenty-three years later, and tears still sting my eyes when I think about how much John had given to this world, and how his homeland, Canada, had denied his final request to rest in peace there.

My saddest thought of all is that this horrendous occurrence will happen again to other families in Canada as their Canadian fathers, uncles and brothers who served the United States of America in Vietnam for the freedom of the oppressed then passion and a request for burial in a only existing military cemetery in the provinces of Newfoundland and Winnipeg will be denied because they are Vietnam veterans.

My family and I recognize the importance of sharing John's story in the hope that it will help the public to better understand the impacts of PTSD and that it will lead to increased support and treatment for the afflicted and their family. We also hope John's story will help clarify why too many military personnel and civilians choose to die as a result of their struggle with PTSD. Perhaps, his story will help catch them before they fall.



Book Cover photo courtesy of Cathy Saint John

Writing about my late brother and his extraordinary story was not an easy task. It took a tremendous amount of time, sadness, tears, and courage to journey into John W. Blake's struggles and triumphs and then, finally, to share his story with readers. I could have avoided going through this emotional pain, but then I would never have fully known a man that no one should ever forget.

The greatest compliment I can give to my late brother is to have written his story and gotten it right. It has taken two decades of writing, research, interviews, and editing to succeed. The tremendous support of his Vietnam

veteran brothers, the N/75th Airborne Rangers, made this journey less daunting.

"Rangers Really Do Lead The Way"!



P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—TERRY B. RODERICK

Patrolling Summer 2019

Spring has sprung and with it Ranger activities begin to unfold and each event jumps up on you before you know it. The anticipation I always feel reminds me I'm going to be with people who for the most part think and act like I do. It's mostly the same folks but from time to time, 1st timers arrive and most usually come back again after experiencing the brotherhood we all share. I would encourage many of you to try and attend any of these events.



The David Grange Best Ranger Competition jumpstarted the "holiday season" for me. Held annually at Fort Benning School for Boys and usually mid-April like it was again this year, April 12-15. This year Ted Tilson, Duke DuShane, and I were graced by the company of Lynn Towne and The Rippetoes, Rita, and Joe again. CSM Rick Merritt joined us on Friday and we all had a good time meeting Rangers we know and starting new relationships with ones we don't know. In addition, meeting the sponsors of the event who are visible and always ready to engage you in conversation and make this a successful event. It's just a great atmosphere. Joe and Rita present an award to the winners of the Road March in honor of their son, Captain Russell Rippetoe, who died in Iraq, April 3, 2003 in Iraq every year. These are some amazing people that many of you had the good fortune to meet in Colorado, so I know you'll agree with me. We adopted them and that's that!! We needed a boost to our DNA pool anyway!! Ha! Ha! In all seriousness though, the month of April is a solemn month for the Rippetoes, but they continue to travel from their home in Colorado to support this Ranger event every year. It's people like this that make our Ranger community such a great thing to be a part of. We were joined by the long-time Secretary of the 75th Ranger Regiment, Mrs. Linda Davis, and her husband, Mark, for many of the festivities. During the dinner Saturday night, she and Mark had lamented that they never won anything when they would hold these drawings for prizes, etc. at various Ranger events over the years even though they always bought raffle tickets and such for the drawings. Lo and behold, Mark won a brand new 45 pistol and right after that, Linda won a t-shirt, so that put that story to rest. Past President and Secretary for many years for the 75th Ranger Regiment Assn., John, and Mary Ann, Chester then won a handmade tomahawk and something else making it look like you had to be married to win anything on this night and made me begin to think this whole scenario was fixed. I may be mistaken, but I think another married couple both won prizes that evening too. Luckily some single people won some of the other things they raffled off and I had to put that conspiracy suspicion to bed. CSM Rick Merritt is currently in Savannah, Georgia with his family waiting

to see if he's going to become Mr. Merritt, or perhaps serve our Army in some other capacity if the Army so desires. After 38 or so years, he's still ready to serve our country if they want to find a job for him. After over 3 years as the 8th Army CSM or Senior Enlisted Advisor at his last assignment in Seoul, Korea working with a Lt. General, he still has much to offer.

Captain Russell Rippetoe-KIA April 3, 2003-Iraq



L-R: Joe and Rita Rippetoe with Duke DuShane-at the Best Ranger



Continued on the next page



Mark and Linda Davis



Rick Merritt and Lynn Towne

Walter "Sunshine" Buchanan, of C/75th, was also in attendance this year. For those of you who go back a long time, you might remember that Walter had a relationship with Miller Genuine Draft beer, and Miller Beer, the parent company, years ago and provided us all with liquid refreshments for many years, free of charge. Not just for the 75th RR Association, but for several company gatherings too. We had 40 cases donated for one of our Cherokee reunions years ago. This year, he has brought the Harley Davidson company into the sponsorship fold and they have

donated a brand new Harley Davidson motorcycle that will be raffled off at the Rendezvous. I think the details are on the Association website, www.75thrra.org. Thanks Walter, for staying involved and always looking for ways to help our Association out. You've been an asset for a long time, and we're all indebted to you. Ted Tilson and I got a chance to chauffeur Walter around the Columbus/Ft. Benning area for a couple of days and we totally enjoyed his company.

The 50 plus two-man Best Ranger teams start very early on Friday morning at the Best Ranger Competition and finish the event on Sunday afternoon. That's when a great catered feed is available to everyone to celebrate the great accomplishments of these "Super Rangers" after they all finish this event and have a short time to rest. It's definitely inspiring to see these Rangers cross the finish line on the final run. On Monday, a formal awards ceremony takes place, usually in what we know as Bldg. #4, on post. While we stayed at the Holiday Inn Express in Columbus, I ran into the family of one of the competitors, SSG Michael Danielson, of the 3rd Infantry Division. They had quite a group there following Michael all through the competition. I met his Mother, Annette Danielson, of St. Augustine, Florida, and her Mom every day at some point and we also enjoyed breakfast at the hotel together and I'd get the latest update on how Michael and his Ranger Buddy were doing. Annette and her Mom were lucky enough to meet CSM Merritt on Sunday afternoon and in addition to that, I found out that SSG Danielson will be reporting into the Mountain Ranger Camp in a future assignment, so I'll get to see him again up there probably in 2020. Just a great weekend.

Next up, the **2019 Open House/Critter Cookout** at the Mountain Ranger Camp in Dahlonega, Georgia, April 26-27. The 5th Ranger Training Battalion is the headquarters for this event held annually. Usually the last weekend in April, it may be my favorite event other than reunions.

Beautiful environment, fresh mountain air, great lots of food to keep you out of trouble. Several people mentioned to me this year that this event has become a mini-Reunion every year. This year 10 of us show up our Cobra 16, Steve



our company Beautiful environment, fresh mountain air, great lots of food to keep you out of trouble. Several people mentioned to me this year that this event has become a mini-Reunion every year. This year 10 of us show up our Cobra 16, Steve

case!! Ha! Ha! Ed Hoppe drove in from Texas and Jerry Yonko from Mississippi for the past 3 years. Jerry recently had knee replacement surgery, so Ed picked him up in Mississippi and brought him on his way from the Lone Star state this time. This year, we added Mary and Carney Walters (*wearing his smoking jacket made from a poncho liner*) and their hounds and camper to the mix from Colorado. *Continued on the next page*

Fred and Trish Tompkins showed up from New York this year too as first timers and I'm sure they enjoyed their visit. Pat Patterson came again for the 3rd year and we were joined by Pat and Steve Smith (Redskin 16) from Knoxville for the first time. It's always a treat for all of us when Steve joins us. It's not every group that gets to hang with those courageous pilots who supported our bad behavior back in the day when we were doing bad things to bad people. Duke DuShane came up from the Columbus area, and we had Sheryl and Dave Gates, and Tom Perry come in from the Atlanta area. Ted Tilson and I have been coming together for a few years now, and Ted has been doing this for much longer in actuality. Ted served as an Instructor and a 1st Sgt. over a couple of tours there and he and his family settled nearby in Gainesville,

Georgia. I've noticed over the years that many who worked there in the Army have stayed and made this area their home. If it didn't get so cold, it would definitely be in consideration as a home for me. I need my warm temperatures and sunshine in Paradise in truth, but it's a great place to visit. They held the Fish Fry on Friday night and had great weather for the Open House and Critter Cookout on Saturday.



Fred Tompkins

In addition to all the P/75th guys who attended, I had 14 family members and friends join us this year. Some from Florida and some from North Carolina. Some for the first time and some for the 2nd time. My former wife, Julie, and my husband in law,

Rick, both came with their grandson, Rory, for the first time and had a great time. Rory attended in 2017, so he was a veteran up there. Everyone enjoyed it so much I think the family unit is already making plans to attend again next year. My oldest daughter, Cindy, rented



Ft. Gates, Tilson, Patterson, yonko Back-Hoppe, Roderick, Perry, Carney CC 2019

a very nice home on top of Mount Yonah that sleeps 14 people for the group. It's called the "Mount Yonah Castle" and is a 3 bedroom, 3 ½ bath, 2800 sq. ft. home with a hot tub, fire pit, and outstanding mountain views all around the homesite. I spent one night there with them and it has plenty of room and is a very nice home indeed. In addition to them, my youngest daughter, Brandy, her husband Jason, my granddaughter, Macie,

were there. They were joined by Cindy's girlfriend, Bethiel, and her two sons, Moael and Tarik, plus family friends, Gary and Kent Lynch, all of Charlotte, NC. My youngest sister, Christi, and her hound, Rosie, brought their own tent and camped at the camp with us for the weekend. My niece, Stacy, daughter of my oldest sister Nancy, also attended and camped with us at the camp too. Some of you have met some of them over the years. Everyone had a great time and want to do it again next year.

I want to thank everyone who came out and supported these different Ranger events and encourage all of you to give one of them a try one year. The timing is perfect. Usually after a cold, gray winter for you northerners and it gets us down here in Paradise out of Paradise for a few days and reminds us why we live where we do!! Ha! Ha! I saw our Vice President, Steve Johnson, at both events and he escapes the frozen tundra of Bemidji, Minnesota and in addition to being good company, he takes a lot of photos since he's also the Editor of our beloved Patrolling magazine, which he has brought back to the status we've all envisioned for many years now. It's now current and on time and he takes great pride in doing this job. He's going to make us a great next PRESIDENT of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association when we gather in Columbus this summer, July 8-13th. He will be running for that office and he will have my support 100%. He's done a great job for all of us and I want to give a "shout out" to the current President, Rick Barela, who was elected to a 2nd term in 2017. Roy Barley, a friend of all of us also came back to serve as a Vice President after being President from 1994-96, during our formative years as an Association.

I have an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. coming up 3 days after I submit this article, so I'll have something outstanding to write about next time for sure. It's Saturday, Armed Forces Day, so that may make things even more interesting for my group of 25. 2 WWII vets, 13 Korea vets, and 10 Vietnam vets. If you have the opportunity, I'd say try and sign up for it if it's available in your AO. So far, it seems like a first class organization and they have treated me like a VIP at every step so far. In June, I'm traveling to **Branson, Missouri to attend the Long Ranger Reconnaissance Association Reunion** during the June 6-9 timeframe for the first time. I'll be traveling with Darryl "Bones" Benton, from C/75th, who attended last year. He and I will be doing a Memorial Day event together again this year for the 2nd time too. I believe he is the President of their own C/75th organization and he's been very active since retiring from the workforce.

Of course, the 2019 Ranger Rendezvous is coming up July 8-13th, and I will be attending with two civilian guests, Gary and Kent Lynch, from Charlotte, N.C. and mentioned above from the Critter Cookout. I think we got one of the last rooms (a suite actually) at the host hotel, the Best Western, but there are several other nearby hotels to accommodate you. You can go to: www.75thrra.org and get any additional information you need. So, get out and enjoy the brotherhood we're all so fortunate to be a part of, and have some fun doing it. If any of you didn't receive the new lapel pins I had made and would like a couple of them, contact me and let me know. Until next time... RLTW !! Terry Roderick, P/75th Unit Director

ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Ranger Hall of Fame Selection

Rangers, I take great pleasure informing you that US Army (ret) Colonel Robert Reitz who served as the Senior Advisor to the 35th Vietnamese Ranger Battalion during the 1968 TET Offensive in the Cholon District of Saigon has been selected for induction into the Ranger Hall Of Fame. The ceremony will take place on July 10, 2019 at 1300hrs in Infantry Hall.

Congratulations Bob on your selection!!

Unit Tribute Plaques

It has been brought to my attention by BDQ Chuck Hansen that the "National Museum of the United States Army" is promoting Unit Plaques that can be purchased and permanently installed on the "Pathway of Remembrance" These plaques are 12 inches by 18 inches of polished Mesabi Black Granite. The format and content of each unit's plaque is highly customizable and can include a color rendering of the units Distinctive Unit Insignia (patch). To see examples go to Armyhistory.org/unit-tributes. Currently I have the known whereabouts of 114 Ranger Advisors. We don't have thousands of members to draw upon for donations. The original (Large) Granite monument placed at the Special Ops museum in Fayetteville, NC cost \$5,000. The second (exactly the same) placed at the Soldiers and Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning cost \$3850. \$5,000 seems like a lot of money for such a small plaque. If there is any interest in doing this email me at bietdongquan@yahoo.com or phone me at 803-292-2571.

Feature Article:

Fellow Rangers,

I am doing something different this issue by submitting an article written by an ARVN Ranger. The article is titled:

The 42n Ranger Battalion

Three Striped Tiger Head

By: Maroon Beret (Biet Dong Quan) Ranger Le Ngoc Buu

(Continued) Part 2

Captain Biet brought new air into the battalion. He was an easy going, open arms person, and full of brother in arms hood. The battalion participated in operations Dan Chi(s) of the 21st Infantry, Long Phi(s) of the 9th Infantry, and Dong Tien(s) of the 9th Infantry.

Victory Vinh Cheo, in the district of Long My, Chuong Thien province. Removed enemy pressure and reinforced the 3/31, 21st Infantry.

Victory at Kien Long. Retook back the district from the enemy. This operation was organized by the Ca Mau brigade, under the com-

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER



mand of Colonel Nguyen Linh Chieu. In this battle, Lt. General Duong Van Duc commander of the IV Corps, Lt. Col Ta Thanh Long landed on the first heli-lift with the battalion CP, and the 2/42 company.

Victory of the Cong Hoa Blvd, the principle road linked two strategic hamlets. Hieu Le (Kien Giang Province, and Thoi Binh (kien Giang, Ca Mau). Cong Hoa Blvd ran along the bank of the Trem Trem River, and the 42nd duty was to remove enemy pressure in the district of Hieu Le and reinforce the 32nd Ranger battalion which had taken heavy casualties. The VC frequently used tactic "Attack the camp and hit reinforcements" therefore on the move. The rangers were always alert, and ready to break the ambush. After two hours of fighting the enemy broke contact and retreated. The rangers

captured many weapons and important documents. From the five POW's, the enemy two battalion U Ming and 302 coordinated the ambush. The rangers lost 6 KIAs, among them was the 2nd Lt. (XO) of the 3/42 company. The battalion continued on the move and connected with the 32nd at 02:30 hrs.

Next morning, Lt. General Duc, commander of the 21st Infantry and the commander of the Ca Mau brigade landed at the battlefield. He decorated the 42nd Ranger battalion with Gallantry Cross /Palm (highest for a Unit) The nickname "Three Stripes Tiger Head" (Three Legged Tiger" ...was known after this battle).

In this operation, the first (1/42) rejoined the battalion. From this point, the 42nd Ranger battalion operated with its four companies. Each company had a different color scarf. Company 1/42 maroon, 2/42 red, 3/42 red and yellow, 4/42 red and blue, battalion CP and rear services woodland. Each man was issued a whistle to intimidate the enemy.

The rangers counter attacked to retake a Popular Force camp at the three-way intersection Cay Duong, and removed the enemy pressure in the district of Phung Hiep, Can Tho province. From home base in Bac Lieu, the battalion moved on trucks to seven intersection around 1700hrs and was ordered to the counter attack. The battalion was allowed to use four river boats from the Popular Force, and used six additional sampans for troop carrying. From the seven intersection to the three intersection Cay Duong was about 8km, and the width of the river was about 300m and could be a major problem in mutual supporting each other from the two edges of the river. The battalion split into two prongs, the 2nd and 4th and the battalion CP took the left bank, the remaining took the right bank.

After moving about 5km, the enemy positions on the left band opened fire on the rangers, and they reacted quickly, landed on the left band of the river, took positions and called artillery for support. Lt. Van the artillery forward observer for the Rangers directed artillery shelling accuracy on the enemy positions. After three hours of intense fighting, the VC retreated out of the battlefield. *Next Page*

The Rangers captured many weapons and documents, killed 45 and captured 5 POWs. From the POWs, the VC's Tay

ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Luu Trong Kiet commander of the 21st reconnaissance company to replace Capt Giai, who later became the commander of the 51st Ranger Battalion.

Do and 307 battalions coordinated for this battle. The Rangers suffered 5 KIAs, and 14 wounded, among them was Lt. Ho Viet Luong. The 42nd Ranger battalion was decorated with the Cross of Gallantry w/palm for the second time. The commander Capt. Nguyen Van Biet was promoted to Major, several officers also received a new higher rank.

Since Col. Dang Van Quang became the new commander of the 21st Infantry and Major Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu became the commander of the IV Corps, new military tactic was developed. With the available helicopters, "Eagle Claws" tactic was very successful in operations in the Mekong Delta. The 42nd, 44th Ranger battalions, the 2/31st under the command of Capt. Le Van Hung (BG committed suicide after the fall of South Vietnam), 1/33 and the division reconnaissance company under the command of Capt. Dan (later became commander of the 44th Ranger BN, and KIA in 1972) were very famous in the IV Corps. Captains Dan, Hung and 1st Lt. Luu Trong Kiet (later became commander of the 42nd, and KIA) were three favorite fighting cocks of Col Dang Van Quang, commander of the 21st Infantry.

First victory using this "Eagle Claws" tactic was North of the city of Ca Mau. The 1/42 company was selected for this military tactic, was heli-born directly into Phong Loc when a unit of VC was discovered by observation airplane. The 1/42 encountered strong reaction from the U Minh battalion then the rest of the battalion arrived to attack the enemy ferociously. After two hours of fighting, and with the support from armed helicopters, the Rangers killed 80 enemies, captured many weapons and two POWs. This victory brought another Cross of Gallantry for the 42nd Ranger battalion (the third time).

The border area of the three provinces: An Xuyen, Bac Lieu and Chuong Thien. The ranger was directed to the area to reinforce and relieve pressure for the 21st reconnaissance company. They fought with two enemy battalions U Ming-1 and U Ming-2. One hundred enemies killed, rangers captured 70 weapons, included 57mm recoilless gun, 61mm mortar tube, and 12.7mm AA's legs.

Around noon, airplane detected a VC unit was assembling in the village of Day Ngai, Bac Lieu province. The 1/42 company, again was the lead element heli-born into the battlefield. The commander, 1st Lt. Vuong Van Tro directed his men to attack as soon as they got out of the helicopters. The rangers charged into the enemy's dug in positions, and quickly captured three 12.7mm AA guns. The second landing brought into the battlefield the 2/42 company and the light HQs of the battalion under the command of Capt. La Quy Phan. Captain Phan and a ranger in his CP were killed instantly as they jumped out of the helicopter. Then the rest of the battalion followed.

After four hours of fierce fighting, it was getting dark and the enemy retreated. In this battle, the rangers killed 154 VC, captured 12 POWs, nearly 200 weapons and radio equipment. The rangers lost 12 KIA including Captain Phan (XO), and 35 WIAs. The 42nd Ranger battalion returned to its home base then Major Nguyen Van Biet was transferred to province of An Xuyen. The Ranger High Command appointed Nguyen Tan Giai and the new commander of the battalion but a few months later the IV Corps appointed Captain

About May 1965, with the victory in operation Can Chi 100, the 42nd Ranger battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. From operation Can Chi 100 to Dan Chi 128, the VC tried to avoid confrontation with the 42nd Rangers.

Navy in the I Corp detected a NVA ship that transported weapons to the south and anchored in the beach Ba Dong of the Vinh Binh province. The 42nd Rangers battalion from Soc Trang was heli-born directly to the target. The battalion encountered heavy fire from the VC's Cuu Long battalion that was protecting the ship. After two hours of fighting, the enemy fled, the rangers killed about 100 VC, captured many weapons on the battlefield...and the entire ship with thousands of weapons. This victory earned the 42nd Ranger battalion the seventh Cross of Gallantry w/palm.

The 42nd Ranger battalion was heli-lifted from Phu Loc, District Thanh Tri, Ba Xuyen province to the village of Giai Lang, Bac Lieu province. The VC had in this area one battalion of the provincial's main force. They planned to burn the rangers in a dry rice field (after the harvest), but with the "Eagle Claws" tactic, their plan did not work. The rangers were heli-born directly into their positions and the battle broke out in favor of the rangers. The rangers killed 130 enemy, captured 12 POWs and about 100 weapons. The rangers lost 18 KIAs and 32 WIAs. The battalion was decorated with the eighth Cross of Gallantry w/palm (most in the ARVN). This victory also earned another Presidential Unit Citation for the battalion.

The battalion was ordered to move from Bac Lieu to Soc Trang and served as the reaction force for the operation. At 0900hrs the following morning the battalion started to move into Chuong Thien. At coconut plantation Ong Muoi, the rangers bumped into a large enemy force (regiment size). The rangers were ordered to attack and move on, but the battalion stalled. In the plantation was an old strategic hamlet, built during the late President Ngo Dinh Diem regime, and was very solid for defense.

The commander of the 42nd Ranger battalion was Major Luu Trong Kiet reported to the 21st Infantry, but according to their G2 officer, the enemy had only a small unit in the area and they insisted the ranger battalion must get rid of the target and move on. The battlefield became intense, the rangers and the VC distanced only 100m. Major Kiet was shot in the chest and still hung on to direct his men, until he got another shot and died. Later the 44th Ranger battalion under the command of Major Ho Viet Luong commander of the 44th arrived the battlefield (former 42nd ranger), but the enemy pulled out of the battlefield and the commander of the 42nd Major Luu Trong Kiet already died...

Quote:

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent." -

Eleanor Roosevelt

Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director

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Vietnam Vet's PTSD Book



Charles W. Grimsley is a 2 tour Viet Nam Army LRRP. He is a U.S. Chaplain working at a Veterans Health Care System facility. Charles has been facilitating a Spirituality Group working with veterans from all branches of service for several years. While working with the veterans at the hospital he noticed a correlation between those who managed to conquer their addictive behaviors when they actively implemented Spirituality and the forgiveness components; the forgiveness of self and others.

Charles earned his Doctorate from Denver Seminary with emphasis in Marriage and Family Counseling. While writing his Doctoral Thesis he developed a group study of combat veterans diagnosed with PTSD to prove the validity of his thesis. Past and present returning combat veterans exhibit symptoms of PTSD: Addictions are rampant, uncontrolled anger, horrifying memories and stories. Drug therapy does not seem to be effective.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and depression are frequent diagnoses among combat veterans. Emerging symptoms of PTSD, TBI, and depression often go unrecognized or may be slow to develop (Milliken et al., 2007) and not addressed until problems become critical. "When 20 veterans die by suicide and 14 veterans hadn't touched VA care, it means that we can't do this alone." Dr. Caitlin Thompson, Executive Director VA Office of Suicide Prevention. Veterans from all eras continue to struggle with issues related to their combat experience and reintegration to civilian life following military service. 23% of women veterans report at least one sexual assault while in the military. Yes, help awaits....

It is not in the forgetting that the answer lies, but in the remembering that healing manifest itself, yet utilizing the forgiveness component. It is the matter of unlocking the unconscious, to open the awareness, thus the work to be done is buried within and entails the Journey of Freedom through forgiveness, necessitating and connecting applications of; Theology, Psychology, and Spirituality.



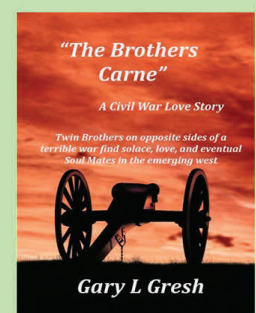
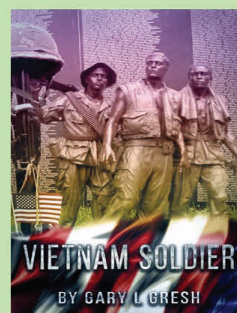
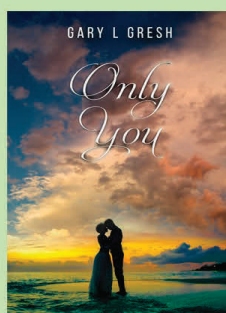
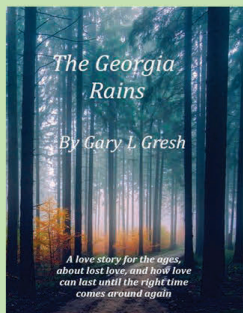
PTSD & MORAL INJURY

THE JOURNEY TO HEALING
Through FORGIVENESS.



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