

PATROLLING

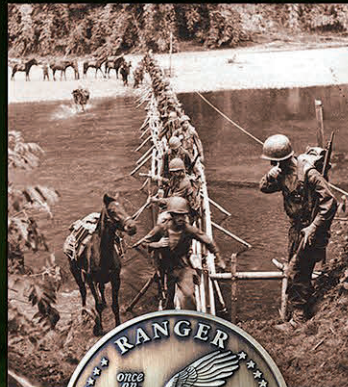
Winter 2019 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC. Volume 31 Issue I



- An "expendable," top-secret, long-range penetration unit of Army volunteers, code-named "Galahad," fighting behind enemy lines in Burma.
- Created from 1943 meeting in Quebec between British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- First American ground troops to fight Japanese in Asia and first Americans since 1900 Boxer Rebellion.
- With only what they could carry on their backs or mules, made military history by walking farther - almost 1,000 miles - than any other WW II combat unit.
- Defeated much larger, elite Japanese 18th Division in 5 major battles and 30 minor engagements.
- Enemy, disease and starvation reduced 3,000 men to just a few hundred who seized final objective of Burma's Myitkyina Airfield
- No other WW II combat force except 1st Marine Division had as much uninterrupted jungle fighting.



75TH ANNIVERSARY 1944 - 2019



28 inducted into the Army Ranger Hall of Fame



CBI
China - Burma - India Theater of War



- Almost 2,000 volunteers from Caribbean and stateside depart Camp Stoneman to ship out of San Francisco Sept. 21, 1943, on SS *Lurline* not knowing destination or mission.
- About 1,000 volunteers from South Pacific picked up by *Lurline* Oct. 2, 1943, in New Caledonia.
- Volunteers had no name or insignia when *Lurline* arrived Bombay, India Oct. 29, 1943.
- Unit designated 5307th Composite Unit Provisional January 1944, and later nicknamed "Merrill's Marauders" after its commander, BG Frank Merrill.
- Successful mission freed Burma's airspace so supplies could be flown in to create critical pathway into China.
- Unit dissolved Aug. 10, 1944, with no formation and about 100 men remaining in Burma.
- Army's 75th Ranger Regiment honors their legacy by wearing Merrill's Marauder patch as its crest.

The Distinguished Service Cross (6)

The Silver Star (44)

The Legion of Merit (4)

The Bronze Star (55*)

The Purple Heart

Asiatic Pacific Service Medal

World War II Victory Medal

Republic of China World War II Service Medal



Presidential Unit Citation

*In addition to the 55 separate awards each Merrill's Marauder received a Bronze Star.

Credit—Tom Walker, Jonnie Clasen, Bob Howland



To care for him who shall have borne the
battle and for his widow, and his orphan.

Abraham Lincoln



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Editor's Corner

By Stephen Odin Johnson—Editor

Hello Patriots!

We were sent the following information about the front cover from Jonnie Clasen used for this issue:

The cover for this issue of "Patrolling" is a 75th Merrill's Marauder anniversary plaque created by Tom Walker, a graphic-exhibit designer and friend of the Marauders in Sevierville, TN, with input from Jonnie Melillo Clasen, daughter of the late Marauder, Vincent Melillo, and Bob Howland, son of Marauder Gilbert Howland, 95. The first plaque will be presented by Gilbert Howland during a February 27, 2019, 75th Merrill's Marauder anniversary ceremony at the Pittsburg Historical Museum in California, where it will be displayed under the WW II Camp stoneman portal sign. For plaque questions, please contact: Jonnie Melillo Clasen, jmc6154@aol.com, 706 689-0153 H; 828 230-8724 C - NO TEXTS.

There is a "boatload" of information inside this 2019 Winter edition that you might find useful or at least informational.

E/75th has put together thoughts from several of its members honoring the late Roy Nelson who served as first-sergeant in Vietnam. Good job guys!

Harrison Jack, who wrote the last feature, "Patrolling Your Health", has authored a second article about how the Veteran health services really work and will continue with themes relating to the VA system to help you take care of your total health.

Jill Stephenson continues to offer her many thoughts on life and she has a lot of her articles relating to that on her website which works for me by challenging and comforting my inner thoughts. Keeping my Quality World Pictures in balance is not easy for me to do. Read more @ iamjillstephenson.com

The Public Affairs of Fort Benning has given Patrolling media passes which allows our readers to access close ups of the competitors of the Best Ranger Competition. I have a new lens that weighs as much as a six-pack of Bud that should get us closer, clearer pictures. We'll see.

Anyone out there that has a photo that you think would be fitting for our cover page, please let me know. Secondly, if I could get some information about the picture-subject, including the photographer's contact number for permission to use and give credit for a green light so we can use it. towerg75th@yahoo.com

I would like to thank Stan Jones, Unit Director A/75, for pointing out a couple of typos that I had on page 4 and on their unit's logo. Please, if you see an error and the like, please contact me so I can correct it. My junior high English teacher is probably still shaking her head at me; I can sense it!

Thank You!

Stephen Odin Johnson RLW!!!!

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

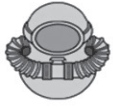
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The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that 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

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CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

BY JOE MARQUEZ

Greetings Rangers,

A question?

What do we do when life's problems close in on us? I am the type of guy who tries to fix things. But I have recently come up against some challenges that go way past my experience to deal with. But I think of the man David, who was chosen by God to become the nation of Israel's second king after the first, King Saul, was found wanting by God. But the transfer didn't happen easily. Saul, knowing he had been rejected by God and that this young upstart who had the courage to go up against the Philistine's Champion Goliath and take him out was his successor, tried repeatedly to kill him. To the point that David and his little ragtag group of followers were run out of Israel and found himself in Gath. Where he was recognized as the enemy champion. David got so afraid that he played the crazy. He drooled on his beard and scabbled on the gate. The king of the Philistines said, "What? Do I have need of a mad man that you bring me this guy?" And he ran him out. So David escaped out of his enemy's hand. This action by the great King David shows me that there are lessons for us to learn even when we are made afraid by circumstances beyond our control. One thing is sure. God never lets things get out of His control.

David wrote a Psalm after this incident in his life. It is Psalm 34. And the introduction reads like this. A Psalm of David, after he had changed his behavior before Abimelech, (the king of the Philistines who threw him out of Gath when he played the crazy). He changed his behavior. That is putting it mildly. Yet this Psalm was one that has spoken to me over the nearly five decades I have been a Christian. My life has had many ups and downs yet one thing has remained the same. God has always, always been the One I could rely on.

And the woman who I met and married forty-five years ago suggested for our life's verse as a couple, this from verse three of that Psalm. "O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together." A worthy goal for any. While the next verse, verse four is one I personally have been encouraged with many times over the years. "I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears." There have been a lot of things I have been afraid of, many things that I conjured up in my mind that never happened, but other things that were real dangers, physically, emotionally and spiritually. But I stay myself on the

God of whom the Apostle Paul said, "Faithful is he who called you, who also will do it." In life we face many obstacles, but we too can have this assurance, Psalm 34: 6-8

This poor man cried out, and the Lord heard him,

And saved him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.

Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good;

Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

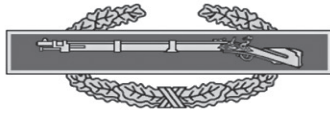
We all will trust in something. And who is more worthy of our trust than the One who made us? If I must be afraid of someone let it be the One who can and will save us from all our enemies, including ourselves. As David didn't see that the Lord was around him while he was in the midst of his enemies protecting him from any real harm.

So the Bible tells us of spiritual realities so often unperceived by us. The walk of faith is to trust when we cannot see. Relying on the Word of God in the midst of a changing circumstance. And finding that by believing that He is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek him with diligence, we will never have cause to be ashamed that we put our faith and hope in the God who is there.

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.

SKY PILOT





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

OUR MISSION:

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

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

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

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

SECTION 2: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

SECTION 3: Long Range Patrol

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

Section 4: 75th Infantry Ranger Companies

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

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

We hold biennial reunions (in conjunction with the 75th Ranger Regiment Rendezvous) and business meetings. The association officers, (President, 1st & 2nd Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer), are elected at the biennial association business meeting. This reunion is held at Columbus/Fort Benning, GA
Subordinate 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 deployed to Vietnam as listed in section 2, 3, or 4.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY RICHARD S. BARELA



Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow which means only 6 weeks until spring. However, I am not sure with the way the weather patterns are. Winter, with cold weather, snow, ice, and lots of rain in Kentucky. Oh well it will leave us soon and as we to prepare for the ranger rendezvous 8-12 Jul 2019. Make your reservations. There will be some special things going on during the event.

75thrra Rendezvous: We are fast approaching the 2019 Ranger Rendezvous and looks to be a grand one, so everyone come out and celebrate the event. There are a couple of items to celebrate this year. First, is the activation of the Viet Nam LRRP/LRP companies to Ranger companies. This is their 50-year anniversary. Congrats to all our Viet Nam era veterans on this milestone. Secondly, the 75th anniversary of the 2nd Ranger Bn scaling the cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on 6 Jun 1944 of the D-Day mission. We have something to be proud of on these milestones and need to celebrate the accomplishments of the Rangers this year.

This year our Guest Speaker will be LTG P. K. "Ken" Keen, the current chairman 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 and Bn Commands in the 82nd Airborne Division; Commander of 1st Bn, 75th Ranger Regiment; Commander of the 75th Ranger Regiment; Commander of U.S. Military Group Bogota, Colombia; Command of U.S. Army South (USARSO); and Command of Joint Task Force Haiti - Operation Unified Response. After retirement, LTG Keen now serves as a professor and the Associate Dean of Leadership Development at Emory University's Goizueta School of Business in Atlanta, Georgia.

We will be doing something a little different this year. Our dinner will be held at the Ironworks in Columbus GA and will be on Friday 12 Jul 2019. We will also be having a joint dinner with USARA. This will help us keep the costs down. 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 and keep our costs down.

We looked at the feedback from our last rendezvous and hopefully we did learn from our mistakes. From your feedback and that from the UD's we made changes and hopefully we have gone down the right direction. We still need help and if available give any officer a call.

Ranger Hall of Fame Nominations: Our Ranger Hall of Fame packets have been submitted to the RHOFF Secretary for review and submission the RHOFF voting members. Voting will take

place during the 1st week of May and we should know who has been inducted this year.

A little information on RHOFF packets: Each year there are a total of 15 who can be inducted into the RHOFF. Some years 15 make it into the RHOFF. Last year 10 packets were approved for the induction

The 75th RRA is allowed to submit 3 packets for review by the RHOFF Board. This year we had a total of 9 packets submitted through the Association. The officers reviewed the packets based on their merits. We selected the 3 best packets for submission to the RHOFF Board. Was it an easy decision, NO. But it is something that we did objectively. We are hoping they all get inducted in 2019.

We provided feedback to each person that submitted the packets with corrective actions to make their packet stronger. I am going to say this the only way I can. Take this as an objective review and not as criticism. We are trying to help you get your packet to be one that will be accepted by the Association and the RHOFF board for induction and not be rejected. Remember after 3 submissions to the RHOFF board the packets can no longer be submitted, they will not be accepted for review.

The Association needs to make sure we have the best packets submitted to the RHOFF board for review and possible induction into the RHOFF. The RHOFF requirements have changed over the last 8 years, what was once accepted is now under more scrutiny. The criteria for induction have become much more restrictive. The person's military career is key and what he has done with the Ranger units during his career. But now we also look at what the person has done outside the military, especially what has the person done to promote the Ranger community and ethos of the Rangers. Is he active in the associations, Has he held officer positions in any associations? Is he working with veterans' organizations? Does he promote the Ranger standards?

The RHOFF Board consists of 10 voting members with the president and secretary who are non-voting members. Each board member must rate each packet with a score of zero thru five. The candidate's packet must receive a minimum score of 30 points from the 10 voting board members. If a candidate packet does not receive the required score of 30 points then the packet is rejected for induction. If a board member gives a packet a score of zero for the packet then the board member must provide an oral justification for the recorded score.

Once the scores are completed, the board secretary will then generate an order of merit based on the score of each candidate. The order of merit is develop from the highest score to the lowest total score. The top 15 are then selected for induction with a score with 30 points or higher. *Continued next page*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

This has gotten harder and we are always looking for our members to be selected for induction, but we need to be realistic and objective. We can't select someone based on friendships. We need to look at the person as a whole. My personal observation is the criteria will be getting much more restrictive. Provide us the best person and make sure you have all the facts about the person you are submitting. Enough said on RHoF.

Elected Officers: During each issue I have asked for nominations for the officer positions. This is one of my last actions as president. We need to have fresh blood to move the Association move forward. We need you all to step up to the plate and volunteer for one of the officer positions.

Lastly, I am on my final 6 months as the president of the Association and have had a really great time. Granted there are times when things got rough, but I have had a great corps of officers over the past 4 years. I want to thank them all for their dedication and service to the association. During my first term; 1st VP John Chester, 2nd VP Dave Regenthal, Secretary Tom Sove, and Treasurer Roger Crunk and during this current term as president; 1st VP Stephen Johnson, 2nd VP Roy Barley, Secretary Tom Sove, and Treasurer Roger Crunk. Thanks for your support and

for your guidance. It has been invaluable over the four years. Lastly, I can't say enough about our Unit Directors, they are the backbone of the Association as they keep the members informed. They speak their mind and that is good in that we pull no punches.

I want to give a special thanks to a couple who have been more vocal than others, but their comments have been greatly appreciated: Bill Acebes 1st Bn; Bill Miller BDQ; Terry Roderick P Co; John McGee F Co; Roger Crunk K Co.

Closing Comment: Best Ranger is coming up in April and I hope to see you there. I will give my final comments at the Association dinner. Thanks for your support over my two terms as president.

Rangers Lead the Way – All the Way!!!



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

1st VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STEPHEN ODIN JOHNSON

We would like to welcome Tony Mayne as the 3rd Battalion Unit Director. Welcome on board, Tony! Information about Tony is on page 20.

There are three events coming up that promises to be the liking of all those attending; myself included.

First, we have the Best Ranger Competition and the basic details can be found on the following bottom page. My wife is coming with me from Minnesota snow to play some golf with Barb Barela. If I get to Columbus a day early, I might play golf, too. Pam, my wife, is a 9 handicapper so I have to beg for strokes!

Secondly, the Critter Feed in Dahlenega is something I will attend this year, also. Friday night fish fry and a Saturday Critter Feed with an open house and demonstrations at Camp Merrill. I will stay with some G/75th guys I served with in Nam; Roger Peet (we'll be staying at his cabin again), Dave Moncada, and Bill Martin. Contact person and itinerary can be found on page 18.



Then comes the main feature, the 2019 Ranger Rendezvous with the 75th Anniversary of both the Merrill's Marauder and Point du Hoc ascent by the 2nd Ranger Battalion. And we have the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam 75th Rangers, so a pretty big thing to celebrate at this year's Ranger Rendezvous!

Pages 9-13 are dedicated to inform you on what is happening that week. Highlighting to the last event our Banquet. It'll be held at the Iron Works Convention Center, downtown Columbus. *Southern Lovin*, is the main dining course that you can read about, among other things.

As an organization, we are coming to the crossroads where the majority of our membership will be from the active Ranger battalions. I have a few years left to serve you. As a candidate for president and as continuing editor, if you so choose. What ever is best for the Association, by all means!

My best to everyone! Stephen Odin Johnson

RLTW!

2nd VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY ROY E. BARLEY

Patrolling Winter 2019

Is it Spring yet? Soon, I hope.

This will be one very busy year with all the events happening in the Ranger community. First, we have the Best Ranger Competition, April 12th to the 14th. If you have not attended one of these you should. They are some amazing young men and it is comforting to see that there are still men who will go the extra mile or so to do what others can only imagine doing. Talk about dedication.

The LRRRA festivities are in Branson, June 5 thru June 8, and, as always, will be full of good times, like the old timers trying to out do each other will lots of bull. It is a very laid-back time full of good drinks; food; raffles and surprises. You never know who will show up.

The big one will be our reunion at Ft. Benning from July 8th to July 13th. A schedule and registration papers should be in this issue. Remember it is a work in progress and nothing is cast in stone. Hotel registration information is also in this issue. T-shirts: To avoid the problems with the T-Shirts from the last reunion we are implementing a new system. If you are pre-registered you will receive your shirt upon signing in; if you are not pre-registered you may have to wait a few days. The last time we had people who had not pre-registered and coming in and getting shirts before those who had preregistered. This also will help with the costs, etc. If your company needs meeting space, please let me know so we can avoid any conflicts with two units requiring the space at the same time.



The hotels have different rooms available for meetings and such. Our banquet will be held at the Iron Works and will be shared with US Army Ranger Association. The keynote speaker will be Gen. Keen, and his Bio is in this issue. USARA is partnering with us on a couple of events including the ladies wine tasting and outing, meetings with the VA and ARTB and Darby Project. There are other events that are pending, and all details are not worked out but hopefully, it will make for an incredible time that will produce good memories for a long time to come.

ries for a long time to come.

On another note E. Co. lost an excellent leader in the passing of First Sgt Roy Nelson. Roy was a warrior and not a first Sgt that would sit around drinking coffee, but rather spend time in the field with his teams. My memories of Roy are very positive. When I first reported to the company in Oct of 1967 the first impression I got was "do not screw up" he was a tough as nails first shirt. Years later, in 1992 I met him again in our first time at the 75th reunion and again the following year at our first reunion. His wife Eddie was a great person and took kindly to all these young men who he guided long ago. When she heard I lived in Buffalo she must have thought we had winter all year long as she knitted me a scarf and a hat. Incredibly warm and I still have them to this day. Roy always looked out for his boys and enjoyed every day. He had Race Horses and drove Porsches. A very intelligent man who lived a full life.

RIP Top, RIP.

BEST RANGER 2019

APRIL 12-14, 2019

FORT BENNING, GA

The Best Ranger Competition 2019, is the 36th anniversary of this grueling competition, starring the best soldiers of the world, our United States Army, RANGERS! The Best Ranger Competition was started in 1982 after Dick Leandri found a way to honor his personal friend, Lieutenant General David E. Grange, Jr.

The competition has evolved over the past thirty years from once that was originally created to salute the best two man "buddy" team in the Ranger Department at Fort Benning, GA to determine the best two-man team from the entire United States Armed Forces.

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

BY ROGER CRUNK

75th Ranger Regiment Association

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

October - December, 2018

TOTAL

Revenue

4000 Program income - DNP

4002 Membership dues 2,115.00

4010 Coin sales

Bronze 55.45

Silver Coin 163.90

Total 4010 Coin sales 219.35

Assoc. Patch 77.35

Assoc. Patch Bumper Sticker 53.55

Assoc. Pin 120.00

Operations Transfer/Paypal -675.00

Total 4000 Program income - DNP 1,910.25

4100 Member donations - DNP

4102 Family fund contributions 4,045.00

4104 Goldstar contributions 170.00

4110 Operations contributions 170.00

Scholarship 265.00

Total 4100 Member donations - DNP 4,650.00

4900 Interest income 131.20

Unapplied Cash Payment Revenue 100.00

Total Revenue \$6,791.45

GROSS PROFIT \$6,791.45

Expenditures

6000 Program expenses - DNP 3,500.00

6002 Cash awards & grants - Battalions 500.00

6006 Cash awards & grants - Members 500.00

6008 Association patch -5.95

6020 Website maintenance 750.00

Eig/Powerweb Subscription

Constant Contact 80.75

Total Eig/Powerweb Subscription 80.75

Total 6020 Website maintenance 830.75

6022 Intuit Subscription 61.62

Quickbooks Online 90.00

Total 6022 Intuit Subscription 151.62

Membership Returns 180.00

Total 6000 Program expenses - DNP 5,656.42

6100 Patrolling expense - DNP

6102 Patrolling printing 2,242.26

6104 Patrolling postage 897.14

6106 Adobe subscription 169.50

Total 6100 Patrolling expense - DNP 3,308.90

Accrual Basis Tuesday, February 12, 2019 11:33 AM GMT-8 2/2

TOTAL

6500 Operations - DNP

6502 Bank and merchant fees 55.30

6508 Computer maintenance 250.00

6512 Legal and accounting fees 625.00

6516 Postage and mailing service 338.00

6520 Subscriptions and reference books 99.00

Postage-Secretary 83.07

Treasurer Postage 19.05

Total 6500 Operations - DNP 1,469.42

Total Expenditures \$10,434.74

NET OPERATING REVENUE \$ -3,643.29

NET REVENUE \$ -3,643.29

75th Ranger Regiment Association

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of December 31, 2018

TOTAL

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts

1000 Affinity / Operations 17,156.10

1002 Affinity / Family fund 16,933.98

1030 Affinity / Savings 45,354.25

1040 Benevolent funds MM 17,041.36

1041 Legacy funds MM 4,641.73

1042 Life funds MM 38,520.20

1050 Paypal funds 813.83

Total Bank Accounts \$140,461.45

Accounts Receivable

1100 Accounts receivable 0.00

Total Accounts Receivable \$0.00

Total Current Assets \$140,461.45

TOTAL ASSETS \$140,461.45

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Total Liabilities

Equity

3000 Net Assets - Unrestricted 134,828.55

Net Revenue 5,632.90

Total Equity \$140,461.45

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$140,461.45

2019 RENDEZVOUS BANQUET GUEST SPEAKER

P. K. (Ken) Keen
Lieutenant General, USA, (Retired)

Lieutenant General (Ret) P. K. (Ken) Keen is a native of Hyden, Kentucky. Following graduation as a distinguished military graduate from Eastern Kentucky University, he was commissioned as a 2LT in the Infantry in December 1974. LTG (Ret) Keen retired from active duty on 1 March 2013.

LTG (Ret) Keen is currently the Associate Dean of Leadership Development and a faculty member in Organization and Management for Emory University's Goizueta Business School in Atlanta, Georgia. In this role, he manages a school-wide leadership development program, which includes teaching crisis leadership; developing high performing teams; implementing a Coaching Fellows Program; and coaching in the Advanced Leadership Academy.

LTG (Ret) Keen served 38 years in the Army with over 11 years working and living abroad in the Republic of Panama, Brazil, Colombia, Haiti, Germany, Egypt, and Pakistan. Ken commanded a SCUBA detachment in 3rd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group; a company and Battalion in the 82nd Airborne Division; Joint Task Force – Haiti following the Jan 2010 earthquake; as well as serving on three U.S. Embassy Country Teams leading all military forces in Colombia, Haiti, and Pakistan during crisis periods. He participated in Operation JUST CAUSE in 1989 as the Assistant S3 of the 75th Ranger Regiment; commanded a Ranger Task Force during Operation DESERT STORM in 1990, as part of a Joint Special Operations Command, while serving as the S3 of the 1st Ranger Battalion; was the Executive Officer and Commander of 1st Ranger Battalion; and was the 11th Colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment from 1999 to 2001.

LTG (Ret) Keen is a graduate of the Brazilian Command and General Staff College, Defense Language Institute - Portuguese Course, the University of Florida's Master of Arts in Latin American Studies program, and U.S. Army War College.

LTG (Ret) Keen also serves on several non-profit Boards in support of military veterans, education, and international humanitarian organizations. Ken is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the U.S. Army War College; on the Board of Visitors for the Western Hemisphere of Security Cooperation; Board mem-



ber for the Witness to War Foundation; Board member of the Community Organized Relief Effort (CORE); Chairman of the Ranger Hall of Fame Board; and Honorary Colonel of the 75th Ranger Regiment. LTG (Ret) Keen also serves as an Executive Coach with True Growth Leadership and as a Senior Fellow for the National Defense University. In 2016, LTG (Ret) Keen was inducted into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame and the National Reserve Officer Training Corps Hall of Fame.

LTG (Ret) Keen has been married to Mary Ellen Hume for over 44 years. They have a daughter, Marta Keen, a junior at Georgia State University; two sons, Dr. Ryan Keen and Jonathan Keen, who is married to Jennifer Wu; and have 2 grandchildren.

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

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 is almost behind us and we can discuss how cold it was, but nowhere near as cold as the North Pole. 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. This past year has gone by very fast. Of course, the trips to Georgia this year are many fold; Best Ranger, Critter Feed and 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 making 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 will be run in the 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
8 – 13 July 2019; Columbus GA—As of 16 FEBRUARY 2019**

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
- TBD – Ranger Airborne Operation; Fryar Drop Zone (Shared Transport with USARA)
- 0900 – Rangers on Own performing their 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
- 0900 – Rangers perform own recons as needed.
- 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)
- 1700 – 2000 Ranger Hall of Fame Dinner (By Special Invitation Only)

Wednesday 10 Jul 2019

- 0900 – 1000 Open Registration
- 1000 – 2400 Hospitality Room Open (Hospitality Room closed during General Membership Meeting)
- 1000 – 1230 General Membership Meeting (Best Western Hotel) Presentation, Discussion, and Counting Ballots of the Proposed By-Law Changes
Voting of New Officers for period of 2019 – 2021
Installation of the Newly Elected Officers

- 1000 – 1630 Ladies Outing Bus departs at 1000 hours from the hotel (Joint Ladies Event with USARA Ladies)
 - *Tour of Little White House
 - *Wine Tasting at the Warm Springs Winery
 - *Ladies Luncheon – Bulloch House, Warm Springs GA
 - *Shopping for the Ladies
 - *1500 Bus departs for returns to Columbus and Hotel

- 1300 – 1600 Ranger Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Maneuver Center Fort Benning GA
- After RHOF TBD No Host Bar-B-Q: Sponsored by the 75th Ranger Regiment Freedom Hall Lawson Field
Price to be determined

Thursday 11 Jul 2019

- TBD 75th Ranger Regiment Change of Command Ceremony; National Infantry Museum
- 1000 – 2300 Hospitality Room Open

Friday 12 Jul 2019

- 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 75thRRA Banquet/Ranger Appreciation Dinner Iron Works Convention Center-Jointly with USARA
Guest Speaker - Gen Ken Keen (See Bio in this issue of Patrolling)
Outgoing Presidents Final Comments and the Introduction of 2019-2021 Officers

Saturday 13 Jul 2019

- 0800 – 1200 Checkout for those departing

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.

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 fee Fee is waived at the conclusion of event if \$250.00 in Liquor, Beer and Wine is purchased.

THE FINAL SALUTE TO "TOP" NELSON

By Duane L. Alire, former E50/E75 Unit Director

E Company has lost a former first sergeant, Roy Nelson, a true LRRP leader who was highly thought of by all who served with him. I have asked a couple of former E Company unit directors, Rick Stetson and Clancy Matsuda, if I could use their words to assist in a final salute to Roy. They will be followed by another E Company LRRP, Howard Munn, who remembers serving as ATL on a patrol led by Roy in 1967. Munn says, "He will never forget the mission".



In all my Army experience I never met a better first sergeant. He was a brave and dedicated soldier. I feel fortunate he was in our unit and I can tell you he served his country well.

A couple of years ago when Duane "Poncho" Alire was our unit director, he helped coordinate a mini-reunion to honor Roy and had our former first sergeant, or Top, step up front to present specially made chal-

Finally, Roy's own words in "Recollections of a LRP First Sergeant," an article he wrote some years ago that gives the reader a good sense of his contributions to E Company.

I arrived in Vietnam in January 1968 after Roy had left the unit but got to know him at reunions in the years following and was always impressed by how the men looked up to him. He formed a number of life-long friendships with some of the men he led, like his old fishing buddy, Joe Eachus, and after learning of his death, Rangers have expressed how much Top will be missed and what a professional leader he was. Roy Nelson will always be remembered as one of those men who "led the way".

A Fallen Warrior

By Rick Stetson, E Company Operations Officer, Vietnam 1967

It is with great sadness that I inform members of E Company that our former first sergeant, friend and dedicated warrior, Roy Nelson, died on October 20, 2018. A Celebration of Life was held in Arlington, Virginia on Monday, December 17th. Roy was buried beside his devoted wife, Irmgard Edith Nelson, in the Crownsville Veterans Cemetery, Crownsville, Maryland.

Those of us who served with Roy in 1967 will never forget his professional leadership. He was a first sergeant who refused to sit behind a desk drinking coffee and doing paperwork. Instead, Roy wanted to be out on patrols with "his men" so he could observe how they operated under stressful conditions. If Roy was in charge of your patrol, you had a true leader who knew what he was doing. He led by example, never ranting or shouting and always demonstrating a quiet determination. If he told you something, you could guarantee it was true. Those who knew him will never forget Roy Nelson.

lenge coins to the attendees commemorating the reunion. We will always be thankful for the manner in which Poncho honored Roy and included him in the ceremony. It was a moving occasion for Roy and for all of us in attendance. You could see the emotion in Roy's eyes as he presented the challenge coins to his former soldiers and returned their salutes. Many of us choked up just to witness the event. It was obvious that after all the years since Nam, Roy still meant so much to the men. He will not be forgotten.

LRRPs Honor Roy D. Nelson

By Clancy Matsuda, former E50 LRRP Company Commander, Vietnam 1967-1968

On the occasion of the E50/E75 tribute to Top Nelson in Baltimore, MD on April 26, 2014, Clancy wrote a letter to Top Nelson which was read at the event.



Continued on the next page

"TOP" NELSON—FEATURE CONTINUED

In his letter Clancy wrote, in part-

"We celebrate and salute you for your service to our Nation and legacy to our unit. You planted seeds in our warriors that flourished into mission accomplishments. You showed them how to face danger with courage and honor. You knew the right things to do and taught them how to achieve the important things. Our soldiers would follow you in to the deepest valleys of tough times. We became a 'band of brothers' in the Vietnam War.' Top Nelson, I thank you for teaching us how to take care of each other."

You lived a prominent life, Roy. Thank you for the wonderful camaraderie we shared with you.

God bless you,

Clancy

C. G. Matsuda

Colonel, U. S. Army (Retired)

Top Remembered

By Howard Munn, E Company LRRP, Vietnam 1967

It was August of '67, the week of the 20th. Evidently the fixed wing "sniffer" had detected an increase in heat coming off the earth in this small area. It was in the Long Thanh province about 15 miles from Bearcat. I did not go on many missions because I was running part of our school preparing cadets for MACV RE-CONDO School. I guess most of our teams were occupied because I was selected to be the assistant patrol leader. As you know, this put me at the rear of the team as we moved through the jungle in search of what might be there. If my memory serves me, I believe two of the team members were Tom Kloack and Jerry Fairweather. I don't recall the other two.

Sgt. Nelson had received the approximate location on his map and without any problem directed us right into the edge of it. For me it was very frightful. We had crossed narrow paths that showed recent usage and then we were looking at men engaged in conversation. We could hear others working at cutting or chopping trees. It was obvious this was an occupied base camp of some size. I was glad when Sgt. Nelson indicated we had seen enough and were leaving because I was afraid I was going to puke my guts out. Then as we crossed a path, everyone in front of me stopped and I was left in the middle of the path. Panic was setting in and for the first time in my life I literally felt the hair on my neck and arms stand on end. I could see for some distance in both directions and out of fright, I pushed Fairweather (I think it was him) so hard that the collisions of the other team members was like dominoes, except nobody fell down. Probably why I wasn't selected for any more missions.

Maybe Charlie never knew we were there. I expected to hear or see them behind us at any moment. Sgt. Nelson stopped many

times and looked each of us in the eye and it gave us confidence that we would reach the LZ we all longed for, especially me. We went through some swamp areas and over a couple of inclines but ended up right where we were supposed to be. I am not sure August was the monsoon season, but it was raining so hard my floppy hat wasn't keeping the rain out of my eyes. This may have been the mission where the chopper pilot determined he had to set it back down in another LZ because of the weather. Maybe Tom or Fairweather could remember.

I am totally convinced that without Sgt. Nelson's skillful maneuvering and calm control of the situation, I might not be here today. He said he knew where we were and where we were going and damn if he didn't.

Back at camp he showed the officers in the debriefing where the base camp was and when they doubted him he told them he knew where he was at the time and he would bet his stripes on it. They were some surprised when they asked him how many stripes would that be and he told them. I think the results of that mission and his handling of the team and the debriefing afterwards brought recognition and respect for our outfit to a much higher level than previously.

In retrospect, I wish I had spent more time with him after 'Nam. I saw him at the Houston reunion and we went out to eat a couple of times, but it is my loss that we did not spend more time together.

War Story: Recollections Of A LRP First Sergeant
By Roy D. Nelson

It has been almost 30 years since I first arrived in Vietnam in 1966 as the Operations NCO of the 9th Division cavalry squadron. I have since come to realize that memories fade and history of units are diminished forever by the failure to record the stories of first hand experiences. It is for this reason that I have written the following. May it encourage others to do so also.

I joined the 9th Infantry Division Long Range Patrol (LRP) at Camp Bear Cat in March 1967. I had recently had a personal conflict with my Squadron Commander and was summarily reassigned to the LRP as a First Sergeant. The unit had been attached to the Delta Troop of the Squadron during its building and training phase. It was less than a platoon in strength and lacked the weapons, radios, compasses and other equipment necessary to carry out patrols. Since there was no TOE (Table of Organizational Equipment) for this unit, it was difficult to acquire the basic equipment, but somehow we prevailed.

In the interim we trained, got physically fit, ran missions and searched for volunteers while we tried to develop confidence and veracity with the divisional operations staff. *Continued*

“TOP”NELSON—FEATURE CONTINUED

The process involved weeding out the unqualified and determining who had what it took to lead the patrols.

My intention as First Sergeant was to teach the same fundamentals taught by the MACV Recondo School at Nha Trang and to instill the basic instinct of survival in each and every LRRP who volunteered for the company. I've always subscribed to General George Patton's philosophy, "You don't fight to die for your country, you fight to make the other SOB die for his country." For some reason it made a lot of sense to me. I strongly believed that you could do this job without getting decisively engaged with the enemy.

We formed five man recon teams, and sometimes went out with only four men in the Mekong Delta. By July 1967, we had formalized as the 9th Infantry Division Long Range Patrol (LRPD) and were assigned to Division Headquarters & Headquarters Company. We had grown to over 100 enlisted men and five officers. We had even constructed our own compound with semi-permanent wooden barracks along the perimeter wire near the 90th Replacement Company at Bear Cat.

As we became more proficient at what we did, I began to realize that the LRRPs were not necessarily the best persons or the finest soldiers. They were men who were just the best at what they did. They had to have patience and a good instinct for survival in the type of covert warfare we were involved in. They also had to have the ability to accept danger and hardship without succumbing to the stress that went along with it. They were good at what they did and they liked it. Some of our best LRRPs extended their tours, and not all of them made it home.

My recollections include working with the Australian Special Air Service (SAS) in Phouc Tuy Province. I remember we had a team in contact with a VC unit, and the team was trying to break contact to get to their extraction site. I was with the CP at Nui Dat with the 1st Australian Task Force when we got word to provide a reaction force for the team. The Hueys were ready to go when we arrived at the pad. I personally selected the LRRPs I wanted to go. When I turned around I saw two new men, who had just arrived in the unit that morning. They were aboard the Hueys, and trying to avoid my gaze. I knew then I had made a good choice during the selection process – they had the “right stuff” to be LRRPs.

The Australian SAS were hard drinking, hard fighting soldiers. Their methods of long range patrolling were different from ours. When they made contact with the enemy, they attacked with everything they had. They carried those heavy 7.62mm FN-SLRs (Self Loading Rifle). Their rationale was to make the enemy break contact by disrupting his ability to go on the offensive. If they ran low on ammo and grenades, they threw rocks or anything else that was handy. A lot of the SAS were veterans of

fighting communist insurgencies in Malaya and other hot spots.

The U.S. Navy SEALs were another wild bunch. They operated in the Rung Sat Special Zone and were something else when it came to taking the war to the enemy. The Rung Sat was a series of salt water swamps choked with mangroves. The SEAL teams did not maintain radio contact while on patrol. They were a little crazy – maybe even demented – but they got the job done. They remained with the same team during their six-month tours of duty, and I believed this was a real boon to team integrity. They were highly skilled and well trained, and had the best equipment. I really like the Stoner Weapons System the SEALs used. It was deadly in close combat. We picked up a lot of our camouflage jungle fatigues from the SEALs, uniforms we couldn't get from the Army. I didn't envy their AO (Area of Operations) though – too much water. They were normally inserted and extracted by water, utilizing a number of river patrol craft such as the PBR, which were low-draft boats, water jet driven and very fast.

I remember returning once from a mission on board a Huey helicopter. My team had spent a day and a half avoiding VC units actively looking for us. We had managed to avoid firing even a single round, although enemy soldiers had been firing warning and signal shots throughout our AO. We spent the last night listening to VC movement all around us as they searched for us with flashlights. After all the anxiety and stress from being too long in close proximity to danger and death, the tension was broken on the return trip to Bear Cat when one my team mates leaned forward and took the tape off the face of my military issue wrist watch and yelled in my ear, “We'll get back in time to watch Combat on the TV.” It was just another way of coping with what we endured on these missions. Part of my job was to observe the individual and team training of the unit and accompany the teams as an observer to critique the methods and results. Gradually we gained a good reputation with division. But it was difficult to overcome their natural animosity against elite units. We had to develop a “believability quotient” just to sell our results to the people at division G-2. Many times I had to listen to staff officers remarking at a debriefing that there were no VC in an area just patrolled by a LRRP team – it just being nothing but “LRRP Bullshit”. Gradually, our results were believed when a follow-up Arc Light strike or a ground unit sweep verified that the enemy was indeed there.

As we got better at what we did, we expanded our horizons. We operated with the US Navy SEALs in the Rung Sat Special Zone; we stirred up the Plain of Reeds; we scouted out the defoliated areas of War Zone D; and even invaded Toi San Island (VC Island) to cut the VC's lines of communication.

I led the first LRP teams in to the Plain of Reeds and on to Toi San Island.

Continued on the next page

“TOP” NELSON—FEATURE CONTINUED

These actions probably alerted the local VC of the small unit activity in their areas. One of my team leaders led a team on to “VC Island” during a night insertion. They had no sooner dismounted from the landing craft than the VC opened up with machine-gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades. The Navy crew ducked for cover and backed the landing craft away from the bank. The LRRPs on board returned fire using the mounted machine-guns and their individual weapons. I remember one LRRP burning the barrel up on a .30 caliber light machine gun at the bow position. Fortunately, no one was injured and the team was able to be safely extracted. This response to enemy fire was instinctive and not ordered by anyone. This is another example of these kinds of men.

In spite of all the mundane requirements of soldiering, we still found time to enjoy our free time. Remember, combat is 99% boredom and 1% pure panic. So we took full advantage of the breaks in mission and preparation. We had our cookouts, beer drinking, resting and ferocious “touch” football games. These games sometimes became more “tackle and get even” events than football contests. I was a young First Sergeant and participated in the games, taking my lumps and bruises without complaint. I can recall no instances of personal dislikes among the member of the unit. At least none were brought to my attention. We had the usual rabble-rousers and guardhouse lawyers in the Company. For the most part, we were just too worn down. I had gone from 180 pounds on my arrival in Vietnam to 150 pounds when I rotated out.

This unit eventually became Company E (LRP), 50th Infantry (Abn) on 20th December 1967, and later Company E (Rgr), 75th Infantry (Abn) on 1st February 1969. The unit suffered 26 KIA, including one MIA, during its tour of duty in combat.

So much for my initial misgivings as to the survivability as a LRRP. Apparently, the General Patton philosophy had some effect. There were no KIAs during my tenure as First Sergeant.

I had personally forecasted that a company reunion could probably be held in a phone booth rented from AT&T. I was wrong.

I remember some of the unit NCOs and those who came as privates and grew quickly to NCO rank. Soldiers such as Elbert Walden provided the early guidance and training that formed this group of men in to a cohesive results-oriented unit. Others were Sergeants Hilan Jones and Robert Hernandez, and a host of others long since not remembered, but never forgotten. The officers provided the buffer between us and the higher echelons. They kept the unit reputation intact and even built on it. Clancy Masuda, the commanding officer, and I were reunited at a company reunion in 1993. Every time I attend a reunion I come across someone who reinforces my fading memory.

I have met some of the wives and children of those young warriors who served themselves and their country so well. I will always be proud of them.

The following is by George L. Skypeck, soldier, poet and historian:

SOLDIERS

*I was that which others did not want to be.
I went where others feared to go, and did what others
failed to do.*

*I asked nothing from those who gave nothing, and
reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneli-
ness...should I fail.*

*I have seen the face of terror; felt the stinging cold of
fear; and enjoyed the sweet taste of moments love.*

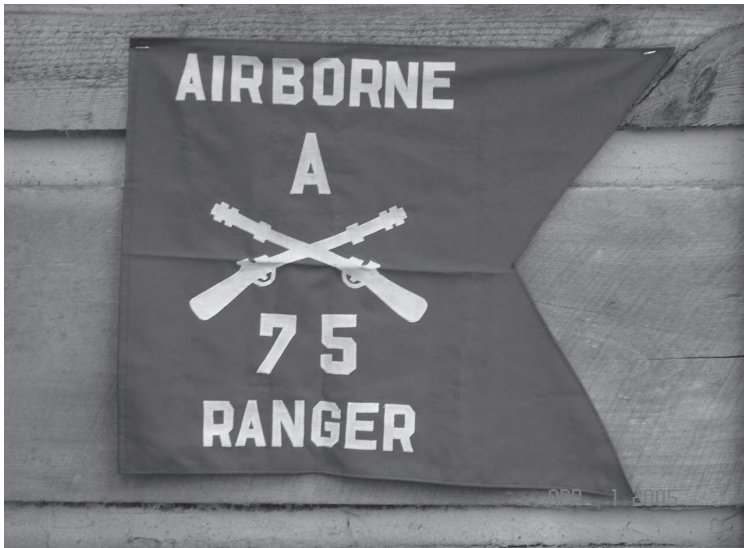
*I have cried, pained, and hoped...but most of all, I
have lived times others would say were best for-
gotten.*

*At least someday I will be able to say that I was proud
of what I was...a soldier.*

The above poem explains how I feel about the LRRPs I had the honor and privilege of serving with during those days, which will never be forgotten. In the future, if I ever have to walk in harm's way again, I hope I am with those “special men” of days gone by.



A Company Ranger Reunion 2019



Calling all former members of Company 'A' 75th Ranger and units of its ancestry, 3779 RECON PATROL COMPANY, V CORPS LRRP; and D/17 LRPS. 2019 will be the 45th anniversary of the stand-down of Alpha Company in 1974 with some of its members going on to form the present 1st and 2nd Ranger Battalions of the 75th Ranger Regiment. Maximum participation is requested at a rally to commemorate this occasion. Saturday, 14 September 2019 is the date and 280 Possums End, 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!

CRITTER COOKOUT 2019

The 5th Ranger Training Battalion will once again host its annual Open House with live demonstrations of hand-to-hand combat, Ranger Patrolling, insertion and extraction techniques by helicopter and military free fall parachuting as well as military mountaineering. The US Mountain Ranger Association (USMRA) will conduct its **Fish Fry** on Friday the afternoon/evening of **26 April** at the Overhang NCO Club on Camp Merrill. The **Critter Cookout** will be on **27 April** after the Fallen Ranger Memorial ceremony and recognition of Ranger Planning Bay honorees and award of scholarships. Last year over 3000 people from the local community and as far away as Washington State were in attendance. Members of several Vietnam era Ranger units have expressed their interest in attending again this year. We welcome all Rangers, Ranger families and friends of Rangers to join us in celebrating our brotherhood and honor our fallen comrades



while enjoying the fellowship. 2019 Critter Cookout tee shirts will be available for sale at the NCO Club.

Also there will be a Raffle Drawing of numerous prizes that include several firearms, a cross bow and a handmade knife. Raffle tickets cost \$10.00 each and are available from members of the USMRA.

As a reminder the USMRA is a non-profit 501c(3) organization and operates solely on donations to continue our mission to support the Ranger Community. If you would like to donate or purchase Raffle Tickets, please mail your tax deductible donation to:

Robert K. Suchke- USMRA Treasurer
PO Box 201
Dahlonega, Georgia 30533

or by PayPal to: donate@usmra.org

WHAT'S YOUR FOUNDATIONS MADE FROM?—JILL STEPHENSON

The “Three Little Pigs” is a classic nursery rhyme most of us are familiar with. Three little pigs each build a home and are immediately threatened by a hungry wolf who wants to eat them. As the story reads, the first two were lazy and didn’t want to work hard to build their homes. They chose straw and sticks as the material, which allowed them to finish quickly and spend the rest of their day singing and dancing. The third pig worked hard all day building his house with bricks, making it strong enough to withstand powerful winds. When the wolf comes after all three of them, he huffs and puffs and blows the first two houses down. Those two pigs narrowly escape and seek shelter in the house of the third. The wolf exhausts himself trying to blow the brick house down and becomes angry. He climbs onto the roof to sneak down the chimney, but falls into a boiling pot of water and the three little pigs eat him.

There are multiple parables in this tale. The first two pigs hastily decide against a sturdy foundation so they can have more play time. Their decision makes them vulnerable and nearly costs them their lives. They are saved by the wiser pig, who traded his free time for the assurance of a firm foundation, which kept them safe. This not only saved all three of them, it provided them nourishment they were at risk of becoming at the expense of the wolf. The wolf didn’t believe he could be outsmarted and got lost in his own self-indulgence. He then became the very meal for the pigs he thought he was about to make of them. Last weekend a friend and I went to lunch in a rural area not far from where I live. On the way, we passed a large lake that was spotted with ice fishing houses and pickup trucks parked around them. This sparked the conversation that we both had a fear of walking on the ice, even if we could see 100 trucks parked on it! We both grew up in Minnesota, where almost every child has walked on a frozen lake at least once. Neither one of us had done so in years and agreed we were okay with not doing it any time soon.

Over lunch we talked about overcoming fears and facing the unknown. Our thoughts went back to the frozen lake. We came to the conclusion that walking on a frozen lake was comparable to trusting the unknown. Our eyes lit up and we excitedly agreed we should go back to the lake and walk on it - together! This would be better! We could link arms and support each other. Fifteen minutes later we had parked in a small lot next to the lake. A woman just so happened to be walking towards us from the lake. In fact, she was still on the lake when I spotted her. As we readied ourselves with mittens, sunglasses and courage, the woman reached her car, which was a few steps away from mine.



Before we stepped into our brave boots, I wanted to ask her how far she had walked. She said she had gone almost half way across and volunteered the fact that the ice was fourteen inches thick. Seeing pickup trucks parked on the ice was not enough for either one of us to have braved a walk on the ice, knowing the depth of the ice didn’t matter either. But, that was before. Now that we were about to take what felt like a maiden voyage, having the knowledge that the ice was more than a foot thick did give us an extra sense of security. For early January, the temperature was mild making for favorable conditions to be outdoors on the lake. The sun was shining and sparkled on the clear ice patches where

the snow cover had melted from the warmth of the sun. “A bird sitting on a tree is never afraid of the branch breaking because her trust is not on the branch, but on her own wings”. – Anonymous

We gleefully glided our boots across the ice. We shrieked in anticipation of how quickly we put distance between ourselves and the shore. Before long we were nearly halfway across the lake. When we looked around and realized this, we both felt a brief sense of unsteadiness, (although we knew it was in our heads). We also agreed we were satisfied with what we had accomplished and turned back towards the safety of the shore. We were overcome with excitement and took a longer route to revel in what we had just done. We were energized by the shining sun and the above average temperatures. It felt good to be out there. We intentionally walked towards two people sitting on lawn chairs, ice fishing in the wide open. With the enthusiasm of young children, we exclaimed that we were on the ice to overcome our fears and all had a good laugh. When we got back to my car, we gave each other a high five and breathed a sigh of relief to have solid ground back under our feet. Fear kept me from walking on the ice. I was afraid because ice is simply frozen water and it can be broken. I was afraid of falling through. I do realize when there is fourteen inches of ice between my feet and the water below, there is nothing to worry about. My focus wasn’t on the thickness of the ice, it was on the water, the part that can’t be walked on (unless you’re Jesus or Peter). The sunshine and warm weather distracted me from focusing on my fear and I managed to hoof it around that frozen lake for close to two miles. Not a marathon by any stretch, but it’s a start. My faith is my foundation. Having this firm foundation to rely on has been essential for my survival. There have been times when my foundation wasn’t so strong and I succumbed to whatever might have been tempting or causing me any sort of strain.

Continued on the next page

WHAT'S YOUR FOUNDATIONS MADE FROM?—JILL STEPHENSON

I was like the first two pigs in the nursery rhyme. I wasn't willing to work hard for the sake of my own protection and fell apart under insignificant circumstances. I learned over time that putting forth efforts to be prepared for the worst was an investment worth making.

Each adversity I've faced has deepened my faith. I still have fears, but I know they are not real. Walking on the frozen lake was more than overcoming a fear. It was a confirmation that I can trust in that which I cannot see. It was almost exhilarating to change my fear into an action and overcome it. The source of my faith was not the ice, it was the foundation between my feet and the water. The source of my faith was surrendering to it, and gaining the freedom I did to delight in something I once feared. Straw, sticks or bricks? Water or ice? What is your foundation built from?

If you don't stand firm in your faith, you won't stand at all. Isaiah 7:9

"Be sure to put your feet in the right place and then stand firm".
-Abraham Lincoln



Jill Stephenson— Leader, Speaker, Motivator, & Gold Star Mom

RANGER NEEDS INFORMATION

I am a Viet Nam Veteran (BDQ Advisor) who has been diagnosed with a clear cell carcinoma of a salivary gland at the base of the tongue. A clear cell carcinoma of any type is a rare cancer. I have applied for disability, but this type of cancer is not a presumptive cancer. I am looking for additional Viet Nam Veterans who have been diagnosed with a clear cell carcinoma in any part of the body. If you or any Viet Nam Veteran you may know has been diagnosed with a clear cell carcinoma, would you please contact me. I would greatly appreciate it.

Karl Fee

262-210-2625 or 262-210-2849

karl.r.fee@gmail.com

NEW 3RD BATTALION UD

Tony Mayne is an 18-year Army veteran with service in 3d Ranger Battalion as a rifleman to squad leader from 1999-2003 and in the 75th Ranger Regiment's Headquarters as an Air Operations Officer and Public Affairs Officer from 2012-2017. He is active in the planning for this year's Ranger Rendezvous with activities that include the Ranger Expo, Witness to War interview documentaries, and The Darby Project's annual Ranger Veteran Leader Awards. Upon retirement in 2020, Tony and his family will relocate to Columbus, GA.



PATROLLING YOUR HEALTH

Overview: Veterans today have a wide range of quality services and free resources available to them, if they

just know where to go, don't become frustrated with bureaucracy and adopt the attitude of caring for themselves rather than assuming someone else is responsible. The Veterans Administration (VA) functions through three separate and distinct organizations. It operates the nation's largest integrated health care system called VHA (Veterans Health Administration) with more than 152 Medical Centers and 1,400 community-based sites of care, including hospitals, community clinics, community living centers, domiciliaries, Vet Centers and others (www.va.gov/health). It struggles to keep up with the times, current technology, Veteran demands and the politics out of DC. It is light years ahead of when my father, a WW II Marine Veteran, struggled with an adversarial VA system that left him more frustrated than assisted. Nor is it consistent in its application of policy throughout its VISN (Veteran Integrated Service Network) regions, 21 throughout the country. Local directors have in excess of 600 measurable criteria they must report on quarterly not to mention employee unions that always seem to be nipping at their heels. Congressmen who are not Veteran sensitive continually want to slash the VA's budget in order to take care of their own priorities to ensure re-election. Each director must run this gauntlet on his own the best he can. Yes, it can be a hassle, a frustration and even “triggering”, but I know a lot of Vets, including myself, who prefer VA services over private sector because they are much better UNDERSTOOD when it comes to their health challenges. Let's take a broad look at how YOU can better manage your own health care through a combination of both public and private resources .

Veterans Health Administration (VHA): Any person who has served in the active military for a full tour of 24 months (variable) and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable may qualify for VA Health Care Benefits. “The VA is **changing its approach to health care**. Rather than focus solely on treatment of a disease or injury, we are shifting our attention to promoting the overall health and well-being of our Veterans and employees. The Whole Health System considers the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and environmental factors that contribute to quality of life. It asks Veterans to focus not only on what ails them, at present, but to **consider the big picture**: What matters most to the Veteran? That is, what is their core motivation in being healthy?”

Once this vision is established, the Veteran will work alongside a personalized VA NorCal **Whole Health Team**. This team includes their VA health care team, trained peers, well-being teachers, coaches, and community partners. Veterans begin by completing a **Personal Health Inventory** and develop goals in keeping with their personalized health plan. Central to this effort will be the **Whole Health Partner**, a trained, Veteran peer who will help Veterans navigate the Whole Health System and point them toward the services, locations, staff, and resources they need to understand the program and reach their goals.

The Whole Health Team will also help Veterans decide which

wellness, self-care, and **complementary treatments** might be a good fit. These might include **acupuncture**,

biofeedback, massage, meditation, guided imagery, hypnosis, yoga, Tai Chi, or chiropractic care. Realizing health care isn't a one-size-fits-all endeavor, innovation will be key to personalized care in the Whole Health System.”

Learn more at <https://www.va.gov/PATIENTCENTEREDCARE/index.asp>.

Veteran Benefits Administration (VBA): <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/about.asp>. : This is the second leg to the VA, the one that provides disability compensation along with other financially related benefits, **totally separate from health services**. There is often VBA representation on a VHA campus which sometimes can be confusing since there is no working relationship between the two; VBA is simply co-located for convenience of the Veteran making disability claims. More specifically, VBA provides the following services: Compensation; Pension & Fiduciary; Insurance; Education; Loan Guarantee; Transition & Economic Development; Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment (VR&E); Field Operations; Appeals Management Center.

National Cemetery Administration: The third leg of the VA, Cemeteries focuses on maintaining national cemeteries, graves location, burial benefits and related areas of interest.

Link: <https://www.cem.va.gov/st>.

Vet Center (VC) Readjustment Counseling Services: Include direct counseling, outreach and referral through 300 community-based Vet Centers located in all 50 states, DC, Guam, Puerto Rico and American Samoa. Vet Centers are focused on combat vets, MST and first responders to include drone operators. They do family counseling that the VA doesn't. VC records are supposed to be invisible to the VA. Staff is comprised almost entirely of combat Vets compared to the VA's 35-40%. One of the biggest differences is that VC's are community-based, they feel like home and are not in any hurry to patch up Veterans and get them on their way; a Veteran can stay whatever time it takes over the years to heal. VC's do not have psychiatrists on staff nor are meds dispensed. Counseling services focus on root issues and address the false beliefs that have been created around the military combative experience. VC's also provide holistic/alternative approaches that the VA may not be authorized to offer. Their counseling records are accepted equally to those of the VA for compensation and pension purposes. I have utilized VC services now for more than ten years and heartily support their efforts.

Veteran Service Office (VSO): Representatives from various Veteran Fraternal Organizations and local County offices offer the following forms of assistance so you don't have to process a claim alone and in the dark:

- Service-Connected disability claim & Compensation Benefits
- Non Service-Connected Disability Pension Benefits
- Widows Benefits
- Burial Benefit Reimbursement *Continued on next page*

- Aid & Attendance
- College Fee Waiver Program
- Veterans Status Verification Form
- Veterans ID Card
- Requests for Military Records

Private Non Profit Organizations (NPO): There are many non-profit organizations whose sole function is to assist Veterans get help and navigate recovery at no cost, whether at a clinical or social level. National organizations like PGA HOPE (<https://www.pgareach.org/services/military/>) and Healing Waters Fly Fishing (<https://projecthealingwaters.org/disabled-military-veterans/>) offer free instruction along with numerous local outdoor activities and are great points of entry to meet new Veterans, do something new or different and possibly start the recovery process. I recently got involved in both organizations, learned how to fly fish, met some great guys, improved my golf game a little and even recruited another professional golfer into HOPE’s ranks. A few months ago the new instructor couldn’t wait to give me feedback about a Veteran he had instructed who started out in black sweats, hooded cover, full beard, no eye contact, sunglasses who sat by himself for most of the six week’s worth of lessons. The next season the same Veteran was sitting in the front row, arm wrapped around a buddy smoking and joking. As soon as he sees his former instructor, he jumps up, gives him a big bear hug while whispering in his ear, “you saved my life” – it’s happening every day to Veterans just like yourself; you just need to take the first step. Other national networks like Volunteers of America care for homeless Vets, offer on site counseling and provide interim housing and employment along with basic job training. Some VA’s manage a master list of these resources, some don’t, luck of the draw.

Here are the top ten reasons Veterans do not use the VA. If any of them resonate with you, chances are you are making excuses for not taking that first step. I’m not saying there won’t be some challenging moments along the way but I can’t think of another group that is individually more capable of taking on a “personal” challenge than an Army Ranger – pretty soon you’ll find yourself on a new team that will be tackling the most important mission of your career – personal health & wellness.

1. I don’t trust the Government
2. I didn’t know that I was eligible
3. I am not eligible
4. I don’t want to go through the red tape
5. I don’t know how
6. I make too much money
7. I was denied after the war
8. Don’t know what to apply for
9. I can’t prove that my health problems are service connected.
10. Other Veterans are more deserving.

Registration Process: I strongly recommend that every Veteran

reading this article enroll immediately with the VA whether you need health care services or not, for the following reasons: 1) You may need services in the future under emergency circumstances and you will already be in the system, thereby preventing a hassle when it is least needed 2) New policies and entitlements are continually updated which may benefit you and/or family members, especially if you are determined to be 100% disabled.

3) You become familiar with the system before you need to navigate it which is nothing less than conducting sound recon before a mission – a stress reducer. 4) You need to have a VHA ID card to avail yourself of VA services around the country – get it NOW. 5) Family members need to know how to navigate the VA as well, especially since they may be the ones escorting you in time of emergency or appointment.

By way of anecdotal experience, let me relate a case which I’m sure will be applicable to at least one reader. Two years ago my wife, a travel agent, had a Veteran client come to her attention with the comment that he had contacted the VA and was told over the phone that he probably was ineligible for treatment and not to bother coming in. I contacted him immediately, confirmed his Veteran status, reviewed his medical condition and history of treatment, recognized that his cancerous condition might be Agent Orange presumptive (automatic disability entitlement, as are most Veteran cancers) and escorted him over to the Mather VA to get him plugged into the system. Within 90 days his case had been reviewed and he was awarded a 100% disability rating, a benefit of approximately \$3,000+/month coupled with spousal and family benefits. The system is working better and faster than ever before; it has even developed a fast-track process for special cases, which his qualified for.

This article was not meant to provide detailed information on the VA, you can pick that up in the links according to your individual needs. It was meant to reach that one Veteran who has been reluctant to check into the VA who needs it and will definitely benefit. I hope I’ve reached that single person. And officers are the worst ones for refusing to acknowledge they need help along with those that “made it through without any problem” – no one survives Ranger operations unscathed, it’s just a matter of time, degree and denial before a crack occurs. It’s only a matter of time before the demons begin to dance, whether in the form of sleepless nights, “trigger moments”, anger outbursts, avoiding the public, being an adrenalin junkie, addictions.....(PTSD), cancer, diabetes or any number of other issues that result from battlefield “trauma and toxicity”. Do yourself and loved ones a favor, check into the VA and let a professional make an assessment of your condition – you might be pleasantly surprised how things unfold. Life can become sweet and enjoyable again, at any age, if you simply take that first step and then hang in there. There are plenty of resources along the way so you don’t have to do it all alone.

Good luck.
Harrison Jack

VA APPEALS TRIFECTA

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

APPEALS MODERNIZATION ACT WENT INTO EFFECT IN FEBRUARY 2019

The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 is effective February 19, 2019. Under the new law, any Veteran who receives an initial VA claim decision after February 2019 can choose from three, easy-to-understand review choices. All three choices provide Veterans with faster resolution of disagreements with VA decisions.

The new law will:

Modernize the current claims and appeals process

Include **three review options** for disagreements with decisions

Require improved notification of VA decisions

Provide earlier claim resolution

Ensure you receive the earliest effective date possible

What are the new options for review?

You have three options for review:

Option 1: Higher-level Review

Your claim is reviewed by a more senior claims adjudicator and involves:

A higher-level de novo review (new look) of the decision

No submission of new evidence allowed

The possibility of overturning the decision based on:

A difference of opinion

A clear and unmistakable error

The reviewer, who identifies or learns of a duty to assist error, can return the claim to the regional office for correction. You or your representative can request an informal phone call to identify specific issues.

Option 2: A Supplemental Claim Lane

You can submit or identify new and relevant evidence to support your claim. VA will provide assistance in developing the evidence.

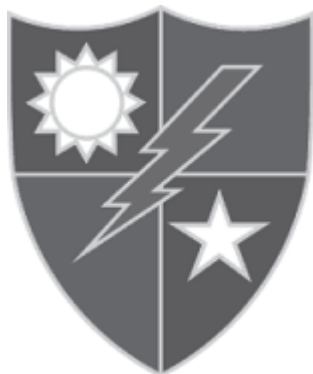
Option 3: Appeal Lane for Appeals to the Board

This option allows you to appeal directly to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. You can choose between three options:

Direct review: You have no new evidence and do not want a hearing.

Evidence submission: You have new evidence, but do not want a hearing.

Hearing: You have new evidence and want to testify before a Veterans Law Judge.



MERRILL'S MARAUDER

By Jonnie Clasen

A bill -- H.R. 906 -- seeking to award the Congressional Gold Medal to Merrill's Marauders for their 1944 service and sacrifice in the China Burma India Theater was reintroduced in January by Congressman Peter King from New York with major cosponsor Congressman Sanford Bishop from Georgia. Senator Johnny Isakson from Georgia is expected to reintroduce a companion bill soon in the Senate with Senator Edward J. Markey from Massachusetts as major cosponsor. **Please be looking for an update in the next issue of "Patrolling."**



1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL ACEBES

Ranger Golf Tournament held in Savannah on 10 November. A great time was had by all attendees. (and all for a good cause).

Hinesville Police Department Assistant Chief of Police Major Lloyd Slater was recruited for the 1st Ranger Battalion at Fort Benning, and in July 1974 jumped out of a (perfectly good) C-130 aircraft and landed in Fort Stewart, GA. Congratulations! Slater joined the Hinesville Police Department in 1986 and was recently (October 2018) promoted to his present position.



Major Lloyd Slater

11/25/18 Pittsburgh Steelers kicker Chris Boswell finds his offensive tackle, Alejandro Villanueva, for a 2-yard touchdown on a fake field goal (against the Broncos). Villanueva is a former 1/75 Ranger.

Ranger Ball 19 December. General Tony Thomas was the guest speaker. He had “the boys” all fired up; especially when he conducted the “first annual best hair” contest. Ranger punch was a hit also. General Thomas is a former Commander of 1/75 and is now the 11th Commander of US SOCOM.

Confirmed by the Senate on 22 December 2018: Lieutenant General Richard D. Clarke, United States Army, for appointment to the rank of General and assignment as Commander, United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida. He is currently serving as Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, J5, Joint Staff and Senior Member, United States Delegation to the United Nations Military Staff Committee, Washington, DC. General Clarke served as 1st Battalion Commander and



was also the 15th Colonel of the Regiment.

Col. Bill Ostlund As an 18-year-old Soldier, Ostlund graduated from Ranger school and joined the 1st Ranger Battalion earning the scroll he has worn on his arm ever since. The day he arrived at 1st Battalion, the unit jumped into Grenada as he waited for them back home. COL Bill Ostlund is currently the Director of Military Instruction at the U.S. Military Academy, and will retire following a 36-year Army

career at the end of February bringing to an end what he refers to as his “decades long passionate affair with the Army.” At the end of February, Ostlund will take off his Army uniform for the final time, and rise the next day with a new life ahead of him. He will then have the chance to mourn the Soldiers who sacrificed their lives and time to work with his family to heal the scars of a life divided between them and a commitment to his country. Ostlund said “when we lose a Soldier in combat, they are forever young. We are going to remember them as this young vibrant paratrooper. At the height of their life, that is how they are preserved in history. There are probably worse things than that.”

Check on your brothers – Too many taking their own lives - Ranger breakfasts everywhere – Look for one in your area.

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



General Thomas

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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES



Here we are in another year. I hope all had a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year's. Don't forget all those New Year's resolutions you made and promised yourself "this will be the year".

From Roy Bissey and Jim Savell on the planning of the reunion in Waco this September:

So, here is the current plan as Jim and I see it. Saturday the 14th of September is a non-football day for Baylor University so hotel rooms should be readily available around that time. Jim says that his son owns a large property in the Waco area where we could gather for an all day event to include just about whatever activity (except anything to do with the discharge of firearms) we want. The term "WE" includes folks from the predecessor units of A/75, the 3779 Recon Patrol Company, V Corps LRRPs, and D/17 LRPs. Families are welcome and Jim kept mentioning a four story "bounce house" with a waterslide. The few responses I received when first mention of this reunion was made indicated that people were mostly interested in assembling with old friends, teammates, bar brawling buddies, ranger school classmates, etc. to visit (lie) about the past 45 years. This would require very little planning or capital outlay. Jim would arrange (his words) for a catered bbq for which we could pitch in a few bucks apiece, we could invest in a keg or three of beer and plenty of ice to keep it cold in the Texas heat and shoot the shit with whomever we wanted. Bring your own bottle of whatever poison you prefer and pass it around. According to Jim, the place has a swimming pool and cabana (that's not a word in my Wyoming vocabulary), pool table, four wheelers and some other amenities I've probably forgotten. In other words, a big one-day party.

Everyone planning to attend would be responsible for their own lodging and make their own determination of how long to stay in town. Jim did say that there is plenty of room to pitch a tent if you want to camp out. If you want to show up on Friday, make the party on Saturday and leave on Sunday, it's your decision. If there is still more visiting to be done or someone is interested in making a trek to Fort Hood just to see what it looks like now it's your call. For some it would be a long haul for a one day fling but it might be worth it if you got to catch up with old friends. I personally prefer this simpler approach because it limits the burden on planners and negates the need for soliciting large sums of cash to pay for stuff. Heck, we were all pretty good at entertaining ourselves (and others) 45 years ago and that probably



has not changed much.

Roy has been doing some serious internet searching and has found a lot of lost souls. Eddie Sanders, Thomas Roman, Rick Altman, Martin Czaplá, Dale Hansen, Lt. Roy Adams, Lt. Jim Halvorsen, Tomas Rodriguez, Chris Rivers, Bradley Lofton, Mike Stevens. Quite a few of which have expressed interest in attending. Unfortunately, he has also found out we have lost a few along the way. Roy has mentioned a missing man table we can all hoist a beverage to while we're there. Talked with Jim Savell on the phone one day and he said he was "fine as frogs' hair". He shared a story from his time in V Corps HQ Company, not the V Corps D/17 LRRP Company. In 1966 Jim had orders for SF school, but instead was

sent to Gibbs Kaserne and then to Edwards Kaserne. He was assigned to the training section at the time. In 1967 he said "someone" came up with the idea for D/17 to run an escape, evasion and survival class on the HQ Company. Something about Unit rivalries. A mandatory PT class was scheduled for Saturday morning only to turn into a road march and ambush. The POW camp portion lasted for 4 hours, with less than a stellar performance from the HQ folks. Jim said there might have been some minor injuries like broken ribs, arms, black eyes. At the end of the day, there were calls from Congressmen, the Stars and Stripes newspaper and even reporters from the US inquiring into the "training". Several Officers received Letters in their jackets, several including Jim were reassigned. Jim went to be the NCOIC of the Unit Police aka Gate Guards. Shortly after, Jim reenlisted for Jump School and finally got to SF school and on to Viet Nam. Ron Kiser called me about a typo in the Patrolling Magazine and he remembered hearing about the incident. It was good to talk to Ron, he is alive and well in the Nashville TN. area.

We received word right after Christmas that Pete Rothrock's son, Scott, had been killed in a traffic accident on I-44 outside of Springfield MO. Some will remember that Scott had a battle with cancer as a young man and spent a lot of time at St. Jude's in Memphis. Please keep the Rothrock family in your thoughts and prayers.

This issue will probably come out around the time we gather at the Hilltop in Tennessee. Always a great time to gather around the campfire and pop off a few rounds on the 400 yard targets. Everyone take care and stay safe. If you find an old lost soul from our Company's lineage, invite them in and have them share a story or two.

That's it for now.



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—MARC L. THOMPSON

VII CORPS, C/58 LRP, B/75

Greetings and Salutations:

Hello again, fellow Rangers, LRRPs, and Jayhawks.

Well, don't know about the rest of you, but we had a real nice ice storm here earlier in the week. It has been a strange winter so far. Today it was 56 degrees here in Pennsylvania.

The people I feel bad for, though are all you folks in the Midwest and Upper Midwest who were dealing with the forty below temperatures... That's Northern Warfare Training Center weather!

PREVIOUS ISSUE OF PATROLLING

I "received" the last copy of Patrolling in the mail in a separate USPS envelope.

The contents of the envelope were the cover page (front and back, with the address label). That was it.

No other pages were included, so I have no clue what actually made it into the magazine.

I just realized that this is the fifteenth year I have been doing this Unit Director thing. So... I'm making an appeal to all "youse guys" ...

Send me some material. Send me photos. Send me money (ha... just kidding – gotcha!)

At the very least, call me and tell me things so I can write them down and put the in the magazine.

REUNION

Check elsewhere in the magazine or on the website for the most current reunion information, I don't want to spend additional space here

FOUR AGREEMENTS

I was recently reintroduced to The Four Agreements...

They are supposedly derived from ancient Toltec wisdom, translated, and updated.

They are utilized in the practice of Psychology.

1. Be impeccable with your word.
2. Don't take anything personally.
3. Don't make assumptions.
4. Always do your best.



I had to chuckle actually... why? Because if you look at those for things carefully, they essentially embody the precepts inherent in The Ranger Creed (as well as many other "rules for life").

So perhaps there's a commonality running through all human experience that produces simillare rules...?

PHOTOS FROM ZEKE EVARO

Received two photos from Zeke to include in this issue.

First:

Zeke Evaro , Lloyd Cain and wife Katherine met for a short re-union In NC., this past November just before Thanksgiving. (Photo Below)



LRRP COMPANY PROP BLAST HELMET

ZEKE SAYS:

Many of you who were in the unit early in the 60's will remember this helmet resting in the War room S-3 briefing room.

I would like to donate this piece of our history to the Ft Benning Museum for safekeeping for years to come.

I will take suggestions, but will not let it go unless I am assured of its proper care and safekeeping.

(Zeke enclosed a photo of the Prop-Blast Helmet... resting in a place of Honor In Zeke's dining room in King, NC).

Thanks - Zeke

Continued next page including Zeke's Photo

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

HEALTH AND WELFARE (Sick Call)

Leo Starkey:

Started a new workout regimen at the gym (first time in 13 years) to get back into shape, courtesy of his insurance company. The rest of us should check into whether your insurance company will take care of that, if that's something that tickles your fancy.

Greg Phillips:

Greg is recovering from treatment for prostate cancer, and seems to be doing well.

(If you're on Facebook, you can check his page for updates).

Ranger Voyles:

John Henry, likewise, continues his battle to recover from cancer treatments.

Jack is still battling stage 4 squamous cell carcinoma, but hanging in there. He called with a sitrep, and sounded chipper!

Tony Harley:

Checked Tony's FB page... looks like he's doing well on his recovery.

Bill Walter:

Bill continues to recover from cancer, and has improved significantly. He also has a Facebook page.

I have grown ever-more wary of putting contact info in the clear on anything which will appear on the web. If you do not have contact information for any of them, please get in touch with me and I'll provide you with the necessary info.

HEARD FROM: (in no particular order)...

Stan Harrell, Zeke Evaro, Jose Zapien, Richard Stutsman, Bill Walter, Ranger Voyles, Tommy R. Wright, Jim Broyles, Alfredo Moncayo, Sr., Willie Mack, James W. Ardwan, Lynn Thompson, Greg Phillips, Jeff Rice, Don Bruce, Steve Murphy, Bill Mathiak, Chuck Straehl, Neil A. Lofgren, Ricardo Torres, Robert "Skip" Robertson, Tom Forde, Bob Wolstrum, Leo Starkey, Dirty Eddie White, Richard Stutsman, Dennis Lucas, Curtis Christopherson, Gary O'Neal, and Mike Moser.

Until next time...

Respectfully,

Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director



VII Corps LRRP

**Patrolling: Spring 2019 Submission
Feb 15, 2019**

All right, you Ding-a-lings, listen up! I realize the weather where most of you are is a tad annoying, but you chose to live where you are, just as you chose to go Airborne! So, grab your Mickey Mouse boots, an extra pair

of socks, parka, air mattress, and your rucksack and be ready to weather the storm.

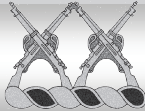
By the time you receive this update, you should be packing your rucks for our 2019 Ranger Rendezvous at Ft Benning/Columbus GA, July 8-12. You won't need any of the above for July in Georgia, so there's no need to bring the above. Beds will be provided, assuming you register in a timely fashion. C-Rations and MREs will not be provided, but an M-1 or M-14 might come in handy. Those intending to muster at the Best Western Plus on Veterans' Parkway include CSM Dave Clark, SM Zeke Evaro, Bob Vanasse, Sam Storey, Sgt Tom Forde, Steve Lengel, His Honor, Judge T. Oliver Ivey, Gene Kaufmann, and myself. I suspect that Fat Back, Whup Ass, and probably Eacker, Touchon and Straehl might show up, but where there's a Rod and Gun Club nearby might encourage them to miss formation.

In other stuff, sick call is a necessary evil facing those of us who will, as MacArthur put it, simply fade away. From Kirk Gibson, this news that Pete Hartford passed away unbeknownst to us. I didn't know Pete as best I can remember, but some of you might have. His passing was not recent. Kirk found out by chance while passing through Washington. On the other hand, The indomitable CSM Clark is overcoming his broken leg, Free Fall Storey is fighting his brave heart, SGM Zeke is still nursing his shoulder, even though he had me carrying the radio generator, Bob Vanasse is still trying to recover from what I thought was Agent Orange Hee-Bee-Jeebees that caused him to lose 35 lbs after two + tours in the jungle. Other than that, it should go without saying that you guys have lost the art of communication with me, not that you were ever really effective with it. Maybe I should try writing this in code.

Well, guys, I'm not one inclined to bull shit, unless I've had one too many, so I'm closing this missive out, except to remind you that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, so change your worthless ways and recover the LRRP in you. Watch what ya eat, move, and check in with a doc once a year. Medicare is all ya need and its never too late to keep the shekles rolling in! Oh, and PS, seriously consider making this year's reunion. Money is not your's to be concerned if you're hurtin' a tad; we'll get ya three hots and a cot. Just let me know.

'Til then, hasta luego.

Pfc Foster, VII Corps LRRP Assoc, Presidente



C/75 - E/20 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOE HAYES

FEBRUARY 2019

I start with sad news. Bill Johnson passed away August 3, 2018. Donna and I received the news in a Christmas card from his wife, Marilyn. Those who were at the 2017 reunion might have noticed that Bill was a little wobbly on his feet. Talking to Marilyn a few weeks ago, she explained that he had water on the brain. Last May he had an operation to insert a shunt to drain the water and he was doing quite well. August 3, Bill went down to the basement and on the way up, he fell back and hit his head. Marilyn is doing ok. She said that she relies on her faith, and family, and friends in Schenectady NY.

Bill was 71. He came to E/20 from the 101st. I'll Remember Bill as a friendly, gentle man, whom was a pleasure to be around.

Marilyn is the same. They were made for each other.

Marilyn & Bill Johnson

Both will be missed as a couple at future reunions; but I hope Marilyn will make it down to another reunion. I enclose a photo of Bill and Marilyn. It is a picture of a picture so I apologize for the quality.

So, I had almost a ninety-day leave when I returned from Vietnam in January 1972. I didn't have to report to Ft. Bragg until May 7. The leave became an exercise in filling time. Mom and I had a lot of good conversations. The beautiful spring weather came to Michigan and my best friend Doug, with whom I was inducted into the Army, was home, on leave from Germany. We got to spend some time together catching up on old times. One day he wanted to see an old high school buddy, so I tagged along, and was introduced to Freddy Lowe, who was a good guy; easy to get to know and like. He asked me about Vietnam – just questions of interest and conversation and I answered as best as I could. Freddy's Mom came home. She already knew Doug, but I was a new face so Freddy introduce me; "Mom, this is Doug's friend Joe Hayes. He just got back from Vietnam." Mrs. Lowe was Asian. We exchanged greetings and then there came a question from right out of the blue. "So did you have to kill any children?" I can't remember giving an answer. If I did, I don't know what it was. All I remember is the awkward silence between the four of us, which seemed to last longer than it actual-



ly did. Freddy said something to diffuse the situation – something like, "He's home on leave to see his family for a little while." Mrs. Lowe said "I'm glad that you are home safe with your family." I thanked her and Doug took the cue to exit stage right. I was ready to get to the 82nd.

I

I was assigned to Headquarters Company 7th/60th ADA (air defense artillery). We were located on the northeast end of Ft Bragg, near the cemetery. My platoon sergeant's name was Louie A. MacRae. If you've seen the movie *The Blues Brothers*, SFC MacRae could have been the twin brother of actor Charles Napier who played the part of country singer Tucker McElroy who, you will remember, was the guy

chasing Jake and Elwood in his Winnebago. MacRae was a career soldier. I admired and respected that. We got along to a

point – as long as I kept his coffee cup full. I got along better with SSgt. Bill McCarron. He went back to WWII. He wasn't airborne, but here he was in the 82nd. SSgt McCarron kind of took a liking to me; maybe because I was from Michigan and his daughter lived in Grand Rapids, and he considered Michigan home. Nobody called him a leg. Mac was just kind of there. He had his own desk in the orderly room. He smoked – he drank coffee (he always got his own) – he went to formation and he went home at the

end of the day...to the room at the end of the barracks where my locker and bed, along with fifteen other guys, were.

It was good to have SSgt McCarron there. He looked out for the guys. He made life a lot easier. He'd come out before going to bed, in his boxer shorts and t-shirt, smoking a cigarette, no dentures, and talk to us 19 – 20 year olds like we were his kids. He was old (56) but we didn't care. He was a cool guy. And then he'd say good night and go to bed. I asked Mac one time what he was still doing in the Army. His answer was that he couldn't afford not to be – Alimony. I also asked him what he was doing in the 82nd. He said that the Army didn't know what to do with him or where to put him. There was a long version, but I can't remember the exact story.

Continued on the next page

C/75 - E/20 LRP

I drove through Fayetteville in the 90's. I couldn't believe the transformation. Fayetteville didn't look at all like the Fayetteville that I remembered from 1972. I remember being warned to watch yourself if you went downtown at night. Bill Davis and I took a bus down there one night early on into my stay at Bragg. Once was enough! SSgt McCarron seemed to like going down there when payday came. He usually went alone. One Saturday morning Mac came out of his room and when he looked at me, all I could say was "Did you get in a car accident?" His face was bruised and his dentures were missing. He snapped..."NO!" That wasn't like McCarron. "Well what happened?" I asked. Mac just walked down the steps into the head and Sgt. Compston explained to me that Mac got rolled the night before, coming out of the Lucky Saloon, and they got all his money. A little later Mac asked me for a loan. I gave it to him. He was embarrassed – I could tell. The funny thing was that he asked me to keep quiet about it. ABOUT WHAT! – How was he going to hide his face! But I said "OK". The guys that rolled him must have taken a beating too because SSgt McCarron's hand were pretty banged up as well. Mac finally got his retirement. I never saw him again – but I'll never forget him.

Those of you who have spent time at Ft. Bragg can relate to what a beautiful part of the country that it is in. I bought a 450

Honda and that bike was my ticket to freedom. One of the best times of my life down there was riding up to Kitty Hawk and then down the Outer Banks and then returning to Bragg. There were the many weekend trips to Myrtle Beach. In late summer of '72 Loretta Lynn gave a concert at the athletic field near our barracks, just north of the cemetery near Randolph and Butner. Jimmy (JP) Purdue remembers that concert. It was a good one. Ft. Bragg, North Carolina was ok in my book.

Yes, there were war games to play, and jumps, and Army stuff to do, but the year and a half passed quickly. I got promoted to Sgt. E-5 and thought about re-upping, but I knew I wasn't a career guy. I processed out on June 27, 1973. I think it was a Friday. I drove home and started Wayne State University in Detroit on the June 30th. I have no regrets of having enlisted in the United States Army. I met people who are with me forever, have seen places and experienced things that I could never have imagined three years prior. Today, when I hear young service folks speak of their service, they will commonly say, "I'd do it all over again. I would too. It was a privilege.

See you in June

Joe

VETERAN CENTERS

Life isn't always easy after a deployment. That's where Vet Centers can help. Vet Centers across the country provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to combat Veterans and their families.

Vet Centers guide Veterans and their families through many of the major adjustments in lifestyle that often occur after a Veteran returns from combat. Services for a Veteran may include individual and group counseling in areas such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), alcohol and drug assessment, and suicide prevention referrals. All services are free of cost and are strictly confidential.

Who We Are

We are the people in VA who welcome home war veterans with honor by providing quality readjustment counseling in a caring manner. Vet Centers understand and appreciate Veterans' war experiences while assisting them and their family members toward a successful post-war adjustment in or near their commu-

nity. If you'd like to send us a private message or have a counselor contact you, visit the Vet Center page on Facebook (www.facebook.com/VAVetCenters) and click the blue Send Message button at the top of the page. Please include your first name, phone number, and ZIP code in your message.





D/75

UNIT DIRECTOR—RICHARD “HERD” NELSON

The old saying “the only thing constant is change” defiantly applies to the modern battlefield. I was reading this morning that the U.S. Army has placed a \$39 million order for tiny reconnaissance drones, small enough to fit in a soldier’s pocket or in the palm of the hand. What caught my eye was these drones look and operate like tiny helicopters, allowing soldiers to see the battlefield, day or night, in order to give an edge during combat. I find that pretty amazing.

I remember in late December 1969, Team 3-3 was on mission in War Zone D with 5 rangers; Steve Johnson and Moe Lamphere were the team leaders, I was the RTO, Lathem and another member rounded out the team. We humped to a location I remember was a good distance from the LZ, and finding a fresh trail we set up to monitor activity in the area. Steve placed a couple of wireless devices on the trail which detected movement and transmitted a beeping noise if vibration was detected to a small control box which Steve had in his possession. Like the new drones of today, I found that pretty amazing to.

It worked so well that we made contact resulting in one enemy KIA, one escaped and we left the area running back to our LZ, ready to call it a day. Thanks to Carl Norris and our pilots, our team was back at Co D Hdq five hours after we had left that day, maybe a record for the shortest mission in D Company’s storied history. Moe would remember that day well because he went out to finish off one of the two NVA soldiers we encountered.

I didn’t mean to relate a war story but after reading about the new drones on the battlefield it reminded me of that mission nearly 50 years ago, I also like remembering serving with good men like Steve Johnson and Marc Lamphere AKA “Moe”. Our NCOs of today grew up in the shadows of those great leaders and men I served with so many years ago, that’s what is great about this country we live in, the veterans who sacrificed for the freedoms we have today, no doubt about it.

I just got news from Herd that Moe has finished a big fencing job in Custer State Park. The park is located in the Black Hills and is the largest state park in South Dakota, named after Lt. Colonel George Armstrong Custer. Moe was relating to Herd how cold it’s been this winter in South Dakota, beauty comes



with a price that’s for sure, and South Dakota is a beautiful state.

Carl is doing well, back in Arizona after a visit to North Carolina to see Barbara, we love you buddy and wish you many more good visits to see friends and family. He also talked about how cold it got while he was in the east.

Bill Fitzgerald (Fitz) and Kathleen are doing well, battling the cold New York winter and waiting for spring. We all miss seeing you Fitz.

Ken and Linda are doing good, living the good life in sunny Florida, wish I were there, buddy.

The Warren’s are all doing well which is a blessing for sure, all the kids are either working or in school, life is good!

When I (Herd) talked with Ed “Maddog” Krause he said he continues recovering from the heart surgery he went through last year. He also said they moved back into their house until the spring. Since the two bedroom house they call their cabin sets on a lake it must get awful cold in the winter.

Frank Park said they did very well deer hunting this season and they are planning to donate some of it to disadvantaged families for them to eat. Since he lives in Pennsylvania it has been a cold winter. His girlfriend Sue has been having some severe back pain since they got back from the South Dakota trip. She has not been able to go home to California, and is currently in the hospital following her back surgery. Please put her in your prayers for a quick recovery.

Tom and Janice Delaney are doing well, and Tom is just waiting for the weather to warm enough to get some fishing in.

As far as how Herd is doing I am still having a good deal of medical issues, mostly because I let my diabetes run out of control, and my Kidneys took some damage.

I don’t know if any of you watched the Super Bowl earlier this month but if you did you might have seen one of the best performances ever by Gladys Knight who sang our national anthem. In my opinion, Gladys Knight was the MVP for Super Bowl LIII for her outstanding performance. Herd and I want to wish each and every one of you a very good and blessed spring, keep your powder dry and we hope to see you on the high ground, RLTW



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—C."JEFF" WEBB JR.

Greetings to all LRRP's & Warrior Women

By the time this issue of Patrolling arrives in your mailbox the vestiges of spring should be sprouting in your gardens and the mighty trees that nature has bestowed upon us. Well that is for most of us except in Canada, think Copeland and in Montana think Leishman.

2019 KASIPPELL MONTANA REUNION JULY 14TH – 21ST

Speaking of Leishman, the 2019 Kalispell Reunion is quickly approaching and all should make plans for reservations ASAP. As a reminder, the reunion dates are July 14th through the 21st and the reunion HQ hotel is the:

Fairbridge Inn & Suites – Kalispell
1701 US Highway 93 South
Kalispell, MT 59901
406-755-6100
Kalispell@fairbridgeinns.com

When making your reservations be sure to mention that you are with the 75th Rangers Reunion. Rates are \$139(Sunday – Thursday) and \$159(Friday-Saturday)



So far Terry has confirmation for the California contingent of LRRPs but that's all. We would appreciate a confirmation for those that plan to attend by notifying Terry at Leishman4@gmail.com or Cell # 406-253-0738 Home # 406-471-1083 NOW THAT'S AN ORDER!

In other reunion news, the 50th Infantry Association and the LRRP Association will be having gatherings this year – please refer to their respective web sites for additional information.

The following submission is a special tribute the E Company's first 1st Sergeant, Roy Nelson, who passed away last October. A celebration of life was held in Arlington Virginia. (Feature Article on Page 14)

Wishing everyone be well and looking forward to seeing all in Montana

Jeff Webb – Unit Director



Not a Tampa Ranger/SF Breakfast– in the "Hood"



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOHN McGEE

The U.S. Army website describes the 75th Ranger Regiment as the U.S. Army's premier large-scale special operations force, which is made up of some of the most elite soldiers in the world. What follows is an account by Phil Mayrand, Sgt. U.S. Army 75th Ranger Regiment, of his last mission in Vietnam.

On the morning of Aug. 5, 1969, Ranger Sergeant Joe Little, team leader and I, assistant team leader, received the warning order for Ranger Team 2-1's next mission. We were to go in "heavy" with an atypically large team of eight Rangers to be inserted on the west bank of the Vam Co Dong River at the "Parrot's Beak." The location was just east of the Cambodian border, about three miles from a 5,000-man strong North Vietnamese Army compound.

That afternoon Sgt. Little and I were flown over the insertion site by helicopter to survey the site, since our night insertion would have poor-to-no visibility. This section of the river was dubbed "blood alley" by the U.S. Navy's "Brown Water Navy" due to the highest level of combat contact for the riverine forces of PBRs (Patrol Boat River), monitors, and swift boats during the Vietnam War. We were inserted by two Navy PBRs in the very early hours of Aug. 6, under the cover of darkness. The designated position for

our observation post and ambush position had been flooded, so we moved back close to the river and set up in an artillery shell crater. After daylight, the team was discovered by a Vietnamese woman and child (likely an enemy sympathizer) that came to set up a fishing net on the river bank just below our position. Having been compromised, we radioed the tactical operations center at Co. F, 75th Rangers in Chu Chi and requested extraction several times that day. We were denied and advised to continue the mission.



Sgt. Phil Mayrand in Ambush Position Mission



Just before nightfall, I was monitoring the radio on the 25th Infantry Division aviation frequency. The pilot of the helicopter gunship said he was breaking contact with enemy personnel because of his proximity to our team. As it became completely dark, we could hear voices and the enemy crashing through the vegetation as they neared our position. Little quietly spread the word to prepare for contact and to wait to blow our claymore mines until he set off the lead claymore.

At the same time, another Ranger team from our small contingent of temporary duty Rangers assigned to the tiny, remote Navy base of Tra Cu, was being inserted nearby on the opposite bank of the river. We did not blow our flank claymores (toward river) so as not to endanger

the other Rangers and Navy riverine personnel. Instructions on the back of claymore mines caution users to stay back 100 meters to prevent backblast injury. Our claymores were 5 meters outside our position. On signal, we detonated them. When a dozen or so claymores go off almost simultaneously in such proximity, it sounds and feels like the end of the world. Our standard operating procedure after initial contact for all team members was to put out 20 minutes of devastating small arms fire (M-60 machine gun, M-40 grenade launcher, 28mm grenades, M-16 rifles, CAR 15's, etc.). Ranger Sgt. Bob Newsom fired his M-60 machine gun to the extent that it warped the barrel. I fired about 20 magazines of ammo with my M-16 until it was too hot to hold even with my olive drab towel wrapped around it. Hot brass from expended rounds was flying everywhere. The noise of the remaining six weapons being fired was deafening beyond belief.

Continued on next page

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

Suddenly, there was a high flash followed by a double explosion. I was up on my knees firing my weapon and was blown to the left. My head was driven into the muddy bank of the artillery crater. Immediately, ears ringing and caked with mud, I crawled to my rucksack and PRC-25 radio and raised the tactical operations center. The Co. F Executive Officer, 1st. Lt. Tomaschek, asked how badly we were hit. I reported that we were hit bad, but I needed illumination to give an accurate situation report. As soon as the artillery battery assigned to us had illumination up, the Navy patrol boats engaged the sappers that hit us. They had lobbed their satchel charge into our position as they ran along the edge of the river. The satchel charge landed between Ranger Sargent John F. Crikelair and Ranger Specialist 4th Class Earnest Heard and detonated some of our own ordnance. Sadly, they both died later that night at the 12th Evacuation Hospital at Chu Chi.

The team was devastated; everyone was hit. Little was hit the worst of the surviving six Rangers. His wounds rendered him incapable of continuing to command Ranger Team 2-1; therefore, the fate of our team was in my hands. In keeping with the Ranger Creed, and with the cooperation of the Navy and Army medevac helicopters, we made sure no man was left behind. After the Navy moved us across river to a more suitable medevac landing zone, the other Ranger team went to our former position to retrieve gear. They found several blood trails of the enemy, but no bodies.

We believe there had been a division level decision not to extract but to leave us as "bait" to draw out the North Vietnamese Army in the nearby compound.

Sgt. Little, Sgt. Newsom, and I were evacuated to a huge U.S. military hospital in Yokohama, Japan to recover. Both Little and Newsom were sent back to military hospitals in the U.S. Unfortunately, Newsom succumbed to Agent Orange cancer in 2012.

I stayed at the medevac hospital in Yokohama for two months to recover. I was re-assigned to Korat, Thailand, for the remainder of my time overseas (I was in Vietnam less than three months). The remaining Team 2-1 members recovered from their wounds in-country and at least two eventually resumed back-to-back three-day four-night Long Range Patrol missions.

How does a relatively small (5'8", 155 lbs.) college student end up in the Long Range Patrol (Airborne Rangers) with the elite 75th Rangers in Vietnam?

During the early to mid-20th century, the Charles Atlas Workout Program promised transformation from the skinny kid who had sand kicked in his face by bullies on the beach into a tough guy that could effectively protect himself and his

girlfriend. In the spring of 1964,

before I graduated from Reynolds High in Winston-Salem, I was that proverbial skinny kid. My pal, Charlie, and I decided not to take it anymore, so we met with the U.S. Army recruiter hoping to become Airborne Ranger Green Berets. One day, the recruiter called my home to speak to me, but my father answered. I was told in no uncertain terms that I was going to college that fall.

Four years later, I was drafted out of college just before I was to finish an Associate of Science in Civil Engineering but was able to talk my draft board into letting me finish my A.S. before being inducted into the Army.

This was occurring just after the Tet Offensive in Vietnam. The evening news was full of Vietnam and stories about war protesters. I was "in love" with my college sweetheart and decided to volunteer for the draft to get my enlistment over in two years. I wanted to be with her sooner rather than the three or four-year commitment from other regular military units. I really had few choices as I was 1A and could not get a job. I naively thought that since I had an A.S. in civil engineering, the worst thing that could happen to me would be to end up as a combat engineer.

In basic training the scuttlebutt was that at the end of training, the worst military occupational skill you could be assigned was 11B - small arms infantry. If you were unfortunate enough to get 11B, the worst training base for AIT (Advanced Infantry Training) was Fort Polk, La., but at least you'd get a short leave before you had to report for training. However, I had tested so poorly as I entered the Army that I ended as 11B, at Ft. Polk with no leave. Triple bad luck!

While I was at Ft. Polk, I made every attempt possible to get out of 11B. I was stuck with that assignment, so I volunteered to go to infantry Non-Commissioned Officer Candidate School (NCOCS). This would allow me the training and rank I desired and could be accomplished within the two-year enlistment. At the end of NCOCS, we had a choice: complete our training by returning to AIT and serving as a platoon sergeant through a training cycle or go to Ranger School. I chose Ranger training because I knew I was headed for combat in Vietnam and I wanted the best possible training.

In Vietnam, I was shipped to Chu Chi, home of the 25th Infantry Division aka "The Electric Strawberry" or officially "Tropic Lightening." I was terrified (I admit I was terrified the entire time I was in-country) as I had no idea to whom I would be assigned. As soon as I got to Chu Chi, I was sent to a transient detachment to await assignment. I was so worried, I went to the base chapel to pray for the best assignment possible.

Continued on the next page

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

As I was walking back into the transient detachment area, someone called my name and I was told to grab my gear as I was "shipping." There was a jeep waiting for me and shortly we pulled up in front of a company area with a sign that said, "Co. F 75th Infantry Airborne Ranger."

When I reported to the commanding officer, he apprised me that he had "volunteered" me for company F, having seen on my personnel file that I was 11B4G MOS (small arms infantry airborne Ranger NCO). In effect he told me "If you don't want us, we don't want you. You have to want to be in the Long Range Patrol." He requested that I remain with Co. F for at least two weeks and go out on at least one mission before deciding whether I wanted to stay. He told me that if I did not choose to stay with Co. F, he would see that I got the best assignment possible.

The commanding officer made it clear that if I chose to stay, he could guarantee two results: First, I would complete standard three-day four-night missions back-to-back for 11 1/2 months (if I survived); and second, I would receive the Purple Heart as we had 90 percent casualties. "Welcome to Co. F, Sgt. Mayrand."

The 75th Infantry had 13 companies in Vietnam, each as

signed to a major infantry division as the "on the ground" division-level intelligence group. At the time I was there, our mission was to monitor and report enemy troop movements, engaging them in combat whenever possible. When we were inserted on these missions, our faces and all exposed skin were painted with camouflage. Everything was silenced for stealthy insertions. Because our tactics were extremely effective, we had targets on our backs. If the enemy troops could bring back proof of having killed a Ranger, they were set for life, with something like a \$2,500 bounty – a veritable fortune in those days for the Vietnamese. We were expensive bait.

I chose to stay. Despite these statistics, the 75th Infantry Rangers had very high morale and esprit de corps as an elite fighting team. We were truly brothers who loved each other. What am I proud of about my service? I am proud of the people I served with. I am proud of the training I received and credit my survival and that of others on Ranger Team 2-1 to having attended Ranger School. Finally, I am proud I was able to execute my duties when the _____ hit the fan.

The war, not so much.



Photo

Mayrand points to his memorial brick at the Ranger Memorial, Fort Benning, Ga., in 2017.

(Mayrand. His awards and decorations include: Silver Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Ranger Tab, Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal Unit Citation, National Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal,



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



Patrolling- January 2019

Steve (Tower) Johnson sent out a reminder a week or so ago reminding those of us who are tasked with writing Unit specific articles that we had 30 days to submit them. I appreciate Steve's Warning Order as things like that often slip my mind without some prodding. When I thanked Steve for his "reminder" email, I advised him that I was on a beach in Mexico getting inspiration for my article. Typically, Unit articles talk about some of the people who have recently been written about, done something good for our unit (E-51st, G/75th) or have passed away. Since I don't have regular information coming in to me regarding those issues, it is easier for me to simply free lance my writings with whatever stirs my soul.

I am a very fortunate person. I believe that most or us are. We are alive (at least I am as I write this) we don't know what tomorrow brings and probably young at heart even if our bodies don't work as well as years past. I read a great article a few days ago and in it, Clint Eastwood was quoted. He had just turned 88 and was asked why he still works hard each day. His simple but brilliant answer was that everyday he tries to "Don't let the old man in." He was simply telling us to not let our age impact the way we act and live. I sometimes find myself acting as a grumpy old man. I now find myself saying out loud, "Don't let the old man in."

Before 2004, I had not done much international traveling; Vietnam, working a 30 day assignment in England, vacation in Mexico and a short trip to Canada was my little exposure to the rest of the world. Between 2004 and 2013 however, I did a lot of work in the Middle East; Kuwait, Iraq, Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey, Dubai, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan are all places I have spent time. Since my retirement, I have traveled in a fair number of countries where you don't get shot at. All of this rambling leads to my real point. There is no more satisfying a trip than to see old friends. That is my true purpose of attending reunions. Of course, you don't have to go to a reunion to visit an old friend, nor does it have to be a pleasant event. I recently saw the last G Company Commander while



a part of the Americal Division; Ted Mataxis (Ted never gets old) and one of the G Company Team Leaders; Clem Lemke, at a funeral. A sad event can still be a meaningful reunion if you don't let the old man in.

Before the start of our Company reunion in Deadwood last year, I spent a couple of days with an old partner from Iraq. Most of us have friends all over the country and if you are going to be close by, a quick visit may make the travels much more fun and rewarding. All of this generally requires an effort to reach out and call or email an old friend to make the coordination. Even if the visit does not work out, the call or email will likely result in a lot of conversation and catching up. Make the effort, make the call and don't let the old man in. Occasionally, when feeling nostalgic, I will thumb through old photos from my military past. If I pull out my "Jump School" book, I see Frank Svensson of G Company and Grady

Thibodeaux (Lima Co and Alpha Co Ranger) beside me and I look forward to seeing both this summer.

OK, it is hot at Fort Benning in July...and humid too. You can probably think of a dozen reasons not to go. But, if you don't you will be missed by others. And, you will miss seeing an old friend that you have not seen in decades and you may never get another chance. Don't let the old man in!



In our current political environment, it is easy to become jaded by the decisive, toxic behavior of others. We still live in the greatest nation on earth so remember how really well off we are. We are in charge of our attitudes and there is nothing more important than a positive attitude. For those of us on the far side of 50, we should start everyday remembering not to let the old man in. So, to help me keep a positive attitude this morning, when I take my bride her first cup of coffee I will put a sticky note on

my mirror that says, "Don't let the old man in." Thanks Clint for giving me this simple reminder for life.



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

PATROLLING WRITER— PETE DENCKER



Fellow Rangers and H Company Brothers,

As mentioned previously - each issue provides an opportunity to give voice to those Brothers who made the ultimate sacrifice

and who are not here to tell their story. The eulogy portion of this edition is devoted to Staff Sgt Tim Harper.

Tim was born and raised in Ceylon, MN, where he worked for his father while finishing High School in 1968. Tim was popular at Ceylon HS where at 6"2" he was an outstanding football player and selected to the All-Conference Team

as a defensive end in 1967 – he also loved to hunt, fish and play golf. Tim knew before high school graduation what he wanted to do during the next two years. The following paragraph taken from a paper he wrote for Social Studies class, says it best;

"I have decided what occupation I will go into. I will be the best in it. When I turn 18, I'm going into the service where I would like to become a Green Beret. When I come out of the service, I'd like to become a technician of some sort. The reason why I have chosen a vocation for sure is I feel I should pick out something I would like the rest of my life. But --first I want to travel."

Soon after graduation Tim joined the Army and completed basic and AIT at Fort McClellan. Looking for more of a challenge Tim opted for and completed Special Forces training at Fort Bragg. After completing his SF training Tim was deployed to RVN in May 1969 and originally assigned to I Company, 75th with the 1st Infantry Division. When the 1st Division redeployed Tim was transferred to H Company where his exceptional leadership abilities and experience resulted in his assignment as a Team Leader. Once at H Company, mission after mission Tim and his team's performance was exceptional. His positive impact on his Brothers in H Company was felt by all – of the numerous comments I received about Tim, one in particular, summed up all the rest

"Tim Harper – what a remarkable young man! I felt that we all



stood in his shadow; at least I know I did. His experience and awards were legendary even at the time I joined the Company.....He will always remain a better man and hero in my eyes."

On the night of February 17th, 1971 while in a night ambush position, Sergeant Harper's Team engaged a large element of enemy personnel moving on a trail in front of their ambush position. During the ensuing battle, Sergeant Harper was severely wounded, and ultimately died of those wounds.

Tim's awards included the Silver Star, 3 awards of the Bronze Medal with "v" device, Purple Heart, 3 Air Medals, 2 Arcom's – I with "v" device, (among other US and foreign awards).



Tim Harper-RIP

A portrait of Tim hung in the Ceylon Public School system and another in the Ceylon American Legion. Now that the school is gone - that portrait, his medals and other of Tim's belongings have been placed in the newly organized Ceylon Museum.

RIP Brother Tim.....

Also mentioned in the last edition was my desire to highlight specific missions conducted by H Company during our stay in the Republic of South Vietnam.

Ranger Team 75, August 1971

On the afternoon of 3 AUG 1971, Team 75 of H Company (Ranger), 75th Inf., of the 3rd Brigade (Separate), 1st Cavalry Division was on a long-range reconnaissance patrol in Long Kahn province. The patrol was acting on specific intelligence concerning a possible sampan docking sight surveilled during a previous mission led by SGT

Jim Faulkner (Also of H Company), a notably successful Team Leader.

The patrol consisted of five American Army Rangers and one former Viet Cong Kit Carson scout. The team included Team Leader SGT Terry Wannish, Assistant Team Leader SGT Daniel J. DeMara, Jr, RTO SP/4 Wayne Okken, Rear Scout SP/4 James Dickman and Lt Mike Davidson.

SGT Wannish was walking point and saw numerous footprints in the mud on the side of a stream indicating a possible sampan-docking site.

Continued on the next page

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The Team located a hide site on the opposite side of the stream in the heavy jungle about thirty feet from the streambed.

Late in the afternoon, several sampans arrived at the docking site. Before dark, the Team counted 120 Viet Cong and/or North Vietnamese Army soldiers get off sampans and make camp near the bank on the opposite side of the stream. A number of enemy soldiers used the stream for bathing. The Team remained in their hide site throughout the night. Shortly after dawn, the enemy reloaded the sampans and left the area.

The Team then crossed the stream and set up a 18 claymore ambush on the side of the stream that the enemy had used the previous night anticipating that another group might come through that night. The Team concealed themselves in the dense brush in the center of their camp area about 40 feet from the stream.

The VC/NVA did in fact return that night in numbers similar to the previous night.

Company SOP was to make comms checks every fifteen minutes over the full time of deployment, day and night. During the night the enemy could be heard speaking in a normal tone of voice, and the Team, concerned about being compromised suspended the normal comms check procedure, opting instead for breaking squelch twice if everything was OK. The Team made a more complete situation report on the morning of 4 AUG after the enemy left the camp site and after the Team crossed the stream and moved back to their original hide site. At the time H Company was OPCON to the (1st Cav) Brigade S-2 and based on the reporting over the past few days, the Brigade staff began preparations to support a possible Team initiated contact that night.

The patrol area—a four click grid square with a surrounding one click buffer zone—was typically outside any US or ARVN artillery support. Air/ground fire support normally came first from an Air Force Forward Air Controller (OV-10 Bronco aircraft, who typically used the call sign “RASH”). RASH was airborne 24/7 and a Team could usually expect fire support within several minutes of a request. Helicopter gunship support from Blue Max 229th or Bravo 1/9th Air Cavalry usually arrived within 10 to 15 minutes. At that time the H Company rear was co-located with Bravo 1/9th at a Thai fire support base (Bearcat), south east of Bien Hoa, and the close proximity of this living arrangement was responsible for an intimate and important working and personal relationship between the Rangers and the 1/9th support units.

As night fell, a pink team (OH-6 LOH and Cobra gunship) was airborne and masked beyond a nearby hill just out of range to eliminate any aircraft noise prior to any impending contact. The Blue Lift platoon of the Air Cavalry squadron, a heavily armed light infantry force, was on standby at the closest fire base. RASH, and everyone else, had the Team’s location plotted. The deputy brigade commander was airborne in his command and control Huey with the pink teams.

As light began to fade, once again a group of at 100+ enemy pulled into the same unload site and began to set up camp for the night. At full dark, SGT Wannish blew the clacker for the claymores located in the main camp area. Several minutes later, there was additional movement by the enemy and SGT DeMara blew a separate set of claymores on an avenue of approach to the right front. H Company SOP was to lie quiet after blowing the claymores to let the enemy think they might have run into an automatic ambush, a technique used frequently by regular Infantry units at that time. As the remaining enemy survivors and wounded began moving in the contact area, the Team used grenades which would not reveal any specific friendly location to the enemy, neutralize any additional movement and at the same time instill fear into any remaining survivors.

At that point the Team’s air support arrived on station. The AF RASH began rocket fire and machine gun fire. Bravo 1/9 pink teams brought in danger close 3.5-inch rocket, 30mm cannon and mini-gun fire. The ongoing relationship and mutual confidence between the Ranger Team and the 1/9th pink teams were instrumental in allowing for this very close-in air support.

After the air support had sufficiently worked the area, SGT Wannish, SGT DeMara and Lt Davidson had just begun to move into the kill zone to review the damage and look for any remaining survivors when the deputy brigade commander in the command and control aircraft, concerned about other potential large groups of enemy soldiers in the area ordered an immediate extraction by McGuire rig. The pink team aircraft were very low on fuel (One of the Bravo 1/9 Cobra pilots later explained that he landed back at the firebase with 2 minutes of fuel on board) and this created questions regarding fire support in the event additional contact materialized.

The Team was extracted by McGuire rig without further incident. The following morning, at first light, the Team returned to the contact site accompanied by the 1/9th Blue platoon as security to see what, if anything could be recovered. Despite the enemy working through the night to remove bodies, wounded and intel, there were approximately a dozen bodies remaining (initial estimates of enemy KIA were multiple times that number some estimates as high as 100+), along with numerous blood trails, body parts and a large amount of material that proved to be of significant intelligence value.

There were no friendly casualties. Sgt Wannish and his Team reported to the Brigade S-2 for a debriefing upon their return to Bien Hoa and subsequently received impact awards for their actions in August 1975.

That’s it for this issue! As a reminder- please work on your plans for the Killeen reunion.

RLTW !

“For those who’ve fought for it.....Life has a flavor the protected will never know”

Pete Dencker, pdencker@outlook.com



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



Philadelphia Bound

Yes, "I Company 52nd Infantry LRRPs" Rangers of the 1st Infantry Division are receiving a Pennsylvania welcome for their 2019 Rendezvous/ Reunion the 2nd week in June (a link will be attached to book reservations directly with the hotel). We have been in contact with Local, State and Federal Officials that want to make certain that our Ranger Outfit is warmly received by the City of Brotherly Love. The entire week has been blocked for the special Ranger Room Rate of \$94.00 (Ninety Four US dollars a night). Registration will start as usual on Wednesday and we will have a Hospitality Suite on the 1st floor to welcome everyone. Some people prefer two double queen beds and others seek a large king size bed - just make your request known when registering with the hotel. Also, it is important to note that if you want to visit early and stay later than our traditional dates the Holiday Inn will respect your \$94.00 Ranger Reservation Rate.

The Pennsylvania State Senate wants to recognize the Rangers with a resolution to be given to each member of our outfit that served in Vietnam. Philadelphia City Council under the direction of Councilman David Oh (a paratrooper that served with Special Forces) is inviting our Unit to City Hall on Flag Day the 14th of June to receive a Resolution for our Ranger services. Note- We have the Betsy Ross House, Independence Hall (where the Constitution of United States was written), The Liberty Bell, The Constitution Center where we will grab lunch, Ben Franklin's grave, the statute of Rocky located at the Philadelphia Art Museum (hoping to get Photo of our Ranger Outfit at that site) , the Franklin Institute, etc. (Note a bus is being contracted for our entire unit on Flag Day- Friday 14th for the Philadelphia tour.) if we have enough interest and or time before the reunion then tours can be arranged for either Valley Forge National Park or Washington Crossing State Park, considered the turning point of the American Revolution. There is much to see and do in Philadelphia and the surrounding areas. PARX Casino and horse race track will dedicate a horse race in our units honor. The Casino is located ½ mile from the Holiday Inn and shuttle service will be available for members wishing to take part in activities. The Saturday night dinner will be a surf and turf at the Casino - we will have a restaurant solely for our evening dinner.

I have used staff to help organize our Rendezvous/Convention/ Reunion. We have carefully placed the date for the most Rangers and families to participate. Consideration was given to other convention/reunions that members attend as well as considering families. We look forward to hosting one of the proudest fighting units in Military History. Yes, our Hall of Fame member stated "that we owned the Jungle" when patrolling in Vietnam.



I want you to feel that you own Philadelphia and the surrounding counties while you visit. You will be History walking in the paths of General George Washington's History.

You can book rooms at host hotel, The Holiday Inn Express in Bensalem, PA. online or by reservations or by calling central reservations at 855-373-2544.

To use the booking link (which is posted below): You can click the link and on the left hand side there will be a booking box that has the text RRR already entered in the Group Code box. You will simply select the date of your stay and fill out the rest of the information and click check availability. This will direct you to another screen where you can select your room type and move on to finalize your reservation.

75th Ranger Regiment Reunion

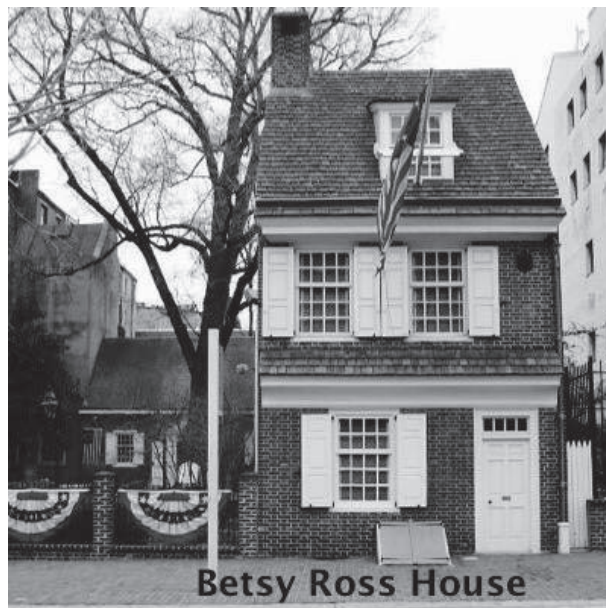
To book via our Reservations System: To book over the phone you can call our reservations system and simply tell them you would like to make a reservation under the RRR block code or for the 75th Ranger Regiment Reunion Group Block. They will be able to finalize and send you a confirmation number.

For problems with hotel bookings, contact Allison Grohovsky Bensalem's Sales Coordinator D: 215 - 639 - 9650.

For additional information or assistance, contact Diane Reitz, event assistant via email: drreitz1@msn.com.

Welcome to my Home Town!

David A. Christian, Unit Director



Betsy Ross House



K/75 - E58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

Greetings to Everyone,

I have had great difficulty even starting this article primarily because I didn't want to go over again the recent news of the passing of several of our Brothers. I have been a bit depressed lately (feeling sorry for myself) and cabin fever. A bit about that later.

2018 was not a good year for K-Co LRRPs and Rangers.

On 3/07/18 we lost our Brother Ken Nelson. 7/17/18 our Brother Russell Temple passed away. On 11/9/18 our adopted Brother Donnie Lail passed away. 12/21/18 saw the passing of Darrell Shaw and Brad Stutz passed on 12/ 23/18. January of this year has also seen the passing of former K-Co Commander Kim Olmstead on 1/8/19, Bob Larsen 1/3/19, and James Finch on 1/19/19. All will be missed.

Brad Stutz and Donnie Lail were special to me in that: Many of you may not know that Brad left K-Co and went over to 4th Aviation as a door gunner. On Aug 19 of 1970 my team was ambushed just off our extraction LZ. Brad and Crew Chief Donnie Lail were crewing the Blackjack ship that came in to rescue us. Without hesitation they both jumped off the ship and ran in to the Hellhole we were in to help carry me out and assist the react team carry out Al Gomez (KIA) Phil Meachem (WIA) and Richard Beam who was the only effective team member during the contact and is "Another Hero" in my book. The last memory before I lost consciousness was lying on the deck in the bloody aftermath of a mission gone terribly wrong, was Brad on his knees holding me in his arms giving me what comfort only a Brother can.

I had bought my airline ticket and was planning to speak at Brad's service in Michigan but as fate would have it that plan went awry the week before when I slipped and fell in the field behind my house, (broke my leg in 4 places) so I find myself confined to the recliner or wheel chair. To say the least I was very disappointed to miss the service, as I wanted his family to know the kind of man he was and what he meant to his Brothers. I want to thank Wayne Mitsch for filling in for me and the other brothers who were able to attend the service.

A short synopsis by Bill Postelnic:

Military Funeral Service was conducted on February 1st for Ranger Brad Stutz at the Great Lakes National Cemetery in Michigan. Family and friends attended. K-75 was represented by Stan Craig, Bob Donaldson, Wayne Mitsch, Kevin Obrien, Bill Postelnic, Gary Shellenbarger and Roy Simpson.

The temperature hovered at 13 degrees with a steady wind and about 8 inches of snow was on the ground. It was Michigan in the winter, for sure. Everyone shivered as the VFW and Patriot Guard representatives conducted the traditional ceremony.

At the completion of the Rifle Salute and Taps, Wayne spoke befitting remarks and concluded by saying, "Some men become the man they are because they served as Rangers. Some men



served as Rangers because of the man they are. I think Brad was both." He concluded with "Rangers Lead The Way!" There was not a dry un-frozen face in the crowd. Wayne did it right!

And Wayne spent much time the night before the funeral and afterward counselling the family, and based on after-action reports he highlighted to them the fact Brad had contact on seven missions. Like a lot of us, Brad didn't talk about service in K-75 with family and friends because he knew that if you have to explain it, they won't understand. And if they understood, you wouldn't have to explain it. The only ones who truly understand are us - Brothers who served.

At the luncheon following the funeral, we began with a toast to Brad, and we drank from Ranger shot glasses, provided by Pieter Winne. He's a youngster who served with the Ranger Regiment in the 80s. It turned into a celebration of Brad's life and sharing of stories, and of course, most of the conversation was of times in K-75. Brad and all men who have passed before us are at The Final Rally Point. They are there before us and we will all Rendezvous with them soon enough. Rangers Lead The Way. But LRRPs did it first.

I thank each of you who were there for a fitting send off. I know the weather was miserable but you did what Brothers do. Now the good part: We as a Unit have expended Over \$3000.00 dollars for funeral expenses, flowers, obituaries, memorial donations, etc. in the past year. Wayne and I decided to put out a call for donations to replenish our bank account. I have always been proud of 4th Div. LRRPs and Rangers for always stepping up to help. Once again you have proven yourselves in your generosity. This from Wayne, our treasurer:

I wanted to let you know that you guys have answered the call! The response was substantial - to date I have received \$5350.00 in contributions. So you have more than replenished what was spent last month. Thanking you is about all that I can offer other than to say that you made several families happy who are very appreciative of your generosity. I'll be sending another note about that. I thought you might be interested to see how the donations were received by dollar amount and the number of donors:

- 12 gave \$100 each
 - 3 gave \$150 each
 - 5 gave \$200 each
 - 2 gave \$250 each
 - 1 gave \$300 each
 - 1 gave \$400 each
 - 3 gave \$500 each
- \$5350 given by 26 guys (27 total donors, one donor was a VFW Post).

As of today, the account balances total \$7,562.03

Continued on the next page

K/75 - E58 LRP - 4TH DIV LRRP

Thank you again! I won't need to call on you again for a long, long time. Just so you know, I do have the accounts reviewed annually and separately by Tom Sove and Roger Crunk. Also, none of these funds are used by me nor Roger for travel expenses to any of the services – that is always paid with personal funds. The accounts are always available for your review – I appreciate your trust but welcome your questions and comments.

RLTW! Wayne

Wayne sent me this accounting on FEB. 2ND. Since then we have received another \$1,150.00 bringing us to a balance of \$8,712.03. What else can I say but WOW!

I'll touch on a couple of more items before closing: Wayne and John Dubois are embarking on another big job for our web site. They will be building a (Those who served) page. We have over 700 names in our database so that is going to entail some long tedious hours. I'm sure there are many more that we don't know about primarily due to lost records, especially the early

Div. and Brigade LRRPs. Lost memory too. When the list is up they will be asking us to look at it and comb our memories for anyone who is not on the list. Remember, this is a big job and will take some time so wait until its completed and go through the list before sending missing names from your memory.

Another project is the KIA list has already been separated from those who have passed since the War for ease of use. As on the KIA page they will be working to find pictures, obituaries, etc. for as many as possible. Chuck Harubin has and is being a great help in that regard. Wayne states that he is way behind in posting pictures. He has over two thousand that need to be sorted, compressed etc. before posting He will be working on that in the next couple of weeks.

So in closing: I really have no good reason to feel sorry for myself. The sun is shining today (I'm going to wheel myself out to the patio to soak it in.) And I have been witness again the power of Love for our Brothers and their families. RLTW Roger



35 Attendees in Savannah-Ranger/SF Breakfast



N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROBERT "TWIN" HENRIKSEN



Members of the 173rd Airborne Brigade - Lrrp/ Ranger Unit. It's been 54 to 49 years since we served in the Vietnam conflict. Our memories of that time in our life is getting lost but with the efforts of some, like Jay Borman (LRRP book author) and some of us, is being recorded for our family members and future generations to read about our service to our country. Thanks to those of you who have shared your articles, stories and photo albums. Over the past 18 years we have accumulated a lot of unit information through emails and materials sent to me.

We still need to find other team members who are not currently active and record those that are deceased. For those members whom have left us, if you are in contact with family members, let them know we as a Unit are there for them if needed. If your contact information has changed, please update it with me.

Thanks to John Blake's sister, Cathy Saint John for sharing her brother's, our team member story below and getting a book published for all to read.

By Robert "Twin" Henriksen - Unit Director

LRP Consolidation At Bong Son

There are others who perhaps know this story better than I. This is my experience of the consolidation of all of the 74th Infantry LRP teams to its headquarters at LZ English a couple miles north of Bong Son, a poor rural town squeezed between the South China Sea and a chain of mountains a few miles inland.

During late 1967, the small unit was spread out from Tuy Hoa to An Khe to Dak To, perhaps a couple of teams operating in each area. The entire unit seemed like not much more than a platoon at the time I joined it in very early January, 1968. An Khe seemed to be the location to which teams would "come home" and I think was considered the headquarters. At least that's where I was sent to go before the board which consisted of most of the team leaders but before my appearance before the board, I'd spent a month or so in Tuy Hoa running a few missions with a lot of the more seasoned guys. During that time, the LRP's were deciding whether I would be given a chance to go before the board and I was deciding whether Long Range Patrolling was for me. It took me one mission to decide. It took a couple more for the team leaders to make their decision. Ultimately, I went before the board, passed and returned to Tuy Hoa. I don't recall if I ran another mission in Tuy Hoa or not but one day SSgt Tony Schoonover told me to pack some stuff, you're leaving for



RECONDO School tomorrow. I had only heard the rumors about the school as the more experienced guys probably set me up with their claims of its difficulty and the enormous drop out rate as well as the disgrace if one couldn't finish. At that time, all new LRP's who passed the board went to RECONDO school within a short period of time after passing the board. Not passing meant being booted out of the LRP's.

I went to RECONDO School with 4 other new guys from the unit. Four of us made it. One didn't. I found it to be as much fun as it was challenging. After graduation, around the first week in March, graduates were told which manifest they'd be on to go back to their units. When it came my turn, I was told the manifest time and number and its destination – Bong Son. What the hell? Not Tuy Hoa or An Khe or even Dak To? I remember thinking I was being

sent to another unit so I challenged the NCO. He said that he thought the 173rd was in Bong Son (he didn't say "LZ English" which wouldn't have meant anything to me anyway). Dutifully, I boarded the Caribou and landed at LZ English. I found the LRP's and someone came down to pick me up. We drove up to LRP hill. It was as much of a dump as Tuy Hoa. It was situated on a little knoll sticking out of the west side of LZ English just above the dump ground. Around the perimeter of the knoll was the 17th Cav although most of their vehicles were parked elsewhere. The Cav had big, sturdy, sandbagged, above-ground bunkers. The LRP's occupied the center of the little hilltop. Like Tuy Hoa, LRP hill was adjacent to the chopper pad. Also like Tuy Hoa, there was a below-ground bunker with overhead protection right about in the center of the top of the hill. Unlike the nice Tuy Hoa bunker that was roomy and relatively cool on hot days more like a LRP family room, the LRP Hill bunker was smaller and solid concrete with firing ports on three sides and the entrance on the 4th side. Only about 24 inches of the concrete bunker was above ground. The French had built it before they were chased out of Vietnam. That became our early LRP TOC at English. It was God awful hot during the dry season and the floor was covered by a boot soaking puddle during the rains. With one's feet in the water, it was always a bit nerve wracking keying the radio or cranking the landline knowing power came from a 10KW generator somewhere on the hill. The rats would come through the portholes in wet weather seeking dry space. I ducked many of them coming through the porthole and using the radios as an intermediate landing spot on their way to the wet floors. Tango had a heyday killing them.

Continued on the next page

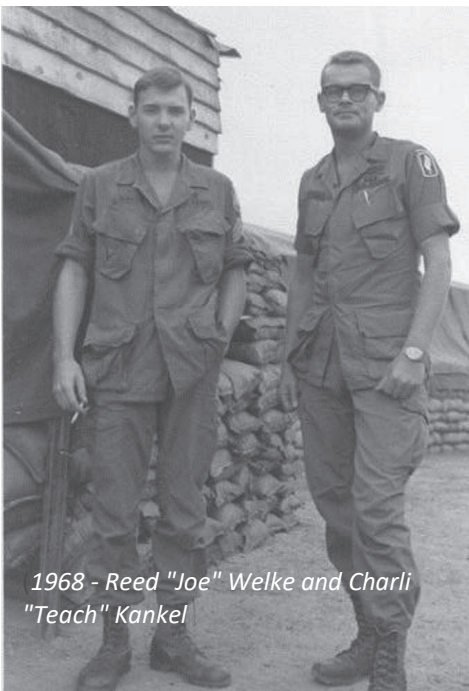
The living space was also ugly early on. Tents on dirt on a

N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

by Reed "Joe" Welke - Team Charlie 1/68-12/68

slanting hillside. The CO and Operations officer had a hex tent on the dirt. The day I returned from RECONDO school, the unit was out of cots. I found one in the junk. It had only 2 out of three of its scissor legs, on one end and in the middle. Fortunately, I began running missions and only had to use it a few times before I got a real cot. We put a few sandbags around the tents but they reached only high enough to protect the rats. During April and May, we were running a lot of missions and there was little down time but what down time we had was spent constructing level, wood floors for the tents. Also during that time, we got the engineers to build some mortar protection for us. A slit trench. Covered and including sand bags. We filled the sandbags, not the engineers. Few of us ever used it even when the mortars would land in the adjacent chopper pad. Too many rats. Safer outside. Then in later May, the build-up began. More men, lots of new guys and much training. No more RECONDO school for all. We even trained a platoon of RVN LRPs in late spring or early summer. During that time, we'd had just about all of the concrete bunker we could take so in early summer, we constructed a new TOC right next to the old French concrete bunker and relocated our operations to it. It wasn't well protected but it was always dry and much cooler on hot days. After "building" a dayroom (tent with level wood floor), the construction efforts became minimal and the building of manpower became the focus and lasted until I left in late December, 1968. It is interesting that prior to this 1968 consolidation, the teams were few and were spread out throughout the II Corps AO. After consolidation, there were still a few LRP missions in the An Khe area and perhaps elsewhere but everyone came "home" to LZ English when the missions were complete. Unbeknownst to me at the time, this period was the buildup to the conversion from LRP platoon to Ranger company in Early '69.

The accompanying photo was taken near the entrance to the



1968 - Reed "Joe" Welke and Charli "Teach" Kankel

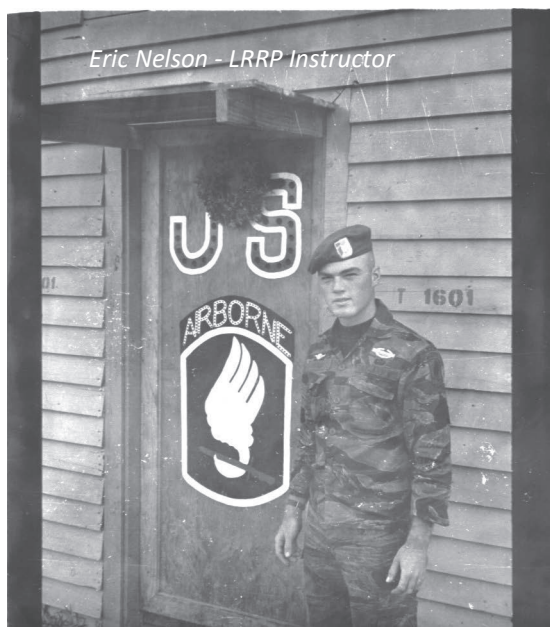
new, above ground TOC. The old concrete, French bunker is just to the left of the new structure as you view it. I've seen very few pictures of the inside or outside of that French bunker and would love to have it if one of you reading this has one. Some of the Rangers I've talked to do not recall it. Robert could use one for the LRP/Ranger history as well.

Thanks.

My Tours In Vietnam

On my first tour '65-'66, I was with the 101st, Tiger Force assigned as the Recon Team Leader for A Co. 1-327 ABN. On my second tour, I arrived in E Troop in April in 67, but they had no vacancies for an E-5 Team Leader but had a requirement to provide a Recon NCO to help the Pleiku Mike Force for a few weeks. I returned to E Troop of days before we left Pleiku, to go to Dak To (late May - early June). I ran several missions at Dak To and then we move to Tuy Hoa in August. Dak To had become a giant mud hole during the monsoon season. Ran several more mission out of Tuy Hoa. In early November 67, I was pulled to run a special mission for Pleiku Mike Force, in an area north of Dak Toa (well north of Dak To near the I Corps border, an area I had operated in before). That mission did not go well, the recovery bird got shot down trying to pick us up. So my team and the helicopter crew, Escape & Evasion for three days and ran into what was left of an infantry company from the 4th Infantry Division, that had been written off. They were lost and out of food an ammo, and on communication. We took them with us to the extraction LZ. By then the LRRPs and most of the brigade had returned to Dak To. We got picked up and flown to Dak To. The CG of the 173rd ABN, sent me to An Khe, to help re-establish the 173rd Jungle School (the Brigade Rear had just moved to An Khe from Bin Hoa). Still assigned to E Troop and the LRRPs but attached to the school as the LRRP instructor. At some point around Feb-March 68, I was officially reassigned to Admin. Co. Support Battalion, to facilitate the processing of a Battlefield Direct commission. I was commission as a 2LT in '68, and initially served as Acting Commandant of the 173rd Jungle School. In late August, assigned as a platoon Leader of "Head Hunter-Platoon" C Co. 1-503d ABN. We operated as an independent platoon most of my time there. I was wounded and sent back to the states in December 68.

In 1970, participated in the Son Tay Raid, with Jake Jakavenko



another early LRRP. I retired from the Army in 1992, as a Special Forces LTC, after 29+ years.

by Eric "Ric" Nelson - Team 3 67

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N/75 - 74TH LRP - 173RD LRRP

Review: Losing Binh Dinh. The Failure of Pacification

and Vietnamization. 1969-1971. By Kevin M. Boylan.

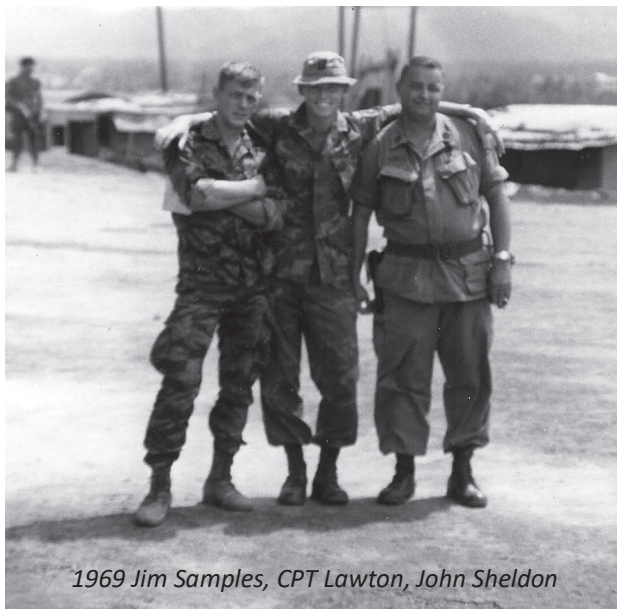
Vietnam: The entire time with November Company Rangers, Hotel Team, always, when we showered every 2 or 3 weeks was great. No hard BMs. Always running, and cleaned out well, it ran our legs and into the drain. Exactly like when we were in the bush walking. Just ran down our legs into our BDUs. then. Felt great. Kinda, squishy tho. We all weighed about 150 lbs. Fine with us! We were Rangers!! 5 foot 11 inches and 150 lbs. for me. Lean and mean, really mean and we lived it, with love in our hearts for the South and us. Always us! We six were not drafted. We all were volunteers!!

It was not always the same six guys. Rotation of troops changed the six in Hotel Team. For the most part , the team was: Kirk, Farrand, Lyons, Blow, and Ramsland. We were an equal opportunity employer for our cherry, Ha. It was an adventure.

By Kent Farrand - Team Hotel 70-71
1971 - Lohmann, Barns, Curtain, Miller, Corey



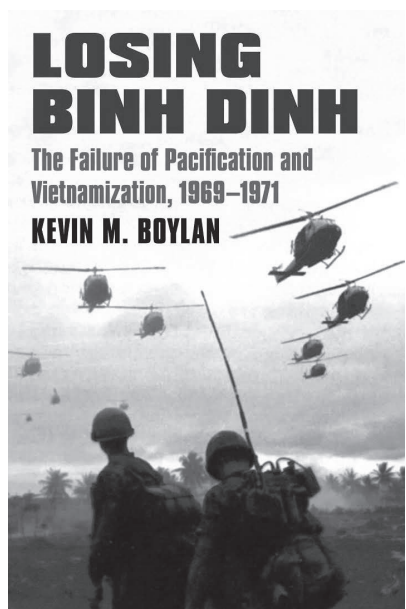
Remembering Member Who Passed Away last May



1969 Jim Samples, CPT Lawton, John Sheldon

Book

For those who served with N Co. at Bong Son during these years, I highly recommend this book if you are interested in what was really happening there. At a reunion one of our former C.O.s, Dick James once marveled, “you guys operated in a very target rich environment.” I now understand what he meant. This is not one of those “I was there” books. The author is a history professor and this is a scholarly study, complete with charts and graphs. What Boylan does is look at the two competing views of what happened then offers his own explanation. The first commonly held view of the war is that it was unnecessary and unwinnable. This view fueled the anti-war movement. The other view is the war was won after Tet 68 only to be thrown away



later by a lack of political will. Boylan does not fully accept the first. He gives credence to the cold war objectives of checking the spread of communism and questions that the war was unwinnable. He cites documentation from the communists proclaiming just how close they came to throwing in the towel. His conclusion is that the strategy of the Nixon administration; “Vietnamization” and “Pacification,” was flawed as the two became mutually exclusive. The corruption and inefficiency of the South Vietnamese

government and armed forces was so crippling that Pacification only occurred when the Americans took the lead. But this made the ARVN even more dependent on US support. So the two plans worked against each other.

The author chose Binh Dinh Province to advance his thesis for a reason. The Province was the birthplace of the anti-colonialist movement, the Viet Minh. The Viet Cong did a good job of high jacking the mantle of the Viet Minh, even though the two had little in common. But the Viet Minh were revered by the people (which is why the South Vietnamese continued to celebrate Ho Chi Minh’s birthday). So Binh Dinh was the heartland of the Viet Cong. The North recognized the people did not have the same feelings about the invading NVA. The 173rd had decimated the main force VC units so the NVA reinforced them to keep them in existence. By 1969 these were VC units in name only being mostly manned by NVA soldiers. But all those people by the side of the road waving as you drove by, they did not like you. Of note is a reference to the LRRP/Rangers of the 173rd as the most effective deterrent to enemy operations.

Dave Cummings



P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—TERRY B. RODERICK

Patrolling Winter 2019

Well it's time again for another Patrolling article. Seems like the time between them arrives much faster than it did before. I don't have a lot of good news for you all I don't think, but I'm going to wing it and see how it goes. I guess the biggest thing I've done lately was attending a "Missing in America Project" event at the new (opened in 2016) Veterans Cemetery we have here in my county. It's called the Cape Canaveral National Cemetery. It's a 318 acre site with 163,000 plots for Veterans who depart. Plus, a large place for cremated remains to be interred. Jerry Yonko was in Orlando, Florida for Super Bowl weekend and visiting his cousin before having a knee replaced the following Tuesday in Mississippi. I'm happy to say his operation went well and he's home recuperating now trying to get ready to attend the Critter Cookout last weekend in April (more on that later in this issue). Jerry and his cousin in Orlando, Mike Wright, a real estate developer there and former lawyer, took the time to alter their plans and drive over to join Rick Polski and I for the 10:00 AM service on Saturday, February 2, 2019. We had breakfast at Cracker Barrel and proceeded to the Cemetery on a warm, cloudy morning.

I know I'm all over the place, but my mind is spinning as I write this. I have to offer this story before I go any further..... Concerning Cracker Barrel..... every time I go by or stop at a Cracker Barrel, I think of Roy Boatman. One year a while back, Joyce Boatman gave Roy some Cracker Barrel stock for his Christmas present because he liked Cracker Barrel so much. It might have been one share of stock. Not sure how much or how many, but when we would stop and eat at a Cracker Barrel together, Roy would always tell the waitresses or waiter that he was one of the owners of Cracker Barrel and he expected good service for that reason. Then he would order his "dead animal flesh" and eggs, and whatever else he wanted when it became time to order. I always loved this and every time I pass one on the road, I always think of Roy and how much he's missed by many of us in this Association who were lucky enough to call him your friend, or Brother in N/75th Ranger. I called him Brother too, even though I wasn't in N/75th, but because he and his family treated me like his Brother and let me into their family. I miss that wild and crazy guy more than you can imagine. Plus, he was the Secretary when I was President of the 75th RR Assn. from 1998-2000 and I let him run it!! Ha! Ha! I did contribute, but Roy knew everything and was my brother in crime for two good years. Ok, now..... back to February 2nd....

The motto of the Missing In America Project is "It's the Right Thing to Do." They go around to funeral homes and crematori-



ums in designated areas and retrieve the remains of veterans that have never been claimed. For this event, they went to these places from Vero Beach, north to Daytona Beach. They came up with 19 veterans of the different services and 6 of their spouses' cremains who had just been left on a shelf, unclaimed by family or loved ones. Some went back to 1974. They held a service for them and each one was honored and put to rest in the most honorable way imaginable. They had a motorcycle escort to the cemetery. The remains, flowers, and flags were brought to their final resting place by a

horse drawn caisson, with a drum and bagpipe band, and Honor Guard. They were then escorted by the Cape Canaveral Ladies, like the ones who serve at Arlington, and a veteran to their final resting place. There were some speakers and a Firing Squad, bugler, and many young groups of Boy Scouts and such and just a wonderful, moving ceremony I'm glad I took the time to attend. Jerry and Rick, Mike, and I all agreed it was something we should have done and we were glad to be a small part of it. This group is supposedly doing this across America and if you get a chance to attend one of these services, I'd say do it. You'll be glad you did when it's over.



Yonko, Polski, and Roderick

Continued on the next page

P/75 - 79TH LRP

An upcoming event is the **Best Ranger Competition at Fort Benning, April 12-15**. I'll be there and hoping my travel buddy, Ted Tilson, will be there too. Of course, my Ranger Daddy, Duke DuShane, will be there too and not sure who else might show up. We expect the Rippetoes and Lynn Towne this year too and they already have their plans in place to attend. I've told you before about the Rippetoe's sacrifice of their son, 75th Ranger Regiment Captain Russell Rippetoe a while back, but you know the pain never goes away for them. They continue to attend and support this event even though they both have health issues that really make it more difficult for them to travel such a long way each year. That said, very few of you have any excuse for not attending... in reality I mean!! I love them dearly. Many of you met them at our reunion in Colorado a few years ago. Lynn Towne? What can I say about this lovely lady? She is the BOMB, guys. The daughter of a WWII Ranger from 2nd Ranger Battalion, who supports and loves Rangers and veterans from all eras and shows it with her love, support, and generosity year-round. We enjoy the events and the camaraderie we share at these events with them. With 3 of us for sure, we know there's enough P/75th guys there that we'll have a great time too, but we'd like to share it with more of you. You don't have to be a Ranger School graduate to enjoy this event. You'll be amazed at the strength, skill, and stamina of these elite Rangers who go through this grueling completion and who come from all over the world from different commands. CSM Rick Merritt has told me before that the Best Rangers are deployed, but these are the best ones that aren't. By the way, CSM Rick Merritt had his Change of Responsibility Ceremony in Seoul, South Korea in late November 2018 after 3 years as the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the 8th Army and is currently in the Savannah area perhaps awaiting one more opportunity to serve our great country (more on him later). Please come and join us.

If not, there's always the **Annual Critter Cookout and Open House at the Mountain Ranger Camp in Dahlonega, Georgia, April 26-27**. This year you'll be able to meet my ex-wife Julie, my husband-in-law Rick Kasprzyk, both my biological daughters, my granddaughter, my adopted daughter from **Eritrea**, Bethiel, and her two sons, (after Duke met her a couple of years ago he called me up and asked me if there was something I needed to tell him? Bethiel had introduced herself to Duke as my daughter and she has brown skin) my niece, Stacy, who many of you met in Cherokee, and two of her former 75th Ranger Regiment friends she met and is bringing who are at Fort Bragg now for their first time, my youngest sister, Christy, a couple of daughter Cindy's friends from work in Charlotte, Gary and Kent Lynch who have been there before, and Julie and Rick's son, Russell and his son, Rory, who have attended before too a couple of years ago (2017 to be exact). Nearly all of them are in the video that my son-in-law Kevin did in 2017 that I've posted via e-mail several times before. They have rented a big house up on Mount Yonah near the camp for the weekend. It's about a 25-30 minute drive to the camp. If you don't want to rough it, there are places you can rent in the area with some fabulous mountain views and

scenery. My daughter Cindy can help you find a nice place if you decide you want to come and not stay in the tent with us. There are motels around too. Stacy and her two Rangers and my sister and her hound plan to camp with us and rough it at the camp. Hoping it don't rain or get too cold for this softie from Florida!! I admit, I'm a whimp up there sometimes!!

Roger Cassidy was in town for a week or so to visit his pal, Rick Polski in Titusville, Florida. Cassidy lives in eastern Virginia and still drag races Ford Mustangs on the weekends with his son. He's got a fancy, computer operated Mustang that looks like a laboratory inside with all the gauges, switches, digital readouts, buttons, etc. inside the cockpit. I think mostly you hit a button and hold on for dear life with that car. I know Polski is happy to have moved to Florida from Minnesota especially after the weather those of you who tough it out in the north had during the late January-early February timeline (Garry and Maria Norton, too).



Top photo— Crowd at the Ceremony; Middle— Horse Drawn Caisson; Bottom— Color Guard

Continued on the next page

I have 1 ¼" lapel pins now if any of you are interested. \$5 each plus a \$5 mailing fee. I know you'll want at least two so you don't waste the mailing expense. I got a note from Ernest Balliet for you guys from the late Dec 1970-March 71 timeframe. He came to us from K/75th like several others did and he lives in Nashville, Georgia now. He recalls being on Stephen LaRock's team and Mike Williamson being the ATL. I'm just realizing how many guys we got from K/75th after he told me that. He said he ended up his short stint with us at a radio relay site in Khe Sahn during Lam Son 719 before he went home. He's been battling cancer for several years but he's still alive and kicking. Any of you who would like to reach out to him, let me know and I'll hook you up.

P/75 - 79TH LRP

Not much else to say I guess except I see where Sherrie

Auten is going on months now of quitting smoking and me being inspired by her somewhat, I completed 3 weeks, February 13th (last night at 8:55 PM). Quit smoking **EVERYTHING** for the time being. I'm feeling pretty good about myself to be honest. I forgot what it felt like to take a full breath in the morning. It was bad for me and I needed to just do it. Now that I have done it, I'll only say it wasn't as tough or as bad as I thought or heard it was going to be. Maybe like giving up your morning coffee for those of you non-smokers out there. The tradeoff of being able to breathe again came to me a mere two days later and I'm over the hump now. I had let an Albuterol rescue inhaler become my mistress, but I've kicked that "bitch" out now!! Ha! Ha! Until we meet again, my Brothers..... I'm outta here!! RLTW !! TR

ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Ranger Hall of Fame Nomination

Rangers, I take great pleasure informing you that we had a nomination for induction into the 2019 Ranger Hall of Fame and the nomination packet has been prepared and forwarded for consideration. This years nominee is 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.

Let's keep our fingers crossed for Bob as he is very deserving of this honor.

Congratulations Bob on your nomination!

Again let me reiterate that I need input from you to be able to assemble these nomination packages. We are not getting any younger and I would like to have as many advisors inducted as possible. So please give this some consideration because without you I can't help.

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 Bui

Forward: I am a former "maroon beret" of the 42nd Ranger



Battalion. I was transferred to the newly formed headquarters of the battalion in May of 1963, until late 1968, when I was transferred to the newly formed 6th Ranger Group.

Ranger Le Ngoc Bui

Second Lt Manh, 2nd Lt. Kham, MSG Nu (battalion sergeant), MSG Tue (asst. S-2), and myself were sent to Trung Hoa training center (Trung Lap, Cu Chi district, Bing Duong province) to for the HQs of the 42nd Ranger Battalion. There were several things that needed to mention about this ranger training center.

It was located at the center of the three VC secret sanctuaries: Ho Bo, Boi Loi, Go Noi. From

west An Nhon to Ben Suc Plain So; a name that the French tried to avoid. The training center usually had two of three separated ranger companies at a time for training, according to the intensity in the battlefields. The center had a section of command and control, a training section, one platoon of rear services, and one platoon of 106 mortars (artillery) which was responsible for all fire support in the area.

During this time, the commander of the center was Captain Tran Dinh Nai, the executive officer was a Captain Hoa (old Hoa), and other officers; Hoa, Cam, Su, Dep, Van, Huong, Hhoi (whom I don't remember). The center also had MSG Diem, who was in charge of the security. Whoever has passed by the center for additional training should not forget the convenience store of the chief of the village of Trung Lap. The owners had two nice and beautiful daughters, Tuyet, and Cuc who went to school in Saigon and were at home on weekends or holidays.

From the center to the national highway 1, there was a dirt road about 6km long to the three-way intersection Phuoc Hiep and the highway, one lead to Trang Band, Tay Ninh Province, the other to Saigon. This dirt road was the principle road to the center therefore it always had mines, booby traps, snipers, and ambushes. The units in the center took turns to clear the road for resupply trucks and communication. The late Colonel Tran Ding Nai (Cmdr) was assassinated and died at the market next to the center during the Tet Offensive 1968.

Nearly four months since the formation, the battalion headquarters included Section 1 (personnel), section 2 (security), section 3 (operation and training), section 4 (logistic, and rear services), Section 5 (psychological and internal security), section 6 (radio communication, with one officer and a signal platoon). One heavy weapons platoon with (2) 81mm mortars, (2) 57mm recoilless rifles, and two 30 cal machine guns and (4) organic rifle companies:

... The 1/42 company was originally know as the 363 Separated Ranger Company that was on operation in Khan Bing Dong, Hai Yen strategic tactical zone (STZ), Ba Xuyen, Ca Mau Province, under the leadership of father Hoa. The commander was 1st Lt. La Quy Phan (later KIA), the XO was 2nd Lt. Vuong Van Tro (latest rank), Colonel Provincial Chief of Kien Giang, Rach Gia.

... The 2/42 company was the 315 Separated Ranger Company that was on operation in the area of Cha La, Cai Nuoc the Province of An Xuyen, Ca Mau. The commander was 2nd Lt. Nguyen Tan Giai, the XO was 2nd Lt. Ho Viet Luong.

...The 3/42 company was the 364 Separated Ranger Company that was on operation in the area of Nam Can, Ca Mau Province. 2nd Lt. Ly Ky Trung was the commander, 2nd Lt Ho Ngoc Can was the XO of the company. Ho Ngoc Can's latest rank was Colonel, Provincial Chief of Chuong Thien and was executed in Can Tho after the fall of South Vietnam.

In August 1963, Captain Luu Van Ca was sent from the Ranger High Command to command the battalion for a brief period. In September 1963, Captain Vo Huu Hanh (author of the book "Vuon Vui Doi Linh" was officially appointed to command the battalion, (while the battalion was waiting to be transported to Duc My, Nha Trang for training).

Because of the needs on the battlefields, all companies of the battalion could not be assembled. During this period, MSG Diem the security officer of the center secretly informed the Ranger High Command that Captain Hanh and his staff officers opposed to the government listening to the BBC channel on the radio and conducted a fast (Buddhist tradition, eating vegetables only). And we had to go to the Ranger High Command two/three times and reported to Major General Ton That Xung, Lt. Col Phan Xuan Nhuan and Captain Due, chief of the security section of the Ranger High Command.

Then Captain Nguyen Phuoc Danh replaced Captain Hanh as the new commander of the battalion. On December 28 1963, the entire battalion assembled at Nha Be, Saigon, ready to go to Ranger Training Center at Duc My.

ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

The battalion arrived Duc My with Companies, 2,3,4. Company 1 was still on operation

in Khanh Binh Dong. First Lt. La Quy Phan was promoted to the XO of the battalion, 2nd Lt. Vuong Van Tro became the interim commander of the company. The 28th of December could be regarded as the birthday of the battalion.

After nearly two months training at the Ranger Training Center Duc My, the 42nd Ranger Battalion returned to Can Tho and placed under the control of the IV Corps. As a reaction force for the corps, the rangers were always on the move. In Can Tho in the morning, in Ving Bing in the evening, then in Chuong Thien on the next morning. The battalion attached to a Province, the 7th, 9th, and 21st Infantry Divisions. Later, the battalion operated almost permanently under the control of the 21st Infantry Division, and the home-base for the battalion, Camp Le Van Luong (To Muoi) located in Bac Lieu.

On the first action day in Can Tho, the battalion clashed with the enemy at the three-way canal intersection in Chech Tho (Thuan Trung district). The VC's Tay Do Battalion pinned down the rangers, and caused some casualties. The commander neglected the recommendation from his Staff and did not know very well the battlefield. 2nd Lt. Giai was seriously wounded, and the battalion captured some weapons. Enemy left behind eight dead VC's. Colonel Cao Hao Hon, commander of the 21st Infantry arrived to inspect the battlefield, and the rangers were sent back for resting. Captain Nguyen Van Biet was appointed to replace Captain Danh as the new commander of the 42nd Ranger Battalion. Captain Biet was former commander of the 32st Ranger Battalion in Phuoc Binh Thanh strategic tactical zone before commanding the 42nd.

(To be continued)

Quote: The right to be heard does not automatically include the right to be taken seriously.

Hubert H. Humphrey

Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director

Ranger Advisors



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

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

75th RRA
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The Association makes donations to each of the four Ranger battalions for the benefit of the young Rangers and their families. We have also established a Gold Star Fund to support our Gold Star families program. If you wish to help out, anytime is the right time. Especially right now! If you wish to pay with one check for any combination of dues and funds, please specify how much is to go to each. Thank you!

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MEMBERSHIP CONTINGENT UPON PROOF OF SERVICE: ORDERS OR NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS YOU SERVED WITH IN THE UNITS LISTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. UNITS MUST CARRY THE LINEAGE OR BE IN THE HISTORY. WE ARE NOT JUST A VIETNAM ERA ASSOCIATION. ALL UNITS OF THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP.

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.



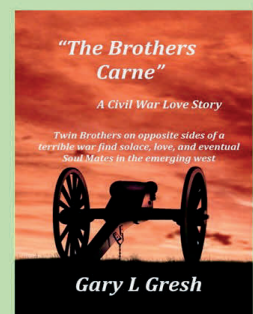
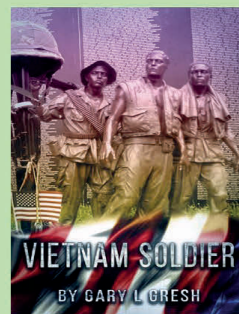
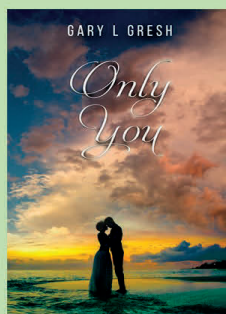
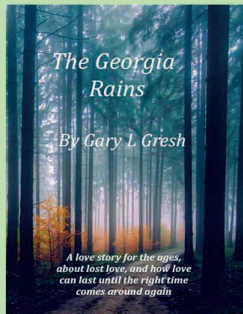
PTSD & MORAL INJURY

THE JOURNEY TO HEALING
Through FORGIVENESS.



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