

# PATROLLING

September 2019 75th Ranger Regiment Association, INC. Volume 31 Issue III



*Sherry Klein and Sheila Dudley  
2019 Ranger Rendezvous  
75th RRA and USARA Banquet*

*Photo Credit/Patrolling –SOJ*



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## Editor's Corner

By Stephen Odin Johnson—Editor

Hello Patriots!

Thank you everyone for your timely submissions for our reading members! I know that I send out a 4 week, 2 week, and a 1 week's notice, but this can be tweaked a bit to ensure that your submission is included in the mix. A suggestion for you would be to sure and get a reply from me saying, "I got it!" Secondly, what I can do for submissions with the 1 week's notice, is to include a list of all the submissions that I have. That way we can make sure that what we sent got there and what I got is a totally complete package of submissions. OK?

Another problem that has happened for this issue is that there are great articles within, but the pages being used by UD's have extended past three pages, especially with a boat load of photos to be included. Please try and limit your unit's submission to three pages of size 10 font. If I get 4 pages of 12 size font I can downsize that to 3 pages with a smaller 10 font. I have to keep *Patrolling* at 48 pages. That's my job and yours too. Right now we are at 52 pages. Not good.

What I can do, or you can request this, is to take into consideration using your article as a feature. There was one or two that qualified as this and 4-5 pages would be no problem providing everyone else is tightening their belt with three pages. Otherwise, if pinched for space, like this issue, I will send back reports to you with having you edit to length or else telling me to do it. Your choice.

Identification of issues of *Patrolling* has been confusing so I am changing the way *Patrolling* issues are identified from seasons (Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter) to months (March, June, September, and December). We will continue to identify issues by I, II, III, or IV with Issue I being the first issue of the year and IV the last issue of the year. Look at the masthead on the front cover and you will see that Volume 31 means that this is the 31<sup>st</sup> year of *Patrolling* and that Issue III means this is the third issue of this year. OK, enough of that madness! I am sounding more like a Rear Echelon everyday!

The cover shows Sherry Klein and Sheila Dudley at the Ranger Rendezvous banquet. Both, like a lot of others in our Association, are contributing to the betterment of the greater Ranger community. Sheila is the first woman to have been inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame during this year's ceremony. Sherry, of course, is the national coordinator of the monthly Ranger/SF breakfasts held across the country!

Thanks again everyone, for your contributions and taking me into the third year as your editor. Read On!

I can still sense my junior high English teacher looking over my shoulder and shaking her head! *Patrolling/SOJ*

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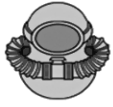
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The Officers and the Editor reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity and space constraints. Every precaution will be taken to preserve the intent and scope of the author. The Officers and Editor reserve the right to refuse any submission that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

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

#### POSTMASTER

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## CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

BY JOE MARQUEZ

Greetings Rangers.

Another Ranger Rendezvous has been accomplished at Fort Benning. It was good to see old friends. As I was considering what to write to my fellow Rangers I found on the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment page of the Army website an explanation of the Ranger ethos contained in the Ranger Creed. "Maintaining a code of ethics, a Ranger philosophy to live by, the Ranger Creed written by Command Sergeant Major Neal R. Gentry would encompass this philosophy and would be the hallmark of the spirit, discipline, and duty of all Rangers in peace and war." It is a high standard. Some might say unattainable by mortals. Yet men have lived and died in the attempt to live up to the Creed. One of the elements of this code of ethics is expressed in this way. "Never shall I fail my comrades. I will always keep myself mentally alert, physically strong, and morally straight, and I will shoulder more than my share of the task, whatever it may be, one hundred percent and then some."

In other words, having a willingness to be responsible to be alert, to be strong and to keep oneself morally straight and willing to work. Yet the current fad in philosophy is to say that ethics are 'flexible' and that it depends on your perspective to determine right or wrong. But surely that cannot be true. I will fail my comrades if I am not alert, or strong or straight, or if I am a shirker. Some of us under the stress of battle have failed in one or more of these areas. But the thing about life is that one can learn from one's failures and be restored to usefulness. My own military career was checkered. I had a Company Article 15 before I got out of Basic Training. I had another during my second tour in Vietnam, both of which were the direct result of disobeying standing orders. Who was responsible for this? I was! Yet at a point when I was offered a Bad Conduct Discharge I thought, I have borne too much suffering to let it all go to waste just to get out of a low time. I was brought face to face with my failure to live up to standards expected of me, regardless of contributing factors and failure on the part of superiors. It was this judgment of my misconduct, reduction of rank and forfeiture of two months pay, I was a Buck Sergeant at the time, which led me to realize that I needed to change my ways, abuse of drugs, a rebellious attitude etc. I was busted in June of 1970. Through reading and making personal application of the counsel of the Bible back at Bragg, I became a Christian in November of that year, started to soldier, and by the following January I was promoted to Sergeant again. Which I kept for the rest of the year until my ETS in December of '71. All this to say that I can identify with a man like the Apostle Peter who, because he trusted in his own power and faithfulness to His Lord would through fear deny that he knew Him three times in one night. Yet some fifty days

later would preach such a convicting message to some of the very ones complicit in crucifying the Lord Jesus, that three thousand souls were converted and added to the infant Church of God that day. (Acts 2) Physical strength is one thing but there is a greater strength available to the believer in Christ as the Savior of sinful men. Psalms 33:13-19 tells us of God the Creator and, if you will, the Inspector General of all mankind.

The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; from where he sits enthroned he looks out on all the inhabitants of the earth, he who fashions the hearts of them all alike and observes all their deeds.

The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength.

The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.

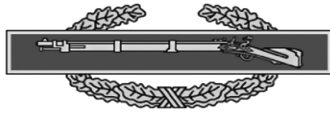
Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his mercy, that he may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine.

God is a constant observer of all our thoughts and ways. This should be a terrifying thing to those who remain resistant to the goodness of God which leads us to repent, to have a change of mind which changes our conduct. We as men have a real problem "humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God." Yet this is the only way to true and lasting prosperity, "that He may exalt you in due time" (1 Peter 6:6). Maybe not in this moment but certainly in the bright future that awaits all those who hope in his mercy as Peter did. Failure forgiven and usefulness restored. This is not just the Ranger way, it is God's Way.

I would hope that this would resonate in many of our hearts who realistically see the need for power to follow the One who fulfilled all that God asked of Him even to the death of the Cross. "Readily will I display the intestinal fortitude required to fight on to the ranger objective and complete the mission, though I be the lone survivor." RLW

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





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

**OUR MISSION:**

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

2. To sustain the Association. To promote and establish *fel- lowship of the Special Operations ranger community by re- cruitment and encouragement of active duty and recently separated Rangers to become members. The association pro- vides a special "No Cost Membership" to all personnel while assigned to the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment.*

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

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE**

**SECTION 2:** Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

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

**SECTION 3:** Long Range Patrol

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

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

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

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

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



**Presidents**

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

**SECTION 5:** Vietnamese Ranger Advisors BDQ

All units of the Biet Dong Quan (BDQ)

**SECTION 6:** 75th Ranger Regiment

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

**SECTION 7:** Long Range Surveillance: Any Long Range Surveillance

Company or Detachment that can trace its lineage to, or is currently assigned to a Brigade or larger element, that was de- ployed to Vietnam as listed in section 2, 3, or 4.

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Vacant

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## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

TOM SOVE

President Barela called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. He made welcoming remarks, then called on Joe Marquez to make an invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Barela called on Crunk to give a Gold Star update. Crunk shared that Sandee Rouse would like to thank Emmet Hiltibrand for calling her to be our Gold Star Advocate 18 years ago. She was not sure she could do it, but it was a god-send for her. She also thanks the Association.

Sove performed a unit roll call. All were represented except Regt HHC, 3/75, RSTB, RMI Bn, BDQ, 3rd Div, A/75, I/75, and O/75.

Barela called for old business; there was none.

Under New Business, Barela described the officer's intent to make two changes to our by-laws. These changes will be forthcoming by the next administration because of the change procedure which requires notice to all members via Patrolling. The first change is in regard to removal of officers for dereliction of duty or malfeasance and Barela read the general description of the proposed change. The second change concerns an error made in the last by-law change, in which the Secretary and Treasurer were limited to two successive terms. It was never the intent to do so, and the suggested change is designed to rescind that limitation to those two positions.

Barela next asked Secretary Sove to give the financial review report, as required by the by-laws. Sove reported he tasked the Financial Committee to make the review, headed by Ed Mateer. They reviewed all deposits, payments, journals, and bank accounts. No deficiencies were noted, except Quick Books does not adequately reconcile ending monthly balances with beginning monthly balances. The review concluded it would be best if the Treasurer changed to a different application.

This was followed by Treasurer Crunk reporting he was not happy with Quick Books and has a list of other programs. He stated it would be easy for him to switch. He requested a motion be made to allow him to make the change. Williams made the motion, seconded by Gunderman, to approve the Treasurer's change from Quick Books. Discussion included personal testimony's regarding Quick Books as well as the need to run parallel systems for 90 days, starting at the end of a quarter. Crunk agreed. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Barela gave notice of two donations he was making to the office of President: a gavel and a plaque of past presidents, both of which were to be maintained by the president.

A question arose from the floor regarding the existence of a CD. Crunk replied it was cashed and reinvested in a money market account, and it was now designated as "Life Funds" in accordance with by-law requirements. John Chester was asked if he knew how much the old CD was, and he replied that after ten

years he has forgotten.

Ron Rucker made a proposal to add the ribbons of recent Expedition and GWOT campaigns to the bottom of our association logo alongside the Vietnam ribbon. The reason is to make the logo more inclusive for the current Rangers and assure them our association is open to them to join. Rucker made the motion, seconded by Roderick, to add the ribbons of Expedition and GWOT campaigns to the bottom of our logo. Nominal discussion ensued, including the reason for the original logo change, adding more color makes the logo more expensive, current Rangers believe we are a Vietnam-only organization and are not sure we are for them, and we need to be innovative in getting younger. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Marshall Huckaby made a proposal via proxy to consider putting a MIA plaque on the missing comrade table at the banquet. Barela discussed the officers met and decided against this proposal on the grounds there is specific protocol regarding this table and we will abide by that.

Barela declared there is no desire to change annual dues, but it has been decided by the officers to add a five-year dues payment plan. A payment of \$175 will extend a membership for five years.

Barela brought up a need for volunteers for the Missing Man Roll Call during the banquet. Sove took the names of McGee, Yates, Bishop, Smith, and Rucker.

Crunk gave the Treasurer's report. He had passed out some Income Statements, but he said these will be adjusted with a transfer of funds from the PayPal account. A motion was made by McGee to accept the Treasurer's Report as given, seconded by Crawford. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Sove gave the Secretary's Report. He thanked those who pre-registered for the reunion and thus made it easier on so many workers. He reiterated the dues reminder envelopes will be sent to all members, including Life Members, as a source for donations. He asked to be notified of changes of address, especially from Life Members. About ¾ of our members are Life, so not much revenue is generated from annual dues, underscoring our need to recruit new members. A motion was made by McGee to accept the Secretary's Report as given, seconded by Gunderman. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Barley gave the Second VP's Report. He has been working on the HD project, so please buy raffle tickets. The income should cover the Benevolent Account needs for the next two years. He hopes to get HD to participate again in two years.

*Continued next page*



## SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

A question from the floor was how much is budgeted annually for the Benevolent Fund. The answer was about \$10,000. A motion was made by Williams to accept the Second VP's Report as given, seconded by Gunderman. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Johnson gave the First VP's Report. He stated in regards to new members, he receives new ideas and he listens. He specifically thanked Hiltibrand for his ideas. He would like to offer any current 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger a free membership. To this point F/75 declared they will sponsor five new Rangers, and challenged other units to match. P/75 immediately responded, followed by K/75 and VII Corps LRRPs. E/75 declared they would cover \$500 of new members. A motion was made by Yates to accept the First VP's Report as given, seconded by Roderick. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Officer elections were next. Barela announced the existing slate and asked for nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming. A motion was made by Gunderman to elect the slate by acclimation, seconded by McGee. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Barela thanked all the officers past and present he has worked with, as well as Unit Directors.

New Unit Directors were announced: Bennie Gentry for H/75, and Jeff Horne for N/75.

Barela briefly discussed what Vet Centers do for veterans differently than what the VA can offer.

Roderick promoted Huckaby's new LRRP organization and confirmed all Vietnam LRRPs and Rangers are eligible to join. Further, he promoted Honor Flight as something worthwhile.

Johnson promoted Ranger Breakfasts, saying they are good for connecting. Sherry Klein is the national director.

Barela then brought out the past president plaque and presented it to Johnson for safekeeping. He asked where our colors were and confirmed they will be displayed at the banquet. He also stated the gavel will be passed to Johnson at the banquet. Further, Barela declared he will administer an oath of office to the incoming officers at the banquet.

Walt Buchanan was presented with a plaque honoring him for his work in obtaining the HD sponsorship.

Barela recognized Herb Reichel for his donations to the association from the Blue Bucket Chapel proceeds.

Barela recognized Johnson's efforts on Patrolling, noting he has done very well. He further noted this success depends on the UD's getting their columns in on time.

Barela reported on the Ranger Hall of Fame and nomination packages. He noted criteria has changed from exclusively combat action to include community service, promoting the Ranger

way of life. He urged future nominations to be aware of this. The time line for nominations is Dec 15 to the organization, Feb for submission to the Hall, and final voting in May.

The next subject was the Ranger Walkway at Regimental HQ. Barela described the 13 circles and their history. All funds for this project will go through our organization because we have a 501 (c)19 IRS designation.

Barela noted there is a new maintenance contractor for the Ranger Memorial. Rucker asked if a picket fence could be put up to prevent lawnmowers from traveling over the bricks. The suggestion will be passed on.

Sid Smith gave a plea to get physicals for cancer: a full spectrum of blood tests including cancer markers. He also suggested a silver star for veteran widows.

Williams gave a public thanks to Barela for his two years' service.

Barela gave notice the Infantry Museum was honoring Vietnam veterans with a lapel pin today, starting at 1:30 pm.

A motion was made by Chester to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tilson. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Barela adjourned the meeting at 11:47am.

Tom Sove

Secretary



I would like to thank the members of the 75th RRA for entrusting me with the responsibilities of the Association. I am both humbled and honored to serve you.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY STEPHEN O. JOHNSON

We need to thank everyone that made our 2019 Ranger Rendezvous a success. Also a special thanks to Rick Barela, who has been at the helm of this organization for four years and to extend thanks to all of those UD's, past and present officers who serve or have served! Harley-Davidson has left a huge imprint in working with the 75th RRA by donating the Soft Tail Slim, staff assistance, and establishing a partnership in future Ranger Rendezvous. Our guest speaker, LTG Ken Keen and let's not forget Ashley with the Columbus Chamber.

And this list keeps growing so kudos to everyone involved!

We will continue to collaboratively work with USARA, too.

After Action Reports have been gathered from the UD's and other members for improvements for the 2021 Ranger Rendezvous. Those have been compiled and will be used in the future. The 2020 RHOF Method of Instruction and a Template PDF submission has been distributed to the UD's.

Please, let's get quality submissions started to meet exact timelines that are in place.

The RHOF cutoff date for submissions to me and the executive officers is December 1 of this year. The executive board will review and rate each one using the same criteria as the Ranger Hall of Fame Selection Committee. The three selected packets by us have to be in hand by Tracy Bailey 75th Regiment Headquarters by 15 February, and the final selection by the RHOF Selection Committee is the first week in May. Basically, the criteria is 50% military service and 50% displaying a Ranger ethos to the greater community after leaving the military. As soon as we get the new Bylaws of the RHOF, those will be sent to the UD's as well.

Inside the next December or fourth issue of *Patrolling*, there will be two by-law proposal changes. The first change is in regard to the removal of officers for dereliction of duty or malfeasance. The second change concerns an error made in the last by-law change, in which the secretary and treasurer were limited to two successive terms. It was never the intent to do so, and the suggested change is designed to rescind that limitation to two positions. This was discussed at our General Membership Meeting.

**New Membership Drive**-During the business meeting, I mentioned the possibility of sponsoring free one-year new memberships to the younger Rangers serving or those that have served. Two-thirds of our membership have a lifetime card while about a third pay annual fees. How do we get new members? That was answered by F/75 saying they would sponsor 5 new Rangers, and challenged other units to match. P/75 immediately responded, followed by K/75 and VII Corps LRRPs. E/75 committed to cover \$500 towards new members.



that we will offer:

### 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Veterans New Membership Offer

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

**THIS IS NOT A RENEWAL OFFER.** This is a special free, one-year offer to qualified NEW members only. A completed application and proof of service will still need to be provided. At the end of a year's membership, it will be the responsibility of each new member to renew at the regular dues price of \$40.

It costs us no more than \$8 per member to mail four issues of *Patrolling* per year. So we, the 75th RRA, are sponsoring memberships to younger Rangers found in Section 6&7, below.

#### 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.

Retroactively, the supporting members that have donated so far and into the near future will be accredited \$8 per new member or 5 for \$40.

For those that would also like to contribute (Please Do), send a check to Tom Sove and designate it as for "new blood"!

This plan will be monitored and maybe the 75th RRA will be sponsoring a different group of 500 young Rangers next year.

Offering a free membership is one thing, but as an individual, I have to reach out to the younger Rangers. How do I do that? Ranger Breakfasts are a great way to do that, just ask Bill Acebes, 1st Batt UD and others who attend. In my support groups I do the same. I always watch out for Ranger stickers on cars or tees, for example. I go out of my way to meet younger Rangers and I've seen many other older Rangers or LRRPs who choose to do the same. I would like to hear some of your suggestions, please! RLTW!

Stephen Odin Johnson  
President 75th RRA

## FREE MEMBERSHIP- NOT A RENEWAL OFFER

### NEW MEMBERS FREE OFFER\*

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

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

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

**ARTICLE V-SECTION 6:** 75th Ranger Regiment

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



**COMPLETE ALL FORMS AND SEND TO:**

**75th RRA**

**PO Box 348360**

**Sacramento, CA 95834-8360**

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

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**UNITS**

FROM (DATE) TO (DATE)

UNIT (Company or Battalion)

NAMES OR ORDERS

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

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

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



# 1st VP MESSAGE

ROY BARLEY



The reunion is over for another two years. There is a need to thank many people and Corporations; but one really sticks out and that is Harley Davidson Motorcycle. They partnered with us to make this reunion totally unforgettable. From the key rings; pins; stickers; T-shirts and banners all the way up to the 2019 Soft-tail Slim they are an example of a truly pro-military organizations. They were professional in every aspect of their business. They are truly on the top of their industry. I want to thank specific members who I dealt with: From Harley Headquarters: Tim Budzien, US Military Lead; his assistant Donald Stricker; Becky Druch; George Petropoulos and Mitch Bandalan, who attended our banquet and represented Harley. From the local (Chattahoochee Harley) dealership: John Cunningham, the owner; Shelby Smith and all the workers from Dealership. The local dealership did wonders for us in many ways but picking up the Harley and bringing back the next day was the most important job they did. Their cooperation was fantastic, and they really went above and beyond. A great big THANK YOU to all involved. And again, thanks to Walter (Sunshine) Buchanan who started the whole enterprise. Hopefully we can do it again in two years.

As we head into the future we are again faced with a lack of members from the Battalions. We really need to reach out and look for ways to attract members from the Battalions. At the reunion a challenge was put out to fund new Battalion members by the companies from Viet Nam. I am happy and proud to say that E/50<sup>th</sup>/E/75<sup>th</sup> stepped up to sponsor 25 new members. Sponsoring new members is good first step but we do need a daily or weekly coordinator to maintain a constant contact with the Battalions and assist in any way we can. The more people who step forward will show that we do care about these brave young soldiers. We really need members who live close to the battalions who can do the job. So, if you live in the areas around Ft. Benning; Ft. Lewis or Savannah and would like

to step forward please let us know.

This would be done in conjunction with the Battalions unit directors. Perhaps we can move this into a mentoring program to give these young people the benefit of our experience. The future belongs to these young soldiers and we need to assist them in any way we can.

Another first at the reunion was the presentation of 50<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary pin at the Infantry Museum. The work to put this together was done by Tiffany Hoffman and her group of volunteers. There were quite a few Vietnam Ranger Veterans who had never received anything for their service in Viet Nam in the way of a thank you. There was a presentation by Brigadier General (Ret) Pete Jones; the curator of the museum and that was followed up by the pinning ceremony done by Tiffany and her volunteers. A big thank goes out to Tiffany. After the ceremony I had a chance to speak with BG General Jones and ask why the write-ups for the hall of fame are not online someplace. He told me they are available at the museum but that it was correct that they should be some place online where the public can see what these men accomplished. He told me that he would take care of that project himself and that it would get done. Thank you, Sir.

We would be remiss if we did not say thank you to all those who helped in anyway with stuffing the bags and working the registration. It is a large task and we must not forget those who sacrificed their time at the reunion to work and help others. Next reunion we will spread this work around to include unit directors and who ever will volunteer.

One last item is something that needs to be worked on and that are those who do not register for the reunion but take advantage of the room rates we worked out. We will work on this and will not allow this in the future reunions.

My name is Pete Dencker and I'm the newest member of your Association Board and via election at the recent membership meeting of the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA, I will be your 2<sup>nd</sup> VP for the next two years.

Some background - I'm a graduate of the US Military Academy (1969) where I was a football letterman and later returned to teach and coach football. I'm a graduate of the Army's Airborne and Ranger Schools and also a graduate of the Panamanian Jungle Warfare School. (My son, a 2017 Graduate of USMA, is also Airborne and Ranger qualified and currently serving as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt with 3-509<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion (ABN), 25<sup>th</sup> ID in Alaska)

I arrived at H Company, 75<sup>th</sup> in December of 1970. I spent my

## 2nd VP MESSAGE

PETE DENCKER



first 6 months in Country as an Infantry Platoon Leader with 1/7<sup>th</sup> Cav, and like many platoon leaders at that stage of the war I came away from that experience with a Purple Heart and a real appreciation for H Company's reputation. I was Cpt Frank Stewart's XO and a few months later took over as CO when he returned to the States. I remained with H Company through the An Loc, Loch Ninh exercise and left during the summer of 1972. My experience with H Company changed my life – the lessons learned

either in the field – or in camp – have impacted everything I've done since.

I'm also currently responsible for the quarterly Patrolling Magazine submissions for H Company.

## National Ranger Foundation

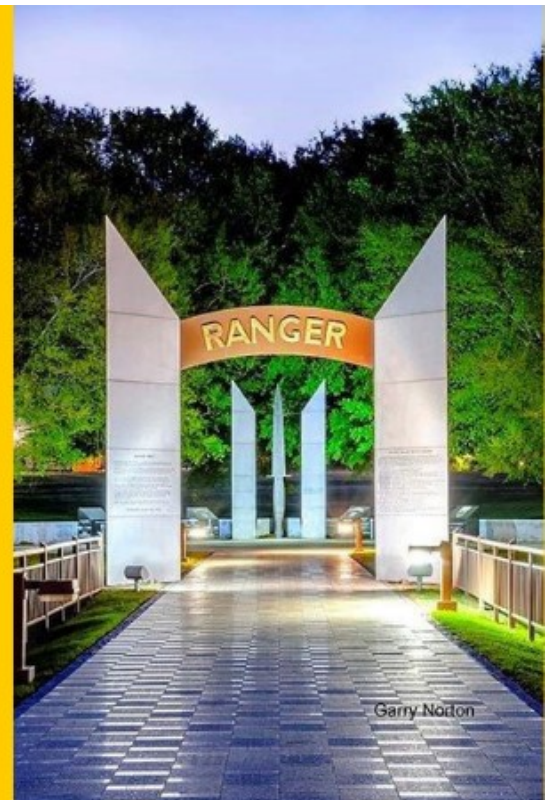
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**TREASURER'S MESSAGE**

BY ROGER CRUNK

## 75th Ranger Regiment Association

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

June 2019

	TOTAL
<b>Revenue</b>	
4000 Program income - DNP	
4002 Membership dues	6,840.00
4006 Reunion income	3,805.00
4010 Coin sales	
4012 Bronze	84.85
4013 Nickel Silver	60.90
4014 Silver coins	169.50
<b>Total 4010 Coin sales</b>	<b>315.25</b>
4020 Miscellaneous revenue	785.24
Association Patch	35.70
Association Sticker	17.85
Debit Card Credit	130.98
Harley Tickets/Raffle	4,400.00
<b>Total 4020 Miscellaneous revenue</b>	<b>5,369.77</b>
Assoc. Patch Bumper Sticker	11.90
Assoc. Pin	70.00
Operations Transfer/Paypal	0.00
<b>Total 4000 Program income - DNP</b>	<b>16,411.92</b>
4100 Member donations - DNP	
4102 Family fund contributions	2,496.00
4104 Goldstar contributions	75.00
4110 Operations contributions	550.00
Scholarship	300.00
<b>Total 4100 Member donations - DNP</b>	<b>3,421.00</b>
4900 Interest income	39.27
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$19,872.19</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$19,872.19</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	
6000 Program expenses - DNP	
6016 Reunion costs	1,119.11
6022 Intuit Subscription	
ACH GoPayment	20.00
Quickbooks Online	35.00
<b>Total 6022 Intuit Subscription</b>	<b>55.00</b>
Flowers	258.90
<b>Total 6000 Program expenses - DNP</b>	<b>1,433.01</b>
6100 Patrolling expense - DNP	
6102 Patrolling printing	2,855.30
6104 Patrolling postage	1,345.58
<b>Total 6100 Patrolling expense - DNP</b>	<b>4,200.88</b>
6500 Operations - DNP	
	311.38
6510 Insurance - D&O liability	475.00
6512 Legal and accounting fees	300.00
6514 Office supplies	220.32
Postage-Secretary	65.50
Treasurer Postage	66.41
<b>Total 6500 Operations - DNP</b>	<b>1,438.61</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$7,072.50</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$12,799.69</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$12,799.69</b>

## 75th Ranger Regiment Association

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2019

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Bank Accounts	
1000 Affinity / Operations	24,497.96
1002 Affinity / Family fund	18,809.98
1030 Affinity / Savings	50,433.76
1040 Benevolent funds MM	17,454.23
1041 Legacy funds MM	4,653.24
1042 Life funds MM	38,634.91
1050 Paypal funds	7,784.60
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$162,268.68</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$162,268.68</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$162,268.68</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	
<b>Equity</b>	
3000 Net Assets - Unrestricted	140,211.45
Net Revenue	22,057.23
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$162,268.68</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$162,268.68</b>

**Bank Account Balances as of 8-13-2019**

Operations-----	\$41,436.30
Savings-----	\$35,445.80
Benevolent-----	\$20,194.52
Benevolent MM---	\$17,461.64
Life Funds MM----	\$38,635.31
PayPal-----	\$ 5,322.01
<b>Total-----</b>	<b>\$158,495.58</b>

Legacy Walkway---\$3,754.53 This Legacy account is not Assoc. monies. We are the holder of this account for the Legacy Walkway Project.



## IRON SHARPENS IRON—JILL STEPHENSON



We started and ended the walk together. All twenty miles of the walk. We didn't know it, but we would lean on and encourage each other to get to the finish line; me and those who walked with me. This is the second year I have completed The Freedom Walk to the Wall. It is twenty miles starting from the northern suburbs of Chicago, following the shores of the magnificent Lake Michigan and ending at a park near downtown. This is Friday, day one. Saturday, day two, is four more miles that begins at the top of a highway exit ramp and ends at the Middle East Conflicts Wall in Marseilles, Illinois. This year I added Monday, day three (had a day off!) and walked an additional nine miles for a total of thirty-three miles.

Why walk so many miles? Each mile was walked in honor of our fallen for Memorial Day over the holiday weekend. Saturday's destination, The Middle East Conflicts Wall, is the only wall of its kind in these United States. It contains the names of every military service person killed in action in the middle east from 1967 until today. It does not include those who were KIA in Vietnam. Rightfully so, they have their own memorial wall in our nation's capital.

As I started out on Friday, I joined forces with a group of men and women from Bears Fit in Chicago. Mark, the General Manager, is a fierce patriot, athlete and champion of encouraging others to go beyond their comfort zone. He walked with me last year and I honestly am not sure I would have completed the twenty miles without him by my side. This year Sabrina joined us. She is a personal trainer and wanted to honor our fallen as well. We engaged in conversation and quickly realized we shared a deep faith because of the adversities we have faced. She told me her story and I told her mine.

Eight years ago, she was in a terrible car accident. The jaws of life had to be used to remove her from her car. The right side of her body was severely injured. She nearly lost part of her arm and leg. She was hospitalized for a long period of time, wheelchair confined for months and told she would never run again. She showed me the scars. She told me how she was determined to run again because they told her she couldn't. Suffering through the pain of walking first and then learning to run, she defied the odds and hasn't looked back. Sabrina encouraged me. When I told her my story, she said I encouraged her. She has two

young daughters and couldn't imagine losing one of them and still carry on with faith and hope. I felt the same about her story.

"It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, the ability to triumph begins with you. Always."  
- Oprah Winfrey

At about mile sixteen, Sabrina started to slow down. She wasn't talking much and I could tell that she was in pain. She slowed her pace and Mark and I joined her. She told us to keep going and she would catch up. She slowed and caught up for a little bit until I noticed she was clenching her teeth and seemed to be holding her breath. I reminded her to breathe, she smiled, took a deep breath and confessed she was in a lot of pain. She didn't want to stop. Her pain was not going to keep her from completing the twenty miles. We were so close!

We limped and grimaced our way to the final 100 yards where a pedestrian bridge was all that stood between us and the finish line. Mark, who claimed he was hurting too, (but hard to believe because I know he is secretly the real Terminator) joined hands with Sabrina and me as we walked those last steps together with our arms raised in victory! We joyfully hugged and high-fived. There may have been a few tears as we accepted our medals for completing the walk.

As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

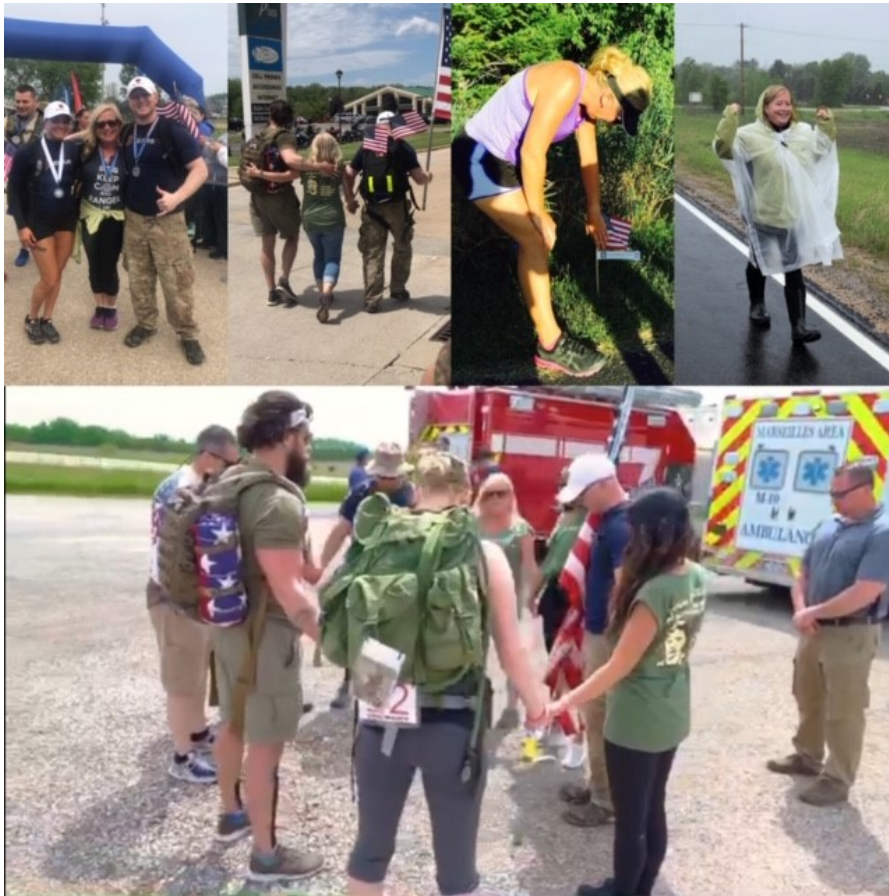
On day two (Saturday), I walked four more miles. Mark joined me again as did several others. Two of those people were Joe and Dan, a Marine and an Army Ranger whose years out of active duty do not reflect the intestinal fortitude they both still possess. While I walked twenty miles, they walked the full one hundred from Friday's starting point to Saturday's starting point. They walked twenty-two hours non-stop. That story in its entirety is worth its own blog. Those two encouraged and walked beside me that morning. Because of what they had endured and accomplished, I walked with more confidence and easily reached the Middle East Conflicts Wall.

On day three, which was Monday, and really day four because I didn't walk on Sunday, I walked nine more miles. This time I was back in Minnesota and joined a group of people walking to honor our fallen as well.

*Continued next page*

## IRON SHARPENS IRON

The majority were walking twenty-eight miles. Because of what I had already walked, I opted for the last nine. When I got up that morning, after a day of rest, my body ached and tried to tell me I couldn't do it. My mind disagreed and said, "GO!" I went. I went in the fifty-degree rain and got soaked from head to toe. These were the hardest miles. I wanted to quit, but I didn't. One of the reasons I didn't is because of those who walked three times as many miles as me. Another reason is because of my friend Pam.



longer able. I am honored to drink from the same cup of empowerment that keeps us going. I am grateful to call each of them a friend. Iron truly sharpens iron.

"As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same."

- Nelson Mandela

Several years ago, Pam, who is an avid runner and a Navy veteran, decided to run one mile for every year of her life to honor the men and women from Minnesota who have been killed in action while actively serving in the military. Definitely a Memorial Day type of honoring, but she did it on her birthday. She did this two years in a row. Year one, she ran forty-four miles. Year two, she ran forty-five miles. If you ask her, she will remind you that she ran, then walked, ran, then walked and it wasn't easy. The way I see it, she completed all of those miles, doesn't matter if she walked or ran. She did it. She inspired me. She encouraged me.

"Encouragement is free and beyond measure in value." - William DeFoore

I walked those thirty three miles to honor those who paid the ultimate price for the freedoms we enjoy in our beautiful America. They were divided and shared with other individuals whose will to honor our fallen, far outweighed any wanting to quit. We can only emulate those we were honoring because they are no



## PATROLLING YOUR HEALTH

Let's take a look at our body and begin to appreciate how similar it may be to other sophisticated forms of transportation. Sound strange? Consider just how we are put together and compare it to forms of equipment like an automobile, truck, tractor or plane. Bought new or with low mileage, a well-made vehicle requires very little maintenance, at least for a while. Why are service contracts offered at the time of purchase? Sooner or later malfunction will eventually happen and insurance minimizes future expense, especially if you go through a dealership. So, do you purchase the insurance or do the maintenance/repair work yourself? It all depends on how much of a maintenance person you might be, whether you can really work on cars from a diagnostic standpoint and assess root cause to mechanical problems and whether it is worth the time and hassle of doing your own work. Assuming you let a specialist do repairs, do you maintain it on a regular basis and take the time to have the oil changed, top off or replace critical fluids, rotate the tires and most importantly to this article, have the filters changed? Hopefully so, since regular maintenance, goes a long way to minimizing future problems. Doing preventive maintenance (PM) every five thousand miles (+/-) is just smart, not to mention a mandatory requirement for military personnel who may have driven vehicles during their time in service. PMS was a commandment for those with a transportation MOS of one type or another. If basic maintenance measures were not performed on any form of transportation utilized to conduct missions (air, land, water) there was the inherent risk of breakdown and mission failure. May I suggest that each one of us owns a transportation MOS for our body and should be following similar PM commandments on a regular basis.

Now is when it gets personal. Is there a form of transportation that is any more important than our own body? Legs have been our primary form of transportation since arrival here on the planet. Horses probably come in second and only recently have wheeled vehicles and planes come into primary use. Each of these, especially horses, required intensive maintenance and attention to ensure their daily availability for transport purposes. So, how many of us perform preventive maintenance on ourselves? Do we conduct personal cleanses of various bodily systems on a regular basis? Do we go into a health practitioner once a year for a checkup? Do we simply wait and seek medical assistance when we have aches and pains to simply get prescription relief? Or, worse yet, do we wait until our condition is so severe that chronic disease has set in and surgery is a last resort? Bodily dysfunction follows a path very similar to vehicles.

Sounds may be the first indication that something is not working properly. Dash lights may begin to indicate that a

system is about to fail, thereby warning us to do something immediately. And finally, the vehicle may stop running, requiring emergency care. Are you aware of the signs that bodily failure is in progress? Cleansing bodily filters ensures that critical fluids, gases and other forms of energy are not becoming clogged with debris that could eventually become life threatening.

Let's take a look at our filtration systems in a very simplistic manner. The body not only has a mechanical (bones, joints, muscles) and electrical system (energy flow through meridians) similar to a vehicle, but also has elaborate filtration systems that warrant maintenance on a regular basis. When filters aren't changed on a vehicle, how long will it continue to run? An oil filter ensures that the primary component of a vehicle, its engine, remains properly lubricated and cooled. If not changed, oil lines become clogged with residue from friction and other contaminants and incomplete combustion may eventually result in overheating, pressure buildup and possible engine failure. We have dashboard lights to help us monitor all critical engine functions. Our bodies have filtration systems which function very similar to a vehicle. Our lack of dashboard lights however, is replaced with headaches, joint pains, chronic conditions and eventually debilitating disease resulting in body collapse and eventually untimely death. It may behoove us to look at a variety of filtration systems that warrant attention on a regular basis – all serving the same purpose, to clean, cleanse and ensure performance efficiency.

**1) Trachea/windpipe** – Equivalent to an **air filter**. Purpose: Filters air intake to ensure that proper levels of oxygen and other gases are available for blood transport to all parts of the body. When lungs become clogged with tars and nicotine from smoking or process excessive amounts of toxic air, blood oxygen levels change, which may result in heart congestion and failure or deterioration of mental functions. **2) Kidneys** – Equivalent to **fuel line filters**. Purpose: cleanse blood and regulate water; wastes are released through kidney function. Calcium buildup in the kidneys can cause urinary tract infections and kidney stones. Further complications may result in dialysis and possibly diabetes. **3) Liver** – Equivalent to another fuel filter. Purpose: Detoxifies, produces protein, metabolizes and clears bilirubin, a blood waste product; it also performs an estimated 497 other functions. Liver failure is a life threatening condition. **4) Lymph Nodes** - Purpose: help to regulate the immune system and filter or trap foreign particles and bacteria that travel through the body in the lymph fluid.

*Continued next page*



Excessive toxicity may result in node enlargement and surgery. **5) HVAC air filters** ensure that circulating air has larger particles removed before being taken into our lungs. **6) Shower head nozzles** often have built in filters to remove contaminants in public water before being absorbed through the open pores of warm skin while taking a shower.

The entire body is regulated through a series of filters that continually cleanse all the liquids and gases that flow throughout it. These organs function unceasingly, day and night, to maintain a delicate balance that prevents, at least for a number of years, the accumulation of too much toxicity in any particular portion of the body. In time, however, an organ like the liver may accumulate so much toxicity that it produces intrahepatic/gall stones (see link) which accumulate and result in an impacted/enlarged liver that may no longer function effectively and eventually require surgery. Liver failure can be fatal.

**SO, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU CHECKED YOUR FILTERS, or at least cleansed them?** Do you take better care of your car than you do your own body? Most of us do simply because we don't know any better and there is no one in the medical community to educate us otherwise, with very few exceptions. You are responsible for bodily maintenance just like that of your own car, which obviously you want to keep running as long as possible with minimal interruption and expense. And how does one cleanse or maintain his filtration system from time to time? That is the focus of this article.

Your body is very smart. It knows what is good for it and what isn't. It has an innate sense for good fuel i.e. healthy vs. toxic air quality; nourishing vs. junk food; natural food vs. processed; organic vs. genetically altered. Would you buy cheaper contaminated fuel at the pump if you knew it would eventually cause engine failure due to its inherent toxic or unclean content? Then you may want to ask yourself why you buy what you do at the grocery store. Is there a real difference? You get what you pay for as the old adage says. Quality organic food costs more than artificial, processed "junk" food – the choice is yours. If you go cheap then your body must work overtime to make up for the difference in nutritional value, toxic buildup, general wellness and life expectancy.

The next step is to consider how your body lets you know it is out of balance and needs attention. This is a tough one because we have all been conditioned to accept that gaining weight, aches, pains, aging, chronic conditions and life threatening disease are natural processes that we are simply "victims of" and require "treatment" from a professional - a natural human con-

dition. Voila! Big Pharma arrives on the scene with a pill for every form of discomfort imaginable. Where would we be without them? True, there have been numerous health benefits along the way, especially with regard to vaccines, however, the majority of today's "meds" merely provide symptom relief and are not focused on curing the ailment at hand. Discomfort and disease have become lifestyles of our society. And Big Pharma is more than willing to invent a new pill just to promote another form of relief, relief that only reduces inflammation for a short period of time, not permanently. **Permanent resolution would simply not be profitable** for all parties involved. If you rely on Big Pharma to take care of your health, you are buying into the cheap fuel mindset that results in ongoing physical dysfunction, bodily deterioration, agonizing old age and very possibly personal "engine failure". Ask yourself why Big Pharma, the Medical Community, the Food Industry and Chemical industries all lobby together. They all target individual health because there is so much money to be made when people become uncomfortable, inflamed, toxic, diseased and in need of long term medical care. The cycle is self - perpetuating, if we choose to let it be so: **When I don't take responsibility for minimizing personal exposure to toxics, my body has to work overtime to maintain clean filtration of bodily fluids; sooner or later my bodily filters become clogged and bodily parts start to malfunction; eventually the discomfort and pain put me on the merry go round of medication; the more medication I take, the worse I feel.** Today, each one of us has to literally fight for his health, just like we had to fight for our lives on the battlefield. The biggest difference is that we could much more easily identify our enemy then, or at least had a good idea where to find him. Today the enemy masquerades as polluted air, pesticides/herbicides, GMO's, chlorination, food additives, food substitutes, processing techniques, junk food, sugar additives, TV marketing hype.....the list grows daily. Good intel made a big difference while we were in uniform; good intel is just, if not more, important every day of our lives today.

How do we survive today's bombardment of health attacks? The answer is almost the same as before. One of the first things we did to even become RANGER qualified was get into condition and then maintain it. Remember how keen our senses became when on mission? Our bodies were alive, prepared, on alert and capable of responding to danger at a moment's notice. One of the most important bodily functions that helps to maintain "clean bodily filters" is **simple movement** – walking, jogging, exercise of any type maintains good blood pressure that forces filtration to take place. The worst thing we can do is nothing, eating a big meal and sitting on the couch strains our body and does not contribute to full digestion. *Continued next page*

## PATROLLING YOUR HEALTH

Eat breakfast like a king; lunch like a queen and dinner like a pauper is fraught with healthy wisdom.

A second natural function for physical, mental and emotional well-being is that of deep breathing. That may sound strange but shallow breathing leaves stale air in our lower lungs. Breathing from our diaphragm not only gives us more oxygen and energy, it clears out that old air. Taking five to ten minutes during the day to practice deep breathing reduces stress, energizes the mind, clears brain fog, enhances mental alertness, charges our blood and “puts us on point”. Energized/oxygenated blood is one of the most important “foods” that we can ingest for a combination of metabolic processes, daily energy, mental clarity, auto immune efficiency and a myriad of other bodily functions. High levels of oxygen also help ward off the development of cancer since it thrives in toxic non-oxygenated environments.

A third and most obvious piece to the filtration equation is that of food quality. The cleaner the food ingested, the less work the body’s filtration system needs to do; it can balance the internal cleansing workload much more easily. Read ingredients; shop the outside aisles of a supermarket. A good barometer of whether the body is in balance is the accumulation of fat. The body creates fat to store toxins it cannot completely process, a survival mechanism on multiple fronts. The most obvious but also most expensive approach is to eat organic produce, which hasn’t been subject to external toxins, pesticides, herbicides and fumigation for shipment or processing for shelf life. **Juicing** fresh vegetables and fruits for breakfast a couple times a

week also helps clean internal systems, especially if beets are part of the concoction. Avoiding sugars, sodas and energy drinks is a must if a person is serious about avoiding diabetes.

Start clean & healthy – stay clean & healthy.

A fourth approach in order of priority is that of cleansing, cleaning our filters on a regular basis regardless of how well we eat. There are numerous cleanses on the market, each touting its own special application, some more expensive than others. I personally do a liver-gall bladder cleanse twice a year that utilizes less than \$5 worth of natural products already in the kitchen: [www.drclark.info/en/cleanses-clean-ups/liver-cleanses...](http://www.drclark.info/en/cleanses-clean-ups/liver-cleanses...) Not only are the liver and gall bladder flushed of stones, but parasites are also removed to varying degrees. One of the most critical bodily systems that warrant constant attention and cleansing is our gut. It contains more important elements and is connected to more parts of our body than any other.

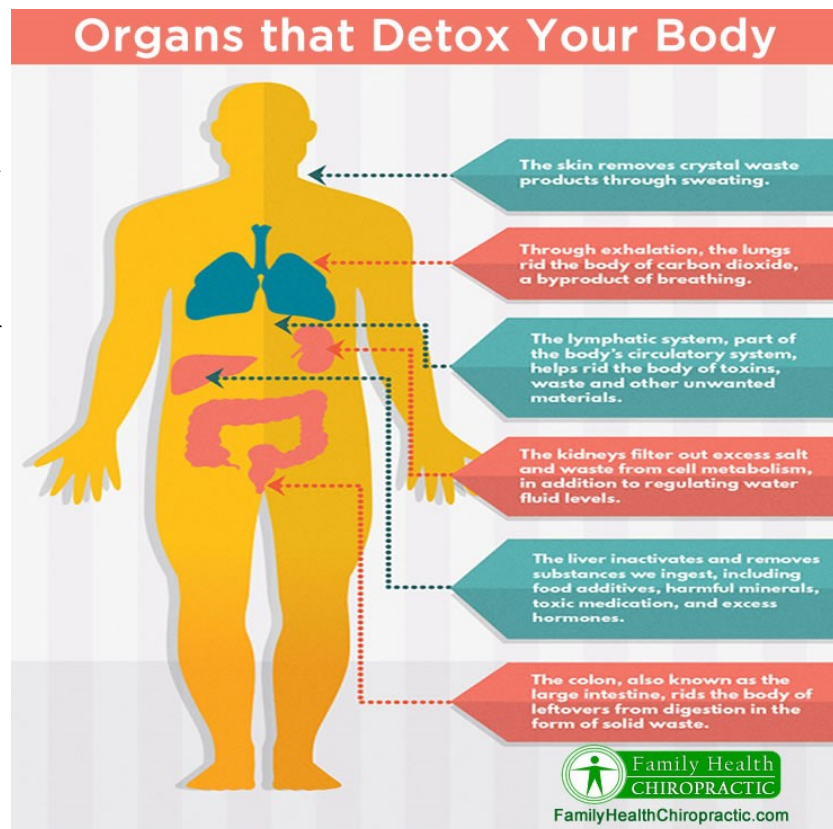
A clean healthy gut is the foundation to long-term health and wellness. My next article will elaborate on just how important it is and how to maintain it in a health manner.

I hope that I have made my point by now. Our bodies are no different than other forms of transport which require fuel to operate and filtration systems for sustained performance: cars, planes, trains, heavy equipment... all require very similar maintenance.

Those filters have to be checked and replaced regularly or failure follows. Our filters, unfortunately, are a one-time placement that works 24/7, year after year – an absolutely amazing process that we barely even think about and usually take for granted until they begin to fail.

Take time to appreciate and care for them NOW and they will take care of

you and contribute to fewer aches and pains the remainder of your life.



## 2019 RANGER RENDEZVOUS BANQUET

# MERRILL'S MARAUDERS

By Jonnie Clasen



Retired Lieutenant General P.K. "Ken" Keen, associate dean of the leader development program at Emory University's Goizueta Business School, visited Fort Benning's Ranger Rendezvous event in July with three of the 11 surviving Merrill's Marauders. (Pictured left to right: Robert "Bob" Passanisi, 95, from New York; James Richardson, 98, from Tennessee; and Gilbert Howland, 96, a triple Combat Infantryman Badge recipient from New Jersey. Keen was guest speaker at the event's annual banquet. Photo courtesy of Jonnie Melillo Clasen, daughter of Merrill's Marauder and Korean War veteran Vincent Melillo.)



### Six WW II Merrill's Marauders have died since Memorial Day weekend – Nine remain

by Jonnie Melillo Clasen



Beginning with Marcos M. Barelás, 96, who made his "final roll call" May 25, 2019, in Houston, Texas, six Merrill's Marauders have died since the Memorial Day weekend. Two were buried August 13, 2019.

Only nine are still living out of almost 3,000 "expendable," top-secret, commando volunteers who fought behind enemy lines in the China Burma India Theater, known today as the "forgotten theater of WW II." Their deaths illustrate the urgency of Congress passing S. 743 and H.R. 906 so the Congressional Gold Medal can be awarded to the 5307<sup>th</sup> Composite Unit Provisional, the unit's official name, while there are still Merrill's Marauders alive.

**Dominic J. Baracani, 96**, died peacefully at his home in Highwood, Illinois August 1, 2019. He was buried August 13 – his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday -- at Ascension Cemetery in Libertyville. Baracani fought with Khaki Combat Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. He also served in Burma with the 475<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which became Mars Task Force. Along with other Merrill's Marauders, he had attended Ranger Rendezvous events at Fort Benning, GA.

**Harold C. Burnside, 96**, a native of Hale, Missouri, died August 10, 2019, at Pioneer Skilled Nursing Home in Marcelline, Missouri on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Merrill's Marauders disbanding 75 years ago August 10, 1944, in Burma. A graveside service was held August 13, 2019, at Hale Memorial Gardens. Burnside fought with White Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. He served in Burma until June 1945 with the 475<sup>th</sup> Infantry, which became Mars Task Force.

**Henry C. Smith, 98**, a Silver Star recipient from Irons, Michigan, died August 11, 2019, at Medilodge of GTC in Traverse City, Michigan. He will be buried September 21, 2019, in his hometown of Irons. Smith was a muleskinner with Orange Combat Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 33<sup>rd</sup> Pack Troop and a skilled horseman. He had no living relatives. His obituary will be written by retired Army Ranger Wes Goldman, husband of Medilodge activity director Colleen Goldman. **See NOTE**

**Delmar F. Strunk, 97**, died June 28, 2019, in Scotland, South Dakota. Funeral services were held July 8, 2019, at Scotland Community Church. Strunk fought with White Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. He was one of many Merrill's Marauders who did not receive their military decorations and medals until decades after WW II ended. Strunk was finally awarded his medals 70 years after WW II ended. He coauthored a book about his military experiences.

**Spencer J. Tedford, 95**, from Clarks, Nebraska died July 29, 2019. Internment was August 9, 2019, at the Fort McPherson National Cemetery near Maxwell, Nebraska. One of the younger Marauders, Tedford fought with Khaki Combat Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion. He also served during the Korean war. His military story and the tragic WW II experiences of his wife, Ludmilla, as a young girl with her "White Russian" family in China are included in the book, "Nebraska Remembers."

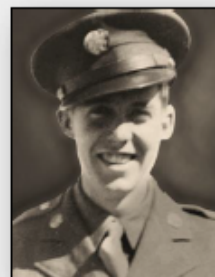
**NOTE:** My efforts to contact Henry Smith in Irons, which has only 1,000 residents, had been unsuccessful for almost a year. In April when I needed Henry's photo for the Congressional Gold Medal effort, I contacted the Lake County Sheriff's Office in Baldwin, MI. Deputy Richard Perrin drove to Irons and found the house boarded up. Neighbors said Henry had been moved to Medilodge GTC in Traverse City. Thanks to Deputy Perrin, Henry's final months as a Hospice patient were full of cards, letters and visits from Rangers, veterans and Marauder families.



Dominic J. Baracani



Marcos M. Barelás



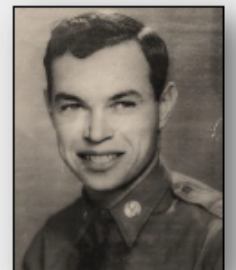
Harold C. Burnside



Henry C. Smith



Delmar F. Strunk



Spencer J. Tedford



# NATIONAL COORDINATOR

MARSHALL HUCKABY

## What's in your ICE Chest?

In past articles it was brought to your attention that you need to have an In Case of Emergency (ICE) Folder to assist your survivors when you answer the final roll call.

At the recent Ranger Rendezvous I was enjoying the company of my LRRP Commander from Vietnam, 1966. At the Friday Night Banquet we laughed and talked of old times and about things we still wanted to do. Little did I know that two days later I'd be helping his family find his records, forms, and information necessary to arrange for his service and for the financial well-being of his wife.

I found his DD-214, VA File number, and DFAS information, so we had enough information to arrange his service. The task now was how to notify the appropriate agencies for his SBP, her VA DIC, and his Social Security. Some things the funeral home can and does assist with, but some things are not so easy!

For instance...how do I contact the VA for her DIC. I can find the forms, but how do I report his passing? DFAS has an on-line process, but just try and goggle, "How to report a Veteran's Death"! I finally found a number to call and luckily I found a VA person who was understanding and willing to assist. After a few minutes, he had enough data to get her a packet in the mail. The same for DFAS.

There are a number of things I've learned in the past couple of years dealing with the passing of family members and this recent experience.

For one thing, I learned that in Georgia, your joint bank account just may not be! I learned that there is (in the cases I was working with) a place on one of the bank forms for "Right of Survivorship". Again, this was my experience, but the bank account could be locked if there is no right of survivorship, which allows the surviving party to have full access to the account. I got with my banks and convinced them to "please check" as they were arguing that it was automatic. They came back, apologized and explained that in Georgia, the form must be checked for "Right of Survivorship". Now I am not giving legal advice, only telling you of my experience.

So what should be in your ICE folder?"

1. You need a copy of your DD-214;
2. A copy of your DFAS pay information;
3. Social Security information;

4. A document with your VA File Number if you are drawing disability;
5. What you want your service to be...cremated, in-ground burial, etc....you can even indicate what you want on your headstone;
6. Have a listing of people you want to be notified;
7. Bank and Credit Union information;
8. Security and Gun safe combinations, and,
9. An updated will.

Maybe even a picture you would want publicized. I've even known of guys who wrote their own obituaries.

I realize you may have told your wife all this stuff, but what if someone other than your wife is handling your affairs. In some States if you do not have a "good" will, the State can and might attach your assets!

So the next time you are thinking of showing your neighbor how to do a PLF off your garage...or before you say..."here hold my beer and watch this!"...Get your ICE Chest properly stocked (no...not the one with your beer in it"...the other one).

Be prepared!

Marshall Huckaby

25<sup>th</sup> ID LRRPs 66-67.





My 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division LRRP  
Commander (RVN 1966) and  
good friend, LTC (Ret) Mark

Ponzillo Jr., was interred on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 in the Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, Georgia. The service was well attended and was worthy for a departing warrior.

There were many SF and LRRP Veterans in attendance, but the most moving event was the honor presented by the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment, followed by a Huey fly over.



The following is a narrative of the fly over by the ground LNO for the Fly Over:

“Hi Jerry. I would like to share a recent event of an Honor Flight for LTC Mark Ponzillo at the Georgia National cemetery in Canton Ga. LTC Ponzillo was a member of Special Forces, LRRPs, MSOG and served 3 combat tours in Vietnam Nam. He received Silver Star, Purple Heart, Legion of Merit with cluster, and many other medals. He also had a Master Parachutist badge.... Quite a Soldier.

He was a native of New York but lived his final days in Thomasville Ga.

Our flight crew for this mission was Jack McCormick Pilot, Dave Rayburn co-pilot and Warren Taylor crew chief. I was the ground control guy.

This particular day our ground radio was broken so we had to

## HONOR AND RESPECT

MARSHALL HUCKABY

use cell phone text as our communication .I arrived to the site ahead of time and did a quick recon and spoke with Jack about our plans. We did a text test for timing and it was instantaneous so we were ready to go.

As everyone was preparing for the interment, I positioned myself for a clear view of the aircraft and had nothing to do but wait. I watched as the Army color guard and bugler practice for

the up-coming event. Patriot Guard Riders were also there and I watched as they too, prepared for LTC Ponzillo. Then there was a film crew as well. Jack had told me he would fly in a North to South turn right and come back over West to East with a blade tilt and salute on the way out. I confirmed this with the film guys.

My next thing to do was to coordinate the actual fly-in time. Jack had sent me a text that he was orbiting two and a half minutes out. David Dunlap (son of Ranger/LRRP James Dunlap) was the service Director and a personal friend

of the Ponzillo family. He would be the final speaker and would give the surprise announcement that a Huey would be flying over. At that time the crowd would come out from the pavilion and face north to see the approaching Helicopter. I sent the Text calling the flight crew in and it failed.

I sent it again and by now the folks are coming out to see the Huey. I'm thinking seconds seem like minutes. Come on guys please say you got my text. Then Dave sends me a confirmation they were two miles out. I look down at the crowd looking North. You could have heard a pin drop and then I hear “THAT SOUND”, you know that faint whop of the blades as it gets closer it gets louder, they are coming to take us out sound.

I could see the faces of the family and friends and knew they understood. It was as if we were taking the LTC out. Couldn't help it tears ran down my face. Jack, Dave, and Warren's flight in was perfect.

*Continued next page*

I felt honored to be there and a strong sense of pride for the flight crew.

## HONOR AND RESPECT

MARSHALL HUCKABY  
ARTICLE

These honor flights touch the families and friends and are a privilege for all of us. I've had the good fortune to be part of the flight crew in the air and to give a perspective, as ground support is a heartfelt moment I'll always remember. No the timing wasn't as I planned it but that minute and half pause and anticipation was magical.

I wish LTC Ponzillo's family and friends the very best and thank him for his service to our country. Sincerely,  
Donny Brown"



The flyover was courtesy of the non-profit:

Army Aviation Heritage Foundation  
506 Speedway Boulevard  
Hampton Ga. 30228. Phone 770-897-0444.

Marshall Huckaby  
25<sup>th</sup> ID LRRPs, 66-67.

50 years later, the Vietnam Veterans were recognized for their service at the National Infantry Museum!

## 50 Year Commemorative Event

*Photos submitted/National Infantry Museum*

The Secretary of Defense and others coordinated this event across the country and at the Ranger Rendezvous.







# 1st BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL ACEBES

Bill (Doc) and Karen Donovan’s gathering over the Memorial Day weekend honored the fallen soldiers of the Great Salt Lake tragedy. LTC Kenneth W. Stauss; 1SG Harvey L. Moore; SGT Blaine A. Misak and SP4 Jeremy B. Bird – Our fallen Rangers will never be forgotten. Thank you “Doc” and Karen for opening your beautiful home every year for this gathering.

The local Savannah chapter of Killer Man Sons, host an Annual Fallen Ranger Run – The Fifth Annual was held 1 June in 2019. All proceeds go to Sua Sponte Foundation. Jim Brunton is one of the local members.

Pat Carr (former 1st Battalion Ranger) reports from the 12 June Lake Havasu City Ranger breakfast that Merrill’s Marauder Bob and Janie Emmett received a quilt from Quilts of Valor. Pat reports that while he was successful in surprising the Emmetts, the surprise “backfired on me when I received a quilt”. Happy to see the breakfast there; second Wednesday of the month; at the Black Bear Diner.



Mrs. Emma Piazza; beloved widow of Merrill’s Marauder Phil Piazza; passed away on 12 July. Phil and Emma loved the present-day Rangers and attended as many events in the Ranger community as possible, until health issues caused them to stop. We appreciate their dedication and love to our Ranger community.

Steve Murphy is back on the Appalachian Trail.

1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Sua Sponte Foundation packed boxes for “the boys” on 6 August. The Sua Sponte Foundation takes care of our Battalion in times of need or crisis. Great organization!

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

Some funny remarks from Facebook; referencing (then) CSM Morrell when he was 1<sup>st</sup> Bn CSM:



Attended Ranger Hall of Fame festivities – Several former 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Rangers were honored: MSG Joey A. Carpenter; CW3 Ronald Johnson; CSM Arthur J. McCann; MSG Eric Stebner; CSM Dennis Smith; and Shelia Dudley.

Shelia is the first woman to be inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame; and I can think of no one more deserving. For over 28 years, she was the “mainstay” of 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion – Still think

she should write a book and tell us some of the REAL stuff we want to know about. We love you Shelia!

Saw Tony Lavata at the Infantry Museum - Tony and I worked together back in the late 70s with the USA Ranger Association – We reminisced about the good times we had back then with the Merrill’s Marauders and Darby’s Rangers. It was great to see SFC Wilton “Pappy” White be inducted into the Hall of Fame. I will never forget him and his stories.

Was great to see MG and Mrs. Leur at the Ranger Hall of Fame ceremony. (Photo is to the right). →

I remember a Ranger was taking CSM Morrell's daughter out on a date. He got everybody in formation after that weekend and said "Rangers when you go to someone’s house to take their daughter out on a date, for God's sake don't show up with a damn T shirt that says " Please Help Stamp Out Virginity "!!!

CSM Morrell knew how to wear a beret and break starch, and used very colorful sayings to make his point. Like "get your shit in one sock and quit trying to piss up a rope."

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

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





## 3rd BN, 75TH RANGER REGT

UNIT DIRECTOR—TONY MAYNE

On July 3, 3d Ranger Battalion welcomed their new commander as Lt. Col. J.D. Keirsey assumed command from Lt. Col. Kloepper. Following Ranger Rendezvous, the battalion then conducted their change of responsibilities ceremony with Command Sgt. Maj. Brett Johnson passing the guidon to incoming Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Clapin.



Upcoming Columbus, Ga. Ranger Community Events

Ranger Family Climbing Day. On Sunday, September 8 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Treadstone Climbing Gym, Rangers and their families are invited to a free indoor climbing session. This event is a great way for spouses and children to intermingle in a fun environment.

Lt. Col. Keirsey and Command Sgt. Maj. Clapin are no strangers to 3d Ranger Battalion. Both have served and led our 3rd Battalion Rangers in combat.

We wish Col. Michael Kloepper and Command Sgt. Maj. Johnson the best as they move on to continue to lead in our Army. Col. Kloepper will attend the Army War College and Command Sgt. Maj. moves across the road to continue to serve in the Regiment and the Regimental Military Intelligence Battalion's Command Sgt. Maj.

On August 6 to 8 at the National Infantry Museum, the battalion conducted its annual NCO Academy. New to this year's agenda was the inclusion of Ranger for Life programming. Ranger for Life is the Regiment's leader education tool to equip Rangers with alumni and civilian professional mentorship and transition support so Rangers can continue to stay in the fight knowing that there is a support network of Rangers willing to assist after they hang up their boots.

The three-day event was kicked off by Command Sgt. Maj. (Ret.) Mike Hall and featured Ranger alumni Richard Scott of CBS, Marcus Hall of Three Rangers Foundation, and Ron O'Ferrall of The Darby Project. 3d Ranger Battalion's event was the second Ranger for Life program following 2d Ranger Battalion's program in April. We look forward to seeing what 1st Ranger Battalion plans this fall.

Congratulations are in order for Brig. Gen. Marcus Evans and his family. The former 3d Ranger Battalion and 75th Ranger Regiment commander was recently assigned as the Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counterterrorism, Joint Staff J-3, Washington, D.C. Brig. Gen. Evans' first general officer assignment was as 3rd Infantry Division's deputy commanding general for support.



Benning Black and Tan Ranger Linkup. On Monday, September 9 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the National Infantry Museum's Fife and Drum restaurant, we are getting a jump start of the Maneuver Warfighter Conference with a Ranger linkup for fellowship and to introduce active duty Rangers to Ranger veterans in the defense industry. This event is in line with the Regiment's Ranger for Life program. The event is free and appetizers are provided.

Mogadishu Mile 5K. The 26th anniversary of the Operation Gothic Serpent and the Battle of the Black Sea will be commemorated with a 5k run in uptown Columbus on Saturday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. The event raises funds for Rangers wounded or killed during the Global War on Terror. Visit the Mogadishu Mile 5k Facebook page to learn more and register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/GA/Columbus/MogadishuMile>

St. Luke Harvest Fest. On Sunday, October 27, Saint Luke United Methodist Church opens its doors and the streets of Columbus for a fantastic trick or treat with carnival rides and games. The Darby Project is purchasing 100 admissions for children of active duty and veteran Rangers. Go to The Darby Project on Facebook to find out more information on how to request free admission. There is no cost for adults.

*Below: 3rd Ranger Battalion Change of Responsibility Photo*







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

UNIT DIRECTOR—STAN JONES

By the time this hits the press the Reunion of all Reunions will be in the history books. Roy Bissey and Jim Savell have put hundreds of hours into the preparation, locating lost souls, making reservations, setting up the area and making souvenirs. December of this year will mark 45 years since the deactivation of A Co. Some went on to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2nd Batt., some went on to finish their current commitment and some went on to have distinguished careers in the Army and beyond. Included is a photograph of the new Unit Challenge Coin. Roy Bissey, Terry Roderick and Bill Bohte worked on the design and Roy sent to print. Coin shows the history of the Company starting in 1961 as 3779 LRRP, V Corps LRRP, D/17 INF LRP, and finally finishing as Co A in 1974. So far Roy has sold 150 of the first 200. Anyone interested in a coin contact Roy @ r\_bissey@ yahoo.com



Submitted by: Robert (Bob) Allchin, A/75 1972-75

This is an actual story.

Labor Day 1973 while making a Tac-Op at Camp Bullis near San Antonio I had a midair collision with Mike Diegel. We crashed hard.

Thanks to the Quick action of Cpt Nolen (CO) my life was probably spared. The CPT had the chopper land to evac us to Brooke Army Hospital. Staff SGT Brown held my head in traction till we got to the ER. The doctors took bones from my hip and spliced these bones into my neck. I cannot be accused of having my head in my ass because I have my ass in my head Ha-Ha. With several broken bones in my neck it took two months at Brooke. Thanks to all the Rangers support, all came out OK.

The Army wanted to medically discharge me but Captain Nolen asked me if I wanted to stay in the Army. Of course, I said yes. Upon return to Hood he assigned me to the S2 shop with SFC Gavin. My job was typing (one finger) security clearances for Rangers.

Memories, Memories!! Robert F Allchin (1SG RET).

Submitted by Hal Boyd: Here's a story from after I got out and during a brief time that I worked at a VA clinic. It's a brick and concrete structure, rectangular in shape and nondescript except for the drain spouts that add a touch of art when the water coming off the roof freezes and forms into icefalls. It's not an ancient building yet not new, built over twenty years ago. The air inside is kept too cold in the summer and too hot in the winter. This winter's been brutal with the chill so the moment I walk in, freezing from the weather outside, I'm struck with a wave of heat that in the first instant brings comfort but in the second nearly makes me ill. Straight off the entrance, the main hall is

wide and half the length of a football field. I can see to the far end past the security desk where the green institutional doors with their push bars stand closed and locked. The thick frost on the far side of those door windows keeps me from seeing through to what stands beyond. The northern wall, to the right, is lined with short brown wooden partitions that are topped with glass dividers not unlike a bank that scrimped on fixtures. Behind the partitions are the scheduling desks facing inward towards the hall and behind those are more desks facing any way but inward. Clerks are stacked three deep in this narrow space.

They each have a computer and a phone but there's one line for every two phones so the incoming calls are squeezed and stacked into a queue. This design gives the front-line staff time to belong to the people standing before them, and the folks dialing in a chance to find their limit. The clerks rotate chairs throughout the day to avoid burnout but they gain a different kind of insanity. Opposite the scheduling desks, through the doors on the southern wall, are Dental, Optical, Service Officers, the Patient Advocate, Lab and X-ray. Pharmacy has its own little waiting patch with an electric overhead sign that reads out numbers for the next in line. At the little space for the Volunteers there's a cutout window and a ledge where they've placed donuts and cakes. Veterans, some quiet - others talking, wheezing and coughing - are lined up to take the nourishment. Paper cups and pastries in hand, they turn and leave their heavy breath behind. For a few of the visitors this is the morning ritual, a visit to the clinic to chum with their friends and grab a cup and a bite to eat. Every space between the desks and the doors on both sides of the hall is furnished with plastic chairs for people to sit in while they're waiting. Even this early, those waiting outnumber the chairs. The system struggles, the crowd grows, and the warmth does too. It's easy to tell that the clinic isn't shaped to meet the burden that's placed upon it. On the floor there's a strip of white tapeline across a length of blue indoor-outdoor carpet that lies parallel to the check-in desks. There's a sign taped to a partition that reads, "Wait here for your turn." Most of them are good at waiting, it's part of what they know. If the spirit moves them, some will grow tired and step out of line. There'll be a shoving match that might lead to a boxing match and one of them might go down for the count.

*Continued on next page*

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

Along with learning how to wait they learned how to fight and even if it was a long time ago it's still a part of who they are. Many of them wear symbols of fabric: A hat, a patch, or a shirt that shows where they've been or where they want you to think they've been. Sometimes, along with the cloth there are other symbols and if those markings don't show where they've been, they show where they are. I look back and notice a fat, disheveled guy in shorts. His pale legs show bright against the grayness of the day. He's standing in the space between the entrance doors making his choice from the offerings in the vending machines. I think to myself, "It's too wintry for Bermuda's; you'll freeze your skin. No-one cares how tough you are," just then realizing that his legs are prosthetic and it's not the temperature that matters. "Morning Ranger," someone voices as I walk by – I nod back. I turn to the right, pass through a door and make my way to the little cave of an office, locking the door behind me. With the door shut, the temperature in this room is amplified more than most. If it's hot out there, it's fiery in here. The room's got two glass openings that face out somewhat like the entrance to a movie theater. The ledge beneath each is cut to allow vouchers and cash to be passed; they pass travel vouchers in, and I pass cash out to cover the cost. One window's high for those who can stand and the other's low for those who can't. There's a bag of dog biscuits near the low opening. I keep the lights off and the room dark while I answer the phone and direct the calls. Occasionally, someone comes to my window and asks a question or passes paper. A young, fit man appears at my window. In his twenties, there's an attractive woman of his age standing beside him. With an even, firm voice and no trace of emotion, yet not with a dead voice, not with despair nor the sound of depression, not as if he's asleep, he asks me a question and takes my answer. His companion smiles and says something to him. I catch her name, "Annie", as he answers her back. They turn and go. I think she must be cut from the same cloth as he; they seem similar and well matched. There's something noble about him, and about her too. For a moment I wonder why he's here - he looks whole. He walks away with a stiff rhythm. A prosthetic leg replaces the real one lost in battle or lost in error. I think to myself, "He bears it well; they bear it well."

My mind drifts back to when I was his age, retreating to parts I left behind and pains I no longer ratify.

I did it for God and country, our way of life, my brothers-in-arms. I did it for myself. It wasn't a good war, but it was the only war we had. It could have been worse. Others paid more. I knew the risk; I have the reward.

A week or two later, while walking the hall I spot them again, sitting in chairs, waiting. Annie's smiling and leaning into him, saying something. He's listening, sitting straight yet relaxed. I have the same reaction to them; their strength and their quality but now I can tell that they are cut from the same cloth, likely

brother and sister. This time I notice that both of his legs are prosthetic.

This is the protocol. We offer them glory, immortality, a purpose, a job. Most of them served and survived before their brains finished growing and the experience stopped them something like an athlete who reached his peak in high school and never got past it. Killing is hard and better suited to the young for many reasons. Of the seven percent who served, one-fourth have seen combat. Combat or not, one feels bitter, cheated, deceived – the other proud, humbled, at peace - but whatever their feelings, they mingle here in the clinic. So we try to treat them for what we did to them and what they did to themselves.

Months later, the clinic is being moved to a new facility better suited for the greater numbers that the continuous wars have generated. The old building is being offered in service to another need. The doors are open as I walk in to pick up a few personal items. Workers move chosen pieces of furniture, equipment and medical records onto trucks to be taken to the new space. The inside temperature is in balance with the outside temperature as I pass through the entrance and look beyond the empty main hall, past the vacant security desk and the green institutional doors.

"You coming with us, Sarge?" someone asks.

"Maybe. What's coming in here after we leave?" "More of that," he says, pointing with a thumb towards the space outside.

I follow his motion to the opening at the far end of the ward. Out there, on the gentle lawn, magnificent oak trees looking like giant soldiers stand guard above the grass covered fields. In the midst of a meadow dotted with the grave markers of the Michigan veteran dead, a fresh hole has been dug in the earth. There's a ceremony taking place. After a pause, I recognize Annie standing next to a flag draped casket. It takes me a moment to understand.

"You with us, Sarge?" I turn back the way I came, my eyes watering, and my skin flush with newfound shame. Several clerks stop their labors and stare my way, curious to hear my answer. Maybe the best we can do is give them a place to rest - these people cut from the same cloth. "Yes," I say, "I'm with you."

Submitted by: Jim Savell:

Was assigned TDY to the International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School In Weingarten, Germany in late 70's. I was the only U. S. assigned. The closest U. S. Military was 50 miles away in Nue Ulm. My actual assignment was 10th Group in Bad Tolz, Germany. I wound up spending 2 1/2 years there. I instructed in the order of battle of the Warsaw Pact. Students usually were from 8 different countries in a normal class. One of the exercises was to drop off teams & they would establish a hide & report enemy activity. The teams of course were mixtures of nationalities.

*Continued next page*

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

The road was not well traveled & enemy/any activity would be lacking. I dressed up as an East German. The Belgium CPT with me drove a vehicle with East German markings & pictures of tanks etc. taped to the side. Well....I am kinda walking the road & came around a sharp turn. Boom, I walked into a "herd" of hundreds of turkeys & was immediately surrounded. They were vicious & all I had was a training aid AK prop. I was in a panic. Then a little ol' putzfrau arrived. She had a short stick & beat a path through the turkeys. When she reached me, she grabbed my hand & pulled me to safety by beating another path. She was yelling & carrying on & I couldn't understand all she was saying. The CPT was in the vehicle was laughing at me. Needless to say, we got a lot of commo from the teams in their hides that were observing my misfortune. It was near Thanksgiving so I had my revenge.

Another story from Jim: It was custom to rotate your "survival" meal. I carried a Chili Con Carney Lurp. The beans in them were like steel balls, they stayed hard. I had poured water in the bag & heard a commotion outside my hooch. I opened the door & the SGM was standing there. When he saw me, he said, "Savell, get your team to the chopper pad we have a downed chopper. I immediately got the team saddled up & off we went. It was a Montagnard team. Other choppers were with us & I was finally briefed. Seems a "slick" had engine trouble & had landed the

day before in an opening in the forest. A team had "brightlighted" & been securing the aircraft all night. The aviators had decided to haul a replacement engine out to the site, replace it & fly the bird back. My team was replacing the team on the ground. When we arrived, the other team waved & boarded their ride home. Me & the other American set the team for security. We then walked over to check on the mechanics working on the engine switch. "Bang", a shot rang out & the mechanics were looking for a bunker. I went to where the shot was fired. One of the "Yards" was laying on his back & shooting at a bird. "Bang", another was doing the same. Then a civilian on a moped rode up. They had a Styrofoam ice chest tied to the passenger seat. All the "Yards" came running over. The lid was removed & he was selling ice cream to them. Seems they knew it was a safe area. The mechanics completed the engine exchange in record time. We flew back to Ban Me Thout (home). I released the team & went to my room. The Chili Con Carney Lurp was laying where I put it. After many hours.... the beans were still hard.

That's it for now. Keep the stories coming. We have lots of "quiet" Rangers out there with stories to share, so sound off and we'll get them printed.

Thanks, Stan Jones UD

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

UNIT DIRECTOR—MARC L. THOMPSON

Greetings and Salutations:

Hello again, fellow Rangers, LRRPs, and Jayhawks.

RANGER RENDEZVOUS AAR

Well, yours truly did not make it to the Ranger Rendezvous...

But received reports from Dick Foster, Jim Broyles, and Mike Moser.

Got Rendezvous AAR reports from Jim Broyles and Mike Moser...

The mass tactical ran late, but was done well, and the Regiment was well represented and Mike says that they put on a heck of a show. In addition to the Jayhawks, Jim and Mike were joined by Steve Murphy, Tony Olson, and John Kingeter.

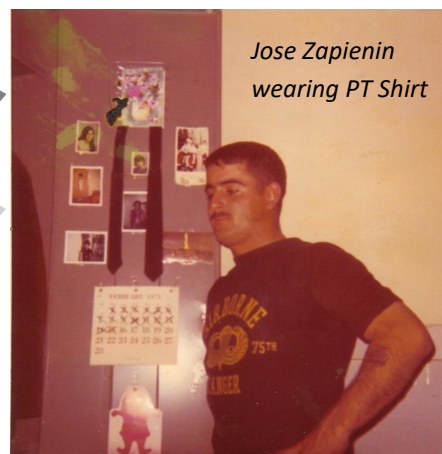
They attended the Ranger Hall of Fame induction, and various other functions. The blow-by-blow, day-by-day report follows in the VII Corps LRRP section (courtesy of Dick Foster).

The past few months have been interesting... was in a car crash (totaled it, yep...) on the way to some VA appointments... needless to say did not make it to the appointments that day, but did manage to evade the brain-dead woman driving a Beemer who pulled out into my lane and stopped dead (and managed to not kill her by t-boning her). I dodged all the oncoming traffic, returned to my original lane, and didn't do much else besides slide into a huge Chevy pickup sideways. Nobody injured, and the woman who caused it fled the scene, was followed by the driver behind her at the stop sign she ran to cause all the mayhem, and she was finally pulled over by the cops two counties away and returned to the jurisdiction. Her statement about the incident differed slightly from mine (and that of every other witness, all of which coincided with mine)... heh, heh.

The lacrosse team did not have a sterling year this year... some years you get the bear, some years the bear gets you. One of my previous lacrosse players graduated Ranger school, and is currently serving at Lewis as a second lieutenant. Several others are still serving, have already completed their enlistments, are in ROTC prior to graduation, or serving in the National Guard. You gotta love these young guys!

## B75 SWEATSHIRTS & T-SHIRTS

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



Jose Zapien wearing PT Shirt

Comments on PT shirts:

I'm including, once again, the comments on the t-shirts (photos next page), in case any of you criminals are looking to replace yours that magically shrank in the past 40-odd years.

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

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

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

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

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

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

[NOTE: Search for: official-rangers-pt-shirt-early-70s-reproduction].

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

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

It seems like there is a regular list of those of us who have gone on to meet the Big Ranger in the Sky, or are dealing with various maladies. As Mike Moser said, this getting old stuff ain't for wimps.

At last report, Bill Walter, Richard Stutsman, Chris Christopher-son, Tony Harley, Greg Phillips, Lynn Thompson, Leo Starkey, Bob Woolstrum, Dennis Lucas, Jose Zapien, Jeff Rice, Ranger Voyles, and a lot of you other criminals are still vertical (or, as Dirty Eddie would say: all you communists step up and provide me with a name, y'hear?).

Continued next page



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

## T-SHIRTS



We always have a great time together, without really accomplishing anything of great import, except renewing contact with old friends and comrades. This is necessary if we are to solve most of the problems of the world. I've finally finished working with the tee shirt people and I have attached (above) photos of the finished products. These are not, per se, reunion shirts, but what I call Tribute shirts.

You may recall that we had to cancel a memorial service on post for a number of reasons, but primarily too many regulations for chapel use and time constraints; plus Zeke, who does a great job conducting such a service had to bow out. Until next time...

Respectfully, Marc L. Thompson

Unit Director

### RANGER RENDEZVOUS SPEAKER-LTG KEN KEEN



LTG Ken Keen is drawing the winner of the 2019 Harley-Davidson Soft-Tail Slim with assistance from Rick Barela. And the lucky winner is:

Kent Sovern; Des Moines, Iowa.

Winning ticket # 1540

Congratulations, Kent!

Rendezvous AAR

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

Greetings Brother LRRPs!

I come to you from the sunny and humid climes of North Central Florida with my feeble recollections of our LRRP sojourn to Columbus / Ft Benning GA for the 75th Anniversary of the 75th Ranger Regiment. We were well represented by Fat Back Hathaway (NJ), Joe Chetwynd (MA), Toby Ivey (GA), Tom Forde (NY), Bill Mathiak (MI), Sam Storey (TN), "Whup Ass" Yarbrough (WI), Gene Kauffman (FL), Joe "Texas" Touchon (TX), Jim Jackson (GA) and I (FL).

Jim Broyles, Tony Olson, John Kingeter, and Mike Moser represented the infamous B Company Rangers.

Bob Vanasse, Dave Clark, Zeke Evaro, David Smith had originally intended to come, but like many of us could not due to personal or family concerns. Bob is still in the hospital in TN putting up a valiant struggle to heal and preserve what sanity he has left after this GI ordeal. The last I heard he is still in the ICU. Dave is caring for his wife who had to undergo surgery during reunion week, and Zeke is facing his ongoing outpatient struggle with shoulder and joint problems, probably a result of the wear and tear of a career in LRRPs and SF. I remember when he was our Asst Patrol Leader; the guy asked for no quarter and gave none. He even had me believing that cranking that damn generator while he searched for a signal was an honor because he couldn't do his job if I and Gjini slacked off. Good man, that Sp/4 Evaro!! Dave Smith had just undergone surgery on both legs. Something to do with arterial blockage. We don't yet know how well he's doing on that front. Wife Tammy relayed that he is in the early stages of dementia re dates and recent events. But hell, I think a lot of us fall into that category one way or another. As a matter of fact, the lack of email returns or non-responses would also indicate as much. Go figure. **IT CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HURT TO SEND A PRAYER AND THOUGHT THEIR AND THEIR FAMILIES' WAY.** We really missed a lot of our usual contingent, but with healthy and righteous living, we'll have opportunities down the road of life. Remember though, healthy and righteous are key: You're not getting any younger!

Just a side note of encouraging news: When Jim Jackson had his stroke several years ago, he was in some really serious shape. Frankly, I did not expect significant rehab, but Jim, thankfully, proved me wrong. His self-imposed and persistent rehab program worked wonders. He went from running into cars and trees and related cognitive difficulties to driving again, normal walking gait, and as easily conversant as he was prior to the stroke event. Proof that with prayer and persistent effort that does not know how to give up, there's hope for all of us, even Fat Back and Forde. Can I get an AMEN Sam Storey? **SUA SPONTE (By Your Own Accord) LRRPs / Rangers!**

We all managed to get rooms at the Best Western Plus so that was good that we were all together. That made it easy for us to make plans and travel around. Day one was spent meeting up as guys came in at different times. The hotel gave the whole rendezvous a lot of room to simply hang out, and the staff was

extremely helpful and accommodating. The "free" breakfast and all-day coffee was great. We brought our own libations to get us through the nights.

Day two was petty much the same thing with many of us going to the military surplus stores and generally screwing around and malingering (not to be redundant!)

Day three we lazed around with each other, while some visited the Infantry Museum. We used the evening to drink and nominate VII Corps officers for another two-year stint. As expected, nothing's changed in that respect. Try to deal with it!. Outside of that, we managed to decide on next year's reunion place and date. Las Vegas was unanimous choice for some time between Mid October and mid November, when the temperature is more hospitable and we can celebrate in true style the re-election of our President!!

On day four, we managed to make it to the Regimental BBQ. As usual, the experience of interacting with the Young active duty Rangers was a great one! After hearing all the bullshit that inundates the TV wasteland news about what's wrong with America these guys are a refreshing antidote to the pampered college snowflake dunderheads. These young guys are a righteous group and we have every right to be proud of our contribution, however small, to the legacy that is the 75th Ranger Regiment and history.

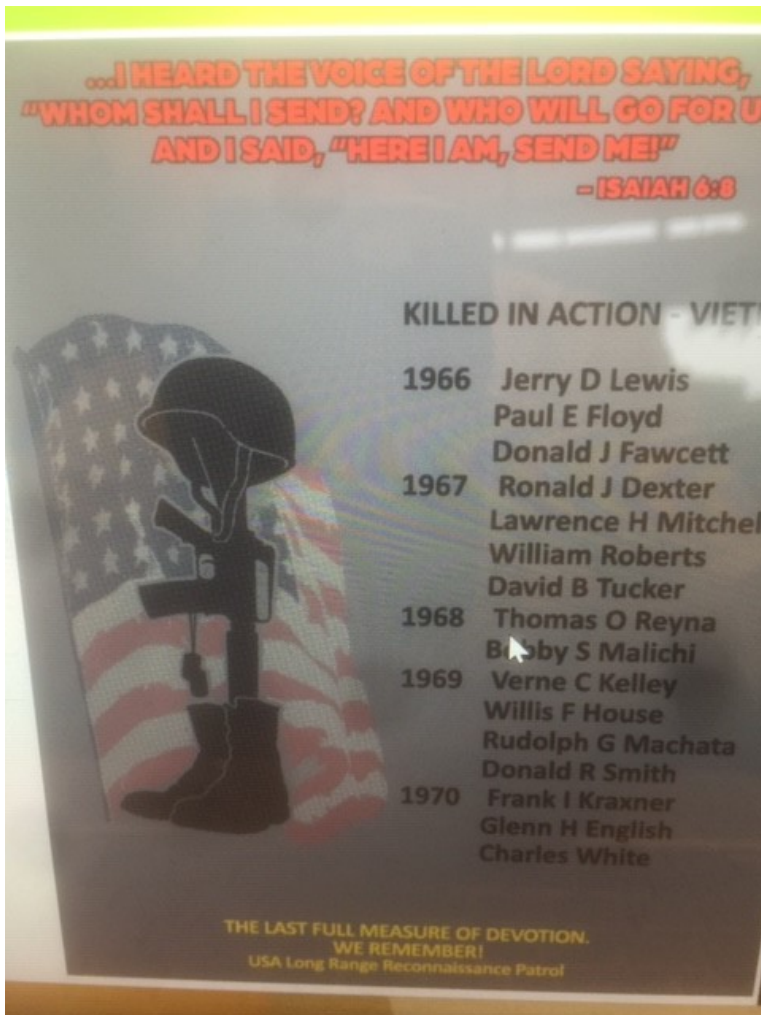
That evening, we were invited to the USARA (US Army Ranger Assoc) food and fest at the Hilton. They did a great job of letting us freeloader and take advantage of the free food, drinks, collaboration, raffles and access to their store of for-sale items, including greatly discounted vintage tees. Speaking of tee shirts, I still have a limited number of our shirts available, mostly XLs in short and long sleeve. Choices are limited, so if you're interested, you know my phone and email. (352-281-0983/ 7corpslrrpfoster@gmail.com). If you'd like a preview, I'll try to get Kauffman or Mathiak or anyone else who has them to post some of their group photos. I'll try to post mine, but there are no guarantees with me. Send them to Marc Thompson (B Co Unit Director or Steve Johnson, President-Elect of the 75th RRA. Include unit and names; they can decide which to print due to limited space).

Friday was the check out day for most of us, since everyone but Mathiak and Storey skipped the night's 75th RRA banquet. Bill may want to post his comments re that event. I know some of us are interested in whether or not it was a worthwhile event. I'd like to close this out with a big thanks to all who came and made it a worthwhile four days; especially Bill Mathiak who stopped by to see Bob Vanasse' and bring "Old" Sam Storey into our fold.

2020 VII Corps LRRP Reunion in Las Vegas, mid Oct/Nov. I nominated and, having met a quorum of active membership present, it was unanimously approved that Fred Kennedy (WA) and his assistant Steve Straley (AZ) would be the point men! Thanks Fred and Steve!

*Continued next page*

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



quickly examined him and determined him recovered. He has about three months of rehab to restore weight and muscle strength. They expect that to take about three months, til September.

You'll recall that he could hold no food down; eating one minute and passing it out about 30 minutes later. Consequently, his weight continued to diminish til he was down to about 80 pounds; he's gained 9 lbs back in just a week. After extensive physical therapy, learning how to walk again and reversing body atrophy, he expects to be back in shape and going to next year's Las Vegas reunion.

I'd like to think that a couple of our LRRP Brothers played a hand in Bob's near miraculous recovery. Bill Mathiak and Donna came down from Michigan and picked up Sam Storey on their way to our recent reunion. They stopped on the way and went to see Bob. I can't help but think that their visit played some unseen part in keeping the Old Dog alive and well enough to stop him from, in MacArthur's words, "fading away" til God could tweak his parachute.

In short, what I thought (and still do a little bit) was the Agent Orange curse after two and a half tours in Vietnam turned out to be something EVERY DAMN ONE OF US should take a lesson from. The MAJOR CAUSE of heart attacks and strokes and eventual death is clogged arteries. See a cardiologist this month, no matter how well you feel. Your shoulders and other joints, or other organ and muscle problems could very well be a function of poor blood circulation. Insist on it! You've paid your dues; God helps those who help themselves and it's difficult to help a dumb ass, so don't be one.

I think that's it Troops. Get some sleep. We fall out for a scheduled jump and 50KM force march back to base at 2300 hrs. Base comms can sleep in as usual!. As usual, I've probably forgotten something besides my field navigation gear, but I remain your faithful Brother In Arms and El Presidente.

Pfc Richard Foster

USA LRRP (Abn) - VII Corps

BOB VANASSE

Good News!

I spoke with Bob yesterday and the news of his bout with the heebiejeebies is over! He is still in the rehab section of the hospital that finally found his problem. I'll try to relate what I thought was a beautiful story, as best as I remember.

Bob was still in a coma with a dire prognosis. Carol, his wife, was advised to begin making final arrangements, within the next couple of days. I don't remember the exact scenario, but after gross invasive open chest and thoracic surgery to open three blocked arteries leading to his GI tract, he woke up the next day and asked where he was. Totally astounded, the physicians

In a closing note, I may not have everyone's email on this computer (like the other one that's often dysfunctional), so I would appreciate you who do have complete lists to forward this to all on it.

Bill Mathiak, I'm finally putting a copy of my list of members (email and non-email) in the mail to you tomorrow. Thanks for volunteering computereze skills.

I'm still AIRBORNE and LRRP ALL THE WAY!

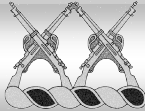
Pfc Foster, El Guapo, OUT!

Sua Sponte and Lead the Way LRRPs!

PFC Richard Foster, President

VII Corps LRRP Association





## C/75 - E/20 LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—JOE HAYES

Just when you think that the country has gone crazy and that things don't seem to be making much sense; there comes another E/20 - C/75 reunion. Three days at Benning can put things back into perspective pretty quickly. The average person nowadays probably wouldn't understand this and now, as I write this article, I am thinking of a comment that Louisiana Senator John Kennedy expressed, when asked his opinion of the folks in congress who don't seem to have too much affection for the United States of America. In his soft, gentle way that is usually a trademark of his he answered: "Well" he said, "I don't like to get between a dog and a fire hydrant, but people like that are the reason that instructions are put on a shampoo bottle." Spoken like a true gentleman. He didn't have to exercise the four-letter word assault to get his point across. He didn't need to say anything more. I stand corrected. He did have to affirm for the interviewer that the dog and hydrant comment was just a metaphor. I'm surprised that he didn't have to explain what that was! I wish that he was my Senator.

So we gathered for three days among friends; among true patriots. It was truly a beautiful and uplifting experience. Thank you, Bones - and Milt - and Ray.

Thanks CT for bringing your business down from Bragg. I'm looking forward to wearing that red white and blue shirt with the stars and stripes on the left sleeve. You do beautiful work and your career is a story in itself. You got all of those stripes you set out for! Doc Gove and wife Carole were there. Doc always looks like he should. If you don't see Doc for two or five years it doesn't make any difference. Nobody has to ask - "Who is that?" It must be those Cossack genes. Na Zdorovie Doc!! Walter, thank you, for bringing all the Harley stuff. Jimmy P., it was fun playing music (I think we can call it that) with you and Bruce. Chuck Vaughn jumped in there too. And what a beautiful Martin guitar Tom Workman brought down. Thanks for letting JP use it when his Telecaster crapped out. I told JP - "You gotta always bring your acoustic. It will never let you down." - He has a nice Taylor, too. Oh well, it worked out. Speaking of music - Ray...I think that the reason that Milt closed the door on us when we were singing, "We Gotta Get Out Of This Place", is that we were a little out of key. We really must work on that!!



I actually got a chance to have a conversation with Del. Yes - he really does talk. I love you Del. And Charlie Lynch; I didn't remember talking to him before until he said to me, "I talked to you on the phone!" Then I remembered that he had called me about a year and a half ago looking for some of the guys in the unit. I said, "I remember you! You're the guy from Folsom!" "Yeah." He said. "They let me out of prison to come here for a couple of days!" It was nice to meet you in person Charlie and to put a face with a name.

It was good to sit down with Trinh once again and to get more details about his life. When we were getting on the bus to go to dinner my wife, Donna, told Trinh to tell his wife that she looked pretty. Trinh gave us a funny look so I said, "tell Rosa that she looks very pretty." Trinh gave another funny look so I said, "Rosa looks very beautiful." Trinh had been toying with us. He looked at us and smiled and said very softly, "She understands what you say." It kind of reminded me of that hearing aid commercial; "I heard you the first time - I just wanted to hear it again." Oh, and thanks for the CD Trinh. Also it was good to talk to Chuck Vaughn and get a little more backfill on how he got Trinh here. What a story!



It was good to see Bob Stein. I said hello to him on Thursday - and on Friday - and again on Saturday morning, when he, "Joe Hayes - you made it down here!"... It had to have been the Georgia heat - like a mirage in the desert. I really wasn't there. Well, we got a chance to sit down and talk a bit. Now I know why he was in Tasmania a couple of years ago. His daughter lives there. Bob, those were some nice pictures.

Sometimes it was good to just set down and listen. I think it was Thursday morning; maybe about 6:30 - at breakfast. I sat down at a table with three guys: Ben Sellers, Wayne Rhodes, and Bill Wooton. Jim Purdue called him Wild Bill Wooton. I'm sure that there's a story there. So for forty or so minutes I sat and listened and it was all good. It was a pleasure sitting with you guys. Dinner at the Infantry Museum is something that Donna and I looked forward to. The dinner itself was great!

*Continued on next page*



## C/75 - E/20 LRP

! Just being with everybody in this great place, and feeling the camaraderie was a very good experience. It never seems to lose its grandeur. Tom Bragg's invocation is always special. Things that he said seemed as if he could read my mind. Some of the highlights were; that our rights come from God – that our government exists to protect those rights – thanking Almighty God for the privilege of living in the great country – remembering all of those who gave their lives so that we live free. I never tire of hearing these things and particularly not the way Tom Bragg says it. Tom

surely has a gift and we were and are blessed to have Tom's spirituality and faith shine forth over the years. Thank you, Tom Bragg.

The guest speaker Danny McKnight is Bones' good friend. He has been Bones' friend for a very long time. When my wife Donna found out before the dinner, that Danny was going to be the speaker, she got a bit choked up as she loves and really appreciates not only what we did, but what all of the Rangers do. The story of Mogadishu is something that she has come to take very personally; ever since we came down to our first reunion in 2011. Seeing Ft. Benning and all of those young Rangers gave her a whole new perspective (not that she didn't already appreciate the service) but it added another dimension to her already strong love of country. She was so proud to have been able to thank them in person – these, the young men who keep us free.

Sometimes God takes a person out of the ordinary and puts him into the extraordinary. Many of us have had this experience. I might be wrong, but I think that once that happens, there is no going back to the ordinary. It either becomes a burden or a blessing. Donna and I got a chance to briefly talk to Col. McKnight before dinner started. As Donna thanked him and started to tear up a little, Danny looked at her and told her what he told all of us in his talk. He told Donna that without all of the guys in this room, he would not have been able to have done what he did. Me – I just stood there. I was humbled by a humbly guy.

One thing that Col. McKnight said in his talk was that nothing happens by chance. He said that God has a purpose for everything. You will remember he said this when he spoke of going to see the movie *Black Hawk Down*. He drove fifteen or so miles to a theater so that there was little chance that someone would recognize him. After the movie he waited until the theater was



nearly empty so that no one would recognize him and come up and start talking. He just wanted to go home. When he was telling the story, you could just about have put yourself in his shoes. So, as Danny starts walking out through the lobby he hears; "Col. McKnight?" I guess that would be a heart stopper. It was one of the Rangers who had served under him in Mogadishu. And the Ranger had driven to the theater about the same distance in the opposite direction from where Danny came from. It had been years since they had seen each other. Go figure!...

Yes, I believe that God has a purpose for everything. In the acknowledgements in his book, *The Streets of Mogadishu*, Col. McKnight thanked God for watching over him and allowing him to live through that battle. Danny said, "He truly had a plan that said, 'I am not finished with Danny McKnight on earth quite yet.'" He said he knew this to be true" because of the blessing that I am able to share with others in our country today, those of sacrifice, love, patriotism, family, and God's greatness." I think everyone in that room was blessed to have had those few moments with Col. McKnight. I know for sure that Donna and I were definitely blessed to have been there. It is a night that I will cherish forever.

The United States of America truly is a great country. I don't have to tell all of you that. I don't have to tell you that it is all of the things that you hear in all of those patriotic clichés, but much more. You all know that it is a concept that became a reality, forged from the service and sacrifice by folks just like us. They are the ones who lived...and live by the values of leadership which Col. McKnight wrote about in his book: Loyalty – Duty – Respect – Selfless Service – Honor Integrity and Personal Courage. Thank you Col. McKnight.

So I Donna and I once again left Ft. Benning to return to the place where things sometimes are a little crazy and don't make sense. But we do so knowing that we can weather the storm because for three days, we have been recharged by the greatness and inspiration of all of you wonderful people. We are very proud to have been a part of it. Thanks again, Bones, Milt, Ray, Col. McKnight, and everyone who helped to put this reunion together.

Thanks for another memorable reunion!

See You In November – Joe Hayes

# D/151st/LRP/LRS

Unit Director Bob McIntire

THE MOST DECORATED UNIT IN VIETNAM McIntire/5/31/19

I guess this title is a lot like the guy that gets a tattoo on his arm of his own name. It strikes me as too much of an ego thing to put your own name on your own arm. If I was unconscientious and worried about being identified then that might be a reason for it, but a tattoo that said Bob would not be of much help to me or anyone else. There might be a reason to be known as a member of a special unit, that was singled out for an outstanding accomplishment. It might help me get a government job like a mail carrier, but probably not. Anyway, to substantiate such a statement or distinction would require several qualifiers. One qualifier would have to relate to the fact that there were not many units that only served one tour in country. Most units were there for longer than one tour. Those units continually replaced soldiers that had served their tour and were rotated back to the states. That happened repeatedly until the unit had been there for the duration of the action. We were a National Guard unit, activated in May of 1968 and was deactivated at the end of 1969 or in other words, we were sent to Vietnam as a company for one tour. When we left Vietnam the unit name was changed to a different name. During that one tour of one unit (Co.D 151) we were the most decorated unit. More importantly we were probably the most highly trained unit for that one tour. We were possibly the best supported unit during that one tour. We may have been the unit with the least casualties for that one tour. If we don't take all of those qualifiers into account it does sound impressive to someone that does not know all those stipulations.

It amazes me how little soldiers know about some things and how much they know about other things. That is a very general statement that is not meant to include all soldiers because some are extremely knowledgeable about a vast number of subjects. The problem I have with this is that those that think they know it all about some things really don't. These individuals are usually the ones that open their mouths and let everyone else know just how little they really do know. I attempt to add a statement to things I think I know, but may not, like "in my opinion" or "my understanding of this is" or "this is the way I remember it". Hopefully others will understand that I may have heard something inaccurately, or misunderstood what was meant or have forgotten some key elements of a thing. This is usually the result of not giving my full attention while it is being explained to me or because too much time has passed and I don't remember all the points of the subject or I just want to make someone think I am smarter than I really am. Example: I once wrote a story about an elephant contact. I was the RTO on that contact and Loren Dixon was the team leader. After finishing the draft I gave it to Loren for his comments. He told me that my story was not



what happened, but it was not worth changing. Two remembrances of the same story. Loren and I agreed that there were elephants, that our ambush was attached and that Doug Hagan was severely injured. From that point on the details became somewhat convoluted. As a result I qualified the story with a disclaimer that I told the story as I remembered it.

All of this leads me to a book I started several years ago about stolen valor. Stolen Valor was a popular (or unpopular) subject some time back and I decided I needed to be more up on the subject and a book was one way of expanding my knowledge on people that try to be something they are not or at least trying to make other people think they are something they are not.

When I returned stateside from my tour in Vietnam, having served in Vietnam was not a popular thing. You may have found the same thing when you returned home. Time passed and that view of the Vietnam Veteran gradually changed and as most things do, it over-corrected to the point that it became almost a status symbol to be a Vietnam Veteran. It seemed like everyone and their brother served in Southeast Asia and most of them served in very risky M.O.'s. Of the 500,000 or so soldiers that were sent to the war zone only 20% were actual combat soldiers. I don't distinguish between combat and support or even between war zone and other overseas assignments or even stateside assignments. In my humble opinion all soldiers in all branches of the services were in some danger or could be and all were away from family and loved ones. A soldier is a soldier, but back to stolen valor and the book I started to read to become more enlightened.

The author was one of those people that thought they knew more than they really did. I don't know if he just was not enlightened or if he thought I was too dumb to know that he didn't know. Bottom line is, in my opinion (one of my qualifiers) he was trying to make money at my expense and in fact he did because I bought his book hoping he could enlighten me. I read a good bit of the book before I figured out that he was not as knowledgeable as I had hoped. We who read IN CONTACT or PATROLLING are members of an elite group of soldier or are related to its members. The author made the sweeping statement that Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol or Long Range Patrol as it morphed into later, were none of them Ranger qualified and had not graduated from Ranger School. Well that just was not true and at the risk of being picky I found that to be a monumental error on his part. It was a mistake I could not abide. I read it over a few more times to make sure I read it right and then threw the book in the trash. A fair percentage of our soldiers did in fact complete and graduate Ranger School.

*Continued on next page*

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## D/151st/LRP/LRS

The majority of our members also completed a LRP or LRRP school designed and put on by the Ranger Instructors. The special Ranger school was as a result of two things. When we were activated we were sent to Fort Benning home of both the Airborne School and the Ranger School. From Fort Benning we were DTY to various other training schools but put on by the army. We were all Advance Infantry Trained, and Airborne qualified. We had our own Pathfinders, our own RTOs, our own riggers and most of our company had graduated Jungle School in Panama and some of our men had graduated Ranger School.

After all this training we returned to Fort Benning with too much time on our hands. That is the first reason for our company Ranger training experience. The second reason was a Sergeant William Butler. He was Ranger qualified and an outstanding example of a Ranger. He had fought in Korea and was now being readied to fight in Vietnam. He later was acknowledged in the Ranger Hall of Fame. Sgt. Butler suggested to the Company Commander that we might all benefit from Ranger training. Something that would directly help us all in the fact that we knew we would be going to Vietnam as "LRPs". Ranger School was at that time shut down for the instructors to Ranger School. Sgt. Butler visited the school with his proposition. Not too

surprising, have a much deserved annual leave, but several of the cadre were still present at the Ranger cadre found the idea to their liking. They put together a special school, using their expertise and training facilities for a hands-on-experience. The Ranger School would use their experience to facilitate a Ranger backed Long Range Recon School in Vietnam, (Recondo School). Several Long Range Recon soldiers attend that school to hone their recon skills. I have only heard great stories about the experiences and training associated with Recondo School.

Chuck Wallace and I along with our wives took an opportunity, while motorcycling, to go to the Dahlonega, Georgia mountain training camp. We were invited to see their museum at their mountain headquarters. A fair percentage of the museum were pictures and descriptions of the time we trained there. It was quite exciting to know we had made such a lasting impression on them. Were LRP's Ranger trained? If you consider having Ranger Instructors teaching a Ranger guided curriculum, at a Ranger facility then a profound yes. Several LRP's were Ranger trained both at Fort Benning and Ranger instigated Recondo School in Vietnam. Were LRP's special? In my opinion LRP's were special as proven by both the Tab and the Scroll.

Hooah. "Rangers Lead The Way"!

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### 75thRRA Banquet Photo







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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROBERT HERNANDEZ

## 2019 Kalispell Reunion Sit Rep

Gentlemen and members of our extended family:

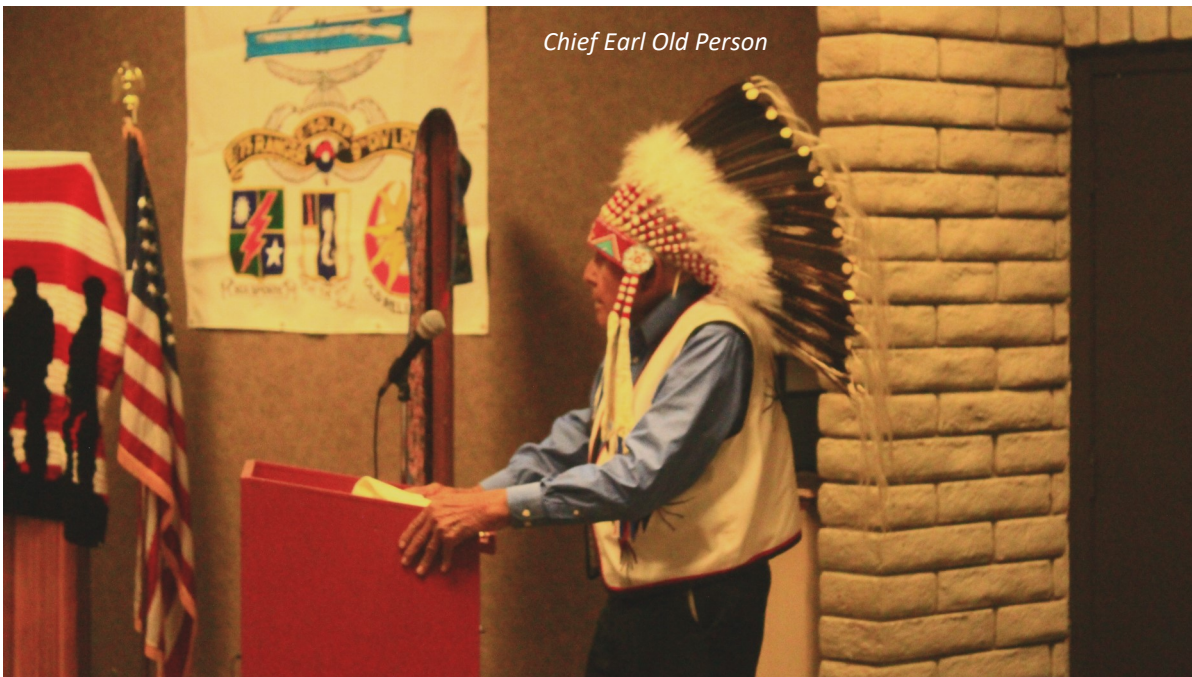
I want to thank the men who attended the Kalispell reunion for their vote of confidence by electing me as your new unit director. I was one of the original volunteers who joined the LRP platoon at Fort Riley Kansas and trained at the Jungle Warfare School in Panama. I served in Vietnam from January 1967 to January 1968.

I want to thank Jeff Webb for his service as a two term unit director and he was responsible for guiding the unit through some tough decision points as we navigated the dueling dates for various reunions this year.



the leadership of our first company commander Clancy Matsuda (retired) and First Sargent Roy Nelson (deceased). This prestigious award was presented to Rick Stetson for his exceptional service to the unit.

Tony Hanlon resigned as Unit Chaplin and Dave Stone volunteered to serve in his place.



Howard Munn proposed hosting the 2021 reunion in Mobile, Alabama and after some discussion, we voted to accept his offer. For the memorial service Ron Bird arranged to have the colors presented by the Blackfeet Honor Guard in traditional Indian headdress followed by words of inspiration from Chief "Earl Old Person".

Terry and his team- Dorothy Leishman, Ray and Glenna Quesberry planned and executed their itinerary without a hitch.

Most of the attendees visited Glacier National Park, the Buffalo Range and Saint Ignatius church, while others chose to go on rafting trips, while still others enjoyed the world class fishing.

The guys voted on the creation of a new unit award to honor

Many subjects were discussed at the business meeting and a more detailed report will be discussed in my next report.

Respectfully, Bob Hernandez

Unit Director E50 LRRPs/E75 Rangers





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



The 196<sup>th</sup> LRRP-E/51<sup>st</sup> LRP-G/75<sup>th</sup> crowd descended on Columbus, Georgia the week of July 7-13 for our annual reunion. We partnered with the Ranger Regiment Association and due to the Regimental Change of Command, all three active duty battalions were present. Last time that I counted, we had 37 guys from our unit in attendance with a family group of just over our number of attendees. The RRA folks were great partners and provided a hospitality room and hosted several other events for our band of brothers and families. A Casino Night and the banquet were both fun events and Harley Davidson donated a bike that was raffled off. Since I did not win the bike, I don't care who did! The Ranger Regiment had a number of static displays and a parachute

jump at Fryar Field. Due to the weather, the jump went late and most were gone before they were able to clear the weather jump. Since they had the aircraft available and most were in need of a "pay jump" after returning from deployments, they sat in aircraft (C17's, C130's and a couple of Chinooks) probably in excess of 5 hours before the skies cleared enough for the jump. Most of us have experienced the pleasure of sitting in full gear in hot, crowded aircraft waiting for who-knows-what to make a jump.

While Ft. Benning has modernized, the Georgia weather is just as hot and humid as ever and air conditioning and cold beer were the order of the day for most of us. The Regiment hosted a BBQ event for us at Freedom Hall and the 800 or so young buff soldiers were eye candy for the women in attendance. I certainly know my wife enjoyed the view and I spent most of my time holding my stomach in and trying to appear younger. I failed miserably but my bride (Nicki) seemed to do quite well.

Our hotel staff and management were great people and very accommodating. They managed to take care of us and we converted RRA meeting space into our own hospitality suite that seemed to be in constant use. Alcohol, laughter, true stories and tall tales were the order of the day. Sorting out fact from fiction was up to each individual. This was our 30<sup>th</sup> reunion so some of the stories had been told at least that many times and there were a few new ones as well. We are now bringing grandkids



rather than children so at least we had an opportunity to tell tales to a new audience.

We held our usual Memorial service for those in our unit who lost their lives in the service of our county. This was appropriately done at the Ranger Memorial with a Ranger Color Guard. A solemn event that brings out memories, both happy and sad, to honor our fallen.

My bride insisted that I mention the Ladies day excursion put together by the RRA. An easy bus ride to FDR's "Little White House" in Warm Springs along with lunch at "Bulloch's", wine tasting and ice cream at Warm Springs Winery and shopping in quaint Warm Springs all got rave reviews. The RRA even

stepped up and provided tips for the guide and bus driver so the ladies did not need to pony up for that.

There are several museums in the Columbus-Ft. Benning area. Of course the Infantry Museum is a big draw for us and was a part of the agenda for those who could break away from the hospitality rooms. It is truly magnificent and it is difficult to get through it in a day. Another museum that was a total surprise to me was the Confederate Navy Museum in Columbus. As to why a Naval Museum is



*G/75th Gathering at the Ranger Memorial*

located in Columbus, you will have to go and read for yourself. It was a well-appointed and informative visit and you can easily spend several hours learning and enjoying the various artifacts.

It seems that southern hospitality was the order for the day and service was outstanding everywhere we went. The RRA event used 5 hotels and you could find a free cold beer in them all. The brotherhood of the Rangers reached into every aspect of our stay and a Ranger T-shirt got you a welcome smile and a handshake from total strangers. I found the Cannon Brew Pub to be a great place to visit and there was a definite "Ranger" influence present.

Our own Steve Johnson was elected President of the RRA so we can expect great things to continue. Congratulations to Steve for continuing to serve in leadership roles that benefit us all.

Our next reunion (dates yet to be determined) will be in Sacramento, California. I look forward to seeing you all there.



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—BENNIE GENTRY



Pete Dencker-Writer

I would like to open by thanking the 37, H Company brothers, and in some cases wives, friends and surviving family members for making their way to Killeen to celebrate our annual reunion.

Similar to the past few years, it was a celebration held in conjunction with the 1st Cavalry Division reunion.....although most Cav folks gave us lots of room. From a business perspective, there was really only one change – Benny Gentry was appointed the “Unit Director” for the 75th Ranger Regiment Assn.

Thanks to all who sent reunion photos – I’ve included the one that made us all look the youngest! Look forward to seeing everyone in Louisville next year!

H Company was represented at the Ranger Rendezvous and bi annual meeting of the 75th Ranger Regiment Association which took place the 2nd week in July at Ft Benning. In attendance from H Company were Bennie Gen-

try, Jimmy Broyles, Mike Doran and Pete Dencker. This was a gathering of all Rangers from Units past and present ranging from 3 of the original Merrill’s Marauders to the young guns that are part of today’s 75th Ranger Regiment. It was an impressive week filled with lots of activity and most of all a great reminder of the part we (Vietnam era Rangers) played in building the Ranger legacy. Specific to our era group was the presentation of a Congressional Pin for Vietnam Veterans honoring our Vietnam service that took place at the Infantry museum. Other notable outcomes from the Rendezvous – Bennie Gentry was appointed Sergeant at Arms for the Association and Pete Dencker elected



as 2nd Vice President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association.

I wanted to memorialize 3 of our brothers in this issue; David Ives, Elvis Osborne, and Jeffrey Maurer. They represent the first and last members of our Unit that were KIA in Vietnam. David Ives was KIA on April 23rd, 1967, and Elvis Osborn and Jeffrey Maurer while working a mission as members of the same team and were KIA on 9 June 1972. They were the last Rangers killed during the Vietnam War. Within a month of that mission, H Company ceased combat operations, and the following month on August 15th the unit was

inactivated with the distinction of being the last, and the most decorated US Ranger unit to serve during the Vietnam war. In 1974 the H Company colors, and lineage were passed to the 2nd Ranger Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. An interesting side note was that Oliver Stone’s movie “Platoon” was partially based on his experience in the unit. Stone was a rifleman in the 25th ID who



volunteered with his buddy Gair Anderson for the 1st Cav LRRP unit. Stone was dropped after completing training, but Anderson stayed with the unit. The movie Platoon depicts the story of 2 soldiers from the 2nd Platoon, Company E, 52nd Inf (LRRP).

It’s been pretty difficult exercise trying to locate any pertinent information on Ives, Osborne and Maurer but here is what I have.

David Ives was born August 12th, 1946. I believe he was born in Iowa but enlisted in Fairfield, CA . He was KIA on April 23rd, 1967 while on his first mission with H Company.

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

Bill Carpenter has described the contact in detail in one of his many articles. I've reached out on Facebook to Joyce Denke for additional information (she was engaged to David at the time of his death) but have not received an answer. Joyce had also spent time in Vietnam as a Donut Dollie. David is buried in Cedar Lawn Cemetery, Council Bluffs, Iowa.



David Ives

Jeffrey Alan Maurer grew up in Iowa in the Wilton area where he attended Bennett High School where he was a star basketball player. After graduating from Bennett in May 1971, rather than using his basketball skills to further his education he volunteered to join the Army, and after completing his basic training deployed to Vietnam in December of that year. Jeffrey volunteered for and became a member of H Company early in 1972. On June 9, 1972 Corporal Jeffrey Maurer died along with his Team Leader



Jeffery Maurer 2nd from left Elvis Osborne, on right

Elvis Osborne as the result of a command detonated explosive while on patrol in Binh Doung Province. Spec 4 Jeffrey Maurer is buried in the Davenport Memorial Cemetery. Sgt. Elvis Osborne Jr. was born in Kaufman County, TX on 19 October 1951, and is buried at Laurel Land Memorial Cemetery in Dallas TX.

The following is taken from the history files of Company H (Ranger), 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry (Airborne). This segment of Company history was originally written by Sgt "Pappy" Baumgartner (a member of H Company) in the summer of 1972, as the end of the war in Vietnam was in sight and H Company was the last Ranger Company left in Country. It was later augmented by 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Botund Batizy, who served with H Company in RVN and later with the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. It was updated for this article by Pete Dencker, H Company Commander at the time. It describes one final and unique chapter to the history of H Company because this mission was different from what had been our norm during the past few years. This operation not only highlighted the spirit of every Ranger who ever wore the Scroll, but also foreshadowed one of the new missions subsequent Ranger units would be tasked with.

### Loc Ninh/An Loc 1972

In the spring of 1972, General Giap initiated a major commitment of North Vietnamese troops. He had been waiting years for his "stars to align". These stars included: the lack of success of "Vietnamization", the continued stand down of US troops in South Vietnam, and lastly the public and congressional antiwar sentiment prevalent in the US at the time. The plan involved launching a massive 3 pronged "Easter offensive" against South Vietnam. This attack was noteworthy for a number of reasons, but of particular note - it was the first time the North Vietnamese moved away from guerilla warfare tactics and utilized a more traditional "combined arms" approach to the war by coordinating and combining massed armor, artillery/mechanized artillery, and Infantry units. Phase 1 took place in the north. Giap on March 30<sup>th</sup> attacked across the DMZ into Quang Tri Province with 3 Divisions supported by tanks, heavy artillery, and SAM missiles. Initially this cross-border incursion was successful although intentionally inaccurate reporting on the part of the South Vietnamese Command created the impression that South Vietnamese forces were more successful than they actually were (which led to an incorrect conclusion that the attack in the north was only a diversion and the main thrust of the offensive would be in the Central Highlands). The next phase of the northernmost attack followed at the end of April with the deployment of 3 additional Divisions of NVA troops. The initial success of Giap's northern phase was later halted by South Vietnamese forces at Hue. The 2<sup>nd</sup> prong of the Easter Offensive involved 3 Divisions attacking across the Laotian border into MR 2 with a goal of capturing the City of Kon Tum.

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After fierce fighting the South Vietnamese were able to hold off the advancing NVA. As South Vietnamese forces were drawn north in response to the enemy activity in the north and central parts of the Country, the NVA, early in April, began the third phase of the assault into MR3 attempting to capture the airfields at Loch Ninh, An Loc and Quan Loi and to then establish control of the main road to Saigon. As this 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the Easter offensive progressed further south toward the heart of MR3, H Company (assigned to the remaining 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division) was at the time adapting its mission to include rescue and reaction operations. It was in early April 1972, that this new concept became a "working" mission.

Loc Ninh, about 10-12 miles south of the Cambodian border became the focal point of US interest. In addition to an air strip, with protective bunkers and compounds manned by a South Vietnamese Regiment - the Regiment was supported by American Advisors who were located in and around the air strip. As the fighting began, the NVA completely outmanned and outgunned the forces holding Loc Ninh. In short order Loc Ninh was surrounded and it was evident through continued communication with the now trapped advisors, that the defenders did not have sufficient resources to repel the attack or to hold out for any length of time. A decision was made to attempt to rescue the Americans who remained trapped inside the compound.

Major General James Hollingsworth was put in command of the task force assigned the mission of rescuing the American advisors. This task force was a diverse group and included representatives of the US Air Force, Army Aviation, Vietnamese Air Force, Vietnamese Army and US Army ground forces - H Company, 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry was the only "ground unit" to be considered for this operation. Although there were some differing opinions on how this rescue operation could or should be conducted - it was pretty clear that Hollingsworth was in complete charge and it would be his way or the highway. My recollection of Hollingsworth, who had been one of Patton's Battalion Commanders during WWII was that by demeanor alone - he was hard charging as they come and if nothing else a Patton clone.

The mission was to rescue the American advisors. The plan was pretty straight forward - bomb the hell out of the area surrounding Loc Ninh - to see if we could keep their heads down long enough get 2 teams of Rangers on the ground and rescue the advisors who were in separate bunkers on each end of the air strip. If that wouldn't work - to find a way to incapacitate the forces surrounding Loc Ninh with a "knock out" gas (suggested by the U.S. Air Force) which was nicknamed "Bay Rum" for the same purpose.

On the morning of April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1972, Cpt Pete Dencker, 1Lt Lynne Moore along with all available Ranger teams assembled at the Bien Hoa airstrip in preparation to deploy to An Loc, the staging area to support the Loc Ninh operation. When five UH-1H heli-

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

copters showed up, it was evident that there was not enough lift capacity to carry the entire unit. Every one of the Rangers stepped forward to be a part of the rescue group. Some pulled "rank", others "seniority", while others felt that they had the most training and experience for this mission. Dencker selected the Rangers that would be needed and along with Moore the helicopters lifted off for An Loc and what everyone hoped would be an occasion to experience the new H Company mission in action. At An Loc, much like at Bien Hoa, one thing was clear - every Ranger was willing to do whatever it took to rescue the trapped advisors.

Just before noon, it was evident that conventional methods (Artillery, Cobra and C-130 gunships, and B-52 strikes) of pushing back the NVA troops surrounding Loch Ninh were not working and a message was sent back to Bien Hoa for additional equipment. A CH-47 cargo helicopter was loaded with gas masks, M-60 machine guns, and M-62 light anti-tank weapons (LAWs). On this trip, 1Lt Botond Batizy went along to make sure everything was delivered as ordered.

The forward staging area at An Loc was the center of activity. A lone US Army Pathfinder was directing every sort of aircraft from Air Force forward air control (FAC) and C-130's and B-52's to Army light observation helicopters and Cobra gun ships. Off to the side, the command group, led by General Hollingsworth, was communicating directly with the American advisors inside the besieged compound. Every radio was on the same FM frequency, so everybody who had a radio or was near one was able to monitor the situation as it was developing. Conversations abruptly stopped frequently as the defenders dropped their radios to fight one assault after another. Their communication indicated that there were now tanks around the compound firing directly at them along with enemy artillery and SAM missile launchers who were firing at the US aircraft supporting the battle. Around mid afternoon, plans were finalized for the rescue.

The Ranger force was reduced once again because two of the helicopters had to land "empty" to make room for the rescued advisors. The rescue force was reorganized as follows: In the first UH-1, 1Lt Moore and five Rangers. Each of the men was armed with an AK-47, heavy load of ammunition, grenades, and a LAW. Lt Moore also carried the team's PRC 77 radio on his back. The second helicopter was empty. The third carried Cpt Dencker and five Rangers, all armed and equipped like the Rangers on the first aircraft. The fourth aircraft was also empty. Lt Batizy and four Rangers were in the fifth helicopter. Each of these four Rangers was armed with an AK, a LAW, and an M-60 machine gun; Lt Batizy had an AK, four Laws strapped to the radio, and sat on an unopened crate of M-60 ammunition that he was to yank off the helicopter upon landing. Everybody, including the helicopter crew, wore gas masks.

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The selection of the seventeen Rangers to participate in this phase was challenging because similar to the situation in Bien Hoa, everyone wanted to be part of the group that would rescue the advisors regardless of the potential hazards. And the hazards were significant, knowing that the airfield was surrounded by NVA troops, artillery and mechanized SAM missile launchers' along with T-54 tanks shooting point blank into the compound. It had become clear to all that this assault had a high potential to become a suicide mission. Every Ranger, however, was more concerned about rescuing their fellow American Soldiers than the potential consequences.

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



*Loading up for An Loc*

The Plan - During the first phase of this operation, the Air Force was to drop the "Bay Rum" agent around the compound to disable everybody, friend and foe

alike which dictated the need for gas masks (We assumed from the start that the T-54 tanks were most likely equipped with gas masks, and it was something we would have to deal with.)

After the incapacitating agent was deployed, the first helicopter was to land at the North end of the air strip, unload the Ranger Team, and take off. The 3<sup>rd</sup> helicopter was to do the same at the other end of the air strip. The Ranger Teams were to locate the bunkers where the Advisors were located then carry the "incapacitated" Americans advisors out to the pickup zone where the Rangers were to load the advisors on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> empty helicopters. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> helicopters followed immediately to extract the teams. The fifth helicopter's mission was to be inserted in case one of the other four helicopters was disabled on the ground; the five Rangers on that last aircraft were the "heavy reinforcement".

As the aircraft lifted off and climbed several thousand feet, all who monitored the radio could hear the situation on the ground becoming more desperate. The helicopters staged at what seemed to be around 5 or 6 thousand feet, As we sat in the door with our legs and feet hanging over the edge I remember looking out at the black puffs of smoke from anti-aircraft weapons bring-

ing back memories of watching WWII movies on TV. Eventually, we got word that we were on short final....we put on our gas masks and the first two helicopters banked to the left and we began the descent into Loc Ninh. Without hesitation, the fifth helicopter fell in behind the first two. It didn't take long to realize that there was no way the helicopters could survive the mission intact. A minute later, due to the intense anti-aircraft fire the three helicopters aborted the insertion and returned to a holding pattern. Evidently, the Air Force's Bay Rum did not work as expected.

The five helicopters remained on hold for a while longer hoping for another opportunity to be inserted. After some time had passed, General Hollingsworth having weighed the risks - realized that any hope for a successful rescue had evaporated, and he

did not want to risk the additional loss of 3 Ranger teams. Everybody could hear him on the radio telling the advisors on the ground that he had not given up and would continue trying, but it was evident that this rescue was not going to happen. The Rangers returned to base camp heavy hearted. The compounds fell to the NVA the following day. Nobody realized at the time that this type of rescue operations would become one of the missions of future Ranger units that were yet to be organized. In some ways, the Loc Ninh operation was a link between the Rangers of Vietnam and the Rangers of today.

*(As a footnote, the American advisors in the compound who survived the battle were captured by the NVA and released from captivity in February 1973.)*

"For those who've fought for it - Life has a flavor the protected will never know"

RLTW



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—DAVID A. CHRISTIAN



Getting Together - Convention, meeting, Reunion, Rendezvous - what establishes a thumbs up for a group? And, how do you plan success for your associates/friends "get together" while balancing some of the following: work, family events, other important reunions? And what is considered success by an organization? The answer is attendance and attendees. To start the first thing is to coordinate between the Director or President of your organization and ask simple questions about members likes and dislikes while also taking into consideration the registration fee to mention a few issues.



New Jersey and realized they were on hallowed ground. It was an education as many of the members reflected on the sacrifices and the monument erected to the 13 original colonies that fought the war with groups of the first Rangers of American Warfare. Upon return we were treated to Philadelphia Hoagies made by Dennis Fink, a Combat Marine of the War in Vietnam ( who has won the title in the City of Philadelphia as the "King of Hoagies")

The ladies of the organization suggested a welcome package to be given to each member family upon registering and this was done with great success. We had souvenirs from Washing-

Almost a year out from the Philadelphia/Bucks County Pennsylvania reunion of Company I , 75th RRA we had conversations with the Unit Director and the President of our LRRP/Ranger Association of the 1st Infantry Division. We also talked to Women/Wives of the Members to reflect on the many successes of past reunions and the results of the many conversations seemed to produce a "Wonderful Event" for family, friends and the community.

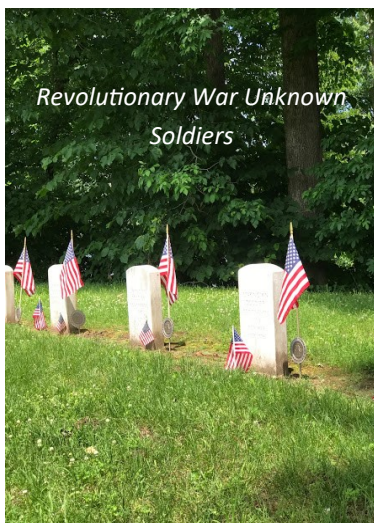
ton Crossing in Bucks County to Washington Square in Philadelphia. The welcome packages were considered a great success and were organized by Diane Reitz and the Women of the LRRP/Rangers. The bags included various items such as Tastykakes, Challenge Coins from Washington's Crossing, A Liberty Bell Souvenir, maps and suggestions for touring Bucks County. David's daughters gifted copies of their books, The Wine Club by Maureen Christian Petrosky and Christmas With The First Ladies by Coleen Christian Burke.

The members assembled at Bensalem, Pennsylvania Holiday Inn where prices were negotiated for room and breakfast at \$94 Per night. The rooms and the hospitality was "super" - The breakfast was off the menu from American style steak and eggs to the European style croissant and was considered part of the above price. (a family of 2 or more could enjoy a delicious free breakfast for the same fixed price listed above with their room).

### Washington's Crossing Historic Park

### Opening Day

The next issue was the logistics of how to move the 1st Infantry Division LRRP/Rangers to functions in and around a 50 mile radius of Philadelphia (a task that has not been attempted since the Rangers of the American Revolution). An Army moves on its stomach and food as well as travel had to be taken into consideration. POV (privately owned vehicles) decorated with flags were the mode of transportation the first day of events. Cost was the critical issue on everything associated with our meeting but our Military training to adapt, overcome and improvise was the critical turning point in the "Mission First" reunion. General George Washington looking down from the heavens at the Vietnam War Rangers would have been proud of our results.



While preparing for the events to begin and waiting for the arriving members registration to be complete on Wednesday a group of Rangers went to Washington Crossing, Pennsylvania where they visited some of the first graves of Unknown Soldiers of the American Revolution from Christmas day 1776. They stood on the side of the Delaware River separating Pennsylvania and

On the first official day (Thursday) we negotiated tours of Washington Crossing Historic Park in Pennsylvania and local Patriot Citizens from the community wanted to be part of our Ranger Meeting by sponsoring lunch at the Washington Crossing Inn for approximately 60 plus Rangers.

*Continued next page*



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

“Rocky” - The LRRP/Rangers did it all while enjoying lunch

Dr. Charles and Mrs. Kate

Tweedy opened up their hearts and pocketbooks to sponsor all for lunch.

It was an “over the top” lunch and desert of prime rib and or salmon. Members of the Rangers that had the experience will always remember the Pennsylvania hospitality extended by the Tweedy Family. Ranger/LRRP President Dave Hill along with Tom McMahon said the experiences of the first day would be the “highlight” of the reunion. (but the reunion rolled on)

## Philadelphia Honors The 75th Ranger Regiment I Company

Friday was an early day with buses arriving to tour Philadelphia. The roar of motorcycles was heard by all in the hotel as “Warrior Watch Riders” led by Bob Crawford and “Philadelphia Highway Motorcycle Patrol” assembled together in front of the hotel with



Warrior Watch Riders



Philadelphia Highway Patrol Escort

the buses and a decorated Patriotic Car owned and operated by Fran DiBacco to lead the caravan of Rangers down Interstate 95 into and around the heart of Philadelphia. We traveled in the comfort of air conditioned buses from the Constitution and Convention Center to the Liberty Bell to Independence Hall to the Betsy Ross House and of course the Art Museum. The Rangers wanted to run the steps and get photos with the iconic statue of

provided by “Mission Barbecue” (A patriotic group that feeds Military and Veterans). And the final highlight of the day was



Escort Car provided by Fran DiBacco

enjoying Philadelphia Police giving the Rangers a Presidential escort from Center City Philadelphia to the Holiday Inn in Bensalem, Pa. Many of the Rangers in attendance stated that this was the “Parade that they never received upon their return from Vietnam”. Everyone was ecstatic with the events of the day. Historic Resolutions were passed by Philadelphia City Council



and presented by Councilman David Oh (a former paratrooper), to the right of Christian to each LRRP/Ranger of our Unit.



Capt. Christian addressing audience

Continued next page



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

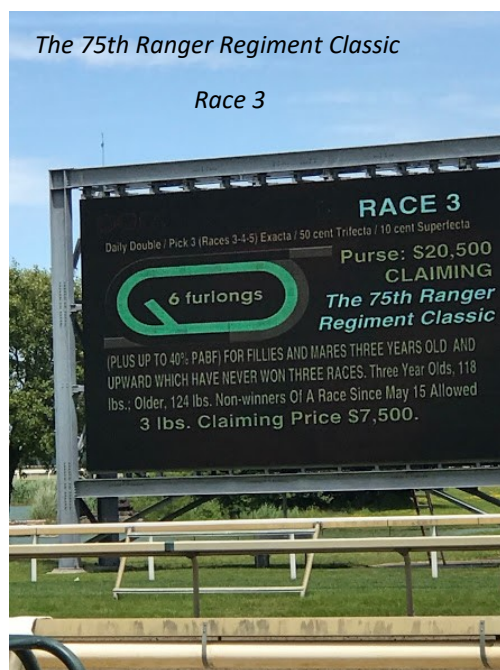
status of the pilot that extracted and rescued our

Ranger team at the risk of his life and the Cobra helicopter. A motion was passed to adjourn until next years reunion in Louisiana. Many Brother Rangers shared comments and all agreed to meet in Lake Arthur, Louisiana next year.

All present moved from the meeting room to get into the caravan going to Parx Racing and Casino where the 75th Rangers were going to again be honored with a race bearing their name (a first in Ranger History).

## 75th Ranger Classic

The afternoon at Parx Race Track was exciting as the LRRP/Rangers glanced across the manicured green lawns and beautiful flowers arranged throughout the race track. We had both inside air-conditioned and outdoor seating reserved for our Unit. We then watched the beautiful horses line up and the announcer shouts of "they're off" during the first two races. The PARX Racing, under the guidance of Chef Ron Tridente and Kiely Waters, Guest Services Manager provided us with beer, soda and hot dogs as we waited for the third race "RACE 3 - The 75th Ranger Regiment Classic". All bets were placed and we waited for the results of the 6 furlong race. The visiting Rangers were served food and drinks by the Red Shirt Veteran volunteers of the YMCA Veterans Wellness Program. Finally, our race was being assembled and we again heard the shouts of the announcer but this time all the Rangers and their wives and loved ones were against the race track rails and shouting for their special horse to run to victory. The race was over as fast as it started and all the Rangers in attendance were invited to the winners circle to have photos with the winning horse. Every LRRP/Ranger left with a souvenir Photo of the "75th Ranger Regiment Classic" race compliments of Parx Casino, Ben-



salem, Pennsylvania. But, good things come to an end - only to experience additional good things. The caravan went back to the hotel to prepare for the evening events of dinner, celebrities and guests.

*Continued next page*



*LRRPs-Rangers receiving long overdue honor*



*US Army Drum & Fife Corps*



*Washington Crossing Historic Park*

## Business Meeting

Saturday started early with breakfast and the traditional business meeting where officers were elected and in some cases reelected. The new officers to be congratulated were Dave Flores, President; Dave Hill, VP, John Condiloro, Treasurer, Tom McMahon, Secretary and David Christian, Unit Director. Resolutions were passed addressing a number of Veteran Issues from Blue Water Agent Orange, to Veterans Benefits from employment to Veteran preference in federal contracts and in federal employment. We passed a motion that Ranger Brothers David Christian and Ronnie Imel would work on the progress of these issues for the benefit of all Veterans. Review the Medal of Honor



Pennsylvania Senate Declares  
June 15, 2019

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

### As LRRP/ Rangers Day

The final formal event before the closing day welcomed the LRRP/Rangers to the banquet room at the Parx Casino East where dinner was prepared for all. Yes, Chef Ron Tridente and his staff out did themselves with all Rangers in attendance having choice of Filet Mignon, Maine Lobster or Fresh Maryland Crab Cakes as an entree. The evening began with a cocktail hour, during this time, we were graced with Pennsylvania State Representative Gene DiGirolamo as he shared words of encouragement with pending legislation for Veterans and their families. Then, the ceremonies began with the seating of the "head table," Pennsylvania State Senator Robert "Tommy" Tomlinson, Philadelphia City Councilman at large, David Oh, "I" Company Unit Director David A. Christian and his wife Peggy, Dave Hill (newly elected Vice President of Unit and Dave Flores, (newly elected President of Company I, 75th LRRP/Ranger 1st Infantry Division) Michelle Sooby-Saldutti, representative for PARX Casino and Diane Reitz, Event Coordinator and Assistant to David A. Christian. The ceremonies began the evening with the posting of the Colors of the United States by the elite 82nd Airborne Ceremonial Guard led by John Everly. David Christian said grace and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States. Senator Thomlinson presented a hand painted resolution passed by the Senate of Pennsylvania to honor all of the Rangers as the reunion marked 50 year anniversary of the Lettered Ranger/ LRRP units and 75 years since our Brother Rangers hit the Beaches of Europe on D Day 1944. The Pennsylvania Senate Resolution #166 as introduced by Senator Robert M. Tomlinson, designated June 15, 2019 as "LRRP /75th Rangers Day". The Senator was followed by Councilman David Oh of Philadelphia who had personalized Resolutions to all of the Rangers in our outfit. The evening concluded with Unit President Dave Flores inviting Brother Rangers back to the hotel to view his historic video and share in remembering all the brothers that left us on the battlefield in Vietnam and all those that left us on the social battlefield here in the States. "Until We Meet Again" was exchanged with family and friends that evening and the next morning at the hotel while checking out. Salute - Rangers Lead The Way!

END

Note - The Unit Director had been called overseas for business and was unable to report on the July National reunion held at Ft. Benning, Georgia



National Constitution Center



Head Table



Diane and Dave's Wellness Group





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

UNIT DIRECTOR—ROGER CRUNK

Greetings to All,

It's been a hard few weeks at our house since the reunion. I woke up with a sore throat on the morning we left Georgia. A week later when we got home I got sick with an upper respiratory infection (I was miserable) then Jan got sick too but her case was worse. She started having chest pains which prompted a trip to the ER. The Doc said she had pneumonia and it was stressing her heart. Four days on IV antibiotics. It will be a few more weeks before she is back to full strength. This was the third time this year that we've gotten sick after a road trip so we are Staying! Home!

On the drive to the reunion I stopped in Nashville to see my friend and our Brother Ray Bailey who was in the hospital. Ray's health had declined since he suffered a stroke last Fall. He had been unresponsive for several days. His wife Martha and sons Jeff and Michael took him home the next day with Hospice care and he passed away peacefully the following day.

Jan and I had stayed in Tennessee a few days after the reunion to visit my relatives so we were able to attend Ray's service on July 19<sup>th</sup>. Also in attendance was Jim Burke from Alabama and Denver Hall from Texas. We were honored to say goodbye on behalf of Ray's Brothers from K-Co.



L. Ray Bailey, 69, of Old Hickory passed away Sunday, July 07, 2019, at home with hospice following an extended illness.

He was a 2000 Belmont University graduate and a member of Tulip Grove Baptist Church. Ray enjoyed making chili, landscaping, reading, woodworking, attending reunions of his U.S. Army Kilo Company, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger group, local Vietnam Veterans organization and spending time with grandchildren.

Ray was an Army veteran of the Vietnam War era, LRRP, earning various medals, including Vietnam Service Medal w/three Bronze Stars; National Defense Service Medal; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Army Commendation Medal w/"V" Device w/one Oak Leaf Cluster; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry w/Palm; Combat Infantryman Badge; Marksman (Rifle). He served two years with distinction as a Ranger. The discipline and patriotism he learned in the Army never left him, as friends and family will readily attest.

He retired from TVA in 2012 following 38 years of service at Sequoyah Nuclear Plant, Johnsonville Fossil Plant, and Gallatin Fossil Plant.

He was preceded in death by his father, Willard Bailey; mother, Emily Lowetta Bailey; siblings, Don Bailey, Carolyn Murphy, and Gerald Bailey.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Martha Hendrickson Bailey; sons, Michael Bailey (Michele) and Jeffrey Bailey; granddaughter, Shelby Bailey; and grandson, Tyler Bailey; brothers-in-laws, Ernest Hendrickson (Vickie); Howard Hendrickson (Joyce); John Hendrickson (Cindy); Roger Hendrickson (Darla); and sisters-in-laws, Brenda Hendrickson; Carolyn Munsey (Larry); and Anita Gouge (Terry); aunt, Molly Moore; and many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Military honor graveside service is open to friends and relatives and will be held at 1 p.m. on July 19, 2019, at Nashville National Veterans Cemetery at 1420 Gallatin Pike South, Madison, TN 37115.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Fischer House, Wounded Warriors, Shriners, St. Jude Children's Hospital or Tulip Grove Baptist Church.

*Continued next page*



Ray Bailey

## REMEMBERING

L. Ray Bailey

The reunion in Memphis hosted by the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade LRRPs was a success as reported by those in attendance. Visits to Beale Street, Graceland and other venues were enjoyed by all. Especially enjoyable was the live music show put on for them at their dinner.

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

LRRPs and Rangers. I received a check yesterday from Herb for the profit from the Blue Bucket

Chapel as a donation to the Association in the amount of \$441.84. Can't say enough about how much he is loved and appreciated by his Brothers. Herb wanted me to also mention that most of the income came from K-Co guys.

This next item is me making an objection. Jim Joyce says I'm just whining. As you know Jim hosted the reunion in Pittsburgh last year He has always maintained that I tricked him in to it. (Not so) At any rate he said he would get even with me.

At our unit meeting during the reunion we were discussing the location for the next one K-Co reunion. I was pushing for somewhere in the center of the country but to no avail. Jim pushed hard for Colorado; I explained that's not the center of the country. Again to no avail. The end result is that next year we will meet in Colorado Springs. Guess who has to host it..... So Jim got even and I'll whine all the way.

There are lots of things to see and do. 4<sup>th</sup> Division Headquarters is located at Ft. Carson, Air Force Academy, Garden of the Gods, Cheyenne Mt. Zoo and Pikes Peak just to name a few. Another event that's held in August is The Salute to American Veterans Rally & Festival held in August every year in Cripple Creek (an old mining town) which is about an hour from Colorado Springs. The P Company LRRPs and Rangers were the Guests of Honor last year. I had planned to attend this year (this weekend) to check it out but as I said before, we're not traveling. We will go later to check out venues etc.

I do not have any pictures of the Benning reunion at this time and I apologize for not getting some from the guys who had their cameras but I'm sure we will have some on the K-Co website later. As they say; that's all for now folks. Roger



#1: Back: Al Kidd, Jack Werner, John Vandenburg, John Duffy, Steve Bradshaw, Phil Navarro, Matty Gentilella, Jerry Owens; Middle: Roy Simpson, Cal Gotts, Stan Craig; Front: Clay Andrews, John Serrano, Jerry Alford, Pete Julian, Denny Ferguson.

#2 Back: Judy Shellenbarger, Al Kidd, Gary Shellenbarger, Denny & Shirley Ferguson, Steve Bradshaw, John Duffy, Clay Andrews, Cal Gotts; Middle: John Vandenburg, Stan Craig & Nina, Deb Zwiebel, Babe Duffy, Sue Andrews; Front: Pete & Joan Julian, Matty Gentilella, Anna Marie Serrano, Kry's Simpson, Annie Zwiebel, John Serrano.

The Association reunion in Columbus was a big success also. The highlight being the raffle for the Harley Davidson motorcycle donated by the Harley Corporation. The proceeds, \$17,160.00 were designated for the benevolent fund. That's in addition to \$6,500.00 that they previously donated to the operations account. Can't say enough thanks to those Harley guys.

Our own Kent Sovern was the big winner. To say the least he was excited when I called him with the news. Hey Kent, do you even ride??

I also want to thank Herb Reichel once again for his continued support of the Association and his Brother







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

UNIT DIRECTOR—CSM (RET) JEFF HORNE



173d ABN LRRPS, 74<sup>th</sup> LRRPS, and November Company Rangers.

The 75<sup>th</sup> RRA Rendezvous was a tremendous success and our 173d LRRP's, 74<sup>th</sup> LRRP's, and November Company brotherhood was well represented. Twenty-Two (22) of us gathered to enjoy dinners together, the 75<sup>th</sup> Assault demonstration, The Regimental Mass Tactical Jump, the Infantry Museum, 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Viet Nam War, Ranger Joe's, Commandos, and the sites around Fort Benning. Once again, the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment met us with open arms and they were tremendous hosts. The C CO 3/75<sup>th</sup> Commander gave my son Joshua and me a tour of the new C CO area including the SGT James Regan Arms Room and the Ben Kopp War Room. The Rangers take good care of their own.

Ranger Dave Cummings opened his home to host our Group's Rendezvous Dinner. It was a fine event with lots of great chow, drink, and a continuous playing of slides from RVN. Our brotherhood, albeit a "Last Man Standing" group, shared many stories from the earliest 173d LRP's through those November Company members who closed down LZ English as the war wound down. Occasionally the Army and history determines elements are "Last Man Standing" organizations. Frankly when you look at those, we share history with, we are in good company...Merrill's Marauders, Darby Originals, and the Chindits. Our Brotherhood decided at the Company dinner to embrace the fact that the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA will be the organization that perpetuates our legacy. To that end we will actively recruit young Scroll Rangers to join the 75<sup>th</sup> RRA, we committed to sponsor five (5) this year and currently have three (3). I suggest that we look at family and friends who have served in the 75<sup>th</sup> Regiment and sponsor them as a gift for Veteran's Day. Our Family plan is to do so with several of Josh's C CO 3/75 Battle Buddies.



On a sadder note, we lost CSM Rocky Houser after returning from the Rendezvous after an extended illness. Rocky was a fine leader in the November Company ranks and carried on an exemplary career including being the 7<sup>th</sup> ID CSM and I Corps CSM. His awarded and decorations included the DSC, LOM (with oak leaf cluster), the Silver Star (while in RVN), and multiple ribbons. Ranger Rudy Teodosio and Ranger Gordan Baker attended the funeral and "Celebration of Life" representing us. We sent flowers and sympathy card to his wife and family at their home. All will miss him and he made a difference in the lives of many American and Multi-National Soldiers. See you in the tall grass Rocky.

On a humble note, the twenty-two (22) members of our brotherhood elected me as the new director. I trust I do justice to our members and greatly appreciate your support. In the back of my mind I wonder if this honor is similar to when my first Team Leader told me "you speak well and seem calm, so you'll carry the PRC-25 Radio". Truthfully, throughout my career, I never left the lessons learned on LZ English or in our Area of Operations. 1SG Frank Moore, my TLs, and teammates afforded me the best On-the-Job training a young PFC could ever expect (in a very unforgiving environment). I retired in November of 2010 after serving in Airborne Infantry, Cavalry, Armor, and Operations. My fondest memories are of you folks, from the much-admired LRRPS (God Bless you), to my brothers on the Hill.

Jeff Horne  
RLTW!

*Standing left-right; Jeff Horne, Bill Wilkinson, Mike Bowers, Mike "Doc" Creamer. Kneeling left-right; Charles "Doc" Muller, Ken Vogel*







## P/75 - 79TH LRP

UNIT DIRECTOR—TERRY B. RODERICK

The busy summer is coming to a close now and I have several events to report on this issue. First up was the **Honor Flight of May 18**; I was privileged to be on with 24 other veterans from WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. 3 WWII vets, 12 from Korea, and 10 from Vietnam. We had a 97 year-old lady from WWII and the veterans were from all the different services. The Honor Flight Network is a nationwide organization that takes veterans to Washington, D.C. during the year to visit the various memorials in the D.C.

area for free. If you're interested in participating, just check your area of the country as they are all over or contact me and I can guide you to a proper place to contact. I'll just say you'll be glad you did and add a very memorable experience to your life that was just the opposite of what you might have had upon your return to CONUS back in the day. It's a one-day trip and an experience you'll never forget I assure you. Each veteran is assigned a "Guardian" who is assigned to you for the entire time and they won't let you do anything on your own hardly. These Guardians



here in Melbourne, Florida and ended about 22 hours later with a flight up to D.C. and back and what a trip it was!! For us the flight time was about 2 hours or so. I had my name put into the system by a neighbor about 2-3 years ago and my turn came up unexpectedly in the spring. I had a choice of 3 different trips in April, May, and June and I selected the May trip. I had Best Ranger and Critter Cookout on my schedule for April and the LRRR Reunion in Branson, Missouri scheduled for June, so May was perfect for me. They provide police escorts for traveling to get

around the D.C. area or you'd never be able to get around to the many different memorials we went to in one day. They have a strict itinerary they stick to for obvious reasons but there is plenty of time to visit each of them and get back to the bus they used to escort us. There are a few surprises along the way and I'll leave it at that, but suggest each of you consider this trip. It is a highlight of my life experiences to say the least and I wasn't sure if it was something I wanted to do originally. I'm glad I did. And it is FREE to you, the veteran. What else could you ask for?



pay a \$400 fee to volunteer to go on these flights and can be family members or other veterans. They must be under 70 years old and physically able to push you in a wheelchair that they ask you to use to keep the entire group together at times. That was sort of weird and a little embarrassing to me at first, but it was welcome at times too to be honest. The day started at 0200 hrs.

My next excursion was in early June to Branson, Missouri to the Long Range Reconnaissance Association Reunion. I drove and traveled with Darryl "Bones" Benton of C/75<sup>th</sup> and it was about 17 hour driving each way. I was skeptical of traveling with a Charlie Company Ranger at first due to my impeccable reputation in the Ranger community, but it all worked out and he wasn't as bad as those stories we've all heard about those "other" Ranger and LRP companies. We had a great time and I truly en-



joyed my "road trip" with Darryl, who lives here locally in my AO.

*Continued next page*

## P/75 - 79TH LRP

I had some prior commo with some other younger LRS/LRSU guys before the trip and got to meet many new friends who may or may not be Rangers, but they are cut from the same cloth. Not much different from our gatherings and a very well run organization and a great time had by all who attended. There was a group of F/51<sup>st</sup> guys there for a mini-reunion of their own piggy backed with this event and I even knew a few of them and Al Souza and Dick Moyer both did double duty with F/51<sup>st</sup> and P/75<sup>th</sup> in Vietnam when they came up north to start our P/75<sup>th</sup> company. A Ranger and LRP named Marshall Huckaby, who was in F/75th and a contributing member of the 75<sup>th</sup> RR Assn. started this outstanding organization 4 years ago for the LRRP/LRP/LRS/ and LRSU guys who didn't serve in the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment and thus not eligible for our 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Association membership. It gives them a home after their service like we have now with the 75<sup>th</sup> RR Assn. In a short time, they have formed a large, well-run group and I was impressed by their leadership and ability to put together such a fine gathering for everyone. Being you all are descendants from the 79<sup>th</sup> LRP Detachment, as the guys from F/51<sup>st</sup> were designated back in late 1968 and early 1969 as they were sent to the 5<sup>th</sup> Mech to start our company, you are all eligible to join this great organization and would be welcomed with open arms. These younger guys treated us old timers with great respect and were thirsty to hear tales of our experiences in Vietnam to be sure. Something you can all "ponder" as we get older and looking for things to do. Next



William Newman & Darryl "Bones" Benton

year's event is in the early June timeframe and we should consider piggybacking our Papa Company Reunion in conjunction with their event if they don't mind. I'll be contacting their leadership soon to see if they would welcome that and I'm sure they would. There are plenty of things to do there in Branson and we'd still have a place and time to spend together plus getting to interface with some of these younger guys and their friends and families. And there are facilities and a place to hold a memorial service of our own in addition to the one they hold each year

themselves if need be. I'll be querying you all soon since

we don't have a set place for 2020 yet anyway. It definitely would be a nice, new site for us to consider. The hotels are in place and paying to register will cover most of your expenses. There was always plenty of food, cold drinks, beer, expensive and cheap liquor, and some great moonshine available for those who might wish to partake in it. I can't say enough good things about them and their organization to be honest. I'd love to do it myself, but I'll let you all decide here shortly.

Finally, for this issue, the Ranger Rendezvous and 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Reunion held July 8-12. Thank goodness, Bobby Hampton (he comes to more of these events than the vast majority of you do for the record), Rick King, and Terry Bishop showed up to represent Papa Company this year, along with the three "regulars", Ted Tilson, Duke DuShane and myself. Our attendance at these events has gotten pathetic in my opinion and I'll deal with that in an e-mail to you all to follow eventually, and soon. I hosted two of my oldest daughter's friends from Charlotte, N.C., Kent Lynch, who works with her at her hospital, and his older brother, Garry Lynch. They have both attended 3 Critter Cookouts with us recently and enjoy just being around Rangers and seeing the things we use and did in our heyday and currently. Everyone who I introduced them to as, "oxygen thieves," or civilians really showed them the utmost courtesy and welcomed them into our brotherhood. They truly enjoyed their week there with us. I took them to the Drop Zone for the parachute jump on Tuesday, and then we went to the Distinguished and Honorary Member of the Regiment ceremony on Wednesday morning, and the Ranger Hall of Fame ceremony on Wednesday afternoon. Then on Thursday, they spent the day at the Infantry Museum for the most part and before the Barbeque we all attended Thursday evening at the new terminal at Lawson Field. Friday we attended the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment Change of Command and then the banquet at the Iron Works Friday night. A full week indeed. At the banquet, we had probably the best table there with Mark and Linda Davis (Linda is the Secretary of the 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment),



Terry, James Huff, & "Bones" Benton



# ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

UNIT DIRECTOR—BILL MILLER

Fellow Rangers and Co Vans:

Recent Meeting:

On August 2, 2019 I had the pleasure of meeting Lt. Gen. (Ret) Burton Patrick at his home in Thomson, Georgia so that I could give him a Black Tiger hat-pin, a BDQ Lapel Pin and several BDQ stickers for his car. I also carried a Biet Dong Quan Helmet, which brought back a lot of memories. Lt. General Patrick was the Senior Advisor to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Vietnamese Ranger Battalion in 1965-66.

We spent about forty five minutes just getting to know each other and then proceeded to lunch in downtown Thomson. The restaurant was extremely nice and the meal very good especially those fried green beans. General explained to me the restaurant was a former department store where his mother worked as a seamstress when he was a boy. Thomson is a typical small southern town and still has one brick street. After retiring from the Army, General Patrick worked in the city of Thomson's government for ten years.

After lunch we returned to General Patrick's home where we went through the Black Tiger book authored by Mike Martin and Don Valentine. (I brought my copy along so that General Patrick could autograph his photo in the book)

One story General Patrick told me was of the time he and the 42<sup>nd</sup> were in fire-fight and he climbed a tree to get a better view of the enemy positions so that he could be more effective calling in artillery and air strikes. About the time he got his binoculars to his eyes he felt a hand on the web belt of his harness and he was summarily yanked out the tree. It was SSG Ralph Banks who yanked him down and found cover. Shortly thereafter (about one minute) a VC mortar round hit the tree completely destroying it. He said SSG Banks saved my life.

After checking my watch I realized it was after 3 o'clock and figured I had probably overstayed my welcome, but we vowed to



General Patrick and Bill Miller

see each other again soon and his parting words were "you truly made my day" At 83 years young he still has a presence that one can understand why he retired as a Lt. General.

It was truly a most wonderful experience and he "made my day".

Unit Tribute Plaques

I have only heard back from three of you concerning the "Tribute Plaques" described below. One way we could possibly obtain funding beyond our own contributions is to solicit funds from local businesses. South Carolina and Georgia are military friendly...so let me know what you think.

It has been brought to my attention by BDQ Chuck Hansen that the "National Museum of the United States Army" is promoting Unit Plaques that can be purchased and permanently installed on the "Pathway of Remembrance" These plaques are 12 inches by 18 inches of polished Mesabi Black Granite. The format and content of each unit's plaque is highly customizable and can include a color rendering of the unit's Distinctive Unit Insignia (patch). To see examples go to

[Armyhistory.org/unit-tributes](http://Armyhistory.org/unit-tributes). Currently I have the known where-

abouts of 114 Ranger Advisors. We don't have thousands of members to draw upon for donations. The original (Large) Granite monument placed at the Special Ops museum in Fayetteville, NC cost \$5,000. The second (exactly the same) placed at the Soldiers and Infantry Museum at Ft. Benning cost \$3850. \$5,000 seems like a lot of money for such a small plaque. If there is any interest in doing this email me at [bietdongquan@yahoo.com](mailto:bietdongquan@yahoo.com) or phone me at 803 292-2571.

Feature:

CSM Michael N. Martin has published "DRUMBEATS OF TIME" (free verse). The following are excerpts from his publication.

"Dog Tags"

*Continued next page*



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## ARVIN RANGER ADV, (BDQ)

Dog Tags (ID)

I found the “dog tags’ hanging  
On a limb by a mountain stream:  
Chimes of War in the morning  
Winds; belonging to a soldier,’  
Dead or alive-young or old-I  
Hope his family knows.

An aftermath of war that could  
Reveal much if we only knew;  
I hope he fought hard and was  
One of the few who survived  
The Ambush.

The tags are symbolic of battle  
And man....They hang on a  
Rusty chain now, beckoning the  
Owner to return and recover  
What once hung on him-remembrance  
Of his place in time and identity

Mike Martin

RACKS IN THE SNOW

I saw the tracks in the fresh laid snow,  
Some brave night wanderer stalking his foe.

He must have come from the higher plateau,  
Following the valleys and the trails to the village  
Below.  
I’m sure he stopped and lifted his nose:  
Looked into the darkness, saw lights aglow;  
Heard sounds of man, all dangerous to him, shifted  
His weight  
And was gone again.

What thoughts he had I’ll never know: “ Did he  
Travel far; Was he young or old?”  
I only know, he left his tracks in the snow.

Quote:

Courage is resistance to fear; mastery of fear.

Not absence of fear.

Mark Twain

Mu Nau

Bill Miller

Unit Director

Ranger Advisors



**New Challenge  
Coins**  
**[www.75thrra.org](http://www.75thrra.org)**

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
Savannah GA.*



The time is coming soon. We are celebrating this grand event in style in beautiful Savannah GA., home to Hunter Army Airfield and the 1<sup>st</sup> Ranger Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. This is also not far from the original home of the 1<sup>st</sup> Bn (Ranger) 75<sup>th</sup> Infantry, Fort Stewart, GA. As stated by our chairman, Mike Wagers; "WE ARE NOT GETTING ANY YOUNGER RANGERS LET'S NOT LET THIS OPPORTUNITY GO BY".

We have quite of few things planned and want to make sure you are entertained when you attend, starting with an ice breaker at Kevin Barry's on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. We have a raffle where some very special weapons will be won by some lucky rangers (See photos of what we currently have to raffle, and more will be added). The raffle will be on-line and should be open for tickets 1<sup>st</sup> week of September. Keep your eyes open for the website. Winners will be announced during the formal dinner on Friday evening.

The Holiday Inn Express will be the Hospitality Suite and also where registration will occur. Here is the list of hotels with contact information and rates as negotiated:

<b>Holiday Inn Express</b> <a href="#">\$179</a> 912-231-9000 Reservation Code HRR 199 E. Bay Street Savannah <a href="#">\$25</a> Valet Parking Hospitality Suite	<b>Hampton Inn</b> \$179 912-231-9700 Reservation Code HRR 201 E. Bay Street Savannah \$25 Valet Parking (No rooms available on 13th, 14-17 only)
<b>IHG Hunter Army Airfield</b> \$96 912-355-1060 Call Hotel and tell them you are with the Ranger Bn. 45th Celebration	<b>Weston (by Marriott)</b> \$187 +\$30 Resort Fee 45th Anniversary Room Block 1 Resort Drive Savannah 912-201-1000
<b>Marshall House</b> Varies but reasonable 123 E. Broughton St Savannah 912 644 7896 Reservation code Ranger 45	

All Hotels with exception of IHG are in the historic district with the exception of the Westin which is right across the river. Holiday Inn Express is the Anchor/Hospitality Hotel you will have to ask for additional days if coming early or staying later may or may not be able to get reunion rate. There will be buses for the Gala Event at the Convention Center and there is also a River Ferry that runs until midnight. Kevin Barry's for Wednesday night in within walking distance as well from most of the hotels.

For those who are attending here is a list of the activities currently planned during the anniversary celebration:

13 November (Wednesday)	Arrival and Check-in to Hotels Registration Ice Breaker	0900-1600 1800-2200	Hotel List Above (Check in per Hotel schedule) Holiday Inn Express Kevin Barry's Pub River Street
14 November (Thursday)	Registration Continues Golf Tournament HW17 Range Event (Sua Sponte) Pushball tournament Picnic Tours (Non-golfers or Non-Shooters)	0900-1600 TBD TBD TBD TBD All Day	Crosswinds Golf Course  1 <sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn Compound, HAAF  Savannah Historic District (See attached list)
15 Nov (Friday)	Memorial Ceremony Change of Responsibility SGM Merritt Retirement (Tentative) Static Displays Gala	TBD TBD TBD TBD 1700-2300	1 <sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn Compound, HAAF 1 <sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn Compound, HAAF (T) 1 <sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn Compound, HAAF 1 <sup>st</sup> Ranger Bn Compound, HAAF Savannah International Trade and Convention Center
16 November (Saturday)	Free time for early travels sightseeing; comradery		On your own
17 November (Sunday)	Departure		See you all next time – Drive Safe or have a good flight. Get home to your loved ones.

**REGULAR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION**

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

**75th RRA  
PO Box 348360  
Sacramento, CA 95834-8360**

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

**75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 348360  
Sacramento, CA 95834-8360



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Annual Dues **\$40** Checks Payable to:  
75th Ranger Regiment Association  
**Special Rate 5 Years for \$175**

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

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

**UNITS**

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

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

REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

CHECK ONE                      NEW APPLICATION                       RENEWAL                       SUBSCRIPTION MEMBER

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



# THE DARBY PROJECT



CONNECTING, EDUCATING & EMPOWERING U.S. ARMY RANGERS TO LEAD THE WAY IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

## 2019 IN NUMBERS

**400** RANGER FOR LIFE

Rangers attended professional programs in Benning and Lewis-McChord

**BLACK AND TAN RANGER LINKUPS**

**150** Ranger veterans attended SHOT Show and SOFIC events

**CLIMBING PROGRAM**

**50** Ranger and family participants at events in Colorado and Georgia

**SUMMER CAMP**

**9** Ranger kids attend St Luke Columbus camp

**1/75**

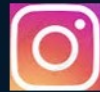
45th Anniversary BBQ Sponsor

**MERRILL'S MARAUDERS**

**CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL**

**750** Petitions sent to Congress to support our Ranger heritage

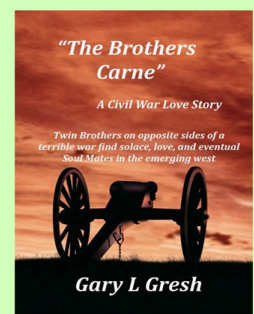
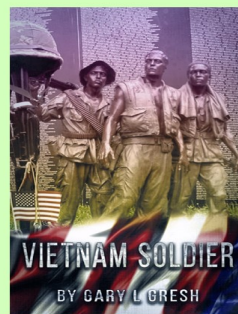
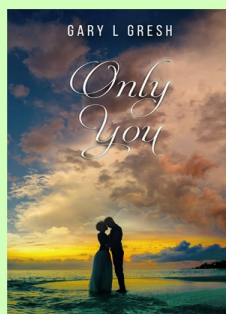
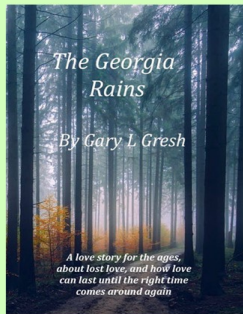
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# Gary L. Gresh

Flat Rock, NC Resident  
Author

Available in Digital  
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75th RANGER REGIMENT ASSOCIATION  
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