



Sua Sponte

www.lrrpranger.org

Volume 33 Issue 1

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Deadlines: Sua Sponte is published every four months in April, August and December. Absolute deadline for submitting material for the newsletter is 15 days prior to the month mentioned above.

Submissions:

Please send to Stephen Johnson, Editor.
Address page 2 inset

2023 Reunion – Sept 6-10

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee is the sight of our annual reunion this year, hosted by Carl and Teddie Velleri. The venue will be at the The Great Smokies Resort Lodge, right in the heart of attractions available to everyone. A booking Link will be available by mid April on our website www.lrrpranger.org . Looks like they have a RB-7 type of raft, for a cascading, raft venture.



Attention Company G (Ranger) 75th Inf. Association Members!

Annual Board and General Membership Meeting Notice

Association Hospitality Room

Great Smokies Resort Lodge

Pigeon Forge, Tennessee

Saturday Morning September 9th 2023

Board Meeting 8:30 AM

General Membership Meeting 10:00 AM

Sua Sponte

Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association

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Sua Sponte

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Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published triannually by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association edited by Stephen "Tower" Johnson.

Change of Address: Any Address Changes should be sent to: Sharon Robison, 5523 North Ocean Blvd., Suite 1512, Box 12, Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 or email: tomsharonrobison@msn.com

Membership Information: All former members of the 196th LRRPs, E/51st LRP, and G/75th Rangers are eligible to receive Sua Sponte. Membership applications can be obtained by contacting the Association at any of the addresses or phone numbers listed above.

President's Report 2023 1st Issue

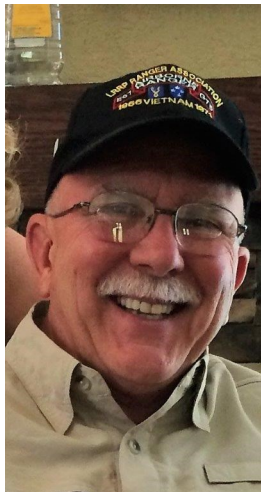
Greetings,

We recently had a visit with some old friends. We have known each other since we were in our twenties. Jake and I met at the downtown YMCA when we lived in Florida. He was employed there and I was in law enforcement at the time. We used to work out together and occasionally go on camping trips. We were both among the founding members of the Jacksonville track club and were involved in organizing training runs, races, and cross-country events. Our families were involved in many outdoor activities.

Over the years our careers led us to live in separate geographic areas. After we resettled back in the U.S., we were able to reconnect. Their family lives a couple of days drive from us and we see each other once or twice a year. He and his wife are a couple of years older than us. Both couples have had health issues that living brings to us all at some time. However, lately they have had a little more difficult time. There have been some mobility issues and some falls which left marks and could have been more serious.

As we age, we tend to lose flexibility and strength which can affect our balance. This in turn can lead to a loss of mobility. I know I'm not plowing new ground here and this is not intended to be a health column. But I am concerned about all our brothers' welfare. So, I will just mention a simple solution that has been effective for me, stretching. This should be done in a slow, gentle motion. Admittedly this is not a cure all, but it could forestall the onset of shrinking tendons and immobility.

This is something that is more effective if done daily. This isn't a class one has to attend, there's no yoga poses, and the word Namaste is never spoken. You can do it all while standing or sitting. Lying on the floor is not necessary



unless you prefer to be down there (but then there's that problem of getting up). I just start at my head and go south from there. Some head rolls, the shoulder rolls, then arm stretching overhead. Next is side bends then hip rotation and leg stretches. Lastly, the tricky part. Pick one leg at a time off the floor and rotate your ankle. I recommend doing these while standing near a counter in case balance is an issue. Variations of stretches for seniors can be found online. If possible, walking is a recommended activity.

As the saying goes, if you don't use it, you lose it. Be sure to use a heel to toe motion. Linda's mother would comment about the older people at church who had begun to shuffle instead of walk, that it was downhill from there. She made it to 95 so she had some knowledge in that area.

One last thing. Consider not wearing shoes without a toe cover (flip flops or slip in sandals) which can get caught on stairs or curbs. The resulting fall could cause concussion, broken bones, such as hip or shoulder and an ugly bruised face.

I wish all of you a joyous Easter and hope you have the opportunity to spend time with family and friends.

Our organization exists for all our membership, so please let us know of any issues or ideas that you think need to be addressed or can be helpful. You can email me at lrrp75thin@aol.com. Please include Ranger in the subject line.

Stay Well, Stay Safe and take care of one another. Remember, tough times don't last, tough people do!

RLTW

Hi, my name and rank is PFC Wayne Morishige. My friends SPC 4 Mike Chu and SPC 4 Nagakura all from Hawaii, went through and passed the rigorous training of the Americal Ranger School in Chu Lai, in April of 1969. The creation of Team Hawaii was in honor of 3 guys from Hawaii, 2 Mexican guys from California, and on a later date, a Native American, team leader Dave "Chief" Moncada.

Well after reading Sua Sponte Vol 32, Issue 3, specifically SM Paul Reynolds recollection of securing hill 1362, was pretty accurate as I recall. You see, we were the three "newbies" of team Hawaii, PFC Wayne Morishige, SPC 4 Mike Chu, and SPC 4 Nagakura. Newbies is the correct word cause right after team Hawaii was created, we got word of our first mission into and securing hill top 1362 for the engineers to come in and clear the way for an LZ. Needless to say we were all shaken, not knowing if the area was hot and if we would be repelling and be sitting ducks for enemy in the area.

When that early morning came and we were boarding that chopper, I can tell you that my heart was pounding so hard I felt it in my fingertips. I remember thinking what my dad said when leaving Hawaii, "Do the best you can son." That made me more focus more on the task at hand. When the chopper started hovering, I saw only tall trees (triple canopy), we rolled the rope ladder off both sides of the chopper. I was the third guy to climb down with all my gear, ammo, water, and a M-16 slung around my shoulder, when I heard some shouting coming from the chopper. I looked up and saw the door gunner looking frantic and waving at us to hurry up get down. But I could only go as fast as the guy below me, which I think it was Nagakura, and he could go only as fast as the guy below him.

We were moving at a fast rate when I felt the chopper moving forward. Nagakura and the guy below him just jumped off. I was too high, holding on while going through the trees, and finally hit the ground when the chopper went down about 50 ft from me. My first thought was maybe I could get back to the *World*, I didn't know if I was injured because I just felt numb, when I heard someone from the top shout out, "Hey get up here, the chopper might explode!" Well, I know my legs weren't injured because I was able

to jump up and run up the hill. I saw a couple other guys making their way to the top also which I think was about 150ft. At the top I saw team Oklahoma had already set up security. Sgt Reynolds told us to space ourselves and secure the area. I remember spitting blood for a while and felt my tooth had broken in half and was hanging on by the nerve. I thought to myself that my rifle slung around and hit my mouth while going through trees, then

the pain started and I felt pain on my butt which was bleeding from cuts on my butt cheeks. My trousers were all shredded, so I thought that at least I could go back to Chu Lai but I was never called to jump on the emergency basket that was lowered for crew of the chopper including the copilot that was badly injured.

As such, I was surprised that SM Paul Reynolds remembers I had a broken tooth and some lacerations on my butt. I didn't think it made the record books. He just didn't know our names and that is why I'm writing today, to give the newbies a name. Anyway, after a couple of hours, not eating or drinking water, I built up enough nerve to just pull off the broken tooth from the nerve and felt relieved, because I could now eat and drink water.

We held our position for another 3 days before getting relieved by another team. When we got back to Chu Lai, our base, I went to the dentist's hooch which looked like a scene from MASH. You just tell him what was the problem, sat down on the chair, and he was back with

what looked like a pair of pliers. A twist and 10 seconds later he was saying, "Here, bite down on this gauze."

I served with the G75th for about three more months, going on other missions when I got word of an early-out program to attend college. Needless to say, me and Nagakura applied and got the approval to attend the University of Hawaii. In Hawaii I went to my dentist Dr. Tanaka and told him what happened and he made a bridge for my front teeth that lasted over 52 years that finally broke last year. In a process of having an implant done. I don't even know if Dr. Tanaka got compensated for his work. Also, I don't know if it is in my records. That's why I thank SM Paul Reynolds for writing and bringing it to light of our first mission. The newbies PFC Wayne Morishige, SPC 4 Nagakura, and the late SPC 4 Mike Chu, Team Hawaii.



Michael Chu

Hill 1362



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

UNIT DIRECTOR—AL STEWART



It is no secret to anyone reading the articles in PATROLLING and SUA SPONTE produced by me that I am not by any measure, a writer or wordsmith. As the Unit Director of the E-51st-G/75th Association, it falls to me to write a few articles every year that hopefully provide some information to our Association they have not already heard about. Often, when one of our members dies, the news and funeral arrangements get out to interested parties via the internet quickly, as they should. Unfortunately, with the age of most of our members being in the 70's and 80's, death notifications come out more than we would like. Most of us know the people we served with during our time with the 196th LRPS, E-51st, G-75th and maybe even the 196th Ranger Platoon which closed down the lineage of our Association. Unless you are one of the many of our group who regularly attend our reunions, your sphere of the Association may be small. Even now, with our numbers dwindling and members who can't travel for health reasons, you may see or hear from old comrades infrequently.



OUR NEXT REUNION IS IN PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE, SEPTEMBER 6TH-10TH. SAVE THE DATES AND THE TIME TO START REACHING OUT TO OUR BROTHERS IS NOW.

As the Unit Director for our Association, I also remind you that we work hand-in-hand with the Ranger Regiment Association. Our unit personnel have often been in leadership positions with the Regiment, and it has often worked out well for us. The 75th Ranger Regiment Association has more clout with the active-duty Rangers that often provides us with more opportunities to engage with the Ranger Battalions on the east and west coast. I encourage you to be an active member (dues paying) with the Regiment Association. Check out their website and consider joining if you are not already a member, <https://75thrra.org>

Once upon a time, we had a membership directory which made it much easier to reach out to contact those with whom we served. I still have a couple of the old directories that I frequently still use when people reading PATROLLING or SUA SPONTE reach out to me trying to verify a member or find information about some family member who has passed on. The old directories have been a blessing in helping family members find information about their grandfathers or uncles. I have been able to guide a few in getting military records as well as medals earned that were lost through the years. It is doubtful we will ever have a directory again due to privacy and/or legal issues. With my name and number listed as the Unit Director in our association publications, I am probably the recipient of most of the inquiries regarding our unit. Unfortunately, our old rosters are not complete or official, so I am not able to give an absolute answer to every inquiry.

I encourage our members to write stories of service with our unit and submit them to Steve Johnson (towerg75th@yahoo.com). Memories of events, people or unusual situations are always interesting. I also ask that you reach out to the guys with whom you served just to touch base and see how they are. Reaching out to an old friend or teammate can be a great experience. After all, the older we get, the better we used to be! If you don't submit stories for publication, you will have to read the senseless drivel that I write!

Movies like "Saving Private Ryan," and the series "Band of Brothers," have helped many who never served or thankfully, never saw combat, to understand how those who served often bond for life with those they served. Operating in small teams, the bonds created by trusting those on the team to have your back and possibly save your life at the expense of their own was commonplace. That doesn't mean that there were never scraps or disagreements, or even those who did not pass the test of time and were removed from teams. We are all human and have human frailties. However, for the most part, trust and the complete knowledge that team members would sacrifice their lives for their team members created bonds of brotherhood that literally last for life. It is these bonds that create associations like ours so that we may stay in touch with those with whom we served. We get together, tell the same old stories (sometimes we can even tell them twice the same way) and find that everyone has their own version or recollection of the events of what happened. As time goes on, our memories fade about the facts and who was on the mission and exactly what happened in what order. The truth is that really does not matter. The important thing is the brotherhood, love, trust, and appreciation of one another remains until we pass on, and then it still lives until the rest of us are gone. Like us all, I don't know everyone in our association and neither does anyone else. It is the small team bonding and shared experiences that create a brotherhood for life. I lost my younger brother, the best person in our family, several years back but I still have a team of brothers that fill the void. It is a true blessing to have "brothers" you may rarely see or hear from that you know would come running if you needed help.

Continued on the next page

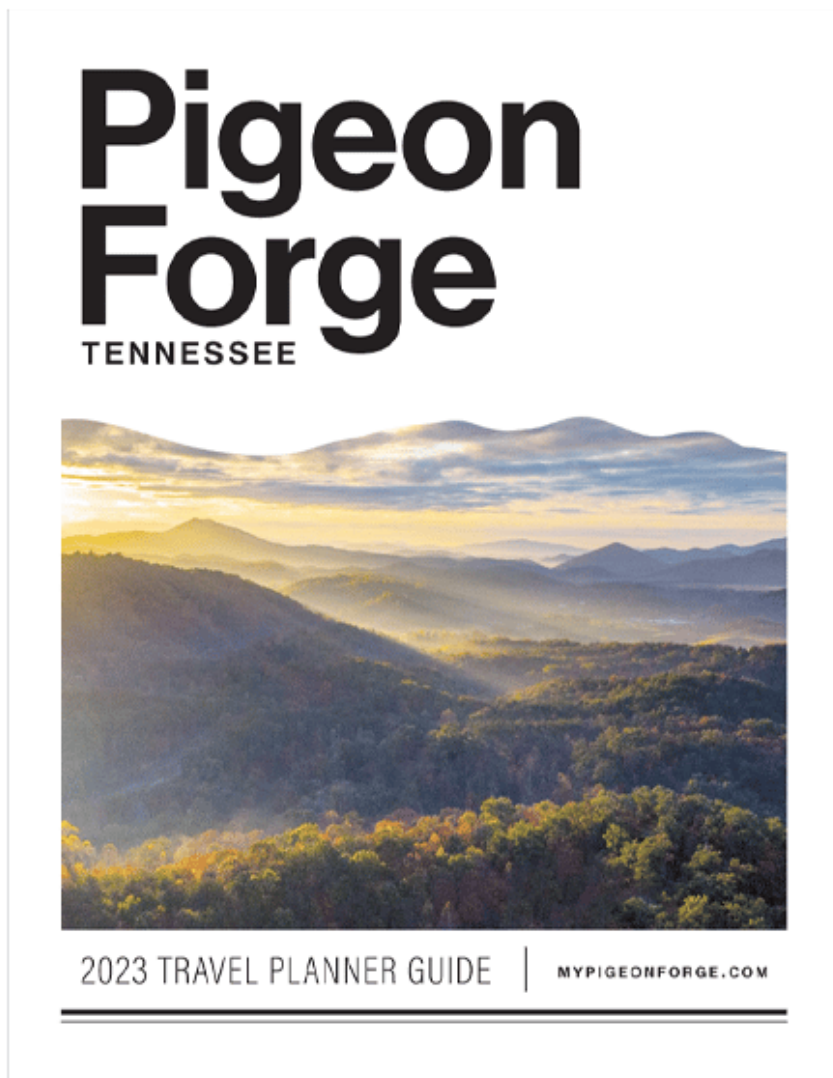
There is a segment of our association who are ever present and are just as important, but never get the true appreciation they have earned and deserve. We call them partners or wives or significant others, but in fact, they are members of our teams. They never pulled a mission in the jungle, but they are support and often leaders that make our lives whole and worth living. They have our backs, and they know the issues we deal with that our Ranger Team members may never know we are dealing with. A true partner in life, someone who has our backs.....and hopefully, we have theirs as well, is the best team member you can ever have. If you are like me, I have a plan to live forever....and so far, it is working! I also have a Plan B back-up that includes not outliving my partner as I know that I just do not want a life without her. I am guessing many of you feel the same way I do. One thing that we can do and to make life easier for our partners is to have a plan in place with our wishes known as to what we want done when our Plan B goes into effect. No, I am not on my death-

bed, and I am not in the funeral business. I simply want to make things easier for my partner. Talk about final arrangements, make sure you have everything documented, have a will, a funeral home and a place for final resting laid out. For you unfortunate guys who do not have a partner, or your partner has already left this world, have your children, grandchildren or even a best friend informed and documented to deal with your final wishes.

As I write this edition for our Association, I can think of a dozen couples in our association who we all know have great partners. I could call names but frankly, we all know who does and does not have true life partnerships and I fear I would leave some out. Be kind, be thoughtful and make life easier on your true-life partner once you are gone.

Order your Free Copy of 2023 Travel Planner by using the link below

<https://www.mypigeonforge.com/planning/travel-guide>



While Army bases are the most conspicuous examples, many installations have street names or buildings named after Confederates. The Navy will rename the cruiser USS Chancellorsville, which commemorates a Confederate victory, and the USNS Maury — named after a U.S. Navy officer who resigned his commission to fight for the Confederate Navy — will also be re-named. Battle streamers commemorating Confederate service will no longer be authorized.

Spotlight: Commemorating World War I

Some Army bases, established in the build-up and during World War I, were named for Confederate officers in an effort to court support from local populations in the South. That the men for whom the bases were named had taken up arms against the government they had sworn to defend was seen by some as a sign of reconciliation between the North and South. It was also the height of the Jim Crow Laws in the South, so there was no consideration for the feelings of African Americans who had to serve at bases named after men who fought to defend slavery.

All this changed in the aftermath of the police killing of George Floyd in 2020. Many people protested systemic racism and pointed to Confederate statues and bases as part of that system. Congress established the commission in the National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal 2021. Then-President Donald J. Trump vetoed the legislation because of the presence of the commission, and huge bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress overrode his veto.

The commission issued its first report in May 2022, which addressed renaming Army bases. The commission finished their mission on Oct. 1, 2022 and there was a 90-day period for public comment. That has now expired and the renaming of the bases may proceed apace.

Spotlight: Commemorating the Vietnam War



Fort Benning, Georgia, will be renamed Fort Moore after Army Lt. Gen. Hal Moore and his wife, Julia Compton Moore. Moore commanded U.S. forces in the first large-scale battle of the Vietnam War. His book — "We Were Soldiers Once... And Young" was made into the 2002 movie, *We Were Soldiers*.

Left— Julia Compton Moore



LTG Hal Moore (Then MG-Photo)

Fort Gordon, Georgia, is renamed Fort Eisenhower after General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower, the leader of the liberation of Europe in World War II, and the 34th president of the United States.

Spotlight: Commemorating World War II

Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, is renamed Fort Walker after Dr. Mary Edwards Walker — the first woman surgeon in the Civil War, and the only woman awarded the Medal of Honor.

Fort Hood, Texas, is renamed Fort Cavazos in honor of Army Gen. Richard E. Cavazos, a Hispanic-American hero of both the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Spotlight: Commemorating the Korean War

Fort Lee, Virginia, is renamed after two soldiers and will become Fort Gregg-Adams. Army Lt. Gen. Arthur J. Gregg was an African-American soldier who rose from private to three-star during a career in military logistics. Army Lt. Col. Charity Adams was the first African American officer in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps in World War II and led the first African-American WAAC unit to serve overseas.

Fort Pickett, Virginia, is renamed Fort Barfoot in honor of Army Tech Sgt. Van T. Barfoot, who received the Medal of Honor for his actions with the 45th Infantry Division in Italy in 1944.

Fort Polk, Louisiana, is renamed Fort Johnson to commemorate Army Sgt. William Henry Johnson.

Continued on the next page

Johnson was a member of the famous Harlem Hellfighters that fought under French Army command during World War I. Johnson belatedly received the Medal of Honor for an action in the Argonne Forest of France where he fought off a German raid and received 21 wounds in the hand-to-hand fighting. President Barack Obama awarded Johnson the medal in 2015, long after the soldier died in 1929.

Fort Rucker, Alabama, is renamed after Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Michael J. Novosel. The chief was an aviator who flew combat in both World War II and Vietnam and received the Medal of Honor for a Medevac mission under fire in Vietnam where he saved 29 soldiers.

Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is renamed Fort Liberty

[Julia Crompton Morre's Fact Sheet](#) Contributions recognized by a 2004 Alabama Senate Resolution sponsored by 35 Senators

- The resolution by the legislature commended her contributions, character and values. The resolution was bipartisan with the legislators reflecting the great breadth of diversity in America – men, women, and race.
- She is recognized for her service to Army families in the National Infantry Museum Army Family Display
- Army's established the Julia Compton Moore Award in 2005 to recognize soldiers' civilian spouses
- Fort Benning honors her service with the "Julia C. Moore Award," awarded to recognize individuals of exemplary service, high standards of ethics and morality, faithfulness to the Army family, and a genuine passion for improving life for Army and soldiers and their families. Recognized as one of the "Influential military wives from the Revolutionary War to today" ([Link to article](#))
- Organized and led the initiative to change casualty notification procedures (telegrams given to taxis to deliver) due to the Army's unpreparedness to manage Vietnam combat casualties.
- In the aftermath of the Ia Drang battles, she followed in the wake of the taxis carrying the casualty notifications to comfort the family.
- Horrified that she was not made aware of the funeral for Sgt Jack Gell, the first casualty buried at Fort Benning, she called Suvivors Assistance and demanded to be notified of all funerals for 1st Battalion men. She attended every subsequent ceremony.
- Actively participated in and, as a senior Army wife, led programs to support Army families and soldiers.
- Daughter of a career Army officer who served in WW1 and WW2, a single mother with young children during her husband's deployment to the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and mother of two sons who served full careers in the Army during peace and war. She fully understood/experienced the demands and stresses placed on families.
- Contributions recognized in Hal's annual appraisals -

"great asset to our own military community and the Army"

- Passionately involved in all aspects of Army Community service, including Officer and NCO Wives' Clubs, Advisory Councils, Post Thrift Shops, daycare centers, and Boy and Girl Scouts.
- Life-long Red Cross volunteer
- Willingly offered compassion to all Army veterans - most notably during the Ia Drang reunions. She is buried with her husband in the Fort Benning Post cemetery

Hal Moore's Fact Sheet

Decorated combat veteran for service in two wars. Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star for Valor (multiple), Purple Heart, and Distinguished Service Medal recipient. 100% VA disabled/helicopter crash survivor.

Trailblazer who developed and implemented the Army policy on equal opportunity in the 70s

Endorsed by 5 State Senate/House resolutions in Alabama, Georgia, and Kentucky

The resolutions by the legislatures of Georgia, Kentucky and Alabama commend the contributions, character and values of Hal and Julie Moore. The resolutions are uniformly bipartisan with the legislators reflecting the great breadth of diversity in America – men, women, and race. In fact, one of the Senators signing the 2002 Alabama resolution, Senator Charles Langford, represented Rosa Parks in the famous civil rights case of the 1960s.

The memorial video prepared by the Fort Benning PAO for his funeral has had 1,485,687 views on YouTube, proving Moore is both well known and loved by the American people.

Featured in the Smithsonian Museum's Vietnam War exhibit Spearheaded doctrinal development of the air mobility concept at Fort Benning with the 11th Abn Div (Test)

Commanded the 1/7 Cavalry during the first major battle of the Vietnam war. Hal Moore's 450-man battalion prevailed against two Peoples Army of Vietnam Regiments totaling over 2,000 men. Subsequently promoted and led an infantry brigade in major combat operations, routinely fighting side by side with his troops. Regarded as the Vietnam War's "General George Patton" by multiple media outlets, including the Detroit Free Press and Chicago Daily News

Developed best practices for the use of helicopters in combat. His contributions recognized by the Air Force's selection of him for the "Gathering of Eagles" in 2007

Frocked to Major General, deployed to command the 7th Infantry Division to restore its combat effectiveness after it was fractured with race riots and insubordination.

Continued on the next page

Commanded the Training Center at Fort Ord, solving drug problems, racial tensions, and piloting programs to transition to the modern volunteer Army.

As the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, designed and implemented Army personnel policies for the All-Volunteer Army and rebuilt an NCO Corps almost destroyed by the Vietnam War

Co-Authored three books; "We Were Soldiers Once...And Young" - a New York Times Bestseller, "We Are Soldiers Still," and "Hal Moore on Leadership." Video with his comments is part of the Vietnam display at the Smithsonian.

Devoted over twenty years in retirement to professional development of active-duty military through seminars and speaking engagements. Co-founded the Ia Drang Scholarship fund – 322 recipients/\$1,823,519 in funding so far.

Awarded the "Doughboy Award," the highest honor for dedication and service to the Infantry in 2000.

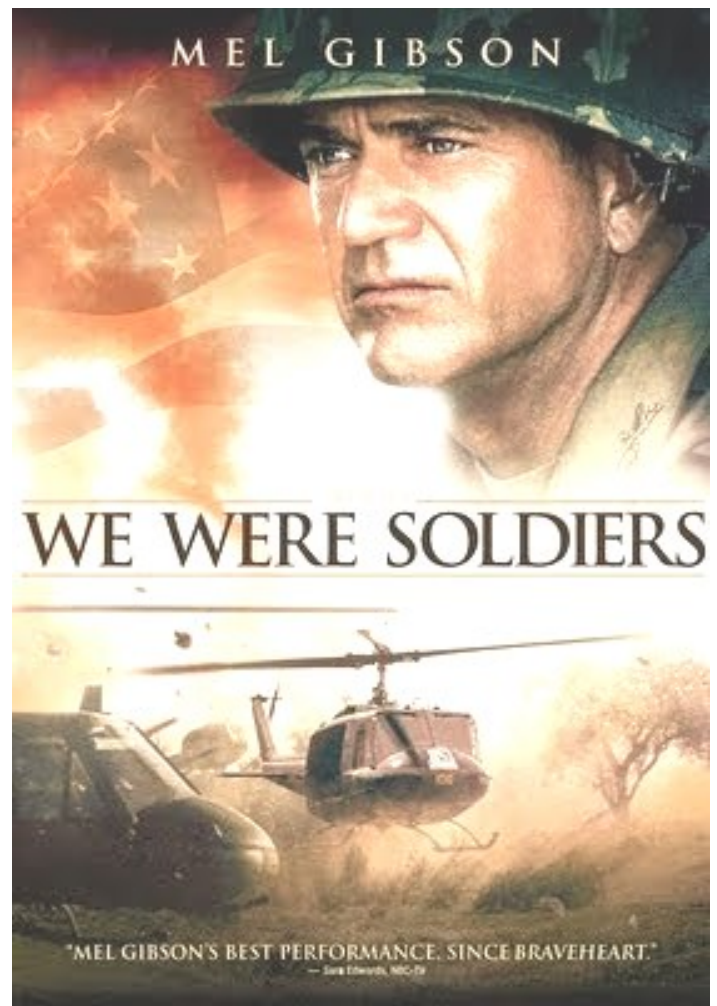
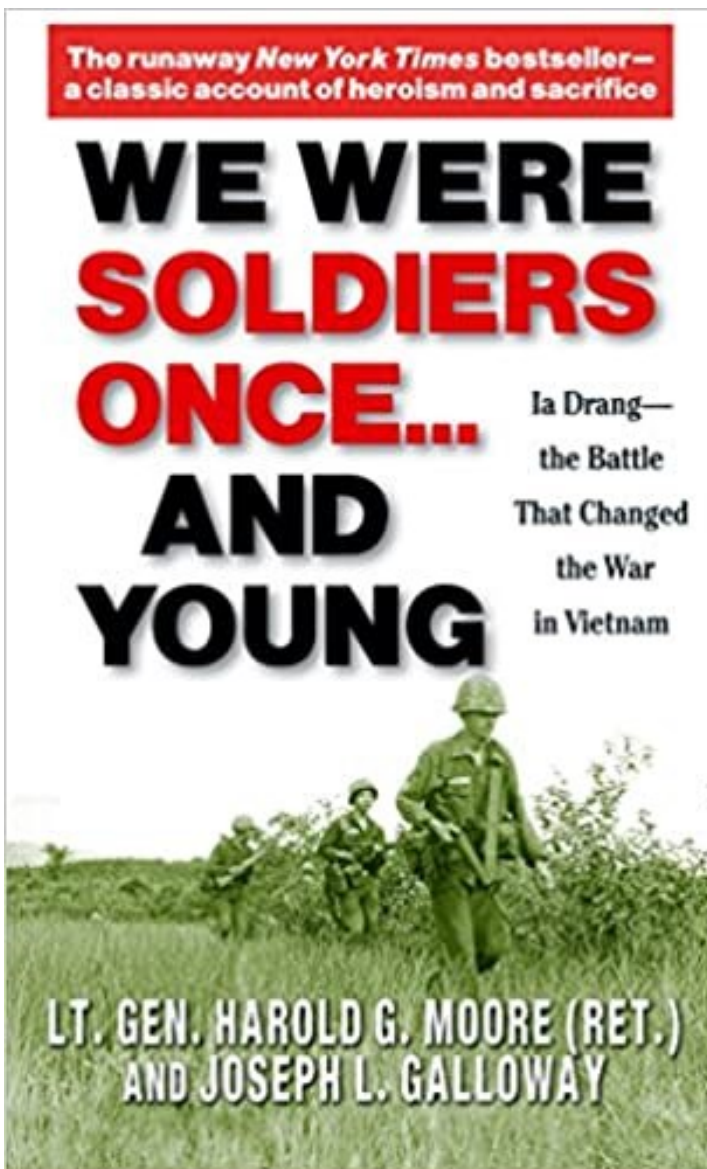
Awarded the Distinguished Graduate Award in 2003 by the United States Military Academy.

Honored annually via the Hal Moore Warrior of Athlete of Excellence Award given to two USMA cadets who exemplify the "leadership qualities of Moore." Honorary Colonel of the 7th Cavalry Regiment.

Inducted into the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame in 2016 Spearheaded reconciliation by meeting with his Vietnamese counterpart as well as General Giap

His helmet and the helmet of his counterpart reside in the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning

He is buried at the post cemetery at Fort Benning, fulfilling his final wish to rest among his men who fell during the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley.



Left– *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*

Top Right– *The blockbuster movie, We Were Soldiers*

Special Operations Wounded Warrior Hog Hunt

Rick Merritt, 1st Battalion Unit Director, has a segment of his UD report describing a recent hog hunting adventure near Myrtle Beach sponsored by the Special Operations Wounded Warrior Foundation (SOWW) that can be found on page 23 in Patrolling.

Pictures on this page are from that hog hunt provided by the SOWW. They also facilitate duck, pheasant, antelope, deer, and bear hunts across the country and also include fishing trips, retreats and the like. A registration form can be accessed through their website.

The information and contact information below is from their website:

<https://sowwcharity.com/contact-us/>

Their office phone number is: (843) 390-0086

Special Operations Wounded Warriors year round retreats provide a unique opportunity for fellow service members to come together in a no pressure environment. The retreats are de-



L-R: FOX NEWS reporter Lawrence Jones and Ranger Jon Walker, Board Member of the SOWW



Bryan Schrader and Brian Molashi at the Hog Hunt

signed to allow relaxation and camaraderie between the individuals. This by nature will foster communication and open dialogue, and allow for a self-assessment of themselves.

SOWW also hosts other family retreats in direct support of our warriors and their loving Family members.

SOWW members are on hand at each retreat to provide any



Kurt Donaldson and Andy Wilbur

support needed for individuals. The support does not end with the retreat. In fact, it is only the beginning as we coordinate any requested support through SOWW and our partner programs.



To our members of Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association: apply for this. Contact info on this page.

Emergency Mental Health Care

Attention Veterans: If you are having a suicidal crisis, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department immediately.

Starting January 17, 2023, VA will provide, pay for or reimburse emergency care for certain Veterans and individuals – including ambulance transportation costs, follow-on inpatient or residential care related to the event for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days, including social work.

You are covered if you were discharged from the military under a condition that is other than dishonorable after more than 24 months

of active service or you served at least 100 days under a combat exclusion or in support of a contingency operation either directly or by operating an unmanned aerial vehicle from another location. Former members of the armed forces who were the victim of a physical assault of a sexual nature, a battery of a sexual nature, or sexual harassment while serving in the armed forces are also eligible.

Commissary Eligibility Requirements

Commissary shopping privileges are available to the following groups: **Veterans with any service-connected disabilities documented by VA.** Veterans who are Purple Heart recipients. Veterans who are former prisoners of war.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day March 29th



On March 29, 1973, Army Master Sgt. Max Bielke boarded a C-130 in Saigon and headed home. Like so many other Vietnam vets, Bielke's service did not end there. He continued to work as a civilian employee with the Retirement Services Division until Sept. 11, 2001. That day, he lost his life during a meeting, when terrorists slammed into the nation's military headquarters. Bielke saw the end of what was the longest war in American history and the beginning of what would become an even longer one.

The Vietnam War's place in our national story is remembered March 29, a day when most schools and workplaces will stay open, and observances are typically kept among those of my wartime generation. We, of that generation, and The American Legion know the significance of National Vietnam War Veterans Day, which has been observed since 2017, when President Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the day the last U.S. combat troops departed from Vietnam, closing the curtain on a long and complicated time in world history.

The first known American fatality from the Vietnam War was Air Force Tech. Sgt. Richard B. Fitzgibbon, who made the ultimate sacrifice on June 8, 1956. On Sept. 7, 1965, his son, Marine Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, would make the same sacrifice. They both rest eternally at Blue Hill Cemetery in Braintree, Mass. The names of more than 58,000 Americans would eventually be etched for eternity on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington.

Even after Saigon fell, we continued – and still continue – to lose more of our brothers and sisters. Agent Orange-related illnesses, PTSD and other wounds of war take their toll more and more as the years pass. I am proud to say that more than 1 million Vietnam veterans belong to The American Legion, making them the largest segment of our membership. We honor their service. We advocate on behalf of their needs. We defend their legacy.

While historians continue to debate and second-guess the strategies and decisions of America's political leaders during the Vietnam War, the noble service of the men and women who served there should not be forgotten.

It is still not too late to heal old wounds. The next time you see a Vietnam veteran, say, "Thank you for your service." And if you are one, welcome home! To hundreds of thousands of others, like Max Bielke, we respect and remember you, though we cannot be together in person just now.

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola
National Commander
The American Legion

2:14 PM
03/10/23
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COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION
Profit & Loss
January 1 through March 10, 2023

Jan 1 - Mar 10, 23

Financial Report Lynn Walker CPA	Ordinary Income/Expense	
	Income	
	Direct Public Support	
	Individ, Business Contributions	510.00
	Total Direct Public Support	510.00
	Program Income	
	Membership Dues	710.00
	Total Program Income	710.00
	Total Income	1,220.00
	Gross Profit	1,220.00
	Expense	
	Operations	
	Website rental	149.99
	Total Operations	149.99
	Total Expense	149.99
Net Ordinary Income	1,070.01	
Net Income	<u>1,070.01</u>	

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COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION
Balance Sheet
As of March 10, 2023

Mar 10, 23

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Company G Ranger 75th Infantry	43,680.87
Total Checking/Savings	43,680.87
Other Current Assets	
Charter Oak Capital Management	11,021.21
Total Other Current Assets	11,021.21
Total Current Assets	54,702.08
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>54,702.08</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
National Ranger Memorial Founda	100.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	100.00
Total Current Liabilities	100.00
Total Liabilities	100.00
Equity	
Equity Prior Year	26,688.97
Opening Balance Equity	26,843.10
Net Income	1,070.01
Total Equity	54,602.08
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>54,702.08</u>

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196th LRRPs, E51st LRP, and G-
75th Rangers

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Official U.S. Army Photo 196th L.B. LRRP July 1967 @ Chu Lia Helicopter Pad RVN Standing L-R: Hefty, Howard, Mincey, Haussler, Velleri Kneeling: Anderson