



Sua Sponte

www.lrrpranger.org

Third Quarter 2015

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Deadlines: Sua Sponte is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. Absolute deadline for submitting material for the newsletter is 45 days prior to the month mentioned above.

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

2015 Reunion Update



The 2015 Twin Cities reunion at the Country Inn & Suites Mall of America was “rocking” Friday evening to the Vietnam Veteran band of Lee Kenner on the steel guitar and Roger Johnson playing lead rhythm guitar country rock. Saturday morning the association was escorted to the Ft Snelling National Cemetery for our annual memorial service with guest speaker Jill Stephenson who shared her thoughts with our members and guests emphasizing the fact they did not die in vain. There were three Minnesotans from our unit that are buried in Minnesota: David Ohm who is buried in Alden, MN, and buried at Ft Snelling are Dan McLaughlin and Robert Pruden. At the ceremony representing David Ohm was Gary Newman, Alden, MN American Legion Post Commander; team mate and brother Dave McLaughlin represented Dan McLaughlin; and Robert Pruden was represented by his brother Larry Pruden. The names of all of our fallen brothers were read by Tom Nash and Ralph Tildon. The Midwest All-Airborne Honor Guard presented arms and gave our fallen a three shot volley echoing through the area followed by their bugler with taps. After the ceremony, we went to nearby Ft Snelling and visited the traveling “Wall” exhibit before going back to the hotel where we were retold the story of Danny Jacks zip lining across the expanses of the Mall of America, much to everyone’s amazement! That evening we had 72 members and guests who shared our banquet served by Famous Daves and was given an outstanding presentation by Jill Stephenson. 4 new first-time attendees: Bruce Johnson, Ron Olson, Jerry Wilhelmy, and Greg Dodson.

**Company G (Ranger)
75th Infantry Association**

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Sua Sponte

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Stephen Johnson, Vice President

Lynn "Cowboy" Walker, Treasurer

Frank Svensson, Secretary

Ed Carey, Historian

Tom "Dolly" Robison, Corporate
Counsel

Stephen Johnson, 75th Regiment
Representative

Board of Directors

David Moncada, Board Chairman

Steve Franklin, Board Member

Tom Nash, Board Member

Steve Deever, Board Member

Chuck Ford, Board Member

Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published quarterly 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, 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.

Newsletter Submittals and Deadlines: see page 1



RLTW!

Richard "Boot" Corkan

WOW!!!! What a reunion. Steve and Pam Johnson out did themselves. Unfortunately I was only able to spend one afternoon and night with everyone due to personal problems, but it was a great time. The area was great and the Rangeretts all took advantage of the Mall of America, not to mention a bunch of the guys. I have seen some of the pictures posted on fb and there must be plenty of beer gardens/pubs in the mall to keep the men busy while the ladies shop.

Some points of interest for the association. We are way behind on our membership dues! If you have not sent your dues in PLEASE do so. Additionally we need someone to step forward and take point for the 2017 reunion to be held on the east coast. Max how about east Tennessee? I would like for someone to take over as President of the association at the next reunion in California, due to personal problems I do not feel that I have the time to dedicate to the association that is needed.

We need to commend Tom Nash for a job well done. He has reached his goal to purchase a brick at the Ranger memorial at Fort Benning for all of our brothers that do not have one and have passed away after their return from Nam. Thank You Tom!!!

RLTW

Richard (Boot) Corkan

2015 Twin Cities Photo Recap



Top Photos: A group gathering after the memorial service at Ft Snelling visiting the traveling “Wall” exhibit.

Center and Lower Left Photos: Auctioning Linda Garver’s gift to the Association on behalf of Tim Garver, “The Men With Painted Faces” and the “Cash Cow Quilt”

Lower Right Photo: Midwest All Airborne Honor Guard with David Moncada, Stephen Johnson, and Jill Stephenson.

George "Dwight" Merkel

My US Army march began on the evening of December 2, 1969. You might remember that was when the first draft lottery began. Yep. My birthday, September 14th, was selected as No. 1. So, as I tell folks, I've won the lottery. When they asked how much I got I tell them an all expense paid trip half-way around the world with meals, lodging, and clothes as included. Uncle Sam didn't waste time and I got my "Greetings" within a couple of weeks I was off to Ft. Ord on January 21, 1970. Foggy, cold, drill sergeants. Probably much like everyone else's experience. Except I somehow was appointed trainee platoon sergeant and lasted the cycle. I graduated as the "Outstanding Trainee" and was promoted to E2. Yeah! Down "the Hill" to infantry AIT. Orders to Germany at the end. Oops. Mistake. 4 days later changed to Vietnam. Don't you love the Army? Had to call the folks back with the new news. Made PFC out of AIT. But then everyone was promoted to PFC as soon as you hit Country. What was up with that? Arrived in country in the middle of June at Long Binh and then off via C-130 to Chu Lai and the Americal Combat Center. HOT and miserable!

During all of the orientations two guys from the Ranger company came to recruit. I remember one was Sgt. Windell. Most of us kicked back as joining the Rangers was probably not a good idea. But then they said they'd only lost one KIA in the last year and that there was additional training prior to going on missions. And it was all volunteers so if you wanted out you could get out. Jim Norris, Ed "Greg" Mathern, and I decided to check it out. We had all gone through Basic and AIT together. Jim Norris had been one of my trainee squad leaders in Basic. Of course, we had to pass muster with Top Williams. All I remember him saying was, "So you want to be Rangers?" In that intimidating way he had about him. Needless to say we were sufficiently intimidated. But we stuck it out. Our Recon class started with about 25. We graduated 12 and 11 of us joined the company. SSG Quillette, the senior TAC, kept us very focused. Sgts. Tom Hardy and John Sausville were very good. We thought they knew their stuff. And then the other TAC was SSG Danny Jacks, "the Living Legend." Don't think I need to say anything more. Really though, they were a great group and we got a very good course of study and preparation for the company.

I remember I had the dubious distinction of being "Head Puke" for a day as most of us did. The worst part about being Head Puke was when you ran (like everywhere).



Since you had to carry your sandbag and weapon and equipment your hands were busy. That damn board would bounce up and clobber you in the face. I was glad to pass it on. One hot day it was decided that there would be races from the PT stand to the VC log and back. The winner would get an ice cold soda and sit on the hooch steps. I figured I wasn't going to be able to win the first race but if I held back and went all out the 2nd race I could win. Worked to perfection.....except someone caught me at the last second and we tied. No ties! Had to run again and, of course, I was spent so never got close and never got that cold soda. Bummer. We never had a formal "third phase" recon mission or a formal graduation ceremony. Much of the Americal Division deployed to the old Special Forces Camp at Kham Duc out near the Laotian border and the Ranger company went, too. It was decided, however, that 6 guys would go to MACV Recondo School and the other 6 of us would go to Kham Duc. It would be the last time I saw Greg Mathern. He went with the first group to MACV. He was killed soon after returning and was our only direct action KIA that year. So my first mission was a walk off the perimeter. When I got back I spent about an hour at the medic station having them pick little tiny stickers out of my hands. The first letter to my Dad was a request of some black golf gloves which he promptly sent. Thanks, Dad. We were out at Kham Duc for a week or so I think and then came back to Chu Lai. I was assigned to Team Arkansas with SSG Tom Riley as the TL. When I walked in the hooch I was greeted by one of the guys throwing the M60 machine gun at me. I was a big guy so I got "the Pig." It was mine for the rest of the time I was operational.

Merkel Feature Member

But I liked it because I carried upwards of 500 rounds and everyone else carried at least a 100 round box for me. When I wasn't carrying the Pig I usually humped one of the radios. Soon, the rest of us 6 were sent to MACV Recondo School in Nha Trang. I have to say that they served the best food I ever ate while I was in the Army. It was a gentlemen's course compared to the Americal Recondo School. The highlight was the morning I beat the Koreans on the last morning run. I was told that nobody ever beat the Koreans. The Koreans all gathered around and congratulated me. I was "Numma Won" that day. Many missions and many stories to be only told at reunions. I'll tell one. Our Platoon Leader, Lt. Epting, went on a heavy mission with us one time. We got extended 3 days and were running out of food and water. Fortunately it rained. We were stuck on a hill overlooking a village checking for sampans in a river at night. One day it was Epting's birthday so someone put a matchstick in a pound cake and we all whispered "Happy Birthday." Pretty cool. My hoochmate for most of the time was Steve Deever. He and I got along very well as we grew up a couple of miles from each other in Southern California. He in Bloomington and I in Pomona. We are still good friends to this day and get together to check out the local brew pubs in and around Norco, Calif.

I left the company before my scheduled DEROS as my mother fell ill with cancer and my folks requested a reassignment through the Red Cross. She passed away soon after I returned so I'm grateful to have had the last few weeks with her. I was sent to Ft. Ord. I thought I'd be assigned to Patrolling Committee or someplace where my skills might be valuable. Right! I was assigned as Roster Guide at Reception Center. What an easy job! Met some cool folks, though, and joined the Ft. Ord Parachute Club. Made quite a few jumps and had a lot of fun. So I feel better about the "Airborne" part of Airborne Ranger even though I didn't go to Jump School and never wore jump wings. Made Sgt - E5. Of course, typical Army. They decided they didn't want me anymore and I was discharged 4 months early. The Army was downsizing and letting many guys go early.

Got back to So. Cal and started college again. Eventually I graduated from UC Riverside with a teaching credential. Met my wife, Pam, in student teacher class and we've been married 38+ years now. I taught for 20 years and then was a school administrator for 14 years before retiring in 2009. I was a little more focused this time around but I still had the itch. The California Army National Guard came knocking in 1973 and talked me into going to the California Military Academy OCS. I signed up under the "Try One" program and retired 22 years later. After graduating in 1974 as the Distinguished Graduate (OCS was a piece of cake after Americal Recondo School) I served with the 40th Infantry Division (Mechanized), and Battalion XO, as a platoon leader, scout



platoon leader, company XO and Commander, Battalion, Brigade, and Division Intell Officer, and Battalion XO. I was the Acting G1 of the Division at the LA Riots. And I taught at the OCS for 11 years on the tactical committee. This time I was in charge of the patrolling training. I currently serve as a volunteer admissions officer for West Point. All in all, I have to say that my Ranger time has served me well. Many of the lessons learned and the Ranger way stayed with me and became the way I've operated. Professionalism, meticulous planning, staying focused in the face of adversity, are all valuable traits to have in any profession. The Standing Orders for Roger's Rangers are still the best. No. 1 - "Don't forget nothing!" I will always value my time with G Company and the guys I served with.



George "Dwight" Merkel

AKA - "Merk"

Codename: "Lightning"

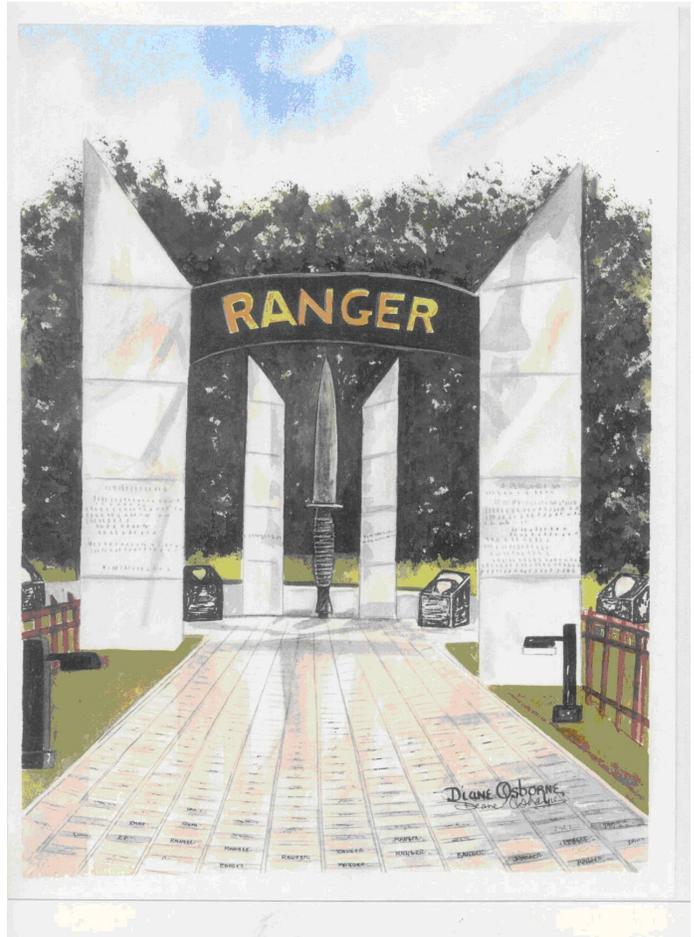
MEMORIAL STONE UPDATE

By Tom Nash

For the past two years, I have been pestering you to contribute to our Memorial Stone project, whereby we have been raising funds in order to purchase Memorial Stones at the Ranger Memorial at Fort Benning for all of our honored Fallen. I can now tell you that the mission has been accomplished. We have raised \$23,295 to purchase the 93 Memorial Stones for all those of our unit who have died since Vietnam. The completion of the project was made possible by the contributions made by members of the Association, several other individuals, and several corporations and foundations, and especially a very large donation made by one benefactor. This means that every deceased member of our unit of whom we are aware either has a Memorial Stone placed at the Ranger Memorial or for whom a Memorial Stone will shortly be engraved. Our thanks and gratitude go out to all those who contributed to the project. A list of all contributors follows:

Tom & Sharon Robison; Rod & Marilyn Congdon; Al Stewart; Chuck Thornton; Joe Meinike; Bob Clarke; Mickey Boothe; Tom & Dianne Nash; Dave McLaughlin; Tim & Tracey Shur; Tom & Candace Sagan; Ken & Patricia Fenton; Steve & Lori Crabtree; Justin Stay; Steve Franklin; Rick Collier; Wayne Diede; Peggy Keating; Lee Stacey; Larry and Carolyn Hogan; Jerry Howard; Bob Mitchell; Robert J. Myers (of Casey's General Stores); Karen L. Zaramba; Mike Maar; Titan Industries; Dynetics; Parker-Hannifin Corporation; Aflac; H. Ross Perot and the Perot Foundation.

Thank you all!
TOM NASH



Our Bricks at the Ranger Memorial @ Ft Benning

The National Ranger Memorial Foundation, Inc. is poised to achieve the goal of perpetual maintenance, but only through the constant support of donors can the other programs be sustained and broadened. The foundation was rated "Best in America" by the Independent Charities of America association because of the high standards, services, and professional management of the foundation compared to the low overhead costs. Please consider contributing to the foundation. All gifts are tax deductible.

Taps

TIMOTHY F. GARVER
VALPARAISO, IN

Timothy F. Garver, age 70 of Valparaiso, passed away after a long battle with cancer and diabetes, August 21, 2015. He graduated from Horace Mann High School in 1962 and Parsons College in 1970, where he received degrees in business and aviation. Tim was employed by Burns Funeral Home, U.S. Steel, Garver & Son Fish Company, and Farmer Brothers Coffee and Tea. He also served for the U.S. Army as a L.R.R.P./Ranger during Vietnam. Tim was a member of the Sons of Erin and The American Legion. He was a very active member of the Boone Grove Christian Church. He enjoyed horseback riding, flying, boating, model railroading, and RVs, but mostly, spending time with his friends and family. He was preceded in death by his parents: Lyle and Agatha (nee Pawloske) Garver. Tim is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Linda; children: Brian Garver and Susan (Jeff) Baldwin; grandchildren; Eric Garver and Garrett and Gavin Baldwin. Friends visited with Tim's family from 2:00-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 25, 2015, at the Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN, with Tim's funeral service which was held at 7:00 p.m. With entombment at Sunset Cemetery, 3901 N Vermillion St Danville, IL held on Wednesday August 26, 2015 at 11:00a.m. Donations may be made to the Boone Grove Christian Church (property fund) or the Wounded Warrior Project.



Tim Garver at the helm of a river boat cruise during the Branson reunion. Tim's wife, Linda, used this photo for his obituary and we will too.

MICHAEL DAVID EHRKE July 14, 2015

Ehrke, Michael David, July 3, 1945 - July 14, 2015. Rosary was held on Sunday, July 19th, 5 PM. Funeral Mass was Monday, July 20th, 11 AM. both St. Thomas Aquinas Church. The most brilliant light that was Michael was extinguished Tuesday, July 14th, 2015. Michaels baritone voice, his musical talent, a die-hard fan of blue jeans rock n' roll with the accent on the 2/4 beat is what defined him. Michael was a renowned local musician and a member of the Soule Survivors and Sawdust Charlie.

With his brilliant mind, generous spirit, beautiful script, wicked sense of humor, love of Mexican food and all dogs, he will be remembered as a fiercely loyal son, brother, husband, father, grandfather and friend.

He proudly served his country in the US Army 1966-1968, serving in Vietnam, LRRP Detachment of 196th LIB, Company E 51st Infantry LRP, member of Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association. As a professional safety and health consultant in the roofing industry, Michael established and was Executive Director of "SHARP", the Safety and Health Agenda for Roofing Professionals (retired). He was preceded in death by his father, John F. Ehrke and numerous canine companions. Michael is survived by his beloved wife Mary; daughters Adrienne (John Hackwith-Great Falls, MT) and Camryn (Wichita, KS); sons John Aaron (Amy-Overland Park, KS) and Jordan (Wichita, KS); mother Sarah Patricia Ehrke (Sandy, UT); sisters Sheryl Ivey (Bob-Cottonwood Heights, UT) and Jan Dixon (Greg-Olathe, KS); brother Kip (Cottonwood Heights, UT); grandsons Luke and Blake (Overland Park, KS); dogs Angel and Dexter; in-laws; nieces and nephews; countless friends. In lieu of flowers please consider a contribution to the Kansas Humane Society, 3313 N. Hillside St, Wichita, KS 67220 or Paws for Veterans, 1900 S. Harbor City Blvd., Ste 106, Melbourne, FL 32901.

The world is greatly diminished with his leaving for another. In the end his huge loving heart failed him, leaving our hearts broke, but we find comfort in knowing that his soul survives. Downing & Lahey East Mortuary.



Last Chance for Reunion Tees!

The 2011-2014 Reunion Tees are being sold @ \$10 each and that includes shipping to the *contiguous U.S.



2011 Myrtle Beach Reunion T-Shirts

Two 3XXXs

\$10 includes shipping*



2015 Twin Cities Reunion T-Shirts

Two Medium
1 2XX

\$20 includes shipping*



2012 Branson Reunion T-Shirts

Fourteen medium

\$10 includes shipping*



Rangers God and Country Tees

3 XXX
9 XL
12 XX
5 LG

\$20 includes shipping*



2013 San Diego Reunion T-Shirts

Three medium

\$10 includes shipping*

The 2011-2014 tees not sold by Veteran's Day will be given to a non-profit in need.

The 2015 reunion tees, Rangers God and Country Tees, and bags that are remaining will be available at the 2016 Reunion in Norco, CA.

\$25 for travel bag; includes shipping



2014 Savannah Reunion T-Shirts

1-3XL, 3-XL, 7-2XX, 1-Large

\$10 includes shipping*



Make checks payable to: Company G 75th Ranger Association and send to:
David "Chief" Moncada-4356 Virgusell Circle- Charmichael- CA- 95608-1221
Email Chief @: meganmoncada@comcast.net

2016 Reunion & Board Meeting Notes

2016 Reunion Norco, California

2015 Board and General Membership Meeting *Working Copy

The 2016 Reunion will be on September 29-October 1st in Norco, CA at the Marriot Fairfield Inn and Suites.

A complete itinerary of events and special coverage will be in the next issue of Sua Sponte.

Steve Deever is the point man with assistance from George Merkel and Svensson.

2015 Board Meeting

- * Chairman David Moncada called the board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., September 12 in the Carlson Room in the Country Inn and Suites Mall of America, MN.
- * Moncada appoints Tom Nash to fill the vacancy of Tim Garver
- * Quorum of all 5 board members were present
- * 2014 Meeting notes and were approved unanimously with Ford making the motion and Nash seconded
- * Financial report was read by Walker and approved unanimously with Nash with the motion and seconded by Moncada
- * A motion by Moncada and seconded by Deever to move concessions to Moncadas was unanimous
- * A motion to appoint Steve Johnson as VP and seconded by Moncada was unanimous
- * A motion by Ford to present Jill Stephenson with a check for \$500 for the 75th Ranger Regiment Association family fund and seconded by Nash was unanimous
- * A motion by Ford and seconded by Nash to end the board meeting was unanimous

2015 General Membership Meeting

- Chairman calls the general membership to order at 10:00 a.m. in same location as the board meeting
- Membership quorum was established
- Steve Johnson nominated Tom Nash as board member for a 2 year term and seconded by Shawn Ranahan was unanimous
- Steve Franklin was nominated by Steve Johnson and seconded by Ron Olson for a 2 year term as a board member was unanimous
- Motion to the board by Moncada and seconded by Nash to continue with the same officers: Richard Corkan as president; Steve Johnson as VP; Frank Svensson as secretary; and Lynn Walker as treasurer
- Motion by Moncada to end meetings 2nd Ford, unanimous

This is a working copy of the meeting notes compiled by Sua Sponte.

The official notes of the association will be posted in the next issue of the newsletter by our secretary Frank Svensson.



Rates will be \$109 per night plus applicable tax



CURRENT FINANCIAL REPORT

10:31 AM
09/16/15
Cash Basis

COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Profit & Loss January 1 through September 16, 2015

	Jan 1 - Sep 16, 15
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Direct Public Support	
Individ, Business Contributions	1,945.00
Total Direct Public Support	1,945.00
Other Types of Income	
Concessions	143.00
Reunion Auction Proceeds	3,377.00
Reunion Concession Proceeds	1,475.00
Total Other Types of Income	4,995.00
Program Income	
Membership Dues	1,905.00
Total Program Income	1,905.00
Total Income	8,845.00
Gross Profit	8,845.00
Expense	
Bank Fees	16.75
Business Expenses	
Business Registration Fees	20.00
Total Business Expenses	20.00
Operations	
Concession Expenses	608.16
Postage, Mailing Service	246.36
Printing and Copying	1,129.58
Website rental	120.00
Total Operations	2,104.10
Other Types of Expenses	
Other Costs	
Donations	500.00
Total Other Costs	500.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	500.00
Travel and Meetings	
Reunion Concession Expenses	593.34
Reunion Expenses	2,974.41
Total Travel and Meetings	3,567.75
Total Expense	6,208.60
Net Ordinary Income	2,636.40
Net Income	2,636.40

Current Balance Sheet Continued

10:32 AM
09/16/15
Cash Basis

COMPANY G RANGER 75TH INFANTRY ASSOCIATION Balance Sheet As of September 16, 2015

	<u>Sep 16, 15</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Company G Ranger 75th Infantry	12,736.14
Total Checking/Savings	12,736.14
Other Current Assets	
Charter Oak Capital Management	11,021.21
Total Other Current Assets	11,021.21
Total Current Assets	23,757.35
TOTAL ASSETS	23,757.35
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
National Ranger Memorial Founda	2,005.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	2,005.00
Total Current Liabilities	2,005.00
Total Liabilities	2,005.00
Equity	
Equity Prior Year	-7,727.15
Opening Balance Equity	26,843.10
Net Income	2,636.40
Total Equity	21,752.35
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	23,757.35

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ASSOCIATION CONCESSIONS...

Great Bags for Travel @ \$25



email David "Chief" Moncada at:
meganmoncada@comcast.net

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Quarterly Newsletter of
The 196th LRRPs, E51st
LRPs, and G-75th Rangers

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Scenes from this year's reunion at the memorial service at Ft Snelling National Cemetery. To the left Jill Stephenson, featured speaker and honorary guest, drives her son's truck. Ben Kopp served with the 3rd Battalion of the 75th Rangers and was killed as a result of wounds in Afghanistan on his 3rd tour. Above the formation before memorial service.