



Sua Sponte

www.1rrpranger.org

Fourth Quarter 2012

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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 Michael Chu, Editor.
Address page 2, inset

Featured Member

Ranger Traditions by Timothy H. Shur



Featured member Timothy Shur's uniform on the left and his dad's on the right

My adult journey in life began when I volunteered for G Company Rangers in September of 1970. Sergeant Sausville and Sergeant Hammond gave an orientation at the Chu Lai Reception Center for the new in country arrivals. I don't remember what they said but their military bearing and the fact that my dad was an Army Ranger in WW II convinced me to join. This was the start of the most significant part of my life's education. After

passing certain qualification for G Company, I guess like walking and talking, I waited in a holding tent with many other volunteers, later to be referred to as PUKES. In the tent were Kirk Brookbush, Danny Studdard, Calvin Tritle, Winston Clough, David Molinaro, Paul Grossman, Felix Blinn, Dayle Ferguson, Gerald O'Dell, John Sauselen, Thomas Smolen, just to name a few.

Featured Member Continued on Page 3

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

10433 Juneberry Rd NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
PH: 218-333-1541

Email: TowerG75th@yahoo.com

Sua Sponte

Michael S. Chu, Editor
42 Moanawai Place
Honolulu, HI 96817
PH: 808-282-8109 (cell)

E-mail:

mchu-moanawai@hawaii.rr.com

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Chuck "Wolf" Williams, Vice President
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Sua Sponte is the official newsletter published quarterly by the Company G (RANGER) 75th Infantry Association edited by Michael Chu.

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



Myself and "Chief" enjoying a river cruise at Branson with Tim Garver at the helm

Greetings!

Dan Linehan and David "Chief" Moncada are in the process of booking a hotel in San Diego tentatively for the month of September for our 2013 reunion. As soon as the specifics are available they will be posted on our website at www.lrrrpranger.org

Tim Shur has provided us with a membership article that ties in with his dad who was a Ranger during WW2. I always look forward to a member's submission and editor Michael Chu has information how to submit a featured member article.

The board has passed two items since our business meeting at Branson:

1. A motion was unanimously approved in July to have Tom Robison draft a letter to protest the mistreatment of a disabled Vet during his stay at a Best Western

Hotel. The incident and the letter of protest are within this issue of *Sua Sponte*.

2. A motion to establish this year's membership was passed 4-1 to maintain fees at \$20. Your association fees help support activities approved by the board through its members suggestions.

If you have any suggestion for the board, please let any officer or board member know. We are trying to keep our association as transparent as we can!

This will be my last year as president and plan to step down in San Diego. I will continue to help our editor, Michael Chu, by continuing to publish *Sua Sponte* from Bemidji.

Please enjoy family and friends as much as you can for the Christmas holidays. On behalf of the association, the best to you and yours! "Tower"

Featured Member's Ranger Tradition

When it was our time to face the Big Ranger in the Sky, Sergeants Ouellette, Perry, Santamaria, Hammond and Sausville cajoled, intimidated, threatened and drilled all Recondo students in a fair and impartial manner, I think. There were several that failed to finish the Recondo School. When those unfortunates faced the First Sergeant a flood of verbiage, loud and profane issued from G Company's orderly room.

The school was a lesson in endurance, patience, pain tolerance and not believing anything any of the Sergeants said to you, for example, if you were low crawling in the sand and you thought you were five feet ahead of the next person that was a photo finish and if you were doing a slack jump from the 80 foot rappelling tower you could end up with 85 feet of rope. All in all the opening weeks of the school with all the PT, intense motivational drills used by the Sergeants transformed one's mind and body into a trainee that could tackle the stresses and complexities of Mission Support Site (MSS), the second phase of the school. Actually MSS introduced one to different types of hand held weapons, living off the land, food and sleep deprivation and a new level of physical training. Following MSS we had our Combat OP; the legendary George Beach was our combat op team leader and the students that completed the Combat OP, graduated from the school. Following the graduation celebration we were assigned to operational Teams. I went to Team Tennessee at their request. I was ecstatic to have been selected by Team Tennessee.

Team Tennessee



R-L Myself, Roy Brown, Chico Ciccanti, Juan Gomez, Ralph Stevenson and G.W. Johnson

Transition

The transition from school recruit to an operational team member was like going from undergraduate school to graduate school in college. Roy Brown, Ted Perry, Gary Stauffer, Lynn Walker, Juan Gomez, Gerald Johnson, Gerald Ciccanti, and Ralph Stevenson took me under their wings and provided the necessary guidance to survive in the field.



Ted Perry and Ralph Stevenson



Gary Stauffer and Lynn Walker

Ranger Traditions Continued



Dale Dinwiddie, G.W. Johnson and Juan Gomez



L to R Standing: Myself, James Pushnik (TL), Chico Ciccanti, Dennis Nye, (Unknown) L to R Sitting: Ed Nipper, Ralph Stevenson, Roy Brown (TL), Juan Gomez and GW Johnson



Danny Studdard, Roy Brown, Larry Hodge, and Clemens Lemke

“Heavy Team”

I worked with all the Rangers in the previous photographs during various missions and was proud to be a part of their lives and shared combat experiences. Area and point recon or radio relay were majority of the missions completed but the mission of choice was the “Heavy” or “Hunter Killer” Dennis Nye, sent me a photograph of a joint team effort between Tennessee and Arkansas after completing a Heavy.

Time flew by and one by one each team member reached their DROS date and took the freedom bird home, “Leaving on a Jet Plane” by Peter, Paul, and Mary was very popular at the time. Calvin Trittle and I had the same DROS date. I flew back to the States with Calvin and lost contact with him. My life will forever be defined by my Vietnam Ranger experience.

After Vietnam I used the G.I. bill and completed a few graduate courses at Long Beach State College in History and continued working construction as a roofer. I could not find a vocation that fulfilled me as the Ranger experience did in Vietnam. In 1974 I joined the Los Angeles Police Department and found the career that met all my job expectations. I worked patrol, specialized units, Detectives and retired out of Narcotics. *Continued on next page*



Featured Member Timothy H. Shur

Working Narcotics provided the workplace environment, camaraderie, and job interest I was looking for. I spent 26 years with LAPD and retired in 2000.

"Bail Out"

During my tenure with the Department I was fortunate enough to find and marry Tracey Ann Bluhm, the shining light in my life. Tracey gave birth to our son Benjamin Douglas Shur on May 5, 1992. Ben is currently attending Arizona State University. Since my retirement from the Department I have managed to start a Roofing and Bail Bonds business. By the way, I give a Ranger discount to any one of you that need a little help to get out of jail.



Myself, Ben and Tracey at Arizona State University

I have been asked on several occasions questions regarding my father's involvement with the Rangers in WWII. I simply show his citation for the Silver Star and his and my uniforms. I would like to share the Citation, his photo and our uniforms with you my fellow Rangers.

Harry Shurs' Awards

Decorations:

- Silver Star,
- Three Purple Hearts
- Two Bronze Stars
- Commendation:

"HARRY H. SHUR, (39165230), Sergeant, Company D, 4th Ranger Infantry Battalion.

For gallantry in action. On the night of 18 September 1943, at Sala, Italy, Sergeant SHUR, acting as scout, led a platoon of men up an enemy held hill to capture a machine

Gun and rifle fire, Sergeant SHUR, although severely wounded in the head, crept to within five yards of the enemy position and silenced the machine gun with his grenades and Thompson sub machine gun. In doing this, Sergeant SHUR was again wounded in the neck and head. Sergeant SHUR'S actions enabled the remainder of his company to accomplish the assigned mission of reconnoitering the road to Sala, Italy. Sergeant SHUR'S devotion to duty reflects great credit on the Army of the United States. Entered military service from Delano, California." Signed, Mark W. Clark, Lt. Gen. US Army.

The head injury mentioned in the citation was to his right eye. He lost the sight in his right eye and hearing in his right ear. Dad passed away on March 20, 2005.

Reflecting on my life's choices I can clearly see the Ranger influence. The ideas: Never quitting, team work, and the camaraderie that comes with working with an elite unit really appealed to me. I don't think I would have changed anything in my life. Well maybe, I would not have bought an MGB but really I feel completely fulfilled with my life as it has unfolded. I would like to conclude my talk by thanking David "Chief" Moncada for having the patience, energy and courage to have had the first Ranger reunion at his home in Sacramento. I have fond memories of the reunion and the conversations I had with the team members that attended. Most of the members were in the Company before I arrived, however, I was treated as a brother and the therapeutic value of that first reunion was immeasurable. **RLTW!**

Tim's Dad, Harry served in WW2 as a Ranger. His son, Ranger Tim Shur served with G 75th in Vietnam.



TREASURY REPORT

By Lynn Walker, Association Treasurer

Company G Ranger 75th Infantry Association Profit and Loss January 1, 2012 through November 16, 2012

Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
Total Direct Public Support Individual, Business Contributions	1,580.00	
Concessions	438.50	
Reunion Auction Proceeds	4,200.50	
Reunion Concession Proceeds	<u>1,435.00</u>	
Total Other Types of Income	6,074.00	
Program Income Membership Dues	<u>2,180.00</u>	
Total Income/Gross Profit	9,834.00	
Expense		
Bank Fees	22.50	
Total Business Expenses/Registration Fees	40.00	
Operations		
Postage, Mailing Service	322.02	
Printing and Copying	1,987.71	
Supplies	<u>221.65</u>	
Total Operations	2,531.38	
Total Other Types of Expenses/Other Costs	500.00	
Travel and Meetings		
Reunion Concession Expenses	1,963.80	
Reunion Expenses	<u>2,562.28</u>	
Total Travel and Meetings	4,526.08	
Total Expense		7,619.96
Net Ordinary Income		2,214.04
Net Income		2,214.04
Assets		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings Company G Ranger 75th Infantry Association	18,118.84	
<i>Sua Sponte</i> Account	<u>45.52</u>	
Total Checking/Savings	18,164.36	
Total Other Current Assets Charter Oak Capital Management		11,044.78
Total Assets		29,209.14
Liabilities and Assets		
Equity		
Equity Prior Year		152.00
Opening Balance Equity		26,843.10
Net Income		<u>2,214.04</u>
Total Equity		29,209.14
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		29,209.14

Editor's Corner

FEATURED MEMBER BY Michael Chu, Editor

Since assuming rein of the *Sua Sponte* newsletter, *Sua Sponte* has initiated a column entitled "featured members". This column focuses on individuals who have been supportive of the Association for a long time but lie quietly in the background and do not receive recognition as Association superstars.

So far, *Sua Sponte* has posted featured members to date to include:

Steve Castile
Ron LaBar
Felix Blinn
Tim Shur

All have been generous and extremely cooperative in drafting their own articles and submitting photos. *Sua Sponte* extends its thanks and appreciation to all of the above.

But how are these individual selected? As editor, it's been pretty much up to me. I basically take a dart and throw it against the wall. Then in the role of editor, I follow up with phone calls and emails. I've been lucky so far in receiving outstanding cooperation from all of the dart board recipients.

This has been an arbitrary process on our part, and as editor, we feel it's important to disclose our current process and offer an expansion and solicit eligibility and opportunity to this *Sua Sponte* column to any Association member. The only requirements if selected as the featured member are:

Association member must be in good standing
Provide a brief written description of their Vietnam experience and what they've done with their lives since leaving the Army
Provide photos as appropriate

Send any request or questions for consideration to the editor:

mchu-moanawai@hawaii.rr.com

Or call Michael Chu at 1-808-21218108 (cell)

Until I hear from you, we will continue to use the dart board process.

RLW

M.CHU
Editor



The Chus enjoying a helicopter ride in Hawaii.
Michael and Yetta.

Taps

Sua Sponte has been informed that Bob Larson has passed away. You can send a sympathy card to Tami Larson, 14904 S. Kirby Rd, Kennewik, WA 99337. www.muellersfuneralhomes.com/obituarites/Robertbob-Larson/

The Stolen Valor Act of 2005

The Stolen Valor Act of 2005, signed into law by President George W. Bush on December 20, 2006,¹ was a U.S. law that broadened the provisions of previous U.S. law addressing the unauthorized wear, manufacture, or sale of any military decorations and medals. The law made it a federal misdemeanor to falsely represent oneself as having received any U.S. military decoration or medal. If convicted, defendants might have been imprisoned for up to six months, unless the decoration lied about is the Medal of Honor, in which case imprisonment could have been up to one year. In *United States v. Alvarez* the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on June 28, 2012, that the Stolen Valor Act was an unconstitutional abridgment of the freedom of speech under the First Amendment, striking down the law in a 6 to 3 decision .

Disabled Veteran Mocked at Best Western

Popular hotel chain Best Western is facing some heat after a hotel employee mocked a disabled war hero when he asked for assistance.

Staff Sgt. Chad Staples, 28, was staying at the Best Western Plus Monahans Inn & Suites in Monahans, Texas when he was humiliated after an employee laughed at him when he asked for help getting down the stairs. Staples, a former Army sniper is paralyzed from the waist down and uses a wheelchair after he was shot in Baghdad in 2007. The hotel elevator was out of service due to a local power outage so Staples called the front desk to ask if they could help him get down the stairs from his third-floor room.

"I was like 'can you send someone up to help me with my bags and help me get down the stairs?' She said, 'are you serious'. I said 'yes, I'm in a wheelchair.' and she goes, 'what do you want me to do about it?'" Staples shared. He said that the desk attendant also laughed at him.

Angered by her rude response, Staples threw his luggage and wheelchair down the stairs so he could slide down the three flights on his backside.

"I didn't need to be carried down the stairs, let's get that clear. I needed somebody to help me get my bags and wheelchair down the stairs," Staples said. "I've never had that bad of a day where I'm just randomly rude to someone

- and the consequence is that (someone is) stuck at the top floor of a hotel."

When Staples tried to complain to customer care about the issue, they told him that asking for that kind of help could be a liability as he could have been injured while a staff member carried him. However, Staples said he wasn't asking to be carried.

"It's not like I was asking to be carried down. All I needed was someone to help navigate my wheelchair down so it wouldn't break. This shouldn't happen and it doesn't matter that I'm a vet. That's something that people get emotional about and I understand but any good person should not be treated like this," Staples said.

His father, Bob Staples was outraged when his son told him the story.

"Whether he's military or not, he has a disability. You don't treat anybody like that, but you certainly don't treat someone with a disability like that," Bob Staples said. "He gave up his ability to walk to save the life of another person. And he did, he saved the lives of other people."

"No legal action. That's disgusting. I despise frivolous lawsuits. It's garbage and I'm not going to be a part of that. I don't think the money should be taken out of their pocket directly by me. They'll have it taken out by the public right now until they decide to fix what's going on," Staples said. After the story spread, several people took to **Best Western's Facebook** page to express their disgust. Many are saying that they plan to boycott the hotel chain, especially other military members.

Association Passes Letter of Protest

The Company G (Ranger) 75th Infantry Association Board passes a unanimous measure this last July authorizing Tom Robison to author a letter of protest about the treatment Best Western gave to Mr. Staples, a disabled veteran, during his stay in Monahans Inn & Suite a Best Western in Monahans, Texas.

The letter was signed and forwarded to the CEO of the Best Western chain. Since then, the CEO returned with a letter of regrets and promising to make changes to minimize the possibility of what happened to Mr. Staples, but really doesn't change what happened to a disabled veteran with a simple request.

The letter of protest sent by the association is on page 9.

ASSOCIATION LETTER OF PROTEST



By Tom Robison

August 16, 2012

Mr. Devang Amin
Chairman of the Board
Best Western International Inc.
6201 N. 24th Parkway
Phoenix, AZ 85016

Dear Chairman Amin:

I am writing on behalf of our veterans association to protest the callous response by an employee of your hotel to a request for assistance by Staff Sergeant Chad Staples, a disabled veteran.

This blatant and disrespectful employee's actions were outrageous and totally unacceptable to members of the veterans' community which number in the millions.

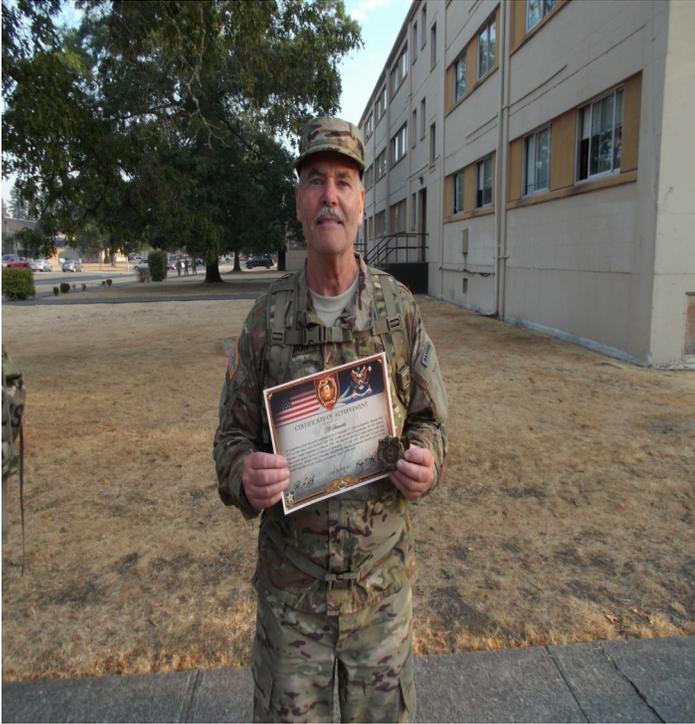
Sergeant Staples is not only a disabled veteran but also a decorated hero who has sacrificed greatly in the service to his country. This employee's actions demonstrated a complete disregard for the plight of Sergeant Staples and will not be tolerated by America's veterans.

A simple apology by your corporation is not sufficient. Therefore, I have requested that members of our association boycott all Best Western hotels throughout the world and will ask other veteran organizations to join us in this protest as a way of sending a message to all hotels and places of accommodation that America's veterans are to be treated with dignity, respect and courtesy no matter where they travel.

Sincerely,

Stephen O. Johnson
President
Co. G 75th Infantry (Ranger) Association
10433 Juneberry Road, NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

MEMBERSHIP NEWS: STEWART & CASTILE



Golf Company Ranger veteran Al Stewart is a contract Law Enforcement Professional embedded with the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT), 2nd Infantry Division. While working with the Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McCord (formally Ft. Lewis) and prior to deploying to Afghanistan, he accepted the challenge and completed the Manchu Mile March with the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment (Manchus). The annual march is in commemoration of the Regiments' relief march into China in 1900 during the Boxer Rebellion. It is a 25- plus mile march done by members of the "Manchu" Regiment and each member completing the march receives a certificate and the authorized for uniform wear belt buckle. Al is the oldest person known to complete the Manchu Mile.

Since retiring from law enforcement, Al has completed four tours in Iraq and a tour in Beirut, Lebanon. He is currently serving his first tour in Afghanistan.

Pat and Steve Castile at Normandy, France

I am sending you these picture on behalf of Steve.



We were just in Normandy, France on vacation and thought you might like them. As for me, it was a moving experience to actually be there and be able to imagine what it must have been like. The holes in the ground remain as silent testimonials to the powerful bombing that broke the silence of the seaside.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

CIB ORDERS

Sua Sponte Staff

Richard Mullins served with the 198th in Vietnam. He took the trouble of contacting me recently, to inform me that he has a 1969 set of orders awarding the CIB. G/75 members included on these orders are:

Michael Chu
Julian Serna
Ramon Santamaria
Pedro Martinez
Dennis Clevenger
Howard Kuykendall
Jose Rosado
Robert Wells
Steve Castile
Robert Wells
Daniel Linehan

If anyone above needs or desires to have a copy of these orders, please contact Michael Chu at 808-282-8109 or email him at mchu-moanawai@hawaii.rr.com

Michael Chu
Editor

SNIPER ORDERS

Sua Sponte Staff

If anyone out there has a copy of their orders or graduation certificates for the Americal Sniper School, please forward a copy to the editor, Michael Chu.

DANNY JACKS AT BRANSON



San Diego 2013

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